
February
2026

ASMIInk

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



ASM in Charles County

Carol Cowherd

President, Charles County Chapter, ASM

The Charles County Archeological Society of Maryland (CCASM) like the other ASM Chapters is made up of people with the desire to learn about local archaeology and/or history and to interact with others also interested in learning. Our members include a mix of avocational archaeologists, one professional archeologist, and several newer members with no previous experience in archaeology. Most of our members live in Charles County, but we also have members from other parts of Maryland as well as in other states – South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York. Since CCASM was incorporated in 2010, our



membership seems to stay in the low thirties with the number of active members currently being around ten.

But what does CCASM do? Our main priorities are meetings, outreach activities,

and volunteering for archeology projects in the field and in the lab. You can check out almost everything we have been doing for the past fifteen years by going to the CCASM blog ccarchsoc.blogspot.com/. Here is a brief overview.

CCASM meets monthly September through April on the third Thursday of the month in LaPlata and has a potluck meeting in May. We have been lucky that many archeologists in Southern Maryland as well as others have agreed to talk at our meetings. One of our members lets us use his Zoom account so the speaker does not always have to travel to LaPlata. This also allows members who cannot attend in person to hear the talk. I should mention, we are still learning to conduct Zoom meetings.



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Vice President's Notes:

by Katharine Fernstrom
Vice President, ASM, Inc.

I hope everyone is having an excellent start to 2026! ASM is looking forward to many exciting activities and opportunities in the coming year! The ASMInk, and the [ASM webpage](#) have details.



April is Archaeology Month and the 2026 ASM Spring Symposium will take place on April 18th, 2026. We will have exciting speakers, including:

Reagan Britt
Jim Gibbs
John Henshaw
Troy Nowack
Kelly Palich
Kat Sterner

Stay tuned for the finalized program. The Symposium will take place at the Maryland Historical Trust in Crownsville:

100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

The 2026 ASM Field Session will take place at Teague's point again, the same site as in 2025, starting on May 22, 2026.

The MHT Workshop and the ASM Annual Meeting take place in the Fall, more details to come.

On Wed., Jan 21 I attended a collaborative Zoom meeting with the members of the

Archaeology Club at the [Natural History Society of Maryland](#) (NHSM) hosted by Rebecca Baldwin, Community Coordinator



at NHSM. Also in attendance were Dr Katherine Sterner, Director of the Baltimore Community Archaeology Lab (BCAL) at Towson University; Zachary Singer, State Terrestrial

Archaeologist at the Maryland Historical Trust. The topic was exploring and identifying archaeology opportunities in Maryland. All of these organizations, plus the office of the State Underwater Archaeologist, also at MHT, offer volunteer and educational opportunities to the public. ASM's many Chapters are available on their website.

Another excellent organization, with a Baltimore Chapter, is the Archaeological Institute of America.



They are a nationwide organization with global interests and offer dues-paying memberships. They also offer monthly, free, "Archaeology Hour" lectures online to the Public. You can find the schedule and register on the [AIA homepage](#).

Stay warm and dry through the winter!
Trowel season is coming soon!

ASMInk Staff Addition

We would like to announce that Caitlyn Jennings has agreed to help in production of the ASMInk newsletter. If you have an item that you would like to see in the next, or any, edition please contact her or any of the other editors listed at the end of this issue.

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For outreach, CCASM attends at least four events during the year. We have four



displays and a number of hands-on activities so we can tailor the display and the activities to use at a given event. Three of the displays are felt covered, and we can modify or change what's on the display easily. Also the number of activities keeps growing.



And, of course, many of our members like to volunteer in the lab and in the field. CCASM members as a group (and sometimes individually) have volunteered with a number of archaeologists for various grants. CCASM members mainly volunteer with Esther Doyle Read, the County Archaeologist for Charles County Planning

and Growth. Esther holds a Monday Public Archaeology Lab in Historic Port Tobacco in two buildings owned by the Society for Restoration of Port Tobacco and leased by Charles County Tourism. Most Mondays, volunteers process artifacts retrieved from



Charles County sites. Some Mondays and weekends volunteers are in the field on various Charles County sites investigating the site or doing rescue archaeology or documenting graveyards. Actually, being able to volunteer locally has contributed to CCASM membership. Most people volunteering for Monday Lab tend to join CCASM.

In 2024 the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission presented CCASM with a Preservation Service Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in and support for furthering the aims of historic preservation in Charles County.

There are a few other things I could add, but that is all for now. If you want to contact us, the CCASM email is ccasm2010@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- **Artifact Identification Workshop**
Saturday, 28 February, 2026
10am - 12 pm
Needwood Mansion
6700 Needwood Road
Derwood, MD 20855
Fee: \$5 per peson
- **2026 Middle Atlantic Archeology Conference**, Gettysburg, PA
March 11 - 15, 2026
[MAAC Conference Information](#)
- **Discovering Archeology Day 2026**
[Jefferson Patterson Park](#)
Saturday, April 12th, 2026
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Annual Spring Symposium**
People's Resource Center
100 Community Pl
Crownsville, MD 21032
Saturday, April 18th, 2026
- **Paleoamerican Odyssey**
Santa Fe, New Mexico
October 14-17, 2026
[Center For the Study of the First Americans](#)

“If you don’t know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn’t know it is part of a tree.”

