



ASM Ink

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DIGGING WITH THE STARS. John Newton patiently, hopefully excavates a feature. Moments later the session's good weather broke, producing a collection of vinyl-bottomed pond across the site the next day.

Report from Claggett Retreat field school

By Joe Dent

Principal Investigator

The Archeological Society of Maryland's 2008 Tyler Bastian Field Session was held once again at the Claggett Retreat site just outside Frederick. Some 56 ASM members participated in the excavation between May 23 and June 2. From last year it was apparent to all that the argillic soils of the site made for tough going. Yet we knew we were working on an important site representing the earliest phase of agriculture and settled village life in the Potomac Valley.

To mitigate some of the pain, ASM rented a Bobcat to remove a great deal of the overburden burying the living surface. Three trenches were cut and units established within each. Hand excavation then started in relatively undisturbed subsoil and continued until features were encountered. We discovered a few more post molds and two pits. A sheet refuse deposit was also exposed and excavated.

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THE DIRT AND NOTHING BUT THE DIRT: JOE DENT BRUSHES OFF JANE FONDA, Archeologist says actress 'Over the hill' -- Details on Page 7

Upcoming events

October 18: ASM Annual Meeting, hosted by the Monocacy Chapter.

Volunteer opportunities

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

Montgomery County lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

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

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

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

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at echaney@mdp.state.md.us or 410-586-8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

Carol Ebright will teach a Point Typology Workshop Saturday July 12, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Mt. Ida in Ellicott City. There is space for 12 CAT Candidates. Email Maryl Harshey at jharshey@qis.net, to sign up for the workshop.

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

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

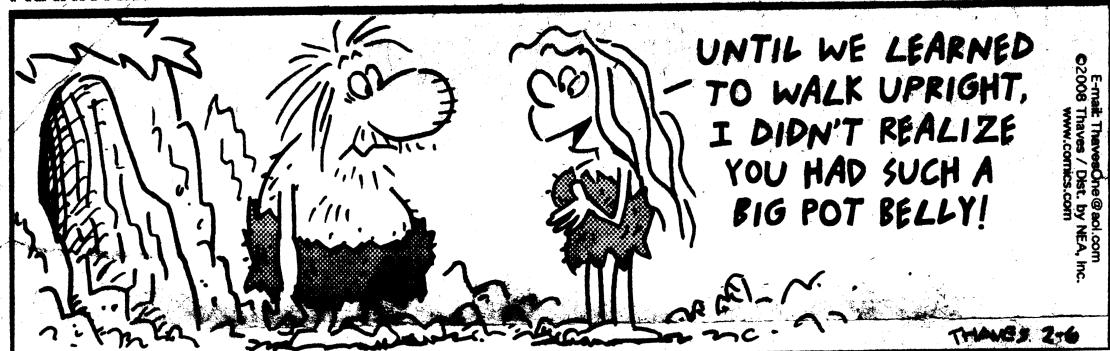
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MDcat/> . To join the group email MDcat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

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

FRANK AND ERNEST

BOB THAVES



Nominations sought for the Marye award

By Tyler Bastian

Marye Committee Chairman

Each summer ASM invites nominations for the William B. Marye Award. The award is given for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. This is your opportunity to recognize exceptional accomplishments. The recognition may be for field or lab work, report preparation, publication, administration or a combination of these activities. Nominations are urgently needed this year.

Nominees need not be ASM members, Maryland residents or archeologists. They must have made a substantial contribution to the advancement of Maryland archeology. Last year's winner was Carol Ebright. A list of past winners is on the nomination form inside this newsletter.

Nominees not selected in past years are not carried over. Resubmissions of past nominees are encouraged. Nominations are reviewed by the Marye Award Committee and the award is presented at the ASM Annual Meeting, this year being held October 18.

Please act on this opportunity to recognize someone important to Maryland archeology. To submit a nomination, complete the enclosed form and mail it to me no later than August 25. My address is on the form.

Maryland 1600 – life before Europeans

By Nancy Bromley McConaty

Condensed from Southern Maryland Newspapers, April 25, 2008

If Southern Marylanders could step back in time to 400 years ago and see the terrain and waterways of the area during the era when Europeans were first settling the region, they would think they were in paradise.

