

ASM Ink



November 2013, Vol. 40, No. 11

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Annual Meeting coming up Nov. 9

The autumn highlight of ASM's calendar, the Annual Meeting, will be held Nov. 9 at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood, Montgomery County. After a brief business meeting, five speakers will take the stage to report on "The Amazing Discoveries of Central Maryland and the Potomac."

First off, delivering the keynote Frederick M. Stiner Memorial Lecture, will be Stephen Potter, regional archeologist with the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. His talk, "Highlights from the 9-Year Archeological and Historical Study of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal," will document that 2001-2010 effort. New information was produced and new interpretations developed about the canal's history and even the prehistory before its 1828 beginning. (The report is offered in *Archeology & History of the C&O Canal National Historical Park*.)

Montgomery County Parks archeologist Heather Bouslog then will talk about a project taking place on the land that is the site of the conference, the Agricultural History Farm Park. The Bussard farmhouse site is listed as 18MO309. Conference visitors will have a chance to visit the farmhouse's kitchen during the lunch break, which immediately follows this talk.

Bob Hines, who has been supervising the group Volunteers in Archeology since 1984, will start off the afternoon session with a report on the work done at the Madison House in Brookeville. The site is named for nation's fourth president, who fled to the house in 1812 while the British were busy sightseeing about Washington via torchlight. Most of the Volunteers come from Richard Montgomery High School and ASM. The Madison House is the unique project on private and parkland.

The day's final two talks will report on ASM's twin field sessions this summer. First, Jim Gibb will tell of the successful search for the 1662-1704 Jesuit chapel at Newtowne Neck in St. Mary's County. Charles Hall of the Maryland Historical Trust will end the day with a report on the other session, the prehistoric Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County, where the location and size of two villages were confirmed. Biggs Ford also was the site of ASM's first field session, 42 years ago.

Doors open at 8:30, with welcoming remarks at 9 and the business meeting beginning at 9:10. As part of the meeting, the William B. Marye Award, ASM's highest honor, will be presented to this year's recipient. Talks begin about 10:30.

Participants are urged to bring their lunch. None is being provided (though drinks will be) and people are requested not to leave the area until the meeting is over because the park is being shared that day with a major high-school cross-country championship competition and, for safety reasons, efforts will be made to keep road traffic to a minimum.

The complete program, and directions to reach the meeting site, is with this newsletter. Another feature of the meeting is a silent auction. A partial list of items being offered is on Page 4.

First call for renewal: Form with this newsletter

Upcoming events

October 31 – November 3: Eastern States Archeological Federation meeting. South Portland, Maine.

November 9: ASM Annual Meeting, Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park, Derwood.

December 7: ASM board meeting, Miller Branch, Howard County Library, Ellicott City. 10 a.m.

October 30 – November 2, 2014: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted during the week and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have turned their attention to work on material from Chapel Point and to catalogue data entry of Rosenstock material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jasmine Gollup at 410-222-1318.

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at echaney@mdp.state.md.us or 410-586-8554.

The Maryland Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help rehouse all its archeological material which was damaged when a steam pipe burst. The work is being done at its Baltimore office, 201 W. Monument Street, weekdays between 8:30 and 4. Volunteers will have to commit to at least 40 hours of work. Contact Kate Gallagher at kgallagher@mdhs.org anytime or midweek at 410-685-3750, extension 342.

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

An all-day CAT workshop will be held Saturday November 23 at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. (For directions, see the Annual Meeting insert with this newsletter.) The program starts at 9 with Silas Hurry and Kate Dinnel offering an historic overview of Maryland archeology. The afternoon session, starting at 1:30, features Jim Gibb telling what can be learned about a population from studying glass and ceramic shards. Participants should bring their own lunch, which they can eat while a guest speaker entertains them. **RSVP to both Alex and Belinda at amcpmail@worldbank.org and burquiza@comcast.net**

For more information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.



Roy Brown shares a "Hey, look-what-I-found Moment" with Dave Frederick.

Photo by Bob Bantz

Barton Site work focused on one unit

By Robert Wall

The principal focus of the 2013 field season at the Barton site was to complete a single two-meter excavation unit that was placed just north of the deep test units completed in past years. This unit is also contiguous to a large block excavation area that had revealed primarily a Susquehannock occupation.

Due to its proximity to that block, several Susquehannock features were recorded in this year's excavation unit. These included a large, trench-like feature with multiple, stratified layers that appears to be an extension of Feature 110, a linear trench trending roughly southeast through the Susquehannock settlement. This may have been used as a palisade trench since several large posts were recorded within the Feature 110 trench as well as within the 2013 unit feature.

