



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

At Winslow Site, a rare Potomac find

By Joe Dent

I can now admit that about five days into the ASM excavations at the Winslow site I had started to become a bit worried over the lack of post molds in our units. We were on top of a major Late Woodland village yet post molds were scarce. Soon thereafter, however, spirits were lifted when Martha Wallace and Kathy Steuer informed me that a few of those small circular stains were beginning to appear in their unit, N120/E96. I eagerly walked over and saw at least three nicely exposed "without a doubt" post molds. We asked them to trowel around these and take that level of the unit down further.

With that level down as far as we dared, a total of five post molds had appeared. What was more interesting was that it was evident they paralleled the southern edge of the unit and then ran along the western edge, forming an arc of sorts. These did not appear to be random post molds or part of a small appliance such as a drying rack, support for a spit over a fire, or some other sort of non-structural construction. My thoughts immediately wandered to the possibility that these post molds may have been a part of a onetime structure at the site.



Outstanding: If a farmer is a man out standing in his field, Dr. Dent is a man out standing in his uncovered dwelling .

Soon after a sober reminder bubbled up from deep within reminding me of how many times I had thought the same thing about similar arcs of post molds at the nearby Hughes site only to have the pattern disappear in the next unit we opened.

After the ASM field session ended, the American University field school kept going and eventually opened a total of five additional units forming a contiguous block around this original discovery. Unit by unit that once

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Upcoming events

October 19: ASM annual meeting, Ellicott City. A tentative program and reservation information are elsewhere in this newsletter.

September 14, 15: 10th annual Native American Festival, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge. Noon to 7 on Saturday, Noon to 5 on Sunday. Presented by the Nause Walwash band of Indians. For information, special motel rates (if made before August 31) and directions, contact Chief Sewell Fitzhugh, 410 - 376 - 3889.

ASM needs you

**** High honors:** This is your last chance to nominate someone for the William B. Marye Award, the society's highest honor. If there is someone who has made a significant contribution to Maryland archeology, now's the time to send that person's name to the committee so it can be considered for this year's award. The presentation is at the fall meeting, October 19. The ballot is reprinted with this newsletter. **Deadline: August 16.**

**** Elections:** Don't forget to send in your ballot for this year's ASM election. Instructions for getting your vote to count appear on the ballot, which was distributed in last month's newsletter. Vote for one officer in each category and for six At-large Board Members.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Central Chapter is returning to the Morris Meadows Rockshelter in August on weekends. Last summer, prehistoric ceramics, lithic bifaces and flakes were recovered from excavation levels 2 and 3. Further field investigation is being planned to explore the Late Woodland and possibly earlier prehistoric occupations at the rockshelter. The field work will take place in Freeland, Maryland, west of I-83. Call Stephen Israel at (410) 945-5514 evening, (410) 962-0685 day, or by email; ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

The ASNC continues its active program. Summer field-work continues at Garrett Island with phase II level investigations August 17, 18 and 21.

Volunteers are need at the Late Archaic Tanner Steatite Quarry Site (44Br67) in Brunswick County (near South Hill), Virginia, August 10 to 18, The principal investigators are: Wm Jack Hranicky, Theodore R. Reinhart, and Howard A. MacCord, Sr. This is a chance to work on a Late Archaic steatite quarry pit which is still the way the Indians left it. The site has nearby campsites and problematic stone structures that will be investigated. Also, it needs mapping and needs a survey of a ridge area that may contain Early Archaic material. To sign up or obtain more information contact Wm Jack Hranicky P.O. Box 11256 Alexandria, Virginia 22312, (703) 256-1305. quarrydig@archeology.org

Ongoing: The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County (410 -222 - 7441), the MAC Lab at Jefferson Patterson (410 - 586 - 8550).

George Reynolds Donates His Petroglyphs

Before the Conowingo Dam was built along the lower Susquehanna River submerged the Bald Frail petroglyphs site (18CE82) in 1927, members of the Academy of Natural Sciences extracted a number of images for future study. Due to the good work of Paul Cresthull, some of these petroglyphs are on display at the Harford County Courthouse in Bel Air.

