

# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



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

## Fall Meeting features variety of archeology

The 2017 edition of ASM's Annual Meeting takes place Saturday, October 21 at Howard Community College in Columbia.

As usual, the day will start at 9 a.m. with a business meeting to keep members informed of what is going on in the Society. The winner of the Society's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, will be named and the award presented. This will be followed by a selection of speakers on various archeology-related topics.

First up will be Stacy Poulus of Lost Towns. Anne Arundel County already is experience nearly twice the rate of coastal erosion blamed on climate change. She will tell how the county is trying to identify, evaluate and document sites in greatest danger and how it is working to mitigate the potential loss.

The 2017 ASM Field Session was held in Calvert County, looking for signs of the first seat of county government, Calverton. Located on the shore of Battle Creek, an underwater survey accompanied the on-land search and excavation. Principal investigator Kirsti Uunila's report will be read by Charley Hall of MHT.

The final pre-lunch lecture will be given by Aaron Levinthal of the State Highway Administration. While working on a bridge over the Nanticoke River, SHA discovered an 18<sup>th</sup> Century shipwreck, one of the oldest Maryland-built shipwrecks yet discovered.

Right after lunch, Stephen McBride will deliver the keynote address, the Frederic M. Steiner Memorial Lecture, named in honor of an ASM founder for his pioneering spirit and dedication to archeology. He will detail archeological investigations into a fort George Washington had built during the French and Indian War.

Following him, Lynne Bulhack of the Mid-Potomac Chapter will tell how a small nonprofit, working on the environment, found itself involved in archeology in Montgomery and Frederick counties. With the help of the public, the group created a Native American Heritage Trail Guide dedicated to the Piscataway Conoy tribe.

Sarah Grady, who after years in the field, enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Maryland, will talk about a Jim Crow school in southern Anne Arundel County. Built in 1930, after school integration it became a community center. The center, the university and the Smithsonian are working together to preserve the building and see if earlier remains are on the site.

The day's final talk isn't a talk, but a WMPT DVD about the several underwater searches along St. Leonard's Creek for the USS Scorpion, the flagship of Commander Joshua Barney's War of 1812 flotilla which was created to slow the British advance on Washington. An interesting theory is presented about why more remains haven't been found.

There are no lunch facilities available at the meeting site. Two recommended options are to bring your own lunch or to select one from a caterer who will deliver to the meeting. **People wanting a catered lunch must order by Friday, October 13. A list of offerings is with this newsletter. Drinks are provided separately.**

Also included is the meeting's program, with directions on how to reach the meeting site and the Howard Community College campus.

## Upcoming events

**October 7:** Potomac River Cleanup and Family Fun Day at Mallows Bay in Nanjemoy. For information or to register contact [paul.orlando@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.orlando@noaa.gov) or call 240 460 1978.

**October 21:** ASM Annual Meeting, Howard Community College, Columbia. 9 - 4.

**November 10-12:** Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference, Portsmouth, N.H.  
[http://cneha.org/conference\\_registration.htm](http://cneha.org/conference_registration.htm)

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab:** The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging historic material from Fells Point. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov)

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17 Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net) and Laura Cripps [lcripps@howardcc.edu](mailto:lcripps@howardcc.edu) under the auspices of the Smithsonian. 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](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net)

**Montgomery County** is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or [Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org)

**The Anne Arundel County** Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous county sites. Weekdays only. Email [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call the lab 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 [ed.chaney@maryland.gov](mailto:ed.chaney@maryland.gov) or 410 586 8554.

**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.

## CAT corner:

For the latest CAT information see the ASM website or contact Belinda Urquiza at [burquiza@comcast.net](mailto:burquiza@comcast.net)

## Lost Towns expanding volunteer opportunities

Expanding its volunteer program, Anne Arundel's Lost Town Project will now have open lab hours at its lab (839 Londontown Rd, Edgewater) Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. On Thursdays it also will have evening lab hours until 9p.m. Evening labs will include hands-on workshops focused on artifact identification. It is now processing 17<sup>th</sup> Century artifacts from Skipwith's Addition and Woodland artifacts from the River Farm Site (where ASM held its 2016 field school).

It also has scheduled field work opportunities for the fall. Upcoming excavation days at Gibson Island are 9/27, 9/28, 10/4, 10/5, 10/6, 10/12, 10/13, 10/19 and 10/20 to document a possible earthfast 17th Century structure that is overlapping with 18th and 19th Century structures.



## Don't look for Becca, she's back in African cave

By **Becca Peixotto**

I'm afraid the rumors are true. I am back in South Africa for the month of September working in the cave.

We're back in the Rising Star cave for a month-long expedition gathering data to address a couple of key hypotheses. First, in the Dinaledi Chamber (where the initial fossils of *Homo naledi* were found) we're interested in how the bones got into the cave and what happened to them once they arrived (questions of taphonomy). The big question there is, "Did *Homo naledi* get there through the chute we use?" So, we're excavating near the base of the chute to see if any bones are there. Those same excavations are helping us (well, our geologist friends) understand how the talus and sediment accumulated below the chute.

