



Rising sea-level can ravage state sites

By Jennifer Chadwick-Moore and Maureen Kavanagh

Maryland Historical Trust

Rising sea levels, erosion and major storms all pose a significant threat to historic and archeological sites, districts and landscapes in Maryland's coastal zone.

Over the past year, the Maryland Historical Trust has begun work on an assessment of the risk to cultural resources from the impacts of sea-level rise. To identify resources with potential risk, the study intersected GIS data layers depicting locations of historic and archeological sites with DNR sea-level-rise inundation layers showing hypothetical 0-2 feet and 2-5 feet sea-level-rise events. (The inundation scenarios correlate to the potential sea-level-rise impacts hypothesized by the years 2050 and 2100.)

Results indicated that the highest percentages of affected resources at risk from rising sea levels are on the lower Eastern Shore.

When looking specifically at archeological sites, results showed that 2,611 sites are potentially vulnerable within the 0-5 ft inundation zone. This represents 20 percent of all recorded archeological sites statewide and 32 percent of all of the sites recorded in the coastal counties studied.

The types of sites represented are predominantly prehistoric, ranging from Paleoindian to the contact period, but nearly a third have historic components, including 57 with identified 17th Century components. Paleoindian, Native American contact period and 17th Century European historic sites are proportionately most at risk. Seventeen Paleoindian sites along the ancient Susquehanna River channel would be severely impacted or lost.

Most particularly at risk are contact period sites. Of the 72 recorded contact period sites statewide, 40 percent could be adversely impacted by sea-level rise. Seventeenth Century historic sites are likewise particularly endangered because of their topographic setting, often in coastal and estuarine settings in low-lying areas.

The results from this preliminary assessment have served to raise awareness of this issue, which will be addressed through the PreserveMaryland planning process and included in the forthcoming long-range historic preservation comprehensive plan.

MHT will need to perform additional analysis on this project. The raw numbers alone cannot be used to assess impacts for many reasons. The archeological database contains varying levels of information on sites across the state and our recorded sites may not be representative because of the nature of archeological survey. Also, archeological site data has been recorded by various types of individuals and some of the sites have not been revisited in 50 years.

Continued on Page 9

Upcoming events

September 17: Annual symposium of the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC, "The Dawn of Andean Civilization," moderated by Tom Dillehay of Vanderbilt University. More information and registration brochure at <http://www.pcswdc.org>

October 8: ASM Annual Meeting, Robinson Nature Center, Columbia.

October 27-30: ESAF annual meeting, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.

November 12: CAT workshop day.

January 4-8, 2012: Society for Historical and Underwater Archaeology (SHA) meeting, Baltimore.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The Archaeology Conservancy is looking for a few volunteers to excavate the **Pamplin Pipe Factory site** in Pamplin, Va., August 15-19 and possibly also August 22-26. Volunteers will be provided nearby hotel rooms if desired, though they may need to share a room. Contact Will Sheppard at tac_wsheppard@verizon.net or 301-682-7073 for more details.

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. 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 or Charlie Hall 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.

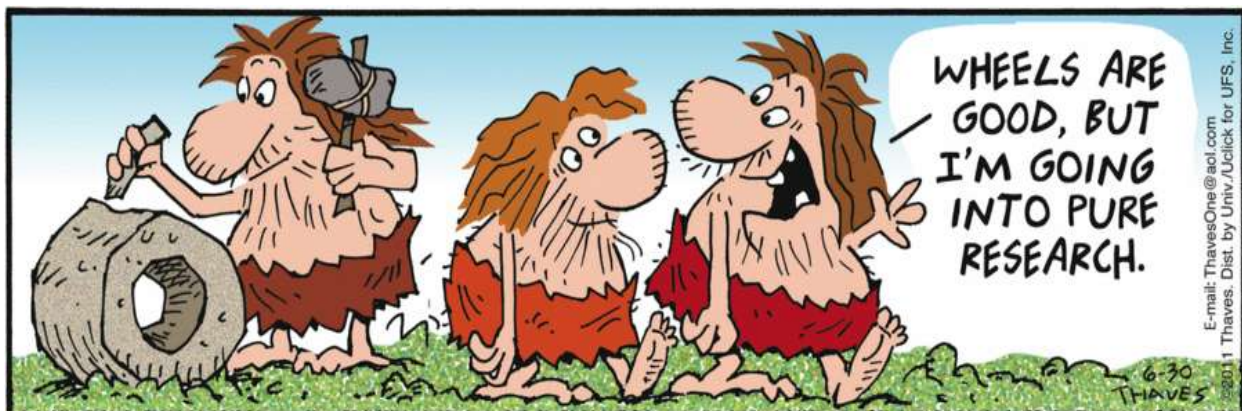
Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

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 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. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

Coming up November 12, CAT Workshop Day. For details, updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.



