



Archeology Workshop set for March 23

Saturday, March 23 is a date that should be circled on your calendar because that is the date of the 2013 edition of the Workshop in Archeology. Held in Crownsville, this 22d annual session features the usual smorgasbord of talks and demonstrations designed to appeal to your various archeological interests.

After introductory remarks by Rodney Little of the Maryland Historical Trust and Claude Bowen of ASM, the program begins with Stephen Potter's talk on a little remembered part of the historic 1863 Civil War battle at Antietam. Historical archeological research uncovered proof that this usually overlooked part of the fight actually took place.

Following this talk, multiple sessions offer a variety of topics for each of the day's three remaining time periods.

Three presentations are offered for the first block, including one on historical archeology and one on maritime.

The historical presentation features Patricia Samford of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum giving information to make dating of tin-glazed Colonial earthenware easier. Because these ceramics were manufactured for some 200 years, they show up frequently, but she will explain how to narrow down the dating.

The underwater presentation involves the Chesapeake Bay ram Levin J. Marvel, which sank in Herring Bay during 1955's Hurricane Connie. John Ward will tell about the events leading up to the sinking and about the ship, her captain, her crew, the passengers and the community that tried to rescue her.

The third morning session is the first of two CAT workshops, with Charlie Hall giving a lecture on archeological law. The second session, taking place after lunch, has Jim Gibb talking about ethics and archeology. To get credit CAT candidates must attend both sessions. If there is room, other Workshop attendees are welcome to sit in.

An information session for people interested in joining the CAT program will be held during lunch in the dining area.

The other talks in the first of the two afternoon time blocks include one by Sara Rivers Cofield of Jefferson Patterson about horse furniture. She will highlight what the MAC Lab has learned about this equipment from the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries. Information will include the anatomy of historic saddles and information on tack and bits.

Survey methods have changed radically in recent years. Bill Stephens will tell how GIS and GPS have added to traditional site-location and mapping practices. His talk will deal with recent application at the Lafayette Square Site in Baltimore and the Elk Landing Site (location of last year's ASM field session) in Cecil County.

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2 field sessions for this year. Page 3

Upcoming events

March 2: ASM board meeting. Miller branch, Howard County Library. 10 a.m. All are welcome.

March 23: Annual Archeology Workshop. Crownsville.

April 3 – 7: Society for American Archaeology meeting. Honolulu.

April 13: ASM Spring Symposium, Howard Community College, Columbia.

April 20: Discover Archeology Day at Jefferson Patterson Park.

May 24 – June 3: ASM field session, Biggs Ford, Woodland site in Frederick County.

October 17–19: Three-day conference focused on the Ice Age colonization of the Americas. Santa Fe. <http://www.paleoamericanodyssey.com>

October 31 – November 3: Eastern States Archeological Federation meeting. South Portland, Maine.

Volunteer opportunities

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

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Archeological field and lab work are conducted during the week and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

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 turned their attention to material from Chapel Point and Heaters Island. 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

CAT workshops on law and on ethics will be part of the annual Archeology Workshop in Crownsville March 23. A briefing for prospective CAT members will be held in the cafeteria during lunchtime.

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

Have you been too silent on Silent Auction?

This will be ASM's third Silent Auction but the first one being held at the Spring Symposium. The auction is both a chance to raise money for the Society and to give members an opportunity to find some items they have wanted for a while or didn't realize they wanted.

We'd like to offer a wide range of items, both archeology related and not. Do you have some nice reproductions, a good book or two or some interesting reports? Or homemade jewelry or pottery? Or can you get a theater, restaurant or a get-away spot to offer something? Or you can stake someone to some movie or theater tickets?

A successful auction is measured by the amount of money it brings in and by the amount of happy bidders it produces. But it all starts with the items themselves. Think of what you can contribute, find the donation form on the home page of the ASM website and send the form to Valerie Hall at one of the addresses indicate. The deadline is coming up fast: March 15.

Make someone happy. And then make yourself happy by bidding.

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The fourth and final offering in this time period extends through two sessions. Wes Sullivan, a professional tall ship rigger, will "show and tell" some of the tools commonly used for rope-working, rope-splicing techniques, common ropework items and techniques and some common knots. If time permits, he will show some fancywork items and useful knots which you can use at home.

In one of the sessions wrapping up the day, Dan Coates will talk about slate. The rock varies from the hard variety found in New York state to the soft Peach Bottom variety from northern Harford County. Dan will demonstrate slate toolmaking and talk about the various slate artifacts found in the Mid-Atlantic area. The final session at this time will preview the first of this year's field sessions, taking place May 24 to June 3 at the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County.

Admission to the Workshop is \$7, but \$5 for ASM members and students. The building cafeteria will be open for lunch.

