



# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Fall meeting coming up in Millersville

ASM's annual meeting will take place in Millersville on Saturday, October 13 and will feature five speeches covering both prehistoric and historic archeology.

The annual Frederick Stiner lecture will be given by Doug Owsley, the head of the physical anthropology division of the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian. He will talk about life in the Chesapeake region in the 17th Century.

The day's program will lead off with Dana Kollman, of Towson University, telling about her recent research into the Late Woodland period. The speech will offer a paleonutritional study of the Page and Keyser populations of the middle and upper Potomac valley.

Joe Dent, of American University, who directed this year's ASM field school at the Claggett Retreat site in Frederick County, will look at the puzzling differences between this and other nearby sites as part of his talk on "Settled Prehistoric Life in the Middle Potomac Valley."

Stephen Israel, of the Central Chapter, will offer an update on his digging at the Rockdale rockshelter in Baltimore County and explain "What It Tells Us About the Past and Doesn't."

The fifth speaker is John Kille, of the Lost Towns Project. He will offer a talk on what is going on there, entitled, "The Past Comes Alive at London Town: New Museums Exhibits and Reconstructions."

Registration begins at 8:30, the business meeting at 9:15 and the speeches at 11. Box lunches will be available from Heavenly Hams, for \$11.50, but orders must be placed by 9:30.

A flier describing the program and giving directions to the meeting is included with this newsletter.

## Three areas explored at the Barton site

**By Robert Wall**

*Principal Investigator*

Excavations at the multi-component Barton site (18AG3) this summer indicate that the Keyser house area was inhabited until sometime in the 1400s. The site's two other areas, the later Contact Period Susquehannock settlement and the much earlier deep component, also were explored.

The excavations surrounding the Keyser house revealed several large storage features, one of which appears to have been bark-lined, on both sides of the structure, and a veneer of ash and burnt organic material spread over a larger area surrounding the house. No additional structures were delineated but one of the pit features was surrounded by post molds.

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## Upcoming events

**September 8:** ASM board meeting, Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Rockville. 10 am. All are welcome.

**October 13:** Annual meeting of ASM. Millersville.

**October 31-November 3:** SEAC conference, Knoxville, Tennessee.

**November 8-11:** ESAF conference, Burlington, Vermont.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**Montgomery County lab,** field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org). CAT opportunity.

**ASM field session collection:** Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [hall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:hall@mdp.state.md.us).

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

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

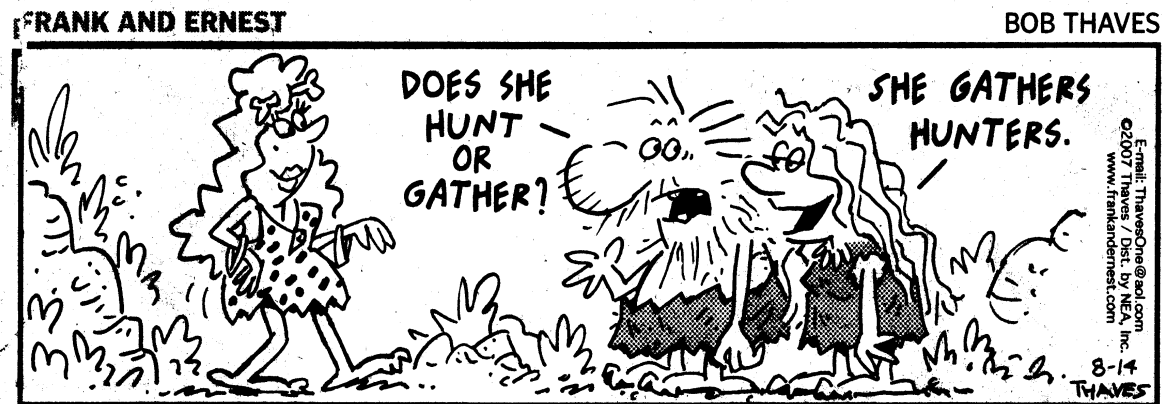
**Jefferson Patterson Park** invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. This year's public archeology program runs until July 8, with digging on Fridays and Saturdays and lab work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or [echaney@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:echaney@mdp.state.md.us)

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

## CAT corner

For updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.

