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www.marylandarcheology.org

Tilghman Island points may point east

By Karl Blankenship

Condensed from the Bay Journal, January 2007

When he was growing up on Tilghman Island, Darrin Lowery often walked the local beaches looking for arrowheads, spearheads and other artifacts dropped by Native Americans who once inhabited the area.

Little did he suspect that when some of those arrowheads were dropped, Tilghman wasn't an island and the Chesapeake did not exist. The beach Lowery walked along was, in fact, an ancient bluff that overlooked the Susquehanna River, which flowed through a valley in the distance.

Lowery began to understand that change around 1979 when he and his father were watching *"Search for the First Americans,"* a program about the peopling of North America on public television. An expert from the Smithsonian Institution was describing Clovis points—a distinct type of spearhead used by hunters during the last ice age—which came from New Mexico.

Lowery turned to his father, and said, "I've got one of them."

"No you don't," his dad shot back.

So Lowery went off to his room, retrieved his box of artifacts and proved his point. "Some guy must have had quite an arm to throw that all the way from Clovis, New Mexico," his dad conceded.

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Previews of coming ASM attractions

There are busy weeks ahead for ASM and Maryland archeology, so mark your calendar now so you don't miss out.

First up will be the annual Archeology Workshop, to be held Saturday, March 10 in Crownsville. Programs will include a CAT session on Maryland prehistory, a presentation on a John Paul Jones ship, Steve Bilicki talking about what he is doing in Virginia since he left the Trust and, of course, hands-on activity.

April 21 will be the annual ASM Spring Symposium, also at Crownsville. Food will be the topic, going places Julia Child and the Iron Chef never dared to go. Archeologists, folklorists and food historians have been hunting and gathering evidence on early historic and prehistoric foodways for decades, developing methods for recovering information on foodstuffs and technologies for preparing and serving food.

Full information on the Workshop will be in the March newsletter, Symposium particulars in April.

Also coming up, of course, are Archeology Month in April and later the annual field session.

So, as the cop said, don't leave the state.

Upcoming events

March 10: Annual archeology workshop. Crownsville.

March 15-18: MAAC meeting, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

April 21: Spring symposium. Crownsville.

October 13: Annual meeting of ASM. Millersville.

October 31-November 3: SEAC conference, Knoxville, Tennessee.

November 8-11: ESAF conference, Burlington, Vermont.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

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

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. This year's public archeology program runs until July 8, with digging on Fridays and Saturdays and lab work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or echaney@mdp.state.md.us

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

For updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

Oil boom is leading to site discoveries

By Michael Martinez

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, December 19, 2006

SHERIDAN, Wyo. -- The oil and gas boom in the West has opened vast lands to discoveries by an unlikely group -- archeologists such as Kevin O'Dell.

With crews spaced 100 feet apart, O'Dell and other archeologists are walking thousands of acres of sagebrush highlands, valleys and hills, and they're achieving a remarkable increase in identification of prehistoric and historic sites -- from those of ancient Native Americans to the homesteaders of the last century.

Because the Bush administration is pushing for more energy extraction on federal property, and because laws require cultural resource surveys before drilling can take place, private archeologists are enjoying a boom of their own.

At one site, old postholes, charred seeds and burned bones of small mammals were deemed remnants of Native American dwellings from about 6260 B.C. to 2640 B.C. Bone fragments from a 7,300-year-old burial structure nearby are believed to belong to an old woman with severe arthritis, who was laid to rest with a funerary offering of cactus.

Since 2000, the archeologists have been finding so many sites -- several thousand a year -- that Wyoming has become the top state for new places that are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, said Tim Nowak of the Bureau of Land Management's Wyoming office.

This year, 1,234 sites were considered eligible for the National Register, said Nowak, a deputy preservation officer. Those discoveries came after 121,494 acres in Wyoming were inventoried by archeologists, he said. Officials say the archeological bonanza is occurring on federal property throughout the country.

"We are experiencing a boom in archeology, especially in the energy-producing states," said Kate Winthrop, acting federal preservation officer of the Bureau of Land Management.

Wyoming state historic preservation officer Sara Needles said her 13-person office can barely fathom the wealth of the archeological findings. The office doesn't have time to nominate the most significant sites for the National Register, said Needles and her deputy, Mary Hopkins. Still, the act of designating them as historic or prehistoric provides legal protection, they said.

Some energy companies find the federally required surveys to be a burden. Archeological surveys can cost $100,000 for a group of wells over three to four square miles and take six to 12 months to complete, partly because the archeologists are so busy, said M. John Kennedy of Kennedy Oil in Gillette, Wyo.

