



ASM Ink

December 2011, Vol 37, No 12

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Go fish, go deep, early man did both

From news reports

Prehistoric humans living more than 40,000 years ago had mastered the skills needed to catch fast-moving, deep ocean fish such as tuna, a new archeological find has revealed.

Fish appeared in the human diet about 1.9 million years ago. Early catchers waded into freshwater lakes and streams without the need for boats or complex tools. It wasn't until later that humans decided to ply the ocean in search of fish.

The latest evidence comes from an excavation on the southeast Asian island of East Timor where remains of tuna and other deep-water fish were uncovered inside a cave. Using dating techniques, a team led by archeologist Sue O'Connor of Australian National University determined the age to be 42,000 years old — making it the earliest evidence for ocean fishing.

The findings were reported in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

"What the site has shown us is that early modern humans in island Southeast Asia had amazingly advanced maritime skills," she said. "They were expert at catching the types of fish that would be challenging even today — fish like tuna. It's a very exciting find."

It isn't clear exactly what techniques the people used to catch these fish. Since catching tuna and marine fish requires tools and advance planning, this meant people must have developed the mental and technological know-how to exploit the sea.

"It increases our insight into the developing abilities of early modern people," Eric Delson, an anthropologist at Lehman College of the City University of New York who had no role in the research, said in an email.

Tuna can be caught using nets or by trolling hooks on long lines through the water, O'Connor said.

"Either way it seems certain that these people were using quite sophisticated technology and watercraft to fish offshore."

Early anglers probably fashioned boats by tying logs together and used nets and sharpened pieces of wood or shells as hooks, said Kathlyn Stewart, a research scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature, who was not part of the study.

"These people were smart," she said. They knew "there were fish out there."

It's unclear how far the early mariners ventured. Once the bounty was caught, they likely ate it raw or went back to camp to cook it, Stewart said.

Along with the fish remains, researchers also unearthed fragments of fish hooks made out of bone from the same East Timor site including one that dated to between 16,000 and 23,000 years ago.

"The hooks were definitely used for ocean fishing but we can't be sure which species," O'Connor said in her email.

The site where the discoveries were made, known as Jerimalai cave, is a small rock overhang hidden behind in foliage, a few hundred yards from the shore.

Upcoming events

December 3: ASM board meeting, Savage Branch of Howard County, 9525 Durness Lane, 10 a.m. All members are welcome.

January 4-8, 2012: Society for Historical and Underwater Archaeology (SHA) meeting, Baltimore.

January 28: CAT Weekend. Jefferson Patterson Park, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard.

February 29: 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Dennis Sanford and Bruce Bradley offer a Smithsonian presentation on "The First North American Migration - Not a Strait Route." Admission \$18 to \$30. For information, 202 633 3030 or <http://www.residentassociates.org>

Volunteer opportunities

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

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 finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They are working on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) material. 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

The CAT Weekend workshop, postponed from Nov. 12, has been rescheduled for Jan. 28 and moved to Jefferson Patterson Park for better lab resources.

Time	Room A	Room B
8:30	Registration & Coffee	
9:15	Plenary: Welcome from CAT Chair	
9:30	Historical Overview Part 1	Projectile Points & Lithic ID Part 1
11:00	Break	
11:15	Historical Overview Part 2	Projectile Points & Lithic ID Part 2
12:15	Lunch	
1:15	Plenary: CAT Graduate Award Presentation	
1:30	Plenary: Keynote Speaker Cynthia Goode, American University (tbc) Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study Project	
2:45	Basic Lab Procedures	Projectile Points and Lithic Id Part 3
4:30	Plenary: Cat Chair (Short topic tbd)	
4:45	Workshop End	

Oldest church found at Jamestown

By Theo Emery

Condensed from the New York Times, Nov. 14, 2011

JAMESTOWN — For more than a decade, the marshy island in Virginia where British colonists landed in 1607 has yielded uncounted surprises. And yet William M. Kelso's voice still brims with excitement as he plants his feet atop a long-buried discovery at the settlement's heart: what he believes are the nation's oldest remains of a Protestant church.

