

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

With a busy 2014 over, the Trust looks to 2015

By Dennis C. Curry

Where did 2014 go? It seems to have flown by, and yet, based on the activities listed below, it is clear that the Maryland Historical Trust staff was extremely busy and productive.

First, I must comment on how everyone in Crownsville and at Jefferson Patterson pitched in to help fill the void left when Maureen Kavanagh retired. They really helped make my transition into Maureen's archeological duties seamless.

As we all know, though, Maureen could not be replaced by just one person, and the Trust was fortunate in 2014 to hire Gregory Brown (trained as an archeologist) to take on her computer-related responsibilities. As luck would have it, we also landed another archeologist when Jennifer Sparenberg was hired as MHT's new Hazard Mitigation Program Officer. And now for what we have been up to at the Trust:

- The Annual Workshop in Archeology featured two keynote speakers: James Delgado on a 19th Century shipwreck in the Gulf of Mexico and Timothy Horsley on recent advances in remote sensing in Maryland. Other topics included the Pig Point site, JPPM's traveling trunks, a CAT session on lab procedures, the 19th Century port of Nottingham, atlatls and spears, and the Biggs Ford site.
- The theme for the 2014 Maryland Archeology Month was "To Endure To World's End: Exploring Maryland Indian Landscapes." The expanded booklet dealt with a variety of topics in more than a dozen articles written by both archeologists and Native Americans.
- The Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology returned to the Biggs Ford Site for a second straight year. The location of overlapping Late Woodland Keyser and Montgomery Complex villages, Biggs Ford drew 130 volunteers and students, along with eight staff to contribute 450 work days (3,600 work hours) during the 11-day session.
- MHT, led by Charlie Hall, partnered with ASM and Baltimore Heritage to investigate the War of 1812 site at Hampstead Hill in Baltimore's Patterson Park. Remote sensing and limited excavations were followed by lab work in Crownsville.
- The Tuesday Crownsville Lab volunteers, under the direction of Louise Akerson, finished cataloging materials from the Chapel Point Site. They also began organizing and repackaging the 1970 collection recovered from the late 17th/early 18th Century Piscataway Indian fort on Heater's Island.
- As part of its annual inventorying efforts, the Maryland Maritime Archeology Program, led by Susan Langley and Troy Nowak, carried out magnetometer and side scan sonar surveys in the Wicomico River watershed in collaboration with Julia King of St. Mary's College of Maryland. This remote sensing work was followed up with shoreline survey work by Troy and Matt McKnight.
- MHT Project Review and Compliance completed another record setting year — reviewing over 2,800 federal- and state-assisted projects for their effects on terrestrial and underwater archeological sites.

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Upcoming events

January 6 – 11: Society for Historical Archaeology annual conference, Seattle.

March 7: ASM board meeting, 10 a.m.

March: Annual Archeology Workshop. Date, location to be announced.

April 25: Spring Symposium, Howard Community College

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17th Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

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 Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301-563-7531 or contact heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org. CAT opportunity.

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

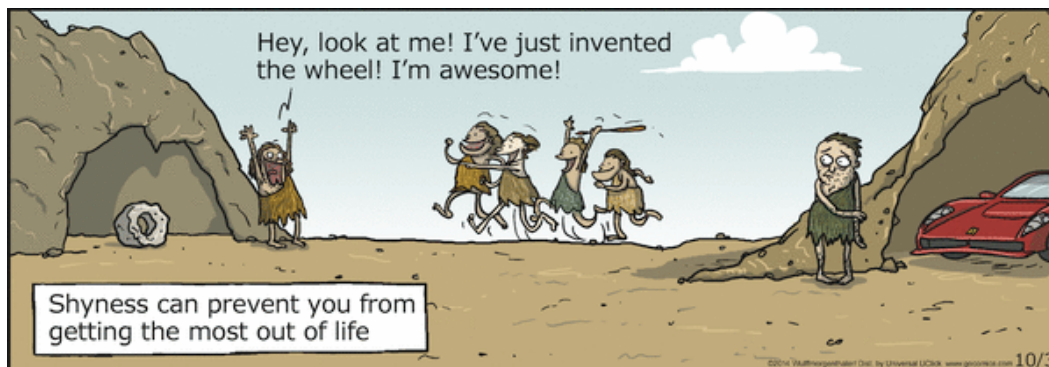
Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

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 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 information on the CAT program, visit the ASM website.



