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Field session's Calverton Site has early history

By Kirsti Uunila

Principal Investigator

18CV22, the site of this year's ASM field session, is a multi-component site first occupied by indigenous people in the Woodland Period and later served as the first seat of government for Calvert County.

In 1669 Lord Baltimore ordered that towns should be laid out in every county of the province to encourage trade. William Berry who owned a large tract of land on Battle Creek offered 20 acres to be designated as town land. The shoreline featured a deep natural harbor and some protection from the winds and the Patuxent River.

Lord Baltimore then directed Charles Boteler, deputy surveyor of Calvert County, to lay out the town. If the original survey survives, it has not been found. What does remain is the plat of Calverton -- also known as Battle Town and Calvert Town -- drawn by Robert Jones in 1682 following a dispute between William Berry and Michael Taney, who had purchased land next to both Berry and the town.

The town plat shows several public buildings including a courthouse, prison and chapel, along with dwellings and outbuildings. Most of the buildings are labeled. Four dwellings are labeled with the names Tawny [sic], Berry, Banks and Cosden. Two small unlabeled buildings appear near one another and seem to be dwellings because they have chimneys. A similar building is near the Cosden house.

The town was abandoned some time after the courthouse and county seat were relocated to Prince

Continued on Page 7

You can be here. Put yourself on the map. A field session registration form is with this newsletter.

Upcoming events

May 26 – June 5: ASM field session in Calvert County.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

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 is accepting applications from 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 throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call the lab 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 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.

CAT corner:

For the latest information on CAT activities see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at burquiza@comcast.net

Delaware offers tours of remains of sloop DeBraak

Condensed from the Cape Gazette

Beginning Wednesday, June 7, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will offer tours that explore the 18th century history, artifacts and the surviving hull section of His Majesty's Sloop DeBraak, a British warship that was escorting and protecting a convoy of merchant ships en route to the United States when it capsized and was lost off the Delaware coast May 25, 1798.

Tours will take place at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays from June 7 to September 27, beginning at the Zwaanendael Museum, at 102 Kings Highway in Lewes, where a lecture on the ship will be presented in conjunction with a museum exhibit. Attendees then will be transported, via van, to the DeBraak conservation facility.

Approximately one-third of the hull survives including the keel, keelson and lower framing elements, including a large section of the starboard (right) side.

Tours are open to people age 10 and up and will last approximately two hours. Space is limited to 12 participants. The cost of the program is $10 per person (cash or check only). For reservations (nonrefundable), go to shop.delaware.gov and click on Tours in the Categories column. For more information, call 302-645-1148. Walk-ups are welcome but space is not guaranteed.

Was America peopled 130,000 years ago?

By Sarah Kaplan

Condensed from the Washington Post, April 27, 2017

About 130,000 years ago, scientists say, a mysterious group of ancient people visited the coastline of what is now Southern California. More than 100,000 years before they were supposed to have arrived in the Americas, these unknown people used five heavy stones to break the bones of a mastodon. They cracked open femurs to suck out the marrow and, using the rocks as hammers, scored deep notches in the bone. When finished, they abandoned the materials in the soft, fine soil; one tusk planted upright in the ground like a single flag in the archeological record. Then the people vanished.

This is the bold claim put forward by paleontologist Thomas Deméré and his colleagues in a paper published Wednesday in the journal Nature. The researchers say that the scratched-up mastodon fossils and large, chipped stones uncovered during excavation for a San Diego highway more than 20 years ago are evidence of an unknown hominin species, perhaps *Homo erectus*, Neanderthals, maybe even *Homo sapiens*.

If Deméré's analysis is accurate, it would set back the arrival date for hominins in the Americas and suggest that modern humans might not have been the first species to arrive. But the paper has raised skepticism among many researchers who study American prehistory. Several said this is a classic case of an extraordinary claim requiring extraordinary evidence — which they argue the Nature paper doesn't provide.

"You can't push human activity in the New World back 100,000 years based on evidence as inherently ambiguous as broken bones and nondescript stones," said David Meltzer, an archeologist at Southern Methodist University. "They need to do a better job showing nature could not be responsible for those bones and stones."

