

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Spring Symposium returns – live – April 16

ASM joins the return-to-live, in-person contacts Saturday, April 16 with the 2022 presentation of the Spring Symposium. This 56th version of the annual event will take place in the familiar setting of the Maryland Historical Trust headquarters in Crownsville.

Seven speakers will report on a variety of aspects of archeology, beginning with Brendan Burke's talk about his underwater archeology program for Virginia's Department of Natural Resources, focusing on Virginia's maritime collection of shoreline, sunken and submerged history.

Next, Julie Markin of Washington College will give the background on a subject that should be of particular interest to ASM this year, the Barwick's Ordinary Site. The Caroline County site is the location of this year's ASM field session. Have earlier investigations found the traces of the late 18th Century tavern or are they of something earlier?

After a coffee break, I. Randolph Daniel Jr. the anthropology department head at East Carolina University will take listeners down the coast to detail "Time, Typology and Point Traditions in North Carolina Archeology" so listeners can compare and contrast it with what is found here in Maryland. This will be the Richard E. Stearns Memorial Lecture.

Archeologist Craig Lukezic, who has experience up and down the Mid-Atlantic area, will talk about recent research in New Netherlands Archeology. He is currently cultural resources manager at the Patuxent River Naval Base.

This year's student speaker is Caillete Rose of Towson University. They will discuss how the meaning of the Conowingo Site (18CE14) has been reinterpreted since the site was excavated by ASM in 1981-2. They will include data from more than 100 years of artifact collection by avocational archeologists.

Scott Stickland will talk about one of his favorite areas of interest, 17th Century Maryland. In this case, Anglo-Native interactions. History shows that these relations were very friendly, but this history was written by the English. Not taking these reports at face value produces a more complex picture.

The day's final offering will be a comparison of white clay tobacco pipes recovered from Dutch and Haudenosaunee sites dating from 1640 to 1710. This, the Iris McGillivray Memorial Lecture, honors the woman who organized the first Spring Symposium back in 1965. Some of you may remember it.

Doors open at 8:30 with the welcome at 9. An hour's lunch break begins at noon. The cafeteria will be closed and it will be difficult to get to a restaurant and back in the time period, so anyone inclined to be hungry is urged to bring something with them.

One thing that can be done during the break is look at the items being offered in the silent auction. Have you contributed anything to ASM's fund-raising activity or asked a business to offer a ticket, meal or something? It's not too late. A variety of items are solicited, especially ones with an archeology connection. But you have to let Elaine Chhean know: a donor form is with this newsletter or contact her at elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com

Admission for all this is \$5 for ASM members, \$7 for others, and free. For students. Covid masking is optional.

April Is Archeology Month

This year's theme: The Future of Studying the Past.
Events and talks throughout the state.

Upcoming events

April: Archeology Month. Keep checking <https://www.marylandarcheologymonth.org> for events updates.

April 16: Spring Symposium.

May 20-30: Tyler Bastian Field Session at the Barwick's Ordinary Site near Denton.

Nov. 4-6: ESAF annual meeting, Shippensburg, Pa.

NOTE: The annual Workshop in Archeology will now take place in the fall.

Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

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

Not Maiden's Choice: MHT and the Western Maryland Chapter are going to be returning to a historic site in Washington County discovered in November while looking for something else. April 7-10. If interested contact mathew.mcknight@maryland.gov

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov It is currently working on the Maiden's Choice collection, which is a late 18th to early 19th Century dwelling in Washington County

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 Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island Fridays from 8 to 3. The lab will be open some weekdays at the Anne Arundel collection facility at 7409 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd. in Glen Burnie. For more information email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call 410 222 1318.

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:

For information on the CAT program contact Tom McLaughlin mclaugh01@verizon.net



Shackleton's ship found in the Antarctic

From wire reports, March 10, 2022

The Endurance, one of the world's most famous shipwrecks, has been found off the coast of Antarctica more than 100 years after the vessel was slowly crushed by ice, forcing British explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew eventually to abandon the ship before it sank.

The 144-foot wooden vessel was discovered almost 10,000 feet below the surface of the Weddell Sea during a mission to find the missing ship.

A team of more than 65 people — including ice experts — made up the expedition named "Endurance 22." One of the team leaders was Steve Saint-Amour of the Annapolis-based Eclipse Group. The team confirmed the discovery Wednesday after two weeks of searching in freezing temperatures for the wreckage. The story of the crew's survival after fleeing the sinking ship is considered one of the most gripping tales of polar exploration.

"We have made polar history with the discovery of Endurance, and successfully completed the world's most challenging shipwreck search," the veteran geographer John Shears, who led the mission, said.

The expedition set off from Cape Town, South Africa, in February to mark the 100th anniversary of Shackleton's death. The team's goal was to find the wreck, using drones and specialist equipment including submarines, helicopters and robots.

Team members said they based their search on the last known position of the ship, as recorded in 1915 by the ship's captain, Frank Worsley. The vessel was found about four miles south of its last logged position — coordinates which were found in Worsley's diary: 68°39' 30"S, 52°26'30"W.

In a statement, Mensun Bound, the director of exploration on the expedition, paid tribute to Worsley's navigational skills. His "detailed records were invaluable in our quest to locate the wreck," Bound said.

The battery-powered submersibles combed the seafloor twice a day, for about six hours at a time. They used sonar to scan a swath of the smooth seabed, looking for anything that rose above it. Once the wreck was

located several days ago, the equipment was swapped for high-resolution cameras and other instruments to make detailed images and scans.

Endurance's relatively pristine appearance was not unexpected, given the cold water and the lack of wood-eating marine organisms in the Weddell Sea that have ravaged shipwrecks elsewhere.

Bound said the wreck was "upright ... intact, and in a brilliant state of preservation." British historian Dan Snow said in a video published by the BBC that there was an "overwhelming sense of happiness and relief" among the crew when they learned that the vessel had been found with the use of specialist equipment including submarines. It was literally "frozen in time," he said.

Footage taken at the scene showed the paint is still visible, along with the ship's name "ENDURANCE" above a star on the hull. The stern, wheel, bow and deck were also visible.

Before the ship sank, Shackleton and 27 crew members were headed to a bay in the Weddell Sea, where they hoped they would kick-start the first crossing on foot of Antarctica via the South Pole to the Ross Sea.

The Weddell Sea is known for its dangerous, icy conditions, which has made searches for the ship difficult, the BBC reported. Sea ice has reached its lowest level ever recorded, making conditions for the search more favorable.

Shackleton himself described the location as "the worst portion of the worst sea in the world," the Guardian reported.

"We came, we saw, we measured in detail," Bound said. Then they left without touching anything because the wreck is protected under the 60-year-old Antarctic Treaty.

Shackleton left England aboard Endurance with a crew of 27 in 1914, bound for a bay on the Weddell Sea that was meant to be the starting point for an attempt by him and a small party to be the first to cross Antarctica. This was close to the end of what has become known as the heroic age of Antarctic exploration, which included treks by the Norwegian Roald Amundsen, who in 1911 was the first to reach the pole, and by Robert Falcon Scott, a Briton who died after reaching it a month later.

Shackleton never made it to the pole or beyond, but his leadership in rescuing all his crew and his exploits, which included an 800-mile open-boat journey across the treacherous Southern Ocean to the island of South Georgia, made him a hero in Britain.

Shackleton was tripped up by the Weddell's notoriously thick, long-lasting sea ice, which results from a circular current that keeps much ice within it. In early January 1915 Endurance became stuck less than 100 miles from its destination and drifted with the ice for more than 10 months as the ice slowly crushed it.

Ship found that 'sailed off into a crack in the lake'

By Christine Hauser

Condensed from the New York Times, March 11, 2022

On May 4, 1891, as gale-force winds and waves raged on Lake Superior, the crew of a schooner barge named Atlanta abandoned ship as it sank. The six men and one woman, a cook, clung to their lifeboat for nine hours, fighting at its oars to guide it to the Michigan shore.

As they neared land, according to archival news reports, the lifeboat capsized 200 yards from a distant rescue patrol, which mistook it for a tree trunk rolling in the turbulent water. Six of the crew members managed to climb back in the boat, but it flipped again. Only two people survived.

This month, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society said that the wreckage of the Atlanta had been found in the world's largest freshwater lake.

"Just suddenly, our cameras were on it," Bruce Lynn, the executive director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Paradise, Mich., said.

Lake Superior has historically been crisscrossed by shipping lanes. The high volume of traffic meant collisions, which meant hundreds of ships sank, turning the deepest terrain of the lake into a maritime graveyard ripe for discovery.

In 2021, the shipwreck society, the nonprofit that operates the museum, had its best season for locating wrecks, Lynn said, helped by good weather and side-scan sonar, which sends and receives acoustic pulses that help map the seafloor and detect submerged objects. It discovered nine shipwrecks, including the Atlanta, the

most in any season, after towing the sonar 2,500 miles, said Darryl Ertel, the society's director of marine operations.

Last July, the society's researchers picked up a feature 650 feet deep that they could not immediately identify and marked it for future exploration.

Lynn returned with the crew in August. The weather was calm. They lowered a remote-controlled device into the water. As its camera ranged, a ship came into view, its scrollwork glistening in the clear water. (Lake Superior does not have the invasive zebra mussels that encrust wrecks in the other Great Lakes.)

Lake Superior's shipwrecks are interwoven with history. In 1918, as World War I drew to a close, two minesweepers built in Canada for France sank, killing dozens of sailors. In 1975, the Edmund Fitzgerald, one of the largest freighters on the Great Lakes, sank amid driving snow with 29 men on board without sending a distress signal, becoming a cultural legend.

