
October
2026

ASMIInk

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



ASM Annual Fall Meeting - Join Us!

October 10, 2026 at Josiah Henson Museum and Park

11410 Old Georgetown Rd., North Bethesda, MD 20852

Parking is at the Wall Local Park - 5900 Executive Blvd, Rockville, MD 20852

Please plan to join the Mid-Potomac Chapter ASM as they host this year's ASM Annual Meeting. Coffee and breakfast begins at 8:30 am. We will hold the Annual Business Meeting which will include a Marye Award Presentation, a vote on updated By Laws and the 2026 Election Results.

After a coffee break we will learn about Josiah Henson's life and then hear from Cassandra Michaud about the archeology at the site.

Plan to bring lunch and take some time to explore the Museum - chapter members and docents will be available for additional information and questions.

After lunch we will hear more about the Henson family and the Museum and Park. The day will conclude with a talk by Aaron Levinthal on the Freedman's Park Site.

The full agenda with maps is attached and available on the [ASM Website](#).

*A special thank you to the Josiah Henson Museum and Park Historic Site
for welcoming us graciously for this event.*



Board Notes:

ASM held its quarterly board meeting on September 12, 2026. Below are some of the important bullets from the meeting.

- ASM Total Funds \$133,518.82
- We discussed donations that are designated for a specific project
 - Develop a template to ensure donor specifies where the funds will go, if for some reason the project doesn't expend the funds in a reasonable amount of time.
- The board signed the Cultural Heritage Partners Open Letter regarding Section 106 - more information can be found at: <https://culturalheritagepartners.com/open-letter-to-congress-from-national-coalition/>
- The draft report on the Cresap site was submitted to the National Park Service for review
- The Journal needs one more article before the next issue can be submitted. If you have something you would like considered, please reach out to [Matt McKnight](#).
- Lynne Bulhack, ASM Native Liaison was pleased to share about a recent repatriation ceremony. In addition, the Third Annual Summit of Maryland Indigenous People and Archaeologists took place in early September and was the most powerful and productive yet.

- The CAT program has 1 new member and, with the recent graduation of Cathy Camut, 23 graduates!
- A suggestion to provide a workshop on Research Design (and a leader volunteered!) and a recommendation to sponsor CAT members for conferences was given.
- ASM needs to re-design our website on a user friendly platform. If anyone would like to take that on, please let [John Fiveash](#) know. Also, if you have opinions on the site, what you like, what you would change, and any other thoughts they would be appreciated.
- The Marye Award committee has openings, the board will be reaching out to find new members
- The next Board Meeting will be in early December.

Upcoming Events

ASM Annual Meeting

October 10, 2026 - Josiah Henson Museum and Park, Bethesda, MD

Paleoamerican Odyssey

Santa Fe, New Mexico

October 14-17, 2026

[Center For the Study of the First Americans](#)

American Indian Heritage Day

November 7, 2026 at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

93rd Annual ESAF Meeting

November 11-15, 2026, Norwalk, CT

Maryland Indigenous Archaeology Program: Summer 2026

By: Sarah Mason, Julia Berg, and Dr. Katherine Ahlrichs

“I’ve been dreaming of building something like this for more than a decade,” said Dr. Katherine Ahlrichs. And in the summer of 2026, that dream finally came to life.

Last July, Dr. Ahlrichs of Towson University partnered with the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe, St. Mary’s College, Digging Deeper Educational Consulting, and Charles County Public Schools to propose an MSDE-funded summer program designed to bring Indigenous students into the world of archaeology. The goal was both ambitious and deeply rooted in community: to explore how archaeology can support the preservation and sharing of Piscataway lifeways.

The planning team met regularly to shape the curriculum, select meaningful locations, and ensure the experience honored both cultural knowledge and archaeological practice. Chapman's Landing quickly emerged as the ideal field site as a place of ancestral significance with accessible terrain; while Matthew Henson Middle School became the hub for classroom learning.

