

# ASM Ink



March 2025, Vol. 52, No. 3

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Upcoming Activities

March 8, 2025 – ASM Board Meeting - Virtual

March 19-23 – MAAC Conference – Gettysburg, PA

April 5, 2025 – ASM Spring Symposium on Archeology at Crownsville

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

May 23 – June 1, 2025 – Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology

## President's Note

We are fast approaching our spring schedule including the Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology. The Field Session Committee met on February 27th at 18CH1005 Teagues Point Site. This site was found by a local man who brought the artifacts to the attention of Matt McKnight. It appears to be an intact early to mid-17th century site. There are speculations about who owned and lived on the site, possibly Captain Richard Smith who served the colony as Surveyor-General in the 1690s. The site itself is near the Patuxent River in Charles County, another beautiful location. We also visited some prospective sites for a camp site. The date is set, back to our traditional timeframe, **May 23rd through June 2, 2025.**

The <https://marylandarcheology.org/> website will have all the details and registration very soon!

Valerie

## Field Session Preview: 18CH1005 Teagues Point Site Artifacts



## ASM Spring Symposium

The ASM Spring Symposium will be held on April 5, 2025 at Crownsville, MD. So far, the speakers are as follows.

**Lynne Bulhack**, Archeology Society of Maryland, talking about her experimental ceramics and sourcing project

**Daniel Fellman**, St Mary's College of Maryland, talking about lithics in the Student Spotlight

**Zachary Singer**, Maryland Historical Trust, talking about the Barton PaleoDigger Project

**Robert Wall**, Towson University, talking about the Barton PaleoDigger Project

**1-2 speakers in conversation TBD**

## **“Dig a Hole, Find a Feature”: Radiocarbon Dates from a Deeply Buried Feature Found with the PaleoDigger**

**Zachary Singer, State Terrestrial Archaeologist**

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.

The goal of the PaleoDigger excavations was to dig deep test pits in the alluvial soils at Barton to document the stratified archaeological occupations and attempt to locate deeply buried 13,000 year old Clovis activity areas. During the 2024 PaleoDigger planning, it was determined that if large features like storage pits were encountered at the base of the plowzone, then PaleoDigger excavations would be terminated at the top of the feature, since features are more properly documented via larger unit excavations that can reveal the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the feature. Experienced Barton excavators including ASM members Roy Brown and Gary Grant responded with a classic Barton refrain, “dig a hole, find a feature”, highlighting the numerous features that have been documented in the stratified contexts at Barton. Fortunately, only two large Woodland features were encountered at the base of the plowzone, which halted those test pits.

The PaleoDigger test pit excavations occurred in 10cm levels and continued until Pleistocene river cobbles were encountered around 2.5 to 3 meters below surface. All excavated soils were passed through 1/4-inch hardware mesh to ensure uniform recovery of artifacts. While excavations were proceeding in STP 6, at around 170cm below surface, the soil collected by the PaleoDigger became charcoal rich, a noteworthy occurrence that the volunteer screeners immediately brought to my attention. All of the carbonized materials and remaining soil in the screens were collected for flotation. The profile walls of STP 6 were carefully cleaned using a long handled shovel to reach 2 meters below the surface. Examination of the profile revealed a small charcoal rich feature in the profile wall of the STP around 170cm below surface.

A carbon sample was collected directly from the feature in the profile. Dr. David Leslie of TerraSearch Geophysical facilitated the dating of the carbonized material via Yale Analytical and Stable Isotope Center. The carbonized material from the feature was AMS radiocarbon dated twice and returned dates of  $8836 \pm 29$  rcybp and  $9084 \pm 29$  rcybp, which when combined calibrate to a date ranging from 10284-9725 calendar years before present. This date range corresponds to the early Holocene and suggests that the dated feature is associated with a Late Paleoindian or Early Archaic occupation at Barton.

The discovery of this charcoal rich feature in STP 6 pinpoints a location for future researchers to investigate an intact early Holocene aged occupation in Western Maryland. Furthermore, the recovery of numerous lithic artifacts in contexts stratigraphically deeper than this early Holocene aged feature provide additional evidence for intact Terminal Pleistocene age occupations at Barton, including a Clovis component.