Wanted: Marye names, auction items

ASM is looking for a few good names, the names of people you think are deserving of the Society's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, which is presented annually to someone for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology.

Nominees need not be members of ASM, Marylanders or even archeologists - just someone who has made a distinct impression on archeology in the state. Nominations do not carry over so if there is someone who has been nominated in past years, a new nomination is needed.

Nominations must be received by Sept. 8. A nomination form, with a list of past winners, is on the ASM website, reachable from the Home Page Scroll.

The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

ASM also is looking for contributions to a silent auction to be held in conjunction with this year's Annual Meeting, Oct. 8 in Howard County. Do you have something that you think someone else will treasure or get a kick out of? Something physical, a service? Items need not be archeology related. A contribution form can be found on the ASM website on the Hot News Page.

Simpsonville Mill dates to 18th Century

By Lisa Kraus

Condensed from the SHA Cultural Resources Bulletin, Summer 2011

The Simpsonville Mill Site (18HO80) is a late 18th through early 20th Century mill town along the Middle Patuxent River in Howard County. Nineteenth Century maps depict a rural milling community with a gristmill, a woolen factory, a sawmill, a general store, a wheelwright shop, a blacksmith shop, a cemetery and at least nine residences. Simpsonville Mill served a variety of needs, including flour milling and textile production, and functioned as a town center for over 200 years.

There was a mill at this location as early as 1792, probably run by Richard Owings, who operated several mills nearby. The mill changed hands several times in the early 19th Century and then, in 1850, the *Baltimore County Advocate* reported that: "Charles R. Simpson, Esq., has purchased the Owingsville Manufacturing Village, and changed its name to Simpsonville."

The Simpsonville Mill Archaeological and Historic District represents one of the few mill sites in Maryland that has been professionally investigated. It is an important example of how smaller industrial and commercial centers operated within the regional economic system of the grain and textile industry in Maryland between ca. 1790-1930. Furthermore, the mill's use of a breast wheel for power makes its construction distinct when compared to other contemporary gristmills.

Most of the Simpsonville stone ruins were avoided during construction of relocated MD 32 from MD 108 to Pindell School Lane. In order to preserve the mill and associated archeological resources, SHA redesigned the roadway plans and coordinated closely with the construction contractor, the SHA Office of Construction and SHA archeologists. Phase III archeological investigations were conducted in parts of the site that would be directly impacted by construction.

Archeological investigations of the site began in 1984 and continued until 1992. Over 42,000 artifacts associated with the mill and surrounding village were recovered and are now curated at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory.

In 1905, the mill was destroyed by fire and within a few years, Simpsonville was no more. Today, the mill is part of the Howard County Parks and Recreation system and is open to the public.

(NOTE: This year's ASM Annual Meeting is being held at the Simpsonville location Saturday, Oct. 8. More information on the event will appear in next month's newsletter. Save the date.)

Civil War artifacts found in Baltimore

By David Gadsby

Baltimore Heritage

Lafayette Square Park, in Baltimore's Harlem Park neighborhood, had housed a Union Army encampment during most of the Civil War and Eli Pousson of Baltimore Heritage wondered if any buried traces of it could be found.

The square, a four-acre green space, graced with thriving linden and maple trees and decorated at its center with a Victorian-style fountain, does not appear to have changed very much since at least the 1890s, and perhaps even the late 1860s. We contacted Charlie Hall of the Maryland Historical Trust, who I knew was involved with the MHT Survey and Registration program. I thought we would also need an expert in Civil War archeology, so I contacted Brandon Bies, who has worked extensively on Civil War camps.

Together we devised a plan to couple archeological fieldwork with a public outreach program to acquaint people with the neighborhood as well as our research goal. ASM provided \$2,000 in funding, along with willing and able volunteers.