**Special fieldwork opportunity:** Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at [rervin@sha.state.md.us](mailto:rervin@sha.state.md.us)



# I know you but I don't recognize you

By Matt Zapotosky

*Condensed from the Washington Post, August 6, 2007*

The 28-foot wooden boat that has been sailing the Chesapeake Bay for the past 86 days trying to re-create Capt. John Smith's 1608 voyage received a warm greeting from Maryland's Indian tribes when it pulled into Calvert County yesterday.

A traditionally dressed Indian warrior greeted the shallop's 12 crew members and led them to the Eastern Woodland Indian Village at Jefferson Patterson Park in St. Leonard, which featured Native American demonstration booths, music and dancing. At a welcoming ceremony later, various tribes presented the crew with gifts of tobacco.

But representatives from the same tribes had a less-than-welcoming message for government officials who attended the ceremony: They said they were sick of not being officially recognized by the state even though they were "exploited" for state-endorsed events.

"As you can see, we're not very invisible when you need us to be an attraction for an event through the state," said Mervin Savoy, tribal chairwoman for the Piscataway Conoy, speaking to a crowd of about 100 people.

Several other Indian leaders echoed Savoy's sentiments as politicians, including state Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Calvert) and retired U.S. senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.), looked on from the stage they shared with tribal representatives.

"I ask you, Maryland, why do you ask us to speak when you have already determined that your ears will hear, but they will not listen?" said Piscataway tribal chairwoman Natalie Proctor, also known as Standing on the Rock, fighting back tears onstage. "We are visible here right now, but through the legislative body, we do not exist," she said in a later interview.

Miller said later that he has not taken a definitive stance on whether Maryland's tribes should receive government recognition but that he believes that the state has had a good relationship with them. He noted that Maryland was one of the first states to create and fund a commission on Indian affairs.

"We've come a long way," he said. "We love them. We respect them."

## Getty Museum artifacts going back to Italy

*Condensed from the Associated Press, August 2, 2007*

ROME -- Italy announced a deal Wednesday that requires the J. Paul Getty Museum to return 40 artifacts, including a famed statue of the goddess Aphrodite. It was the latest victory in Italy's efforts to recover antiquities it says were looted from the country and sold to museums worldwide.

Italy and the Getty also agreed on widespread cultural cooperation, which will include loans of other treasures to the Los Angeles museum, the Culture Ministry said in a statement.

"Both parties declare themselves satisfied with the fact that, after long and complicated negotiations, an agreement has been reached and now they move ahead with a relationship of renewed cooperation," the statement said.

The Los Angeles museum has denied knowingly buying illegally obtained objects.

Most of the artifacts will be returned within the next few months, according to a calendar drawn up by experts from both sides.

Italian authorities have launched a worldwide campaign to recover looted treasures and had been at odds with the Getty over dozens of antiquities they say were illegally dug up and smuggled out despite laws making all antiquities found in Italy state property.

Authorities have signed separate deals with New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts for the return of a total of 34 artifacts in exchange for loans of other treasures.

Italy has also placed former Getty curator Marion True and art dealer Robert Hecht on trial in Rome, charging them with knowingly receiving dozens of archeological treasures that had been stolen from private collections or dug up illicitly.

The two Americans deny wrongdoing. It was not clear if the political agreement would affect the trial.

## Computer images help Fairfax County

By Michael Laris

*Condensed from the Washington Post, August 2, 2007*

After years of shoveling his way through archeological digs so intense that they injured his L5 vertebra, John Rutherford made his biggest discovery sitting in a cubicle west of Seven Corners in Fairfax County. He was scouring 1937 photographs of Centreville on his computer screen when the star-shaped outline of a Civil War fort came into view, like an intricate painting on the landscape.

The fort is invisible in contemporary aerial photos. But those early images -- 215 high-resolution pictures taken by a U.S. government photographer from the sky as part of a national agricultural surveying effort -- offer a view virtually unchanged since the end of the Civil War.

The photographs stir more than nostalgia. The star fort discovery, for instance, stopped a planned housing project on the site and the county bought the land to use to build a park.

The historic images have also changed the way the county vets projects. "Virtually every parcel" that comes up for zoning review is checked against the images, said C.K. Gailey, a retired Army ordnance specialist. "You didn't do that in the past. It was way, way too hard."

Gailey has spent years adding county data into a digital warehouse that holds the 1937 images, including the locations of 3,400 historic and archeological sites and 500 pages of hand-drawn property ownership maps from 1860, the year before the Civil War started.

"We look at what's going to be lost and how much archeology needs to be done before it's gone, because it's going to go in most cases," Gailey said.

