



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Fall meeting: Indians of Potomac Valley

October 18 is the date of this year's ASM annual meeting. A half dozen noted archeologists are slated to be in Frederick to speak on various aspects of the general topic, "Potomac River Valley Native Americans: Just Who Were These Peoples Anyway?"

The leadoff speaker is Wayne Clark, now with the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, who will offer "A new perspective on the 1,000-year history of the Piscataway and related Algonquian-speaking Indians of the Potomac River Valley."

He will be followed by Dennis Curry of the Maryland Historical Trust. Basing his talk on the Rosenstock site in Frederick County, the location of several ASM field schools, he will examine prehistoric village life during the Montgomery Complex period.

Michael B. Barber, a Virginia state archeologist, will report on the Keyser Farm site in a talk subtitled, "Deer Skins, Wealth and a View of the North."

Next up is Bob Wall, of Towson University. Relying on his experiences at the Barton site in Allegany County over many years, he will explore Susquehannock archeology in the Upper Potomac Valley.

Moving to the Late Woodland period, William C. Johnson will delve into problems revolving around population size during that era. Johnson is past president of ESAF and of the Pennsylvania archeology society.

The final speaker, also dealing with the Late Woodland, is Joe Dent of American University, who has led ASM in several field schools at several sites in the Potomac River Valley, most recently at Claggett Retreat. He will offer "A summary and ideas for future understanding."

A business meeting will be held before the talks and will begin around 9. Featured at the meeting will be the results of this year's ASM election and the presentations of several ASM awards, the William B. Marye Award for contributions to Maryland archeology and the Teacher of the Year award. A new CAT graduate also will be honored.

The speakers will begin around 10. A long lunch break is planned, so participants can sample local restaurants (a list will be provided) as well as sample a bit of Frederick lore. In addition, the Swomley collection of artifacts from the Claggett Retreat site will be on display at the public library, a few blocks from the meeting site.

The program, with directions the meeting site, is inside this newsletter.

Don't forget to bring your election ballot so your vote can be counted.

Upcoming events

October 14: Professor Marshall Becker will speak on "The Indians of Pennsylvania" with the focus on the Lenape's adaptation to change. Renfrew Museum, Waynesboro, Pa. 7 p.m. Information at 717-597-3215.

October 18: ASM Annual Meeting. Trunk Memorial Hall of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 35 East Church Street, Frederick.

October 24 – 26: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meeting, St. Mary's City.

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT program 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 james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently being curated is the collection from the Late Archaic Baldwin site collection. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7440.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact 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.

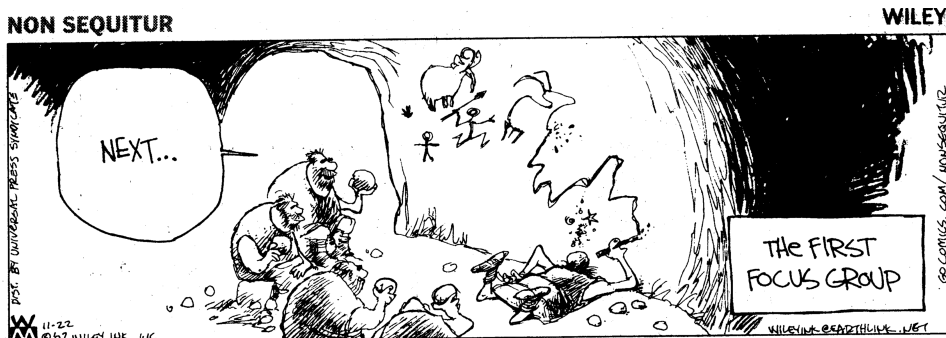
CAT corner

A workshop on historic ceramics will be given Thursday evening, **Oct. 16** by Jim Sorensen at Needwood Mansion in Derwood, Montgomery County. The workshop will last from 6 to 10 and pizza will be served. Space is limited, so RSVP to Heather Bouslog: heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org or 301-840-5848

For updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.

A website has been set up for CAT candidates and graduates: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/>. To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Members can choose to get emails or just use the website to send messages. Courtesy of CAT candidate Tom Forhan.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Work is expected in October. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us



Who are these guys?

Give up? See answer on Page 4



Kent Island site draws ASM volunteers

By Bruce Thompson

Maryland Historical Trust

ASM's call for volunteers to work on the Grieb Site (18KE83) in Kent County, a 17th Century plantation, rallied dozens of volunteers and professionals, guaranteeing success for the short mid-August field session. We not only recorded all four extant walls within the cellar but we opened numerous units surrounding the cellar.

Further analysis is needed before we can determine what the recorded features are telling us, but the artifacts recovered from the screens parallel those of Bill Grieb's original collection. A second area just north of the cellar produced possible signs (post molds) of a second, slightly later building.

All of the material recorded and recovered from the site during the session has been taken to the MHT laboratory in Crownsville to be processed. There are lab opportunities for volunteers and CAT candidates every Tuesday and Thursday, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information call or email me at 410-514-7663 or bthompson@mdp.state.md.us.

