



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

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From the Trust: A look at the year ahead

By Maureen Kavanagh

Chief Maryland Archeologist

Unfortunately, this article begins with some non-news: our universal budget woes. State employees will be taking furlough days in the coming months to help avert a deficit for this current fiscal year. The state budget for fiscal year 2010 (which starts in July 2009) was to be introduced by the governor in late December and will be finalized during the legislative session this coming spring.

This year the budget bears especially close watching, as many difficult decisions about funding levels for state programs must be made. One of the best sources for up-to-date information on historic preservation funding in the state budget is the Preservation Maryland website (<http://www.preservationmaryland.org/>). I encourage you to follow the process closely to ensure that the state programs that you support receive adequate funding.

Our project of reviewing and synthesizing archeological data from the "gray literature," i.e., unpublished reports, is continuing apace. Initial funding came from the MHT Board of Trustees last year. This past year, the Trust received an additional \$130,000 from the Transportation Enhancement Program to expand and accelerate the project.

Matt McKnight has finished reviewing and summarizing all the archeological reports from western Maryland, through Frederick County (including the overwhelming Catoctin Furnace project). As he goes, he is flagging important sites for additional research, test excavation and/or preservation.

Fieldwork has seen a recent upswing of activity that promises to continue during this year. To date, the MHT-funded survey and testing program has supported fieldwork at Port Tobacco in Charles County, the

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Field school will take place in May

If you were unable to get to the field school at Port Tobacco last year and regret it, there's good news for you. If you did make it and have fond memories of the Charles County dig, there's good news for you too. ASM is going back to the site for its 2009 field school.

Both historic and prehistoric components will be explored, including a contact period site, an historic cemetery area and an Anglican church site. Jim Gibb and April Biesaw again will be leading the dig, which will take place from May 22 to June 1. Full details will be provided later, but mark your calendar now.

Check out the calendar on Page 2 for dates of ASM's other 2009 premier events.

Upcoming events

February 28: Quarterly ASM board meeting, Columbia. All are welcome to attend.

March 7: Annual Archeology Workshop, Crownsville.

March 19 - 22; MAAC conference, Ocean City.

April: Maryland Archeology Month.

April 4: Spring Symposium, St. Mary's City.

May 18-22: National Park Service archeological workshop in Natchitoches, Louisiana, for those interested in forensic and cemetery investigations. \$475. For information, contact Steven L. DeVore 402- 437-5392, ext. 141 or steve_de_vore@nps.gov

May 22 - June 1: ASM field session, Port Tobacco.

October 17: Annual Meeting, Havre de Grace Maritime Museum.

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT program 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 james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or 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 being curated is the collection from the Late Archaic Baldwin site collection. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7440.

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

A website has been set up for CAT candidates and graduates:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/> . To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Members can choose to get emails or just use the website to send messages. Courtesy of CAT candidate Tom Forhan.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th 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. Work is expected in October. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

ASM looking for Teacher of Year nominations

Nominations are being accepted for ASM's Teacher of the Year Award. Eligible is any teacher teaching in any public or private school in the state.

The award, named after Patricia Seitz, a former Baltimore County high school teacher with an interest in archeology, is offered to a teacher "who has achieved excellence in classroom instruction by developing and/or incorporating archeological projects, activities, and/or instruction into his or her curriculum."

Sound like anyone you know?

Deadline for submissions is March 1. The requirements and nominating procedure are on an insert in this newsletter.

Philly museum lays off 18 researchers

By Faye Flam

Condensed from the Philadelphia Inquirer, December 17, 2008

Faced with a worsening deficit, the research-driven University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology is seeking to reinvent itself as an updated "tourist magnet." As an initial step, the director has laid off 18 researchers, though some may stay if grant money can be found to cover their salaries.

"We were living beyond our means," said director Richard Hodges. He said the museum's finances are unsustainable and that the museum must refurbish its exhibits and "get its income up."

News of the potential layoffs dismayed scholars inside the museum and out. The 120-year-old Penn museum has a worldwide reputation for its scholarship and for supporting expeditions - from the tombs of Egypt to the temples of the Mayans to the remains of Babylon, Gordion and Troy.

Several prominent scientists could soon lose their jobs, including Patrick McGovern, a chemical archeologist who has made national headlines with his analyses of stains on ancient vessels, some revealing the world's oldest wines and beers.

These researchers are "the last thing you'd give up" if the new mission still rests on "obtaining and disseminating knowledge," said Irene Winter, a fine arts professor at Harvard.

"I agree it's a bit of a shock to get rid of some," said Hodges, a British archeologist who took over as the Penn museum's director in 2007. "But we've made it clear to many of them if we can find the funding, we'll keep them."

Hodges said he created the new "Five-Year Museum Strategy" last spring, which aims to draw more visitors by "refurbishing the tired exhibits."

The museum will still support some archeological digs and other research, done by its 12 curators and numerous students who work with them, Hodges said. The museum also draws on around 100 "research affiliates" who volunteer varying amounts of time, though many hold full-time jobs elsewhere.

