



ASM Ink

November 2008 Vol. 34, No. 11

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org



Undivided attention is what Joe Dent seems to have at the ASM Annual Meeting. Story inside on Page 3

Reserve your seat, renew your ASM membership now

Don't look now, but the year is almost over. Not only does November mean Thanksgiving and, not much farther along, Christmas and New Year's, but it also means it is time to renew your membership to ASM. Give yourself a Christmas present you will enjoy all year long, and one which not only is still at the old familiar price but also has no fuel surcharge. The renewal form is inside this newsletter.

Upcoming events

December 6: ASM board meeting, Columbia central library, 9.a..m. All are welcome.

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

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

A website has been set up for CAT candidates and graduates:

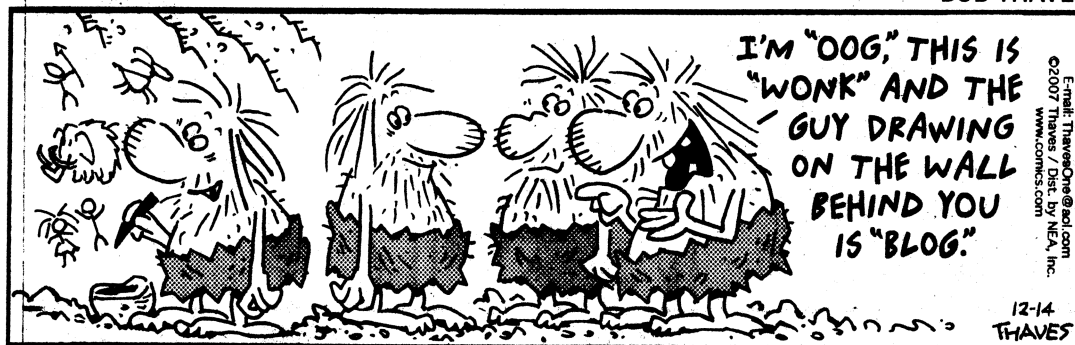
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/> . To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

FRANK AND ERNEST

BOB THAVES



Richard Hughes wins Marye Award

More than 70 people were in Frederick October 18 for ASM's 2008 annual meeting. Six speakers detailed the history of Native Americans in this part of the world and a new slate of officers was elected and installed.

John Fiveash continues as president, Jim Gibb as vice president, Sean Sweeney as treasurer and Belinda Urquiza as membership secretary. The new secretary is Kelly Derwart. The board of trustees consists of Claude Bowen, Susan Bucci, Tom Forhan, Gary Hall, John Newton and Jim Sorensen.

Alex McPhail spoke of the plans he has as the new director of the CAT program and Maryl Harshey became the latest CAT graduate, the 10th.

It was announced that the Teacher of the Year Award will be presented at the Spring Symposium. The winner of the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland Archeology was named, Richard Hughes, now the chief of the Office of Heritage Planning and Outreach at the Maryland Historical Trust. Here is a condensed version of the Marye award presentation by Tyler Bastian:

The strength of Maryland archeology in the beginning of the 21st Century owes much to the efforts of Richard B. Hughes. He has been a leader in Maryland archeology since the 1980s, sometimes in high profile and politically difficult situations, but more often behind the scenes, and he embodies all that Maryland archeologists could be and could hope to be.

For two decades Richard has demonstrated his commitment to archeology in Maryland by leading the fight to increase the funding of archeological programs and the support of archeological organizations statewide, thereby promoting the protection, study and interpretation of the state's rich archeological resources. The Archeological Society of Maryland couldn't find a more deserving recipient of its highest honor, the William B. Mayre Award, than Richard B. Hughes.

As chief of the Maryland Office of Archeology, Richard played an integral role in the implementation of the unique Maryland Maritime Archeological Program in 1988.

Richard has taken a leading role in building a much-needed bridge between Maryland's archeological and Indian communities. For 20 years he has emphasized the need for reciprocal education, collaboration and ongoing dialogue between Maryland's archeologists and Native people, as well as the need for a revised protocol for managing unanticipated discoveries of indigenous human remains.

Native American community leaders and MCIA (Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs) commissioners have attributed the visible improvements in cooperation and mutual respect to Richard's efforts and have said that they are "positively impressed" by the care that he has taken to respect their wishes and values.

Richard's commitment to public outreach and education in Maryland archeology is without parallel. He was a principal proponent and organizer of the annual Archeology Workshop, Spring Symposium, field school and Maryland Archeology Month. Their continued success is largely due to his efforts.

He has played a crucial role in Maryland Historical Trust publications, most recently "Maryland Aloft: A Celebration of Aviators, Airfields and Aerospace," 200 pages detailing Maryland's rich aviation history from the Wright Brothers' flights at College Park Airport to space flights at Goddard.

