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Rediscovering the Braddock Trail

By Robert L. Bantz, *Western Maryland Chapter*

One never knows where his or her first visit to an archeological society chapter meeting may lead. It was during my first meeting that I heard an inspiring presentation by chapter member Homer Hoover, a retired state highway surveyor, about the history and existence of Braddock's trail in western Maryland.

The trail played a prominent part in the French and Indian War, helping set the stage for the Revolution and the founding and expansion of our county.

To Thomas Cresap, Christopher Gist and their friend Nemocolin, a Delaware Indian, falls the honor of having blazed the trail for the Ohio Trading Company in 1753 from Will's Creek - today's Cumberland - westward to the Ohio Valley.

It is this historic trail that provided the route through the wilderness for George Washington in his attempt to evict the French and Indians from the Ohio Valley in 1753 and 1754. It is this trail along which General Edward Braddock and his 2,100 troops marched to their 1755 defeat by the French and Indians at the battlefield near the confluence of Turtle Creek and the Monongahela River six miles south of present-day Pittsburgh. One of Braddock's wagon masters was Daniel Boone.

After Braddock's defeat and after the war, Washington used the trail for four later trips through western Maryland.

The trail provided a route to the west for



Joe Conners learned that an especially deep section of the Braddock Trail runs through his land in Garrett County.

Meriwether Lewis in July, 1803, on the first leg of his historic trip to the Pacific Ocean. And the trail provided passage westward for thousands of pioneers until the opening of the National Pike in 1806.

Hoover's talk inspired me to locate, photograph and plot the trail, using the relatively new Global Positioning technology.

Employing the maps and journals of Christopher Gist and Braddock's officers and servants, as well as land grant maps, local lore and books by Lacock in 1908 and Ruckert in 1975, I was able to locate and plot the trail in western Maryland.

Continued on Page 7

Upcoming events

February 15: CAT law and ethics workshop, Crownsville. See CAT Corner below.

March 1: ASM Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Crownsville. All are welcome.

March 13-16: Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Dennis Pogue at Historic Mount Vernon, 703-780-2000.

March 22: All-day workshop, Crownsville. Details coming soon.

March 28 - 31: ASNC spring dig. See details inside.

April 26: Annual Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

May 23 - June 2: Annual ASM Field School, the Winslow Site, Montgomery County

Volunteer opportunities

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

Feb 1. Shovel testing at Smith's St. Leonard Site at JPPM. 410-586-8555.

The MHT is going to be surveying properties of interest beginning this spring, starting with the McKee-Besheer area in Montgomery County. Contact Charlie Hall for details. 410-514-7665 or hall@dhcd.state.md.us

Ongoing: The Northern Chesapeake Chapter is offering lab work, usually on Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Sundays between 9 am and 2 pm. Call Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or williamlmac@comcast.net.

Lab work on Winslow Site artifacts. Call Katherine Clermont at 202-885-1840.

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

Linkages:

Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC. Programs and a newsletter. 3106 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20010 or www.pcswdc.org

Lost Towns Project. Ongoing search for colonial sites in Anne Arundel County. Lisa Plumley, Office of Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or call 410 - 222 - 7441.

CAT Corner

A new year of CAT activities begins this month with a repeat of the Laws and Ethics seminar, at Crownsville, Saturday February 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop will be divided between a presentation and a discussion about historic preservation law, especially as it concerns archeology and archeological ethics.

The free workshop is required for CAT certification and probably will not be offered again this year.

Registration is limited to 25, and preference will be given to those who did not take the workshop last year. As usual, non-CAT participants are welcome if there is room left over.

To register or get more information, contact Jim Gibb at 443-482-9593 or jggibb@msn.com

Meanwhile, plans are underway for a "Prehistoric and Historic Overview" workshop, probably in May in Frederick. Watch this Corner for updated information.

Dr. William Gardner of Catholic U. dies

By Dennis C. Curry, *Maryland Historical Trust*

Dr. William M. Gardner, Professor Emeritus at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., died at his home in Hedgesville, West Virginia, on December 20. He was 67.

Gardner came to Catholic University in 1967 with a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana. At Catholic, as the first archeologist in a highly regarded Anthropology Department, he instituted archeological studies at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and later served as department chair for a number of terms.

Early on, using National Science Foundation support, Gardner joined with Robert L. Humphrey (George Washington University) and Charles W. McNett, Jr. (American University) to investigate the Potomac Valley's archeological resources (a program now under the direction of Joe Dent of American University). The consortium resulted in a number of joint studies of prehistoric sites.

