

ASM Ink

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Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



www.marylandarcheology.org



Shell midden eroding out of a riverbank in Charles County

MHT photo

New MHT program protects historic places

By Jen Sparenberg

Maryland Historical Trust

The Maryland Historical Trust's Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation Program is a new program aimed at protecting historic places, archeological sites and cultural landscapes from the effects of natural hazards such as flooding, wind, sea-level rise and coastal storms.

Archeological resources are not immune to the effects of changing weather patterns. Drought, flooding and rising groundwater can affect site preservation by altering the moisture and chemical composition of the soil. Flooding can also erode soil layers that provide horizontal protection for sites and erode cliff faces and riverbanks (vertical destruction of sites).

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Upcoming events

September 12: ASM board meeting. Heritage House, Ellicott City. 10 a.m. All members welcome.

September 26: The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. will hold its 22nd annual symposium, "Amazonia and the Making of the Andean World" at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center. For details and registration information (on-line registration is encouraged), go to the society's website, www.pcswdc.org.

October 9 – 19: Fall field school. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater.

October 24: Annual meeting, Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

Volunteer opportunities

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

ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab: The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and has moved on to sorting, labeling, packaging and cataloguing prehistoric material from the Willin Site. There are a number of other projects waiting to be worked on. Contact Louise Akerson at lakerson1@verizon.net or Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17th Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb jamesggibb@verizon.net and Laura Cripps lcripps@howardcc.edu under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

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

Montgomery County offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301-563-7531 or contact heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org. CAT opportunity. It also is doing field work at the Josiah Henson site at various times. For information contact Cassandra Michaud at 301-563-7531 or cassandra.michaud@montgomeryparks.org

The Anne Arundel County Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcomes volunteers in both the field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only, please email Jasmine Gollup at volunteers@losttownsproject.org or call the Lab at 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 echaney@mdp.state.md.us or 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: For information on the CAT program, visit the ASM website.

Want your newsletter in the mail? Pay up

ASM switched to distributing this newsletter electronically a while back. But not all members have email. Others may prefer to receive a paper copy. We are striving to satisfy these members, but it takes money to print and mail these copies and one of the main reasons for going online was to cut expenses. Therefore members wanting paper copies have to add \$6 to their membership fees. If you haven't done so, send a check to Membership Secretary Jo Boodon (her address is on the back page).

It's time to nominate someone for the Marye Award

It's time to nominate candidates for ASM's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting October 24 at Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County.

Last year's award went to Joe Dent, who has led many ASM field schools over the years. Other recent winners include Maureen Kavanagh, Stephen Israel, James Sorenson, John W. McGrain, Dan Coates, Richard Hughes, Carol Ebright, Jim Gibb and Robert Bantz. A complete list of winners is posted on the ASM website, under Awards.

Nominees do not have to be ASM members, Maryland residents or even archeologists. But they have to have made "outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology."

Do you know someone deserving of this honor? Nominations are not carried over so former candidates must be nominated again. A nomination form is with this newsletter and on the ASM website. The deadline for submissions is Saturday, September 12.

The committee wants specificity rather than general comments as an aid to evaluating candidates. Send you nomination to committee chair Roy Brown at 713 Haddon Ave, Cumberland, MD 21502.

New MHT program protects historic places

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Knowing where sites are in relation to the hazards they face is the key to developing strategies and projects to protect sites in situ. Action is already being taken in several counties, most notably in Anne Arundel County and Calvert County, to identify archeological sites vulnerable to coastal erosion and flood.

Under the Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation Program, MHT will develop model guidance and educational materials to assist local government with the process of creating a hazard-mitigation plan for their cultural resources.

The City of Annapolis and other jurisdictions already are engaged in cultural resources hazard-mitigation planning - these plans will inform the development of best practices and case studies that other local governments can apply to their planning processes.

As part of the program, MHT will award competitive grants to local governments and nonprofits for planning activities. Look for information on our program and our grant on MHT's website: <http://mht.maryland.gov/> or contact Jen Sparenberg, MHT's hazard mitigation officer, at jen.sparenberg@maryland.gov.

Phyllis Sachs, former ASM officer, dies at 92

Phyllis Sachs, who served several years as membership secretary of ASM around the year 2000, died June 19 of cancer in Towson at age 92. She also was an active member of UPAG until age caught up with her even after moving into a retirement community in 2010.

Active in community affairs in northwest Baltimore, she interrupted her college education during World War II to go to Washington for a government job. But years later she returned to college and graduated from Towson in 1976 with a degree in geography and environmental planning with a specialty in urban planning.

