



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
June 21, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance:

Marian Creveling, Jane Cox, Don Housley, Bob Wall

Staff in Attendance:

Jack Candiotti (Summer Intern), Dixie Henry, Matt McKnight, Anne Raines, Patricia Samford, Zac Singer, Stephanie Soder

The meeting called to order at 1:31 p.m.

Review of the March 29, 2023, MACA meeting minutes:

The March 29, 2023, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Marian Creveling and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Absent – No Report

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Matt introduced Jack Candiotti, MHT's Summer Archaeology Intern. Zac recently completed dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Anthropology and Geospatial Data Science at the University of Maryland.

Matt reports that he and Zac have recently made updates to the MHT NAGRPA inventory and provided consultation letters to the 25 federally-recognized tribal groups with which the Trust has consulted in the past as well as the National NAGRPA office. Matt reported that thus far, MHT has only heard from the Oneida Indian Nation THPO, which was a generally positive call.

MHT held a very successful Scouts BSA Archaeology merit badge class on April 29, and associated field days on May 6 and 7. In total, 27 scouts completed the merit badge program.

Archaeology staff held a retreat with Office of Research Survey and Registration Chief Marcia Miller on April 13.

On April 17 and 19, Matt, Zac, and Steph conducted fieldwork at the Old Treasury Building in State Circle. GPR data was collected around the building and staff excavated two small test units adjacent to the west wing of the structure. Nothing unexpected to report archaeology-wise from the test units, but the GPR data suggests a buried cellar southeast of the building. A short letter report was written for DGS and they've expressed an interest in additional GPR work.

Staff continues to make steady progress on Standards and Guidelines revisions. Matt has completed layouts for his introductory chapter and Zac's chapter on Survey, as well as portions of Dixie's chapter on Reports.

MHT Press has signed a contract with a book designer, Fishergate Publications, to complete work on Dennis Curry's *Canavest* manuscript. The first proofs for the book are complete and it looks quite nice. Lara Westwood is hopeful the book will be in print by the end of the year.

The FY24 Non-Cap round has been launched. Intent to Apply forms are due at the end of June and full applications are due August 1st. Grant Agreements have been completed for all FY23 Non-Caps that were awarded. A couple of prior year projects have also recently wrapped or are about to wrap up: the U-1105 grant is completed, and Matt recently sent back MHT comments on Catholic U's final report on Jesuit Plantation archaeology.

Matt reported at the last ASM Board Meeting that he'd met with NPS staff, Preservation Maryland staff, and ASM about the possibility of funding a Field Session in 2024 at the Cresap's Fort site. ASM was awarded a grant of \$10,000 in funding for ground-truthing MHT's GPR work there, with another \$5,000 as match from ASM for Field Session 2024. Matt has submitted an ARPA permit to the National Park Service.

On June 8th, Zac and Matt met with Jack Lynch and Beau Lockhardt (Frederick County Planning) about a renewed push to get archaeological protections enacted into law in Frederick County.

And finally, the main event in May was the Annual Field Session held at the Chapel Branch West site (Caroline County). Zac will report on the archaeological results more fully, but attendance was good with an average of about 30-35 volunteers per day, with weekend days as high as 55 volunteers. The Secretary of Planning, Rebecca Flora, made a visit for the morning one day to learn more about the archaeology program.

Underwater Activities Report — Matt McKnight

Matt reports that Susan and Troy could not join us today due to a field project with BAREG and a Coast Guard Planning meeting, but Susan sent in the following report.

MMAP hosted the U.S. Coast Guard and other members for the quarterly Area Contingency Planning Committee at MHT in April and also participated in the Regional Response Team III meetings in Laurel.

Staff were in the field off St. George's Island for more than a week relocating several wrecks, one of which was used by Troy to offer a mapping/recording training for BAREG. He is currently at BAREG's field session on the *Atlas* off North Carolina. Troy is assisting with their field school and is learning photogrammetry on our new camera.

