

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

‘We need to understand, the ocean is coming’

More than 13,000 sites in the Southeast could be in danger

From various reports

Just in the remainder of this century, if projected trends in sea-level rise continue, researchers predict that over 13,000 recorded archeological sites in the southeast, including Maryland, may be submerged with a 1-meter rise in sea-level, including over 1,000 listed on the National Register of Historic Places as important cultural properties. Many more sites and structures that have not yet been recorded will also be lost.

These numbers increase substantially with each additional 1-meter rise in sea level, with more than 32,000 archeological sites and more than 2,400 National Register properties lost should a 5-meter rise occur.

Seas rose in the southeastern U.S. between 2011 and 2015 by more than six times the global average sea-level rise that is already happening due to human-induced global warming, new research shows. The combined effects of El Niño and the North Atlantic Oscillation, both of which are naturally occurring climate processes, drove this recent sea level rise hot spot, according to a different, University of Florida, study.

Sea-level rise may impact vast numbers of archeological and historic sites, cemeteries and landscapes on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the southeastern United States, according to the first study, published November 29, in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE* by David Anderson from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and colleagues.

The findings offer a glimpse into the vast amount of global cultural heritage that could be destroyed, this study said. One in 10 archeological sites that it analyzed on nine southeastern coastal states risk inundation.

"The record of human occupation of coastal regions goes back thousands of years and we stand to lose a lot of that," Anderson said.

Large linked data sets that show what may be impacted and what could be lost across entire regions, are essential to developing procedures for sampling, triage and mitigation efforts. Such research is essential to making accurate forecasts and public policy decisions about the consequences of rapid climate change, extreme weather events and displaced populations. These are factors that could shape our civilization profoundly in the years to come.

To estimate the impact of sea-level rise on archeological sites, the authors analyzed data from the Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA). DINAA aggregates archeological and historical data sets developed over the past century from numerous sources, providing the public and research communities with a uniquely comprehensive window into human settlement.

Sea-level rise hot spots -- bursts of accelerated sea rise that last three to five years -- happen along the U.S. East Coast thanks to a one-two punch from naturally occurring climate variations, the Florida study shows.

The study's findings suggest that future sea-level rise resulting from global warming will also have these hot

Continued on Page 5

Upcoming events

January 3-6: Society for Historical Archaeology conference, New Orleans. [/sha.org/conferences](http://sha.org/conferences)

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville is temporarily closed.

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 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 county sites. Weekdays only. Email 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 CAT information see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net

Jug Bay Sanctuary offering paid summer internship

The Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County is offering a paid research internship for the 2018 summer. The 12-week program runs from June through August.

The intern will create a management plan for preserving cultural resources in the sanctuary and investigate sites through studying site files and reassessing the condition of the sites through field surveys and reanalysis of archeological collections.

For information contact Patricia Delgado at rpdelq88@aacounty.org or 410-741-9330. Applications must be received by March 2.

A year's worth of archeology awaits your renewal

ASM is now accepting membership renewals or applications for 2018. (2017 sure went fast.) For a low, one-time payment you can receive access to a variety of activities and goods.

Like to dig? There is the annual spring field session. Like to sit and talk about things archeological or find out what is going on? There are the Workshop in Archeology, the Spring Symposium and the Fall Meeting.

Plus you get access to one or more of ASM's local chapters, which hold meetings and projects of their own.

Wait, wait, there's more. You will also get a year's worth of ASM newsletters and two copies of ASM's journal, *Maryland Archeology*.

All this for one amazing low price. The price varies on the level of membership, but it's a bargain at any level. Just fill out the membership form with this newsletter and send it in. Then sharpen your trowel and enjoy.

Navy thinks it has found missing '45 plane

By Donna Cipolloni

Condensed from NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs, September 14, 2017

On March 18, 1945 at 2:15 p.m., an XF8F-1 Bearcat sped down the runway and climbed into the sky above Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. No one could have imagined the propeller-driven fighter plane disappearing into the distance would become the focus of a naval archeological investigation 70 years later.

The Bearcat's 23-year-old pilot had logged 935 flight hours and been awarded the Air Medal the previous June while participating in nine carrier-based operations in the Pacific. With just under seven hours flight time in the prototype Bearcat, which had only arrived at Pax River's Naval Air Test Center in October 1944, the pilot was undertaking an authorized gunnery test flight.

Armament Test personnel observed three firing runs on the flight without incident, after which the airplane passed out of their field of view to the south. At about 3:45 p.m., when the aircraft had not yet returned, the Station Operations Department was notified and search operations were requested.