Pre-Columbian archeology was another passion of hers. She was active in the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington D.C. and she and her husband spent large amounts of time in Oaxaca, Mexico.

New studies differ on first Americans

By Joseph Dussault

Condensed from the Christian Science Monitor, July 21, 2015

Who were the first Americans? Two research papers this week have arrived at contrasting interpretations.

One study, published Tuesday in the journal *Science*, proposes that the earliest Americans had singularly Siberian origins, crossing into the continent via the Bering land bridge in a single wave. Another, published Tuesday in *Nature*, suggests that some early Native Americans may have had genetic roots in Australia and its neighboring islands, a region known collectively as Australasia.

There is evidence of unique culture on the continent over 10,000 years ago, but exactly how these populations arrived, and from where, has been debated for decades. Scientists generally agree that the first crossed over from Asia via the Bering land bridge, which connected the two continents.

This exodus most likely began between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago. But some researchers have argued that Alaskan glaciers would have blocked entry into North America. The Beringia standstill hypothesis suggests that people would have remained stranded on this land bridge for some 15,000 years before ice melt finally allowed clear passage. From there, this main emigrant population would have split and diversified into many different first cultures.

Experts have noted that some early American skeletons, most older than 8,000 years, were found with physical features that seemed to contrast with those of historic and modern Native Americans.

"They have suggested that this morphology matches more closely with Australasian populations," says Pontus Skoglund, who co-authored the *Nature* study. "But there has always been this question of how statistically informative this morphology is, and to what extent this actually reflects population relationships."

Using genomic data from South and Central America, Skoglund and his colleagues found a surprising pattern. In some of these populations, they found a small degree of Australasian genetic ancestry.

"We found the peak of that signal in Brazil," he says. A genetic link between Amazonian Native Americans and Australasians, he says, was previously unknown and could have serious implications.

"My speculation is that there was a population quite closely related to Australasians in Northeast Asia around the time of the peopling of the Americas," he says. "This population could have mixed with other populations to form the ancestral population of Native Americans. But there were perhaps multiple pulses of people into the Americas, and they had slightly different proportions of this ancestry. But which of the pulses came first and which different routes they took, we just don't know."

"The genetics have so far suggest that, in terms of ancient migrations, there was only a single one," Skoglund adds. "There were a few additional migrations in the northern parts of the Americas, but those were more recent events."

Similar genomic testing conducted by UC Berkeley geneticist Rasmus Nielsen supports the notion of a single migration. But it also challenges the Beringian standstill hypothesis in the process.

"We wanted to test it by dating the divergence time - that is, the split time between populations that now live in Siberia and East Asia, and the Native Americans," Nielsen says. "Using a number of new techniques and data, we could date that relatively precisely to be about 23,000 years ago."

"The first people appear in the Americas 14,000 or 15,000 years ago," Nielsen says. "That doesn't leave time for a Beringian standstill. They had to split off about 23,000 years ago, move all the way through Asia and cross the land bridge into the Americas in 7,000 to 8,000 years. So clearly ...there could have been a little bit of a standstill, but nothing like 15,000 years."

Nielsen's research offers a broader view of settlement. Migration would have occurred in a single wave, Nielsen says, before splitting into two main populations.

"We see that mostly all Native Americans are descendants from a migration wave into the Americas, maybe 20,000 years ago," Nielsen says. "You see the first unique American culture about 13,500 years ago, which spreads through much of the Americas. Right around this time, we see that the Native American population first began splitting up. We find two major groups - what we call the southern

group and the northern group."

Nielsen says his colleagues found just two exceptions to their findings. The study doesn't account for Inuit populations in the north because they arrived later, bringing a distinctive culture with them.

"The other little exception, which was very interesting, was that we found signs of some genetic affinity between Brazilian Native Americans and Melanesians," Nielsen says. "They were just slightly more related than they really should have been, given previous data."

Like Skoglund and colleagues, Nielsen's team found Australasian ancestry in modern Native American people. This led them to investigate another hypothesis for the peopling of America - one Paleoamerican hypothesis, which suggests that the first people to come to the Americas were not from Siberia, but rather Australians and Melanesians who traveled by boat.

"We find a hint of evidence for this hypothesis in some South American populations," Nielsen says. "We managed to extract some DNA from ancient samples of supposed Paleoamericans, who display more Australian and Melanesian-looking traits. But do these individuals actually have any genetic affinity with Australians and Melanesians? When we tested that, we found that the answer was no. They are clearly related only to modern Native Americans. We think this is evidence of a later migration, perhaps one that happened on a coastal route along the western coast about 8,000 years ago."

