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Early reports from the 2006 field schools

Hughes

After deluge, voila!

By Joe Dent

Principal Investigator

The 2006 ASM Field Session at the Hughes Site (18MO1) began in fine fashion on June 23. Benchmarks had been located and the grid was ready for the excavators. And we got in two solid days of work. Little did we know that things were about to change.

Starting late that Saturday afternoon, a tropical front stalled over the region and rain began to pour down. When it was all over about 12 inches had fallen on the site, making fieldwork impossible for the next three and one-half days. So we washed artifacts and continued to monitor the site. It was not until Wednesday afternoon, June 28, that we dared venture back into the field to bail and pull the tarps off the excavation units.

The units were found to be damp, but after a little drying in the sun they were in very good shape. It was clear, however, that we would not be able to drive all the way back to the site again, so entry and exit became a stroll through mud and soybean fields. But we did manage to get back to

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Barton

Success at two levels

By Robert D. Wall

Principal Investigator

The Barton Site (18AG3) field school, conducted near Cumberland in Allegany County June 17-25 by the Western Maryland Chapter of ASM and Towson University, worked on two prehistoric areas widely spaced in time.

The majority of the work took place within the palisaded Keyser phase village. The focus of this year's excavations was to continue sampling a broad range of areas across the site and to identify a Keyser-phase house pattern within the village. The latter was successfully undertaken at the south end of the village where a roughly circular to oval house was delineated with a central hearth.

The walls of the structure exhibit what appear to be paired posts, suggesting an inner and an outer wall section. The area within the house contained a variety of formal (e.g., drills, triangular points) and expedient flake tools as well as bone beads, animal bone refuse and the distinctive Keyser cord-marked shell-tempered pottery.

Work will continue on the house pattern until it

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Upcoming events

August 12: American Indian Heritage Day, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard. 11-5. \$3 a person or \$10 a carload. For information, call 410-586-8501.

August 19: Native American firemaking workshop at JPPM. 1-4 pm. For reservations and information: 410-586-8504 or email jppm@mdp.state.md.us

September 9: ASM board meeting, Crownsville. 10 a.m. All ASM members are welcome to attend.

October 14: ASM Annual Meeting. Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County. The theme will be: "The First European Settlements in Maryland - As Seen Through Archeological Research."

Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT program participants and other ASM members:

Montgomery County lab, field work Wednesdays, 9:30 to 2:30. Call 301-840-5848 or contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org. CAT opportunity.

ASM field session collection: Volunteers are needed to work on up-grading collections associated with previous field sessions. Currently, the collection from the Rosenstock Site, a key Late Woodland Montgomery Complex area, is being upgraded. The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 4. For additional information contact Louise Akerson rakerson@comcast.net or Charlie Hall hall@mdp.state.md.us.

The Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County. 410-222-7441.

Mount Calvert. Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its various activities, including archeology, historical research and artifact conservation. This year's public archeology program runs until July 8, with digging on Fridays and Saturdays and lab work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 or echaney@mdp.state.md.us

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Call up www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/ to get started. Remember to add the extra A in archaeological.

CAT corner

For updates and information on other CAT activities check the ASM website.

Special fieldwork opportunity: Richard Ervin of SHA is working on the Broad Creek Cemetery, a 17th through 19th Century cemetery on Kent Island. On occasion and on very short notice, it is necessary for him to conduct emergency excavations in preparation for new interments. Contact him at 410-545-2878 (days), 410-643-7128 (evenings) or by email at rervin@sha.state.md.us

FRANK AND ERNEST BOB THAVES



Have you sent in your ideas yet?

ASM is looking for nominations for this year's William B. Marye Award, the highest honor the Society bestows. Nominees need not be members of ASM or even live in Maryland, but they must have made outstanding contributions to archeology in our state, either in a specific project or a series of activities.

Recent past winners of the award include Bob Bantz, Howard MacCord, Louise Akerson, Norma Wagner, Bob Wall and Bill McIntyre.