When Capt. John Smith plied the waters of the Chesapeake Bay during explorations of the 2,300 miles of its shoreline between 1607 and 1609, he observed a lush, sparsely populated land packed with wildlife and rivers of clear water full of crabs, oysters and a variety of fish.

Bears, muskrats, beavers, mountain lions, deer and squirrels lived in the thick forests and a variety of waterfowl fed and bred in the waters of the Potomac, Port Tobacco, Patuxent, Wicomico and St. Mary's rivers.

The lives of Native Americans touched the land lightly, taking little more than was required to make clothing, build shelters and feed their families.

In the 1600s, the Piscataways' territory extended along the Potomac River in Prince George's County from Broad Creek to Pomonkey Creek in Charles County. Subtribes of the Piscataway included the Nanjemoy, Mattawoman and Potapoco.

In St. Mary's County, the Yaocomaco was the primary tribe. They lived along the St. Mary's River when Smith arrived in Southern Maryland in the early 1600s, according to Coby Treadway, site supervisor of the Woodland Village Hamlet in Historic St. Mary's City.

In Calvert County, the Patuxent (Pawtuxent) made camp along the Patuxent River.

Although the leaders of the tribes viewed the arrival of the Europeans with a wary eye, they entered into a cautious relationship with them, based primarily on the trade of goods for land and protection against tribes from the north who constantly raided their villages.

The daily life of American Indians in what is now Southern Maryland was difficult and included always keeping an eye out for their enemies to the north, the Susquehannock and Iroquois, who often came into the area in raiding parties to steal crops and livestock, said James Gibb of Gibb Archaeological Consulting in Annapolis.

A large number of the Piscataway used the Zekiah Swamp in Bryantown in Charles County as a refuge from the raiding parties, Gibb said.

"This area became a major route for the Susquehannock and people just got out of their way," he said. "When people are growing food they become sitting ducks for raiding parties," said Michael Smolek, executive

director of archeology at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum in St. Leonard. "They're predictable. Raiding parties knew where they were going to be."

Continued on next page

The Susquehannock headed south to hunt beaver for European fur traders, said Gabrielle Tayac, a historian at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington and a member of the Piscataway Indian Nation.

"The Susquehannock belonged to a different language group and they got involved with European fur traders," she said. "They were armed by the Swedes during the fur trading era. They overhunted and overtrapped in their area so they started to push down farther south where there was still beaver left."

Although the relationship between the colonists and the American Indians did not result in out-and-out bloodshed very often, the invasion of the settlers into their territory did produce some problems, Tayac said.

Eventually, the Piscataway turned to their long-time enemy, the Iroquois, to help them move farther north to get away from the settlers and their strange ways, she said.

In St. Mary's County, the Yaocomaco asked the settlers to protect them from their enemies to the north, Treadway said. Communication with the tribe was aided by Henry Fleete, an English fur trader who was captured and held captive by the Anacostia tribe for five years. During captivity, he learned the Algonquin language and culture.

Leonard Calvert, Maryland's first governor, met with the chief of the tribe to work out a deal offering the tribe protection in exchange for the purchase of land, Treadway said.

"He offered protection against the Susquehannock," he said. "Part of the agreement was that some of the tribe would remain to help plant and harvest corn for the settlers."

Much of the life of the Indians here remains a mystery, said Megan Williams, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum's outreach director.

"Everything that we know about them is from archeology," she said. "We based our Eastern Woodland Indian Village on archeology from the area."

American Indians in Southern Maryland lived a hard life that was closely in tune with nature.

Ninety-five percent of the land was covered with old growth trees, Tayac said.

"The forest was so deep that they burned undergrowth periodically to give it a park-like environment so that they could move quite easily through the woods," she said.

Seventy percent of the food came from agriculture. Tribes would plant corn, squash, beans and sunflowers, said Rico Newman, cultural information specialist with the National Museum of the American Indian and a member of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe. In all, 130 different vegetables were grown for food.

