



State's archeology projects for 2005

What is on tap for archeology from the Maryland Historical Trust this year? Maureen Kavanagh, chief of the Office of Archeology, and Wayne Clark, head of the Trust's Office of Museum Services, who works out of Jefferson Patterson, give us a preview of the goals and projects coming up.

Kavanagh says that her department's work involves identifying, studying, evaluating, preserving, protecting and interpreting archeological sites. "Our activities and programs don't divide neatly into these categories of course, but they provide the framework in which we plan and focus our efforts," she said.

In the areas of identification, study, and evaluation, the Trust will be starting a survey of lands owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources in the Middle Potomac drainage. This will provide an opportunity to build on research being done through American University by Joe Dent (including the Winslow and Hughes ASM field session sites) and by the National Park Service (a survey of the C&O Canal being conducted by Stephen Potter).

Underwater surveys are planned for Assateague and the lower Potomac and the Trust is submitting a grant proposal to the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program to delineate archeological resources pertaining to the Civil War Potomac Gauntlet campaign.

As to preservation and protection, the MHT staff will be working with the newly re-established Eastern Regional office of the Archaeology Conservancy and providing recommendations of good candidate sites for acquisition.

Kavanagh says a great deal of the protection of archeological sites is achieved through the MHT compliance program, in which construction projects that may impact sites are reviewed. This year excavation projects are planned at several significant sites, including the late 18th Century Larkington site in Anne Arundel County and the 18th Century Pleasant Prospect plantation in Prince George's County. In addition, the office will continue to actively monitor known significant sites for ownership change, zoning changes, development plans and erosion. It also will alert landowners about important sites on their properties in order to engage them in preservation.

The MHT will continue to sponsor the Tuesday lab sessions in Crownsville and welcomes volunteers to assist with collections from ASM field sessions. The Trust also hopes to again have interns assisting with various research projects and to again be working with ASM at this year's field school.

Finally, in addition to such other regularly scheduled events as the Annual Workshop and Archeology Month, the Trust plans to work with the Council for Maryland Archeology to begin to make information contained in professional archeological reports accessible on the web.

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Upcoming events

March 5: ASM board meeting, Crownsville. All are welcome.

March 19: Archeology workshop, Crownsville.

April 16: ASM Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

April 23: Third Annual Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars. Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware. Email: emerging.scholars@gmail.com Visit the website at <http://materialculture.udel.edu>

May 16-20: National Park Service workshop on archeological prospection techniques, Hopewell National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. \$475. Application forms at www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/ For information, contact Steven L. DeVore, 402-437-5392, ext. 141, or steve_de_vore@nps.gov

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County lab and field work. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@dhcd.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7441.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 410-586-8501.

There is an online listing of fieldwork opportunities **worldwide**, provided by the Archaeological Institute of America. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeology.

CAT Corner

The CAT committee has a slate of programs for this year. For more information and updating, CAT participants should look at the ASM website or contact their mentor or program director Chris Davenport at 301-845-8092 or dig4funds@aol.com. Admission is by reservation, with the public invited if seats are left over.

The following sessions are planned but the dates and locations are still to be worked out:

Prehistoric ceramics, by Bob Wall.

Faunal workshop, by Chris Davenport.

Prehistoric/historic overview, by Chris Davenport and Jim Gibb.

Lithics workshop: technology, by Jason Coffey.

Law and ethics, by Richard Hughes and Charlie Hall.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. The cemetery offers an opportunity to experience feature types not likely to be encountered on other sites. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

How to find archeology on Internet

By John Fiveash

ASM Webmaster

Rereading Richard Slattery's paper on how he and Hugh Stabler explored Maryland's archeological wilds some 70 years ago, I wondered, what kind of experience might parallel this type of journey in our own era. This being the Information Age, I thought I would try exploring archeology in a new medium, the Internet. Surely the Internet represents the untamed wilds of the wilderness of knowledge. In many ways it is a big unknown and contains many exciting places to visit in an attempt to discover new islands of information.

When Slattery and Stabler set off on their adventure, it was the Potomac River that guided their journey. For most of us in the present, the boat that we ride upon is the World Wide Web.

The World Wide Web is not the Internet. The Internet is a system of connections that allow computers to "talk" to each other, connecting people from remote corners of the earth, allowing them to request information and passing data from one point to another. The web is the primary method of accessing the Internet.

Documents on the web are reached using a web browser. This is the program that enables the capability to point at links and submit requests for documents across the networks. The browser changes the drudgery of locating needed documents using various indexes, logging on to a remote server, requesting that a document be sent to the local computer and then opening the document in some type of viewing application, to a simple act of "point-and-click."

