

ASM Ink



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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Upcoming Activities

November 8, 2025 – Montgomery County History Conference

November 13-16, 2025 – [Eastern States Archeological Federation 92nd Annual Meeting](#),
Lake George, New York

President's Note

When I prepare for the ASM Annual Meeting and my remarks, I take some time to look back over the past year. I am always overwhelmed with all the great work ASM does every year.

A highlight for me this past year, is the ASM Code of Ethics and Conduct. This was a document that was long overdue. We provided copies to attendees at the Annual Field Session and the Ethics team, Julia Berg, Jim Gibb, and Brent Chippendale presented a panel discussion at the Annual Meeting. It remains important that we think about, talk about, and implement this Code. Thank you again to this team.

–Valerie

ASM Fall Meeting



The Charles County ASM Chapter hosted the ASM Fall Meeting. President Carol Cowherd and the other chapter volunteers welcomed ASM members from around the state.

At the business meeting the Marye Award was officially given. The William B. Marye Award was created in 1983 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. The recipient, Gary Grant, not in attendance but had been honored at the Barton 2025 and John Fiveash presented and discussed the award at both events.



The 2025 Frederick L. Stiner Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Matthew McKnight titled “The Plantation of Michael Swift on the Patuxent River: Ground-truthing the Teague’s Point Site, Charles County, Maryland.”



Dr. McKnight gave both a more indepth backstory than his presentations at the field session and also showed off artifacts that were found on the site. He explained that in the summer of 2023, Charles County collector Kevin Brady contacted the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) about a site he had discovered decades earlier on what is now State-owned land. A quick examination of Mr. Brady’s collection

suggested that a previously undocumented late 17th-century domestic site remained hidden in an agricultural field at the Maxwell Hall Equestrian Park. A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey in December of that year revealed the presence of several anomalies suggestive of intact subfloor pits and cellar features. The site then became the focus of ground-truthing excavations during the Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in May of 2025. Excavation of 25 test units exposed at least 11 remarkably intact cultural features and thousands of well-preserved late 17th-century artifacts. Records of the period document that one Michael Swift, his wife Margaret, and their two daughters lived on this landscape around the time of Maryland's Glorious Revolution.

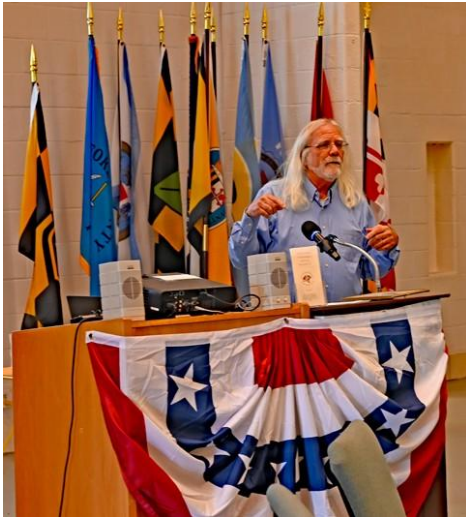
ASM Ethics and Conduct in Action



The Archaeological Society of Maryland recently adopted a new Code of Ethics and Conduct to guide our shared work in the field and in the community and the panelk discussed both the creation of the document and how it will be used. The panel explored how the Code’s principles—respect, stewardship, documentation, education, and safety—translate into real world practice for avocational archaeologists. Most of the focus on on scientific ethics

but personal code of standards were mentioned. The moderator was Valerie Hall, ASM President, and the panelists were Brent Chippendale, Jim Gibb, and Julia BergASM Ethics Committee Members.

Westwood: An Ancient Native American Site on the Banks of a Relict Creek



Dr. Jim Gibb presented on Westwood North, originally identified as a multicomponent Early and Late Archaic site, is a single-component Brewerton Complex site blanketed by redeposited sands and gravels with Transitional and Late Woodland inclusions. The buried A horizon and BE horizon yielded 21 heavily reworked notched projectile points of quartz, quartzite and rhyolite. These buried deposits also produced 150 kg of fire-cracked rock and 6500 pieces of flaked stone, but there is no clear patterning evident across ten 5 ft by 5 ft excavation units. The site is adjacent to a relict tributary of Mattawoman Creek on the Chesapeake coastal plain. Westwood North appears to have been a Late Archaic

base camp at which Native Americans exploited riverine and wetland resources with the bonus of plentiful toolstone.

