



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Archeology from near and afar Apr.13

Excavations both foreign and domestic will be discussed at this year's Spring Symposium, in Howard County Saturday April 13. For the first time a silent auction will be offered in the spring and archeology students will have a higher profile.

After welcoming remarks and information about the two upcoming ASM field schools, Julie Schablitsky of the State Highway Administration will take over to report on work she has done on the Eastern Shore on a little-known War of 1812 battlesite, the fight of Caulk's Field which played a key part in the British attempt to ravage the Chesapeake. This is the Richard E. Stearns Memorial Lecture.

The other named lecture, the Iris McGillivray Memorial Lecture, will be delivered by Matthew Palus, formerly of the University of Maryland and now with the Ottery Group. He will talk about the archeology of African-Americans who owned land in Maryland in the early 20th Century.

Four talks deal with foreign shores, especially countries beginning with the letter I, and covering vastly different time periods.

Reuven Yeshurun of the Smithsonian and the University of Haifa, Israel, will document life in the pre-agricultural age at a 14,000-year-old settlement in Mount Carmel, Israel, part of the Natufian culture which left only limited traces of its existence.

George Hambrecht, a zooarcheology specialist at the University of Maryland, has done extensive work in the wastelands of Iceland. His talk will feature what years of digging in a land that had few if any inhabitants before 874 AD has produced and what it tells about life there.

The final I is for Ireland. Jerry Casway, chairman of the social sciences department at Howard Community College, will combine archeology with history in the hunt for the home of Arte Mc Baron, an important Irish contemporary of Shakespeare who has all but fallen off the face of history.

We move up one letter in the alphabet to J for the final foreign-shores talk, to Jamaica. Benjamin Siegel of New Atlantic Archaeology will describe ongoing work at Bluefields Bay. Finds both terrestrial and underwater help tell the story of the small but lively island colony in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Students are being encouraged to take a greater part in ASM activities. Sarah Grady, a recent University of Maryland graduate, will talk about work done at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Anne Arundel County. She will discuss erosion and sedimentation at the early 19th Century Sellman's Connection site.

Students also will present posters during the lunch period.

The Spring Symposium is being held at Howard Community College in Columbia, beginning at 9 a.m. There is no open cafeteria at the school, but there are dining opportunities at the nearby Columbia mall and elsewhere. Box lunches are available but must be ordered by April 3.

Admission is \$5 for ASM members, \$7 for non-members, but free for students with a valid ID.

A flier giving more information on the day's activities, directions for getting to the college and a lunch request form are with this newsletter.

Upcoming events

March 23: Annual Archeology Workshop. Crownsville.

April 3 – 7: Society for American Archaeology meeting. Honolulu.

April 13: ASM Spring Symposium, Howard Community College, Columbia.

April 20: Discover Archeology Day at Jefferson Patterson Park.

May 24 – June 3: ASM field session, Biggs Ford, Woodland site in Frederick County.

June 1: ASM board meeting. Biggs Ford field school site. 10 a.m. All are welcome.

June 14 – 24: ASM field session, Leonardstown, 17th Century historic site.

October 17-19: Three-day conference focused on the Ice Age colonization of the Americas. Santa Fe.
<http://www.paleoamericanodyssey.com>

October 31 – November 3: Eastern States Archeological Federation meeting. South Portland, Maine.

October 30 – November 2, 2014: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland

Volunteer opportunities

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

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

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have turned their attention to material from Chapel Point and Heaters Island. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jessie Grow 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 echaney@mdp.state.md.us 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. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

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

Silent auction: The items are for bidding

One of the features of the Spring Symposium will be a silent auction. It is the third one ASM has held in recent years but the first to be offered at the spring meeting. Here is a list of some of the items that have been donated for bidding. Proceeds benefit the analysis fund.

1. Shell Rattlesnake Gorget replica from the Late Mississippian period Tennessee/Northern Georgia 100 AD - 1500 AD
2. Replica Hopewell Mound Mica Hand - Mound 25, Ross County Ohio, Middle Woodland Period
3. 100 BC - 400 AD
4. Four Pendants/Buttons - Glazed stoneware - Native American inspired design. Weeping Eyes, Eastern Mask-falseface, Southwest Black on White Swirl, Adena Amulet - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - 3"
5. Shafted and Fletched Woodland Arrow - A replica of a Late Woodland Arrow
6. Dewey Beach Vacation - three nights at ocean block cottage. Minimum bid \$300
7. Two offers of 25-percent discounts for two people to La Cle Dor Guesthouse - A Bed and Breakfast in the Historic Henry Harrison Hopkins House in Havre de Grace
8. Josiah Henson T-Shirt
9. Book, "Montgomery County Mills - A Field Guide" by Michael Dwyer
10. Book, "Here Lies Virginia" by Ivor Noel Hume 1963
11. Book, "Encyclopedia of Human Evolution and Prehistory."
12. Book, "Colonial Living" by Edwin Tunis 1957
13. Book, "Indians" by Edwin Tunis 1979
14. Book, "Environmental Archaeology" by Dena F. Dincauze
15. Book, "Avalon Chronicles, The English in America"
16. Ghost Fleet of the Outer Banks (Framed Map)

Also coming up: 2 field sessions and more

April is Archeology Month in Maryland and activities are planned around the state. To see what's planned by date and area, check out the ASM website. A picture of this year's poster, featuring an array of projectile points, also is there.

