

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Coming soon: ASM's Annual Meeting

ASM's Annual Meeting takes place Saturday, October 5, in Newburg. Don't try to find Newburg on a map. It's a very small community about nine miles south of LaPlata in Charles County.

As usual, there are two parts to the Annual Meeting. First is the Society's yearly business meeting, starting around 9 a.m. In addition to telling what is going on in the Society and its chapters, this portion will feature the presentation of ASM's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology.

Next come five talks, beginning at 10:30 with the Frederick L. Stiner Memorial Lecture, given this year by Esther Doyle Read, Charles County's archeologist who will review what has been happening in the county since the archeologist position was established five years ago. She will focus on work at Rich Hill and Port Tobacco.

Following her, Jim Gibb will look at the history of mills in Maryland. Mills fed Marylanders from the middle of the 18th Century to the turn of the 20th. They supported Baltimore's successful bid for industrial prominence in the Mid-Atlantic and they linked the state to international markets. Gibb will show how archeological investigations have revealed remarkable differences in technology among the state's mills.

After a break for lunch the focus shifts to Prince George's County and community collaboration in a talk by Kristin Montaperto, the chief archeologist of the Maryland National Capitol Park & Planning Commission. She will detail how a community archeology approach is used in black history research and how its successes and failures can be applied to other archeological projects in the state.

Julia King, of St. Mary's College of Maryland, will offer "From Port Tobacco River (MD) to Portobago Bay (VA): Exploring Native Movement and Mobility through an Archeological Lens." Not long after a number of Maryland Indian nations had concluded a treaty with the Calvert government (in April 1666), members of at least one group, the Portobacks, moved to the south bank of the Rappahannock River in Virginia. Archeological survey in the Portobago Bay area of the Rappahannock has revealed traces of what may be the Portobacks' new town among Rappahannock and Nanzattico settlements.

The final talk of the day returns the focus to Charles County. Chapter president Carol Cowherd will talk of "Serendipity and a Lost Opportunity." Museum collections contain a number of artifacts that have been incompletely described. She'll tell of the unexpected discovery and identification of an Adena artifact found in the Smithsonian collection and its connection to Charles County.

The meeting is being held in the Maryland Veterans Museum and the lunch hour has been expanded to allow time to look at the museum's exhibits. There are no restaurants near the site and people are encouraged to either bring their own lunch or pre-order a box lunch from a selection of offerings. The list is with this newsletter. The orders have to be received by October 1.

To get to Newburg: From La Plata, continue south for nine miles on US 301 past the museum, which is on the east side of the divided highway. Make a U-turn at the Budds Creek Road (MD 234) red light and return north. Turn right onto the road to the museum.

Upcoming events

October 5: ASM Annual Meeting, Maryland Veterans Park, Charles County. All day.

October 15: Lecture on the U-1105. Crownsville. 7-9 pm. Tickets are free, but each individual must register to guarantee seating. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/u-1105-black-panther-history-and-archaeology-of-a-u-boat-tickets-68283262075>

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net. It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslag at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island shows signs of occupation from the 17th through 19th centuries. Digging is on Fridays from 8 to 3. Lab volunteers are welcome any time the lab is open, generally Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 3. For more information and to sign up email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 410 222 1318.

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at ed.chaney@maryland.gov or 410 586 8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork to get started.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

CAT corner:

For information on the CAT program, contact Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com

Upcoming in Frederick County

October 19 and 20 at the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum, 110 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, the annual Oktoberfest. The Monocacy Archeology Society will have a public outreach table, displays and information. This is the chapter's best and most prolific public outreach event as it is attended by a few thousand people enjoying German food, drink and a variety of craft vendors and demonstrations. If there are members from other chapters interested in this event, MAS would love the support. Assistance is needed in setting up, attending to the table and tear-down. From 10 to 5 on Saturday and noon to 5: Sunday. Contact Nancy Geasey at ngeasey@gmail.com or call 301-378-0212.

October 23, 7:00 p.m. - Dr. William Kelso will present "Digging up the Truth about Jamestown" at the Whitaker Campus Commons, 401 Rosemont Avenue, Hood College, Frederick. This program marks the 400th anniversary of representative government in America. The program is free and open to the public with books available for purchase.

A new look at old Meadowcroft rockshelter

By Briana Lewis

Condensed from Trib Live, August 29, 2019

Archeologists are looking for new clues at one of the oldest known sites of human habitation in North America.

Devlin Gandy, an archeologist from St. John's College at the University of Cambridge, and James M. Adovasio, the director of archeology at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, are conducting research at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Avella, about an hour west of Pittsburgh in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

The rockshelter is known to be one of the oldest sites of human habitation in North America. Adovasio first excavated the site in 1973.