About 550 shipwrecks have been located in the lake, while up to 40 vessels remain missing. Their journeys have been recorded by officials at locks — the passageways that connect the lakes — and in newspaper reports about ship traffic. "'Sailed off into a crack in the lake' is the phrase you often saw a century ago," local historian Fred. Stonehouse said.

The Atlanta will remain undisturbed. A Michigan law makes it illegal to raise shipwrecks, but Lynn said it would also be like raiding a burial plot.

Sunken 1836 whaling ship found in Gulf

By Maggie Astor

Condensed from the New York Times, March 23, 2022

The shipwreck formally known as No. 15563 has been identified as *Industry*, the only whaling ship known to have sunk in the Gulf of Mexico.

It was built in 1815 and capsized in a storm on May 26, 1836. Its rediscovery — and the fate of its crew, which most likely included Black Americans, white Americans and Native Americans — opens a window into the maritime and racial life of the antebellum United States.

The ship's remains were first documented in 2011, when a geological data company scanning an oil lease area spotted the carcass of a ship at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. Following standard procedures, the company reported its finding to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which logged the wreck as No. 15563 and left it alone.

The world's seabeds are covered in shipwrecks, and oil contractors stumble across them all the time. But James P. Delgado, of Search Inc., a CRM firm, was interested in this one because the description from the oil contractor mentioned a tryworks, a type of furnace unique to whaling vessels.

When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration needed to test new equipment in the Gulf of Mexico, it asked Search Inc. if there were any wrecks it was interested in exploring.

From his office last month, Delgado directed the crew of NOAA's *Okeanos Explorer* vessel as it piloted a remotely operated vehicle around the wreck, under 6,000 feet of water some 70 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi River.

The whaling trade was booming when *Industry* set sail, and in Northern coastal towns like Westport, Mass., it brought together Black Americans, white Americans and Native Americans to a degree that was rare in other sectors. One prominent ship builder was Paul Cuffe, the son of a freed slave and a member of the Wampanoag tribe, and one of Cuffe's own sons, William, was on the crew of *Industry*.

The Cuffe family "hired almost all Blacks and Indians for their ships, and they made sure all those people were paid equally according to their shipboard rank," said Lee Blake, the president of the New Bedford Historical Society and a descendant of Cuffe. "That's a whole different way of looking at work at a time when you had Southern ports which, of course, were enslaving Native Americans and African Americans."

The racial makeup of *Industry*'s crew would have constrained its options when it ran into trouble, because Black members would have been imprisoned and potentially sold into slavery if they had docked at a Southern port. Most whalers avoided the Gulf of Mexico altogether; according to research by Judith Lund, a historian

who worked for the New Bedford Whaling Museum, only 214 whaling voyages are known to have sailed in the Gulf from the 1780s through the 1870s.

The crew of *Industry* survived, saved by being picked up by another ship from the North.

The most interesting discoveries in marine archaeology are not always ships whose names are in textbooks, Delgado said, but instead "these ships that speak to the everyday experience."

Virginia tribe wins burial site battle

By Gillian Brockell

Condensed from the Washington Post, March 18, 2022

A four-year battle between a Native American tribe and a Virginia water authority has ended after both parties agreed to a new location for water facilities, the tribe announced Wednesday.

The original project would have destroyed much of a site believed to be the Monacan Indian Nation's historic capital of Rassawek.

"This fight has been long and hard, but we are filled with joy to see Rassawek preserved and our ancestors respected," tribal Chief Kenneth Branham said in a virtual news conference.

The project was announced in 2017 without consulting the Monacans, according to one of the tribe's attorney, Greg Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners.

At the time of European settlement in the early 1600s, the Monacans numbered about 10,000 people living in what is now Virginia, according to the nation's website.

In 1612, when Capt. John Smith published a map of his ventures up the James River, it included the locations of five Monacan villages, including the "chiefest town" of Rassawek, a major trading town.

As White settlers pushed west, the Monacans were forced off their land and dispersed to areas now occupied by North Carolina, Tennessee and perhaps even Canada.

Beginning in the 1880s, Smithsonian archeologists have found evidence of "extensive burial grounds," according to Werkheiser. Carbon dating and other methods of investigation have shown the Monacans' presence at Rassawek for more than 4,000 years, according to the tribe. In 2020, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Rassawek one of the most endangered historic sites in the country.

Though Native American tribes in Virginia were among the first Indigenous peoples to meet English settlers, their descendants have been among the last to receive federal recognition. This is largely a legacy of Walter Plecker, a white supremacist who for decades ran the commonwealth's Bureau of Vital Statistics and pushed the Racial Integrity Act of 1924. The act banned interracial marriage and forced all births in the state to be classified with one of two designations, "White" or "Colored."