The first of the two field schools will be held at Biggs Ford (18FR14) in Frederick County May 24 to June 3 with Joe Dent of American University as the principle investigator. If the site name sounds familiar, it is because ASM and the Maryland Historical Trust held sessions there before, many years ago when archeological techniques were not so advanced. The site, located just north of the city of Frederick, is a palisaded Late Woodland village that was occupied by both Montgomery Complex and Keyser groups.

The second field session runs from June 14 to 24 in St. Mary's County under the direction of Jim Gibb. Participants will be hoping to find signs of the 1662 St. Francis Xavier church. The site (18ST859) is just west of Leonardstown.

An underwater tour of The War of 1812

Susan Langley, Maryland's State Underwater Archeologist, will deliver a talk on "A Star-Spangled Introduction to Maritime Archeology" at the University of Maryland, College Park on Wednesday March 27.

She will discuss the search for the Chesapeake Bay Flotilla, scuttled by Commodore Joshua Barney in the Patuxent River. Remains were discovered in the late 1970s near Wayson's Corner and an underwater archeological survey of the wreck is ongoing.

The 1 - 2:30 talk at Tawes Hall is free and open to the public.

U.S. works to protect world sites

By Owen Jarus

Condensed from LiveScience, March 8, 2013

TORONTO — The fictional archaeologist Indiana Jones has long enthralled movie audiences, taking on assorted villains in quests to find mythical treasures, with some limited help from the government.

Minus any bullwhips, the real-life U.S. State Department works with other federal departments in a journey to protect important archeological sites and ancient treasures in the face of conflict, according to professional archeologists Morag Kersel and Christina Luke in their new book "U.S. Cultural Diplomacy and Archaeology: Soft Power, Hard Heritage" (Routledge, 2012).

Luke and Kersel both worked with the State Department's Cultural Heritage Center (in Kersel's case, as a contractor). They met on Luke's first day of work, Sept. 10, 2001, the day before the 9/11 attacks and in the years ahead they saw the State Department's role in overseas archaeology (particularly antiquities preservation) grow and transform.

"We witnessed the transition of an office that had been working diligently behind the scenes with little recognition or support from the U.S. Department of State to an entity that has become, by cultural heritage standards, a major funding source, intellectual resource and a prominent player in establishing U.S. approaches to cultural policy and programs on the international level," they write.

Kersel said recently that government support for overseas archaeology is nothing new. For instance, in the 19th and 20th Centuries the American government helped set up overseas research centers in places like Rome, Athens, Cairo and Jerusalem, centers that now face budget cuts.

With the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the State Department's role in archaeology changed, say Luke and Kersel. The looting of Iraq's National Museum and archeological sites put pressure on the department to help rebuild Iraq's cultural infrastructure and expertise. That looting also put pressure on American diplomats to try to improve America's global image.

"So outraged was the world citizenry at the ongoing situations in Afghanistan and Iraq and the failure to protect 'the world's heritage' that the United States has been forced to explore and demonstrate the importance of archeological heritage to local, national and international communities," write Kersel and Luke.

Conservative controversy and the Ambassadors Fund One program, which was initially established shortly before the 9/11 attacks, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) aims to conserve sites and antiquities in developing countries, while also recording indigenous craft techniques and languages. To date, the fund has given out more than \$29 million to more than 650 projects around the world, researchers noted.

The overseas grants were aimed at small projects, initially, with little input from Washington officials. However, "as world events occurred and foreign relations changed, so too did the funding directions of the AFCP." In 2004, a U.S. Senate report recommended increasing the amount of annual funding for the program to \$1.75 million but said that \$700,000 was to be used in the Middle East.

The use of taxpayer dollars to conserve historic sites, especially Islamic sites, created controversy among some conservative groups. The American Family Association said in a 2010 posting that \$6 million had gone to "to restore 63 historic and cultural sites, including Islamic mosques and minarets, in 55 nations." Some Republicans in Congress also took issue with the program, and last year put forward a bill to end it.

However, as part of Kersel and Luke's study, the researchers found that just under \$3 million (or about 10 percent of the money granted) went to Islamic projects.

Luke and Kersel note that the first large grants went to projects in Guatemala, Cambodia and Afghanistan. In each country, the funds are meant, in part, to address past or current U.S. actions.

Archeology falls victim to Syrian strife

By Taylor Luck

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 12

MAFRAQ, Jordan — To the caches of ammunition and medicines that they lug each day from this border city back into their homeland, Syrian rebels have added new tools to support their fight against President Bashar al-Assad: metal detectors and pickaxes.

The rebels, struggling to finance their effort, have joined an emerging trade in illicitly acquired Syrian artifacts and antiquities, selling off the country's past as the war for its future intensifies.

"Some days we are fighters; others we are archeologists," Jihad Abu Saoud, a 27-year-old rebel from the Syrian city of Idlib, said in an interview in this northern Jordanian city.

