

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHEOLOGY  
(MACA)

March 4, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance

Stephen Brighton, Jane Cox, Marian Creveling, Don Housley, Bruce Terrell, Robert Wall

Staff in Attendance

Beth Cole, Karen Golder, Charles hall, Elizabeth Hughes, Susan Langley, Matt McKnight, Troy Nowak, Patricia Samford, Zac Singer

The meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Review of the minutes September 2019 MACA meeting minutes

The December 4, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Robert Wall; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes reported that the FY2021 budget includes level funding for MHT grant programs and that there are no legislative items that are of concern at this time.

Chief Archeologist Report—Matt McKnight

Much of Matt's time in December, following MACA's last meeting on 12/4 was spent preparing for the arrival of our new Research Archeologist, Dr. Zac Singer. Matt also spent some time in the field with some volunteers at a garden location in Columbia, MD where three Late Archaic points and a few flakes had turned up. Matt and the volunteers excavated a single 2 X 2 m unit and 7 STPs and turned up very little.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zac Singer started with MHT and has been busy adding new sites to the Archeological Synthesis database and assisting us in the field. Also, on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Charlie Hall moved over from the Office of Preservation, Education and Outreach to join Zac and Matt in the Archeological Research and Survey Unit of ORSR.

We posted our Summer Internship in Archeology call for applications on January 8<sup>th</sup>. It closed on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and we have 8 applicants, four of which we have selected for interviews to begin next week.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Zac, Charlie and Matt worked at a site on the Bush River, doing some mapping and carrying out a magnetic susceptibility survey both on private property and adjacent state lands. This work will result in two new site files (Zac is working on), one for the Bush Mill Complex and one for the Bush Town Iron Furnace.

On February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Zac, Troy and Matt worked with Howard County's Living History and Heritage Program Coordinator (and archeologist), Kelly Palich, and some volunteers from the Upper Patuxent Archaeological Research Group (UPAG) to carry out some remote sensing

work at the Raven Site (18HO252) or mid-18<sup>th</sup> C. “Hutchcraft’s Resolution”. This site is normally beneath the waters of Tridelphia Reservoir but was recently exposed by repairs to Brighton Dam. We surveyed a 40 X 40 m area, where numerous architectural remains were surface collected by UPAG (using our fluxgate gradiometer and GPR) and identified 2 large magnetic anomalies that may be associated with structures. We are awaiting delivery of a new high-end PC so we can process and interpret the GPR data.

Matt also participated in several minor site visits including one at Sotterley for the FY19 Non-cap survey grant, one for an MDE permit in Charles County, one in Patuxent River Valley State Park, and a collaboration with ORSR’s Architectural Research and Survey Unit at an early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> C. corn crib (possible office/dwelling) in Calvert County.

All of the FY18 NonCap grants have been closed out, and the Fishing Bay Survey by CWAR is the first FY19 NonCap to be approaching completion. Just awaiting some final paperwork to wrap that one up. And all of our FY20 NonCap grant agreements for archeology have either gone out for signature or are already back from the recipients with signatures.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Matt, Charlie and Zac met with Stephanie Sperling and Kristin Monteperto of M-NCPPC to discuss holding the annual field session at the Billingsley site in May. We’ve all reached an agreement on roles and responsibilities, and come up with a strategy for investigation, but now need to take it to ASM’s Field Session Cmte.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth and Matt participated in a meeting at the Tri-County Commission Bldg. with Julia King (SMCM), Julie Schablitsky (SHA), and representatives from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, and Charles County about what is being called the Maryland Rediscovery 400 Project. This is an attempt to ensure that underrepresented communities are included in the interpretations for projects leading up to the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Maryland in 2034.

Matt spent a good amount of time in February on some equipment procurements: a Minelab Equinox 800 metal detector, and an Emlid Reach RS2 global positioning system. The metal detector has arrived, and the GPS is expected today.

Matt also spent some time working on paperwork related to bulk purchasing and sale-on-consignment agreements for the Colonial Archeology book (can be used for other MHT Press publications as well). The idea is to get the book into shops for sale at historic sites, historical societies, and independent book sellers.