According to Nielsen and Skoglund, both studies rely on the same genetic signals. But different interpretations of those signals resulted in a few contrasting conclusions.

'Diggers' TV show to be more archeology friendly

When the TV show "Diggers" appeared on the National Geographic Channel a few years ago it caused a major uproar in the archeology community where it was seen as metal detectorists gone wild with sites and archeology the victims.

The show is back, but with major changes, Forbes magazine reports. This time it is paying attention to good archeological methods. No longer will treasure hunters be swinging their poles over sites unsupervised and willy-nilly.

The Society for American Archaeology and the Society for Historical Archaeology have been invited to view and comment on each show. In addition archeologist Mark Henshaw, a former critic of the show, will talk on-screen about research strategy, provenience and the significance of the finds, and the dollar value of the discoveries will not be shown. Professional archeologists were sought for each segment and unauthorized detecting will be discouraged on-screen.

This season's first program dealt with James Madison's Virginia home, Montpelier. The archeologists already working there said the detectorists were worked into the ongoing

explorations and were told they "needed to show research strategy, provenience and significance of the finds."



Pamunkeys finally get U.S. recognition

By **Mark St. John Erickson**

Condensed from the (Virginia) Daily Press, July 3, 2015

More than four centuries after its warriors met the first permanent English settlers in America, the Pamunkey Indian tribe of King William County has won official recognition from the federal government.

"It's been since 1982 when we wrote our first letter seeking federal recognition — so it's been a long haul," said former Pamunkey Chief Kevin Brown, who led the effort before his recent resignation.

Though long recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the 200-odd members of the Pamunkey tribe are the first Indians in Virginia to officially be acknowledged by the federal government.

But that milestone nod came only after they spent years assembling the documentation needed to meet seven standards set by the government, including extensive genealogical records showing that their current members descended from the historical tribe.

The decision was a defeat for numerous groups that had opposed the petition, including the Congressional Black Caucus as well as gaming and anti-gaming interests worried about the potential for constructing a gambling complex on the 1,200-acre Pamunkey reservation, which was established by treaties with the British crown in the mid-1660s.

But many historians and ethnologists long have argued that the descendants of the most powerful tribe to confront the first English settlers at Jamestown deserved official federal status.

"The Pamunkey retained their original lands — their ancestral lands from the time before the English arrived — and they were the only group to do so. They've maintained their treaties with the government — treaties that go all the way back to the English and the 1600s," said Buck Woodard, head of the American Indian Initiative at Colonial Williamsburg.

Retired Virginia Department of Historic Resources archeologist E. Randolph Turner II makes many of the same arguments, citing the tribe's links to such historical figures as Powhatan, Opechancanough and Pocahontas.

Even as late as the 1670s, the Queen of the Pamunkey was considered such an important and influential figure among Virginia's Indians that the government of British King Charles II commissioned an engraved silver frontlet as a gift to mark her signature on a new treaty.

Both of Virginia's senators — who are cooperating on a bill to extend federal recognition to an additional six Virginia tribes — hailed Thursday's announcement as a historic milestone.

Sen. Timothy Kaine acknowledged the tribes that remain unrecognized, too, saying he hoped Thursday's announcement would help spur the process.

"Despite the integral role the tribes played in American history and the unique cultures they have continued to maintain for thousands of years, they have faced barriers to recognition due to extraordinary circumstance out of their control," he said.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

Central Maryland

For information contact centralchapterasm@yahoo.com or Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@verizon.net Or visit the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter>

September 18: TBD

Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Sarah Grady at sarahgrady11@gmail.com or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is charlescoasm.org and its blog is ccarchsoc.blogspot.com

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at digfrederick.com or call 301-378-0212.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. 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 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown. For information contact Scott Lawrence at graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net

Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. For information contact Dave Cavey at 410-747-0093 or hoplite1@comcast.net On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

September 14: Lee Preston delivers the annual Vaughn Brown Native American lecture.

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. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

September 25: "Milling about the Battlefield on I-68 at Folck's Mill" by Carol A. Ebright. A report on the SHA investigation of the 1864 Civil War battle site located northeast of Cumberland.

October 23: "Hawaii, the Big Island" by Roy Brown. A presentation on the geology and the first inhabitants of the island.

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% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Jo Boodon, PO Box 1584, Ellicott City, MD 21043 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

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