

ASM Ink



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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Mark April 22 on your ASM calendar

With the Workshop having moved to the fall, the Spring Symposium is now ASM's first gathering event of the year. The event will take place next month, April 22, at the MHT headquarters building in Crownsville.

A complete program will appear in next month's newsletter, but to get your juices flowing, here's a look at the planned speakers and topics, which cover a wide range of areas:

Jade Burke will give the Student Spotlight "Unrecorded History: Anglo-Indigenous Exchange at St. Clement's Manor (1640-1673)"

Retired State Archeologist Dennis Curry will give The Iris McGillivray Memorial Lecture: "Canavest: A 17th Century Piscataway Indian Refuge on the Maryland Frontier"

Alexandra Jones will give The Richard E. Stearns Memorial Lecture about her organization "Archaeology in the Community"

Julia King of St. Mary's College will talk about Spatial Indigeneity: Uncovering the Indigenous Rappahannock Landscape

Elgin Klugh will delve into : "After the Dig: Community Engagement and Placemaking at the site of Laurel Cemetery."

Tara Tetrault and Suzanne Johnson (will co-present "New Archeological Discoveries at the Basil & Nancy Dorsey Farm Challenge the Myths About Post-Emancipation African American Communities like Sugarland, MD."

Davina Two Bears will talk about the Old Leupp Boarding School on the Navajo Reservation.

The meeting is expected to last until midafternoon, with a break for lunch and socializing.

Field session will be prehistoric Shore site

ASM is going back across the Bay to Caroline County for this year's Tyler Bastian field school. The dig will be a tad earlier than previous digs, running from May 19 to 29. No Memorial Day traffic to contend with.

Called Chapel Branch West, this prehistoric site is right next to the colonial Barwick's Ordinary site, where last year's field session was held. During the 2022 Field Session, a shovel test pit survey documented a presumed living surface yielding 3,000- to 1,000-year-old artifacts intact below the plow zone. The 2023 Field Session will investigate this buried living surface to document the American Indian occupations and hopefully reveal intact cultural features including house patterns, hearths and storage pits.

Julie Markin of Washington College will serve as principal investigator for this project which will be trying to date the occupations, the domestic architecture and internal layout of the site, and subsistence practices.

Registration forms and instructions are on the ASMwebsite.

Upcoming events

March 4: ASM board meeting, Virtual

April 22: Spring Symposium. Crownsville.

May 19 – 29: Annual ASM field session. Chapel Branch Site.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Charles County for lab and field work 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.

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.

Montgomery County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or

Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

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.

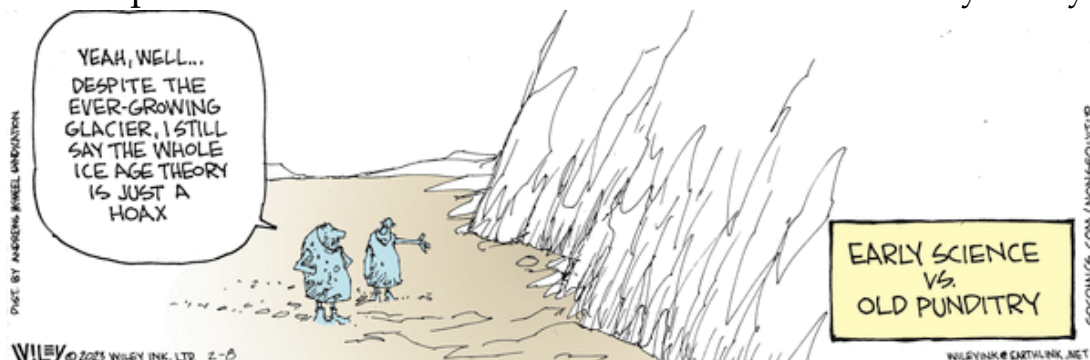
The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork to get started.

CAT corner:

If your email address changes please remember to let Tom know. It's the only contact we have for many of you. For more information on the CAT program contact Tom McLaughlin at mclaugh01@verizon.net

Non sequitor

by Wiley



Find made near Tubman's Dorchester home

By Ovetta Wiggins

Condensed from the Washington Post, February 15, 2023

CHURCH CREEK, Md. — Maryland archeologist Julie Schablitsky knew the glass heart-shaped perfume stopper her team unearthed on the land where abolitionist [Harriet Tubman](#) was born into slavery was significant.

