

ASM Ink

February 2017, Vol. 44, No. 2

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

ASM news

2017 Field Session coming to Calvert County

The Tyler Bastian Field Session is turning to a historic site this year in Southern Maryland. Calverton is one of the oldest official ports and towns designated by Lord Baltimore in the Province and the first County Seat of Calvert County. Located on Battle Creek near its junction with the Patuxent River, this site has received scant archeological attention and is under severe threat of coastal erosion.

The field session will run from Friday, May 26 to Monday, June 5. Kirsti Uunilla, the Calvert County Archeologist, will be the principal investigator. More information will be in future newsletters, but block out the dates now.

A wide variety of interests at 2017 Workshop

The first of ASM's two spring meetings, the Annual Workshop in Archeology, is going to take place Saturday, March 25 at the Maryland Historical Trust. The full day of programs kicks off at 9:30. Scheduled topics include a look at slavery at Mount Vernon, exploring the Great Dismal Swamp, forts from then until now, laser scanning, the flooding of Ellicott City, another look at the Clovis-linked Higgins site and how archeology gets overlooked in the worries about the effects of climate change. There also will be a two-session CAT program on basic lab procedures. The problem might be on deciding which of two concurrent sessions to attend.

The complete program, including fuller descriptions, will be in the next newsletter. For now, just circle the date on your calendar so you won't miss this information-filled event.

Plan now for silent auction at Symposium

ASM's yearly silent auction will be held during the April 8 Spring Symposium in Crownsville.

The annual fundraising opportunity can only succeed if two things happen. First, donations of items to be auctioned are needed. Then we need people to want those items and bid for them, raising money for the analysis fund.

Individual members as well as chapters should consider what they can donate to the auction. In addition, we suggest contacting businesses and requesting them to donate goods or services for this event. Forms are with this newsletter. Think about what you can donate and whom you can contact for additional donations. If you have questions, suggestions or would like to help, contact Elaine Hall at SilentAuction@marylandarcheology.org

(Also see Page 5)

Upcoming events

March 16 – 19: Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Virginia Beach.

<http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm>

March 25: Annual Workshop in Archeology. Crownsville.

April 8: Spring Symposium, with silent auction. Crownsville.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 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 is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call the lab 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 ed.chaney@maryland.gov 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.

CAT corner:

For the latest information on CAT activities see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net

A two-session program on basic lab procedures will be held during the March 25 Workshop in Archeology.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make sure they don't miss announcements and opportunities, CAT candidates are asked to update their contact information by sending Belinda their current address, email and phone numbers.

FRANK & ERNEST

by **THAVES**



An alliance that saved time, boosted results

By Tyler J. Kelley

Condensed from the New York Times, January 17, 2017

NEW LONDON, Conn. — Keith Wille was metal detecting in the woods of Connecticut a few years ago when he found a triangle of brass about two-and-a-half inches long with a small hole in the middle. He thought little of the find at first and threw it in his scrap pile.

In September, Wille drove to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center with several boxes of objects — the highlights of his recent collecting. The museum is a testament to the years when the Foxwoods Resort Casino made the Pequots the wealthiest tribe in the nation. Although those fortunes have declined, the Pequots are still financing projects by archeologist Kevin McBride.

Inside the museum, Wille unpacked his boxes, displaying items discovered around the Pequots' homeland: George Washington inaugural buttons, musket and cannon balls, a gold ring, commemorative spoons, a 100-year-old military insignia and the triangle of brass.

McBride, the museum's director of research, and David J. Naumec, its senior historian, were most curious about the crude brass triangle. They knew it was a kettle point, an arrowhead fashioned from a piece of a brass trade kettle — an archeological signature of the 17th Century.

The two were finishing a seven-year project documenting the Pequot War of 1637, especially the running battle the English fought as they retreated to their ship, after massacring the Pequots at Mistick Fort.

Many archeologists consider metal detectorists looters who shouldn't be allowed anywhere near their labs or dig sites, but McBride has a different view. "It's a real ongoing debate in the profession," he said. "To what extent do we embrace hobbyists or amateurs? You're not going to stop them so ... join them."

At first McBride and Naumec tried to do some metal-detecting themselves on the battlefield in 2008. "We figured it wasn't rocket science," he said. But they learned that while it's not hard to find a dime lying on the floor, it takes years of practice to recognize the sound of a musket ball eight inches underground and then determine its provenance.

The scientists then reached out to local metal detecting clubs and formed an unconventional alliance with several detectorists. With so many significant Pequot War-era sites still undiscovered, the relationship has begun to produce results.

The metal-finding enthusiasts tend to be wary of archeologists and authorities in general, who might restrict their access to a place or take away their finds. Yet when one detectorist, George Pecia, started working with the archeologists he realized they could benefit each other.

The detectorists get to search areas otherwise off-limits and "piece together a mystery, which is what detecting is about," Pecia said, and the scientists get an efficient way to find anything metal.

He and others scanned the dig sites and McBride paid them through a grant. McBride said detectorists had found about 80 percent of the artifacts cataloged in the project. "Even with the most intense digging, we would have found about 5 percent or less of the objects recovered through metal detecting," he said.

