ASM Ink

April 2003, Vol. 29, No. 4

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.smcm.edu/Academics/soan/asm/home/htm

Budget cuts to hit Trust and ASM support

As the State of Maryland and federal government face the tightest budgets in over a decade, archeology and other historic preservation programs at the Maryland Historical Trust are feeling the pinch.

A good example is the Trust's Non-Capital Grant Program which is slated to drop from $2.5 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 to $233,445 in FY 04. Non-Capital Grants to the Archeological Society of Maryland over the last decade have supported such projects as the Annual Field Session, Maryland Archeology Month, an assessment of artifact collections generated by ASM field schools and projects, and the publication of the Benjamin Banneker report.

Examples of other Non-Capital Grant-funded archeology projects include Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project and London Town excavations, the Archeological Conservancy's purchase of the Barton site in Allegany County, establishment of a new archeology program at Washington College and surveys around the state that have resulted in the identification of hundreds of sites.

Other Trust programs, including many of the new programs that arose out of the Governor's Task Force on Historic Preservation, have been or are threatened with elimination or cuts. These include: the PILG (Preservation Incentives for Local Governments) program that was to provide money for counties to establish archeology and preservation programs (slated for zero funding); the state-owned lands survey program (reduced from $709,650 in 2002 to $0 in 2003), and the Heritage Areas program that the General Assembly's legislative budget analyst has recommended for zero funding despite Governor Ehrlich's request for $900,000. Funding for the Trust's Museum Assistance Program that assists over 300 museums statewide will drop next year from $774,650 to $480,384, a drop of 38 percent.

On the federal level, the Trust's annual allocation from the federal government's Historic Preservation Fund, money provided to every state for assisting in administering federal historic preservation laws, is being reduced by almost $172,000. Most of these federal funds support staff carrying out federally mandated work such as compliance reviews of federally funded highways and other construction, as well as programs like the National Register of Historic Places.

Because federal funds have been shrinking over the last three years faster than was projected by state budget planners, the state will actually need to come up with about $300,000 this year to cover current and previous federal budget reductions.

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April is Archeology Month -- join the celebration

Upcoming events

April: Maryland Archeology Month, various activities throughout the state.

April 26: Annual Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

May 2 – 3: Preservation Maryland's annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference, Easton. 410-685-2886.

May 3 – 4: Primitive technology weekend, Oregon Ridge. www.oregonridge.org See flier inside.

May 23 – June 2: Annual ASM Field School, the Winslow Site, Montgomery County.

May 31 - June 8: Barton 2003 Field Session.

June 21 – 22: Shenandoah Valley powwow, Quicksburg, Virginia. 540-477-8616.

July 14 – 27: Archeology Society of Virginia Field School. Keyser Farm site near Luray. Contact Mike Barber, 540-265-5211 or mbarber@fs.fed.us

September 19 – 21: Powwow, Charles County Fairground.

October 18: ASM annual meeting, JPPM MAC lab.

Volunteer opportunities

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

April 6, April 27: The MHT will be conducting site survey work at the McKee-Besher Wildlife Management Area in western Montgomery County. These will be all-day field sessions that will involve strenuous activity (walking, digging, screening, carrying). Work will include map and compass orientation, visual reconnaissance, systematic shovel testing, artifact recognition, site definition and results documentation. For more info or to register, contact Charlie Hall, 410-514-7665 or hall@dhcd.state.md.us

April 5: Shovel testing at Smith's St. Leonard, JPPM. Meet at MAC Lab at 9. 410-586-8555.

May 13 – July 5: Public archeology at Smith's St. Leonard. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Tuesdays and Fridays are lab days. Reservations required. Kirsti Uunila. 410-586-8555,

Ongoing: The Northern Chesapeake Chapter is offering lab work, usually on Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Sundays between 9 am and 2 pm. Call Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or williamlmac@comcast.net.

Lab work on Winslow Site artifacts. Call Katherine Clermont at 202-885-1840.

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

CAT Corner

May 17: CAT program Core Requirement workshop, "Maryland Archeology - Prehistoric and Historic Overview." Frederick Library Community Room, 110 E. Patrick Street, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bring bag lunch as there will be only a short break on-site for lunch. Light refreshments will be provided. Registration limited to 30. CAT program members have first priority. To register, call or email: Ed Hanna, Western Maryland Chapter, 301-777-1380 Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com. Joy Hurst, Monocacy Chapter, 301-663-6707 Email: hurst_joy@hotmail.com

August 9: Lithics workshop by Carol Ebright, JPPM.

