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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Celebrate Maryland's 375th birthday

The focus is on historic archeology for ASM's Spring Symposium on Saturday April 4 and the setting couldn't be more appropriate: St. Mary's City with its storehouse of sites and artifacts. The historic period doesn't get any earlier for the state, as noted by the program's title: "Colonial Archeology: Investigating & Celebrating Maryland's 375th Birthday."

To open the proceedings, Silas Hurry of the Historic St. Mary's City Commission will give a brief overview of the history of Maryland's first capital and of the attempts to uncover traces of its structures and people.

One feature of St. Mary's City is a framed house called St. John's Freehold. Ruth Mitchell will tell about the archeology involved over the years in documenting this building and how it reflects changes in colonial architecture. Fellow Commission member Timothy Riordan then will report on burial practices at Chapel Field. More than 250 graveshafts have been identified, dating back to 1638. So far, 65 burials have been excavated.

After lunch, Bruce Thompson of the Maryland Historical Trust will shift the focus to other 17th Century sites in the state, comparing sites on both sides of Chesapeake Bay, including the recently worked Grieb Site on the Chester River in Kent County.

The last two talks of the day move the scene to Charles County. First Julia King, Scott Strickland and Michael Sullivan look at the recent archeology that has been done trying to uncover the secrets of Zekiah Swamp, a storied place used by both Piscataway Indians and Lord Baltimore.

Finally, Jim Gibb will look at what has been learned in two years of digging at the Port Tobacco Site, including last year's ASM field school, and offer a forward look at this year's return to the site.

A complete program is in an insert with this newsletter. On Page 3 of the newsletter is an article on St. Mary's brick chapel.

Registration begins at 9, with the program starting a half hour later and the talks at 10. Admission is $5 for ASM members and $7 for nonmembers. The park is about two hours south of Washington. Directions are on its website: www.stmaryscity.org/location

In the first of this year's spring programs, some 125 people showed up for the 18th Annual Workshop in Archeology in Crownsville March 7. Sessions included discussions of pre-Paleo, historic artifacts and shipwrecks.

INSIDE: Tips of field conservation by Howard Wellman.
A pullout section to carry with you.

Upcoming events

April: MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH. MANY EVENTS STATEWIDE.

April 4: Spring Symposium, St. Mary's City.

May 2-3: Primitive technology weekend. Oregon Ridge park, Baltimore County.

May 18-22: NationalPark Service archeological workshop inNatchitoches, Louisiana, for those interested in forensic and cemeteryinvestigations. $475. For information, contact Steven L. DeVore 402- 437-5392, ext. 141 or steve_de_vore@nps.gov

May 22 – June 1: ASM field session, Port Tobacco.

June 13 – 21: Barton Site dig,

October 17: Annual ASM Meeting, Havre de Grace Maritime Museum.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery Countyis offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contactjames.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org orheather.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 Rose Haven Site in Anne Arundel County, dating from the Archaic to early historic. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For information contact Louise Akersonlakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hallchall@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

CAT CANDIDATES ARE REMINDED TO RETURN THEIR SURVEY FORMS TO ALEX, ASAP.

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

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

No firm foundation for this uncovered brick

An archeological dig near Venice has unearthed the 16th-Century remains of a woman with a brick between her jaws – evidence, experts said, that she was believed to be a vampire. They said the unusual burial suggests the legend of bloodsucking creatures was tied to medieval ignorance of how diseases spread and what happens to bodies after death.
The Washington Post, March 14, 2009

Old chapel rises again at St. Mary's

By Frank D. Roylance
Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, March 8, 2009