ASM news

Two field schools again this year, Biggs Ford and SERC

For your early planning: ASM will be offering two field sessions this year. First, we will be returning to the productive Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County for the third straight year. Then, later on, a skills-oriented field school will be held again at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Anne Arundel County. Final details, such as dates, are still being working out, but be alerted that the opportunities are coming.

An archeological treasure not found in the ground

In this issue of the newsletter, Dennis Curry tells of all the things that the Maryland Historical Trust did last year and some of what it has planned for this year. ASM members participated in a great many of these activities and will be able to take part in the upcoming ones. And that doesn't count ASMS events, such as the two upcoming field sessions.

The catch is: You have to be a member of ASM. This is ASM's prime enrollment period so fill out the enrollment form with this newsletter or on the ASM website, www.marylandarcheology.org and you will be all set and ready to join in.

Are you interested in joining a reborn Central Chapter?

ASM's Central Chapter is making plans to become active again. It is looking for members in Baltimore City and Baltimore County but others are welcome too. To get information or to express an interest in joining, contact Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Annual Workshop moving to a new site

The Maryland Historical Trust is going to have to move from its Crownsville headquarters in early 2016, but other occupants of the state building are moving sooner, causing disruption along the line. As part of the disruption, the meeting rooms at Crownsville will not be available for the annual Workshop in Archeology this year.

There will be a workshop and efforts are under way to determine where and then when it will be held. We will keep you posted.

The Spring Symposium will be returning to Howard Community College. This year's program will be April 25.

Gene Pietra dies; active in Central and Western chapters

Gene Pietra, a longtime member of ASM who was active in both the state and chapter levels, died December 21, just days after his 91st birthday.

A World War II veteran and federal government worker, he also served as a captain in the Baltimore County auxiliary police for more than 20 years. His interest in archeology led him to affiliate with the Central Chapter. He, his wife, Charlene, and their two sons were frequently seen at ASM affairs.

In later years he moved to West Virginia, and the Pietras switched their activities to the Western Maryland Chapter, where again his wife held office.

Tribe helps in 13,800-year-old finds

By Alex Jacobs

Condensed from Indian Country Today, December 12, 2014

An archeological discovery from this past September could put the earliest inhabitation in Canada at around 13,800 years ago, reported CBC News. Right now it's all on sonar images captured by an underwater robotic vehicle.

Archeologist Quentin Mackie from the University of Victoria (UVIC) and his team returned from a research trip to the Haida Gwaii archipelago in August, where they used an autonomous underwater vehicle to scan the sea floor in search of evidence of ancient human inhabitation.

His team has been looking for proof of the earliest human presence in North America for decades, and what they think they've found is a fishing weir (a man-made rock formation) on the bottom of Juan Perez Sound under 375 feet of water.

There are other formations on the sea floor that the team thinks are the sites of ancient camps of the same age. Scientists think that area was at sea level 14,000 years ago and was mostly one large island that stretched across Hecate Strait east toward the mainland. The area has been submerged since that last Ice Age. The oldest artifact discovered in Canada so far came from Gwaii Haanas National Park Preserve, it was dated to 12,700 years old.

Mackie says the sonar images fit in with his team's theories (and tribal oral histories) about human inhabitation in Haida Gwaii where they've been researching for 20 years.

Mackie and UVIC colleague Daryl Fedge have theorized humans inhabited the area at around 16,000 to 17,000 years ago. So far, they have no hard proof, but they may be getting closer. And it's not just technology, but agreements between the Governments of Canada and the Haida Nation may also have set the stage for an exciting discovery.

