



# ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## From the Trust: Looking ahead, and back

By Maureen Kavanagh

*Maryland Historical Trust*

The new year will see the Trust engaging in some new archeological projects as well as continuing some already under way. In another year of state budget cutbacks, which limit our ability to provide funding to ASM, we still hope to make a mark.

Here are a few things to watch for in the coming year:

- In addition to the Scorpion project (see below), the underwater program will continue working on two American Battlefield Protection Program grants and a NOAA Ocean Exploration grant to use a gradiometer to survey some selected sites and will collaborate with State Highway Administration staff on their project in Bladensburg;
- The terrestrial program has a lead on a promising War of 1812 site where some testing could take place when the warm weather returns;
- Temporary archeological exhibits will be placed in the Lexington Park Public Library (St. Mary's County) and the Washington County Historical Society. This pilot project, funded by Preserve America, precedes a statewide project anticipated to begin within the next three years;
- The MAC Lab and the Maryland Historical Trust, using funding from the Maryland Historical Trust Board, are continuing work on a Maryland projectile point identification page for the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland webpage. Look for this to go live in late 2011.

And what about the year just past? Here's a quick summary of some of the highlights of Trust work in 2010.

- Charlie and Dana Linck continued lab work on three National Register sites that were tested in 2009 and they led testing at one additional site, the Early Woodland Primrose site on the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County, in early December. A cadre of volunteers braved the early winter freeze to work at this remarkably undisturbed site.
- The ASM field session was held at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, at the Smith St. Leonard site. This was the first field session that featured a full-time, comprehensive laboratory experience that included special presentations, tours and workshops.
- Maryland Archeology Month featured Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum's State Museum of Archaeology;

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## Upcoming events

**January 5-9:** Society for Historical Archaeology conference, Austin, Texas.

**March 17-20:** Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Ocean City, Maryland.

**March 12:** Annual Archeology Workshop, Crownsville.

**March 30 - April 3:** Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Sacramento, California.

**April 9:** ASM Spring Symposium, Stevenson University, Baltimore County.

**June 10-20:** Annual ASM Field Session, Barton Site, Allegany County.

**October 8:** ASM Annual Meeting, Robinson Nature Center, Columbia.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**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](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org). CAT opportunity.

**ASM field session collection:** Volunteers have finished upgrading the ASM field school collection. They are working on the Rosenstock (Frederick County) material. The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. Contact Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall [charlie.hall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:charlie.hall@mdp.state.md.us).

**The Lost Towns Project** of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jessie Grow 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](mailto: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/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

## CAT corner

For details, updates and information on CAT activities check the ASM website.



## Previews of coming attractions

If winter isn't your season, think spring. And as long as you are thinking of spring and enjoyable things that happen then, here's what's on tap in the world of Maryland archeology.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Workshop in Crownsville March 12. The keynote speaker will be Jim Delgado, an underwater archeologist with an international reputation. He is the former host of the television series "The Sea Hunters" and his experience ranges the globe, from Bikini Atoll and Pearl Harbor to the Titanic. Whatever topic he has in store (which will be in the program coming soon), you will not want to miss it.

Next up is the Spring Symposium, April 9. This year it will be held at Stevenson University, just north of the Baltimore Beltway. The program and directions will appear in a later newsletter. One of the features of the symposium will be the presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award. Do you know of a teacher who should be honored? A nomination form is included in this newsletter.

This year's field session will be a return, after a long absence, to the Barton Site in Allegany County. The dig will take place in June this year, June 10 to 20, and will have a prehistoric focus. Principal investigator Bob Wall will be investigating the Late Woodland (Page, Keyser and Susquehannock) occupations, as well as a suspected Early or Middle Woodland feature identified by Tim Horsley's recent magnetometer work. Wall also would like to open a new deep (Early Archaic - Paleo - and possibly Pre-Paleo) unit.



## Revised Allegany museum highlights Barton

By Roy Brown

The Western Maryland Chapter's November meeting was held at the new location of the Allegany Museum in the 1932 Art Deco Governor William Donald Schaefer Building on Pershing Street in downtown Cumberland.

With an increase in floor space, new exhibits were added to enhance the museum's goal to reflect the history and culture of the people of Western Maryland.

Of special interest to the chapter was a new exhibit on the Barton Village Site. The archeological work conducted by Dr. Bob Wall over the past 20 years is shown inside an 8-foot-long glass case. The display explains how excavated features and artifacts reveal the life of the people who lived along the Potomac River in prehistory.

The relocation of the museum allowed for the revamping and expansion of the First Residents display. This exhibit, designed and installed by the Western Maryland Chapter in 2003, focuses on Native American lifeways from the Paleo-Indian Period through the Late Woodland.

The Allegany Museum is well on its way to becoming a world-class facility. A visit to the museum would be both educational and very enjoyable. Hours of operation: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday noon to 4 p.m., open March through December.