Spring symposium set for April 22

The second part of ASM's annual spring double-header takes place Saturday, April 22, in Crownsville with the 38th Spring Symposium.

A series of seven speakers will offer talks on various aspects of the meeting's theme -- Maryland's changing landscapes: From the rise of the Chesapeake to the rise of the suburbs. A flier containing the full program is inside this newsletter. Here are abstracts of each of the talks.

A Brief History of the Chesapeake Bays, byJeffrey Halka, Maryland Geological Survey.

The alternating glacial advances and retreats of the Pleistocene, each of which had an associated sea level lowering and subsequent rise, have created at least three Chesapeake Bays over the last 500,000 years. Flooding of the river channels for the present Chesapeake Bay began approximately 10,000 years ago, and by 5,000 to 6,000 years ago the rising waters spread beyond the narrow confines of the valleys and a broader bay began to form. Since that time the Bay has expanded in size due to sea level rise and the process of shoreline erosion, simultaneously becoming shallower due to the deposition of sediments on its bottom, which is gradually filling in the deep axial channel and the shallower benches flanking the channel. The history of formation, erosion and infilling of the Chesapeake Bay will be examined.

Archeological Impacts in a Landscape Sculpted by Wind and Water, by Darrin Lowery, Chesapeake Watershed Archeological Research.

Over the past four decades, there have been major advances in the fields of geology, paleoclimatology, paleoecology and coastal geomorphology. With respect to the prehistoric Delmarva Peninsula, we can now integrate these advances into interpretations about the archeological record. Unlike the inland piedmont and upland areas of the Middle Atlantic region, the Atlantic coastal plain of the Delmarva Peninsula and the

Continued on next page

Galley slaves sought; apply within

With the snow gone, the flowers and weeds all abloom and the grass demanding to be cut, it must be getting near field school time again. In fact, the 2003 edition will take place next month.

This year ASM is returning to the prehistoric Winslow Site, 18MO09, deep in the heart of Montgomery County, where Joe Dent of American University and his crew of highly trained, highly motivated, fun-loving assistants and associates will lead us in the search for new discoveries to augment last year's discovery of signs of a palisade and a dwelling.

This year's goal is to expand on what was learned in 2002 and answer some of the new questions last year's findings raised. The Early Woodland component of the site will be plotted, segmented, skillfully assaulted and painstakingly screened for features associated with dwellings and for further traces of that palisade.

Both digging and lab opportunities are available. To complement the field work, a program of lunchtime and evening speakers is being prepared. For the latest news on what is being offered and when, consult the ASM webpage, www.smcm.edu/academics/soan/asm

The weather is reliable expected to be normal: In other words, totally unpredictable, perhaps the usual mixture of intense cold, bitter heat, driving rain and searing sun, with typhoon-like winds optional. Come prepared.

Enclosed in this newsletter are the required registration and liability forms and, for those wishing to stay overnight, the lodging form. The liability form must be filled out and signed by all field school participants. To help in planning and crowd control, the forms must be received by May 9. After that, prices go up. Acceptance is on a first-come basis, so register early.

The forms should be sent to Lenore Holt, 7173 Mink Hollow Road, Highland, Maryland 20777-9773. For further information, contact Lenore at 301-854-2475 or lenoreholt@juno.com

What's what at Spring Symposium (cont.)

drowned river valleys of the Chesapeake Bay have undergone major ecological changes over the past 13,000 years, which greatly impacted prehistoric subsistence patterns, settlement patterns and technological trends. Expressions of these changes will be presented and the archeological expressions of these changes will be summarized. Finally, a critical evaluation of some earlier archeological assessments of the region will be presented along with some suggestions for future integrated research.

Sea Level Rise and Changing Landscapes at the Holland Point Site, by Jesse Walker, Temple University.

Archeological investigations at the Holland Point Site provided an opportunity to examine landscape changes over time. The Holland Point Site, an Archaic through Woodland period settlement on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is located in a unique setting. Artifacts and other cultural material at the site are preserved below a tidal salt marsh. Risings sea levels over the last 10,000 years have inundated the site. Interpretations of the ancient landscape underneath the salt marsh, landscape development over time and the ongoing effects of shoreline erosion are presented in this paper.