*Figure 1. STP 6 with early Holocene aged charcoal rich feature located approximately 170cm below surface (circled in red).*

Excavation via the PaleoDigger is the only viable method for the systematic deep sampling of the stratified deposits at Barton. 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. The 2025 investigations will focus on defining the boundaries of the Clovis activity area discovered in 2024 and also prospecting for additional Clovis-age activity areas across the Barton Site. Based on the discoveries during the 2024 excavations, the 2025 session will also yield additional material culture documenting the diverse human occupations in western Maryland over the past 13,000 years. And there is always the chance that we will *dig a hole and find a feature*.



Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to the 2025 PaleoDigger project. Over \$3000 has been raised! Please visit the PaleoDigger project page on the ASM website and consider a donation to support the return of the PaleoDigger to Barton in 2025. 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.

[https://marylandarcheology.org/projects/2025\\_PaleoDigger.html](https://marylandarcheology.org/projects/2025_PaleoDigger.html)

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY

# SPRING 2025 VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

**2/6** Dr. Kenneth E. Sassaman  
Reimagining the Story of Stallings Island, an  
Archaeological Conservancy Site of Enduring  
Value



**3/12** Dr. Zachary Singer & Dr. Robert Wall  
PaleoDigger and Archaeological Investigations of  
the Deeply Buried Clovis Occupation at the Barton  
Site (A follow-up to our session on the PaleoDigger from last fall)

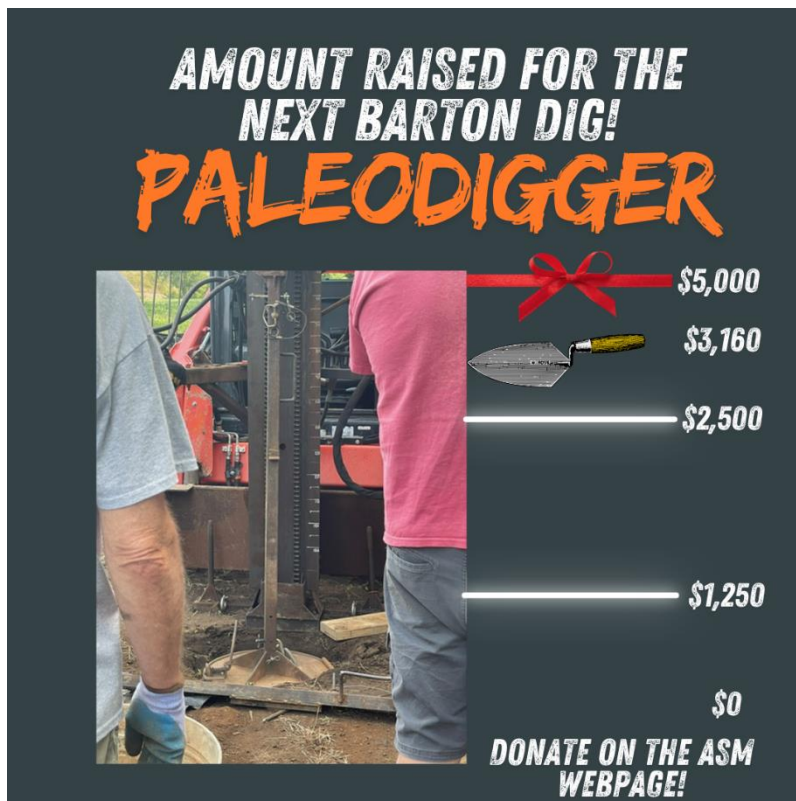
**4/10** Tom Trow and Franky Jackson will discuss the  
prairie restoration project at Grand Meadow Chert  
Quarry preserve in Minnesota

**REGISTRATION INFO: <https://bit.ly/TheArchConsVL>**

**The Strata #2** The vibrocore sampling was incredibly difficult at the Barton Site. Zac and several other archeologists perched on the vibrocore in various cheerleading poses with a lot of jumping and kicking included for good measure. They attempted to penetrate the soil and go as deep as the Paleodigger Test Pits. After they saturated the soil with water, several prayers and jumping commenced, with me, who couldn't see or hear when to shut off the generator. No one was killed in the process but next time, like a bucking bronco, that vibrocore is sure to be ridden. Next time, we'll sell tickets. ; )



