

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Workshop in Archeology coming Sept. 11

ASM's series of live programs resumes Saturday, September 11, with the MHT-produced Workshop in Archeology. Usually one of the highlights of the spring season, the Trust is taking advantage of what our covid-controlled calendar offered and scrambled to get the program ready for this unusual fall session.

Those of you whose memories extend to the pre-covid era will recall that the Workshop format differs from that of the Spring Symposium and fall's Annual meeting. After a joint gathering for a keynote speech, attendees have their choice of which of two or three presentations to attend, according to their interests.

This year's leadoff keynote speech will be given by American University archeology professor Joe Dent. Dent has explored numerous sites along the Potomac River in Montgomery County, several while leading ASM field sessions at places like Winslow, Hughes, Claggett Retreat and Biggs Ford. He will look back at this research to detail what his efforts have taught him about Late Woodland sites and life in the area.

The second time slot offers three choices for participants. In one, Scott Strickland will tell into how Geographical Information Systems can be useful in archeology, such as in planning, analysis, interpretation-and/or producing simple-to-understand maps and graphics. This workshop will go over the basics of georeferencing field maps, digitizing them and exporting a map image using this software.

Another choice at this time slot is John Wah's discussion of the vital role soils, sediments and landscapes play in telling archeologists where to start looking - ie, how old or disturbed is the visible surface.

The third 11 a.m. option offers Tom McLaughlin and Zac Singer giving a 3D photogrammetry modeling workshop. Examples will include 3D models of artifacts, archeological features and excavation units.

After the 12:15 lunch break, Amelia Chisholm will offer some tips on identifying the wide variety of 17th Century Colonial ceramics. There will be hands-on opportunities to identify various types of earthenware, stoneware and porcelain.

The atlatl was a technological breakthrough that enabled hunters to fell game at a greater range. Learn the history of the atlatl and test your ability to use one in a workshop directed by Bob Wiest, in another post-lunch session.

The third post-lunch session is aimed primarily for CAT candidates, though other attendees may sit in if

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Covid restrictions will be enforced. Masks must be worn (vaccinated or not) and social distancing maintained.

And on October 23, the Annual Meeting

Upcoming events

September 11: Workshop in Archeology. 9 - 3:30. Crownsville

September 18 -19: Six archeologists and art historians discuss "*Inka Emergence: Exploring the Roots of Empire in the Andes.*" Virtual. Presented by the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington. To register, and to get further details, go to the society website: www.pcswdc.org.

October 23: ASM annual meeting. SERC

December 4: ASM board meeting. All welcome.

Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

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

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov or Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

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

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island Fridays from 8 to 3. The lab will be open some weekdays at the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 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 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.

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.

CAT corner: For information on CAT program, contact Tom McLaughlin at mclaugh01@verizon.net

Workshop in Archeology coming Sept. 11

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there is space. Prehistoric Overview looks at Maryland history from the first indiginus inhabitants of this space up until the Contact Period marking the decline of Late Woodland cultures. All CAT candidates are required to take this course sometime during their program. This program is two sessions long and attendance at both sessions is required. Bob Wall and Charlie hall are the presenters.

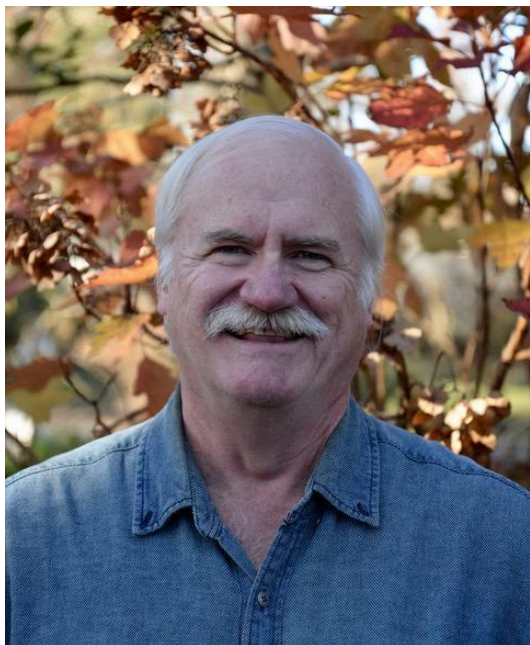
Only one other choice will be offered during this final time slot. This will be Matt McKnight explaining two new digital features on the Trust's website. One is about accessing the digitized version of the Maryland Archeology journal. The other explains how to use the mdFIND smartphone app to report field discoveries.

NOTES: The cafeteria will NOT be open and nearby eating opportunities are limited. Participants are advised to bring their own lunch.... Admission: ASM members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Tom McLaughlin is new CAT director

Tom McLaughlin is a member of the Mid-Potomac chapter of ASM. A few years ago, when approaching retirement, he took some Montgomery College courses and was amazed to discover that one can do archeology as a volunteer. Since 2015 he has worked on excavations and lab work for several Montgomery County sites, including many hours at the Josiah Henson site, and other sites around the state including ASM field sessions. He also attended a field school in Bulgaria in 2017.

