



# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## State recognizes its first Indian tribes

Capping a long bureaucratic struggle, two Southern Maryland Indian tribes have become the first Native American groups to achieve official state recognition. The announcement was made January 9 by Gov. Martin O'Malley.

The Piscataway Conoy Tribe includes two smaller groups of Piscataway—the Cedarville Band of Piscataway and the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Subtribes—as well many individuals independent of either group. It has an estimated 2,000 enrolled members. The Piscataway Indian Nation is much smaller, with an estimated 125 members.

The recognition comes at a time when archeologists are paying attention to today's Indians as well as those of the past.

"In recent years, some state agencies and institutions have actively worked with Maryland Indians to foster better relationships, information sharing and working partnerships," said archeologist Carol Ebright. "We still have a long way to go, but with Piscataway recognition a reality, the archeological community at large can continue to move ahead."

The path to state recognition was a hard one with many hurdles, including the inherent difficulties in collecting documentation about tribal history and continuity from 1790 (from incomplete or misleading early records), long bureaucratic delays, rivalries among Piscataway groups, misperceptions about the goals of the petitioning groups and misunderstandings of the ramifications of state recognition.

Official status makes the tribes eligible for more than \$17 million in federal funding for education, housing, public health and other programs and could make it easier for Piscataway-owned businesses to qualify as minority business enterprises — a status that could help them win state and local government contracts, the governor's office said. But O'Malley spokeswoman Raquel Guillory said that as part of the agreement the Piscataway renounced any plan to get into the gambling business.

The tribe still is not federally recognized.

Izzy Patoka, executive director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, said another group of native Americans, the Accohannock tribe from the Lower Eastern Shore, is in the process of applying for state recognition.

"When I began my career as a professional archeologist in the 1970s, 'New Archeology' was in vogue, emphasizing the scientific method and objectivism," Ebright said. "Most archeologists trained this way took a broad view of culture and tried to examine all aspects of the human past. This view rejected a

**Continued on Page 4**

## Upcoming events

**February 29:** 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Dennis Sanford and Bruce Bradley on "The First North American Migration - Not a Strait Route." Smithsonian. \$18 to \$30. For information, 202 633 3030 or [www.residentassociates.org](http://www.residentassociates.org)

**March 3:** ASM board meeting. Howard County Central Library, Columbia. 10 a.m. All members welcome.

**March 10:** Archeology Workshop, Crownsville.

**April 21:** ASM Spring Symposium

**May 25 - June 4** (tentative dates): ASM annual field session, Elk Landing

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**Montgomery County** is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org). CAT opportunity.

**ASM field session collection:** Volunteers have finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They are working on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [chall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:chall@mdp.state.md.us).

**The Lost Towns Project** of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jessie Grow 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](mailto: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/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

## CAT corner

The CAT Weekend workshop will be held Jan. 28 at Jefferson Patterson Park. For more CAT information, see the ASM website.

## SHA honors Historic St. Mary's City work

Historic St. Mary's City has been recognized with an Award of Merit by the Society for Historical Archaeology for its work at the site of Maryland's first capital.

At its 45<sup>th</sup> annual conference, held in Baltimore in early January, the project was cited for its four decades of work in preserving, protecting and interpreting the site and for its public archeology efforts - the first such efforts in the state.

"The field of historical archeology has greatly benefited from the HSMC's strong research focus and for the enduring role that HSMC has played in training students in historical archeology," wrote SHA President William B. Lees.

Since 1969, when work began, more than 300 sites have been recorded there, with 70 percent of the National Landmark still unexplored.

The National Park Service has called St. Mary's City "probably the most intact 17th-Century English town surviving in our nation...represented entirely by archaeological resources."

# Fewer acorns, more Lyme disease in 2012

By Ritchie S. King

*Condensed from the New York Times, December 2, 2011*

In Central Park, more than 1,000 trees in the red oak family were spangling the scenery with the colors of autumn. But this year, they were failing to do something else they generally do in the harvest season: produce acorns.