A sheet midden feature also extended into this unit as well as a few other shallow basin-shaped features. Most of the features produced a mixture of Page and Susquehannock ceramics. It is likely that most of these features are Susquehannock in origin and that the Page ceramics originated from an intensively occupied living surface that was crosscut by the Susquehannock features.

After recording and excavating all of the features revealed at the base of the plow zone, the two-meter unit was excavated in 10-cm levels to access the deeper (Archaic period) occupations. Excavations were terminated after completing Level 11 and will be finished in 2014.

Level 11 represents the top of the Early Archaic component as delineated in nearby units. No clear indications of the Early Archaic occupation were encountered within Level 11 so it is likely that the occupation lies just beneath where this years' excavations ended.

Partial list of silent auction items

Here are some of the items available during the silent auction at this year's annual meeting, Nov. 9.

BOOKS:

- Signed Copy: In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake, by Ralph E. Eshelman and Burton K. Kummerow, 2012
- Historical Archaeology, by Barbara Little
- Zooarchaeology, by Elizabeth J. Reitz and Elizabeth S. Wing
- Here Lies Virginia, by Ivor Noel Hume
- Signed Copy: A Ripple in the Wind, by Lois Nutwell
- Archaeology for Everyone, by Mark Feldman
- Motel of the Mysteries, by David Macaulay
- Death by Theory, by Adrian Praetzelis
- Dug to Death, by Adrian Praetzelis
- Archaeology: The Comic, by Johannes H.N. Loubser
- Three-book set: Teaching Archaeology, edited by Susan Bender and George S. Smith; Archaeology and You, by George Stuart and Francis P. McManamom; Archaeology and Education: The Classroom and Beyond
- You Should Have Been Here Yesterday, A Guide to Cultural Documentation in Maryland, by Elaine Eff
- Two-book set: Federal Planning and Historic Places, by Thomas F. King, and Cultural History and Natural Culture, by Thomas J. Schlereth
- Two-book set: Smithsonian Castle and the Seneca Stone Quarry, and Montgomery County Mills, a Field Guide
- Three Archaeology Conservancy books and a conservancy hat

MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

- Bulletin of Primitive Technology 2011-2013 – 5 copies will be auctioned separately
- Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Fall 2006
- Maryland Historical Magazine – 3 copies will be auctioned separately

CRAFTS

- Hand Crafted Scarf: Handspun wool and linen blend by Heirloom Treasures Designer Fiber Arts – Rita de Maintenon
- Set of 4 snowflake mugs and coasters
- Set of 4 Christmas mugs and coasters
- Hertfordshire in Old Photographs by Dave Randle
- Replica of an Anasazi hunting talisman, Type I – made from single split willow branch
- Replica of an Anasazi hunting talisman, Type II – made from single split willow branch
- Print: London Town, South River, signed by Terri Fowler, 250/1500

OTHER

- Tin Coca-Cola sign
- Pair of cast brass mallard bookends
- Vacation cottage: Three nights off-season in ocean-block cottage at Dewey Beach
- Antique stoneware gin bottle, made in Rotterdam 1850s to 1920s.
- Wine and chocolate basket

‘A tantalizing window into prehistory’

By Theo Emery

Condensed from the New York Times, October 15, 2013

LOTHIAN, Md. — For weeks, Al Luckenbach puzzled over the bones surfacing in the pit atop the Patuxent River bluff here. They were hard to identify: fragments and shattered splinters, unlike the intact animal bones heaped in the nearly 9,000-year-old feast site down the hill.

Then the scrape of a trowel tip uncovered a human tooth among the crushed pottery and broken spearheads. Two more followed and a startling realization emerged: The bones on the hilltop were human, with marks suggesting they were deliberately smashed as part of a prehistoric ritual.

Since that discovery last year, the spot known as Pig Point has become a tantalizing window into prehistoric gatherings on the hilltop thousands of years ago. While burial sites are relatively common, ancient ceremonial sites as deep and well preserved as the one believed to be atop Pig Point are extremely unusual.

"Habitation sites are everywhere," said Luckenbach, the archeologist for Anne Arundel County. "Ritual sites — that'll only be a few places. Boy, were we lucky to blunder into this one."

The discovery could help illuminate another mystery. Since the 1930s, amateur archeologists and relic hunters have been digging up artifacts in Delaware and Maryland that seemed to have come from prehistoric mound-building cultures in the Ohio River Valley.