ST. MARY'S CITY -- Henry Miller's assignment might have been hopeless.As research director for Historic St. Mary's City, he was expected to guide the reconstruction of the first Roman Catholic house of worship in English America, for which no drawings or even written descriptions have ever been found.
All that was left of the 1667 Brick Chapel in Maryland's first Colonial capital were its huge, 3-foot-thick brick foundation and thousands of fragments of glass, lead, brick and plaster sifted from the soil during 20 years of painstaking archeology.
But after some dogged research -- and six seasons of construction using 17th-Century techniques -- the Brick Chapel has reappeared on its original foundation, rising out of the field like a revelation.
Even Miller, who has spent decades uncovering the lives of Maryland's first settlers, recognizes that the chapel may seem impossibly grand for a town clinging to the edge of a vast wilderness.
"It was a bit intellectually jarring, I agree ... inspired by a completely different cultural sensibility," he said. "It's not very big, but in terms of the quality of the materials, it's so far above what people were living in in early Maryland. It is truly an amazing statement."
But the design "fits in what the Jesuits were doing in the rest of the world," including many places as remote as 17th-Century Maryland.
The original chapel was ordered closed in 1704 by the Protestant governor of Maryland, demolished by the Jesuits and salvaged for bricks some years later. The $3 million reconstruction will open next year.
"To me ... the chapel is a physical representation of Maryland's experiment with religious freedom," said Timothy Riordan, chief archeologist at Historic St. Mary's City.
Established in 1634, St. Mary's City was the fourth English settlement in North America and the first in Maryland. It once had as many as 100 homes, taverns and other structures, and it remained Maryland's capital until 1695, when the seat of government was moved to Protestant Annapolis. The old town was soon abandoned and vanished into the soil.
Jesuit priests among the first settlers soon built a wooden house of worship. That chapel burned in a 1645 Protestant rebellion against Lord Baltimore. It wasn't until the 1660s, after the restoration of a king in England, that the Jesuits set about replacing the chapel with a sturdier structure.
But no drawings or descriptions have ever been found, only fleeting references in Maryland records to glass windows broken by a vandal, payments for lifting flooring stones for a burial and a governor's mention of a "good brick chappell."

When systematic archeology in Chapel Field began in 1988, it was quickly apparent that this had been a very large structure. The surviving brick foundation was 3 feet thick and 5 feet deep, implying a structure 23 to 25 feet tall, according to Riordan's research.
Excavations quickly revealed human burials, at least 500 beneath the chapel floor and in the churchyard.

Clusters of this debris suggested where the windows were located. Shards of imported stone and the burial patterns hinted at the size and placement of the flooring stones.
Other debris told Miller that the church was roofed in overlapping flat brick plates. The plaster bits and nails they found scattered about suggested a gray-white plastered interior and a wooden ceiling.
But the details of the chapel's appearance remained elusive.

"The good news is the Jesuits in the 17th Century were very organized, almost in a military manner," Miller said. All over the world, their chapels "had a lot of similarities." They followed classical

precedents, used mathematically derived proportions, emphasized tall interior spaces for visual impact and ensured abundant natural light.

An additional $150,000 worth of interior finishing work -- including the altar and replicas of the tabernacle and, perhaps, artwork -- await additional donations.

Would Philip Calvert recognize the place if he returned? Miller has thought about that.

"The nightmare is him laughing his head off," Miller said. "The best scenario is him saying, 'Yeah, that's pretty good.'"

From the Trust: Beyond the public programs

By Maureen Kavanagh

Maryland State Archeologist

For the state archeology office, our public programs are the tip of the iceberg. Behind the scenes we review over 4,000 projects each year for their effects on archeological sites; conduct archival research, field survey and site testing; work with preservation organizations such as the Archeological Conservancy; award and manage grants to universities, local governments and nonprofit organizations for archeological research, survey and public outreach; review and issue permits for archeological work on state lands; maintain records on over 12,000 archeological sites; present talks and professional papers at conferences, workshops and meetings, and, at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, conduct archeological research and curate millions of artifacts.

I want to mention some recent special highlights of the archeological program.

Last year we began work on an Archeological Synthesis project. This year we received a federal transportation enhancement grant of $135,000 to expand the work. This project's goal is to synthesize and make accessible the volumes of unpublished archeological data, fondly known as "gray literature," that has accumulated from the hundreds of archeological projects conducted over the last few decades. One of the products from this project will be a series of popular publications on Maryland Archeology.