Inspiration to find a new way to view the county came from years of frustration with the marred paper copies of aerial photos that provided a disjointed and grease-pencil-stained picture of Fairfax's history. It was an achingly slow process to manually try to locate a specific spot by reviewing a succession of photos.

County archeologists appealed to an official at the National Archives in College Park to dig out the original negatives of the 1937 photos, which were stored in what looked like jumbo coffee cans, and have them scanned.

Rutherford, Gailey and digital geographer Scott Sizer were handed a tantalizing hard drive full of history. But to see it in full, they needed to line up the 1937 images precisely on a picture of modern Fairfax. It was like piecing together a 400-square-mile jigsaw puzzle that had an outdated picture on the box.

Rutherford, who made the star fort discovery about a year and a half ago, thought it would take them a year to finish. But with a swirl of labor and excited phone calls charting progress, they were done in a few months.

"For all the change we talk about and see, I've been shocked at how much similarity people find in what was there and what is there today," Sizer said.

Other views show how much history has been covered up.

Since much of Fairfax County was built before preservation regulations were in place, Elizabeth Crowell, a county Park Authority archeologist, tries to find what she calls "islands of preservation," small patches of undisturbed history that can tell stories.

That takes imagination and a long-term view. As the owners of parking lots or aging strip centers ask county officials for permission to rebuild in coming years, she will push to examine what's underneath.

"Just because it's constructed on doesn't mean, necessarily, that the archeology has been destroyed," she said.

In Fairfax, chunks of history have also been wiped out by looters, leaving officials fiercely protective of some details, such as the precise location of the star fort. It has been partially dug up, photographed and filled in with dirt as a security measure while plans for the park progress.

"The relic hunters have been hitting these Civil War sites, digging holes and extracting objects for decades," said Michael Rierson, who has headed Fairfax's historic preservation program for more than three decades.

Fifty to 70 percent of the Civil War sites in Fairfax have been picked over or destroyed, Rierson said.

"All I can say is, I wish I had this back in 1973," he said.

## Three areas explored at the Barton site

### **Continued from Page One**

Two radiocarbon samples have confirmed a mid-1400s time frame for the village. One of the radiocarbon samples was taken from the palisade trench feature and the other was taken from the large pit feature recorded inside the Keyser house.

Efforts this year and last also focused on defining the periphery of the Susquehannock settlement identified in the late 1990s. Glass trade beads found on the surface for a number of years had indicated the presence of a Contact Period component but the affiliation was uncertain until the recent excavations. Excavations in past years revealed large storage pits, hearths, evidence of structures and a large palisade.

Unlike the circular and well-defined stockade surrounding the Keyser village, the purported Susquehannock stockade has yet to be clearly defined and no complete house patterns have been uncovered yet. Additional segments of a palisade were revealed in 2006. However, its orientation with regard to the distribution of Susquehannock features is still problematic. Artifacts recovered from the Susquehannock component include metal tools and ornaments of brass, copper and iron; zoned incised ceramics, bone tools and ornaments, shell beads and small triangular points.

Further work is under way on the deeper components of the site to find out who the earliest inhabitants of the valley were. In past years, Early Archaic period artifacts (ca. 8000 BC) were recovered from deep tests beneath the Susquehannock occupation. However, we still have not been able to clearly identify the cultural affiliation of the deepest occupation which underlies the Early Archaic component and has been radiocarbon dated to ca. 10,000 BC.

The prehistory of the upper Potomac River valley has been explored through ongoing research at the Barton site over the past decade. The Keyser phase village was initially found to be surrounded by a stockade through excavations undertaken during an ASM field session in 1995. At that time, a portion of a house pattern inside the stockade was exposed as well. The northern and southern edges of the Keyser village stockade trench and associated large post molds were further defined in 2004.

These efforts show the enclosed village to be roughly 110 meters in diameter. The palisade trench was more than a meter wide and contained a variety of large (e.g., deer, elk, and bear) and small mammal bones as well as Keyser shell-tempered ceramics, triangular projectile points and lithic debitage.

In the summer of 2006, one of the Keyser houses inside the village was completely recorded and excavated. The house was a relatively small, about five-meter-diameter, circular structure with a central hearth and large storage feature adjacent to the interior wall.

A joint field session with the Western Maryland Chapter of ASM and Towson University is held every year in mid-June and fieldwork on the deeply buried occupations continues into September each year. Volunteers from other ASM chapters and interested visitors are welcome.