Nanticoke Identity through Time and Across Space, by Virginia Busby, U.S. Army Environmental Center.

A Nanticoke Indian identity can be traced archeologically and historically from at least the later Late Woodland period through the post-European Contact period. Research at the Chicone Village site examined what constituted "being Nanticoke" through this time by looking at the organization of people in space and in relation to each other, artifact type and distribution, and historical socio-political information.

Excavating the Historic Landscapes of Mount Calvert, by Mike Lucas, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Mount Calvert is a picturesque rural landscape located along the Patuxent River in eastern Prince George's County. Like most landscapes, Mount Calvert has been reconfigured countless times to suit the needs of its inhabitants. This presentation combines data from a multi-year archeological study by the MNCPCC Natural and Historical Resources Division, Archeology Program and three consecutive ASM Field Sessions and the historical record to examine how the landscape was altered by various inhabitants between 1696 and 1940 according to practical concerns as well as political and social aspirations.

The Oyster Industry and the State Fishery Force, by Rick Ervin, Maryland State Highway Administration.

Preliminary assessment of the archeological potential of a property acquired by the Baltimore Museum of Industry in 1994 revealed several partially submerged vessels, including the remains of the *Governor Robert M. McLane*, an iron-hulled, propeller steamer that served as flagship of the State Fishery Force. This presentation will explore aspects of the Chesapeake Bay waterscape related to the history of the oyster industry and the State Fishery Force; the effects of over-exploitation; and early conservation efforts. The *McLane* is considered significant for its prominence in Maryland history and as outstanding symbol of our early efforts to preserve, protect and restore the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

Landscapes Lost and Meanings Found: A Case Study in Linking Past and Present in a Maryland Suburb, by Julie H. Ernstein, University of Maryland College Park.

This presentation stresses the continuities and discontinuities between three layered landscapes associated with Belair Mansion and Stables in Bowie, Maryland. Archeological, documentary and oral historical sources are combined in a diachronic analysis of three superimposed landscapes: an 18th century colonial plantation landscape, an early 20th century Delano and Aldrich colonial revival garden and a mid-century suburban Levittown that came to occupy the estate's former fields and pastures. Collectively, the three superimposed landscapes provide an intriguing context in which to consider generational renegotiation of landscape meanings and the contribution of historical archeology to landscape preservation and the preservation of resources from the recent past.

NOTICE: Some of you still have not renewed your membership, which is bad news for you and for ASM. If you are among the guilty, act right away, because time has run out and this will be your last newsletter.

Book review

The dirt on dirt: soil for archeologists

A Handbook of Soil Description for Archeologists, by Gregory Vogel, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2002. 32 pp., illustrations, references, index, glossary, paper, $9 (includes S/H) to Arkansas Archeological Survey, 2475 N. Hatch, Fayetteville, Ark 72704, or check the book table at the Spring Symposium.

Soil dominates archeological sites. It is, after all, the stuff we dig through to uncover clues to the past. But in the pursuit of artifacts and features, archeologists often ignore or give short shrift to the matrix in which artifacts were deposited, or redeposited, and in which cultural features formed.

Soils contain many clues to past occupations and to the ways in which the material evidence of those occupations has been altered by cultural and natural processes. Why then doesn't soil analysis comprise a significant component in most site reports?

Two principal reasons come to mind: inadequate descriptions of soils beyond depths, colors and textures, and lack of technical training in analyzing those data. Gregory Vogel's "A Handbook of Soil Description for Archeologists goes a long way in addressing the former.

Anyone who has reviewed field notes from a survey or excavation and found the same soil layer described as "orange clay," "strong brown clay loam" and "reddish brown loamy silt" understands part of the problem: failure to recognize and properly use standard categories.

Widespread use of Munsell color charts has alleviated the problem somewhat, but field technicians still describe textures by rubbing soil between their fingers while trying to recall what some teacher of colleague said about particle size and feel. Their instructor probably learned soils from another archeologist, and one can follow a lineage of instruction back several generations before encountering an archeologist who formally studied pedology.

Vogel, who teaches archeology in Arkansas, offers a corrective: an inexpensive, eminently portable booklet that instructs the reader in how to produce detailed, accurate soil descriptions like those that appear in county soil surveys. Illustrations and tables walk the reader through the process, from cleaning a profile to distinguishing between strata to systematically and accurately describing color, texture, structure, inclusions and other soil components.

