

ASM Ink



March 2014, Vol. 41, No. 3

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

March 22: The annual Workshop at MHT

Doors open for the 23d annual Archeology Workshop at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 22 at the People's Resource Center in Crownsville. In a departure from previous programs, both morning timeslots will host only one talk each. The two afternoon slots will offer a choice of topics.

James Delgado of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will begin the day with his 9:45 talk on a deepwater wreck in the Gulf of Mexico that might have Baltimore connections. A large number of artifacts were recovered from the 4,000-foot-deep wreck of a likely early 1800s privateer. Two nearby wrecks may offer clues as to why the ship sank.

Next of the program, geophysical archeologist Tim Horsley, who has conducted several remote-sensing projects for ASM, will talk about what he has found at some sites in Southern Maryland. These include the 18th Century plantation at the Smith's St. Leonard site in St. Mary's County; possible ossuaries at Nanjemoy Creek; Colonial-era Notley Hall, and the fortified Piscataway settlement at Zekiah Fort. He also will talk about search changes likely in the future.

In one of the three offerings for the first afternoon session, Al Luckenbach of the Lost Towns Project will give the latest interpretations of the project's highly prolific Pig Point Site. These tend toward classifying it as a sacred place.

In the second offering, Kim Popetz of Jefferson Patterson will tell about the museum's two traveling trunks. One is devoted to pre-contact peoples, the other to Maryland in the War of 1812. The trunks are available to teachers trying to add to their pupils' learning experience.

The third session features Becky Morehouse of the MAC Lab detailing basic laboratory procedures - what happens to artifacts after the digging ends. The session is primarily for CAT candidates and is limited to 12 people. If there is room, others are welcome to attend.

This year's field session will be previewed by the Trust's Charlie Hall in the final time period. Once again it will be held at the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County. Last year's findings called for another look at the area. He'll also summarize what was learned last year.

Also in this timeslot, Roy Brown, of the Western Maryland Chapter, a primitive technologist, will discuss the atlatl, a development that allowed hunters to shoot farther and with greater force. He will have replicate atlatls on display.

The last program has Mike Lucas and Emily Swain of M-NCPCC discussing the Nottingham Project, which looked into the history of the town, founded in 1706, which figured in the War of 1812 (it was Commodore Joshua Barney's base) and was an important 19th Century commercial port.

Admission is \$5 for ASM members and students, \$7 for others. Lunch will be available in the building cafeteria. The complete program is with this newsletter.

Upcoming events

March 1: ASM board meeting. 10 a.m. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater. All ASM members are welcome to attend.

March 13 - 16: Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Langhorne, Pa.
www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm

March 22: Annual Workshop in Archeology, Crownsville.

April 5: Spring Symposium, Crownsville.

April 19: Discovering Archeology Day, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

May 23 - June 2: Annual ASM field session, Biggs Ford Site, Frederick County.

October 30 - November 2: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland. The call is out for papers. See flier with this newsletter.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are working on material from Chapel Point and catalogueing data entry of Rosenstock and Chapel Point material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us

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 is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

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. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

Becky Morehouse of the MAC Lab will outline basic lab procedures during the Archeology Workshop March 22.

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

ASM wins award for '13 Biggs Ford field session

The Maryland Historical Trust has presented one of its 2014 Maryland Preservation Awards to the people active at the Biggs Ford archeological site in Frederick County. Biggs Ford was the site of one of ASM's two field sessions last year and will be the location of this year's dig.

The award, in the area of preservation partnerships, was shared by ASM and William and Barbara Crum of Walkersville, the owners of the field in which the site is located. "The Crums' decades of careful stewardship and protection of the site enabled researchers to investigate two overlapping but distinct prehistoric American Indian villages," the Trust said in making the presentation.

Hi ho, hi ho, back to Biggs Ford we go



Happy faces from last year's dig. Elaine Hall looks as if she is being worked to the bone, but she is still smiling. (Photo: Charles Hall)

After last year's successful field session there, the 2014 field session is returning to the prehistoric Biggs Ford Site (18FR14) in Frederick County for a third time. The dates are May 23 to June 2.