Week 1: Connecting to Place and Practice

Students began their journey by learning about the Piscataway Conoy people and the foundations of archaeology. Tribal representatives Tiara Thomas, Tamia Thomas, and Francis Gray led activities that grounded students in their ancestral homelands, including a visit to the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park. In the classroom, Julia Berg, Sarah Mason, and Dr. Ahlrichs introduced the history, purpose, and process of archaeology.

Meanwhile, the field team was already at work at Chapman's Landing, preparing units and identifying areas of study. Students even contributed to early research by using GIS technology to locate previous excavation blocks, serving as a hands-on introduction to archaeological investigation before ever stepping into the field.

Week 2: Into the Field

During the second week, students moved fully into excavation. Guided by a welcoming team including Ryun Papson, Daniel Roachford, Travis Hanson, Jenna Jean, Andrea Alvarado-Avila, and Maggie Fahey, they learned each step of public archaeology: shoveling, screening, troweling, mapping, and interpreting soil changes. As the days passed, students found favorite tasks, grew



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comfortable with the rhythms of the forest, and even named a few insect “friends” they encountered along the way.

Their enthusiasm was unmistakable. The field experience was so well received that daily dig hours were extended by two additional hours, and extra field visits were added to Week 3.



Week 3: Meaning, Memory, and Making

The final week shifted from excavation to interpretation. Students explored the differences between tribal and western museum approaches, then traveled to Jefferson Patterson Park for reflection and experimental archaeology (including fire-making and atlatl throwing).

A lab day was also included, where students cleaned and labeled artifacts recovered from Chapman's Landing. They also prepared and shared traditional Piscataway foods, including a Three Sisters salad, weaving together cultural knowledge, archaeological evidence, and landscape interpretation to imagine how ancestors used the site centuries before European contact.



Final Projects: Sharing the Story

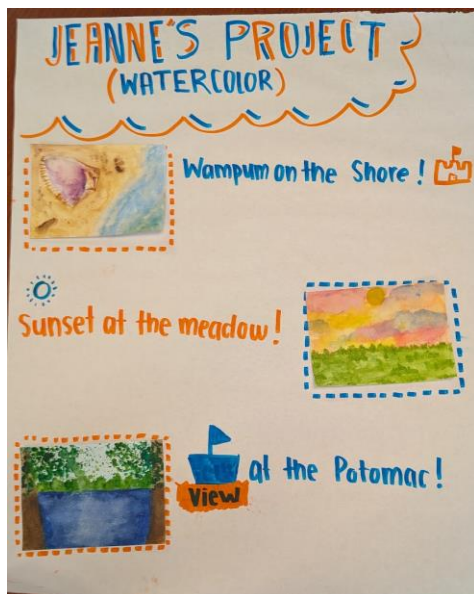
Throughout the three-week experience, students worked toward a final project that asked them to show, in their own way, how archaeology can support the preservation and sharing of Piscataway lifeways. The prompt was intentionally open, and students embraced it with creativity: crafting pamphlets and posters, crocheting designs and painting watercolors inspired by the site, writing reflective essays, and even

shaping small objects from clay gathered at Chapman's Landing. On the final day, parents, tribal members, archaeologists, and school board representatives joined together to celebrate the students' work and the community that had grown around it.



Closing Reflection

In the end, the summer offered a clear answer to the question that guided the program from the start. When archaeology works hand-in-hand with Indigenous knowledge, it becomes more than a method for studying the past; it becomes a way of honoring living traditions and strengthening community connections. Students saw that firsthand as they learned from Piscataway leaders, dug alongside archaeologists, and interpreted the landscape through both cultural memory and material evidence. Their projects showed how powerful this combination can be: a shared practice that preserves stories, deepens understanding, and ensures that the lifeways of the Piscataway people continue to be carried forward with care.



Vote on Updated Bylaws Language

At the September 12th ASM Board Meeting, the Board voted to approve some updates to the Bylaws. Because of timing issues we will also request a vote at the Annual Meeting on October 10, 2026.

Attached is the updated version of the ASM Bylaws with updated sections highlighted in Yellow. Below is a brief overview of the recommended changes.

We added a new Article to express that ASM is not in the business of collecting or storing artifacts. And that if someone has an artifact collection and is not sure what to do with it (think - cleaning out our parents basement and coming across a collection) that we may be available to discuss what to do with it. In addition, we added that our Code of Ethics and Conduct is part of our Society governance, partly because it already states important information on this topic.