Nominations are not carried over from year to year, so someone suggested in the past should be suggested again. Rather than just listing generalities, the nomination form should be as specific as possible. The winner will be announced at ASM's fall meeting October 14 at Oregon Ridge.

Nominations are due by August 21. The form, and the address for mailing them, is included in this newsletter.

This also is election season. If you haven't sent in the ballot which came with last month's newsletter, do so now.

Helping hands reach into deep pockets

By G. Bruce Knight

Condensed from the Wall Street Journal, May 13, 2006

NORTHERN GUATEMALA -- Aboard a small helicopter crossing a seemingly endless rainforest, Leon Reinhart is describing our destination, the San Bartolo archeological site. "We are uncovering the oldest-known Maya murals and the oldest writing anyone has ever found in the Americas," he says.

Mr. Reinhart isn't an archeologist. He isn't an academic. He is a retired banker.

In providing funding for the excavation at San Bartolo, Mr. Reinhart is one of a growing number of bankers, entrepreneurs and philanthropists who are playing a crucial role in archeology. They are providing millions of dollars to study and preserve the relics of ancient civilizations from Latin American to Italy and Turkey, giving life to projects that would otherwise die.

It's a throwback in some ways to the days when excavations were largely the preserve of European aristocrats. After World War II, many governments got tougher about projects on their soil and excavations became the province of academics backed by universities and government funds. Now those funds are getting tight: Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, for example, decreased to \$2.2 million in 2005 from \$2.6 million in 1995. Meanwhile, schools are churning out more archeologists and the number of estimated digs worldwide has tripled in two decades. Private backers are helping fill that vacuum.

Of the thousands of major digs around the world, more than half of the funding for American-led excavations now comes from private individuals and their foundations, says Jim Wiseman, a former president of the Archaeological Institute of America.

In the past, some of these donors have also collected antiquities, fueling concerns about looting. Mr. Reinhart and many of the new private backers do not collect. In many cases, they say their interest extends beyond archeology to improving living conditions in the countries where they're digging. Even as they fund excavations, they're also paying to build schools and support agricultural projects.

Mr. Reinhart sees a tie-in between his work with the ancient and the living Maya.

"Excavating and restoring Mayan archeological sites like San Bartolo can be used to show the living Maya what a rich and regal heritage they came from, and they can be proud of who they are," says Mr. Reinhart. "And since the Maya who built the ancient civilizations are still here, people and organizations who have the financial capacity can see that there is a great opportunity to bring these people out of their poverty."

UMd I: Session finds fertile site in Parole

By Shearon Roberts

Condensed from the Washington Post, July 13, 2006

It was time for Sunday school inside Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church in Annapolis, but outside, at an excavation site behind the church, there were lessons in local history.

University of Maryland students from the annual Archaeology in Annapolis summer program were at the exploratory site, sharing with onlookers their findings and early analyses of artifacts that could show how some of the area's working and middle-class African American residents lived during the 1800s and 1900s.

The Archaeology in Annapolis program in recent years has focused on studying African Americans who lived free in the Annapolis area at a time when blacks elsewhere were still enslaved.

In addition to studying at the church site, this summer's students will work on an ongoing excavation at a Wye River plantation on the Eastern Shore where Frederick Douglass was enslaved as a boy.

Mount Olive, off West Street in the city's Parole neighborhood, occupies the site of a former farm that was donated to the church by the Chambers family, an African American family that had owned the property since the early 1800s.

Since 1981, Archaeology in Annapolis has excavated 40 sites in and around Annapolis, including State House Circle and the William Paca Garden. Of the 10 African American sites involved, two of the more significant were an entire block at the county courthouse at Church Circle, where African Americans lived from 1830 to 1970, and the basement work room of the Charles Carroll House, which contained artifacts of African spiritual practices, said Mark Leone, director of Archeology in Annapolis.

The churchyard is its first dig in Parole, Leone said. "And it is important in part because it was initiated by that community that felt this was an important spot that was likely to shed some light on the town."

