ASM Ink

September 2018, Vol. 45, No. 9



Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

'Getting people involved is difficult '

By Rick Steelhammer

Condensed from the Charleston Gazette-Mail, August 8, 2018

The West Virginia Archaeological Society has not published an annual journal in seven years and last year, for the first time in its 68 years of existence, failed to have an annual meeting due to a lack of speakers willing to give presentations on their work.

To address those issues and other challenges facing archeology in the state, a workshop will take place Aug. 18 at the South Charleston Holiday Inn.

The workshop will include brief histories of archeology in West Virginia, the West Virginia Archaeological Society and archeological offerings by state colleges and universities, and address the future of archeology in the state.

"There is a lot of interest in archeology in the state, but getting people involved is difficult," said Bob Maslowski of Milton, a retired archeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Huntington District.

Like a number of other organizations, the West Virginia Archaeological Society is experiencing "a lack of participation from the younger generations," according to Maslowski. Part of the reason for the lack of participation by young people, he said, is that there "has never [been] a strong archeology program in any of the universities," none of which offer a master's degree in the field.

The state once maintained a strong archeological research program through the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, Maslowski said. But after the state Division of Culture and History and the State Historic Preservation Office were created in 1977, "the Geological and Economic Survey lost its mandate for archeology and eventually got out of archeology altogether."

Another factor contributing to the decline in participation is that there are fewer professional archeologists working in the state than there once were.

Most of the professional archeologists who remain "are in government and cultural resources management, and there seems to be a rapid turnover of people in those positions," Maslowski said.

Coming Oct. 13, ASM's annual meeting. P3

Upcoming events

September 8: Board meeting, 9 - 12. Heritage House, Columbia. All members welcome.

September 15: The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C.'s annual symposium, on everything that has transpired since man first came to the New World. At the Naval Memorial and Heritage Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington from 9 to 5:45. Before September 7 registration of members is \$90, \$120 for nonmembers. Student admission \$25. Complete information and registration is available at www.pcswdc.org

October 13; ASM Annual Meeting in Havre de Grace.

November 1-4: Eastern States Archeological Federation annual meeting, Watertown, N.Y. esaf-archeology.org

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Thursdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net Currently the lab is dealing with artifacts from Fells Point in Baltimore.

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. 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 for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslag at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslag@montgomeryparks.org

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

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner:

For information on the CAT program, contact the new director, Sarah Grady, at sarahgrady11@gmail.com

Annual meeting, Oct. 13, to feature 11 presentations

On Saturday, October 13 ASM members will gather at the historic St. John's Episcopal Church on Union Avenue in Havre de Grace for their Annual Meeting. A one-hour update of statewide archeological projects will be followed by 11 short presentations covering archeological investigations in northeast Maryland.

Registration is from 8:30-9:00 a.m. A fee of \$10 (for both members and nonmembers) covers the day's attendance, coffee breaks, an on-site lunch buffet and a tour of the 1809 church. For an additional \$5, an annual membership in the Archeology Society of the Northern Chesapeake will be included.

The short subjects, presented by ASNC members, will be supported by table displays of maps, photos and artifacts. These will include investigations at the original Susquehanna Canal near Conowingo, newly discovered petroglyphs in the Octoraro Creek, metal-detecting to analyze the Capt Billy Moore property in Havre de Grace, restoration of Welsh slate-workers' cottages at Coulsontown, prehistoric activity at Crown Stone Farm near Fair Hill, discovery of an early stoneware kiln in the St. Mary Anne's Church cemetery in North East, analysis of an archaic jasper quarry near Belcamp, State Highway Administration work at the Revolutionary-era Bush Tavern and soil sampling in support of the Harford Glen ice-house restoration. Bill McIntyre will deliver the keynote address covering the 1813 British sacking of Havre de Grace.

The meeting activities will be concluded at 3 p.m., to provide time to tour the Havre de Grace Visitor Center 1813 diorama, as well as various local museums and the skipjack Martha Lewis.

Letter to an Irish editor: Don't skimp on archeology

By William O'Brien

Condensed from the Irish Times, August 28, 2018

Sir, - The Department of Archeology in University College Cork wishes to express strong support for the position being taken by the trade union Unite in seeking better pay and working conditions for commercial archeologists in Ireland. ("Archaeologists seek 'appropriate' pay after site walk-off", News, July 9th).

As an educational body funded by the state to train such archeologists, we are concerned that a proper employment structure and working conditions should exist for our graduates.

