

*Maryland Archeology Month 2020*

# Partners in Pursuit of the Past: 50 Field Sessions in Maryland Archeology



Partners in the Biggs Ford Field Sessions 2013, 2014, and 2015; members of the Crum family who own the site, and the Principal Investigator Joe Dent (Left to right Susie Crum Culler, Bill and Barbara Crum, Joe Dent, and Bill Crum Jr).



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



SCAN ME

*You are cordially invited to join  
Maryland Governor Larry Hogan  
in celebrating April 2020 as  
“Maryland Archeology Month”*

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

**MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH  
APRIL 1 - 30, 2020**

- WHEREAS,** Maryland's many remarkable archaeological discoveries at such sites as St. Mary's City, London Town, Fort Frederick, Rowntown, the Bowen-Barnes Village, and the colonial capital of Annapolis are of state and national significance; and
- WHEREAS,** The partnership between the Archaeological Society of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Planning's Maryland Historical Trust, researchers from universities, state and county agencies, and community property owners including state agencies, county agencies, private individuals and organizations; and the public has facilitated the conduct of annual Tyler Bastien Field Sessions in Maryland Archeology since 1971 and totaling 10 with this year's investigations of the Blakely site; and
- WHEREAS,** Archaeological sites and artifacts provide a tangible link to at least 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland, deepen our understanding of the state's diverse history and culture, and reveal otherwise unavailable information about the origins of our communities and traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** The protection, study and interpretation of these unique and irreplaceable links in the past provide educational, scientific, and economic benefits for all citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** The Maryland Historical Trust has combined forces with the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Archaeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration, Historic St. Mary's City, and other individuals and organizations to inform and involve the public in the excitement of archaeological discovery in our state.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim  
APRIL 1 - 30, 2020 as MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH in  
Maryland, and do command this observance to all of our citizens.**

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
the 22 day of April,  
2020.  
Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*  
Governor

*Robert M. Anderson*  
Lt. Governor

*John C. Wolk*  
Secretary of State



The table below presents a listing of the Annual Field Sessions in Maryland Archeology, an archeological research program of the Archeological Society of Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust. To visit a StoryMap, scan the code:



No.	Year	Site Name	Site Number	PI	Prehistoric/ Historic
1	1971	Long Draught Mill	18MO32	Bastian	H
2	1972	Friendsville	18GA23	Bastian	P
3	1973	Kanawha Spring	18FR8	Bastian	P
4	1974	Wessel	18CA21	Bastian	P
5	1975	Abells Wharf	18ST53	Peck	P/H
6	1976	Abells Wharf	18ST53	Peck	P/H
7	1977	Rose Haven	18AN279	Peck	P
8	1978	Noland's Ferry	18FR17	Peck	P
9	1979	Rosenstock/Factory Farm	18FR18, 39	Peck	P
10	1980	Baldwin	18AN55	McNamara	P
11	1981	Conowingo	18CE14	McNamara	P
12	1982	Conowingo	18CE14	McNamara	P
13	1983	Cresaptown	18AG119	Wall	P
14	1984	Locust Neck	18DO117	McNamara	P
15	1985	Popes Creek	18CH74	McNamara	P
16	1986	Pemberton	18WC29	Davidson	H
17	1987	Barton II/Second Terrace	18AG8, 23	Wall, Curry	P
18	1988	Chapel Point	18CH79	Curry, Kavanagh	P
19	1989	Chapel Point	18CH79	Curry, Kavanagh	P
20	1990	Rosenstock	18FR18	Curry, Kavanagh	P
21	1991	Rosenstock	18FR18	Curry, Kavanagh	P
22	1992	Rosenstock	18FR18	Curry, Kavanagh	P
23	1993	Steward's Shipyard	18AN817	Thompson, Seidel	H
24	1994	Hughes	18MO1	Dent	P
25	1995	Barton	18AG3	Wall	P
26	1996	Elkridge	18AN30	Wall	P
27	1997	Mount Calvert	18PR6	Creveling	H
28	1998	Mount Calvert	18PR6	Creveling	H
29	1999	Mount Calvert	18PR6	Creveling	H
—	2000	—	—	—	—
30	2001	Pleasant Valley	18TA355	McCarthy	H
31	2002	Winslow	18MO9	Dent	P
32	2003	Winslow	18MO9	Dent	P
33	2004	Swan Cove	18AN934	Luckenbach	H
34	2005	Swan Cove	18AN934	Luckenbach	H
35	2006	Hughes	18MO1	Dent	P
36	2007	Claggett Retreat	18FR25	Dent	P
37	2008	Claggett Retreat	18FR25	Dent	P
38	2008	Port Tobacco	18CH94	Gibb	H
39	2009	Port Tobacco	18CH94	Gibb	H
40	2010	Smith's St. Leonard Site	18CV91	Chaney	H
41	2011	Barton	18AG3	Wall	H
42	2012	Elk Landing/Hollingsworth	18CE29/60	Wall/Gibb	P/H
43	2013	Biggs Ford	18FR14	Dent/Wall	P
44	2014	Biggs Ford	18FR14	Dent/Wall	P
45	2015	Biggs Ford	18FR14	Dent/Wall	P
46	2016	River Farm	18AN881	Sperling	P
47	2017	Calverton	18CV22	Uunila	H
48	2018	Calverton	18CV22	Uunila	H
49	2019	Billingsley	18PR9	McKnight, Sperling	P

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The essays in this booklet represent the recollections and reflections of the various kinds of partners that are necessary to make the Field Session program happen, including researchers/Principal Investigators, archeological staff, property owners, Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) officers/board members, and volunteers from the public. The Maryland Archeology Month Committee hopes that you find the essays illuminating and entertaining!

This year the ASM and the Maryland Historical Trust will conduct their 50th annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology on the grounds of the Billingsley House in Prince George’s County between May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [marylandarcheology.org](http://marylandarcheology.org) for more information, and plan to join the effort!

## Origins of the Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology

*Tyler Bastian, Principal Investigator and Originator of the Field Sessions*

The Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology was created in 1971 by the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM)\* and the Maryland Geological Survey's Division of Archeology. The purpose of the Field Session was to provide opportunities for ASM members to learn field techniques from professional archeologists, to assist the Division of Archeology with field research, and to acquaint the general public with archeology in Maryland.

The Division of Archeology was created after successful ASM lobbying of the Maryland General Assembly for an official state archeology program headed by a State Archeologist. The Division of Archeology was activated in 1969 when I was hired as the first Maryland State Archeologist. After the Division of Archeology was transferred to the Maryland Historical Trust in 1990, the Field Session was continued by ASM and the Trust, often with the addition of local university sponsorship.

Prior to the first Field Session in 1971, volunteers assisted me in 1969 and 1970 with salvage excavations at the late prehistoric Biggs Ford village site near Frederick, and with several other projects. My experience with ASM, other volunteers, and the land owners at Biggs Ford highlighted the valuable contributions that all can make to preserving and exploring Maryland archeology.

During the winter of 1970-71 Iris McGillivray came to my office in Latrobe Hall on the Johns Hopkins University Homewood campus to discuss the organization of an annual field event. Iris was an ASM officer and a principal force behind the lobbying effort to create a state archeology program for Maryland. We decided to schedule a three-day field event for the next Memorial Day weekend. The event was to be called a "session" rather than a "dig" or "school" to indicate an intermediate formality. Site selection was to prioritize those threatened with destruction and those suitable for accommodating volunteers with varying levels of experience. Field Sessions were to be organized by a joint ASM/Division of Archeology committee with the Division primarily responsible for site selection and field logistics. ASM was to



**Tyler Bastian mapping post molds at the Biggs Ford site, May 1970 (the model for subsequent Field Sessions).**

organize local arrangements and requirements for pre-registration with a fee to reimburse ASM expenses and build a fund for special studies. For several years Iris was the point person for Session registration. She was a notable figure at several Field Sessions as she sat at a field desk checking on arrivals for their registration status and extracting fees from those who had not paid.

The first Field Session was held at the historic Long Draught Woolen Mill site in Seneca Creek State Park near Gaithersburg. The site was to be inundated by future Clopper Lake. Despite the Session's location near urban centers of ASM membership, participation and data recovery were dampened by rainy weather and ASM member preference for prehistoric sites.

A large contingent responded to the second Field Session in 1972 held at a prehistoric site on the Youghiogheny River near Friendsville at the west end of the state far from the urban centers of ASM membership. The site was to be destroyed by highway I-68 construction. When making arrangements for use of a school auditorium, the local community expressed concern about our impending invasion from the East. The concern about Field Session responsibility soon abated. When they saw us on the first day struggling to scrape and trowel the baked floors of our trenches, they sent out their volunteer fire department that evening to spray the trench floors making them workable the next day.