The discovery has excited scholars and preservationists and unearthed a long-hidden dimension of religious life in the first permanent colony.

It may prove to be an attraction for another reason: The church would have been the site of America's first celebrity wedding, so to speak, where the Indian princess Pocahontas was baptized and married to the settler John Rolfe in 1614. The union temporarily halted warfare with the region's tribal federation.

Last week Kelso, the chief archeologist at the site, hopped into the excavated pit topped with sandbags and pointed to where Pocahontas would have stood at the altar rail. Orange flags marked the church's perimeter.

It would have been unthinkable for the intrepid settlers, as ambassadors of country, crown and church, not to erect a building for worship and conversion of Native Americans.

Nor is it the nation's oldest house of worship: Britain's earlier "lost colony" in North Carolina may have had a church, and remnants of 16th-Century Catholic churches and missions have been identified, according to Kelso. But the 2010 discovery and continuing excavation has generated excitement partly due to the size of the 1608 structure — at 64 feet by 24 feet, it was an architectural marvel for its time — and also because of how little has been understood about religion in Jamestown.

Some scholars lament that popular knowledge of Colonial-era religion has been flattened into a view of the Virginians as greedy and indolent, while later colonists in Plymouth, Mass., were pious and devout.

Religion would still have been central to Jamestown and theories abound as to why there has been scant attention. Histories tend to emphasize commercial pursuits of its colonists.

There is also a practical reason: Until recently, relics of early Jamestown were underground. For centuries, the fort was believed washed into the James River. But Kelso, unconvinced, began digging along the river's banks in 1994. By 1996, he was certain he had located James Fort's perimeter. The site has since yielded about 1.4 million artifacts, many of them stored in a locked, fireproof laboratory nearby.

But the original church remained elusive. Then, last fall, the archeologists located remnants of a new structure beneath Civil War earthworks.

"Every one of our colleagues had goose bumps. It was something we've been looking for 17 years," said the senior staff archeologist, Danny Schmidt, 33, who first worked at Jamestown as a high school intern in 1994.

The dig has continued through the fall. The graves will be investigated in the spring, Kelso said. "This is as close as you can get to a time capsule," he said.

The church would have been the fort's biggest structure by far. Paul A. Levengood, president and chief executive officer of the Virginia Historical Society, said a conspicuous church served a political purpose for the British.

Today, James Fort resembles an outdoor archeology classroom, with school groups and tourists watching archeologists at work just feet away.

The perfect Christmas gift for yourself

Face it, you deserve it. And it's good for you and good for the community. It offers you fun, enlightenment, sunshine, public service, occasional tick bites and poison ivy, a thirst for knowledge always and for water sometimes. And it is awfully inexpensive. What is it?

A renewal to your ASM membership. See the form with this newsletter.

How amateurs can best help out

The following article was originally published in the Missouri Archaeological Society Newsletter #248 in February, 1971, and appeared in ASM publications that same year. It is condensed here.

By Jim D. Feagins

All of us are concerned about the destruction of archeological sites. To see that this is so, all a person has to do is look at a highway map. Our cities are continuing to grow in size, miles of roads are added each year and we see lakes where once there were rivers, trees, grass and farmland. Too many times the archeological knowledge contained in these destroyed sites was not salvaged.

The knowledge that can be gained from the proper excavation of an Indian village, for example, is the prime reason for the excavation. It is not just to get artifacts to fill some museum. Whenever we excavate a site, we are destroying that site. This is why careful observations must be made and careful records must be kept at every step. Only with proper training and direction from an archeologist should we as amateurs attempt to excavate a site.

Unfortunately there are both collectors and others who knowingly and unknowingly have destroyed a great deal of our prehistoric record. This is probably especially true of sites located in caves and rock shelters where random digging has and does take place. This is deplorable. We, the public, lose valuable scientific information merely for private gain.

