ASM Ink

January 2023, Vol. 50, No. 1



Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

Looking back on 2022: MHT's year-in-review

By Matt McKnight

MHT Chief Archeologist

2022 was a busy year for the MHT Office of Archeology. Much of the near constant hustle we can "blame" on the departure of our long-time State Terrestrial Archeologist, Dr. Charlie Hall. Charlie retired on January 1st and has since left Maryland for the hills of Virginia where he grew up. Charlie served the State of Maryland for 29 years, working first for the Maryland State Highway Administration (beginning in 1993), before taking up his position at the Trust (in 2001). Charlie, or course, played a critical role in the success of 20 Annual Field Sessions in Archeology with the ASM and we wish him well.

The vacancy left by Charlie was soon ("soon" by typical government hiring timelines) filled by Dr. Zachary Singer. Zac joined MHT a couple of years ago as our Research Archeologist. Zac's promotion obviously left another vacancy in the office. For those of you who haven't yet heard...in November we were happy to welcome back Stephanie Soder as our new Research Archeologist. Stephanie was our summer intern during the first Field Session at Billingsley in 2019.

Since departing MHT she did a bit of CRM work, before moving on to the Delaware SHPO's Office and also working for the Harford County Planning Department. Both government jobs, plus her Master's Degree in maritime archeology made Steph the perfect candidate for the Research Archeologist position!

Despite the staff transitions, the MHT archeology staff managed to rack up quite a few accomplishments. Here is but a sampling:

- In FY2022, the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program provided \$117,000 to archeological research and survey projects. That amount is up a little from the previous year (\$104,000). A total of \$17,000 was awarded to the ASM for the 2022 Annual Field Session (more on that below). The funds covered field session expenses as well as the hiring of contractors to produce a final report and prepare artifacts for permanent curation.
- St. Mary's College of Maryland was awarded \$60,000 for a project entitled, "Tracing Piscataway Indian History on the Ground." This project involves survey work on several 15^{th} to 18^{th} Century Piscataway sites along the north shore of the Potomac River.

And finally, \$40,000 was provided to the Lost Towns Project for "Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom: Recording Anne Arundel County's Past". This project entails detailed archival and literature review of 19th-Century Black housing in Anne Arundel County as well as some archeological follow-up. Lost Towns will create a database of approximately 100 such sites, conduct visits to approximately 20 sites to assess their condition, create or update MIHP site data and write a summary report.

-In January, we made arrangements to pick up the 2013-2015 Biggs Ford collection from the American University Anthropology Lab. Through a generous deed of gift to the State signed by Mrs. Barbara Crum, the Biggs Ford collection is now safely stored at the MAC Lab.

Well...most of it. A portion of the collection has actually returned to Frederick County through a long-term Continued on Page 4

Upcoming events

Spring symposium

Annual field school

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 Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net Charles County for lab and field work volunteers, contact Esther Read at ReadE@charlescountymd.gov For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com.

The Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab in Edgewater, in conjunction with The Lost Towns Project, accepts volunteers 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.

UPAG/Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at <u>Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov</u> or 410-313-0423. **Montgomery County** for lab and field work volunteers, contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or 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 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

Frank and Ernest by Thaves



The time has come to renew your ASM membership

If you were waiting until 2023 actually got here before renewing your ASM membership -- worried that with all the things going on, it might not actually make it—you can take a deep breath. Both it and you have made it and we are toes deep in 2023.

Which also means your excuse fir not renewing has vanished. So in your joy reach for that checkbook and sign up for another year of supporting archeology in our state and, hopefully, joining in some of it yourself. It's easy to do, it's ridiculously inexpensive. Look at the ASM website to find out how to do it.

Archeologists find better clock for biblical era

Condensed from Dec. 20, 2022

When it comes to assigning dates to military campaigns described in the Bible, the parameters of the debate take on almost biblical proportions. Exactly when did the Amalekites wage war against the Hebrews in the wilderness? Did Joshua fight the Battle of Jericho in 1500 B.C. or in 1400 B.C. — or at all?

