

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Only weeks now till the spring field session

By Charlie Hall

Maryland State Terrestrial Archeologist

Have you been a part of the excitement at the Biggs Ford site over the past two field sessions? If so, you know that this is one incredible site. Occupied by two of the three Late Woodland cultures known from middle Maryland, the Montgomery Complex (AD 1000 - 1400) and the Keyser Complex (AD 1300 - 1600), this site has the potential to help us unravel the relationship between them. Who were these people? Where did they come from? Where did they go? How were they organized? Did they have different ways of accommodating the same environment?

If you haven't been part of our energetic and happy crews, you are in luck. The Crum family will again welcome us to their farm for a third field session beginning Friday May 22. As always, this most enduring and important of the many cooperative ventures between the Maryland Historical Trust and the Archeological Society of Maryland will run for 11 consecutive days, including weekends and the Memorial Day holiday, until June 1.

The Crum's farm is located in the bucolic Monocacy Valley, a lovely location to be sure. Yet for those of us interested in adding to our knowledge of the past human presence in this place, the real beauty lies beneath the ground.

Over the past two field sessions the Biggs Ford site has yielded a density of postmolds and pit features that actually *exceeds* that found during Tyler Bastian's investigation in 1969-1970 (visit the website of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum at <http://www.jefpat.org/NEHWeb/18FR14-%20Biggs%20Ford%20Finding%20Aid.aspx> to access field notes and photographs from Tyler's work).

The hundreds of postmolds and dozens of pit features identified over the past two sessions have greatly enhanced our understanding of the configuration and location of the two overlapping village sites.

We have confirmed that the Keyser Complex village was circular and palisaded. Were you there last year to see that line of palisade postmolds found in the northern area? Joe Dent was heard to say that he had "never seen such a clear palisade line."

We have also confirmed that the Montgomery Complex village was oriented around a "ring of pits," much as have been seen at other Montgomery Complex sites investigated by past field sessions including Winslow and Rosenstock. We have seen remarkable faunal and floral preservation, and recovered copious quantities of botanical material suitable for C-14 dating.

The clues to unraveling many of our questions are in our grasp. Some vitally important clues, however, have eluded our eager efforts. Principal among them is a Keyser domestic structure. On

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Upcoming events

May 22 – June 1: Field session at Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County.

May 30: ASM board meeting. At Biggs Ford.

October 9 – 19: Fall field school. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater.

October 24: Annual meeting, Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17th Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

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

Montgomery County offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301-563-7531 or contact heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org. CAT opportunity.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jasmine Gollup 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.

CAT corner

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

Public archeology returning to Jefferson Patterson

The Public Archaeology Program of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum will be held May 5 to June 27 at the Smith's St. Leonard Site, the location of the 2010 ASM Field Session. The site was the core of a large 18th Century plantation. Excavations will focus on buildings and other features detected by remote sensing.

Field work is between 10 and 4 Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, weather permitting. Tuesdays and Thursdays are spent in the nearby Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab, washing and sorting the artifacts.

This is an opportunity for anyone interested in archeology to help excavate a site -- no prior experience is needed -- or for participants in the CAT program to work on their certification. To register, contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or ed.chaney@maryland.gov.

Pamunkey recognition decision put off

By Joe Heim

Condensed from the Washington Post, April 2, 2015

The Pamunkey Indians were supposed to learn this week whether they would become the first Virginia tribe to receive federal recognition — a status they regard as long overdue for a tribe that claims Pocahontas as an ancestor.

But as the March 31 deadline for final approval approached, opposition groups and some members of Congress continued lobbying hard against approval, sending letters criticizing the tribe's civil rights record and questioning whether tribe members are descendants of the original Pamunkey tribe — or whether they are Indians at all.

Now Kevin Washburn, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian affairs, says he will not make a final decision on the Pamunkey case until the end of July, a delay that has given critics hope that they will succeed in derailing the Pamunkey application.

The tribe's powerful foes, which include casino giant MGM and a growing number of lawmakers, have taken different, seemingly contradictory tactics. The anti-casino group Stand Up for California wrote a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs claiming that several Pamunkey tribe members are descendants of a pre-Civil War free African American, not an Indian. Meanwhile, a group of congresswomen argued in a different letter that the tribe has long discriminated against African Americans and women.

Kevin Brown, the elected chief of the 208-member Pamunkey, rejected the latest blast of criticism. "The Stand Up! 'report' is inaccurate and misleading," he said in a statement. "The congressional women's letter is based on incorrect assumptions about the tribe's now gender-neutral laws."

Brown said in an interview last month that federal recognition would be "historic justice" for the tribe. "We met the English and John Smith...." he said. "Pocahontas was Pamunkey. It's crazy that we're not recognized. We should have been the first recognized tribe."

The showdown over the Pamunkey is being closely watched by both advocates and opponents of the federal recognition process for Indian tribes across the country. There are 566 federally recognized tribes. An additional 356 tribes are seeking federal recognition and the money for housing, education and health care that come with it. But that status also allows tribes to open casinos.