From Slave Labor to Free Labor: The Archaeology of Post Emancipation Charles County



Dr. Julia A. King discussed Thomas Brown and his wife, Emeline, who were born enslaved on the old Chapman Plantation, also known as Pomonkey and who were witnesses to one of the most important transformations in American history. The couple gained their freedom in 1864, purchased land in 1877, and, in 1890, watched as the U.S. Navy opened a new powder factory down the road at Indian Head. Brown's children may have landed wage employment aboard the new naval facility. This part of Charles County--including Pomonkey, Indian Head, and Bryans Road--became a destination for the Great Migration as people arrived in the area to build and operate the base or to provide civilian

services in support of the facility. Drawing on legacy archaeological collections recovered in the 1990s by R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, this presentation describes that history and advocates for a greater investment in the region's important history.

An Archaeological Retrospective: A View From 47 years in the Trenches



Dr. Esther Doyle Read described the incredible range of her career and how archaeology has changed since the 1970s. The archaeological studies Esther Read finds herself currently engaged in are very different from when she began. She focused on how interpretation and public archaeology has changed.

The PaleoDigger Barton (18AG3)—Kim Edition

Much thanks to Dr. Zac Singer for his technical and scientific writing support.

To begin the 2025 story of Barton (18AG3), one must begin in 2024 and perhaps, even before. Brian Fritz created the PaleoDigger, a machine able to dig 7 meters deep and dig in incrementable units using a scientific methodology. He began traveling to Paleoindian archeological sites and even created the YouTube channel Archeology X. Last year, he teamed up with Dr. Zachary Singer and Dr. Robert Wall to excavate PDPs (PaleoDigger Pits) with a grant that allowed the PaleoDigger and volunteers to excavate at Barton in Western Maryland. This year, the ASM fundraised to bring Brian and the PaleoDigger back to explore even more and try to find hot spots of Clovis activity.



I was part of the crew last year that worked one-on-one with the PaleoDigger and stuck my arm in a rotating screen basket for most of the dig. Last year, I failed to mention that I was the PaleoDigger's only casualty (and remain so). I clipped my arm on the basket when I was distracted by shovels coming too close to me and it was so negligible that I stopped the bleeding and went back to the basket after one rotation. Only the immediate crew, and by the end of the day, Zac, knew about it. My klutziness is well documented—so yes, at the lab and now in my non-archeological friend group—Zac's immediate response to a horrified lab volunteer's exclamation that I had been injured was "what dig doesn't take a bite out of Kim?" Now, after a dig, I'm asked— "what was the injury this time?" To find out, you just have to keep reading. I am the walking reason for the liability forms according to my friends, but the dig was incredibly safe.

After the ASM fundraiser, Brian Fritz returned with us to Barton on September 26, 2025.



Instead of digging in a soybean field, we dug in corn. As I followed Zac to place flags at the PDPs' coordinates where we were going to dig that morning, I realized what it must be like to go through a very wet jungle. I'm short in comparison to everyone and certainly following Zac into the wilderness isn't new, but having corn press on all sides, attack, and thrash face to crotch, arms beating back the stalks in the morning dew and only armed with the map (I'm not allowed to carry a machete re:klutiziness) was a unique experience. I managed to stay upright, but I was very grateful that the corn was being mowed down where we were going to screen and dig. I know now that freedom means finally seeing the sky and poison ivy after freeing myself from my new adversary. Corn.