Over in the Lesedi Chamber (where the *Homo naledi* individual dubbed Neo was found), we're concentrating excavations in a narrow passageway where we think more fossils might be. We're hoping to find a few missing parts of Neo's skeleton. That space is particularly tricky to work in: We lay on our stomachs to excavate with barely enough room to lift up our heads. As we move down through the sediment, we'll have more room to wiggle.

The team this year consists of four of the original excavating team (myself, Hannah, Elen and Marina) and the Wits University cave exploration team. Lee Berger and John Hawks are the PIs. You can follow along on Twitter ([#homonaledi](#), [#RisingStarExpedition](#)), on Facebook, or through the Nat Geo Explorer Classroom on YouTube.

## Protests lead state to drop plans to drop funding

After grass-root protests quickly developed, the Hogan administration dropped a proposal to eliminate funding for Maryland's non-capital preservation grant program. The Department of Budget and Management had said it would strike the entire \$200,000 from next year's budget. This would be the first funds the program has gotten since 2009.

ASM joined other organizations which rely on state funding for part of their budgets in protesting the decision and urged its members to do so too.

ASM President Don Housley applauded the quick response by Society members and said, grants manager Claude Bowen "had already submitted three grant proposals: to fund the 2018 Tyler Bastion Field Session, to complete the Biggs Ford report and to investigated threatened prehistoric sites in a selected area along the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay. Now we wait for the final awarding of the grants sometime in October."

## First MHT leader, Orlando Ridout IV, dies at 95

By Fred Rasmussen

*Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, September 3, 2017*

Orlando "Lanny" Ridout IV, an architectural historian, leading Annapolis preservationist and an author who served as the first director of the Maryland Historical Trust, died Aug. 25 of complications from Parkinson's disease in Edgewater. The lifelong resident of St. Margarets, where his family has lived since 1784, he was 95.

"A good way to describe Orlando is that he was a fine gentleman whose passion was historical preservation," said Edward C. Papenfuse, Maryland's state archivist from 1975 until 2013. "And when he led the Maryland Historical Trust, he cared for and oversaw some of the most remarkable buildings from the Colonial period."

"Annapolis preservation was one of his greatest accomplishments."

Orlando Ridout IV, the son of Orlando Ridout III, a dairyman, and Mary McKinsey Ridout, was born in Annapolis and raised on his family's farm in St. Margarets. After graduating in 1939 from Annapolis High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in 1943 in agriculture from the University of Maryland, College Park.

He enlisted in the Army in 1943 and served as a lieutenant with the infantry in Saipan, Okinawa and Korea. After being discharged in 1946, he returned to work on the family farm with his father.

In 1961, the General Assembly created the Maryland Historical Trust and Gov. J. Millard Tawes appointed Ridout as its first director, a position he held until stepping down in 1975.

He also was the state's first historic preservation officer. "It was the first state agency in the U.S. that was specifically dedicated to preserving historic sites; today all of the states have them," said J. Rodney Little, who directed the Maryland Historical Trust from 1978 until 2014.

"This was groundbreaking. He initiated a statewide survey to identify worthy preservation sites. The standards he put in place were comprehensive and very high," Little said. "The documentation process was also very good. The only other state that came close to Maryland in this regard was Massachusetts."

The National Historic Preservation Act was passed by Congress in 1966.

Ridout was a founding member of Historic Annapolis and also served on the Committee for the Restoration of St. Mary's City, the Londontown Publik House Commission, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and the Anne Arundel County Public Library association.

Ridout's family played a significant role in the life of Kunte Kinte, who was the focus of Alex Haley's 1976 Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Roots." While researching his family genealogy, Ridout discovered that his ancestor John Ridout had sold Kunte Kinte into slavery.

Ridout married Elisabeth Prescott Lawton in 1946. She died in 2011. He is survived by a daughter and three granddaughters. A son, Orlando Ridout V, also a noted architectural historian and preservationist, died in 2013.

# Dig looks at Chaco Canyon 'great houses'

By Jon Hurdle

*Condensed from the New York Times, September 4, 2017*

NEAR MANCOS, Colo. — On the site of a former auto-repair shop here, broken stone walls mark the site of a 900-year-old village that may yield new insights into an ancient desert culture.

The ruins are what remains of two "great houses" — apartment buildings, essentially — that formed a northern outpost of a civilization based at Chaco Canyon, about 100 miles away in northwestern New Mexico.

Archeologists from the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, in nearby Cortez, have just begun the first systematic excavation of this site in an effort to learn how its residents lived in the early 1100s and how they related to the wider Chaco culture.

In particular, the Northern Chaco Outliers Project aims to determine when the village was occupied, how many people lived there and whether they did so during an extended drought of 1130-1180, which may have accelerated a northward movement of people from Chaco.