Susan worked with Charles County to deploy the paddling trail buoys at Mallows Bay.

The doctoral student working on the microbiome of the WWI steam vessel *Aowa* was up sampling for her dissertation and is also rebuilding the vessel in a 3D model. ECU has submitted a draft report for its 2022 field school that also includes a senior thesis and an MA focusing on the microbiome of the steel-hulled *Accomac* as well as the doctoral student's successfully defended dissertation proposal. Susan sits on the defense committee.

Susan was invited to sit on a panel discussion that followed a viewing of the Netflix film *Descendant* about the descendants of the last slaves brought into America illegally on the vessel *Clothilda*.

Susan recorded a podcast about the Ghost Fleets of Curtis Bay for *The Evermore Podcast: An Exploration of Baltimore's Art, History and Forgotten Lore*.

Susan also produced an Archaeology Month blog for MHT about the [Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program \(STAMP\)](#). She subsequently held a training and tagging session at Assateague State Park. The timbers examined are now posted on the [STAMP webpage](#) so park visitors who see these along the trail to the beach, can scan them and learn about the Program and the timbers.

Susan produced a blog for the Society for [Historical Archaeology Heritage at Risk Committee](#).

Susan was also a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Maritime Archaeology* for the paper "Fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, An Historical Overview and the Likely Context of Three Deep-Water Shipwrecks" and has been invited to speak at Quantico next Friday to the Marines in the MCIA Weapons and Technology Div. about the latest developments at Mallows Bay.

Troy and Susan will spend the last week of the month recording in detail a log canoe that Susan partially recorded in the water in 2021. A storm washed it loose again and the adjacent landowners pulled it onto their property (from which it originally washed out) and there is reasonable proof that it belongs to them, having been brought from Hooper Island by the current landowners great, great, grandfather who was one of the two known boatbuilders on the island.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between March and June, Dr. Singer reviewed three applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reported that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 8 volunteers. The lab volunteers have completed the cataloging of the Primrose Site collection generated by Charlie Hall in 2011. The lab is currently cataloging and preparing collections for curation from the Old Treasure Building (18AP22) and the Poplar Springs East site (18PR1186).

Matt and Zac continue to work on NAGPRA related coordination. On April 3, Zac attended the MCIA meeting to discuss upcoming updates to MHT's Inventory of Native American Human Remains and potential resolutions related to the Wye Ossuary.

On June 1, the updated Inventory was mailed to the National NAGPRA Program, the MCIA, and to 25 Indian Tribes with geographic areas of current or ancestral interest that relate to MHT's collection. On June 5, Zac attended the MCIA meeting to present information on the updated Inventory.

Maryland Archeology Month (MAM), April 2023 was a great success. The theme for MAM was “Where Did You Find that Artifact? Context is Crucial in Maryland Archeology”. Donations for MAM 2023 totaled \$3,970, 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 \$3,694, leaving \$276 to be added to the MAM surplus donations fund managed by the Archeological Society of Maryland. The MAM print run included: 150 full sized posters, 2000 mini-posters, 1000 magnets, and 2100 booklets. Thanks to Scott Strickland for drafting the poster and thanks to Tricia Samford for providing the lead article for the booklet. 750 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) were mailed to stakeholders in the archaeology community, 188 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) were mailed to the MD legislators, the remaining materials were distributed to MD Arch Month Institutional Sponsors, ASM Chapters, and local Universities for distribution at public events held during archaeology month. 21 MAM events were listed on the official MD Archaeology Month Calendar of Events. Additionally, CfMA and MHT produced an interview series with the MAM Booklet contributors, which was posted on YouTube. MHT posted two blogs related to archaeology during the month.

