



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.smcm.edu.asm

What's going on at the Trust

By Charlie Hall

Maryland State Terrestrial Archeologist,

The beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and to optimistically anticipate the year ahead. Yet the pause necessary to achieve the required state of musing introspection isn't materializing. "Busy" seems to be the order of day here at the Office of Archeology of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Our chief, Richard Hughes, has been busy with budget issues for, as you no doubt know, the state is facing dire deficits. All agencies are being called upon to help make up anticipated revenue shortfalls and our office is certainly no exception. To date only our travel funds have been effected (cut in half for fiscal year 2003), but more is anticipated.

In addition to these concerns, Richard has been working on developing procedures for efficient and responsible handling of unanticipated human burial discovery. Once completed, these procedures will likely involve close coordination with the Council for Maryland Archeology and, as appropriate, the Maryland Indian Commission.

Richard is also very involved with several research projects including the Maryland Aviation History Centennial of Flight Project (partnering with the College Park Aviation Museum and the Martha Ross Center for Oral History at the University of Maryland Baltimore County) and the Harriet Tubman birthplace archeological project (partnering with Washington College).

Production of a popular report based on the archeological investigations at the Benjamin Banneker home site is another of Richard's current projects.

Our Senior Research Archeologist, Dennis Curry, has been working to disentangle himself from his responsibilities for the Maryland Historical Trust's web site so as to make more time for archeology. Lingered projects, to which Dennis feels considerable personal responsibility, include most notably putting information about Maryland's National Register listed properties on the web.

Archeological activities have included managing the archeological component of the state-owned Cultural Resources Assessments Program. The idea was to inventory all state-owned properties for cultural resources, including archeological sites.

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REMINDER: ASM DUES WERE DUE BY JAN. 1. DID YOU SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL?

Upcoming events

January 14 – 19: Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Providence, R.I. www.sha.org/

March 1: ASM Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Crownsville. All are welcome.

March 22: All-day workshop, Crownsville. Details coming soon.

March 28 – 31: ASNC spring dig. See details below.

April 26: Annual Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

May 23 – June 2: Annual ASM Field School, the Winslow Site, Montgomery County

ASNC plans late March field session

As part of its ongoing Phase 2 survey of Garrett Island, the Northern Chesapeake chapter will hold a four-day field session from March 28 to 31. The chapter has been working for a while on the 200-acre island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River.

The dig, which is part of Maryland Archeology Month, will be from 8 am to 3 pm each day. ASM members and the public are invited to join in for a day or for the entire session. Advance registration is necessary and the site is only accessible by boat. Contact Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or williamlmac@comcast.net.

Park Service to hold archeological workshop

The National Park Service's 2003 workshop on archeological prospection techniques will be held May 19 through 23, at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, Illinois. The workshop covers geophysical techniques, aerial photography and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation and preservation of archeological resources across the nation. There is a \$475 tuition charge. For further information and registration forms, contact Steven L. DeVore at the Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska, 402-437-5392, ext. 141; email steve_de_vore@nps.gov

Volunteer opportunities

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

Jan 4. Shovel testing at Smith's St. Leonard Site at JPPM. 410-586-8555.

The MHT is going to be surveying properties of interest beginning this spring, starting with the McKee-Besheer area in Montgomery County. Contact Charlie Hall for details. 410-514-7665 or hall@dhcd.state.md.us

Ongoing: Lab work on Winslow Site artifacts. Call Katherine Clermont at 202-885-1840.

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

Linkages:

Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. Programs and a newsletter. 3106 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20010 or www.pcswdc.org

Lost Towns Project. Ongoing search for colonial sites in Anne Arundel County. Lisa Plumley, Office of Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or call 410 - 222 - 7441.

Happenings at Jamestown. An overview of the project showing artifacts and features: www.apva.org



Central Chapter leads sheltered life

By Stephen Israel

Central Chapter

Central Chapter has conducted its second year of test excavations at the Morris Meadows Rockshelter in northern Baltimore County. From July 6 through August 18, 2002, 19 volunteers assisted over seven weekends as part of the chapter's public outreach to expose the public to their local history through archeology.

Our goal was to expand Test Unit 1 (one-meter unit) into a three-meter long north-south trench. The trench (Trench 1) extended from the rear wall of the shelter toward the south to the edge of the talus floor. Additionally, Test Unit 4 (one-meter unit) in the front of the shelter in the floodplain was excavated deeper. Trench 1 exposed schist bedrock between 80 and 100 cm deep. The floor stratigraphy of the shelter is young and homogenous silt lenses over unweathered bedrock. Test Unit 4, became wet at 80 cm deep during a very dry summer, in a mottled silty clay soil with dense weathered schist spalls.