Field Sessions were expanded in 1974 to 10 days to give volunteers more flexibility in scheduling their attendance and to allow for more thorough investigations. It became a tradition of some volunteers to schedule their vacations to coincide with the Annual Field Session. More experienced workers were designated Crew Chiefs to oversee newer volunteers. For several years Certificates of Participation were issued to each Field Session attendee. Invited evening or lunch-time speakers was a tradition at all Field Sessions.

The earliest Field Sessions lacked amenities such as tent shades over excavation units, portable toilets, and arrangements for local accommodations. The first shade was a parachute provided by an ASM member. Some volunteers camped at or near the Field Session site; others stayed in nearby motels or commuted from home. Accommodations for a few Sessions were in school dorms or at youth camps. Meals were provided at some youth camps.

Cliff Evans, a Smithsonian archeologist and recruiter for Maryland's first State Archeologist, assured me that ASM members were dedicated, loyal, and hard-working. He was right!

My ASM partners during my 30 years of professional archeological activity in Maryland enlightened me to the value of cooperation. I learned a lot. Including how to eat hard shell crabs.

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\* During the 1960s and early 1970s there were two separate organizations named Archeological Society of Maryland. Both societies participated in Field Session planning and participation. They are referred to without distinction in this essay.

## My Greatest Discovery in Maryland Archeology

*Richard J. Dent, Principal Investigator*

The folks at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) asked me to write a little essay on my participation with the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) in the annual Field Sessions. I was told that I was part of at least eight of them, more recently the leader of seven. I guess that makes me somewhat of a major player. Well, here goes.

To start, my first experience was in 1975 (I think) when Tyler Bastion talked me into working with the Field Session at the Abells Warf site on the lower Potomac. I went out and walked over the site with Tyler. Artifacts were everywhere and Tyler had more or less decided that a surface collection was called for. He was going to do one, but I'm not sure his heart was in it. We none the less gridded the field and went about collecting the cells, one by one. When we were done we had a massive collection of bagged artifacts. My job was to take them back to the University of Maryland, identify, and count them. I had been in archeology about a year at the time, had completed a field school, and was a new graduate of the department. I did this all and took my counts to Tyler. He seemed impressed, although that assessment may just have been my impression. The first day of the Field Session came and I was in a unit with two ASM folks and we started down. Sometime during that first afternoon Gary Stone, lead St. Mary's City archeologist, came over and made the suggestion we all start troweling together and go in one direction at a time. That made all the difference and things at least looked better. After several day of that I left to work the rest of the summer at the Shawnee-Minisink site. So ended my first experience at a Field Session.

My next brush with the ASM and Field Sessions came at the Hughes site, a Late Woodland Keyser complex site on the middle Potomac. It was the second year of excavations there when the ASM showed up for a Field Session, I think sometime in the mid-1990s. I got to be the co-leader of the whole thing this time, with Chris Jirikowic. I really wanted to find a house pattern but never did find one. The ASM and Field Session volunteers did find the palisade though and a lot of neat features. A good time was had by all.

This brings us to the end of ancient times and start of the modern era with Field Schools at Hughes (once again), Winslow, Claggett Retreat, and Biggs Ford. All were pulled off with the ASM and Field Sessions. I'll talk about each below.

Winslow was my favorite. I went out and found the datum, set over 40 years ago, and we gridded the field off from there. The site, a Late Woodland Montgomery complex site, had



**Gates Slattery and Joe Dent at the Winslow site (2002).**

originally been found and excavated by Gates Slattery in 1940 - 41. He came out to visit during our 2002 Field Session and it was a joy to get to know him. The Field Session also occurred during one of the rainiest summers on record. The American University (AU) truck got so muddy that AU's Physical Plant immediately made plans to trade it in on a new one. The ASM and Field Session volunteers again found the palisade, a burial (*Willow Sage*), a nearby dog burial, and loads of features. Our greatest find, however, was traces of two house patterns. These were the first two such houses found in Maryland. By the close of the second Field Session (2003) excavations we had a neat picture of the village and life there.

The next time (2006) it was back to Hughes. And this was another wet summer, somewhat sealing my reputation as a wet leader. That fact gets mentioned every time it rains on a Field Session. We did find the southern limits



**Joe Dent standing in one of the house patterns identified at the Winslow site (the yellow pin flags locate the stained soil of post molds).**

of the palisade at the site and many artifacts. My greatest memory of the summer was washing artifacts with a few other ASM folks in the covered pavilion at the picnic area while sitting on top of the picnic table to keep our feet out of the water.

Claggett Retreat, a Late Woodland Mason Island complex site, was next (2007 -08), another of a long list of sites Charlie Hall keeps that need another look. I started digging in the wrong part of the field. Thankfully Calvin Swomley, a Buckeystown resident who had located and excavated the site in the 1960s, showed up and set us right. He latter donated the many artifacts he found at the site to the American University, and they will be coming to the MHT soon. We found good artifacts there and got a radiocarbon date on the site.

Biggs Ford was my last site. I was privileged to lead excavations there for the first two years of three (2013 – 15). We found incredible numbers of artifacts at two locations, a Montgomery complex component and at another Keyser complex component. I'm told these will appear in a special publication soon thanks to the efforts of Dr. Becca Peixotto.

To close, let me summarize what I've learned from these experiences. I think one of my greatest discoveries in Maryland archeology is in fact the Archeological Society of Maryland. The care it takes with local prehistory is amazing. It would take me years, much more than just seven, to recount all that I've learned, with your help, about the prehistory of the State. Thank you all for your efforts and good cheer. I'm ready to go again.

## My Field Session Experiences (1983-2015)

*Robert D. Wall, Principal Investigator*

Coming back to Maryland from Canada in 1980 was the beginning of my long association with the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) and a series of nine Field Sessions in which I was either the sole principal investigator or I shared the role with colleagues and the archaeologists from Maryland Geological Survey and later, the Maryland Historical Trust. I had certainly heard of ASM while doing graduate work at Catholic University since I was involved in a number of Maryland projects as a student. My direct association with ASM did not come until much later.

In 1982, as I was completing the multi-year western Maryland coal region study, I was asked by Tyler Bastian to look at a site in Cresaptown which was the focus of a Program Open Space project. This turned out to be a very important site and was subsequently chosen to be a Field Session site for 1983, my first. The Field Session evolved into a multi-year project to completely salvage the site and could not have been done without the help of ASM volunteers. My experience with the Cresaptown site had a dramatic effect on the course of my career in Maryland archaeology, both on a professional and on a personal level.

On a professional level, I became more deeply involved in western Maryland archaeology, moving to the Barton site, after Cresaptown, and also working on a number of smaller projects. The 1987 Field Session at the Barton site re-united old friends from Cresaptown and also introduced a new group to field archaeology, members of the newly formed western Maryland chapter of ASM. This chapter is still active and very involved in local archaeology projects. Chapter members were also participants in the many years of excavations at the Barton site which became a magnet for those interested in local archaeology. The Barton site was also a Field



**Bob Wall excavating a unit at the Barton site (1987).**

Session site in 1995, where we learned a tremendous amount about the site through large scale excavations, and again in 2011. At the same time, I ran a series of Barton site field schools through Towson University. Students were able to benefit tremendously from their interactions with seasoned ASM volunteers who imparted their knowledge on students who were new to the

experience. On a personal level, many of these ASM members, both in western Maryland and others state-wide have become good friends over the years as we pursued our mutual interests on other sites such as Chapel Point and Rosenstock.

My ASM experiences continued after the second (1995) Barton site Field Session on sites in other parts of the state. I helped to organize and run the 1996 Field Session excavations at the Elkridge site where I have been working periodically since that time, including this past year. After the third Barton Field Session in 2011 I was fortunate to be the co-principal investigator at the Hollingsworth Farm site (2012), and three straight years (2013-2015) at the Biggs Ford site, my last effort at helping to run a Field Session. This was a very fruitful partnership bringing together my colleagues and ASM friends, and my Towson University students, to work on an important site beyond the scope of a single Field Session and to follow-up with analysis of the site data for publication.

I have been very fortunate to work with a small group of western Maryland chapter members who understand the archaeology so well, and have fully developed the skill sets required to do good field archaeology. They have



**Bob Wall giving a lunchtime workshop on prehistoric ceramics at the Winslow site (2002).**

consistently offered valuable advice and shared their well-informed alternatives to my excavation plans. Overall, I am deeply thankful to all ASMErs with whom I have shared these experiences and without whom none of our accomplishments in Maryland archaeology could have been possible.

