

ASM Ink

June 2016, Vol. 43, No. 6

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Not too late to put yourself into the picture



ASM field school at River Farm, May 27 – June 6

See details on Page 3

Upcoming events

May 27 – June 6: ASM field session. River Farm Site, Anne Arundel County.

October 22: ASM Annual Meeting. Catoctin Furnace Historic District, Frederick County.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301 563 7531 or contact heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org CAT opportunity. It also is doing fieldwork at the Josiah Henson site at various times. For information contact Cassandra Michaud at 301 563 7532 or cassandra.michaud@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call the lab at 410 222 1318.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301 627 1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at ed.chaney@maryland.gov or 410 586 8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork to get started.

CAT corner:

For information and the latest news on the CAT program, visit the ASM website.

It's time to think of Marye Award candidates

Each year ASM presents its highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, to someone for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. All nominations originate from members. Candidates need not be ASM members, Marylanders or even archeologists. What they must be is someone who has had a substantial impact on archeology in our state.

Do you know someone who should be honored? A nomination form is with this newsletter, which also contains a list of past winners.

River Farm beckons so grab your trowel

Have you packed your trowel, hat and work gloves, found your canteen, thought of what you'd want for lunch, prepared for the worst: raingear, sunscreen and bug spray? Then you are just about ready for this year's ASM Field Session.

River Farm (18AN881) is the site and the prospects have organizers salivating. The dig runs May 27 through June 6.

If you haven't preregistered, just to show up at the site, look eager to take part and you'll be let in. The work day is 8:30 to 4:30 (except for a 10:30 start the first day) with an hour for lunch. A required orientation will be offered first thing in the morning and after lunch. Parking is available on-site.

A survey of River Farm last year found the prehistoric site to be rich and complex. Of 131 STPs, only two came up empty. The occupational time span was some 8,000 years.

A field lab will be on the site for those who prefer engaging in other activities than field work or who just want to take a break from it.

Lectures will be provided almost every day during the 11:30 to 12:30 lunch hour. They include:

May 28 - Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Staff.

May 30 - Stacy Poulos, The 2012 Patuxent River Study: Remote Sensing, GIS and Predictive Modeling.

June 1 - Jug Bay Sanctuary Staff, Climate Change and its Impacts on Jug Bay.

June 2 - Don Mullis, Land Form Development within the Pig Point Complex.

June 3 - Kate Mahood, The Evolution of Tobacco Barns in Central Maryland.

June 5 - Pat Melville, Historic ownership and Use of River Farm Lands.

On Sunday, May 29, immediately after lunch, Al Luckenbach will offer a talk on Pig Point Overview and the Adena Ceremonial Site.

On the first Saturday, May 28, there also will be an evening lecture. Stephanie Sperling will be at the Jug Bay Visitors Center from 6 to 8 to discuss "Six Years of Hazard Mitigation in Anne Arundel County."

And that's not all!

On the opening day, 27 May, Stephanie will talk about the 2015 River Farm fieldwork and give a field session overview (3-4, in the barn).

Tuesday, May -31, there will be a kayak tour on the Patuxent - Pig Point and Mt. Calvert. (Pre-registration is required and the outing is limited to 20 people, 12:30- 4:00).

After field work closes on June 3, Mandy Melton will offer a guided site tour and hike of Glendening Nature Preserve (4:30-6).

And don't forget the annual Field Session Feast. It will be Saturday, June 4 near the barn beginning at 4.

All this for \$20 a day for ASM members, with a maximum fee of \$60. For nonmembers it is \$25/75.

DIRECTIONS: The site is in Anne Arundel County, east of the Beltway. Take State Route 4 to Upper Pindell Rd., about five miles east of the U.S. 301 intersection. It is a right-hand turn. After about a mile, it becomes just Pindell Road as Lower Pindell Road splits off. Stay on Pindell, turn left onto River Farm Rd. after 800 feet. Go through the open gate and drive about a mile to the site and parking area. There will be signage.

In case the weather looks bad or iffy, call 410-514-7665 after 6:30 a.m. to find out if activities will start late or be cancelled.