This year, the Maryland Historical Trust and the State Highway Administration jointly and successfully proposed Baltimore as the venue for the Society for Historical Archaeology meetings in 2012.

The Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Navy cooperated to have the shipwrecked German submarine U-1105 nominated into NOAA's comprehensive, science-based national system of Marine Protected Areas. We hope to nominate other sites in the future.

Early this year MHT received a Preserve America grant of $78,000 to provide Internet access to information about Maryland's archeological sites and inventoried historic properties.

We also received another Preserve America grant of $28,000 to develop exhibits of archeological materials currently housed at the MAC lab in two counties, as a pilot to eventually expand to the entire state. The project will include a program of related lectures and workshops, working in cooperation with local partners.

(*This article is excerpted from remarks made at the 2009 workshop in March.)*

Stone-age cache waiting in the backyard

By Kirk Johnson

Condensed from The New York Times, February 26, 2009

DENVER — Researchers into the ancient human past are used to wandering the world in search of artifacts. But scientists at the University of Colorado said Wednesday that a major cache of stone age tools, believed to be 13,000 years old, had been found in a suburban backyard just six blocks from the campus in Boulder.

"I'm used to going hell and gone across the landscape to look," said Douglas Bamforth, a professor of anthropology who analyzed the cache. "This time I walked."

The 83 stone-cutting implements, some with enough blood residue on them to identify the animals they had been used to butcher, are believed to have belonged to a nomadic people who probably buried the tools for later retrieval, but never returned, Bamforth said.
He added that the trove was one of only a handful of major caches found of that age in North America and the first to identify protein residue from a now-extinct camel that the hunters had perhaps eaten.
The homeowner, Patrick J. Mahaffy, said landscapers were digging out a space to build a fish pond last May when their shovels struck stone.
Mahaffy said he was struck by the beauty of the tools and how well designed they seemed.
"They're ergonomically perfect," he said. "They fit perfectly in your palm, and your fingers curl over just where they should."

A guide to better field conservation

By Howard Wellman

The duties of a conservator on archeological projects can be very wide-ranging, from basic artifact conservation and stabilization, to more specialized tasks like analysis and identification, "lifting" fragile or complicated objects or preparing the site for in-situ preservation.
This articlefocuses on the basic issues of stabilizing and handling artifacts in the field prior to their transportation to a conservation laboratory. I'm not going to try to cover every topic where archeology and conservation collide. What I'd like to do is help you understand some of the thinking and skills that go into field conservation, so that you can make educated decisions about how to best care for your discoveries.
This represents only the first stage in a long process -- discovery and excavation necessitates stabilization, interpretation, curation and then recurring cycles of use and re-stabilization. What happens in the early stages is critical to the long-term survival of the object. All objects deteriorate over time and the rate of deterioration is affected by the changes in the environment. Radical changes like excavation increase the rate of deterioration and must be compensated.