The biggest problem is finding the document source to begin with. In November 1990 there was one page on the World Wide Web. By September 2003, the Google search engine had indexed over 3.3 billion pages. So the natural question is, "How do I find anything?" The answer, of course, is, search engines.

A search engine is a searchable database of web sites collected by a computer program. When you enter a search term, the engine looks for keywords in its database and displays any relevant records. Some of the major search engines are **Google:** www.google.com, **Yahoo:** www.yahoo.com, **Alta Vista:** www.altavista.com, **Gigablast:** www.gigablast.com, **Lycos:** www.lycos.com and **Ask Jeeves:** www.ask.com.

The biggest problem you are likely to encounter when searching for archeology related websites is the sheer volume of material that the search engines finds. For instance, a search on the keyword "archeology" on the Google search engine will return 1,330,000 hits. Changing the spelling to "archaeology" produces 8,010,000 hits.

Either of these results is far too large to be of any use. In order to thin out the results from the search engine we can add terms. When using the basic Google, for example, you can enter multiple terms in the search box. When you do this, the search engine combines the terms. Entering "archeology" and "Maryland" will result in only sites that contain both terms. This is called an "AND" search. (Some engines require that you type the AND for this to work.) This search reduced the number of returns to "only" 183,000 hits.

Many people use the basic search page to do all of their Google searches. However, there is an advanced search tool that is available. To the right of the search term box is a link to "Advanced Search" tools. When you click on that link, Google presents a different search page that is far more powerful. Among the capabilities found on this page are:

- **Find results with ALL of the terms:** Similar to the basic search.
- **Find results with an EXACT PHRASE:** Requiring specific word structure to be on the page.
- **Find results with ANY of the terms:** Usually returning MORE sites.
- **Find results WITHOUT a term:** Eliminating sites that have specific words on them.

Other tools allow you to specify the language used, the domain (such as .com, .edu, or .org) and where the keywords are located, such as in the title, text or links to the site. This would allow you to search for sites that have the words "point," "lithic" and "flake," the phrase "native manufacturing" and are not in the .com domain. This search returns 71 sites, as opposed to a basic search on "woodland" and "point" which returns 1,620,000 sites. Learning to use the advanced search tools can make finding information much easier. Many tips and in-depth discussion of search techniques can be found on the Search Engine Watch website, www.searchenginewatch.com.

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When you are searching the Internet for information about archeology, or any subject for that matter, you must question the credibility of anything you find out there. In an earlier age, written material had to go through some kind of review process before it was published. Today, anyone can put together a webpage that provides an appearance of authority while knowing nothing about the subject. There are pages that provide proof that space aliens built the pyramids (www.rense.com/ufo5/undergiza.htm) and others that "prove" that Atlantis really did exist. (www.atlan.org/) The point is that you take a grave risk in accepting information from any website.

Things you can do to reduce the possibility that you are being bamboozled include:

- Check multiple sources to ensure that information is consistent.
- Check out the website author. Would you rather put your trust in a site produced by a PhD candidate in anthropology at a major university or one by "Bear Claw Billy Bob."
- Take a good look at the site. Is everything consistent? What topics are covered? Do the items on the site fit well with what you have been taught? If there are glaring errors in one area you should expect them in others as well.
- Ask more-experienced people to assess the information. Our CAT program mentors and committee members can probably provide comments about the things you find on the web.

There are hundreds of sites that can serve as jumping off points on your web searching expeditions. The country ahead holds many surprises, but with a little background information and a good supply of curiosity amazing things are out there to be found. Most archeology society webpages, including ASM's, have a list of weblinks that have been recommended. Recently I produced a link list for avocational archeologists that covers a wide range of topics. It is available on the ASM webpage Links section. Some of these links are:

