



The idea behind the symposium

By Jim Gibb

Two or three times each year I abandon wife and responsibilities for several days of cloistered meetings in dark, airless rooms, pervaded by the low, disembodied drone of paper presenters and the tireless rhythm of advancing slides. Sometimes, after hours of nearly uninterrupted presentations, I begin to savor the prospect of cleaning gutters and fixing the out-of-plumb fence gate.

The fantasy of clambering across the roof to re-caulk the chimney keeps my eyes from focusing on yet another unreadable slide illustrating the very clear differences between the Dunno Site's flat-bottomed and round-bottomed pits. I'll mentally upbraid myself for missing the succinct, well-argued point that there were a minimum of 103 vessels, *not 118 vessels*, identified at the Hookares Site, but in doing so I will miss yet another nuanced point on the benefits of using both rim and base fragments for calculating those minimum numbers.

Please don't mistake this bit of irreverence for a condemnation of annual conferences. The gathering of wizards has its purposes, not the least of which are the affirmation of relationships, sharing information and spending a little bit more of the kids' inheritance on cheap beer, Mexican food and unaffordable conference accommodations.

But what about discussing and debating issues of common research interest? Building understandings of cultural and historical phenomena that extend beyond the particular site currently under study? To meet those needs, conference organizers offer a plenary session near the start of each conference, usually under-attended and dispatched with deliberate speed so that we can all trundle off to smaller, darker rooms to present, not necessarily discuss, our findings from our sites or what we expect to find when we get around to digging those sites.

Such conferences accurately reflect the state of archeological knowledge: fragmented, goalless and not easily evaluated in terms of success or failure. On a national or even a regional level we can get away with that

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Archeology Month in danger

Due to the cutbacks in funding of archeology projects, there is no state grant money available to carry out plans for this year's Archeology Month. Therefore an appeal is being made for tax-deductible donations to support this program which is being called "our most important means of fostering awareness of our archeological past." The committee needs the money by January 15. See the inserts in this newsletter.

Upcoming events

January 10: ASM Board meeting (rescheduled from Dec. 6. snowout). Crownsville, 10 a.m. All are welcome.

March 12 - 14, 2004: Mid-Atlantic Archeological Conference annual meeting, Rehobeth Beach, Delaware.

March 20: Annual archeology workshop. Crownsville.

April 17: ASM Spring Symposium, "The Way It Was: Reflections on Maryland Archeology." Crownsville.

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT program participants and other ASM members:

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Work will start with the Nolands Ferry collection. Nolands Ferry is a Late Woodland site excavated by ASM in 1978 under the leadership of Donald Peck. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson akerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

Winslow Site lab work: The washing has to get done before anything else, so they can't promise there will be any cataloguing, but the more people who come in to wash the faster they will get to it. The archeology lab is in the basement of Hurst Hall at American University. For directions or questions, contact Kelsey Woodman at AUArchLab@hotmail.com

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. Call 410-222-7441.

Mount Calvert lab work. Call 301-627-1286.

Patuxent rock shelter survey completed

Paul Inashima and Wayne Clark have completed the final report on the 2000-2003 survey and rock shelter excavations, "Archaeological Investigations Within the Duckett and Triadelphia Reservoirs - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission." The 306 page report documents the systematic survey work of both authors in search of Indian petroglyphs, rock shelters, steatite quarries and historic sites within both reservoirs along the main stem of the Patuxent River. The work reports on new discoveries and reviews the past 100 years of research efforts. Copies of the report have been placed in the libraries of the Maryland Historical Trust, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and the Archeology Program of MNCPP in Montgomery County. Artifacts and field records will be donated by WSSC to the MAC Lab at the Jefferson Patterson. A paper on the findings was presented at the ASM Annual Meeting last October.

The 2003 excavations of the Flat Rock Rock Shelter, 18 Mo 173, revealed deep deposits but rock fall prevented going below 1.2 meters in depth. A Guilford point dating to 4,000 B.C. was recovered. Mockley Net Impressed pottery was found higher in the profile. Charcoal and bone preservation was poor due to the slightly acidic nature of the soils.