I didn't know what my role was going to be this year. I knew I'd screen but I also knew that I was doing homework every night and had been in classes for less than four weeks. I'm always uncertain about my place—in the world at large—and in the microcosm of a dig. I shift between several worlds, so feeling out the atmosphere and where I belong in it, wherever I find myself, is necessary. I figured it out quickly when Brian Fritz

greeted me and my fellow volunteers and told me that he had been trying to fix the basket so that it wouldn't hurt me again. In the end, the rotating basket that does the first screening of the soil was duct taped and most of the metal edges were covered. Of course, I was the first to try it out then. I certainly had to regain my honor and test out the new improvements. I give credit to innovation. I was much more protected and this time despite catching myself once, I wasn't cut. I began on the basket and was able to participate in the only of the more physical roles that I could. I can't backfill into a hole with accuracy let alone a spinning screen for an entire day. I also can't lift one-hundred-pound tubs. I can lift 60-80lb buckets—but lifting into a screen is much different.

I'm still the best at KimFu though—a mangled dance between two shovels tossing dirt into the bucket and my arm making sure that the most amount of soil is screened through before it is divided into buckets for the other volunteers to screen for artifacts.



The plowzone is about 40cm at Barton. The PaleoDigger is able to dig through in minutes what would take hours if not days for a hand shovel. Brian Fritz and several volunteers



guiding shovels around the metal auger to begin keeping the accuracy over the point and get the digging started correctly. We began in the field road, where the PaleoDigger was unable to penetrate last year. This year, with several innovations including modified metal teeth on the bucket, digging was able to proceed in the farm road. The bucket spins into the soil and then with the opposite rotation, the bucket closes, and the soil is lifted. The bucket swings back and a rotating volunteer and Brian hook the bucket and yank back the metal as the soil falls into the metal tub beneath. Then, two volunteers take aim at the basket then once screened, the basket tilts back and Walt Wassell then dumps the dirt into another metal tub. This tub is handed off to be placed into the buckets to be screened by the other volunteers. This year, level tags were placed into each bucket to ensure that provenience was kept.

We dug 4 PDPs the first day. We tried to figure out the best techniques for success. The PaleoDigger is always being improved. Brian makes it his goal to make each day and each dig better than the last. It's common to see Brian writing down notes about what could go better or what is needed. He keeps track of depth and keeps meticulous recordings. He also films and takes photos. He created a new type of deep pit hoe to clean up the soil profile for both photos and to delineate strata. We left the first day ready for

the rest of the dig, but already it was clear it wasn't a remake of 2024. We were all different people, and corn did change the challenges.



The second day we started early, and I didn't have the PDP flagging duty. I went straight to the basket. I'm still being teased about having Red Wing gloves—but I went through my first pair last year with the PaleoDigger. This year, I made sure that I had a new set, and yes, I have holes in the gloves again. The soil is rough and most of the volunteers also have holes in their gloves. Mine are just from a mechanical screen and keeping the soil from gumming up it up.

Eventually, we stopped screening at the end of the 3 meters we went down. The balls of soil were almost impossible to screen and had to be mashed through the ¼ inch mesh at the end.



The third day was an extraordinary success. I was on the basket again and a biface, wedge, and scraper were found at our target depth around 200cm below surface. There were clear indications that these were most likely the Paleoindian artifacts that we were looking for. There was a lot of cheering, and the excitement was palpable. Zac was bouncing at record



levels, even for him, —which is telling. The screeners had renewed vigor. And for the first time, I had friends from the outside visiting and participating in the dig.

My friend and her father were present at the moment that the possible Paleo artifacts were found. Already, this meant victory—but it meant something a lot more personal. Only a few of the volunteers knew why my friend and her father had come—and I hadn't told them.

I had a lot of conflicting emotions going into the dig. One of my flaws is my idea of personal honor. My honor is the only thing that matters at the end of the day. I had taken care of my friend's mother as she died and my friend and her father came to the dig because the PaleoDigger is awesome, yes, but also to support me and to hold true to my honor. I refused payment for my time and trauma for my caregiving because death is not transactional. It's about honor and radical love. The family still wanted to show their support for a cause that I cared deeply about and donated to the PaleoDigger fund and came both to experience the dig and to understand my passion. It still makes me feel incredibly awkward, but they fell in love with the idea of archeology and the PaleoDigger itself. That type of outreach is priceless. My friend fell in love with screening. I want to personally thank everyone that welcomed and held space with them. I hope that we have the same sort of luck the next time they come to a dig.