Earlier this year

ASM returned to Crownsville for the annual Workshop in Archeology and Spring Symposium. An interesting collection of speakers kept the full auditorium in their seats. At the symposium, Silent Auction chairwoman Elaine Hall reports that \$763 was collected for ASM's analysis fund.

Study backs 14,500-year-old date for Florida Site

By Sarah Kaplan

Condensed from the Washington Post, May 3, 2016

Thousands of years ago, some of the first Americans knelt beside a pond in what is now Florida. Clutching sharp stone knives, they hacked at the tusk of a slain mastodon, slicing meat away from the long bone. Then, with their work completed, they got up and walked away, leaving behind some tools and the stripped carcass.

Centuries passed. Sea levels rose. The ancient site was submerged by layers of sediment and then by a rising river. Wave after wave of human inhabitants came and went: hunters, farmers, explorers, colonizers, retirees. Until, in 2012, a team of archeologists descended into the river's murky depths to dig up the artifacts below.

The ancient tools and bone are 14,550 years old, they reported Friday in the journal *Science Advances*, making them the most ancient human remnants found in the southeast.

The new study comes as something of a vindication for the swampy Page-Ladson site in the Florida panhandle. In the 1980s, archeologist James Dunbar and paleontologist David Webb dug up the knife-scarred mastodon tusk that had been left there and estimated it to be more than 14,400 years old.

But the anthropological community was quick to cast doubt on that date. For half a century it had been assumed that the Clovis people were the first to migrate from Asia, roughly 13,000 years ago.

Something must have gone wrong with the dig or the radiocarbon dating, or perhaps the marks on the tusk were caused by something other than a human. Even Dunbar and Webb expressed some misgivings.

"I always felt that Dunbar and Webb had been kind of maligned," said Mike Waters, the director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M and a principal investigator on the latest Page-Ladson report. "So when I was given the chance to go back there, I jumped at it."

This time, Waters and his colleagues were armed with dating techniques orders of magnitude more precise than their predecessors'. They also had an increasingly compelling case for "pre-Clovis" occupation of the Americas: genetic analyses showing that Native Americans' ancestors arrived here some 16,000 years ago and archeological sites as far-flung as Oregon and Chile bearing evidence of human presence long before Clovis.

The project involved years of excavation in the Aucilla River. Underwater archeologists uncovered what co-author Tom Stafford calls a "chronological layer cake." More than 70 samples of ancient organic material taken from the site and radiocarbon dated at Stafford's lab showed that each layer was slightly older than the one before it. They prove that nothing had disturbed or mixed up the sediments as they were laid down over time.

By the time archeologists reached the 14,500-year-old stratum, they began to find objects they say could only have come from humans: five sharpened rocks that were carried in from elsewhere in the region and a double-sided stone knife, or biface, that would have been among the most advanced technologies of the time. The team then re-examined the mastodon tusk found by Webb and Dunbar (who was also part of this excavation) and determined that it was most likely butchered by humans.

"It's really exciting," said Jessi Halligan, an archeologist at Florida State University and Waters's fellow principal investigator. "We have these unambiguous cultural artifacts found in an intact geological stratum that dates to more than 1,500 years older than Clovis."

Donald Grayson, an anthropologist at the University of Washington, warned that ancient carbon dissolved in the water can contaminate samples, causing them to appear older than they really are. Halligan countered that the dates coming out of Stafford's lab match what is known about environmental changes at the time.

The discovery also jibes with other pre-Clovis archeological finds across the Americas, including the more than 14,300-year-old Paisley Caves site in south-central Oregon. Dennis Jenkins, an archeologist at the University of Oregon who co-led excavations of the caves, said that report offered "yet another data point" in favor of an increasingly popular new theory about America's first humans.

The Page-Ladson find also challenges another piece of anthropology orthodoxy: Scientists have long believed that the arrival of human hunters in the Americas precipitated a "blitzkrieg" extinction of the region's megafauna — mammoths, giant bison, ground sloths, and others — because Clovis points appear at exactly the moment in the archeological record where giant mammal fossils vanish. But the discovery of tools and a butchered mastodon bone suggest that humans and these large animals co-existed for at least 1,500 years.