In addition, there was a wealth of wildlife, including turkeys, deer and bears, Newman said.

In the summer, the tribes fished the rivers, Tayac said.

"The rivers were much deeper and narrower then," she said. "Now, there's a vast amount of erosion."

King dolphin, a variety of fish, waterfowl and oysters abounded in the waterways, Tayac said. "Oyster beds were absolutely massive," she said. "They didn't have to go too far out in the water to reach them. There are records that indicate that oysters grew as large as 13 inches long back then."

Men would leave the villages in the warm weather to hunt farther west, Tayac said. "They would go on hunting and trading expeditions," she said, adding that it might even have been possible for the men to bag a buffalo in Western Maryland. "There was quite a rich biodiversity there."

For the most part, tribes lived in longhouses made of reed-covered mats secured to a wooden frame, Tayac said. A young man would move into the longhouse of his wife's family once the couple had been married awhile and were ready to move out of their wickiup — a dome-shaped structure made from cedar that a newly married couple would live in during the initial stage of their marriage.

Native American men hunted and trapped and fished the rivers and bay, but they did not grow the food, Newman said. That job was left up to the women of the tribe.

"Life was seen as coming through the women so they did all of the farming," he said. "Men weren't allowed to put their hands into Mother Earth. It was considered a violation."

Clan mothers made most of the decisions for the tribe, Newman said, adding, "women contributed just about everything."

"Women were pretty much outspoken; they were very active in tribal politics," Tayac said. "Women were part of the decision-making process. Women had far more power than their counterparts in England."

The arrival of the Europeans into a culture that had lived in Southern Maryland for thousands of years certainly made a deep impact that American Indians are still trying to recover from, Tayac said.

Lost and found: Charles Co. courthouse

By Megan Greenwell

Condensed from the Washington Post, June 12, 2008

After nearly 75 years of searches, the original Charles County courthouse is no longer missing.

A team of archeologists led by St. Mary's College of Maryland professor Julia King found the site in a La Plata soybean field last week, just in time for the county's 350th anniversary celebration. What they found was not a building or even its foundation but enough broken shards of pottery, stone and glass to convince them that the courthouse and an adjacent ordinary, or tavern, once stood on the site.

"This courthouse stood for [about] 50 years [from 1674 to 1727], and it did become very important, because there was a lot going on in the colony," said King, an Anne Arundel County native who specializes in colonial Maryland history. "There were a lot of political and legal decisions being made on the local level that set important precedents."

The discovery occurred about three months after local developer and amateur historian Mike Sullivan delivered a well-attended presentation at a Charles County commissioners' meeting about the search, which he began when he learned that the location of the courthouse had never been identified. Sullivan hired a genealogist, Diane Giannini, to trace land deeds and birth records and a surveyor, Kevin Norris, to plot the records using a Global Positioning System device.

"I've always had an interest in history, and it struck me that this is an important part of Charles history that we didn't really know about," Sullivan said. "In an anniversary year, I thought we should try to find it."

Other searches had been conducted in 1934, during Maryland's 300th anniversary, and 1958, about the time of the county's 300th. Neither search ended in success and the Maryland State Archives deemed the courthouse site "impossible to locate."

About two weeks ago, King and her students began searching for the courthouse within the 150-acre Moore's Lodge parcel on Springhill Newtown Road. After spending a week in a wheat field that yielded no results, they moved on to the soybean field at Greenland Farm.

The site lined up perfectly with Norris' GPS plots, King said, and geographic and man-made features. What is now Greenland Farm's driveway was probably a road leading to Port Tobacco, she said.

"It really does make sense with what we already knew," King said. "I'm usually pretty hesitant to say conclusively that we found something, but I feel really confident in this."

The group's biggest aid was quite simple: a 1697 plat drawing depicting the three-acre parcel that was home to the courthouse, stocks, inn and tavern. Long before the courthouse site was located, it became iconic through the drawing, which King said is significant enough to be included in every book on Maryland's history. Even St. Mary's City, the collection of re-created 17th-Century buildings that sits at the site of Maryland's first capital, was built based on the Charles plat.