# Uncle Tom loses cabin naming rights

By Alex Ruoff

*Condensed from the Montgomery Gazette, Dec. 8, 2010*

While they gave it a new name, the Montgomery County Planning Board members say they are not ready to give Josiah Henson Special Park in Bethesda the kind of funding park stewards have requested to make it a living museum.

Park officials received unanimous approval from the board for their master plan and proposed name change — from Uncle Tom's Cabin Special Park — at Thursday meeting, where commissioners applauded the suggestion for upgrades but warned money to support it won't be easy to find.

Joe Alfandre, a planning board member and commissioner, said the park's stewardship division's recommendations for a \$3 million to \$5 million renovation that includes major landscaping and construction efforts, as well as hiring a full-time museum manager, wouldn't be feasible.

This option would keep the park open on weekends between February and November, starting as early as 2016, and would cost about \$185,500 outside of capital costs. Currently, parks staff give four scheduled tours of the grounds per year which, coupled with maintenance, costs them \$14,029 a year.

Although the plan was approved and parks staff will begin designing the new park, stewardship administrators will have to go back to the board for future funding, said Montgomery Parks Director Mary Bradford.

The master plan also calls for public restrooms, more parking, permanent exhibits and other changes designed to turn the 1.52-acre park into a museum concerning slave life in Montgomery County.

The site was once home to the Isaac Riley plantation, where the Rev. Josiah Henson is believed to have been enslaved as a child, said Shirl Spicer, a museum manager for the department of parks.

## From the Trust: Looking ahead, and back

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- Dennis Curry and staff continued working on the ground-breaking Archeological Synthesis Project, a project distilling important research information from archeological reports with 75 percent of the counties now completed;
- The dedicated Tuesday Crownsville lab volunteers, under the direction of Louise Akerson, continued to catalog the material from the Rosenstock site;
- Our underwater archeologists initiated a multi-year project to search for the USS Scorpion, Commodore Joshua Barney's flagship, in partnership with the SHA and Naval History and Heritage Command.

And some additional highlights from the MAC lab:

- The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory was awarded a contract to clean and stabilize the timbers from a colonial ship discovered at the site of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. The vessel remnants arrived at the MAC lab on August 2, generating a large amount of media interest;
- Staff held the well-attended second Discovering Archeology Day in April and sponsored an evening speakers series entitled "Archeology On the Edge";
- Staff finished publication of a popular publication on Oxon Hill /Addison Plantation, a site across the river from Alexandria.
- A cell phone audio tour of the JPPM Indian village was completed in mid-2010. This project was a collaboration between JPPM and an archeology class at Huntington High School;
- The Public Archeology Program attracted over 100 volunteers to work at the Smith St. Leonard site.

We look forward to another eventful, productive year.

# Hot site + cold weather = cool time

By Charlie Hall

*Maryland Historical Trust*

With daytime temperatures never exceeding 38° and the wind whipping up white caps on the Eastern Shore's Tuckahoe Creek, it's no wonder the Primrose Site was cool. (Actually, it was *cold!*) Beginning Thursday, Dec. 2 and continuing through Sunday, Dec. 5, some 14 volunteers worked a total of 26 person days in the frigid and blustery conditions investigating this Early Woodland site.

Perhaps it was the very sandy soils (which dropped through the screen like . . . well, like sand through  $\frac{1}{4}$ " screen mesh) or perhaps it was the large size of the many pottery sherds recovered (indicating the site had likely never been plowed) or perhaps it was the esprit de corps among the hardy crew (led by Dana Linck and myself), but the cold wind could not diminish the good time had by all. It was a terrific four days.

Sometime prior to 1999 on this small sandy landform constrained by Tuckahoe Creek on one side and a small unnamed drainage on the other, large sections of an upright and possibly complete prehistoric ceramic vessel was discovered. This vessel was buried near the ground surface and had been crushed. The discoverer was not a trained archeologist, yet took photographs and made drawings of the find and has kept the recovered sherds together.

The current landowner, Niles Primrose, contacted the Maryland Historical Trust with this information and wondered if anyone wanted to investigate the site.

Examination of the material collected more than 11 years ago resulted in its identification as Accokeek Cord Marked. This type was defined by Robert Stevenson in his report, with Alice Ferguson, of the 1930s investigation of the Accokeek Creek Site in Prince George's County. It is tempered with coarse to medium sand and is characterized by exterior surfaces deeply impressed with a cord-wrapped paddle. The type is thought to date to the Early Woodland from 900 BC - 300 BC, and is found throughout much of the state (see JPPM's diagnostic website at <http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/index.htm>).

Many researchers, however, have wondered about the definition and distribution of the type and see in it either more than one type or as a continuum through time of changing attribute states. It was hoped that work at the Primrose Site might help resolve some of these issues.

The recent work, supported by the Archeological Society of Maryland through the Survey and Registration Program (funded by three consecutive years of noncapital grants from the Maryland Historical Trust), had four goals: (1) recover any remaining information that could illuminate the context (feature?) of the vessel discovery location, (2) recover any more sherds from the vessel discovery location, (3) recover datable material (carbonized wood/seeds/*et cetera*) and (4) recover information about the site (size, content) itself.

