



ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Coming up March 8: Annual Workshop

The annual Workshop in Archeology will be held Saturday, March 8, in Crownsville, from 9:30 to about 3:30.

As usual, the meeting will be divided into four time blocks. The first time period will be a unified session, the other three will each offer attendees a choice of three topics to listen to.

After opening remarks, the joint session is to begin at 9:45 and feature Bly Straube discussing "Digging Up the Dirt on Jamestown." Excavations at the site where Straube is curator have produced nearly 1 million artifacts and have divulged information about buildings, society and the people who lived there.

The second period choices include Greg Beaudoin, an avocational researcher who lives near Potomac Gorge, telling about fish weirs and navigational structures at the gorge. Last year's low water levels offered researchers a rare opportunity to examine the Potomac near Washington.

Dan Coates and Jack Davis of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter will explain prehistoric bone technology. Their presentation will include a demonstration of how a variety of bones are worked to produce a variety of tools, including fishhooks, projectile points, awls, scraper, knives and knife handles.

CAT participants - and others, if there is room - will have a chance to get a historical archeological overview. Silas Hurry and Kate Dinnel will give a two-block presentation, one session before lunch and one after. The emphasis will be on economic adaptation and population expansion as Maryland grew from a colony in the 17th Century to the state we now live in. Hurry works for St. Mary's City and Dinnel for Jefferson Patterson.

The other postprandial sessions include MACLab director Patricia Samford offering an explanation of subfloor pits in Colonial Virginia. More than 100 pits were examined and their shape, location and contents can show how they were used in a slave society.

A hands-on session will be part of Lisa Young's session on mending broken ceramics. The Alexandria conservator will talk about the various qualities of adhesives used in the process and then give participants a chance to test their skill at the process.

In the final time block, Matt McKnight, the newest member of the MHT archeology staff, will discuss the acquisition and use of copper at Adena and Hopewellian sites during Early and Middle Woodland periods. Laser Ablation ICP-MS was used in the research.

Looking at a later period, Bob Sonderman of the National Park Service will talk about classifying and identifying glass artifacts from the 18th to early 20th centuries. He will emphasize bottle glass and other utilitarian objects.

Archeological consultant Jim Gibb will use his ongoing work at Port Tobacco to talk about "Mapping a Colonial Town Site." The project is using standard archeological survey techniques and digital technologies to delineate the extent and internal structure of the old Prince George's County town.

The cafeteria will not be open for lunch, but orders for deli sandwiches can be placed at registration.

A complete program is inside this newsletter.

Upcoming events

February 28 – March 2: MAAC conference, Ocean City.

February 29: All-day symposium on Archeology and Human Rights. George Mason University. Free. For information and program, contact sociology.gmu.edu/GMUSymposiaonarchaeology.htm

March 8: Archeology workshop. Crownsville.

April 12: Spring Symposium. First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, across from City Hall and a parking garage, and readily accessible to a plethora of eateries.

October 18: ASM Annual Meeting, hosted by the Monocacy Chapter.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or 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 being curated is the collection from the Conawingo Dam field school site. This site was a Montgomery County 19th Century mill complex tested by ASM in 1971. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall 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. 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

Two CAT workshops will be part of the annual Workshop in Archeology at Crownsville March 8.

For updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.

A website has been set up for CAT candidates and graduates:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/>. To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Members can choose to get emails or just use the

website to send messages. Courtesy of CAT candidate Tom Forhan.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th 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. Work is expected in October. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

Volunteer wanted – in the financial area (no money needed)

Now's a good chance to combine an interest in archeology with an interest in bookkeeping. ASM is looking for someone to help treasurer Sean Sweeney handle ASM's financial records. Millions of dollars are not at

stake, but it is important to keeping ASM up and running. If you have knowledge of the basic skills needed and would like to lend a hand, contact Sean at 410-569-8715 or seansweeney1224@comcast.net

By their enemies we shall know them

By Roy Brown

Western Maryland Chapter

As children we learned and became familiar with the names of many Indian tribes across the country - the Sioux, Navajo, Comanche and Cheyenne. In time, through readings and visits to museums and cultural centers, we've learned that those names are not necessarily correct.

What do you call the original inhabitants of America - Amerindians, Native Americans or American Indians? In Alaska the accepted name is Alaskan Natives, in Canada it's First Nations, in the lower 48 we speak of the American Indians and south of our border the term used is Indigenous People.