"There are no buildings in Maryland or Virginia from the 17th Century that survive, so this is as close as we get to seeing how tens of thousands of colonists lived their lives," said King.

As King and her students tromped around, they flattened soybean sprouts on Dale and Barbara Howell's land, which also includes their family home. King said the Howells and the farmer who rents their fields have been very gracious about allowing them to disturb the crops in the name of discovering history.

Available: Free guide to Virginia sites, Indians

From the Washington Post, June 3, 2008

A second edition of the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail guide has just been released and includes a new section on archeology and maps of tribal locations before European settlers arrived.

The first edition of the guide, which includes directions to Virginia tribal centers, two reservations and museums across the state, was released last year in conjunction with the Jamestown 400 commemoration.

Copies of the book, which was paid for by the Virginia Tourism Corp., are available for free at all 13 Virginia welcome centers. It can also be ordered online at <http://virginiaindianprogram.org>.

Stonehenge solved? Maybe a cemetery

From wire reports, May 30, 2008

At least part of the mystery of Stonehenge may have now been solved: It was from the beginning a monument to the dead, archeologists say.

New radiocarbon dates from human cremation burials among and around the brooding stones on Salisbury Plain in England indicate that the site was used as a cemetery from 3000 B.C. until after the monuments were erected around 2500 B.C., British archeologists reported Thursday.

"It's now clear that burials were a major component of Stonehenge in all its main stages," said Mike Parker Pearson of the University of Sheffield in England.

He said family members for as many as 30 to 40 generations were buried there, with the number of individuals increasing with each generation.

A combination of the radiocarbon dating, excavations nearby that have revealed a once-thriving village of Durrington Walls and the fact that the number of cremated remains appeared to grow over a 500-year period convinced researchers that the site was used for a long time and most likely was a burial ground for one ruling family.

The finding marks a significant rethinking of Stonehenge. In the past it was believed that some burials took place there for a century but that the site's significance lay in its ceremonial and religious functions.

Some scholars have contended that the enigmatic stones, surrounded by a ditch and earthen banks in concentric circles, more than likely marked a sacred place of healing. The idea is at least as old as medieval literature, which also includes stories of Stonehenge as a memorial to the dead. So there could be an element of truth to both hypotheses, experts say.

Parker Pearson described three burials of burned bones and teeth that were dated in recent weeks. Researchers estimated that up to 240 people were buried there, all as cremation deposits. Other evidence from the British Isles shows that skeletal burials were rare at this time and that cremation was the custom for the elite.

In the 1920s an additional 49 cremation burials were dug up at Stonehenge, but all were reburied because they were thought to be of no scientific value, the researchers said.

The earliest burial to be tested came from a pit at the edge of the stone monuments; it dates to about 3000 B.C. The second burial dates to around 2900 B.C. The most recent one is from around the time the first arrangements of stones appeared on the plain, about 2500 B.C.

Parker Pearson said finding other datable burials was "a huge priority" of the Stonehenge Riverside Project, which has been excavating the site since 2003. The National Geographic Society is a supporter of the research and some of the results, but not the latest burial dates, are reported in the June issue of its magazine.

Not all archeologists agree with Parker Pearson's theory.

The National Geographic Magazine quotes Mike Pitts, editor of the journal British Archaeology, as saying some details of the theory are problematic with gaps remaining to be filled. Uses of the landscape in the area for farming and grazing, for example, do not seem compatible with a ritualized place.

Adding to the mystery are three 10,000-year old pits for wooden pillars now covered by the parking lot at Stonehenge, he said.

"Why are they there, that's a really big mystery," Parker Pearson said. "They are among the earliest monuments on the planet."

Another two similar pits were recently found beneath the gift shop at the monument, he added.

The team also excavated homes nearby at Durrington Walls, which they said were especially well preserved and appeared to be seasonal dwellings related to Stonehenge. Some 300 to 1,000 homes were in the village.

Durrington Walls "is a quite extraordinary settlement, we've never seen anything like it before," Parker Pearson said.

