

ASM Ink



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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

The Field Session is here!!!

2024 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology Cresap's Fort (18AG9), Allegany County, Maryland May 31 – June 10, 2024.

Welcome to the 2024 Field Session, sponsored by the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., with the assistance of the Maryland Historical Trust, the National Park Service, and C&O Canal National Historical Park. The information contained in this issue of the *Ink* is a warm-up to what you will receive when you register.

The 2024 Field Session will be held at the 18th century Cresap's Fort site. In addition to contributing to an active research program by digging, screening, and washing artifacts in the field, participants will have the opportunity to learn about many aspects of archaeology through a variety of planned on-site activities and events.

The Field Session will follow-up on both a geophysical remote sensing survey directed by the MHT Office of Archeology in November of 2020 (which identified several anomalies of interest), and brief ground-truthing excavations conducted in October of 2023. The 2023 excavations revealed the presence of remarkably intact domestic features with an approximate date range of 1750-1790 suggesting that they relate to the 18th-century fort and dwelling of Colonel Thomas Cresap (a.k.a. the "[Maryland Monster](#)").

If you have not yet registered or want additional information, visit:

https://marylandarcheology.org/Field_Session/2024FieldSessionRegistration.html

All of the logistical information, including directions to the site and information on what to bring, will be emailed to registered participants and posted to the Announcements section of the ASM webpage prior to the start of the Field Session.

What to Bring

The site is situated in an open hayfield. Please wear comfortable, loose clothing. Pants (not shorts) and gloves are recommended. Sturdy closed-toe shoes or boots are required for protection from sharp tools. Protection from the sun should include sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, at a minimum. Major equipment and supplies, including limited drinking water, will be provided. We prefer that participants pack a lunch to minimize off-site time and to avoid interfering with lunchtime activities, like lectures and workshops. Any tools or equipment needed will be available, but if you wish you may bring and use your own tools.

Location:

The location remains general in the *Ink* to protect the Site from looting while still allowing for individuals to plan.

Highway 51 is most easily reached from Cumberland, MD, but there are also several routes over the mountains from I-68 as well. Once you've reached Green Spring Road, please follow the ASM Field Session signs to the parking area. Do not stray from the marked lanes.

Agenda:

Fieldwork will be from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM each day with a lunch break from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Work will begin at 10:30 AM on the first day, Friday, May 31st.

Parking is available on site. THE SITE IS GATED - PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AT THE SITE MORE THAN ½ HOUR BEFORE THE SCHEDULED START TIME OR YOU WILL FIND THE GATE LOCKED.

Orientation/safety lectures will be presented at 8:30 AM and 12:30 PM daily (as needed) to introduce new arrivals to the site and field procedures. Every Field Session participant must attend one orientation/safety lecture before participating in the excavation.

A field lab will be set up under a shade awning on the site with the goal of cleaning as much of the recovered material as possible. Work in the lab provides an alternative for persons wanting a break from digging, from the sun, unable to dig, or missing an orientation.

The Spencer Geasey Memorial Lecture, Tuesday, 4 June from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. will take place at the Meeting Room of the South Cumberland Library (100 Seymour St. in Cumberland). Dr. Matt McKnight, Chief Archaeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust, will be presenting a lecture entitled “Hunting the Maryland Monster: the Life and Times of Colonel Thomas Cresap.”

Lunchtime Lectures (11:30 – 12:30, on site):

Monday, 3 June: Firearms and Other Tools of the Eighteenth-Century Potomac Frontier with NPS National Capital Regional Archeologist Emeritus, Stephen Potter. Historical and archaeological research in the C&O Canal National Historical Park has demonstrated that a minimum of four types of tools were needed for people to live on the 18th-century Potomac frontier: a firearm of some sort, a knife, a pot or kettle, and a felling axe. Other tools were needed for their maintenance. A detailed examination of these tools is instructive to determine what parts would survive in an archaeological context.

Thursday, 6 June: An Overview of NPS Archeology with Katie Boyle, and Blyth McManus. The cultural resources staff of C&O Canal National Historical Park (CHOH) will present a rundown of important archeology on National Park Service Properties. We'll look at cultural resources work in general, with an emphasis on what happens after fieldwork at the reporting and collection curation stages. A special focus will be paid to CHOH resources.

Feast and Social: Saturday, 8 June, 5pm - Annual Field Session Feast at BSA Camp Potomac (5-minute drive from the site to Scout Camp Rd SE in Oldtown). BBQ and drinks provided by the City of Cumberland.

