

# ASM Ink



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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

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

## Don Housley wins 2022 Marye award

As announced at this year's Annual Meeting, ASM's highest honor, the William B. Marye award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology was presented to Don Housley, for work on both local and state levels and in the field and in administration

Despite coming to avocational archeology somewhat later in life, his numerous activities in and around Maryland as an archeological research/field/lab volunteer, educator and administrator make him a worthy candidate for the 2022 award.

Born and raised in Montgomery County, he taught high school history for 36 years. Upon his retirement, he immersed himself in Maryland archeology. As a volunteer since 2005 with the Montgomery County's Department of Parks archeology program, he has contributed nearly 10,000 hours doing fieldwork, labwork and archival research at numerous sites including Blockhouse Point, Oakley Cabin, Palmer-Robinson Rockshelter and the Josiah Henson Special Park.

In addition to his extensive research, field and lab experience, during the past 17 years he has touched literally thousands of Montgomery County residents with his knowledge and passion for Montgomery County history and archeology by participating in numerous educational and public outreach events, including programs at Montgomery College, workshops and conferences.

Maryland archeology has also benefitted from his considerable administrative talents. He has served as the Mid-Potomac Chapter president since 2008. In fall of 2016 his administrative efforts were expanded exponentially when he assumed the role of ASM president. Since his term ended he has continued to serve as an at-large trustee, a member of the Field Session Committee and the administrator for the State of Maryland grant funding for the ASM field session. He also currently serves as a member of the Maryland Advisory Committee on Archeology and a member of Josiah Henson Special Park Advisory Committee.

In sum, through his unceasing efforts, and seemingly endless energy for all things archeological: archival research, field and laboratory work, educational and public outreach, and key administrative positions, Don Housley's countless contributions to Maryland archeology establish him as a meritorious candidate for ASM's 2022 William B. Marye Award.

## Inside: 2022 election results!

ASM only. You still have to vote in the other one.

## Upcoming events

**Nov. 4-6:** ESAF annual meeting, Shippensburg, Pa.

**Dec. 3:** ASM board. Meeting. Via Zoom.

## Volunteer opportunities (non-covid)

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

**ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays:** The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at [Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov](mailto:Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov) It is currently working on the Maiden's Choice collection, which is a late 18th to early 19th Century dwelling in Washington County

**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)

**Charles County for lab and field work** volunteers, contact Esther Read at [ReadE@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:ReadE@charlescountymd.gov)  
For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at [ccasm2010@gmail.com](mailto:ccasm2010@gmail.com).

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

**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.

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

**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 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.

## CAT corner:

If your email address changes please remember to let Tom know. It's the only contact we have for many of you. For more information on the CAT program contact Tom McLaughlin at [mclaugh01@verizon.net](mailto:mclaugh01@verizon.net)

## Three more complete the CAT program

CAT graduates received their certificates at the Annual Meeting in October. Joining the group are Paul Bollwerk, Fran Kline and Tom McLaughlin. Well done! This brings the total number of graduates to 19. Two more members are close to finishing the program.

## ASM news:

### -- Valerie Hall is the Society's new president.

The results of ASM's 2022 election were announced at the Annual Meeting in October.

Taking over at president is Valerie Hall. She will be replaced as vice president by Katharine Fernstrom.

Continuing on are: Secretary Barbara Israel, Membership Secretary Ethan Bean and Treasurer Elaine Hall Chhean.

At-large Trustees are Lynne Bulhack, Brent Chippendale, Jim Gibb, Don Housley and Aaron Jarvis.

A sixth at-large trustee, Rebecca Morehouse, had to resign. The board will select a replacement at its March 6 meeting. If you are interested in being a candidate, email election committee chair Myron Beckenstein at [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

### -- It's time to renew your membership.

Applications are now being accepted for 2023 membership. See [www.Marylandarcheology](http://www.Marylandarcheology) for details and rates.

## They also dig who work for state DOTs

By Jenni Bergal

*Condensed from Maryland Matters, September 14, 2022*

Across the country, archeologists working for state departments of transportation help excavate and preserve artifacts before road or bridge construction begins and the items are lost forever. In some states, archeologists also offer expertise to other government agencies, even if the job may not involve road or bridge work.

Such professionals are called highway archeologists, and they have helped uncover everything from prehistoric animal bones, stone tools and ancient ruins to remnants of 17th and 18th Century farmsteads, historic mills and military forts.

"Highway archeologists are the ones who have the expertise to understand the importance and interest that the public and others have in archeological sites," said Owen Lindauer, chief archeologist at the Federal Highway Administration, which provides the state agencies with funding, guidance and technical assistance.

"They also understand the need for highway departments to build the road and make improvements but do it in a way that minimizes the impact on those sites."

Lindauer said most state DOTs have an archeologist or a team of them on staff, but they also hire consultant archeologists, who conduct digs and provide other assistance.