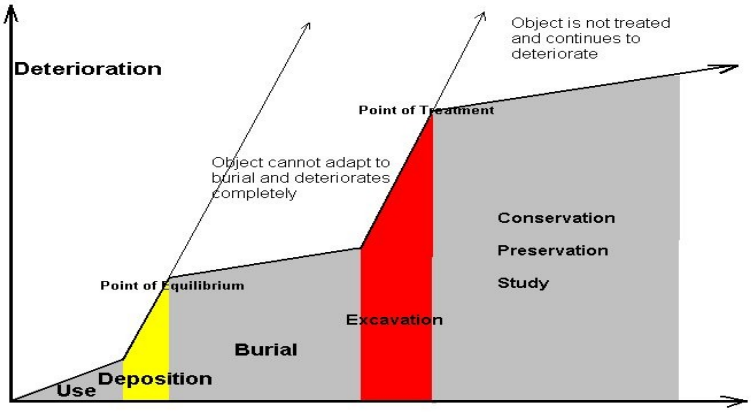

Figure 1: Deterioration of Artifacts

Artifacts deteriorate while being used until they reach the point when they are discarded. Once they are buried, they continue to deteriorate (generally faster) until they reach some sort of equilibrium with their environment. Some people disagree with the term "equilibrium" since decay never really stops, but some artifacts will definitely reach a point where their deterioration has slowed considerably. When the environment is radically changed (in this case by excavation), the artifacts will begin to deteriorate again until a new equilibrium is reached, they disappear completely or they are treated to force a new equilibrium point of the conservator's choosing.
The great shock during excavation comes from exposing the artifact to a new and hostile environment, which usually involves much higher levels of oxygen, light and a change of moisture levels (either wetter or dryer). Field conservation acts to minimize the effects of these changes in the short term, while

laboratory conservation tries to achieve long-term stability in the environment to which they will have to become adjusted (usually a dry, temperate storage room).
The important thing is to characterize the environment from which the artifact is being taken then identify the dangers of its new environment and act accordingly. When comparing the before and after, consider the following classes of hazards inherent in any environment:

- Physical agents
    - Shock and handling: the greatest dangers are from the archeologists and conservators.
        - Many degraded materials are much weaker than they appear
    - Changes in moisture level
        - drying causes shrinkage, cracking
        - wetting promotes biological activity
        -
- Chemical agents
    - Oxygen: accelerates corrosion, biological activity
    - Salts and pollutants: accelerates corrosion, causes cracking
    - Water: changes in moisture may accelerate other chemical reactions
- Biological agents
    - Bacteria, fungi, mold: microscopic damage and staining
    - Vermin, pests: macroscopic damage
- Light (which affects the other three)
    - Provides energy for biological growth, chemical reactions, organic breakdown and fading, and drying.

The way that different materials survive these hazards under different burial environments determines what kind of conservation problems will be faced during excavation. A simple chart such as found in Watkinson and Neal (Tables 1A and B) can help excavators anticipate what kinds of material may be found on site and plan their preservation needs accordingly.
The other side of the coin, of course, is understanding what will have been lost already, which could be useful in site interpretation. For these reasons, conservation and conservators should ideally be part of an excavation's pre-planning.
Once excavated, changes to the hazards noted above will take effect. Watkinson and Neal (Table 2) help predict the sorts of damage that will occur to the artifacts. The conservator can plan their field supplies and activities accordingly. One question that comes up frequently is: How critical is the timing of this anyway? Because deterioration begins to accelerate almost immediately, timing is crucial and depends on the material involved. For instance:

- Cast iron from marine contexts will break up in a matter of hours after drying, while wrought iron or copper alloy can take months. The damage done is irreversible.
- Marine concretions (accumulations of deposited calcium carbonate, metal corrosion and other environmental materials) will harden appreciably on drying, as well as shrink and crack, causing damage to enclosed objects.
- Waterlogged wood will begin to shrink and crack immediately on drying; this is irreversible damage.
- Micro-biological decay in organic or contaminated inorganic materials begins immediately, but may not be visible for days or weeks. This is irreversible damage.
- The different materials in composite objects may accelerate each other's decay in unpredictable ways.

What happens next determines how well the artifacts will survive their transition to the conservation laboratory and archeological study. Proper handling and understanding of what can and cannot be done in a field setting is crucial to the preservation of archeological artifacts. The following is a brief summary of simple steps that can be taken to minimize the effects of common conditions:

- Physical deterioration

    - Use proper packing materials and ample padding
        - Use archival materials that will not degrade and add to the problem or introduce other contaminants (ie, cigarette cartons, old t-shirts, straw will all decay or affect the artifacts)
    - Provide ample structural support
        - External protection from blows
        - Rigid support of fragile materials
        - Avoid frequent transfers -- can it be stored and transported in its lifting support?
        - Nest rather than wrap, when you can (unwrapping for inspection involves a lot of handling).