At the lab, Wille told the archeologists about scraps of brass and lead he found close to the kettle point. Nearby, he also struck a layer of shells and two stone arrow heads. "Man, we got to check this spot out!" Naumec said. "Brass scrap gets us excited. We look for a weird lead — the shells!"

"That's a huge signature," he explained. "A shell heap or shell midden — it's basically their trash."

In late November, Wille led McBride to where he had found the kettle point, a high, level spot now entirely covered with brambles and small oak trees. The site got him thinking about the months and years after the English defeated the Pequots. The survivors were handed over to the Mohegans and Narragansetts, the Pequots' traditional enemies who fought with the English. It was "basically cultural genocide," McBride said.

Those given to the Mohegans were resettled, away from their traditional homeland, in five villages. The precise locations of the villages, which were occupied from 1638 to 1651, were unknown.

Crouching over his iPad, the archeologist looked up at Wille and said, "I think you've got one."

Continued on next page

The adze, the point, brass scrap is highly suggestive of one of those villages, said McBride, listing other artifacts Wille had found in the area. A burial from the early 1600s had also been discovered nearby. "It all kind of fits," he said.

Wille may have discovered "the first forced resettlement" of a native people, McBride said.

If this spot had not been found until now, and it took a metal detectorist to find it, Wille asked: Would it sway the negative opinion that other archeologists have of metal detectorists?

"No," McBride said, but added: "We've done modeling. You can dig forever and not find the stuff you found in, what, a couple of hours?"

"I found the kettle point the first time I was here," Wille said. "I probably spent two hours."

The difference between archeology and looting, said Brian Jones, Connecticut's state archeologist, is the recording of context. Detectorists tend to be "focused on the things," he said, adding, if an object is removed from its surroundings without a detailed survey of the area, the story is lost "and it's really just looting."

"A lot of important archeological sites have been damaged beyond any future scientific use by metal detectorists," Jones said. But he complimented McBride's work, noting that it was in the vanguard of archeologically responsible metal detecting.

"Ninety-percent of what is out there has never been found; we don't have time to be out looking for sites," Jones said, adding that much of his time was spent trying to preserve known historic sites from development. The majority of finds, then, will either stay in the ground or be discovered by amateurs.

When Wille returned with his detector, he set it to find large pieces of iron, at McBride's suggestion. Within 10 minutes the machine made a loud squeal. Wille jabbed his shovel in a circle and pulled out an eight-inch-thick plug of earth. Digging a bit more and using a vibrating pin pointer, he extracted a flat oblong piece of iron about four inches long, wider and curved at one end, flat on the other.

He handed it to McBride, who brushed the dirt off and looked closely. "That's worth an X-ray," he said. "It vaguely resembles the shapes we see in other sites." It looked like a tool, possibly traded to the Pequots or repurposed by them. McBride said he would like to check it against finds from Jamestown Fort in Virginia or Plymouth, Mass., both contemporaneous sites. "An intriguing shape," he said.

McBride says there is a "better than even" chance that Wille discovered the site of Tatuppequauog, one of the lost villages mentioned in a 1638 letter.

If it is Tatuppequauog, Wille would be listed as the discoverer. While he displayed little emotion that afternoon during the search, afterward he was ecstatic that his pastime might contribute to history. "You become a part of something bigger than filling your cabinet with musket balls and belt buckles," he said.

In Australian outback, P is for prehistoric find

By Sarah Kaplan

Condensed from the Washington Post, November 8, 2016

Doctoral student Clifford Coulthard has always known that his people have thousands of years of history in the arid Australian interior. But he wasn't looking for proof of that when he got out of his car near the Flinders mountain range several years ago. He just needed a secluded spot to relieve himself.

"A man getting out of the car to go to the toilet led to the discovery of one of the most important sites in Australian prehistory," archeologist Giles Hamm told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Coulthard and Hamm are co-authors of a new study in the journal *Nature* analyzing 49,000-year-old artifacts they uncovered in a rock shelter at the site. They represent the oldest known evidence of human settlement in that part of Australia. The discovery pushes back the timing of human arrival in the hot, dry interior by 10,000 years, demonstrating the rapid pace at which prehistoric people were able to explore and take advantage of a continent they had reached only a few millennia earlier.

Much to gain at little cost: Renew ASM

If you haven't renewed your membership in ASM yet, you are running out of time. Why should you renew? There are several good reasons. First, you are showing your support for archeology in Maryland, for looking for and preserving sites that tell stories about our prehistoric and historic past. How far back does Maryland history go? Clovis sites and sites dating back at least 10,000 years have been recorded. How recently does it go? Older members may be surprised to find work being done on 20th Century sites.

Then there are the specific benefits of ASM membership, and this is the perfect time of the year to remember them. First there is the Workshop in Archeology, coming up in March. This is followed by the Spring Symposium, in April, both with fine lineup of speakers. And, of course, grab your trowels for the annual field session, starting in late May.

If you don't want to miss these, then send in your renewal blank, found with this newsletter. The few dollars membership costs is a bargain. If you've already done so, thanks.

