

**MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
June 10, 2026**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Stephen Brighton, Jane Cox, Dave Gadsby, Don Housley, Alexandra Jones, Cheryl LaRoche

Staff in Attendance:

Daniel Fellman, Elizabeth Hughes, Matthew McKnight, Zachary Singer, Brian Snyder, Stephanie Soder, Scott Strickland

The meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Review of the March 4, 2026, MACA meeting minutes:

The March 4, 2026, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Jane Cox and seconded by Dave Gadsby; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Introduction of MHT Summer Intern — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight introduced MHT Summer Intern, Daniel Fellman. Daniel is a new student in Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Master's program in Applied Archaeology. Daniel is also a recent graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, and was interning for Julie King from graduation up until he started with MHT on May 19, and served as the Field Lab Coordinator during the Annual Field Session.

MHT Director's Updates — Elizabeth Hughes

Director Hughes reported that the FY26 fiscal year is coming to a close. No major cuts to operations or staffing are expected in FY27. Elizabeth reports that MHT/MDP was able to secure funding for a replacement archaeology van, which is several years old and is showing significant signs of wear and tear.

Elizabeth also provided brief updates on the Cemetery Database Development Project and the project to memorialize the burials from the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children at the Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery. MHT is not the lead agency on either of

these projects, but Elizabeth is sitting on organizing committees for both along with Matt and Zac. Steve Archer at SHA is the main point of contact for the Cemetery Database Project and they are currently developing an scope of work to sub-contract development of the database. Steph Soder's assistance on behalf of MHT on the Cheltenham Cemetery project has been noted by project participants on a few occasions.

Elizabeth also reports that MHT has been moving forward on filling the existing Maritime vacancy.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reported that MHT and the ASM had a very successful Annual Field Session from May 22-June 1 with an average attendance of 31 individuals per day. Over the course of the 11-day session, volunteers opened the equivalent of 11 new 2 X 2 excavation units and uncovered three excavation blocks from the 2025 Field Session. Sampling of three cultural features from 2025 was completed, which led to reaching the bottom of a shell-lined pit in what might have been a kitchen/dairying area, testing of a newly discovered cellar feature, and partial excavation of a brick-and-daub feature and the surrounding area. Volunteers learned a lot about not just how to carry out field archaeology, but also during about the conservation of artifacts (Nicole Daub/MAC Lab), and Native American perspectives on archaeology (Tribal Chair Francis Gray/Piscataway-Conoy Tribe of Indians).

Matt reports that the Cresap Site Report is still being drafted, but he thinks staff can have a rough draft ready for Josh Torres at the NPS towards the end of June.

Grant agreements for all 4 of the archaeology Historic Preservation Non-cap Grants for FY26 have been signed and the monies encumbered. And the FY27 grant round has been launched. Non-cap intent to apply forms are due by midnight on 6/24, and the full application is due by midnight on 7/31.

The FY24 Non-Cap for Julie King's work at Chapel Point State Park should be closing out soon. Matt has provided comments on an early draft and the final report is due by the end of June. In addition, the FY25 grant for remote sensing on the campus of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the former location of Fort Cumberland is closing out now. The area is obviously heavily disturbed, so not much was imaged that seemed to be fort-related and intact, but one exception was the drinking well ordered built by Braddock (or Washington) in 1755. This had previously been identified in the 1970s according to media reports, but its exact location was not reported to MHT and was lost. Now because of Tim's report MHT has it recorded and a new MIHP site number, 18AG305 associated.

The new *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Survey and Excavation in Maryland* were finalized and then released to the public in mid-April. A synopsis of significant changes and downloadable copy is available on MHT's revamped website. In addition, registered Medusa users received an email outlining the changes and notifying them that all compliance-driven projects that launch planning and consultation efforts after May 31, will be under the new standards. Those launched prior will be grandfathered in under the old standards.

Webpage changes that Matt mentioned were coming at the last MACA meeting have now been

implemented (see mht.maryland.gov). These were major changes that were necessary due to required changes coming down from the federal level for ADA compliance, as well as compliance with Governor Moore's Plain Language Initiative.

Aside from the Field Session, between March and today, Matt was involved in a site visit to a newly recorded Lime Kiln near Boonsboro in Washington County on March 23, a gradiometer survey at Teagues Point on April 16 that was preparatory to the Field Session, excavation grid setup at Rose Hill Manor in Frederick County on April 20, an STP survey at Springfield Farm in Williamsport on May 12 (site visit for an FY26 HP Non-cap grant to the Washington Co. Historical Society), and the May 1-3 fieldwork days for the Scout BSA archaeology merit badge.