Though the tribe has expressed no interest in opening a casino, the possibility has alarmed casino giant MGM, which is building a \$1.2 billion gambling complex in Maryland, just across the Potomac from Virginia, and wants to protect its investment from potential competition.

The Pamunkey, who own a 1,200-acre reservation east of Richmond, have spent \$2 million and 35 years seeking federal recognition, a process that is often laborious and frustrating.

There have been efforts to streamline the process in recent years. But critics such as Cheryl Schmit, director of Stand Up for California, a nonprofit organization that has worked to prevent Indian tribes in California from opening casinos, have pushed back against loosening the requirements for tribes to receive federal recognition.

"I understand the feelings of people in Virginia....," Schmit said. " (But) they don't know about sovereign immunity. And they don't know about no taxation and unfair competition to their businesses yet. They don't know that a tribal government is more powerful than their city or their county and just a little less equal to the state. They don't know these things yet. They haven't got the experience."

In her letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs last week, Schmit wrote that her group's ongoing examination showed that the evidence offered for granting recognition to the Pamunkey revealed "deficiencies, inconsistencies, omissions and other weaknesses."

James P. Moran, a Democrat who represented Northern Virginia in Congress for 24 years before retiring in January, has long supported federal recognition for Virginia's Indian tribes, including the Pamunkey. "The principal opposition now is pure dollars and cents," he said. "It's MGM being concerned that some people might decide to lose their money in Virginia rather than in Maryland."

The Pamunkey reservation, among the oldest in the United States, is based on treaties signed with the English government in 1646 and 1677.

SHA survey finds long-lost grist mill

By Anastasia Poulos

Condensed from CRAB, the SHA newsletter, Spring 2015

Anne Arundel County recently undertook an archeological survey of the Bacon Ridge Natural Area. This undeveloped property is a large conservation park held by the county in cooperation with the Scenic Rivers Land Trust. The survey led to both the rediscovery of the 18th Century Charles A. Waters Grist Mill Site (18AN1241) and the new discovery of an associated dwelling.

The Waters Mill was constructed on the bank of Bacon Ridge Branch. The mill has fallen into ruin but a mill dam and race and a wheel pit and the mill structure's foundation survive. Artifact scatters at the site near Crownsville are composed of metal pipe and brick fragments while a millstone remains visible on the ground surface.

The mill was constructed in 1761 and is mapped on the 1860 Martenet and the 1878 Hopkins atlases. Both maps record the mill owner as Charles A. Waters and the later map identifies the site as a grist mill with an additional structure nearby. These structures are last recorded on the 1907 USGS maps.

During the search for the Waters Mill, county archeologists found physical remains of the mill as well as a previously unrecorded ironstone foundation. This foundation represents the site of a small dwelling that may be the second building depicted on the Hopkins map.

The small, 34'x14' foundation features an internal wall that suggests two rooms on the ground floor.

Archeologist's shovel test pit results helped to verify that the foundation was indeed the remains of a dwelling. This newly discovered house site, associated with the Waters Mill, sits on a tall bluff in clear view of the mill seat.

Recovered artifacts included late 18th - early 20th Century ceramics and archeologists also discovered a fragment of a metal andiron, which would have supported firewood burning in the hearth while the house was occupied.

The earliest known owner of the Waters Mill was Jacob Waters (b. 1770). He is recorded in the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment with 209 acres of property with "1 mill house and a mill 28' by 20', and a dwelling house 20' by 16'."

John Brian is listed as a tenant and may have lived at the newly discovered house site at the end of the 18th Century. Further investigation into the house site may clarify building sequences and answer the question of whether the earlier dimensions describe the house prior to a later renovation.

The re-examination of the mill and the discovery of the associated dwelling have added to our understanding of the arrangement and importance of this industrial center. County archeologists plan to continue investigations this spring to learn about daily life and operations at the mill and the role the mill and the individuals associated with it played in the community.

Only weeks now to the spring field session

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behalf of Joe Dent, and for him, I call on all ASM members to go to the Society's website [now](#) and register to assist in this most important of quests: We must identify a Keyser structure during this field session and we will need your help to do it.

In addition to being a part of an important scientific investigation, the staff, including four current and one emeritus (Maureen Kavanagh) archeologists from the Maryland Historical Trust, Bob Wall from Towson University and Becca Peixotto of The American University will be on hand to guide and educate you on proper archeological technique.

Join us for half a day, one day or all 11 days. As you make your plans be sure to note that Bob Wall will present a public lecture on Thursday evening, May 28, at the C. Burr Artz library in Frederick, that Lynn Bulhack will present a lunchtime lecture on Friday May 29 on prehistoric pottery production, and that the Field Session Feast (burgers, hotdogs, sausages, tofu) will be held Saturday May 30 at Heritage Farm Park in Walkersville. I hope to see you.

Utah treasure being threatened by Utah

By David Roberts

Condensed from the New York Times, April 13, 2015

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Cedar Mesa is one of the most sublime and culturally evocative landscapes on Earth. Nowhere else in the Southwest can you find unrestored ruins and artifacts left in situ in such prodigal abundance.