For decades, discussion of early settlement of the Americas has focused on the tail end of the Ice Age. Most archeologists agree that humans crossed a land bridge from Asia into Alaska sometime after 25,000 years ago, then either walked between ice sheets or took boats down the Pacific coastline to reach the wide open plains of Pleistocene America roughly 15,000 years before present

"It is a bold claim," Deméré acknowledged, "an order of magnitude older age than has been suggested."

"This evidence begs for some explanation," he said, "and this is the explanation we've come up with."

The rocks and mastodon remains were identified in 1992 by paleontologist Richard Cerutti, a colleague of Deméré's at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, who was monitoring work on a new freeway.

The biggest find was a partial skeleton from a single American mastodon. Peculiarly, the largest bones were scarred and broken, but more fragile ribs and vertebrae were still intact. Some of the bones seemed to have been arranged deliberately alongside one another. Many bore the spiral fractures that are a signature of ancient people hammering on fresh bone — either to extract marrow for food or break the bone into tools.

The bones were clustered in groups around a few large, heavy stones known as "cobbles." The size and makeup of these rocks didn't match the fine-grained surrounding soil. They bore marks you'd expect to see on a hammer and anvil. Scattered around the site were flakes that seem to have been chipped off the cobbles, as though someone had struck the rocks against another solid object. When held up to their source stones, the flakes fit back into them like pieces of a puzzle.

"It was unusual to say the least … and suggested this was a not a typical paleontological site and we should consider the possibility that we had association of extinct megafauna with humans, or at least early human activity," Deméré said of the findings.

But it was difficult to figure out how old the site was. Any soft tissue in the fossilized bones had long decayed, so scientists couldn't use radiocarbon dating to determine their age. They attempted to date fossils using the uranium-thorium method, which measures radioactive decay of uranium. But the technique was not very reliable at the time, so the Cerutti mastodon remained an enigma.

More than a decade later, a mutual friend put Deméré in touch with archeologist Steve Holen, who tried to recreate them using a stone hammer the same size as the one found at the Cerutti site and the skeleton of an

Continued of Page 4

elephant that had been recently buried.

Next the team reached out to geochronologist James Paces, who retried the now much-improved uranium-thorium dating technique on the bones. He concluded that they are 130,000 years old, give or take 9,400. This date corresponds with the accepted age of the layer of rock in which the bones and cobbles were found.

But if the stones and bones really are evidence of people, then who were they? How did they get to this part of the world so long ago? And why haven't we found other evidence of their presence? Did they die out not long after they arrived?

Because there are no hominin remains at the site, and rock hammer technology was used by many hominin species, the scientists caution that discussion of the identity of these people is purely speculative. In a supplement to their Nature paper, they say the Cerutti people may have been Neanderthals, Denisovans (a species known only from a few fragments found in a cave in northern Siberia), or members of the species *Homo erectus*. It seems unlikely that they were *Homo sapiens* — anatomically modern humans didn't migrate out of Africa until after 100,000 years ago, according to most estimates.

As for how they got here, Deméré said they may have been able to cross the land bridge before the last ice age, when the planet warmed and sea levels rose. Other species migrated to the Americas in this period, Deméré said, and the hominins may have followed them over.

To some who study American prehistory, this interpretation of the Cerutti site beggars belief. Meltzer called the claim "grandiose." Donald Grayson, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Washington, noted that history is rife with examples of scientists misinterpreting strange markings on stone as evidence of human activity. He pointed to the Calico Hills site in the Mojave Desert, which the archeologist Louis Leakey believed contained 200,000-year-old stone tools. Subsequent studies have largely discredited Leakey's claim — the apparent tools were most likely "geofacts," natural stone formations that only look like they were crafted by humans.

"It is one thing to show that broken bones and modified rocks could have been produced by people, which Holen and his colleagues have done," Grayson said. "It is quite another to show that people, and people alone, could have produced those modifications. This, Holen [has] most certainly not done, making this a very easy claim to dismiss."

Mike Waters, the director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M, also criticized the claim. To convince him that people were in the Americas so much earlier before the first physical evidence of their remains, he would expect to see "unequivocal stone artifacts," he said. He doesn't think the cobbles found at the Cerutti mastodon site meet that standard.