Zac, Steph, and Matt all participated in the annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) in Gettysburg from March 12-15. Each presented in some form on MHT research. Matt created and manned a poster on MHT's use of 3D photogrammetry as both a documentation tool and for public outreach. He also served as a judge for the student paper competition.

Finally, Matt reports that MHT has made some progress on NAGPRA consultations. The Trust now has several federally-recognized tribes willing to consult on the final disposition of MHT's NAGPRA inventory. A consultation meeting is currently scheduled for June 18 with the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Rappahannock Indian Tribe, the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma, and the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Matt and Zac, along with our representation in the Office of the Attorney General will also be meeting with the National NAGPRA office this Friday to get some questions answered about consultation with lineal descendants, our responsibilities under that process, and how it all dovetails with the consultation with federally recognized tribes.

Underwater Activities Report —Troy Nowak

Troy Nowak was unable to attend due to a sudden and time-sensitive development in the recruitment for the open Assistant State Underwater Archaeologist position which required his attention.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between March and June, Dr. Singer reviewed four applications for Terrestrial Archaeology Permits.

Between March and June, Zac reviewed 11 easement change/alteration applications related to archaeological resources that are protected by MHT's Historic Preservation Easements.

Zac reported that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM-3PM. The lab is currently processing the artifacts from the two Teague's Point Field Sessions.

Zac attended the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference meeting from March 12-15, and presented a paper on the Maryland Fluted Point Survey.

Zac reports that Maryland Archaeology Month (MAM), April 2026 was a great success. The theme was *250 Years: Many Voices, Digging into Maryland's Story*. The institutional partners from the Maryland Historical Trust, the Archeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland Department of Transportation, Montgomery County's Archaeology Program, and Prince George's County's Archaeology Program all made substantial contributions, which provided for the success of MAM. Special thanks to Scott Strickland for his efforts creating the MAM poster and to Montgomery County's Parks Program for designing the booklet! Cash donations for MAM 2026 totaled \$6695 with costs for printing and mailing of MAM materials at \$5991.34, leaving \$703.66 in surplus donations for 2026. However, due to increasing price costs, the MAM Committee will need to strategize for 2027 to either increase funding or decrease costs. MAM may need to have a larger digital presence and less printed materials. The MAM print run included: 50 full sized posters, 2000 mini-posters, 800 magnets, and 1400 booklets. 750 packages were mailed to stakeholders in the archaeology community, 191 packages were mailed to MD legislators, and the remaining materials were distributed to MD Arch Month Institutional Sponsors, ASM Chapters, and local Universities for distribution at public events held during the month. 12 MAM events were listed on the official MAM Calendar of Events, which is hosted on <https://www.marylandarcheologymonth.org/>. Many MAM stakeholders maintained a robust online presence with the Maryland Archeology Month Website and MAM related social media posts.

On March 19, Zac, Matt, and Steph joined DNR colleagues to document an original B&O Stone Switch located in Patapsco Valley State Park, and on April 22, Zac and Steph conducted a walkover at Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park. A shell midden site was relocated.

Beyond the Field Session and other office-wide projects, Zac engaged in a number of public outreach activities Between March and June. On March 20, Zac presented a lecture on Ice Age Occupations of Maryland at the Odenton Historical Society. On March 26, Zac joined Montgomery County Park's and colleagues from the Maryland Geological Survey to sample soapstone at the Ednor Soapstone quarry. On April 11, Zac participated in Discovering Archaeology Day at Jefferson Patterson Park. On April 18, Zac attended the Archeological Society of Maryland's Spring Symposium. And on May 16, Zac was the keynote speaker at Jefferson Patterson Park's Ancient Technology weekend where Zac presented on Ice Age stone tool production and use in Maryland.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Scott Strickland

Substantial completion on the MAC Lab Expansion Project is anticipated in mid-June of 2026, about 8 months behind the original schedule. Over the last month, MAC Lab staff have been given access to several of the new lab spaces ahead of full substantial completion, including Curation Storage and the new Isolation Room. At 'full substantial completion', staff can start using all of the spaces in the building, get oversized objects moved back in, and move furniture and other items back to their original locations. A small team of JPPM staff have prepared a detailed workflow plan to ensure that the tasks associated

with the reopening go smoothly. Oversize objects will be delivered from their off-site storage location in mid-June. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the lab to the public will take place on Thursday, September 3, 2026, with a rain date of Thursday, October 1.