- Chemical
    - Prevent active metal corrosion:
        - store wet metals in solutions with pH >8 (e.g., 5% solution of baking soda)
        - store dry metals in desiccated microenvironment (a sealed container desiccated with silica gel)
    - Minimize oxygen content to slow corrosion
    - Remove from saline or polluted environments
    - Buffer pH to best preservative conditions
    - Protect from exposure to light
- Biological
    - Avoid packing materials that add to the problem
        - old t-shirts, saw dust, cotton wool, paper towels are food to microbiology.
    - Avoid biocides --they are hazardous and toxic to humans
    - Chilled conditions will slow biological growth in moist materials
    - Avoid sunlight to restrict algae growth
    - Stir and oxygenate solutions to prevent anaerobic bacterial staining
    - Reduce moisture if possible

A common question is how wet or dry to keep freshly excavated materials. As noted above, moisture is a catalyst in many of the listed hazards. In general, if it's wet, keep it wet. If it's dry, keep it dry.

- Keep it wet:
    - concretions and concreted objects from marine sites
    - soft organic materials from damp or wet contexts
    - metal from marine contexts
    - low-fired ceramics from damp contexts (wet soil or submerged sites)
    - weathered (iridescent) glass
- Can be dried if desalinated:
    - robust ceramics
    - unweathered glass
    - very robust bone
    - shell
    - metal from dry sites
- Better off dry:
    - Metal from dry or slightly damp sites will react strongly to moisture and oxygen, so they are better off in desiccated storage.

Packaging is a critical part of all of these steps, as it is the first defense against loss and damage. Standardized packing helps in planning and collections management and it reduces excess handling.

Conservators will always emphasize the use of quality materials and archival supplies. These materials may cost more, but the quality means introducing fewer foreign contaminants into the system and they tend to be more reusable in the future. Spending money up front saves money in the long run, since it reduces the amount of conservation work that has to be done later.

Whatever you do, do it in a timely fashion and don't let anything stay in temporary storage for too long. When even the best packing gets ignored things dry out, packaging decays, objects get stuck together and mold runs rampant. It is important to transport, process and unpack finds promptly. Objects left in even the best transport containers will get ignored, lost and forgotten. Stabilizing for transport is not the same as treatment and must be monitored constantly.

When packing, consider what you are trying to achieve and create your environments accordingly. For short term storage and transport, wet does not have to mean immersion. Wrapping the object in damp water-retaining foam and sealing in a closed bag or rigid container will prevent evaporation. Longer storage means more monitoring and frequent re-moistening.

Wherever possible, make it possible to see the artifacts through the packaging, this will reduce handling during inspections. Unless you are creating a sealed environment, create ventilation holes to allow environmental equilibrium. Watkinson and Neal (Chapter 3) summarize basic packaging for more types of artifacts. The steps of handling and packing listed above are fundamental first steps towards stabilizing the artifact and in some cases are even the first steps in long-term treatment.

One other aspect of field conservation involves preliminary cleaning, which is often required on site to aid in identifying and cataloging artifacts. There are no simple rules on to clean or not to clean, because some information has to be collected while you're still in the field. So you have to know all the pros and cons and weigh the risks and benefits:

- Cleaning is good because:
    - reduces weight of soil and concretion
    - reveals areas of weakness
    - removes biological material that may decay
    - allows for on-site analysis that could aid site interpretation.
- Cleaning is bad because:
    - removes supporting concretion and soil
    - exposes fragile surfaces
    - exposes more areas to decay and corrosion
    - disassociates composite objects
    - may remove surface details trapped in soil or concretion
    - may remove mineral preserved organics andpseudomorphs (impressions of objects in contact with the metal).

In general, cleaning objects should only be done by people with the proper tools and experience. Because field conditions do not allow for constant monitoring, field cleaning should only involve mechanical cleaning, such as with scalpels and picks. Chemical or electrolytic processes, in addition to being potentially hazardous, require constant attention and far more resources than usually can be packed into the field.

- Common cleaning errors
    - Aggressive scrubbing of ceramics, removing delicate glazes, slips, tool marks
    - Rapid drying of porous materials after wetting may cause cracking and breakage -- always dry such materials in the shade
    - Use of dirty water which contains abrasive dirt particles.
    - Over-cleaning of metal corrosion, removing surface details, organic traces and pseudomorphs preserved in the corrosion layers.