Vogel instructs the reader on the basic characteristics of soil horizons and the processes by which they were formed. He writes about particle size and how at to distinguish between sandy clay and sandy clay loam, and about roundness, structure and redox features (those oxide mottles typical of poorly drained soils in Maryland).

And he writes about boundaries, or how one soil grades into another – abruptly, clearly, gradually and diffusely; smoothly, wavy, burrowed, broken and irregular. Many of the soil components discussed by Vogel can be measured and therefore described objectively.

All of the material presented in the "Handbook" can be gleaned from numerous books on the subject of soil, but Vogel brings it to us economically and in prose that is always clear and well-organized.

The "Handbook" is by no means a panacea for the problems of soil description and analysis. Excavators still have to learn how to interpret what they see, explaining how each soil developed. (I have see more than one profile drawing that, if taken at face value, suggests suspension of the laws of physics at various times in the past.)

Principal investigators must be able to analyze that data and write intelligently about how soils across a site developed and affected the formation of cultural deposits. But, as any scientist will tell you, everything begins with observation and careful description. Vogel provides a tool for improving our powers of observation and for transforming what we see into terms that others can understand.

Reviewed by James G. Gibb

Digs uncover plantations in the North

Condensed from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 2, 2003

ATLANTA – Slave-holding plantations, usually thought of as uniquely Southern institutions, were deeply rooted in the fabric of "free" states of the North as well, new archeological studies are showing.

The hidden history of Northern plantations and their slaves is emerging – one shovelful of soil at a time – from excavations in and around historic manor houses in Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. From bits of china, kitchen utensils, tools, buttons and personal items, archeologists are getting glimpses of a chapter of America's past that written histories have either ignored or forgotten.

Most Northern states abolished slavery before the Civil War. But recent excavations show that during the late 1700s and early 1800s, many of what later came to be called manors and landed estates were full-fledged plantations that held slaves under conditions similar to those in the South.

"Historians are stunned by some of the evidence," says Cheryl LaRoche, a historical archeologist at the University of Maryland.

"The popular notion is that slavery in the North consisted of two or there household servants, but there is growing evidence that there were slave-holding plantations," she says. "It's hard to believe that such a significant and pervasive part of the past could be so completely erased from our history."

Near Salem, Mass., archeologists have excavated the ruins of a 13,000-acre plantation that produced grain, horses, barrel staves and dried meat. The owner, Samuel Browne, traded those goods for molasses and rum from the Caribbean. The graveyard shows at least 100 blacks were enslaved there from 1718 to 1780.

In Morris County, N.J., plans for a park-and-ride transit station for New York commuters recently prompted the state to order archeological investigations of the site, thought to have been the site of the 18th century Beverwyck estate.

Before archeologists finished, they had found the remains of more than 20 plantation buildings, including a dairy, blacksmith shop, distillery and quarters for at least 20 slaves that were part of a 2,000-acre provisioning operation for the owners' properties in the Caribbean.

"America was slave-holding country – North and South," says LaRoche. "Over the years, that reality has been lost, stolen or just strayed from the history books."

Because the written record of slavery from the slaves' point of view is so meager, archeology – with its emphasis on the physical landscape and material aspects of culture – is emerging as an important means of filling in omissions and distortions.

"Artifacts can tell us how people washed their clothes, fed themselves, churned their butter and hitched their horses," says Orloff Miller of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. "That's why archeology can tell what it was like to live as a slave."

As a science, archeology is more than a century old. But only in the last few decades have researchers devoted much attention to the slave component of sites, both in the North and the South.

"Written history is always subject to a kind of cultural amnesia. Some of it is deliberately forgotten and some of it is inadvertently lost," says UCLA history professor Gary Nash. "That's why artifacts and their context are so important. They can speak to us for the people who left no written record."

An online state resource for identifying artifacts

Interested in knowing what kinds of ceramics can be found in Maryland? The MAC Lab has launched a web page to help you find out. "Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland" can be reached by calling up the JPPM web site, www.jefpat.org, and then clicking the Archeology button.

The new page includes both prehistoric and historic ceramics, with detailed descriptions of each type and photographs.

"If you have an itching to know what Staffordshire Slipware looks like, or where Mockley Net-Impressed pottery can be found, go check out our web page," the folks at JPPM say.