On February 26, Matt, Charlie, and Zac participated in a 5-year planning retreat with ORSR Chief Marcia Miller. Our main topic of conversation was brainstorming ways to better publicize the work that we do, and ways to reach new audiences, as well as do all of the things we said we would do in the most recent state-wide preservation plan.

Matt is currently working on a presentation for the MAAC meetings at the end of the month on the Billingsley site, a presentation on the Contact period component at Biggs ford for SAA’s

(and Frederick's "Dig Local" event) in April, and the next issue of Maryland Archeology, which is the Kirby Farm site report.

We have some upcoming fieldwork scheduled on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Fort Frederick State Park to document their CCC camp, as well as remote sensing work preparatory to the Field Session at dates TBD in April and May.

Matt and Charlie have also been working with legal counsel to draft changes to the human remains regulations that currently govern remains in the Trust's care. Proposed changes will likely be coming before the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and MACA soon.

### Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

As a follow-up to information from the December meeting, Troy attended the kick-off meeting on the liberty ship *John W. Brown* announcing a planned partnership with Maritime Applied Physics Corporation. Troy provided guidance to assist them in addressing compliance requirements as they are moving forward. Susan showed the completed brochures MHT provided to Martinak State Park to assist in their interpretation of the vessel exhibited there. She also noted that a blog by Nichole Doub and Susan will be posted shortly addressing the date obtained for the vessel through dendrochronology sponsored by the Maritime Archaeology Program.

Susan attended the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in January and although she completed her final elected term on the Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology, the ACUA Executive Board appointed her to a further 2-year term as an Associate Member. She chaired the Maritime Managers' Meeting, and continues to sit on the Governmental Affairs Committee and serve as its liaison to ACUA. Although a member of the UNESCO Committee, its schedule conflicted with the Governmental Affairs Committee this year. She was asked to join the Heritage Resources at Risk Committee and has since participated in two climate change webinars to that end. She also showed the MHT-sponsored promotional piece on the 2020 ACUA calendar touting the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of partnership with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the U.S. Coast Guard for Area Contingency Planning. Susan also noted that she had participated in the Area Contingency Planning Committee's kick-off meeting to organize the annual response exercise scheduled for October.

Elizabeth Hughes and Susan are working with NOAA, DNR and Charles County to establish the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the Mallows Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary. The Council will have 15 voting seats and a number of non-voting seats, largely representing government agencies. East Carolina University has submitted a permit application to hold an underwater archaeology field school at Mallows Bay; it is currently with DNR for a signature to permit some non-disturbance mapping of fishing camp remains on Liverpool Point. If this field school is successful, ECU would like to develop an ongoing program of 1-2 field sessions per year and this may provide a means of involving students from a departmentally cross-posted Maritime Studies Program being considered by St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Susan made presentations at Phillip's Wharf Environmental Center on Tilghman Island and at the Captain Salem Avery Museum in Shady Side as part of its Winter Lecture Series. In

addition, she led a ship architecture tour of the *Constellation* for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society and students from St Mary's College, as well as a few members of the public on-site who asked to join.

Upcoming events include having a display, program promotion, and presence at the American Merchant Marine Veterans Convention with NOAA, to promote the Merchant Marine connection with Mallows Bay. The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary has been involved for several years and will attend as well. Admiral Gallaudet is a keynote speaker this year. The Convention changes venues annually around the country and it is at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) in Linthicum this year. We have requested a Gubernatorial Proclamation for an American Merchant Marine Veterans Day on March 27 but there is no guarantee.

In addition, Susan is presenting a paper at the Middle-Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) and Troy and Susan are involved in hosting the annual Public Workshop in Archaeology at MHT.

#### Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

On the first of the year my office affiliation changed from the Office of Planning, Education and Outreach to the Office of Archeology within the Office of Research, Survey & Registration. My physical location also changed to an office within the cluster that includes Matt's and Zack's offices. These changes have significantly enhanced integration into the activities of the Office of Archeology, as well as communication among its members.

Since the last meeting in December we've issued two permits for terrestrial archeological investigations on State-owned lands, one to the Maryland Military Department for a survey of a 20 acre parcel in Havre de Grace (no sites were identified), and one for a water improvement project on the campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland (fieldwork to start next week)..