**The Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology:  
The View from Rosenstock**

*Dennis C. Curry and Maureen Kavanagh, Principal Investigators and Staff*

For perspective, the two of us have directed, co-directed, or served as staff support on 34 of the 50 Annual Field Sessions in Maryland Archeology, and have had at least some hand in more than 40 of them. It has not always been easy. We've had multiple vehicles mired in mud up to their axles, and one truck burn to the ground. We've arrived in the field two hours from the office with our transit...but no tripod. And we once arrived on site early one morning to see our transit still standing proudly in the middle of a cornfield (oops!). We've survived near pneumonia (Maureen in 1991) and suffered through a late June heat wave when a session was delayed so one of us could be present for the birth of their daughter (Dennis in 1987). Nonetheless, the Field Session was always the highlight of our year—the anticipation of new discoveries, the excitement of fieldwork, and the camaraderie of reuniting with old friends. As one example, we look at the Rosenstock site in Frederick County, the focus of four Field Sessions.

The Rosenstock site is a circa A.D. 1400 Late Woodland village situated on the Monocacy River. As part of the 8th Annual Field Session, preliminary testing was carried out at the site in 1979. Portions of several deep trash-filled pits were encountered and partially excavated, yielding pottery (including one now-reconstructed pot), stone artifacts, and a wide array of animal bone. Despite the richness of the site, it would be more than a decade before the State Office of Archeology returned to the site. In 1990, Rosenstock was chosen for the 20th Annual Field Session. Our first task was relocating the site. Much had changed in 11 years...the open woods had thickened, old farm roads were hard to discern, and even the adjacent farm was now a golf course. It took several approaches from different directions, but we finally arrived on site and were able to identify our units from 1979. Once we were able to scout the path of the old farm road, we set about clearing almost a mile of trees and brush sufficient to drive (slowly) to the site itself. The site also required the removal of a number of thorny locust trees, vast patches of poison ivy, and a stubborn cover of underbrush (it was so dense that in 1992 Maureen tripped over a complete screen and tripod lost in the honeysuckle in 1990).

We re-established the 1979 grid and laid out excavation units with several objectives in mind: complete excavation of the features found in 1979; recover floral and faunal materials to reconstruct dietary patterns; determine the limits of the site; and determine community patterning within the site.



**Spencer Geasey and Ned Ward excavating Feature 5.**

One of our first goals was to complete excavation of a deep trash-filled pit (Feature 5) encountered in 1979. We estimated then that half of the pit remained. What we exposed in 1990 revealed that more than 80% of this feature remained; it would take three full Field Sessions to completely excavate the 12 m<sup>3</sup> of fill in this pit. Ultimately, this pit yielded tens of thousands of flakes, ceramic sherds, animal bones, and organic remains. Other similar trash-filled pits were encountered in subsequent excavations, revealing a roughly circular line of such pits defining the central area of the site. In addition to artifacts, these features have yielded charred corn and bean remains, as well as a wealth of animal remains: deer, elk, bear, fox, raccoon, dog, rabbit, woodchuck, beaver, squirrel, frog, turtle, snake, turkey, goose, pigeon, and fish (including sucker, bowfin, and catfish).



**Crushed ceramic vessel in Feature 5.**

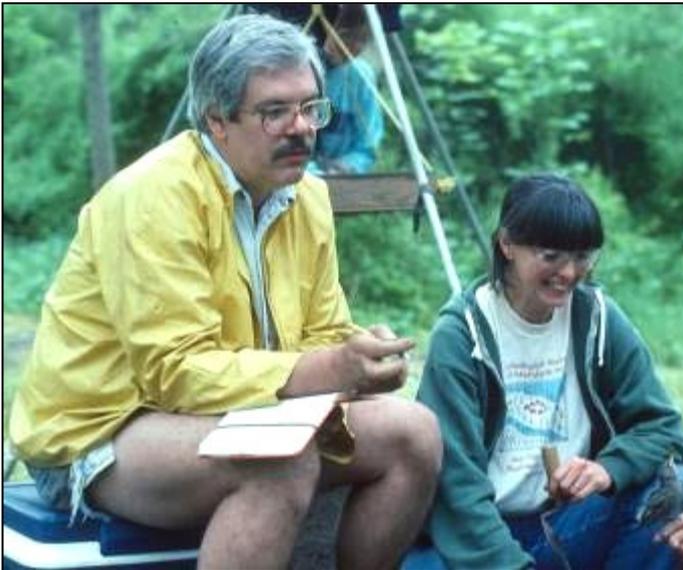
Another feature requiring completion was Feature 2. The portion exposed in 1979 consisted of a shallow half-circle about two meters in diameter. In 1990, the other half of the circle was exposed, along with a narrow one-meter extension on its north side. This feature—along with a similar, adjacent feature (#27) found in 1992—is called a keyhole structure, and likely represents a sweatlodge that was put to ritual use. Other finds that hint at ritualism at the site include the posterior of a cougar skull found at the very bottom of Feature 5, a bone carving of a headless human figure, and a stone maskette or amulet.

A series of long trenches were examined in 1990-1992, in the hope of defining the limits of the site. Northern and southern edges were fairly well determined, and the western edge of the site is marked by the bluff edge to the river. The eastern boundary is less clear. Here we found an extensive 15-centimeter-thick sheet midden, filled with refuse similar to that in Feature 5. The center of the village consisted of a fairly open plaza, perhaps a common area devoted to recreation, feasting, and/or ceremonies. Our long trenches encountered no evidence of a palisade surrounding the village. And despite exposing numerous probable postmolds, we could discern no house patterns. (Excavations in 2002-2003 at the Winslow site revealed that we had incorrectly focused our search. We were looking for houses inside the ring of pits, but Winslow proved them to be on the outside.) No adult human burials were encountered, but a pattern of infant burials was recognized. While completing excavation of Feature 5, two subtle stains were observed at the edge of the feature. Believing the stains to be smears from Feature 5, we began removing the shallow fill from both. Soon each stain revealed infant bones; these were mapped

and reburied, and they remain at the site today. Then in 1992, another subtle feature was exposed at the edge of Feature 17. Wondering if it was another infant burial, excavation proceeded with extreme caution, until the remains were exposed without disruption; again, this burial was reburied and remains in situ at the site. The burial of infants at the edges of trash-filled pits was unexpected and difficult to decipher. Then a Canadian colleague shared information from the Ontario Iroquois: in the 1620s, French Jesuit Jean de Brébuf recorded that “for little children who die less than a month or two old, they...inter them on the road, in order that, they say, if some woman passes that way, they may secretly enter into her womb, and that she may give them life again, and bring them forth.” Similarly, Ontario archeologists note infant burials inside longhouses. Perhaps infant burial at the edges of what were once often-visited storage pits served a similar purpose as pathway/longhouse burial...allowing the souls of the deceased infants to be reborn.

These are just a few of the findings from Rosenstock. Certainly this work helped focus later Field Sessions, especially at Winslow and Biggs Ford, and has added to our overall understanding of the Late Woodland in Maryland. And despite four Field Sessions at Rosenstock—which excavated approximately 350 m<sup>2</sup>—more than 90% of the site still remains.

The Field Session work at the Rosenstock site demonstrated the site’s undeniable significance. Based on this, the Maryland Historical Trust established a preservation easement for Rosenstock with the City of Frederick. Ultimately the site was purchased by The Archaeological Conservancy which now maintains it as an open-air archeological research preserve. And more recently, the site has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. So, if you ever worked at Rosenstock, you had a hand in preserving this unique site. Congratulations!



**Dennis Curry and Maureen Kavanagh at the Rosenstock Site, 1992.**

**Partnerships and People at Biggs Ford***Becca Peixotto, Archeological Staff*

The Biggs Ford site (18FR14) is situated in an active farm field in Frederick County, Maryland. It's a significant pre-contact ("pre-historic") archaeological site first tested in the 1950s by renowned Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) member Spencer Geasey. In 1969-70, part of Biggs Ford was extensively excavated by a team led by Maryland's first State Archaeologist, Tyler Bastian. Geasey's and Bastian's work revealed two overlapping Native American villages, one slightly older than the other, dating to the last few hundred years before European colonists arrived in the area.

I was just finishing up my Masters degree at American University (AU) in 2013 when Professor Richard "Joe" Dent invited me to join the first excavations at Biggs Ford in more than 40 years as his Field Assistant. The summer Field Session was joint project with Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), the ASM, Towson University, and AU, he told me, and would be a good opportunity to gain more experience with pre-contact archaeology. He said people were very excited to revisit this important site and I would be responsible for managing the field lab and keeping track of excavation paperwork. What Joe didn't tell me was that the Biggs Ford Field Sessions would be about much more than digging square holes in the ground and finding artifacts.



**Becca Peixotto in the field lab at the Biggs Ford site (2015).**

Archaeology is fundamentally about people. For all our focus in that farm field on stains in the soil left by long-decomposed wooden posts and our careful sorting in the lab of pottery fragments by the tiny bits of clay or stone embedded in them, the Field Sessions aimed to learn about the people who lived at Biggs Ford long ago. But those past peoples are only half the story.

Present-day people are equally important to the story of Biggs Ford. The Crum family own the field containing the buried evidence of those two villages and they have been wonderful stewards and protectors of the site for decades. The Field Sessions brought them together with professional archaeologists and advisors from universities and state agencies, avocational archaeologists from the ASM, field school students, Scouts earning badges, and the archaeo-curious (members of the public who wanted to try archaeology or simply find out what was going on). As Field Assistant, I got to see these partnerships between landowners, archaeologists, and community members in action as people shared their passion for archaeology in order to learn more about Biggs Ford in the past.

That experience in the field encouraged me to open the doors of the American University lab where the Biggs Ford artifacts would be washed, catalogued and labeled for long-term curation. Sure, I needed the help: there was no way I could handle the bazillions of quartz flakes by myself during an MHT internship. I'd also seen during the Field Sessions how important collaboration is to the Biggs Ford project. Long after the summer Field Sessions at Biggs Ford ended, devoted anthropology majors, archaeo-curious business majors, service clubs on campus, and even two intrepid Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) candidates volunteered hundreds of hours processing artifacts. We learned together about Biggs Ford, what happens 'after the Field Session' in archaeology, each other, and ourselves. Several students parlayed their experience with the Biggs Ford collection into internships at the Smithsonian and elsewhere, and some have gone on to graduate programs and employment in archaeology. All gained a deeper appreciation for how and why we study the past. Biggs Ford's reach goes well beyond the Crum's corn field.

Over the course of three summer Field Sessions and several years in the lab, I honed useful archaeology skills like how to use a transit, to distinguish Shepard-type pottery from Keyser-type, to decipher muddled handwriting on field forms, to set up a field lab to maximize shade and minimize the distance to carry water, and much more. I met people I still consider influential mentors and many, many great colleagues. I also learned Joe had rather undersold the 'joint project' aspect of Biggs Ford. It wasn't just a bunch of organizations working on the same site to investigate an interesting aspect of pre-contact Mid-Atlantic archaeology. The Field Sessions, and everything that is accomplished behind the scenes, happen because of the collaborations and partnerships people form to learn about the lives of people in the past. The most important thing I learned at the Biggs Ford Field Session, more significant than any artifact or postmold we uncovered, was how vibrant, welcoming, and dedicated the Maryland archaeology community is.



**Partnerships sometimes means thinking outside the box, or on top of it.**

**ASM: A Partner in Pursuing the Past**

*Don Housley, President, The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.*

This year, professional and avocational archeologists are celebrating the 50th Field Session in Maryland Archeology. By choosing the theme “Partners in Pursuit of the Past,” the Maryland Archeology Month Committee highlights the need for many and varied partners to make the Field Sessions both possible and successful. “Partners” in the theme was the easiest word to agree on. Adding “pursuit” and “past” captured the other theme’s concepts along with an alliterative cadence. The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM) has been a major partner in planning and executing Field Sessions since their inception in 1971. Initiated by Tyler Bastian (Maryland’s first State archeologist), the Field Session model started as a weekend survey project and has become a popular 11-day program attracting partners from across the state. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and ASM share the belief that when avocationalists and first-timers come together in a hands-on field and lab setting led by professional archeologists to uncover Maryland’s past, all participants benefit.

Other articles in this booklet illustrate the variety of partners needed to plan and implement these Field Sessions. This planning begins with the MHT/ASM Field Session Committee choosing a site with research potential, coordinating with the site’s property owner, selecting a principal investigator(s) to develop a research plan with field and lab protocols, scheduling expert lunchtime and evening speakers, reaching out to site-specific stakeholders, arranging for site set

up and take down, making camping arrangements, and securing the necessary funding. All of these planning activities involve partners committed to providing a collaborative and engaging field experience. At the Field Session, participants then learn from the partnering professionals field and lab techniques, mapping and surveying skills, and the importance of thorough documentation.



**MHT archeologist Charlie Hall demonstrating the technique of shovel skimming to volunteers at the Claggett site (2008).**

Certified Archeological Technician candidates (a program jointly sponsored by MHT, ASM, and the Council for Maryland Archaeology) have an opportunity to fulfill required field/lab hours and workshops while graduates help supervise field activities. In return, the MHT staff and other professionals get a well-trained and enthusiastic group of volunteers that can be called on to help with future projects.

Last year's 49th Field Session in Maryland archeology can serve as an example of both its popularity and the importance of partnerships. The Billingsley site (18PR9) was selected for its research potential in understanding the contact period between the local native population and European settlers in the late seventeenth century, on land leased by the state to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission-Prince George's County. Starting the Friday before Memorial Day, the session attracted a daily average of 26 volunteer attendees for a total of 283 participant days (both ASM members and non-members), representing 100 different individuals contributing a grand total of 2,140 volunteer hours. MHT contributed four supervising professionals along with two Prince George's County park archeologists. Professional archeologists from neighboring counties and agencies such as the Maryland Archeological



**Principal Investigator university professor Joe Dent at the Biggs Ford site (2014).**

Conservation Lab also offered their time and expertise. Rico Newman, a Piscataway elder, gave a lunchtime talk on his perspective on the value of doing archeology on a Native American site.

Partnerships don't end when the Field Session ends. Volunteers may go home, rest their weary knees and backs, and hopefully make plans to come back next year. But remember the old archeological commandment: for every hour spent in the field, ten hours are spent in the lab. Depending on the post-Field Session arrangements and funding, the MHT archeological staff, university academics, cultural resource management firms, and/or volunteers continue the partnership by cataloging and conserving the artifacts, analyzing feature soil, checking over site forms, writing reports, and summarizing findings for the public.

The 50 Field Sessions commemorated this Archeology Month serve as the "crown jewel" of Maryland's archeological partnerships in pursuit of the past. The partnerships forged over these five decades have served as a model and one not confined to just 11 days in May/June. Around the state both threatened and underrepresented sites continue to be in need of investigation under the supervision of professionals with the help of trained volunteers. What can you do to help throughout the year? Join an archeology program sponsored by professional archeologists offering a wide range of both field and lab activities. These opportunities are listed at the end of this booklet. And, of course, make plans to participate in the 50th Field Session back at the Billingsley site. See our website [Marylandarcheology.org](http://Marylandarcheology.org) for further information.

**Educating Partners at 50 Field Sessions**

*Nancy Geasey, Past President of both Archeological Society of Marylands*

The Field Sessions were started after Tyler Bastian became the first State Archeologist in 1969, and have been held under the auspices of the State's Office of Archeology under the Maryland Geological Survey and later the Maryland Historical Trust. Initially there were two archeological societies in the state: The Archeological Society of Maryland, associated with the Maryland Academy of Sciences, and the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. The two groups merged in December 1975. Despite these organizational challenges, the archeological programs in the State have continued to flourish, but the work is far from finished. With increasing pressure for more development, the past is still very much threatened.

One important goal of the Field Sessions is education. I was asked recently why were we digging at the Biggs Ford site when it had been plowed for at least 200 years? Wouldn't the site have been totally destroyed? What better way to become aware of what does still remain in the ground, and what we can learn about both the Native American and historic past, then by volunteering on a dig?

Those who have expressed interest in participating in a Field Session are often surprised when informed that it is entirely possible to do so. The sessions

are available to newcomers, professional archeologists, and anyone interested. Even the young can participate with an accompanying parent. Everyone is welcome to come, participate, learn, and experience the excitement of finding something in the field that hasn't been held in a human hand for centuries. The excitement grows, the sun isn't so hot, nor the rain so disturbing.



**Nancy Geasey and her grandson Seth Geasey at the Calverton site (2018).**

As you enjoy the Field Session this year, please remember to be an advocate for our history and share your experiences with others and invite them to join you. We welcome newcomers each year and try to make the experience one that they will enjoy

regardless of whether or not they can wield a shovel or clear a surface with the trowel! Come and share the archeologist's anticipation that their next shovel full of dirt will be the best one ever. Let's investigate archeological sites under professional supervision and see what we can learn about our past.