ARTICLE III - Ethics, Stewardship and Collections.

- The Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Society, which will be published in its January official newsletter, is hereby constituted as part of the governance of the Society.
- ASM does not own and will not take ownership of any artifacts or collections of artifacts. ASM may, on request, consult with both individuals and government organizations on handling of archeological collections.

The second major change found in ARTICLE VI, Section 4, was to clarify a procedure we already incorporate - when a board member requests action on a project (Analysis or New Project) that they do not vote on that action. Even though that has been our policy for years, it felt like a good time to clarify that and include it in our Bylaws. This did come up with some recent funds requests. We want to assure our membership and our donors (and the IRS) that we step out of the voting if an action directly involves a board member. Establishing a Conflict of Interest Policy is a best practice for Non Profit Organizations.

Attached is the draft updated Bylaws and a copy of our Code of Ethics and Conduct for your review. Please take some time to read through and be prepared to vote on this at the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or comments ahead of time, you may submit them to Valerie.Hall@marylandarcheology.org.

Student Spotlight

Navigating Maritime Heritage at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Eliza McCauley, Maritime Heritage Intern, Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area

Over the past three months, I had the privilege of interning with the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area (CCHA) in order to develop a set of paddling trails dedicated to Anne Arundel County's maritime history. My work took me on a spectacular journey through some of Maryland's many waterways—particularly the Patuxent River and West River. It also connected me with amazing professionals in the field of historic preservation. Alongside Katie Gill, CCHA's Heritage Programs Manager, I embarked on a variety of fun and educational field trips,

including visits to the Maryland State Archives, the Patuxent Riverkeeper office, and the beautiful town of Galesville.



The CCHA team poses before conducting research at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.

*Left, pictured (left to right): Intern **Pharren Cifuentes**, Intern **Eliza McCauley**, Heritage Programs Manager **Katie Gill**, and Executive Director **C. Jane Cox**. 6/25/26*

Along the way, Gill and I conducted research and met with local professionals to ascertain the historic significance of Anne Arundel County's waterways. All throughout time, residents of the

*Below: CCHA intern **Eliza McCauley** paddling by the site of Steward's shipyard, near Galesville. 6/30/26*

region have relied on waterways to support their ways of life. Local Native American records have long stated the importance of work and travel on the water. During the 18th and 19th centuries, enslaved people in the region traveled on the water under the cover of darkness to visit their loved ones at other plantations, and they fished in order to supplement their diets with protein. To this day, local fishermen and oystermen rely on the water to make a living.



Throughout the course of my internship, I found that the more I learned about maritime travel, the more I began to realize how the historical use of rivers mirrors today's roads. This facet of life of the water was particularly illuminated at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, a park near the town of Bristol. There, the water's edge contains a rich archaeological history, including remnants of indigenous settlements, steamboat wharves, and naval fleets.

At Pig Point, a site near Jug Bay, archaeologists have made fascinating archaeological discoveries of Native American life in pre-colonial times, including hearths, pottery, and tools dating back thousands of years. Some artifacts are typical of Ohio River Valley civilizations. These discoveries not only provide evidence of continual human inhabitation in Anne Arundel County, but also indicate that Maryland's Native American tribes were engaged in long-distance communication and trade with other tribes in the United States.

Below, pictured (left to right): Nanjemoy Orthoquartzite Flake, Weathering Amber Chalcedony Flake, and Jasper Clovis Point found at Pig Point during archaeological excavations. Source: The Lost Towns Project, Inc. and Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Section. "Native American Archaeology in Anne Arundel County, Maryland." June 26, 2025. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cc7022c6a26c4c9f8664ca809cf9aaadc>.



At another nearby site, Pindell Bluff, archaeologists have found a Clovis point dated around 13,000 years old. The projectile point is only the third to be found by archaeologists in the county, making it a truly exceptional discovery. The site itself is also exceptional, as initial surveys found nearly every STP to be positive—a highly unusual observation indicating the presence of plentiful artifacts yet to be analyzed. However, due to the tidal nature of the Patuxent River at this point, erosion and water level

rise are major concerns at Pindell Bluff. As global temperatures rise and water begins to encroach on coastal areas, archaeological sites like those at Jug Bay are more important than ever to study in coming years.