Rick Potts, the director of the Human Origins Program at the National Museum of Natural History, was more measured in his appraisal. Though he thought the team's analysis of the bones and stones was thorough, he pointed out a few oddities about the site. For one, it's unusual that people would use hammer stones to process bones but not any sharp-edged tools, even though that technology had been around for more than a million years. For another, as he pointed out, the mastodon's molars were also crushed, and there's no reason he can think of that humans would crack the huge teeth. If those teeth were broken by natural forces, then perhaps the rest of the bones were too.

Erella Hovers, an archeologist at Hebrew University in Jerusalem who reviewed the paper and wrote an analysis of it for Nature, said she thought the researchers did a thorough job of ruling out natural causes of the particular breakage patterns. She added that the evidence looks much like archeological sites she has studied in Africa and the Middle East; if the same site was found in that part of the world, she said, people would have fewer questions about it.

The Cerutti site researchers expect to face scrutiny from his colleagues about the paper. That is partly why they have made 3-D images of the mastodon fossils available online.

"I think the models are important in terms of supporting the paper because they allow anyone to look at this evidence in much the same way the co-authors did," co-author Adam Rountrey, collection manager at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, said in a statement. "It's fine to be skeptical, but look at the evidence and judge for yourself. That's what we're trying to encourage by making these models available."

New database offers access to 268 sites

The MAC Lab has launched a new searchable database making it possible to identify and determine the research and educational potential of components from 268 sites curated at the lab, as well as isolate specific datable artifact assemblages associated with each component.

"Maryland Unearthed; A Guide to Archaeological Collections at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory" (http://jefpat.org/mdunearth/Index.aspx) provides users with multiple categories of data for assemblages with research potential: temporal range, cultural affiliation, assemblage size, curation status, current levels of analysis for multiple subsets of data (faunal, paleobotanical, ceramic and glass vessels, etc.).

The lab, located at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, currently is preserving over 8 million artifacts representing 13,000 years of human history in the state.

Over the last decade, the MAC Lab has provided a variety of digital tools to make archeological data easily available to researchers and the public. The lab currently has five different web sources available, ranging from artifact identification tools to artifact and paleobotanical databases.

The project also builds on the MAC Lab's online guide, "Archaeological Collections in Maryland" (www.jefpat.org/NEHWeb), which provides detailed descriptions of 30 sites and includes a database of downloadable photographs and digitized field records associated with each site. It is also linked with the Maryland Historical Trust Synthesis Project. This new collections tool was created using funding from a Maryland State Highways Administration Transportation Enhancement Grant.

A case so cold it was frozen for 5,000 years

By Rod Nordland

Condensed from the New York Times, March 27, 2017

BOLZANO, Italy — When the head of a small Italian museum called Detective Inspector Alexander Horn of the Munich Police, she asked him if he investigated cold cases. "Yes, I do," Inspector Horn said.

"Well, I have the coldest case of all for you," said Angelika Fleckinger, director of the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology, in Bolzano, Italy.

The unknown victim, nicknamed Ötzi, has literally been in cold storage in her museum for a quarter-century. Often called the Iceman, he is the world's most perfectly preserved mummy, a Copper Age fellow who had been frozen inside a glacier along the northern Italian border with Austria until warming temperatures melted the ice and two hikers discovered him in 1991.

The cause of death remained uncertain until 10 years later, when an X-ray of the mummy pointed to foul play in the form of a flint arrowhead embedded in his back, just under his shoulder. But now, armed with a wealth of new scientific information that researchers have compiled, Inspector Horn has managed to piece together a remarkably detailed picture of what befell the Iceman on that fateful day around 3300 B.C., near the crest of the Ötztal Alps.

"When I was first contacted with the idea, I thought it was too difficult, too much time has passed," said Inspector Horn, a noted profiler. "But actually he's in better condition than recent homicide victims I've worked on who have been found out in the open."

There are a few mummies in the world as old as Ötzi, but none so well preserved. Most were ritually prepared, which usually meant removal of internal organs, preservation with chemicals or exposure to destructive desert conditions.

