



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
June 15, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance:

Jane Cox, Don Housley, Marian Creveling, Stephen Brighton

Staff in Attendance:

Matt McKnight, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Hughes, Zac Singer, Susan Langley, Dixie Henry,
Luc Renaux (summer intern)

The meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Review of the March 9, 2022 MACA meeting minutes:

The March 9, 2022, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes had no budgetary or legislative items to share with the Committee.

She reported that the study of Historic African American Cemeteries, which is designed to focus on obstacles to preservation of these resources and recommendations designed to remove those obstacles, was posted on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture's website for a 30 day public comment period beginning on May 15th. The final version of the report will be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly by its deadline of June 30, 2022.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reported that the major activity during the 3 months since the last MACA meeting was the Annual Field Session. A lot of Matt and Zac's time was devoted to Field Session prep and logistics planning with the ASM and Washington College. The Field Session at Barwick's Ordinary (first in 20 years on the Eastern Shore) was very well-attended with 55 volunteers on the second Saturday and very high numbers throughout.

The State Terrestrial Archaeologist position was filled back at the beginning of May. We conducted an internal hiring process and promoted Dr. Zachary Singer into the position, which leaves a vacancy in the Research Archaeologist position. A position description and job announcement were sent to the office of administration in mid-May.

Matt reported that MHT selected Luc Renaux, to serve as the Summer Intern in Archaeology. Luc has been with us since May 18, and served as the field lab director during the Annual Field Session. Luc is expected to be with us until around mid-August. Luc introduced himself and described for the Committee some of the projects he has been working on.

Matt reported that a CARP meeting, Crownsville archaeology's semi-annual coordinating meeting with JPPM, was held on March 10.

From March 24-27, Matt participated in the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference in Ocean City. He presented in an organized symposium by Washington College on the Barwick's Ordinary site, as well as the MAAC Film Festival, and the MAAC Student Cmte's networking event.

From March 31 to April 3, Matt was away at the SAA meetings in Chicago. He prepared and participated in a Poster session, presenting MHT's research on the Cresap's Fort site to the Society.

During March and April, Matt did a good bit of video editing for the joint MHT/CfMA Interviews with Archaeologists that were featured during Archeology Month 2022 on the MHT YouTube channel.

On April 21st, Matt participated in the NPS Spotlight on Parks Research event; an online symposium highlighting fieldwork in various disciplines on NPS Capital Region properties. Matt presented MHT research on Cresap's Fort.

On April 22, Matt and Zac carried out additional GPR work and assisted Lost Towns in the field at Whitehall. MHT also made site visits to Whitehall on 4/25 and 4/28.

On April 27 and 29, Matt and Zac worked with two metal detectorist groups to carry out survey within Fort Frederick State Park. The volunteer crew identified a significant number of spent ordnance and artifacts, some of apparent 18th-century age, but teasing the legitimate artifacts out from reproductions will be difficult. MHT did locate what appears to be a domestic occupation in one wooded area which we believe has always been off limits to re-enactors. This data will be used to help inform shovel testing at a later date.

On May 5, Matt and Zac made a brief site visit to the Wye Ossuary to inspect the state of erosion there. The bank there is highly eroded and once again human remains are present on the ground surface and in the water, but largely obscured from public view by vegetation.

In early May Matt was contacted by DNR about some potential looting occurring on SHA property on the South River. Digging was occurring at a known site, 18AN16. Matt out to Jane Cox, SHA, and the Maryland DNR police and we eventually visited the site on May 11. MHT found extensive evidence of trenching both on private property and within SHA lands. There has been lots of environmental modification from 4-wheeler activity as well, including the cutting down of fences, etc. MHT confiscated 2 screen devices, documented the impacts with photos and the Emlid GPS, and sent a follow-up map and information to Dr. Julie Schablitsky. SHA is looking into ways to assess the damage and improve security.

Since the Field Session, the most recent fieldwork undertaken by MHT was June 8-10. Matt, Zac, and Luc carried out a Magnetic Susceptibility survey within Piscataway Park with the assistance of Jason Theuer and other staff from NPS's National Capital Region offices. Julie King and her students also made a brief appearance as our work is going to help inform some work they will be conducting later on as part of one of our Non-Capital grants. We identified some anomalies that match up well with the location of an English encampment or fortification shown on a 17th C. map of the siege at the Susquehannock Fort. We will follow-up in late July with Gradiometry and GPR work.

Matt also reported that MHT continues to make slow, but steady progress on *Standards and Guidelines* revisions, that all of the FY22 Non-Capital grant agreements have been finalized and are encumbered, and that MHT has launched the FY23 grant round. Intent to Apply forms are due at the end of June, and the full applications are due August 1.

