

ASM Ink

July 2023, Vol. 50, No. 7

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org

Update: Field Session Preliminary Report

The 2023 Tyler Bastion field session at the Chapel Branch West site on the middle Choptank River was quite productive! Shovel test pits conducted in the area by participants in the 2022 ASM field session identified a buried cultural level of indigenous activity. Thanks to the incredibly pleasant/cool weather, we excavated 19 units and 24 shovel test pits, many to a depth of almost one meter.

Going into the session, we expected the cultural level to be buried below a 40-cm thick level of plowed soil. As we excavated the units, it became clear that the area had not been plowed, at least not with more industrial means to develop the typical plowzone churned distribution of fragmented artifacts. This was a real treat, especially as the sandy soils made for easy screening and a lack of heavy plowing enabled the recovery of large pieces of pottery.



Shovel Test Pits

Across the excavation area, mixed gravel and clay deposits were present beneath the upper 25-cm of soil. Review of FEMA flood zone maps revealed the site is situated within the 500-year flood zone. While safe from annual flooding, the site was inundated by at least one major flooding event prior to the arrival (AD 1600s) of Europeans in the area.

Beneath the flood deposits lies a large (40m x 20m) midden that is rich with pottery, flaked stone tools and debitage, and small quantities of food remains (mammal and fish bones as well as nut shells). It is



Middle Woodland Fabric Impressed

likely that the sandy nature of the soil impeded the preservation of much of the organic material. This might explain the relative absence of oysters, but the freshwater nature of the Choptank at this location may be the greater influence. As is generally the case with archaeological investigation, intriguing questions have arisen from what we were finding. A variety of ceramic types, some expected and some unusual, were identified. These include Late Woodland Townsend (MD) and Minguanan (DE) wares. Early-Middle Woodland types are more varied, with Wolfe Neck, Coulbourn, Accokeek, and Vinette II wares present. Mockley wares were oddly absent but an as-yet unidentified quartz-tempered cord- or fabric-impressed ware was prevalent. Late Archaic Piscataway, Middle Woodland Jack's Reef Pentagonal, and Late Woodland Levanna and Madison points were also recovered.



Levanna Point

Following the ASM field session, the Washington College Archaeology Field School excavated a



Hearth

probable hearth that was filled with thousands of fish vertebrae as well as numerous bones from a juvenile deer. Two incised pipe fragments and a few small pieces of Minguanan Fabric Impressed suggest this is a very late Late Woodland feature. Excavation of additional units to the north of the core excavation area indicate that the cultural level extends 40m farther to the north.

Although the single hearth is the only structural feature thus located, the Chapel Branch West site clearly was a bustling location for thousands of years, drawing ideas, objects, and – likely – people from the larger Chesapeake region to the shores of the Middle Choptank River. What these interactions looked like and/or how these influences came to the area are questions we'd love to be able to answer.

A huge “thank you!” to everyone who was part of the work at the Chapel Branch West site this year. Without your enthusiastic support and sweat, we would not be asking these questions now.

Dr. Julie Markin

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology

Director of Washington College Archaeology

ASM President's Note

What a busy time of year! Archeology month followed by the Field Session and (honestly, I was hoping for a bit of a lull) the activities keep on rolling.

I can't possibly begin to thank everyone who helped make the 2023 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology a fantastic success. It was eleven days of beautiful weather, new and old friends, incredible discovery, hard work, and enjoyment. I do specifically want to thank the landowners and their neighbors for their generosity, first in sharing this fabulous site (in their front yard!) and in a myriad of additional ways. Again, this year, they jointly hosted ASM's Feast, a beautiful time of enjoying the Choptank, good food, and friends.

Lots of other exciting news are afoot. Our chapters continue to attend outreach events in their areas. These events are often a great opportunity to educate about the scientific study of archeological sites and emphasize the importance of preserving sites, excavating as little as possible, and discouraging the removal of artifacts from their original locations. As we discussed in April, context is everything. In addition, the board approved a payment from the Analysis Fund to Stephen Israeli and Tom Devilbiss for reimbursement of one RC-14 DIRECTAMS radiocarbon date processing cost. In exchange, they offered to submit an article about the field investigation findings to date at the Bompard Pre-Contact archaeology site in northern Carroll County, Maryland. We can all look forward to reading more about it in the August issue of ASM Ink.

