



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
June 9, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Matt McKnight, Susan Langley, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Hughes, Karen Golder, Zac Singer, Charles Hall, Catherine Gagnon

The meeting called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Review of the March 3, 2021 MACA meeting minutes

The March 3, 2021, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes reported that the Joint Chairmen's Report included language directing the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture to undertake a study of issues associated with the identification and preservation of historic African American cemeteries in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Preservation Maryland and descendent communities as well as specific descendants of individuals interred in African American cemeteries. The report is due to be submitted to the General Assembly on June 30, 2022. A summer intern will assist with background research related to the historic African American cemetery report. Ms. Hughes will serve as the point person for MHT on development of the study.

Chief Archaeologist Report—Matt McKnight

Matt McKnight reported that in Mid-March MHT held some brief meetings regarding the revision of the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology in Maryland*. This was the main topic for discussion at the CARP meeting on March 12th. We collected feedback from CARP members via a Google Form about the current guidelines and what additions/alterations are most urgent.

From March 19-21st MHT conducted a short ground-truthing excavation at Barwick's Ordinary (near Denton) with Dr. Julie Markin of Washington College. The fieldwork confirmed the presence of several of the features identified by the office's remote sensing work. Washington College is currently in the field at Barwick's for their 5 week summer Field School. We hope to host the 2022 Field Session at this site.

Much of the latter part of March was devoted to intern interviews. We received 20 applications, requested interviews with 5 candidates, and selected Catherine Gagnon (SUNY Pottsdam/UMD) who started work on May 25. Catherine was introduced to the Committee.

From March 26-28, archaeology staff in ORSR participated in the virtual Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Matt and Zac presented two papers, one on Barwick's Ordinary and one on Cresap's Fort. Both were well-attended.

April was Maryland Archeology Month (MAM). Matt helped record "interviews with an archaeologist" (a joint project between MHT and CfMA) for our booklet participants, which were posted on the MHT YouTube Channel. Matt also participated in a webinar hosted by Preservation MD entitled "*Finding Common Ground: Can Archaeologists and Relic Hunters Work Together?*", assisted in moderating a webinar hosted by MHT and CfMA on the MAM topic, authored a blog post on the md*FIND* app, and edited/formatted 3 other blogs. See the Terrestrial Activities report for more detail.

During MAM we launched the md*FIND* app, which you've previously seen demoed. To-date we've received about 20 submissions total and despite some initial glitches caused by an app upgrade rolled out by ESRI, it has worked well.

On April 7, we began discussions with M-NCPPC and the ASM about the logistics of holding the Annual Field Session in-person. See the Terrestrial Activities report for more detail.

On April 14, Matt participated in the annual meeting of the National Association of State Archaeologists (the other NASA). Topic of discussion was largely how state programs are surviving the pandemic. Maryland is doing quite well by comparison to reports from other states.

On April 29, Matt spoke to the Maryland Free State Treasure Club, a metal detecting group about potential fieldwork at the Billingsley site. They assisted us with a controlled metal detecting survey of the south field at Billingsley on May 19-20, which provided data that would help shape our Field Session excavation strategy.

From April 27-May 5, Matt participated in the interviews for the MAC Lab Deputy Director position.

For the Majority of May, most of Matt's time was dedicated to Field Session preparations as well as launch of the FY2022 Non-Capital Grant round, which is now open. The deadlines for the FY22 Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants are June 22 for the ITAs and July 30 for full applications. All of the information is available from the "Funding" tab on our webpage.

And in other Non-cap news, in Late April and early May, Matt reviewed the draft report by Washington College on the Rogers Tavern and Lower Ferry Park remote sensing survey.

As far as remote sensing fieldwork goes, MHT participated in a number of projects: Completing fieldwork at Maxwell Hall on March 4, completing GPR survey of the purported Slave Cemetery at Sotterley (no cemetery) on March 10, a MagSusc survey at Bohemia Manor NRMA on March 16 to assist with an FY21 NonCap, GPR work at Patterson House on April 8 to assist JPPM with placement of geothermal, GPR Survey at Montpelier on April 13 and follow-up with some exciting results collected on April 30, GPR on April 26 at the Stearns site to assist JPPM with placement of new septic infrastructure, and assisting UMD w/ surveying the possible location of the courthouse at Joppatowne using the GPR on May 14.

Upcoming Field projects on state-owned lands include additional work at Fort Fredrick to search for the colonial-era village, GPR Survey at Merkle, and potential GPR work at the Howard Family Cemetery in Patuxent River Park.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

The Board of Public Works approved the annual submission of the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program (MMAP).

Susan made presentations: in NOAAs "You Don't Know What You Don't Know" lecture Series; at the MAAC meetings, and at NORWESCON 43 at which she was the Science Guest of Honor and participated on 6 panels in addition to her main paper and two interviews. She taught the Law and Ethics class for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society and was invited to speak at National Maritime Day in Baltimore. She provided oversight for a student for a 2-day international conference about the effects of climate change on maritime archaeological resources and will sit on a panel at the next Society for Historical Archaeology, in addition to sitting on the Heritage at Risk Committee. She also provided an article for the Archaeology Month booklet.

Susan joined Marion Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners to meet with Sen. Cardin's staff on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Society for Historical Archaeology. The Senator was asked to consider being a co-sponsor for the African American Burial Ground legislation and to consider increasing funding for SHPOs and THPOs to assist in their digitizing and updating data management capabilities in response to anticipated increases in compliance workloads resulting from the Infrastructure legislation under development. The response to both was positive.

A graduate student and faculty from East Carolina University carried out documentation of a wreck at Mallows Bay as part of a Master's Thesis. Susan assisted and provided oversight for the permit. ECU would like to undertake field schools at Mallows Bay on a regular basis but is having difficulty finding reasonable accommodation. ECU is interested in seeking partnership funding opportunities and Susan and Troy have been meeting with faculty and also with another non-profit group, the Marine Science Foundation.

Troy is undertaking increasing numbers of compliance-related site visits and preparing for a side scan sonar survey of the U-1105 as part of an MHT grant-funded project being undertaken by the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG). A new chain has been purchased for the U-1105 mooring buoy.

There are several wrecks reported by citizens that require documentation.

Susan and Charles County park staff deployed the paddling trail buoys at Mallows Bay and she is working with NOAA and members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council to map in the vessels more precisely through GIS mapping. In addition, there are a lot of other projects in the works for the Sanctuary including oral histories and infrastructure improvement.

MMAAP is in the process of seeking bids for a heavy-duty vehicle to tow the main survey vessel, after two previously unsuccessful bidding processes. The main problem is a nation-wide shortage of inventory as factories are just coming back online and there is an international shortage of circuit chips for vehicles. Even for any bids received, there will be a wait of several months and prices are likely to be for a 2022 vehicle.

Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

The Maryland Archeology Month (MAM) mailing was delivered to Uptown Press on March 18th, and they delivered it to the post office on March 24th. In past years this would have resulted in delivery to recipients on or before April 1st. Based on reports from several recipients, delivery is being delayed by the recent issues at the US Postal Service. The delivery of packages of the 2020 Archeology Month materials (celebrating the 50th Field Session) to the 188 Maryland legislators was accomplished with the aid of Karen Golder in late March. Several blogs were posted during the month including a welcome from Charlie, one by Tricia Samford on a flea glass from the Southern Dispensary, another by Zac Singer focusing on erosional threats to archaeological sites, and one by Matt McKnight introducing the mdFIND site reporting app. Several virtual events were also held during the month, including three webinars sponsored by the Council for Maryland Archeology, and 10 minute interviews recorded with each of the eight authors of the booklet essays posted to the MHT YouTube channel. As part of this year's celebration we also launched a new Archeology Month website. Developed by Ruth Mitchell and hosted by Historic St. Mary's City, this new website will serve as an archive of all past Archeology Months and a year-round place to advertise public archaeology opportunities. Despite the challenges of COVID and the postal service, and thanks to the efforts of several MHT staffers, and others, Maryland Archeology Month 2021 was a success.

Immediately following the start of Archeology Month, Governor Hogan, Prince George's County, and the M-NCPPC all announced the lifting of restrictions on outdoor gatherings making it possible to hold the Field Session in the Spring. We began planning immediately to hold the Field Session for a second season at the Billingsley Site in the midst of the Brood X cicada eruption. Beginning in record cold temperatures on Friday, May 28th and ending in brutal heat two days ago (June 7th), we had a good turnout of volunteers – generally between 17 and 30 each day. In this 50th annual Field Session we continued the quest to locate the Contact component that we know to exist somewhere on this vast property, and we may have found it. A few sherds of Townsend ware ceramics, a fragment of a running deer motif Native-made tobacco pipe, a few scraps of cut copper (recovered by metal detectorists with the Maryland Freestate Treasure Club), and a reworked French flint fragment were recovered amongst the large numbers of Late Archaic and Early Woodland artifacts. It was a remarkably successful Field Session.

We have received three new permit applications since the March meeting. Historic St. Mary's City submitted an application for their annual Emergency Mitigation Efforts permit. Laura Masur of Catholic University submitted an application for a shovel test pit survey of Old Bohemia Manor in Cecil County. This is part of a project funded by an MHT non-capital grant. Bob Wall submitted a permit application to continue his work at the Elkridge Site in Anne Arundel County. He plans to run field schools through Towson University this year and the two following years. Historic St. Mary's City also extended their existing 2019 permit to conduct investigations associated with the replacement of Anne Arundel Hall, due to delays associated with COVID.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

MAC Lab staff have mostly resumed a five day lab work schedule. Researchers and volunteers are now being allowed in the lab, and we continue to accept new collections and conservation projects from outside clients.

Scott Strickland will begin work at the lab on August 11th as the Lab Deputy Director. Scott has a great deal of experience in surveying, ArcGIS, land records research and archaeological fieldwork on precontact through 18th century sites in the Chesapeake.

Arianna Johnston will begin work as a conservator at the lab on June 16th. Arianna fills the position left vacant when Francis Lukezic left to take a job in Richmond.

Public Archaeology – The lab will hold a 2021 Public Archaeology session during the month of September. We are currently filled for all sessions, with a cap of six daily participants. We are probably going to raise the daily limit of participants given the current status of the pandemic.

The lab is making good progress in its long-term project to redesign the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website. A new section on jaw harps has been completed, but will probably not go live until the redone website is posted. New sections on flatware are underway.

The MAC Lab renovation is still underway; the waterproofing and siding is completed and the re-roofing is underway. Completion date is currently set in early August.

Archaeological work has begun at the Patterson House in advance of the house renovation project. Alex Glass and Patricia Samford will be digging four test units in places where the GPR showed areas of cultural interest. In the first unit, we have uncovered traces of burning associated with the demolition of the Peterson House in the 1930s.

Lab staff have been finishing up a small amount of recording and mapping of features at the Smith St. Leonard site and have begun writing the technical site report.

On April 8th, Zac Singer conducted remote sensing over a portion of the Stearns Site, a pre-contact period site located in the King's Reach field at the park. The tested portion of the site is the future location of a septic drain field for the King's Reach House. Using the results of the testing, we were able to place the perc tests in areas that did not disturb any subsurface cultural remains.

The lab will be receiving 131 boxes of archaeological artifacts from old Archaeology in Annapolis projects. The properties from which these artifacts were recovered are now state-owned and the Historic Annapolis Foundation worked with MHT to figure out a way to get these artifacts turned over to the lab.

Sara Rivers Cofield is continuing to make progress on her study of equestrian artifacts. This project has been funded with a grant from the Conservation Fund. Later in the summer, she will be doing research at Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg and the Virginia Division of Historic Resources. Her planned trip to a museum of saddlery Sweden may need to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

The lab is revising and resubmitting a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to do a revamping of the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website.

The lab is assisting with the planning of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference that will be held at St. Mary's College in early November.

The lab is collaborating with Liza Gijanto of St. Mary's College Anthropology Department on a National Science Foundation funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant. The lab is providing collections management and conservation experiences for the 12 students enrolled in the 2021 program.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

The Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide needed technical assistance to program customers to the best of its ability via telework, limited office time, conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, and participation in virtual interagency working groups. The incoming project review workload and report submittals remain at steady volumes.

Beth continues to work with Greg Brown and MDP IT staff on the development of an E106 online submittal and comment process for the Trust's Review and Compliance program. Current

efforts are focusing on the online submittal form wizard and mapping widget development. The E106 Team is making slow and steady progress on this effort.

Beth and Dixie have participated in the multiple interagency coordination meetings including:

1. MDOT SHA quarterly coordination meeting to discuss project updates, policy issues, and general consultation efforts.
2. NRCS re implementation of the statewide PA for NRCS MD programs, project reviews, trainings, and general issues. Dixie had follow up meetings with Michael Baker (NRCS) to discuss questions from NRCS field offices regarding the preparation of complete project submittals for MHT review and also had a call with NRCS to discuss the potential role of a part-time archeologist at the NRCS MD office to assist with field checks, preparation of project submittals, tribal consultation, and site monitoring.
3. DNR MD Park Service review staff regarding MHT/DNR coordination in project reviews and training opportunities.
4. DNR regarding the Work Plan update under the MHT/DNR/JPPM Memorandum of Understanding.
5. Monthly interagency MDE/COE JE meetings to discuss a variety of projects requiring Corps/MDE permits, including the BGE Key Crossing and Nice Bridge Replacement projects

Dixie met with Michael Hyde (DNR) to discuss appropriate methods for the removal of boxwoods at Smallwood SP that would minimize potential impacts to historic structures and archeological deposits.