The glacier not only froze Ötzi where he had died, but the high humidity of the ice also kept his organs and skin largely intact. "Imagine, we know the stomach contents of a person 5,000 years ago," Inspector Horn said.

Those contents, as it turned out, were critical in determining with surprising precision what happened to Ötzi and even helped shed light on the possible motive of his killer.

The more scientists learn, the more recognizable the Iceman becomes. He was 5 feet 5 inches tall (about

Continued on Page 6

average for his time), weighed 110 pounds, had brown eyes and shoulder-length, dark brown hair, and a size 7½ foot. He was about 45, give or take six years, respectably old for the late Neolithic age — but still in his prime.

Ötzi had the physique of a man who did a lot of strenuous walking but little upper-body work; there was hardly any fat on his body. He had all of his teeth and between his two upper front teeth was a 3-millimeter gap, an inherited condition known as diastema, which Madonna and Elton John also have.

When viewed through the window of the museum's freezer, where he is kept now, his hands not only appear unusually small, but they also show little sign of hard use, suggesting that Ötzi was no manual laborer.

Every modern murder investigation relies heavily on forensic science, but in Ötzi's case the techniques have been particularly high tech, involving exotic specialties like archeobotany and paleometallurgy.

From examining traces of pollen in his digestive tract, scientists were able to place the date of Ötzi's death at sometime in late spring or early summer. In his last two days, they found, he consumed three distinct meals and walked from an elevation of about 6,500 feet, down to the valley floor and then up into the mountains again, where he was found at the crime site, 10,500 feet up.

On his body was one prominent wound, other than the one from the arrowhead: a deep cut in his right hand between the thumb and forefinger, down to the bone and potentially disabling. By the degree of healing seen on the wound, it was one to two days old.

From this, Inspector Horn surmises that Ötzi may have come down to his village and become embroiled in a violent altercation. "It was a very active defensive wound, and interesting in the context that no other injuries are found on the body, no major bruises or stab wounds, so probably he was the winner of that fight, even possibly he killed the person who tried to attack him," he said.

Then he left, fully provisioned with food, the embers of a fire preserved in maple leaf wrappings inside a birch-bark cylinder, and quite a lot of other equipment, most of it probably carried in a backpack with a wooden frame. For weapons he had only a flint dagger so small it seemed to be the Copper Age equivalent of a derringer, a stave for a bow that had not yet been completed, and a beautifully crafted deerskin quiver with a dozen arrows, only two of them with arrowheads attached.

Inspector Horn reckons Ötzi was in no hurry. At 10,500 feet, he made what appeared to be a camp in a protected gully on the mountain saddle, spreading his belongings around and sitting down to his last meal.

"Roughly half an hour before his death he was having a proper meal, even a heavy meal," Horn said. The Copper Age menu was well balanced, consisting of ibex meat, smoked or raw; einkorn wheat (an early domesticated variety), possibly in the form of bread; some sort of fat, which might have been from bacon or cheese; and bracken, a common fern.

There is even evidence that some of his food was recently cooked. "If you're in a rush and the first thing is to get away from someone trying to kill you, that's not what you do," he said. Ötzi's longbow was only half a day's work from completion, he added, but there was no sign that he was working on it at the time.

Half an hour after Ötzi dined, the killer shot him in the back from a distance of almost 100 feet. The arrow went under his left armpit and ripped through a roughly half-inch section of his subclavian artery, a wound that would have been quickly fatal and probably not treatable even in modern times. By the angle of the wound, he was either shot from below and behind or he had been bent forward when he was hit from above and behind.

"The aim of the offender was to kill him, and he decides to take a long-distance shot — could be a learning effect from what happened one or two days before," Horn said. "Which is pretty much what you see all the time nowadays. Most homicides are personal and follow violence and an escalation of violence. I want to follow him, find him and kill him."

Robbery can certainly be ruled out, he said. Ötzi had a copper ax, a valuable artifact only rarely seen in burials of the period. His clothing and kit were a match for the harsh alpine climate and probably valuable, made from the leather and fur of at least 10 animals of six species.

