

ASM Ink



August 2024, Vol. 51, No. 8

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Upcoming Activities

MHT Workshop in Archeology – September 28, 2024 – Crownsville, MD

ASM Annual Meeting – October 12, 2024 – Chesapeake College – Hosted by the Eastern Shore Chapter

[Montgomery County History Conference](#) – October 19, 2024 – Rockville, MD

[ESAF 91st Annual Meeting](#), November 7-10, 2024, Newport, Rhode Island

President's Note

For July I want to send my heartfelt thanks to Tom McLaughlin, our Certified Archeology Technician (CAT) chairperson, lovingly referred to as our Chief CAT Herder. He took on this role with some specific goals in mind and has been incredibly diligent. He has helped update the reading list, made sure that all can access the materials, checks in on progress of members, and schedules workshops regularly. Any one of these activities is time consuming, but when taken on and handled so efficiently, it becomes amazing.

The CAT program guides participants through extensive reading and rotational activities to provide a well-rounded technical view of archeology techniques. It is a rich program that is intended to take about three years to complete, giving the participants plenty of time to meet and work with many different groups and professionals.

If you are interested or need more information do feel free to read more on the website or to contact Tom.

Tom, thanks again for all your work on this, it is a great resource for ASM!

Valerie

Marshy Point Nature Center Council



Marshy Point Nature Center Council
From the Desk of the Research Chair
Middle River, MD 21220

July 23, 2024

To the Archeological Society of Maryland:

The Marshy Point Nature Center Council would like to Thank and Recognize the Central Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) for the help received since 2020 in our endeavor to explore what has been beneath our feet. Since the discovery of domestic items dating from the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century by our research



chair, our council was able to reach out to the Maryland Historical Trust's Office of Archaeology who suggested contacting the ASM to help in our goals to educate the park patrons with permission from Baltimore County's Department of Recreation and Parks. Through this mutually beneficial program, we have been able to increase awareness of the proper techniques used in archaeology and discover various artifacts which will be curated for display in the Nature Center for the public to view and learn about the history of the land and its people.

We would like to especially thank Dr. Katharine Fernstrom, the president of the Central Chapter and Vice-President of the ASM. We would not be where we are today without her volunteer hours and





expertise. As her duties with the ASM are taking priority and she steps away from our park, we are excited to see the development with the organization in the surrounding Baltimore County area as a whole. The work and dedication of the ASM members has impressed all of us and has also recruited the Research Chair whom writes this message.

Thank you all,

Daniel Dean

Research Chair
Marshy Point Nature Center Council

MHT

Rochambeau Update

Stephanie Soder



This summer, the Maryland Historical Trust has started working on the first stage of the American Battlefield Protection Program grant. The grant focuses on studying the encampment sites and other cultural resources associated with the march of the American and French soldiers through Harford and Cecil Counties during the Revolutionary War.

With the help of five new volunteers, MHT conducted ground penetrating radar and magnetic susceptibility meter surveys in two different locations in Elkton, Maryland. These surveys were conducted to identify features that may be related to the military camp and bivouac sites of the French and American soldiers. The first survey, completed on Town of Elkton property, identified four features: a historic road trace and three rectangular features in a row.

The data from the second survey, located in downtown Elkton, is still being processed though the area did appear to be disturbed from 20th century construction.



Though a third Elkton location and other locations near Bush (Abingdon) still need to be surveyed, the Town of Elkton property results are a very promising start. The second phase of the project, to ground truth any potential features, will hopefully include the Town of Elkton property.

If you are interested in helping with the remote sensing work in Cecil and Harford Counties, please feel free to reach out to Steph Soder (Research Archaeologist) at stephanie.soder@maryland.gov. For more information on the ABPP grant, funded by the National Park Service, visit MHT's website at <https://bit.ly/mht-rochambeau> or scan the QR code below!





2024 William B. Marye Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations for the 2024 award must be received by the award committee no later than August 15th, 2024, for consideration. Past nominations are not retained by the committee; however, past nominees may be renominated.



William B. Marye

William B. Marye Award nominations may be submitted via ASM's Google Forms link at: [William B. Marye Nomination](#), by email or through regular mail using the form attached to this newsletter. Mailed nominations should be sent to:

John Fiveash
c/o William B. Marye Award Committee
3620 Cogswell Ct
Abingdon, MD 21009

E-mailed nominations should be sent to
jsfiveash@marylandarcheology.org.

ASM, Inc. New Project Grant Process

In 2022 a suggestion was made to begin a new process to request funds and support for new projects through ASM, Inc. At that time a committee formed, members include Julia Berg, Elaine Chhean, Jim Gibb, Valerie Hall, and Don Housley. The group developed a process for requesting and accepting projects.