Conservators do not need to be a constant presence on every field project, but the wide range of skills and information they can bring to bear can be of vital importance. Consider having a conservator on board during the design of your field season to help plan for the materials needed to stabilize and pack

your finds, laying out the space and tools needed to preserve your artifacts and being available for those special unanticipated discoveries.

Conservators also can help to train your field staff in performing basic procedures to mitigate the hazards discussed here. As more and more curatorial facilities set higher standards for the care of the collections handed to them, it makes economic sense to begin that standard of care at the point of excavation.

References and Recommended Reading

They have lots of common sense suggestions, good diagrams.
First Aid for Finds, David Watkinson and Virginia Neal, 3rd ed. 1998, UKIC, London.
First Aid for Underwater Finds, Wendy Robinson, 1998, Archetype Publications, London.
A Conservation Manual for the Field Archaeologist, 3rd ed., Catherine Sease, 1994, Institute of Archaeology, UCLA.
Retrieval of Objects from Archaeological Sites, ed. Robert Payton, 1992, Archetype Publications, London.

Old Statehouse coming back to life

By Rosalind S. Helderman

Condensed from theWashington Post, March 14, 2009

Architectural detectives in Maryland will spend the next year studying ghost images that splotch the walls of one of the nation's most historic spaces in the hope that the clues will guide the restoration of the room to its appearance at the time of the nation's birth.

For years, a mysterious water leak had plagued the walls of the Old Senate Chamber in the Maryland State House, the nation's oldest continuously operative legislative building. The water was causing ugly bubbles in the plaster of the historic room, where in 1783 George Washington stood in front of the Continental Congress and resigned his commission as head of the army.

Congress also ratified the Treaty of Paris, the official end of the Revolutionary War, in the room. And it was the home of the Maryland State Senate for 103 years.

In search of the source of the water, the preservationists last year peeled back all of the plaster and paint accumulated over the years in the Old Senate Chamber, revealing the bare brick beneath. And, stripped to its bones, the room began to share its secrets.

"What we have here is the closest thing we will get to having walls talk," said Elaine Rice Bachmann, director of outreach for the Maryland State Archives.

Clearly visible, for instance, are shadows around a podium where the Senate president's chair stood -- long hidden by years of accumulated paint and plaster. The shadows revealed that the raised platform once included two broad steps rather than the three more narrow ones the room has sported since a 1906 renovation.

High-tech paint analysis in the niche behind the chair shows that the room was originally a beige faux sandstone, not the lovely sky-blue color it was painted until it was recently stripped.Protruding bits of wood set into brick around a large fireplace indicate that the wooden frame around it once extended much farther.

And the balcony that runs along the room's back wall? Well, the experts are convinced that the balcony looks entirely different from its original appearance.

The room was last restored in 1906, when the Maryland Senate outgrew the space and moved down the hall to a newly constructed State House addition. That year, the architects also aimed to return the room to its Washington-era state, all vestiges of which had been ripped out and replaced with high

Victorian ornamentation in an 1876 redecorating. The 1876 changes were roundly panned in their time. Today's preservationists said their forbears did their best, but they simply did not have the advantage of the technologies and methods developed in the past century.
For instance, the conclusion about the paint was confirmed when it was revealed that a chip of the room's original plaster had fallen off the wall during the 1906 renovation and lodged in a small hole along the room's floorboard, where it sat undisturbed until the removal of the plaster.

Tribes seek role in climate change policy

Condensed from the Native American Rights Fund, March 2, 2009

WASHINGTON-Tribal leaders from around the country have come to Washington to press their senators and representatives for support of federal climate legislation in 2009. Historically, tribal communities have borne the brunt of negative environmental impacts generated primarily by nontribal activities and are recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as disproportionately impacted by the effects of global warming.