George Reynolds preserved 13 of the petroglyphs at his home in Cecil County. In 2001, George contacted the Maryland Historical Trust and offered to donate the petroglyphs for care at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum's Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. Henry Ward, Ron Orr and Wayne Clark arranged to transport the petroglyphs and complete an oral history interview with George.

Thirteen fragments of large rocks containing petroglyphs and the oral history tape are now preserved for research at Jefferson Patterson. In the oral history, George's discussion included the origin of the current Archaeological Society of Maryland, the creation of the state archaeology program and the work of the Northeast Chapter.

Rock art has become a cutting edge research issue because of the insights that images carved in or painted on rock can shed about past cultures. When were these unique graphic carvings created and by what culture? What is the cognitive meaning of the images? What role did their creation and use play in the society? What is the significance of them being carved in the middle of the Susquehanna River?

Using ethnographic analogy, many anthropologists are increasingly connecting petroglyphs with shamanism.

Isolated locations away from the village occupation were selected for magic creation, curing ceremony for the sick or initiation rights for transforming youth into adults or into shaman.

One image repeated around the world at these sites is the circle or series of circle. This normally represents the world or the cycle of life from birth to death. A diagonal line through a circle may represent the path of the youth through life, or a path of a vision-seeker into the earth upon which the rock image is carved. One such concentric ring petroglyph with a diagonal line cutting cross the circle is included in the collection.

Three petroglyphs contain classic images of the fish design for which the Bald Frail site is famous. These designs are normally of diamond shaped lines with a forked tail at one end, lines suggesting fins on the sides of the diamond, and three dots at one end suggestive of two eyes and a mouth. Past researchers have suggested these were territorial markers for the annual fish runs, an economic interpretation.

My theory is that they are carved by shaman and used in myth telling and transformational experiences for initiating youth into adulthood and layman into shamanism. This is also my interpretation for the seven additional fragments of images that contain lines and dots but no discernable pattern due to the fragmentary nature of the rocks.

George Reynolds's hope, and ours, is that preserving his collection will spur additional research into rock art topics..

-- Wayne E. Clark, Chief, Maryland Office of Museum Services

Dwelling uncovered at Winslow site (cont.)

isolated arc of post molds continued. Late in the day on June 11 the field school from American University began cleaning up all the squares in the now six unit block, and we marked each post mold with a nail and metal washer for pattern recognition.

As we preceded to do this one of my students blurted out, "it's a circular structure, even I can see that." And it was. I wish you all could have been there for that moment. We had almost all of a circular outline of post molds.

The circular outline consisted of 16 post molds. All of these small features were subsequently cross-sectioned and revealed very clear profiles of once pointed wooden posts that had been driven into the earth to form framing members for a structure. In its north-south dimension it was 3.9 meters (about 12.7 feet) in diameter.

The post molds enclosed an area a little over 11.9 square meters (or about 127 square feet). We are only missing the very eastern edge of the structure. The few post molds for that edge will be contained within the very western portions of two units bordering the excavated six unit block. We just did not have the time to even begin to bring these two additional units down.

Within the confines of the structure four features also were exposed. Three were hearths and the other was a small pit. A good deal of fire-cracked rock, charcoal, pottery and bone was recovered from two of the hearth features with fire-cracked rock dominating the third. The pit was filled with soil and only a few artifacts.

Discovery of this structure is very significant. Very few structures in all of

Maryland have been uncovered on Late Woodland sites. At least one structure that I know of has been excavated well upriver at the Barton Village site by Bob Wall, but none have been reported on sites in the Middle Potomac Valley.

Preliminary evidence indicates that the structure revealed at the Winslow site was a domestic structure or house and not a special-function construction like a sweat-lodge or storage building. Its size, location between the projected arc of palisade line and the ring of pits uncovered during the 1959-60 excavations, strongly suggests a domestic function. The features within the structure are further evidence of its use as shelter, and human burials were found just outside its walls during early excavations at the site. These may represent the resting places of the very occupants of the house.

This is a remarkable discovery after only one field season. Any future excavations at Winslow should try to uncover another similar structure to confirm the above conclusions.