It is a phenomenon happening not only in New York but also throughout the Northeast. While last fall set a recorded high for acorn production, at roughly 250 pounds per tree, this year is seeing a recorded low, with a typical tree shedding less than half a pound of its seeds, said Mark Ashton, a forest ecologist at Yale University. On average, oaks produce about 25 to 30 pounds of acorns a year.

Coming on the heels of an acorn glut, the dearth this year will probably have a cascade of effects on the forest ecosystem, culling the populations of squirrels, field mice and ground-nesting birds. And because the now-overgrown field mouse population will crash, legions of ticks — some infected with Lyme disease — will be aggressively pursuing new hosts, like humans.

"We expect 2012 to be the worst year for Lyme disease risk ever," said Richard S. Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, N.Y.

It will probably turn into a big year for animals being killed on highways as well. Deer, in search of alternative sources of food, will leave the cover of the oak trees and wander out closer to roads.

It takes a red oak 18 months to grow an acorn. The tree is pollinated in the spring of one year and its acorns drop in the fall of the next year. The rainy spring of 2010 could have dampened the wind-driven transfer of pollen from one tree to another, resulting in the acorn dearth this year.

While acorn fluctuation is normal, what is unusual this year is the abundance followed by the steep drop. "In a sense, it's just another trough," Ostfeld said. "But this is the most extreme pair of years that we've seen."

# SWAT team takes of sea-level threat

By Stephanie Sperling

*Condensed from Letters from Lost Towns, Winter 2012*

Lost Towns Project archeologists have been studying the effects of sea-level rise and coastal erosion on archeological sites in Anne Arundel County for two years under grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

We were recently awarded a grant from Preservation Maryland to conduct emergency salvage excavations on imminently endangered sites. To that end, we organized an archeological "SWAT team" that investigated three shell middens in the Rhode and West rivers that were actively eroding away.

Perhaps the most striking find was a sandstone bowl fragment that is extremely rare in this part of Maryland.

Regrettably sea-level rise cannot be combated solely with policy and planning documents; rather, the most viable response to the impending destruction of archeological sites is data recovery.

As ecological threats to cultural heritage are gaining recognition by local officials and the public, we hope this project will raise awareness and educate others about effective and practical responses to sea-level rise. This project demonstrates that with advanced planning and proactive response, data held by important archeological sites can be professionally recovered in a relatively inexpensive way.

Meanwhile, the Lost Towns Project was recently awarded a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to re-examine prehistoric sites and collections from the Patuxent River drainage. This study will shed new light on the shifting settlement patterns that took place in the middle and upper Patuxent throughout thousands of years of history.

Nearly 200 prehistoric sites have been recorded in the Anne Arundel County portion of the Patuxent drainage, including base camps, temporary camps and resource procurement sites.

# Repatriating the culturally unknown

By Sudhin Thanawala

*Condensed from the Washington Post, January 16, 2012*

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) - The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 provided for the return of remains connected to modern tribes. But it was not until 2010 that a rule on the disposition of "culturally unidentifiable" remains was finalized by the Interior Department. Until then, more than 650 universities and other institutions had no clear guidance about how to return those remains, which account for the bones of about 116,000 people in their collections.

Universities find themselves tugged one way by the law's mandates, another by the needs of research.

Some anthropologists say that more remains will become off-limits, imperiling study of the diets, health, migrations and other habits of ancient people without guaranteeing that the remains will wind up with their true descendants.

"The public and scientific interest in [the remains] no longer have any weight," said Keith Kintigh, associate director of the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University.

In recent months, Harvard's Peabody Museum has received requests for about 500 remains and hired additional staff as they respond to the 2010 rule, said Patricia Capone, the museum's repatriation coordinator.

At the University of Michigan, officials have decided to transfer the bulk of their 1,580 culturally unaffiliated remains to 13 Indian tribes who want them. In the meantime, they have been put off limits to researchers.

At Berkeley, more than 6,000 of about 10,000 remains that were deemed culturally unidentifiable are now subject to potential transfer to tribes. And the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Archaeology has added four new staff members to help match remains to tribes if possible and notify tribes whose lands held the remains.

When the Kumeyaay Nation — a dozen native bands with reservations in San Diego County — first demanded the nearly 10,000-year-old remains now at UC-San Diego, the university rejected its claim that they were the tribe's ancestors.

