



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Annual Workshop coming March 12

March usually means two things: winter is on its way out and the annual Workshop in Archeology will be on its way in. We can't guarantee winter will go along with the script, but everything is set for the archeology part.

This year's workshop will be held Saturday, March 12, at Maryland Historical Trust headquarters in Crownsville. As usual, the MHT staff has put together a varied program which it hopes will keep you interested throughout the day.

Also as usual, the workshop will start with a joint session and then break into three time slots, each offering a choice of three programs to attend.

Welcoming remarks begin at 9:30, followed by James Delgado, the director of Maritime Heritage, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, telling about his explorations of "The Great Museum of the Sea." He will take participants along to the underwater sites he has worked or dived on as an archeologist. The tour will include visits to the lost fleet of Kublai Khan, the Civil War submarine CSS Hunley, the Titanic and a fleet of warships at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific used for atom bomb tests.

Two afternoon talks also involve underwater archeology. Steven Anthony, the president of Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS), will detail the hunt for the Lion of Baltimore, an American privateer sunk by a British frigate during the War of 1812 at Bodkin Creek south of Baltimore.

Then John Dowdle will detail recent work by the Institute of Maritime History's Submerged Historical Inventory Project (SHIP). Activity has centered in the Mount Vernon area and the search is on for the Federalist, a miniature gunboat given to George Washington in 1788 and soon sunk in a hurricane.

Underwater figures in one of the pre-lunch sessions. Nautical archeologist J.B. Pelletier will look into the problems of remote sensing techniques on near-shore sites, on integrating both terrestrial and marine probes to aid in the search.

After lunch, Robert Sonderman of the National Park Service will explain the role that glass can play in archeological interpretation. Participants will be shown how to classify and identify glass artifacts from the 18th through 20th centuries, with an emphasis on bottle glass and other utilitarian wares.

A prominent recent historic dig in Frederick County involved the L'Hermitage Plantation and its slave quarters. Joy Beasley, of the Monocacy National Battlefield staff, will talk about the findings at the site of one of the Mid-Atlantic region's largest slave-holding farms.

For those more inclined to prehistoric matters, three ASM members knowledgeable about

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Upcoming events

March 1, 9, 22 and 29: Historic London Town's winter lecture series. 10. For details see <http://www.losttownsproject.org>

March 5: ASM board meeting, Howard County Central Library, 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

March 7: Southern Maryland Museum Workshop, Historic St. Mary's City, 9:30 to 6. Sessions on various topics, including slavery and religion. Fee, includes lunch. Contact rodcofield@historiclondontown.org

March 12: Annual Archeology Workshop, Crownsville.

March 17-20: Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Ocean City, Maryland.

March 30 - April 3: Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Sacramento, California.

April 9: ASM Spring Symposium, Stevenson University, Baltimore County.

June 10-20: Annual ASM Field Session, Barton Site, Allegany County.

October 8: ASM Annual Meeting, Robinson Nature Center, Columbia.

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



Your voice may help restore MHT funding

Compared with \$1 million, \$40,000 isn't much. Compared with \$0 it is. A decade ago the Maryland Historic Trust was getting around \$1 million a year for its noncapital grant fund, out of which comes funding for all the archeological work the Trust supports, including ASM activities. The \$0 is the amount the Trust got last year.

In addition to supporting archeological programs in the state, the fund also is used for architectural and cultural projects, including research, survey, planning and educational activities.

This year the governor has proposed giving MHT \$40,000 for noncapital grants. Getting anything is seen as a needed and obvious improvement. But the proposal still has to get through the General Assembly, which has the power to amend the governor's budget, including cutting or even deleting items.

If you feel archeology is important to the State of Maryland, let your representatives and senators know. Your voice can be important. Hearings on the proposal already have been held but the final decisions have yet to be made. But this will happen soon as the legislative session is entering its final days. So don't delay. A list of these officials is available at <http://mdelect.net/electedofficials>. Contact yours and tell them why they should support the appropriation and start getting things back on track.

C-14 tests take Pig Point back 8,000 years

By Al Luckenbach

Condensed from Letters from Lost Towns, Winter 2011

Last year's season at Pig Point produced an impressively deep stratigraphic column. Based on artifact styles, these superimposed layers could be seen as representing over 9,000 years of human occupation. In order to arrive at a more specific chronology, nearly a dozen Carbon 14 dates were obtained from various contexts, with results ranging from A.D. 1540 to 350 B.C. Strata from below these levels did not have the carbonized remains necessary to run dates.

This dramatically changed last September with Jane Cox's discovery of two pits originating 13 strata below the ground surface. Features 111 and 112 not only had associated projectile points and other dateable artifacts, but they also had charcoal and carbonized nuts and seeds. We also recovered tiny fish bones, bits of mussel shell and other animal bones through floatation.