Two field sessions planned for this year

The ASM board has decided to offer members two field sessions this year, one prehistoric, the other early Colonial. You don't have to pick one. The hope is you'll want to attend both.

First, ASM and the Maryland Historical Trust have decided to return to the site of their first field session collaboration, the Biggs Ford Site (18FR14). That effort was in 1969 and the state half of the equation was then in the Office of Archeology.

The session will run from May 24 to June 3. Joe Dent of American University will be the principle investigator.

The site, located in Frederick County, just north of the city of Frederick, is a palisaded Late Woodland village that was occupied by both Montgomery Complex and Keyser groups. Recent surveying and earlier controlled surface collection by the Office of Archeology has resulted in refined mapping of this National Register-listed site, which should help identify specific areas of the site to address research questions.

The second field session will run from June 14 to 24 in St. Mary's County under the direction of Jim Gibb. The hope is to find traces of the 1662 St. Francis Xavier church. The site (18ST859) is just west of Leonardstown. Though it is registered as a cemetery site, no attempt will be made to find human remains.

More details on both field sessions will appear in later newsletters. Registration forms for both will appear on the ASM website shortly. Camping, moteling and speaker arrangements are being made.



-- Photo by Carol Cowherd

Charles County diggers race site sale

By Carol Cowherd

With the sale of the land looming, members of the Charles County Chapter have begun excavation of a prehistoric site on a small peninsula between the Potomac River and Pomonkey Creek. Almost all of the nine- to 10-acre site will be put up for sale soon now that the heirless owner has died.

Since February 2012 CCASM has dug more than 270 STPs on a 25-foot grid and has found artifacts in all but a couple of them. We found lots of fire-cracked rocks, pottery (including friable Early Woodland pottery and later Potomac Creek pottery), flakes (predominantly tertiary) and other lithics. The artifacts have been washed and catalogued. There are several postings on the CCASM blog <http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com/> showing us working on the site and in the "lab."

On a weekend last month, despite a chilling reminder that this is still winter, we put in our first excavation unit. An STP had shown there was a feature there and we decided to investigate further. We found a concentration of fire-cracked rocks and what appears to be a living surface around it.

One of the photos on the blog shows the surface with the FCR. In the soil around the FCR we are finding hundreds of tertiary flakes. This appears to be an undisturbed living area.

We have not cataloged the artifacts, but there are a number of quartz projectile points - including at least one lanceolate and some Bare Island. Also there is a broken midsection with parallel sides and very fine serrated edges.

In one of the strata we found several Pope's Creek pottery sherds, a couple of which would mend. There are also other pottery sherds with a finer sand temper.

This is a very rich site but we have limited time to work it so we can understand what was happening there. We returned in late February, finding three different kinds of pottery, and hopefully we will be able to get back in mid-March, fitting the dig in between ASM, MAAC and other archeology activities.

Help would be appreciated, but we do require that participants be members of CCASM or of ASM. Contact me at cowherdcl@gmail.com for details, updates and to let us know you will be coming.

Hunch, a hunch, his bones for a hunch

From Wire Reports

Call it GPS, a Ground-Penetrating Sensation. That's what Philippa Langley said led her to the spot where archeologists then began to look for the bones of the much-maligned British King Richard III. The remains, which had been missing for some 500 years, were found within minutes.

The historical records had pointed to the removal of the king's body after his fatal wounding at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 to Leicester's Greyfriars, but the friary was destroyed during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530s.

Langley said her research for a play about the king led her to a hunch that Richard's body would be found beneath a parking lot in a corner of the buried ruins of the Greyfriars Priory, where John Rouse, a medieval historian writing in Latin within a few years after Richard's death, had recorded him as having been buried. Other unverified accounts said the king's body had been thrown by a mob into the River Soar, a mile or more from the priory.

"We could tell by the street signs that we were in the right area for the Greyfriars precinct, but we didn't know if we were in the right area for the Greyfriars church," she said.

"I walked around that car park and I just knew there was nothing there. It was 'dead.' As I walked away, I saw another, private, car park over to the right. Now I know how mad this all sounds, but I snuck under the barrier and, on a very particular spot, I had the strongest sensation that I was walking on Richard's grave. On a subsequent visit, I found a little white 'R' painted on the exact same spot. Of course it was 'R' for 'reserved', not 'R' for Richard but from that moment on, I was on a mission."

Last August, she stood in the parking lot as the excavation began. "When we then outlined the trenches that letter R was in the first trench and in the very first few feet of the first trench. We actually found him on Day One, almost Hour One," she said.