The discoveries led some anthropologists to conclude that people from the Adena and Hopewell cultures had migrated from the Ohio Valley, even though their burial mounds have never been found in the area.

Later scientists hypothesized that trade between the Ohio Valley and the Chesapeake region accounted for the artifacts common to both. Pig Point seems to reinforce that view: The pits have yielded projectile points made of flint from New York and Pennsylvania, far from the Ohio Valley.

About nine years ago, William Brown III, a local utility contractor, was digging a ditch when he struck a midden. Brown's family has owned land on or near Pig Point since Colonial times. As a child, he used to collect arrowheads from the family's tobacco fields near the property, which probably got its name from pig iron ingots in the soil. Brown was familiar with Luckenbach's work as head of the county's Lost Towns Project. He invited Luckenbach to the site and the dig began in 2009.

Now in its fifth season, the Pig Point dig has consistently surprised Luckenbach and his colleagues, yielding a near-daily feast of exotic blades, ornate ceramics and fossilized shark's teeth. One deep pit revealed remnants of 3,000-year-old wigwams midway up the hill and carbon dating showed habitation as long as 9,300 years ago.

Michael R. Waters, director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M University, said deposits that deep were rare on the East Coast.

As the collection of artifacts grew — almost half a million items have been cataloged — Luckenbach hypothesized that Pig Point was a sort of regional rest area, a feasting spot for prehistoric travelers.

Luckenbach said he considered wrapping up the dig last year, but a patch of grass nearby intrigued him. It was a small area, bordered by asphalt on four sides.

In May of last year, the team sank their shovels into the spot. To their astonishment, almost everything they found was "smashed to smithereens," Luckenbach said, including bones scattered throughout the site. Then the teeth and skull pieces surfaced, but no human pelvis or torso bones.

The new pits also yielded the first Ohio Valley flints and pipes at the dig. Some items were unlike any seen so far, including Adena blades as long as 10 inches and tiny copper beads. Carbon dating revealed that the site had been continuously used for at least half a millennium, from 230 B.C. to about A.D. 300.

On a sunny summer morning, Luckenbach took in the view of the river below, and the broad flats of its banks. He gestured toward the next hill upriver, musing about what it might hide. "You look at the next little bluff and the next one and the next one," he said, "and you want to look at all these places and figure out how all of the pieces fit together."

Unusual story of Indian history month

By Richard Thornton

Condensed from Examiner.com, Nov. 1, 2012

Generally thought to be a relatively recent phenomenon created by Congress, the roots of Native American Heritage Month go back over a century. It was Native Americans, themselves, who first promoted national recognition of their heritage. The Boy Scouts of America then became their political ally.

Most Americans are not aware that citizenship in the United States was granted to indigenous peoples four years *after* women were granted the right to vote. The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 finally made it a law that if you were a Native American you were an American citizen. However, many states and local governments in the southwestern and southeastern United States continued to ignore that law until the Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress during the Lyndon Johnson administration.

Typical of the situation in the Sun Belt, Georgia had laws that forbade American Indians from voting, owning real estate, attending public schools or even testifying in their own behalf in court. In the early 1970s, Governor Jimmy Carter pressured the state's General Assembly to abolish these, now unconstitutional, statutes.

The first outcries for Native American constitutional rights came in Oklahoma as a result of the dissolution of tribal governments and the allotment of parcels to former tribe members by the Dawes Act of 1895.

In particular, members of the Five Civilized Tribes (Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole and Cherokee) found themselves stripped of protection by the law when they were theoretically made citizens of the Territory of Oklahoma. Most Native American tribes that originated in the eastern United States had long traditions of women being able to vote and own property. Suddenly, the Native women were put into the quasi-citizenship situation of Caucasian women. Both Native men and women were often subjected to abuses by the courts of the Oklahoma Territory.

In 1914 Red Fox James, a Western Blackfoot Indian, rode on horseback throughout much of the United States in a campaign to establish a national holiday honoring American Indians. On December 14, 1915 he presented petitions from 24 states to President Woodrow Wilson at the White House. There is no evidence that Wilson proclaimed such a holiday.

The Boy Scouts of America was the first institution in the United States to recognize a day that honored Native Americans. Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Tribe member, was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. From the turn of the century onward he campaigned for special recognition of the indigenous people's many contributions to North American civilization. He finally convinced leaders of the recently formed Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for honoring the "First Americans" in 1915.