The majority of the artifacts excavated in 2002 were rhyolite flakes. The diagnostic artifacts included 10 quartz tempered ceramic sherds, 20 bifaces, 4 unifaces, 2 scrapers and a refitted quartzite rock, possibly a pot boiler. The bifaces -- rhyolite unless specified -- are 1 Jacks Reef pentagonal point, 2 stem points, 3 triangular points, 4 preform fragments, 1 drill mid-section, 2 biface tip fragments (1 is quartz), 1 biface mid-section, and 6 biface base fragments (1 is quartz). The majority of the prehistoric artifacts came from the top three 10 cm levels.

No artifacts from the 2001 or 2002 fieldwork appear to pre-date the Woodland Period. The absence of Archaic artifacts may be explained by a more severe climate before 3000 BC, which possibly saw the rockshelter inundated by high stream flows during storms. The high stream loads may have scoured the rockshelter's floor, soils and artifacts.

But, if these prehistoric artifacts represent stream depositional deposits, through temporary or intermittent flooding, there should be Archaic artifacts mixed among the Woodland assemblage, rounded artifacts from rolling in the stream and stream gravel in the excavation units.

The archeological analysis is further complicated by the excavation profiles roof fall large spalls, sloping bedrock and by a large fallen tree bed disturbance in the center of Trench 1.

The artifacts have been washed, labeled and inventoried and now are being studied by their type, function and technology.

Clyde Morris was gracious in providing a large room and table in their office for our artifact processing and analysis.

HAVE YOU SEEN an article that you think might be of interest to other ASM members? Send a copy to the editor. By email, if possible, otherwise paper will do. Addresses are on the back page.

UPAG's Rigby joins Indian Affairs panel

By Corinne F. Hammett

Condensed from Columbia Magazine, December 2002

Kathleen Rigby doesn't look like a woman who has spent a lot of time digging in the mud.

But this Howard County mother of two grown children has spent time digging there, seeking American Indian village sites on a 1998 University of Notre Dame project in California and Oregon.

Recently she was appointed to the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs where, she said, "I hope to be instrumental in developing and introducing a statewide educational curriculum about Maryland's Indian tribes."

In addition, she says, she's working on preserving the cultural heritage and helping Maryland's tribes pursue long-awaited recognition by the state of Maryland.

As an outreach person for the Indian commission, Rigby travels around the state meeting with American Indians and keeping in contact with schools and civic groups.

It's the kind of work she thrives on. "I love talking to people, learning about their culture and talking about the environment, history and all of the many things related to them such as art, religions, dance, music and clothing."

Working with the Indian commission gives her the opportunity to put her vast experiences to use.

"The issues we are dealing with are all issues I have studied," she said. These include health, conservation, preserving the cultural heritage and the environment.

Rigby has introduced Indian culture to students at Howard Community College, where she has been adjunct professor in cultural and environmental anthropology.

Rigby has also worked with the United Nations in environmental and wildlife conservation and international security in Nairobi, Kenya, where she raised her small children in a banana-leaf-covered dwelling surrounded by wild animals.

The family decided to leave Africa 1988 when their children were old enough for advanced high school. Her husband's new job with Johns Hopkins University in public health education brought them to Maryland.

Returning to the United States after 10 years in Kenya was a very difficult transition, says Rigby.

"The first year I woke up every night because it was so quiet here. In Kenya I woke up every night to lions roaring," she said. "I really miss the culture, the wildlife ... the tribes in their very distinct and colorful garb."

Her wanderlust began as a child in upstate New York, when she noticed Indian names of places everywhere, "but I did not see living native people in my daily life." So she began looking, found sites, and later visited local reservations, observing and attending powwows and ceremonies.

"At age 19 I left home to see the world and didn't go back for 20 years," she said.

Since coming to Maryland, she's worked with Congressional Research Service in American Indian policy at the Library of Congress and was a museum leader at the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum in Oella.

(Kathy is an active member of UPAG.)

Monitor's guns getting cleaned up

From the Washington Post, December 5, 2002

Archeologists and conservators in Newport News have finished removing sediment from the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor's gun turret, which was raised from the Atlantic bottom this summer.

A team at the Mariners' Museum now will begin a 12- to 15-year conservation process, concentrating first on separating the Union ship's two cannons from their carriages so they can be removed from the turret next year, museum officials said yesterday.