Many of the original people of North America are known by a name they themselves did not use. The Navajo refer to themselves as the Dine'e - in their Athabascan language it means "the people." Navajo is a Tewa (Pueblo) word that translates as "planted fields."

"The people," "real people" or "people of the ..." is what many tribes call themselves in their own tongue - Lenni Lenape (aka Delaware), Tsitsistas (Cheyenne), Mamaceqtaw (Menominee), Ndee (Apache) and Numinu (Comanche) to list just a few.

We refer to the natives of the Arctic as Eskimo, a Cree name meaning "raw-meat eaters." They call themselves Inuit, Yup'ik and Inupiat, all of which means "the people." When dealing with nonnative cultures they use Inuit Eskimo, Yup'ik Eskimo and Inupiat Eskimo.

Many tribes today have adopted the foreign name that is recognized by the wider society. In an interview broadcast over AIROS (American Indian Radio On Satellite) an Inupiat elder stated that if they were just to say Inupiat most outsiders wouldn't know who they were talking about.

Some of the common tribal names we use are terms applied to them by their enemies. The Algonquin-speaking people called their bitter enemies "real snakes" - the Iroquois. The Ojibwe called their traditional foe the Sioux, meaning "little snakes." Not only did they label them snakes, they were insignificant ones besides!

The Mohawk, a member of the Iroquois Confederation, also were named by Algonquians - it translates to "man eater." Apache is a Zuni word for enemy and Comanche is a Spanish version of a Ute term which means "those who want to fight us." One can imagine as Europeans moved into a new territory they would ask the local people, "Who lives on the other side of the mountain?" and the reply would be, "Bad people, the Iroquois," and it stuck.

While visiting the Our People gallery at the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian, I was examining an exhibit on the Anishinabe. Another visitor asked if I knew the tribe. I replied that she probably knew them as the Ojibwe or Chippewa. "Oh, yes," she said, "the birch-bark people." Anishinabe in their language means "original people."

Here in the land of the Chesapeake, "great shellfish bay," and the Potomac, "where goods are brought," we had many Algonquian "they are our relatives" speaking people. Among them were the Nanticokes, called Kuskarawaoks by John Smith, but who referred to themselves as the Nantaquak, "people of the tidewater."

From the north came raiding parties of Seneca, who called themselves Onadowaga, "people of the mountains." Seneca is believed to be a form of the name of their principal village, Osininka.

The Susquehannocks, "people of the muddy river" in "Algonquian, were an Iroquoian-speaking tribe. The French called them by the Huron name Andaste. The Swedes and Dutch used the Lenni Lenape name Minqua, "treacherous/stealthy." Pennsylvanian colonists spoke of them as the Conestoga, the name of their last village. How the Susquehannocks referred to themselves we don't know.

Recently in the Southwest a struggle has developed between two old enemies, the Navajo and the Hopi, over the use of the name Anasazi. An article in American Archaeology's winter 2004-5 issue tells of the demands by the Hopi Nation that the Navajo name no longer be used to describe the Hopi ancestors and that it should be replaced by the term "Ancestral Puebloan." In addition, the Hopi had pressured the National Park Service to bar the sale of any book using the name Anasazi.

For more, see www.native-languages.org/original.htm or "Encyclopedia of Native Tribes of North America," by Michael Johnson.

Interior Dept. faulted for delay on funds

By Mary Clare Jalonick

Condensed from AP report, January 30, 2008

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that the Interior Department has "unreasonably delayed" its accounting for billions of dollars owed to Indian landholders.

The federal agency "has not, and cannot, remedy the breach" of its responsibilities to account for the Indian money, U.S. District Judge James Robertson said in a 165-page decision in a long-running federal lawsuit alleging mismanagement of Indian trust funds.

"Indeed, it is now clear that completion of the required accounting is an impossible task" for the department, Robertson said, adding that he would schedule a hearing next month to discuss ways to solve the problem. He added that his conclusion that Interior is unable to perform an adequate accounting does not mean that the task is hopeless:

"It does mean that a remedy must be found for the department's unrepaid, and irreparable, breach of its fiduciary duty over the last century. And it does mean that the time has come to bring this suit to a close."