Throughout the 20th Century, the Boy Scouts of America continued to be the only national institution that consistently presented Native American culture in a positive manner. As generation after generation of boys went through Scouting, this positive image began to spread outward into American society. Former Boy Scouts became local, state and national leaders.

In May of 1916, again at the behest of Albert C. Parker, the State of New York declared American Indian Day. Illinois legislators designated American Indian Day in 1919. Soon several states began designating the fourth Friday in September as American Indian Day. Several states continue to have a Native American Day, but it has never had the status of a national legal holiday.

After over 20 years of agitation by Native American leaders, celebrities and some members of Congress, a joint House-Senate resolution was passed that designated November 1990 as "National Native American Heritage Month." It was signed by George H. W. Bush. In 1994 a similar resolution was signed by Bill Clinton. Since that time, similar resolutions have been passed each year by Congress, but Native American Heritage Month still has no permanent legal status within the federal government.



Cave painters revisited

By Nidhi Subbaraman

Condensed from NBC News, October 15, 2013

Alongside drawings of bison and horses, the first painters left clues to their identity on the stone walls of caves, blowing red-brown paint through rough tubes and stenciling outlines of their palms. New analysis of ancient handprints in France and Spain suggests that most of those early artists were women.

This is a surprise, since most archeologists have assumed it was men who had been making the cave art. One interpretation is that early humans painted animals to influence the presence and fate of real animals that they'd find on their hunt and it's widely accepted that it was the men who found and killed dinner.

But a new study indicates that the majority of handprints found near cave art were made by women, based on their overall size and relative lengths of their fingers.

"The assumption that most people made was it had something to do with hunting magic," Penn State archeologist Dean Snow, who has been scrutinizing handprints for a decade, told NBC News.

Another reason we thought it was men all along: s "Male archaeologists were doing the work," Snow said, and it's possible *that* "had something to do with it."

In National Geographic, Virginia Hughes explains Snow's finding, published this month in American Antiquity. The new paper includes details from 32 stencils found in 11 caves in Spain and France, where some of the handprints date back almost 40,000 years. Of the 32 stencils, 24 were likely female.

The new reading of the stencils "provokes a whole series of other questions," Snow said.

"What was the role of women in producing these," and, where else did they paint? "It may be that all we're seeing is the fraction of the art that survived," he said — paintings on exposed stone surfaces would almost undoubtedly have worn off over tens of thousands of years.

Other recent work on cave paintings has brought up the possibility that some early European cave art wasn't made by homo sapiens, but by our hominid cousins, the Neanderthals. Recent dating of the El Castillo cave in Spain, where some of Snow's prints came from, indicates that the very earliest cave paintings were made 40,000 years ago, when Neanderthals were still thriving in Europe.



Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

November 12: Julie Schablitsky will speak on the War of 1812 Caulk's Battlefield.

Central Maryland

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 at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

November 14: Carol Cowherd on "Pommony Creek North - Small Flakes, Broken Pottery and an Opportunity to Learn."

December 12: Latest findings at Mount Calvert, by Mike Lucas.

January 9: Cathy Thompson on the latest county activities relating to Port Tobacco.

February 13: TBD

March 13: TBD

April 10: "Overwhelmed By the Sea: An Afternoon at Point Lookout State Park" (and sand tempered pottery), presented by Lynne Bulhack.

May 8: Laura Cripps will talk about experience with geophysical techniques.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

November 21: Dorothy Krass and Mary Gallagher will give a presentation on the prehistory of Montgomery County and a hands-on activity on how to catalogue projectile points. The workshop runs from 6 to 9:30. Please bring your own dinner or contribute \$7 for pizza, salad and drinks.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

November 13: Dan Coates and Bill McIntyre: Introducing the New Maryland Point Guide. At Harford Community College, Havre de Grace Hall, Room H-208.

December: Annual Dinner Meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen. Date and other details TBA.

January 8, 2014: TBA. Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 12: The St. Francis Xavier excavation. Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

March 12: Archeological investigations at Caulk's Field, a War of 1812 battle site in Kent County. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

April: Date TBA. Annual Cresthull Memorial Lecture for Maryland Archeology Month. Edgewood Hall, HCC, Bel Air.

May: Date and site TBA. Annual ASNC picnic.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ellicott City Colored School. Dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Labs are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For location and other chapter information contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

November 11: Laura Cripps on what her HCC students are doing.

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: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

November 2: Field Trip to historic Mount Savage, Maryland.

December: No meeting, due to holidays.

January 24: Show and tell.

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ASM 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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