



# ASM Ink

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[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## On the trail of an elusive chafing dish

By Carol Cowherd

I have always had an interest in archeology, but there never seemed to be enough time to pursue it. Then I moved to Maryland, and I started volunteering at the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

This led to Sara Rivers-Cofield, the federal curator at the MAC Lab, giving me the opportunity to create educational drawers for the Charles' Gift site (18ST704). It is said that the best way to learn something is to have to teach it. Well, creating educational drawers may be second best.

I would like to share some of the process and information, but first it helps to know something about the site.

Charles' Gift is on the Patuxent Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County. In 1999 a parking lot was to be expanded, and R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates did the cultural resource management. Some 50,970 artifacts were found with almost half in Feature 12, a large pit near the remains of a brick foundation complex. In order to preserve the remainder of Feature 12, the Navy decided to redesign the expansion.

Feature 12 contained debris consistent with the demolition of an earthfast building. Several window lead came with the dates 1675 and 1682, along with waster bricks, indicate that the pit was filled when a new brick structure was constructed some time after 1682. Historical records indicate Nicholas Sewall, the owner during this time, built a brick foundation structure between 1695 and 1700.

Feature 12 artifacts such as a book clasp, bottle seals and the broken royal statuette that appeared on the 2005 Maryland Archeology Month poster indicate a well-to-do family lived here. Other debris included fragments of ceramics, glass, metals and bones.

Only about one-fourth of Feature 12 was excavated before the decision was made to preserve the remainder of the feature in place.

For more on the story of the Charles' Gift site, see the Phase III report and "The Headless Royal" by Michael Hornum at [www.marylandarcheology.org/Arch\\_Month/Headless\\_Royal\\_Report.htm](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/Arch_Month/Headless_Royal_Report.htm) on ASM's web site.

Reports and articles are nice, but it is so much nicer to see and feel the artifacts. That is one of the benefits of

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## Workshop in Archeology coming on March 8

The 17th Annual Workshop in Archeology will be held in Crownsville March 8. The keynote speaker will be Bly Straube, lead curator at Jamestown, who will speak on The Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological Project. Two CAT workshops will be offered, and Dan Coates and Jack Davis from the Northern Chesapeake Chapter will do a presentation on prehistoric bone technology. The complete program will be in the March newsletter.

## Upcoming events

**February 23:** ASM quarterly board meeting, Urbana Library. 10 a.m. All members are welcome to attend.

**February 28 – March 2:** MAAC conference, Ocean City.

**March 8:** Archeology workshop. Crownsville.

**April 12:** Spring Symposium. First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, across from City Hall and a parking garage, and readily accessible to a plethora of eateries.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**Montgomery County** lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto: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 Conawingo Dam field school site. This site was a Montgomery County 19th Century mill complex tested by ASM in 1971. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [hall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:hall@mdp.state.md.us).

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

**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](mailto: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/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

## CAT corner

Two CAT workshops will be part of the annual Workshop in Archeology at Crownsville March 8.

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@yahoo.com](mailto:MDcat-subscribe@yahoo.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 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rervin@sha.state.md.us)

## Volunteer wanted – in the financial area (no money needed)

Now's a good chance to combine an interest in archeology with an interest in bookkeeping. ASM is looking for someone to help treasurer Sean Sweeney handle ASM's financial records. Millions of dollars are not at stake, but it is important to keeping ASM up and running. If you have knowledge of the basic skills needed and would like to lend a hand, contact Sean at 410-569-8715 or [seansweeney1224@comcast.net](mailto:seansweeney1224@comcast.net)

## U.S. trying to expand NAGPRA's scope

*From news sources*

The Interior Department is proposing new regulations to have the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act mandate the transfer of culturally unidentifiable remains to Indian groups.

The proposed rules would allow tribal connections to the area where remains were found to be considered in repatriation decisions if a more direct cultural link cannot be determined.

Tribes would be considered to have a connection to the remains if they had tribal ownership of land where remains were found, had aboriginally occupied the area, had a cultural relationship to the region or, if it is unknown where the remains were found, had a cultural relationship to the region where the bones are being held in a museum or by a federal agency.

Rep. Doc Hastings (R-Wa.), in a letter to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, called the proposal an "obvious attempt to end-run congressional intent and a federal court ruling in the long-fought Kennewick Man case" that would "severely hinder the scientific study of ancient remains."