The process is listed below, and **applications are now being accepted, but must be received by November 1.**

- Applicants must submit the ASM Project Request Form (attached to this newsletter and soon available on the ASM Website)
- Form and any supporting documentation should be emailed to:
Valerie.Hall@marylandarcheology.org
- A total of \$10,000 is available with a suggested cap of \$5,000 per request

The ASM, Inc. New Project Request form is attached to this newsletter and will be available online soon. We look forward to reviewing your new project suggestions!

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

2024 Election Season Moves into Final Stages

While most of the country looks toward November 5th for the Finale of the 2024 election season, the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) is focused on October 12th, when results of the 2024 Board of Trustees election will be announced at the annual meeting. Every full member of ASM will have the opportunity to choose the next board to provide direction of ASM activities and interests. Announcements, requesting volunteers to stand for election have been published in *ASM Ink* since March of 2024 and a slate of candidates was announced at the recent quarterly board meeting.

They are:

Position	Candidates
President	Valerie Hall
Vice President	Katharine Fernstrom

Secretary	Patricia Melville
Treasurer	Krista Morris
Membership Secretary	Ethan Bean
Trustee At-Large (Six Trustees)	Julia Berg Lynne Bulhack Brent Chippendale Jim Gibb Don Housley John Newton

An email was recently sent to all current members with instructions for voting. Participants are able to return their selections to the elections committee through use of a GoogleForm, via e-mail or by regular U.S. Post. In addition, voting forms will be available at the annual meeting as well. Members may select from the list of candidates or write-in another person of their choice. If you are not certain of your membership status, or do not receive the ballot notice, please contact our Membership Secretary, Ethan Bean, at ethan.bean@marylandarcheology.org or beans32@comcast.net.

Western Maryland Activities

The Western Maryland Chapter participated in “Native American Encounters.” Rocky Gap State Park sponsored the event that highlighted the culture of the American Indian on July 20 at 7:00 PM in the Group Camping Area. Roy Brown conducted a youth-oriented program held at the Eastern Woodland Wigwam constructed in 2015.

There were demonstrations of Indian crafts, hands on activities for the children and Native American storytelling.

For more information:

Western Maryland Chapter - Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.
Web Site: <https://tinyurl.com/wmdasm>

Tale from an International Dig

Asking for A Favor Scout Yardumian

It was, appropriately, a Thursday. Thor’s Day. I was at a dig near the town of Haßloch in southern Germany, working the trenches of a Celtic burial mound. The soil was sandy, the walls were prone to collapsing, and rain was in the forecast. Our entire site had to be covered in weatherproofing tarps if there was a chance they could get wet, and we couldn’t continue the dig until the sun came out. Given that we only had three and a half weeks to complete the dig before it was converted into a heritage site, every hour was precious.

This was my first official dig. I was fresh out of UMBC, where I had been president of the Pagan Student Union. We had had some success communing with our gods, and while I’m Kemetic myself, we had a handful of Asatru in our ranks so I was familiar with some of the old regional customs. I knew Thor enjoyed alcoholic libations, so as we were sitting around outside our work trailers and keeping an eye on the clouds, I asked if I could have one of the communal beers. We had a cycle of buying bottled water, cashing in the bottle return, using that money to buy beer, cashing in *those* bottle returns, and using *that* money to buy water. We were currently in the beer part of the cycle. However, it was well known amongst the group that I don’t drink.

“What are you going to do with it?” one of my digmates asked.

“I’m going to make an offering to Thor so the rain will go away,” I replied.

That set everyone into an uproar. No one wanted me wasting good alcohol on my “imaginary friends”. I relented and sat in my tipped wheelbarrow, contemplating what else I could possibly use to garner favor with the local deities.

Our site manager was a lanky Dane whose party trick was the ability to open a beer bottle on any sort of surface. He demonstrated by popping the top off his beer using the bumper of our van. Another of my digmates watched and decided it wasn’t that hard. They did succeed in cracking open their beer, however they cracked the glass instead of the cap, and even if someone were brave enough to sip from the serrated neck, there was no telling how many tiny shards had fallen into the beer itself.

“Well, I guess the gods can have this one,” they said, offering me the broken bottle. There were no oaks within a short walking distance, but our site manager pointed out where he had seen some mistletoe. I figured mistletoe owed the Norse gods a favor anyway and could pass my message along, so over I went to commune. I called on Thor, then apologized in case I was actually speaking to a more local weather deity with a different name, and laid out my request. We needed the site to be rain-free on weekdays until the dig was over, but nights and weekends were fine. I offered the beer and promised more when the deal was over. By the time I made it back to the trailers, the clouds had changed trajectory ninety degrees and were now moving away from our site. We were back in the trenches ten minutes later.