Behind the church that Sunday morning, the history lessons were flowing both ways. Longtime Parole residents visiting the site told the students about the history of Parole, a historically black community, before the intense development of recent decades. And students taught visitors to the site about the occupations, lifestyles and sense of community among the 18th- and 19th-Century blacks who had lived there.

Ronald Downs, a Mount Olive Sunday school teacher, accompanied two of his students, Shelley White III and TaJuan Watson, both 12, as they trailed Keolu Fox, a junior anthropology major, and Abby Brazee, a graduate student, who have been working on the six-week project since it started in early June.

"When you guys think about archeology," Fox said to the young boys as they looked over fragments of crockery, glass and an oil lamp, "you think of dinosaur bones, Indiana Jones and searching for the grail. But this here is about how ordinary people lived years ago, and it's quite practical."

The broken crockery bore the letters CH. Matthew Palus, associate director of the university's Field School in Urban Archeology, explained that the initials stood for Carvel Hall, a late 19th-Century hotel in Annapolis. Its African American workers would carry home extra food from the hotel kitchen in hotel dishware or containers, he said.

The Sunday school students also learned about farming practices in Parole and about how those practices shaped social interactions. The archeology students showed off an intact butcher knife and the rib bone of a hog. During the fall, Palus explained, the men of the neighborhood would bring a pig to the Chambers farm for slaughter and then share it with other families or sell it at market.

Sunday school teacher Downs, who grew up in Parole and still lives there, said he knew much about Parole's history, but not as far back as the 1800s. The new information, he said, was enough to keep him at the site for hours, despite the scorching heat.

"I'm not really a history buff," Downs said, "but this is definitely something that would interest me."

Judith Cabral, program director with the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, moved quickly among the longtime residents to collect contact information as part of a related project with the university to collect local oral histories.

"I'm amazed," Cabral said. "One thing we've learned is that the Parole residents are a rich, untapped resource of the history of this community."

UMd II: Looking for Frederick Douglass

By Jamie Stiehm

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, July 19, 2006

EASTON -- In his vaunted autobiography, abolitionist and diplomat Frederick Douglass vividly describes life as a slave on a prominent Eastern Shore plantation, with a "great house" he recalled as an "elaborate exhibition of wealth, power and beauty."

The imposing estate, by the waters of the Wye River near this Talbot County seat, is still home to the family who owned it when a young Douglass kept fireplaces stocked with wood. Listed as a national historic landmark, the Wye House, built in the late 1700s, has been studied for its clues to 18th- and 19th-century America.

Less well-known are the lives of the thousands of slaves who lived here, raising wheat, cotton and other crops. A team of aspiring archeologists is now at work, using family documents and descriptions from Douglass as a guide, uncovering remnants of their lives brick by brick.

"This is an enormous, intact plantation in the hands of the family that built it," said Mark P. Leone, an anthropology professor at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Leone is leading a team of students with the university's archeological field school who are in their second summer of digging at the site. They are seeking evidence of the plantation complex Douglass described, one that included blacksmith, carpenter and shoemaker shops; rows of barns, stables and countless crops; midwives and nurses; an ice and a smoke house, and a garden and tree canopy leading up to the Georgian great house.

Douglass, who lived on the plantation for only a year or two when he was about 7 in the 1820s, wrote that the plantation "was a little nation by itself, having its own language, its own rules, regulations and customs."

Leone and his students have identified the site of former slave workshops and huts that were once cobbled along a 400-foot long alley called the "Long Green" on an old, hand-drawn map framed in the main house.

Watching the team's daily progress is Mary S. Tilghman, who inherited the property in 1993. An 11th generation descendant of the Lloyd family, which settled in Maryland in 1660, Tilghman, a widow in her 80s, gave permission for the dig to take place in three summer sessions.

"I am fascinated by this property and everything that happened here," she said while sitting in a parlor under a portrait of an aunt. "It appealed to me to find the artifacts that are there."