Report from Claggett Retreat field school

Continued from Page 1

It is now apparent, however, that deep subsoil plowing has destroyed much of the evidence needed to reach definite conclusions on community structure. We were successful in recovering additional artifacts. Charcoal from the pits should allow another radiocarbon date or two and flotation will increase our knowledge of the floral resources exploited by the site's inhabitants.

Kristen Pryor, a graduate student in archeology at American University, assisted me in the project. The Maryland Historical Trust generously provided funds and Maureen Kavanagh, Dennis Curry and Charlie Hall provided even greater support through their work and encouragement throughout the field session as well as before and after. Nothing would have been possible without MHT assistance.

The field lab area was an especially active place during the excavation. Roy Brown came east and enlightened us in regard to gourd technology and that humble vegetable's place in native lifeways. Bill Johnson spent a number of days taking casts of cordage from pottery sherds. He gave a lunchtime talk on cordage twist as a cultural marker in regional prehistory.

Elizabeth Moore identified the faunal material recovered from last year's excavation and delivered another lunchtime talk on faunal remains analysis. She identified elk remains, quite rare, in the Calvin Swomley collection from one of the pits from the site he excavated in the 1960s.

And once again the weather generally cooperated with the ASM. We were only driven out of the field once by rain. Hard rain, reminiscent of Winslow and Hughes, waited for the closing phase of the excavation when only a few remaining souls faced the hardship of slogging through mud and folding wet plastic.

I don't think that Bobcat will ever be the same after backfilling the last completely flooded units. Nevertheless, our work at Claggett Retreat is now complete and the analysis phase begins. Stay tuned.

Indiana Dent and the Fonda of Destiny

At lunch one day during the field school, Principal Investigator Joe Dent confirmed that while driving through the Southwest recently he had crested a hill to discover a bicyclist too close for comfort. The cyclist swerved off the road without injury. She turned out to be Jane Fonda, who lived nearby.

Dent was so shaken up by the memory that later that afternoon he had trouble finding the feature he was trying to photograph at the Claggett Site.



Book review: From screen to screen

Box Office Archaeology, edited by Julie M. Schablitsky, Left Coast Press, 256 pages, \$65, \$25 paper.

First, what "Box Office Archaeology" is not: It is not a series of reports on how Hollywood has mangled the truth in a short list of movies. Rather, this group of essays collected by Julie Schablitsky, who now works for the SHA, is a more generalized look at how films have misportrayed the past in a variety of genres.

An underlying theme of the essays is that archeology is more than just a search to document the lives of the ruling culture. Other peoples shared in this civilization and their lives and contributions should be explored too. This information is especially needed because Hollywood concentrates on a distorted view of the past and creates or enhances stereotypes which most people too readily take as fact.

Need one look farther than the story of Pocahontas and John Smith? What does archeology have to say about Pocahontas to challenge the legend? Not much, because finding out specifics about specific people is not one of archeology's forte. Instead it can tell what life was like for a population in general, and these Virginia findings are what Randy Amici uses to counter the Pocahontas myth. It is too bad that thanks to "New World" and Walt Disney few people will accept this truth or even realize that there is a story other than the legend.

In a chapter that does focus on one movie, urban archeology is explored in a look at the 2002 film, "Gangs of New York." Rebecca Yamin and Lauren J. Cook show that even though archeology had documented what life in New York City was like, this view was generally disregarded in the movie for a more simplistic, violent story.

Other chapters examine the way Egyptology has been reduced to rascally mummies, Vikings defined by the raiders among them and pirates, whose image would be less jolly if they were correctly portrayed as terrorists. The Titanic is one story where archeology can play a large part and the 1997 version of the story, the only one to appear after the discovery of the wreck, does incorporate findings as it pursues its fictionalized characters.

Another ship whose story is examined is the Hunley. Even though no motion picture has been made of the Confederate submarine, there were two TV productions, but neither was made after the boat was recovered from the Atlantic. While archeology couldn't contribute much to them, it can provide the basis for a story now.

A discussion of how western Indians are treated in film devotes itself to an examination of the battle of Apache Pass, which was featured in a little-remembered 1952 movie, and the Sand Creek Massacre and the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Charles M. Haecker shows how archeology has improved our knowledge of what really happened at those places.