Exhibit planning staff have been finalizing themes for the Witnesses of Wallville exhibit, which is anticipated to open in fall 2027.

The launch of the reformatted Diagnostic Artifacts website is planned for June 30. The new website will include all the previous artifact categories with a lot of new additions to the artifacts in these categories, as well as several new sections: equestrian artifacts (saddles, horseshoes, horse care equipment, bridle bits and cheek bosses), jaw harps, thimbles, spoons, forks, and knives. The new site will also contain about 450 site summaries and will be launched at the same web address as the original site.

This year's Public Archaeology program is being conducted on the Straiten site, a Black tenant farm on JPPM property. In 2026, staff will be offering the program one Friday and Saturday a month in April, May, June, September and October. Attendance has been good at the April and May sessions and we have full registration for the June session. Public Archaeology intern Christine Falcone will start on June 19.

The Ancestral Remains project has as its goal returning human remains of African descent that are held in State care to local descendant communities or lineal descendants for reburial. Becky and Tricia attended a meeting organized by the MD Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) where the five local historians presented their final reports on working with local communities in the five counties where the ancestral remains have been found.

The Jonas Green Print Shop (18AP29) collection, which had been held by the Historic Annapolis Foundation, arrived at the lab on May 7 and was placed in the new isolation room. Towson University intern Ben Prunty assisted State Curator Becky Morehouse with rehousing the lead type from the print shop collection. Four interns have been hired with Maryland 250 funding to help rehouse and perform conservation on this collection. Brad Witchey and Elizabeth Swenson (hailing from Arizona and New Mexico, respectively) are the conservation interns. Lee Beary and Emma Collett are collections interns, working on rehousing the collection into archival conditions. We have also hired a general collections intern to help with getting the MAC Lab ready for the ribbon cutting—Hayen Wilner began work in May.

Scott and Tricia worked with MAC Lab staff and MHT Board funding to prepare an exhibit on the MAC Lab for the Miller Legislative building in Annapolis. This banner-based exhibit (three 8 x 8 ft banners mounted in frames) went up in late March and remained in place through April. These exhibit banners will be used for the lab ribbon cutting in September.

MAC lab staff is worked with students at Huntingtown High School to install an exhibit entitled "Maryland in the Revolutionary Era" at the Prince Frederick branch of the Calvert County Library. The exhibit will be in place between April and the end of June.

Conservation has a number of restoration projects ongoing, including two early 19th-century cast iron stoves from Catoctin Furnace, artifacts from Mount Vernon, Alexandria, Philadelphia, Kippax Plantation in central Virginia, as well as projects from a number of state collections.

The MAC Lab is still negotiating with the manufacturer to get resolution on issues with the installation of the new large freeze drier.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Brian Snyder

Brian Snyder reported that in the past 3 months the Project Review and Compliance Unit reviewed a total of 1,620 state and federal projects, completed 38 Determinations of Eligibility (DOE's), and reviewed 9 archaeological reports.

Dixie and Brian have attended multiple interagency meetings to facilitate agency coordination, including meetings with DNR, MDOT SHA, FHWA, FEMA, and the NPS. Meetings included:

- Multiple meetings with MDOT, SHA, and FHWA to discuss several projects and ongoing initiatives, including the Key Bridge Replacement, Bay Crossing Study, and MD 97 Montgomery Hills.
- Monthly interagency Joint Evaluation (JE) meetings to discuss multiple projects requiring US Army Corps permits including the *Roots for Resiliency* initiative that is proposing various shoreline stabilization projects around the Chesapeake Bay in places like Smith Island. The *Maryland-Piedmont Reliability Project* was also on the agenda, and it appears that they are wrapping up field identification studies and will be submitting reports soon for MHT review.
- An MHT/DNR coordination meeting to discuss multiple ongoing projects and planning initiatives and initiate discussion on drafting a programmatic agreement to streamline the review of Maryland Park Service projects.

