

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Joe Dent wins the 2014 Marye Award

Dr. Richard J. (Joe) Dent of American University, a name and a face familiar to ASM members, was presented the Society's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, at the Annual Meeting in Edgewater October 18.

In detailing the intrepid PI's qualifications for the award, ASM President Claude Bowen said Dent's services to ASM are too numerous to mention in full but some highlights include being principal investigator at seven ASM field schools over the last dozen years: 2002 and 2003 at the Winslow Site, 2006 at the Hughes Site, 2007 and 2008 at Claggett Retreat and the last two years at Biggs Ford.

After getting his BA from the University of Maryland and his doctorate from American University, where he currently teaches, Bowen said, "Some of his earliest work was done in Annapolis and Joe retains an interest in historical archeology. Joe's current research interest is focused on late prehistory in the middle Potomac drainage and the rapid social changes that took place during that period. In addition, his interests include changing gender roles in Appalachian families during the 19th Century.

"Dr. Dent's book 'Chesapeake Prehistory' is still the definitive synthesis volume on the subject. What I always find refreshing about this work is its honesty. It is grounded in those environmental factors that are measurable (the rebirth of the Chesapeake Bay, coring samples, pollen analysis, etc.) and can be understood empirically; resisting the siren song of post processual arguments. It is also thankfully free of obvious political agendas and helps the reader understand both the limitations of archeology in interpreting the past as well as the new horizons opened by scientific processes and procedures."

Some 25 people attended the meeting which also featured the naming of the winners of this year's ASM board of trustees election. Chosen for a two-year term, which began immediately, are:

President Claude Bowen

Vice President Laura Cripps

Secretary Barbara Israel

Membership Secretary Jo Boodon

Treasurer Jim Gibb

Trustees Lynn Bulhack, Tom Forhan, Elaine Hall, Annetta Schott, Belinda Urquiza, Jaimie Wilder

Bowen announced that Laura Cripps had informed him recently that she would not be able to serve a full term because of new responsibilities she had been assigned by her employer, Howard Community College. She will relinquish her duties after arranging for the upcoming Spring Symposium. She is expected to be replaced by Valerie Hall, who had withdrawn from the at-large trustees contest before the ballot counting began in expectation of the change.

Upcoming events

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

November 1: Hide-tanning workshop. 10-3. Historic St. Mary's City. \$14. Reservation required. 240-895-4990 or info@digshistory.org.

November 6 – 9: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting. Ocean Place Resort and Spa, Long Branch, N.J. <http://cneha.org/conference.html>

November 8: Workshops in Archaeology: Environmental Change. Pennsylvania State Museum. Harrisburg. <http://statemuseumpa.org/event/2014-annual-workshops-archaeology/> or 717 787 4980

December 6: ASM board meeting, 10 a.m. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater.

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 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 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.

Don't look now, it's that time of year again

When the calendar gets this far along, three things are in your immediate future: Thanksgiving, Christmas and renewing your ASM membership. A handy form for renewing is with this newsletter. You are on your own for Thanksgiving and Christmas. (An ASM membership would make a nice present.)

ESAF at Solomons: Where the a(u)ction is

Archeologists from the northeastern United States and Canada will be gathering in Maryland for the annual meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation October 30 to November 2.

The meeting is the second to be held at Solomons and the fourth in Maryland. ESAF first met in Baltimore in 1957, then in Annapolis in 1984 and in Solomons in 2000. The setting is the Holiday Inn.

This year's session begins Thursday with trips to JefPat and St. Mary's City. In the evening ASM and its Central and UPAG chapters are hosting a reception from 8 until 10.

Friday another reception is to be held, at the nearby Calvert Marine Museum. Its exhibits on local marine paleontology, estuarine biology and maritime history will be available at no charge. Following this, back at the Holiday Inn, is a Canadian-American Friendship Party, with contributions from ASM's Charles and Mid-Potomac chapters.

The real meeting opens Friday morning at 7 a.m. with competing speeches beginning at 8:30. In one room will be a series of speeches on indigenous landscapes of the Chesapeake followed by one on D.C. archeology. Speakers include Julia King, Virginia Busby and Dennis Curry.

In another room will be sessions on East Coast shell middens, which continues into the afternoon and examines deposits from the Gulf of Mexico north to Canada. It will be followed by discussions of landscape and garden archeology in New Jersey.