The Monitor sank, upside down, in a storm on Dec. 13, 1862, 16 miles off Hatteras, N.C. Sixteen sailors died.

A joint Navy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration team used a huge crane to raise the 120-ton revolving turret on Aug. 5, ending a five-year effort to save major artifacts from the deteriorating wreckage.

Archeological terms and jargon, Part 2

The Native American Liaison Committee has developed a glossary to improve understanding and communication between archeologists and members of the Maryland American Indian community. This is the second of three installments.

Interdisciplinary Approaches and Tools

Geoarcheology:	Field of study that applies concepts and methods of geology and earth sciences to archeology.
Pedology:	The study of soils and their structure. Used to determine the age, mode of deposition, and degree of disturbance to an archeological site.
Lithic Sourcing:	Chemical or geophysical methods of determining the geological outcrop from which a lithic material is derived. Used to trace travel or trading patterns.
Primitive technology:	Modern replication of prehistoric technologies using similar or identical materials and tools. Used to understand archeological waste products, how things were used, recycled and reused, and how they are worn out.
Residue analyses:	Chemical and microscopic study of residues left on tools in order to determine their function or subsistence data .e.g. Blood residues can be identified to family taxa. Phytoliths can determine the use of specific plant species.
Use/wear:	Microscopic examination of polishes and fracture patterns on tools that permit determination of their function. e.g. determination of scraper use on hide vs. wood, or use of certain projectile point styles as knives vs. projectiles.
Palynology:	The technique through which fossil pollen grains and spores from archeological sites are studied. Use to determine early climate, and how and what floral materials were prehistorically used for food, tools, storage, etc.
Human osteology:	Study of the human skeleton to determine age, sex, gender, population mortality characteristics, diseases, diet, labor patterns, etc.
Epidemiology:	Study of the disease patterns, including their spread. Can often be determined from nondestructive examination of human bone or DNA studies.
Dendrochronology:	Tree-ring dating, or using the annual growth rings in trees to date archeological sites.
Oral history:	Collecting and using the memories of persons to better understand the past. Oral histories are usually audio or videotaped, catalogued, and transcribed to be of continuing benefit to researchers and communities.
Ethnohistory:	The study of culture through time, using documentary sources and oral tradition.
Ethnography:	The written result of a qualitative study of a living culture, usually by someone not of that culture. The ethnographer is someone who has spent time as an observing participant in the life of another group of people.
Direct historical approach:	Extrapolation of ethnohistorical or ethnographic information into prehistory to aid in interpretation of archeological sites and early lifeways.
Remote sensing:	Nondestructive techniques used to generate archeological data without excavation, for example, ground penetrating radar.
GIS:	Geographic Information Systems. Computer-assisted data synthesis. In the near future GIS will permit significantly better interpretation of archeological data and prehistoric and historic cultures than has been possible to date.

Continued on the back

Common Excavation Jargon

Archeological site:	A concentration of artifacts, features, or ecofacts manufactured or used by humans.
Block excavation:	A group of adjacent excavation units placed to expose a continuous living surface so that relationships between features and artifacts can be better understood.
Component:	A culturally homogeneous stratigraphic unit within an archeological site, for example, a European colonial site may have an earlier Woodland Indian component.
Feature:	Evidence of a non-portable past human activity. Usually refers to fire hearths, architectural elements such as postholes, artifact clusters, trash pits and soil stains.
Floor or living surface:	An assumed level of human occupation within an archeological site, or the original ground surface on which an occupation took place. Often buried and/or plowed.
Flotation:	The use of fluid suspension to recover tiny artifacts, seeds, fish scales, bone fragments, etc. from archeological sites, allowing better determination of subsistence patterns and activity areas.
Hearth:	A fireplace feature that may be represented by a soil stain, a concentration of charcoal, baked soil, and/or fire-cracked rock.
Isolated find:	An artifact found outside a site context. This may represent a lost artifact, e.g. a projectile point, or may represent an uninvestigated probable site location.
Level:	A vertical column of earth removed during archeological excavation. Levels may be an arbitrarily set thickness (e.g. 10 cm), or may correspond to a natural soil strata. Thick natural levels are often dug using several arbitrary levels.
Midden:	Refuse deposit resulting from human activities generally consisting of soil, food remains such as animal bone and shell and discarded artifacts.
Ossuary:	A feature consisting of multiple human skeletal remains resulting from reburial of defleshed individuals in a common grave.
Posthole:	A soil stain representing a hole excavated in order to hold an upright post, usually for a structure or palisade.
Postmold:	A stain representing the remains of the actual post.
Profile:	A section or exposure showing strata within an archeological site, such as the side wall of an excavation unit or a cross section of a partially excavated feature.
Provenience:	Where an artifact came from. In the context of a specific site, it refers to the horizontal and vertical position of an object in relation to the established coordinate system and surrounding artifacts and features.
Shovel test pit (STP):	An exploratory excavation designed to expose stratigraphy and determine whether a thorough excavation is warranted. In Maryland, STPs are 35-50 cm wide round or square holes dug with a shovel stratigraphically into sterile subsoil.
Stratigraphy:	An analytical interpretation of the structure produced by the deposition of geological and/or cultural sediments into layers, or strata.
Subsoil:	Naturally deposited soil layer without evidence of human habitation or disturbance. Culturally sterile matrix into which features are sometimes dug.
Surface collection:	The recovery and analysis of unburied artifacts produced by human activities.
Controlled surface collection:	Collection of surface artifacts in a statistically meaningful way, that allows determination of site size, use and number of occupations without excavation. Often used during Phase II investigations.
Test unit:	A square excavation unit of standard size, often 1x1 m or 10x10 ft, usually distributed in a statistically meaningful way, to determine the depth of archeological deposits and the nature of the soil matrix.