Joe Dent, who was the principal investigator last year and will be again this year, called the 2013 results a series of successes. Part of this was due to earlier work on the site that narrowed down the search area and produced features, artifacts and post molds.

"I certainly think one high point of (the) session was certainly how well placed our excavation units consistently turned out to be," he said. "One of the first units to be dug came right down on top of one of the Keyser palisade lines."

Montana DNA links Clovis tot to today

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 12, 2014

NEW YORK (AP) — The DNA of a baby boy who was buried in Montana 12,600 years ago has been recovered, and it provides new indications of the ancient roots of today's American Indians and other native peoples of the Americas.

It's the oldest genome ever recovered from the New World. Artifacts found with the body show the boy was part of the Clovis culture, which existed in North America from about 13,000 years ago to about 12,600 years ago and is named for an archeological site near Clovis, N.M.

The boy's genome showed his people were direct ancestors of many of today's native peoples in the Americas, researchers said. He was more closely related to those in Central and South America than to those in Canada. The reason for that difference isn't clear, scientists said.

The researchers said they had no Native American DNA from the United States available for comparison, but that they assume the results would be same, with some Native Americans being closely related.

The DNA also indicates the boy's ancestors came from Asia, supporting the standard idea of ancient migration to the Americas by way of a land bridge that disappeared long ago.

The burial site, northeast of Livingston, Mont., is the only burial known from the Clovis culture. The boy was between 1 year and 18 months old when he died of an unknown cause.

He was buried with 125 artifacts, including spear points and elk antler tools. Some were evidently ritual objects or heirlooms. The artifacts and the skeleton were covered with powdered red ochre, a natural pigment, indicating a burial ceremony.

The skeleton was discovered in 1968 next to a rock cliff, but it's only in recent years that scientists have been able to recover and analyze complete genomes from such ancient samples.

The DNA analysis was reported online Wednesday in the journal Nature by scientists including Eske Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, Michael Waters of Texas A&M University and Shane Doyle of Montana State University in Bozeman. The burial site lies on the property of the parents of another author, Sarah Anzick of Livingston. It is known as the Anzick site.

Doyle, a member of the Crow tribe, said the indication of such ancient roots for American Indians fits with what many tribal people already believed. He also said plans are underway to rebury the boy's remains at the site after the winter.

In a telephone conference with reporters this week, the researchers said that once they discovered the link between the boy and today's Native Americans, they sought out American Indian groups to discuss the results. Willerslev, an expert in deciphering ancient DNA, called for scientists to work closely with native peoples on such research.

On Wednesday, he noted there were Native American groups who said their oral history showed that they were descendants of the first people in the Americas.

"Well, they turned out to be right," Willerslev said at the Montana museum, where artifacts from the site are on display.

The results are "going to raise a whole host of new ideas and hypotheses" about the early colonization of the Americas, said Dennis O'Rourke, an ancient DNA expert at the University of Utah who wasn't involved in the work.

First Americans: How many were there?

According to Alfred Crosby, it would have taken only 400 males and females crossing the Bering Land Bridge 15,000 years ago and growing by 1.4 percent each generation to produce a modest population of 10 million North and South Americans by 1492 CE.

-- from "The Human Footprint," by Anthony N. Penna

Urban planning versus urban planning

By the Associated Press, February 14, 2014

MIAMI — In a vacant lot between gleaming hotels in downtown Miami are a series of holes carved into the bedrock that form eight circles.

At first glance, the site seems like an eyesore, but it's here where archeologists say they have uncovered a major prehistoric Native American village, one of the largest and earliest examples of urban planning ever uncovered in North America.

It's also where a movie theater, condos and 34-story hotel are expected to be built.

The discovery has pitted developers against archeologists and historic preservationists. The dispute comes as an increasing number of Native American sites are being uncovered around the country with advances in technology and a greater understanding of the subtle markers left behind to look for. The discoveries pose difficult questions for cities such as Miami that must decide whether it is best to preserve the remains of an ancient society or, often times, destroy it in hopes of revitalizing a new one.

"Let's be honest with each other," said Eugene Stearns, the attorney representing MDM Development Group, which owns the property and is eager to move forward with construction. "Every great city is built on the shards of a former great city."

