

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Tell Annapolis of threat to heritage

By Claude Bowen

President, ASM

Maryland's historic heritage is being threatened by nature and man and I am asking ASM members and chapters to take an active role in making sure our elected representatives are well-versed on the problem and its consequences.

One of the little-known benefits of being president of ASM is a seat on the Maryland Heritage Council, which is staffed by the nonprofit organization Preservation Maryland. The October 25 meeting of the council focused on the challenges affecting historic preservation efforts in the state during FY 2015 (beginning this July 1) and the impact of ever-scarcer resources on those efforts.

The council was particularly concerned with the growing threats to endangered prehistoric and historic resources. These threats include erosion, weather events, pollution and rising sea levels as well as threats related to the building of public infrastructure and private land use initiatives.

Many of you will remember a fascinating paper presented at the ASM Annual Meeting at the Robinson Nature Center in Howard County on this topic a few years ago and the sobering outlook presented for saving such resources located in the State of Maryland.

The Heritage Council is of the opinion that state resources need to be appropriated to identify, survey, test, register and, where feasible, excavate the most vulnerable and important of these threatened resources that are archeological sites. In addition, such resources should be made available for the identification of, research on and preservation of historic landscapes, sites and properties.

Because of its chapter structure, ASM has strong grass-root organizations already in place to aid in this advocacy effort to inform and educate members of the State Legislature about this problem.

Our advocacy for the preservation of Maryland's irreplaceable prehistoric and historic resources will be particularly effective by combining our efforts with those of other like-minded groups within the state. To this end, the Board of ASM is requesting its chapters to join the Heritage Council and Preservation Maryland in an event on Tuesday, February 4. More information on this will be given to the chapters shortly.

This effort is entirely voluntary. Chapters wanting to participate may be asked to invite their local delegates and senators to attend the event to hear the concerns of their constituents on these important issues. Or chapter representatives may be asked to schedule individual or group visits with their representatives.

I will be contacting each chapter in January to confirm (or not) their participation, to discuss any concerns they may have and to provide logistical information.

The discussion will also include a number of other areas of concern that the members may wish to bring up with their representatives. For those not wishing to participate in person, a discussion of a letter writing campaign by our members will be offered as an alternative. More on that next month.

Upcoming events

March 1: ASM board meeting. 10 a.m. All 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

October 30 - November 2: ESAF meeting, Solomons Island, Maryland.

Volunteer opportunities

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

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.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers have turned their attention to work on material from Chapel Point and to catalogue data entry of Rosenstock material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson@verizon.net or Charlie Hall chall@mdp.state.md.us.

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

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



Time running out to see fine Smithsonian exhibit

The Smithsonian's "Written in Bone" exhibit, detailing life in very early Maryland and Virginia, closes January 6. The displays vividly portray what scientists have been able to learn from studying the bones of some of the area's earliest settlers. If you haven't seen it yet, make the effort: It is worth it. If you've already seen it, go back and take another look before you regret that you didn't.

MHT 2013: It was a very good year!

By Charlie Hall

State Terrestrial Archeologist

While 2013 was marked by many achievements at the Maryland Historical Trust, all made in an environment of austerity that characterized the state's budget, it was also a bitter-sweet year for MHT archeologists as it witnessed the retirement of our chief, Maureen Kavanagh.

While we celebrate Maureen's many remarkable contributions to Maryland archeology, and sigh in abject jealousy of her new life of leisure (HA!), we all miss her with the intensity of those who know with certainty that they have lost something irreplaceable. Efforts are under way to ensure that her duties — both archeological and as overseer of MHT's GIS and databases — are adequately covered.

Maureen, who was recently presented with the Archeological Society of Maryland's William B. Marye Award, plans to stay active in Maryland archeology, including the ASM field session. You can't keep an archeologist from the dirt.

Here is a sampling of what the Trust accomplished last year:

- It was a Projectile Point Kind of Year.
 - The JPPM Projectile Point Diagnostics Webpage was completed.
 - Projectile point classification was the theme of the 2013 Maryland Archeology Month Poster and Booklet (with ID key).
 - A double issue of the ASM journal *Maryland Archeology* (March - September 2012, Vol 48, Nos 1 & 2), representing a handy print version of the full diagnostics webpage, was published.
- The Place of Repose process was completed.
 - The final installation of ancient Native American human remains occurred in April. With this, all of the Native American human remains in MHT's care determined to be unaffiliated with any recognized tribe have been returned to the earth.
- The Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session returned to the Biggs Ford Site after 44 years.
 - This was the site of the first collaboration between the state's Office of Archeology and ASM and is the model for today's field sessions. A legendary site, Biggs Ford lived up to its reputation.
 - 130 volunteers and students and 11 staff contributed 470 total workdays, or 3,760 work hours, during this 11-day effort.
- The Archeological Synthesis project completed the initial review of Phase II and III reports for the entire state.
 - Work will now concentrate on synthesizing reports received since the synthesis project began, getting the searchable database online and preparing two thematic books.
 - After five years of contractual work, Matt McKnight, the synthesis archeologist, had his position converted to full-time, permanent status. Congratulations, Matt.
- The Legislature provided a special appropriation of \$250,000 to the MHT for work on a Zekiah Fort regional heritage trail in Southern Maryland.
 - Half of this money will be used for archeological survey of Zekiah Fort and related nearby 17th Century sites to be carried out by St. Mary's College of Maryland under the direction of Julie King.

Continued on next page

- Dennis Curry wrote a history of Middle Atlantic prehistory, which will appear as a chapter in the forthcoming AltaMira book, *The Foundations of Middle Atlantic Prehistory*.
- The Maryland Maritime Archeology Program had an active year.
 - With Michael Lucas and M-NCPPC, the MMAP investigated reports of historic shipwrecks in the Patuxent River off Nottingham and located the remains of at least two vessels and numerous anomalies that require further investigation.
 - A multi-year study of naval engagements from the Revolutionary and 1812 wars in Maryland, funded through a grant from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, was completed.
- The MHT Review and Compliance archeologists had a record-setting year.
 - Over 2,660 federal and state assisted projects were reviewed for their impacts on terrestrial and underwater archeological sites. As a result of MHT review, the Maryland Transit Administration completed archeological data recovery of two prehistoric sites that will be impacted by building the new Dunkirk Park and Ride in Calvert County. Visit the MTA's website to learn about the exciting discoveries from this project: <http://mta.maryland.gov/dunkirk-park-and-ride-project>.
- The MAC Lab was *BUSY*.
 - 182 volunteers participated in the JPPM Public Archaeology program, which focused on the buildings located between the kitchen and the main house at the Smith's St. Leonard Site.
 - Outside projects undertaken by the conservation department for treatment included three colonial wells from Delaware, a Revolutionary War collection from Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences property, pistols from Deadwood, South Dakota, blacksmith material from Pennsylvania and a Civil War-era Rodman shell and traverse rail from Florida's Fort Jefferson.
 - The Lab received a Transportation Enhancement Grant to create a searchable database of archeological assemblages curated at the lab.
 - The Gloria King Research Fellowship in Archaeology was established and awarded funding to two scholars to do research in collections curated at the lab.
 - The lab and several partner organizations were awarded a Defense Legacy grant to add Department of Defense records to The Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR), an online archive for archeological information.
 - The lab finished a complete reorganization of the collections, moving from a county/city based system of storage to one that is based on accession dates.

So much for 2013. as we look forward to 2014 here is a small sample of what we anticipate:

- The Maryland Maritime Archeology Program will begin a multi-year inventory project in the Wicomico River in cooperation with Julia King, professor at St. Mary's College.
- In 2014 MHT will be launching the online version of the Archeological Synthesis Database for public use.
- The MHT and ASM will be invited by Baltimore Heritage to participate in the investigation and documentation of War of 1812 fortifications located in Patterson Park (Baltimore City).
- The Annual Workshop in Archeology will be held in Crownsville March 22. Watch for a stimulating program.

Are you a dues-paying-laggard? We hope not

If you can read this and haven't paid your ASM dues, you are reading on borrowed time. It needn't be this way. ASM has worked to keep dues cheap, cheap, cheap. Your membership shows you care about archeology and what it means. Don't put renewing off any longer. Pay up now! The form is on the ASM website.

DNA links Europe, Siberia, America

By Nicholas Wade

Condensed from the New York Times, Nov. 21, 2013

The genome of a young boy buried at Mal'ta near Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia some 24,000 years ago has turned out to hold two surprises for anthropologists.

The first is that the boy's DNA matches that of Western Europeans, showing that during the last Ice Age people from Europe had reached farther east across Eurasia than previously supposed.

The second surprise is that his DNA also matches a large proportion — about 25 percent — of the DNA of living Native Americans. The first people to arrive in the Americas have long been assumed to have descended from Siberian populations related to East Asians. It now seems that they may be a mixture between the Western Europeans who had reached Siberia and an East Asian population.