The Reservoir Rock Shelter was not as deep, with base rock encountered at 0.6 meters. One part of a steatite vessel fragment in the shelter and steatite vessel fragments, a quarry pick and an Orient Fishtail point found outside the shelter hint of use during the Late Archaic period. A Selby Bay Side-notched rhyolite point from the excavation documents use during the Middle Woodland period. The largest component was a Late Woodland Potomac Creek phase occupation with Madison triangular points of quartz, Moyaone Incised and Potomac Creek Cord Impressed pottery. One shard of Camden ware with a rim suggestive of a European style plate rim, was an indicator of historic Indian use of the shelter. This was near a Nanticoke type point normally found in association with Iroquois of New York and Canada. A small pit with charred acorns (Feature 4) produced a radio-carbon calibrated date of between A.D. 1430 and A.D. 1655 (Beta-180833). This is an acceptable range for the Potomac Creek complex utilization of the rock shelter.

The amateur, the Society and the professional

By T. Latimer Ford

Numerous conversations I have had with our members and the lack of active participation by many of them in our work has prompted me to talk to you about the aims and relationship of the amateur, the Society and the professional in the field of archeology. My purpose is to give our members greater confidence in their ability to learn so that they will be able to make real contributions to the Society's work.

I am sure that most of the difficulty lies in the members' lack of experience and inability to get started in an avocation so unfamiliar to most of them. The fact that they have joined our Society is an indication of their seriousness in wanting to pursue the science of archeology and assist us in the fulfillment of the aims of our Society. Our constitution lists the following aims of the Society:

- To promote and encourage the study of archeology, especially in the State of Maryland.
- To locate and preserve important archeological sites and artifacts.
- To make available to the public, information concerning the history of the American Indians in Maryland and elsewhere, and to provide for the exhibition of archeological materials.
- To encourage the promotion of group archeological activity under the supervision of the Executive Board.
- To prevent the destruction of aboriginal sites except under proper supervision and in keeping with the highest standards of archeological field work.
- To record and preserve data relating to any of the foregoing and to exchange archeological information with other organizations.

The Society has set these aims because it is our belief that the remains left by the early inhabitants of this area belongs to all the peoples, is part of their American heritage and should be preserved for the edification and study of future generations.

First let me make a few comments about the amateur archeologist. He is not a "pot hunter" or collector, nor does he expect to receive personal gain from the work he does. He is only interested in doing all he can in the hope that his efforts will contribute in some way to the gigantic project of recreating the history of the early inhabitants of America.

The "pot hunter" is interested only in the collection of miscellaneous artifacts either for his own personal satisfaction or for financial gain. Many archeologists, amateur and professional alike, obtained their initial interest as collectors or pot hunters. However, as they grew up they realized that there is much more personal satisfaction to be gained by trying to develop the story behind the artifacts rather than have cigar boxes full of meaningless pieces of stone and clay with no knowledge of Who, When and Why.

Most amateurs join a society since this offers many distinct advantages. To name a few: Association with others interested in the same hobby for comparison of notes and ideas, and for assistance in field work; being a member of a reputable society adds prestige to their work and is of great assistance in their dealings with property owners; information about the work of other societies and professionals is more readily obtainable; professional personnel are more inclined to give their valuable assistance to a society and its members.

The amateurs' thinking and vision is generally limited to a restricted area, basically because of his lack of professional training and time. The professional archeologist and anthropologist however has been thoroughly trained to study the archeological evidence and can therefore interpret the findings of the Society in proper cultural patterns over a broad area.

Thus, as amateurs, our part is to do the so-called leg work for the professional. As a well organized and active society we can explore, recover and record more data on archeological sites than the professional archeologist can. Therefore with thorough and accurate work on our part we can give the professional more time to study the broader aspects of the archeological problems. All of the Society's work should be done in close cooperation with the professionals so that on important excavations we do not destroy or misinterpret the evidence we uncover.

I think it is important to add here that all of the professional archeologists and anthropologists with whom I have come in contact have been more than willing to assist us. On many occasions they have devoted time to our Society which I know they could ill afford to give.

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With this close cooperation between the amateur, the Society and the professional a great deal more is being accomplished than would otherwise be possible.

I have endeavored, by this means, to explain to our inexperienced members that they are part of a large group of people, seriously interested in developing the history of prehistoric man in America. This group consists of a great number of amateur archeologists having varying degrees of experience and capabilities, associated with one or more active amateur archeological societies and the professional archeologists and anthropologists working for the various state museums, universities and government agencies throughout America.

Thus, the beginner or novice in the amateur archeological society is an important part of the entire group and can by his sincere interest, by reading of all available archeological reports, by making preliminary site surveys and by assisting on Society excavations gradually gain sufficient experience to become a capable amateur archeologist. He can rest assured that all of the officers of the Society and its chapters, all of our more experienced members and all of the professional men and women with whom he will come in contact are ready to assist him in any way they can.