What's going on at the Trust

Continued from Page One

Significant funding was made available last year to begin this project and the initial phase (primarily background research on several large park properties) was initiated. Unfortunately, continued funding in the immediate future for other phases and properties is not likely to be forthcoming.

Dennis continues to be the primary point-of-contact for all inquiries from the public and professionals regarding archeological resources and research in the state.

Collections issues seem to be the dominant theme of my first year as State Terrestrial Archeologist. In particular, I have enjoyed sleuthing out the saga of the Bald Friar petroglyphs, from their very forceful removal from the bed of the Susquehanna River in 1927 through their dispersal over seven decades and five counties. Look for more about this in future ASM publications.

I also have been working with the Natural History Society of Maryland to help it determine the best use and disposition of its Richard Stearns collections.

Other issues of interest to me are the development of procedures for granting and tracking archeological investigations on state-owned lands and wrestling with the issues surrounding access to the inventory of archeological sites maintained by the MHT.

This spring I am looking forward to initiating a program of field work designed to survey properties of interest. The first target will be the McKee-Besheer State Wildlife Management Area in Montgomery County. Volunteers will be needed and anyone interested should contact me.

Speaking of McKee-Besheer (where, of course, the Winslow Site is located), the first speaker to commit for the lunch-time speakers series held in conjunction with the 2003 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology (May 23- June 2) is none other than Tyler Bastian himself. More about the upcoming field session, including a schedule of speakers, should be available soon.

Susan Langley, the State Underwater Archeologist, reports that in 2002 the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program surveyed more than 28,000 acres of submerged state lands. Surveys included waters adjacent to Whetstone Point (Ft. McHenry), Horn Point (Ft. Horn), Swan Cove (Potomac River), Bodkin, Shippen, Back, Spa and White Hall Creeks, portions of the Elk and Susquehanna Rivers and the Atlantic seaboard to a distance of a mile and a half (half of the state's territorial claim of three miles). The latter search located three wrecks and a number of anomalies. Magnetometer survey will be completed this year.

Other surveys studied the footprint of Ft. Horn and the remains of a Civil War era wreck. In addition, these surveys assisted the Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County to locate a probable clay source for early pipe-making and assisted the National Park Service in moving forward with seawall repairs at Ft. McHenry and their resource management plans for Assateague Island National Seashore (both in Maryland and Virginia).

The Office of Archeology aided the Baltimore Museum of Industry in "taking the lines off" (mapping the hull and structural elements) the Governor McLane, the former flagship of the Fisheries Police. The program has exceeded its 5-year work projection by 15 percent in two years.

Our colleagues in the Office of Preservation Services have had an eventful year. Gary Shaffer left the office in the spring to take a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is now their statewide cultural resources coordinator in Bangor, Maine.

Beth Cole, Administrator for Review and Compliance, was very pleased to welcome Dixie Henry into the fold this fall as the second staff archeologist. Dixie had been the Administrator of the Maryland Indian Commission here at MHT, where she served with distinction, fostering Indian-archeologist understanding in the state to a heretofore unknown degree. Dixie was replaced by Suzanne Almalel, who often had assisted her with commission affairs.

Despite being shorthanded until Dixie's hiring in November, Beth was able to review 190 state and federal projects and 11 archeological reports of investigations, this fall.