Of lesser guilt but still important, maybe you are involved in this destruction. Maybe you will say, "How can this be? I have always reported all the sites I found, I never dig for artifacts and only hunt on the surface of the site." Nevertheless, if artifacts are not catalogued in your collection and material from many sites is mixed up together, then you are destroying relationships.

Properly recorded material will tell the location of a site and also it may tell the approximate age and cultural affiliation of the site. If this information is not recorded, then it usually will be lost when the collector dies.

Also, there is a great personal reward in cataloguing your artifacts. Personally, I enjoy the challenge of looking over the material from some 50 sites that I collect from and trying with, I feel, some degree of success to figure out the approximate ages and cultures of a great many of the sites.

Also, as an added bonus I have been able to match up and glue together some of the broken material to form whole artifacts. This would be very difficult to do unless a person catalogued his artifacts.

We as amateur archeologists should think seriously about giving our artifacts to an educational institution or museum before or when we die. After all, when a person picks up artifacts that have been preserved hundreds and in some cases thousands of years, this means that he now has the responsibility of taking care of them and seeing how they are to be placed in the future.

Another way amateur archeologists can be of help is to simply become better informed about archeology. We can read books and articles on archeology, visit museums, join archeological societies and help out with archeological digs, etc. The better informed we are the better able we are to generate in others an interest in their stewardship of the past.

I would like to see professional archeologists make better use of amateur collections. Even if a collection is not catalogued, as long as the collector is living, then sometimes valuable information can be gained from his memory of where the different artifacts were found.

Also of particular importance are those collections which contain artifacts found on only one site. The professional archeologist simply does not have time to make extensive surface collections from the many different sites in an area and he may not be in an area at the time of "best collecting" for many of the sites. A good collection may represent a great many hours of collecting. Most collectors would be willing to spend time with an archeologist and go over their collections.

Last but not least, we all should be aware of what is going on around us and when we find a site is going to be destroyed then we should make sure the proper people know about it and do our best to see that scientific knowledge is gained about the site before it is destroyed. Archeology is important and perhaps some of the knowledge we gain from past cultures may help keep modern man from making some of the same mistakes.

A different view of Neolithic Revolution

By Bradley T. Lepper

Condensed from the Columbus Dispatch, October 9, 2011

The introduction of agriculture generally is thought to signal one of those epic cultural transformations in the history of civilization.

Traditionally referred to as the Neolithic Revolution, it represents the shift from a nomadic way of life based on hunting and gathering many wild foods to a more settled way of life based on the cultivation of one or a few kinds of plants.

Settling down in villages led, in turn, to the rise of social inequality as chiefs, priests, warriors, artisans and peasants took up their duties.

This tidy picture of seemingly inevitable social "progress" following the appearance of domesticated plants is challenged by a study of human remains from the Krieger site in southwestern Ontario published in the journal *American Antiquity* in July.

The Krieger site was occupied by people of the Western Basin Tradition, a group that lived along the western margins of Lake Erie, including northwestern Ohio, eastern Michigan and southwestern Ontario, from A.D. 900 to 1600.

The archeological evidence indicates that the people of the Western Basin Tradition did not live in large villages and ate a wide variety of wild foods as well as some maize.

The Royal Ontario Museum archeologists who excavated the Krieger site in 1949, for example, did not find any substantial house structures, and garbage pits were filled with the bones of deer, black bear, dog, turtle, turkey and several species of fish.

Therefore, most archeologists assumed that agriculture couldn't have been all that important to these people, since they still seemed to be living basically as hunters and gatherers.

Christopher Watts, an archeologist with the Royal Ontario Museum, along with Christine White and Fred Longstaffe of the University of Western Ontario, have made a discovery that challenges this assumption.

They examined the carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes present in the enamel of teeth from 10 individuals from the Krieger site. The differing amounts of the various isotopes indicate the kinds of food they ate during their lives.