For now, however, the presence of this small structure may provide clues as to cultural affiliation of the Winslow site occupants and perhaps even suggest the language they spoke. The fact that its pattern is so clear certainly indicates that the Winslow site was not occupied for a long period of time.

I am sure more conclusions will be reached as we begin the analysis of the artifacts associated with this area. For now, however, well done ASM field session participants.

Still to come: Another major find, the palisade.

They said it:

"Few states have been the equal of Maryland in its commitment to using its archeological sites as tools in awakening students to the riches of state and local heritage." - *Famed historian and Williamsburg archeologist Ivor Noel Hume, in an article on Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project in the summer issue of Colonial Williamsburg magazine.*

Lara Croft and the doom of reality

By Lynn Sebastian

"Ohhhh! You're an Archaeologist! That sounds soooo exciting!" Whenever I tell someone on a plane or at a dinner party what I do for a living, this is almost always the response that I get. Either that, or they want to talk to me about dinosaurs, and I have to explain gently that it is *paleontologists* who do dinosaurs; archaeologists study people who lived long ago.

The reason people think archaeology must be exciting is that they have spent WAY too much time watching *The Curse of the Mummy*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *Lara Croft, Tomb Raider* (do you suppose that she actually has that printed on her business cards?). Perhaps it is a flaw in my character or a lapse in my professional education, but I have never once recovered a golden idol or been chased through the jungle by thugs, and I appear to have been absent from graduate school on the day that they covered bullwhips, firearms and the martial arts. I have not even, so far as I can tell, suffered from a curse, although I have had few nasty encounters with serpents, scorpions, and lightning.

I'm sure that members of every profession are exasperated by the way that they are portrayed in movies and on television, and archaeologists are no exception. Every time we see Sydney Fox (*Relict Hunter*, another great job title) fly off to an exotic country, follow the clues on the ancient map, and rip-off some fabulous object to bring home to the museum, we want to root for the bad guys who are trying to bring her career to an abrupt and permanent halt.

What would really happen if a mysterious man wearing an eye patch showed up at Sydney's university office and gave her the map, just before expiring as a result of slow-acting poison? Well, of course, first there would be a lot of unpleasantness with the campus police . . . but leaving that aside, she would spend months writing grant proposals to get funding for a research expedition and more months getting the needed permits and authorizations from the government of the exotic country.

Then she would have to persuade the Dean and her department Chair to give her release time from teaching. And when she and her research team finally arrived in the exotic country, they would spend months meticulously mapping the site, painstakingly removing thin layers of soil from perfectly square holes, and recording every stone, every bit of stained earth, every piece of debris that they encountered, using photos, maps, sketches, and detailed written notes. And finally, at the end of the field season, the team would return to the university with 70 boxes of broken pottery, bits of stone, and all manner of scientific samples to be washed and cataloged and analyzed.

Now, of course, nobody would want to watch a TV show where even the beautiful Sydney did all that, but this kind of tedious, detailed work is one important aspect of "real" archaeology. Just about every archaeologist that I know has a copy of an old Calvin and Hobbs cartoon somewhere in his or her office. In it, Calvin, who has spent an exhausting day doing a make-believe archaeological excavation in his backyard, turns to Hobbs in disgust and says, "Archaeology has to be the most mind-numbing line of work in the world!!!"

And some days it is. Worse yet, it is detailed work that involves a lot of paperwork and delicate instruments but has to be done outdoors in every sort of adverse weather. When it is 20 degrees and you are hunched down in a square hole in the ground trying to write a description of layers of dirt with a pen that keeps freezing solid or when the wind is blowing sheets of sand straight sideways into your face while you are lying on your stomach using a dental pick to expose a broken shell bracelet so you can photograph it before you remove it - these are experiences that can cause a person to question her career choice.

But you know what? Archaeology really IS exciting, and not for any of the reasons that Indy or Lara would suggest. Archaeology is exciting because it connects with the past in a way that nothing else can, and sometimes that connection can be stunningly immediate and personal. I worked one year on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona, excavating a site that was going to be destroyed by road

construction. We found that one of the three "pithouses" or semi-subterranean structures on the site appeared to have been cleaned out and closed up, presumably in the expectation that someone would return to live in it again. A flat slab had been placed over the ventilator opening, perhaps to keep out dirt and debris and critters, and the slab was sealed in place with wet mud. But no one came back, and eventually the small pithouse burned.