"On the matter of congressional intent," Hastings wrote, "the record is absolutely clear that the Department lacks authority to issue these regulations. NAGPRA was written to address the custody of human remains from recent centuries that are related to present-day Indian tribes. It was not written to address very ancient remains of unknown origins and was never intended to thwart the study of ancient remains. With these proposed regulations, the Department seeks to assert authority and control that it was not granted by the Congress.

"The proposed regulations are especially troubling considering they ignore the decision in *Bonnichsen v. United States* [the Kennewick Man case]. It's been 17 years since NAGPRA became law, and now there is sudden action to write regulations that would have the effect of reinstating the Department's NAGPRA interpretation that was bluntly and decisively struck down by Judge Jelderks in 2002."

The court found that NAGPRA applied to remains only if a significant relationship could be shown to present-day tribes and allowed scientists to study Kennewick Man rather than ordering his bones to be turned over to area tribes.

"It is very clear that these proposed regulations are aimed at overturning this federal court decision by bureaucratic process," Hastings wrote. "The decision in *Bonnichsen v. United States* made it clear that Congress never intended NAGPRA to encompass ancient, unaffiliated remains with no present-day tribal relationship. This ruling was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit court, but could now be undermined by what these proposed regulations would set in motion."

Hastings is a leading congressional defender of limiting NAGPRA's scope so that the law only covers tribes with known affiliation to bones or funeral objects. He has introduced a bill, HR 4027, to counter one introduced in the Senate by John McCain (R-Ariz.) to include ancient remains within NAGPRA. Hastings' bill still is in the Committee on Natural Resources and has picked up no cosponsors.

The Society of American Archaeologists (SAA) and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) also have issued statements deploring the Interior Department's move.

"The proposed regulations have the potential for abuse by groups that have very little connection to any sort of legitimate Indian identity," the SAA said.

"Unlike cultural affiliation, a cultural relationship could apparently be asserted with respect to human remains with absolutely no demonstrable cultural or biological connection that are thousands of miles and thousands of years removed from a federally recognized tribe," the society said.

In its statement, the AAPA said, "If enacted these regulations would, through the destruction of unique information about our shared history contained in museum collections of human skeletal remains, result in a world heritage disaster of unprecedented proportions that will permanently hobble our understanding of American history and the place of America's first inhabitants in the biological history of all humankind."

It added that the rules would "irreparably damage the strong, highly productive, collaborative relationships NAGPRA has fostered between Native Americans and the scientific community that are made possible by the way in which Congress carefully balanced legitimate scientific, museum, and Native American interests when it crafted NAGPRA."

## Profiles in Maryland archeology

# An interview with ... Dan Coates

*Dan Coates, the president of ASM's Northern Chesapeake Chapter, is well-known to members from around the state from his active role in the annual field school. In addition to digging, he has provided water wagons and, memorably, used his military training to help pull vehicles out of the mud.*

**Q. First, tell me a little bit about yourself.**

A. Right now I'm 62 years old, I've had an off-and-on career in the military. How far back do you want me to go?

**Q. Did you grow up in this area?**

A. I grew up, since 5 years old, in Fallston, which is on the Gunpowder River, where these rock shelters are that Steve (Israel) is talking about [at the ASM Annual Meeting]. In fact, there are a few rock shelters on our property. It's in Harford County. I lived there until I was about 18. After that I went to Lehigh for a few years, realized that Lehigh-style engineering was a little over my head and I joined the Army. Went through several branches before I settled in aviation. Ended up in Vietnam for a couple years and then was in the military off-and-on for a total of 40 years. That was National Guard, full-time support of the National Guard and active duty.

**Q. How did you get interested in archeology?**

A. Being raised in the country - and we were about as far out as you could get in Harford County - I learned about the outdoors from my mother. Her family was big into that. I had some really good Boy Scout support, an excellent Scout camp there in Harford County that in later years I lived next to and was able to explore quite a bit. I now own a cabin on the other side of it, so I still explore that Scout camp, a 1,200-acre camp. My

great uncle also kind of raised me in the woods, taught me Indian lore. I think he kind of had in mind that was in case I ever needed the military woods training. You say, what's that got to do with archeology. Well, this sense of observation that I was taught as a kid and the skills that were honed in the military ended up observing artifacts and I became a collector because wherever I went I would try to find out what was happening in that area, mostly prehistory.