We quickly sent off two samples of charcoal and one of charred nuts for radiocarbon dating - and the results were impressive. Using modern correction factors, all of the C-14 results fell between 6050 B.C. and 6460 B.C., or nearly 8,500 years old.

This is one of the oldest C-14 dates from Maryland that comes from such a good context. Given the association of tools with floral and faunal remains, the importance of this find cannot be overestimated.

Warming to have big impact on AA sites

By Stephanie Sperling

Condensed from Letters from Lost Towns, Winter 2011

An innovative investigation of the potential threats of sea level rise to Anne Arundel County resources was undertaken by Lost Towns Project archeologists and county planners in 2010, culminating in a wide-ranging vulnerability study.

This effort identified 422 archeological sites, 74 historic buildings or structures, 11 historic districts, 14 scenic and historic roads and 18 cemeteries that could potentially be impacted or even destroyed by sea level rise in the next 50 years.

The study used a 0-2 or 2-5 foot inundation model (provided by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources) as the accepted best estimated range for sea level rise in the next 100 years.

Out of the nearly 1,500 recorded archeological sites in Anne Arundel County, 422 sites (30 per cent) will be impacted by rising seas, 371 of which will be impacted by the more conservative estimate of 0-2 feet of rise.

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This will affect both prehistoric and historic sites located mainly in the eastern part of the County. A few sites along the Patuxent River may also be impacted, but considering this river flows through only a small portion of the county after the head of tide, these sites may avoid major damage.

Shell middens represent the site type that will be most affected by sea level rise. About 76 per cent of recorded middens will be inundated by 2 feet of rise and over 81 per cent will be inundated by 5 feet of rising seas.

In 2011, the team will work with county planners to develop appropriate policies and responses to deal with this natural threat.

All-day session set on decorative arts 1610-1800

Historic London Town is hosting an all-day conference on decorative arts in the Chesapeake from around 1610 to 1800. "What Is That? (And What Does It Mean?)" will be presented Monday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The program begins with an overview of decorative arts style from the period by Rosemary Krill of the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. Participants will then break up into three groups which will rotate between sessions on ceramics, by Suzanne Hood of Colonial Williamsburg; glass by Gay Taylor, former curator at the Museum of American Glass in Wheaton, and furniture, by Scott Scholz, of Dumbarton House, the headquarters of the National Society of the Colonial Dames.

Since the small-group sessions are to be interactive and involve hands-on participation, the number of people able to attend the program has been limited to 52. Because ASM is a sponsor, it has been guaranteed five of these seats. Other ASM members can attend on a seats-available basis.

ASM's allotment will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis until two weeks before the conference, when all unclaimed seats will be added to general distribution. To apply for one of the reserved ASM seats, contact Myron Beckenstein at myronbeck@verizon.net by March 20.

Cost for ASM members, reserved or otherwise, is \$25, which includes lunch.

Annual Workshop coming March 12

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primitive technology will describe the making and use of cordage and containers. Dan Coates and Jack Davis of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter and Roy Brown of Western Maryland will instruct on how to find the raw materials, different ways of preparing them and how they can be used. Participants will be urged to try out their own skills.

The Barton Site in Allegany County has long been a favorite one for ASM members, and a productive one. ASM is returning there in June for its annual Field Session and principal investigator Bob Wall will preview the dig by relating work already carried on in this prehistorically rich area and what is hoped for this year, thanks to some ground-penetrating work recently undertaken.

A two-part session is being offered for CAT candidates, on the tools of historical research. Mike Lucas, who works at Mt. Calvert, will introduce the participants to the basic tools and techniques used in doing historical research, starting with how to get information and ending with some case studies as examples. CAT candidates get first choice at seating, but noncandidates may attend if there is room.

For those interested in becoming CAT candidates, an orientation will be held during the lunch period.

This year, the building cafeteria is open for lunch.

Cost of the all-day session is \$5 for ASM members and students, \$7 for the general public. The full program and the timetable are inside this newsletter.

Slave connection found at Shore site

By Michael E. Ruane

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 15, 2011

One day more than two centuries ago, a Maryland slave of West African descent took a smooth stone he had probably found in a plowed field and slid it between the bricks of a furnace he was building.

The slave might have believed, as West Africa's Yoruba culture held, that such stones had connections to Eshu-Elegba, the deity of fortune, and were left behind like mystical calling cards after a lightning strike.

Monday, the University of Maryland unveiled, among other things, details of the stone's discovery at the Wye House "orangery" - a jewel of European architecture, now found to have imprints of the slaves who built it.

