



# ASM Ink

April 2007, Volume 33, No. 4

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

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

## Coming April 20: Search for ancient meals

ASM's annual Spring Symposium will be held Saturday, April 21, with a palatable topic: food. The 42d version of the yearly event will look into the ways peoples interacted with their meals.

The main speech of the day will be given by Henry Miller, the chief archeologist at Historic St. Mary's City. "English to American: An Archeological Perspective on the Colonial Diet in the Chesapeake" will be his topic as he delivers the Richard E. Stearns Memorial Lecture.

Following him will be Justine Woodward McKnight, delivering the Iris McGillivray Memorial Lecture. The archeobotanical consultant will explain how she extracts and identifies plant remains that appear in archeological excavations. She will then tell how she is able to find out about the people's diet and environment.

The final talk of the morning will be given by

Thomas C. Cuddy, of the URS Corporation. The subject will be bread bakeries, especially an early 18<sup>th</sup> Century bakery in Annapolis.

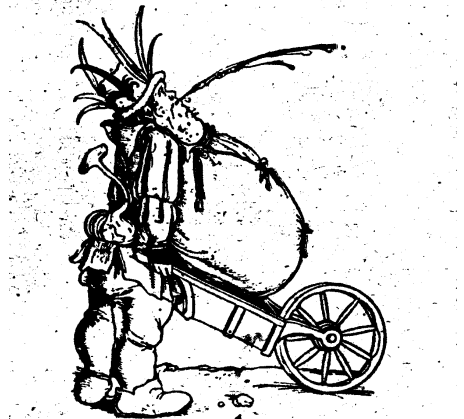
By this time, people should be quite hungry, so there will be a break for lunch. During the lunch period, Dan Coates of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter will give a demonstration of a flotation tank in operation, extracting charcoal—perhaps some burned corn or wheat?—from an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Annapolis deposit. Viewers might get a change to sample switchel—a traditional Anglo-American drink.

Three presentations are planned for the afternoon. First, Mike Lucas, of Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in Prince George's County, will offer a talk with the provocative title of "What Scarce a Hungry Dog Would Lap," a look at the role ordinaries played in the early life of the county.

Next, archeological consultant Ed Otter will tell about his research into how families chose and prepared meat in the late historic period.

Finally, Jim Gibb, a consulting archeologist and the program's organizer will turn people's attention to wine, a common drink during the Colonial period. The wealthy had their special uses for it and Gibb will discuss wine bottles and glasses from archeological sites, relating them to the gentlemanly art of proffering wine.

Registration starts at 9, with welcoming remarks beginning at 9:30. The complete program is included inside this newsletter.



## Upcoming events

**April:** Archeology Month. Many activities throughout the state.

**April 21:** Spring symposium. Crownsville.

**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:

**Central Chapter** will be conducting testing at the Rockdale rockshelter on weekends throughout April.

Contact Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or [ssisrael@verizon.net](mailto:ssisrael@verizon.net)

**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)

## Were there problems with your recent ASM Journals?

Because of technical malfunctions, problems occurred in some copies of the ASM Journal which were mailed to members last month. Two Journals were sent, Volume 41 (a combined issue) and Volume 42, No. 1. Some of the problems are related to mailing: the issues were mailed without envelopes and damage may have occurred in postal handling. Other problems are apparently attributable to production: missing or blank pages, or page cut errors. The Board is interested in collecting information about these problems and in addressing them. If you did not get both Journals or if your Journal was compromised, please contact Charlie Hall at the Maryland Historical Trust. His numbers are 410-514-7665 and [chall@mmdp.state.md.us](mailto:chall@mmdp.state.md.us) Also let him know if you would like a replacement issue.

## Field school to be in Frederick County

The 2007 Tyler Bastian Field School will be held at the Claggett Retreat site (18FR25) in Frederick County later this spring. Because of co-ordination problems, the exact dates are not known, but the plan is to hold the 11-day session sometime between the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June.

The site, in an alfalfa field south of Frederick City near Buckeystown, was reported to the state by Spencer Geasey in 1970. The small Late Woodland village never has been investigated by a professional archeologist, although there was a limited dig in the 1960s by a Buckeystown resident.

Joe Dent, of American University, who has led ASM field schools at the Hughes and Winslow sites in Montgomery County, will be the principal investigator.

Charlie Hall, Maryland's chief terrestrial archeologist, said the site appears to belong to the one of three Late Woodland archeological cultures known as Mason Island Complex.

