

ASM Ink



February 2025, Vol. 52, No. 2

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Upcoming Activities

March 8, 2025 – ASM Board Meeting

March 19-23 – MAAC Conference

April 5, 2025 – ASM Spring Symposium on Archeology

April 12, 2025 - Discovering Archaeology Day at Jefferson Patterson Park

President's Note

I always love a good snow, so beautiful, refreshing and peaceful and the shoveling gets us ready for the spring excavation season!

Coming up, the ASM Field Session committee will be meeting and we will let you know all the details as soon as possible. Also, this spring the MAAC conference, March 19 - 23, is being held in Gettysburg, this may be much closer for many of our members, please consider attending.

We also have two groups working hard this month. One is taking a look at developing a code of conduct/ethics for ASM and the other is looking for a better option for hosting our journals online. More information will be provided as we move ahead with both of these projects.

Hope you and your family are well and I look forward to seeing you soon!

--Valerie

Heather Bouslog Retires

Heather Bouslog, Montgomery Parks Senior Archaeologist and Volunteer Program Coordinator, retired at the end of 2024 after some 36 years of service. Over this period, Heather has worked with ASM Mid-Potomac Chapter members and other Parks



Archaeology volunteers in a variety of roles. She has led excavations at Park-owned sites such as Oakley Cabin, Zeigler Log House, Josiah Henson, Darby Store, Blockhouse Point, Seneca Store, and Palmer/Robinson Rockshelter, as well as numerous shovel test pit and pedestrian surveys. She also has supervised weekly daytime and monthly nighttime artifact conservation, cataloguing, and research at Parks Archaeology's Needwood laboratory. Further, Heather organized and oversaw numerous public outreach events, including Family Archaeology Day, Discovering Archaeology Day, Harvest Festival, Maryland Emancipation Day, Rockville Science Day, Kites Over Clarksburg, and Mud Fest.

Additionally, she has been one of the ASM Mid-Potomac Chapter's most stalwart supporters. A number of years ago, when she and Montgomery Parks Archaeologist Jim Sorensen resurrected the Chapter, Heather served as its secretary/treasurer. More recently, she has played a vital role as the Parks Archaeology liaison at Chapter Board of Directors meetings and at monthly Chapter meetings. She also has been a perennial member of the Chapter's Elections Committee and the procurer of the feast for in-person Chapter meetings and the Chapter's annual holiday extravaganza, during which she also has shouldered the seminal role of the beleaguered "Alex" in our archaeology-based Jeopardy game.

In recognition of Heather's invaluable years of service to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery County Parks Volunteer Archaeology Program, Heather, at her retirement open-house, was given the Vismara Award for Excellence in Volunteer Program Management.

2025 ASM, Inc. New Project Applications

I am excited to announce that after a review of last year's ASM New Project process, the board was in favor of offering another year of this process.

Applications are now being accepted, but must be received by February 28, 2025.

- Applicants should submit the ASM Project Request Form (attached) along with any supporting documentation to: Valerie.Hall@marylandarcheology.org
- The ASM, Inc. New Project Review Group (appointed by the ASM President) will review and:
 - Provide a recommendation or
 - Ask for additional information
- If a project is recommended by the New Project Review Group, the Proposal will be brought to the Executive Board for Vote
- Decisions will be provided to the requestor and published in the Ink
- For 2025, we designated \$15,000 for the year with a suggested cap of \$5,000 per request
- A second round of applications may be solicited in the summer, based on availability of funds
- Grantees will be expected to provide a brief article for the Ink and submit a Journal article for consideration.

We look forward to reading and reviewing your projects!

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

Help bring back the PaleoDigger to Barton in 2025! We are raising \$5,000!

In the summer of 2024, grants from [ArchaeologyX](#) and the Archeological Society of Maryland's new Project Fund facilitated a one-week field session where the PaleoDigger, an innovative mechanized system designed to excavate test pits up to seven meters in depth, was used to investigate the stratified deposits at The Herman Barton Village Site (18AG3) in Allegany County, Maryland. The site spans over thirty acres and is managed by The Archaeological Conservancy. Excavation via the PaleoDigger is the only technique viable for the deep sampling of the stratified deposits at Barton.

The 2024 PaleoDigger session resulted in the excavation of ten test pits that reached depths over three meters below ground surface. The limited test pitting yielded exciting results including the discovery of a deeply buried 13,000-year-old Clovis activity area around two meters below the current ground surface!

Financial support is being sought to facilitate a return of the PaleoDigger to the Barton Site in 2025. ASM is seeking to raise \$5,000 to cover the costs of the heavy equipment rental necessary to operate the PaleoDigger at Barton. These investigations will focus on defining the boundaries of the activity area discovered in 2024 and also prospecting for additional Clovis-age activity areas across the Barton Site.

Although a specific date has not been set for this project, like all ASM excavation projects, volunteers will be encouraged to help in this fieldwork. As shown during the last PaleoDigger project, we will need many screeners as well as people to help out with many other aspects of the fieldwork.

The Official MHT Reel: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/15j6H8WpR4/>

To donate online via PayPal: go to [Projects - 2025 PaleoDigger](#).

Checks can be written to:

Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (or ASM Inc.)
with "2025 PaleoDigger" in the note section and mailed to:

4812 Levada Terrace
Rockville, MD 20853

The Strata #1

Help Bring Back the Paleodigger to Barton!

ASM Volunteers joke that we only take photos of each other sitting down or with our butts in the air. Here, Zac is swallowed by the PaleoDigger Test Pit. The PaleoDigger dug three meters down at the last Barton dig and can dig seven meters, if necessary, to hunt buried PaleoIndian artifacts and features. The more PTPs (PaleoDigger Test Pits) that are dug at the Barton Site, the more we will know about the PaleoIndians in Western Maryland.

We'll see if we lose Zac next time.



Follow the PaleoDigger fundraiser's progress in the *ASM Ink*!



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

More workshops TBA.



**NEW
OPPORTUNITY!**

**CRESAP'S FORT LAB DAYS
18AG9**

**MHT CROWNSVILLE LAB
MOST THURSDAYS
9AM - 2PM**

TEMPORARY OFFERING

**CONTACT DR. ZACHARY SINGER AT
ZACHARY.SINGER@MARYLAND.GOV**

Hands-on archaeology

@ Washington College

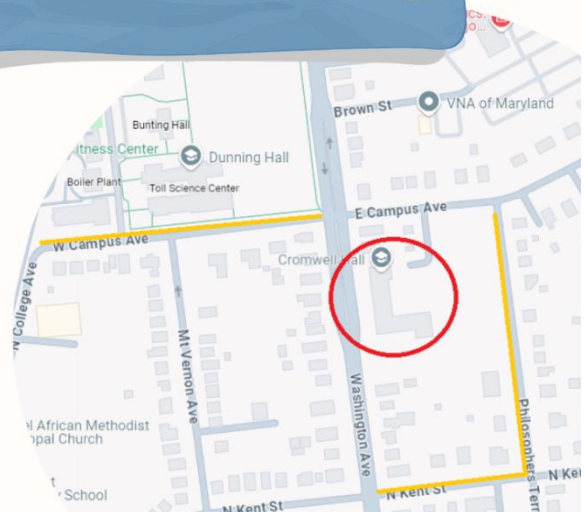
Work with artifacts from the Eastern Shore.
No prior experience needed!



- Wednesdays, 10:00–1:00
- February 5 – April 30
**except 3/12 & 3/19*
- Semans-Griswold Hall
- parking noted in blue

Contact Dr. Julie Markin at
jmarkin2@washcoll.edu

- Tuesdays, 1:00–4:00
- February 11 – April 22
**except 3/11 & 3/18*
- Cromwell Hall
- parking noted in yellow



Member's Recommendation:

The New York Times requires a subscription to read the article. It's not quite archeology but sounds fascinating and worth a read.

Dinosaur Footprints Found in England by Quarry Workers - The New York Times

Megalosaurus Tracks Called a 'Spine-Tingling' Find

By LYNSEY CHUTEL

LONDON — Quarry workers in England have discovered the clawed footprints of a 30-foot-tall predator and the sunken tracks of other dinosaurs, in what paleontologists are calling one of the most significant finds in Britain in nearly three decades.

A trail of five distinct prints was uncovered last summer in a quarry in Oxfordshire, about 60 miles northwest of London, scientists announced last week. The prints belong to herbivores and carnivores that roamed the area during the Middle Jurassic period, around 166 million years ago.

Rather than the grasslands that blanket the area today, Jurassic Oxfordshire more resembled the Florida Keys, humid with lagoons and muddy swamps — prime territory for dinosaur feet to sink into the ground.

The area, first excavated in 1997, had already become known among paleontologists as the "dinosaur highway." Scientists have found more than 40 sets of footprints across nearly 200 yards of pathways. The new tracks expand it into one of the largest sites of dinosaur discoveries in the world, said Emma Nicholls, a vertebrate paleontologist and collections manager at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

"These recent discoveries prove there is still new evidence of these animals out there, waiting to be found," Dr. Nicholls said.

At first, the quarry workers did not think much of the abnormality they found while clearing clay in late 2023. The first trace of a dinosaur was just a hump in the ground, said Mark Stanway, who manages the quarry. But a pattern emerged: the tracks. A series of humps, each about 10 feet apart, turned out to be the last vestiges of giants who died tens of millions of years ago.

Paleontologists from the University of Birmingham and Oxford first visited the site in November 2023, finding clawed, three-toed footprints in a shape that has become associated with dinosaurs in popular culture. "It's like a caricature of a dinosaur," Dr. Nicholls said.

Those tracks were made by a megalosaurus, a ferocious predator that stood roughly 30 feet tall, weighed one and a half tons and walked on its hind legs. Megalosaurus was the first dinosaur ever to be scientifically named and described at Oxford, in 1824.

"We were excavating new trackways of megalosaurus in 2024, which of course is the 200th anniversary," Dr. Nicholls said. "Completely coincidental but really spine-tingling."

The other four prints belonged to one species, likely a herbivorous sauropod, a family of dinosaurs known for their long necks and tails, small heads and thick pillars for legs — features that made them the largest land animals ever.

The footprints were more than three feet long and one and a half feet deep, about the size of a baby's bathtub, said Kirsty Edgar, a professor of micropaleontology at the University of Birmingham.

The researchers said they could not tell precisely what species of sauropod made the print but believed it was a cetiosaurus, a dinosaur some 60 feet long and weighing roughly two tons, because of previous fossil finds in the area.

The tracks also give scientists some insight into how the animals behaved, particularly at the point where the different species' paths interact.

For much of the path, the sauropods seem to be walking at a steady pace heading north. But then, suddenly, one of the animal's left feet lands too close to the previous one, suggesting that it stopped and possibly looked over its shoulder.

Though the scientists cannot determine exactly when the prints were made, the prints hint at a moment of interaction.

"It's very possible that the cetiosaurus is actually stopping to look back at the megalosaurus," Dr. Nicholls said.

The sets of sauropod footprints are also different sizes, showing that the animals might have moved in a herd with juveniles or traveled alongside smaller herbivores. The megalosaurus, the apex predator at the time, moved alone.

"A body fossil is the death of the animal," Dr. Edgar said, "whereas we're getting a kind of snapshot of what these multiple animals were doing in life."

In addition to its swampy features, Jurassic Oxfordshire was affected by higher sea levels. Inside the prints, scientists found evidence of marine life, namely brachiopods, gastropods, bivalves and echinoids, shelled invertebrates that resemble mollusks and sea urchins today, said Dr. Nicholls.

In the nearly 30 years since tracks were first discovered in the area, technology has rapidly progressed, allowing scientists to more successfully record their findings.

During the seven days last summer when the teams of scientists worked on site, they took hundreds of pictures, created molds, recorded drone footage of the site and created three-dimensional models, allowing further study of prints that may now be lost to the elements.

Work at the quarry went on unaffected, Mr. Stanway said, adding that he would not be surprised to find more tracks in years to come.

In a handout photograph, excavating 166-million-year-old footprints at a quarry in Oxfordshire last June.

EMMA NICHOLLS/OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, VIA AFP

That's some archaeology!

Jan 5, 2025 p A8 NEW YORK TIMES

Volunteer Opportunities

ASM Volunteers Needed:

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

MHT Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Thursday is temporary and is the Cresap's site only): 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 link: <https://montgomeryparks.org/activities/history-in-the-parks/archaeology/>

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.

Chapter News

Central Chapter

Central Chapter meetings are by Zoom only. Katharine Fernstrom sends the link to the email group. Stay tuned for more details. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact Katharine Fernstrom at katharine.fernstrom@marylandarcheology.org

Charles County

Meets in person September through April at the Community Room of the LaPlata Police Department in LaPlata, MD on the third Thursday of the month. Email ccasm2010@gmail.com for more information.

Eastern Shore

Dates and events are on chapter's website [ASM Eastern Shore \(google.com\)](http://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.

All events are open to anyone who wants to attend!

Sunday, February 23, 2025 - 3:00pm

Eastern Shore Higher Education Center, Chesapeake College, Queenstown, MD 21658

Guest Speaker: Troy Nowak

Topic: Submerged pre-contact sites off Janes Island in Dorchester County

Sunday, March 30, 2025 - 3:00pm

Eastern Shore Higher Education Center, Chesapeake College, Queenstown, MD 21658

Guest Speakers: Jennifer Barbiarz and Lisa Robbins

Topic: Overseer's Housing as Negotiated Space in a Plantation Surveillance Landscape

Saturday, April 27th, 2025 - Chicone Village Day at Handsell House in Vienna, MD (our chapter will have a table) - 10am-4pm

Sunday, May 4th, 2025 - Tour of Pemberton Hall and grounds in Salisbury, MD with Bill Wilson (time TBD)

Open lab at Washington College:

Tuesdays from noon - 3pm: December 3 and 10

Wednesdays from 10am - 1pm: December 4 and 11

Contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month from September through June. In-person meetings begin at 7pm. for the business meeting followed by a presentation at around 7:30. **For the beginning of 2025, the location of the chapter meetings has changed. The new location is at the ADU Showroom, 8501 Grovemont Cir, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.** Please contact Don Housley for directions, if necessary.

Pizza will be available before the in-person meeting starting at 6:30pm for \$5 per person. If virtual meetings are necessary, they will be via Zoom with the business meeting also starting at 7 p.m. and the presentation around 7:30.

Thursday, February 20, 2025 (Zoom meeting): Beth Bollwerk, Ph.D., Project Manager for the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, will give a presentation updating the research done on the early 17th century Flowerdew Hundred Plantation along the James River. For Zoom codes please email Don Housley.

Thursday, March 20, 2025: Tom McLaughlin and Karen Gordon, chapter members, will speak on their visits to several Prehistoric decorated caves in France.

Thursday, April 17, 2025: MHT Terrestrial Archaeologist, Zac Singer, will give a presentation on the Barton site in western Maryland.

Thursday, May 15, 2025: Ralph Buglass, chapter member and local historian, will give a talk on the Montgomery County railroad town of Derwood.

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

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 from 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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