Commercial archeologists play a critical role in facilitating key infrastructure projects and other areas of economic activity in Ireland, such as forestry, wind farms, urban regeneration, etc.

At a time when the state has withdrawn from direct involvement in rescue archeology, commercial archeologists have been given the responsibility for dealing with impacts from such developments. Their training and professionalism allow the controlled removal of this cultural heritage, ensuring preservation by record, or else mitigating the physical impact on the ground.

Current practices by some private archeology companies are very detrimental to working conditions, with minimum wages and a growing casualization of employment. The result is that many experienced archeologists leave the profession, which is a serious loss to the discipline and to the taxpayer who invested in their training.

With these employment conditions, it is increasingly difficult for universities to promote archeology as a viable career option.

Over the years, governments have increasingly sought to divest themselves of core responsibilities in the protection of archeological heritage, through the exercise of market-place principles to the outsourcing of these obligations to private concerns. However, the National Monuments Act still requires the state to regulate the practice of archeology in Ireland and to maintain standards in the recording and preservation of cultural heritage.

Leaving aside the importance of this same cultural heritage, and the basic rights that all workers should enjoy, it is very much in the state's interest to maintain a strong cohort of professional archeologists to support broader economic strategy. -Yours, etc,

Looking at drought as cause of Mayan fall

By Kate Furby

Condensed from the Washington Post, August 6, 2018

The sediment under a lake in Mexico contains some of the long-sought answers to the mystery of the Mayan demise.

Ancient Mayans, primarily concentrated in what is now the Yucatan Peninsula, were among the most advanced civilizations of their time. Mayans were some of the first to build cities. They used astronomy to advance agricultural production, and they created calendars and used advanced mathematics. But despite all of their progress, the Mayan empire, built over thousands of years, may have crumbled in just a few hundred.

Scientists have several theories about why the collapse happened, including deforestation, overpopulation and extreme drought. New research, published in Science Thursday, focuses on the drought and suggests, for the first time, how extreme it was.

While analyzing sediment under Lake Chichancanab on the Yucatan Peninsula, scientists found a 50-percent decrease in annual precipitation over more than 100 years, from 800 to 1,000 A.D. At times, the study shows, the decrease was as much as 70 percent.

The study is the first to combine multiple elemental analyses and modeling to determine the climate record during the Mayan civilization demise.

Matthew Lachniet, a professor of geosciences at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, who was not involved in the study, said the quantification of the drought is important, because it illustrates the power of natural climate variability alone.

"Humans are affecting climate. We're making it warmer and it's projected to become drier in Central America," Lachniet said. "What we could end up with is double-whammy of drought. If you coincide drying from natural causes with drying from human causes, then it amplifies the strength of that drought."

The new research analyzed sediment cores, something climate scientists commonly do to determine conditions of the past, using the ancient dirt like a geological time capsule. If the drought was intense and long-lasting, gypsum crystals formed and incorporated existing lake water directly into their structure. The "fossil water" inside the crystals allowed Nick Evans and his co-authors to analyze the properties of the lake water during each period.

"It's as close as you'll ever get to sampling water in the past," Evans said.

The chemical composition of the fossil water indicated periods of drought in the Mayan timeline and revealed how long and intense this particular drought was.

Many theories about the drought triggers exist, but there is no smoking gun some 1,000 years later. The drought coincides with the beginning of the Medieval Warm Period, thought to have been caused by a decrease in volcanic ash in the atmosphere and an increase in solar activity. Previous studies have shown that the Mayans' deforestation may have also contributed. Deforestation tends to decrease the amount of moisture and destabilize the soil. Additional theories for the cause of the drought include changes to the atmospheric circulation and decline in tropical cyclone frequency, Evans said.

Currently, vast areas of North America, northern Africa, the Middle East, Southwest Asia and most of Australia are in significant drought, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Global Drought Information System. Sociopolitical research suggests that drought may cause war, famine and large human migrations. And many countries affected lack the resources to cope.

"Drought does have the potential to be a driving force for a lot of the issues that can cause civilization stress," Evans said. He noted, though, that today's globalized economy and modern technology have the potential to prevent a Mayan-style, world-ending drought. Probably.

Mailed newsletter era coming to an end

Delivery to this newsletter via the mail stops at the end of this year. All mail subscribers are urged to contact John Fiveash at jfiveash@comcast.net to arrange for online delivery.