In stark contrast to what the archeological evidence appears to show, Watts and his colleagues determined that the carbon isotopes present in the Krieger site teeth indicated "a very high level of maize consumption."

In fact, the levels were "equivalent to that in many agricultural societies dependent on maize both in North America and in Mesoamerica."

Watts and his co-researchers offer a number of possible explanations for this anomaly.

For example, it is possible that the Western Basin people were hunter-gatherers who traded with neighboring agricultural groups for their maize, but there is little or no other evidence for trade between these groups, which makes this explanation implausible.

Instead, it appears that Western Basin people somehow incorporated intensive maize agriculture into their lives without substantively altering their traditional way of life. This upends the conventional model that the adoption of agriculture inexorably leads to social transformation.

The Neolithic Revolution, it appears, was not an inevitable consequence of the adoption of agriculture. People had a choice in how they would accommodate technological innovations such as agriculture.

Bradley T. Lepper is curator of archeology at the Ohio Historical Society

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the Severna Park Branch of the County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

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 first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

December 7: Tom Forhan will speak on historic archeology of the Riley Tract Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC. Before the government acquired the land for Rock Creek Park in 1890, the area was farmed by a diverse group of landowners and tenants, including William Riley.

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 Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

December 14 (Wednesday): Meeting and holiday party at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center, Derwood, from 6-9 p.m. Entertainment includes the latest edition of "Archaeologists Gone Wild" and archeology jeopardy.

January 19: Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Denis Mackey, chapter member, will speak on his latest trip to Italy and the archeological remains he visited.

February 16: Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Noel Broadbent, a research fellow at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, will speak on his polar archeological studies.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

December 14: Guy R. Neal, Monocacy Chapter member and member of the Mid-Atlantic Primitive Skills Group (MAPS), will present a program on "Interpreting the Iceman's Artifacts".

January 11: Lyle Torp, managing director of The Ottery Group, will present a program on the Kramer-Jacobs cemetery project, a cemetery in Frederick County.

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>

December 12: Annual Dinner Meeting. Program will be a business meeting and feature awards and recognition and reports from committees. Harford Glen Dining Hall

January 11: TBA. Havre de Grace City Hall

February 9: TBA. Historical Society of Harford County

March 14: TBA. Student Center, Room 24, HCC

April 13: Al Luckenback, Excavations at Pig Point. Annual Maryland Archeology Month Cresthull Lecture. Edgewood Hall, HCC

May 16: Annual Members and Guest Picnic

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

December 12: Lab session. Native American and historic artifacts.

January. No meeting.

February 13: Lee Preston on "Made in China: From Terra Cotta Soldiers, to Porcelain and Silk."

March 12: Lousie Akerson on "Late Eighteenth/early Nineteenth Century Ceramics." A workshop on the difference between porcelain, stoneware and redware, and some of the common decorations found on late 18th/early 19th Century ceramics. Visuals will include slides and reproduction ceramics.

April 9: Celeste Huecker on Easter Island.

May 14: Kathie Fernstrom on a subject TBD.

June 11: TBD

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>

December: No meeting.

January 27: Show and Tell.

February 24: Phillip Allen on a pollen study of the Barton Site.

Archeological Society of Maryland
ASM Ink
P.O. Box 1331
Huntingtown, MD 20639-1331

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit 7050

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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% 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

President

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

Vice President

Tom Forhan
 301-270-8073
dufour27@gmail.com

Secretary

Suzanne Bucci
 304-876-2189
suzruns4fun@frontier.com

Treasurer

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

Membership Secretary

Belinda Urquiza
 PO Box 1331
 Huntingtown, MD
 20639
 410-535-2586
burquiza@comcast.net

At-Large Trustees

John Fiveash
 443-618-0494
jsfiveash@comcast.net

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

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

Jaimie Wilder
 301-741-2869
jaimwilder@comcast.net