### Special Delivery – the Biggs Ford Site

*Susie Crum Culler, daughter of landowners Bill and Barbara Crum*

In October of 1959, while my mother was recuperating in the hospital after delivery of me (!) my dad came to visit her. My mother often reminisces that Dad entered her hospital room with a “beautiful, young secretary on his arm.” They were bringing Mom another special delivery – paperwork for a farm my parents were purchasing that required her signature - the farm known in the archeology world as the Biggs Ford Site.

Little did my young parents know at the time, the soil on their newly purchased property would be bursting in Native American history. Well...I’m sure as a history buff; my dad would have known the potential was high for finding artifacts.

Each spring as Dad “worked up” the fields, he was not disappointed! Artifacts began to surface! It was as though the Native American land owners, from many years ago, were making themselves known to him. He had such a keen eye for spotting quartz and rhyolite arrow points and pieces of ceramics. My father had a deep feeling that something big was being unearthed as he plowed his fields.

A decade later, in 1969, my family learned of a sewer interceptor project in Walkersville that would run pipes directly through our property. The proposal would cut through the fields where many of the artifacts had been found. My parents were adamant that this land would not be disrupted until it was examined by the State Archeologist. An agreement was made – the sewer line project would be delayed.

It was then that my family’s path crossed with Tyler Bastian (the then Maryland State Archeologist) and amateur archeologist Spencer Geasey, and the birth of the first dig was a reality. My brother, Bill Jr., remembers that “time was of the essence as the construction through our farm was supposed to begin shortly. At the time a new Biggs Ford bridge was under construction. Tyler arranged with the contractor to use a road grader to remove the top soil in the path of the sewer line.”



**Crum family members (Bill Jr, left; Bill, crouched to left; Barbara, kneeling to right) and friends watching as a feature is excavated at the Biggs Ford site (1969). Photo courtesy of Bill Crum Jr.**

As a young girl, the excitement of the first dig on our property made quite an impression! I was

amazed by the artifacts found and of the tenaciousness of Tyler and his work. On many cold and blustery days, Tyler worked tirelessly connecting dots, trying to find answers to the puzzle. On the weekends, volunteers came from all over Maryland to help. His findings appeared to indicate that overlapping Montgomery Complex and Keyser Complex Late Woodland villages were present.

Many years passed after the first dig and in 2013 the Biggs Ford Site was revisited under the direction of American University professor Joe Dent and his assistant Becca Peixotto, and Towson University professor Bob Wall, assisted by Dennis Curry, Charlie Hall, Matt McKnight, and Troy Nowak of the Maryland Historical Trust. For three consecutive years (from 2013-2015) our farm took part in the 11 day excavation now known as the Tyler Bastian Field Session. What an amazing experience! During these sessions, professionals and volunteers worked side by side learning more about the journey of past generations, lifelong friendships were made and history was uncovered.

It was an honor to be a part of the journey, to get my hands dirty in discovery and to treasure my father's intuitions about this land and the importance of being good stewards of it, all the while, respecting those who lived on this sacred ground over 1000 years ago.



Susie Crum Culler (right) and a volunteer screen at the Biggs Ford site (2013).

### Family, Friends, and Field Sessions

*Valerie L. Hall, Vice President, Archeological Society of Maryland*

She was slowly removing layers of soil with her trowel; scraping carefully as she excavated half of a post mold. I heard her say, rather quietly, that she saw something round. I looked over realized she was revealing a coin!

It was large - larger than a quarter, silver, and slightly misshapen. We grabbed our phones and cameras and took pictures of the newly un-earthed artifact. Later, after some research, we learned that the coin was a 1604 James I Silver shilling, intentionally placed in the doorway of a house (a house only detectible by the dark round stains in the soil from the decayed door posts and the many household artifacts that remained in the soil). This coin was strategically placed hundreds of years ago to bring good luck and prosperity to the family who lived there. Though this specific artifact was something I had never seen before, the scene itself, discovering Maryland history hidden under layers of soil, has become an important part of my life.

For me it began in 1996, when one of my friends, who is an archeologist, asked me to join her for a day at the Field Session in Elkrigde Maryland. She suggested I bring my son, since her son would appreciate having a friend there and, at a minimum, they would enjoy getting dirty together. I guiltily told her I hated history because it seemed so boring and far removed, but she encouraged me to come anyway.

While I don't remember a lot of details, I do remember the fabulous volunteers and the excitement I felt at the end of the day! Our sons enjoyed the day also and learned how to use the screen to sift soil and sort through the many tiny pieces left in the screen. The unit supervisors and volunteers were patient with us and taught us to identify worked stone, ceramics, and bone. After a day of screening soil, finding artifacts, getting hot and dirty, and catching a very bad case of poison ivy . . . I was hooked!

Some of you will moan, but I felt the same kind of joy that I get from painting a room; the peacefulness of a tedious job that produces great rewards. Unearthing evidence of people's presence in time past, and holding objects that were part of a person's daily life hundreds or thousands of years ago - holding it for the first time in



**Valerie L. Hall, her son Matt, and daughter Elaine (seated) at the Winslow site (2008).**

that length of time - is absolutely amazing. The wonder of who these people were, what they valued, and how they lived enthralled me.

Our excitement was contagious and I remember how badly my daughter wanted to come with us, but she was still too young. As soon as she was old enough, she joined us also. The three of us went, usually just for a day or two over the Field Session, for many years. Through the patient demonstrations, explanations, and teaching of volunteers, Maryland Historical Trust staff, and other professional archeologists, we all became accomplished at identifying artifacts, troweling, shovel skimming, and mapping units. The Field Sessions provided us an unusual educational volunteer activity that we could enjoy together.

My “kids” are now adults, both continued to attend Field Sessions when possible, my daughter on a regular basis and my son on occasion. In addition, several years ago, I had the privilege to introduce my father and brother to the Field Sessions. I remember the first time I asked my dad to come dig with me and he said something like, “Why would I want to do that? . . . I have enough holes to dig of my own.” But, I suspect, seeing photos, year after year, of really pretty artifacts coupled with my continued excitement, piqued his interest.

The perfect opportunity arose the second year of our Biggs Ford Field Session. It was convenient to my brother’s house where my dad could stay during the week. That, along with some really nice weather and photos of beautiful points and other artifacts from the previous year, finally convinced him to join me. My father, in his early 80’s was able to get out in the field, along with one of my brothers, and my daughter. And he did not just observe or work in the lab tent that summer, he quickly learned shovel skimming and sifting the soil for artifacts. At one point he was working with another retired gentlemen, and he ask the other volunteer how old he was. I then heard my dad declare his new friend was a “youngster”. The two oldest people in the field were shoveling a unit together. It was pretty special to introduce my family not only to the incredible site and archeological techniques, but also to my extended archeology family. Over the years my daughter’s best friend, my husband, several of my nieces, and a coworker were all able to join us and learn about archeology for the first time.

In recent years, I have been able to attend each Field Session for many days, sometimes the entire time. And at the end, with sore muscles, general exhaustion, bug bites, some cuts and bruises, and sometimes poison ivy, I am still overwhelmed by the deep feeling of amazement that I am allowed the privilege to work on such important archeological sites. The discoveries that I had a part in have helped shape and inform our view of Maryland history. I never would have believed it if you told me 24 years ago that I would come to thoroughly enjoy and value our local Maryland history, learn archeological techniques and skills, meet incredible and influential people, make wonderful long-lasting friendships, and have a complete blast at every Field Session!

Congratulations on the 50th Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology and the partnerships that make them possible - may there be many more!!

**“Wow, cool, so you find dinosaur bones?”**

*Elaine Frances Hall Chhean, Secretary, Archeological Society of Maryland*

I am deeply honored to be asked to author an essay for this year's archeology month. The Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM), Maryland Historic Trust (MHT), and the collaborative Field Session they produce, have been a huge part of life for almost all of my life - and I'm not exaggerating! I went to my first Field Session when I was 11 years old, in 2002 at the Winslow site (see picture on page 19). My mom and my older brother had already been attending for a few years but I was too young, so the anticipation of being able to be included was more than I could bear. Once I was finally old enough, the Annual Field Session became a highlight of my summer plans. I have years of great memories of happily playing in the back fill dirt, all of the usual characters and their unique styles, Charlie Hall patiently teaching me archeological techniques and how to avoid dehydration, finding wildlife in the excavation units in the morning, and of course, quality time with my family and friends.

As I got older, I continued to attend the annual Field Sessions, piquing my interest in archeology as a hobby and potential career path. The Field Session and the connections I made through ASM directly led to a summer job at the Montgomery County Parks archeology summer camp and a college internship in archeology with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Both of these represent some of my earliest professional experiences and some of the most exciting opportunities of my life. I would not have had the confidence or technique to be able to participate effectively without the skills I learned from ASM, MHT, and Montgomery parks.