The 17th Century Plantation Project was further buoyed by a relatively new ASM program called the Archaeological Site Survey & Registration Program. Special thanks to the program's facilitator, John Newton, director, Charlie Hall and coordinator, Dana Linck.

Senate sets hearing on Va. tribes

Condensed from the Washington Times, September 15, 2008

A congressional bill to give federal recognition to six Virginia American Indian tribes will come before a Senate committee this month, marking the closest the tribes have come to that goal after years of trying.

"It just gives us more encouragement that we are making progress," said Wayne Adkins, an assistant chief with the Chickahominy tribe and president of the Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life, which has lobbied for the bill. "It's been a long, slow process, so any positive step like that gives us a little more to hold onto."

The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act would allow the Chickahominy, Chickahominy Eastern Division, Monacan Indian Nation, Nansemond, Rappahannock and Upper Mattaponi tribes to compete for educational funds and other grants, as well as health care benefits open to federally recognized tribes.

Virginia Rep. James P. Moran, a Democrat, initially introduced the bill in 1999. But the measure has seen limited progress over the years, in part because of concerns that it would result in the tribes pursuing casino and gambling interests in the state, accusations the bill's supporters deny.

The House passed a version in May 2007 that curbed the tribes' ability to pursue casino deals, marking the first time the measure had cleared either congressional chamber. The bill then was sent to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and is scheduled for a hearing Sept. 25 - one day before Congress is scheduled to adjourn.

Lawmakers are not expected to return until after the November presidential election, meaning time is short for the measure to make it to the Senate floor for possible passage this year.

"We know we're up against pretty tall odds right now, because time is running out," Adkins said. "Being an election year, too, it's just going to be difficult."

Moran said it's "conceivable" that lawmakers could pass the measure in a last-minute rush this year, but added he's not optimistic. He said having the hearing will at least build momentum for efforts to pass the bill next year.

The six tribes covered by the bill consist of roughly 3,500 people residing mostly in the Tidewater area of the state, Adkins said.

Tribes typically achieve federal recognition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which recognizes more than 560 tribes in the country. The bureau's criteria includes a provision that tribes prove they have been identified as "an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900."

Those pushing the bill's passage on behalf of the Virginia tribes say the state's Racial Integrity Act of 1924 prevents the groups' participation in the program.

The law's enactment forced Indians to identify themselves as "colored" and led to the destruction and alteration of many genealogical records - actions that amounted to what some have deemed a "paper genocide."

The hearing follows lobbying efforts in favor of the bill by Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine and Sen. Jim Webb, both Democrats.

Webb sent a letter last October to the Indian Affairs Committee urging a markup of the bill and met with committee chairman Sen. Byron L. Dorgan, North Dakota Democrat, to further press the issue. Webb called the bill "a simple matter of fairness."

Mr. Kaine in June also sent a letter to the committee urging a markup of the measure.

"It is past time to reconcile history," Kaine wrote to. Dorgan and the committee's vice chairwoman, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Alaska Republican. "It is time for these Virginia native peoples to be recognized by their own country."

The happy crew contains some faces you should recognize. That is Dennis Curry standing second from the left, proving that he wasn't born with gray hair, he earned it. In front of him is Maureen Kavanagh, proving that two people can work happily together for a long time. The picture was taken in 1980 when the Maryland Geological Survey had a separate archeology division. The rustic setting is really the Johns Hopkins Campus. Also kneeling is Pat Tretter, the division's secretary. Also in the back row, from the left, are Joe McNamara; his future wife, Lois Brown; Terry Epperson, and lab director Cynthia Flood. Photo courtesy Carol Ebright.

Conservancy looking at southern Pa. site

By Andy Stout

Condensed from American Archaeology, Fall 2008

The first recorded encounter between the Susquehannocks and Europeans occurred in 1608 when Captain John Smith, the leader of the Jamestown colony, was exploring the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Smith's Algonquian interpreter referred to the Native Americans in this area as Sasquehanough. Smith described them as seeming "like giants to the English."

Regardless of their actual physical stature, the Susquehannocks played a significant role in the shaping of the New World in the 17th Century through trade, alliances and warfare involving a host of native groups and France, England, Sweden and Holland.

The Susquehannocks occupied palisaded villages of longhouses that stretched from New York to the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and they sustained themselves through trade, agriculture, hunting and fishing. They were loosely related linguistically and culturally to the Iroquois of New York, though the two often fought each other. Despite their strategic position, by the late 17th Century they had been decimated by disease and warfare and driven out of the Susquehanna River valley.

First mapped by the Europeans in 1670, the Upper Leibhart site is a Susquehannock village situated on a hilltop overlooking the Susquehanna River in southeast Pennsylvania below Harrisburg and near the Maryland border. Occupied from 1665 to 1675, the site may have been home to as many as 1,200 people at its peak and it is believed to be one of the last major villages inhabited by the Susquehannocks prior to their defeat by the Iroquois around 1675.