The Mal'ta boy was 3 to 4 years old and was buried under a stone slab wearing an ivory diadem, a bead necklace and a bird-shaped pendant. Elsewhere at the same site about 30 Venus figurines were found of the kind made by the Upper Paleolithic cultures of Europe. The remains were excavated by Russian archeologists over a 20-year period ending in 1958 and stored in museums in St. Petersburg.

There they lay for some 50 years until they were examined by a team led by Eske Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen. Willerslev, an expert in analyzing ancient DNA, was seeking to understand the peopling of the Americas by searching for possible source populations in Siberia. He extracted DNA from bone taken from the child's upper arm, hoping to find ancestry in the East Asian peoples from whom Native Americans are known to be descended.

Examining the genome from a second Siberian grave site, that of an adult who died 17,000 years ago, they found the same markers of European origin. Together, the two genomes indicate that descendants of the modern humans who entered Europe had spread much farther east across Eurasia than had previously been assumed and occupied Siberia during an extremely cold period starting 20,000 years ago that is known as the Last Glacial Maximum.

The other surprise from the Mal'ta boy's genome was that it matched to both Europeans and Native Americans but not to East Asians. Willerslev's interpretation was that the ancestors of Native Americans had already separated from the East Asian population when they interbred with the people of the Mal'ta culture, and that this admixed population then crossed over the Beringian land bridge.

"We estimate that 14 to 38 percent of Native American ancestry may originate through gene flow from this ancient population," he and colleagues wrote in an article Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

A European contribution to Native American ancestry could explain two longstanding puzzles about the people's origins. One is that many ancient Native American skulls, including that of the well-known Kennewick man, look very different from those of the present day population. Another is that one of the five mitochondrial DNA lineages found in Native Americans, the lineage known as X, also occurs in Europeans. One explanation is that Europeans managed to cross the Atlantic in small boats some 20,000 years ago and joined the Native Americans from Siberia.

Willerslev thinks it more likely that European bearers of the X lineage had migrated across Siberia with the ancestors of the Mal'ta and joined them in their trek across the Beringian land bridge.

He said his finding does not solve the much-disputed question of when the Americas were first settled. Archeologists long believed the people of the Clovis culture, dated from 13,000 years ago, were the first Americans, but several recent finds point to an earlier date. "We need the sequencing of more ancient genomes to address this question," Willerslev said.

An unexplained feature of the mixing is that the Mal'ta people did not pass on their mitochondrial DNA since the U lineage is unknown among Native Americans. Since mitochondrial DNA is passed down only through the female line, the population ancestral to Native Americans could have been formed by men of the Mal'ta culture who acquired East Asian wives.

Willerslev sees this as one possibility, another being that mitochondrial DNA lineages are easily lost through genetic drift, the random change in DNA patterns through the generations. "One has to be careful setting up detailed geographical scenarios at this stage," Willerslev said.

Profiles in Maryland archeology

An interview with ... Tom Forham

Q: You took an unusual path into archeology. It wasn't your first career. What was?

A: It wasn't my first career, but it was my first interest. I can remember my parents taking me to Mesa Verde when I was six years old. Clearly there were some imprints there and my mother studied archeology in college, all her textbooks in the home, so it definitely was something in the back. I did my undergraduate degree at the University of California in anthropology and worked in the highlands of Guatemala on some Mayan projects. That was decades and decades ago and then I started moving back towards archeology probably in 2005.

Q: You grew up in California?

A: I was in a Navy family and spent a lot of it in California. So I discovered ASM I think about 2005, something like that. Started attending meetings and thought it would be a good entree back in. Met Mike Lucas, spent a lot of time volunteering then out at Mt. Calvert and got involved in the CAT program and it was not a good time for the CAT program right then and there. It was a little disorganized, it had a very cumbersome reading list. I found I would read one thing and then I'd read something else and they both covered the exact same material without a big difference in philosophy. so I started thinking that maybe that wasn't quite right?

Q: You dropped the program or you changed the program?

A: Well, Steve Israel and Mike Lukas and I kind of worked to raise issues about the program and things kind of started correcting.

But at about that time I realized, or I foolishly thought, it's going to be a while till this gets straightened out. It would be easier to go to (the University of) Maryland and get a master's in anthropology, in applied anthropology that would cover archeology. So that's the course I went.

Q: You left your job and went back to school?

A: Just within a few months of retiring - I retired from the federal government - I went back to the University of Maryland and spent about two years in the master's program.

Q: Did you find it worthwhile?