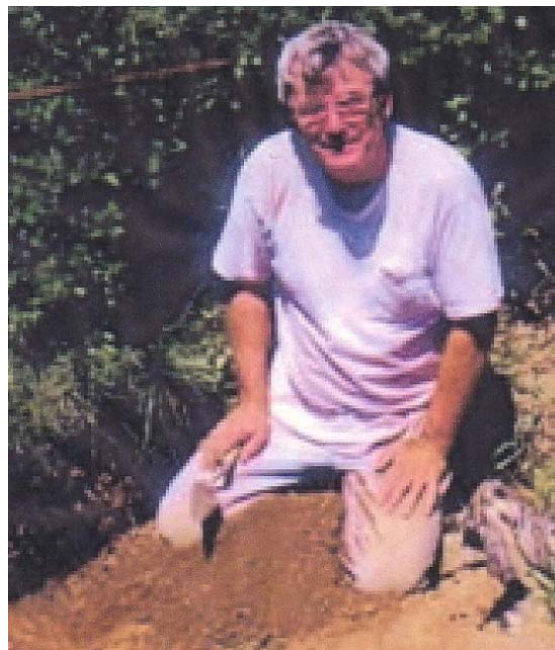
In the early 1970s, as an outgrowth of the Potomac Valley research, Gardner began his investigation of a site on the Thunderbird Ranch in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Later known as the Flint Run Paleoindian Complex, this was the focus of Gardner's research for more than a decade.

Summer-long field schools were carried out for years and served as the training ground for many of Gardner's students. Meticulously excavated, this complex of sites revealed the 12,000-year-old remains of intact chipping clusters, living floors and a Paleoindian house pattern.

Using a multidisciplinary approach then new to archeology (including studies of soils and geology, environmental reconstruction, piece plotting of artifacts and core reconstruction), Gardner attempted to recreate the physical and cultural landscapes once present at Flint Run. The site complex also revealed settlement and subsistence patterns that Gardner successfully interpolated to the larger Middle Atlantic region as a whole.

In the mid-1970s, Gardner began to enter the nascent cultural resources management world, the world of archeology-for-pay. Unlike others, perhaps, he saw two other aspects of CRM often overlooked: a source of training for students and a rich research lode waiting to be mined.

Regardless of how seemingly insignificant a site appeared or how meager the results of a survey,



Gardner had the knack of retrospectively analyzing the findings from multiple projects and repackaging the results as broad sweeping models applicable to large areas of the Middle Atlantic.

Typically, this would result in a pivotal paper presented at the annual Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference, of which he was a founder. MAAC always seemed to epitomize his approach to archeology — everyone, even students, had a right to an opinion and, once presented, the opinion deserved scrutiny by all. Only in that way could theory be proved or disproved and only in that way could archeology advance.

In 1999, MAAC presented him with its first Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2001, Gardner retired from Catholic. He continued his CRM pursuits through his company, Thunderbird Archeological Associates. Most recently he focused on finding deeply buried Early Woodland components in floodplains.

He also "rediscovered" historical archeology. In the early 1970s Gardner had undertaken several historic-period projects for the National Park Service. Thirty years later, he began specializing in the archeology of African American slave sites and French-and-Indian War forts.

For information on February 7 memorial services for Dr. Gardner, call Mary Barse at 4110-545-2885 or mbarse@sha.state.md.us

National Park Service digs to discover

By Guy Gugliotta, *Condensed from the Washington Post, Nov. 6, 2002*

On a November morning in 1864, U.S. Army Col. John Chivington and 700 half-drunk volunteers attacked and massacred nearly 200 Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians -- most of them women and children -- encamped along a dry wash in southeastern Colorado, just north of Lamar.

This debacle, known as the Sand Creek Massacre, served as a catalyst for two decades of bloodshed that decimated the Cheyenne and Arapahoe and left a legacy of bitterness among Native Americans that endures.

In 1999, in a bill sponsored by Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Col.), a Northern Cheyenne, Congress directed the National Park Service to find the exact location of the massacre and survey it with a view toward making it a National Historic Site.

The job fell to staff archeologist Doug Scott. Volunteers had searched before, but had not found the encampment. Scott, the Park Service's Great Plains team leader, is one of at least 600 and as many as 900 archeologists working for the federal government. Nobody knows exactly how many there are, because many are seasonal and contract hires.