The two planned to collect sediment samples of possible human DNA this week from the rockshelter's deep hole, the deepest and oldest part of the site. On Wednesday, Adovasio and Gandy climbed into the rockshelter, scampering over temporary wooden bridges to survey possible locations to sample bedrock. The DNA will be tested and could unlock new information about when humans first lived in North America.

"What we're hoping this particular enterprise will do is to add another increment to our knowledge about the site," Adovasio said. "Another piece of information that hitherto we might not have had access to."

Environmental DNA, ancient DNA shed by organisms, will be taken as a complementary piece of evidence that will be studied and matched to the organism it belongs to. With this information, archeologists will be able to assess how long those organisms have been around the area.

"If there is environmental DNA left, we will see what information it gives us about the past and the occupation sequence at this site," Gandy said.

Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a National Historic Landmark, was first discovered as one of the first sites of human habitation in North America when a Washington County farmer found a prehistoric tool in what seemed to be a groundhog hole in 1955. The rockshelter was a campsite for early hunters and gathers nearly 19,000 years ago.

According to Gandy, there are many theories for how people came to populate the Americas and occupy Meadowcroft. The early dates at Meadowcroft indicate they didn't come through the interior of the continent, which would have been under miles of ice.

Since the 1970s, the site has undergone studies to further look into the first humans in North America. Some of the earliest humans can be tracked through lineage to American Indians still around today, according to Gandy.

"At that time, the chief objective was to employ state of the art methods to understand when humans arrived at this location, what they were doing whilst they were here and how long they might have been here through time," Adovasio. "Then we modified our goals through the years adding new techniques and asking new questions."

Through the studies, a line of over 16,000 years of environmental records was found that included climatic changes, plant and animal changes. The records then provided information on how humans adjusted through these times.

"It appears as it did in the early '70s, that people were at this spot long before they were supposed to be in the New World," Adovasio said.

Trump's wall called a threat to border sites

By Juliet Eilperin and Nick Miroff

Condensed from the Washington Post, September 17, 2019

Bulldozers and excavators rushing to install President Trump's border barrier could damage or destroy up to 22 archeological sites within Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in coming months, according to an internal National Park Service 123-page report obtained by The Washington Post.

The administration's plan to convert an existing five-foot-high vehicle barrier into a 30-foot steel edifice could pose irreparable harm to unexcavated remnants of ancient Sonoran Desert peoples. Experts identified these risks as U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seeks to fast-track the construction to meet Trump's campaign pledge of completing 500 miles of barrier by next year's election.

Unlike concerns about the barrier project that have come from private landowners, churches, communities and advocacy groups, these new warnings about the potential destruction of historic sites come from within the government itself.

With the president demanding weekly updates on construction progress and tweeting out drone footage of new fencing through the desert, administration officials have said they are under extraordinary pressure to meet Trump's construction goals.

The Department of Homeland Security has taken advantage of a 2005 law to waive several federal requirements — including the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act — that could have slowed and possibly stopped the barrier's advance in the stretch in Arizona.

Some archeological features along the border already have suffered damage as Border Patrol agents zoom through in pursuit of migrants and smugglers in all-terrain vehicles, according to federal officials and two experts who have conducted research in the region.

Environmental groups have fought unsuccessfully to halt construction in protected areas, arguing that more-imposing barriers could disrupt wildlife migration and threaten the survival of imperiled species.

But there has been little mention of the potential damage to archeological sites, where stone tools, ceramic shards and other pre-Columbian artifacts are extremely well-preserved in the arid environment. Desert-dwelling peoples have populated the area for at least 16,000 years.

The springs and surrounding desert wetlands are just 200 feet from the border, where crews plan to bring in heavy earth-moving equipment to install the giant steel barriers. Scientists have raised concerns that the springs could dry up if crews pump groundwater from the area for the barrier's concrete base.

CBP officials said the agency has looked at "most" of the archeological sites identified in the Park Service report and found just five that are within the 60-foot-wide strip of federal land on the U.S. side of the border where the government will erect the structure, an area known as the Roosevelt Reservation, which was set aside along the border in California, Arizona and New Mexico. Of those five, officials said, one had a "lithic scatter" — remnants of stone tools and other culturally relevant artifacts.

Construction crews do not yet have a plan to begin work at that location, CBP officials said, noting that the agency has had discussions with the Park Service about collecting and analyzing fragments of historic significance from that site.

The officials said they have not delayed or otherwise altered their construction plans to conduct more detailed surveys or excavations in the area.

Rick Martynec, an archeologist who is conducting volunteer surveys of sites within the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge along with his wife, Sandy, said researchers have not had time to properly evaluate the area now targeted for construction.

"Quitobaquito, as we know it, may be destroyed before anyone has had a chance to evaluate the consequences of the current actions," Martynec said. "What's the rush?"