Matt also reported that he will be away on Vacation June 29-July 15.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Dr. Langley reported that the annual submission to the Board of Public works was approved. However, the scheduled meeting of the USCG Area Contingency Planning Committee was postponed due to the grounding of the freighter *Ever Forward* in the Chesapeake Bay. This vessel engendered almost daily meetings for the month it took to free it. The positive outcome is that despite a complete turnover in staff at the Coast Guard, it ensured that the SHPO was consulted by all the relevant parties and our input was added to the dredge plan. Troy Nowak represented the SHPO at the rescheduled meeting, although we were unable to host it due to room availability.

MMAP undertook side scan sonar survey on the U-1105 and magnetometer survey adjacent to Arundel-on-the Bay.

Staff visited the East Carolina University field school held at Mallows Bay for three weeks under permit from MHT. Susan worked with Charles County to deploy the paddling trail buoys at Mallows as well.

Susan participated in nine events, making presentations. Some of these included: sitting on an ICOMOS panel sponsored by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to address the impacts of climate change on maritime archaeology; hosting a delegation of federal Albania representative for the State Department and the World Trade Institute about the protection and management of submerged cultural resources, as well as advising National Geographic's *Drain the Ocean* and manning a table at National Maritime Day on the liberty ship *John W. Brown*.

Troy continues to address large numbers of compliance applications, some requiring site visits.

MHT is considering if or how it might participate in the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program in light of the NPS significantly retooling how it wants the Program handled, which places virtually all the work on participating SHPOs. There is only approximately \$1 million for the entire nation with both minimum and maximum restrictions that NPS states will result in about 5 grants nationwide. If SHPOs do not participate, there is no other avenue to seek these funds for any non-profits in those states. MHT does not have a grant manager at this time.

Susan reported that only one truck dealership submitted MHT's request to purchase a vehicle to tow the MMAP boats to their manufacturer. To date it does not appear to have been rejected.

MMAP is also working on purchasing a sub bottom profiler for bathymetric surveys and a jet drive outboard for the metal jon boat to facilitate rocky and shallow water survey. The STAMP wreck-tagging program is stalled until a QR code system can be built with Greg's staff.

Terrestrial Activities and Synthesis Report — Zac Singer

Dr. Singer reported that on Tuesday March 11th, the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab reopened to the public. The Volunteer lab meets on Tuesdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 8 volunteers, who have been helping catalog and prepare the Maiden's Choice I and II sites for curation at the MAC Lab. Lab volunteers are also helping process small collections that are currently stored in the MHT Lab for eventual transfer to the MAC Lab.

Zac attended the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference Meetings from March 24th-27th. Zac presented a paper in the aforementioned session on Barwick's Ordinary.

Maryland Archeology Month (MAM), April 2022 was a great success. The theme for Archeology Month was *The Future of Studying the Past: Innovative Technologies in Maryland Archeology*. Donations for MAM 2022 totaled \$3,550, which included contributions from many CRM firms and a sizable donation from the Council for Maryland Archeology. Costs for printing and mailing the MAM materials were \$3,370.36, leaving \$179.64 that was added to the MAM surplus donations fund managed by the Archeological Society of Maryland. The MAM print run included: 150 full sized posters, 2,000 mini-posters, 1,000 magnets, 2,100 booklets, and 300 3d printed maskette replicas. 750 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) were mailed to stakeholders in the archaeological community. 188 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) were mailed to MD legislators. The remaining materials were distributed to MAM Institutional Sponsors, ASM Chapters, and local universities for distribution at public events held during April. 24 MAM events were listed on the official Calendar of Events, which was hosted on the MAM website. Additionally, CfMA and MHT collaborated to record interviews with the MAM Booklet contributors, which were posted on Youtube. MHT also posted three blogs for Archeology Month: 1) Zac's Introduction to MAM, 2) 3d Photogrammetry by the Open Educational Resource folks at JefPat, and 3) a discussion of "ground-truthing" remote sensing anomalies, which Zac wrote.

From April 7th through 10th, Matt and Zac conducted ground truthing excavations at the Maiden's Choice II site to investigate two pit shape GPR anomalies. The anomalies turned out to be rock filled pits, which lacked artifacts. The function of these pits is unclear.

On April 16th Zac helped host the 56th Annual ASM Spring Symposium at the MHT Offices in Crownsville. The Symposium was well-attended and the seven speakers' presentations were well received.

Zac and Matt conducted a GPR survey at Whitehall on April 22nd. The survey expanded upon prior GPR surveys in the field to the southwest of the Whitehall manor to investigate a series of rectangular anomalies. The GPR survey on April 22nd identified two additional rectangular anomalies, which aligned with three previously identified anomalies. Based on their orientations, the aligned anomalies are

suggestive of formal landscape features associated with the 18th-century landscape at Whitehall.

On April 25th, Matt and Zac conducted a GPR survey in the east wing of the James Brice House. The GPR survey yielded one anomaly of interest, a trench-like feature, which could be a modern utility trench or a historic trench associated with a previous foundation or something else entirely. Excavations would be necessary to determine the form and function of the trench.

On April 27th and 29th, Zac participated in the metal detection survey at Fort Frederick State Park.

On May 5th, Matt and Zac visited Wye Ossuary to inspect the erosion at 18QU995.

On May 11th, Matt, Zac, and colleagues from Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division and the SHA visited 18AN16, the Middle Woodland Tanyard site, to investigate reports of looting from portions of the site on State property.

From May 20th-30th, Zac and Matt participated in the Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session at the Barwick's Ordinary Site in Denton. Dr. Julie Markin (Washington College) was the PI for the project. The Field Session was well attended by members of the ASM and the public. The Field Session primarily investigated colonial structural features at the site. Additionally, an STP survey was conducted on the surrounding landforms and two Woodland sites were identified.

From June 8th -10th, Zac participated in the survey work at Piscataway Park with Matt and Luc.

On June 23rd, Zac will be giving a presentation for the Gate House Museum in Sykesville entitled *The Past in Your Backyard: What You Should Do When You Find an Artifact*.

On June 25th, Zac will be hosting CAT Workshops on Pre-Contact Material Culture including Lithic Analysis and Ceramic Identifications.

Between April and June, Zac reviewed 6 applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Patricia Samford is still serving as Acting Executive Director at JPPM.

Dr. Samford reported that the MAC Lab completed their first Public Archaeology season at the circa 1660-1690 Melon Field site, located in the northern part of the park. Remote sensing done in the late winter by Matt and Zac pinpointed areas of possible interest and units placed in those areas confirmed that the remote sensing had found at least 3 subfloor pits remaining from an earthfast structure.

Discovering Archaeology Day was held on April 9th in its new location in and around the MAC Lab. Eighteen exhibitors from Maryland and Virginia archaeological organizations provided displays and hands-on activities for the 275 visitors who showed up to enjoy the event.

Tricia reports that the MAC Lab renovation is almost completed. Landscaping is in progress and a few punch list items remain. Since the contract has officially ended, the contractor is trying to complete the project as soon as possible.

The MAC Lab is progressing with the design phase of the expansion project. Marshall Craft Associates has provided an option to create a new curation structure joined to the lab by a short hyphen.

Gloria King Research Fellow Dela Kuma, a doctoral student at Northwestern University visited the lab for two weeks in April to study consumer patterns of western material goods in 19th century Ghana. Matt Borden, an MA student at the College of William and Mary, will come for his fellowship later this summer to study ceramic accumulation as a means of understanding demographic patterns in the Upper Potomac.

Work continues on the cataloging of the Stearn's Site (18CV17), a Middle and Late Woodland shell midden and village site located on the park and dug by Laurie Steponaitis in the 1980s.

Scott Strickland and Patricia Samford worked with IMLS grant employees Chris and Noah to prepare an NEH grant proposal in the Digital Projects for the public program. If funded, this grant would support a prototyping project to create a virtual reconstruction of the park grounds and its human occupations over the last 9,000 years.

The park received full funding (\$49,742) from the National Park Service Civil Rights grant program for a historical and archaeological study of the Wallville community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Lab staff have been working with students enrolled in the NSF funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program headed by Liza Gijanto and Randy Larsen at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The students receive basic training in curatorial techniques, conservation basics and ARC-GIS training.

Conservation and the park are working with the Department of General Services to find the funding to replace the large freeze drier, which has been limping along for several years. It now looks like it will be a part of the expansion project.

Free weekly lab tours restarted in April and have proven popular for both groups and individual families.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

The Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide technical assistance to program customers via hybrid office/telework, conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, in-person site visits and meetings, and participation in interagency working groups.

Project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in May of 2022, the PRC unit reviewed a total of 398 state and federal projects.

In April, Liz Casso joined the Project Review and Compliance Unit as a Preservation Officer who is handling project reviews for effects on architectural resources. That position had been vacant since fall of 2021, but now the Unit is fully staffed again so Beth and Dixie are able to devote most of their time to Unit administration and archaeology reviews.

Beth continues to work on our E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP. The E106 team continues to meet regularly, and right now they are waiting for changes that were requested to the system forms and dashboards so they can continue testing.

In May, Beth participated in virtual Day 1 of the NRCS Cultural Resources Training and gave presentations regarding MHT's role in the review process under Section 106 and the NRCS statewide

Programmatic Agreement for MD; the training was well attended by 70+ participants from NRCS field offices statewide and is a requirement of our statewide NRCS Programmatic Agreement for its MD programs.

Also in May, Beth participated in NPS NCR Advanced Section 106 Training and gave a virtual presentation on SHPO perspectives in avoiding and resolving adverse effects; the training was well attended by 20+ participants representing cultural resources staff from NPS parks in the National Capital Region.

In April, Dixie reviewed the Corps of Engineers' *Baltimore Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study* and provided preliminary comments back to the Corps. Further consultation will be needed as various alternatives are eliminated and project planning proceeds.

Dixie has also continued working on drafting revisions/updates to the "Reports and Documentation" section of the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Maryland*.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Board conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m., in a motion made by Marian Creveling and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was unanimously approved.