

ASM Ink

September 2013, Vol. 40, No. 9

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Maureen Kavanagh backfills her career

By Maureen Kavanagh

As I step down from my post as chief state archeologist, I have a lot of optimism for the future of archeology in Maryland. New techniques of mining digital archives along with computerized mapping tools to manipulate historic maps are leading to discoveries by "fitting the pieces together" (i.e. Zekiah Fort). Revolutionary advances in remote sensing techniques are allowing us to see "through the dirt" to locate potential features.

Finally, many established archeology programs at the state, regional and local levels continue to provide plentiful opportunities for engaged avocationalists to assist with and participate in archeological discoveries.

I came to Maryland for my first job in archeology with the Division of Archeology, to help with the 1978 field session at Noland's Ferry. Fresh from the University of Wisconsin, I arrived for what I thought was going to be a summer job that ended up morphing into a 35-year career.

Trying to name a favorite site or find is difficult, because there are so many of them. Many of my favorite memories of field work revolve around the annual field sessions, which the Archeology Office has co-sponsored with ASM for the last 42 years. I have a collection of seemingly random memories from the field sessions such as the enormous crowds at Rosenstock, peaceful sunsets at Chapel Point, deli lunches delivered to the site at Hughes, packing the van with crew to get up the hill at Claggett Retreat to beat



Maureen thinking and, behind bucket, digging

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Upcoming events

September 7: ASM board meeting, Miller Branch Library, Ellicott City, 10 a.m.

September 7: All-day conference on the preclassical Mayan Culture. The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington. For details and registration, see www.pcswdc.org

October 17-19: Three-day conference focused on the Ice Age colonization of the Americas. Santa Fe. <http://www.paleoamericanodyssey.com>

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

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

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 jamesgibb@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 material from Chapel Point and Heaters Island. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. 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

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

MACLab offers on-site fellowship

An opportunity to spend several weeks at the MACLab doing personal research is being offered by the lab as the Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archeology. A two- to five-week stay at the lab, with a stipend of \$500 a week, is available to almost any archeologist or archeology student, who will be required to make a presentation at the end of the stay. To apply, a 1,000-word proposal outlining the study problem and the MAC collections to be used should be sent by January 15 to Patricia Samford at the lab. For complete information contact her at psamford@mdp.state.md.us or 410-586-8551.

Shore dig may be oldest free black site

By Pamela Wood

Condensed from The Baltimore Sun, July 26, 2013

In Easton, an untold story of free African-Americans is being discovered through bits of glass, shards of pottery and oyster shells.

Piece by piece, archeologists and historians from two universities and the community are uncovering the history of The Hill, which they believe is the earliest settlement of free African-Americans in the United States, dating to 1790.

Treme, in New Orleans, is recognized as the oldest free black community in the nation, dating to 1812. But researchers say that could change based on findings from the Easton dig.

"It's not just a black story. It's an American story," said Dale Green, a Morgan State University professor of architecture and historic preservation.

Former slaves founded such settlements, where they enjoyed early emancipation and the chance at property ownership and commerce. Slaves who had bought their freedom and others freed by Methodists and Quakers on the Eastern Shore likely formed The Hill, which historians say could have been the largest community of free blacks in the Chesapeake region.

During the first census in 1790, some 410 free African-Americans were recorded living on The Hill — more than Baltimore's 250 free African-Americans and even more than the 346 slaves who lived at nearby Wye House Plantation, where abolitionist Frederick Douglass was enslaved as a child.

Researchers and students are in the midst of a three-week dig at one of The Hill properties, a site owned by the Talbot County Women's Club. They are working in 5-by-5-foot squares. The deeper they dig, the further back in history they go.

Reaching into a labeled brown paper bag, Stefan Woehlke, a University of Maryland graduate student who is the site's director, pulled out part of an olive-green glass bottle with a decorative cluster of grapes on one side. It was likely used to hold wine, he said. The technique used to make it — hand-blown using a mold — dates it to the late 18th or early 19th Century.

Other artifacts include bits of a blue opaline glass pitcher from the 1800s and a 1-cent coin featuring Lady Liberty, dated 1794.

More importantly, researchers have found evidence of making nails and raising chickens on the land — activities far more likely to have been carried out by free blacks who lived on the land than by the property owner.

Free African-Americans in Easton lived alongside white families, according to Green, who is working with the University of Maryland's Mark Leone on The Hill project.

As promising as the excavations on The Hill are — especially combined with document research and oral histories — researchers say they're only scratching the surface.

The team has committed to spending at least five more years working at The Hill.

Priscilla Morris, whose family has roots in Easton dating to the 1600s, is a regular visitor to the site. A member of the nearby historic Third Haven Friends Meeting, she's intrigued by the role Quakers and Methodists played in freeing their own slaves and advocating for an end to slavery well before the Civil War.

Green said the work on The Hill could change the way American history is told. There's a significant gap where the story of free blacks is overlooked, he said.

All told, about 75 researchers and students — from institutions including the University of Maryland, Morgan State, Historic Easton Inc. and local groups — are contributing to The Hill project.

Tracy Jenkins, a graduate student in archeology at the University of Maryland, plans to write his dissertation on The Hill. He said the Easton community's interest and warm reception has been encouraging and unusual.

"That doesn't happen so much in archeology. Sometimes, archeologists are digging off in a cornfield somewhere," Jenkins said.

Time is running out for you to act

ASM's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, is presented each year at the Society's Annual Meeting, this year being held November 9 in Montgomery County. But the deadline for submitting nominations for the award is only days away, September 8.