CAT Survey Opportunities: There will be opportunities for CAT candidates to earn survey hours conducting ground penetrating radar survey at an adjacent site later in the week.

Kids Day: Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 10am – 12pm. Kids 6 and up welcome.

Did you know that this year's field session will include a Kids' Workshop? On Sunday, June 2nd, from 10am-12pm, we will hold a special Kids' Program where they will learn the basics of archaeology and get to do some hands-on activities in the field and the lab. There is no cost for kids to attend, but they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian while attending the event. Sign up by emailing esarcheology@gmail.com. Must have an adult chaperone present the entire time. Limited to first 10 participants.

Lodging

ASM will NOT be arranging for lodging at the field session. However, there are hotels available nearby in Cumberland and LaVale. A camping option has been arranged through the local Boy Scout council at BSA Camp.

Participants who have pre-registered for primitive camping should prepare to meet with staff at the end of the working day to travel to the campsite. Vehicles are not permitted at the site except to drop off or pick up camping equipment. In accordance with The Laurel Highland Boy Scout Council regulations, no alcohol is permitted at the camp. Contact John Fiveash via e-mail at jsfiveash@marylandarcheology.org if you have any questions.

In case of inclement weather:

State Terrestrial Archaeologist, Zac Singer, will post a notice on his email auto-response by 6:30am if ASM is altering the day's schedule. Please send an email to Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov and check the "Weather Statement" in the automatic email response you receive to see if fieldwork is on-time, delayed, or cancelled.

Upcoming ASM Events

May 31, 2024 – June 10, 2024 – Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session
June 15, 2024 – ASM Board Meeting – Virtual

Archaeology in the Community's [Young Archaeologists'](#)

[Club](#) registration is now open! This is an educational camp for elementary-aged students. There are in-person (Hyattsville, Maryland) or virtual options. It is 100% free. It meets on Sundays for 1. hours in April-May for hands-on archaeology activities. The theme for this year is the history and archaeology of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Would you be willing to let parents/grandparents/uncles/aunts/guardians/mentors in your organizations and networks know about this opportunity? For the virtual option for those who aren't in the DC metro area, all materials are mailed to the students beforehand so that they can do the activities with a remote instructor.

Contact: Elizabeth Pruitt, PhD (she/her) | Director of Education | Archaeology in the Community, Inc.

www.archaeologyincommunity.com

President's Note:

May - what a rainy month! It seemed, at times, if I wasn't working it was raining.

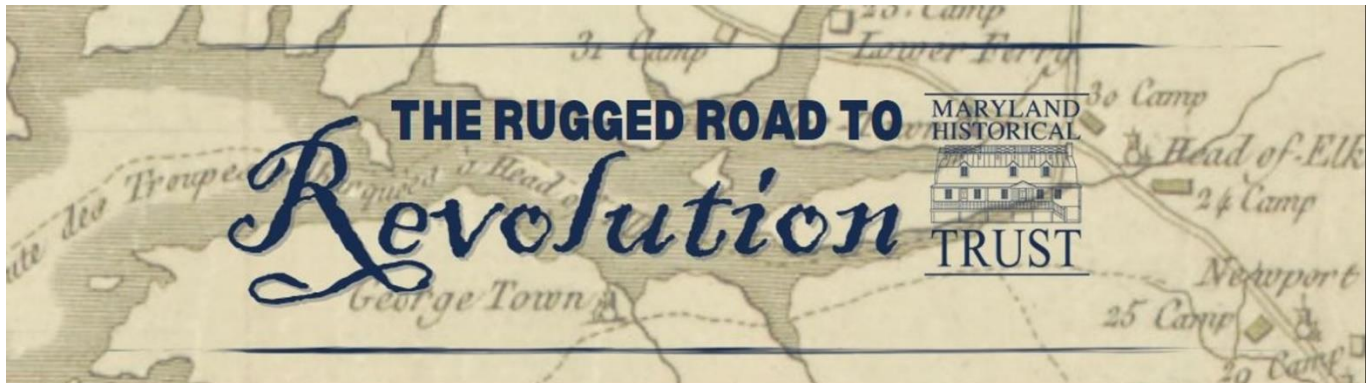
I really enjoyed Montgomery Park's Family Archaeology Day early this month. So many volunteers from the Mid-Potomac Chapter worked all day in steady rain. Despite the rain, actually, probably because of the rain, a few very engaged kids who want to do archeology as a career, arrived at a simulated site. We excavated units and talked about artifacts, techniques, Munsell colors, tools, features, college, and careers. AND, we got very muddy!! A very good time was had by all (or most?)!