At its height, archeologist Bob Carr estimated, as many as 2,000 people lived in the Tequesta village, starting around 500 B.C. It likely extended a quarter mile along the Miami River and then wrapped around Biscayne Bay.

Much of the village consisted of thatched, hut-like buildings the Tequestas, one of South Florida's earliest tribes, built by digging holes with clam shells into the soft limestone, and then inserting pine logs to hold floors, walls and roofs.

Because of the materials used — straw, wood — the only remnants of the buildings are the postholes, today still forming 18 to 40-foot circles in the blackened bedrock.

MDM has proposed carving out a section of the limestone containing the circle formations and placing it on display in a public plaza.

Preservations, however, say removing a piece of architecture isn't like moving a painting from one museum to another.

"The idea that you would carve out a chunk and move it to some other place and put it into exhibition sounds strange to me and sad," said Mark Jarzombek, associate dean of the Massachusetts Institute for Technology's School of Architecture and Planning. "These places are very site specific. There's a reason why they made this village or town there which has to do with orientation, landscape, access to rivers."

MDM has spent \$3 million conducting an archeological review and is now anxious to continue construction. Stearn said all of the planned commercial space has been leased and half of the residential units have been sold.

"There are enormous financial obligations and commitments that have to be met," he said. "And they need to go forward."

Miami isn't the only city grappling with how best to preserve an ancient site while allowing development to advance. Nationwide, Native American sites are being discovered at a quickening pace.

"Archeology is really going through a bit of a golden era now with uncovering these sites," Jarzombek said.

In California, where as many as 1 million Native Americans may have once lived, Dave Singleton with the Native American Heritage Commission said he receives reports from county coroner offices regarding Native American remains about once every 10 days.

Construction crews have unearthed burial grounds, artifacts and villages in rural, desert areas to downtown Los Angeles. Any time remains are found in California, construction is halted while an archeological review is done and a descendant identified.

With a few exceptions, however, construction has eventually resumed.

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

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

Charles County

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

March 19: Sarah Grady on identifying and delineating building locations on low-density sites by using a metal detector.

April 10: "Overwhelmed By the Sea: An Afternoon at Point Lookout State Park" (and sand-tempered pottery), presented by Lynne Bulhack.

May 8: Laura Cripps will talk about experience with geophysical techniques.

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 5:45 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-840-5848 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

March 21: Cassandra Michaud, Montgomery County Parks archeologist, will give an update on the Parks archeological and collections projects including Blockhouse Point, Palmer-Robinson Rockshelter, Josiah Henson, Darby Store, Zeigler Log cabin, Bussard Farm.

April 17: Joe Watkins, supervisory anthropologist and chief, Tribal Relations and American Cultures for the National Park Service.

May 16: Eddie Franceschi, planner with the Montgomery Soil Conservation District, will conduct a workshop on soil analysis from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park. Bring \$7 for pizza dinner or your own food.

Monocacy

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

March 12: Matt Knapp of Frederick will present a program on dating American bottles.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

March 12: Julie Schablitzky on archeological investigations at Caulk's Field, a War of 1812 battle site in Kent County. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

April 25: Stephen Potter will deliver the annual Cresthull Memorial Lecture for Maryland Archeology Month. Edgewood Hall, HCC, Bel Air.

June 1: Annual picnic. This year an indoor gathering at the Liriodendron Mansion in Bel Air in conjunction with the opening of the "Prehistoric Culture of the Northern Chesapeake" exhibit.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ellicott City Colored School. Dinner is available at the Diamondback in Ellicott City at 5:30 p.m. Labs are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For location and other chapter 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/>

March 10: Stefan Woehlke and Tracy Jenkins will speak on The Hill. 18th Century African-American site in Easton.

April 14: Jim Gibb on vesselization.

May 12: SHA archeologist Carol Ebright.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

March 28: The Battle of Gettysburg, a discussion by historian Larry Powell.

April 25: Charles Hall will speak on the 2013 ASM Field Session held at Biggs Ford in Frederick County.



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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 Robin Martin 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

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782,
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