



ASM Ink

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www.marylandarcheology.org

2012 field session finds its objectives

By Bob Wall and Jim Gibb

Principal Investigators

Not only did both elements of the 2012 ASM field session prove successful, but even the weather cooperated. A rage of storms failed to materialize and canopies protected most participants from the few days of high temperatures.

The prehistoric element of the session, the Hollingsworth Farm site (18CE29), was judged a success by Wall. In addition to lithics and a variety of pottery, what appeared to be a thin layer of Holocene soils was found sandwiched between the overlying plow zone and the Pleistocene sands and gravels below.

The 19 two-meter units stretched from inside a cornfield to scant feet from the wired enclosure of the Cecil County Correctional Facility. Several units were taken to the depth of underlying Pleistocene subsoils.

The layer of Holocene subsoil contained all of the mapped features revealed on the site as well as concentrations of lithic debitage, split cobbles, cores, bifaces, flake tools and a variety of projectile points including an Otter Creek point, several triangles and several stemmed points.

The features included charcoal concentrations and organic stains represented primarily by shallow basin-shaped depressions.

One of the features contained a large section of a Marcey Creek steatite tempered ceramic vessel. This vessel section will be reconstructed in Towson University's archeology laboratory. Other ceramics recovered included typical early ceramic types such as Dames Quarter and Wolfe Neck.

One of the finds of the week happened on the last day just minutes before backfilling. Upon troweling the last plow scar in the last unit to be backfilled, Towson University student Weaam Shingrai noticed a stone protruding through the base of the plow scar.

With the assistance of another Towson student, Frank Turlington, a double-bi-bitted greenstone axe was completely exposed and then excavated from its subsoil context.

This *in situ* recovery of a ground stone axe is certainly a rare find. Laboratory work will be ongoing in the Towson University archaeology lab this summer.

Meanwhile, on an adjacent grassy meadow, work was underway to find footprint of the War of 1812's Fort Hollingsworth at the Elk Landing Site (18CE60). Gibb credited much of the success to the intensive study of the area during the months before the field session. Magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar surveys had found a linear feature under the plow zone. Soil analysis produced from augering found interesting patterns.

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Upcoming events

Through June 30: Jefferson Patterson public archeology program. Smith's St. Leonard Site. To register, contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or echaney@mdp.state.md.us.

September 8: ASM board meeting.

October 20: ASM annual meeting. United Methodist Church, LaPlata.

Volunteer opportunities

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

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

For information on the CAT program, and updates, visit the ASM website.

Needed: Marye names, auction items

The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things, of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings, of who should win the Marye Award and what the auction brings. Especially the Marye Award and the second annual ASM silent auction.

Each year ASM honors someone for significant contributions to Maryland archeology. The winner need not be a member of ASM or even an archeologist. Nominations are not carried over from one year to the next, so choices who didn't get the award in the past must be nominated again to be considered this year.

In saying why the person is worthy, be as specific as possible, to help the judges in their decision. A nomination form, including a list of past winners, is with this newsletter as well as on the ASM website. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 7. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting Oct. 20 in LaPlata.

Also taking place at that meeting will be the silent auction. Organizer Valerie Hall is looking for a wide range of items for this year's event. Last year's items included books, artwork, Native American craft replicas, cookies, themed baskets, honey, jewelry, weekend cottage rental, magazines, journals, gift card to lithic material.

This year she would like to add such things as tickets to historic, recreation, or science activities such as Historic St. Mary's City museums and exhibits, Historic Londontown, meal tickets to dine at the Galway Bay Irish Pub: Food and Drink in Annapolis, or tickets to Adkin Arboretum, in Ridgely near Tuckahoe State Park.

If you would like to make this happen, fill out the donation form, which can be found on the ASM website and mail or email it by Sept. 17.

Technology enhances old pictographs



From CBC, May 7, 2012

Aboriginal elders and Parks Canada archeologists have just completed a two-year project to photograph and interpret several ancient pictograph sites along the foothills and mountains in Alberta and British Columbia.

Many of the fading ochre paintings are barely recognizable, but thanks to some new camera technology, those paintings are teaching a new generation about the distant past.

On an outcrop near Okotoks, Alberta, some orange smudges on a rock wall are the only faded hint of an ancient aboriginal pictograph.

Painted hundreds, or thousands, of years ago its story has now re-emerged.

"That one on one connection to me is very powerful," said Harley Bastien from the Piikani First Nation.

He's one of four elders who worked with Parks Canada to record and understand several of these pictographs.

Digitally enhanced images of those orange smudges at the Okotoks erratic site now show drawings of circles, arrows and people.

Bastien says it marks an important journey.

"I'd like to see the youth, especially the aboriginal youth, to have a real opportunity to have a look at these photographs because it's their legacy," he said.