Pig Point is also home to the remains of a late-17th-century port village called Leon. Leon's port and public ferry stop, Bristol Landing, first launched in 1696 and served as a significant agricultural outpost throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. It marked the northernmost ferry stop along the Patuxent River. In these early days of ferry service, steamboats would travel at just 5 miles per hour, making daily journeys to and from Baltimore, with stops up and down the Patuxent.

At the turn of the 20th century, Bristol Landing was home to two wharves: one run by Anne Arundel County and the other by Weems Steamboat Company. However, it was at this time that steamboat transportation began to decline, and Bristol started to lose its regional significance. In 1905, Weems Steamboat Company sold their business. Ferry routes saw immediate changes: fares increased, schedules grew more irregular, and boat trips took much longer. Ridership declined, and the trend continued over the next few decades until August 1933, when a hurricane

devastated the Chesapeake region. Tides in the area rose 4 to 7 feet, and many towns and wharves were swept underwater. Steamboat services on the Patuxent halted after this disaster and never returned, leading the village of Leon to fade from the public eye. Though dramatic, circumstances like these illuminate the vulnerability of the region to water level rise.

Much like occurred in Leon, archaeological remnants of the Patuxent River's wartime history have also been lost to the tides. In 1814 - near the end of the War of 1812 - British forces held a powerful blockade on the Chesapeake Bay, wreaking havoc on the region's economy. In order to combat the blockade and divert attention from American gunboats in the area, Navy Officer and Baltimore resident Joshua Barney was instructed to assemble his own flotilla of armed barges. Barney's flotilla served the Chesapeake faithfully for a number of months but eventually found itself driven into shallow waters in the northern neck of the Patuxent. As the Battle of Bladensburg raged nearby and American forces were defeated, Barney's men blew up the flotilla in order to prevent its boats from being captured. The flotilla's flagship, the USS Scorpion, has since been the center of a variety of archaeological investigations—most notably, a 2010 underwater survey conducted by the US Navy's Naval History and Heritage Command. Today, the remains of the Scorpion lie deep underwater just north of Jug Bay.



Left: Timber recovered from the wreck of the USS Scorpion.

Source: Schwarz, George, Alexis Catsambis, Bradley A. Kreuger, Heather G. Brown, and Blair Atcheson. [An Archaeological Survey and Site Investigation of 18PR226, a War of 1812 Shipwreck \(Suspected USS Scorpion\) in the Patuxent River, Maryland](#). Field Report. Department of the Navy, Naval History and Heritage Command, Underwater Archaeology Branch, 2012.

Stories like the sinking of the Chesapeake Bay Flotilla, the decline of Bristol Landing, and the archaeological excavations of Pig Point demonstrate not just the rich maritime history of Jug Bay, but also a deeply consequential vulnerability to sea level rise which impacts archaeologists' ability to understand the region's history. Though the waters of the Patuxent River have made sites challenging to reach, those same waters are also the one thing that has tied the people of Anne Arundel County together across time and communities. This past summer, my time spent researching the histories of towns along the Patuxent River and West River illuminated the central role waterways have played in the lives of everyday people—not just in the past 250 years, but for millennia.



Chesapeake Crossroads HERITAGE AREA

*the crossroads of place
the crossroads of culture
the struggle for freedom and equality
and the crossroads of social change*

As one of Maryland's thirteen certified state heritage areas, the Chesapeake Crossroads support the economic well-being of Maryland's communities by preserving and celebrating the state's history, cultural traditions, and natural resources through partnerships that promote, support, and create place-based experiences for visitors and residents alike.

Paddling trails coming soon! For more information on upcoming maritime heritage events in Anne Arundel County, visit our website at <https://chesapeakecrossroads.org/maritime-heritage>.

Interested in sharing your own stories of life on Anne Arundel County's waterways? We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at heritage_area@aacounty.org.