He said, "Mason Island Phase sites (also referred to as Page Phase) are better known in western Maryland, where they are more numerous. No purely Mason Island Phase sites have been investigated east of Allegany County. Investigations of the other two Late Woodland phases, Keyser Phase and Montgomery Phase, have occurred in Frederick County.

"What we don't know about the Page Phase is quite more remarkable than what we do know. For example, how does the Mason Island Phase relate to the other two Late Woodland phases? Are there differences we can identify? What about similarities? Did the three phases represent change within a single cultural tradition or do these they represent different peoples? If they are different peoples, did they co-exist in the area, or did they replace one another?"

Efforts to set the dates for the school ran into last-minute scheduling problems with the Bishop Claggett Center, which owns the land.

Hall hoped to have the dates determined even before this newsletter is delivered.

"We are working on finalizing a schedule with the Bishop Claggett Center for an 11-day period beginning on a Friday and ending on a Monday (so that it includes two consecutive weekends) in late May or early June," he said.

"Members should be encouraged to carefully watch the ASM website ([www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)) for updated information. In addition, I will be sending email updates and notices to all members. If a member wonders if the Society has the correct email information, email me with the updated information at [chall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:chall@mdp.state.md.us).

"If a member doesn't have email, he/she can write me at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032, and I'll send updates by regular mail."

## Three Marylanders convicted of looting C&O Canal site

Three men from Hancock have been convicted of looting in connection with their excavation of a grave in an historic cemetery in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park near Hancock.

Jonathon Carroll and Christopher Pelchat admitted to using a metal detector in order to locate artifacts. They also admitted to digging approximately 25 to 30 holes in the area of a homestead before discovering the gravesite. They stated that they hoped to locate jewelry from the remains of Mary Ohr, who had died in 1975. After digging approximately five feet, they stated that they began "creeping out" and abandoned their excavation, without realizing they already had dug through her remains.

As part of a plea agreement, the two were ordered to pay the park \$2,569 for the damage and sentenced to one year probation, 25 hours of community service in the park and forfeiture of two metal detectors. They also were banned from entering any National Park Service site for two years.

In an apology letter to the park, Pelchat said, "It was a stupid and very foolish thing to do."

A third defendant, James Carroll, was ordered to pay \$1,015.94 in restitution costs.

Relic hunting and metal detecting in national parks is a violation of federal law.

# Barton site field school to be June 16-24

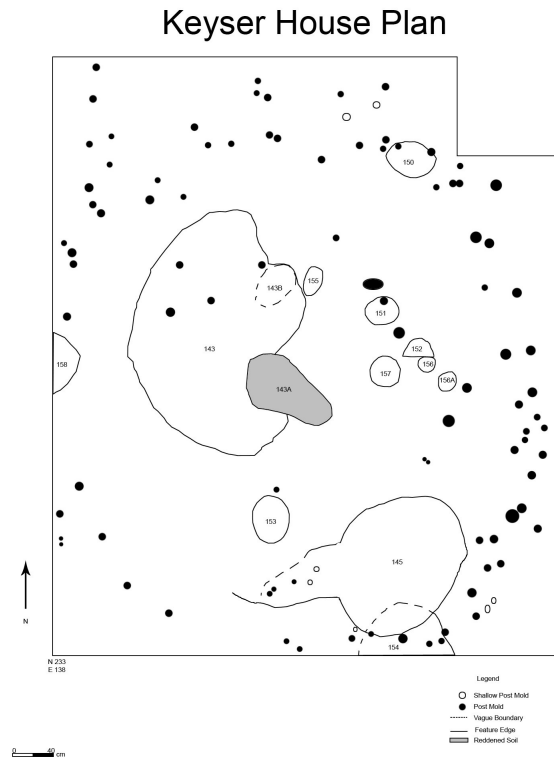
By Robert Wall

The Barton site continues to reveal more details about the prehistory of the upper Potomac Valley and work will continue in 2007. The planned dates for the field school are June 16 to 24. There also will be ongoing work on the deep test unit throughout the summer on selected weekends.

One of the principal purposes of the excavations is to delineate the variety of occupations represented on the site from Paleoindian through Contact period as well as to investigate specific research questions with regard to each component.

Excavations in the 2006 were focused primarily on the late 1400s Keyser phase palisaded village. A complete house pattern within the village was revealed and the edges of the palisade were more clearly defined. The house was a relatively small (about 5 meter diameter) circular structure with a central hearth and large storage feature adjacent to the interior wall.

Work will continue this summer in the area immediately surrounding the house. Volunteers from ASM chapters and interested visitors are welcome to participate in this project. Interested individuals also are encouraged to take the class for credit through Towson University.