Tom is a retired electrical engineer who was most recently employed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory working on data analysis for underwater acoustics. He previously worked for the National Library Service for the Blind where he wrote specifications, wrangled contractors and helped develop the international standard for digital talking books. He is also a musician, performing with several bluegrass and swing bands.



Non sequitur

by Wiley



No covid vacation for the Trust

By **Matt McKnight**

State Terrestrial Archeologist

Since the end of the field session, much of our staff's attention has shifted to the FY22 Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant round. Applications were due July 30 by COB. We received 24 applications with a total requested amount of \$1,100,973 competing for the \$300,000 available. Five of the applications are for archeology projects, so only about one-fifth which is down from the usual one-third or so of the applications.

In mid and late June, we went on site visits to the Harbor Point Ossuary (Section 106 compliance), Barwick's Ordinary (coordination with Washington College Field School), Parson's Island (FY20 Non-Cap) and the Howard Family Cemetery (coordination with the Department of Natural Resources).

In early July, we were called out to Fort Frederick State Park to conduct emergency excavation of an unanticipated feature encountered during renovations to an historic colored schoolhouse on park property. The feature turned out to be an early 20th-Century cistern. We also went on a site visit to St. Inigoes as part of our monitoring of an FY21 Non-Cap grant to conduct archeology on several Jesuit plantations. Multiple previously undocumented 17th-Century cellars were identified by Tim Horsley and ground-truthed by Catholic University. The brick foundations of a late 17th-Century chapel were also detected and partially exposed.

In mid-July we collected GPR data from both the Howard Family Cemetery (identifying 10 burial shafts), and Merkle Natural Resource Management Area. A short report was written up for DNR on the findings from the Howard Cemetery.

On July 22 and 23 we carried out an STP survey in the Fort Frederick State Park picnic area, identifying a small prehistoric site in the process.

On August 5, we said goodbye to our summer intern, Catt Gagnon. We wish her well as she pursues her Master's Degree from the University of Maryland.

One of the projects Catt and I worked on together was the scanning of all back issues of *Maryland Archeology* for upload to Joomag, the new digital platform ASM will be using for the journal. This means that active members of ASM will be able to access the entire catalog of volumes when the system goes fully live in September. We currently have a handful of ASM and MHT folks testing out the system and will put together detailed instructions on how to access the new platform. A talk about this will be in this year's Workshop in Archeology.

The September double-issue of *Maryland Archeology* dedicated to the Biggs Ford site report is largely done.

Charlie Hall has been hard at work dealing with some NAGPRA-related issues. Just before the field session we received an inquiry from the national NAGPRA office about an inventory put together in 1993. Responding to the inquiry has involved a lot of work tracking down old files, looking at old inventories, cataloging, etc. Work is still under way.

Zac Singer has been busy responding to regular inquiries that come in via the mdFIND app (this will also be discussed at the Workshop) and as part of the MD Fluted Point Survey. He is also currently adding additional synthesis reports in Montgomery County.

In case some of you hadn't heard, towards the beginning of August, MHT and the MAC Lab welcomed Scott Strickland as the new deputy director of the MAC Lab. He is taking over Ed Chaney's old position, which has been vacant for a couple of years now.

And finally, much of all of our time has been dedicated to pulling together the Workshop in Archeology. Which is scheduled for Saturday, September 11. As I've mentioned previously, we moved the workshop to September to free up March (which is a much busier time of year for MHT) and to also give it some distance from the ASM Spring Symposium and take it back to a more hands-on event.

Six reasons why archeology is important

By John Schofield

Condensed from The Conversation, May 27, 2021

Archeology is in trouble. The UK government recently announced plans to cut its subsidy for English university teaching of the subject (along with many arts courses) by 50 per cent because it is not part of the government's "strategic priorities".

Education secretary Gavin Williamson framed this in terms of encouraging more students to study subjects in the sciences rather than "dead-end courses that leave young people with nothing but debt." Several universities are already considering downsizing or even closing their archeology departments.

Here are six reasons why archeology has never been more relevant to society.

1. Archeology is not (only) about the past

The perception still lingers of archeologists detached from reality, stuck in the past, excavating ancient worlds to fill museum stores with newly discovered treasures. This perception is far removed from the reality of archeology as a progressive and future-oriented discipline, one that uses evidence from the past to explore contemporary and anticipated future challenges, such as climate change.

2. Archeology is a science

Archeology is traditionally positioned within the realm of arts and humanities. This is no longer appropriate since scientists have become more prominent within archeological research.

Science has been defined as "the pursuit and application of knowledge and understanding of the natural and social world following a systematic methodology based on evidence." With only minor adjustment, this definition also stands for archeology. The prominence of science means that archeology now aligns more with sciences than the arts.