In the next days, I was not at the PaleoDigger's basket as much. I'd been staying up until 3am and getting up at 5am to attempt my GIS homework. At lunch and when I took breaks, I could be seen scrunched up with my laptop and for the first time, it wasn't because I was writing. I was failing GIS. I lost count of the professional archeologists that talked me through the process. How to study with aphasia. How to explain to my professor what-part I didn't understand. All the volunteers urged me keep hope and continue to try even when I was being counseled by my family to drop the course. I will always be grateful for the support that I received. It is a small story within the larger narrative because I've never felt like I've had family and I must say—that at Barton, strangers became my family and my support.



On the weekend we had about 40 volunteers a day and during the week there were about thirty volunteers. The great support of the volunteer archaeology community made the dig a success. I was able to try my hand at every position. I helped screen and mush the dirt through a trusty shaker screen and on the final day, I wrote the tags for the buckets being screened. Every task requires a different type of skill—all equal in measure. Volunteers spent hours screening under tents in humidity, in heat, in mist. Every person was remarkable, and everyone had stories. John Domenic was able to watch again, still with the same awe as last year. He still knows the archeological landscape and is wonderful to see during the heat of the day. Gary Grant told us the lay of the land and how to do every task. His enthusiasm is always catching and from

morning until treading back to the vehicles at the end of the day, he remains buoyant, and I marvel at how tired I get and how he keeps us all going.

In the end, we dug for 6 days and Brian Fritz sent the statistics. Together we dug 23 test pits but stopped two at a depth of 43 cm due to the presence of features. The other 21 deep test pits (PDPs) had an average depth of 280 cm. The deepest was 310 cm. We removed and screened 51 cubic meters of soil in 6 days. That volume of soil is equivalent to 5 2x2 meter test blocks dug to a depth of 250 cm. We used ¼ inch mesh to screen and volunteers contributed about 1600 cumulative hours. Amazing!

I want to note that outside reviewers expressed concern that the PaleoDigger might destroy archaeological features if they were to be encountered. Via Brian's careful excavation and examination of the soil profiles and planviews with every 10cm level, when the PaleoDigger encountered features at Barton, the digging was able to be halted so that the features could be recorded and saved for future studies. These features remain in situ and at a later time can be researched with traditional block excavation and feature documentation techniques.

I look forward to volunteering at the lab and hope to see everyone at the MHT Crownsville Lab when we start processing the Barton artifacts. 3 charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating have already been sent off from this year's PaleoDigger session. One charcoal sample was sent from a feature found at 120cmbs near a Brewerton projectile

point and two samples of charcoal were sent that were found at 200cmbs in association with chipping debris.

We look forward to Zac's, Bob's, and Brian's research and further analysis. Their papers and talks will be marvelous. I will have links to Brian Fritz's 2024 documentary on Barton as well as links to ASM's 2025 Barton PaleoDigger project page.

https://marylandarcheology.org/projects/2025_PaleoDigger_Barton.html



No story would be complete if I didn't conclude with how the dig "bit" me. Nothing outrageous. I was hit by a rock while dirt was shoveled into the basket. It flipped off a shovel and into my leg while I thought that I was safe and outside of the line of fire—there was a quick misstep with the shovel and myself. I didn't feel anything but had a black and blue mark. I still blame the port-a-john for my poison ivy, but no one else complained—so my accusation doesn't hold a lot of merit—but still is a good yarn. All in all vastly Kimmish.

The PaleoDigger was incredibly safe but with all moving parts and heavy machinery—there is no room for distraction. It is an amazing marvel and I can't wait to see the next project Brian does and how he improves the PaleoDigger.

I am profoundly grateful to all the volunteers that sat or worked with me. I learned a lot and was told many stories. I was propped up by the entire community and am getting an A in GIS at the time of this publication (and at least, not failing).