Such uncertainty exists, in part, because the radiocarbon analysis that scientists use to date organic remains is less accurate for certain epochs. And, in part, because archeologists often disagree over what the timelines for different narratives should be. But a new technique, which makes use of consistently reliable geomagnetic data, allows scientists to study the history of the Levant with greater confidence.

Many materials, including rocks and soils, record the reversals and variations over time in earth's invisible geomagnetic field. When ancient ceramics or mud bricks that contain ferromagnetic, or certain iron-bearing, minerals are heated to sufficiently high temperatures, the magnetic moments of the minerals behave like a compass needle, reflecting the orientation and intensity of the field at the time of burning.

"Based on the similarity or difference in the recorded magnetic signals, we can either corroborate or disprove hypotheses" about when certain layers of sediment might have been destroyed during biblical battles, said Yoav Vaknin, a doctoral candidate at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, who pioneered the technology. "It all fits together perfectly, better than I had ever imagined."

Vaknin's research, published in 2022 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, harnesses information from 20 international scholars to map out a geomagnetic data set of 21 layers of historical destruction across 17 sites in the Holy Land.

"With this new data set, we can narrow things down to a decadal level," said Thomas Levy, an archeologist at the University of California, San Diego, who was not involved with the study. "That is super important when trying to connect ancient historical events to the archeological record."

The study stands apart not only for its content, but also for its researchers. All but one of the study's authors are archeologists — many of them with contradictory views on the chronology of the period.

Besides helping to date archeological contexts, the technology provides invaluable information on Earth's magnetic field, one of the most enigmatic phenomena in geoscience. "Since instrumental recording of the field started about 200 years ago, the field's strength has declined, and there is a danger that we might lose it completely," Ben-Yosef said. "Understanding this trend and how dangerous it is requires data on the past behavior of the field."

As ferromagnetic particles in ancient artifacts cool, their magnetic moments are baked into the alignment. So long as the objects don't heat up again, they will retain what is effectively a fossilized magnetic field. Each reheating beyond a certain temperature wipes out all previously recorded magnetic signals, so that the date is always of the most recent firing.

From around 800 to 400 B.C., as a result of changes in the percentage of radiocarbon in the atmosphere, the resolution of radiocarbon dating during those years is so limited that archeologists seldom use it.

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Continued from first page

loan arrangement with Frederick Community College (FCC). There it will be used for v teaching purposes and to create the Biggs Ford Virtual Museum. Students in FCCs honors program are already hard at work pulling together a video on the exhibit they designed with the assistance of Hettie Ballweber.

In 2022, MHT added 144 archeological sites (at least 35 were maritime resources), along with at least 25 site updates to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). A total of 83 archeological survey reports were accessioned into the MHT Library, covering over 3,142 acres. Huge kudos go to our Project Review and Compliance team (Beth Cole, Dixie Henry, and Troy Nowak), who consulted on these projects and had the leviathan task of reviewing the final products. MHT researchers surveyed an additional 24 acres of the state and produced another report.

- Staff assisted four state agencies by issuing nine terrestrial archeology permits in 2022 for investigations on lands they administer. Investigations on land held by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) included work associated with Old Bohemia Manor in Cecil County (work that was conducted under one of our non-capital grants); survey at the Catoctin Mountain Blacksmith's Shop; research excavations at Rackliffe House on the Eastern Shore, and three permits were issued for a joint project with St. Mary's College of Maryland (a state school) on DNR properties at Chapel Point, St. Clements Island, and Newtown Neck.

This last permitted project was part of the FY22 non-cap grant to the college for the "Tracing Piscataway Indian History on the Ground" survey project by Julia King and her students. One permit was issued to the Department of General Services (DGS) for a project at the Maryland School for the Deaf. And finally, Historic Saint Mary's City received permits for emergency mitigation work on the Historic State House bathrooms and for installation of a fiber optic line.

- One permit was issued by the Maryland Maritime Archeology Program (MMAP) for work in the Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary. The permit was issued to East Carolina University, which conducted their summer field school in maritime heritage at Mallows Bay.
- MMAP also continues its work to survey state waters. Early in the year Troy Nowak and Susan Langley collected detailed side scan sonar imagery of the U-1105 German U-Boat off Piney Point that's being examined under an FY21 non-capital grant by the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG).

MHT maritime archeologists were also out this summer at the head of the Bay to collect imagery of a submerged canal boat near Perryville. MMAP also assisted with investigations and advised on projects including the Coast Guard's Unified Command response to the grounded freighter Ever Forward and consulted with National Geographic for proposed episodes of Drain the Ocean, and conducted ship surveys at Assateague State Park (Worcester County) and the Potomac River.

- Despite having a staff vacancy in the position that does the bulk of the organizing (Terrestrial Archeologist), April still managed to be Maryland Archeology Month (MAM)! This year we celebrated "The Future of Studying the Past: Innovative Technologies in Maryland Archeology". The usual offerings of posters, mini-posters, magnets, and booklets were supplemented this year with 3D printed replicas of the Rosenstock maskette available at certain events (an archeology month first). 750 packages of these materials were mailed to stakeholders in the archeology community, 188 packages were mailed to MD legislators to keep archeology on their radar screen and the remaining materials were distributed to MAM institutional sponsors, ASM chapters, and local universities for distribution. Twenty-four events were listed on the official MAM calendar. In addition, we once again partnered with the Council for Maryland Archeology to host 10-minute interviews with our archeology month authors and archeologists. These were hosted on the MHT YouTube channel (which if you haven't subscribed to, you should).

-At the end of May, MHT and the ASM once again partnered on the annual Tyler Bastian Field Session...the first one on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 20 years. In partnership with Washington College, the 2022 field session was held at the Barwick's Ordinary site near Denton (Caroline County). Participants accomplished important work, such as mapping 18th Century cultural features associated with this historic tavern and

excavating shovel test pits (STPs) on an adjacent property that located a potentially intact pre-Contact Native American occupation (a site we are exploring as the main prospect for the 2023 Field Session).

Recovered artifacts included a rimsherd of Staffordshire slipware with a "piecrust" edge; a creamware platter; a sherd of c. 1760 Whieldonware pottery; a two-tine fork; many faunal remains including fish scales; and plowzone finds of stone projectile points, flakes, pre-contact pottery and a drilled Megalodon fossil tooth. 3D models of artifacts recovered from the Barwick's Ordinary site are viewable on the JPPM Sketchfab site (bit.ly/MHTsketchbarwicks).

- MHT hosted our Annual Workshop in Archeology with the ASM on August 27th. Dr. Laura Masur of the Catholic University of America keynote address focused on her research into Maryland's Jesuit plantations and the reconstruction of their historic landscapes.

The hands-on offerings for the day would not have been possible without heavy lifting by our colleagues at the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory (who provided two workshops), as well as numerous volunteer presenters. The agenda included primers on flintknapping and lithic reduction, online patent and deed research, post-Colonial earthenware identification, basic faunal analysis, and basic lab procedures. There was also a virtual reality tour of Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary provided by NOAA.

- MHT continued its efforts to survey lands owned or controlled by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies to identify the full range of archeological sites located on them. In April, we returned to Fort Frederick State Park, to continue our search for a small colonial village mentioned in 18th Century records just outside the fort. With the assistance of two metal detectorist groups, we conducted a controlled survey north of the fort and identified an apparent domestic deposit which is currently being explored through shovel testing.

Another DNR property investigated by MHT was the Hughes Family Cemetery in the Hollingsworth Natural Environmental Area (Caroline County). DNR requested MHT remote sensing assistance in determining the boundaries of a historic cemetery for interpretive and management purposes. The GPR data suggested the presence of at least 20 grave shaft-like anomalies in this densely wooded site.

MHT also assisted Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum with a GPR survey of the Melon Field site. Mac Lab staff had determined that the Melon Field (a mid-late 17^{th} -Century house site) would be the subject of their Summer 2022 Public Archeology program. Fieldwork by Dennis Pogue in the 1980s had identified the bounds of the site and one possible feature, but MAC Lab staff were certain there was more to be investigated. Our GPR data identified multiple shaft-like features just beyond the 1980s units and ground-truthing by the MAC Lab Public Archeology volunteers confirmed they were 17^{th} -Century in age.

In the fall, we turned our attention towards one of Maryland's PaleoIndian resources. With the assistance of numerous volunteers, we excavated over 123 STPs across the Pierpoint site in Seneca Creek State Park (Montgomery County). Based on the findings, Zac already has plans to return.

- In addition to conducting survey and documentation activities on state lands, MHT archeologists also worked on one project on federal lands and numerous projects on privately owned properties, in some cases partnering with local municipalities.

In the fall of 2021, we conducted ground-truthing excavations with the Western Chapter of ASM at Montpelier in Washington County, where prior remote sensing had identified a large stone structure. The site, now recorded as the Maiden's Choice I site (18WA634), is the remains of a late-18th or early-19th Century dwelling occupied by the Barnes and Mason families.

During a subsequent GPR survey north of the excavation, MHT archeologists identified two cellar-like shaft anomalies. In the spring of 2022, we returned to Montpelier to excavate the Maiden's Choice II site. Unfortunately, these anomalies were found to be large pits filled with local fieldstone rubble, which do not seem to relate to the Colonial-era occupation of the property in any discernible way. Aside from the rocks moved to that location, these pits were largely devoid of artifacts. You win some, you lose some!

Also in the spring, we returned to Whitehall in Anne Arundel County. The Lost Towns Project was undertaking ground-truthing excavations on the 18^{th} -Century home of Governor Horatio Sharpe to follow-up on two 9X9 ft square anomalies identified by MHT in one of the pastures not far from the manor house. During

Continued on next page

our return trip we identified three additional anomalies of roughly the same size in alignment with the other two, which form a "lane" pointing to the front door of the manor house. Ground-truthing identified colonial bottle glass and brick flooring in one of these structures.

Additional survey work was carried out at the Hurt Ossuary (Talbot County), Piscataway Park (a federal property in Prince George's County), Pindell Bluff (Anne Arundel County), the Laurel Cemetery (Baltimore City), and Mt. Calvert (Prince George's County).

As I said, these are merely the highlights of our many activities for 2022. What will happen in 2023...hopefully not more staffing changes! We do know that we once again have \$300,000 in non-capital research funds for FY23. MHT received just shy of 1 million dollars in requests, so there were tough decisions to be made.

For 2023 we will be providing \$15,000 to ASM for the 2023 Tyler Bastian Field Session. \$30,000 will be provided to East Carolina University to fund important archeological-biological baseline research on the hull of the wooden shipwreck *Aowa* in Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary...a model that can hopefully be applied elsewhere. \$30,000 will also go to the Towson University to conduct archeological survey of Herring Run Park (Baltimore City). And finally, \$20,000 will be provided to the Institute for Maritime History to survey the waters near St. George's Island (St. Mary's County) for evidence of the Revolutionary War fleet of Lord Dunmore. MHT archeology staff will take the lead role in managing each of these grants.

We hope to see you this spring at the Annual Field Session. Again, we hope to be offering a second year in Denton, this time focusing primarily on the prehistoric site adjacent to Barwick's. In case you missed the Field Session last year. Here is a preview of the kind of excitement that might be in store for you: www.facebook.com/marylandhistoricaltrust/videos/723478825630705

As always, MHT thanks the Archeological Society of Maryland for all of your assistance throughout the year. Without you doing "what you do", we wouldn't be able to do "what we do". We'll see you in the field in 2023!