For the next three and a half weeks we had clear skies during dig hours. This was not without its hazards, of course. The burial site had no shade other than up against the southern walls of the trenches, as all nearby trees had been cleared for the dig. The youngest of our group passed out from heat exhaustion towards the end of the dig. No one escaped without some degree of sunburn. Clouds were so rare that even when the tiniest puff of one passed over the sun we cheered for it. The walls of the trench collapsed, not from the weight of wet soil, but from the sand drying out and turning crumbly. I found a lovely pot handle in one of the heaps that sloughed off the wall, but sadly we had no way of knowing which stratum it came from. Even so, we accomplished as much as we could, collected several buckets’ worth of sherds, and found a handful of bronze artifacts that got the project directors very excited.

For our last day in Germany, we had a small party at the Naturfreundehaus where we were staying. Since Thor had kept up his end of our bargain, I knew I had to keep mine. I once again inquired around for any spare beer I could offer, and again I was met with scorn and skepticism. I ended up fishing around in the recycling bin for a beer bottle that

had enough dregs left that I could mix it with water and hope my effort spoke for itself. I went out to the woods with the beer water, some snacks, and a euro coin to offer Ran, goddess of the sea, so I could ask her to ensure my safety flying home.

When I returned from that small ritual, someone said they had been looking for me. There was a beer bottle that was two-thirds full and no one could remember whose it was. Since they were going to dump it out anyway, I was welcome to use it. Of the three or four brands of beer at that party, this happened to be the same variety I had just used. I remarked that it must be good if Thor had enjoyed a highly watered-down version and arranged for this to be left out for me. I zipped back into the woods to offer it and thank Thor profusely for everything. We were done, I told him, so he was welcome to bring the storms back whenever he saw fit.

As I reentered the courtyard, empty bottle in hand, the first raindrops we had seen in weeks hit my face.

Kim's Note:

I want to thank the CAT Committee, Tom especially, and Zac for being my mentor and learning an entire new language to help me understand everything archeology. I want to also thank the CAT Candidates that continuously root me on. I would have quit long ago without your kindness and your belief in me. I will do my best to return the favor and help everyone navigate their journeys.

Thank you to Dan Dean for so many photos!!! Thank you to everyone else that sent in their Cresap's Fort photos too!

Volunteer Opportunities

ASM Volunteers Needed:

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

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov

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 on Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Charles County for Lab and Field Work welcomes 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 for lab work. 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

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 welcomes volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301-563-7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

Mount Calvert for Lab and Field Work: call 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. Click on <https://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork> to get started.

CAT Corner

The updated CAT Program Guide has been emailed to current CAT Candidates and is available for download from the [CAT webpage](#). Please delete the old one. For more information the CAT Committee Chair can be reached at CAT@marylandarcheology.org

There will be a workshop at the MHT Workshop in Archeology. Topic TBA.

The committee has examined Kim Malinowski, and she has been certified as CAT graduate #20. Congratulations Kim.

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 \(google.com\)](https://asm-easternshore.org) 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.

Open lab on Thursdays from noon to 4 pm at Washington College. Contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu. 2/1 through 5/2, except for 3/14 and 4/4.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month from September through June. In-person meetings begin at 7pm. at Needwood Mansion for the business meeting followed by a presentation at around 7:30.

Pizza will be available before the in-person meeting starting at 6:30pm for \$5 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 at 7:30.

For up-to-date information concerning meetings, please contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net

or 301-424-8526 or check the chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.org, or send an email to: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

Thursday, September 19, 2024 (In-person): Don Housley will give a talk on the 2024 Tyler Bastian Field Session at the Cresap's Fort site.

Thursday, October 17, 2024 (In-person): Local historian Jim Johnston will speak on the history of Taverns in Montgomery County.

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. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 211 S. Lee Street in Cumberland, unless noted. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com

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

Lab workdays! Excavations at the Jane Gates Heritage House uncovered several boxes of artifacts dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There will be hands-on cataloging sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm to 5pm for the month of April until the artifacts are analyzed and cataloged. These lab days will be at the new History Discovery Center at 400 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, MD. It's free, open to the public, and no experience is necessary to participate. More information email: info@oxbowculturalresearch.com.











Memories

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, 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.

Officers of the ASM, Inc

President

Valerie Hall

valerie.hall@marylandarcheology.org

301-814-8028

Vice-President

Katharine Fernstrom

katharine.fernstrom@marylandarcheology.org

Secretary

Barbara Israel

barbara.israel@marylandarcheology.org

Membership Secretary

Ethan Bean

ethan.bean@marylandarcheology.org

Treasurer

Elaine Hall Chhean

elaine.chhean@marylandarcheology.org

At-Large Trustees

Lynne Bulhack

Brent Chippendale

Aaron Jarvis

Don Housley

Jim Gibb

Julia Berg

ASM Ink Editor

Kim Malinowski

kim.malinowski@marylandarcheology.org

kymalien@hotmail.com

kimmalinowski1221@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions: Kim Malinowski

kim.malinowski@marylandarcheology.org

Text: 301-633-0021