The discoveries were made over the past few years by a team headed by anthropology professor Mark Leone on an Eastern Shore estate where abolitionist Frederick Douglass once was a slave.

The team also found West African-style charms buried at the entrance to what turned out to be the slave quarters at the orangery, a state-of-the-art greenhouse, and pollen from exotic plants the slaves used.

The findings reveal cultural stamps left on the plantation by some of the slaves who lived there, Leone said, and give voice to their often anonymous lives.

"This is a uniquely American event," he said. "It is part of the creation of African-American culture. So you can see that it is a wonderful set of anthropological discoveries."

The estate is occupied by retired lawyer Richard Tilghman and his family, who are descended from Edward Lloyd, who settled in the area in the 1650s. The Tilghmans paid for the orangery research.

"We encouraged Prof. Leone to do some archeological work around the greenhouse for two reasons," he said. "One, to learn more about the slaves, and two, to learn more about what went on in the orangery."

He called the discovery "fascinating," adding, "I hope that it will advance the understanding of the . . . spiritual life of African American slaves. That, to me, seems to . . . be pretty important."

Leone said the orangery was built about 1785 behind the main house, whose plantation Douglass described in an autobiography as "one of the largest, most fertile and best appointed" in Maryland.

Today, the orangery - so called because oranges and lemons were grown there - is the only surviving 18th-Century greenhouse in North America, the university said.

Leone said his team discovered that one of the two rooms off the greenhouse must have been the quarters of the slaves who manned the facility.

"We proved that one is a slave quarter because of what we dug up in it," he said. "Outside the . . . doorstep of the quarter we dug up two prehistoric projectile points and a coin buried directly in line with the middle of the threshold."

"This is the kind of signature material that shows religious practices with their origins in Africa."

In July, the smooth six-inch-long stone - technically a pestle, or pounding stone - was found in the bricks that formed the roof of the furnace that heated the greenhouse, he said.

"We recognized it as a talisman," Leone said. "It would only have been put there by a slave, and it . . . was exactly parallel to practices used in West Africa."

The stones and arrowheads were made and left behind by prehistoric Native Americans who inhabited the Eastern Shore years before, Leone said. The objects often would turn up in the plowed fields after a rain.

Leone said the stone adds an African dimension to a building erected with "the highest-style European architectural principles."

"So it now has two faces," he said.

The same went for the slave quarters, probably built by the same man, or men, Leone said.

Has your mail or email address changed? Make sure Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza knows about it. We don't want our sendings to go awry. Her address is on the back of this newsletter.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the Severna Park Branch of the County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at

AAChapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

April 19: Mechelle Kerns on the sheet midden discovered beneath the Legg's Dependence kitchen with artifacts covering 250 years.

June 21: TBA

September 20: TBA

November 15: TBA

Central

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 first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489.

March 2: Topic: Kelly Cooper on "Wollaston: The Search for a Seventeenth Century Manor."

April 6: Anne Hayward looks at the massive sedimentation changes at Port Tobacco.

May 4: Annual business meeting and a workshop of bottle identification with Alyssa Marizan.

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 301-8405848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768 Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

March 17: Meeting at Needwood. Phil Hill, cultural resource management archeologist, on rockshelters in Montgomery County. (Check our facebook page or website calendar for any change in this meeting's date.)

April 21: Meeting at Needwood. Chapter members Mike Robinson and Bob Hines will debate Maryland's secession from the Union--a Civil War Sesquicentennial program.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

March 9: Chapter member George Evans will speak about the history of the L'Hermitage Plantation, his experiences there as a volunteer in excavating the slave village, and possible plans for future excavations.

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>

March 9: Allen Shapiro: "Excavations at Ramat Rahel, Jerusalem, Israel," Harford Jewish Community Center.

April 8: Julia King: "You Are What You Eat... and Drink and Smoke: 17th-Century Burials and the English Way of Life," Harford Community College.

May 15: Member and guest picnic, and tour of the exhibit: "Prehistoric Culture of the Northern Chesapeake," Liriodendron Mansion.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other 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 restaurant in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

March 14: Anne Hayward, "Textiles in the Tidewater: How Textiles of the Colonial Chesapeake Are Represented in the Archival Record Versus the Archeological Record."

May 9: Lee Preston, "Made in China: Silk, Porcelain and Terra Cotta Soldiers."

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>

March 25: Susan Haydel, of Potomac State College in West Virginia, on the native people of coastal Alaska and British Columbia.

April 22: Steve Israel, US Army Corps of Engineers archeologist, retired, on Rockdale Road Rockshelter.

June 3: Bob Wall, Towson University, "The Barton Site 2010-2011," a report on the findings of last year's field session and a discussion of what he plans to investigate this year.

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

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% 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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