The final resting place of that Bearcat — or, more precisely, the attempt to verify its final resting place — was the reason an underwater archeologist from Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) and three volunteer divers working with the Institute of Maritime History (IMH) found themselves out on the Chesapeake Bay, June 10, chugging toward the location where a known aircraft, suspected of being the Bearcat, lies submerged and relatively intact in the murky depths.

Several years ago, during a routine NOAA hydrographic survey of the Chesapeake, a submerged object was discovered and noted as "an obstruction or wreck" with another "anomaly" reported lying nearby.

"One of our people, Dan Lynberg, took a good sidescan [sonar] image of it and it was obviously an airplane, so we started going out to look at it," said Dave Howe of IMH, a non-profit organization which works closely with the Navy, Marine Corps and the Maryland Historical Trust. "When we first found it, we didn't realize what type of aircraft it was because it was quite small. We were stuck until George came up with the idea of the Bearcat — and it fit."

Howe is referring to George Schwarz, an underwater archeologist with the Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB) of NHHC out of Washington.

Over the past three years, after researching accident history reports, archival records and numerous other sources, Schwarz and UAB staff have identified the possible locations of a number of submerged aircraft from the 1940s and 50s that crashed off Pax River.

The accident history card on the ill-fated test flight reveals the Navy had sent out three search planes to scour the water and adjacent land. The planes sighted a large heavy slick still bubbling fresh oil. A crash boat arrived and picked up some debris, including a left glove inscribed in ink with the pilot's name.

Now, information already obtained from previous scans and dives indicates a small, all-metal, low-wing, bubble canopy aircraft with an approximate 33-foot wingspan — all consistent with a Bearcat — sitting upright with a missing engine, also consistent with the flight's accident history report.

With yet another follow-up visit to the site, Schwarz continued his quest to verify whether the sunken wreck is the lost Bearcat and identify if the anomaly lying to the north of it could be its missing engine.

Below, conditions were disorienting as the divers attempted to acclimate themselves. Visibility was no more than 18 inches. Diver Polaris Luu described the cockpit as open, filled with mud and covered with marine plant life, thereby completely obstructing their view of the instrument panels and flight controls. Luu said, "The fuselage is in good shape but also completely covered in growth, which hides all markings."

During their second descent, they again ran out of time before completing all of the measurements and investigating the separate anomaly. Nothing the divers observed that day rules out the fact that this wreck is anything other than what the team thinks it is, but they are not nearly ready to call it.

"We don't ever determine anything on the first, second or even fifth dive," Schwarz said.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to return....," Schwarz added. "But that timing will depend on the availability of our boat and equipment. So, if not this fall, perhaps in spring 2018."

Why are only Indian bones shown in museums

By Chip Colwell

Condensed from Atlas Obscura, November 16, 2017

The woman lies in a coffin of cracked wood and faded paint. Her dried corpse is tightly wrapped in strips of brown linen with slits left open for her eyes, nostrils, and mouth. When she died 3,000 years ago in Egypt, the woman's kin no doubt hoped the body's preservation in a tomb would ensure her soul's eternal afterlife. Instead, she rests behind a glass case at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Museums have long been eager to exhibit human remains—one part history, one part morbid curiosity. Travelers around the globe can see bog bodies at the British Museum, a Viking who was cremated in his ship in Denmark or an intact Neolithic burial at the National Museum of China.

But museum visitors today are unlikely to see Native Americans' earthly remains. The Denver museum, for example, took its last Native American skeleton off of display in 1970. This isn't due to a shortage—U.S. museums alone still hold more than 100,000 Native American skeletons in storage areas.

When many museums continue to exhibit the dead from cultures around the world, why are Native American skeletons treated so differently?

In the mid-1800s, when museums evolved out of the cabinets of curiosity, skeletons remained an integral part of their displays.

In the United States, collectors focused on Native American skeletons. Native peoples had lived across the Americas for millennia, so their burials blanketed the continents. Native tombs also weren't afforded the same respect or legal protections given to white graves. Native American burial grounds were emptied.

For example, the "father" of physical anthropology, Aleš Hrdlička, who worked at the Smithsonian, amassed the remains of more than 15,000 people.

Some of Hrdlička's collections clearly violated the dignity of indigenous people. In 1902, Hrdlička was traveling in northern Mexico when he came across a massacre site of Yaqui Indians, killed by Mexican federal troops. He described finding 64 bodies, including women, children and a baby. He chopped off the heads and hands of 12 victims. Hrdlička only lamented he could not obtain more. The Yaqui's remains were sent to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Native Americans had long tried to prevent the theft of their dead. But it was not until the 1960s, in the wake of the Civil Rights movement, that activists turned collections into a question of conscience: Why were U.S. museums filled almost exclusively with the bones of Native Americans? "When a white man's grave is dug up, it's called grave robbing," as the Tohono O'odham activist Robert Cruz said in 1986. "But when an Indian's grave is dug up, it's called archeology."