A: It was amazing. I think about the changes so much in theory, in application, and also the fact that I had expected that there would perhaps be other older students in classes, but I was mixing up for two years with a bunch of 20-somethings and it was a fantastic experience. Absolutely fantastic.

Q: What have you been doing since you got your master's?

A: I've been doing some archeology. I've worked in Belize, I've worked locally with contract archeology firms and also finished up a report for the Park Service on my master's project ...

Q: Which was?

A: Which is in Rock Creek Park. Basically cultural landscapes in about a hundred-acre area, heavily wooded, that included things like a 19th Century vineyard. On the forest floor you can still see the land forms from the vineyard.

Q: All through your career, starting from 6 years old until the present time, do you have any favorite projects or finds?

A: I will admit that finding that vineyard was quite something, because the land had been surveyed by a contract archeologist to the Park Service and they hadn't quite seen what was going on there and



it took quite a lot of work to actually document what I had found, to realize what I had found. So that was particularly satisfying. And I have to admit I really loved working in Belize on classic Mayan sites, kind of going back to work that I had done as an undergraduate.

Q: What do you think is the future of archeology in Maryland?

A: I haven't thought about it.

Q: You're going to continue to work here?

A: Yeh, I'm planning to continue here, do contract work as it comes in. But I have to admit I enjoy as a retiree not being dependent on chasing jobs the way other people have to do. I can do the things that interest me and that's a luxury that I happen to be in the right place at the right time to enjoy that.



Out of the books of babes, a passion preserved

Condensed from the New York Times, Nov. 24, 2013

What were your favorite books as a child? Do you have a favorite character or hero from those books?

Patricia Cornwell (*best-selling author of novels featuring forensic anthropologist/medical examiner Kate Scarpetta*): Anything about archeology. As a child, my dream was to be an archeologist when I grew up, and in a way my fascination with forensics makes total sense. It's all about taking a shard or splinter or bit of bone and reconstructing how someone died and lived, and who they were. An archeological site is really one big crime scene.

Army shuffles deck to protect historic places

Condensed from Wired, December 12, 2013

When Laurie Rush, an army archeologist and anthropologist, heard that the military had built a helipad directly on top of ancient Babylon, she realized she needed to do more to educate U.S. soldiers about historic places.

It wasn't just for art's sake. Disrespecting venerable sites can set off military and diplomatic crises. "When people destroy the culture, it's incendiary for the conflict," Rush says.

Soldiers used decks of cards to identify some of the most wanted officials in the Iraqi regime; Rush's cards depict art and architecture (like the minaret at the Great Mosque at Samarra), with tips themed by suit (diamonds mean artifacts; spades mean "be careful where you dig"). The cards have been popular enough that soldiers asked for a deck for Afghanistan, and Rush and colleagues created cards, plus pocket guides for architectural awareness and handbooks for commanders.

Now a board member on the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, a nonprofit that protects cultural property during armed conflict, Rush has built online resources specific to the locations of ongoing military action.

The lessons Rush's group teaches aren't obvious. In Afghanistan, shrines on the side of the road can be nondescript but culturally important. Burial sites are marked only with small piles of stones and bits of clothing. Local looters try to sell Americans valuable items, and it might seem totally natural for a soldier to casually buy something. "We're working very hard to educate our soldiers about taking souvenirs," Rush says. In the meantime, they can keep their playing cards.

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 cowherdcl@gmail.com or 301-375-9489. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

January 15: NOTE DATE CHANGE: Cathy Thompson on the latest county activities relating to Port Tobacco.

February 13: Patrick O'Neill on War of 1812 Battle of the Potomac (August/September 1814). Location: Port Tobacco Village (Courthouse or Stagg Hall)

March 19: NOTE DATE CHANGE. Program TBD

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

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>

January 16: Ilka Gray, chapter member, will speak on "Tell es-Safi/Gath, an Archaeological Project in Israel" identified as Canaanite and Philistine Gath, the home of the biblical Goliath.

February 20: Chapter members Vivian Eicke, Jack Marshall and Valerie Hall will share their stories and photographs of travels to the American Southwest.

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.

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>

January 8, 2014: Emily Kilby on "Locating Historic House Sites Within the Boundaries of the Fair Hill NRM Area in Northeastern Cecil County." Havre de Grace City Hall.

February 12: Jim Gibb on the St. Francis Xavier dig. Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

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.

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/>

January: Meeting cancelled because of bad weather.

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>

January 24: Show and tell.

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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% 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,
 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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