The award is given for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. It is generally given to someone who has made contributions over a period of years. The nominees need not be a Marylander or even an archeologist, but someone whose efforts have significantly aided archeology in this state.

If you know someone worthy of this honor, send the name in now. The more specific the citation of accomplishments, the more helpful it is to the committee in reaching its decision. Nominations are not held over from year to year and circumstances have prevented qualified people from being honored in the past. So don't be discouraged, send in the name to committee chairman Roy Brown - a form accompanies this newsletter and also is on the ASM website - and do it now. You're about out of time.

ASM also is looking to make this year's silent auction the best yet. That also depends on you. Auction committee chairman Valerie Hall is collecting lists of items members are offering for the event.

While archeology-related items are prized, there need not be an archeology connection - just something you think members of ASM would enjoy having. Such nonrelated items as restaurant coupons, theater tickets and vacation getaways are among the possibilities. Legally obtained artifacts, and clearly marked replicas, also are popular as are books, drawings, journals and DVDs.

Check your shelves and closets, contact local businesses. Find something that will help make the Annual Meeting auction a success. A submission form is with this newsletter and also on the website. The deadline for submissions is October 15, but don't put it off and make life more difficult for Valerie.

Maureen Kavanagh backfills her career

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thunderstorms, the great mud slides of Winslow, the coal trains rumbling past Barton, great crab feasts and of course backfilling.

Field sessions are the highlight of the year for the archeology staff, when we're able to escape the office, sharpen our trowels and reconnect with friends for an 11-day marathon.

This field-session partnership has been so fruitful, advancing research in measurable ways and often leading directly to good site stewardship and site preservation by demonstrating significance of sites to property owners and to organizations such as the Archaeological Conservancy.

Over the years consolidation moved me to the Maryland Historical Trust. In both places I did field work in nearly every county of the state, in every season. Some of the major projects included the Monocacy River regional survey and a series of highway projects, including surveying, testing and data recovery at sites such as Oxon Hill, Harford Furnace, Paw Paw and Kettering Park. In the late 80s I began supervising field sessions along with

Dennis Curry, held at Chapel Point (1988-1989) and Rosenstock (1990-1992).

In the mid-90s my work took a slight detour into geographic information systems and database development at the Trust. This work was particularly challenging and rewarding, as it involved the complete transformation of paper records on historic and archeological sites into databases, computer maps and scanned documents.

Shortly after I became Chief Archeologist in 2004 an issue that had been simmering for decades came to the front burner. Culturally unidentified Native American human remains, recovered primarily from salvage archeology projects, were being curated at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum and representatives of the Native American community were pressing to have them returned to the earth.

We formed a working group with representatives from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and over a period of years, dealing with a thicket of federal and state laws and sometimes contentious and disparate points of view, we were able to come to a resolution which resulted in placing the remains in the ground in

regional Appropriate Places of Repose throughout the state.

I have always been energized and impressed by the ASM volunteers who contribute their time, helpful suggestions, inspired observations, cheerful energy and enthusiasm, teamwork and problem-solving skills. The dedication of ASM volunteers is truly inspiring and I treasure the friendships and shared experiences.

The recent excavations at Pig Point have confirmed that there are still amazing secrets to be discovered in the ground in Maryland. I eagerly anticipate hearing what the future brings and hope to see you at ASM meetings.

Editor's note: Because of the budget situation, no replacement for Maureen has been made and it is unknown when that will take place.

Maureen Kavanagh: An appreciation

By Claude Bowen

President, ASM

When Maureen Kavanagh told me that she was retiring at the end of June, my first reaction was to wonder what ASM would do without her. Our organization has come to rely on Maureen for a balanced and thoughtful overview of the many issues concerning the Society, its activities and Maryland archeology as a whole.

Although Maureen's capabilities as an archeologist, writer, government official and "diplomat" have long been recognized by the archeological community in Maryland (and by ASM in particular), her support of ASM as a member, advisor and representative of the interests of the Maryland Historical Trust has contributed greatly to the advancement of avocational archeology in Maryland and to ASM, the only state-specific organization in Maryland that brings to together cultural resource management professionals, academics, state archeological and historic preservationist interests and interested avocationalists.

Maureen's services to Maryland archeology, ASM and the Society's activities are too numerous to enumerate here, but I do want to mention her pioneering work on the prehistory of the Maryland piedmont and her work on more than a score of field sessions.

I also want to note the arduous task she undertook as co-chair (with Dr. Virginia Busby) of the Appropriate Place of Repose committee that worked for nearly five years to bring about an agreement with the Native American groups in Maryland. Her deep knowledge of Maryland prehistory, her organizational skills and diplomatic abilities were essential to the success of this often difficult process.

Apart from its immediate accomplishments, I believe that the work that she led will be noted in the future as a turning point in the relations between archeologists and American Indians in this state.

No one knew what would happen when Tyler Bastian, Maryland's first and only state archeologist, retired in 2004. Fortunately, the answer was Maureen. She had the misfortune to preside largely during a period of reorganizations and budget cuts that severely limited what she had hoped to do. But because of her, archeology is still a vital presence in Maryland.

We join with her colleagues at the Trust, who, wondering what will come next, say that no matter what Maureen can never be replaced.

Maureen has assured me that she will remain an active member of ASM. I have let her know that ASM will expect troweling classes as needed during all future field sessions as well as the onsite benefit of her experience.

Maureen, please know that you have the sincere thanks of everyone associated with ASM and our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement