



ASM Ink

August 2008, Vol. 34, No.8

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Port Tobacco diggers explore five areas

By April M. Beisaw

Port Tobacco Director of Research

When we prepared for the Port Tobacco field session, we picked out three excavation areas to focus on in our search for remains of the former Charles County seat. But the enthusiasm and hard work of the 50-plus ASM volunteers quickly made us revise our plans and we ended up exploring five areas: the jailhouse, Wade house, Native American area, Centennial Hotel area and the cemetery area.

The jailhouse excavation, supervised by Scott Lawrence, succeeded in finding two walls of the 19th-Century jailhouse (1859/60 to 1896). The Wade House excavation, supervised by Dionisios Kavadias, sought to find traces of this cornerstone of the village green. No foundation was found but we did uncover a deep deposit of demolition debris and recovered 30 gallon-size bags of artifacts that date to a circa 1930s demolition event.

The Native American area, supervised by Peter Quantock, contained a deep plow zone deposit rich in Colonial and Native American artifacts. Six five-by-five foot units came down onto portions of a large rubble deposit, possibly a Colonial cellar.

The Centennial Hotel excavation, supervised in turn by Scott, Peter and Dio, failed to find the hotel but did uncover the remains of another Colonial earthfast building and some potentially intact Native American deposits. The cemetery area, supervised by Jim Gibb and Scott, revealed parts of four grave shafts and a fence ditch.

To help process all the artifacts, which ranged from a glass trade bead to a windshield wiper, we made another revision in our original plan and set up a full-time artifact-washing station. Charlie Hall kindly staffed the lab for us.

After work ended for the day, volunteers were invited to stay around for a workshop or demonstration and then join the staff's dinner cookout. We each took a turn at preparing a communal meal and I ate so well I think I actually gained a few pounds.

At night we often doubled the population of Port Tobacco (which is only 15) with volunteers and staff sleeping in the courthouse, camping on the lawn behind the courthouse or bunking in the Burch House. Other volunteers opted for the more rural setting of a local park.

While the 2008 field session is over, the ASM and MHT continue to aid in artifact washing and cataloging,

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Barton Site field school examines various stages of old. Page
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17th Century site on Kent Island needs volunteers now. Page
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Upcoming events

September 26 - 28: A conference in honor of the work of Bill Gardner. Shepherdstown, West Virginia. For information, see <http://www.thunderbirdresearch.org>.

October 18: ASM Annual Meeting. Trunk Memorial Hall of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 35 East Church Street, Frederick.

October 24 - 26: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meeting, St. Mary's City.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County is offering four two- or three-day field sessions at a prehistoric site in the next few weeks. The dates are **July 28 - 29; July 30 - August 1; August 4 - 5, and August 6 - 8**. To sign up, visit www.parkpass.org. For information, contact Heather Bouslog at 301-840-5848 or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. The county also is offering opportunities for lab and field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently being curated is the collection from the Locust Neck Late Woodland site, to be followed by the Late Archaic Baldwin site collection. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7441.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at 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/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

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

A website has been set up for CAT candidates and graduates:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDCat/> . To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Members can choose to get emails or just use the website to send messages. Courtesy of CAT candidate Tom Forhan.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Work is expected in October. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

Claggett Retreat artifacts to be displayed at Frederick library

In conjunction with this year's Annual Meeting, to be held in Frederick October 18, the host Monocacy Chapter has arranged to have an exhibit during October at the downtown Frederick library. The display will feature artifacts collected at the Claggett Retreat site years ago by Calvin Swomley and presented to the state last year at the field school there by Swomley.

17th Century site needs August volunteers

A 17th-Century Kent Island plantation is the site of a field project in middle August being run by the Maryland Historical Trust. Over the years, the Grieb site (18K83) has produced hundreds of artifacts but has never been professional excavated.

The staff and volunteers will be digging one- and two-meter units to create a detailed map of the site and to look for intact features. Work by Bruce Thompson, who will lead the excavation, has documented a cellar and three unidentified depressions. The August 13-19 dig will be trying to reveal what the depressions are and to examine the area near the cellar.

Because the site is in a rather remote location, on the northern bank of the Chester River, on-site camping space will be provided for volunteers, as well as on-site, no-cost meals. A 10-person tent will be available for volunteers without tents of their own. To deal with the expected heat, work will begin at 7 each morning and conclude in mid-afternoon.

Most of the volunteers will be needed between August 14 and 18. Space is limited and potential diggers should contact Bruce at 410-514-7663 or bthompson@mdp.state.md.us for information or required registration.

Keyser and much more at the Barton dig

By Robert Wall

Towson University

The main focus of the Western Maryland Chapter / Towson University field school at the Barton site June 14 - 22 was the area adjacent to the Keyser structure identified in 2006, between the back of the structure and the palisade that encircles the village.

But other areas were examined too. Units were placed in the Susquehannock area of the site in an effort to identify house patterns there as well. A unit from the 1995 ASM field session was re-opened to complete the excavation of mapped features and another two-meter deep test unit was placed adjacent to the one excavated in 2007.

The Keyser area revealed a few small basin-shaped features and extensions of sheet middens and burned surfaces delineated in units just east and west of the structure in 2006-2007. No large pit features were revealed and the edge of the palisade trench was located about three meters behind the structure.

The highlight of findings from the Keyser area was a charred grass mat that extended from the rear of the structure toward the palisade. A fired-surface was found in the central portion of the mat and it appears to have completely burned out to sharply defined edges. A great deal of large mammal bones (e.g., deer and elk) was recovered from the palisade trench.

The Susquehannock area of the site was subjected to more exploratory tests. Two two-meter squares found some post patterns, one of which was linear and contained palisade-sized posts within a narrow trench.

In the five-meter square from the 1995 ASM field session two sub-rectangular shallow middens were exposed. These are parallel to each other and contain a few post molds on the periphery. A Shultz incised rim sherd was found in one of the features, identifying it as Susquehannock. Not enough of the features were exposed to clearly identify their function, but they do suggest structural remains. Further work to identify more of the partially exposed features is planned for next year.

Finally, work on the new deep test unit took us partially through Level 11. The upper levels contained primarily Late Woodland Page occupations in a feature that covered much of the two-meter unit.

Excavations will continue on July 25-27 (Friday to Sunday) and all ASM members are welcome. We were just beginning to see an increase in debitage in Level 11, which represents the upper part of the Early Archaic period occupation. Only nine more levels to go before we hit the Pleistocene-age river bed.

Washington's boyhood home found

From news reports, July 3, 2008

On a bluff overlooking the Rappahannock River, 50 miles south of the capital city that bears his name, archeologists have unearthed a site that provides what they call the most detailed view into George Washington's formative years: his childhood home and, likely, the objects of his youth.

There are marbles and wig curlers, utensils and dinnerware. A pipe, blackened inside, carries a Masonic crest and dates to when he joined the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge.

The announcement of the long-sought discovery follows seven years of digging and several disappointments.

"What's so great about this dig is that when people talk about Washington, they always talk about his adult life," said David Muraca, director of archeology for the George Washington Foundation, which owns the Ferry Farm property where the discovery was made. "So this will expand the knowledge about his early years."

It was always known that Washington grew up on the Stafford County property near Fredericksburg, but no one could locate the remains of the house on the 100-plus acres or unearth the artifacts buried inside.

Washington's family moved to the property in 1738, when he was 6, and he is believed to have lived in a clapboard-covered wooden home until his 20s. In 1753, he moved to another family property, called Little Hunting Creek, which he later renamed Mount Vernon. Five years after his mother finally moved in 1772, the old place was leased and later sold to tenants. By the 1830s, the house was in ruins. It was finally destroyed during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg and its exact location was forgotten.

Even at this early stage of excavation previously unknown details of Washington's life have emerged.

From a concentration of charred plaster, one can tell that a fire thought to have destroyed the house on Christmas Eve in 1740 was much smaller and less destructive. Evidence suggests that the fire damaged only part of the house, which was repaired and expanded.

An expensive tea set dating to the last decade that the Washingtons lived in the house tells that the family's financial strain suffered after Augustine Washington's death probably eased. And from the layout of the house, one sees that the front door overlooked the river. Ships at that time could traverse the river to the Atlantic Ocean and the area's roads were opening up a world to the West.

"He has this whole world passing in front of him," said Philip Levy, an archeologist and a history professor at the University of South Florida. "He starts to understand the value of these roads, and that begins here."

Part of the difficulty with the dig arose because the land was far from untouched. Within the footprint of the house, 20th-Century sewer pipes peek through the dirt, and a large area where the soil changes color reveals where Civil War troops dug a trench. In 1994, Wal-Mart proposed building a store on the property but encountered opposition from Stafford residents.

Before finding Washington's home, the team spent four years unearthing two other structures, only to find that one was too old and the other too new. The last one, which dated to about 1850, a century too late, became nicknamed among the crew as "Daddy's little disappointment."

Three years ago, team members homed in on the site where they would discover the house. They found two stone-walled cellars, two root cellars and the remains of two fireplaces. They also unearthed 500,000 artifacts, many domestic in nature and dating to the period Washington's family would have lived there: sewing scissors, a brass wick trimmer, figurines that might have once sat on a mantel.

"Most [people] were living in one- or two-room houses in this period," said Mark Wenger, a consulting architectural historian on the project. "I wouldn't say this was three times as large, but it is quite a bit larger than normal houses we see on this landscape" in the mid-1700s.

The 53-foot-by-37-foot clapboard home faced the Rappahannock. It had two front rooms flanking a central

hall, each with a fireplace for heat. There were several back rooms and several more upstairs under a sloping rear roof.

The Washington Foundation said archeologists would continue the search for other buildings and gardens at Ferry Farm. The ultimate goal is to reconstruct the house young George grew up in.

"The discovery is just the beginning," Muraca said. "It's like when NASA goes to the moon and picks up moon rocks for the first time. That's a really cool day, but it's not until you end up getting them in the lab that the real findings take place."

Do you know of an highly endangered site?

Is there a site you know of that is in great danger of being wiped out for one reason or another - vandalism, neglect, erosion? Preservation Maryland is trying to call the public's attention to historic and cultural sites in these straits and is looking for nominations for its 2009 list of 11 highly endangered sites. Buildings and bridges make the list, archeological sites should be nominated too.

To be considered:

- A site must have important historic or cultural interest and be in extreme jeopardy.
- Properties must have a prospect, however difficult, of being saved, a prospect which would benefit from being on the list.

"Endangered lists have effectively focused public attention, rallied together local residents, community organizations, civic leaders and preservation professionals to help save a threatened site," the organization says. "The Endangered Maryland list is a statewide call to action. The final selection will reflect the diversity of Maryland's heritage of sites and traditions, and the threats facing them across the state."

While anyone can make a nomination, the submission form is detailed and more weight might be given to ASM or chapter nominations. If you know of a site that should be included, contact ASM or your local chapter right away. Time is a problem because nominations are due by August 13.

For more information on criteria and on how to submit a site, go to www.preservationmaryland.org and click on Endangered Maryland.

ASMers invited to historical conference

The Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology will hold its 2008 conference in St. Mary's City October 24 through 26.

The opening reception Friday night will be at the new St. John's Archaeological Exhibit, a 5,500-square-foot museum of history and archeology built around the remains of a 1638 house. Tours of Historic St. Mary's City and a range of workshops will be featured Friday at St. Mary's City and at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory in St. Leonard.

Saturday morning, a plenary session will focus on "Archeology of the Atlantic World." Featured speakers will be Henry Miller, Julia King and Mary Beaudry. The Saturday evening banquet will be a Southern Maryland church dinner with stuffed ham and crab cakes.

All conference sessions will be held on the campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The conference hotel will be the Hampton Inn, about 10 miles from St. Mary's City. A conference room rate of \$104 plus tax has been negotiated and ASM members will be eligible for the Council rate if they indicate ASM membership on the registration form.