I've participated in three Easement Committee meetings and two Easement Breach Subcommittee meetings. Consideration of proposed property alterations involved review of three reports of archeological investigations including the monitoring of trench excavation and light pole installation at Belmont, Howard County (features identified associated with an outbuilding); phase I survey of the Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge in Olney, Montgomery County (no sites identified); and monitoring and excavations to reveal and sample a feature on the site of Poole's Store in Seneca, Montgomery County (18<sup>th</sup> century mill wheel pit?).

The non-capital grant agreement is out for signature for the Archeological Society of Maryland's 2020 annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology.

As part of the Office of Archeology documentation of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century through mid-18<sup>th</sup> century site of Bush Town along the Bush River in Harford County, three volunteers and I collected 350 data points over two days in January for a magnetic susceptibility survey, identifying the location of a probable century iron furnace.

Archeology Month preparations consumed a great deal of my time in January and February. This year's theme is *Partners in Pursuit of the Past: 50 Field Sessions in Maryland Archeology*, marking the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Field Session to be held this late May-early June at the Billingsley site in Prince George's County. For the Archeology Month booklet, I solicited essays from the five classes of partner required to make a Field Session happen; Principal Investigators/Researchers, Staff Archeologists, Archeological Society of Maryland Officers, Land Owners, and Volunteers. Thirteen essays were received, including one from Tyler Bastian who originated the Field Session program in 1971, and one from Joe Dent who was the PI of eight recent Field Sessions. Other essays include one from a young woman who attended her first Field Session at the age of 11 and is now the Secretary of the ASM, one from the current ASM President (and MACA member) Don Housley, one from a member of the family who owns the Biggs Ford site, and one from Piscataway tribal elder Rico Newman on his archeological journey. The booklet files were sent to the State Highway Administration, who again are generously donating the printing, in late February. This year's poster was designed by Kathy Addario, a graphic artist with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Prince George's County Parks. Two rounds of comments from the Maryland Archeology Month Committee resulted in a terrific poster that identifies partners at work during a recent Field Session. The poster was delivered to the printer in late February. The budget for this year's Archeology Month is estimated to result in an \$1,866 loss, with expenses of \$3,516 (printing and mailing) against donations of \$1,650. Reserves on hand of \$3,404 will more than cover the deficit. However, with three years of back-to-back loses, it is clear that the fiscal model of Archeology Month requires reconsideration.

#### MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Sara and Tricia are continuing to work with Greg Brown on a project that will completely reformat the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website to make it mobile-accessible and easier to search. Greg has created a test website and uploaded some artifact categories into it for us to test how well it works. We plan to demonstrate it for MHT archaeologists at the CARP meeting next week.

Discovering Archaeology Day will be April 4<sup>th</sup> and we are still looking for organizations to come and have display tables. Since we now hold this event in conjunction with our annual egg hunt, attendance is always high – around 2,000.

Collections technician Alice Merkel and Patricia Samford will be running the 2020 Public Archaeology program at the park. With the reduced staff, we will run the program for 4 weeks instead of its regular eight weeks, with a maximum of 12 participants a day. A greater emphasis will be placed on hands-on educational activities, since most of the participants that have been signing up for this year are families with children. We instituted an online registration form this year and over half of the days are at full capacity.

We received 3 applications for the Gloria King Research Fellowship and the committee will be assessing the applications next week.

Sara Rivers Cofield continues working on a study of equestrian artifacts from collections in Virginia and Maryland. This work has been funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Conservation Fund. The results of this research will be used to create new sections of the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland page, as well as journal article on the colonial saddle horse. Between April and September Sara will be visiting collections at Colonial Williamsburg, the Virginia Division of Historic Resources, Historic St. Mary's City, and Jamestown. In August she will go to the Swedish Royal Armories in Stockholm to study extant 17th- and 18th-century saddles and bridles.

Nichole Doub has been awarded the Samuel H. Kress Conservation Publication Fellowship by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation to work on a book on archaeological conservation intended for cultural resource managers.