Getty pledges \$100 million to conservation

By Julia Jacobs *Condensed from the New York Times, September 17, 2019*

The J. Paul Getty Trust will invest \$100 million in the conservation of antiquities from ancient societies across the world, citing threats such as sectarian violence and climate change, officials of the Los Angeles-based organization said Tuesday.

The trust, which operates the Getty Museum, has long focused on ancient Greek and Roman antiquities. This new program, however, is designed to expand the conservation efforts it underwrites to countries where they have not worked before, including Southeast Asia and Central and South America.

"These are things that have survived over the course of millennia," said James Cuno, the president of the Getty Trust, "There's a sense of threat to the integrity of the ancient world, and it's occurring on our watch."

Many of the projects already slated to receive money focus on training local conservators and archeologists in other countries rather than deploying a Getty specialist to do preservation work.

"The Getty can't go in ourselves and do the conservation without building partnerships," Cuno said in an interview. "The task is to work with local authorities to face the conservation of their cultural heritage."

The initiative does not directly address criticism that, in the past, the Getty and other Western museums have been quick to rescue relics from unstable or developing countries and appropriate them into their collections. But it demonstrates the Getty's interest in cultivating resources that will allow treasures of cultural heritage to be preserved in their countries of origin.

The debate over repatriation was revived four years ago when Islamic militants made a show of destroying centuries-old relics in places like the Mosul Museum in Iraq. In that moment, Cuno said, he was struck that "all we were doing was wringing our hands and expressing outrage."

Some of the money will also be spent in areas outside conflict zones, such as an archeological site in Cyprus, in the Mediterranean region where the institution has done much of its work since

its founding in 1982. The site in Paphos, a city on the country's southwestern coast, draws hundreds of thousands of tourists each year to its ancient mosaic pavements.

The mosaics and other relics at the site, many of which were discovered by a farmer in the 1960s, are currently under threat from a variety of factors, including exposure to the elements, overdevelopment in the city and an oversaturated tourism industry, said Jeanne Marie Teutonico, the associate director of programs of the Getty Conservation Institute. Working with Cyprus's Department of Antiquities, the Getty will devise a strategy for preserving the mosaics through a possible combination of archeological shelters and reburial to avoid damage from the sun, sea and air.

"If you leave them exposed without a shelter you need continued maintenance," Teutonico said. "We're seeing more thunderstorms, heavier rain, warmer temperatures. All of that accelerates deterioration."

Speed Bump

by Dave Coverly



Chapter News

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

Anne Arundel

Anne Arundel Chapter will be meeting at the Schmidt Center at SERC, the second Tuesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. Parking in front of the venue. For information, contact Jim Gibb at JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

Meets the third Friday every other month at the Natural History Society of Maryland at 6908 Belair Road in Baltimore. Business meeting begins at 7, talk at 7:30. For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com> or Twitter [@asmcentral](https://twitter.com/asmcentral). Note: chapter is deactivating in January.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) at the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

October 17: Lew Toulmin, chapter member, member of the Explorers Club and travel writer for the *Sentinel* (Montgomery) will speak on the DNA search for Amelia Earhart.

November 21: Don Housley, ASM and chapter president, will report on the 2019 ASM Field Session at the Billingsley site in Prince George's County.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212. The chapter does not meet in July or August.

October 9: Kyle Dalton, now with the Civil War Medical Museum in Frederick, will present a program on "Frederick in the Age of Braddock." The program will be held in Children's Program Room of the library.

Northern Chesapeake

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>

October 9: ASNC salvage archeology at Colonial Joppatowne. Bill McIntyre. Havre de Grace City Hall.

November 13: "Buried Treasure at Perry Point." The ASNC Lab Crew & Jerry Brown. Perryville Public Library.

Friday, December 13. Mike Tritsch. "Encroachment of Domestic Religion at Temple of Karnak." ASNC annual dinner meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

January 8, 2020: Prehistoric Resources of the Upper Bay. Dan Coates & Dave Peters. Rising Sun Historical Society, Rising Sun.

February 12: Subject TBA. Havre de Grace City Hall.

March 11:
Subject TBA. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

Friday, April: Date & subject TBA. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May (Exact date TBA) Annual Picnic Meeting. St. Patrick's Irish Catholic Church, Conowingo

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or try uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com

October 14: Colonial Settlement in the Patuxent: The Raven Site. 7 pm. Heritage Program Office

November 11: Forgotten Ruins: Investigating the Mount View Tenant Site. 7 pm Heritage Program Office

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

September 27: Ryan Cuba & Adam Muma will do a presentation in period regalia on the Ohio Company, a 18th Century trading post in western Maryland.

October 14-18: Excavations at Ashby's Fort

October 25: Dana Kollmann will speak on her experiences in the South Pacific while in search of WWII human remains.

January 24, 2020: Annual show-and-tell program. NO MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.

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

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, 609 N. Paca Street, Apt. 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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