Archeologist to seek the real 'Outlander'

By Alison Campsie

Condensed from The Scotsman, January 26, 2017

Edinburgh-based HARP Archaeology will establish how the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745 and the subsequent Highland Clearances fundamentally altered the countryside, from the abandoned settlements to the widespread building of military roads.

Ian Hill, director of HARP Archaeology, said the work will also highlight the "reality" of the period depicted in The Outlander series, which focuses on Highland clan life around the time of the second rebellion. Visible remains will be used to chart the often brutal social upheaval that followed.

He said: "We are not trying to discount Outlander. Obviously it has caught people's imagination and got people interested in this period. "But this is about the 'real' Outlander and getting people engaged with the reality of the upheaval of the time."

Archeologists will be based around Blair Atholl from June and focus on areas around two key military roads, between Dunkeld and Inverness and Crieff and Dalnacardoch. Both stretches were completed in 1730.

Hill said: "Really up until the mid 1700s the majority of the roads in use were drovers roads and, especially in the Highlands, there was no formal road network.

"The military roads, built following the Jacobite rebellions, opened up the Highlands and allowed the movement of people and goods like never before. That, of course, had a knock on effect on social change."

The new roads also triggered another fundamental change for the Highlands - the arrival of tourists.

Hill said it was hoped to identify and compare the landscapes over time, through the eyes of the 18th Century Highlander to the road surveyor, the tourist and the visitor today.

Archeologist will be looking for a "whole host" of items that reflect the changes of the period, from the actual quarries used for the road building, to the abandoned settlements of the period."

Glen Tilt, near Blair Atholl, is also of particular interest. It was cleared by the Duke of Atholl during the late 1700s and early 1800s. The remains of at least eight buildings can be found at the former settlement of Auldandue. Glen Tilt is included in Hill's 'Real Outlander' tours, which take in some of the key archeological sites covered by the research project.

Spruce up your car with tax-deductible plates

Many members already are showing their interest in archeology with an ASM license plate. The plates are available for all ASM members and obtaining them is easy and only 10 tax-deductible dollars.

To begin you need an MVA form VR-124. You can get one from an MVA office or from ASM's license plate coordinator, Ilka Knuppel Gray, at 667-308- 2650, or knuppelgray@gmail.com

Send the completed form to her at 4 Mullingar Court, Unit 201, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093. Enclose two checks, one made out to the MVA for \$25 and one to ASM for \$10. She then will sign the form and send it to the MVA. Plates will be ready in a few weeks.

To pick up your new plates, you must turn in your current ones, if you have any. The ASM plates will arrive with a new registration form and new stickers (with the old expiration date). Renewals are handed by MVA in the same way and at the same cost as standard plates.

The \$25 MVA cost is a one-time charge.

If you have questions, contact Ilka or Larue Sauer, MVA Title Correspondence Unit, 410-768- 7222, or <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/specialty-plates/organizational-sp.htm>.

Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at [http://JamesGGibb@verizon.net](mailto:JamesGGibb@verizon.net)

Central Chapter

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>

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 ccasm2010@gmail.com. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

February 9: Josiah Henson Property, by Julie King and Rebecca Webster.

March 9: Kate Dinnel on "Elusive Artifacts-Archaeological Textiles & Native Plants."

April 13: Esther Doyle Read on tbd

May 11: tbd

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at danhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

February 16: Carole Fontenrose, chapter member, will speak on the archeology of the City of London, part II.

March 16: Bob Hines, chapter members and sponsor of Volunteers in Archaeology, will speak on the last year's excavation at the Riggs House in Brookeville.

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 usually 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>

February 8: Edgar Hardesty on "Encounters Between Israel and the Philistines Based on Geography and Archeology." Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace.

Thursday March 9: Ann Persson and Dan Coates will talk about Cecil's Susquehanna canal, the first real canal in America. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

Friday, April 7: Becca Peixotto will talk about "The Discovery of Fossil Man in South Africa." Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May/June. Annual Picnic Meeting, at Wilson Mill.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or try UParchaeologygroup@gmail.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

February 13: Jim Gibb will delve into "Pig Manure and Swizzle Sticks: Defining an Archaeological Site Type."

March 13: Celeste Huecker will talk about the standing stones of Brittany.

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. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

February 24: Roy Brown will report on ASM's 2016 Field Session at the River Farm site in Anne Arundel County.

March 24: David Frederick will show how the use of a group of metal detectorists aided in the undocumented Civil War Fort Piano in West Virginia.



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 percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 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

Don Housley
301-424-8526
donhou704@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Larry Seastrum
410-740-2613
seastrim@verizon.net

At-Large Trustees

Claude Bowen
301-953-1947
claud.bowen@comcast.net

Elaine Hall
240-426-1298
Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com

Vice President

Valerie Hall
301-814-8028
valeriehall@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Rachael Holmes
360-941-9844
leahcar@hotmail.com

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

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

Secretary

Barbara Israel
410-945-5514
barbaraisrael@comcast.net

Katharine Fernstrom
410-243-2757
kfernstrom@towson.edu

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