For more information and registration forms, visit the CNEHA web site at:

<http://www.smcm.edu/soan/cneha/cneha08.htm>

Central Chapter probing Carroll County location

Central Chapter has examined a field in Pine Valley Park Manchester in Carroll County. Manchester is at the junction of Parr's and Dug Hill ridges. Parr's ridge is a major divide between the Potomac and Patapsco rivers.

Fifteen volunteers excavated five shovel test pits and four five-foot squares during the three-day field investigation. A shallow basin pit in the subsoil contained rhyolite and quartz flakes and charcoal flecks. A

number of prehistoric tools (a Kirk stemmed, a Piney Island stemmed, a quartz base fragment and a Brewerton Eared spearpoint), several lithic knives, one preform and over 450 early and late stage waste flakes were recovered from the former plow zone. Most of the lithic material is rhyolite along with some quartz, argillite and quartzite.

The tools point to the Mid to Late Archaic Period occupation, about 6000 to 3000 BP. The testing at Pine Valley Park is intended to define the boundaries of the site and areas of the highest densities, and to collect data on settlement patterns and the stone tool varieties of the Native Americans who lived in Carroll County.



(Left) A favorite occupation is standing around and watching someone -- in this case Paula Martino - dig.
(Right) Jim Gibb explains the newly uncovered grave shafts in the cemetery area.



(Left) They also serve who only stand and screen - here it's Carole Rauchisen. (Right) Where there's a will, there's a way and Jim Gibb finds a way to sit in the shade while cogitating his notes.

Port Tobacco diggers explore five areas

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most of which is taking place at MHT headquarters in Crownsville on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Other labwork is occurring at the Port Tobacco courthouse; keep an eye on our blog (porttobacco.blogspot.com) for days and times. While you are online, take a few minutes to get the video version of this field session report on our new

YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/PortTobaccoArch).

The team extends its thanks to the membership of ASM and the staff of the MHT for making the field session at Port Tobacco a resounding success. We expect to provide many opportunities for additional fieldwork and lab work the year round.

Wait a minute, look again at that insert

You still have time to submit a candidate for this year's William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. But you don't have much time. Nominations must be in by August 25. Nominees need not be ASM members, Maryland residents or even archeologists, but they must have made a substantial contribution to the advancement of Maryland archeology. If you have a candidate, fill out the form you just flipped past and send it in.

You also should have a ballot enabling you to vote in this year's ASM election. The ballot was included in last month's newsletter. Please send it in or bring it with you to the Annual Meeting in Frederick October 18.

Science threatens Lascaux cave paintings

By Molly Moore

Condensed from the Washington Post, July 1, 2008

MONTIGNAC, France -- The regal black bull painted by a Stone Age artist on a cave wall in southwestern France 17,000 years ago has survived millennia of war and pestilence just a few yards above its subterranean gallery.

Today the prehistoric bovine could face annihilation by an army of encroaching black mold spots, the latest in a series of threats unwittingly brought in over the years by tourists, scientists and bureaucrats.

"Each time we try to resolve one problem, we create another," said Marie-Anne Sire, the cave administrator who coordinates the scientific teams trying to save the endangered reindeer, potbellied ponies and woolly rhinos of the Lascaux cave, which contains one of the world's most famous collections of prehistoric art.

The extraordinary creatures -- hundreds of exquisite beasts etched and painted across the undulating walls and ceilings of large underground cavities -- have become part of an international struggle to rescue prehistoric artifacts from the missteps of modern man.

Lascaux is the focus of a growing, Internet-driven global debate: Should heritage sites become laboratories reserved, in the interests of preservation, for study exclusively by scientists? Or are they such an important part of the patrimony of humanity that they should be open to the public, despite the inherent risks of damage?

"The art of Lascaux is a legacy belonging to all mankind," the U.S.-based International Committee for the Preservation of Lascaux notes on its Web site. The cave "redefined what was previously known about our creative development as human beings and our ability to construct image from abstract thought."