Confessions of a British archeologist

By Anonymous

Condensed from The Guardian, April 25, 2016

I ended up in archeology as a result of a long-held romantic notion of making great discoveries and solving mysteries. As a young girl I always had my head buried in books, lost in the realms of the great ancient civilizations of the world. I never had fantastical expectations of archeology, though. I didn't think that I would travel the world and be a globe-trotting treasure hunter. And you certainly don't get to travel in archeology unless you are somehow affluent, have magical powers to secure funding or know the right people in all the right places.

None of the above apply to me, so I have been confined to archeology in England and Northern Ireland. Don't get me wrong, archeology here is infinitely fascinating but let's be honest, it's not as grand and visually awe-inspiring as, say, the pyramids or Pompeii. At its most stellar, it can be just two different colored soils side by side, but to the trained eye that tells us a great deal about what was going on thousands of years ago.

You need to be a little eccentric to be an archeologist. A penchant for Indiana Jones hats and other strange headwear will help you to fit in well. When you see a colleague salivate over a piece of flint or another jump for joy over a tiny lump of fired clay – the only piece of pottery that has come out of a tonne of soil – you start to understand what archeology is really about. But if it is gold, job security or good pay that you are after, you should probably look elsewhere. You don't become an archeologist to become wealthy. You do it because you are passionate about the yet unknown, those gaps in the history books.

Above all the job requires patience and dedication, because seeing a site through from start to finish is a long, slow process – sometimes taking decades to complete. We use tools much like those you see road workers using. Long-tailed shovels, spades, wheelbarrows and mattocks are our usual companions. If your back has never experienced any wear and tear, it certainly would after digging a ditch. There is a strange joy to be found in striking bedrock with a mattock: that bolt of pain that shoots up your arms and into your skull.

It gives you toned and sinewy arms, if you like that kind of thing. There is no doubt that practical physical work can strengthen your body but in archeology, where it can be repetitive actions, day in, day out, with the cold and damp seeping into your limbs, it can have the reverse effect, too. I have yet to meet an archeologist who does not suffer from an ongoing physical health issue. It is usually the knees, shoulders and back that are first to go. If you start young, by the time you are in your mid-40s you will hopefully have younger minions to delegate all the hard labor to as you will find you are just too decrepit to do it yourself.

The weather is a cruel dictator, determining whether your life is going to be nice and easy or really, really tough. Archeologists don't just pack up and hibernate during the winter months. Depending on who you work for and how remote your site is, there is no guarantee of shelter. Pressure on funding and time limits often mean you have to keep going no matter what until the job is done.

Recording is possibly the most important aspect of fieldwork. Once you finish up and leave a site there is no going back to just check a few details you might have missed or take a few extra measurements here and there. So your site records become a source of great anxiety and also your most treasured possession when you are out in the field.

Equally, metal detectorists can be the stuff of nightmares when on a dig. Those acting as treasure hunters, operating without a license, digging under the cover of night, are not likely to be keeping detailed records. Once an object is removed from a site, it loses its context and its informative value is decreased to almost nil. When someone walks onto site uninvited with a bag of artefacts your heart just sinks and you have to bite your tongue.

Difficulties aside, I love the camaraderie of excavations. Working together helps to keep morale up, especially on those really tough days, when there is soil in your sandwiches, it feels like it has rained inside your waterproof and you know you only have a few hours left to save as much as you can before someone comes and bulldozes the site, erasing it permanently.

Kennewick Man to go to Indians for burial

Condensed from the Associated Press, April 28, 2016

The ancient skeleton known as Kennewick Man is related to modern Native American tribes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said last week, opening the process for returning one of the oldest and most complete set of bones ever found in North America to one of those tribes for burial.