After several additional events on my calendar, my thoughts are turning to our fall activities. The MHT Workshop in Archeology is always a highlight, exact date and time will be available soon. And the Monocacy Archeological Society is preparing for the ASM Annual Meeting which will be held on

October 14, 2023, at Frederick Community College; it is shaping up to be a wonderful day of talks and fellowship.

Now is also the time to make your plans and reservations to attend the Eastern States Archeological Federation 90th Annual Meeting, October 26-29, 2023, in Ocean City, Maryland. Every several years, Maryland has the opportunity to host and 2023 is our year. We are jointly hosting with the Archeological Society of Delaware and we need your help. Chapter Presidents are encouraged to provide a brief talk about activities in their area and folks will be asked to help with registration and supporting the refreshment breaks.

You do not want to miss the Thursday Tours and the Canadian-American Friendship Reception (trust me, this is a must attend.) In addition, the Saturday evening banquet speaker will be Dr. Julie King: *Revisiting Portobago: A Mid- to Late 17th Century*.

Definitely hope to see all of you there. [Annual Meeting | ESAF Eastern States Archaeological Federation \(esaf-archeology.org\)](#)

Be safe, enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Valerie L. Hall

Upcoming Events

September Board Meeting: Exact date TBD

October 14: Annual Meeting in Frederick, hosted by the Monocacy Chapter

October 26-29: ESAF Annual Meeting in Ocean City Maryland

Volunteer Opportunities

ASM Volunteers Needed:

Assistant Web Master: A person who would back up John Fiveash with our current WebSite. This position will likely be involved in a transition to a more easily customizable webpage. Experience with E-Commerce, database integration and Google Workspace would be helpful.

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 jamesgibb@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

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 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.

Monocacy Chapter

A volunteer is needed in one of 2 critical areas of most immediate importance (please send me an email if interested) monocacyarcheology@gmail.com

A chapter secretary/treasurer - a fluid position that is organizational/administrative in nature. Estimated approx 2-hours a week = processing chapter memberships, minor simple spreadsheet recordkeeping and maintaining chapter records.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Click on [Fieldwork - Archaeological Institute of America](#) to get started.

Cat Corner

Workshops will be announced in the Fall. Contact Tom with any CAT questions at mclaugh01@verizon.net

News

Launch of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Act

A bipartisan United States Congress passed the Southern Maryland National Heritage Act (included in the Heritage Areas Act) on Dec. 22, 2022. It was signed into law by President Biden Jan. 25, 2023. May 25, 2023, at Piscataway Park in Accokeek Maryland, Governor Wes Moore, numerous members of the Maryland State and the Federal governments, Piscataway Tribal leaders, and descendants of Maryland's First Peoples and the enslaved gathered to celebrate the launch of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Act.



Chief of The Piscataway Indian Nation, Mark Tayak

Chief of The Piscataway Indian Nation, Mark Tayak, reminded us that Piscataway Park has been the historical seat of the Piscataway Peoples government for over 15,000 years and that who they were and who they are today as Piscataway People is intermingled with the land we stand on. Frances Gray, chairman of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, spoke of inverting the narrative, allowing Maryland's Indigenous Peoples to tell their story of purpose, resilience and overcoming the challenges that forever changed their way of life.

Governor Wes Moore began with, "Today we gather to celebrate the history of the Piscataway Indian nation and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe - and the

history of all communities that have shared the rich heritage of Southern Maryland." Governor Moore called for unity of all Maryland's Indigenous Peoples, all communities. To applause and an enthusiastic, "Praise the Lord", he called for an unflinching, honest teaching of history. "Yesss, yes", he replied. An, "Amen", came from the crowd. We were asked to stand and hold hands. I thought we should sing Amazing Grace but we did not. I was also thinking of the Native words, Aho Mitakuye Oyasin, meaning that I honor all my relations; the two legged, the four legged, winged, finned, creepy crawlers, earth, rocks, water and sky, a reflection of the Native world view.