In the first room, the afternoon session will look at contributing papers in Maryland archeology, with speakers including Stephen Israel, Charles Hall, Joe Dent and Katherine Fernstrom.

Saturday's offerings begin at 8 a.m. In the first room, the opening topic will be "Recent Preservation Efforts on Virginia's Eastern Shore." Darrin Lowery and Ed Otter are among the presenters. The rest of the day features more contributing papers in a session hosted by Jim Gibb.

In the other room, Elizabeth Comer will begin the day chairing a session on archeological investigations of the labor force at Maryland's Catocin Furnace. This will be followed by a session on the War of 1812, principally in the Chesapeake region. Emily Swain and Richard Ervin are among the speakers. The afternoon will be devoted to talks on Anne Arundel County's Pig Point site by members of the Lost Towns Project.

Saturday evening's 8 p.m. banquet features Henry Miller, the director of research at Historic St. Mary's City Commission, speaking on "Exploring Maryland's Lost 'Metropolis': Four Decades of Archeology at St. Mary's City."

The complete program can be viewed at http://esaf-archeology.org/2014_ESAF_Program.pdf

And the silent auction too

As part of the meeting, ASM is holding its annual silent auction, Friday and Saturday. A wide range of items - things to do, to have, to read - will be available for your perusal and bidding. A list of donated items accompanies this newsletter but collector Valerie Hall will still accept other offerings, as long as she is informed in advance and they are brought to her by Friday morning. She can be reached at 301-814-8028 or valeriehall@gmail.com

Bill Crum dies; lent Biggs Ford for field sessions

William Bruce "Bill" Crum, who permitted ASM to explore the Biggs Ford Site on his Walkersville farm for the 2013 and 2014 field sessions, died September 15 at age 87. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara, as well as five children and seven grandchildren.

A farmer for most of his life, he was active in various agricultural organizations and also community, religious and Republican groups. In 1976 he played host to then-President Gerald Ford for a session with farmers on agricultural issues.

The Frederick News-Post said in an obituary: "He was especially interested in and was dedicated to preserving the National Register-listed Native American site located on his farm. Recently he received the Maryland Preservation Award for Preservation Partnerships for the 2013 Field Session in Maryland Archeology."

Sewell Fitzhugh, Maryland Indian leader, dies

Sewell Fitzhugh, chief of the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians since it was formally organized in 1993, died at this home in the town of Elliott Island October 16 at age 60. He is credited with helping the native peoples in the Dorchester area preserve and celebrate their heritage.

Also known as Chief Winterhawk, he served on the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and took part in the negotiations leading to the reburial of Indian remains in the state. ASM President Claude Bowen, who also served on the reburial panel during its five years of negotiations, said, "Sewell was a forceful advocate for the interests of Maryland's Indians, a person of integrity, and someone who it was an honor to know."

The ring's the thing at Zekiah Fort dig

By Carrie Wells

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, September 28, 2014

The tiny brass ring bearing the initials "CC" presents a mystery: Did it belong to Charles Calvert, the third Baron Baltimore? And can the St. Mary's College of Maryland archeologists who unearthed it ever prove its origins.

The archeologists discovered the ring this summer at a dig at a Charles County site. The small ring might have been a signet ring used to seal documents, said Julia King, the St. Mary's professor who oversaw the dig. King believes the ring might have been used by a representative of Charles Calvert to conduct diplomatic relations with the Piscataway tribe.

The evidence "suggests this is a very significant artifact," King said. "All arrows are pointing to the diplomatic significance of this ring. Hopefully, the site is protected and in the future we can do more archeology out there."

The settlement known as Zekiah Fort, a few miles south of Waldorf, was created by Charles Calvert as a haven for more than 300 Piscataway Indians, King said. The tribe had lived along Piscataway Creek in Prince George's County, but in the 1600s were facing raids from other tribes from Pennsylvania and New York and pressure to move from European settlers.

By treaty, Calvert, the only Baron of Baltimore to actually live in Maryland, was expected to provide relief for the Indians, King said.

"It's an amazing story of foreign diplomacy and it happened outside of Waldorf, Maryland, and nobody knew about it," King said. "It was a piece of history that was just lost."

King said it had been known for decades that the settlement existed, but the site was not found until 2011 when archeologists began studying land and other historical records. In 2012, the land was purchased by Charles County.

During the six-week dig this summer, St. Mary's College archeologists and students found glass beads, Indian ceramics, arrowheads and Indian and European tobacco pipes, among other items.