Sites that are older than 50 years, generally going back to 1720, are considered "historic" -- a definition that Kennedy finds objectionable. A water tank or debris from a sheepherders' camp -- as long as it is more than 50 years old -- will force a redirection in drilling plans, he said.

"We're not talking about significant Indian ruins; we're talking about junk from prior to the last 50 years," Kennedy said. "It's kind of crazy."

To address such concerns, state preservation officers raised standards last year for recording a historic site. It now must have at least 50 items of "historic" age -- up from two items, officials said.

Preservationists also object to the process, saying they do not have the resources to assess the sites. Wyoming preservation officials are asking lawmakers to spend $2.25 million over the next four years for a comprehensive analysis of what is being found, which would serve as a time-saving guide in the federal review of drilling applications, Needles said.

He added: "If something is discovered, we try to get them to reroute the project. I would say 90 percent of the time we're successful."

The archeologists, as well as federal and state officials, prefer to avoid excavation, but sometimes a project unearths a significant find. That was the case in 2000 when the bones of the woman with arthritis were found during construction of well pads in the Jonah Natural Gas Field.

A find this big [ ] has Jamestown excited

From news reports, January 10, 2007

A treasure trove of unusual artifacts found in Jamestown could alter perceptions of the Virginia colony's place in U.S. history, archeologists announced Tuesday.

Tiny tobacco seeds, a loaded pistol and an imposing ceremonial spear are among the discoveries excavated since 2005 from a 17th Century well in the colony, which celebrates its 400th anniversary this year.

The artifacts are well preserved because they've been underwater—and thus not exposed to air—for almost four centuries, said Steve Archer, a botanical archeologist with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Archer, whose work was funded by the National Geographic Society, discovered the three tobacco seeds—each no larger than the period at the end of this sentence—last summer.

"To be honest, it's not a very shocking discovery. Jamestown is where you'd expect to find the earliest evidence of tobacco," Archer said. "On the other hand, it's nice to actually see it for the first time. We have a lot of tobacco pipe stems. They've recovered pipe fragments by the thousands. But this is the first evidence we have of the plant material itself."

"As far as I'm aware, there aren't any other early colonial examples of tobacco seeds," he said.

Two of the seeds were badly charred before they fell, or were thrown, into the well. But one was in very good condition.

In addition to the tobacco, Archer found evidence of more than 30 other plant species. He said the wet environment below the water line in the well shaft helped preserve seeds by keeping out oxygen. Nearly all were native species, including blueberries, blackberries, huckleberries, persimmon, cherries and grapes -- which led Archer to conjecture the colonists ate local food rather than supplies shipped from England or elsewhere.

"More research needs to be conducted, but it appears that the colonists were trying to live off the land," Archer said in a news release. "They were learning new things to eat. This adds a different interpretation to [our understanding of] how they lived."

The seeds and other plant remains were recovered last summer from the well discovered inside the north corner of the original James Fort. Archeologists have determined the well was dug after 1610 and filled in sometime before a chimney, part of a building addition, was built over it in 1617.

Based on the wealth of objects, "the colony was better supplied than we originally believed," said William Kelso, archeological director of the fort.

The handgun found in the well is a 17th Century Scottish pistol in almost perfect condition, Kelso said.

As a snaphuance pistol, the gun had a firing mechanism that used flint and steel to ignite the weapon's firing charge. The Scottish variety was made entirely of metal and often elaborately decorated. Archeologists don't know how the unusual firearm ended up in the well, Kelso said, but it is now one of the earliest known European firearms used in the New World.

The big spear—known as a halberd—was one of the most spectacular finds. Although the halberd was used for ceremony, it was an imposing weapon with a tip that combined a spear point and an ax. The halberd also is a direct link to an "overlooked, unsung hero" of Jamestown, Kelso said. The weapon is engraved with the coat of arms of Lord De La Warre, who was appointed governor of the colony by the Virginia Company.

The harsh winter of 1609-10 left just 60 of the original 214 settlers alive and the survivors decided to abandon the town. But while sailing upriver toward England, they met De La Warre, who ordered the colonists back to Jamestown, setting up changes to keep the colony afloat.

What experts do know is that after Jamestown's shaky start, tobacco became the colony's main cash crop and helped make Jamestown England's first permanent settlement in the New World.

The discovery of the tobacco seeds therefore provides an important link to one of the country's greatest assets, Kelso said.