The Northwestern Division of the corps said its decision was based on a review of new information, particularly recently published DNA and skeletal analyses. The corps, which owns the remains, said the skeleton is now covered by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The 8,500-year-old remains were discovered in 1996 in southeastern Washington near the Columbia River in Kennewick, triggering a lengthy legal fight between tribes and scientists over whether the bones should be buried immediately or studied.

Determining which tribe receives the bones is likely to be a lengthy process, said Michael Coffey, a spokeswoman for the corps in Portland, Ore. In the past, the Colville, Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Wanapum Indians have claimed a connection to them.

Last year, new genetic evidence determined that the remains were closer to modern Native Americans than any other population in the world. Following that, the corps began to re-examine Kennewick Man's status.

Researchers turned to DNA analysis to try to clarify the skeleton's ancestry. The results showed a greater similarity to DNA from the Americas than from anywhere else, with a close relationship to at least one Native American population, the Colvilles, in Washington.

UPDATE, Tri-City Herald, April 26, 2016: Kennewick man arrested after stabbing brother, woman.

Is this a rectangular theater that I see before me?

By Jill Lawless

Condensed from the Associated Press, May 17, 2016

LONDON — London's relentless building boom has dug up another chunk of the city's history — one with a surprise for scholars of Shakespearean theater.

Archeologists are excavating the remains of the Curtain, a 16th-Century playhouse where some of the Bard's plays were first staged, before a new apartment tower sprouts on the site. Unexpectedly, the dig has revealed that the venue wasn't round, like most Elizabethan playhouses. It was rectangular.

That came as a surprise, because the best-known fact about the Curtain is that Shakespeare's "Henry V" was first staged here — and the play's prologue refers to the building as "this wooden O."

"This is palpably not a circle," Julian Bowsher, an expert on Elizabethan theaters, said. The discovery has made Bowsher rethink some of his ideas about Tudor playhouses. He suspects that the Curtain — unlike the more famous Globe and Rose theaters — wasn't built from scratch, but converted from an existing building.

"Out of the nine playhouses that we know in Tudor London, there are only two that have no reference to any construction," he said — including the Curtain. "It's beginning to make sense now."

Where does that leave "Henry V"? Heather Knight, senior archeologist at Museum of London Archaeology, said the play may still have premiered at the Curtain in 1599, but without the prologue.

"There's a school of thought now that says prologues were actually a later addition," she said.

The dig has uncovered the outline of a rectangular venue about 100 feet by 72 feet that could hold about 1,000 people. Workers have uncovered sections of the theater's gravel yard, where "groundlings" who had bought cheap tickets stood, and segments of wall up to 5 feet high.

Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, 7:30 p.m. Contact AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

Central Maryland

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

June 9: Annual picnic-meeting at Needwood Mansion from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Elections for chapter officers and members of the Board will be conducted. NOTE CHANGE FROM REGULAR MEETING DATE.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

June 4: Annual ASNC Picnic Meeting., Nobles Mill, near Darlington. 2 p.m.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

June 13: Annual potluck supper.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

June 24: Roy Brown on the building of an Eastern Woodland Wigwam last spring at Rocky Gap State Park, the wigwam was the focal point for summer youth-oriented programs on Native American culture.

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10 percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Jo Boodon, PO Box 1584, Ellicott City, MD 21043 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

Submissions. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

President

Claude Bowen
301-953-1947
clauder.bowen@comcast.net

Vice President

Valerie Hall
301-814-8028
valeriehall@gmail.com

Secretary

Barbara Israel
410-945-5514
barbaraisrael@comcast.net

Treasurer

Jim Gibb
410-263-1102
JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Membership Secretary

Jo Boodon
410-750-7318
PO Box 1584 Ellicott
City, MD 21043
asm.membership.secretary@gmail.com

At-Large Trustees

Lynne Bulhack
301-460-5356
lbulhack@aol.com

Tom Forhan

Elaine Hall
240-426-1298
Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com

Annetta Schott
443-949-4122
annettaschott@gmail.com

Belinda Urquiza
410-535-2586
burquiza@comcast.net

Jaimie Wilder
301-741-2869
jaimiewilder1634@gmail.com

