

ASM Ink

February 2014, Volume 41, No. 2

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org



Dennis Curry is new archeology head

Dennis Curry, well known to ASM members for his work at field sessions and as editor of the society's journal, *Maryland Archeology*, has been named Maryland's new state archeologist. He will serve in an acting position as Chief of Archeology at the Maryland Historical Trust until April when this appointment will be made permanent.

Curry has been involved in Maryland archeology for 37 years, the last 24 with MHT, most recently as senior archeologist in the Office of Research, Survey and Registration. He succeeds Maureen Kavanagh, who retired last summer.

"His extensive research and field experience as well as his intimate familiarity with the Maryland archeology community will be a great asset to his new role as Chief of Archeology," the Trust said in a statement.

On behalf of ASM, President Claude Bowen welcomed the appointment: "The Maryland Historical Trust has once again selected a first-rate scholar, writer and administrator for the complex job of acting State Archeologist. We at ASM are looking forward to our continued relationship with Dennis in his new role."

The Chief Archeologist provides broad policy oversight and coordinates archeological programs and activities conducted by the Trust. Curry's responsibilities include strategic planning for state underwater and terrestrial archeology programs, provision of archeological assistance to other

Continued on Page 4

Upcoming events

March 1: ASM board meeting. 10 a.m. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater. All ASM members are welcome to attend.

March 13 - 16: Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Langhorne, Pa.
www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm

March 22: Annual Workshop in Archeology, Crownsville.

April 5: Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

April 19: Discovering Archeology Day, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

October 30 - November 2: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are working on material from Chapel Point and cataloguing data entry of Rosenstock material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us

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

Montgomery County 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.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jasmine Gollup 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 more information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

Renewed your membership?

Field session alert: The 2014 ASM field session will be going back to the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County in late May or early June. More details next month or at our website.

Feb. 4 meeting to push preservation

By Claude Bowen

President, ASM

Last month, I wrote of an initiative spearheaded by Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Heritage Council (ASM, Inc. participates in both) to create a united and coordinated voice in informing legislators and other decision-makers in Maryland of the crisis in prehistoric and historic preservation in the state.

While ASM and like-minded groups have pursued such efforts on their own, the effectiveness of such issues has been lessened by lack of coordination in message(s) and proposed outcomes.

This year Preservation Maryland and its constituent organizations are sponsoring a Maryland Heritage Legislative Briefing that will take place in the ballroom of the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday February 4 and continuing through 3:30.

Afterwards attendees will have an hour to make direct contact with their General Assembly members and then, at 4:30 p.m., the Maryland Historical Trust will host the Preservation Awards with a reception following in the ballroom and atrium of the Governor Calvert House.

ASM members can participate directly in the push for greater preservation efforts by writing to their state representatives and senators. More on this later as I will discuss a letter-writing campaign with those chapter presidents unable to attend after the event since information on effective mail campaigns is expected to be offered during the seminar portion of the event.

The agenda for the February 4 advocacy sessions includes a legislative overview session conducted by the chair of the Environmental Matters Committee, Maggie McIntosh. In addition, representatives from the Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland Humanities Council, Main Street Maryland, the African American Heritage Preservation Program and others will discuss what is at stake now and in the near future concerning threatened cultural resources.

Erik Hein, executive director of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, will offer a seminar concerning how non-profit and advocacy organizations can most effectively conduct informational and advocacy campaigns to decision-makers in states. His talk will be followed by discussion by the secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, Richard E. Hall.

I am hoping that ASM chapters will send as many representatives to this event as possible. I know that some chapters have named a representative to attend and to take charge of advocacy efforts on behalf of the group. This is a model that I would encourage, although the more attendees the greater the impression that can be made on state decision-makers.

I would also encourage attendees to make prior appointments with their General Assembly members in the 3:30 to 4:30 time frame.

I am forwarding the registration email to officers, Board of Trustees and ASM chapter presidents along with this newsletter.

The scheduled events on February 4 are great opportunities for our colleagues to learn about this year's budget and legislative issues, meet and educate their General Assembly members and celebrate historic preservation efforts throughout the state. It is also an excellent opportunity to better coordinate the collective efforts of like-minded organizations in Maryland.