Richard's own publications include "Common Point Types on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland" (1980), "A Cultural and Environmental Overview of the Prehistory of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore Based Upon a Study of Selected Artifact Collections" (1980) and recently "Forging New Partnerships: Archaeologists and the Native People of Maryland," co-authored with Dixie Henry, in the edited volume "Cross-Cultural Collaboration: Native Peoples and Archaeology in the Northeastern United States."

In his current position as the chief of the Office of Heritage Planning and Outreach, Richard is working more specifically on how to better incorporate a consideration of archeological resources and issues into the Trust's heritage tourism and local government technical assistance programs.

Virginia again honors a Maryland archeologist

For the second straight year, the Archaeology Society of Virginia has honored an ASM member as Virginia's out-of-state archeologist of the year. Last year, Stephen Israel received the award for professional archeologist. This year the award for avocational archeologist went to Maxine Grabill.

Israel, who recently retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, is president of the Central Chapter and also actively involved in activities of other chapters. Grabill, in addition to her work at Virginia's Kittiewan field school, is an active member of the Monocacy chapter of ASM and does volunteer work both in her home area and in Crownsville as well as at ASM field schools.

Can animal-bone study show human diet?

ASM funded an isotopic study of bones found at local Late Woodland sites. Dana Kollman of Towson University provides a summary of her findings.

By Dana D. Kollmann

There are an array of professional opinions regarding the reliance of Late Woodland populations on tropical domesticated plants, particularly in the Piedmont and mountainous regions of the Middle Atlantic. The purpose of this study was to see if stable isotope values in deer reflect differences in maize availability and consumption, and thereby serve as a proxy for human bone in reconstructing the prehistoric diet.

My 2006 bioarcheological study of 46 individuals from the Page (A.D. 1250) affiliated Cresaptown (18AG119) and Noland's Ferry (18FR17) sites and the Keyser component (A.D. 1400-1550) at Biggs Ford (18FR14) found the prevalence and severity of dental problems, infectious disease and mortality to be consistent with populations consuming a significant quantity of maize.

But, contradictorily, the overall lack of nutritionally based illnesses suggests that maize played only a minor role in the Page and Keyser subsistence economy. Given that the skeletal and dental indicators suggest maize was a fairly significant part of the diet, it is surprising that there is only limited evidence of those nutritionally based illness that are usually associated with agricultural intensification.

The analysis of stable isotopes in human tissues provides a useful means of understanding prehistoric diet because it enables a direct measure of consumed plant and animal resources. Now, in an effort to better explain the bioarcheological findings and interpret maize consumption in regional Late Woodland populations, we examined $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N}$ stable isotope ratios obtained from deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) recovered from Page and Keyser contexts.

Page and Keyser carbon values indicate there were virtually no C_4 plants (i.e., maize) in the diets of the sampled deer and a total reliance on C_3 (i.e., shrubs, trees, flowering plants, leafy plants) vegetation. The values from the Keyser sites, while still reflecting a C_3 diet, are more depleted than those for Page and may indicate slightly less mesic growing conditions, the exploitation of a different suite of C_3 vegetation or possibly very small amounts of C_4 in the diet. Nitrogen values for Page and Keyser samples are typical of browsing herbivores from other settings.

Statistical comparison of the carbon and nitrogen values shows no significant difference between Page and Keyser groups. Archeological and botanical evidence indicates that there was maize on all of the sampled Page and Keyser sites. This knowledge alone leads to the conclusion that deer, in the case of the sampled sites, are not an ideal proxy for human bone in dietary reconstruction. This conclusion is supported by the isotopic findings.

The story behind the canal project

By Bob Keintz

Condensed from Canal Currents (Pennsylvania Canal Society bulletin), Summer 2008

The earliest era of America's canal area is being unveiled with the start of an archeological dig at the locks on the Susquehanna Canal near of the mouth of the Octorara Creek in Cecil County, Maryland.

Bob Mayo, who wrote a short history of the canal in the 1970s, believed the remains of any Susquehanna Canal locks were lost to history long ago due to the numerous dam projects that flooded miles of the old Susquehanna Canal water line. It wasn't until 1984 that Dale Woomert and I discovered that the old Three Locks of the Susquehanna Canal were not lost.

My research has uncovered a remarkable similarity of the Susquehanna Canal to the Patowmack Canal in northern Virginia. Both of these opened for business within months of each other in 1802. The conception, planning and incorporation of the Susquehanna Canal and the Patowmack Canal companies can both be traced back to the 1780s.

Mayo's research on the Susquehanna Canal stated that the locks on the canal were 12 feet by 80 feet long. The current archeological survey of this site reveals that the locks were actually 18 feet wide by 100 feet long, which is the same measurement as the locks on the Patowmack Canal. At the time of their construction, the locks of the Patowmack Canal were the largest ever built in America. Maryland can now share in this honor because of the work being done on the Susquehanna Canal.