The entire Gwaii Haanas area has been completely mapped with Haida place names and over 600 archeological sites have been located. The more recent sites are found near almost every accessible shoreline, while those that date back to 12,000 years before present are elevated in the forest on raised beach sites or submerged in tidal areas. These older sites correspond with Haida stories about floods and lower sea levels as well as the most recent ice ages on the Pacific Coast."

Canada artifact now thought to be Viking

Condensed from Sci-News.com, December 16, 2014

A small stone artifact recovered from a Paleo-Eskimo site on Baffin Island is important evidence of a Viking presence in Arctic Canada north of Labrador around 1000 CE, says a team of scientists led by Patricia Sutherland of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

The ancient site, called Nanook, was first discovered in the 1960s by Moreau Maxwell of Michigan State University. Maxwell identified it as a [Dorset Paleo-Eskimo](#) site although he noted anomalies in the architectural remains, and obtained radiocarbon dates ranging from 754 BC to 1367 CE.

Among the artifacts recovered was a small stone vessel. Sutherland and her colleagues have now discovered that the interior of the vessel contains fragments of bronze as well as small spherules of glass. Sutherland and her co-authors described the find in a paper in the journal *Georchaeology*.

The object, according to the scientists, is a [crucible](#) for melting bronze, likely in order to cast it into small tools or ornaments. Indigenous peoples of northern North America did not practice high-temperature metalworking.

According to the team, small ceramic crucibles were employed in nonferrous metalworking throughout the Viking world. "The presence of bronze traces in the crucible from Baffin Island is notable, as brass (copper-zinc alloy) is more characteristic of finds from Scandinavia."

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They also read and commented on more than 60 Phase I, II and III archeological reports. On the Archeological Synthesis project, Matt McKnight has been working closely with Greg Brown and our IT staff to make the searchable database available online (anticipated launch is this month).

Meanwhile, down at the JPPM:

- The Gloria S. King Research Fellowship funded three scholars in 2014. Lindsay Bloch from UNC-Chapel Hill conducted materials analysis on locally made earthenwares for sourcing information, Jenna Carlson from the College of William and Mary looked at the Colonial use of cattle as draft animals and Valerie Hall of the Museum of the Grand Prairie in Illinois is doing research on gender and prehistoric ceramics.
- Several sections — bottle seals and stirrups — were added to the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland webpage in 2014. The projectile point webpage underwent updates and the lithic material portion of the page was greatly expanded with new photographs, helped out a great deal by Carol Ebright.
- JPPM continues to work with Huntingtown High School to analyze and write up features from the Federal Reserve (18BC27) Site excavated in 1980. The 2013 class won an MHT Preservation Award in February for this project. One result from this project was an article by Tricia Samford and students Christiana Nisbet and Makenli Essert on the Wysing Lung Laundry, published in *Maryland Archeology*.
- The Anderson Branch quartz quarry excavated as part of ICC project in Montgomery County was accessioned into the MAC Lab collections in 2014.
- The conservation lab worked on a number of interesting projects this year, including 19th Century Chinese coins from Deadwood, South Dakota; the Dr. Samuel Mudd tea set that is curated at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas, and a number of Colonial well components from the Route 301 expansion project in Delaware.
- The 2014 JPPM Public Archaeology Program at the Smith St. Leonard site had 232 participants, an increase of 30 percent over last year. Exploration of the radar anomalies detected by Tim Horsley in 2011 continued. One cluster of anomalies turned out to be at least two post-in-the-ground buildings, possibly slave cabins. Also excavated was a portion of a cellar in another structure. The cellar contained a lot of demolition debris (mostly plaster), so we have a post-in-the-ground outbuilding with plastered walls. This is unusual and right now the building's function remains unknown.
- Sara Rivers Cofield led a yearlong project to evaluate whether and how an online repository for digital archeological and cultural resource management data developed and managed by the Center for Digital Antiquity can fulfill CRM needs for the Department of Defense. With funding from Defense Legacy, digital files from archeological projects at 23 DoD installations in Maryland and Virginia were uploaded to the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR), Digital Antiquity's online repository. The study found that Digital Antiquity is able to ensure long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archeological records while maintaining the security required by DoD.