Simultaneously, the Field Sessions became even more fun for me. Yes, 'digging' is fun and finding artifacts is incredibly exciting, but for me, understanding the theory, history, science, and techniques is when archeology really comes alive. One of the many things that I appreciate about the Field Session is that it gives participants



**Elaine F. H. Chhean and her mother, Valerie L. Hall, map a feature at the Biggs Ford site (2013).**

(no matter your age) the opportunity to go as deep as you want into the archeological process. On top of being friendly and welcoming, ASM volunteers and MHT staff always took the time to answer my questions, teach me new techniques or how to use new equipment (how many teenagers know how to use

a total station?!), and explain the decision making process and steps that come before the day volunteers arrive. They always respected me and assumed I was capable and quickly I developed confidence in my intellectual and physical abilities and leadership skills. This was especially meaningful to me as a young girl, and then young woman, who craved learning and responsibility.

While I ultimately decided that archeology belonged in my life as a hobby, and favorite fun fact when someone asks for an ‘ice breaker’, and not a career, it put me on a path that led to my ultimate career choice in health policy (it may feel like a jump, but trust me, it makes sense). Today, ASM remains a big part of my life, as an active member and the current Secretary. Since that first Field Session, 18 years ago, I’ve attended at least ten additional Field Sessions, at wonderful locations such as Swan Cove, Claggett, Port Tobacco, Barton, Biggs Ford, Calverton, and Billingsley. Many of those Field Sessions I attended with my mother and brother and as I got older, friends, cousins, and most recently - my new husband’s cousin as well!



**Elaine F. H. Chhean (red rimmed sunglasses) screens with her mom Valerie L. Hall and cousins Thea (R) and Elinor (L) Newgent at the Biggs Ford site (2013).**

Whether it is bringing people to the Field Session with me or just bragging to them about what I am doing that upcoming weekend, introducing others to the excitement of archeology happening in our own backyards is incredible, despite all of the “do you get to keep what you find?”; “have you ever found gold?”; and “wow, cool, so you find dinosaur bones?” questions! Many of us think about history as something static that lives in our history books. Archeology, especially local archeology, gives us the opportunity to participate in the discovery of history and culture in our own communities. As a loyal Marylander, ASM, MHT, and the annual Field Session allow me to feel more connected to the history and culture of my home-state.

### Field Sessions Remembered

*Roy Brown, President, Western Chapter, Archeological Society of Maryland*

One of the highlights of the year for the past 33 years has been attending the Field Sessions. A week searching for ancient stains in the earth and the discovery of artifacts left behind by people from the distant past. It is an opportunity to share this with a like group, amateurs, such as myself, and professionals, who come together to expand our knowledge of Maryland's rich history.

I have developed the greatest respect for the professional archeologists I have worked with, and admire their dedication to the field, their wholehearted willingness to share their knowledge to the greenest of volunteers. Tyler Bastian, the State's first State Archeologist, Dennis Curry and Maureen Kavanagh of Maryland Historical Trust were there at each Field Session to assist the principal investigators from one session to the next. Following their well earned retirement, Charlie Hall and Matt McKnight now fill those roles, thus assuring a bright continuous future for the Field Sessions.

In 1987 my family attended a lecture by Dr. Robert (Bob) Wall, who spoke on his recent excavations of the Cresaptown site, a prehistoric Indian village near Cumberland. Later that summer we were in the field experiencing our first Field Session at the Barton site under Bob's supervision. The multi-component site is located along the Potomac River in Allegany County. The session was scheduled late that summer and the corn was waist high. Someone commented that it looked like a scene from the TV show *Hee Haw*, with people popping up out of the corn here and there. It was very hot and humid and it amazes me that it wasn't our last Field Session. But we were hooked. My wife Jan, daughter Courtney and I would attend Field Sessions across the State for years to come.

That first Field Session with Bob Wall was the beginning of a working relationship that continues to this day. I have spent countless hours working with him, learning the techniques of archeology and how to interpret what the soil holds. He was my mentor for the Certified Archeological Technician (CAT) program that I completed in 2004. To quote Jan, "Dr. Bob Wall was the very best PI. He always had time to answer questions and help whoever needed his expertise. He told us if we were uncertain if what we had picked up was a stone or a bone, then touch it to our tongue – if it sticks it's bone. So if you see an archeologist seeming to taste a stone, this is why!"

There is a lecture held in the evening during the Field Sessions that further enhance the educational aspect of the event. During our first Field Session we attended a presentation at Frostburg State College. On display was a table of lithic artifacts. I asked the young woman, archeologist Carol Ebright, standing beside the display where the items had come from. To my amazement she said she had made them! I had no idea that the ancient art of flint knapping was still being practiced in modern times.

That encounter with Carol sent me on the road to learn about primitive technology for the next three decades. As I developed my knowledge of numerous Native American crafts I began to share them, giving over 100

presentations over the years to groups ranging from pre-schoolers to Ph.Ds, a number of them at Field Sessions.

While excavating a feature at the 1992 Rosenstock Field Session, Courtney came upon a small ceramic vessel. Under the close supervision of Maureen Kavanagh, she carefully exposed and removed the fragile bowl. That experience, given the responsibility of excavating such an important artifact, helped in the creation of a sense of self confidence that remains with her to this day.

In 1991 I volunteered to design the T-shirt for the Rosenstock Field Session and for the next 16 Field Sessions created T-shirt designs for the annual event. This exercise allowed me to combine my talents in graphics with my growing love of archeology, it was very satisfying.

I've often been asked what was the most interesting thing I've found when excavating.

The answer; a small circular shallow pit filled with charred corncobs at the 1995 Barton site Field Session. As I tried to figure out what I had before me, Dennis Curry came by and asked what I had found. I was searching to label it, just burned cobs, no kernels, when suddenly I said "I know what this is, I've done this, it's a smoking pit!" It was the site where people had used smouldering corncobs in the hide tanning process. Making that connection across some 600 years between me and a native tanner was so special.

On the second Saturday evening of the Sessions a feast is held where we'd come together to dine in fellowship and celebrate the week's accomplishments. In the early days this would include steamed crabs, when a bushel of crabs was affordable. I fondly remember sitting across the table from Spencer Geasey, a pile of Maryland crabs between us, learning the fine art of picking crabs from a master until our appetites were sated.

One of Jan's favorite memories from the Sessions involved Iris McGillvary. Iris was one of those unforgettable people who had no problem expressing her thoughts. Jan located Iris in the site lab to pay her for our T-shirts. She told Iris she thought Courtney had already paid for her shirt. Iris was quick to reply "Oh yes, I remember Courtney paid because she had such difficulty getting her money from those tight blue jeans." Iris was very dedicated to ASM and we all enjoyed very much knowing her.

Whether you are interested in historic or prehistoric sites, the Field Sessions are a great source to expand your knowledge of Maryland archeology with a great assembly of people. It's a terrific experience, but be careful, you may get hooked.



**Courtney Brown and the pot she excavated at the Rosenstock site (1992).**

## Help Wanted

*Brent Chippendale, Volunteer*

Help Wanted ad in the Cumberland-Times News: “*Volunteers willing to try almost anything, and who are interested in almost everything. Ability to entertain oneself and others is desirable (most of the time).*”

Or maybe it was an article about an archaeological dig at the Barton Site in Allegany County, Maryland that said the public was invited to participate. Either way - this looked like a cool opportunity.

Like many people I had a vague sense that Native Americans had lived in North America long before the arrival of European colonists. But it wasn't until the 2011 Field Session at the Barton site that I began to appreciate the depth - both in time and culture - of the Native American presence in Maryland.

It's one thing to hear a story about the “three sisters” (corn, beans and squash), and it's another to excavate carbonized seeds of these plants that have been buried for hundreds of years. In the past, I had often seen “arrowheads” that had been collected and appreciated the workmanship of many of these points. But until the Field Session at Barton I had no concept of the importance of context, sourcing of materials, typology of points, the details of manufacturing and actual use of many of these artifacts. This experience has forever changed the way I look and think about all types of artifacts. There was a shift from wondering, “What is this artifact?” to “What does this artifact tell us about the people and cultures using it?”

And every year Field Sessions have provided additional experiences that expand my appreciation and understanding of the past.