– Michael Crichton

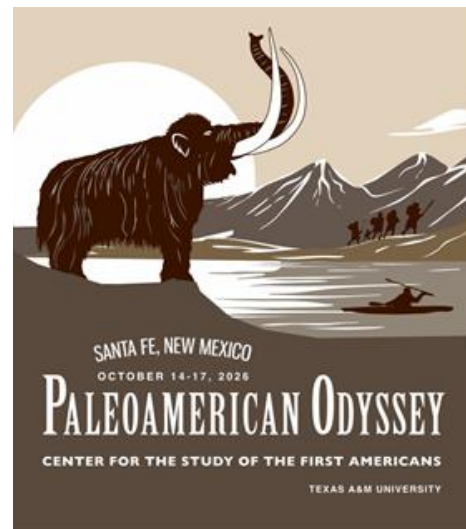
Paleoamerican Conference

For one week last September, ASM members had the opportunity to work with Dr. Zac Singer, Dr. Bob Wall and PaleoDigger inventor/Operator Brian Fritz at the Barton Site in Alleghany County, searching for signs of a 13,000 year old occupation. For many, this spurred an interest in the first human inhabitants of North America.

In October 2026, the Center for the Study of the First Americans (CSFA) will be holding a major conference, titled PaleoAmerican Odyssey in Sante Fe New Mexico.

This three-day conference will present 34 lectures on all aspects of paleoamerican studies ranging from genetic studies to geographical routes of immigration to late Pleistocene archeology.

Anyone interested in attending this conference should check out the CSFA website at: www.centerfirstamericans.com.



2026 ASM Elections

John Fiveash

ASM has begun preparations for its 2026 election cycle. Every two years society members choose those who will serve the organization. They include:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- At-Large

Executive positions have specific duties that enable proper functioning of ASM. Trustees-at-Large participate in regular board meetings, and have voting rights when ASM considers its operations. While all positions are for a two-year period, only the position of President has a term limit.

ASM's Nominating Committee is currently looking for members who want to expand their contribution to the Society and stand for election.

If you would like to stand for election contact the nominating committee at either of the links below:

ASM Nomination Committee

- [Paul Bollwerk](#)
- [John Fiveash](#)

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Artifact ID Workshop at Needwood Mansion

The Mid-Potomac chapter of ASM has announced that there will be an artifact identification workshop at Needwood Mansion on February 28th from 10 am to 12 pm.

This workshop will aid in learning how to identify various types of artifacts and will enable participants to see great examples of artifact types common to the area.



Artifact Identification Workshop

Learn how to identify common artifacts of the Mid-Atlantic region with Montgomery Parks archaeologists!

Visit the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Lab!

Learn with real artifacts in our study collection!

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026
Location: Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood, MD 20855
Time: 10am-12pm
Fee: \$5 per person

SIGN UP NOW!

Needwood Mansion
6700 Needwood Rd. | Derwood, MD 20855
MontgomeryParks.org | 301-563-7531

The poster features a green header with the title 'Artifact Identification Workshop'. Below the title, it describes the workshop's purpose: learning to identify common artifacts of the Mid-Atlantic region with Montgomery Parks archaeologists. It includes icons for a shovel and a magnifying glass, and mentions that participants will visit the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Lab and learn with real artifacts. The date, location (Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood, MD 20855), time (10am-12pm), and fee (\$5 per person) are listed. A prominent 'SIGN UP NOW!' button is shown. The bottom of the poster provides the address and contact information for Needwood Mansion. Three photographs on the right side of the poster show people working with artifacts, including a blue and white ceramic bowl, a small metal object, and a collection of various artifacts on a table.

This workshop is sponsored by Montgomery County Parks Archaeology.

Maryland Archeology Past Portraits:

Past Portraits is a project to document the stories of people who have contributed to archeology in Maryland. This series highlights personalities that have contributed to archeology in Maryland over time. ASMInk will publish excerpts from this series over time.

"I began the "Maryland Archaeology: Past Portraits Project" because I came across many undocumented terrestrial-and-underwater professional archaeologists and avocational archaeologists in Maryland and realized they provided a large range of unexamined information on Maryland's forgotten citizens and their unacknowledged archaeological activities and accomplishments. My goals for the Past Portraits Project were to document, to the extent possible, many of the deceased and forgotten contributors of the 19th century, 20th century, and early 21st century personal collections, memories, and records (1) before they are lost to memory, (2) acknowledging their contributions to the understanding of Maryland Archaeology, and (3) for compiling an early 21st century comprehensive data base for tomorrow's archaeology students and syntheses on Maryland archaeology."