The project is the first in many years to systematically excavate any of about 250 great houses that were built in the Four Corners region, said John Kantner, an archeologist at the University of North Florida.

Three full-time archeologists and volunteers began work in mid-May and will spend at least the next three years sifting through the ruins, named the Haynie Site after its former owners, Ralph and Claudia Haynie.

The team is working from site descriptions and maps of the ruins that were made by Claudia Haynie as she did her own excavations in pursuit of artifacts after buying the property in the early 1980s. Large parts of the ruins were excavated with heavy machinery, and portions of both great houses were demolished, disturbing at least half the site, said Susan Ryan, the Crow Center's director of archeology, who is leading the project.

The artifacts obtained by the Haynies cannot be recovered because they were sold, she said. But archeologists can use the couple's records to infer what the site looked like before it was disturbed.

"She was recording, in a pretty scientific way, where her objects were coming out of the great houses," Ryan said. "... Somebody really did care about the site even though the actions went against what archeologists would say is appropriate," she added.

Estimates of the age of the Haynie structures comes from tree-ring dating. One of the roof timbers dates has been dated to 1111, when the center of the Chaco civilization was moving northward into Colorado.

Archeologists link the Haynie site to Chaco Canyon by noting shared architectural features, like subfloor ventilation systems, tall ceilings and flat-sawed timbers.

## ASM website undergoes 21st Centuryization

Have you visited the ASM website recently? You won't recognize it. Under the direction of webmaster John Fiveash all of the old features are still there but, as they say, the site is new and improved. More information, easy to navigate layout. Its [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

## Anne Arundel

For information, contact Jim Gibb at [JamesGGibb@verizon.net](mailto:JamesGGibb@verizon.net)

## Central Chapter

For information contact [centralchapterasm@yahoo.com](mailto:centralchapterasm@yahoo.com) or [stephenisrael2701@comcast.net](mailto:stephenisrael2701@comcast.net) or 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter](http://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter) or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>



## 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 Carol Cowherd at [ccasm2010@gmail.com](mailto:ccasm2010@gmail.com). Chapter website is [charlescoasm.org](http://charlescoasm.org) and its blog is [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com)

**October 12:** Silas Hurry will discuss "A History of Archeology in Maryland's First Capital."

**November 9:** Jacob Moschler. TBD

## Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768)

**October 19:** Ralph Buglass, chapter member and local historian, will speak on "Offutt's Crossroads: The Early History of Potomac and its Founding Family."

**November 16:** Mark Michael Ludlow, member of the City of Alexandria Archaeology Commission will discuss "Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archeologist."

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or call 301-378-0212. The chapter does not meet in July or August.

**October 11:** Jason Shellenhamer will talk about the archeology of Catoctin Mountain Park.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are usually 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**October 11:** Swan Creek Focus, by Eric McCann and Dan Coates. Havre de Grace City Hall.

**November 8:** Local Petroglyphs with Global Interpretations, by Dan Coates and Dave Peters. Harford Community College, Bel Air.

**Friday, December 8:** Harford Glen; Past, Present and Future. ASNC Board Members. Dinner Meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

**January 10, 2018:** Aaron Levinthal of the SHA will talk about the Bush Tavern Site. Havre de Grace City Hall.

**February 4:** Dan Coates on "Jasper Run or Run for Jasper."

**March 14:** Jim Kotersky and Dan Coates on the Church Lane Pottery Site.

**April 13:** "At the Water's Edge: Our Past on the Brink," by Darrin Lowery.

**Sunday, May 20:** Annual picnic at the Iron Hill Museum and Jasper Site.

## St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month (with a few exceptions) at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, 23110 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at [Ccoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Ccoogan@smcm.edu)

**October 16:** - TBD

**November 20:** - TBD

**December 15:** Tour at Jefferson Patterson Park @ 1:00 p.m.

**January 17:** Julie King

**February 21:** Steve Lenik (tentatively)

**March 19:** - TBD

**April 16:** Archaeology Month (student speakers at St. Mary's College of Maryland)

**May 21:** - TBD

## Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, [www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358) or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com> or try [uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com](mailto:uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com)

**October 16:** (Note date change) Larry Seastrum will tell about efforts to recover remains of a U.S. World War II bomber that crashed in Austria.

**November 13:** New UPAG President Kelly Palich will tell about an analysis of a mid-18th Century tenant house/trash pit in Charles County.

## 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. Email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**September 22:** Al Feldstein, local historian, will speak on the history of LaVale.

**October 27:** Archeologist Susan Trussell will report on recent investigations of the French & Indian War era Fort Dewart, located along Forbes Road in western Pennsylvania.

**November 18:** A field trip to tour the newly renovated Fort Bedford Museum, guided by curator Susan Trussell.

**December:** No meeting due to holidays

**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 percent discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Rachael Holmes at 875 Boyd Street, Floor 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 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](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**Submissions.** 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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