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



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

# **A Summary of Pre-Contact Projectile Points in the Dorchester County Historical Society Collection**

**Matthew Oliver**

On February 21, 2025, I (along with my closest associate Mrs. Tracy Hayman) took a trip down to the Dorchester County Historical Society's museum for a short tour which included the Robbins' Heritage Center. Inside this room's collection of artifacts, a short mural dedicated to exhibiting lithic material made by the Eastern Shore's earliest inhabitants, the ancestors of today's indigenous Eastern American people, greeted us when we first come in. Paleoindian lithics like Clovis points and the (somewhat controversial) specimens from presumably 20,000 year old Late Pleistocene layers start out the Pre-Contact era journey. Over time, as the Last Glacial Maximum end and most of North America's large megafauna became extinct, humans in the region developed more varied tools to hunting more common game animals, fished, and gathered plant material in the Archaic Period of the Holocene. Farming (and the lithics used to process sedentary resources) only developed during the Late Archaic/Early Woodland boundary.





# Volunteering at the SERC Archeology Lab and Dig

**Kim Malinowski**

Matthew Oliver, Tracy Hayman, and I have been exploring what opportunities are in the Maryland area. I admit that I've tried to go to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for several months in Edgewater, Maryland. I was emailed the link, [Archeolab](#), to the main Archeolab Citizen Scientists' website. When one is confronted with the acknowledgement that a lab date is already in your planner, and it is in bold on your laptop, it tends not to be a coincidence of the universe so much as gentle prodding from career archeologists and good timing. The three of us began by volunteering for a lab day on a Saturday. I'm told that Saturdays usually have fewer people and I'm the first to admit that I have a better experience in a smaller group on my first day of anything. Dr. Jim Gibb gave us a tour of the Woodlawn History Center and several of the locations where previous dig days had occurred. Several sites are located on the SERC grounds. We also learned that we would be using the acronym SEAL standing for Smithsonian Environmental Archeology Lab. When we entered the lab, Matt launched himself into washing artifacts. Tracy and I went with the artifact labelers. Matt had the best time of us all!



The following Wednesday, I came with my loppers and



shovel. They live in my car for last minute archeological plans, so it would have been a crime not to show up too prepared and still not prepared enough. Every archeologist's expectations are different as are their methods. This has been true since high school, so I tend to see it as universal and the longer a group has known and worked with each other—well the more I have to feel out what the other volunteers know by muscle memory. Because of this, first days on digs and especially with new volunteers and professional archeologists are really only to understand the techniques and expectations of a particular group. Matt and I dug STPs together and Tracy helped create the STP grid. I was happy that I

could spend my birthday digging in beautiful weather. Dr. Jim Gibb led us in the first stage of uncovering a structural site where Robert Lee Forrest, a philanthropist whose financial gift led to the development of SERC, lived. More will be found out at each dig day. All three of us learned new techniques and got to know each other better as well. A true birthday win!



## The Eastern Shore Chapter February Presenter

### Kim Malinowski

Assistant Underwater Archeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust, Troy Nowak, gave a presentation on the 2025 MHT Underwater agenda. He was able to speak broadly about what underwater archeology covers, from using scuba gear or magnetometers to tagging drifting boat artifacts. He explained that there are challenges in underwater archeology that are not usually associated with terrestrial archeology including the lack of time, the cost of equipment, the deterioration of artifacts, and the need for largely professional crews. Underwater archeology studies how boats were made and how they are preserved as well what artifacts are found and what sediment layers are present. If shipwrecks are quickly covered with sediment, it is more likely that the wreck is better preserved.

In 2025, MHT is using new equipment to better understand Maryland waterways. They will be experimenting with geophysical surface side scan sonar, and a better magnetometer. The new equipment allows for safer data to be collected and creates precise images of both the wrecks and debris but also the stratigraphy of the area. At some point in the future, the goal is to create models of the artifacts and wrecks and have mapped stratigraphy for the area. Even with new equipment, time is key. It might take several years to fully develop a model and the photogrammetry technique that would need to be developed. MHT Underwater Archeologists spend much of their time with project review and compliance. They comment or approve between 700-1,000 projects a year. Troy laid out his vision of future research and we look forward to hearing about both techniques and discoveries.