## Drought may have revealed old Delmarva house

**By Brice Stump**

*Condensed from the Delmarva Daily Times, August 19, 2007*

GROTONS, Va. -- The search is on, again, for the location of the house and grave of the Rev. Francis Makemie, "Father of American Presbyterianism." Both have been lost to historians for almost a century, and archeologist David Hazzard is excited about the few clues being revealed by shovel and trowel.

The biggest surprise for Hazzard came thanks to a drought a few years ago. In the browning grass is a crisp and detailed ribbon of green apparently outlining the walls of what the archeologist believes may be the preacher's home that stood here in the late 1600s.

Hazzard said he is unable to date the 24-by 24-foot brick structure, but if it turns out to be from the second half of the 17th Century, it would be of considerable archeological and historical value, as very few brick sites remain from that time in the state and even fewer on the Shore.



Features and artifacts have been found, but nothing has been found that is conclusively tied to Makemie.

## Profiles in Maryland archeology

# An interview with ... Jack Davis

*Jack Davis is an active member of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter of ASM.*

**Q. How did you get involved in archeology, Jack?**

A. Well, I got mixed up with Bill McIntyre. My first real archeological job was with Bill McIntyre at the O'Neil house, which is the lightkeeper's house for Concord Point light in Havre de Grace. That was probably 15 years ago and we did phase 1 archeology and then we started doing phase 2 archeology and wound up digging some one-meter units outside and, as that progressed, inside the summer kitchen and we are still continuing to do archeology there and that was when I got involved with the Harford County Archeological Society, which now is Northern Chesapeake Society. It's just progressed from there. We wound up on Garrett Island for half a dozen years and that property now has been sold to the (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service under the auspice of



the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge and that ended our archeological explorations there. They have their own archeologist and they want to check out their new playground before they let somebody else do some digging, I'm sure. I don't blame them. It's a beautiful site.

But we wound up working in Pennsylvania, Harford, Baltimore, Cecil County, down the Western Shore. I've branched out, been working with Stephen Israel doing rockshelters. Did some underwater archeology, we surveyed the Susquehanna River all the way from Smith Falls to the Concord Point Light in Havre de Grace, from west shore to east shore, every square inch of the river - in March, in the rain, for five days, it was with Steve Bilicki. I've worked with Jim Gibb doing some things. Actually, I've been interested in past history and prehistory since I was a kid. I was born and raised out in Kansas and was exposed to quite a few Native Americans out there in school and in my neighborhood. It's just been a thing that's grown with me since I was a kid and finally it got to the point where I needed to know the whys and the wherefores of these artifacts that are found and what they mean and that's when I got involved with Bill McIntyre and it just blossomed from there.

**Q. You seem quite interested in Native American technology. Did that develop mostly after meeting Bill?**

A. No. I grew up in a side-by-side culture with those folks. I spent time on different reservations with some of the elders, to learn their lifeways, how they lived, how they related to each other, how the community worked, their methods of gathering food, preparing food, storing food, making shelters, making tools - I do a lot of tool replication. I don't do the fancy stuff that some of the big-time flintknappers do, because they use exotic materials and things from other cultures and other parts of the world as their standards and I tend more to use native, local materials and try to replicate the local artifacts that are found. I'm more interested in the hows and the wheres than I am in having the artifact.

**Q. Is there a particular thing you enjoy replicating more?**

A. I don't know. I love to flintknape, I like to make tools, use the tools. I like to cook. I do a lot of primitive cooking, cooking demonstrations. I belong to several primitive skills groups that go out and learn or teach. We do the whole range - clothing, shelter, food, fire, tools, social life, the whole thing.

**Q. What about archeology. Do you have a favorite project that you've worked on?**

A. The favorite project would have to be the Garrett Island project, because we spanned back 8,000 years there. Back 8,000 years of use on that island, documented. It's been a wonderful experience to see the different layers of use over the years in a single area. I've been doing some of the field sessions, eight, nine years, whatever. Those have been a great experience for me. They add a lot to the total story. A lot of the folks that do that work aren't interested in the hows and whys, but this just makes my hows and whys more real. For instance, in the cooking that we are doing out there today (a demonstration he took part in at this year's Spring Symposium). People never thought that you could cook with a stone with a hole in it. What's the hole for? Well, that's to pick it up out of the fire because it's too hot to handle, and to put it in the pot, to take it out of the pot and put it back in the fire.