Graphic by Stephanie Roe

## Interior panel reverses Utah leasing deal

*Condensed from American Archeology, Spring 2007*

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Board of Land Appeals recently reversed the bureau of Land Management's controversial leasing of about 14,000 acres in central Utah for oil and gas development.

The board cited the BLM's failure to adequately identify threatened archeological sites in the area and noted its lack of consultation with affected Native American tribes before offering the parcels for sale in October 2003.

The proposed lease parcels are located north of Nine Mile Canyon and just south of the Book Cliffs within the BLM's Vernal District, areas dense with prehistoric archeological sites, especially spectacular rock art attributed to the Fremont culture.

The South Utah Wilderness Alliance, Utah's largest conservation organization, had protested the proposed BLM leases, charging that selling the parcels without an adequate review violated requirement of the National Historic Preservation Act. The board's ruling suspends the leases pending the outcome of an agency review.

Last summer, a U.S. district judge overturned energy leases sold by the BLM in November 2003 and the board previously reversed the agency on leases sold between 2004 and 2006, citing similar BLM failures to adequately address the area's cultural resources.

The BLM acknowledges that it was likely too lax in approving energy leases on lands with cultural resources, but noted that it has improved its standards since 2003.

# Arundel ruin marks a long history

By **Andrea F. Seigel**

*From the Baltimore Sun, March 16, 2007*

At the crest of a rural hill south of Annapolis stands a ruin that appears to have spilled from the pages of a novel. What's left of one of the grandest brick homes of the colonial era are two towering chimneys and a few failing sections of low walls, all enrobed in vines and weeds but offering a breathtaking view of the Rhode River.

"Had it survived, it would be one of the gems of the region," Al Luckenbach, Anne Arundel County archeologist, said of what once was a 130-foot-long, five-section Palladian mansion whose main section was built around 1747. Adding to the creepy aura: the rotting stump of what once was a Maryland and national champion black walnut tree.

These remains stand on a sloping acreage that supported people since 500 B.C.

Archeologists believe the hills hold a rich past -- from the prehistoric native tools and pottery and 19<sup>th</sup> Century commercial wharf at the waterfront to the colonial-era, slave-worked plantation and ensuing farms.

Teams have been working on the site -- which comprises several hundred acres -- for nearly two years. With the property's past shrouded in mystery and legend, the archeological groups soon will begin a third year of digging in the ground and through historical records, making this one of two sites along the Rhode selected for increasingly intense study funded by the Maryland Historical Trust.

"You are literally able to stand here and see sites that have seen thousands of years of human occupation," said C. Jane Cox, cultural resources planner who serves as assistant county archeologist.

Artifacts such as broken tools and bits of pottery collected down by the water suggest that early native populations enjoyed oysters. The broken shells are stacked several feet deep.

Much later, in the 1650s, Quaker settler Thomas Sparrow laid claim to 590 acres. He named his land Sparrow's Rest -- to which he soon added land he called Squirrel Neck. He also grew tobacco, the gold crop of his time. Historical records from 1712 say Sparrow had a house on the property, but nobody knows where.

The mansion was built about 35 years later by Annapolis merchant Nicholas Macubbin and it had the first known giant pilasters in the area. Descriptions and photos of the collapsing home some 50 years ago show a striking resemblance to Mount Clare on the Patapsco River, the house built by Charles Carroll, Macubbin's brother-in-law, Luckenbach said. Macubbin later diversified his crops to include wheat. Records from 1798 describe eight small dwellings and one huge manor home.

Current owner Betsy Kirkpatrick-Howat recalled the house as a place that she heard was poorly rebuilt from a fire in the late 1800s. By her childhood in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was an uninhabitable, off-limits structure that came into her family when her grandmother bought what was a truck farm around 1915. The surrounding fields have hay operations and Kirkpatrick-Howat said there are easements to preserve the open character of the land.

By 1820, John Contee, a lieutenant in the War of 1812, owned the property. He renamed it Java, for the British warship overpowered by the USS Constitution. Legend has it that Contee bankrolled his purchase with prize money he got for being in charge of the snipers and boarding party from the Constitution -- but Luckenbach said Contee would not have received enough prize money to buy the plantation.

Contee built a wharf -- the road to the property is Contee's Wharf Road -- taking his waterfront from being strictly for his own use to becoming a successful commercial steamboat landing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Cox said.

But it's the unseen and the quirky stories about the property -- though the boundaries kept changing depending on the owners and their neighbors -- that have piqued the attention of archeologists.