New Market students ask to be involved

By Lisa Kraus

Condensed from CRaB, the SHA newsletter, Winter 2013

Last September the State Highway Administration began an archeological project in New Market, Maryland. In response to a forthcoming streetscape project in the town, the Cultural Resources Section designed the project to mitigate impacts to buried archeological remains located along Main Street, the town's historic central thoroughfare.

The project involved the excavation of yards surrounding two taverns, one at 17 East Main Street (the Smith Tavern), and another at 32 West Main Street (the Shell Tavern). Both tavern sites date from the late 18th Century and each operated through the early 19th Century. Today, the Smith Tavern is an antique shop and private residence and the Shell Tavern is a private home.

Although excavations did not uncover much evidence regarding the Shell Tavern, we had better luck at the Smith Tavern. The remains of a long gone outbuilding or addition -- possibly a kitchen -- and an associated midden were discovered, along with several other features.

A major part of all SHA projects is public outreach and in New Market we decided to get the local schools involved. During the last week of September, over 600 elementary and middle school students visited the site at 17 East Main Street and helped with the excavation while learning about archeology and the history of New Market. We involved the students directly in the field and lab work.

Several classes who had not been included in the original field trip plan heard about the event and demanded to be allowed to visit the site as well -- and we were happy to accommodate them.

This was a first for the Cultural Resources Section. We have held archeology project "Open House" days and have given presentations to local organizations and school groups, but we had never before involved students directly in our excavations as part of a field trip. This project turned out to be a significant learning experience for us as well as for our young visitors.

More importantly, we invited the entire community to participate in the discovery of the town's past. Although it required archeologists to perform duties well outside the normal responsibilities of the average archeologist, everybody in the field rose to the occasion. The result was a meaningful and memorable event that benefited the community and the project tremendously.

Dennis Curry is new archeology head

Continued from Page One

Maryland Department of Planning offices and programs (the archeology staff was divided among several offices a few years ago) and coordination of archeology-related functions and duties performed by archeology staff working in other MHT offices.

Kavanagh's GIS coordinator duties, for which she had special training, have been re-assigned to a Cultural Resource Information Manager position. Recruitment for that position is expected to begin this spring.



GPS, Internet pose peril to ruins

By David Roberts

Condensed from the New York Times, December 23, 2013

WATERTOWN, Mass. — It has been called the best-preserved ruin in the Southwest. Built in the 13th Century by Ancestral Puebloans, its 20-odd rooms splendidly fill an oval sandstone alcove in an obscure canyon on the Navajo reservation in Arizona.

When I visited the place in 2009, official permit in hand, I was content to admire the ruin through binoculars from the opposite rim and from the creek bed at its base, for the Navajo Nation forbids all access to the site. When I wrote about it, I described its location no more precisely than I have here.

If you know the name of the ruin, however, you can go on the Internet and instantly find the GPS coordinates that tell you exactly where this prehistoric wonder lies. You can also open a Flickr photo of a fellow using a climbing rope to get into the ruin and bragging about doing so. Only one of the web postings I checked out mentioned the prohibition against entering the site or the permit needed to hike the canyon — that of the Navajo Nation itself.

The ruins and rock art left behind by the Old Ones all over the Southwest constitute, arguably, our country's richest archeological heritage. And they stand as mute testimony to a profound mystery — the sudden abandonment by the Ancestral Puebloans (also known as the Anasazi) of the whole of the Colorado Plateau in the years just before the beginning of the 14th Century.

Scattered about these ruins still lie broken pieces of painted pottery, chert flakes from which stone tools were made and corncobs filling granaries where the last dwellers left them. Under the dirt sleep the dead who made this world cohere.

Yet no prehistoric sites in the United States are more fragile and vulnerable. A century and a half of looting and vandalism has severely damaged such monumental villages as Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde and the cave dwellings of Bandelier National Monument.