While archeologists may not seem to fit into the button-down federal bureaucracy, the agencies need them. The Park Service alone has 60,000 sites -- that it knows about. There are storied tourist attractions such as the Gettysburg battlefield and the Indian ruins at Mesa Verde, but the portfolio also includes tiny spots like the Native American campsite on Alaska's North Slope.

And these known points of interest cared for by the Park Service say nothing about the chance encounters that occur whenever a government agency bulldozes a right-of-way, paves a runway, lays a foundation, makes a repair or digs a tunnel.

In all, the federal government produces about 20,000 archeological reports a year, and Frank McManamon, the Park Service's chief archeologist, is trying to log them in to the National Archeological Database. Right now the database has 240,000 citations, but the work moves in fits

and starts on an \$800,000 annual budget.

McManamon said most of the logged items are surveys rather than excavations, "in part because we're not trying to destroy sites, as in the past."

At Sand Creek, Scott said, his researchers started from the premise that earlier expeditions were looking for the site of the massacre in the wrong place. Then historians in the group huddled with aerial photographers and came up with a plausible alternative, about a mile to the north.

"In the spring of 1999, we started to check with metal detectors," Scott said. "About seven-tenths of a mile north of the traditional area, we started to run into cannonball fragments, bullets, kettles and cast-iron skillets, tools, scrapers and arrowheads."

Curse of the Mummy? So sorry, tut tut

From the Washington Post, December 20, 2002

Those who disturbed Tutankhamen's tomb died all right, but no sooner than those who kept their distance, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal. The Christmas issue of the journal traditionally takes a break from life-and-death issues to deal with lighter fare.

"It doesn't need to be scientifically debunked because it's rubbish really, but it's the first time I've seen it treated in this medical or scientific way," said Neal Spencer, an Egyptologist at the British Museum.

When people associated with British archeologist Howard Carter's 1922 expedition that unearthed the tomb began to die prematurely, their demise was widely attributed to the mummy's curse. The death the following year of Lord Carnarvon, who financed the expedition, unleashed a sensation in newspapers worldwide.

"The press reports at the time had the death of every man and his dog being associated with the curse, no matter how obscure the connection," said the study's author, Mark Nelson, an epidemiologist at Australia's Monash University.

Nelson's study used Carter's diaries to select a group for analysis. Carter recorded the presence of 44 Westerners in Egypt at the relevant time, 25 of whom were potentially exposed to the "curse" at one stage or another of the excavation. "There was no effect on survival time for any exposure" to the curse, it found.

Archeological terms and jargon, cont.

The Native American Liaison Committee has developed a glossary to improve understanding and communication between archeologists and members of the Maryland American Indian community. This is the last of three installments.

Other Jargon

Replication:	The process of producing modern "artifacts" similar to prehistoric artifacts by primitive technologies. Archeologists replicate artifacts or technologies to better understand archeological specimens. Some nonarcheologists create replicated prehistoric artifacts for sale. This is the only ethical means by which "artifacts" can be sold, <i>provided that they are marked as replicas</i> . Unfortunately, replicated artifacts are often sold as genuine artifacts and fuel the pothunting market.
Material culture:	The artifacts and ecofacts used by people to cope with their physical and social environment.
Domestic:	Site type relating to a residential vs. industrial or other specialized occupation.
Context:	The relationship between artifacts, features, the soil matrix and other deposits that allows interpretation of the archeological record. Artifacts without context generally have little meaning.
Eastern Woodlands:	A regional study area characterized by similarities in prehistoric climate, lifestyles, social interactions. Generally the non-arctic area east of the Mississippi River.
Settlement patterns:	The range of site types and their distribution across the landscape that is typical of a specific time period or cultural group. Usually closely related to subsistence patterns.
Lifeways:	Generic term for the way a culture adapts to and modifies the natural and social environment.
Subsistence patterns:	The type of foodstuffs exploited and the methods of procuring them.
Cultural evolution:	The general progression of human cultures from simple to complex through time. This theory holds that the complexity of social organization generally parallels the increase in economic complexity, e.g. hunter-gather to horticultural to agricultural to industrial based societies.
Cultural ecology:	The study of the interrelationships between a culture and the surrounding environment, and the way a culture adapts to that environment.
Primary forest efficiency:	A pre-agricultural adaptive pattern characterized by maximum use of all available natural resources.
Exchange systems:	The patterns, routes and mechanisms by which resources are redistributed between cultural groups or sub-groups, e.g. barter, trade, sale.
Interaction spheres:	The social and economic relationships between different cultures, usually involving a dominant and subordinate cultures.
Integrity:	The condition of an archeological site that directly affects its ability to yield meaningful information. Possessing integrity is a pre-condition for National Register significance. Generally based on the degree of disturbance that has occurred.
Significance:	A legal term indicating the extent to which an archeological or historic resource meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
Section 106:	The part of the National Historic Preservation Act that established requirements for federal compliance archeology.
National Register of Historic Places:	An agency within the U.S. Interior Department, established by the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. Maintains data on significant historic properties including archeological sites.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation:	Regulatory federal agency that oversees compliance with federal preservation legislation. Many of its responsibilities are delegated to individual state historic preservation offices like the Maryland Historical Trust.