State DOTs are required to take these steps before they move ahead with a road or bridge project. That's because of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, which established the National Register of Historic Places and set federal policy for preserving the nation's heritage.

Every state transportation agency gets federal funding or approvals for projects. The law requires that in advance of that, states must identify and evaluate cultural resources and then consider the construction's potential impact on a historic property, Lindauer said.

That means archeologists and architectural historians need to identify whether there is anything historic or worthy of preservation on the site and then assess whether the project would have any adverse effect and how to resolve it.

State highway archeologists typically start out doing cultural research surveys, reviewing aerial photos and historic maps and screening soil.

"We first try to avoid affecting a historic property," said Kevin Mock, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's lead archeologist. "As much as archeologists love to dig holes and find stuff, our primary mission is not to disturb it."

But if highway archeologists do have to dig, they look for the presence of artifacts, and if they find them, they may do a full excavation.

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## Four good friends of ASM get lifetime awards

At its annual meeting earlier this year, the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference in Ocean City honored four members with "lifetime achievement awards." All four are Marylanders who had worked for the state government. They are Wayne Clark, Dennis Curry, Carol Ebright and Maureen Kavanagh.

If the archeologists come across a historical or archeological site that needs to be saved, they may recommend that engineers avoid the site or make minor changes to design around it. If that's not possible, they may archeologically excavate, collect information and remove whatever is important.

Highway archeologists are required to preserve any artifacts they find on state or federal land at a state repository, typically a state historical agency or museum, where they are curated and can be studied by scholars or researchers, according to Lindauer. Some states publish photos of the artifacts on their websites or put them on public display.

In many states (including Maryland), if the archeologists find artifacts on private land, those items belong to the owners. But the archeologists usually get the owners to agree to donate the collection to the state.

Maryland DOT's chief of cultural resources Julie Schablitsky said her team of eight archeologists determines a project's effect on everything below ground. The archeologists work with a team of four staff architectural historians, who determine the impact on everything above ground, such as historic bridges or buildings. The agency also spends more than \$1 million a year for outside consultants who conduct archeological excavations and document architectural history.

"Not everything needs to be saved or is going to give us some information we don't already know," she said. "But some archeological sites have the potential to reveal stories and history, such as what people who were enslaved did on a daily basis and what they ate, that's not captured in archives or documents."

Archeologists can analyze animal bones and find, for example, that enslaved people ate low quality cuts of beef and pork and supplemented their diet with raccoons, turtles, rabbits, crabs and fish, she said.

Schablitsky conceded that sometimes there's a clash between transportation officials eager to get a project constructed by a target date, and archeologists who want to slow the process and take time to investigate.

"Everyone has to get a job done," she said. "Being a highway archeologist, you have to be an advocate for an archeological site. But at the same time, you're working for a construction agency. The goal is to get projects built but have as little impact as possible on cultural and environmental resources."

In the end, highway archeologists say transportation officials usually listen to and respect their input. "Our leaders realize the importance of what we're doing," Schablitsky said. "If we're going to the mat, it has to be significant."

When archeologists found ruins at the historic Simpsonville Mill in Howard County, for example, transportation engineers designed around it and put an elevated highway over it rather than tear it down, she said. The public now can visit the site.

Schablitsky's team also partners with other agencies on projects. Earlier this year, it worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to help excavate two small mid-19th Century cabins at the historic Elkridge Furnace in Howard County. Archeologists uncovered brick floors, stone foundations and other artifacts.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the furnace used enslaved, indentured and convict labor and the site now is part of the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Last year, the team again worked with the natural resources agency and helped discover a historic home site on a federal wildlife refuge on Maryland's Eastern Shore that was once lived in by the father of famed abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who helped people escape north through the Underground Railroad.

In Nebraska, which has one of the oldest highway archeology programs in the nation, begun in 1960, archeologists from History Nebraska, the state historical society, work with the state Department of Transportation as consultants, said Stacy Stupka, the agency's cultural resources manager.

Stupka, an archeologist, said for the most part, her team has a primary strategy of not collecting anything or disturbing an archaeological site.

# Turkey Tayac and the fight for the Piscataways

By Meaghan Kacmarcik

*Condensed from WETA, August 24, 2022*

Day broke over the calm Potomac River in late Autumn 1978. A frail yet determined gentleman was seemingly the only one awake on this early November morning. Stepping over tree roots and recently fallen leaves, Turkey Tayac followed the well-worn trail to the river bank and stepped into the icy water.

That was nothing new. For years, Turkey Tayac swam regularly in the Potomac, from March through November, believing in the water's therapeutic powers. But something was different about this dip in the chilly water. Over the course of the next few days, Turkey Tayac would come down with pneumonia. The lung malady was far too much for his cancer-riddled body to handle. For about a month, he tried to treat the sickness with his own herbal medicines, but seemingly no medication could save him. On December 8, 1978, Turkey Tayac passed away at the Veterans Administration hospital in Maryland.

Turkey Tayac's passing propelled forward conversations surrounding Indigenous people in southern Maryland and their rights as Native Americans at a time when the state did not formally recognize them as a minority group.

Tayac dedicated much of his life fighting for broader recognition of his people. A full-blooded Piscataway, he was born in Charles County, at some point in the 1890s (no one quite knows the exact date.) Growing up, his parents taught him Piscataway culture and traditions.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century— when Tayac was coming of age— the Piscataway were all but removed from the American landscape. Once a powerful confederacy of tribes, the Piscataway had controlled lands far and wide in Maryland and Northern Virginia.

With the influx of European colonizers and the displacement and disease that accompanied them, the population of Piscataway sharply declined as the decades passed. Come the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, few full-blooded Piscataway remained in the Chesapeake Bay region.

As much as Tayac (whose English name was Philip Proctor) was immersed in the culture of his ancestors growing up, he had a deep love for the United States. As the legend goes, he lied about his age in order to enlist in the Army during World War I. Assigned to the Rainbow Division, Tayac suffered wounds from mustard gas attacks and machine gun fire. Field doctors did not expect him to survive another year. But as we know, Tayac would live another 60.

Upon recovering from his war wounds, Tayac came back to America, picking back up the native culture. He made it his life mission to revamp the Piscataway tribe and pass down its heritage, teachings and culture to future generations. He adopted a historic Piscataway lifestyle, eschewing modern conveniences and living off the land to the best of his abilities. Tayac spent the majority of his time in the dwindling wilderness of southern Maryland, which was the ancestral lands of the Piscataway people.

Tayac tried to broaden the Piscataway community by finding other people with Piscataway blood. Starting in the 1930s, he put on powwows - the first ones for this group in roughly 200 years. He brought back the Green Corn Festival every August, sometimes performing the rituals alone if he could not find other Piscataways.

In the mid 1930s, Tayac's connection to southern Maryland took on a whole new form. A Piscataway village and burial ground were found on the banks of the Potomac in Accokeek, Maryland — directly across the river from George Washington's Mount Vernon.

The land, owned by Alice and Henry Ferguson, quickly became a hot topic in the DMV. Archeologists flooded to the site to excavate and the findings were astonishing. The village was quite large and was occupied by different generations of Piscataways at various times throughout history. It was suspected that this village was one of the stops John Smith wrote about on his journey up the Potomac in 1608.

But perhaps the most interesting discovery to Tayac were the burial pits found. Scientific findings revealed that the village had been burned to the ground, resulting in the deaths of numerous Piscataways. While there is no definitive answer to who inflicted such pain and suffering onto this community, the timing suggests that it was English colonizers (but a rival tribe could also be to blame).

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Tayac aided in the excavations, lending his expertise on his ancestors to the archeologists, giving valuable context. He now had a tangible connection to his people's past from before the Europeans colonized the area, which Tayac was not ready to relinquish.

That's why in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when ancestral Piscataway land in Accokeek was under threat of clearing and development for high-rise apartment buildings, Tayac fought to preserve the area. Believing that the land rightfully belonged to his people, Tayac worked from all angles to ensure its preservation in its natural form.

He teamed up with an unlikely ally - the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association which operate George Washington's Mount Vernon. The MVLVA sought to keep the view across the river more or less as it was when George Washington was alive. As the proposed high rise development was in eyesight of the mansion's piazza, the MVLVA joined Tayac in opposing the project - an effort that was eventually successful.

After years of garnering support from the public and lobbying Congress, the ancestral Piscataway land was turned into a National Park. Ohio Representative Frances Bolton headed the initiative in Congress and it received bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. President Kennedy signed the bill on October 4, 1961.

While the designation of Piscataway land as a National Park did not come with as much money to acquire all the real estate that supporters wanted to protect, it was enough to save the important archeological sites and the natural viewscape from Mount Vernon. When all was said and done in 1974, NPS had the final amount of land which they still control to this day (about 3,885-acres of land).

During the process of turning the land into a National Park, the Alice Ferguson Foundation - a nonprofit established by the Ferguson family which had owned the property since the 1920s - donated the about 20 acres, where the burial sites were located to Turkey Tayac.

The gift was a recognition of how important the land was to the current Piscataway people. In turn, Tayac gave the land to NPS, believing that their funding and resources could maintain the site. In return, Tayac made a verbal arrangement with Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall which said that he could be buried with his ancestors on the land when he passed.

As it turned out, the arrangement was not that simple. In the late 1970s, Tayac brought the issue up again about his burial in the newly established National Park. Unfortunately, Tayac's agreement with Udall had never been verified on paper and Udall claimed he made no such agreement. The Department of the Interior stated as much as they would like to help out Tayac, being buried on National Park lands would require an Act of Congress, of which only three had been granted prior.