When we excavated the pithouse, we found the imprint of human hands, perfectly preserved in the mud, which had been hardened by the fire. That little house was built in AD 805, but I could reach out and place my hands in those handprints left there by someone a thousand years before. And more important, the Hopi school children who visited the site could place their small hands in those prints made by one of their ancestors, 50 generations removed. We lifted each one of the children into the pithouse, and let them do just that - like children everywhere, they were astonished that they were being encouraged to touch rather than being forbidden to do so.

Afterward we sat together on the site and talked about what life was like for that Hisatsinom (the Hopi term for the people we call Anasazi) person. We talked about food and looked at the burned corn kernels and the squash seeds that we had found. We talked about shelter and tools and looked at the three houses and the broken bits of stone and bone and pottery that we were recovering from the trash areas at the site. One of the houses had burned while it was occupied, and we looked at the fragments of the rolled up sleeping mats and baskets of corn and other possessions that the people had lost. We talked about the family that had lived there, how much the parents loved their children and how they must have worried about providing for them after such a terrible loss.

And we talked about the migration stories that are a central part of Hopi oral history, and about what the Hopi elders had told us about the place of this particular site in those stories. I like to think that those children, who reached back across the centuries and touched the hand of their fifty-times-great grandmother, came away with a stronger sense of who they were and where they came from and a richer understanding of the oral traditions of their people.

But what if I had been not me, Dr. Science, purveyor of meticulous and mind-numbing archaeological techniques, but rather Lara Croft, Tomb Raider? If Lara had been rooting about in this site, searching for "treasures," she would have quickly dismissed that small pithouse, although she might have smashed that burned mud with the handprints in order to rip away the slab and check for hidden goodies behind it.

No, she would have focused on the other house, the one that burned while it was being used. She would have pulled out all those burned roof beams whose pattern of rings enabled us to learn that the houses were built in AD 805, probable using them for her campfire. She would have crushed the remnants of the burned sleeping mats and baskets of corn. She would never have noticed the stone griddle still in place on the hearth or the grease stains left by the last two corn cakes cooking on it when the fire started. She would have kicked aside the broken pieces of the pottery vessels that were crushed when the burning roof fell, the same pots that we put back together in the lab in order to estimate the size of the family and to recover traces of the items stored and cooked in them.

No, Lara would have missed all that we learned about that site and the people who made their homes there. Instead, she would have seized the single piece of pottery that didn't break in the fire and clutching it to her computer enhanced bosom, she would have stolen away into the night, narrowly escaping death and destruction at the hands of the rival gang of looters.

Is archaeology the most mind-numbing pursuit in the world, as Calvin claims? Or is it "sooo exciting" as my airline seatmates always exclaim? Both. And much more. What Lara and Indy and the others don't know is that archaeology is not about things, it is about people. It is about understanding life in the past, about understanding who we are and where we came from - not just where we came from as a particular cultural group, but what we share with all people in this time and in all the time that came before.

Lynne Sebastian is a former New Mexico State Archaeologist and State Historic Preservation Office and she is the President-

elect of the Society for American Archaeology. This article originally appeared in the Albuquerque Tribune.

Chapter News

Chapters come out of meeting hibernation next month and several have released details of their program schedule for the coming season.

Anne Arundel

The next meeting will be September 18 with Charles Hall of the Trust presenting "Prehistoric Sites of the Piedmont. The October 16 meeting will be the last one scheduled until a new president is found.

Upper Patuxent Archeological Group

UPAG'S meeting dates through December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. at Mt. Ida, usually preceded by some sort of meal.

Monday September 9 Vaughan Brown Memorial Wine/Cheese Dessert Reception 6:30-8:00 pm at Mt. Ida. No charge for UPAG members (\$ 8for guests). The Vaughan Brown Memorial Native American Center Lecture will follow at 8 pm. Wayne Clark will speak on "Native American Culture History of the Patuxent Drainage." Lecture admission for non-UPAG members: \$3. For directions, etc., contact Lee Preston, 443-745-1202 or lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us

Monday October 14. Lee Preston, "Ethnography Then and Now: A video Analysis of Selected Cultures and Ethnographers".