She told them to humor her, and to dig a little deeper.

"That's when I found this cache of artifacts and I knew at that time we had something important here, that this was connecting these people to their lineage in Africa," Schablitsky said Tuesday, outside the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. "... We found Africa on Maryland's Eastern Shore."

The glass was part of a West African spirit cache, archeologists say, which is traditionally designed to protect those inside the home. This stopper was found near the fireplace, positioned at a place to block the path of negative energies.

Schablitsky, the chief of the cultural resources division at the Maryland Department of Transportation, was joined by Gov. Wes Moore and other state, local and federal officials Tuesday in Dorchester County to announce the discovery of artifacts found in what is believed to be the home of an enslaved overseer on land where Tubman was born.

Despite Tubman's iconic place in U.S. history, key pieces of her past were only recently detected. It wasn't until 2021 that historians announced the location and remains of the lost home where Tubman and her family lived on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The discovery of the home of an enslaved overseer, possibly Jerry Manokey, is the latest find by the team of archeologists who have continued to excavate on the property and adjoining private property for the past two years.

Historians say that at one time more than 40 enslaved people lived on Thompson Farm, from which Tubman hails. The home believed to be Manokey's is on private property, while the archeological remains of the home of Ben Ross, the abolitionist's father, are located on the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

The excavation is part of a multiyear partnership between Maryland's departments of Transportation, Natural Resources and Commerce; Dorchester County; the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways program, and the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. It began when the Fish and Wildlife Service bought a 2,600-acre tract adjacent to Blackwater to replace refuge areas lost to rising sea levels.

It ultimately helped uncover Tubman's story. The researchers plan to continue their work this year at the Ross home, Tubman's birthplace and the home of the enslaved overseer.

Schablitsky said the finds — which range from the glass stopper to a copper alloy button to fragments of blue-edged plates — offer a small glimpse of life in centuries past. "To be able to hold something like that, an artifact that's 200 years old, it really allows people to time travel and become closer to the people who lived here," she said.

"Unfortunately a lot of the way enslaved history is taught is that it simplifies it, it makes it very one dimensional," Schablitsky said. "It looks at a single building that was a log building, it looks at artifacts that are maybe a carved bowl or maybe a dipper, and look at that as enslaved life. But it was a lot more complicated. There are different tiers. In this case what we're looking at is the site of an enslaved overseer, which makes everything very complicated in a lot of ways."

Tubman, who stood only 5 feet tall but was known for her strength, lived in her father's cabin between 1839 and 1844, when she was ages 17 to 22, Tubman biographer Kate Clifford Larson told The Washington Post in 2021.

Her father also told her about the Underground Railroad. "He was an Underground Railroad agent himself," she said.

After Moore took a tour of the visitor's center, Schablitsky handed him a small vial of dirt taken from the land where Tubman was born.

"This is going on my desk," he said, beaming.

Black cemetery ‘discovered’ near Bowie

By **Steve Hendrix**

Condensed from the Washington Post, January 18, 2023

Kevin Porter stood on a steep slope Monday and marveled as his family history slowly emerged from a stubborn tangle of undergrowth and racism.

Yard by yard, volunteers and archeologists were clearing brush and brambles from the woods around Sacred Heart Chapel in Bowie, Md., bringing sunlight to more and more of the long-hidden stones that marked the graves of Porter's ancestors.

Porter's forebears and hundreds of other enslaved people had once worked and worshiped at this Jesuit outpost near the Patuxent River, held in bondage by some of the priests and brothers who were building the Catholic church in the nascent United States. Their final resting places have long faded from view, subsumed by nature even as the adjacent cemetery for White parishioners was tidied and honored through the ages.

When recent research pinpointed the location of at least 200 concealed graves on the overgrown hillsides surrounding the chapel, some hailed the "discovery" of an African American cemetery. But for families of those buried, including some who have repeatedly beseeched the parish for information on their ancestors, there was nothing new about it.

"We've been telling them for a long time that there are probably graves going all the way down to the road," said Porter, 42, who has studied the genealogy of the enslaved families and their descendants who populated the Jesuits' White Marsh plantation here on a tributary of the Patuxent River.

Most of the gravestones are simple field rocks embedded upright in the soil. It will take close analysis — and maybe electronic imaging — to see if any retain traces of lettering. But a few yards away, volunteers were raking debris from the clearly carved stone of Monica A. Queen (1860 to 1889), Porter's great-great-great-aunt. Or maybe great-great-great-great. "I think it's four generations," he said.

For decades, the graves have existed in a parallel history tended mostly by their descendants and a few specialist historians. Now, as part of a burgeoning accounting of enslavement by Jesuit institutions, the cemetery has burst into the public glare.

In the fall, the parish had much of the area analyzed with ground-penetrating radar, which revealed the potential outlines of a significant burial site. Crews have cleared tons of dogged undergrowth from the pitched slopes between the 18th-Century chapel and a new church built in 1962. On Monday, dozens of Catholic University of America students arrived to aid the effort in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, planting small flags at each revealed gravestone and other objects of potential interest.

"If you see something cool, don't move it," project leader Laura Masur called out as volunteers began putting on gloves and gathering rakes and saws. "Even an old bottle may have been left as a grave offering."

Masur is a Catholic University archeologist and a specialist in the cemeteries of enslaved people. She has recently been researching uncovered gravestones at the 17th-Century St. Francis Xavier parish in Newtowne.

A memorial seems likely. Widespread excavations do not. No matter how valuable the historical data that might be revealed, it wouldn't be worth further desecrating graves that already have been shamefully neglected, Masur said.

The flurry of activity is part of a wave of reckoning over slavery that took off when Georgetown University revealed in 2016 that the Jesuit founders had sold 272 enslaved people into forced labor in Louisiana. Eighty-nine of those people were taken from White Marsh.

For many descendants, the new attention to the Sacred Heart cemetery is as painful as it is overdue. "Excuse me," a man said to Masur as she was heading toward the work site. "My great-great-great-grandmother is buried here. Why is this happening now?"

"He's right to be mad," she said later. "If I were being blunt. It's happening now because White people have decided it's important. I'm glad it's happening, but it makes me sad."

Unexploded shell dug up at Gettysburg battle site

By Kristina Killgrove

Condensed from Live Science, February 2023

Archeologists working at a historic battlefield at Gettysburg recently made an explosive find: a live 160-year-old artillery shell.

"Unexploded ordnance still found on the battlefield is a fairly unique circumstance," Jason Martz, a spokesperson for Gettysburg National Military Park, said in an email. "It's only the fifth found since 1980."

The shell was found on Feb. 8 at Little Round Top, a hill that offered Union forces a strategic position during the Civil War battle.

An 18-month-long rehabilitation project is taking place at Little Round Top as the National Park Service works to preserve and protect the battlefield landscape and to add new signage for Gettysburg visitors. Archeologist Steven Brann and his team from Stantec, a consultancy company, were sweeping the area with metal detectors when they hit on something nearly two feet underground. "It is standard procedure to use metal detectors on battlefields," Brann said in an email.

"Most of the objects we find are much smaller, such as percussion caps, bullets and uniform buttons," Brann said. "Much of what we find turns out to be modern trash or objects that were discarded during the construction of monuments, such as iron straps and nails."

Still, these artifacts are not usually discovered unless excavation is happening.

The Army's 55th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company (EOD) from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was called in to remove the shell and destroy it safely. Capt. Matthew Booker, commander of the EOD, identified as a 3-inch Dyer or Burton shell for a rifled cannon.

Mussel shell arrowheads found in Norse mountain

By Ashley Cowie

Condensed from Ancient Origins, February 23, 2023

Jotunheimen (home of the giants) is a mountainous region in central Norway that boasts of a rich archeological history dating back to the Stone Age. Over the centuries, the region has been home to various tribes and communities who all left settlements, burial sites and artifacts that provide significant insights into the people's Nordic lifestyles.

One of the most remarkable archeological finds is at the Lendbreen glacier, which has been melting and exposing a treasure trove of ancient tools and weapons. However, archeologists in Jotunheimen were surprised to find three "unique" arrowheads made of freshwater pearl mussels that had melted out of the ice.

Professor Lars Pilø, an archeologist in Innlandet County Municipality, said the "unique arrowheads" were crafted from mussel shells, representing a technology that was "completely unknown in Norway before the melting started, and they have not been found anywhere else in the world."

According to a report in *Science Norway*, the shell weapons date back to the Early Bronze Age, around 3,700 to 3,500 years ago. Curiously, however, the arrowheads were only in use for a couple of hundred years.