They hope to include other types of artifacts soon.

Ehrlich gets Piscataway recognition review

By Jeff Barker

Condensed from The Baltimore Sun, March 13, 2003

After eight years of study, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has completed a review of whether the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes should be formally recognized as an Indian tribe by the state.

The recommendation - not made public - was sent yesterday to Gov. Robert Ehrlich for the final decision.

Yesterday's recommendation was a secret even to the Southern Maryland confederacy, which claims as many as 3,500 members. The group filed its request for recognition during former Gov. Parris N. Glendening's first year in office in 1995, but the issue never made it as far as his desk.

Glendening and other gambling opponents have said they feared the application might be a vehicle for the confederacy to pursue legalized gambling.

But Loretta Avent, a Phoenix, Ariz.-based consultant working with the group, said last night that the Piscataway Conoy has been seeking official confirmation of its identity for more than 100 years, long before other tribes began using gambling as an economic tool.

"Their treasure at the end of the rainbow is to be recognized for who they are," said Avent, who served as White House liaison to Indians during the Clinton administration. "They don't want another elder to leave this earth without being recognized."

Avent said the group's application for a federal recognition is pending with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The confederacy says its members' history spans more than 5,000 years.

In its federal application, the group included old newspaper accounts, oral histories and voluminous genealogical data. The tribe says it has been misidentified for years, sometimes referred to as "mulattoes."

It is not known whether Ehrlich's support for slots could affect his ruling on the application. Henry Fawell, an Ehrlich spokesman, said the governor would make "an informed decision" under no deadline.

Watch provides a new Hunley mystery

Condensed from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 8, 2003

Archeologists gently pried open Lt. George Dixon's ornate gold pocket watch this week, hoping that the hands, frozen in time for almost 140 years, would help resolve the mystery of the final minutes of Dixon and his crew aboard the doomed Confederate submarine H.N. Hunley.

Instead, the mud-caked hands of Dixon's watch have deepened the mystery – raising the possibility that the eight submariners may have died slowly from asphyxiation, not by drowning, as many historians had assumed.

From the position of the broken hour hand and the intact minute hand, it is clear that the watch, carried in Dixon's right vest pocket, stopped at 8:22.

But historical records from the USS Housatonic, which the Hunley attacked and sank on the evening of Feb. 17, 1864, put the time of the attack between 8:45 and 9 p.m. Soon after the attack, during which the Hunley rammed a single explosive charge into the Housatonic's hull, the submarine disappeared beneath the waters of Charleston Harbor, where it – and the bodies of the crew – remained until they were raised in July 2000.

It's possible that Dixon's watch simply wasn't set properly. But historians believe that is unlikely, because he needed accurate time to determine when the tides changed.

Hunley experts believe that it is more likely the watch kept running for anther 12, 24 or perhaps even 36 hours after the attack. They believe it would have stopped if it were underwater. So the position of the hands "raises the supposition that the submarine may have remained less than flooded long after the demise of the crew," says Glenn McConnell, the South Carolina state senator who chairs the Hunley Commission.

Archeologists say additional clues may shed more light on that theory. In coming weeks they plan to clean out the silt that still fills the back side of the watch to see if the watch spring is fully uncoiled, as it would be if the watch had stopped of its own accord.

"The hands of the watch give us one more clue," says Hunley project director Robert Neyland, chief archeologist for t he U.S. Navy. "But we still have many more clues to piece together."

Americas' oldest skull hints at a different origin

Condensed from American Archaeology magazine, Spring 2003

British scientists have determined that a skull found decades ago in Mexico is almost 13,000 years old, making it the oldest known human remains in the New World.

The skull was kept with other ancient remains in a collection of 27 early humans held at Mexico City's National Museum of Anthropology. The collection was originally discovered in central Mexico and has been in the museum for decades.

Geologist Silvia Gonzalez of John Moore University in Liverpool came across the collection and, together with Jose Conception Jimenez, curator of the museum's human collection, submitted five of the specimens to Oxford's Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit for dating. The Oxford lab is considered one of the best in the world and its director, Robert Hedges, also dated the famous Turin shroud.

The two oldest skulls from the collection that were analyzed, both of which are older than 12,000 years, are long and narrow-headed, traits that are typically Caucasian. *[Editor's note: This is similar to the 9,000-year-old Kennewick Man skull found in Washington state.]* The collection's more recent skulls are short and broad-headed, which is more typical of modern-day Native Americans and their Mongoloid ancestors from Asia.