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Maryland Historical Trust:

The Maryland state historic preservation office, responsible for overseeing compliance archeology, as well as many other functions.

Article 83B:

Maryland legislation establishing the Maryland Historical Trust and providing for historic preservation within the state.

Time Periods

Pleistocene:

The geological time period of the most recent Ice Age, ending about 10,000 B.C. The period during which North America was colonized by humans.

Holocene:

The present geological time period.

Pre-Clovis:

Human occupations pre-dating 10,000 B.C. and fluted point technology. Although gaining acceptance, its existence is controversial.

Paleoindian:

An archeological time period from circa 10,000 B.C. to circa 8,000 B.C. marked by the presence of now-extinct megafauna and significantly different environmental conditions. The earliest uncontroversial period of human occupation of North America.

Archaic:

An archeological time period from circa 8,000 B.C. to circa 1000 B.C. characterized by hunting and gathering.

Woodland:

An archeological time period from circa 1000 B.C. to circa A.D. 1500, characterized by the invention and use of pottery, larger and more permanent settlements, horticulture, increased ceremonial practices and in Maryland by the stabilization and intense human exploitation of resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact:

An archeological time period from circa A.D. 1500 to circa A.D. 1750 in this area. Includes the numerous cultural interactions and changes resulting from the colonization of North America by European immigrants.

Colonial:

An archeological time period roughly defined by the onset of European colonization (1634 in Maryland) until the American Revolution. May be further subdivided, as in early, middle, and late, depending upon research questions.

Antebellum:

An archeological time period between the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

Modern:

Variably defined. Often 1930 and later. From the perspective of National Register of Historic Places potential significance, anything older than 50 years.

Culture Types

Hunters and gatherers:

A cultural/economic system generally based on a nomadic lifeway, with small bands of extended families relying on seasonal collection of food supplies, often within a specific territory. Lacks horticulture or agriculture, and ceramics. Usually characterized by an egalitarian, patrilineal social structure (e.g. Utes, Inuit) In particularly rich ecological zones with plentiful, predictable food supplies, (e.g. Northwest Coast) more complex social organizations may develop (e.g. Kwakiutl, Tlingit).

Horticulturalists:

A cultural/economic system based on plant domestication, relying on cultivation and sometime irrigation. Requires more permanent settlements. Stored food supplies generally permit greater population growth. Reliance on ceramic vessel manufacture. Generally associated with a ranked, matrilineal, social structure. (e.g. Hopi, Iroquois).

Pastoralists:

A cultural/economic system based on domesticated, herded animals, e.g. cattle, caribou, etc. Usually characterized by nomadic lifeway within well-defined territorial boundaries. Generally associated with a ranked, patrilineal social structure.

Agriculturalists:

A cultural/economic system based on both domesticated plants and animals, characterized individual land ownership.

Chiefdom:

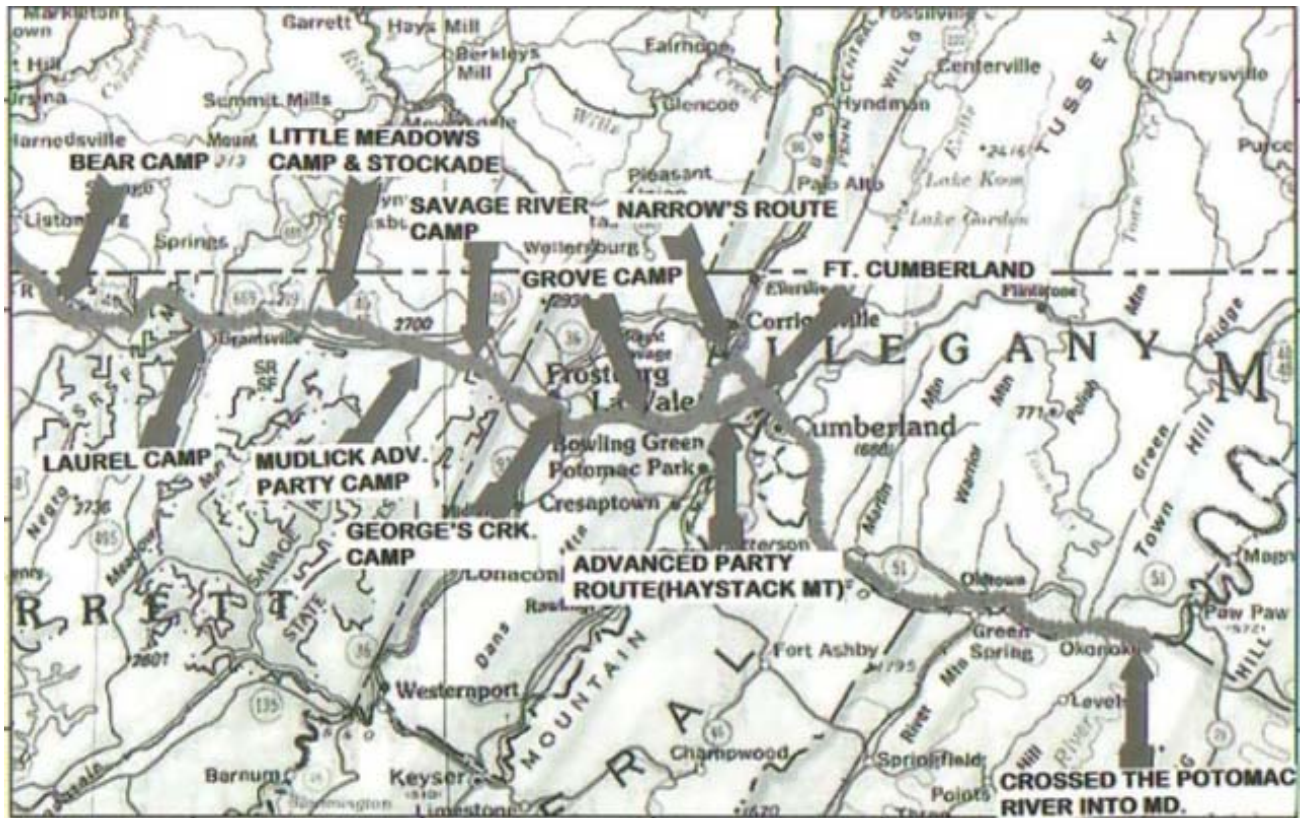
A cultural/political system where leadership of several groups is centralized, hierarchical and to some degree hereditary. Usually associated with a horticultural or agricultural economic base and permanent settlements (e.g. Powhatans, Piscataway).

Tribe:

In common usage, a group of individuals with similar lifeways and traditions identified by name applied by themselves (e.g. Lenape) or by outsiders (e.g. Delaware), regardless of their economic or political system. To anthropologists, tribal organization implies a relatively complex ranked society.

Moundbuilders:

In Eastern North America, the Moundbuilders refer to complex Woodland cultures that built mounds for mortuary and/or ceremonial and religious purposes. Archeological cultures include Adena, Hopewell, Ft. Ancient and Mississippian groups.



Rediscovering the Braddock Trail

Continued from Page One

Through the use of GPS technology, I plotted the trail and provided maps to Carol Ebright, a State Highway Administration archeologist, to establish an awareness of the trail in case it is impacted by future highway construction. Carol also had parts of the trail given site designations, 18AG241 in Allegany County and 18GA314 in Garrett County.

Preserving trail sites is becoming ever more difficult because of our rapidly developing Society. I have visited each landowner to share the history of the trail and ask to help preserve it for posterity.

Our investigations have determined that:

- The length of the original trail in western Maryland from Fort Cumberland to the Pennsylvania border was 36.5 miles.
- 44 percent of the original trail remains in western Maryland.
- 3.5 miles of trail remain in Allegany County.
- 12.5 miles of trail remain in Garrett County.
- 3 miles (18 percent) of the trail in Garrett county is within the Savage River State Forest.
- 92 percent of the existing trail in Western Maryland is on private land.
- The length of the original trail from Fort Cumberland to the battlefield at Braddock, Pennsylvania, is 122 miles.
- Of the 85.5 original miles in Pennsylvania, between the state line and Fort Necessity and westward on Laurel Mountain, only a few traces remain.