And a big thank you to MHT and Steph Soder for the Scouts Merit badge program. I am thrilled that this is being offered. This year there were scouts from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland who completed their badge this past weekend. I was glad to see our ASM volunteers working with this program. Part of ASM's mission is to educate and this provides a wonderful opportunity for a brief first exposure to archeology.

And now, my favorite time of the year, the 2024 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology. I am very excited to see all my favorite people and dive into a really fascinating site. We currently have over 90 registrants and this site (Oldtown 1 - 18AG9) is expected to be a good one. We have several lunchtime lectures, a great Spencer O. Geasey Memorial Lecture at a local library, our second annual Kids Day - June 2nd, and the annual ASM Picnic which will be held on June 8th at the nearby BSA Camp Potomac. We are looking forward to the site and the local community who is quite engaged and excited, we can't wait to meet many of these folks. A special thank you to the Western Maryland chapter for all their work advertising and preparing for this event.

Hope to see you all there!

Valerie



Maryland, 1781...

In September 1781, the combined forces of Washington's Continental Army and Rochambeau's French Expédition Particulière made their way across Maryland en route to besiege British forces entrenched in Virginia. In 1782, they would undertake their return trip north, victorious from the Siege of Yorktown.

Objectives

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) was awarded a 2023 Preservation Planning Grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to identify and document the understudied encampment sites and cultural resources associated with the march of American and French soldiers through Harford and Cecil Counties. This work will include **historical research, archaeological survey, and architectural documentation** to develop a more complete understanding of how Maryland communities contributed to one of the most significant troop movements of the Revolutionary War.

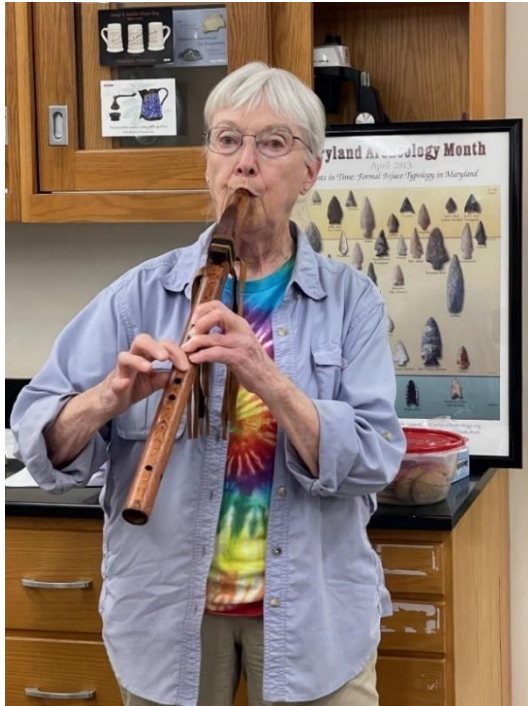


We Need Your Help!

Know of any local lore surrounding these encampments? MHT wants your help! To submit potential site information, stay informed of the grant progress, or share your thoughts on the project, please visit <https://bit.ly/mht-rochambeau> or scan the QR code!

Lunchtimes at the Crownsville Lab!

What better place to have volunteers share their musical talents that relate to both culture and history?! We learn more about one another by learning about talents and passions that we would not think to ask about.



Lynne showed us two of her Native American flutes, explaining their design and history and then played them for us!

On another Tuesday, Dave played two of his recorders. Both were linked with history. Dave is pictured with the tenor recorder.

It feels unusual to talk about art in a scientific lab, but one of the best parts of living at this moment in time is the intersection of art and science and the blending of passions. Lynne and Dave were

able to show us parts of themselves and parts of history that might feel lost to us or that we did not have access to. My own poetry has shifted with the addition of scientific nomenclature and is still only a small part of a much broader discourse and societal change.