The suit, first filed in 1996 by Blackfeet Indian Louise Cobell, claims the government has mismanaged more than \$100 billion in oil, gas, timber and other royalties held in trust from Indian lands dating back to 1887.

"We've argued for over 10 years that the government is unable to fulfill its duty to render an adequate historical accounting, much less redress the historical wrongs heaped upon the individual Indian trust beneficiaries," Cobell said.

An Interior Department spokeswoman said it had no immediate comment.

Robertson said that although department officials had attempted and continued to attempt to "cure the breach of their fiduciary duty" they have not succeeded in doing so and "have unreasonably delayed the completion of the required accounting."

Interior Department officials argued during the October trial that their job was difficult with limited money from Congress. The judge agreed, saying the department deserves credit for trying to strike a balance between "exactitude and cost."

The government proposed paying \$7 billion partly to settle the Cobell lawsuit in March 2007, but that was rejected by the plaintiffs, who estimate the government's liability could exceed \$100 billion. The Interior Department estimates that it has spent \$127 million on its accounting in the past five years.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, said Wednesday that he hopes the judge's decision is a catalyst for a settlement.

"Ultimately the question is going to be for the administration and the Justice Department, are they willing to settle for all of these years of mismanagement," he said.

Robertson took over the case after Judge Royce Lamberth was removed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which said he had lost his objectivity. He had written that Interior "is a dinosaur — the morally and culturally oblivious hand-me-down of a disgracefully racist and imperialist government that should have been buried a century ago."

Webb backs Virginia Indians' bid for recognition

From the Washington Post, January 25, 2008

U.S. Sen. James Webb (D-Va.) urged the Senate this week to formally recognize six Virginia Indian tribes. Senators have been debating a bill to modernize the Indian health-care system for the nation's 562 federally recognized tribes, and Webb said the Virginia tribes should be among them.

"Some of our oldest and most historically significant Indian tribes deserve to participate in health-care programs and other services authorized by the federal government," he said.

The House passed legislation to recognize the six tribes in May, days before festivities marking the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement. That bill, which Webb supports, awaits a hearing in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Miami Circle awaiting future technology

By Maya Bell

Condensed from the Orlando Sentinel, January 2, 2008

MIAMI -- Nine years ago, an array of American Indians, environmentalists, preservationists, New Age spiritualists, diviners, even Cub Scouts rose up to save the Miami Circle, a 2,000-year-old artifact that many embraced as America's own Stonehenge.

But today, the Circle -- a series of loaf-shaped holes chiseled into the limestone bedrock at the mouth of the Miami River -- is interred beneath bags of sand and gravel, laid over the formation in 2003 to protect it from the elements.

And though taxpayers shelled out \$27.6 million to purchase the 38-foot Circle and its surrounding two acres, visitors to the site's planned archeological park likely will never see the actual work of some of Miami's earliest inhabitants.

"At this point, we don't know a way," said Ryan Wheeler, Florida's state archeologist. "Maybe in 50 or 100 years archeologists will have all kinds of technology . . . that we can't imagine today."

The reburial was supposed to be temporary, while officials settled on a plan to manage and display the Circle, which has inspired as many theories about its origin and function as it has claims about its spiritual energy and mystical powers.

Wheeler and other experts who have studied the Circle think the holes were dug by the Tequesta Indians to support wooden posts for a tribal center or other important structure. But it has been theorized to be everything from a celestial observatory to a landing pad for aliens.

Whatever it was, this much is certain: There's nothing like it on the continent. Authenticated as prehistoric, it is on the National Register of Historic Places for the clues it could yield about the complex society developed by the Tequestas, a small tribe foraging in the Everglades and Biscayne Bay before the building of the Parthenon in Athens.

Yet visitors to the park, which won't open for at least a year, will see only an 8-foot replica.

That doesn't sit well with some of the people

who fought to wrest the Circle from the hands of a high-rise developer.

"I'll be darned," said Paul George, a Miami historian who will conduct tours of the park for the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. "I thought seeing it was part of the package . . . of preserving it."

Tom Goldstein, the assistant Miami-Dade county attorney who filed the eminent domain suit that derailed plans for two luxury apartment towers on the site, echoed that sentiment.

"I think the whole idea of going to see the Miami Circle is seeing the Miami Circle," he said.