"This was not a robbery gone bad or something," Horn said; clearly, the killer was trying to cover up his act. "You go back to your village with this unusual ax, it would be pretty obvious what had happened."

Ötzi's cold case continues to yield surprises to scientists in many disciplines who still are studying his remains. Last year, for example, they discovered that he was infected with an unusual strain of H. pylori, the bacteria believed responsible for ulcers today.

Field session's Calverton Site has early history

Continued from Page 1

Frederick in 1724. The town site has been in agriculture since. Battle Creek has plundered the creek bank at Calverton with an estimated average loss of more than 50 meters of shoreline.

Matt McKnight, of MHT, registered the 1682 plat on a 2014 aerial of the property. If it is accurate, several of the buildings are completely gone, including the prison. A couple of other buildings may be partially eroded by the changing shoreline.

The site was visited by Richard Stearns in 1936 as he searched for settlements identified by John Smith on his 1608 map of the Chesapeake. Using Stearns' published reports, Tyler Bastian recorded the site in 1969. In 1971, Charles "Walt" Tremer, accompanied by his students from Muhlenberg College, dug three test trenches and excavated eight historic human burials reportedly beginning to erode out of the creek bank.

In the 1980s, Dennis Pogue, then Southern Maryland regional archeologist, conducted pedestrian surveys over the former town lands and the shoreline. Pogue also completed a nomination form to list the site on the National Register, a process that was not completed owing to a change of mind by the landowner at the time.

Various owners of the property have had collections of artifacts; two collections are accessible and the whereabouts of others are unknown.

The 2017 ASM Field Session is the first time a systematic investigation of the site has been possible. Don and Jean McDougall, owners of a parcel of land that covers the eastern extent of the town lands, have permitted the project to take place on their property.

In 2005, Ed Chaney and myself, with the help of the McDougalls and volunteer Lauren Morrell, did a shovel-test survey of an area where a house was proposed to be built. The house was never built but the 14 shovel tests permitted a sample of part of the area that the field session will investigate more thoroughly.

Chaney and I suggested that the few artifacts that were recovered -- brick, white clay pipe fragments and wrought nails -- might indicate a building that could be part of the town site. We also found that the shell midden did not extend much landward of the shoreline. The light concentration of artifacts seems to be in the area where the two unidentified buildings with chimneys appear on the 1682 Jones plat in Matt McKnight's overlay.

Field session incidentals that are good to know

- There will be a lunchtime presentation Saturday, June 3. Roy Brown will give a talk/demonstration on bone technology.
- Dennis Pogue will present the Spencer O. Geasey Memorial Lecture Thursday, June at 7 p.m. in the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick. Pogue, who teaches at the University of Maryland, directed the archeological research program at George Washington's Mount Vernon and oversaw all preservation related activities there, for 25 years.
- The traditional Almost-End-of-the-Session Cookout will be held Saturday, June 3, on site at the end of the workday.
- Camping will be available about three miles from the site. Contact Charlie Hall charles.hall@maryland.gov) to reserve a tent space. We hope to have our instant hot water field shower up and running, but there will be no electric service. There is no charge for camping.
- For motel accommodations, the closest places seem to be in Prince Frederick. Several are listed, with nightly prices ranging from about $60 to $120.

We are also planning to collect magnetic susceptibility data prior to the Field Session. If anyone is interested in assisting with this effort we could use some willing volunteers! This effort will probably be conducted over a couple of days during a week sometime in May. Contact Charlie Hall at the address above.

Spring Symposium draws listeners, auction interest

The Spring Symposium, held April 8 at MHT headquarters, attracted almost 50 people. They heard talks on a wide range of subjects and checked out items offered in the silent auction. Auction chairman Elaine Hall reports that the auction produced $430 for the analysis fund.

Book review: Looking for the first Americans

"Bones, Discovering the First Americans," by Elaine Dewar. 2001, 640 pages.

Elaine Dewar travelled across North, Central and South America to study the earliest American sites and learn from those archeologists who have studied those earliest of sites. American archeologists debate whether people arrived here before Clovis or is Clovis the earliest group with a footprint in the Americas. There is also a discussion about whether Beringia is the original entry way into the Americas. These discussions can be fierce. Also, where did the first Americans come from? Asia, Africa, Europe or Siberia?