We began work on July 8, using a combination of systematic shovel test pits and metal detecting. We quickly began to find 19th-Century artifacts, including whiteware, lead-glazed redware, tobacco pipe stems, dendritic mocha decorated yellowware and 19th Century olive- and aqua-colored glass, although none were specifically military. We also discovered a stratum that seemed to date to the destruction of the Civil War camp. We left the field that day feeling hopeful.

The following day, Baltimore Heritage erected a temporary exhibit and prepared a lunch of hot dogs as we continued our survey. A story in that morning's *Baltimore Sun*, combined with Baltimore Heritage's outreach efforts, attracted more than 100 visitors to see our excavations and the neighborhood.

Toward the end of the day, the metal detector crew uncovered our first *bona fide* Civil War military artifact: a paper-backed tin button that would have adorned the trousers or underwear of a Union soldier's uniform. We opened two 2.5 by 2.5-foot excavation units on different parts of the site to explore further.

On Sunday, our final day in the field, we were joined by additional ASM volunteers and continued our shovel test pit and unit excavations. As the day drew to a close, we discovered a brass button decorated with the Maryland seal from a soldier's dress jacket.

The excavation team found this object *in situ* just as a reporter and photographer from *The Sun* arrived at the park. The next morning, a picture of the button appeared next to an article about our activities and findings.

By Sunday afternoon, we had answered our main research question -- did any recoverable remains of the barracks exist? -- in the affirmative. We had found informative artifacts and identified a stratum associated with the camp. We had also met with a number of the neighborhood's residents and traded information and stories.

The other aspect to the dig was Pousson's hope that heritage outreach efforts could bring much-needed resources and attention to this stately but distressed old neighborhood. And people who came to see the excavation also visited the neighborhood with its crumbling edifice of the 1868 Sellers mansion and the striking green Gothic revival St. John AME church (complete with a single flying buttress).

Despite its many charms, the neighborhood also had some obvious challenges. Many of its abandoned homes were actively decaying; some were no more than bombed-out shells. Frequent drug deals occur in the park.

The generous and hard-working 31 volunteers of the ASM left a deep impression on me. I am absolutely bowled over by all the hard work and talent that ASM members contributed. We absolutely couldn't have done it without them.

Bladensburg dig finds artifacts of two wars

By Richard Ervin

Reprinted from the SHA Cultural Resources Bulletin, Summer 2011

In June, SHA archeologists and Ruth Troccoli of the DC Historic Preservation Office continued exploration of the Bladensburg Battlefield, assisted by personnel from BRAVO, the Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization.

Through the use of metal detectors, investigations recovered additional artifacts from the hilltop where Beall's county militia and Miller's flotillamen and marines were positioned. BRAVO volunteers found several musket balls and what is believed to be a flint wrap - a piece of sheet lead that would have been used to secure the flint for a flintlock musket.

We also found several Minié balls, artifacts relating to troops stationed at Fort Lincoln between 1862 and 1865. In addition, we recovered a horseshoe, a spout that may have been part of a coffee kettle and hardware that may relate to the Civil War era encampments.

YAP Films is producing a documentary on the War of 1812 from the Canadian perspective. Film crews shot footage of the ongoing work at Bladensburg as part of their documentary.

While in the field, we also visited ongoing excavations being directed by Smithsonian Institution archeologist Noel Broadbent. Noel has uncovered the foundation of an outbuilding on the Rives property, important because Commodore Barney's 18-pounder cannon are said to have been set up in close proximity to Rives' barn. Noel has also identified the location of Barney's Spring, a subject of debate among historians for some time.

For the neo-ancient, archeology goes digital

By Christopher Mims

Condensed from Technology Review, July 19, 2011

Want to know how the 6502 CPU, the heart and soul of the beloved Commodore 64, Atari 2600, Apple II and even Nintendo Entertainment System actually worked?

Too bad. After 30 years, even the guys who designed this chip don't remember how it works. All that's left are some sketchy paper schematics, and they're not terribly helpful.

But a new field, "digital archeology" rides to the rescue. Rather than pick and trowel, its tools are successive acid baths, which strip away one layer after another of a chip, revealing the guts of the microprocessors that launched the personal computing revolution.

As outlined by Nikhil Swaminathan, senior editor at Archaeology magazine, the process was pioneered by brothers Barry and Brian Silverman, as well as Greg James, a software engineer. They've chronicled the results of their work at Visual6502.org, where they reveal that their understanding of the 6502 has become so sophisticated that they have not merely mapped all of its transistors and connections, they've actually managed to simulate the workings of the entire chip.

