

# ASM Ink

September 2019, Vol. 46, No. 9



Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

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

## Annual Meeting coming up on October 5

Newburg, Maryland, has two stores, a lodge hall, a fire department, two schools and the Maryland Military Museum. It's the museum that should be of interest to ASM members because that is the site of this year's Annual Meeting Saturday, October 5.

It is in Charles County and the Charles County chapter of ASM is playing host to the event, which begins at 9 a.m. with the business meeting. The talks should begin around 10:30.

Five presentations are scheduled:

- "What's New in Charles County: Overview of the County Archeology Program." The speaker will be the county archeologist, Esther Doyle Read.
- "Run of the Mill: History and Archeology of Maryland Mills." Consulting archeologist Jim Gibb will make the presentation.
- "Archeology and Community Collaboration: Researching Black History in Prince George's County," by Kristin Montaperto of the Maryland National Capitol Park & Planning Commission.
- "From Port Tobacco River (MD) to Portobago Bay (VA): Exploring Native Movement through an Archaeological Lens." St. Mary's College of Maryland's Julie King, will guide the tour.
- "Serendipity and a Lost Opportunity: An Adena Artifact Found in Charles County." Carol Cowherd of the Charles County chapter will explain.

The meeting will also feature the presentation of this year's William B. Marye Award for service to Maryland archeology.

You may have noticed that no restaurants were listed among the village's buildings. But attendees aren't quite on their own for lunch. If you don't want to bring one, box lunches will be available. For \$12, or \$12.75 for gluten-free. They must be pre-ordered. A form is with this newsletter. download the form, fill it out and mail it and money to the address indicated. Orders must be received by October 1.

Oh yes, how do you get to Newburg: From La Plata, continue south for nine miles on US 301 past the museum, which is on the east side of the divided highway. Make a U-turn at the Bud Creek's Road (MD234) red light and return north. Turn right onto the road to the museum.

## Upcoming events

**September 7:** ASM Board meeting. Heritage House, Columbia. 9-noon. All members welcome,

**September 21:** the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC looks at "Ancient Mesoamerica through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science," an all-day seminar. To register see the group's website ([www.pcswdc.org](http://www.pcswdc.org)). Lower registration rate for students.

**October 5:** ASM Annual Meeting, Veterans Park, Charles County. All day.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays:** The lab in Crownsville. Contact Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov) or Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) It is currently working on cataloging artifacts from the Levering Coffee House Site, Baltimore (a mostly late 18th/early 19th Century site).

**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 Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at [jamesgibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesgibb@verizon.net)

**Montgomery County** for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslag at 301 563 7530 or [Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org)

**The Anne Arundel County** Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites. For diggers, the Linniston site on Gibson Island shows signs of occupation from the 17th through 19th centuries. Digging is on Fridays from 8 to 3. Lab volunteers are welcome any time the lab is open, generally Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 3. For more information and to sign up email Drew Webster at [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call 410 222 1318.

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

**Jefferson Patterson Park** invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at [ed.chaney@maryland.gov](mailto:ed.chaney@maryland.gov) or 410 586 8554.

**The Archaeological Institute of America** provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork) to get started.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at [Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov) or 410-313-0423.

## CAT corner:

For information on the CAT program, contact Sarah Grady at [sarahgrady11@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgrady11@gmail.com)

### Fairfax county has almost 4,000 registered sites

*Condensed from WDVM, August 23, 2019*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Only a handful of archeologists are responsible for the preservation and interpretation of artifacts on Fairfax County park land that date as far back as 10,000 years.

The county is home to 420 parks and senior archeologist for the Fairfax County Park Authority Christopher Sperling says it has nearly 4,000 registered archeological sites, making Fairfax County the most archaeologically-recorded county in the Commonwealth.

Staff and volunteers piece together artifacts to learn more about the people who may have called the region home, including African Americans, women and children; populations Sperling says are rarely recorded on paper. "Despite being as transient as Fairfax County can be, it has a deep respect for its past," said Sperling.

# 1700's shipyard likely found in Philadelphia

By **Stephan Salisbury**

*Condensed from the Philadelphia Inquirer, August 27, 2019*

Archeologists exploring the old West Shipyard site along Columbus Boulevard just north of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge have uncovered remnants of what is likely an early to mid-18th Century wharf — a big hand-hewn timber, bolstered by what are called “dead men” beams, all relics of the city's early seafaring days, the archeologists said Monday.

The discovery, a significant sign of the site's archeological potency, came within the last two weeks, when archeologists opened one of three test excavations.

The site is on the National Register of Historic Places because of the high probability of important remains tracing back into the 17th Century.

“This is pretty exciting,” said Douglas Mooney, an archeologist with AECOM, the New Jersey-based international engineering firm hired by Durst to perform the work.

Mooney cited as important the stone foundation uncovered by another test trench — the remains of a mid-to-late 18th Century building that could have been constructed on the wharf.