- **Arch-Net:** Website, managed by the Arizona State University contains many links to archeology related sites. (<http://archnet.asu.edu/>)
- **Lithics-Net:** The Center of the Web for Information on North American Aborigine Projectile Points and Lithics. Provides detailed identification help for stone points in North America. Indexes points by shape and in an alphabetical list. Diagrams indicate how to describe artifact features for identification. (<http://members.aol.com/artgumbus/lithic.html>)
- **Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland:** Prehistoric Pottery in Maryland. Excellent selection of photos and descriptions of prehistoric ceramics found in Maryland. Developed by the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at the Jefferson-Patterson Park. (www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/Prehistoric_Ceramic_Web_Page/Prehistoric_Main.htm)
- **Zooarchaeology Home Page:** This web site is intended to assist people interested in this field of study by providing links to other sites that we have found useful. If you explore many of these links, you will discover numerous others. (<http://207.16.80.151/zooarch/index.htm>)
- **The Jamestown Rediscovery Project:** Jamestown Rediscovery is investigating the remains of 1607-1698 Jamestown on the APVA property on Jamestown Island, Virginia. (www.apva.org/jr.html)
- **Dating:** Short course in using standard tools for dating archeological artifacts. Produced by George H. Michaels and Brian M. Fagan for the University of California. (http://id-archserve.ucsb.edu/Anth3/Courseware/Chronology/01_Content.html)
- **Colonial Williamsburg for Kids:** Kids guide to archeology at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. (www.history.org/history/argy/argykids.cfm)
- **National Park Service: Links to the Past:** Main Gateway to the National Park Services' extensive web of interpretive web pages. Covers thousands of topics. (www.cr.nps.gov/)

All of these sites have links to other sites. That is the beauty of the World Wide Web: One site links to another which in turn links to a third site.

I would urge everyone involved in archeological work, whether as a hobbyist or professional, to explore this avenue of research. In a short time you can gather a list of your own that will serve a virtual library, available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Finally, if you should find a good site, pass it on to other ASM members. Any good links that you would like to send to me (info@marylandarcheology.org or jsfiveash@comcast.net) will get posted to our Links page as soon as I can check them out and change the page. Happy exploring!

New finds expand oldest Peruvian site

From wire reports, December 23-26, 2004

A Peruvian site previously reported as the oldest city in the Americas is actually a much larger complex of as many as 20 cities with huge pyramids and sunken circular plazas sprawled over three river valleys, researchers report.

Construction started about 5,000 years ago - nearly 400 years before the first pyramid was built in Egypt - at a time when most people throughout the world were simple hunters and gatherers, a team from Northern Illinois University and Chicago's Field Museum reported last week in the journal *Nature*.

The society and its people - with no name other than the Andeans - persisted in virtually the same form for 1,200 years before they were overrun by more warlike neighbors. That is the longest time any known ancient civilization survived, according to archeologist Jonathan Haas of the Field, who led the expedition.

The new results greatly expand understanding of how complex states began in the Americas. "We are seeing the emergence of centralized decision making, government and religion out of pristine conditions," Haas said.

Haas said people have always thought that the Americas were behind Europe, Africa and Asia in terms of developing civilizations. The new dates show that the two worlds developed more or less simultaneously.

"There are no ceramics, limited textiles, no metal and only the most primitive stone tools," Haas said. The evidence to date at Norte Chico suggests that the contemporaneous societies in Egypt and Mesopotamia were far more technologically advanced. Nevertheless, Haas said, the Norte Chico inhabitants were building pyramids as high as 60 feet on rectangular bases as long as 300 feet and as wide as 240 feet.

"The technology isn't much, but the sites are substantial in size, and size counts," said archeologist Brian S. Bauer of the University of Illinois at Chicago. "Size represents the amount of labor that can be organized, and given that people don't offer their labor freely, it reflects a social hierarchy or a concentration of power."

The findings are also overturning the previous belief that South American civilization was based in coastal cities supported by fishing. Instead, Andean society seems to have been built primarily on cotton farming and trade, supported by a network of fishing villages along the Peruvian coast.

"It's a unique system," Haas said. "There wasn't anything like this in the world as far as I can tell."

Researchers years ago identified a substantial prehistoric settlement along the coast, but the recent work has focused on a larger number of inland mounds flanking the rivers emptying out of the Andes Mountains.

The first city of the complex to be discovered, Caral in the Supe River Valley, lay virtually ignored for more than 100 years after its discovery, despite the presence of nearly 100-foot-tall pyramids. It is only about 120 miles north of Lima, but it had no golden or jeweled artifacts, no pottery shards to date it with and no art or writing to indicate its ancient origins.

It was not until Haas' team first reported radiocarbon dates for the site three years ago that scientists appreciated its antiquity. Those dates indicated that Caral was built about 2600 B.C., much earlier than researchers had thought possible.

A new series of dates from the Supe River Valley, as well as the nearby Pativilca and Fortaleza valleys, show that construction began even earlier, about 3000 B.C., and spread over more than 700 square miles.

The driving force for this society might well have been the Humboldt Current, a broad band of cold water along the Peruvian coast rich in marine life, which served as a valuable food source for the first settlers.

But beginning about 3100 B.C., the climate turned much drier, eliminating the naturally growing fruits and vegetables that villagers relied on to supplement their diet of fish.