What do we have to look forward to in 2015?

- One of our biggest challenges will be dealing with the December 31 retirement of long-time State Historic Preservation Officer J. Rodney Little. A successor has not yet been named, but it will be difficult to find a more ardent supporter of Maryland archeology.
- Another challenge will be the restricted use of our Crownsville facility. Although the Trust offices can stay until January 2016, meeting rooms will be severely limited during the upcoming move of the Department of Housing and Community Development offices. We are seeking an alternate venue for the 2015 Workshop in Archeology.
- Troy Nowak and Matt McKnight are planning field work involving pedestrian and marine geophysical surveys of areas impacted or at risk as a result of Hurricane Sandy and climate change on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Work will be supported by a grant from the National Park Service.
- In 2014, the Legislature provided a special appropriation of \$125,000 to the Trust for archeological work at Pig Point and related sites. That exciting work, to be undertaken by The Lost Towns Project, is slated to begin early in 2015.

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>

Central Maryland

Central Chapter plans to begin regular meetings again in the near future. For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or 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 Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

January 8: Kristin Montaperto will be speaking.

February 12: Jim Gibb is the speaker.

March 12: Don Shomette on "The Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay."

April 9: TBD

May 14: Doug Zabel on "The Basics of Rocks."

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>

January 15: Bob Hines, chapter member, will speak on the Thomas Mill site in Brookeville.

February 19: Heather Bouslog, Montgomery County Parks archeologist, will speak on the Oakley Cabin site in Brookeville.

March 19: Vivian Eicke, the chapter's immediate past president, will speak on archeological sites and places in Ireland.

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>

January 14: Jerri Jones on Susquehanna geology. At the Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 11: Stephen Israel and Wes Hermann will report on the Smithson Site. At the Historical Society of Harford County in Bel Air.

March 11: "The Levant Comes of Age: The 9th Century B.C.E. Through Script Traditions". Dr. Heather Parker, Harford Jewish Center.

April 24: Friday. Doug Owsley on the Smithsonian will deliver the Cresthull Memorial Lecture, on Written in Bone. Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room E132.

June: Annual picnic.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown. For information contact Scott Lawrence at graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net

January 19: Mary Mansius will discuss the Cumberland site in Calvert County.

February 16: Jim Gibb will brief on ethics in archeology.

March 16: Julie King, subject TBD.

April 20: Scott Lawrence will talk on recovery and restoration at St. Nicholas Church cemetery.

May 18: Patricia Samford offers a presentation on King's Reach.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For directions and 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/>

January: No meeting.

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>

January 23: Annual Show & Tell. Members and guest invited to bring in items to share.

February 27: Hawaii, the Big Island: The geology and first inhabitants of the island by Roy Brown.

March 27: Survey of Choptico Indian Town at St. Mary's, by Susanne Trussell.

April 24: Overwhelmed by the Sea: A report on sites at Point Lookout State Park by Lynne Bulhack.

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

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 Jo Boodon, PO Box 1584, Ellicott City, MD 21043 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, 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. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

President

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

Vice President

Laura Cripps
443-518-4554
LCripps@howardcc.edu

Secretary

Barbara Israel
410-945-5514
baisrael@verizon.net

Membership Secretary

Jo Boodon
410-750-7318
PO Box 1584
Ellicott City, MD 21043
asm.membership.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jim Gibb
410-263-1102
jamesGGibb@verizon.net

At-Large Trustees

Lynne Bulhack
301-460-5356
lbulhack@aol.com

Tom Forhan
301 270 8073
tom.forhan@gmail.com

Elaine Hall
240-426-1298
elah1@umbc.edu

Annetta Schott
443-949-4122
annettaschott@gmail.com

Belinda Urquiza
410-535-2586
burquiza@comcast.net

Jaimie Wilder
301-741-2869
jaimwilder@comcast.net