Pilø said, "Folks at the time did have access to stone which can be used to make arrowheads, and they also used bone and antlers." However, nobody is quite sure why the technology was developed and abandoned in such a short period of time.

The team discovered the three shell arrowheads in a relatively small area. They noted that the freshwater pearl mussels probably did not exist in the areas where the arrowheads were found, "so hunters must have brought them up in the mountains."

Archeologist Christopher Prescott at the University of Oslo said he has himself found artifacts made from mother of pearl which were about 4,000 years old, but this is "the first time that such arrowheads made from shells have been found".

When several thousands of years old ice melts, archeologists in Norway find incredibly well-preserved hunting weapons and survival tools. Some of the items include clothing, textiles, tools, and hunting equipment such as arrows and bows.

English museums running out of display room

By Patrick Hughes

Condensed from BBC, February 24, 2023

Troves of ancient artifacts unearthed during building and infrastructure works are gathering dust in warehouses as England's museums run out of space, the BBC has learned.

Archeologists say this is a missed opportunity for people to learn about their history and heritage. The objects range from fine Roman metalwork to bronze age pottery. They are discovered by archeological contractors whom developers hire before clearing sites for construction.

"The clock is ticking - we have four or five years before we really do start seeing massive problems," said Barney Sloane, national specialist services director at Historic England.

While the management of archeological finds differs between Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, all three countries have also reported similar problems with storage.

Many museums have already stopped collecting archeological archives.

Tom Booth, a researcher at the Crick Institute, added that a lack of dedicated archeological curators, due to funding, added to the problem. Fewer than half of museums in England now have an archeological curator, according to the Society of Museum Archaeologists.

Already, at least a quarter of the excavations undertaken by archeological contractors in England produce collections that never find their way to a museum, according to Historic England and Arts Council England.

That means contractors are left holding the bag when it comes to storing them, but are ill-equipped to show what they have found to the public, even though some do try to make objects available to local communities.

Historic England say they are concerned that if storage space runs out, councils may no longer be able to compel developers to excavate sites of archeological interest, meaning a lot of history could be lost forever.

One novel solution has been to put finds back where they came - underground. Cambridgeshire County Council has turned to Deepstore, an underground storage company located in a former salt mine, which gives them boundless space to keep their 20,000 boxes of historical artifacts, which they can recall as needed.

Chapter news

Central Chapter

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

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third 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)

Eastern Shore

Meeting details being worked out. For information on the chapter, contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu On Facebook at Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology, Instagram: @esmdarch or email esarcheology@gmail.com

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month. In-person meetings begin at 7p.m. at Needwood Mansion for the business meeting followed by a presentation at 7:30. Pizza will be available before the in-person meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. for \$5 per person. Virtual meetings will be via Zoom with the business meeting also starting at 7 and the presentation at 7. For up-to-date information concerning meetings, please contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526 or check the chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org>, or send an email to: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

March 16: (In-person) Justin Warrenfeltz, chapter member and project archeologist, will speak on the role of cultural resource management firms in the archeological process.

April 20: (In-person) Tara Tetrault, anthropology professor at Montgomery College, and Suzanne Johnson, president of the Sugarland Ethno-History Project, will speak on the history and archeology at the Sugarland site near Poolesville, Md.

May 11: (In-person) Ralph Buglass, chapter member and local historian, will talk on "The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal: History and Nature." (Please note the change in date to the second Thursday of the month due to the start of the ASM Field Session.)

Monocacy

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday, at the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick. For more information, visit the chapter's web page masarcheology.org 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- 808-2398 or dancoates@comcast.net.

March 15 (a Wednesday): A presentation on Cecil's Susquehanna Canal, the first of its kind in America, will cover the chapter's work at the Octoraro locks.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are at the Leonardtown Library in Leonard every second Tuesday night of the month at 6:30. For information contact Craig Lukezic at crlukezic@gmail.com

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, A41M0-31A3-0423. AAa

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

March 24: Historic Preservation by Ruth Davis-Rogers. Preservation is not just about saving old buildings but strengthening and saving communities.

April 28: Jonathan Burns of Juniata College will discuss the work of his students investigating the French & Indian War era Fort Halifax located in central Pennsylvania along the Susquehanna River.

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.

Newsletter submissions: Send to Myron Beckenstein, 3126 Gracefield Rd., Apt 106, Silver Spring, MD. 20904 or 240-867-3662 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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