It's known that amateurs excavated the site as far back as 1910 and from the 1920s to 1970s members of the Leibhart family periodically excavated some of the cemeteries, revealing over 100 graves in the process. A professional excavation sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Museum in 1956 uncovered a complete longhouse measuring 92 feet by 24 feet. The Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission conducted subsequent research in 1975.

Various Native American artifacts as well as European items were discovered. In addition, a variety of Early and Middle Woodland period ceramics dating from 3,000 to 1,000 years ago have been found. Consequently, in addition to the Susquehannock village, the site has tremendous research potential concerning earlier occupations. Despite the extensive digging of the cemeteries, the majority of the site remains intact.

The Grove family recently acquired the property containing the 12-acre Upper Leibhart site at auction and has offered to sell it as a bargain sale to charity at \$410,000. The Conservancy has signed a six-month option to purchase the site, in partnership with several other groups, and will manage the 12-acre site as a permanent research preserve.

Do you have any surplus old ASM Journals?

Instead of throwing away any old ASM Journals that you have, you can send them back. The journals will be used to fill in blanks in the Society's collection or for answering requests for back issues.

Send the journals to Northern Chesapeake Chapter's Dan Coates at:

ASM Publications
 716 Country Club Rd.
 Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104

Dan said it is less expensive to use the "book" or "media" rate and don't worry about insurance, delivery confirmation, etc.

"For some journal issues, we have what appears to be an inexhaustible supply," he said, "but for many the inventory is rather scant. For those out-of-print issues, I photocopy a file copy. The quality is good except in the case of detailed photos. It is my hope, that the return of some of the older issues, to the publications inventory, will allow us to offer an original quality journal for all purchases."

Hurricane Ike stirs buried ship mystery

By the Associated Press, September 19, 2008

When the waves from Hurricane Ike receded, they left behind a mystery — a ragged shipwreck that archeologists say could be a two-masted Civil War schooner that ran aground in 1862 or another ship from some 70 years later. The wreck, about six miles from Fort Morgan, Alabama, had already been partially uncovered when Hurricane Camille cleared away sand in 1969.

Researchers at the time identified it as the Monticello, a battleship that partially burned when it crashed trying to get past the U.S. Navy and into Mobile Bay during the Civil War.

After examining photos of the wreck post-Ike, Museum of Mobile marine archeologist Shea McLean agreed.

"Based on what we know of ships lost in that area and what I've seen, the Monticello is by far the most likely candidate," McLean said. "You can never be 100 percent certain unless you find the bell with 'Monticello' on it, but this definitely fits."

Other clues indicate it could be an early 20th Century schooner that ran aground on the Alabama coast in 1933.

The wrecked ship is 136.9 feet long and 25 feet wide, according to Mike Bailey, site curator at Fort Morgan, who examined it this week. The Monticello was listed in shipping records as 136 feet long, McLean told the Press-Register of Mobile.

But Bailey said a 2000 report by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined the remains were the schooner Rachel, built at Moss Point, Miss., in 1919 and wrecked near Fort Morgan in 1933.

He said the wreckage appears to have components, such as steel cables, that would point to the Rachel rather than an 1860s schooner.

Glenn Forest, another archeologist who examined the wreck, said a full identification would require an excavation.

"It's a valuable artifact," he said. "They need to get this thing inside before it falls apart or another storm comes along and sends it through those houses there like a bowling ball."

Meanwhile, curious beach-goers have been drawn to the remains of the wooden hull filled with rusted iron fittings.

"I've lived down here most of my life and I've never seen anything like this, and it's been right here," said Terri Williams.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

November 18: Rebecca J. Morehouse, curator of state collections at the Jefferson Patterson MAC Lab, will give a lecture "Life Beyond the Field: Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory." She will focus on materials from Anne Arundel County.

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7:30 on the second Tuesday (September-May) at the Port Tobacco Court House. Contact President Paula Martino at paulamartino@hotmail.com or 301-752-2852.

October 6: "From Eden to Exile: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Bible," by author Eric Cline. NOTE: This meeting is being held at a different time and place. Besides the date change, it will begin at 7 p.m. and be at the College of Southern Maryland in LaPlata.

November 11: Update on Moore's Lodge, site of first Charles County Court House, Julia King.

December 9: Registering archeological sites for the amateur, Carol Cowherd.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month, except for July and August, at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments. A short business meeting at 7 is followed by the featured presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net or 410-273-9619(h) and 410-808-2398(c)

October 9: Bill McIntyre presents "Garrett Island -- Revisited" at the Perryville Town Hall.

November 13: Gary Wasielewski on "Cedar Hill - Preservation of an Early Municipal Cemetery" at the Havre de Grace Town Hall.

December 8: Annual business and dinner meeting. Jim Gibb and Ann Persson present "Investigation of the 1800 Susquehanna Canal" at the Harford Glen cafeteria.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City.

Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

November 10: Lee Preston on the history of Simpsonville Mill.

January 12: To be arranged.

March 9: The second annual, Alfred J. Prufrock: Oh, Do Ask What Is It? game.

May 11: To be arranged.

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: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM, Inc 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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