The conservation lab staff is working on revisions to the final report on the Skiffe's Creek conservation assessment from 50 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century sites in the Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown area. The funding for this project came from Dominion Power as part of the mitigation for a gas line being constructed across this area.

New projects of interest in the Conservation department include a War of 1812 leather helmet with a horsehair plume from the Washington County Historical Society, a Chinese basket and a log flume from a gypsum mine from Deadwood South Dakota. Francis Lukezic traveled to Deadwood to do the block lift removal of the basket and direct the sampling of the flume. The lab will be getting a piece of the USS Arizona for conservation in the near future.

Francis Lukezic and Patricia Samford are serving on the planning committee for the 2021 Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference, that will be held in St. Mary's City in the fall of 2021.

The MAC Lab is collaborating with St. Mary's College of Maryland on an NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grant. For the next two summers, field school students will come to the lab for experiences in curation and conservation.

The year-delayed roofing, siding and foundation repairs to the MAC Lab are scheduled to begin in March.

### **Personnel related news:**

Lab has hired three interns – one to help with curation related tasks and public archaeology, and two to assist Sara Rivers Cofield with some of her regular job duties during the time she is working on the two-year Equestrian artifacts grant.

We are currently advertising for a contractual conservator position – that posting will close on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Chaney retired on January 31, 2020. Paperwork for replacing him has been submitted, but we hope that we will be able to post this vacancy soon.

## Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

- The Review and Compliance Unit continues to be down one staff person due to a vacancy since mid-October, so Beth and Dixie are handling additional workload on behalf of the unit. The position was re-advertised in mid-February with a closing date of 2/25/2020, given an inadequate pool of qualified candidates in the initial posting.
- In addition to the large volume of individual reviews, Beth and Dixie are also processing many Phase I and II archeological reports – particularly for proposed new solar energy and transportation projects. Given the current staffing situation, they have limited participation in outside meetings and site visits, unless essential.
- Dixie and Beth attended the MHT/Corps of Engineers coordination meeting at the Baltimore District Office on January 8, 2020. Agenda topics included project updates, status of MOA tracking/implementation, and general coordination. The Corps also asked MHT staff to provide Section 106 training to several new project managers in the Regulatory Branch. The training will most likely take place in the spring. The next coordination meeting with the Corps is scheduled for May 7, 2020.
- Beth and Dixie participated in an annual coordination meeting with Fort Meade regarding their upcoming Section 106 and 110 issues.
- Beth, Dixie, Susan and Troy met with DNR's Waterways program staff to discuss coordination for MHT review of their annual grant programs for waterway improvement projects. As a result of the discussions, DNR submitted its FY2019 funded projects for MHT review. In addition, DNR's Resiliency Grant program has reached out to MHT regarding review of their grant projects.
- Dixie participated in a meeting with DNR, the Critical Area Commission, NRCS, and Charles County staff on December 9, 2020 to discuss future phases of park improvements to Chapel Point State Park, the State/County partnership in the management of the park, permitting issues, and potential impacts to cultural resources.
- Dixie participated in the annual review of the MHT/DNR MPS Joint Work Plan to discuss 2019 accomplishments and identify 2020 initiatives and opportunities for coordination between MHT and the MPS.
- Dixie attended the eCollaboration rollout meeting at MDE to discuss plans for training and implementation of the online permit submittal/review system. Training for project reviewers will be taking place on March 30, 2020.

- Dixie and Troy reviewed 8 applications for MHT's Summer Archeology internship and participated in a meeting with ORSR archeology staff to rank qualified applicants. Four applicants will be interviewed next week.
- Dixie hopes to participate in at least one day of remote sensing work at Fort Frederick during the third week in March.

### Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer

#### **Maryland Archeological Synthesis Project**

Completed Synthesis updates for Garrett County (5 sites) and Allegany County (3 sites). Started the updates by County moving from West to East.

Jumped to Baltimore County since Matt had an interest in learning more about 18BA27 (Garrison Fort site). 18BA27 is entered, 7 more sites from Baltimore County to go. Then will start Washington County.

#### **Field Visits and Surveys**

1/9-1/10/2020: Town of Bush and Bush Declaration NRMA. Used total station to map historic mill complex (w/ Matt and Charlie). Created ArcGIS Map to document the survey. Drafting 2 site forms. 1 site form for the mill complex and 1 form for the furnace/Rochambeau camp area.

1/17/2020: Jug Bay Island Visit with Stephanie Sperling (M-NCPPC). Found Late Woodland ceramics and a triangle point.

1/22/2020: Howard Co. Field checks (w/ Matt) at the Raven Site (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c.) and Patuxent River State Park (did not find anything).

1/23/2020: Sotterley Plantation field visit (w/ Matt) to see sites found during Non-Capital Grant Survey.

1/30/2020: MDE Permit visit (w/ Matt) to Waverly Point in Charles County. Site has completely eroded away.

2/13/2020: Elk Neck State Park Visit with Pete Morrill of the DNR to examine corner of stacked wooden feature that was found eroding into a gully. Pete thought the structure was 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin and may be a retaining wall. I did not see any artifacts nearby the structure to assist with determining the function of the structure. Still a mystery. ENSP rangers will monitor the erosion.

2/18-2/19/2020: Returned to Raven Site for 2 days of GPR and Magnetometer mapping (w/ Matt and Troy). Waiting for the arrival of our laptop to process the data.

2/27/2020: Lines Property, Calvert Co. (w/ Matt) with Kirsti Uunila to document a potential private Catholic religious feature in the cellar of an 18<sup>th</sup> century house. Excavations only recovered rat bones and oyster shells, no evidence of for religious use of the feature.

#### **Archaeological Site Stewardship Survey: Bennett Middle School**

Working with 2 teachers from Bennett Middle School in Wicomico County to planning a pilot program for “Archaeological Site Stewardship Survey”. Teachers and students will document erosion/sea level rise impacts on the Eastern shore while also recording (but not collecting) archaeological materials from Nutter’s Neck State Park.

2/1/2020: Met with teachers at Crownsville to kickstart the project and review protocols.

2/23/2020: Visited the Nutter’s Neck Wildlife Management Area with the teachers to do a preliminary survey and go through the recordation protocol.

**Archaeological Site Stewardship Survey: Bennett Middle School (cont.)**

Pilot Program with ~15 students are planned for May 17<sup>th</sup>. Need to work out logistics with bathrooms, lunch area.

**Meetings**

1/23/2020: Helped as an usher at the MHT Preservation Awards.

1/24/2020: W/ Matt and Charlie, met with Kristin Montaperto and Stephanie Sperling (M-NCPPC) to begin planning for 2020 ASM Field Session at Billingsley.

2/12/2020: Met with Washington College’s Junior Seminar to discuss archaeology career paths.

2/25/2020: Met with Matt, Dixie, and Troy to pick 4 Archaeology internship finalists who will be coming to interview next week.

2/26/2020: Archeological research and survey retreat (w/ Matt and Charlie) with Marcia

**Research**

Conducted background research on sites on the Eastern Shore as potential locations for remote sensing and possible future field sessions.

**Upcoming Events**

3/9-3/10/2020: Interview Archaeology Internship candidates

3/11/2020: CARP Meeting

3/16-3/17/2020: Survey Work at Ft. Frederick

3/19-3/22/2020: Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference: Session organizer for Jug Bay Archaeology session. Matt and Charlie will present on Billingsley. I will present on the Anne Arundel County portion of the Lost Towns Project’s non-capital grant.

3/28/2020: Annual Workshop in Archaeology

5/12/2020: Presentation to the Oasis Institute about volunteer opportunities in archaeology.

5/17/2020: Nutter’s Neck Pilot Survey with Bennett Middle School

5/22-6/1/2020: Field Session in MD Archeology at the Billingsley Site.

Other Business

Discussion of the Smithsonian request re: Deep Creek Cemetery DNA Study was discussed and a motion to approve was made by Stephen Brighton and second by Bruce Terrell; the motion was unanimously approved.

Selection of next meeting date — Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive conference room.

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m., in a motion made by Marian Creveling and second by Don Housley; the motion was unanimously approved.