Associate director C. Brian Rose says the economic crisis made it necessary to lay off researchers. As president of the Archaeological Institute of America, he said, he has witnessed endowments drying up across the board. "It's happening at virtually every learned society and educational institution," he said.

Rose said he saw no options. "We're cut to the bone in publications, in exhibits, in security," he said. "If we were to lay off people in any of those areas, we couldn't keep the museum open."

Scholars outside the museum have been trying to make sense of Hodges' decision to cut so much research.

"He's firing the very people who are making the university museum an important academic institution," said Oscar Muscarella, a Penn museum-trained archeologist and retired curator from the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

He fears the museum's new strategic plan threatens its long-standing leadership position. "What he's doing is reducing the value of the museum as a major archaeological and cultural institution."

Harvard's Winter said she was particularly concerned by the disbanding of the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology. "It was founded to emphasize not just the accumulation of artifacts but also the scientific analysis" used to understand ancient cultures, she said.

Happy birthday, Annapolis -- maybe

By Julie Scharper

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, December 14, 2008

The celebration of Annapolis' three centuries as a city began more than a year ago with a formal ball. It continued with more than 100 events, including a scholarly symposium, a town crier contest, a pub crawl and a dog show. Last month, a chorus premiered an oratorio commissioned for the occasion.

But when is the actual birthday of Maryland's capital? Is it Nov. 22, the date historians say the Queen granted the city a charter - marked in 1908 with a bicentennial parade down King George Street?

Is it coming up on Wednesday (Dec. 17), which has been decreed "Annapolis Charter Day" under state law, although no events seem to be scheduled for that day? Perhaps it was Dec. 3, when about a dozen people gathered to sip hot cider as politicians read the charter aloud - no easy feat, considering it begins with a 2,418-word sentence. Or did the 300th birthday actually occur years ago?

"The birthday? I wouldn't get into that," said C. Ashley Ellefson, an expert in Colonial history who spoke at a symposium on the city's history in June. "The business of a birthday is one of the problems that people really can't agree on."

This year was the third time in the past century that Annapolis celebrated its 300th. In 1949, the postal service issued a three-cent stamp in honor of the "Annapolis Tercentenary," marking three centuries since the first people of European descent settled on the banks of the Severn.

In 1994, a year of festivities called "Annapolis 300" highlighted the anniversary of the city's designation as state capital.

This year's revelry, *Annapolis Alive!*, commemorated the 300th anniversary of the city's charter.

The committee organizing the celebration gives, in its literature, yet another possible birthday, Aug. 16. On that date in 1708, Gov. John Seymour issued a charter declaring Annapolis a city. But historians say, the governor, in a political power grab, took away the ability of citizens to choose the city's General Assembly representatives.

After some wrangling, the charter - allowing for a select group of white male property owners to vote - was signed into law on Nov. 22 and ratified by the General Assembly on Dec. 17.

The charter, which made Annapolis the state's first incorporated municipality, said the city "excelleth all other townes and ports in our said province." It sketched out a plan for city government and decreed that two fairs should be held annually to sell "cattle, wares, and merchandizes" and that people heading to the fair should not be subject to "arrest, attachments or executions."

It is unclear how Annapolitans marked the first hundred years of the charter, but bicentennial festivities drew thousands in November 1908, according to *The Sun*. Bands marched, "crashing out the resounding notes" of "stalwart Christian airs" and upwards of 3,000 people paraded through "streets so densely packed that passage was nearly impossible."

On Nov. 22, 1958, Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin and Mayor Arthur G. Ellington donned white wigs and Colonial garb to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the charter.

The committee marked the anniversary of the charter on Dec. 3, yet another potential birthday. Historians tell us that the date Nov. 22 in 1708 is actually the equivalent of Dec. 3 on our calendars. Adjusting in 1752 from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, residents of England and its colonies lost 11 days.

Gregory Stiverson, the former president of the Historic Annapolis Foundation, said that settling on a birthday for the city is not necessarily all that important.

"Historians are prone to celebrate pretty much any date we can hang anything on," he said. "None of them have any particular bearing on what Annapolis is today and will be in the future, but they all give good opportunities for historians and others who care about history to look back on the past."

Profiles in Maryland archeology

An interview with ... Kathy Steuer

Kathy Steuer, of Montgomery County, recently left office after four years as secretary of ASM.

Q. How did you get started in archeology?

A. I always loved physical anthropology and in college I took some classes. I always saw myself as being out on the African safari with Dr. Leakey looking for the origins of us. But once I got to college, the school I went to didn't have a lot of courses that would lead me in that direction, so I continued in science and later on, for my master's, in special education. I found ASM through Mary Gallagher. I took a course with her on the archeological sites of Montgomery County and after the class was over she told me that ASM was digging at Winslow and I might want to come and check it out. And that is the beginning of my history with ASM and my involvement with archeology.

Q. When was that?

A. 2002.

Q. What interesting sites have you worked on?

A. The most interesting to me was Winslow, because that's where I first got really involved and that's always been the gold standard for me, Winslow. Followed by the Barton site.