But as she looked down at the bones in the trench she felt an uneasy ripple of doubt. "It was really odd," she said. "When they first started exhuming him and pulled out the legs and arms he looked to have no battle wounds and he seemed to be quite tall. I'm 5 foot, 9 inches and you could see his leg bone was pretty much the same length as mine. I thought, 'Maybe this isn't him.' Then an osteologist said, 'This just looks like a well nourished friar. It's not him.'" There was no sign of a hunchback or withered arm, but a curved spine would have made one shoulder higher than the other.

Friars fearful of the men who slew him in battle buried him in haste, naked and anonymous, without a winding sheet, rings or personal adornments of any kind, in a space so cramped his cloven skull was jammed upright and askew against the head of his shallow grave

But her doubts were fleeting. On February 4, confirming what many historians and archeologists had suspected, a team of experts at the University of Leicester concluded "beyond any reasonable doubt" on the basis of DNA and other evidence that the skeletal remains were those of Richard III.

Lead archeologist Richard Buckley said Richard's remains were almost lost when a 19th-Century toilet was built above his resting place. Luckily, the grave was only slightly disturbed by the building's foundations, which missed the skeleton by a few inches. His feet, however, were missing.

Few monarchs have seen their reputations decline as much after death as Richard III. He ruled England between 1483 and 1485, during the decades-long battle over the throne known as the Wars of the Roses, which pitted two wings of the ruling Plantagenet dynasty — York and Lancaster — against each other.

His brief reign saw liberal reforms, including the introduction of the right to bail and the lifting of restrictions on books and printing presses. After his death, historians writing under the victorious Tudors comprehensively trashed Richard's reputation, accusing him of myriad crimes — most famously, the murder of his two nephews, the "Princes in the Tower."

William Shakespeare indelibly depicted Richard as a hunchbacked usurper who left a trail of bodies on his way to the throne before dying in battle, shouting "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse." But doubts about Richard's vileness rose, most notably in mystery writer Josephine Tey's "The Daughter of Time."

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AAChapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

April 9: Jim Gibb will discuss the discovery of the War of 1812 Fort Hollingsworth during ASM's 2012 field session in Cecil County.

May 14: Sarah Grady will talk on "Smithsonian Citizen Science Program in Archaeology: Erosion and Sedimentation at the 19th-century Sellman's Connection Site."

June 11: TBA

September 10: TBA

November 12: Julie Schablitsky will speak on the War of 1812 Caulk's Battlefield.

Central Maryland

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned, but it does engage in field work and related activities. Contact chapter President Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net

Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

March 14: Garrett Fesler (Alexandria Archaeology) will talk about Shuter's Hill.

April 11: "Looking for Atzerodt in Charles County" with overview on George Atzerodt, one of the conspirators in the Lincoln assassination, by James Gibb and presentation of photographic research by Joe Gleason followed by discussion of archeological possibilities.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or call 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Check our website for information concerning ordering the book, "Montgomery County Mills: A Field Guide," published by the chapter and reviewed in the January edition of the ASM newsletter.

March 21: Becca Peixotto, an anthropology graduate student at American University, will speak on artifact analysis at the Dismal Swamp.

April 18: Genie Robinson, anthropology professor at Montgomery College-Rockville campus, will speak on the archeology at Falling Green, an 18th-Century house in Olney.

May 16: Charlie Hall, the state's terrestrial archaeologist, will conduct a workshop on soils and site formation processes. Bring your own dinner or contribute \$7 for pizza and salad dinner. The workshop begins at 6 p.m.

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

March 13: Archeologist Elizabeth Comer will talk about her mother's recently published posthumous book, "Catoclin Furnace: Portrait of an Iron-Making Village."

April 10: TBA

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 13: Robert Owen on "The search for the ruins of Ai, Joshua's second conquest of Canaan." Harford Jewish Center, Have de Grace.

April 19: Annual Cresthull Memorial Lecture for Maryland Archeology Month. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

May: Sunday date TBA. Annual ASNC Picnic. Upper Bay Museum, North East.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 5:45 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dave Cavey at 410 747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net

March 11: Esther Doyle Read will talk about the 10-year excavation at the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore.

April 8: Charles Hall to speak on Investigations at the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County, 1969-70 and 2009. This was the first cooperative effort between Tyler Bastian and the Office of Archeology and the ASM back in 1969-70 creating the model for what has become the annual Field Session.

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 22: Life as a Civil War re-enactor, by Deb and Joe Topinka.

April 26: Page and Keyser interment regimes from the middle and upper Potomac River Valley, by Dana Kollmann.

May 24: Show & Tell, rescheduled from February.

Warning: If you have not renewed your ASM membership, this is the last copy of the newsletter that you will receive. And you will have to pay non-ASM prices for the Spring meetings.

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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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