**Q. What do you think is the future of Maryland archeology?**

A. I have a feeling the future of Maryland archeology is very bright. Simply because there are a lot of people coming into the Maryland Archeological Society that are thinking in broad terms, that have different venues, that have different resources. With construction that's going on around the state, there's more and more need for archeology and I think the more archeology we do the more we're going to understand. The more other people are going to become involved. I'm happy to know that the Native American community has torn down part of the fence between the Native Americans and the archeologists and we've done the same. I really like the fact that they're working together on a lot of projects. NAGPRA is a good thing and I'm glad that the archeologists are honoring NAGPRA and involve Native Americans in anything that's even remotely questionable. I think it's a great thing. It puts a little humanity into the project. I like that.

**Q. One last question: What advice do you have for somebody who's interested in archeology?**

A. I'd say for somebody that's interested in archeology, there's several places to get information to get started. One is a local archeological chapter. The other is your local community colleges. There are several community colleges, several colleges, that have courses in archeology. The Archeological Society of Maryland's got our CAT program, our Certified Archeological Technician program, which can get a person qualified as an archeological technician even if they don't go to college. So there's a chance there. And from any of those starts it's a wide-open field. There's a lot of opportunity for people to learn historic and prehistoric archeology.

## Tips for better archeology, # 2



*It is easier to spot features and artifacts if the square is kept clear of troweled dirt. The square on the left is more likely to be productive than the square on the right.*

## Pupils explore Virginia shipwreck

By Sonja Barisic

*Condensed from the Associated Press, July 9, 2007*

ON THE JAMES RIVER, Va. - Five 13-year-olds in life jackets crowded inside the cabin of a small research boat and stared at a bank of computer monitors. Suddenly, a dark gray mass appeared on one of the screens -- a sonar image of the wreck of the Civil War-era frigate USS Cumberland.

As members of the Cumberland Club, the kids studied artifacts from the ship, then helped researchers beam sonar to the bottom of the James River near the coal piers in Newport News to check on the condition of the ship itself.

The U.S. Navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hold the summer enrichment program, which gives students a hands-on feel for what it's like to be historians, archeologists and marine scientists.

"It was fun to be able to do things that are important that kids don't usually get to do," said Jazmine Brooks of Norfolk, who'll be in eighth grade in the fall.

The Cumberland Club, now in its second year, is free to the middle school students and funded by a grant. To be selected, students wrote essays on "Why is history important?"

Before their river outing, the 18 students spent a week studying and going to the naval museum and The USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News to learn about conservation and archeology techniques and the history of the Cumberland.

The ship, launched in 1842, sailed to a number of Mediterranean ports, served in the Gulf of Mexico during the Mexican-American War and patrolled the coast of Africa to suppress the slave trade.

The Cumberland was anchored off Newport News on March 8, 1862, when the CSS Virginia arrived to attack a Union blockade. The Virginia pushed her iron ram into the Cumberland's side and the ship began to sink, its gun crews continuing to fire. About 100 men died.

The fight demonstrated the superiority of armored, steam-powered ships over wooden sailing ships.

The next day, the Virginia and the Monitor fought a battle that ended in a standoff. The Virginia had torn off most of its iron spar when it backed away from the Cumberland, and some historians think the Monitor was spared from further damage because the spar could have penetrated the hull below its armor.

Today, the Cumberland's wreckage is protected by law. The Cumberland Club students got to handle some artifacts that belong to the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. On one afternoon, the students looked for damage as they turned over the pieces in their gloved hands, then photographed the items for the museum's records and wrote reports describing the objects and recommending how to conserve them.

Cameron Parsons and David Hart, 13-year-olds from Virginia Beach, weren't sure what they had been given. It looked like two small pieces of wood held together by three rivets. One rivet was inscribed "Philada."

"That's cool," said Michael V. Taylor, the museum's preservation officer. "I have no idea what it is."

They may get to find out. NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration is providing \$1,000 for enhanced restoration for Cumberland artifacts, and the Cumberland Club voted to use some money to conserve the "Philada" piece.

Cameron said he enjoyed studying the artifacts "because we're finding real stuff, not recreation stuff that adults set up for us."

