



ASM Ink

March 2012, Vol. 38, No. 3

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Land ho, ships ahoy at Workshop

Suddenly it's March already and the first event in ASM's spring calendar is just around the corner. The event is the 21st Annual Workshop in Archeology, the date is Saturday, March 10 and the location is the familiar People's Resource Center in Crownsville.

Doors open at 9, the greetings begin at 9:30 and the fun starts at 9:45 with Julia King telling about the excavations in Charles County that led to the discovery of the long-lost 17th Century Zekiah Fort. A lot of preparation went into the effort before the digging started and she and her St. Mary's College students had a good idea where to look. But they couldn't have been prepared for the state of preservation and the number of artifacts they found.

After this joint session, the workshop breaks down into the familiar pattern of three time periods each with a choice of three talks to attend.

Among the before-lunch timeslot offerings is Al Luckenbach with an update on the prolific Pig Point Site in Anne Arundel County. Three years of digging have uncovered seven layers, dating from the Woodland back to the Early Archaic. And the size of the site keeps growing.

Also before lunch Steven Anthony will offer the first of three sessions dealing with underwater archeology. His talk will tell how cutting edge technology was used to probe the wreck of a Chesapeake Bay schooner.

The final preprandial offering is the first half of a two-part prehistoric overview geared toward CAT members. Attending both sessions is required for CAT candidates seeking credit certification for this topic. Charlie Hall will lead the morning program, Bob Hall will do the afternoon.

A third CAT offering will be in the day's final time period. Jim Gibb will give a workshop on bone identification. Is it human or an animal? Is it a mammal, a bird or a fish? Jim will tell you how to make the call.

The terrestrial talk in the post-lunch period will deal with shell buttons. Scott Emery will describe this labor-intensive work, the industry it was part of, how the buttons actually were made and some of the archeological finds.

In the underwater talk Bill Utley will tell of the surprising discoveries made during the investigation of two small wrecks in the Mattaponi River in Virginia. What the divers found were that the ship remains were not so ordinary after all.

For the last underwater talk, in the day's final time period, David P. Howe will relate the recent work done in Chesapeake Bay by the Submerged Historical Inventory Project and its plans for this year. A wide range of

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Upcoming events

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

March 3: ASM board meeting. Howard County Central Library, Columbia. 10 a.m. All members welcome.

March 10: Archeology Workshop, Crownsville.

April 21: ASM Spring Symposium

May 25 - June 4 (tentative dates): ASM annual field session, Elk Landing

October 20: ASM annual meeting. United Methodist Church, LaPlata.

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

Two CAT sessions are being offered at the Workshop in Archeology at Crownsville March 10. Charlie Hall and Bob Wall will team up to present a prehistoric overview and Jim Gibb will talk about faunal identification. For more information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

Land ho, ships ahoy at this year's Workshop

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wars will be covered: the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

Bill Wilson of Lower Delmarva will present the final talk in that timeslot on the Pocomoke River, specifically about two battles fought along it 150 years apart. The first, in the 1630s, has been called the first sea battle between English-speaking peoples in the New World. The second is known as the last naval action of the Revolution.

The basement cafeteria will be open for lunch. Admission for the day is \$5 for ASM members, \$7 for nonmembers.

A full-program is with this newsletter.

Probably slave quarters found in Calvert

Posthole patterns and storage pits found in a Calvert County excavation have provided evidence of three successive dwellings and an outbuilding dating from about 1760 to 1830, according to GAI Consultants.

The site, 18CV151 in the Cove Point expansion project, produced 4,389 historic artifacts, 2,069 bone and shell, 26 prehistoric artifacts and more than 800 botanical remains. A total of 58 cultural features were identified and excavated: 41 posthole/post molds, four storage pits/root cellars, three ditches, four refuse pits, four other pits, one daub concentration and one structure pier.

Evidence from artifact distributions, soil chemical frequencies and features were used to interpret fence lines, wood ash deposits (from chimney sweepings), middens (around dwelling locations) and two refuse disposal areas, said Lori Frye of GAI.

She said the finding showed four distinct patterns frequently associated with slave quarters: (1) interior root cellar; (2) meat consumed primarily in soups and stews; (3) minimal evidence of butchery marks and waste (feet or skull bone pieces) and (4) location on land unsuitable for agriculture.

Other supporting evidence includes a relatively low number of kitchen-related ceramics and glass, indicating few material possessions. But she said they were not sure if the earliest dwelling and free standing storage building are associated with slave dwellings because only part of each was within the project corridor and flooding had eroded out most of the interior of the dwelling.

Book review: When war came to the Chesapeake

Terror on the Chesapeake: The War of 1812 on the Bay, by Chris George, Burd Street Press, 224 pages, \$20 (paperback)

Unlike most histories of the War of 1812 with, at most, a few lines about the attacks at Georgetown, Caulk's Field - Kent County, Elk Landing, Principio Furnace, Frenchtown, Lapidum and the burning of Havre de Grace, George provides detailed reports for each of these upper Chesapeake sites based upon original references and eyewitness accounts. Although I may question some minor points, such as the placement of batteries at Havre de Grace, I believe this is one of the best accounts of the events of 1813 I have read on this subject.