Monday November 11. Membership Show and Tell Session. Members with artifacts, video, slides etc. to share should contact Lee Preston ahead of time.

Monday December 9. Dixie Henry on "Archeology and the Oneida Indians"

Western Maryland

While the chapter is on its summer break, some of our members like Bob Bantz, Bill Norris and others, are on the road, taking interpretive history to the public. As an example, the Allegany County Historical Society hosted a history camp for 4th and 5th graders. The theme of the French and Indian War brought some of our rugged, resident "mountain men" in buckskins. They entertained the young historians with tales of trappers, local events that shaped the nation and life on Maryland's western frontier. Others told stories of the shifting and distressed American Indian populations and even introduced them to some primitive technology.

We urge our sister ASM chapters to host some of the many required CAT classes. Members of the host chapter as well as CAT members are eligible to attend these extremely interesting and educational programs, on a space available basis. Contact Dr.Jim Gibb for more information at jggibb@msn.com . Download the CAT program guidelines from the ASM web site or ask a member for a copy. The reading list is stimulating and heavily weighted toward mid-Atlantic archeology.

Looking for old Fort Frederick

This Associated Press article was published in The Sun Saturday, July 6, 2002

BIG POOL - Fort Frederick, the cornerstone of Maryland's frontier defense during the French and Indian War, is an unfinished puzzle.

During the American Revolution, Fort Frederick was a prison for Hessian and British soldiers. The state sold it in 1791, and it passed through a number of private owners, including one who tended livestock and fruit trees inside the enclosure.

By the time the state repurchased the fortress in 1922, its walls were crumbling and there was nothing inside to indicate soldiers once were housed there.

Ross Kimmel was a graduate student in his late 20s when he started researching the fort. Nearly 30 years later, he's still stumped - baffled by missing details of the gun decks that protected the massive stone structure, puzzled by the design of its officers' quarters.

Kimmel, chief historian for the state parks, has asked the public for help in locating drawings or documents that would help the state accurately reconstruct those features by 2006, the fort's 250th anniversary year.

"We've had some wild-goose chases - people who say they have sets of plans or have seen sets of plans - but we never seem to be able to chase them down," Kimmel said during a visit to Fort Frederick State Park alongside the Potomac River.

Located near Interstate 70, about 90 miles west of Baltimore, the fort has grayish-brown sandstone walls 17 feet high and 3 feet to 4 feet thick.

Inside the one-third-mile perimeter are 1 1/2 acres of grass where colonial soldiers drilled and prepared for attacks that never came. Kimmel says the only enemy shot ever reportedly fired at the fort - from its construction in 1756 until the war ended in 1763 - missed a sentry posted outside the gate and bounced off an exterior wall.

The enlisted men's barracks are back in place - two long, white, two-story wood-frame structures that were reconstructed in the 1970s to Kimmel's specifications.

Missing is the officers' quarters, or Governor's House, a smaller building that stood on a foundation excavated in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Also missing are whatever structures the soldiers would have stood atop while aiming muskets and cannons over the high walls. Kimmel said nothing supports a theory that a wooden catwalk once ringed the interior walls, and there is no archaeological evidence of earthen mounds in the fort's four corners, or bastions.

It's not for want of looking. In what became a career-long frustration, Kimmel has been combing records for clues to Fort Frederick's design since 1973, when he signed on with the state for a summer job. Most irritating are the near-misses: old-timers whose recollections of the ruins conflict when pressed for details; a man who claimed to have the plans but never produced them during a seven-year cat-and-mouse game.

Most tantalizing is the mysterious man who walked into the Maryland State Archives in the late 1990s with what appeared to be 18th-century architectural drawings -called "military elevations" - of the fort.

"As I recall, [he was] trying to market it," said R.J. Rockefeller, director of reference services at the archive, who saw the material. "It was shown to us and removed, and we heard not again from the patron."

Not that such a document would answer all his questions. During the last reconstruction push, for the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial, Kimmel initially settled on a design for the enlisted men's barracks that had to be revised substantially when new information surfaced.