Archaeological investigations have concluded in the Phase I construction area of the Annapolis City Dock Flood Mitigation project in accordance with the programmatic agreement that was executed between FEMA, MHT, and the City of Annapolis. The Phase I/II investigations resulted in the expansion of one previously recorded site (18AP124 - associated with the late 19th-20th c. Annapolis Ice Manufacturing Company) and the identification of one newly recorded site (18AP135 - associated with the early 20th c. C.W. Martin & Company oyster packing operation). While the investigations recovered 2,974 artifacts, they also clearly revealed that the soils within the project area are all associated with secondary deposition - lacking horizontal and vertical patterning and significantly limiting this area's research potential. The portions of sites 18AP124 and 18AP135 that will be impacted by the proposed flood resiliency work are unlikely to contain intact deposits that would contribute to the significance of the Colonial Annapolis Historic District. Additional archaeological investigations will be carried out in subsequent construction areas as the flood resiliency project proceeds.

Dixie participated in a site visit with the NPS to discuss ongoing projects and challenges at both Harmony Hall and Fort Washington.

Dixie also served on the selection and interview committee for the Assistant Underwater Archaeologist position.

Brian Snyder and Aaron Levinthal, DNR's new archaeologist, have set up biweekly interagency meetings to discuss archaeological resources and upcoming projects in the state parks in an effort to coordinate reviews and make sure both agencies are on the same page with no major surprises between internal and external reviewers.

To streamline the Section 106 review process and ensure all documentation meets ADA Web Content Accessibility compliance standards, the PRC unit released a new Microsoft Word-based Determination of Eligibility (DOE) form, updated guidance for documenting and evaluating historic properties, and a DOE tutorial video that provides step-by-step instructions for preparing and submitting DOE documentation under the updated process.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Steph completed the final update to the Archaeological Synthesis database on April 8. There are currently 1,447 entries in the database. MHT's Cultural resources information management staff are currently exploring options for how to create an ADA compliant database or website, and the MEDUSA layer is currently on hold until that can be sorted out. Steph will continue to complete the site narratives and artifact counts outside of the database so that when we get the new database/website up and running, we can begin adding into it immediately. However, updating the database must be suspended or we will be considered out of compliance with the new ADA law.

MHT held the 4th annual Scouts BSA Archaeology Merit Badge workshop April 25, and May 2 and 3. The first weekend lecture day included presentations from Matt, Zac, and Stephanie, along with rotating activity stations that included an experimental archaeology activity, lab tours and artifact washing, and presentations by scouts. The second weekend was held at Fort Frederick State Park, where Scouts excavated four test units. Twenty-one scouts finished the merit badge fully, four just need one final requirement signed off, and two need to complete the fieldwork requirement. Six ASM volunteers helped us over the course of three days, three of which came out for more than one day.

MHT continues to field requests from First Lego League teams. Their theme this past year was archaeology, and so we have seen requests for meetings, reviewing ideas, and feedback on fine-tuning their final projects. We have received a few additional requests since the last MACA meeting but we're unsure when the technical "end" to the 2025-2026 season is.

Next week, Steph is holding an archaeology outreach program at Crownsville with a group called One Year to Empowerment, which works with teenage girls on the Eastern Shore to provide hands-on, empowering, and career-focused activities.

For the Rochambeau American Battlefield Protection Program grant, Steph worked to get an RFP posted on the eMaryland Marketplace Advantage portal for archaeological consultants and the listing closed on April 1, 2026. Staff are currently working to review proposals in accordance with State procurement processes.

Steph gave a presentation to the Maryland Natural History Society's Archaeology Club on the grant and fieldwork on April 15, and has one scheduled in Abingdon at the end of July.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion of Appreciation for Stephen Brighton — Jane Cox

A Motion of Appreciation for Dr. Stephen Brighton's 7 years of service, and 3 years as Chair of MACA was read and approved by popular assent. A printed copy of the formal motion was presented to Stephen.

Motion of Appreciation for Jane Cox — Stephen Brighton

A Motion of Appreciation for Jane Cox' 18 years of service, and 10 years as Chair of MACA was read and approved by popular assent. A printed copy of the formal motion was presented to Jane.

Discussion of the Selection of a New MACA Chair — Stephen Brighton

Acknowledging the ending of his term on MACA, Dr. Brighton provided an brief overview of the duties as Committee Chair and suggested that the Committee discuss over email who should take up the role beginning at the September Meeting. The Committee agreed to do so.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM, in a motion made by Dave Gadsby and seconded by Jane Cox; the motion was unanimously approved.