-- Bill McIntyre

Robert McFarlin, of Eastern Shore, dies at 76

Dr. Robert A. McFarlin, who in the 1960s helped organize the former Lower Delmarva Chapter of ASM and served as its president, died January 18 in Salisbury after fighting Parkinson's disease. A psychiatrist, he also was interested in historic preservation and is credited with helping save Pemberton Hall and creating the 64-acre preserve surrounding the historic site. He served on the governor's commission on archeology for about 20 years.

Days before he died he was busy cataloging thousands of artifacts excavated at an 18th Century home he had restored in Somerset County. Bill Wilson, an ASM activist and Delmarva authority, calls the collection one of the most extensive from a single Lower Shore site. The artifacts will be held at Salisbury University's Nabb research center.

New technologies, more information

Condensed from Idaho State University Headlines, November 21, 2011

Using only a tooth, researchers at Idaho State University can help solve ancient archeological mysteries - for example, determining what someone ate hundreds of years ago on Easter Island or tracing the genetics of 2,000-year-old Roman slaves - by utilizing new technologies and methods.

"One single tooth from a skeleton can tell you a whole lot of things," said John Dudgeon, Idaho State University anthropology assistant professor, who, among other duties, is the director of the ISU Anthropology-Biology Ancient DNA Extraction Laboratory.

Dudgeon, whose specialty is "bioarcheology," and his students can extract residues from teeth and other skeletal fragments, such as old or "ancient" DNA, stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen and microfossils of plants eaten by prehistoric people and animals, by using the DNA Extraction Laboratory, scanning electron microscopy and other advanced instrumentation in the ISU Center for Archaeology, Materials and Applied Spectroscopy.

One major area of Dudgeon's research is studying the archeology of Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island, which is an isolated Polynesian island in the South Pacific Ocean. The island is a World Heritage Site famous for its monumental statues.

By examining teeth approximately 400 to 800 years old from Easter Island, Dudgeon has been able to expand the understanding of its ancient peoples.

"We can perform a kind of genetic 'pedigree' analysis to see who they are related to, from the standpoint of their close kin on the island and more distantly, to their ancestry from other islands. We can also do stable isotope analyses that allows us to understand aspects of diet, such as how much terrestrial, or land-based, protein they've consumed, versus how much marine-based protein they've consumed," Dudgeon said.

These discoveries give Dudgeon and his colleagues many clues about the lifestyle and use of the land by the ancient inhabitants of Easter Island. His studies suggest, for example, that most of the protein the inhabitants consumed was terrestrial, rather than marine.

"They relied on terrestrial protein mostly, even though they lived on a remote, relatively cold and barren island, without much to eat that they didn't bring with them," Dudgeon said. "We find a lot of rat and chicken as protein sources, but not much evidence of marine protein, like fish or sea mammals."

The genetic sampling provides a lot of important information. From the teeth collected from 13 skeletons at one site on Easter Island, Dudgeon was able to determine that three of the people were directly related to each other.

"It is amazing we can look at these ancient remains and determine very precisely how closely people are related to one another," Dudgeon said.

Additionally, genetic testing can also help address other unresolved questions. Dudgeon is hoping by examining the DNA of ancient Easter Islanders, he can trace the genetics of those residents to identify more precisely where the residents of Easter Island and other Polynesian Islands originated.

"With the studies we've done, we've already determined that the residents of Rapa Nui were more genetically diverse than what was previously thought," Dudgeon said.

Dudgeon and his colleagues from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee will soon begin a project to do DNA analysis of about 110 teeth from Roman slaves that are about 2,000 years old to try to determine where the slaves originated.

These new technologies and advanced methods are allowing researchers to be much less obtrusive in completing their studies. They can now glean as much information from a small fragment of bone or tooth as they could previously learn from a whole human skeleton.

Archeology wasn't the early Va. focus

By Steve Vaughan

The Virginia Gazette, February 23, 2012

WILLIAMSBURG — Archeology at Colonial Williamsburg has come a long way in nearly 90 years, led by Ivor Noel Hume in the 1950s, the foundation's first chief archeologist.

As volunteer John Strassberger described it to visitors during a recent tour of the Archaeological Collections building, the origins got off to a wobbly start in 1926.

That's because it wasn't being done by archeologists, but rather historical architects. They were looking for foundations to rebuild the Historic Area.

"In the 1920s archeologists were interested in Egypt," Strassberger said. "Everyone wanted to find the next King Tut tomb. Williamsburg was laid out in 1699. By 1926 that was only about 225 years. To an archeologist that was about 32 1/2 minutes compared to the 3,000-4,000 years they could look back in Egypt."