Over a period of about 100 years, Haas said, they began looking inland for new food sources. "They figured out that if you take water out of the rivers and put it on desert land, the desert blooms and becomes very productive," he said. In the three valleys of the region, they could do so by hand-digging short canals.

The Andeans had a very peaceful society. "They didn't fight with each other, and nobody else was big enough to fight with them," Haas said.

"We see temporary populations, building very ephemeral houses. We see signs of feasting - large communal hearths, food materials and garbage incorporated into the mounds," he said.

But beginning about 1800 B.C., possibly because the soil began to lose its productivity, new buildings and monuments got smaller and the big cities began to decline.

Northern Chesapeake Chapter honors Dan Coates

Dan Coates has received the Northern Chesapeake Chapter's 2004 Paul Cresthull Memorial Award. The award, presented at the chapter's December meeting, was given in recognition of his strong leadership of a very active chapter and for the multitude of public outreach venues he has participated in as a representative of ASM and ASNC.

State's archeological goals for the year

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Over at JefPat, Clark says his hopes for his department include expanding public support through popular archeology exhibits, website enhancements and educational programs for K-12 students. Current plans are:

- A new changing exhibit on Africa- American history in Annapolis as revealed through archeology, history and oral history, designed by professional staff and an IMPART assistant of the Banneker-Douglass Museum in cooperation with the Department of Anthropology at College Park.

- Completion of design of a new permanent exhibit at JPPM on archeology and history to be ready for the 2006 public season.

- With National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateway funds, completion and opening of wayside interpretive signs about the archeology and history at JPPM and completion of an introductory video for visitors at JPPM which includes the mission of the MAC Lab.

- Completion for statewide distribution of three traveling teaching trunks on Native American topics, made possible by a private foundation grant.

- A new exhibit at the headquarters of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission highlighting the rich archeological heritage of the Piedmont Patuxent River valley (JPPM/WSSC cooperative effort).

- Work with the Sultana Ship project in Chestertown to develop plans and encourage private funding for reconstruction of John Smith's barge of exploration and discuss living history and other plans to re-enact factual information about the voyages.

Another goal is to make state archeological collections assessable and ready for study by scholars, students and researchers. As part of this, JPPM will maintain computer files and access to 2.5 million artifacts data entries for 34 completed significant sites (research funded by MDOT-T-21 grant and National Endowment for the Humanities), includes sharing 2004 popular catalog which summarizes the richness of the 34 collections to encourage study.

If a grant is awarded by NEH in early 2005, JefPat will complete computer scanning and upgrade preservation treatment to museum standards for records, reports, maps and photographs from 34 sites for which artifact upgrades and recataloging is now complete.

Clark says a further goal is to enhance academic programs and state programs training the next generation of scholars and applied professionals to facilitate their job opportunities in Maryland's heritage economy.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis. Contact Jim Gibb at 410-263-1102 or jamesggibb@comcast.net

Central

Central Chapter does not have monthly meetings, but tries to stay active with field projects. This winter it plans to explore rockshelters reported in the North Branch of the Patapsco River. The chapter will continue to survey and identify potential archeological sites for future exploration and it will begin finalizing the 10-year Big Gunpowder Rockshelter Survey Project. Contact Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848.

Mid Shore

The Mid Shore Group meets at 7:30 on the fourth Friday of the month at the SunTrust Bank on Goldsboro Street in Easton, from January through September. However, the April meeting is held at the Talbot County Historical Society Auditorium. Contact Bill Cep at 410-822-5027 or email ccep@crosslink.net

Monocacy

The chapter meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or hurst_joy@hotmail.com. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.org

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

Southern

Meetings are the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the MAC Lab meeting room. Call 410-586-8584 or katesilas@chesapeake.net for information.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Most are preceded by dinner at 6 at the Tiber River Café in Ellicott City. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

February 14: Pot luck supper at 6:30 at Mt. Ida. Meeting speaker Kathy Rigby, "Flora, Fauna and Cultures of the Etosha Pan."

March 14: Kathy Fernstrom on "Highlights of Florida Prehistory."

April 11: Charlie Hall. Subject TBA.

May 9: Pot luck supper at 6:30. Meeting Myron Beckenstein on "The Popham Site."

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm.

February 25: Roy Brown, aboriginal containers.

March 25: Al Feldstein, postcard pictorial history of the Cumberland area.

April 22: Susan Langley, underwater archeology off Assateague Island.

May 27: Bob Wall, Barton site overview and field session plans.

TBA: Barton field session.

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

ASM. Inc 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.

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@aol.com

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