*“... interested in almost everything.”*

It is possible to focus on only one aspect of archaeology, but for me it indulges my many interests (i.e. short attention span) and introduces me to new areas of inquiry. Field Sessions have opened a world of geophysics, remote sensing, surveying, historical research, artifact conservation, soil science, pollen analysis, skeletal analysis .... It is clear that archaeology isn't a “dead science” fixed in its practice at some point in the past. As new techniques and methods are developed they have made their way into the Field Sessions, and it has been exciting to be involved with these changes.

*“Ability to entertain oneself and others is desirable (most of the time).”*

For all of the interesting and exciting aspects of archaeology there are times when you need to draw on your inner strengths and the support of those on the team. Without reservation, I can say that the people I have met at fields sessions are a diverse, interesting and talented lot.

For me, Field Sessions have been an opportunity to work with interesting people while learning about so much about the archaeology. Every visit to a historic site, museum or archaeological dig is enriched by these experiences.

I'm looking forward to the next session.

**EVOLUTION***Rico Newman, CAT Candidate, Choptico Band of Indians*

My journey into Anthropology started in High School studying ancient history. That voyage included “Voyage of the Beagle”, Archaeology, and study of Pyramids in Egypt.

My curiosity and interest waned after High School, until opportunity in 1976 to see Tutankhamun “treasures” were displayed in Washington, D.C. I’m still fascinated by what I saw.

That experience faded until attending Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs meetings in Crownsville in the late ‘80s and the issue of Native Remains resulted in a committee formed to address repatriation. Discussion ran from “discovery”, to reburial in situ, to the need for scientific study learning how early Woodland natives lived and died. My takeaways from these encounters were not positive. I had pictured shovels dismembering ancestors, my ancestors, as my family had no idea where our predecessors were buried past my great grandparent’s era. Where were they?

Over two decades working with that committee while leaning into my penchant, doing research for answers, I read select narratives produced by varied anthropologist/archaeologist. There, I looked at a wealth of knowledge on a past resulting from field work they carried out. I haven’t looked away since.

In 2003, I was fortunate to gain a position; Cultural Information Specialist, with National Museum for the American Indian (NMAI). Previous research and work carried out with the Piscataway brought me to that point. Its Resource



**Rico Newman gives a lunchtime talk to volunteers at the Billingsley site (2019).**

Center was my domain. My charge was to insure books and articles specific to Eastern Woodland Indians were included in its Library collection, and that our bank of publicly accessible 30 computers contained information on Tribal Nations east of the Mississippi River. An added assignment was to answer letters to the Museum Director. I found what I thought I knew was not sufficient to answer the many questions the public asked. My journey into gaining firsthand knowledge had begun in earnest. Retiring from NMAI in 2009 did not terminate my interest in knowing all I could about the Lifeways and World View of my native ancestors.

Getting to know noted archaeologist and the many volunteers at sites and in classes, asking questions to no end, getting answers and learning of new resources led to my joining the Archaeological Society of Maryland. Learning of the Certified Archeological Technician “CAT” program, gave me opportunities to get my hands dirty, literally at annual Field Sessions. Opportunities to learn at have been remarkable experiences for me.

I continue to Evolve as the fire still burn within the *Motel of the Mysteries*.

### Archeology Volunteer Programs

Following are examples of programs in Maryland that offer opportunities to get involved in archeology. For more information about these and other similar programs visit [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org).

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#### **Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum: Public Archaeology Program**

Smith's St. Leonard Site; May 7 – May 30, 2020

Join Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum archeologists in the excavation of early 18th century buildings at the Smith's St. Leonard Site. The program runs through May, with Thursdays as Field Days, and Fridays and Saturdays being split between the field (morning) and the lab (afternoon). To register visit the link below or contact Alice Merkel ([alice.merkel@maryland.gov](mailto:alice.merkel@maryland.gov)) for any questions.

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

10515 Mackall Road

St. Leonard, Maryland 20685

Ph: 410.586.8501

<https://jefpat.maryland.gov/Pages/mac-lab/public-archaeology.aspx>

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#### **Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Program**

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program works with the non-profit The Lost Towns Project to promote archeological research and public education programs. We seek dedicated volunteers and interns, no experience required, to help with all aspects of field and lab work. Join us to discover history at a variety of dig sites across the County or to process artifacts at our lab in Edgewater. To learn more, please email [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call 410-222-1318.

Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Laboratory

839 Londontown Road

Edgewater, Maryland 21037

By appointment

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#### **The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Experience Prince George's County history first-hand through volunteering with the Department of Parks and Recreation Archaeology Office. Individuals, 14 years and up, can learn how archeologists investigate the past and assist them with excavations and lab work. Volunteer registration is required through [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com). For information call the Archaeology Office at 301-627-1286 or email [archaeology@pgparcs.com](mailto:archaeology@pgparcs.com).

Archaeology Office

Natural and Historical Resources Division

8204 McClure Road

Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

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***Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians***

The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM), the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Council for Maryland Archeology offer a Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians (CAT Program), providing an opportunity to be recognized for formal and extended training in archeology without participation in a degree program. Certificate candidates must be members of the ASM, and work under the supervision of a mentor. A series of required readings and workshops is coupled with practical experience in archeological research. For information about the CAT Program, and application forms, visit the ASM web site at:

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

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***The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission***

Montgomery Parks Department, Park Planning and Stewardship

Join the Montgomery Parks' archeology program in uncovering Montgomery County's past through the investigation and analysis of sites that cover the entire 12,000 year history of the County. There are opportunities for fieldwork and labwork. Volunteers are welcome on Mondays and Wednesdays. For Volunteer Application contact Heather Bouslog by phone at 301.563.7530, or email at [Heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org), or visit [www.ParksArcheology.org](http://www.ParksArcheology.org).

Archaeology Program  
Needwood Mansion  
6700 Needwood Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855

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***Maryland Historical Trust***

Archeology Programs

The Maryland Historical Trust is committed to involving the public in archeology. The Maryland Maritime Archeology Program provides opportunities for volunteers in field activities on a seasonal basis. Participants need not be divers. Terrestrial archeological programs include an annual Field Session co-hosted with the Archeological Society of Maryland. This eleven-day field investigation combines education with research, and provides unparalleled professional-avocational interaction. Additional field projects occur throughout the year. An Open Lab is held on most Tuesdays during the year teaching proper archeological lab techniques. Presentations, displays, publications, and internships are also offered. To learn more contact State Terrestrial Archeologist Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov), or State Underwater Archeologist Susan Langley at [susan.langley@maryland.gov](mailto:susan.langley@maryland.gov).

Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
[www.mht.maryland.gov/](http://www.mht.maryland.gov/)

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***Historic St. Mary's City: A Museum of History and Archaeology***

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) is the site of the fourth permanent English settlement in North America, Maryland's first capital, and the birthplace of religious toleration in America. The Department of Research & Collections at HSMC, with St. Mary's College of Maryland, offers a Field School in Historical Archaeology from May 26 through August 1, 2020. While in the field, staff and students offer tours of the excavations to visitors. During the Tidewater Archaeology Weekend event (July 18 – 19), members of the public can sift for artifacts with the archaeology team and take special tours of the archaeological laboratory and other museum sites. Visitors are also encouraged to explore the St. John's Site Museum, which provides insights into ways researchers use historical and archaeological evidence. Contact HSMC 240-895-4990, 800-SMC-1634, or [Info@HSMCdigshistory.org](mailto:Info@HSMCdigshistory.org). For a list of events visit:

[www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events.html](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events.html).

Historic St. Mary's City  
Museum of History and Archaeology  
P.O. Box 39  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

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***Archeological Society of Maryland***

Field and Laboratory Volunteer Opportunities Statewide

One of the Archeological Society of Maryland's main goals is to involve the public in field and lab events throughout the year and across the State. To meet this goal, ASM hosts a Spring Symposium and an annual Fall meeting, and co-hosts with the Maryland Historical Trust a Spring Workshop and a late spring field/excavation session. ASM's local chapters also conduct meetings and provide opportunities for members and the general public to participate in field and laboratory activities. Visit our website at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) to learn about upcoming events, view the latest edition of our monthly newsletter (ASM Ink), and link to our chapters' websites.

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***Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks***

Archaeology Program

Come explore Howard County's hidden history through archaeological investigation! The Howard County Archaeology Program welcomes volunteers of all ages to participate in field and lab work opportunities around the county. The Howard County Archaeology Program accepts volunteers Monday through Friday. To volunteer, please contact Kelly Palich at 410-313-0423 or [kpalich@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kpalich@howardcountymd.gov). Volunteer opportunities for fieldwork, lab work, photography, illustration, research and more! For more information please visit <http://www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com>

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240-896-4990 [www.hsmcdigshistory.org/](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/) 800-SMC-1634

[Info@HSMCdigshistory.org](mailto:Info@HSMCdigshistory.org)



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**Archaeology Office, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.** Since 1988, the Archaeology Office has been exploring the diversity of Prince George's County's archeological

resources. Through excavations, exhibits, public outreach and cultural resource management, the Archaeology Program supports the M-NCPPC's numerous museums and historic sites. Hands-on volunteer programs and student internships provide opportunities for citizens and students to discover the past by participating in excavations and artifact processing and analysis. For information call the Archaeology Program office at 301-627-1286 or email [archaeology@pgparks.com](mailto:archaeology@pgparks.com).