-- Stephen Israel (*Archaeology of Eastern North America*, Vol.48 (2020))

Francis C. Nicholas

1862-1938

Francis Nicholas, a dean of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, helped document The Bald Friar Petroglyphs on the lower Susquehanna River. Facing imminent destruction or inundation of the



glyphs by the construction of the Conowingo Dam in 1926. A Maryland Academy of Sciences team led by Francis Nicholas sought to rescue as many of the rock carvings as possible. Using dynamite, the Academy team concentrated on Indian Rock Carvings the largest of the Petroglyphs on Bald Friar Island and succeeded in recovering a number of the carved rock designs (or pieces thereof) (Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Petroglyphs). The Petroglyphs he recovered were stored at the Maryland

Academy of Sciences on Charles Street from 1926 to 1944. In 1944 the Petroglyphs were moved to the Baltimore Zoo, where they remained until they were transferred to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation MAC Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in 2006. A few selected pieces were put on display at the Cecil County Library, the Harford County Court House.



ASM Project Applications - Winter 2026

Do you have an archeological project in Maryland that needs seed funding? ASM maintains a funding line for small projects that may be of interest. The goal for the Project Fund is to help get investigations off the ground and to produce research results adding to the archeological knowledge base. Funds are usually geared to assisting investigators by providing supplemental funds needed for laboratory testing, data coordination, expert analysis or other assistance. Examples of past projects include:

- Costs for operating the PaleoDigger at the Barton Site.
- Stable isotope analysis of faunal material.
- Development of a database of three-dimensional scans of mammal bones for use in faunal analysis.

It's time for the next ASM New Project process, **applications are now being accepted but must be received by February 27, 2026.**

- Applicants should submit an ASM Project Request Form along with any supporting documentation to:

Valerie.Hall@marylandarcheology.org

- The ASM, Inc. New Project Review Group (appointed by the ASM President) will review and:
 - Provide a recommendation or
 - Ask for additional information
- If a project is recommended by the New Project Review Group, the Proposal will be brought to the Executive Board for Vote
- Decisions will be provided to the requestor and published in the Ink
- For 2026, we have a suggested cap of \$5,000 per request
- Grantees will be expected to provide a brief article for the Ink and submit a Journal article for consideration.

We look forward to reading and reviewing your projects!

If you have questions or need additional information, contact
Valerie.Hall@marylandarcheology.org.

Chapter News

Central Chapter

Central Chapter meetings are by Zoom only. Katharine Fernstrom sends the link to the email group. Stay tuned for more details. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact Katharine Fernstrom at katharine.fernstrom@marylandarcheology.org

Charles County

Meets in person September through April at the Community Room of the LaPlata Police Department in LaPlata, MD on the third Thursday of the month. Email ccasm2010@gmail.com for more information.

Eastern Shore

Dates and events are on chapter's website ([ASM Eastern Shore](#)), Facebook page ([Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology](#)) and Instagram (@esmdarch). For more information, email esarcheology@gmail.com or jamrkin2@washcooll.edu

Calendar is here: bit.ly/ASM-ES and events are open to members and nonmembers. To be added to our social media updates, email esarcheology@gmail.com.

All events are open to anyone who wants to attend!

Open lab at Washington College: Contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month from September through June. In-person meetings begin at 7p.m. for the business meeting followed by a presentation at around 7:30. The chapter meets at the ADU Showroom, 8501 Grovemont Circle, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Please contact Don Housley for directions, if necessary.

Pizza will be available before the in-person meeting starting at 6:30pm for \$6 per person. If virtual meetings are necessary, they will be via Zoom with the business meeting also starting at 7 p.m. and the presentation around 7:30. Contact Don Housley to RSVP for pizza by 12 noon on the day of the meeting and for virtual Zoom meeting codes.

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For up-to-date information concerning meetings, please contact [Don Housley](#), 301-424-8526, check the [Mid-Potomac Chapter Website](#) or send an email to: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events At Mid-Potomac:

Thursday, February 19, 2026: Danielle Knight, chapter member and ASM At-Large, will speak on attending a Field Session in Belize.

Thursday, March 19 via Zoom: Beth Bollwerk, chapter member and Project Manager for the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery at Monticello will give an update of her Colonware research grant.

Monocacy

For information contact: monocacyarcheology@gmail.com (mailbox monitored intermittently) or call Jeremy Lazelle at 301-471-8433.

Northern Chesapeake

A business meeting at 7pm and is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Locations vary. Contact Dan Coates at 410-808-2398 or dancoates@comcast.net

Western Maryland

Programs are held the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm at the **History Discovery Center at Blue Spring at 400 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, MD**. Unless noted. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com

Meeting announcements are sent also to CTN; WFWM, and the Oakland Republican.

Contact Us

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, publication notice of 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, ethan.bean@marylandarcheology.org, for membership rates.

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