Shipbuilding on the site began with James West, who constructed a small shipyard around 1680. His descendants added to his holdings, building wharves and related structures northward along what was then the river bank, right off Water Street.

Because of landfill activity proceeding from virtually the city's earliest days, the river is now 500 feet away.

In the 1980s, the city conducted an excavation a bit to the north of the current dig and uncovered 18th Century wharves, bulkheads and a slipway used for hauling boats out of the river for repair. It is the only such structure ever found on the East Coast. The results of that excavation were covered over.

Mooney said the location of the large timber and its supporting beams, near the corner of Columbus and Vine Street, lines up with the location of a West Shipyard wharf that appears on a 1762 map. He said it is not possible, at least at this point, to date the timber except to note that it was there in 1762.

The excavation will be complete and covered over by the end of this week. Archeologists will then analyze the findings and submit a report.

# Fabled Lost City of Gold finally found, near Baltimore

*Condensed from The Onion, September 6, 2018*

EL DORADO, Maryland — Long after historians, explorers and even the most dedicated treasure hunters had given up the fabled lost city of gold as apocryphal, El Dorado has finally been discovered a few hundred yards off the I-95 Interstate outside Baltimore.

“The conquistadors sought it in South America, Ponce de León looked for it all over Florida, but you take the exit like you're headed to White Marsh and it's pretty much right there,” said archeologist Robert Collier, noting that the 50-acre complex of solid gold temples and crypts had been obscured for decades by an array of billboards for legal help and check-cashing services.

“It was definitely surprising to find a massive golden city sandwiched between the frontage road and a strip mall, but it's also kind of a tricky exit with a three-way stop, unless you're making a right turn, but then people stop anyway, you know how it is. And a lot of people get sidetracked because there's a fireworks superstore across the street. Nevertheless, a truly amazing find.”

Archeologists are calling the discovery the most significant and unexpected discovery since the sunken city of Atlantis was found in the Woodfield mall parking lot in Schaumburg, Illinois.

NOTE: The Onion revels in being a benchmark of fake news.

## Book review: Archeology without borders

*Archaeology from Space: How the Future Shapes Our Past.* By Sarah Parcak,

"My entire life is in ruins."

The first line in Sarah Parcak's new book might come off a bit bleak, but the archeologist means this literally, not figuratively. In fact, she's found studying thousands of years of human history has actually given her hope, or at least some hope.

"Humans are very resilient," she says. "And in spite of all the terrible things that we have done to each other, I think we're 51 percent good. So I try to hold onto that, especially being the parent of a young child."

Parcak uses satellite imagery to spot ancient settlements, tombs and temples buried under the ground. Her new book is called *Archaeology from Space: How the Future Shapes Our Past*.

"I think I have the same perspective of Earth that astronauts have," Parcak says. "I don't see borders. I see how connected we are."

Parcak has used satellite imagery to spot more than a dozen potential pyramids and thousands of ancient tombs in Egypt.

"The things on top of the buried sites are affected by what's beneath," she explains. "So by looking at different parts of the light spectrum — especially the near, middle and far infrared — we can see these shapes and outlines in ways that we absolutely cannot see with our naked eyes alone. It's almost like a space-based X-ray system to help us view, in some cases, entire maps of ancient archeological sites."

In some ways, this work is in Parcak's blood. Her grandfather was a paratrooper in World War II and the aerial mapping techniques that he used back then — which he would later use to develop cutting edge forestry technology — helped pave the way for her work.

"He's the reason I took my first remote sensing class," Parcak says. And she's found some uncanny similarities between his career and hers.

Take the time she came across an article he wrote in 1953 about the way infrared technology could help map different trees: "I realized line-for-line it was almost identical to what I had written about the way infrared satellite imagery could be used to map archeological sites," she says.

As an archeologist, Parcak feels deeply connected to the past. She still remembers working in Egypt more than 20 years ago and unearthing a 4,200-year-old pot with a big thumbprint on the handle. Parcak could envision a large man, working at his potter's wheel, pressing his finger into the soft clay.

"We're not actually digging for things, we're actually digging for people — the people who made these things," she says. "That's what I try to remember no matter what I take out of the ground. I try to imagine the humans that made it that were so much like us, in spite of being separated by thousands of years."

Parcak loves being out in the field, but says her sitting-at-her-computer-screen to digging-and-getting-dirt-under-her-fingernails ratio is probably about 12 to 1. Still, she says she never loses sight of her "greatest privilege" — getting to lay eyes on an object that hasn't been seen in thousands of years.

"I feel like I'm adding little footnotes to the history of humanity, one at a time, with every little thing that I excavate," she says. "I try to never take it for granted for a moment."

Parcak says she thinks of the ancient world as a great big jigsaw puzzle. With each discovery, with each dig, with each piece of pottery, she has found another piece of the puzzle — and those pieces gradually help her see the larger picture.

"We say in archeology: It's not what you find, it's what you find out," she says.