The foregoing has been presented from my viewpoint as an amateur. I should like to quote here a few paragraphs from an article by Dr. William A. Ritchie which appeared in *American Antiquity*, Vol. XXII, Number 2, Part 1, pp. 169-170, entitled "Each to the Other" to give you an idea of the professional viewpoint on this subject:

"[The amateur's] rewards here far transcend the possession of a collection of mute relics. When once he senses the "pursuit of problem" his mind will kindle to new and exciting adventures beyond the ordinary thrill of collecting. He can have his holiday with its relaxation, anticipation and the thrill of discovery (which, incidentally, form a part of the reward of the professional digger as well), but he can add to these rewards the mental stimulus and satisfaction of contributing to the unfolding drama of human development.

"The means to this larger end are to be found in an approach to archeology which is problem centered rather than relic centered. The problems are many and diverse. They are best known to the professional who has given years of hard work, hard thought (and hard cash) in preparation for and execution of his job. He and the amateur can pool their efforts with mutual advantages. He can offer the amateur aid not alone in formulating problems for research, but in the procedure of recovery and recording that must be observed for useful interpretations, which constitute the intrinsic value of all such work."

Condensed from an article that first appeared in ASM Miscellaneous Paper Number 2, dated January 1960. T. Latimer Ford was associated with the Maryland Academy of Sciences and was an early ASM member.

New finds as Garrett Island wraps up 2003 work

By Bill McIntyre

We completed excavations on Garrett Island for 2003 on Sunday, November 23. Although we still have not been able to determine the function or time period for the two dry laid stone features on the south end of the island we have discovered in the process two adjacent units with definite small diameter post molds suggesting a prehistoric feature of some type.

In addition we have recovered much more prehistoric material than expected, have developed enough soil stratification data to draw some profiles for the slopes of the south end, both N-S and E-W, and definitely have found evidence for remnants of sites in all but one of the 12 one-by-one units excavated. We have back filled all units and covered the one stone feature around which we have been working with plywood sheets.

We have a tremendous amount of artifact processing and analysis to do. Also, there is still much investigation to be done on several other areas of the island and, once we have analyzed the data from the south end and done some additional archival investigation and interview work, a return to the stone features and extending some units to track the post molds most certainly will be in order.

Isabel did some landscape modification on the southern and southeastern shorelines and we may have gotten a few positive things from her -- we collected more good-size Indian pottery fragments washed out by the wave action and associated (I think) with the site excavated by Paul Cresthull and Karl Heuer in 1970.

The storm uncovered the brick floor of the stone structure just south of the US 40 bridge on the western shore and (perhaps most valuable to me) we got a good look at what one type of storm action did to the landscape. We know what Agnes did to the north end and it seems to me developing an understanding of the different ways different storms affect the island combined with information about the major storms since 1700 may help in getting a better picture regarding what has happened to sites on the island over the past 300 years from natural forces.

The members of ASNC want to thank Peter Jay, Gary Pencell and Bill Kilby of the Cecil Land Trust for allowing us to work on the island. I am not sure when we will go back to excavate but we certainly will want to do some next year if permitted to do so. We do plan to help in next April's annual clean up. Lab work will resume shortly. Potential volunteers are encouraged to check the ASM newsletter for the announcement.

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sort of thing—nobody is watching that carefully—but the lack of apparent direction and measurable advances in our knowledge of the past becomes very clear, and a bit uncomfortable, on the state level. Here the constituencies are more easily identifiable (they often write the checks) and our deficiencies—professional and avocational—more easily discerned.

I'm not talking about the lack of synthesis in prehistory and history. Syntheses are illusory and theoretically untenable. (I bet you couldn't get more than 30 percent of any group of professionals to accept any synthesis without offering their own contested amendments -- it would be like getting a bill through Congress, the final product in most cases bearing little resemblance to what was initially comprehensible and purposeful.)

Achieving synthesis also might put more than a few professional archeologists out of work and leave avocational archeologists to recite an unquestioned liturgy. Archeology is interesting because it gives us something to discuss, to argue, even fight about. We need a suitable arena for just that; hence the kick-off symposium for the *Future of Maryland's Past* series.