NEXT MONTH: What the Trust is planning to do this year

Golf course atop Hopewell mound may be ruled out

By Sarah Bahr

Condensed from the New York Times, Dec. 9, 2022

For more than a century, golfers at a course in central Ohio have navigated ancient Native American earthworks built to measure the movement of the sun and the moon through the heavens. Now it's the country club's days there that may be numbered.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the state's historical society, which owns the land, can use eminent domain to expel the club and create a public park in an attempt to gain recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Federal officials had told the historical society that securing recognition and legal protection would be impossible without full public access to the site.

The mounds in Newark are part of a network of eight archeological sites in Ohio, known as the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, that were built by Native Americans about 2,000 years ago.

In 1910, the Moundbuilders Country Club began building an 18-hole golf course atop the Octagon Earthworks. The Ohio History Connection acquired the land in 1933 and has since leased it to the club, which has said it was willing to move before the lease ends in 2078 — for the right price.

But the parties remained millions of dollars apart in their negotiations, and the value of the lease will now be determined in a jury trial in a lower court.

"The historical, archeological and astronomical significance of the Octagon Earthworks is arguably equivalent to Stonehenge or Machu Picchu," Justice Michael P. Donnelly wrote in the 6-1 decision, which upheld two rulings by lower courts.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Sharon L. Kennedy wrote that UNESCO had accepted only two of the five sites nominated by the United States since 2008.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee will consider the nomination next summer.

Lost Towns now offers virtual look at county's prehistory

The Lost Towns Project, in collaboration with archeologists with the County's Cultural Resources Section, has launched "Native American Archaeology in Anne Arundel County, Maryland: A Heritage Toolbox."

This virtual toolbox shares local archeological discoveries, along with images of artifacts from the county's archeological holdings that have helped document and reveal the deep history of indigenous peoples in what is today known as Anne Arundel County.

Visit <u>aacounty.org/Native-American-Heritage-Toolbox</u> to explore 13,000 years of indigenous history, learn more about fascinating archeological resources, download valuable educational resources and find places where you can visit and experience this history in person.

The toolbox provides historical context, along with multimedia resources, including interviews with members of local tribes and professional archeologists, images of excavated artifacts and links to presentations by academic experts, web resources, worksheets and videos.

It also showcases the rich archeological discoveries from the Jug Bay area, a tidal wetland along the Patuxent River in southwest Anne Arundel County.

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

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday (September-May). The next few will be virtual. Contact President Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com for Zoom access information. Website ccarchsoc.blogspot.com and Facebook @ccasm2010

Eastern Shore

Meeting details being worked out. For information on the chapter, contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu On Facebook at Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology, Instagram: @esmdarch or email esarcheology@gmail.com

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 donnou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526 or check chapter website: http://www.asmmidpotomac.org, or send an email to: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com or see www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768

January 19, **2023**: Don Housley will give a presentation on the Barwick's Ordinary 2022 Field Session. In-person or via Zoom still to be determined. Check our website calendar for details.

February 16: Frank Sanford, chapter member, will speak about working at a Mesolithic archeology site in Portugal. In-person or via Zoom still to be determined. Check our website calendar for details.

Monocacy

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday, Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick . For more information, visit the chapter's web page_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.

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 $\frac{crlukezic@gmail.com}{crlukezic@gmail.com}$

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 or 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

January 27, **2023**: Annual SHOW & TELL. We invite folks to bring their latest acquisitions: an artifact, geofact, fossil, an article or book, a report on an interesting site they have visited or found appealing.

February 24: Brent Chippendale will report on the 2022 ASM Field Session held at the 18th Century Barwick's Ordinary on the Eastern Shore.



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 beans 32@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

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