Since archeologists weren't overseeing the initial digs, volunteers doing the work got instructions to concentrate instead on buildings.

"They were told to save anything that had to do with the structure, door hinges, molding, that sort of thing," Strassberger continued. "They were told to save anything else that looked 'interesting.'"

Even worse, "They were told not save too much."

The initial problem in reconstruction was knowing what the town looked like. The Frenchman's Map, used by Lafayette to figure out where to quarter troops, gave the layout.

The Governor's Palace burned shortly after the Siege of Yorktown. By 1926 a school sat on the site. Thanks to a diagram drawn by Thomas Jefferson, who planned to renovate the Palace before moving the capital to Richmond, the interior layout of the palace was known.

What about the exterior? Reconstructors got a break in 1929 when the Bodleian Plate was discovered at Oxford University in England. An engraving showed the front of the Palace.

"Once Colonial Williamsburg was rebuilt, we had to figure out how to interpret it," Strassberger explained.

That required increased archeology, greatly facilitated after Noel Hume visited in 1957 from England, soon returning as the first head of the Archaeology Department, where he served until the late 1980s. Noel Hume introduced better excavation and cataloguing measures.

Early digs noted where a particular artifact came from generally on the lot. Today researchers note which one-meter square of the excavation it came from, as well as how far down and in what stratum it was found.

While meticulous concentration on detail allowed archeologists to make more and more accurate conclusions about life in the colony, it's given the foundation a storage dilemma.

Last week archeologists were combing through artifacts from the two most recent digs: the Brafferton at the College of William & Mary and ongoing work at the Armory site on Duke of Gloucester Street.

Strassberger showed visitors how archeologists can tell the difference between quarters of the different economic classes in the colony by the quality of their housewares.

He also demonstrated how even animal bones and oyster shells can tell archeologists a thing or two. By examining the bones of animals, we learned what the colonists ate.

"We can see from the bones that they ate more beef than pork, more pork than chicken, and more chicken than fish," he said. "We can also tell that they were English cattle, English pigs and English chickens. The fish were local."

One of the colonists' favorite foods was oysters, whose shells are omnipresent at digs here. "They even used the shells to make mortar for buildings," Strassberger said.

Oyster shells tell their own tale. By determining if the shell was popped open by heat or shucked open with a tool, archeologists can tell whether colonists enjoyed their oysters cooked or raw. The answer? "About 60% to 65% were eaten raw."

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the home of Pat and Stephen Hittle, 102 Evon Court, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php NOTE NEW LOCATION.

April 17: Carol Cowherd, president of Charles County Archeological Society, will speak on "Port Tobacco in the Eighteenth Century: Using Land Records and Plats to Look for the Original 1729 Layout of the town." RSVP to Conrad Bladely at cbladely@verizon.net

June 19: Patricia Samford, director of the MAC Lab, will speak.

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 NOTE NEW MEETING DAY AND LOCATION.

March 8: Laura J. Cripps, anthropology professor at Howard Community College, on "A Multidisciplinary Investigation for the Original Mt. Aventine(s), at Chapman State Park" in Western Charles County."

April 12: Scott Lawrence of Grave Concerns on "The Search for Newtowne Chapel, a 17th Century Jesuit Chapel in the cemetery of St Francis Xavier Church in Newtown, St Mary's County."

May 10: Tim Thoman, Manager of Indian village at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, will conduct a flint knapping demonstration.

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>

March 13 (note day change to Tuesday): Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Mark R. Plane, public archeologist in residence at American University, will speak on "Historical ceramics and the Beginnings of Capitalism."

April 19: Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Cindy Pfanstiehl, professor at Montgomery College-Rockville, will speak on her development and use of a prehistoric predictive model for Little Bennett Regional Park and its implications for use on other parks.

May 17: Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Lynne Bulhack, chapter member and noted prehistoric ceramic expert, will conduct a prehistoric ceramic workshop beginning at 6 p.m. Bring your own dinner or \$5 for pizza and salad dinner. NOTE EARLY START.

June: Chapter meeting and annual picnic at Needwood. Date to be determined.

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 contact Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

March 14: Don Housley, president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of ASM, will present "Civil War History & Archeology: Guarding the Upper Potomac & the Blockhouses and Camps."

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>

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 27: Annual Members and Guest Picnic, Hollingsworth House, Elk Landing

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

March 12: Celeste Huecker on Easter Island.

April 9: 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.

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>

March 23: Will the world come to an end on 12-21-2012. "How the Maya Reckon Time" by Marilyn Moors.

April 27: Stephen R. Potter will give a report on the 2008 to 2010 archeological survey of the C&O Canal from Hancock to Cumberland.

June 16: Bob Wall will talk about the excavations of the 2011 ASM Field Session at the Barton Site and the plans for the upcoming June field session. In addition, Phil Allen of FSU will report on his findings of the pollen study he conducted on the 2009 Deep Unit at Barton.

June 14-16 and 22-24: Barton field session.

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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

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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