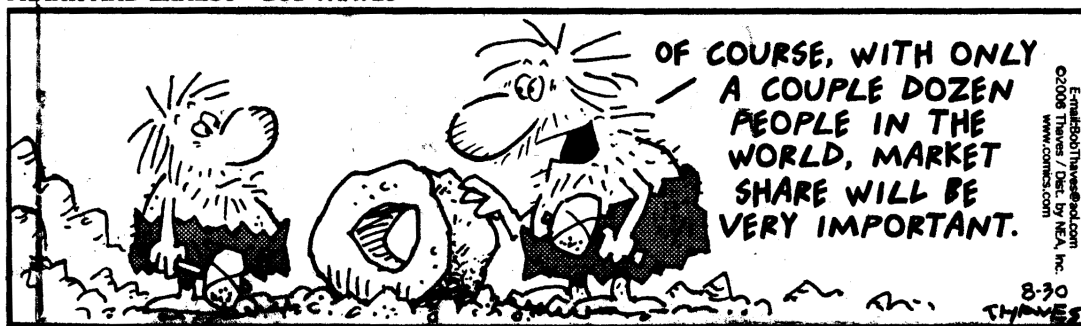
"And it's fun to see stuff that people used like a really long time ago," David added.

The following week the students spent a day aboard the Bay Hydrographer, a 56-foot NOAA research vessel. They helped researchers use side scan and multibeam sonar to scan the Cumberland wreckage, as well as the nearby wrecks of the Confederate ship CSS Florida, which sank on Nov. 28, 1864, and a third, unknown ship.

While many kids spend their summers hanging out, Taylor said, "Cumberland kids get to say, 'I went out on an archeological expedition with The Naval Historical Center on a NOAA boat and we went to the wrecks of the Cumberland and the Confederate Florida. You know, they're important wrecks and important cultural resources.'"



FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES



## Book review: How Europe learned of America

*A New World: England's First View of America*, by Kim Sloan, University of North Carolina Press, 256 pages, \$30.

Just about everything about America was unknown to the English people in the late 16th Century. There was a vastness over there across the ocean, with people who were the same but very different, with different flora and fauna. So when the first drawings of this strange land appeared that were based on observation rather than speculation, there was a lot of interest in them.

And there still is today.

The Englishman who provided the drawings was John White, sent to North Carolina in 1587 as governor but who also was a skilled observer and artist, as he had shown on a trip two years earlier. His famous paintings are featured in a show the British Museum is sponsoring in this country and Kim Sloan's book, "A New World: England's First View of America," is a companion for that exhibit.

But it is far more. Almost 100 pages of text explore the facets of John White's life and his drawings and what happened to the paintings after Theodor de Bry turned them into engravings.

White's drawings and paintings were not limited to the Indians of North Carolina. He also provided pictures of plants, animals, insects, fish, fruits and whatever else touched his fancy. And he traveled to Baffin Island and drew the Inuit he saw there.

The oversize book advertises 250 color pictures, and they are top-quality reproductions.

The Roanoke Colony was a disaster. Left to fend for itself for several years as Britain's attention was occupied by the Spanish armada, the colony disappeared and with it White's daughter, son-in-law and grandchild, Virginia Dare, the first English person born in America. White himself had returned to England to futilely seek support for the endeavor.

But though the colony failed, and its inhabitants' fate is still the subject of speculation, the expedition was not lost to history because of White's artwork.

-- Myron Beckenstein

## Old Montreal found beneath warehouse

By Jonathan Montpetit

*Condensed from the Chronicle Journal, Thunder Bay, Ontario, August 19, 2007*

MONTREAL - A nondescript brown warehouse filled with old barrels and rickety pallets is an unlikely site for the spiritual heart of a city. Yet beneath the worn cement floors of one such warehouse lies what archeologists believe are the first permanent buildings of the settlement that became Montreal.

"This is where the Montreal adventure began," says archeologist Sophie Limoges, pointing to a large hole in the warehouse floor.

Limoges, who works for Montreal's Pointe-a-Calliere museum, is in fact pointing to the remains of Fort Ville-Marie, the lost, original French settlement in Montreal.

The fort was built in 1642 and housed as many as 50 early colonists including Montreal's founder Paul de

Chomedey de Maisonneuve. But the exact location of the fort, which was eventually abandoned, has baffled historians since the 19th Century. The most recent record of the fort dates from 1683.

Archeologists got a break in the case when in 1989 they discovered the city's first French Catholic cemetery underneath what is now Pointe-a-Calliere -- Montreal's archeology museum.

"When we discovered the cemetery we knew we were close," Limoges says.