To say that their results are as beautiful as they are historically significant is to underestimate the weird power of cruising across the surface of a 100mb max-resolution blowup of one of the support chips that powered the Nintendo we all grew up on.

Without work like this, it's entirely possible that understanding of by-now "ancient" technologies could disappear from our collective knowledge forever.

"Digital media will not survive by accident," explains [archeologist Christopher] Witmore. "If you leave a 3.5-inch floppy disk in a tomb next to a rolled-up papyrus, you can unroll that papyrus and engage with it in a way that you can't with a floppy, which requires you to bring other materials to bear," like a particular computer or knowledge of a chip capable of reading the data on the disk.

**Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. Annual Minutes
October 16, 2010**

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. was hosted by the Central Chapter of ASM Inc. Stephen Israel gave the opening remarks. John Fiveash, ASM president thanked the Central Chapter for hosting this event. The business meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Secretary's Report- A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting as published in the September 2010 newsletter. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report- oral and written report by Jim Gibb. Jim is looking for ideas to increase the Field Session Analysis Fund. The cash out look is good.

Membership Report- written report by Belinda Urquiza. There were 47 new memberships for 2010. The total membership is 373 members.

President's Report- oral report by John Fiveash. John highlighted some of the ASM Inc. events of the past year. They included: the 2010 Annual Field Session which was held at the Smith's St. Leonard's Site, Archeology Month and the Spring Symposium.

Chapter Reports

Anne Arundel Chapter- oral report by Mechelle Kerns. The Anne Arundel Chapter has been active; it have 25 members. It is providing outreach for the Boy Scout Archeology Badge.

Central Chapter- oral and written report by Stephen Israel. The Central Chapter hosted the 2010 ASM Inc., Fall Annual Meeting. Members have been working on four active field projects. The chapter hosted an Archeology Month event at Pine Valley Park. The public was invited to participate in the field investigation.

Charles County Chapter- oral and written report by Carol Cowherd. In May the chapter obtained its own Federal EIN number as an unincorporated association. Members continue to volunteer for the Port Tobacco Archaeological Project.

Mid-Potomac Chapter - oral report by Don Housley. The Mid-Potomac Chapter became a non-stock, tax-exempt corporation with the legal name of "ASM Mid-Potomac Chapter, Inc." The chapter was successful in applying for 501© (3) status. The chapter participated in the Rockville Science Day.

Monocacy Chapter- oral and written report by Suzanne Bucci. The group continues to look for a meeting location. A grant is being sought to buy a projector and screen.

Northern Chesapeake Chapter- oral report by Dan Coates. The newsletter is being sent by email. The website has a listing of activities.

U.P.A.G. Chapter- oral report by Maryl Harshey. Members have been busy with artifact processing.

Western Maryland Chapter- oral and written report by Roy Brown. Members assisted Dr. Robert Wall at the Towson University Field Session at the Barton Site this summer and had an information booth at the Appalachian Folk Festival. This was a great opportunity for public outreach.

Committee Reports

Field Session- The 2010 Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session was held at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. The field session was very successful.

Journal Editor- oral report by Dennis Curry. Dennis is requesting articles for the journal.

Newsletter Editor- oral report by Myron Beckenstein. The newsletters are coming slowly. The next newsletter will contain the Maryland Archeology journal.

Webmaster- oral report by John Fiveash. The website continues to be updated. It gets approximately 700 hits a month. Contact John if you would like to add anything to the website.

Archives- written report by Alison Pooley. Work continues on cataloguing.

Certification- The revisions have been made to the curriculum, and the reading list is more accessible. There are currently 66 registered in the program.

William B. Marve Award- John McGrain, from the Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning and the Landmarks Preservation Commission received the award.

Representative Meetings

Council for Maryland Archeology-written report by Stephen Israel. The issues discussed at the meeting included membership, NALC and issues surrounding the Proper-Place-of-Repose ongoing discussions.

New Business

Sean Sweeney was presented with a plaque and Lifetime membership to ASM, Inc. for his many years of service as treasurer.

