

# ASM Ink



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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

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

*Archaeology is like a jigsaw puzzle, except that you can't cheat and look at the box, and not all the pieces are there. –Richard Rudgley*

Happy August! Enjoy the excavations and new interpretations! Make sure to share your experiences with us too! Details on dates and activities are below as well as articles on ongoing research. –**Kim**

## Save the Date - Workshop in Archaeology

The Maryland Historical Trust, working in partnership with The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., proudly presents the 32nd Annual Workshop in Archaeology.

**When:** Saturday, September 23rd, 2023, from 9 AM until 3:30 PM

**Where:** 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD (and grounds)

**Who/What:** Our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Al Luckenbach, retired Archaeologist for Anne Arundel County and founder of the Lost Towns Project. Dr. Luckenbach's presentation will discuss his research with Lost Towns at the prehistoric ceremonial site known as Pig Point. The discoveries at Pig Point made national headlines, including the *New York Times* in 2013 ([A Maryland Hill's Prehistoric Secret](#)). MHT Press hopes to publish Dr. Luckenbach's manuscript on the site in the near future.

**Admission fee (payable at the door):** \$7.00 General admission; \$5.00 for ASM members and students.

More details and a full program/schedule will be available on the MHT webpage at a later date.

## ASM President's Note:

I can't believe another month has rolled past. For me, it was a month of discovery and family. We took a wonderful trip to Alaska and immersed ourselves in the beauty of the landscapes. If you ever have the opportunity to go, I highly recommend it.

In ASM news, the board considered and approved a request from Lynne Bulhack for Analysis Funds to compare petrographic analysis of local clay and sherds of pottery from the Primrose Site, 18CA236. You will hear more about this research later this year.

I have heard little snippets about other work continuing across the state at Sugarland, Pierpoint, and the Old Otterbein Church in Baltimore which many of our folks are involved in. Can't wait to hear more details when we gather later this year.

Be safe and enjoy the rest of the summer.

**Valerie L. Hall**

## Upcoming Events

**September Board Meeting:** September 2, 2023 – 9am WebEx

**Workshop in Archaeology:** September 23, 2023, 9am-3:30pm

**Annual Meeting in Frederick, Hosted by Monocacy Chapter:** October 14

**ESAF Annual Meeting in Ocean City, MD:** October 26-29

## 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](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 [jamesgibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesgibb@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 Heather Bouslog at 301-563-7530 or [Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto: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 a critical area of most immediate importance (send an email if interested) [monocacyarcheology@gmail.com](mailto: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 <https://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork> to get started.

## **Cat Corner**

The CAT Historic Ceramic Workshop will be presented by Patricia Samford. Space is limited, please email Tom.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Ground-truthing GPR results in downtown Baltimore a success

As Chief Archaeologist at MHT, a large part of my job is responding to general inquiries from the public about artifacts and occasional “strange objects” they find on their property. Last October I received just such a request from Rev. Bonnie McCubbin, Pastor of the Old Otterbein United Methodist Church near Camden Yards in Baltimore (see photo). It seems that she’d been approached by some of her parish landscapers about a number of finds made while pulling invasive Johnson grass and other weeds. Fortunately, Rev. McCubbin is a lover of history, former student at St. Mary’s College, and interested in archaeology. She immediately asked her groundskeeping crew to avoid the areas in question and reached out to us.

After an initial site visit and examining the finds made while weed pulling (see artifact image below), we asked about making a return trip in December to see if any potential features/anomalies could be detected with our ground-penetrating radar (GPR) unit. According to Rev. McCubbin, most of the artifacts came from a yard space where a cabin stood in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. That cabin was the dwelling of the famous founder of the church, Bishop Philip William Otterbein. According to church oral histories, the sick and bed-ridden Otterbein delivered his final sermon from this cabin and through an open window in the ca. 1785 brick church building. Well, of course we found anomalies with the GPR! We were in a church yard! But among the numerous graveshafts identified, were a larger rectilinear anomaly situated right outside the purported window and a more amorphous anomaly a few meters away. Fortunately, we were successful in convincing Rev. McCubbin to have us (and a few volunteers) back in late June...this time to tear up part of the yard as we tried to ground-truth these two anomalies.



Though the soils at the site were tightly compacted and a real “pain” to dig, we were ultimately successful in our endeavors. While the more amorphous anomaly was determined to be a downslope brick dump, the rectangular one (shown above) presented as a dark stain with large pieces of brick. Ceramic sherds in the plowzone above were primarily pearlware (ca. 1775-1830). Privy? Subfloor pit? We don’t yet know. Once we confirmed the presence of a feature, we chose to cover the unit over, backfill and spend the next few months pondering the best way to investigate this potentially rare resource: one that is almost certainly associated with the founding of Methodism in America, and possibly even associated with Bishop Otterbein himself. For now...stay tuned!

