

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Right around corner, it's Workshop time

By **Matthew McKnight**

Chief Maryland Archeologist

The 31st Annual Workshop in Archeology will be held at MHT Offices (100 Community Place, Crownsville) on Saturday, August 27, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 pm.

Our keynote speaker will be Laura E. Masur, assistant professor of anthropology at the Catholic University of America. Masur will discuss research on the Jesuit-owned plantations of Maryland, research funded through an FY21 MHT Historic Preservation Non-capital Grant.

Her talk, "The Archaeology of Jesuit Plantations and Jesuit-enslaved Ancestors," will discuss her team's findings at Bohemia Manor (Cecil County), Newtowne Neck (St. Mary's Co.), and St. Inigoes (St. Mary's Co.) through the lens of methodology. ASM conducted a field school at Newtowne Neck several years ago.

This is a case where several different archeological and geophysical survey methods were tried to examine these landscapes and Masur will discuss the effectiveness and challenges of the various strategies as well as talk about some really awesome finds.

Like last year, the 2022 workshop offerings will involve a lot of hands-on learning with a focus on practical skills. Presentations will include Flintknapping and lithic identification, post-Colonial earthenware identification, an introduction to land patent and deed research, basic faunal identification, and a multi-hour 3D virtual paddling trip to the Mallow's Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary.

We will also have a CAT Workshop offering: the basic lab procedures requirement.

Some of this year's events will entail timed entry or have a capacity limit, so please watch for the sign-up sheets at the door.

A draft schedule for the workshop is attached and a finalized version will be available beforehand on the MHT webpage at https://mht.maryland.gov/archeology_workshop.shtml.

As Covid still continues to plague us, we are asking that all workshop attendees wear a mask at all times while not actively eating or drinking, for the safety of both speakers and audience members.

We will also be spacing out seating the way we did in 2021 and encourage folks to bring a lawn chair to eat lunch outside if possible. Admission for the workshop (payable at the door) is \$7 for general admission, and \$5 for ASM members and students.

Important reminders

ASM is awaiting your input on two important Society happenings. First, midmonth is the deadline for nominations for the all-important William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. Labor Day is the deadline for mailing in your ballot for the ASM election. Or you can bring it to the Annual Meeting Oct. 1. The ballot appeared with last month's newsletter and cannot be repeated.

Upcoming events

August 27: Workshop in Archeology, Crownsville

September 10: Board meeting.

October 1: ASM annual meeting. Marshy Point nature center, Baltimore County

Nov. 4-6: ESAF annual meeting, Shippensburg, Pa.

Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

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

Not Maiden's Choice: MHT and the Western Maryland Chapter are going to be returning to a historic site in Washington County discovered in November while looking for something else. April 7-10. If interested contact mathew.mcknight@maryland.gov

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov It is currently working on the Maiden's Choice collection, which is a late 18th to early 19th Century dwelling in Washington County

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

Charles County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Esther Read at ReadE@charlescountymd.gov
For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com.

The **Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab** in Edgewater, in conjunction with The Lost Towns Project, accepts volunteers and interns to help process artifacts, including washing, labeling, sorting and cataloging. No experience needed. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The lab is generally open 2-3 weekdays each week from 9:00-3:00. Volunteers must sign up in advance. There are occasional opportunities for fieldwork as well. For more information, the current lab or field schedule, or to sign up, email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

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 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:

We're planning an. Two-part offering on basic lab procedures will be held Saturday at Crownsville during the Workshop in Archeology August 27. Becky Morehouse of JefPat will be the presenter.

If your email address changes please remember to let Tom know. It's the only contact we have for many of you. For more information on the CAT program contact Tom McLaughlin at mclaugh01@verizon.net

A new online guide to Indigenous Maryland

By Lynne Bulhack

"Welcome to Guide to Indigenous Maryland! You are invited to explore the cultural heritage of the Native American and Indigenous peoples whose traditions and histories are an integral part of contemporary life in Maryland. Whether you engage virtually or explore sites in-person, you will encounter stories and places that invite reflection and respect for the tribal nations whose lands Marylanders also call home." (Guide to Indigenous Maryland, 2022)

The [Guide to Indigenous Maryland](#), a mobile app and website enabling the public to explore Maryland's Native American heritage, is now available.

The project is looking for members of the public to begin using the guide and provide feedback through a survey on the app and website.

In 2020, Maryland Libraries Together, a collaboration of Maryland libraries designed to engage communities in enriching educational experiences that advance understanding of current issues, decided to launch the Guide to Indigenous Maryland.

It invited the Maryland Native American community, archeological community and general public to join a task force and to submit suggestions for the project. People, places, monuments, markers, art work, architecture - anything, anywhere in Maryland that spoke to or revealed Native American life, past or present, was considered.

Instrumental in its development, Elizabeth Rule, an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation and assistant professor at American University, was invited to curate submissions for the app/website. She previously created the mobile app Guide to Indigenous DC and, with colleague, Ashley Miner, the Guide to Indigenous Baltimore.