Still, the rare find might have quickly spoiled if not for the diligence of the archeologists and the team of conservators who work at the dig's nearby lab. Knowing that some small but potentially important evidence might slip through the mesh of their one-eighth-inch screens, the scientists also made sure to take 5-liter (5.3-quart) samples of watery muck from each layer of the well they explored.

"We brought them to the lab immediately, where they were put into refrigerators," said staff archeologist Danny Schmidt, one of the primary excavators. "That way, we knew that whatever was in there would still be preserved."

The minuscule clues first had to be sifted from the soupy soil, a task that Archer -- who teaches at the College of William and Mary -- accomplished by passing the samples through a series of increasingly smaller geological sieves. Then he examined the accumulated organic material under a high-definition 7,000-power optical microscope at the college's Surface Characterization Laboratory on the campus of Jefferson Lab in Newport News, Va.

In addition to potentially tweaking the history books, Archer said, the discovery of the seeds and other plant remains could prompt archeologists to intensify searches for such materials at a variety of future sites.

Plant remains can contribute as much to understanding a site as guns, pottery fragments and other "traditional" artifacts, he said. "We love helmets and swords and buckles. But plant material gets short shrift."

Tilghman Island points may point east

Continued from Page one

Today some anthropologists believe artifacts found by Lowery—coupled with other recent discoveries in the Mid-Atlantic—hint that a few of North America's earliest inhabitants may have originated from Europe, rather than exclusively from Asia.

The points Lowery found at a site known as Paw Paw Cove turned out to be about 13,000 years old, placing them among the oldest human relics found in Maryland. In fact, ice age glaciers had not yet melted to flood the lower Susquehanna and create the Chesapeake.

The story of Paw Paw Cove, though, is more than the story of extremely rare spearheads that could reshape thinking of how North America was settled. It's also a story of how easily a site that persisted for thousands of years could be lost under a bulldozer's blade in the blink of an eye.

The artifact-rich site enjoyed no legal protection. The 10-acre Talbot County tract will be preserved for future generations—and archeologists—solely because of the willingness of a nonprofit land trust, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, to raise funds—and even go into debt—to buy it. No state or federal funds were available.

"It has been a difficult thing," said Rob Etgen, executive director of the conservancy. "But there was no regulatory structure that protects archeological resources if we didn't do this."

Even without the artifacts, Paw Paw was a unique site. It is one of the scarce Bay-front locations—and the only one in Talbot County—with a natural, stable sand beach. Shoreline maps show it has suffered little of the erosion endured by most of the rest of Tilghman Island since the 1800s—a fact that also kept its hidden artifacts from washing away.

Its artifacts gained attention when Lowery, at the age of 12, persuaded his sister to drive him to the Smithsonian for a lecture by Dennis Stanford, chairman of the anthropology department of the National Museum of Natural History. After the talk, Lowery walked up and asked the anthropologist if he could identify the points.

Stanford looked at the bag and recognized Clovis points. "Not only can we identify this stuff," he replied, "we will come out to see it."

Clovis points are unique to North America. They were first discovered in Clovis, NM, in 1932, hence their name. The initial points, dating to about 11,000 years ago, were the oldest known human artifacts in North America at the time.

The date coincided with the existence of an ice-free "land bridge" connecting Asia and Alaska across the Bering Straits. That coincidence gave rise to the long-standing view that Siberians, bearing Clovis points, were the first human occupants of North America.

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While that story has been taught in textbooks for decades, a number of recently discovered sites, such as Paw Paw Cove, have shown that theory is almost certainly wrong.

Artifacts from Paw Paw and other sites are 2,000 or more years older than those from the New Mexico site. Meadowcroft, an ancient settlement in western Pennsylvania, dates to more than 14,000 years ago, while Cactus Hill, a site along the Nottoway River in southern Virginia, dates to about 15,000 years ago. Another site in South Carolina is of similar age. Other settlements in Central and South America also predate Clovis, NM.

An emerging consensus among anthropologists is that the Americas were populated thousands of years earlier than previously thought—and before the land bridge existed—perhaps by people traveling in boats. Recent genetic and linguistic analyses bolster that hypothesis, suggesting Native Americans split from Asian populations about 30,000 years ago.

It's also unlikely that anyone from Asia brought Clovis points with them. When North American archeologists gained access to Siberian sites after the end of the Cold War, they discovered the points used by ice age hunters in that region were vastly different from the Clovis points found in North America.

Further, Clovis sites in the East seem to be older than those in the West, and the points seem to be more numerous at sites in the Eastern United States than in the Western states. Only 38 have been found in all of New Mexico. "Paw Paw cove has produced 42," said Lowery, who grew up to become an archeologist. And the Delmarva Peninsula as a whole has produced more than 350, he added.