The excavation of 50 shovel test pits on a 10-meter grid, and two formal one-meter square test units, has left us with many artifacts to wash and analyze. We know that at least two of the goals were met.

One of the test units was located in the area the original collector reported recovering the partial pot. Several sherds recovered from the unit do in fact join with sherds collected in the 1990s. While we did not recover the base of the pot (only the upper portion of the vessel is among the material recovered in the 1990s), the test unit was clearly located very near the pot-recovery location.

In addition, the analysis of the material in the shovel test pits should allow us to define the size and internal structure of the site.

Regarding the remaining two goals, not much can be reported at present. The sandy soils appear to have created an environment that is poor for organic material preservation. Some organic material, and some hints that feature identification in these sandy soils may be possible, was observed during the fieldwork.

Tentative conclusions based on field impressions of finds suggest that the site dates primarily to the Early Woodland, that it hasn't been plowed and that the inhabitants were very conservative in their use of lithic material (loads of tiny retouch flakes perhaps indicate reworking/recycling of stone tools).

Niles Primrose is very excited about the site and enthusiastic about the possibility of further work. Perhaps it won't be as cold in the spring as it was in early December, but the Primrose Site will still be very cool.

# Chapter notes

## Anne Arundel

Meets five times a year in February, April, June, September and November at the Severna Park Branch of the County Public Library, 45 McKinsey Road. 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at [AAChapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AAChapASM@hotmail.com) or the chapter website [www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php)

**February 15:** Mechelle Kerns on the sheet midden discovered beneath the Legg's Dependence kitchen with artifacts covering 250 years.

**April 19:** TBA

**June 21:** TBA

**September 20:** TBA

**November 15:** TBA

## Central

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](mailto:ssisrael@verizon.net)

## Charles County

Meetings are held 7 on the first Wednesday (September-May) at Historic LaPlata Train Station. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [cwherdcl@gmail.com](mailto:cwherdcl@gmail.com) or 301-375-9489.

**January 5:** Belinda Urquiza will discuss her experiences on excavations in the southwestern United States.

**February 2:** Carol Cowherd on "Is there a Prehistoric Woodland Site in My Backyard?"

## Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Contact [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or call 301-8405848 or Don Housley at [donthou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donthou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: [www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com](http://www.asmmidpotomac.wordpress.com) Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768) Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com)

**January 20:** Meeting at Needwood Mansion, Derwood. Joy Beasley, cultural resources manager at Monocacy National Battlefield on the "Archeology at the Best Farm and the L'Hermitage slave quarters."

**February 17:** Meeting at Needwood Mansion, Derwood. Noel Broadbent, research associate at the Smithsonian Institution, will talk on his archeology career and the new site he is working on in Washington.

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or [jlazelle@msn.com](mailto:jlazelle@msn.com) or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

**January 12:** Chad Baker, of the Maryland School for the Deaf, will discuss the history of the Hessian Barracks, their renovation plans and the college of artifacts now stored on campus.

## 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 Ann Persson at 410-272-3425 or [aspst20@yahoo.com](mailto:aspst20@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**January 12:** Jerry Warner: "The 2010 Field School at St. Mary's City, Maryland," Havre de Grace City Hall.

**February 9:** Jim Gibb: "Moving the 19th Century Cole Family Cemetery at Aberdeen, Maryland," Historical Society of Harford County.

**March 9:** Allen Shapiro: "Excavations at Ramat Rahel, Jerusalem, Israel," Harford Jewish Community Center.

**April 8:** Julia King: "Analysis of 17th and 18th Century Burials in St. Mary's and Charles Counties," Harford Community College.

**May 15:** Member and guest picnic, and Tour of the Exhibit: "Prehistoric Culture of the Northern Chesapeake," Liriodendron Mansion.

## Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Diamondback restaurant in Ellicott City at 6 p.m. Contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or [leeprestonjr@comcast.net](mailto:leeprestonjr@comcast.net)

**Jan. 10:** (Snow Date Jan. 17) Jim Gibb, "Two African American Households in Port Tobacco, 1846-1900."

**March 14:** Anne Hayward, "Textiles in the Tidewater: How Textiles of the Colonial Chesapeake Are Represented in the Archival Record Versus the Archeological Record."

**May 9:** Lee Preston, "Made in China: Silk, Porcelain and Terra Cotta Soldiers."

## 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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**January 28:** Annual Show and Tell.

**February 25:** Francis Zumbrun, old photos and narrative from his recently published book *A History of Green Ridge State Forest*.

**March 25:** Susan Haydel, of Potomac State College in West Virginia, on the native people of coastal Alaska and British Columbia.

**April 22:** Steve Israel, US Army Corps of Engineers archeologist, retired, on Rockdale Road Rockshelter.

**June 3:** Bob Wall, Towson University, "The Barton Site 2010-2011," a report on the findings of last year's field session and a discussion of what he plans to investigate this year.

**The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.**

ASM. Inc 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 Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net).

**Submissions welcome.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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