Q. Do you have any favorite finds?

A. The most memorable find for me, and experience, was working on the burial at Winslow. To me it was very spiritual and there was a connection there. It was an honor to work on that and I still go out every year on the anniversary of her reburial to commemorate what she had given us.

Q. What burial is this?

A. Willow. The human burial at Winslow.

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

A. I've no clue.

Q. What advice do you have for people who are interested in archeology?

A. If it's your passion, follow it, find places to dig, join the ASM because they have a wealth of resources and people to help you follow your bliss.

Q. What do you like most about archeology?

A. I love working in the dirt, in the earth. I find it very peaceful and I love the connection with us. I feel that is a way we can connect with the past and the circle of life just continues, because as we learn from our past we can find connections for why we're here.

Q. You manage to bring your husband along.

A. Yes, he supports me because he knows how much this means to me. He's interested in the prehistoric work. He doesn't mind digging, sifting. He's gotten good at picking out pottery and things like that. He does it for me too.



Margy Coates wins ASNC's highest award

The Northern Chesapeake chapter has presented Margy Coates with its 2008 Paul Cresthull Award, named after the chapter's founder. She was cited for 10 years of intensive activity in chapter projects - in the field, lab and outreach - as well as at chapter meetings. Among the digs she participated in are Swan Harbor Farm, the Fielder property, Garrett Island, Pleasant Garden, Rodgers Tavern, Coulstown, Cedar Hill and Octoraro.

Indian artifacts 'suppressed' by DC

By Doug Dupin

Director, Palisades Museum of Prehistory

DC policy is that all public artifacts under city control are inaccessible to the public. So it surprised me to learn that Tudor Place in Georgetown was given a large collection of Indian artifacts excavated in 1997 on DC property. Unfortunately, Tudor Place and the city still consider the artifacts off-limits to anybody wanting to see them.

The collection comes from an archeological site near Rock Creek, known as the Peters House. Peters House was first owned by Thomas Peters, a wealthy Georgetown resident wed to George Washington's step-daughter. When Washington died, Thomas Peters inherited a large sum of money that he used to build Tudor Place in a more upscale section of Georgetown.

Now run as a non-profit, Tudor Place somehow arranged with the city to acquire all the artifacts found at the old Peters House site. I can understand bending some rules to allow related historical items to go to Tudor Place, but how they are entitled to the large collection of prehistoric artifacts found on public land is inexplicable. Moreover, despite Tudor Place's mission - "to educate the public about American history and culture"—the artifacts are not available for viewing. It is yet another example of suppression of Native American history in the region - a continuing pattern that prompted me to start the museum two years ago.

This article comes from the November 2008 museum newsletter, in which Dupin says he is ending the project.

From the Trust: A look at the year ahead

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Octoraro Locks site in Cecil County and the Grieb site on the Eastern Shore.

The National Register site testing program, funded by the MHT Board of Trustees, kicked off last fall with testing at the Shoemaker site in Frederick County. The last-minute call for volunteers for that early winter project had a tremendous response, which makes one wonder what the turnout will be in warmer weather with more advance notice.

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum has focused renewed energy on public programs this past year and its new archeology exhibit is currently being installed. This winter JefPat will complete the installation of artifact drawers for each county and type collection drawers for hands-on activities. We hope you'll plan to attend the grand opening on April 18, Discovering Archeology Day. Archeologists from across the state will be there, with displays and activities for the public.

Finally, returning to an old field session project near and dear to many, in 2009 we will begin cataloguing the materials from the Rosenstock site. The dedicated Tuesday lab volunteers are nearly finished repackaging the ASM field session artifacts and we are ready to move on to the next step. This project is daunting, but we start with confidence that the support will be there to see it to completion. Please contact Charlie Hall (chall@mdp.state.md.us) if you are interested in helping to make that happen. I especially hope to see some of the people that had the privilege of excavating there in 1990, 1991, 1992 and even 1979.

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 or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. If someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7:30 on the second Tuesday (September-May) at the Port Tobacco Court House. Contact President Paula Martino at paulamartino@hotmail.com or 301-752-2852.

January 13: Bruce Thompson will give a briefing on the results of the field session at Grieb Site.

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 or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: 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, except for July and August, at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

January 14: Ellen Georgi, a social studies teacher and archeologist, will discuss archeology in Saudi Arabia. She has just returned from a visit there.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments. A short business meeting at 7 is followed by the featured presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net or 410-273-9619(h) and 410-808-2398(c)

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. 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

January 12: To be arranged.

March 9: The second annual, Alfred J. Prufrock: Oh, Do Ask What Is It? game.

May 11: Kathie Fernstron, "Pueblo, Mound-builders, Frogs and the White City."

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: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

January 23: Slide presentation of chapter field trip to Meadowcroft rockshelter, plus show and tell.

February 27: Primitive technology presentation by Roy Brown, "Gift of the Deer."

March 27: "Allegany County During the Civil War," talk by Allegany College history professor Joseph Weaver.

April 24: Stephen R. Potter discussed new evidence on the Civil War battle, "Antietam and the Archeology of Tactics."

May 22: Bob Wall speaks on what was found at the Barton Site in 2008 and on plans for 2009 excavations.

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.

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

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