Why would the Clovis point technology pop up at Paw Paw and other mid-Atlantic sites almost 13,000 years ago? One possibility, some anthropologists argue, is that not all of the original Native American settlers came from Asia.

Points similar to Clovis were developed about 18,000 years ago by a group known as the Solutreans, who inhabited the Iberian Peninsula—an area that includes Spain, Portugal and southwestern France. In fact, points that pre-date Clovis spearheads found at the Cactus Hill site are nearly identical Solutrean points, according to Stanford.

In a hypothesis dubbed the "Solutrean solution," Stanford and several colleagues suggest that some of the hunters—by design or accident—may have crossed from Europe to North America along an ice bridge that connected the continents during the ice age.

Those early migrants may have made temporary encampments along the way, but more northern areas were not conducive for settlements; rivers such as the Hudson were clogged with ice.

"The very first place you get to where the environment gets a little bit better is the Chesapeake Bay area," said Stanford, who believes the ancient Susquehanna likely provided prime hunting areas. "Some of the earliest people in North America probably developed right in this area, which is kind of blowing us away."

Many anthropologists disagree, noting that key supporting information, such as finding skeletons of Solutrean people in North America, or a clear trail of pre-Clovis points along the coast to Virginia and the Carolinas, is lacking.

But supporters say it is unlikely that two distant cultures would develop nearly identical point-making technologies. Point-making was an essential survival skill passed down from generation to generation. Techniques used by particular populations remained the same for thousands of years.

Lowery, who now lectures about archeology at Washington College on the Eastern Shore, has written papers on his finds from the Paw Paw site. Yet the site has never been fully excavated.

"A site like Paw Paw Cove, if excavated properly, may tell us that story," Stanford said. It may be, he added, "the best Paleo- Indian site in North America."

Even if a clear link to the Solutreans is never established, Paw Paw could tell other stories. Lowery notes that the Clovis points found at Paw Paw and elsewhere on the Delmarva Peninsula are made of different stone than those at Cactus Hill, which is just 80 miles away and seems to have been a major Clovis manufacturing site. To Lowery, that suggests the ice age hunters were territorial, not nomads as commonly thought.

Funding has never been available to examine Paw Paw Cove. Over the years, Lowery became the caretaker of the property, and later its owner. But for personal reasons, he decided in early 2004 that he could not hold such a valuable tract forever. "I carried that baton long enough," Lowery said. "I can't manage it and basically take care of it for the rest of my life."

He put the tract up for sale. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, worried that any buyer would certainly want to build structures that could entail driving bulldozers through neatly stratified buried artifacts, sought to protect the land.

But the timing could not have been worse. Normally, the conservancy taps state and federal funds to help with acquisitions. In early 2004, the state was in a budget crisis and land acquisition money was largely diverted to other purposes.

"As a desperation measure, we got it under contract so we could try to raise the money privately," Etgen said. "We had no confidence that we could do that, but the more we learned about it, the more we realized how important the property was, so we had to try to do something."

Initially, Etgen thought that money from national sources might be available for such an archeological treasure. But none were able to move with any speed. The county government initially pledged to foot half of the cost—then backed out, opting to use the money to replace the roof of a building that collapsed.

Ultimately, the conservancy launched a campaign to raise all of the money needed save the property, valued at nearly $1 million—by far its largest effort to save a tract of land totally with private funding. Lowery helped to bring in Stanford and others to talk about the significance of the site. Enough individuals came forward to cover most of the cost of the property; Lowery reduced the price and the conservancy closed the gap by taking out a loan, which was paid off last fall.

To Lowery, the lack of formal protection for such a unique site is astounding. Unless a state or federal permit is involved, any artifact can be destroyed, no matter how rare.

Etgen said the organization not only wants to make the site available for archeological excavations, but beginning this year it is planning to work with other organizations to make the site an educational center about the region's earliest settlers.

"We're taking some careful, slow steps to get a program started and get the right people involved to manage what is really a national and international treasure," Etgen said. "This thing is a treasure trove which is in a safe condition because we own it."

Fighting 'demolition through neglect'

By Nia-Malika Henderson

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, January 2, 2007

A short walk from Annapolis City Dock, where untold thousands of slaves were bought and sold, a free black man named John T. Maynard took a shed and made it a home.

It was 1847, and over the years Maynard added a full second story, a porch, a brick chimney and furnished it with dozens of mahogany chairs, two feather beds and a marble-topped table. The house still stands, though time and weather have worn away the original roof and the hand-hewn wooden beams are termite-ridden.