**Q. Was that in the States?**

A. Yes. I spent just about all my military time in the States and a good portion of it in northern Maryland. So I got a chance in aviation to really see everything from the air. When you see these



pictures of aerial photography identification of sites, I saw that, because I was trained to observe

the enemy on the ground and signs of the enemy. So I was way overtrained to identify archeological sites, prehistoric ruins and things like that. It's kind of a neat thing to be able to see something from the air and then, when I got on the ground, when I had an opportunity to hike back in and see what that was all about, see how well I had interpreted what was actually on the ground.

**Q. What kind of sites did you find that way?**

A. Well, rock shelters, soapstone quarries, fishing weirs on the Susquehanna. And as I told Joe Dent, one time I saw two, and recovered two, stone points. One of them from almost 1,000 feet up. People think that's hard to believe. But that one happened to be a quartz point and the sun reflected off it and it was just like a flash of light, like somebody had a signal mirror, which we were trained to use, and I spotted where that came from okay. I took a little walk in that field after work and I found the point.

**Q. What's the first dig you were on? Do you remember much about that?**

A. That first dig was with Darrin Lowery from the Eastern Shore and he took about a half dozen of us to a farm in search of a paleo site in Delaware. Since I was inexperienced, I dug a unit with Darrin. And at, I believe it was 84 centimeters, we uncovered a paleo point and his first remark was, "This is the oldest point ever found in the state of Delaware." So, as you might imagine, I was hooked. It looked like a little Peedee point, very small, dark flint. To preserve the site all units were closed because we had discovered what we wanted to find - that we had a paleo site. He had identified that site through map research.

I worked within the chapter - it was then the Harford County Chapter and then we changed to Northern Chesapeake just to broaden the territory and reflect the region of the membership. We did some work to support the Boy Scout archeology merit badge at Swan Harbor Farm. At that time it was the first troop in Maryland to collectively achieve the archeology merit badge, which is a fairly recent badge. Lee Faulkner was the archeologist in charge of that dig and he worked at that time with the Army Environmental Center at Edgewood. That was the beginning, then ASM field sessions and Garrett Island work, with Virginia Busbee and Bob Wall and

a few other principal investigators who assisted in that.

**Q. Do you have a favorite dig?**

A. Well, there's the Hughes site - that kind of got rained out. I was lucky enough with a couple other people to stay a few days extra after everybody else had left and work almost one-on-one with Joe Dent. That was really something. That was a very special time because he knew what I needed for the CAT program and he understood that some of these things I may never have an opportunity to do again, mapping and diagramming post holes and things like that. So I was able to get that experience on that dig. And I guess all the ones along the Potomac were my favorites.

**Q. You are the leader of one of the most active chapters. What is the secret of its success?**

A. I think the way we do a variety of programs. There are times I think people would say, "Where is the archeology connected with this group?" But at other times, people would say, "Wow, you're getting deeper into the archeology than most chapters ever do." Because we do these associated activities. Participating in building preservation fairs at Harford Community College. Going to powwows. Trying to get back to the reason that people began powwows in non-native areas was to teach native children the original skills that their people used. When you go to a powwow today there is not a whole lot of that, but we do it, through archeology and through artifact interpretation. I would say that the programs, the outreach, the displays that the chapter puts together just cover almost every single phase of archeology. We make sure that we get a geologist to come speak at least every other year and we try to pull these disciplines in that the average regional advocate of archeology may not have a chance to see. I think that's why it's popular. Plus there's a good social bond between people. It's a very local organization. Kind of like Roy Brown's description of the Western chapter: "You won't see any of those people here [at the ASM meeting], it's too far east." Well, not many of our people are right here, because it is too far south for them. When you're above the fall line and close to the [Susquehanna] river and close to that Mason-Dixon line, you get attached to those things that are associated with that. And we try to make sure that the chapter

activities deal with those local geographic things. We don't get speakers in to talk about the pyramids. We get speakers in to talk about Principio iron furnace in Cecil County or something like that.



## On the trail of an elusive chafing dish

**Continued from Page One**

educational drawers. The first educational drawers dealt with the 17<sup>th</sup> Century ceramics found in Feature 12. Goodwin and Associates had identified 84 ceramic vessels in the feature. None of the vessels were complete. In some cases only a small fragment of the vessel had been found.