Facing the dark side of the home's past is something she's prepared to do.

Today, the tree canopy and an orangerie are still notable features. So are the period living and dining rooms and a family cemetery. A graveyard in a clump of trees is believed to hold the remains of hundreds of slaves who worked on thousands of acres. No tombstones were used.

The team is still trying to pinpoint the two-story living quarters shown on the old map, likely where a gnarled tree shades the site. Some bricks in square pits suggest the traces of a building foundation.

"In a way the giant tree preserved these traces. It's pretty incredible that this brick and mortar with oyster shells survived intact," said Mike Gubisch, 24, a supervisor and recent graduate of the university. "If we can find the place where the [slaves] lived and their implements, we'll have some insight into them."

A nearby cottage is believed to be the overseer's cottage, which Douglass described as "a little red house up the hill." Also still standing is the sun-washed brick "Captain's House," where he may have spent some his boyhood living under the roof of an early master, Capt. Aaron Anthony.

Wye House is considered by Leone and others to be one of the most well-preserved Southern plantations outside the Deep South.

Late in life, Douglass returned with friends to visit Wye House. They received a warm welcome from "Mr. Howard Lloyd, a son of [proprietor] Col. Lloyd, a young gentleman of very pleasant address," Douglass wrote.

Tilghman, the current proprietor, said the tale had been handed down in family lore: "My grandfather was here and entertained him [Douglass]. They had mint juleps on the veranda."

Douglas, too, recalled the meeting fondly.

"To say that our reception was every way gratifying is but a feeble expression of the feeling," he wrote. "The colored people, some of whom were children I had known when a boy ... seemed delighted to see me."

New museum opens at Jamestown

By Jayne Clark

Condensed from USA Today, May 12, 2006

JAMESTOWN, Va. -- On the eve of its 400th birthday, North America's first permanent English settlement has an identity crisis.

Here at what many consider the birthplace of modern America, visitors wander along the misty green banks of the James River amid excavations by archeologists who are digging up history piece by piece. The site is known as Historic Jamestowne, and researchers recently uncovered the partial footprint of the 1607 James Fort built by the 104 Englishmen who first set up housekeeping on these lush shores. They've also uncovered more than 1 million individual artifacts, from pottery to weaponry, along with about 80 burial sites.

The fruits of these labors have gone public for the first time with the opening of a \$4.9 million Archaearium (pronounced "ar-KEE-air-ee-um," it's a made-up word meaning "a place of origin"). The copper and glass facility is part of a larger \$63 million plan to develop interpretive facilities on 1,500-acre Jamestown Island, co-owned by the National Park Service and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

The site is not to be confused the Jamestown Settlement, a sprawling state-operated living-history complex just down the road that is in the midst of its own \$69 million expansion in honor of next year's anniversary. Established in 1957 for Jamestown's 350th anniversary, Jamestown Settlement is to Historic Jamestowne what Wal-Mart is to a mom-and-pop grocery. The former is bursting with ye olde bells and whistles, including recreations of James Fort, a Powhatan Indian Village, replicas of the three ships that brought the settlers and a visitor center and galleries, plus colonial-garbed interpreters. Last year, it attracted about 475,000 visitors.

Historic Jamestowne, on the other hand, is an archeological site on the original settlement, and draws about 300,000 visitors a year. It has taken a decidedly more low-key approach to the past, although the new Archaearium sports its share of high-tech gadgetry, including "virtual viewers" - computerized devices that superimpose the 17th-Century fort structures on the current landscape. Elsewhere, a closed-circuit camera focuses on archeologists unearthing objects.

Researchers have been overwhelmed by the wealth of their finds. "We like to say the artifacts get in the way of the dirt," says senior curator Bly Straube.

Is Amazon site another Stonehenge?

By the Associated Press

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, June 28, 2006

SAO PAULO, Brazil -- A grouping of granite blocks along a grassy Amazon hilltop might be the vestige of a centuries-old astronomical observatory, a find that archeologists say indicates early rain forest inhabitants were more sophisticated than had been thought.