Intensive speculation over Jamestown body

By Michael E. Ruane

Condensed from the Washington Post, July 24, 2018

JAMESTOWN, Va. — The skeleton was beautifully laid out in a formal English-style burial, hands at the sides, palms down, the body probably pinned up in a shroud. The arms, legs, and ribs were largely intact. But the skull, which was crucial, was gone.

So when Mary Anna Hartley, picking at the dirt in the bottom of the 400-year-old grave stumbled on the next best thing, she yelled, "Teeth!"

This was Sunday, and a breakthrough in the excavation this week of a grave believed to be that of Sir George Yeardley, who oversaw the first representative government assembly in English America, and was also one of history's first U.S. slaveholders.

A team of archeologists from Jamestown Rediscovery, aided by experts from the Smithsonian, has been gradually uncovering the skeleton, which was buried in a prominent spot in one of the first churches here. The dig is underway in the sweltering interior of a much later church on the same spot. And archeologists, clad in head-to-toe lab suits, are working inside a special isolation tent built around the grave.

The aim is to limit contamination of DNA they want to recover to help with identification.

Working in shifts, and using dental tools, tiny trowels and brushes, they began removing the last few inches of soil over the skeleton Saturday and had it almost uncovered Monday. Jamestown is the site of the first permanent English settlement in the United States, and the ground beneath is populated with the graves of hundreds of the early colonists.

Yeardley, whom most people have never heard of, represents two of the chief veins in American history — representative government and slavery, which took root in the same summer, 1619, in the same place, in the person of the same man.

But first the scientists here must determine: Is the person in the grave George Yeardley? The answer, as research continues, may be months in coming.

It was clear from the bones that this was a robust man in his late 30s or early 40s. Yeardley, who served as governor of the colony three times, was about 40 when he died in 1627.

And, with his hands at his sides and not crossed over his pelvis, this looked like a special VIP burial. "This guy, I think, was definitely laid out so that people could see him before he was interred," said Hartley, a senior archeologist on the project.

But the Jamestown experts badly wanted to find the skeleton's head, because DNA can most readily be retrieved from a part of the skull right in front of the ear, they said.

Ground penetrating radar imaging had indicated that the skull was likely present. But when the excavation began, it was soon clear that the skull was gone — deteriorated after being in the ground so long, or chopped off by a nearby burial.

Then, about 10 a.m. Sunday, came Hartley's discovery. Teeth can be a good source of DNA. Plus, hardened plaque on teeth, even 400 years old, can be examined for clues to diet and bacteria.

"When I hit the first tooth, you always kind of wait to make sure that, 'Yes, this is exactly what I'm seeking," Hartley said later. "But the enamel was clear as day . . . [and] pretty much within a couple seconds I had a second one." She wound up finding 10.

She was relieved. "We have a lot of world-renowned experts working with us on this," she said. "And I wanted to make sure there was something for them to examine."

One of the experts on site is Turi King, the geneticist and archeologist from Britain's University of Leicester who helped identify the remains of King Richard III when they were found under a parking lot in 2012. She said she will help process DNA and try to help track down any Yeardley descendants to see whether their DNA matches that retrieved from the skeleton.

The teeth proved to be key in another way. The Jamestown scientists remembered that last fall they had found part of a jaw and a skull in an adjacent grave that seemed unrelated to this dig. They wondered: Could those pieces be from the missing skull?

Continued on next page

They retrieved the pieces from storage and on Monday discovered that the newly found teeth all fit into the jaw bone, said Michael Lavin, senior staff conservator at Jamestown Rediscovery. "It's a home run," he said. And it could enable a reconstruction of the face. Now they have to see if they're the remains of Yeardley.

Sir George Yeardley was not born to nobility. Raised in London, the son of a businessman tailor, he became a soldier — "truly bred in [the] university of warre," a friend wrote. As a young officer, it is said he came to Virginia with nothing but his sword.

After arriving in Jamestown in 1610, Yeardley became a key figure, serving as the governor in 1616 before returning to England in 1617. He was reappointed governor in 1618 and was knighted by King James I that November.

He sailed back to Jamestown in 1619 bearing a historic set of instructions from the Virginia Company, which controlled the colony. His orders were to establish "a laudable form of government ... [for] the people there inhabiting."

Yeardley was to organize the outlying settlements into "one body corporate, and live under Equal and like Law," his orders said. On July 30, 1619, 30 men met in a church on the site where the dig is underway. This was the first representative assembly in English America, historians say — an undertaking that has defined the United States and has endured for 399 years.