A performance by youth rhythm drummers and gospel singers ended the speechmaking, segueing to food and Native drumming and dancing. The song Lift Every Voice and Sing brought us to our feet, swaying, reaching once again for hands to hold, giving voice to the power of knowing and honoring history.

The Full Ceremony of the Launch can be found at <https://youtu.be/FtW7KePAIsA>

Lynne Bulhack
ASM Native American Liaison

Catoctin Furnace: Forged in Slavery

Bravo! Bravo! Bravo, I say, following the June 6th screening and premiere of the Smithsonian Channel's *America's Hidden Stories: Forged in Slavery*, held at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in downtown Frederick. The one-hour, Season 3, Episode 3, aired on television June 12th, and is available from both The Smithsonian Channel and Paramount Plus channels. Following the premiere, a ticketed reception with the documentary crew, Smithsonian Institution staff and scholars, and cast members was held to benefit the African American Resources, Cultural Heritage Society of Frederick County (AARCH) and their Heritage Center scheduled to open in 2024. The episode is devoted to recent research advances by the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. which formed in 1973, to "foster and promote the educational and scientific purposes...to exhibit to coming generations our heritage of the past."

The Catoctin Furnace, an industry complex and associated village, of which several structures and workers houses remain today, is located just south of Thurmont, Maryland, and is credited with outfitting and supplying the American Revolution, and our young nation, with various iron products of military, domestic, and industrial application from the 1770s to early twentieth century. The history of enslaved labor at the Furnace became overshadowed by that of a supplanted immigrant labor force, particularly Irish and German, that carried Furnace operations to its closure in 1903. Descendants of these immigrants still live in the village. As identified in the National Park Service's Catoctin Mountain Park Historic Resource Survey, until the mid-1830s slaves provided at least half of the labor at the furnace.

Elizabeth Comer, who is modestly referred to as a volunteer or secretary for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., is pushing fostering and promoting to the limits. She is in-fact co-Principal Investigator of an on-going joint Smithsonian Institution bioarchaeological research project with both Dr. Doug Owsley and Dr. Kari Bruwelheide together working collaboratively with the Reich Laboratory for Medical and Population Genetics at Harvard University, in analyzing the human remains of Catoctin's enslaved population. With the science (craniometric analysis, stable isotope, and DNA data) coupled with archival records, she embarked on a search to determine the historical trajectory of the enslaved Furnace population, with the added hope of finding and reaching descendants.

The multi-faceted approach has delivered and personalized the historical narrative far beyond what could ever be inferred, deciphered, or interpreted from archaeological excavations alone. Prompted by improvements of U.S. 15 in 1979, subsequent Maryland State Highway Administration emergency excavations uncovered thirty-five unrecorded and unknown persons representing a portion of the enslaved labor at the Furnace. Their remains have been stored at the Smithsonian for the last four decades, and their stories are coming to light and life. No spoiler alert here; you must see the program for yourself. I have an invite and hope for Elizabeth Comer to catch us up on the goings-on of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, for the 2023 ASM Annual Meeting; namely the completion of two facial reconstructions (2020), the opening of the Museum of the Ironworker, and their future endeavors. Kudos to the Society's work and the stance that every life mattered, and every past matters now.

**Jeremy Lazelle,
Monocacy Chapter President**

Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF)

ESAF 90th Annual Meeting, October 26-29, 2023, Ocean City, Maryland

[Annual Meeting | ESAF Eastern States Archaeological Federation \(esaf-archeology.org\)](https://esaf-archeology.org)

This ESAF Annual Meeting is going to be a Hybrid format allowing both in-person and remote presentations and attendance.

ESAF Call for Papers: For complete information follow [ESAF 2023 Call for Papers \(esaf-archeology.org\)](https://esaf-archeology.org)

Annual Meeting Registration will be through the ESAF Web Site: [ESAF | Eastern States Archeological Federation - Home \(esaf-archeology.org\)](http://esaf-archeology.org)

Tim Abel, the ESAF Treasurer will be in-charge of Annual Meeting Registration.
The contact persons will be Ed Otter for ASD and Stephen Israel for ASM.