Election Results:

President-Mechelle Kerns

Vice-president-Claude Bowen

Treasurer-Jim Gibb

Secretary-Suzanne Bucci

Membership Secretary-Belinda Urquiza

At-large-trustees-John Fiveash, Tom Forhan, Valerie Hall, Annetta Schott, Jim Sorensen and Jaimie Wilder.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Derwart
Secretary, A.S.M., Inc.

Alpine Iceman had a hearty last meal

By Heather Pringle

Condensed from the Washington Post, June 27, 2011

Less than two hours before he hiked his last steps in the Tyrolean Alps, Otzi the Iceman fueled up on ibex meat. That was the conclusion of a talk recently at the Seventh World Congress on Mummy Studies, during which researchers — armed with Otzi's newly sequenced genome and a detailed dental analysis — also agreed that the Iceman had brown eyes and probably wasn't much of a tooth brusher.

The Iceman, whose remains were discovered in 1991 about 5,200 years after he died, probably after being attacked, has been a gold mine of information about Neolithic life as researchers have extensively studied his gear — copper ax, hide and leather clothing and accessories — and his body. Previous research on his meals focused on fecal material removed from his bowels. The contents showed that he dined on red deer meat and possibly cereal about four hours before his death.

But a team led by microbiologist Frank Maixner of the Institute for Mummies and the Iceman in Bolzano, Italy, recently re-examined computed tomography scans taken in 2005 and spotted, for the first time, the Iceman's stomach. The organ had moved upward to an unusual position, and it looked full.

When they took a sample of the stomach contents and sequenced the DNA of the animal fibers they found, they discovered that Otzi, just 30 to 120 minutes before his death, had dined on the meat of an Alpine ibex, an animal whose body parts were once thought to possess medicinal qualities.

"We are now inching our way to the last minutes of the Iceman," said Niels Lynnerup, a specialist in forensic medicine at the University of Copenhagen.

Dentist Roger Seiler and anatomist Frank Ruhli of the Centre for Evolutionary Medicine at the University of Zurich examined the dental health of the Iceman, who probably died between the ages of 35 and 40. Previously, researchers examining radiological images of his teeth discerned no trace of cavities or other dental problems.

But the Swiss team created new three-dimensional images of his dentition and these showed that the Iceman had suffered a blunt-force trauma to two teeth — possibly a blow to the mouth — at least several days before his death and he was plagued by both periodontal disease and cavities. The cavities, Seiler said in his talk, confirm that the Iceman ate a diet abounding in carbohydrates, such as bread or cereal, and reveal that he possessed a "heavy bacterial dose on these teeth."

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 or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

September 20: TBA

November 15: TBA

Central

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

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489.

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 or call 301-8405848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com
Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>
Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or 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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

September 14: Bill McIntyre talks about "40 Years Working in the HCAS/ASNC." At Harford Glen.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other 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

September 12: Roy Brown on "Prehistory: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral."

October 10: Lab session.

November 14: Dana Kollman on Page and Keyser interment regimes from the middle and upper Potomac River valley.

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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

Climate change may destroy many state sites

Continued from Page 1

In addition to the limitations of the archeological data, the inundation data used for this preliminary study is a "bath tub" model and does not account for erosion or storm surge from coastal storms. Future work will incorporate more data including erosion rates and shoreline data.

The long-range goal for MHT is to identify specific classes of all historic and archeological resources that are most threatened and prioritize specific highly significant sites as targets for protective measures, immediate documentation and/or salvage.

(A talk on how climate change may affect Maryland will be presented at ASM's Annual Meeting in October.)

Archeological Society of Maryland
ASM Ink
P.O. Box 1331
Huntingtown, MD 20639-1331

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit 7050

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

President

Mechelle Kerns
 410-409-5187
ASMPres@hotmail.com

Vice President

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

Secretary

Suzanne Bucci
 304-876-2189
suzruns4fun@frontier.com

Treasurer

Jim Gibb
 410-263-1102
JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Membership Secretary

Belinda Urquiza
 PO Box 1331
 Huntingtown, MD 20639
 410-535-2586
burquiza@comcast.net

At-Large Trustees

John Fiveash
 443-618-0494
jsfiveash@comcast.net

Tom Forhan
 301-270-8073
dufour27@gmail.com

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

Annetta Schott
 443-299-6480
annettaschott@comcast.net

Jim Sorensen
 301-434-8316
jamesorensen1944@yahoo.com

Jaimie Wilder
 301-741-2869
jaimwilder@comcast.net