Eliza McCauley is a senior Geographical Sciences and Anthropology student at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Summer 2026 intern with Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area.



Maryland Archaeological Conversation Lab
Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting
September 3, 2026



Maryland Archeology Past Portraits

T. Latimer Ford

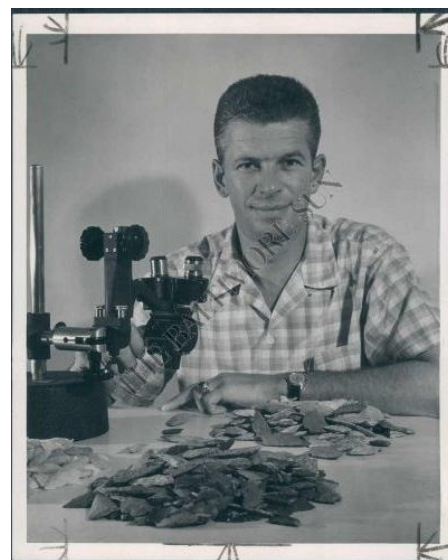
1916-1993

T. Latimer Ford was a resident of Towson, Maryland. An avocational archaeologist, he revived and promoted the Archaeological Society of Maryland as a section of the Maryland Academy of Sciences beginning in 1954.

He led Central Chapter activities for over a decade training Chapter members in archaeological field techniques. Ford was elected president of the newly formed Archeological Society of Maryland, created as a section of the Maryland Academy of Sciences to study archeological remains of the American Indian inhabitants of Maryland. Ford held the position, Curator of Indian Archaeology, at the Maryland Academy of Sciences in Baltimore.

In 1954 and 1955, Ford was a major player with John Witthoft, George Carter, and Dale Stewart, in the rescue archaeology of the eroding high cliff West River Site in Anne Arundel County. He is acknowledged for publishing a detailed article on the *Adena Sites on Chesapeake Bay*, describing and comparing the West River and Sandy Hill Adena artifacts and cremation site's pits that appeared in *Archaeology of Eastern North America*, 4.

Ford's rescue excavation of the West River Adena Site artifacts was the impetus for the Eastern States Archaeology Federation annual meeting in Baltimore, November 9th and 10th in 1957. At the meeting in Baltimore, Ford organized an extensive display of several loaned collections from Maryland Adena Sites. During T. Latimer Ford's tenure, the Archeological Society of Maryland activities appeared in many newspaper articles in the 1960s.



Past Portraits is a project to document the stories of people who have contributed to archeology in Maryland. This series highlights personalities that have contributed to archeology in Maryland over time. ASMIInk will publish excerpts from this series over time.

-- Stephen Israel (*Archaeology of Eastern North America*, Vol.48 (2020))

Chapter News

Central Chapter

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

Charles County

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

Eastern Shore

Dates and events are on the chapter's website (ASM Eastern Shore), Facebook page ([Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology](https://www.facebook.com/EasternShoreMarylandArchaeology)) and Instagram (@esmdarch). For more information, email esarcheology@gmail.com or jmrkin2@washcoll.edu

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

All events are open to anyone who wants to attend!

Open lab at Washington College: Contact Julie Markin at jmarkin2@washcoll.edu.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month from September through June. In-person meetings begin at 7p.m. for the business meeting followed by a presentation at around 7:30. The chapter meets at the ADU Showroom, 8501 Grovemont Circle, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Please contact Don Housley for directions, if necessary.

Pizza will be available before the in-person meeting starting at 6:30pm for \$6 per person. If virtual meetings are necessary, they will be via Zoom with the business meeting also starting at 7 p.m. and the presentation around 7:30. Contact Don Housley to RSVP for pizza by 12 noon on the day of the meeting and for virtual Zoom meeting codes.

October 15, 2026: Don Housley, chapter president, will speak on the 2026 Field Session at Teague's Point.

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For up-to-date information concerning meetings, please contact [Don Housley](#), 301-424-8526, check the [Mid-Potomac Chapter Website](#) or send an email to: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com.

Monocacy

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

Northern Chesapeake

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

Western Maryland

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

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

Contact Us

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



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

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

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