Dewar looks at Monte Verde at the southern tip of Chile; Pedra Furada, Brazil's pictographs; Pendejo Cave, New Mexico; Spirit Cave, Carson City, Nevada; Wizard's Beach, Nevada, and Kennewick Man, Washington State, with comparisons of DNA of Pendejo Cave man, Spirit Cave man and Wizard's Cave man regarding health and diet. The dates of early man have been rolled back to between 14,000 and 25,000 years when studying the South American and the cave sites.

As for migration, did the first people enter through Beringia or arrive by boat, maybe farther south and then migrate north? Was there a viable passage along the Mackenzie River for safe travel between the Cordilleran and the Laurentide glaciers toward the end of the last ice age?

I found the book to be very informative regarding the theories being tossed around by the academic archeology community – and the heat of the discussion.

The book, which is written in a popular style, could have used more editing. It sagged during small talk with the professionals. I would have preferred a more crisp discussion of the sites. I learned about sites I had heard of but never knew the details. These details are fascinating and make the book worthwhile.

Hopefully, the popular style will open a door for those who are interested in learning more about the sites, the archeologists and the hot discussions across America today.

-- Barbara Israel

Wanted: Old Maryland Archeology journals

Do you have any old Maryland Archeology journals you no longer need? Dan Coates, who is in charge of the Journal archives, might be able to use them to fulfill requests for back issues. He is especially looking for Volume 19 Issue 1 and Volume 26 both issues. Contact him at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net to arrange for the transfer.

FRANK & ERNEST **by Thaves**

Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at http://JamesGGibb@verizon.net

Central Chapter

For information contact centralchapterasm @yahoo.com or stephenisrael2701@comcast.net or 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter or http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/

Friday, June 16: Stephen and Barbara Israel will give a power point presentation on their May 2017 **trip to** the Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon Pueblo archeological sites and their June 2017 Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology, Empire State Museum Tour, at NHSM at 7:30 p.m. A business meeting will begin at 7.

Sunday, July: Central Chapter is co-partnering with NHSM Nature Connection Archaeology Program. TBA.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September–May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

Saturday, May 13 (4:30 p.m.) After a potluck dinner at the Thomas Stone National Historic Site Visitor Center, David Lassman will speak.

September 14: Jim Gibb will speak on "Bones for Beginners II."

October 12: Silas Hurry will discuss "A History of Archeology in Maryland's First Capital."

November 9: Jacob Moschler. TBD

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 heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-563-7530 or 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

May 18: Mark Thorne, program manager for the Montgomery County Parks' Woodlawn Visitor Center, will give a tour of the center and of the Woodlawn Manor house. The center is at 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring.

June 8: Annual Chapter picnic from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Needwood Mansion.

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. NOTE NEW STARTING TIME

May 10: Erin Cagney on "Of Palisades and Postmolds," utilizing data collected from recent ASM field sessions at Biggs Ford to analyze the post molds and potentially determine the existence of patterns that can indicate the layout of both the Montgomery Complex Village and the Keyser Complex Village.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are usually 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

Sunday, May 21: Annual Picnic Meeting, at Wilson Mill.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at Clcoogan@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 try UParchaeologygroup@gmail.com or http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/

May 8: Celeste Huecker tries again to tell about the stones of Brittany. Cooperate, weather.

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

May: No meeting.

State restores noncapital grant funding to MHT

It was in 2011 that the State of Maryland last gave MHT money to use for noncapital grants. The baren years hit ASM also as it had relied on funds from MHT for some of its major programs. Both MHT and ASM skimped and tightened already tight expenditures and hoped it was a short-term phenomenon.

But it wasn't. Year after year no funds were provided.

This year it seemed things were going to change. Governor Hogan listing $279,000 in his budget proposal. But the budget had to clear both houses of the legislature. The General Assembly acted first and cut the MHT funding out. Then the Senate restore it, or some of it, $200,000. The budget then went to a conference committee to work out the differences between the two bills.

Happily, the Senate version prevailed, which is good news for archeology in Marylandd.

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 Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 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

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

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