And for the past 16 years, preservationists have been trying to save the white wooden home from what Annapolis Mayor Ellen O. Moyer called "demolition through neglect."

With state and federal grants, the city has spent about $350,000, mostly to complete structural renovations. About a half-million dollars is needed to finish, though it's still not clear what's being finished: a city office or an interpretive museum. The next round of work is set to begin as early as this month.

Maynard's life and home offer a window into how middle-class blacks made a way in early Annapolis, a city where blacks and whites, slave and free, lived cheek by jowl.

His story, unearthed in the backyard and under the floorboards by archeologists and by historians in the state archives, is that of a man who amassed a measure of material wealth and respectability at a time when blacks couldn't vote and most were bound to white masters.

The push to restore the home -- officially called the Maynard-Burgess House for the two black families who owned it -- comes at a time when other efforts are under way to save relics of workaday life.

"We don't tell the stories of our homes very well, yet we've got so much early history," said Moyer, who spearheaded efforts to save the home as an alderwoman. "And this is a house that has stories to tell."

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Maynard's home remained in the family until 1914, when Willie Burgess, who had been a boarder, bought it at a public sale. His family lived there until 1990.

In the early 1990s, a local nonprofit organization purchased the home and city archeologists began excavating the site.

Tens of thousands of items were recovered, including an 1840 William Henry Harrison campaign medallion, ceramics and fancy porcelain figurines -- glimpses of a life well lived and aspirations held.

"That community was a beacon to people who wanted freedom throughout Anne Arundel County and in Southern Maryland," said Mark P. Leone, director of the University of Maryland, College Park's Archaeology in Annapolis program. "And that ability to become free and middle class is the actual meaning of the house."

For now, the house is a mess of old and new lumber and unhinged doors. In places, there are hints of what it used to look like -- a rusty porcelain tub, a small swatch of red linoleum painted to look like a rug and tattered leaf-pattern wallpaper.

Moyer estimated that the renovation will be complete by early 2008, but that's dependent on an infusion of private money. Local historian Janice Hayes-Williams is working to regroup the disbanded Friends of the Maynard-Burgess House to help with fundraising.

Allegany County planning a new Comprehensive Plan

From the Western Maryland Chapter newsletter, January 2007

The Allegany County Planning Commission is undertaking the long and arduous process of writing a new Comprehensive Plan.

The commission has taken an encouraging step by seeking information about archeological resources in the county. Dr. Bob Wall will be providing it with an overview of sites in the county, including some special things that we have learned about Native American life in Allegany County and how easily sites can be lost. Dr. Charles Hall, Maryland State Terrestrial Archeologist, will assist the county with regulatory and resource guidance available through the Maryland Historical Trust.

Recently, three municipalities in Maryland have enacted significant archeological review ordinances. The regulations provide an opportunity for investigation and management of cultural resources that may be affected.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AAChapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

February 13: A pot luck show-and-tell evening. Bring some artifacts for discussion.

Dig Days at London Town for 2007: May 12, July 14, September 15.

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-293-2708 or jlazelle@msn.com. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com.

Northern Chesapeake

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

February 13: Please note, this meeting is on a Tuesday. Wildlife Room at Harford Glen. Jen Jones, from York, Pa, returns to talk about local geology and the mineral exploitation of this region.

March 14: Perryville Town Meeting Room, next to the library, in the Town Hall. Joseph Hopkins and Ann Persson will discuss the Rodgers Tavern project.

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Some months, potluck suppers are held at 6:30. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Tiber River Tavern in Ellicott City. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

February 12: Matt Croson on "Archeology and CSI: Time is the Only Difference."

March 12: Michael Olmert, University of Maryland, "Outbuildings: Architecture and Culture in the 18th Century Anglo-Tidewater Backyard." (Pot Luck Supper)

April 9: Bob O'Brien, "A Travelogue of Hawaii."

May 14: Program to be announced. (Pot Luck Supper)

Western Maryland

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

February 23: Primitive technology. Roy Brown.

March 23: Barton Site update, plans for the 2007 field session. Bob Wall.

April: To be announced.

May 25: "Never Suck a Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI," lecture and book signing by Dana Kollman.

June: Barton field session. Dates to be announced.

ASM license plates are still available

Have you seen the special ASM license plates and wished you too could have a set? Wish no more, they are still being offered to ASM members. For information on how to get one, write to Tyler Bastian, 13047 Penn Shop Road, Mt. Airy, MD, 21771-4565, asking for MVA form VR-124,

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

ASM. Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, 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 welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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