**Matt McKnight**

## **Archeological Investigation Abstract**

### **Archaeological Investigation in Carroll County, Maryland Stephen Israel and Tom Devilbiss**

A Late Archaic site was identified in January 2010 by Tom Devilbiss and subsequently tested by members of Central Chapter in April, May, and June 2010. The site was tested again in 2022. Initial data indicated that the site was a Late Archaic site with many rhyolite flakes, found in Test Units 1 and 2, in a forested area. The site is located next to a headwater spring of the Big Gunpowder Falls and appeared to be pristine and undisturbed. Additional excavations in 2022, by the same 2010 field crew, yielded rhyolite flakes, a circular stone earth oven, and a line of stone.

We recovered two Carbon-14 dates. One Carbon-14 Sample of charcoal beneath Rock Cluster No. 3 dated at  $703 \pm 28$  YBP and a second Carbon-14 Sample of charcoal beneath Rock Cluster No. 1, in association with an Otter Creek biface, dated at  $783 \pm 27$  YBP.

Interpretations of site function and contacts with other groups over substantial distances will be evaluated within the context of the site cluster known as Western Webb Complex, an extension of the Eastern Shore Web Complex extended to the Western Shore and Piedmont Region, related to broad base lithic bifaces and broad blade lanceolate blades which make up most lithic bifaces. There is a later Early Woodland Meadowood Complex interaction spheres related to the two Carbon-14 Dates and a well-made triangular shaped flint blade.

Does the association of an earlier Archaic Period Otter Creek biface made of rhyolite with a Carbon-14 date  $783 \pm 27$  YBP represent cultural continuum in the elevated Maryland headwater uplands in the Early Woodland? Is there cultural overlapping of cultural traditions at this site? Or is the Bompard Site forested landscape, subtly disturbed with mixed cultural periods? Further in-depth site analysis and testing of the site are planned.



Undoubtedly, the attraction to the elevated uplands of Carroll County, MD and Adams and York Counties, PA was the abundance of forests, flowing headwater springs and their associated wetlands, plant, and animal food. Most of the small undulating headwater valleys in the Piedmont uplands are associated with small headwater springs. The region's deciduous, coniferous, and mixed fluctuating plant and forest communities during the Late Archaic Period (ca 2000 BC to AD 500) have not received much attention.

The property owners are acknowledged for their enthusiasm and support of our exploratory archaeological investigation and for giving us permission to shovel test and excavate test units on their property. The Archeological Society of Maryland is acknowledged for paying for one of the Carbon-14 radiocarbons dating samples.



FIGURE 1: Bompard Site two rock features.  
(1) A 85 cm diameter circular rock earth oven  
(2) and a 85 cm linear line of arranged rocks  
(3) (alternating quartzite and quartz rocks)  
(4) exposed on a sloping terrace. Photo taken,  
September 23, 2022.

FIGURE 2: Bompard Site 2022 Excavated stone tools made of rhyolite.

**The *ASM Ink* is grateful to Stephen Israel because we requested a less formal abstract to reach a broader audience and he provided us with a summary that aims to include everyone interested in his and Tom Devilbiss's research. For those who want more concrete data and full scientific analysis, stay tuned for the announcement that the paper has landed in *Maryland Archeology*. The *ASM Ink* will make an announcement upon publication!**

# Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF)

Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF)  
90th Annual Meeting  
October 26-29, 2023  
Ocean City, Maryland

Please plan to join us as the Archeological Society of Maryland and the Archeological Society of Delaware jointly host the [Annual ESAF Meeting](#). The Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF) is an organization of state archeological societies representing much of the Eastern United States and Canada.

The ESAF meeting is **open to all**, anyone interested in archeology, professionally or not, are welcome. Some highlights this year are:

- Tours - Zwaanendael Museum and Nanticoke Indian Museum
- Talks - Call for papers is out and full agenda will be posted this fall
- Annual Student Paper Competition
- Networking Sessions
- Book Tables
- Annual Banquet Keynote Speaker – Dr. Julia King
- **Social Events**

**Registration, Call for Papers, and Tours Information** are all available at <https://esaf-archeology.org/>

**We also need your help!**

## **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 27<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 [ssisrael40@gmail.com](mailto:ssisrael40@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 [ssisrael40@gmail.com](mailto:ssisrael40@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](mailto: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](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)

## Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month. 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](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)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Chapter website: <https-tinyurl.com/wmdasm>

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.

## Kim's Note:

If you have an idea for an article or have announcements, please let me know, I am happy to assist and to include them in the *Ink*. Volunteers are welcome to include their experiences at digs or in labs. If there is something memorable or that we should all share and celebrate, please contact me. Stay tuned for book discussions, interviews, and more!

My information will appear on the contact page. I am interested in books that should be read (whether you want to write the review or want me to), photographs that show our members and community volunteers hard at work and enjoying their experiences, and if you have an idea that I have not listed, give me a shout, I want to hear it. If anyone wishes to reminisce, we all know that not every story happens in the present moment. Was there something about archeology that called to you or something that you will never forget? Please share.

**The Contact Us Page is on the next page! Scroll down for Contact information and the last photos from the Field Session!**



# 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.

Newsletter submissions: Kim Malinowski [kim.malinowski@marylandarcheology.org](mailto:kim.malinowski@marylandarcheology.org)  
Text: 301-633-0021

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# Ending the 2023 Field Session in Dirt!



**See you at the 2024 Field  
Session if not sooner!!!**