Parks Canada archeologists, including Brad Himour, used special camera and computer technology to create those enhanced images and a record of the past.

"We are looking for a non-intrusive way to be able to record them for posterity," said Himour.

The elders say the paintings and the sites are sacred and the knowledge just as valuable.

Video tour offered of 1798 Delaware shipwreck

Delaware is offering a few tours of the hull of the HMS DeBraak, a British warship which sank off Cape Henlopen in 1798, discovered in 1984 and later brought ashore where it is undergoing restoration at Cape Henlopen State Park. An article about the ship, complete with a five-minute video, is available on the website of the Cape Gazette. Tour information is included in the story.

<http://capegazette.villagesoup.com/news/story/video-added-state-offers-unique-chance-to-see-debraak-hull/830013>

Official ASM election ballots are on the way

A full slate of candidates is being offered ASM members for the 2012 election. In addition to the names on the ballot, space is left for write-in candidates. Seven candidates are vying for six At-Large Trustee positions. Profiles of the candidates are on the reverse side of the ballot. The ballots are coming by special mailing in July: Look for it. Instructions are included for submitting your ballot.

St. Mary's find expands first state house

For the first time in 30 years new portions of Maryland's first state house have been discovered.

Historic St. Mary's City made the announcement June 21, saying that excavators at the site of the Calvert House made the finding while exploring two cellars that had been found in earlier digs.

They hope the brick and stone foundation will provide new insights into how the building was constructed and used.

They are paying special attention to the junction between the regular foundation and the brick-lined cellar which, they hope, will demonstrate whether the cellar was part of the original house or a late-17th-Century addition.

The current dig builds on work first begun in the 1980s when the site was identified and tested. At that time the size of the building was put at 66 feet by 40 feet and its unique layout was mapped. The foundations showed the house was built with two rows of rooms separated by a hallway running through the long axis of the structure. Two chimneys were also found.

But the many questions concerning the architecture of the building its led to this summer's excavations. Specifically, the archeologists are investigating the two cellars discovered in the 1980s but not fully defined nor tested.

The first one is called the "burned clay" cellar and it was created by digging a hole, filling it with wood and brush, and lighting it on fire. This baked the clay walls to a bright orange color. For obvious reasons, this cellar is one of the oldest features on the site. At a later time, the cellar was filled in and its depth or what it contains remain a mystery.

The other cellar is brick lined and perhaps replaced the earlier one. While one side of the cellar is known, the interior wall has not been located. Both cellars are being tested this summer.

The structure was built soon after Maryland was first settled in the 1630s and was the home for the founder and first governor, Leonard Calvert. It later served as an ordinary, or inn, and a courthouse, before being bought in 1662 by the Province of Maryland to serve as the first state house.

Located in the center of Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland's first capital, the building was both the social and political capital for most of the 17th Century. The last historical mention of the house was in 1695 and it is likely that it was torn down early in the 18th Century.



New London Town museum opens

By E.B. Furgurson III

Condensed from the CapitalGazette.com, May 27, 2012

With the opening of the long-awaited Discover London Town! exhibit at Historic London Town and Museum, visitors might think they have stumbled into the Smithsonian.

"We like to think it's a mini-Smithsonian," said London Town director Donna Ware. "And outside on the grounds is like a mini-Williamsburg."

Ware said London Town is unique in that children and visitors can make a discovery in the field at one of the ongoing archeological digs, then witness how those objects are curated, processed and stored in the archeology lab. And then, in the museum, they can see how the artifacts are interpreted and how they fit into the vast jigsaw puzzle of our history.

London Town was one of the Maryland colony's primary tobacco ports. It thrived from 1680 until the mid-1700s, when the Maryland General Assembly limited tobacco export to designated ports. The bustling business center on the South River wasn't one of them.

The London Town display, from construction of the building through completion of the exhibit, cost \$5.1 million. The State Highway Administration footed \$2.6 million of that. The remainder came from Anne Arundel County, state bonds and grants.

"You can go through the interactive exhibit about the Lord Mayor's Tenement, then go outside and be in the Lord Mayor's Tenement. You can really make the connection," Ware said.

Before descending the stairs into the new exhibit, visitors see a satellite image of the Chesapeake Bay and a Colonial-period map of the area. The map "helps orient visitors to London Town as a key location in north-south transportation — the Colonial interstate, so to speak," said curator John Kille, who is also assistant director of the Lost Towns Project, the team that has made most of the archeological discoveries on display.

Downstairs, the exhibit's elements take visitors through Native American life. The artifacts span thousands of years, from pottery to Clovis projectile points. There is also a collection of locally made tools representing from 9,500 to 300 years ago.

The next stop is a display that tells the story of Providence, one of the area's earliest settlements.