It "was one of the most important events ... before the Revolution," writes James Horn, president of Jamestown Rediscovery. "Yet [it] is almost completely unknown to the general public."

"The Assembly did not establish a fully-fledged form of common law," Horn writes. And it "did not initiate a recognizably modern democracy..... But it ... heralded a broadly representative form of government based on ... [a] wide male franchise and the consent of the governed."

Yeardley was the colony's governor when he died, and would have gotten a special burial place in the church. And he was a knight, Horn notes. A mysterious tomb slab bearing the imprint of decorations typical of a knight's tomb was found at the site in the early 1900s.

Chapter News

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/

Anne Arundel

The newly rekindled Anne Arundel Chapter will be meeting at the Schmidt Center at SERC, the second Tuesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. Parking immediately in front of the venue. For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

September 11: Jim Gibb will speak on excavations at two 17th-Century plantations.

Central Chapter

Meets the third Friday every other month at the Natural History Society of Maryland at 6908 Belair Road in Baltimore. Business meeting begins at 7, talk at 7:30. For information contact centralchapterasm @yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com or Twitter @asmcentral

September 21: , Stephen and Barbara Israel are presenting a power point and video adventure on their recent Middle Mississippian Mound Tour including Cahokia Mounds, a six-square-mile urban center.

FRIDAY, November 17: Lauren Schiszik explains how archeology is performed in Baltimore through CHAPS - the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. Business meeting at 1:30 p.m. and the lecture promptly at 2.

January 18, **2019**: Lisa Kraus, will speak on the Serenity Farm African American Burial Site in Charles County, discovered by SHA archeologists in 2011.

March 15: To be announced.

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. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook @ccasm2010

September 13: Zachary Singer on the archeology of the Paleoindian Period.

October 11: Esther Reed

November 8: Julia King

December 13: Susan Langley on "Meliponiculture: Mayan Beekeeping Past and Present."

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 Don Housley at donhou704@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

September 20: Chapter member Vivian Eicke will speak on the Montgomery County Cemetery Project.

October 18: Erin Cagney, MA student in anthropology at American University, will speak on "Reviving the Betty Veatch Collection: Woman's Work in the Potomac Estuary."

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212. The chapter does not meet in July or August. If Frederick County schools close early or are closed all day because of inclement weather, the presentation will be rescheduled.

September 12: Archeology professor David Hixson will give a presentation on work at the Rocky Springs archeological site. Debby Moone, president of the Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, will be available to answer questions about the history of the area.

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

September 12: Preparations for the Saturday, October 13 ASNC hosting of the ASM Annual Meeting.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at <u>Clcoogan@smcm.edu</u>

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 www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or try upper-patuxentarchaeology.com or try upper-patuxentarchaeology.com or <a href="mailto:upper-patuxentarchaeolog

September 10: "The Archeology of Howard County - Past, Present and Future," by Kelly Palich.

October 8: "The Ins and Outs of Historic Research - Documenting your Historic Property," by the Howard County Living History and Heritage Program staff.

November 12: "What does all this Stuff Mean? A Material Culture Workshop," by Kelly Palich.

December 10: 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. workshop. Experimental Archeology - Flintknapping (and Holiday Party), Kelly Palich and Jake Feirson - Howard County Heritage and Living History Program.

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

September 15: Appalachian Festival at Frostburg State University, 10 to 5. The WMD Chapter will man a booth with displays and information on Maryland archeology.

September 28: William Bauman will speak on the Lockhouses of the C&O Canal.

October 26: Barbara Israel will talk on "The History of Coppermining in 18th and 19th Century Maryland."

November 17: Chapter field trip to Fort Ashby, West Virginia to examine the recent archeology of the site of the French and Indian War fort built in 1755.

December: No meeting due to the holidays.

January 25, **2019**: Annual SHOW & TELL program where the audience is invited to bring in an item of interest to share with the membership.

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Barbara Israel 410-945-5514 <u>barbaraisrael@comcast.</u> <u>net</u>

Treasurer

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

Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes 360-941-9844

rachael.m.holmes@ gmail.com

At-Large Trustees

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

Lynne Bulhack 301-460-5356 |bulhack@aol.com

Katharine Fernstrom 410-243-2757 kfernstrom@towson. edu Elaine Hall 240-426-1298 Elaine.frances.hall@ gmail.com

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

Belinda Urquiza 410-535-2586 burquiza@comc