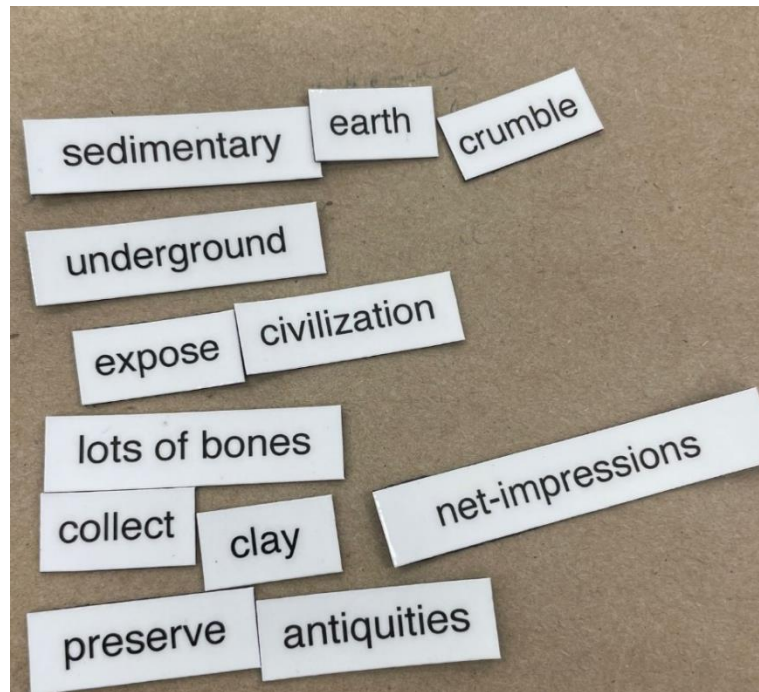
Music, art, writing, theater, and crafting, so many hobbies and interests that I don't have the space to mention are all part of that shift.

Bring on that innovative passion and let's learn from and about each other.



Archeological Poetry:

It is not too late to send in your poems or visit me at the field session with them. The May Issue's photo follows, but my magnets are packed—so feel free to borrow them and have some scientific and literary fun. The person who wrote this wanted to remain anonymous, but I think it's seriously fun.



Did you know that archeological poetry exists? My poetry made its way into two scientific journals. I've been scoffed at and (lovingly?) teased about putting out a call for poems in the *Ink*, but I think we can play around and learn at the same time. I double dog dare you and you don't even need to know what a dactyl is!

I don't share my writing often in venues that I work or volunteer with because it seems too much like using the platform for one's own gain. This time, however, I am sharing because I want there to be no worry about judgement—poetry can be silly and transformative. This is my first “word” poem. Zac challenged me to write a poem with the word “channers” at Ft. Frederick. I took it as that the double dog dare.

[Archeological Love Song — Words & Whispers \(wordsandwhispers.org\)](http://wordsandwhispers.org)

Archeological Love Song

By Kim Malinowski

1.

Let my hands stumble
into channers
laugh
sienna pebbles
fingers rough
scraped across mesh
history sacred on palms.