"It looks like some of the most ancient Paleo-Americans were not of Mongoloid affinity and therefore perhaps not directly related to modern Native Americans," said Gonzalez. "The remains from central Mexico that date to more than 12,000 years old and have long, narrow skulls are very similar to the Pericue group from the southern part of the Baja California Peninsula in Mexico that went extinct at the beginning of the 18th century.

With the help of a multidisciplinary team, Gonzalez plans to look at the genetic affinity of the newly dated remains and the Pericue group using DNA and craniometric studies to determine if they belong to the same people. This will indicate the possibility of a human migration route along the Pacific Coast possibly heading north, rather than across the Bering Strait and heading south, as the standard model has held.

Copied from The Datum Point (ASV), March 2003

Europe's Iceman suffered 'modern' ills too

Condensed from HealthScoutNews, February 25, 2003

When you think of the health hazards that stalked prehistoric man, what comes to mind? Saber-toothed tigers? Subzero temperatures? Starvation? Try heart disease and arthritis.

That's the finding off a just-published study of Oetzi, or the Iceman, a spectacularly well-preserved 5,300-year-old corpse discovered in the Alps in 1991.

While it's difficult to make assumptions about groups of people based on one finding, researchers have been forced to do just that. And they've found that many of the health ills that plagued the Iceman vex us too.

The Iceman died under what would be considered unusual circumstances today – he was shot by an arrow. This detail aside, his medical chart resembles that of many modern-day men and women. He had arthritis, degenerative disc disease, a smidgen of frostbite and, perhaps most surprised, signs of heart disease.

"He appeared to have calcium in areas where blood vessels are expected to be," indicating hardening of the arteries, says Dr. William A. Murphy Jr., a forensic radiologist at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Murphy is the lead author of the study on the Iceman that appears in the March issue of Radiology magazine. Learning that someone who lived so long ago was predisposed to a heart condition "opens all kinds of avenues of inquiry," he says.

There are rock-solid convictions about what causes heart disease today, Murphy says. People are taught to reduce fat in their diet, exercise and stop smoking to avoid hardening of the arteries. But 5,300 years ago there were no cigarettes or fast food and most people were hardly sedentary.

"Maybe the genetic aspect is more potent than we give it credit for," Murphy says.

The researchers determined the Iceman's ailments by using modern technology not available even a short time ago, such as CT scans, Murphy says. However, their time with the prehistoric patient was limited.

Scientists are determined to keep the Iceman as well-preserved as he was when found in the Italian mountains on the Austrian border, so they keep him frozen except for short times when he is retrieved for study.

Many questions remain unanswered, including exactly how the Iceman died. He was found encased in ice, with an arrow in his back. Indications are he lost large amounts of blood, but he actually may have frozen to death, Murphy says.

The Iceman seems to have been an older man, at least over 40, Murphy notes, although pinpointing his exact age is extremely difficult.

"This is the oldest complete, naturally preserved man. Bar none," Murphy says.

The Iceman is 2,000 years older than Egypt's King Tut. And while a handful of other well-preserved human specimens from millenniums past have been found, most were mummified, Murphy says. The Iceman was preserved by natural conditions.

Norman Sauer, a forensic anthropologist at Michigan State University, says Murphy's study makes for fascinating reading.

"It's an exceptional study" and is "a spectacular illustration of the usefulness of modern technology," Sauer says. If the Iceman had been found just 20 years earlier, "the approaches [to studying him] would have been very different."

The findings also challenge some modern-day thinking, Sauer says. "We often assume people in the past didn't have to worry about diseases we worry about today," but revelations about the Iceman suggest otherwise.

"It would be wonderful to be able to apply these methods to a population" of people beyond the Iceman, Sauer says. "We don't know how unique this guy was," he adds.