Since the onset of the conflict in Syria, the international community has expressed alarm over the fate of the country's diverse heritage landmarks and stunning archeological sites, as rebel and government forces have transformed historical treasures such as the 1,000-year-old Aleppo souk and the crusader castle Crac des Chevaliers into theaters of war.

As the war nears its third year, the United Nations and conservationists warn that Syria's historical sites face a new and more dangerous threat: a sophisticated network of smugglers and dealers — prime among them members of the cash-strapped insurgency — looking to capitalize on the country's cultural riches.

"In light of previous experiences in situations of conflict, with respect to cultural heritage, the risk of looting and illicit trafficking of Syrian cultural objects appears to be high," said Anna Paolini, head of the Jordan office of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The extent of the trade is unknown because of difficulties accessing historical sites in the war-torn country, according to UNESCO. There are conflicting reports about the fate of artifacts from Syria.

Twelve of the country's 36 museums have been looted, according to the France-based Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology. In a Jan. 22 report, however, the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums said the bulk of the items have been accounted for and transferred to secure locations.

Yet Syrian authorities and conservationists concur on the increasing vulnerability of the country's archeological sites, which, according to the government report, have been subject to "several" acts of vandalism and illegal excavations.

"This isn't just the history of Syria but the history of mankind at stake," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, head of the Syrian antiquities directorate. Before the conflict, he said, plunderers "were digging at night. Now they are digging in broad daylight."

Conservationists and officials in Damascus say the emerging trade is driven by an increased desperation among rebel forces, who control the bulk of Syria's archeologically rich regions.

Although the rebel Free Syrian Army (FSA) has repeatedly stressed its commitment to protecting heritage sites, rebel leaders defend their participation in the illegal antiquities trade, deeming it a vital source of funding to sustain their uprising. Average hauls can command \$50,000 on the black market, rebels said.

"We have been left to face an entire army without arms, without money and without help from the outside world," said Abu Mohammed Hamad, an FSA coordinator. "It is within our right to use whatever resources we can find."

The rebels and Jordanian security sources say most of the artifacts are smuggled into Jordan amid the daily influx of about 2,000 refugees. But the merchants often serve as middlemen, arranging meetings between smugglers and private collectors or traders who export antiquities to Europe, North America and Asia.

The influx of artifacts is familiar for authorities in Jordan, which served as a transit point for Iraqi archeological treasures looted after the fall of Baghdad in 2003.

"It is still too early to compare the situation in Syria with what happened in Iraq," said Jordanian Tourism and Antiquities Minister Nayef Fayez, whose department is tasked with tracking down and repatriating trafficked antiquities. "But wherever you have a lack of security, archeological sites are one of the first victims, and this is what we are beginning to see in Syria and expect to see on a much larger scale."

Continued of next page

The items have yet to hit international auction houses, said Martin Wilson, general counsel for Christie's and head of its art law department. But Wilson said Christie's would remain "vigilant," because "it is possible that in years to come, they may be offered to us when they have passed through many hands."

"People may judge us and call us thieves," said Abu Majed, 30, a Syrian army defector who runs the southern Syrian smuggling routes, each night navigating the steep valleys separating the war zone from Jordan. "But sometimes you have to sacrifice the past in order to secure the future."

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

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

April 9: Jim Gibb will discuss the discovery of the War of 1812 Fort Hollingsworth during ASM's 2012 field session in Cecil County.

May 14: Sarah Grady will talk on "Smithsonian Citizen Science Program in Archaeology: Erosion and Sedimentation at the 19th-century Sellman's Connection Site."

June 11: TBA

September 10: TBA

November 12: Julie Schablitsky will speak on the War of 1812 Caulk's Battlefield.

Central Maryland

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

April 11: "Looking for Atzerodt in Charles County" with overview on George Atzerodt, one of the conspirators in the Lincoln assassination, by James Gibb and presentation of photographic research by Joe Gleason followed by discussion of archeological possibilities.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Check our website for information concerning ordering the book, "Montgomery County Mills: A Field Guide," published by the chapter and reviewed in the January edition of the ASM newsletter.

April 18: Genie Robinson, anthropology professor at Montgomery College-Rockville campus, will speak on the archeology at Falling Green, an 18th-Century house in Olney.

May 16: Charlie Hall, the state's terrestrial archaeologist, will conduct a workshop on soils and site formation processes. Bring your own dinner or contribute \$7 for pizza and salad dinner. The workshop begins at 6 p.m.

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.

April 10: TBA

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>

April 19: Annual Cresthull Memorial Lecture for Maryland Archeology Month. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May: Sunday date TBA. Annual ASNC Picnic. Upper Bay Museum, North East.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 5:45 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net The group now has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358>

April 8: Charles Hall to speak on Investigations at the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County, 1969-70 and 2009. This was the first cooperative effort between Tyler Bastian and the Office of Archeology and the ASM back in 1969-70 creating the model for what has become the annual Field Session.

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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

April 26: Page and Keyser interment regimes from the middle and upper Potomac River Valley, by Dana Kollmann.

May 24: Show & Tell, rescheduled from February.



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ASM 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

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