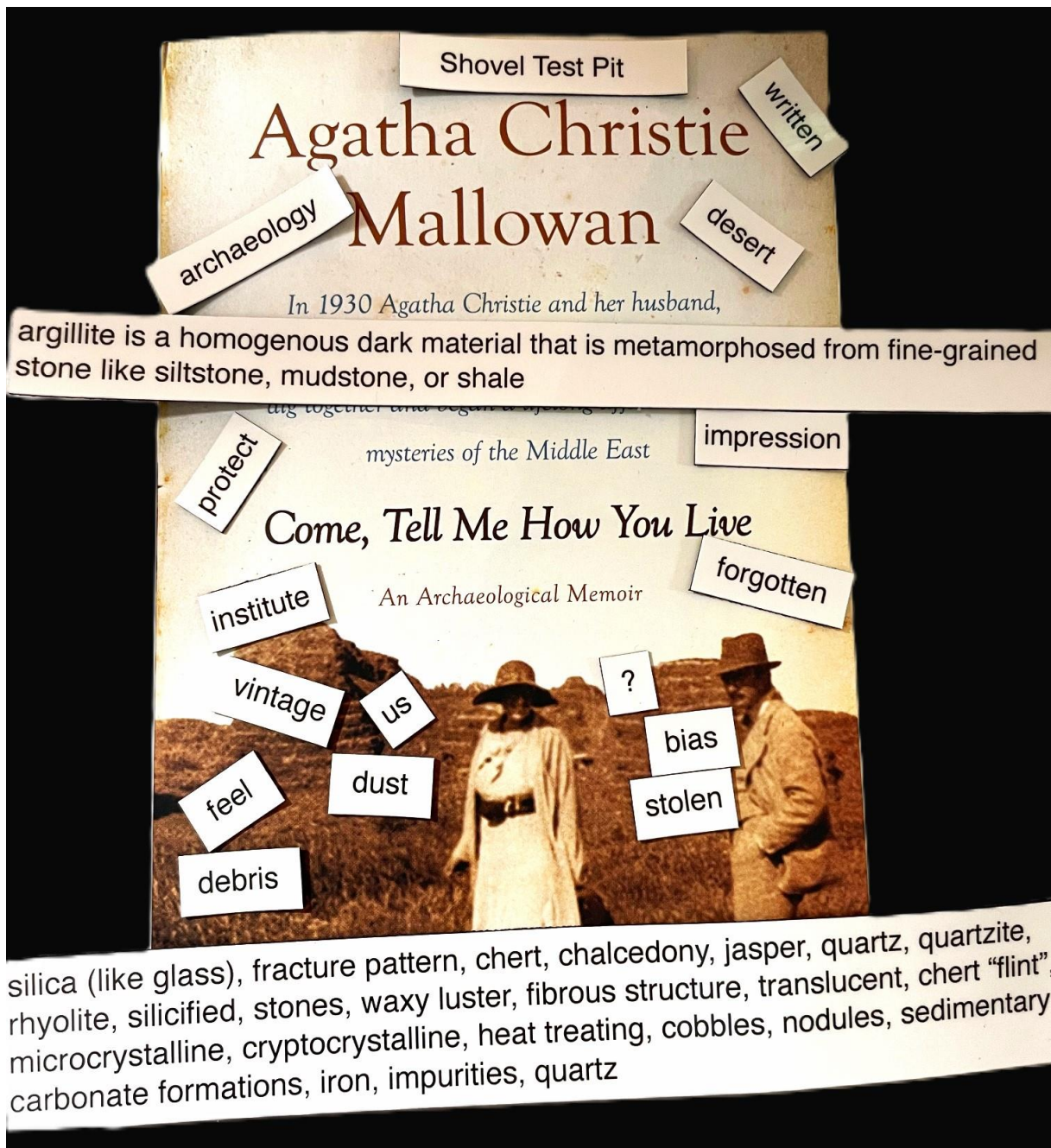
2.

Let my feet always press deep
loved soil
trowel
whispered prayer.
Sink into sediment
love,
stratigraphy tongued
blessing.

3.

Let me calculate our radials
distance between
my shovel
your trowel
waltz fingers through channers
leave me beautifully broken
taste of grit
and bone dust
praying on tongue.

On the next page is the original magnet word photo. I dare you to put down your trowel and write a bit of poetry in your field journal ;)



Volunteer Opportunities

ASM Volunteers Needed:

Treasurer Candidate Needed

If you are still reading, please let us know. We need a great candidate for this 2 year position.

Treasurer's Duties:

- Oversee financial administration of ASM (paying invoices, depositing checks and cash payments, recording transactions, etc.)
- Provide quarterly financial reports at board meetings and an annual budget at the October annual meeting
- Submit federal and state taxes
- Advise the board on financial-related decisions
- Serves as the official address of ASM Inc.

Current Treasurer, Elaine Chhean, is happy to chat with folks who are considering running for the position and will be happy to support throughout the transition.

Contact John Fiveash at jsfiveash@marylandarcheology.org or Paul Bollwerk paul.bollwerk@marylandarcheology.org for more information.

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.

2025 Public Archaeology Conference - Conference Planning Committee

Archaeology in the Community organizing the 2025 Public Archaeology Conference here in DC. The previous (and first) one was held last year in Pensacola, FL by the Florida Public Archaeology Network, and the idea is that it will be held in a new city every two years. Would any ASM members like to be part of the conference planning committee? The dates will be August 8-9, 2025, but of course the planning has to start now.

Please contact Beth Pruitt if your are interested or would like more information: beth@archaeologyincommunity.com or 202-573-9690
www.archaeologyincommunity.com

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

The Field Session will include CAT Survey Opportunities: There will be opportunities for CAT candidates to earn survey hours conducting ground penetrating radar survey at an adjacent site later in the week.

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

Meest 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 \(google.com\)](#) 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 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 Webex 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, June 20, 2024: Chapter Picnic at Needwood Mansion. Gathering begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00. Grills will be available. See our website for more information.

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.

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.

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