3. Archeology is a universal discipline

Archeology focuses on understanding how people in the past interacted with the world around them. It explores how their decision-making shaped their world and the impact that had on the future.

To better understand these past worlds, archeologists work to advance understanding with other subjects in collaborative and interdisciplinary projects. In a recent audit, archeologists at the University of York were found to work with researchers in almost every other department – from law and music to management and health sciences. Archeologists also work increasingly with the public

4. Archeology can help shape a better world

I have recently been studying so-called "wicked problems," those significant global challenges including social injustice and inequality, environmental pollution and global warming, the resolution of which will be hard to achieve

5. Archeology is important to the economy

Over 7,000 archeologists are employed in the UK according to a recent survey. Thousands more are working around the world, some within universities but far more commonly for agencies, museums, heritage consultancies and contracting field units that undertake archeological work in advance of construction. A report assessing the heritage sector in 2019 found that heritage tourism contributed £17bn to the UK economy, much of this driven by or related to archeology.

6. Archeology is an excellent foundation for any career

An archeology degree provides a diverse range of transferable skills. It incorporates sciences and social science alongside more traditional arts-based learning. At the University of York, we have graduates who have successfully followed military, legal, financial and journalistic careers, as well as the many who did become archeologists. What all of these people have in common is a deep understanding of humanity. Archeology is fundamentally about people, and this focus impacts strongly those who study it.

Book review: A look at how time is measured

"Measuring Time with Artifacts, A History of Methods in American Archaeology," by R. Lee Lyman and Michael O'Brian, University of Nebraska Press, 2006, 348 pages, \$25

Honestly, I was just minding my own business for a change. I had decided to walk through the gift shop at the relatively new Jamestown museum when this book called out to me seductively from the shelves. I couldn't resist. There were many times later when I wish I had. There were also many more times later than that when I was glad that I hadn't.

The book begins with a discussion of theoretical structures that were used in American archeology (both explicitly and implicitly) from the late 19th Century through the mid-20th Century. These include various types of geological/paleontological (Lyellism) theory, evolutionary theory based at first on Darwin (biological models) and later on the work of Herbert Spenser, so-called social Darwinism.

There was also more than a bit of Lamarckism (the biological theory that acquired traits could become heritable traits); a theoretical structure that was made official only in the USSR because it fit the Marxist credo that human beings were improvable.

In archeology kindergarten, we learned that A. V. Kidder was among the first to take seriously the importance of where on a vertical column one found cultural material or evidence. It turns out that this idea had been floating about in Europe and the Americas for some decades before Kidder's work in the American Southwest.

However, American archeologists did not excavate in levels because it was almost universally believed at the time that the timeframe for habitation of the New World was comparatively recent, shallow in digging terms. The discovery of Clovis and Folsom changed all of that.

Because radiometric chronometers were decades in the future, the need to determine relative time and to determine the nature of cultural change became more and more important and various forms of seriation were developed and utilized to fill this need.

This set off a war of ideas and words that ranged back in forth for decades. What was it that was being measured after all, time, order of deposition, cultural change and, if that, the very nature of cultural change (gradual evolutionary cultural processes or relative stasis and then abrupt and radical change)?

This is a book about ideas. There are more than a few technical and philosophic terms used and overused but not always in the sense they were used in your Philosophy 101 course. "Ontology" means the nature of "being." In this book, it generally is used to describe methodologies to determine what is "real."

The most important term borrowed from philosophy in this book is "epistemology." It is used here in the same way as in philosophy. Basically, the term encompasses the study of how things can be known and how we know what we think we know. What could be more important to the field of archeology?

-- Claude Bowen

Chapter News

Check with your local chapter to see what activities will take place.

Central Chapter

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

Sept. 21: Katlyn Burkitt and Katherine Sterner, Contextualizing Collections from Conowingo (18CE14): Archeology of the Susquehanna's Tributaries.

Nov 16: Cheryl Fogle-Hatch, "Designing An Accessible Archaeological Exhibit."

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 7 p.m., the talk at 7:30, the third Thursday of the month. The in-person meeting time is still to be decided. For up-to-date information about our meetings, including links to Zoom meetings, check Chapter website at www.asmmidpotomac.org; send us an email at asmmidpotomac@gmail.com; or contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526.

Sept. 16 (Via Zoom): Montgomery County Parks archeologists, Heather Bouslog, Cassandra Michaud, and Jessica Brannock will participate in an informal discussion of their past year's and current projects.

Oct. 21 (Zoom or in-person to be determined): Don Housley on the field session held at the Billingsley site in Prince George's County this past spring.

Nov. 18 (Zoom or in-person to be determined): Chapter member Harry Iceland, a Smithsonian researcher, on "The First Americans."

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 or call 301-378-0212.

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://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

Sept. 24: Live meeting! VP Brent Chippendale will speak on the 2019 and 2021 ASM Field Sessions held at the Billingsly site in search of the 17th Century contact settlement.

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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