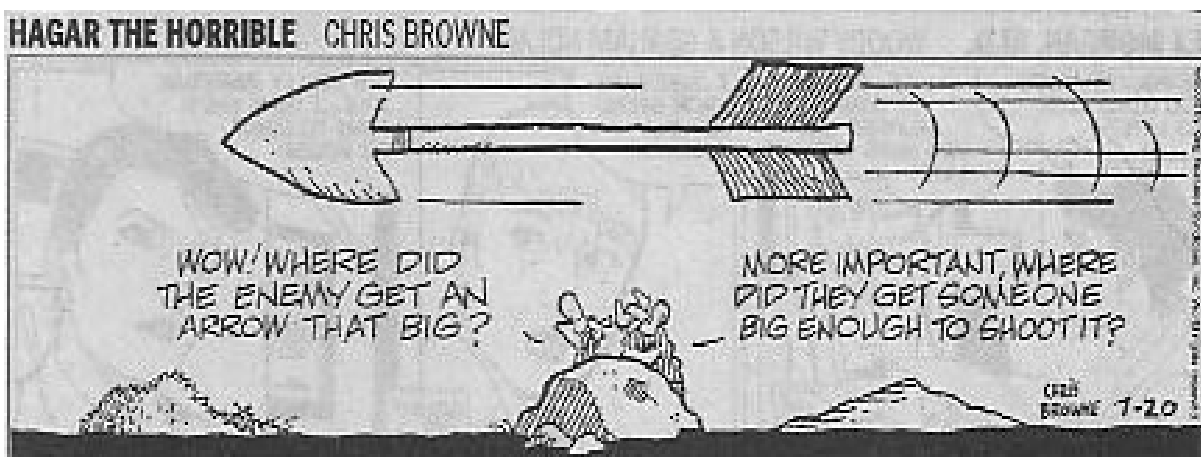
Similarly, the military elevations, even if authenticated, won't necessarily match the details of the actual fort. "Just because a building is planned that way doesn't mean it was built that way," Kimmel said. "We'd at least like to see what [Sharpe] intended to build. That would be a help."

Linkages:

For information on other archeological programs/groups in this area, check out:

Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. Programs and a newsletter. 3106 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20010 or www.pcswdc.org

Lost Towns Project. Ongoing search for colonial sites in Anne Arundel County. Lisa Plumley, Office of Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or call 410 - 222 - 7441.



Archeology made simple:

The difference between projectile points and arrowheads

Fall meeting form. The tentative program for this years meeting, October 19 in Ellicott City, appears elsewhere in this newsletter. You will save money and save a place for yourself at the lunchtime presentation if you preregister. **Detach** and send this section to **Jean Singleton**, 6225 Beechwood Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21046. **Make check payable to UPAG; must be received by October 12.**

Name: _____

Number in party _____ Phone _____

\$ 5 ASM member, \$ 7 nonmember. The at-the-door charge will be \$7 for all.

PLUS

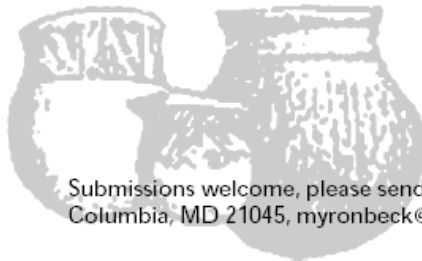
Lunch and a program of 19th century music, dance and living history at the Patapsco Female Institute. **\$12** includes sandwich, potato salad or chips, lemonade or tea, dessert, and transportation to the site. **\$6** if you bring your own lunch.

Rain or shine. Limited seating, first come first served

. Circle for each person one sandwich and either **potato salad** or **chips**: **Ham and Swiss, Smoked Tuna, Smoked Turkey, Shrimp Salad (\$3.00 additional)**

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide non-profit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC, the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM, Northern Chesapeake Chapter, P.O. Box 553, Fallston, MD 21047-0553 or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dcoates716@aol.com. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail psachs4921@aol.com.



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Submissions welcome, please send to Myron Beckenstein, 9256 Feathered Head, Columbia, MD 21045, myronbeck@aol.com, (410) 381-91115.

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