Barton still beckons and more digs are coming. There are many research questions to be answered and stay tuned for future scientific articles and PaleoDigger findings.

Send in your photos into the *ASM Ink!!!*



ArchaeologyX

Hunt for the First Americans: Clovis at the Barton Site?

ArchaeologyX seeks to advance new technologies in pursuit of archaeological research. A primary focus is the development and deployment of the PaleoDigger machine in the search for the First Americans. In the Digging Deeper series, we will explore archaeological topics of interest. In Doing Archaeology, methods and techniques in archaeological practice will be highlighted. Brian Fritz is the owner and principal archaeological investigator of Quemahoning LLC, a cultural resources consulting firm based in New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA. My specialties include geoarchaeology and the use of GIS in archaeology.

Links



ArchaeologyX youtube.com/channel/UCMifBopbH05ySFOBLr3df1w



linkedin linkedin.com



Archaeology Podcast Network archaeologypodcastnetwork.com

[Archaeological Conservancy Home - The Archaeological Conservancy](#)

C.A.T. 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



Two C.A.T. Candidates, Danielle Knight and Julia Berg both earned their certificates!!! Congratulations!

Julia Berg and Sarah Mason earned the Outstanding Teacher Award.



MHT Crownsville Lab

We've been having fun working most Tuesdays and Thursdays at the MHT Crownsville Lab. We can always use more company! It would be lovely to see everyone on Thursdays especially! No experience is required.

Tracy Hayman has been mending glass vessels. She was able to determine that there was more than one bottle, but the patina was fragile and after she reached the point of discovering that there were at least two vessels, she stopped so that the glass could be better preserved.



Teague's Point Lab Days
18CH1005
MHT Crownsville Lab

**Most Thursdays in addition
to the usual Tuesday
Schedule**
9am - 3pm

**Contact Dr. Zachary Singer at
zachary.singer@maryland.gov**

MoCo 250

Join Montgomery History on **November 8, 2025**, for the 20th edition of the ever-popular Montgomery County History Conference. This year the theme will be "MoCo 250" and every session will present new research that will be published as a compendium entitled *Unfinished Revolution* in 2026. <https://montgomeryhistory.org/event/2025-montgomery-county-history-conference/>

Lost Towns Project

[EAC/Archaeology Inc.](#) is looking for adult volunteers to assist in their current excavation at [Historic London Town & Gardens](#)! This project aims to document the historic landscape along the bank of the South River in the shadow of the William Brown House.

Fieldwork at London Town with EAC/A



The focus of this volunteer crew will be on artifact recovery at our standing mesh screens.

EAC/Archaeology can accommodate up to three volunteers in each session. Please sign up for a single time slot (morning or afternoon) on a single day so that we may accommodate as many interested volunteers as possible over the course of this program.

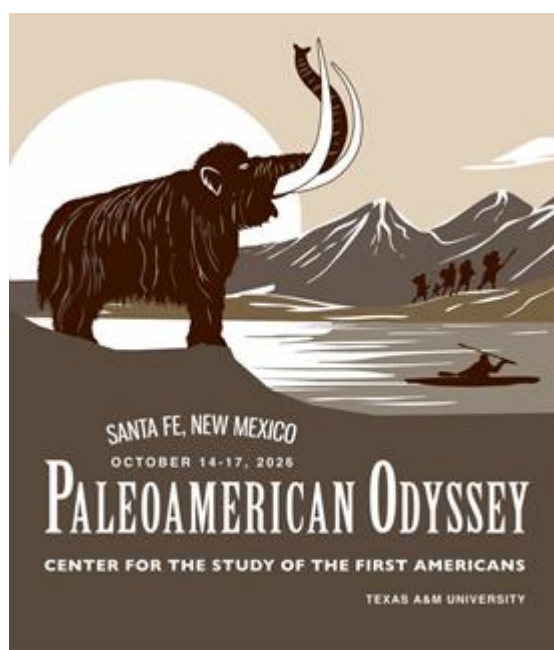
For more information or to sign up, [click here](#).
Volunteer at the Lab!