Researchers have said that Kumeyaay remains were cremated early in the tribe's history, not buried. They also have questioned whether the remains are American Indian, given their age, although the university has concluded that they are.

Tribal representatives say they have an oral history that goes back thousands of years and connects them to the remains.

In light of the recent rule, university officials did a re-evaluation, concluding that the skeletons came from the Kumeyaay's ancestral lands but that they were not the Kumeyaay's direct ancestors.

In a filing in December, the university said it would turn the remains over to the Kumeyaay, although it gave other tribal groups until Jan. 4 to dispute the Kumeyaay's claim.

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**Continued from Page One**

focus on the 'spectacular,' the 'biggest' and the 'best,' as famously caricatured by Indiana Jones, and emphasized the ordinary and mundane and the over-arching patterns of humanity's place and behavior in the surrounding environment.

"Unfortunately, the more scientific approach sometimes blinded us to important aspects of the people and cultures who were the subjects of our research. Although intensely interested in all manner of prehistoric Native American sites, many 'New Archeologists' would not have thought to value the input of modern Indian communities which were many generations removed from prehistory.

"Many archeologists considered the views and demands of individual contemporary Indians groups, especially regarding the potential repatriation of human remains and grave goods, as irrelevant and profoundly

## Rosenstock gains Conservancy protection

A hundred years after it was first excavated, the Rosenstock site in Frederick has been acquired by the Archaeological Conservancy for permanent preservation. The Late Woodland villages were the site of ASM field schools in 1979, 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Located on a bluff overlooking the Monocacy River, it has produced thousands of artifacts and a goodly number of features.

"The Rosenstock site is an extraordinary well-preserved Montgomery Complex village, which, based on both radiocarbon dates and the artifact assemblage, appears to have been occupied into the early 15<sup>th</sup> Century," chief Maryland archeologist Maureen Kavanagh is recorded as saying.

"This was a period of rapid cultural change, social disruptions and movements of groups throughout the Middle Atlantic. Due to its location and excellent condition, Rosenstock has the potential to play a pivotal role in illuminating those events."

anti-scientific and felt the arising controversies were more in the realm of politics and religion. With the advent of NAGPRA, potential recognition of Indian tribes, even at the state level, was more than a little threatening to the archeological community.

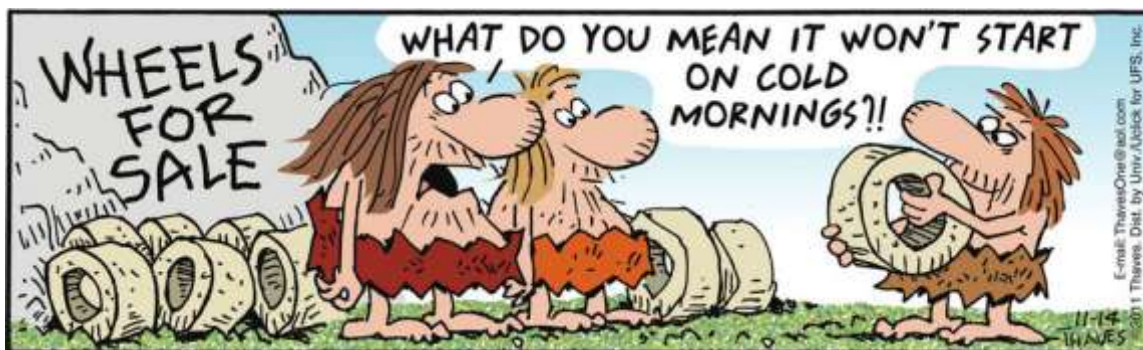
"Fortunately, change happens. As an archeological observer of Native American and Maryland Indian issues over the past few decades, I've seen archeologists become more aware of modern Indian communities and recognize not only the need, but the value, of interacting with the descendants of the people they study.

"Archeologists have looked more closely at the nature of what they do, and the impacts of that activity on modern communities. Maryland Indians have also broadened their horizons, reaching out to archeologists. We are all learning that there can be many interpretations of the same event, historical account, oral tradition, archeological feature and archeological artifact. May we continue to learn that our diversity in viewpoints is strength."