Native Americans from a range of tribes and regions agreed that museums were violating their religious freedom by not allowing them to spiritually care for ancestors, that the disproportionate number and display of Native Americans was steeped in a history of racism and that Native Americans never gave consent for their dead to be disturbed. "The problem for American Indians is that there are too many laws of the kind that make us the archeological property of the United States," as the Cheyenne/Muskogee activist Suzan Shown Harjo wrote in 1989, "and too few of the kind that protect us from such insults."

These arguments finally gained traction in 1990, when the U.S. Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which created a process for tribes to claim ancestral remains and artifacts. So far, museums have returned more than 50,000 Native American skeletons for reburial.

Like the treatment of Native Americans, the collection of Egyptian skeletons is rooted in colonialism and a disregard for the wishes of the dead. But, while living Native Americans claim descent from their continent's first peoples, the Islamic communities of Egypt do not claim continuity with the people who built the pyramids. The modern-day Egyptian government has given its consent for the excavation of tombs.

So, why and when is it okay to display the dead?

The answer lies in how remains were collected and their connection to living people today. Viking warriors, ancient sacrifice victims preserved in England's bogs and China's first farmers were all excavated with either the permission of descendants or from governments if no descendants are known. When controversies erupt

over exhibiting the dead, it's likely because an institution has violated one or more of these concerns.

For Native Americans, the collection of their ancestors for museums has been an affront to their sense of dignity and spiritual beliefs. The repatriation of these remains is perhaps a minimum concession to that sense of self, culture and continuity. As Apache/Nahuatl activist José Rivera once asked, "Do we have to be dead and dug up from the ground to be worthy of respect?"

'We need to understand, the ocean is coming'

Continued from Page 1

spot periods superimposed on top of steadily rising seas, said study co-author Andrea Dutton, of the Florida university.

"The important point here is that smooth projections of sea-level rise do not capture this variability, so adverse effects of sea-level rise may occur before they are predicted to happen," she said. "The entire U.S. Atlantic coastline is vulnerable to these hot spots that may amplify the severity of coastal flooding."

Florida's Arnoldo Valle-Levinson said hot spots are difficult to predict and it's not clear if the hot spots will worsen with time. By decreasing emissions, he said we may be able to stabilize rising seas long-term, but the trend will likely be difficult to reverse.

"It's amazing to see construction along the East Coast. That's the worst place to build anything," said Valle-Levinson, who described the future for some southeastern U.S. cities as "Venice-like." "We need to understand that the ocean is coming."

(Not for children) Sorry, Santa is dead

By Cleve R. Wootson Jr.

Condensed from the Washington Post, October 4, 2017

First the good news: Whoever told you that Santa Claus was an impostor with a fake beard collecting a Christmastime check at the mall or a lie cooked up by your parents to trick you into five measly minutes of quiet was, at minimum, misinformed.

The bad news: Santa Claus is definitely dead.

Archeologists in southern Turkey say they have discovered the tomb of St. Nicholas, beneath his namesake church near the Mediterranean Sea.

Saint Nicholas of Myra (now Demre) was known for his anonymous gift-giving and generosity. People believed he'd put coins in the shoes of anyone who left them out for him on his feast day, Dec. 6.

It wasn't until the 16th Century that St. Nicholas began to take on his modern, candy-cane hued form in images and imaginations. He migrated to the Americas with the Dutch, who called him "Sinterklaas" and gathered every year on the anniversary of his death.

He started making appearances in stores in the 1840s, according to History.com. The writer Clement Clarke Moore cemented the American image of Santa Claus with his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," which begins "Twas the night before Christmas."

Now, Santa is all but entrenched in the Christmas lexicon.

Through it all, the remains of the real-life St. Nicholas were apparently the subject of a centuries-old case of mistaken identity and grave robbery.

According to the Telegraph, St. Nicholas died in A.D. 343 and was interred at St. Nicholas church. In 1087, apparently, merchants dug up his bones and smuggled them to the Italian city of Bari, the Telegraph reported.

But archeologists say pilgrims to the Basilica di San Nicola are praying to the wrong guy. The bones belong to another local priest, not one of the most famous saints, the Telegraph reported.

Archeologists conducting recent surveys at the church in Demre found gaps beneath it. The shrine, they say, is underneath the church and untouched.

"We believe this shrine has not been damaged at all, but it is quite difficult to get to it as there are mosaics on the floor," said Cemil Karabayram, the head of Antalya's Monument Authority.

'Void' in Great Pyramid stirs speculation

By Nicholas St. Fleur

Condensed from the New York Times, November 3, 2017

The Great Pyramid of Giza has towered over Egypt for more than 4,500 years. Built during the reign of Pharaoh Khufu, the monument was a testament to the ruler's architectural prowess and is thought to have been a home for his mummified remains.