Just as there are scads of movies that misrepresent Indian life, there are equal scads that spread false stereotypes of blacks and Chinese and the people Hollywood usually doesn't bother to talk about in its

historical offerings, what editor Schablitsky calls The Other, the minority populations racially and socially. "Most of the voiceless remain unheard in both contemporary literature and in Hollywood productions," she writes. "The significance of archaeology, therefore, is its ability to pull information from an unbiased context and use discarded and lost objects to reconstruct past lives and give the silent minority a stage."

Summing up, Vergil E. Noble writes that in most cases "archeological evidence can contribute precious little new information about major events beyond the traditional historian's interpretation derived from other sources." However, "archeologists have the advantage of access to a wide variety of sites containing materials left in the ground directly by people of all races, all ethnic groups and all walks of life, granting us the ability to achieve a more comprehensive view of any particular time period."

It is on this score that Hollywood's efforts are most faulted throughout the book: that Hollywood has not taken advantage of this information to form or even nuance its product, even allowing for the entertainment industry's primal need to entertain.

But the fault is not Hollywood's alone. Archeologists don't do enough to make the public aware of the importance of their finds and too often bury their revelations in a morass of technical data. Says Noble, "It is unlikely that we can ever present the products of archeology in a fashion that is as entertaining as the visual artistry of good film, but there is no excuse for being boring."

The index not very helpful and the book suffers from a sprinkling of factual errors. The archeological link is weak in some of the essays, but, all in all, "Box Office Archaeology" offers a thought-provoking look at what history and archeology have to tell us in a dozen different areas.

-- Reviewed by Myron Beckenstein

On-the-job look at Oregon Ridge's Kirk Dreier

By Nancy Jones-Bonbrest

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, May 28, 2008

Kirk Dreier is a senior naturalist at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Cockeysville. With a degree in natural science from West Virginia University, Dreier began his career with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as a field ecologist and educator.

At the same time, he also worked part time at the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks' Oregon Ridge Nature Center. In 1987, he left the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and switched to full-time employment at the nature center. "My job allows me to be outside at all times."

His job as naturalist is to educate the public about natural and cultural history and about nature. He develops programs and teaches using hands-on experiences, with as many senses involved as possible.

Dreier says the job is fun, but he also takes the message he's delivering seriously. "I want people to understand they are a part of nature. I want them to have an understanding of the environment around them."

His specialties are primitive skills, Native American skills and native plants.

What he tells his staff: Not to be complacent as to what people should know. It's OK to start with the fundamentals, but at the same time be enthusiastic about what they're offering. "We're not just presenting information. We're telling a story."

Changes over time: Dreier says he sees many children and adults losing touch with nature. "That's why we're here, to allow them to discover nature. To have them hold a snake. Schools won't even allow you to bring certain animals in anymore."

Most common nature mishap with groups: Stepping on a yellow jacket nest. "We teach them to run."

Part of the job: He's had Rocky Mountain spotted fever twice and said he can't count the number of times he's been treated for Lyme disease.

Philosophy on the job: To use programming at the nature center to give visitors an appreciation of nature and the importance of it.

Turkish site hints pre-agriculture civilization

By Nicholas Birch

Condensed from the Washington Times, April 21, 2008

As a child, Klaus Schmidt used to grub around in caves in his native Germany in the hope of finding prehistoric paintings. Thirty years later, representing the German Archeological Institute, he found something infinitely more important -- a temple complex almost twice as old as anything comparable on the planet.

"This place is a supernova", says Schmidt, standing under a lone tree on a windswept hilltop 35 miles north of Turkey's border with Syria. "Within a minute of first seeing it I knew I had two choices: go away and tell nobody, or spend the rest of my life working here."

The stone circles of Gobekli Tepe have been his workplace since 1994. Compared to Stonehenge, Britain's most famous prehistoric site, they are humble affairs. None of the circles excavated (four out of an estimated 20) are more than 30 meters across. What makes the discovery remarkable are the carvings of boars, foxes, lions, birds, snakes and scorpions, and their age. Dated at around 9,500 BC, these stones are 5,500 years older than the first cities of Mesopotamia, and 7,000 years older than Stonehenge.