Thomas Francis, who owned an adjacent tract that he may have bought from Sparrow, was returning from a visit to downstream neighbors and drowned when his boat sank in 1685, but his wife, Mary, floated to safety on her hoop skirt.

Francis was buried near the waterfront.

An undisturbed inland area is a slave cemetery; its connection to the property is unclear.

Archeologists hope to uncover more detail on the use of the property and what life was like for its colonial upper-crust occupants as well as their servants.

# Disinterred bones talk, they listen

By John Kelly

*Condensed from the Washington Post, September 14, 2006*

The first thing Cliff and Donna Boyd do when they get a new skeleton is wash it.

They do it carefully, of course, using their hands or a soft brush to sluice water over the bones, removing the dirt that's embraced them for years. If it's a fragile skeleton -- dry and light as balsa wood -- they use just a dry brush. And if it's a *very* fragile skeleton, they don't do anything at all, just proceed to the next step: putting the puzzle back together again.

That's what the husband-and-wife anthropology professors had just finished doing when I visited them over the summer at Radford University in southwestern Virginia. Side-by-side on two tables were No. 12 and No. 13, the two best-preserved skeletons removed last spring from a 19<sup>th</sup> Century cemetery at in Fairfax.

"I love bone," said Donna, 46. "I feel comfortable with bone. Bone is nice."

What she means is, bone tells a story. It gives the dead a voice -- if you know how to listen. And Donna and Cliff, the bone whisperers, do. The Virginia Department of Transportation, which is enlarging the intersection where the graveyard was found, asked them to study 33 sets of remains.

There are 206 bones in the human body. Skeletons 12 and 13 are relatively complete. The lengths of certain bones are entered into a computer program called ForDisc 3.0, for Forensic Discriminant Function. The program compares the measurements with thousands of known examples. It can tell an Amerindian female from a Japanese male.

But even without the computer, the skeletons are talking. The hip bones have narrow pelvic notches. The brow ridges are robust and the mandibles square. These were men.

Race is harder to judge, but the nasal bridge of each skull has what anthropologists call a "Quonset hut" shape. That correlates with African Americans, which makes sense, given that historical records indicate the graveyard dates to slave days.

Age is harder still, at least with adults. Children grow at a nicely measured pace. Teeth come in at certain times. Cartilage fuses into bone at known intervals. When the medial clavicle fuses to the sternum between the ages of 25 and 33, you can say you've truly grown up, osteologically speaking.

But there isn't much to distinguish, say, a 40-year-old from a 60-year-old. All the Boyds can say about these men is that No. 13 was older than 45 when he died and that No. 12 was older than that. Their lives were not easy. The muscle attachment areas of the arms are "hyper robust," bespeaking continual stress.

"Sometime in his life [No. 13] had a pretty severe injury to this part right here," said Cliff, 53, pointing to the second metacarpal of the left hand. "This has suffered a serious fracture. . . . Also this person had some chronic infections that affected the leg, particularly the lower leg." No. 12 suffered from a portion of his sacrum fusing to his right hip. "I've never seen that before," said Donna. "He lived with that for a long time."

Together, Cliff and Donna are giving us a picture of these men.

"We can tell something specific about each of these individuals," said Cliff. "We won't be able to tell their names, but something about their health, their age, their sex, their lifestyle that would be lost if you just tucked them back in the ground without looking at them."

## 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)

**April 17:** Pot luck and show-and-tell.



**Dig Days at London Town** for 2007: May 12, July 14, 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). Chapter website: [www.digfrederick.bravehost.com](http://www.digfrederick.bravehost.com).

**April 11:** George Evans of the the Monocacy Chapter will share his experiences as a volunteer excavator at Jamestown.

**May 9:** Wayne Clark will speak on John Smith's Chesapeake travels through the Algonquian-speaking Indian's world.

**June 13:** Monocacy Chapter President Jeremy Lazelle will outline his experiences as an archeologist with FEMA after Hurricane Katrina.

## 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 6:30. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Tiber River Tavern in Ellicott City. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [roseannlee@earthlink.com](mailto:roseannlee@earthlink.com)

**April 9:** Bob O'Brien, "A Travelogue of Hawaii."

**May 14:** Program to be announced. (Pot Luck Supper)

## 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)

**April 27:** "Folklore and Archeology in the Appalachians," by Dr. Kara Rogers-Thomas, folklorist, Frostburg University.

**May 25:** "Never Suck a Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI," lecture and book signing by Dana Kollman.

**June 16 - 24:** Barton field session.

**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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**TIME SENSITIVE: DELIVER BY APRIL 3**