The task force met monthly on Zoom. I, ASM's Native American liaison, joined the task force in February 2022. The project is also supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Maryland State Library and P.G. County library. In addition, the Department of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education has plugged the app/website.

The website and app include a feedback survey and the task force will continue to meet quarterly to review and respond to feedback collected.

In support of this exciting project, we encourage you to visit the website, download the app, take the tour and provide feedback via the survey.

Rare 1693 wreck found along Oregon's coast

By McKenna Oxenden

Condensed from the New York Times, July 12, 2022

In July 1693, a large Spanish galleon set sail from the Philippines with a full cargo load of Asian luxury goods, including silk, porcelain and beeswax. The ship was destined for Acapulco, Mexico, when it veered off course and vanished.

The ship's fate has been a mystery for more than 300 years along the coast of what is now northern Oregon. Pieces of blue-and-white porcelain and beeswax with Spanish markings have long washed ashore there, offering tantalizing clues to beachcombers and researchers that a shipwreck was somewhere nearby.

Last month, a team of maritime archeologists painstakingly recovered more than a dozen timbers from sea caves along the coast that researchers said were almost certainly pieces of the Santo Cristo de Burgos. They said it was the first time that remnants of a Manila galleon had ever been recovered in North America.

"This ship comes from the time in which the global economy was rising," said Jim P. Delgado, senior vice president of SEARCH Inc., a cultural resource management firm that was brought in to coordinate the retrieval of the timbers. "It was the beginning of the modern world that we live in today."

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The discovery was remarkable, the archeologists said, not least because the washing-machine effect of pounding waves and tide changes inside a sea cave are hardly ideal conditions for preserving timber. But the water off the Oregon coast has less salt than other parts of the Pacific Ocean, they said, and the timber was buried beneath a layer of sediment from a tsunami that struck the coast after an earthquake in 1700. These conditions left the timbers in remarkably good shape.

The recovery of the first tangible pieces of the Beeswax Wreck, as the shipwreck came to be known, is the culmination of an effort that dates to 2006, when Scott Williams, an archeologist with the Washington State Department of Transportation, first heard about the mysterious Spanish galleon from two friends.

Williams's fascination with the wreck eventually led him and other researchers to establish the Maritime Archaeological Society. The volunteer group studied the porcelain shards and beeswax blocks that had been harvested from the shoreline over the decades and determined that the porcelain was Chinese and that the beeswax had Spanish markings. The group concluded that the Beeswax Wreck had to be one of two Manila galleons that went missing between 1650 and 1750: the Santo Cristo de Burgos, which was lost in 1693, or the San Francisco Xavier, which disappeared in 1705.

However, a geological study later established that the area they were searching, where the Nehalem River meets the Pacific, was within a sediment layer left by a 1700 tsunami, meaning the vessel had to have been there when it hit. The San Francisco Xavier was ruled out.

But there was a problem: Numerous records claimed that the Santo Cristo de Burgos burned in the middle of the ocean. The Maritime Archaeological Society raised money for an extensive search of Spain's naval archives, which revealed that the ship had simply vanished without a trace.

Since 2012, the society has been taking risky dives, using sonar and underwater detectors to try to find any sign of the wreckage.

This is where a commercial fisherman named Craig Andes enters the picture. The Beeswax Wreck is said to have inspired Steven Spielberg's story for "The Goonies," a 1985 film about a group of kids who search the Oregon coast for treasure from a 17th-Century pirate ship. It was one of Andes's favorite movies, so when he moved to Oregon as a boy, he became obsessed with the idea of finding treasure just like the kids in the film. Eventually, Andes was inspired to learn more about the Beeswax Wreck.

When Andes, now 49, learned that the Maritime Archaeological Society was searching for the wreck, he got in touch with Williams, and the two began swapping information.

In late 2019, Andes was walking along the beach when something caught his eye: wooden timbers protruding from the water, stuck in a cave. It didn't look like driftwood to him. Andes called Williams, who was skeptical.

"I said to him, 'It can't be from the shipwreck; wood does not preserve for 300 years in the tidal zone,'" Williams recalled.

But Andes was insistent. The two retrieved a small piece of the wood and sent it to a lab to settle the debate. The lab determined that the wood was tropical hardwood from Asia or South America — hardly regular driftwood. Radiocarbon dating showed that it could be nearly 300 years old.

The group hatched a plan to retrieve the timbers. It wouldn't be easy, as the wood was trapped inside dangerous sea caves that belonged to the Oregon State Parks. The proper permits would need to be obtained.

The Maritime Archaeological Society enlisted Delgado and his firm to coordinate the retrieval. The project was funded in part by a grant from the National Geographic Society.

After two years of planning — a timeline that included delays tied to the coronavirus pandemic — about two dozen people scattered along the shore around sunrise on June 13, with officials from the parks department and various public safety agencies joining the researchers. The team would have about 90 minutes to pull off their delicately choreographed mission before the tides became too high to enter the caves safely.