Never mind circular patterns or the stone-etchings, the people who erected this site did not even have pottery or cultivate wheat. They lived in villages. But they were hunters, not farmers.

"Everybody used to think only complex, hierarchical civilizations could build such monumental sites, and that they only came about with the invention of agriculture", says Ian Hodder, a Stanford University professor of anthropology, who, since 1993, has directed digs at Catalhoyuk, Turkey's most famous Neolithic site.

"Gobekli changes everything. It's elaborate, it's complex and it is pre-agricultural. That fact alone makes the site one of the most important archeological finds in a very long time."

Continued on next page

With only a fraction of the site opened up after a decade of excavations, Gobekli Tepe's significance to the people who built it remains unclear. Some think the site was the center of a fertility rite, with the two tall stones at the center of each circle representing a man and woman.

Schmidt is skeptical about the fertility theory. He agrees Gobekli Tepe may well be "the last flowering of a semi-nomadic world that farming was just about to destroy" and points out that if it is in near perfect condition today it is because those who built it buried it soon after under tons of soil, as though its wild animal-rich world had lost all meaning.

But the site is devoid of the fertility symbols that have been found at other Neolithic sites, and the T-shaped columns, while clearly semi-human, are sexless.

With no evidence of houses or graves near the stones, Schmidt believes the hill top was a site of pilgrimage for communities within a radius of roughly a hundred miles.

1780 warship discovered in Lake Ontario

Condensed from the Associated Press, June 14, 2008

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - A 22-gun British warship that sank during the American Revolution and has long been regarded as one of the "Holy Grail" shipwrecks in the Great Lakes has been discovered on the bottom of Lake Ontario, astonishingly well-preserved in the cold, deep water, explorers announced yesterday.

Jim Kennard and Dan Scoville used side-scanning sonar and an unmanned submersible to locate the HMS Ontario, which was lost with barely a trace and as many as 130 people aboard during a gale in 1780.

The 80-foot sloop of war is the oldest shipwreck and the only intact British warship ever found in the Great Lakes, Scoville and Kennard said.

"To have a Revolutionary War vessel that's practically intact is unbelievable. It's an

archeological miracle," said Arthur Britton Smith, a Canadian author who chronicled the history of HMS Ontario in a 1997 book, "The Legend of the Lake."

The finders of the wreck said they regard it as a war grave and have no plans to raise it or remove any artifacts. They said the ship is still considered the property of the British Admiralty.

Although the vessel sits in an area where the water is up to 500 feet deep and cannot be reached by anyone but the most experienced divers, Kennard and Scoville declined to give its exact location.

The sloop was discovered resting partially on its side, with two masts extending more than 70 feet above the lake bottom.

"Usually when ships go down in big storms, they

get beat up quite a bit. They don't sink nice and square. This went down in a huge storm and it still managed to stay intact," Scoville said. "There are even two windows that aren't broken. Just going down, the pressure difference, can break the windows. It's a beautiful ship."

The dark, cold fresh water acts as a perfect preservative, Smith said. At that depth, there are no light and no oxygen to hasten decomposition, and little marine life to feed on the wood.

The Ontario went down on Oct. 31, 1780, with a garrison of 60 British soldiers, a crew of about 40, mostly Canadians, and possibly about 30 American war prisoners. The warship had been launched only five months earlier.



New ASM chapter formed in Charles County

ASM has a new chapter. The Charles County Archaeological Society officially formed on May 13 and was accepted as a member chapter by the ASM board May 24.

The new chapter's officers are Paula Martino, president; Carol Cowherd, vice president; Belinda Urquiza, secretary; Jane Keller, treasurers; Elsie Picyk and Gary Flick, at-large.

The chapter will meet on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, at the Old Train Station in La Plata or at the Port Tobacco courthouse.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

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

Central

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

Mid-Potomac

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

Monocacy

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

September 10: Program to be announced.

Northern Chesapeake

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

Southern

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

Upper Patuxent

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

Western Maryland

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

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

ASM. Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net.

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

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