The whimsical horses, bears, reindeer and bison demonstrate an understanding of visual depth and movement among Cro-Magnon artists that did not emerge in modern-era art until a few centuries ago.

Scientists can only speculate on the original purpose of the cave and the meaning of recurring geometric symbols found among the 600 paintings and 1,500 etchings on its walls. The most commonly accepted theory is that Lascaux and other art-filled caves in the region were sanctuaries where Stone Age people worshiped.

The cave was rediscovered in 1940 by four children who, with their dog, explored a hole opened by a fallen tree. In the years immediately after World War II, France's people scrambled to get by in a still severely damaged economy. The caves were on private land, and the owners, the La Rochefoucauld family, decided to open them to the public. They enlarged the entrance, built steps and replaced the original sediment with concrete flooring.

Like many historic sites, Lascaux quickly became a victim of its fame. The caves were besieged by hordes of tourists whose breath raised levels of damaging carbon dioxide, and by killer fungus, microbes and black spots.

Conditions became so perilous that French authorities closed the cave to most tourists 25 years ago. Nearby, a precise replica of the two most famous rooms in the cave was created to accommodate the tourist crowds.

Now, in yet another troubling twist, the reproductions are becoming so faded that scientists are debating a major restoration project for the fake cave.

The bigger concern, of course, is the real cave. In January of this year, authorities took the extraordinary step of closing it for three months even to scientists and preservationists. A single individual was allowed to enter the cave for 20 minutes once a week to monitor climatic conditions.

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Now only a few scientific experts are allowed to work inside the cave and just for a few days a month. French officials say it could remain closed to the wider scientific community for two or three more years.

The keeper of the cave is Sire, a 48-year-old restoration expert whose previous specialty was restoring medieval paintings on the exteriors of churches. As cave administrator, she coordinates the work of a 25-member team of biologists, conservationists, restorers, archeologists and other specialists.

Sitting in her small office in a thick oak forest just outside the entrance to the cave, Sire described the team's efforts to save Lascaux as nothing short of a scientific nightmare.

Over the decades, almost every attempt to eradicate problems has spawned new dangers. A formaldehyde foot wash, for instance, used for years to disinfect people entering the cave, ended up killing off friendly organisms that might have prevented fungus from growing.

Sire took over as cave administrator in 2002 during a white fungus outbreak that followed installation of an air-conditioning system designed to keep harmful microorganisms from taking root.

Fearful that the fungus would gobble the paintings, experts poured quicklime powder on the floors and wrapped the walls in cotton bandages soaked in fungicide and antibiotics.

As soon as the white fungus began to disappear, scientists launched a major project to record the condition of every animal in the cave in a computer simulation. Two people worked 30 hours a week under lights to record every spot of fungus, every crack and every abnormality on each of the cave's creatures.

And then the black spots started appearing, heading rapidly toward black bulls and other beasts.

"Despite the limitation of human presence, the use of lights must have hurt," Sire said. "We didn't know we were taking such a risk."

A small team of workers clad in protective suits sprayed ammonia-based solutions on the spots, and the cave was sealed in January.

When scientists reentered the cave in April, Sire said, "I was holding my breath."

Though the black spots had stopped spreading in nine of the 11 treated zones, they remain a serious danger to engravings in the smaller sections of the cave that are the most susceptible to temperature and humidity changes.

Sire conceded her own frustrations: "It's a big problem -- what to do, how to choose. The questions are not easy to resolve. Lascaux is in the hands of doctors who don't have the same diagnoses. "We have to choose between reacting or not acting," she continued. "Acting is dangerous; not acting is dangerous, too."

Profiles in Maryland Archeology

An interview with ... George Evans

George Evans is a member of the Monocacy chapter who also has been often spotted in Virginia..

Q. How did you get started in archeology, George?

A. I got started when I was probably about 12 or 13. I found a few points in a field and I got very excited about finding these things. I had to walk to school and I would leave about an hour, an hour and a half before I had to go to school so I could walk through farmers' fields and find these.