Dixie also attended a meeting with Anne Arundel County, NOAA and DNR to discuss the proposed Jug Bay Education, Research and Discovery Field Station and the results of the 2021 Phase I survey. Anne Arundel County will be revising the site plans to avoid and minimize potential impacts to Loci 1 and 3 at site 18AN346 (multicomponent site with prehistoric materials and remains of 19th c. farmstead).

Beth and Dixie have attended multiple meetings (including Consulting Parties meetings) with the Corps and Howard County to discuss the revised plans, minimization of impacts, and draft PA for the Ellicott City Safe and Sound Flood Mitigation projects.

Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer

Zac is currently working on synthesizing reports from Montgomery County (7 sites total) for the Maryland Archeological Synthesis Project. After Montgomery County, Zac will synthesize reports from Prince George's County.

In Early March, Zac assisted with the preparation of the FY21 Historic Preservation Non-Capital grant agreements for the three archaeology projects. All 3 grant agreements are now fully executed.

On March 10th, Zac and Matt conducted a GPR survey at Historic Sotterley to investigate potential locations for the Governor George Plater cemetery and a possible cemetery for enslaved peoples. The GPR results identified at least 3 anomalies consistent with grave shafts in the possible location of the Plater cemetery. The landform suggested to be a cemetery for enslaved peoples at Sotterley did not yield anomalies suggestive of grave shafts.

On March 16th, Zac, Matt, and Charlie conducted a Magnetic Susceptibility survey at Bohemia Manor to locate potential areas of interest for further investigations during Dr. Laura Masur's (Catholic University) FY21 Non-Cap study of Jesuit landscapes.

On March 23rd, Zac, Matt, and Charlie conducted a GPR and MagSusc survey at Marshy Point Nature Center. The GPR survey was conducted in a wooded area where a fallen gravestone had previously been identified. The MagSusc survey was conducted in a swampy wooded area where a metal detectorist had found 18th century domestic artifacts. The GPR survey yielded at least 14 anomalies suggestive of grave shafts. The MagSusc survey did not yield an area of interest, likely in part due to waterlogged soils.

From March 26th-28th Zac attended the virtual Annual Meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conferences. Zac co-authored two presentations with Matt, which presented the results of the remote sensing surveys at Barwicks Ordinary and Cresaps Fort.

In Late March, Zac served on the Archaeology Intern selection committee.

In Early April, Zac collaborated with Applied Archaeology and History Associates to create a Maryland Archaeology Month blog post on Flood Awareness Month and archaeological investigations of the eroding shoreline at the Calverton site.

In late April, Zac reviewed draft reports for the FY20 Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants supporting the Parsons Island excavations (The Chesapeake Watershed Archaeological Research Foundation) and the enhancement of the Robert Ogle collection (Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division).

In late April, Zac conducted a GPR survey at Stearns Site at JPPM. The results of the survey were used for planning purposes to avoid impacting archaeological features with future infrastructure improvements.

On April 30th, Zac, Matt, and Charlie returned to Clear Spring to conduct a GPR remote sensing survey at the location of a possible colonial site.

On May 13th, Zac and Matt assisted Dr. Julie Markin with establishing a grid at the Barwick's Ordinary site, in advance of Washington College's field school.

On May 14th, Zac and Matt collaborated with Adam Fracchia to conduct a refined GPR survey at Joppatown to search for the potential location of the 18th century courthouse. An intriguing anomaly was identified, which will hopefully be ground trothed by the University of Maryland Field School.

On May 19th and 20th, Zac participated in the metal detecting survey at Billingsley along with Matt and Charlie, and on May 26th, Zac, Matt, and summer intern Catt conducted a GPR survey at the site. The results of both surveys were also used to inform the placement of excavation units during the Tyler Bastian Field Session.

From May 28th-June 7th, Zac participated in the Annual Field Session with the rest of the staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 1:00 PM in the MHT Board conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m., in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was unanimously approved.