What's to discuss? Here are a few tidbits based on e-mail discussions with participants in preparation for the November 8 symposium or that popped up during the day-long session:

1. There is a clear interest in conducting broad-exposure excavations on both prehistoric and historic sites, rather than formulating interpretations on sample data. Dennis Curry recommended intensive surface collection of plowed sites with low artifact densities, followed by machine-aided stripping, feature mapping and excavation. I didn't get the sense of widespread approval from the attendees, but I approve. Under what circumstances can we set aside expensive plowzone testing and get down to where the important information lies?
2. Say the phrase "contact site" and we all think about a Native American village site with a few glass beads, gun flints and cast iron kettle fragments. Julie King asks: If those are the only kinds of contact sites, who did those Indians contact? Isn't a Euro-American plantation site with contemporary Native objects also a contact site?
3. Prehistorians recognize regional differences, but historical archeologists virtually ignore different patterns in architecture, material culture and economy among sites in Southern Maryland, the head of the Chesapeake Bay and those on the Eastern Shore. Even variations within each of these broad regions, and the reasons behind those differences, remain largely unexplored.
4. The patterns and events that most immediately contributed to Maryland's current lifestyles and institutions, and particularly those enmeshed in race relations, have been barely touched upon and we need to work harder to share interpretations of that research with those who might benefit most from that knowledge: our neighbors.
5. Difficult decisions on what can and must be preserved confront all of us, not just those working in state and federal agencies. But how to choose? Is there a plan, a means of prioritizing? Who has a say in establishing those priorities.

So there are a few things to discuss and debate. Subsequent symposia will provide the forum. Look for notice of future sessions and join in the fun: attend and participate.

The best of 2003

Best Mess: The state budget crunch for archeology.
 Best Mess (Terrestrial): The road to the Winslow Site.
 Best Landmark Reached: The first CAT graduate.
 Best Recollection: Richard Slattery's account of his early days along the Potomac.
 Best New Beginning: The Symposium.
 Best Botchup: The looting of the Iraq museums and sites.
 Best Artifact: The one you found.
 Best Wishes for the New Year.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9 in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis. Contact Karen Ackermann at karenlta@juno.com

January 21: Charlie Hall on "Tennessee Rockshelter Archeology: Shelter Selection and Use Throughout Prehistory in the Mid-South."

February 18: Susan Langley will present "Spinning Straw into Gold: Handspun Yarn Production."

March 17: Elizabeth Ragan will present "Celtic: More Than Just a Basketball Game."

April 21: Jim Gibb

May 19: Jim Gibb again.

Central

Phone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

Mid-Potomac

Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call them, 301-948-5053.

Mid Shore

The Mid Shore Group meets at 7:30 on the fourth Friday of the month at the SunTrust Bank on Goldsboro Street in Easton. However, the April meeting is held at the Talbot County Historical Society Auditorium.

Monocacy

Meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or email hurst_joy@hotmail.com. Website: www.digfrederick.org

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

January 8: Steve Bilicki of the MHT on Susquehanna Underwater Survey. Maritime Museum. 7.

January 17: Chapter display at Morning Star Celebration, benefit dance for the St. Labre Indian School. At John Carroll School in Bel Air, 11 am.

February 12: Don Robinson, co-author of "The River and the Ridge," will speak about Delta and Cardiff's Welsh immigrants and the Peach Bottom slate industry, and demonstrate slate splitting. Rockfield Manor in Bel Air at 7 p.m.

March 11: Jay Mackley on Kayaking the length of the Susquehanna River. Perryville Community Center at 7 p.m.

April 8: Chapter workshop at Harford Glen covering Garrett Island ceramics study (Bill McIntyre and Annetta Schott), review of recent book about clay pipe manufacturing (author Paul Jung), and continuation of lithics study (Dan Coates).

May 23: Annual picnic. Broad Creek.

Southern

Meetings the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the MAC Lab meeting room. Call 410-586-8584 or katesilas@chesapeake.net for information.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Most are preceded by dinner at 6 at the Tiber River Café in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or maurice_preston@clc.hcpss.org

January 12: "Norway and Sweden: Culture and Archeology," by Charles and Helen Koontz.

February 9: Ireland, Joe and Marilyn Lauffer.

March 8: Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30. After 7:30 business meeting, a talk on Algeria and Morocco, by Cherry Koontz.

April 12: Native American Tools and Technology: The Americas to Howard County, Lee Preston.

May 10: Erin Piechowiak on skeletons found in Annapolis.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email- wmdasm@yahoo.com Website - www.geocities.com/wmdasm

January 23: Annual Social and "Show and Tell"--*You* are the program.

February 27: Brian Corle on "Latest Discoveries and Controversies at Canal Place."

March 26: A hands-on program to be announced.

<p>DID YOU REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ??</p>
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The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide non-profit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC, the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are \$20.00 for Individuals and \$30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104, or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dancoates@comcast.net. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail: psachs4921@aol.com.

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