Q. Where was this?

A. This was in Frederick, near Fort Dietrick. But now it's all built up, it wasn't then. Then my dad worked at Fort Dietrick and he knew Spencer Geasey and he told him I was interested and Spencer started taking me to the some of the shelters he was digging at and things like that. That got even more exciting, digging things up

that had never been disturbed for 500 years or 1,000 years or whatever. It was what I wanted to do. I found out I wasn't smart enough to work and go to school at the same time so I gave up the idea of becoming a professional archeologist because I couldn't do both. When I started working my grades went down. Of course when I stopped working my grades went up but then I didn't get any money for school. So I did that as an avocation thing after that. I really got involved in it about five years before I retired, which was about 15 years ago. I went on organized digs with ASM, volunteered in different places and a lady by the name of Hettie Ballweber had an archeology company and I worked with her and Lori Frye, National Park Service, and things like that, Jamestown, APVA.

Q. You still go down to Jamestown a lot.

A. I generally go twice a year. When I don't work in the field, I help in the lab. That's still very exciting with the stuff you get to handle and help clean up.

Q. There was a gap between when you were doing archeology going to school and your retirement. Did you do any archeology?

A. Very little. I was raising a family. We didn't have a lot of money so we didn't take big long vacations. We'd do things on weekends. My kids tease me to this day about all the battlefields they got to see, the Civil War battlefields. Because we would go up there, we'd take a picnic lunch or we'd go fishing or something like that. I did very little for probably 25 years.

Q. What rekindled your interest?

A. I just had the time. My children were grown, two of them were married at the time, so I had the time to do it. I always was interested in it. If we did go on vacation, I'd go to museums and see things and stuff like that. I never lost it, I was just wasn't very active.

Q. What interesting projects have you worked on?

A. Of course, Jamestown, Virginia, at the fort. Every time I've gone there and actually worked in the fields -- sometime you just sit in the lab -- there's always been something turned up of interest. When I was down in October we were removing -- Dr. Kelso was there -- and when we removed this brick wall he said, "I don't understand why this brick wall is here." He figured it was from a 1611 construction, because there was another brick wall behind it. So he took a couple bricks out and behind it was a small area, like a closet-size thing, that they wanted to excavate. Well, that was a Friday afternoon and that was my last day, so I still don't know about that. My biggest thrill down there was these trade beads that they had, these blue little trade beads that the colonists brought over for the Indians. And they put me out to take some soil samples and I turned up one of these blue trade beads that are so well documented in history. And that was one of the highlights, I picked that up and I was all excited about it. They found hundreds of them, but I was excited. I had to show everyone I found a blue bead. And jetons are very interesting down there. They look like a coin but they are really counters. I don't know if they've ever come up with what they really think they used them for besides counters.

They thought they might have used them for trade or something like that. But the first time I found a jeton I was working with Eric Deetz's sister, Tony, Eric Deetz was the field chief at the time, he's since moved on. They gave us each a unit. She picked one out and I took the one that was left over. In my unit was this jeton and she teased me, "I've been working here all these years and I've never found a jeton and here you find one." So those were two really highlighted things. And I helped construct the palisade down there. And also we built this stone house, I helped to construct that. It has always been exciting to go there and help them.

Q. So, how many years did you go there?

A. I think will be my eighth year.

Q. Is the jeton your favorite discovery?



A. Yeh, I think so.

Q. How has archeology changed in the years since you've been involved in it?

A. I think it is more scientific now. It is not so much getting the artifacts now, and collecting artifacts, but the getting in context so you can learn from them. I mean, one of the things that amazes me in Jamestown is that they can tell how long a colonist has been there by examining their bones and seeing whether it is basically a wheat diet or a corn diet. Not too many years ago nobody did that kind of analysis that way. Even the residues that you collect means something, whether they were smelting things or whether they were tanning hides, things like that.