# 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](mailto:CAT@marylandarcheology.org)

The lab workshop will be held soon but Tom is working on arrangements. The date is still TBD. Zac has agreed to do the prehistoric ceramics ID and lithics ID workshops on the Eastern Shore, probably at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. The date is still TBD.

The Q&A session went well. Tom put together a FAQ list to address some questions that came up that are not completely covered in the manual. Also, there is now a checklist of all the requirements. These were both sent out to all the candidates. No changes in policy or requirements.

**Check back for more details on dates and places.**

## Volunteers Needed!

**The Maryland Historical Trust is hosting a Scouting America Archaeology Merit Badge Workshop this Spring and is looking for help!**

On April 26, MHT is looking for approximately three (3) **volunteers** to assist with running afternoon activity stations from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the MHT Headquarters in Crownsville.

On May 2, MHT is looking for approximately two (2) **volunteers** to assist on Friday to help set up equipment for the weekend at Maxwell Hall Park (pending DNR approval).

On May 3 & 4, MHT is looking for approximately five (5) **CATs and CAT Candidates with excavation experience** each day to assist with monitoring the scouts during fieldwork at Maxwell Hall Park (pending DNR approval).



If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Steph Soder at [stephanie.soder@maryland.gov](mailto:stephanie.soder@maryland.gov).

# Hands-on archaeology

## @ Washington College

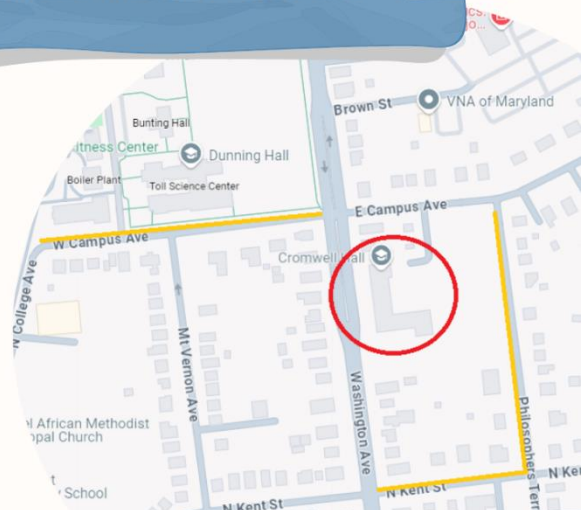
Work with artifacts from the Eastern Shore.  
No prior experience needed!



- 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](mailto:jmarkin2@washcoll.edu)

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





# 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](mailto: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](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net)

**Charles County for Lab and Field Work** welcomes volunteers. Contact Esther Read at [ReadE@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:ReadE@charlescountymd.gov) For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at [ccasm2010@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:esarcheology@gmail.com) or [jamrkin2@washcooll.edu](mailto:jamrkin2@washcooll.edu)

Calendar is here: [bit.ly/ASM-ES](http://bit.ly/ASM-ES) and events are open to members and nonmembers. To be added to our social media updates, email [esarcheology@gmail.com](mailto:esarcheology@gmail.com).

**All events are open to anyone who wants to attend!**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025** – 3:00pm Ed Otter at the Higher Education Center at Chesapeake College

**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](mailto: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, 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](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526 or check the chapter website: [www.asmmidpotomac.org](http://www.asmmidpotomac.org) , or send an email to: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com)

## Monocacy

For information contact: [monocacyarcheology@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com)

Meeting announcements are sent also to CTN; WFWM, and the Oakland Republican.

**March 28th-** Dr. Zac Singer will discuss the results from the archeological dig on Cresap Fort this past summer in Oldtown, MD.

**April is Maryland Archeology Month** -Highlighting Indigenous-made ceramics with presentations and workshops across the state.

**April 25th-** Dr. Kelley Fanto Deetz is a historian and archeologist, recently appointed as Director of Independence Hall Foundation ([ushistory.org](http://ushistory.org)). Deetz authored "Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine." She has family connections to Cumberland and we are thrilled to invite her back for a presentation.

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](mailto: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](mailto:ethan.bean@marylandarcheology.org), for membership rates.

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