For centuries, archeologists have ventured into the Pyramid of Khufu, as it is also known, and marveled at the King's chamber, the Queen's chamber and the Grand Gallery. Now, using a technique from the field of particle physics, an international team of researchers has harnessed cosmic-ray collisions to peek inside and uncover a hidden "void" within the pyramid's stones that is roughly 100 feet long.

"We don't know if it's a chamber, a tunnel, a big gallery or things like that," said Mehdi Tayoubi, co-director of the ScanPyramids project, which published the finding Thursday in the journal *Nature*. "We have chosen the word 'void' and nothing else because we don't know what this void is."

Many archeologists questioned whether the study offered any new information about the ancient Egyptians and were quick to note that the team had most likely not found a hidden room filled with the pharaoh's riches. They said the so-called void was probably empty space designed by the pyramid's architects to lessen the weight on its chambers and prevent them from collapsing, an example of features that were already documented in the construction of the ancient monuments.

However, the study may suggest that advances in technology can offer a richer understanding of wonders of the ancient world that have long fascinated the human imagination.

Khufu, also known by his Greek name Cheops, is thought to have ruled from 2509 B.C. to 2483 B.C., during Egypt's fourth dynasty. Though he constructed the largest pyramid Egypt has ever seen, very little is known about him. The site at Giza where his pyramid was built also contains two other major pyramids and the Sphinx.

Since 2015, Tayoubi and his colleagues have investigated the pyramid using a particle physics technique known as muon tomography to see through to its core.

"We tried to do for the pyramid what a doctor can do with X-rays," Tayoubi said.

Instead of X-rays, the team used muons, the heavy cousins of electrons that form when cosmic rays from outer space collide with particles in Earth's atmosphere. The fallout from the collisions creates a constant bombardment of harmless particles that can penetrate deep into the planet. As the muons pass through matter they lose energy and decay, so if the team detected a small number of muons, that means they were passing through matter. But if they detected more muons, it suggests the particles were passing through empty space or less dense material.

In 2016, Tayoubi's colleagues stood in the Queen's chamber and used muon detectors to study particles as they passed through the pyramid. When they analyzed their data from a region above the Grand Gallery, a long inclined passageway that leads to the King's Chamber, they found an unexpected excess of muons.

They found a void. Two more teams confirmed the anomaly.

Christopher Morris, a physicist who conducts research using muon tomography at Los Alamos National Laboratory and was not involved in the study, called the findings "pretty amazing," adding that all the team needed to do was set up their muon detectors and reap the rewards.

But archeologists were more critical of the work. Egyptologist Mark Lehner said that previous work had shown that the ancient Egyptians most likely constructed gaps in their pyramids and that the voids the team found are nothing special, or new.

"The great pyramid of Khufu is more Swiss cheese than cheddar," he said. He added that the steep incline of the void also casts doubts on whether it was some sort of room. "At that angle, it doesn't make much sense for it to be a chamber that would contain artifacts, burials and objects and that sort of thing."

Zahi Hawass, an Egyptologist, former Egyptian government minister and head of the scientific committee appointed by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities to review the work, was more critical of the finding.

"They found nothing," said Hawass, noting that such construction gaps had been known of for at least two decades. "This paper offers nothing to Egyptology. Zero."

Showing your ASM affiliation is tax-deductible

Sixty 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 send the form 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 have the old expiration date. MVA handles renewals in the same way and at the same cost as standard plates.

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 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

For information, contact Jim Gibb at 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

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

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

December 13: Larry Seastrum, the new treasurer of ASM, will present "WWII MIA Recovery Effort" about a search for signs of a U.S. bomber downed in Austria.

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>

Friday, December 8: Harford Glen; Past, Present and Future. ASNC Board Members. Dinner Meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

January 10, 2018: Aaron Levinthal of the SHA will talk about the Bush Tavern Site. Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 4: Dan Coates on "Jasper Run or Run for Jasper."

March 14: Jim Kotersky and Dan Coates on the Church Lane Pottery Site.

April 13: "At the Water's Edge: Our Past on the Brink," by Darrin Lowery.

Sunday, May 20: Annual picnic at the Iron Hill Museum and Jasper Site.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month (with a few exceptions) at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, 23110 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

December 15: Tour at Jefferson Patterson Park @ 1:00 p.m.

January 17: Julie King

February 21: Steve Lenik (tentatively)

March 19: - TBD

April 16: Archaeology Month (student speakers at St. Mary's College of Maryland)

May 21: - TBD

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 uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com

December 11: Holiday potluck party at Heritage House.

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>

December: No meeting due to holidays

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

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