May 19-29, MHT and ASM held the Annual Field Session at the Chapel Branch West site with Dr. Julie Markin of Washington College as Principal Investigator. The principal goal of the Field Session was to continue investigating a buried living surface encountered at the site during STP survey in 2022. The buried living surface revealed the presence of a wide diversity of large ceramic sherds, including a potentially new ware.

On April 10, Zac and Matt assisted the Lost Towns Project in laying out excavations at the Ruf site.

May 2, Zac visit HSMC to discuss burial mitigation projects at Chancellor’s Point and the Mill Field.

In April Zac finalized a cemetery consultation form to streamline consultation with MHT for § 14-121.1 - Proper treatment of burial site in existence for more than 50 years.

One June 12, Zac joined Anne Arundel County’s cultural resources division to help receive the Thomas Mayr collection of artifacts, which were donated to the county. This collection of well-provenienced artifacts is a great contribution to Maryland Archaeology.

On June 20, Zac visited Chapel Point State Park to coordinate with DNR regarding eroding archaeological sites.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

The park received 100% plans for the MAC Lab expansion at the beginning of June and staff have provided comments on the plans. A pre-bid meeting is currently set for July 12, with construction set to start in the early fall. Construction is projected to take 15 to 18 months. The public will not have access to the building for much, if any of the construction period, and there will be times when spaces will not be available to staff. The MAC Lab will still be accepting collections during the construction period and will try to accommodate researcher requests.

With the construction planning, Becky has created a large and complex spreadsheet of spaces, tasks, places for things to move while areas are under construction and a timetable for these activities. Staff have already begun implementing these tasks and prepping materials. Staff have been documenting the

moving and repacking process with videos, which we are posting on our social media accounts. The RFP for the move of some of the lab collections is being reviewed at the state procurement level.

All four Gloria King Fellows accepted the partial funding that was offered to them are scheduled to complete their fellowships in July and August. The 2023 fellows are John Henshaw (College of William and Mary), Charde Reid (College of William and Mary), Ryan Kennedy (Indiana University, Bloomington) and a team of students (Brigid Ogden, Elizabeth Tarulis and Taylor Bowden) with the University of Tennessee.

Discovering Archaeology Day was held on April 15, with beautiful weather, and about 15 exhibitors and a visitation of about 250.

The Witnesses of Wallville grant from NPS is studying the rural community at the end of the peninsula where the park is located from the post bellum period to the mid-20th century. Our focus is on the Black community and changes in the demographics of Wallville during this period. Staff held a second public meeting in mid-May, with good participation from locals. We will be adding substantial sections to the Storymap website within the next several weeks. Eight oral histories have been conducted, research trips to church archives in Baltimore, and visits to four family graveyards and one church cemetery have yielded much information for the project. Staff have also conducted Phase I archaeological excavations at three sites associated with the Wallville community this spring and anticipate working on four more this fall.

Staff continue to monitor construction of ground disturbance associated with the Patterson Center renovation project.

Conservation is currently treating three Civil War rifles from the second battle of Bull Run, ship components from the early 20th century steamship *Pomona*, the *Ark* cannon from St. Mary's County, and is continuing with treatment of artifacts from the Philadelphia I-95 project, and Philadelphia's West River Shipyard.

This year's Public Archaeology season was held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May at the 17th-century Melon Field Site on the park. The Public Archaeology intern this year is Luke Arcement, a Longwood University undergraduate and a former public archaeology participant.

The lab completed its 3rd and final year for the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates program with St. Mary's College of Maryland. Lab staff will be teaching lab and conservation related issues and Scott taught GIS and Storymap sessions.

MHT staff will be presenting to a board meeting of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in early August about finding a way to return human remains of African ancestry to a more suitable place of repose.

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 April and May, the PR&C unit reviewed a total of 778 state and federal projects.

Beth continues to work on our E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP. During May, the full PR&C Unit staff tested E106 Submitter and MHT Reviewer functions of the system. State agency testing commenced in June with MDOT SHA, DHCD, and MEA as pilot testers. Overall testing has gone smoothly and has helped identify further improvements to make to the system. The team is continuing to make refinements to E106 functions, finalize User Guides and other system information, and prepare for rollout by fall 2023.