I selected the ceramics to be displayed in two 23"x30" drawers. One drawer was devoted to North Devon Gravel Tempered (NDGT) earthenware. The other was for all the other ceramics, including Rhenish stoneware, tin-glazed earthenware, North Devon sgraffito slipware, other miscellaneous ceramics and two small fragments of Chinese porcelain.

I placed each vessel into an open box lined with Ethafoam. Sara and I decided that the acid-free label identifying the box's contents would have two parts. One part would describe the vessel and the second part hidden under the Ethafoam would contain the provenience information.

Most of the ceramics were of the utilitarian NDGT type. One NDGT vessel consisted of just a small knob-like fragment. Sara indicated it was from the top of a chafing dish. I had never seen a 17<sup>th</sup> Century chafing dish, so I started looking in JPPM's library and on web sites for images to include on the labels.

*Archaeological Excavations at Jamestown, Virginia* by John Cotter and *Treasures from Jamestown* by J. Paul Hudson contained pictures with vessels similar to the NDGT fragments of the chafing dish, a pipkin and a baking pan. I used Photoshop to "cut" vessels from the Jamestown picture and, if necessary, to "mend" the vessel. I added this modified image to the visible part of the label to indicate how a given type of vessel might have appeared and included the reference for the picture in the hidden part of the label.

Most of the other NDGT vessels were from milk pans. No one seems to get too excited about NDGT milk pans, but Feature 12 had a variety of rims from pans with different diameters. There also were fragments indicating pans having different depths. I could not find a good example to use on the label, so I ended up using Photoshop to modify a picture of an antique milk pan that was being sold on-line.

Cotter's book and the article "Scratched in Clay: Seventeenth Century North Devon Slipware in Jamestown, Virginia" by Merry Outlaw from *Ceramics in America 2002* contained pictures of vessels with designs similar to



the sgraffito fragments of pitchers, dishes, a bowl and a porringer found in the feature. Once again I used Photoshop to capture images of these Jamestown vessels.

I had to "go to England" for images to be used with the fragments of tin-glazed earthenware ointment pots, Rhenish stoneware tankards and an olive jar. The best source for these ceramics was the web site of the Museum of London, [www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics). I cut out pictures for ceramic vessels dating around 1650-1700 using Photoshop.

In addition to ceramics there were 1,579 pieces of deteriorating dark green bottle glass in Feature 12. So a third educational drawer was created for them. Before selecting the pieces to be used in the drawer, I had to conserve the glass, identify the diagnostic pieces and type them, and find images for representative whole bottles.

Goodwin had not analyzed the bottle glass, so I had to do the research. Along the way I learned about bottle anatomy, glass chemistry and the history of glass manufacture. And I started researching the merchant mark found on the bottle seals.

For those of you still wondering about a chafing dish, it was used to hold coals to keep warm food on the table.



## Maryland archeology pioneer Hugh Stabler dies at 90

Hugh Stabler, one of the pioneers in Maryland archeology, died December 24 at the Sandy Spring Friends Nursing home after a brief illness at age 90. Along with Richard Slattery, he explored and excavated areas along the Potomac in Maryland and Virginia from the 1930s, when they were teen-agers, to the 1950s.

An account of one of their early trips can be found at

[www.marylandarcheology.org/Slattery\\_Canoe\\_Trip.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/Slattery_Canoe_Trip.php)

## 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](mailto:AACHapASM@hotmail.com) or visit the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php)

### 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](mailto:ssisrael@abs.net)

### 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](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org), or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: [www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org](http://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 at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or Nancy Geasey at 301-293-2708.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) or 410-273-9619(h) and 410-808-2398(c)

## Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at [katesilas@chesapeake.net](mailto:katesilas@chesapeake.net) or 410-586-8538.

## 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](mailto:leeprestonjr@comcast.net)

**March 10:** Rebecca Morehouse, collections manager, MAC Lab, "Life Beyond the Field: Artifact Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab."

**May 12:** Howard Wellman, MAC Lab, "Archeological Conservation and Artifact Handling in the Field."

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: [www.geocities.com/wmdasm](http://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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net).

**Submissions welcome.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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