Questions on Session Themes and Questions about Abstracts. ASM Chapters and members are encouraged to submit Abstracts on their current archaeological investigations and research.

Contact Program Chair, Stephen Israel

For general inquiries, contact Dr. Zac Singer, ESAF President.

Announcement No. I:

The Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) needs volunteers for the Registration Table

ASM Members are needed to run the Registration Table, on the Second Floor Lobby, at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront on Friday and Saturday, from 8 AM to 4 PM, October 27th and October 28th. ASM Members who volunteer for a two-hour shift will have their Annual Meeting Registration of \$45 waived. Sixteen Two Hour Shifts are available, eight persons per day.

Interested ASM Members should contact Stephen Israel at ssisrael140@gmail.com or by phone at (410) 945-5514.

This announcement is also being shared with the Archaeological Society of Delaware members seeking volunteers.

Announcement No. II

Sponsors needed for the Friday Evening Canadian-American Friendship Reception - October 27, 2023, 8 PM- 10PM.

The ESAF host society chapters traditionally sponsor the Friday Evening Reception and bring light refreshments and beer. We anticipate 30 to 40 attendees at the Friday Evening Reception. The Hotel Suite location is to be announced.

Note: ASM hosted the 1957, 1984, 2000, and 2014 ESAF Annual Meetings.

Interested ASM Chapters and individuals who would like to bring light refreshments and beer should contact Stephen Israel at ssisrael140@gmail.com or by phone at (410) 945-5514.

Marye Award

It's time to think of nominees for Marye Award

Each year, ASM honors a person who has made significant contributions to Maryland archeology with the Society's highest honor, The William B. Marye Award.

Nominations for the award are made by ASM members. The winners need not be a Marylander or even an archeologist, just someone who in the course of his/her work is deserving of recognition for their contributions.

The award is presented at the ASM's Annual Meeting, which this year will be in Frederick on October 14th. The deadline for nominations this year is September 1st. A nomination form with instructions accompanies this newsletter.

Nominations are not held over from year to year. Consider who you think deserves this award. Be specific in stating why your candidate deserves the award; this helps the committee in their selection.

Chapter News

Central Chapter

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

Charles County

Meet 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.

Investigating the James Swann House Site:

James Swann House Site southwest of Port Tobacco Courthouse
8430 Commerce St, Port Tobacco, MD

Principal Investigator: Esther Doyle Read, Charles County Archaeologist

Members of Charles County Archaeological Society of Maryland, Inc will be assisting.

James Swann purchased one and a half lots in Port Tobacco in the 1840's. The deed referred to him as a "free man of color". For over twenty years James operated an inn and/or oyster house in Port Tobacco. Only the stone foundation of the building and the chimney base remain.

For what we have been doing on the site ... [Charles County Archaeological Society of Maryland, Inc:](http://CharlesCountyArchaeologicalSocietyofMaryland.com)
[Investigating the James Swann Site \(ccarchsoc.blogspot.com\)](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com) For more about James Swann and the site... [James Swann \(findingcharlescounty.blogspot.com\)](http://findingcharlescounty.blogspot.com)

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 and jmarkin2@washcoll.edu

Mid-Potomac

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

St. Mary's County

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

Upper Patuxent

Contact Kelly Palich, at 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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com
Chapter website: [Western Maryland Chapter- Archeological Society of MD \(google.com\)](#)

Each year the Chapter sets up a display booth at Frostburg State University's Appalachian Festival. It has been an ideal venue for introducing the general public to the archaeology of our region.

In May, Chapter members assisted Dr. Stephen McBride at Ashby's Fort, another French & Indian war facility located across the Potomac River in West Virginia. We have been working with Dr. McBride over the past several years in defining the walls and bastions of the fort. This year the object of the excavations is to test the interior of the fort any possible indication of structures.

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink, the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society.

Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, 765-716-5282 or beans32@comcast.net for membership rates.

Newsletter submissions: Kim Malinowski kim.malinowski@marylandarcheology.org Text: 301-633-0021

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