The creation of the canal improved navigation and permitted arks and rafts to navigate around the many rock obstacles and falls along the course of the river. The Susquehanna River arks were generally 17 feet wide and 75 feet long. These arks had a capacity of up to 50 tons of cargo.

The Susquehanna Canal has been forgotten by time until its recent rediscovery.

In 1783, a group of Baltimore businessmen petitioned the General Assembly of Maryland to pass an act granting a charter to build a canal from a point known as Love Island in the Susquehanna River to just south of the Pennsylvania state line. John Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Augustine Washington, half-brother of George Washington, and 43 other men agreed to complete construction of the canal by 1801.

In 1799, the Pennsylvania Legislature prohibited further improvement of navigation on the Susquehanna River south of Wrights Ferry (Wrightsville). The Philadelphia-based legislature was fearful of losing control of trade south to Baltimore. It was not until 1801 that the Pennsylvania Legislature declared the Susquehanna River a public highway that could be improved for navigation all the way to the Chesapeake Bay. The prospect of a canal to connect the Chesapeake and the Delaware bays changed the minds of the Pennsylvania Legislature because Philadelphia would benefit from the additional trade as a result of the improvement on the Lower Susquehanna.

In 1801, Pennsylvania Governor McKean hired Benjamin Henry Latrobe to make a complete survey of the Susquehanna River from Columbia, Pa., to the Maryland state line. Latrobe is known now as the famous architect whose early works include the National Capitol Building, the Baltimore Cathedral and the Philadelphia Water Works, but many forget that he got his start working on the early canals of England.

The Susquehanna Canal was not a financial success. The many arks and rafts coming downstream could avoid the use of the canal during normal river levels. The canal also had a strong current in it which was caused by the many mill races constructed to feed off the canal level. These stronger currents resulted in a higher silt content being deposited in the canal than would usually occur and greatly increased the annual maintenance costs of the canal.

By 1817, the canal was sold in a sheriff sale in Cecil County, Maryland. The old Susquehanna Canal gave up the ghost with the opening of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal in 1840. The Susquehanna was dammed at Holtwood, Pa., in 1911, which effectively ended all navigation on the river.

ASM's Northern Chesapeake chapter will be working at the Octoraro lock again Nov. 14, 15 and 16. If you would like to join in, contact Chapter president Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net or 410-273-9619

Pump setting may hold key to Hunley's fate

Condensed from October 17, 2008

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) -- It's long been a mystery why the H.L. Hunley never returned after becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship in 1864, but new research announced Friday may lend credence to one of the theories.

Scientists found the eight-man crew of the hand-cranked Confederate submarine had not set the pump to remove water from the crew compartment, which might indicate it was not being flooded. That could mean crew members suffocated as they used up air, perhaps while waiting for the tide to turn and the current to help take them back to land.

The new evidence disputes the notion that the Hunley was damaged and took on water after ramming a spar with a charge of black powder into the Union blockade ship Housatonic.

Scientists studying the sub said they've found its pump system was not set to remove water from the crew compartment as might be expected if it were being flooded.

The sub, located in 1995 and raised five years later, had a complex pumping system that could be switched to remove water or operate ballast tanks used to submerge and surface.

"It now really starts to point to a lack of oxygen making them unconscious," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston and the chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission, formed to raise, conserve and display the sub.

In excavating the sub, scientists found little intermingling of the crew remains, indicating members died at their stations. Those bones likely would have been jumbled if the crew tried to make it to the hatches in a desperate attempt to get out.

"Whatever occurred, occurred quickly and unexpectedly," McConnell said. "It appears they were either unconscious because of the concussion (from the attack) or they were unconscious because of a lack of oxygen."

Archeologist Maria Jacobsen cautioned that scientists have not yet examined all the valves to see if the crew may have been trying to surface by using the pumps to jettison ballast.

But she said scientists can definitely say the valve that would have been used to remove water from the crew compartment was closed.

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.

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.

November 12: Deborah "Turtle" Swartz will speak about Eastern Woodland Natives of the 17th and 18th centuries, discussing how they lived, raised their children, hunted, farmed, made pottery and wampum.

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)

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

President

John Fiveash
443-618-0494
jsfiveash@comcast.net

Vice President

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

Secretary

Kelly Derwart
410-592-5992
Kderwart@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Sean Sweeney
410-569-8715
seansweeney1224@comcast.net

Membership Secretary

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

At-Large Trustees

Claude Bowen
301-953-1947
clauderbowen@comcast.net

Susan Bucci

Tom Forhan

Gary Hall

Ghall777@hotmail.com

John Newton

443-904-5385
jnewton@mtamaryland.com

Jim Sorensen

301-434-8316
james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org

Archeological Society of Maryland

ASM Ink

P.O. Box 1331

Huntingtown, MD 20639-1331

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage PAID

Baltimore, MD.

Permit 705

TIME SENSITIVE: DELIVER BY OCTOBER 30