To fight global warming and preserve their ways of life, America's tribal governments call for national legislation for mandatory reductions in climate change pollution, the development of renewable energy sources within a timeframe that prevents irreversible harm to public health, the economy and the environment, and includes dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation.
The tribes also call for legislation that supports tribal efforts to lessen climate change impacts on tribal communities, lands and natural resources and cultural traditions and provides tribes with equal access to economic development opportunities presented by renewable energy development, energy efficiency, carbon trading mechanisms and other mitigation strategies.

"It is important for tribes to participate in national efforts to mitigate the causes of global warming and to develop adaptation strategies for the anticipated changes in our homelands," said Jerry Pardilla, executive director of the National Tribal Environmental Council and member of the Penobscot Nation.
The leaders say tribal set-asides should be established for tribes to address the disproportionate climate impacts upon their infrastructures, services, lands and resources and traditional lifeways and ensure their participation in green job transition training.
Tribal efforts to develop their vast renewable energy potential, obtain access to energy infrastructure and implement energy efficiency programs should be supported through federal programmatic support and removal of barriers to implementation
As the majority of Alaska Native villages must be relocated due to rising water levels, flooding and erosion, sufficient federal support should be provided for their safe relocation with their free prior and informed consent.

Museum offers look at prehistoric DC

By Timothy Warren

Condensed from the Washington Times, February 16, 2009

In a city that boasts some of the greatest museums in the world, it's no surprise the Doug Dupin's Palisades Museum of Prehistory is off the tourist maps.
Its leafy Northwest neighborhood, on the bluffs of the Potomac River, is little known outside the region, and Dupin's museum is really little more than a shack beside his home.
Still, it provides visitors a rare opportunity to see artifacts from the area, some dating as far back as 7,000 B.C.
"I find it fascinating that people actually lived in this environment," says Dupin, 42,.
Dupin, a videographer, says he fell in love with archeology purely by chance, recalling his time digging and identifying interesting pieces while working in road construction in Hawaii more than a decade ago.
His musuem in the District was orginally supposed to be a wine cellar. Then Dupin uncovered an

arrowhead, which led him to excavating at construction sites and parks in the area.
"The older I get, the more interested I get in history," saidDupin, who moved to the District 15 years ago.
He primarily shows his findings to neighbors, local experts and other amateur archeologists.
"His work reminds us that people were coming to Washington, D.C., before there was a Washington, D.C., and that in addition to occupying a historic city we walk in the midst of prehistory," said Michael Dolan, a neighbor and adjunct history professor at Catholic University who annually brings his students to the museum.
Dupin, who is married and a father of three, had hoped the museum would provide a small source of income. He even created a board and wrote a monthly newsletter to keep those interested apprised of his findings, though he since has stopped writing his newsletter.
The District does not offer a public museum for ancient artifacts, and the archeologist for the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office, Ruth Trocolli, has yet to see Dupin's collection, he says.
Palisades, in the far northwest corner of the city, just north of Georgetown, was popular among the region's early settlers because the river becomes narrow there, making fishing much easier.
While he is not certain, Dupin thinks most of his collection comes from the Susquehannock and Algonquin Indian tribes.
Most of the 150 pieces in his collection are projectile points thought to be from 2,500 B.C. to 500 A.D. One object, a scraper, is thought to be from 7,000 B.C.

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

April 21: Paul Nasca, staff archeologist at Ferry Farm will discuss "Recent Discoveries at Ferry Farm - George Washington's Boyhood Home." For more on Ferry Farm:www.kenmore.org/ferryfarm_homepage.html

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

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

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. . Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick, on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 orjlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geaseyat 301-378-0212.

April 8: Guy Neal will talk on "A Twenty Minute Arrow."

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30.Contact Ann Persson at 410-272-3425 or aspst20@yahoo.com Website: http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the courthouse 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

May 11: Kathie Fernstron, "Pueblo, Mound-builders, Frogs and the White City."

Western Maryland

Programsare 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

April 24: Stephen R. Potter on new findings on the Civil War battle, "Antietam and the Archeology of Tactics."

May 22: Bob Wall speaks on what was found at the Barton Site in 2008 and on plans for 2009 excavations.

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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