Member Suggestions

https://today.ucsd.edu/story/ancient-shipwrecks-rewrite-the-story-of-iron-age-trade?utm_placement=newsletter&user_id=68ec728661714b3e4507a34c

Conferences:

We are starting a new section for conferences and lectures. Send in your information! Stay tuned for more information!



Kim's Note:

Thank you everyone for your energy and your companionship at the PaleoDigger! I hope to see everyone soon! I'll be reporting from Piney Grove in December and please, always send in your photos and stories!

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. The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted on Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Charles County for Lab and Field Work welcomes volunteers. Contact Esther Read at ReadE@charlescountymd.gov For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com

The Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab in Edgewater, in conjunction with **The Lost Towns Project**, accepts volunteers for lab work. No experience needed. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The lab is generally open 2-3 weekdays each week from 9:00-3:00. Volunteers must sign up in advance. There are occasional opportunities for fieldwork as well. For more information, the current lab or field schedule, or to sign up, email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org

Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

Montgomery County for Lab and Field Work welcomes volunteers. Contact link: <https://montgomeryparks.org/activities/history-in-the-parks/archaeology/>

Mount Calvert for Lab and Field Work: call 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research, and conservation. Contact 410-586-8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Click on <https://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork> to get started.

Chapter News

Central Chapter

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

Charles County

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

Eastern Shore

Dates and events are on chapter's website [ASM Eastern Shore \(google.com\)](http://asm-easternshore.org) Facebook page Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology and Instagram (@esmdarch). For more information, email esarcheology@gmail.com or jamrkin2@washcoll.edu

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

All events are open to anyone who wants to attend!

Open lab at Washington College:

Contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu.

As always, check out our

website: <https://sites.google.com/view/asmeasternshore/home> and social media

(Facebook: Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology; Instagram: @esmdarch) to stay up to date on all our events!

We hope to see you this fall!



Eastern Shore Archaeological Society

a chapter of The Archaeological Society of Maryland

✉ esarcheology@gmail.com

📘 Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology

📷 @esmdarch

🌐 bit.ly/ASM-ES

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month from September through June. In-person meetings begin at 7p.m. for the business meeting followed by a presentation at around 7:30. Since the beginning of 2025, the location of the chapter meetings has changed. The new location is at the ADU Showroom, 8501 Grovemont Circle, 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.

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

Thursday, November 20, 2025: Erin Cagney, Montgomery Parks archaeologist, will speak on her journey from the University of Tennessee to Needwood Mansion, the headquarters for Montgomery Parks archaeology.

Monocacy

For information contact: monocacyarcheology@gmail.com (mailbox monitored intermittently) or call Jeremy Lazelle at 301-471-8433.

Northern Chesapeake

A business meeting at 7pm and is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Locations vary.
Contact Dan Coates at 410-808-2398 or dancoates@comcast.net

Western Maryland

Programs are held the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm at the **History Discovery Center at Blue Spring at 400 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, MD.** Unless noted.

Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com

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

Lab workdays! Excavations at the Jane Gates Heritage House uncovered several boxes of artifacts dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There will be hands-on cataloging sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm for the month of April until the artifacts are analyzed and cataloged. These lab days will be at the new History Discovery Center at 400 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, MD. It's free, open to the public, and no experience is necessary to participate. More information email: info@oxbowculturalresearch.com.



November Field Trip

We're planning our annual field trip instead of a regular meeting. Last year's visit to Ridgedale Historic Farm was a hit — this year, we're looking at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum in Baltimore, home to Egyptian and Greek collections.

The museum is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10am-4pm,

Tentative dates include either November 10th, 11th or the 14th

Transportation: Van rental or carpooling options

Interested? Email us at wmdasm@yahoo.com with your interest, questions or suggestions for other locations!

December

No meetings—enjoy the holiday season. Merry Christmas!

January–April

Regular meetings resume. Topics to be announced.

Contact Us:

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

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



Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, ethan.bean@marylandarcheology.org, for membership rates.

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