To stand beneath the dwellings, kivas and granaries of the Ancestral Puebloans, as well as the hogans in which Navajos once lived, and to stare at hallucinatory panels of rock art engraved and painted on the cliffs as long as thousands of years ago, is to plunge into a spiritual communion with the ancients, even if the meanings of those sites and panels lie in the limbo of the lost.

What's still there may soon be lost, as well. Administered by the woefully understaffed federal Bureau of Land Management, the mesa is hammered every year by rampant looting that a small number of rangers are powerless to stop.

More ominously, perhaps, the Utah State Legislature has its eye on the roughly 500,000 acres of pinyon and juniper forests and its twisting sandstone canyons. Last month, Gov. Gary R. Herbert, a Republican, signed a resolution passed by the Republican-controlled legislature opposing additional protections for Cedar Mesa and the equally pristine San Rafael Swell, asserting that livestock grazing and energy and mineral extraction could be done in a way that would preserve the area's "scenic and recreational values."

Utah lawmakers are worried that President Obama might declare both areas national monuments. Such a move would be in the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt, who as president in 1906 signed the Antiquities Act. The law empowered presidents to create monuments to protect "objects of historic or scientific interest." Roosevelt also used the Antiquities Act to reduce out-of-control looting of prehistoric sites, mining, prospecting and land-grabbing throughout the West.

The bitter antagonism between the United States government and Utah goes all the way back to 1851, when Brigham Young, governor of the newly formed Utah Territory, declared that "any president of the United States who lifts his finger against this people shall die an untimely death and go to hell." Locals and lawmakers deplored the establishment of Arches National Monument — now National Park — in 1929, and Canyonlands National Park in 1964, both now revered as crown jewels of the park system as well as moneymakers for the nearby communities.

Three years ago, Governor Herbert signed a measure that demanded the return of millions of acres of federal lands in Utah (except five national parks, six national monuments and some wilderness areas) to the state. After the federal government ignored Utah's deadline of Dec. 31, 2014, the Legislature set aside \$2 million of taxpayers' money to prepare a lawsuit, as yet not filed, to force a resolution.

That sort of action by the state government was not unexpected. What's more worrisome is that the United States Senate recently voted 51 to 49 on a nonbinding resolution to sell or give away nearly all federal lands: national forests, Bureau of Land Management land, wilderness areas and wildlife refuges — everything except the national parks and monuments. An earlier House resolution called for reducing federal land holdings.

Against this tide, three environmental and cultural lobbying groups — Friends of Cedar Mesa, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and the Navajo Diné Bikéyah — have put forth proposals to protect the wilderness remaining at the heart of the Colorado Plateau in Utah, about 9.5 million acres now under the aegis of the Bureau of Land Management.

In the 28 years I've been visiting Cedar Mesa, I've seen too many sites destroyed by looters, too many others trampled by cattle, too many all-terrain-vehicle tracks in remote canyons and just last year, a new oil rig drilled deep among Ancestral Puebloan sites on Cyclone Flat on the north end of the mesa.

There's a showdown looming. President Obama should use his authority to set aside Cedar Mesa as a national monument. Doing so would mean more visitors and new regulations. But it would also protect the wonders of the ancients and the environment itself for future generations to explore.

No real bad news from Annapolis, but no good either

The 2015 session of the Maryland General Assembly featured no legislative issues of specific significant interest to the archeology function of the Maryland Historical Trust. But the MHT budget will have \$1 million decreases in the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program in both FY2015 and FY2016.

A 2 percent across-the-board reduction - totaling \$267,000 - remains in the Department of Planning's operating budget for FY2016. This reduction is intended to reduce the base budget for the agency. It is unclear at this time how the department will absorb the cut.

For the record: Valerie Hall took over as ASM vice president from Laura Cripps after the Spring Symposium April 25, not after March's Workshop in Archeology.

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>

Central Maryland

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net Or visit the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter>

May 8: Lisa Kraus, Adam Fracchia and Stephen Israel will offer short PowerPoint presentations on their current work. At the Natural History Society at 6908 Belair Road, Overlea, 7 p.m.

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

May 14: Doug Zabel on "The Basics of Rocks."

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

May 21: Elizabeth Bollwerk, archeological analyst at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in Charlottesville, Va. will speak on "Getting Archaeological Data In and Out of the Cloud and What You Can Do With It."

June 11: (note this is the *second* Thursday) Annual Picnic at Needwood Mansion from 6 to 9:30 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.

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>

June 6: Annual ASNC picnic meeting, Rock Church and "Beehive" Historic Site, MD 273 at Little Elk Creek, in Cecil County.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown. For information contact Scott Lawrence at graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net

May 18: Patricia Samford offers a presentation on King's Reach.

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. For information contact Dave Cavey at 410-747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

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>

June 12: "Keyser Villages," a report by Bob Wall on the Biggs Ford and Barton sites.

BIGGS FORD, THE EARLY YEARS:



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 Jo Boodon, PO Box 1584, Ellicott City, MD 21043 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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