First, it would take upward of 30 minutes to traverse enormous rocks covered in slick kelp, said Stacy Scott, an archeologist with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, who helped plan the retrieval.

Once the team members reached the caves, they had to be mindful to not let the waves toss them into the rocks. Then, the group had to carefully dislodge the timbers, the largest of which was 7.5 feet long and weighed more than 300 pounds. The only way to get it out was to wrap life vests around it and float it out on Jet Skis toward a team of firefighters, who then wrestled it onto a backboard that could be dragged to shore.

The 16 timbers, in various shapes and sizes, were taken to the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Ore., where they will be properly dried out and preserved. Testing will determine the type of wood, and the archeologists hope they will even be able to figure out what part of the ship the timbers are from. Manila galleon experts from around the world will be given access to the information, Williams said.

There is a small chance the timbers might be from a different shipwreck. But Williams said he had no doubt. "You've got a log, with Asian tropical hardwood that washed ashore about 300 years ago, with square sides and spike holes," he said. "We are convinced it's from that shipwreck."

Book review: One against all, all against all?

The Dawn of Everything, A New History of Humanity, by David Graeber and David Wengrow, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2021, 692 pages \$35

Okay, first things first. Of the 692 pages of this book, only 526 are of text. The remaining 166 pages are footnotes, bibliography, acknowledgements, etc. The "bad news" is that the footnotes and bibliography are often as fascinating as the main text.

Both authors are politically far to the left; assuming that's where self-styled anarchists can be found. It is whispered that Graeber's political leanings cost him his hopes for tenure at Yale where he was an associate professor. He later was a professor of anthropology at the London School of Economics and died in 2020. Wengrow is a professor of comparative archeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

The purpose of this book is to have the reader strip away all assumptions pertaining to the evolution of mankind's social and political institutions. Essentially they ask us an essential question: Does the political, military, social, unequal distribution of wealth and all of the other mires we find ourselves in derive from axiomatic rules governing the growth of human institutions. The primary assumption of western thought on this is after a certain threshold of population growth is attained, we "race to our chains."

The authors trace our sense of grim inevitability concerning the studied past to Thomas Hobbes and Jean Jacques Rousseau. Hobbes, a 17th Century philosopher, believed that humanity's natural state was one of war, one against all and all against each. Rousseau countered with his belief that the basic nature of people leaned toward cooperation resulting in more equality.

Rousseau believed that the advent of private property and agriculture were the catalysts to more complex levels of human civil development. I think of our often-repeated statement concerning the Archaic Period that the peoples moved across the countryside in egalitarian bands. Short of a time machine, how would we know that this was the "go to" social arrangement for hunter gatherers over an 8,000-year period that they studied?

The archeological record is rather modest. Undoubtedly we would answer that we make the assumption based on ethnographic material concerning studies of modern peoples that still choose this subsistence approach. Is this still a valid approach to understanding the past?

Graeber and Wengrow ask us to look at the assumptions that underlay our thinking about the past, and by extension our thought concerning the inevitability of outcomes in the future. They illustrate their thinking using archeology to discuss a narrative that begins with hominids and continues through ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Americas (including the eastern woodlands), Melanesia, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa).

This book makes the reader consider that complex and populous societies do not inevitably need to morph into ever more authoritarian, environmentally destructive and economically unequal societies. The book makes us once again take notice of the power of human agency to address difficult problems when applied collectively and non-competitively.

By Claude Bowen

Chapter news

Central Chapter

All Meetings will be held on Zoom the third Tuesday of every second month. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact: Katharine Fernstrom at kwfappraising@gmail.com

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May). The next few will be virtual. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com for Zoom access information. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

Mid-Potomac

Until further notice, all meetings will be by Zoom starting at 7p.m., with the presentation at 7:30. For up-to-date information, including links to Zoom meetings, check our Chapter website at www.asmmidpotomac.org or contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526.

Monocacy

Meetings are at 7 p.m. Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick . For more information, visit the chapter's web page masarcheology.org or call 301-378-0212.

No meetings in August.

Northern Chesapeake

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>

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

Upper Patuxent

Meetings the second Saturday or Sunday of the month, virtual or at the Heritage Program Office, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City, unless otherwise noted. www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358 or www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com or call Kelly Palich, 410 313 0423.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 211 S. Lee Street in Cumberland, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: wmdasm@yahoo.com
Website: <http://tinyurl.com/wmdasm>

September 23: State Terrestrial Archaeologist Zachary Singer will speak on the Paleoindian Period in the Maryland region.

October 28: Roy Brown will report on the excavations at Maiden's Choice in Washington County in search of Evan Shelby's French & Indian War era fort in which a number of chapter members participated.

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 Ethan Bean, 765-716-5282 or beans32@comcast.net 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 20178-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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