"Today is a day of recognition," O'Malley said. "It is a day of reconciliation, and it is a day of arrival — a day 380 years in the making, a day made possible only by the kindness, the forgiveness, the goodness of the Piscataway people of this beautiful place that we now call Maryland."

## Final notice: Have you renewed yet?

Pity Belinda Urquiza. ASM's membership secretary doesn't get paid for the work she does for the Society, and she isn't complaining. But why add to her workload by ignoring all the notices about membership renewals being due and causing her to spend time trying to track down those people who just forgot to send theirs in? She has other things she'd rather be doing. And we'd rather know that you are continuing your ASM membership for another year. We will do our best to make it a good one. The renewal form appears with this newsletter for the last time. Act now. Don't irk Belinda.



## Laura Cripps joins ASM board of trustees

Laura Cripps has been named to fill a vacant position on the ASM board of trustees. A professional archeologist and member of the anthropology department at Howard Community College, she is active in ASM's Upper Patuxent Chapter and has conducted excavations in this country, the United Kingdom and France.

## Chapter notes

### Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the Severna Park Branch of the County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at [AACHapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AACHapASM@hotmail.com) or the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php)

### Central Maryland

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or [ssisrael@verizon.net](mailto:ssisrael@verizon.net)

### Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [cowherdcl@gmail.com](mailto:cowherdcl@gmail.com) or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is [charlescoasm.org](http://charlescoasm.org) and its blog is [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com) NOTE NEW MEETING DAY AND LOCATION.

**February 9:** Patricia Samford, director of Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory will analyze artifacts from Westwood Manor, a Charles County plantation on the Wicomico River.

**March 8:** Laura J. Cripps, anthropology professor at Howard Community College, on "A Multidisciplinary Investigation for the Original Mt. Aventine(s), at Chapman State Park" in Western Charles County."

**April 12:** Scott Lawrence of Grave Concerns on "The Search for Newtowne Chapel, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Jesuit Chapel in the cemetery of St Francis Xavier Church in Newtown, St Mary's County."

**May 10:** Tim Thoman, Manager of Indian village at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, will conduct a flint knapping demonstration.

### Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

**February 16:** Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Noel Broadbent, a research fellow at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, will speak on his polar archeological studies.

**March 13** (note day change to Tuesday): Meeting at Needwood Mansion. Mark R. Plane, public archeologist in residence at American University, will speak on historical ceramics: Manufacturing and the Beginnings of Capitalism.



## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

## 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**February 9:** TBA. Historical Society of Harford County

**March 14:** TBA. Student Center, Room 24, HCC

**April 13:** Al Luckenback, Excavations at Pig Point. Annual Maryland Archeology Month Cresthull Lecture. Edgewood Hall, HCC

**May 16:** Annual Members and Guest Picnic

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [leeprestonjr@comcast.net](mailto:leeprestonjr@comcast.net)

**February 13:** Lee Preston on "Made in China: From Terra Cotta Soldiers, to Porcelain and Silk."

**March 12:** Lousie Akerson on "Late Eighteenth/early Nineteenth Century Ceramics." A workshop on the difference between porcelain, stoneware and redware, and some of the common decorations found on late 18th/early 19th Century ceramics. Visuals will include slides and reproduction ceramics.

**April 9:** Celeste Huecker on Easter Island.

**May 14:** Kathie Fernstrom on a subject TBD.

**June 11:** TBD

## 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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**February 24:** Roy Brown on atlatls and spears.

**March 23:** Will the world come to an end on 12-21-2012. "How the Maya Reckon Time" by Marilyn Moors.

**April 27:** Stephen R. Potter will give a report on the 2008 to 2010 archeological survey of the C&O Canal from Hancock to Cumberland.

**June 1:** Bob Wall will talk about the excavations of the 2011 ASM Field Session at the Barton Site and the plans for the upcoming June field session. In addition, Phil Allen of FSU will report on his findings of the pollen study he conducted on the 2009 Deep Unit at Barton.

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**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 Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**Submissions welcome.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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