So she looks up to space to help answer the "bigger questions" about life on Earth.

-- By Ari Shapiro, Condensed from NPR, July 29, 2019



## Encroaching sea threatens old Welsh roundhouse

By James Rogers

Condensed from Fox News, August, 2019

Archeologists in the U.K. are working to uncover the secrets of an ancient coastal hillfort before it falls into the sea.

Perched on a slowly collapsing cliff edge, the mysterious fort at Dinas Dinlle in Wales is believed to date back to the Iron Age, which began 800 B.C. in Britain. The fort's western rampart is already falling victim to coastal erosion and experts are working to record as many details of the site as they can.

Toby Driver, senior investigator for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales told Fox News in an email, "An Iron Age roundhouse around 13m [42.7 feet] diameter - one of the largest stone roundhouses we have seen - has been unearthed in one of the trenches closest to the eroding cliff edge...."

"This is an unexpected prehistoric building of fantastic build quality. With coastal erosion increasing it may only have another 50 years or so before it reaches the cliff edge."

The roundhouse is believed to have become covered in coastal sand during a sandstorm in 1330 A.D., the BBC reports.

Wales continues to reveal new aspects of its rich history. A student taking part in his first-ever archeological dig, for example, recently discovered an ax dating back to the New Stone Age at Talsarn in Wales.

FRANK & ERNEST

by THAVES



## Chapter News

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has chapters at Hood College and the Community College of Baltimore County and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham; visit its website, <http://hhsarchaeology.weebly.com/>

## Anne Arundel

Anne Arundel Chapter will be meeting at the Schmidt Center at SERC, the second Tuesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. Parking in front of the venue. For information, contact Jim Gibb at [JamesGGibb@verizon.net](mailto:JamesGGibb@verizon.net)

## Central Chapter

Meets the third Friday every other month at the Natural History Society of Maryland at 6908 Belair Road in Baltimore. Business meeting begins at 7, talk at 7:30. For information contact [centralchapterasm@yahoo.com](mailto:centralchapterasm@yahoo.com) or [stephenisrael2701@comcast.net](mailto:stephenisrael2701@comcast.net) or 410-945-5514. Or [www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter](http://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter) or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com> or Twitter [@asmcentral](https://twitter.com/asmcentral)

## Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September–May) at the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [ccasm2010@gmail.com](mailto:ccasm2010@gmail.com). Website [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com) and Facebook [@ccasm2010](https://www.facebook.com/ccasm2010)

## Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768)

**September 19:** Brian Crane, archeologist with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, will speak on methods used for registering cemeteries in Montgomery County.

**October 17:** Lew Toulmin, chapter member, member of the Explorers Club and travel writer for the *Sentinel* (Montgomery) will speak on the DNA search for Amelia Earhart.

**November 21:** Don Housley, ASM and chapter president, will report on the 2019 ASM Field Session at the Billingsley site in Prince George's County.

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or call 301-378-0212. The chapter does not meet in July or August.

## Northern Chesapeake

Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410- 273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**September 4:** Tour of restored icehouse, quarterly ASNC board of directors meeting, Elaine Kipp introduces Tautavel Man. Harford Glen.

**October 9:** ASNC salvage archeology at Colonial Joppatowne. Bill & Rev. John McIntyre. Havre de Grace City Hall.

**November 13:** "Buried Treasure at Perry Point." The ASNC Lab Crew & Jerry Brown. Perryville Public Library.

**Friday, December 13.** Mike Tritsch. "Encroachment of Domestic Religion at Temple of Karnak." ASNC annual dinner meeting. I.O.O.F. Hall, Aberdeen.

**January 8, 2020:** Prehistoric Resources of the Upper Bay. Dan Coates & Dave Peters. Rising Sun Historical Society, Rising Sun.

**February 12:** Subject TBA. Havre de Grace City Hall.

**March 11:**  
Subject TBA. Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton.

**Friday, April:** Date & subject TBA. Edgewood Hall, Harford Community College, Bel Air.

**May (Exact date TBA)**  
Annual Picnic Meeting. St. Patrick's Irish Catholic Church, Conowingo

## St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Carter State Office Building in the Russell Conference Room, Leonardtown. For information contact Chris Coogan at [Ccoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Ccoogan@smcm.edu)

## Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. On Facebook, [www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358) or [www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com](http://www.upperpatuxentarchaeology.com) or try [uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com](mailto:uparchaeologygroup@gmail.com)

**September 9:** The Archeology of Patapsco Valley State Park, 7 pm. Meeting Place: B&O Ellicott City Station Museum, 3700 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City.

**October 14:** Colonial Settlement in the Patuxent: The Raven Site. 7 pm. Heritage Program Office

**November 11:** Forgotten Ruins: Investigating the Mount View Tenant Site. 7 pm Heritage Program Office

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**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, 609 N. Paca Street, Apt. 3, Baltimore, MD 21201 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd.,

Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

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