Mary Kate Mansius, a 2013 graduate of St. Mary's who studied with King and returned to work on the site, was one of those who found the ring while sifting soil through a mesh screen on June 13.

"A lot of things don't look remarkable in the field until you can get back and wash them, but this one was copper, a greenish color, so it really stands out," Mansius said. "It's unique."

King and her colleagues and students have been studying historical records to determine its origins and have been unable to tie it to anyone besides Calvert. She believes that the ring was used as a diplomatic gift by a representative of Calvert's to the Indians, as a gesture of good will.

"We don't think that Charles Calvert went up there," King said. "He's sending his counselors, diplomats, his rangers, carrying this ring as a gift."

Burt Kummerow, the president of the Maryland Historical Society, said small tokens were often given "like peace treaties" between Europeans and Indians in the 17th Century.

"If it can ever be proven that this was given by Lord Baltimore to the Indians, it would be a pretty big deal," Kummerow said.

Evidence found of 1957 airplane crash

By Samantha Schmieder

Condensed from the Montgomery Gazette, October 1, 2014

On a normal summer day in Clarksburg 57 years ago, a Capital Airlines training plane crashed mere feet away from a house in what is now Little Bennett Regional Park, killing all three passengers.

That tragedy was all but forgotten until a local man browsing a database of Maryland crashes became intrigued by the incident, leading him on a journey to uncover as many details about the crash as possible before presenting it to state archeologists to be registered as an official site.

David Cohen, of Damascus, said he has always been a history and aviation buff, so when he found stories about the 1957 crash he started researching and interviewing people connected to the crash.

"What initially got me started was misinformation," Cohen said. "A retired Capital Airlines person online said these parts were still on the site in Clarksburg."

Cohen quickly found out that the wreckage was removed within a week and if anything was left behind it would be small and hard to identify. When he realized the crash site was now Montgomery Park's land he went to the archeologists there to see if he could "run with the ball" researching.

Cohen found out that the county was planning on demolishing the house that stood near the site and digging up a concrete pad directly over where he thought the plane had crashed.

In January 2014, when the crews were slated to dig, Cohen was there with the president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Don Housley, who the Parks Department sent out to supervise the informal surface collection.

"David and I went in and went through the dirt to see if we could find some evidence," Housley said. "We collected about seven artifacts, three of which David was convinced were part of the aircraft."

"When they gave this site a registered number they said it had some significance," Housley said.

Currently, Housley said, Montgomery County has about 730 registered archeological sites.

Cohen hopes for there to be a plaque to mark the site and explain what happened.

Cohen was able to find family members of the deceased crew members, as well as a retired Hyattsville fire chief who responded to the call when he was 17 years old. He even uncovered an old video tape documenting the response from neighbors and firefighters from across the county.

"I started looking into the stories behind the crew, the human side of the story became far more compelling than anything I was going to find out there," Cohen said.

Cohen wrote an historical account of the incident, "Dark Day In Clarksburg," where he delves into the backgrounds of the crew and even the plane itself.

Cohen spoke to the Mid-Potomac Chapter in September.

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 has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. www.marylandarcheology.org/chapters Contact 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

November 13: Rico Newman on the Maryland Indian heritage trail.

December 11: Patricia Samford on "Tabletop Excavation -- Get a chance to be an archaeologist and excavate a site (without getting your hands dirty)."

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 20: Chapter meeting and workshop. Please check our website for time and topic.

Friday, December 19: Chapter Holiday Party at the Agricultural History Activity Center, 6 to 9:30 with dinner at 7 followed by the newest edition of "Archaeologists Gone Wild." NOTE DAY CHANGE.

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.

November 12: Varna Boyd, URS Corporation, "Jackson Homestead: A Rural African-American Domestic Site in Rural Montgomery County."

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 19: Dan Coates will conduct a historic ceramic typology workshop at Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room E132. NOTE: THIS MEETING IS ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY

December 12: Friday. Jay Custer on Late Woodland points in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. At the IOOF Hall in Aberdeen.

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: TBD

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.

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

November 17: Liza Gijanto will talk on "Excavations at Cremona."

December 15: Scott Strickland on 3-D modeling of a 17th Century collection.

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. in Ellicott City. Labs are held 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/>

November 10: Jenifer Johnson talks about Irish ring forts and the like.

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: Field Trip TBA

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 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

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