Beth and Dixie attended NPI's excellent 3-day training - Management and Negotiation Skills for Cultural and Natural Resource Managers hosted by MDOT SHA, with other participation from MDOT SHA cultural resources, planning and environmental staff.

Dixie continues working on drafting revisions/updates to the "Reports and Documentation" section of the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Maryland* - revising the draft language for Special Considerations for Phase II reports and beginning to prepare language for the Phase III Investigations section.

Beth and Dixie participated in multiple interagency coordination meetings including the regular scheduled monthly JE meetings with MDE/COE et al., and MDOT SHA interagency meetings.

Key targeted MHT/agency coordination meetings in the last quarter included:

- Prince George's County Housing programs under its HUD PA
- MD DHCD State Revitalization Programs under its statewide program PA
- Maryland Military Department introduction of new Cultural Resources Manager, Jennifer Riddle
- MDTA Bay Crossing Tier II Study interagency bus tour
- Monocacy National Battlefield biennial meeting and site visit
- Thomas Stone National Historic Site biennial meeting
- MDOT SHA/MHT quarterly coordination meeting
- MDE Dam Removal program and development of guidelines
- NASA virtual SHPO meetings for development of its Agency PA for NASA facilities including Goddard Space Flight Center in MD
- Multiple regional and MD-specific meetings regarding BOEM's Section 106 coordination for Offshore Wind projects, including development of a PA for Offshore Wind in the Mid-Atlantic Region and project-specific consultation for US Wind and Skipjack Wind offshore Maryland.
- Freedman's State Park site visit (Montgomery County) with DNR and Preservation MD

Beth assisted in the review and comments on 162 grant applications for the FY24 MHAA capital and non-capital ground round. Most of the proposed projects will not affect historic properties, although further consultation with MHT is needed for a few undertakings once more detailed plans have been developed, to complete an informed review.

Dixie reviewed the archaeological monitoring plan for Extended North Tunnel Project: Patapsco River Outfall project area that was submitted in accordance with the Ellicott City Safe & Sound Flood Mitigation PA. Dixie also reviewed the draft PA for the Baltimore Metropolitan Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study and submitted comments to the Corps of Engineers.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Progress continues on the Archaeological Synthesis Project. Except for the non-digitized reports, Queen

Anne's County is complete, and Somerset and Talbot Counties are almost complete. Stephanie assigned Jack some reports in Talbot county to review so that he can learn how it gets done.

Stephanie is planning to schedule out updates to the database every 6 months. The next one is slated on/around August 16, 2023.

Stephanie took the lead on organizing the Scouts BSA Merit Badge Workshop. A total of 32 scouts participated and 27 completed the merit badge at the workshop. Two more came to the ASM field session to complete their hours and they only have one other requirement to sign off on before they've completed their merit badge as well. Overall, MHT has received a lot of really good comments from parents. Staff sent out a survey to get their opinions, which were overwhelmingly positive. We received a few suggestions, specifically on the time allotted for the afternoon stations, that hopefully we can incorporate into next year's event if we can offer it again. The artifacts from the fieldwork portion of this event are currently being catalogued at the Crownsville lab.

Steph will be participating in an outreach even at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center's summer camp for kids next week. We're hoping to use some of the new "grab-and-go" outreach products that we have, like laminated big flashcards, a soil stratigraphy model, and some worksheets created by the two volunteers who are teachers from the ASM Eastern Shore chapter.

Stephanie is partnering with Brenna (OPEO) to launch a "Volunteer Spotlight" campaign on social media to highlight some of our volunteers who help in the field, in the lab, and other departments at MHT and hopefully JPPM will also add in some of their volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 PM, in a motion made by Bob Wall and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was unanimously approved.