Through the years, officials considered putting a thatched-roof hut or a clear-plastic shell over the Circle. But as Wheeler watched its holes fill with water from the rising water table, he said he knew, for now, the cost of any display solution was out of reach.

Still, he and other archeologists insist that, even out of sight, the Circle will retain much of the allure that captivated the world and forced Miami to do something the city has rarely done: save its past from the bulldozers.

"It's like going to a place and seeing a sign, 'George Washington slept here,' " said John Ricisak, Miami-Dade County's archeologist at the time of the discovery. "You don't need to see George Washington lying in the bed to recognize that something important happened at that spot."

The Circle certainly isn't much to look at. It consists of 24 loaf-shaped basins, each about the size of a sink, and dozens of 4-inch round holes cut into the basins and throughout the Circle interior. Still embedded on one edge is a septic tank from a 1950s apartment complex that stood on the property for five decades.

Even with the Circle fenced off and reburied, the state Web site, miami.circlesite.com, averages 7,000 hits a month.

St. Mary's Brick Chapel rises again

By Jenna Johnson

Condensed from the Washington Post January 6, 2008

After years of archeological digs, research, guesswork, construction and fundraising, the Brick Chapel of 1667 has returned to its stately position in a large field that was once a bustling Colonial city on the banks of the St. Mary's River.

It was nearly 70 years ago that archeologist H. Chandlee Forman uncovered in a farm field a Latin cross-shaped foundation dating to the 1660s. About 20 years ago, the staff at Historic St. Mary's City began excavating the site, with plans to rebuild the chapel starting about 10 years ago.

Construction began five years ago after the first brick made of Southern Maryland clay was placed, secured with lime-based mortar made from more than 2,000 bushels of oyster shells.

The building slowly rose each year, following a design based on the chapel's few existing historical references and artifacts. In the fall, crews installed timber beams for the barrel-vault ceiling and topped the roof with flat clay tiles.

The reconstructed church will not be consecrated or used for worship, but it will help tell the story of when Maryland led the Colonies in religious tolerance, said Henry M. Miller, director of research at Historic St. Mary's City. When the chapel was built circa 1667, Protestants and Catholics worshiped freely in Maryland, a rarity in European societies torn by religious rivalries.

The project has cost more than \$2 million, funded by grants and private donations to the nonprofit Historic St. Mary's City Foundation.

The chapel's windows, entrance and interior will be completed in the coming years, funded by a number of private donations and a \$400,000 grant in December from Save America's Treasures, a public-private initiative started by President Bill Clinton in 1998 to preserve historical buildings and artifacts.

China call discovery 'greatest' since Peking Man

Condensed from Reuters, January 23, 2008

BEIJING — An almost complete human skull fossil that may date back 100,000 years has been unearthed in China, state media said Wednesday, hailing it as the greatest discovery since Peking Man.

Last month's find in Xuchang, in the central province of Henan, was made after two years of excavation just as two archeologists were leaving for the Lunar New Year break, the China Daily said.

"We expect more discoveries of importance," Li Zhanyang, archeologist with the Henan Cultural Relics and Archeology Research Institute, was quoted as saying.

The fossil consists of 16 pieces of the skull with protruding eyebrows and a small forehead.

More astonishing than the completeness of the skull is that it still has a fossilized membrane on the inner side, so scientists can track the nerves of the Paleolithic ancestors, Li was quoted as saying.

Besides the skull, more than 30,000 animal fossils, and stone and bone artifacts were found.

Peking Man was discovered in the 1920s near Beijing and dates back roughly to between 250,000 and 400,000 years. The skull disappeared during the chaos of World War II.



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 or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

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

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 or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: 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 or Nancy Geasey at 301-293-2708.

March 12: Ben Fischler and Jean French will discuss domesticated plant use on Late Woodland use of the Maryland Piedmont. For more information call 301-378-0212.

April 9: Colby Child of R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates will speak about compliance archeology and the 13-mile long water line project from the Potomac to Frederick.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net or 410-273-9619(h) and 410-808-2398(c)

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at 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. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

March 10: Rebecca Morehouse, collections manager, MAC Lab, "Life Beyond the Field: Artifact Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab."

May 12: Howard Wellman, MAC Lab, "Archeological Conservation and Artifact Handling in the Field."

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 Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

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.

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