By now, all that saves the still-pristine sites such as the one on the Navajo reservation is their obscurity and the difficulty of getting to them. With my fellow aficionados of the canyon country, I adhere to a rigid ethic: When you visit the ruins and rock art, disturb nothing, and if you write about them, be deliberately vague about where they are.

In the last 10 years, however, a rash of guidebooks, with titles such as "Hiking From Here to WOW: Utah Canyon Country," serve up detailed directions to some of the finest but still little-known sites. The most ominous new trend is the proliferation of websites giving the GPS coordinates of those prehistoric ruins and rock art panels. Armed with those numbers, the most casual curiosity seeker need not even read a map: One can simply home in on the place with device in hand.

And it is those folks, I believe, like the climber on Flickr with the self-portrait of his illegal climb into the forbidden ruin, who are most likely to take home potsherds or arrowheads as souvenirs or to damage the stone-and-adobe rooms as they clamber through them.

Can anything be done to reverse this trend? Americans are as fond of gizmos like the GPS as they are of guns. The Navajo Nation cannot be expected to post a year-round guard at that matchless ruin in the obscure canyon or at others in the remote reaches of the reservation. And government agencies cannot police the thousands of sites on federal land all over the Southwest.

Educating the public may be the only hope. We can take heart in the virtual disappearance of some of the more rapacious crimes against Southwestern prehistory. In the early decades of the 20th Century, for instance, ranchers and locals made a sport of using the petroglyphs for target practice. Their bullet scars are as indelible as the surreal humanoids carved so long ago into the sandstone.

To their credit, most of the recent guidebooks include codices about visitation etiquette. But not so the GPS postings on the web, which exude only a hearty "Hey, check this out!" tone.

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>

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 at 7 p.m. 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

February 13: Patrick O'Neill on War of 1812 Battle of the Potomac (August/September 1814). Location: Port Tobacco Village (Courthouse or Stagg Hall)

March 19: NOTE DATE CHANGE. Program TBD

April 10: "Overwhelmed By the Sea: An Afternoon at Point Lookout State Park" (and sand tempered pottery), presented by Lynne Bulhack.

May 8: Laura Cripps will talk about experience with geophysical techniques.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 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>

February 20: Chapter members Vivian Eicke, Jack Marshall and Valerie Hall will share their stories and photographs of travels to the American Southwest.

March 21: Cassandra Michaud, Montgomery County Parks archeologist, will give an update on the Parks archeological and collections projects including Blockhouse Point, Palmer-Robinson Rockshelter, Josiah Henson, Darby Store, Zeigler Log cabin, Bussard Farm.

April 17: Joe Watkins, supervisory anthropologist and chief, Tribal Relations and American Cultures for the National Park Service.

May 16: Eddie Franceschi, planner with the Montgomery Soil Conservation District, will conduct a workshop on soil analysis from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park. Bring \$7 for pizza dinner or your own food.

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.

February 12: Meeting cancelled.

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>

February 12: Jim Gibb on the St. Francis Xavier dig. Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

March 12: Julie Schablitzky on archeological investigations at Caulk's Field, a War of 1812 battle site in Kent County. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

April 25: Stephen Potter will deliver the annual Cresthull Memorial Lecture for Maryland Archeology Month. Edgewood Hall, HCC, Bel Air.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ellicott City Colored School. Dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Labs are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For location and other chapter information contact Dave Cavey at 410-747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

February 10: Elizabeth Comer.

March 10: TBD

April 14: Jim Gibb on vesselization.

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>

February 28: Hafting: How to Attach a Rock to a Stick, a primitive technology presentation by Roy Brown

March 28: The Battle of Gettysburg, a discussion by historian Larry Powell.

April 25: Charles Hall will speak on the 2013 ASM Field Session held at Biggs Ford in Frederick County.

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 Robin Martin for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

Submissions 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

Laura Cripps
 443-518-4554
LCripps@howardcc.edu

Membership Secretary

Robin Martin
 410-490-9104
rmartin5@umbc.edu

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

At-Large Trustees

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

Elaine Hall
 240-426-1298
elah1@umbc.edu

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

Barbara Israel
 410-945-5514
baisrael@verizon.net

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

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