Budget cuts to hit Trust and ASM support

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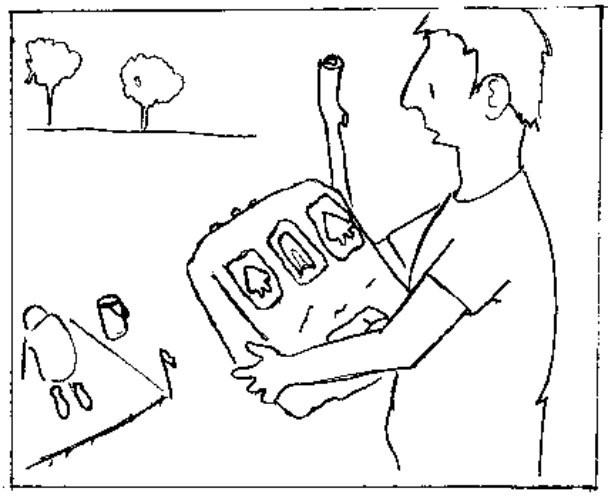
In addition, other belt-tightening measures include no salary increases for state employees, zeroing out money for report printing, and a hiring freeze that prevents the filling of vacant positions.

Funds for travel and conferences have been eliminated, with one exception: so far some money has been left for in-state travel (i.e. field work). This amount is ridiculously low, at just over $6,000 a year for land and underwater including the Field Session. Trust underwater archeologists usually put in at least a month a year in the field; underwater consultant firms often charge $2,000 a day or more.

The one bright spot if approved by the General Assembly, although not for archeology, is the governor's request that the Trust's Capital Grant program - which provides money for the rehabilitation of historic buildings - be increased from $500,000 to $1 million next year.

Specifics about what all this means for Trust support of ASM in the 2004 fiscal year won't be known until after the Maryland legislature ends its session April 9.

We hope to have that information in the May issue.



"It looks like an Early Archaic slot machine – that should get the governor's interest."

Linkages:

Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. Programs and a newsletter. 3106 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20010 or www.pcswdc.org

Lost Towns Project. Ongoing search for colonial sites in Anne Arundel County. Lisa Plumley, Office of Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or call 410 – 222 – 7441.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9 in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis. Contact Karen Ackermann at karenlta@juno.com

April 16: Richard Marrin will speak about "Happiness is Digging in Your Own Backyard: The Thrill of Amateur Archaeology."

May 21: Get Psyched for the Field Session! Share your experiences, photos and artifacts from a past field session or some other dig. The meeting will be topped off with a pot-luck dessert spread.

Central

Central Chapter is having no formal monthly meetings this winter. Telephone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 evening, 410-962-0685 day, or by email; ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

Mid-Potomac

May 3: (Raindate May 10) Dowden's Ordinary site in Clarksburg. Includes lecture on the French and Indian War site at Dowden's Ordinary. Fee $5, free for ASM members. Contact Jim Sorensen or Heather Bouslog at 301-840-5848.

Monocacy

Monocacy Archaeological Society meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or e-mail hurst_joy @hotmail.com.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, usually at Harford Glen, but not always. Check the date for actual location. Meetings start at 7 with the program beginning around 7:40.

April 17: Lithics workshop (RESCHEDULED DATE), Carol Ebright.

May 18 or June 8: ASCN annual summer picnic.

Southern

Meetings the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the MAC Lab meeting room. Call 410-586-8584 or katesilas@chesapeake.net for information.

April 11: Charlie Hall of the Trust speaking on the Winslow Site.

May 9: Kirsti Uunila of JPPM speaking on "2002 Public Archeology Excavations at the Smith's St. Leonard Site."

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. For information contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us

April 7: Steve Israel will talk on rock shelters. NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.

May 12: Chris Davenport on Faunal Analysis.

June 9: Pot Luck End of Year Get Together.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the LaVale Library, unless otherwise advised. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter Email- wmdasm@yahoo.com Web site - www.geocities.com/wmdasm

March 28: Cresaptown Site: A New Look at the Data, by Dana Kollman.

April 25: Learning to Live Together in Prehistory: The Potomac Valley Experiments, by Dr. Richard J. Dent.

May 23. Barton Update / 2003 Field Session Briefing by Robert Wall.

May 31-June 8. Barton 2003 Field Session.

*The **Archeological Society of Maryland** Inc. is a statewide non-profit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.*

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC, the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are $20.00 for individuals and $30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM, Northern Chesapeake Chapter, P.O. Box 553, Fallston, MD 21047-0553 or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dancoates@comcast.net. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail psachs4921@aol.com.

Submissions welcome, please send to Myron Beckenstein, 9256 Feathered Head, Columbia, MD 21045, myronbeck@aol.com, (410) 381-9115.

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