If you have any questions about what the Office of Archeology is doing, or plans to do, contact me at 410-514-7665, or by email at hall@dhcd.state.md.us

Mrs. Jefferson Patterson dies at 97

By Claudia Levy

Condensed from the Washington Post, December 17, 2002

Mary Marvin Breckinridge Patterson, 97, a former cinematographer, photographer and broadcaster who donated land in Calvert County in 1983 for a park that is Maryland's richest archeological site, died Dec. 11 at her Washington home. She had pneumonia and cerebral vascular disease.

Most of the land that makes up the 544-acre Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, at the point where St. Leonard Creek enters the Patuxent River, was purchased in 1932 by Mrs. Patterson's husband, a Foreign Service officer who later was ambassador to Uruguay.

Excavations have turned up artifacts left by human habitation over 12,000 years and fossils dating back 12 million years. The archeological remains are so rich that when Maryland Gov. Harry R. Hughes turned a ceremonial shovel of dirt to open the park, he unearthed an Indian pipe stem and a colonial nail. The site, including museum facilities, is operated by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Mrs. Patterson, known as Marvin, was an intrepid New York debutante who loved to play polo as a young woman. She was one of the first women licensed to fly a plane in the United States. Her paternal great-grandfather was John Cabell Breckinridge, the U.S. vice president who ran against Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and was the Confederacy's secretary of war.

She rode horseback into the Kentucky Mountains in 1930 to make a silent documentary called "The Forgotten Frontier," about the Frontier Nursing Service, founded by her cousin Mary Breckinridge. Mrs. Patterson had been a courier for the service after graduating from Vassar College in 1927. She was chairman of the nursing service from 1960 to 1975.

When she was 74, photographs she took during a 1932 trip from Capetown to Cairo were published in a book, "Olivia's African Diary," based on the journal of Olivia Stokes, a friend she made when she first lived in Washington.

Mrs. Patterson also took photographs for Life, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Town & Country and other magazines. Photo assignments in prewar Europe, including a Nazi rally in Nuremburg, Germany, led to a renewal of friendship with CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow.

He hired her for the program "News of the World," and she subsequently made 50 broadcasts from European capitals over seven months. She was one of only a handful of American women in Europe working in radio and was among the first correspondents to use a new shortwave transmitter to broadcast on location.

In 1940, she married Foreign Service officer Jefferson Patterson, son of a founder of the National Cash Register Co. They met in Washington and were married in Berlin. She later accompanied him to posts in Peru, Belgium, Egypt, Greece and Uruguay. He died in 1977.

She served on the boards of the Textile Museum, National Symphony, Meridian House International and International Student House and committees of the Smithsonian Institution, Corcoran Gallery of Art and Folger Shakespeare Library.

Her honors included the Calvert Prize, Maryland's highest award for historic preservation.

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. Questions? Contact Karen Ackermann at karenlta@juno.com

January 15: Charlie Hall will speak about Anne Arundel County archeological sites.

February 19: Donald Shomette will present "History beneath the Sea."

March 19: Bill McIntyre on the Concord Point lighthouse.

Central

Central Chapter will have no formal monthly meetings this winter. Telephone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 evening, 410-962-0685 day, or by email; ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

Monocacy

Monocacy Archaeological Society meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Anyone interested can contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or e-mail hurst_joy@hotmail.com.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, usually at Harford Glen, but not always. Check the date for actual location. Meetings start at 7 with the program beginning around 7:40.

January 9: Greg Lang on Cresap House. Harford Glen.

February 13: Carol Ebright with a lithics workshop.

March 13: Henry Ward on the Herring Island excavation in the Elk River. Meeting at the Perryville Community Center.

Southern

Call 410-586-8584 for information.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. For information contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us

January 13: "Murders at Stonhenge: A Forensic Analysis," a filmed presentation.

February 10: "Historical Odyssey of the Aegean." Jacob Yates will include terrestrial and marine archeology in his powerpoint lecture.

March 10: Fiber Arts: Spinning and Weaving.

Western Maryland

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

January 24: After-Holiday Dessert Social/Show and Tell - Share a dessert and a curiosity. Librarian Lisa McKenney will be on hand to give us some highlights of the print and electronic resources available free at the library.

Feb. 28: Results of Barton 2002 - Roy Brown -An interactive sharing of the experience.

March 28: Cresaptown Site: A New Look at the Data, by Dana Kollman.

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, Northern Chesapeake Chapter, P.O. Box 553, Fallston, MD 21047-0553 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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