In 2002, the museum began digs in a nearby old maritime warehouse, acquired with the help of municipal and provincial governments.

The digs, which helped spur the Universite de Montreal to create an urban archeology program, immediately began to reveal signs of human activity from the 17th Century.

Along with finding the elusive location of the fort, the digs have provided archeologists with a wealth of artifacts from the early 17th Century as well as subsequent periods.

Only about one-third of the warehouse site has been excavated and the museum plans to continue excavating the site over the next several years

## AACo chapter hones skills in Laurel

By Dan Schwind

*Condensed from the Laurel Leader, August 2, 2007*

When most people want to see history, they head to the museum. James McCeney can walk out to his backyard.

McCeney, treasurer of the Laurel Historical Society, is the owner of the McCeney mansion, a fixture in the 400 block of Main Street for the past 150 years.

Recently, the mansion also has been the site of a historical dig by the Anne Arundel chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland. The group is digging in the ground underneath the privy, or outhouse.

This spring he attended a presentation on archeology at Goucher College where Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito, head of the Anne Arundel chapter, gave a speech on doing digs around house foundations.

That got McCeney thinking about what a dig in his own backyard might find. And since he and his wife were getting ready to renovate the privy, the timing was perfect. "I told her I didn't really want them digging up the house's foundation, but they were more than welcome to dig up the privy," McCeney said. "She told me that's where they find the good stuff."

And so, one weekend in June and another last month, the group headed to the McCeney household to see what they could find.

"You find stuff in there that people don't want you to find," she said. "If they were an alcoholic, they'd go out there and drink their hooch, then throw it down where no one could find the evidence."

While the diggers didn't find anything incriminating at the McCeney's privy, they did find plenty of material in the 2-by-1-meter area.

"The amount of artifacts for such a small area is quite impressive," she said. "Clearly it was used as the dump, because we've found hundreds of artifacts."

Those artifacts ranged from broken plates and animal bones to medicine bottles and even a perfectly intact wine bottle. The group wasn't able to date any of the artifacts because of a lack of "diagnostic" material -- objects that immediately tell the diggers how old surrounding objects are.

In addition to finding a little history, the dig was also a training session for several of the seven excavators involved. They were taking part in the Certified Archeological Technician Program, aimed at training amateur archeologists.

"We like to have trained people out there," Kerns-Nocerito said. "After all, once you start digging it up, you can't redo it. And archeology is more than just taking a shovel into your backyard."

McCeney said that training appeared to be making all the difference in the world.

"I'd dig up some dirt, throw it through the sifter and they'd find 20 things in there that I couldn't see," he said. "They're deadly serious about this."

# Chapter notes

## Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at [AAChapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AAChapASM@hotmail.com) or visit the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php)

**Final 2007 Dig Day at London Town:** September 15.

## Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or [ssisrael@abs.net](mailto:ssisrael@abs.net)

## Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact [james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org) or [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org), or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: [www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org](http://www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org)

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or Nancy Geasey at 301-293-2708.

**Sept. 12:** Kathy Furgerson of the URS Corporation will present the results of the survey conducted for the SHA along Route 15 in Frederick County.

**Oct. 10:** Paula Bienenfeld, Frederick City archeologist, will report on the archeology program in the city since its inception in 2005.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

## Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at [katesilas@chesapeake.net](mailto:katesilas@chesapeake.net) or 410-586-8538.

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Some months, potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [leeprestonjr@comcast.net](mailto:leeprestonjr@comcast.net)

**September 10:** The Vaughan Brown Memorial Native American Study Center Lecture. Michael Johnson, the Fairfax County archeologist, will speak on "Lee Road 2 (44FX2553): A Possible Clovis/Hornfels Association."

**November 12:** **Lee Preston**, "Prufrockian Archeology Lab, Please Do Ask What Is It When You Make Your Visit: A Hands-On Analysis of Artifacts, Documents and Images."

**January 14: Dr. L.J. Cripps**, University of Durham/University of Leicester, "Cornish Iron Age (800 BC-43 AD): A Cultural Backwater?"

**March 10: Rebecca Morehouse**, collections manager, MAC Lab, "Life Beyond the Field:Artifact Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab."

**Monday May 12:** Howard Wellman, lead conservator, MAC Lab, "Archeological Conservation and Artifact Handling in the Field."

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: [www.geocities.com/wmdasm](http://www.geocities.com/wmdasm)

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

ASM. Inc 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net).

**Submissions welcome.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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