The **Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM)** is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to the investigation and conservation of Maryland's archeological resources. ASM members are professional, academic, and avocational archeologists. The Society sponsors publications, research, and site surveys across the State as well as hosting a Spring Symposium and a Fall general meeting and co-hosting with the Maryland Historical Trust a Spring Workshop

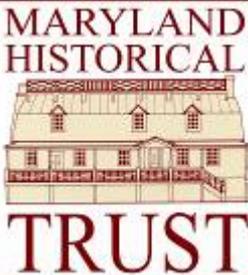
and late spring field/excavation session where members and the public work along side professional archeologists. In addition, ASM has eight chapters representing most of Maryland's geographic regions, each with its own local meetings and activities. All ASM and chapter activities are open to the public. Visit us at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) to learn more about our activities.

**Maryland Department of Transportation** is committed to sustaining the balance between protecting our cultural resources and maintaining our transportation system.



For information, contact Dr. Julie M. Schablitsky, Chief Archaeologist/Assistant Division Chief, Cultural Resources Section at [jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us](mailto:jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us).

Founded in 1976, the **Council for Maryland Archeology** is an organization of professional archeologists whose mission is to foster public awareness and support for the preservation of archeological resources in the state. Our membership is composed of professional archeologists either working or conducting research in Maryland. We are proud to sponsor Maryland Archeology Month and encourage one and all to visit our website [www.cfma-md.org](http://www.cfma-md.org), attend an event, and join us in exploring Maryland's past.



The **Maryland Historical Trust** (Trust) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation, and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding and preserving their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Visit us at [www.mht.maryland.gov](http://www.mht.maryland.gov).

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) is the Trust's repository for archeological collections. Located at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM), the State Museum of Archaeology, the MAC Lab opened in 1998 as a state-of-the-art archeological research, conservation, and curation facility. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archeological collections recovered from



land-based and underwater projects conducted throughout the state. It is the MAC Lab's mission to make these collections available for research, education, and exhibit. The website for the MAC Lab/JPPM is [www.jefpat.org](http://www.jefpat.org).

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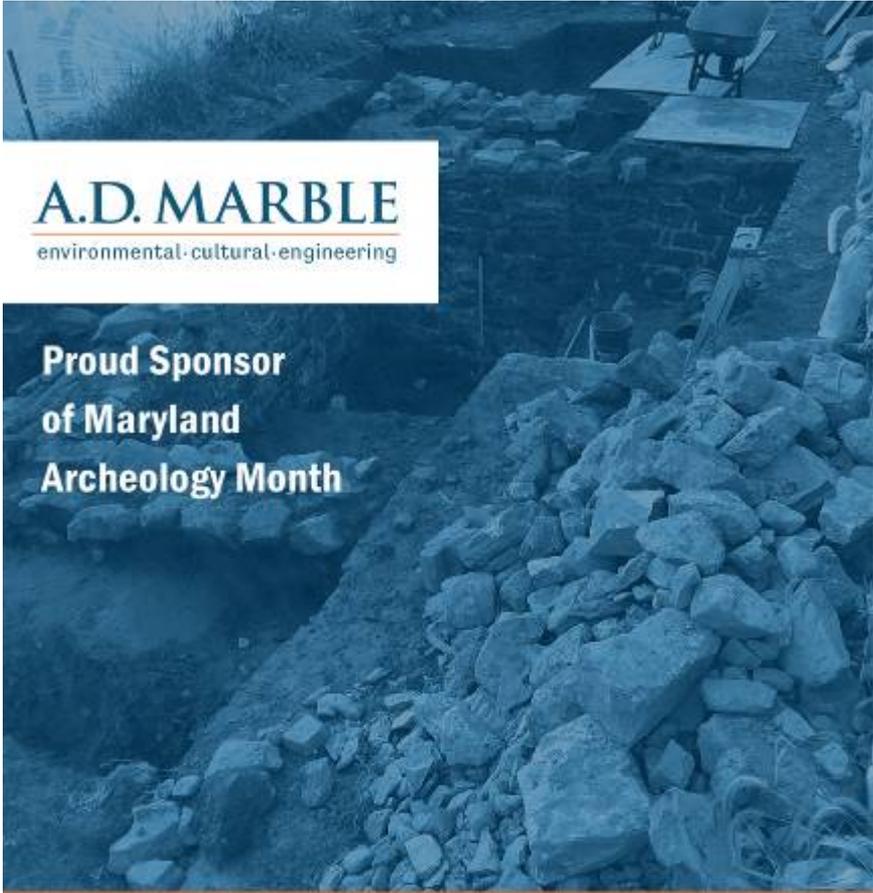
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## Maryland Archeology Month



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- Cemetery Identification, Delineation & Disinterment
- Archeological Predictive Models
- NRHP Nominations

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**Steven E. Barry, MA, RPA**  
*Manager, Cultural Resources*  
[sebarry@mccormicktaylor.com](mailto:sebarry@mccormicktaylor.com)

## Maryland Archeology Month Events

Numerous special events celebrating the archeology of Maryland will be held throughout the State during the month of April. These include museum displays, talks and lectures, workshops, and archeological lab and field volunteer opportunities. Please visit the Maryland Archeology Month website often at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) to learn of other events – the list of events there will be updated throughout the month!

*Here's a sampling of the many free events:*

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**Event:** *Discovering Archaeology Day*

**What:** Experience, discover, learn, and have fun exploring archaeology! Demonstrations, tours, and activities for budding archaeologists of any age! An Easter egg hunt will also held at 2 PM.

**Sponsor:** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

**Location:** JPPM, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD

**Day/Time:** April 4, 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**Contact:** Sherwana Knox, 410-586-8512, [sherwana.knox@maryland.gov](mailto:sherwana.knox@maryland.gov)

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**Event:** *Digging Local: Hear from the Archaeologists that Unearth History*

**What:** The third annual in-depth look at local Frederick archeological sites from the archeologists who studied them,

**Sponsor:** City of Frederick and the Monocacy Chapter of the ASM

**Location:** C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

**Day/Time:** April 13, 6:00 P.M.

**Contact:** Christina Martinkosky, 301-600-1831, [cmartinkosky@cityoffrederick.com](mailto:cmartinkosky@cityoffrederick.com)

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**Event:** *Archeological Society of Maryland's Spring Symposium*

**What:** a symposium featuring authors from the book *The Archeology of Colonial Maryland: Five Essays by Scholars of the Early Province*.

**Sponsors:** The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

**Location:** 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

**Day/Time:** April 18, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**Contact:** Don Housley, 301-424-8526, [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net)

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**Event:** *Archaeology Exhibit at Rockville Science Fair*

**What:** An exhibit of the techniques used by archaeologists to uncover the past, including activities for children and a display of local sites.

**Sponsor:** Mid-Potomac Chapter ASM, M-NCPPC, and Rockville Science Center

**Location:** Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

**Date/Time:** April 19, noon to 5 PM

**Contact:** Don Housley, [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net)

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**Event:** *Archeology of the Green Atlantic: Maryland, Ireland, and the Great Hunger*

**What:** Enjoy viewing student poster presentations followed by a lecture by Dr. Stephen Brighton, a University of Maryland archeologist.

**Sponsor:** Harford Community College Sociology/Anthropology Program

**Location:** Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room 132

**Date/Time:** April 24, 6:30 P.M. Student Poster Presentations, 7:00 P.M. Lecture

**Contact:** Sharon Stower, 443-412-2636, [stowers@harford.edu](mailto:stowers@harford.edu)

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## ***Maryland Archeology Month Institutional Sponsors***

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## ***Additional support for Maryland Archeology Month 2020 was provided by***

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*The Maryland Archeology Month Committee gratefully acknowledges the work of Cassandra Michaud, Greg Katz, Jen Chadwick-Moore, Jennie Cosham, and Matt McKnight on the StoryMap of the 50 Field Sessions. This map-based app is interactive, informative, and entertaining. Visit <https://mdarchaeology.github.io/Annual-Field-Sessions/> or scan the code (right) to investigate the distribution of Field Session sites across the state, learn details of the archeology found on each, and see pictures from the past!*