Q. Is archeology practiced differently in Virginia than in Maryland?

A. I was going to say I've worked on another site there but most of the time it's at Jamestown. They have the funds to analyze what they find. It seems to me that in Maryland, when I help ASM, they don't have the funds to go further into what they find and analyze, soil analysis or pollen analysis. They seem like they are short on funds for actually interpreting what they find. They have the funds to work in the field but not to interpret it afterwards. That seems to be a shame.

Q. What advice do you have for somebody interested in archeology?

A. I would tell them to join ASM and get into a local chapter, wherever you live. In my case I'm in Frederick County, Monocacy Archeology Society. We generally have a speaker and of course we participate in the field schools and I've even been lucky enough for quite a bit to work at the Monocacy battlefield, Antietam battlefield. I've gotten to know the archeologist at Monocacy. She has me come out to help. If you are interested in that kind of stuff, there are many people who like to have volunteers under their supervision. That's what I would say, get out and let people know you are interested in helping. Don't look for a job, just go to volunteer.

Trying to preserve Indian languages

Condensed from McClatchy-Tribune story, June 22, 2008

PHILADELPHIA -- In the Lakota language, a single word expresses the awe and connectedness with nature that some feel looking at the Northern Lights. In Euchee, the language makes no distinction between humans and other animals, though it does differentiate between Euchee people and non-Euchee.

And the Koasati language of Louisiana provides no word for goodbye, since time is seen as more cyclical than linear. To end a conversation, you would say something like, "This was good."

More than 300 American Indian languages flourished in North America at the time of Columbus, each carrying a unique way of understanding the world. And despite an often-brutal campaign to stamp them out, more than half of those languages have survived, though the pool of speakers has dwindled.

Can they be saved? Representatives from Indian groups around the country met with linguists and other academics in Philadelphia recently to see what they could accomplish together.

"We're talking about an emergency situation," said Richard Grounds, a speaker of the Euchee language and co-organizer of the meeting. The youngest person to grow up speaking Euchee as a first language is now 78, said Grounds, a professor at the University of Tulsa. The rest are in their 80s.

Grounds learned from his family how Indian languages were systematically squelched. His grandmother, he said, grew up speaking Euchee but, as a teenager, was forced into an English-only boarding school where teachers would wash her mouth out with soap when she uttered a word of her native tongue.

In the past few years, he has been racing to coax all the words and wisdom he can from tribal elders.

And yet, at the meeting, a number of young people spoke and even sang in Euchee, Lenape, Miccosukke, Lakota, Miami and other endangered languages -- something that Grounds said gave him hope.

The situation in North America is part of a worldwide erosion of language diversity. At stake are not just words. For native communities, language embeds traditions, religion, medicine and geography, as well as a more general way of seeing the world.

"It's not only about the use of [medicinal] plants, et cetera, carried in a language, but literally ways people have of knowing themselves," said Grounds.

Some languages, for example, have no way to give directions using left and right, because their speakers

navigate with a less self-centered view of the world than we do, said Leanne Hinton, a linguist at the University of California, Los Angeles. They think more in terms of local geography.

Ryan Wilson, a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe, said that the quality his people value most in a man is something like courage but includes a degree of independence and perseverance. It has no direct English translation, and with the word might go the idea and the reason it once mattered.

Although they seem to have common needs, Grounds said, the academic linguists have not always worked in the best interests of the people they study. Linguists sometimes compete for access to the few remaining elders, whose time might be better spent teaching the language to young people who would use it.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AAChapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month, except for July and August, at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com or Nancy Geasey at 301-378-0212.

September 10: Program to be announced.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net or 410-273-9619(h) and 410-808-2398(c)

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Potluck suppers are held at 6:15 in September and March. Otherwise, dinner is available at an Ellicott City restaurant. For information, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or leeprestonjr@comcast.net

September 8: Carol Ebright will deliver the Vaughan Brown Memorial Native American Study Center Lecture. Her title will be, "Maryland Indians: An Overview."

November 10: Lee Preston on the history of Simpsonville Mill.

January 12: To be arranged.

March 9: The second annual, Alfred J. Prufrock: Oh, Do Ask What Is It? game.

May 11: To be arranged.

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

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.

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

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