One of the great discoveries was finding the skeleton of an indentured servant in the basement of a home site; this became a centerpiece of an exhibit at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

A favorite interactive exhibit highlights transportation and trade at the Colonial port. The animation uncovers layers of a ship built in Annapolis around 1747. Using the interactive screen you can see how hogsheads of tobacco were loaded, fire cannons, go below to see how freight was stored and climb the rigging. To entertain wee visitors, there are even rats aboard.

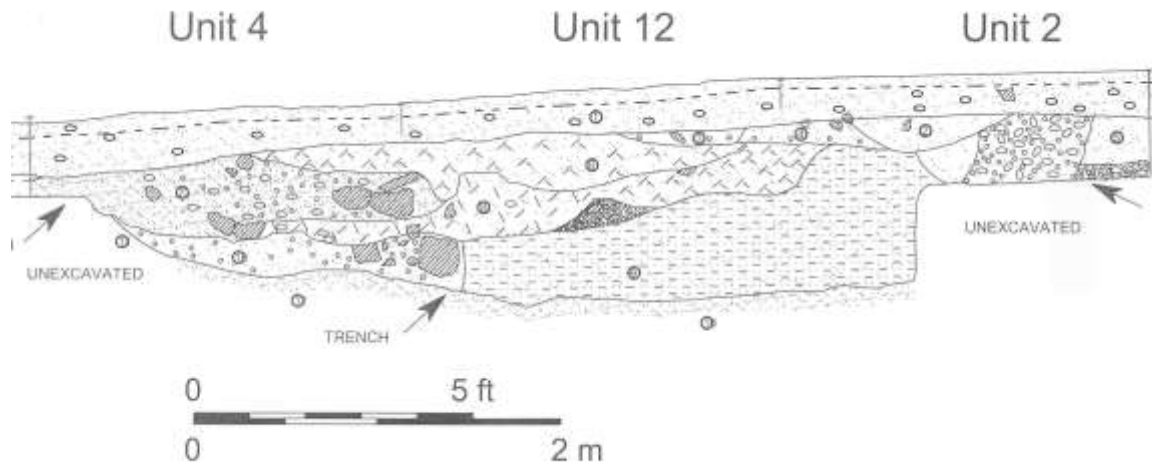
Other exhibits examine the lives of slaves and indentured and prisoner servants, whose labor was vital to London Town and the entire colony. A look at the carpentry and cabinetmaking trades helps flesh out the story of daily life of London Town.

"Everything on display was found in Anne Arundel County and curated by the professionals working here," Ware said. "It is not like we hired a company and said, 'Create an exhibit for us.'"

She said many realize our area is rich in prehistoric and Colonial history and has a great potential for archeological discovery.

"But people come through the exhibit and say, 'Gee, all of these things were found here?' When they see the magnitude of what had been found, they are really impressed."

"We will be able to augment the exhibit, installing temporary things. It won't be a static, permanent exhibit," Ware said. "We call it Discover London Town! and we want to keep active the sense of the word 'discover.'"



Fort Hollingsworth discovered (18CE60).

Under the plow zone note the various trench fills in the center of the undisturbed area.

2012 field school finds its objectives

Continued from Page One

The goal during the session was to ground-truth the findings of the geophysical and cartographic analyses with a minimum of excavation on this protected archeological site. A line was mapped that perpendicularly crossed the presumed earthwork and a series of 2-by-1 meter units were excavated. Fourteen were dug, all but one along that surveyed line and completely contiguous for a continuous soil profile apart from three



Plow scars grace a 18CE19 unit.

Photo to John Fiveash

unexcavated units.

"We found the ditch whence the militia and citizens borrowed soil with which to make a low earthwork," Gibb said. "A period source described the ditch as sufficiently large to accommodate 500 men and the earthwork as a semi-circle 300 feet long."

The geophysical and cartographic data identified a footprint that corresponds to that description and the ditch that the field crew exposed will allow re-evaluating those other data and a more accurate definition of the fort footprint.

He said he hopes to stake out the outline of the fort on the ground, enabling the Elk Landing Foundation to interpret the fort for visitors.

A wide variety of daily talks and a copse of trees offered two kinds of lunchtime refreshment. There also were not one but two picnics. In addition to the traditional last-weekend ASM affair, field school participants were invited by the host Northern Chesapeake chapter to join its annual picnic earlier in the session.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the home of Pat and Stephen Hittle, 102 Evon Court, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

September 18: Mechelle Kerns Galway on "For the Defense of Annapolis: Fort Madison on the Severn."

Central Maryland

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 second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

November 8: Peter Quantock will be presenting his Geophysical study at Port Tobacco.

December 13: Michael Lucas will be doing a presentation on the war of 1812 at Nottingham.

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 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or contact Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212 or e-mail Jeremy Lazelle at jlazelle@msn.com or call 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>

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the 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

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>

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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

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