Tayac took the case to the halls of the Capitol, fighting in part for himself, but also in many ways for his people and all Native groups in the country. This was their ancestral land, first and foremost, but acknowledging such a fact was not in the federal government's lexicon then, and in many ways today.

Tayac passed away before he could see his hard work come to fruition. In response to his father's death, Tayac's son, Billy Redwing Tayac, took up his father's wish. In the fall of 1979, almost a year after Turkey Tayac's death, Congress passed a bill to allow Tayac's final resting place to be on the banks of the Potomac with the remains of his ancestors.

On the matter, Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Parks, Recreation and Renewables, acknowledged the significance of the decision: "During much of his life, Turkey Tayac lived in Piscataway Park, and his intimate knowledge of its environment proved most useful to the development of the park as a historical resource where over 200,000 cultural artifacts have been located."

In late 1979, Turkey Tayac's body was removed from his above-ground crypt at Cedar Hills Cemetery in Suitland.<sup>1</sup> At last, Tayac was buried with his ancestors, under the red cedar tree he planted in 1976 to mark his desired resting place.

One more significant chapter to Turkey Tayac's story came in 2012, when the state of Maryland recognized the Piscataway tribe as an indigenous group. Without his dedication, such a designation seems unimaginable. He all but single-handedly organized the modern tribe which still exists today and preserved invaluable information about Piscataway history and culture, which would have been lost to time.

## Chapter news

### Central Chapter

All Meetings will be held on Zoom the third Tuesday of every second month. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact: Katharine Fernstrom at [kwfappraising@gmail.com](mailto:kwfappraising@gmail.com)

### Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September–May). The next few will be virtual. Contact President Carol Cowherd at [ccasm2010@gmail.com](mailto:ccasm2010@gmail.com) for Zoom access information. 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. In-person meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Virtual meetings, will be via Zoom with the presentation at 7:30 p.m. For up-to-date information contact Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526 or check chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org>, or send an email to: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) or see [www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768)

**November 17:** Maybe Zoom. Recently certified CAT graduates Tom McLaughlin, Fran Kline and Paul Bollwerk will give a presentation about the journey to CAT certification.

### Monocacy

Meetings are at 7 p.m. Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick. For more information, visit the chapter's web page [masarcheology.org](http://masarcheology.org) or call 301-378-0212.

### Northern Chesapeake

A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410- 808-2398 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**December 9:** Annual December dinner meeting. Aberdeen. IOOF hall in Aberdeen.

### St. Mary's County

Meetings are at the Leonardtown Library in Leonard every second Tuesday night of the month at 6:30. For information contact Craig Lukezic at [crlukezic@gmail.com](mailto:crlukezic@gmail.com)

**November 8:** The 75-plus sites identified near Jug Bay, from ancient camps and Indigenous villages, along with Colonial towns, antebellum plantations and underwater shipwrecks help paint a vibrant picture of life along the Patuxent river. By Stephanie Sperling.

### Upper Patuxent

Meetings the second Saturday or Sunday of the month, virtual or at the Heritage Program Office, 9944 Route 108, Ellicott City, unless otherwise noted. [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 call Kelly Palich, 410-313-0423.

### Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 211 S. Lee Street in Cumberland, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com)

**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, 765-716-5282 or [beans32@comcast.net](mailto:beans32@comcast.net) for membership rates.

Newsletter submissions: Send to Myron Beckenstein, 3126 Gracefield Rd., Apt 106, Silver Spring, MD. 20904 or 240-867-3662 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

**President**

Valerie L. Hall  
301 814 8028  
[valerie.hall@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.hall@gmail.com)

**Vice president**

Katharine Fernstrom  
410-423-2757  
[kwfappraising@gmail.com](mailto:kwfappraising@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

Barbara Israel  
410-945-5514  
[barbaraisrael1943@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraisrael1943@gmail.com)

**Membership secretary**

Ethan Bean  
765-716-5828  
[beans32@comcast.net](mailto:beans32@comcast.net)

**Treasurer**

Elaine Hall Chhean  
240-426-1298  
[Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com](mailto:Elaine.frances.hall@gmail.com)

**At-Large Trustees**

Lynne Bulhack  
301-460--5356  
[lwbulhack@gmail.com](mailto:lwbulhack@gmail.com)

Brent Chippendale  
240-362-6627  
[brentchip@embarqmail.com](mailto:brentchip@embarqmail.com)

Jim Gibb  
410-693-3847  
[JamesGGibb@verizon.net](mailto:JamesGGibb@verizon.net)

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

Aaron Jarvis  
410-997-1962  
[jarvisa@juno..com](mailto:jarvisa@juno..com)