This "paper genocide," as it is sometimes called, effectively erased Native Americans from Virginia records.

Branham was moved to tears when describing the challenges his mother faced while trying to register her four children for public school in the early 1960s. Although the siblings all had the same mother and father, each had a different racial designation, including "Mixed Indian," "Negro" and "Issue," Branham said. ("Issue" or "Free Issue" was an antiquated designation for descendants of enslaved people who were freed before the Civil War.)

Decades after Plecker's death, missing and altered birth certificates made it harder for descendants of Virginia's Indigenous people to get federal recognition, even with an abundance of other evidence. Six Virginia tribes, including the Monacans, finally won federal recognition in 2018.

About 500 Monacans live in Amherst County, including Branham, and there are about 2,100 total members of the tribe.

CRM manager Chris Goodwin dies at 73

Chris Goodwin, head of the cultural resources management firm R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, died February 18 at the age of 73. He started his company some 40 years ago after receiving degrees in Louisiana, Florida and Arizona. In addition to gaining many honors during his lifetime, he was a generous friend to ASM and Maryland archeology.

TV show 'Hunting Atlantis' finds a bit of skepticism

By Candida Moss

Condensed from the Daily Beast, September 12, 2021

This summer a new documentary TV series premiered on the Discovery Channel. *Hunting Atlantis* follows a pair of experts "on a quest to solve the greatest archeological mystery of all time—the rediscovery of Atlantis." There's just one problem: there's not an ancient historian or archeologist working in the field today who believes Atlantis was a real historical city.

Academics and documentary filmmakers often find themselves at odds, but as criticism of the show spilled over onto social media things turned ugly. A well-respected archeologist was verbally abused by a flood of true believers.

Hunting Atlantis is co-hosted by Stel Pavlou and volcanologist Jess Phoenix. Phoenix is an expert in natural disasters (specifically volcanic eruptions), who has spent a great deal of time in the field as a geologist. Pavlou is a successful TV host, producer, screenwriter and bestselling author.

The basis for their show is Pavlou's argument that the date of Atlantis's destruction should be placed at the beginning of the fifth millennium BCE.

That the show has something of a sensational bent is to be expected; making archeology TV friendly often involves inflating or sensationalizing what can otherwise be quite dry material. There are also certain ancient artifacts and locations—like the Holy Grail or Noah's Ark—that hold the attention of viewers and will always be evergreens for documentary history-telling.

Our sources for Atlantis are the philosophical dialogues of Plato in which characters in the fictional dialog have a hypothetical conversation about the ideal society. Atlantis, in Plato's imagination, was a technologically advanced and harmonious society that gradually descended into corruption, disorder and greedy warmongering. It was ultimately destroyed by a series of earthquakes that led to the city disappearing into the ocean.

It was the presentation of Atlantis as an actual place that drew concern from archeologists when the show was first announced in May 2021. With so much rigorous archeological research going undiscussed and underfunded, there was a palpable sense of frustration that a popular channel would air another show on what experts call pseudoarcheology.

Pavlou told me he was frustrated with the response from academics on social media. "At no point have I ever claimed Atlantis is real," he said, "I find it hard to believe [Plato] invented the whole story."

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

May 17: TBD

Charles County

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

Mid-Potomac

Until further notice, all meetings will be by Zoom starting at 7p.m., with the presentation at 7:30. For up-to-date information, including links to Zoom meetings, check our Chapter website at www.asmmidpotomac.org or contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526.

April 21: Ralph Buglass, chapter member and local historian, will talk on Post-Civil War race relations in Montgomery County.

May 16 (note day change to Monday): Lew Toulmin, chapter member and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, will speak on: "Montpelier Expedition: Digging into the Mysterious 'Burn Site' and into Eleven Generations of Black History."

Monocacy

Meetings are at 7 p.m. Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick. For more information, visit the chapter's web page monocacyarcheology@gmail.com or call 301-378-0212.

April 13: Live meetings resume with Kelley Berliner, eastern director of The Archeological Conservancy, talking about the ongoing work of the Conservancy. Highlighted sites include the Thunderbird Paleoindian site in Virginia.

Northern Chesapeake

A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410- 273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

April 13: Live meetings resume. Dan Coates and Barry Sawyer will tell about the unique Cecil County life of Lindsey Price and his recent donation of Native American artifacts from his farm near Earleville. At the Historical Society of Cecil County in Elkton.

Sunday May 15: Annual picnic. At the Upper Bay Museum at the North East Community Park.

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at Ccoogan@smcm.edu

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, 410 313 0423.

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 Website: <http://tinyurl.com/wmdasm>

April 22: Robert Wall will give a presentation on the Susquehannock occupation during the 1600s.

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. For publication sales, not including newsletter or journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace MD 20178-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net

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