Two sites are very important historically and exist in impact areas.

The first is the original and very historic trail on Haystack Mountain just west of Fort Cumberland. It is very rapidly being developed with new housing and the land on which the trail exists is for sale for housing.

The second site, and the most historic French and Indian site in Garrett County, is Little Meadows. This was the location of Braddock's 1755 stockade and camp. It was the campsite for George Washington during six of

his westward trips and it was the homesite of the first settler in the county, whose grave is at the former stockade location. Little Meadows also is a pristine wetland.

I have reason to believe portions of the original log road still exist within the glade here and plan to search for them.

But Little Meadows is sitting within the impact area of the U.S. 219 improvement corridor. Due to the importance of the site, one of the goals of the Western Maryland Chapter is to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Highway Administration to try to keep the impact upon the site to a minimum.

I get many calls from people wanting to know where the trail is so they can search for the long-sought "Braddock's Gold." The search has created a lot of trespassing and a lot of problems with the landowners. But to tell the truth I have found it. It is not in the form of precious metal but in the form of hundreds of friendships I have made along the way.

ASNC plans early spring island getaway

As part of its ongoing survey of Garrett Island, the Northern Chesapeake chapter will hold a four-day field session from March 28 to 31. The chapter has been working for a while on the 200-acre island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River and wants to complete some Phase 2 testing. If time permits, tests will be conducted in an area where an 18th Century structure was located.

For CAT candidates the work will involve not only trowel excavation and sifting but unit and stratigraphic drawing and some site layout and survey work.

The dig, which is part of Maryland Archeology Month, will be from 8 am to 3 pm each day. ASM members and the public are invited to join in for a day or for the entire session. Advance registration is necessary and the site is only accessible by boat. Contact Bill McIntyre at 410-939-0768 or williamlmac@comcast.net.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9 in the Chesapeake Room, Heritage Center, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis. Questions? Contact Karen Ackermann at karenlta@juno.com

February 19: Donald Shomette will present "History beneath the Sea."

March 19: Bill McIntyre on the Concord Point lighthouse.

April 16: Richard Marrin will speak about his dig at Passage Point, New Jersey.

Central

Central Chapter will have no formal monthly meetings this winter. Telephone Stephen Israel at 410- 945-5514 evening, 410-962-0685 day, or by email; ssisrael@abs.net, for information.

Monocacy

Monocacy Archaeological Society meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at the Walkersville Middle School. Anyone interested can contact Joy Hurst at 301-663-6706 or e-mail hurst_joy@hotmail.com.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, usually at Harford Glen, but not always. Check the date for actual location. Meetings start at 7 with the program beginning around 7:40.

February 13: Carol Ebright with a lithics workshop.

March 13: Henry Ward on the Herring Island excavation in the Elk River. Meeting at the Perryville Community Center.

April 10: Icehouse opening. Meeting being held at Liriodendron.

Southern

Call 410-586-8584 for information.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. For information contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or lpreston@mail.howard.k12.md.us

February 10: "Historical Odyssey of the Aegean." Jacob Yates will include terrestrial and marine archeology in his powerpoint lecture.

March 10: Erin Piechowiak speaking on "Colonial Folklore."

April 14: Steve Israel will talk on rock shelters.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the LaVale Library, unless otherwise advised. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter Email- wmdasm@yahoo.com Web site - www.geocities.com/wmdasm

Feb. 28: Results of Barton 2002 - Roy Brown -An interactive sharing of the experience.

March 28: Cresaptown Site: A New Look at the Data, by Dana Kollman.

April 25: Learning to Live Together in Prehistory: The Potomac Valley Experiments, by Dr. Richard J. Dent.



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

ASM, Inc. members receive the monthly newsletter ASM, INC, the biannual MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM, Inc., events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Standard active annual membership rates are \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families. Please contact Dan Coates for publication sales at ASM, Northern Chesapeake Chapter, P.O. Box 553, Fallston, MD 21047-0553 or (410) 273-9619, e-mail: dancoates@comcast.net. For additional information, and membership categories, please contact Phyllis Sachs at P.O. Box 65001, Baltimore, MD 21209, (410) 664-9060, e-mail psachs4921@aol.com.

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