The 127 blocks, some nine feet tall, are spaced at regular intervals around the hill, like a crown 100 feet in diameter. On the shortest day of the year, Dec. 21, the shadow of one of the blocks disappears when the sun is directly above it.

"It is this block's alignment with the winter solstice that leads us to believe the site was once an astronomical observatory," said Mariana Petry Cabral of the Amapa State Scientific and Technical Research Institute. "We may be also looking at the remnants of a sophisticated culture."

Anthropologists have long known that local indigenous populations were acute observers of the stars and sun. But the discovery of a physical structure that appears to incorporate this knowledge suggests that the sophistication of pre-Columbian Indians in the Amazon rain forest might have been underestimated.

"Transforming this kind of knowledge into a monument, the transformation of something ephemeral into something concrete, could indicate the existence of a larger population and of a more complex social organization," Cabral said.

Cabral, an archeologist, has been studying the site, just north of the equator in far northern Brazil, since last year. Although the blocks have not been submitted to carbon dating, she said, pottery shards near the site indicate that they are perhaps as much as 2,000 years old.

Jefpat to host American Indian Heritage Day August 12

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard's will hold an American Indian Heritage Day celebration on Saturday, August 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Representatives from several Indian tribes are expected to be there, including the Piscataways (both groups), Lenapehauken, Iroquois and the Nanticoke. The Baltimore American Indian Center Dancers will offer two programs. A half-dozen special activities for children also are planned.

Demonstrations will be presented in a wide variety of activities, including fluting, firemaking, pottery making, fiber weaving, flintknapping, archery, cooking, cordage, uses of the cattail, gourds, face painting and beadwork.

The charge for the day is \$3 a person or \$10 for a car's occupants.

For information, call 410-586-8501 or log onto the JPPM website, jppm@mdp.state.md.us

After the rain left, Hughes diggers made progress

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work and over the next five days large crews made some interesting discoveries.

We concentrated our efforts at Hughes' east end. It was this area of the Keyser village that we knew the least about after the earlier fieldwork here. Two lines of units were investigated in this area. We hoped that they would intersect the palisade that hadn't yet been found on the eastern edge of the site and also expose occupation areas just inside that palisade.

And on the last day we did manage to expose traces of the palisade. The four lines that earlier had been detected at the opposite end of Hughes all appear to swing around the entire site. This gives us good information on the exact dimension of the village and on the way it was constructed and maintained. We also recovered evidence of a trench that appears to mirror the palisade. Investigations continue on that feature.

Finally, we exposed and excavated a number of other small features. A pit containing substantial amounts of bone was completed and we found another small isolated pit that yielded charcoal and a Late Archaic Savannah River projectile point, an unexpected find at this Late Woodland village. Maybe we will be able to run a radiocarbon test.

Say tuned for further details. And thanks to all the 67 ASM members who cheerfully helped to salvage this waterlogged field session. I hope the mud eventually comes off them and my truck.

Barton school finds success at two levels

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has been completely exposed and recorded.

The Susquehannock area of the site was further defined on its western edge through more exploratory tests. Test units also were excavated on the northern and southern peripheries of the 30-acre property as well as another two-meter unit placed adjacent to last year's deep test. Work will be ongoing throughout the summer and early fall to expose additional areas adjacent to a deeply buried hearth feature that have produced radiocarbon dates ranging from 10-15,000 BC.

Adjacent to the hearth revealed last year was a very discrete chipping cluster containing a collection of large flakes associated with a core, and a large scraper, all made from locally available Shriver chert. The radiocarbon dates above the hearth and at the base of the excavations show a chronological sequence ranging from around 7,000 to 15,000 BC. An Early Archaic projectile point tentatively dated to around 6,000 - 7,000 BC was recovered from Level 11, about 60 cm above the deepest occupation.

The southern margins of the site produced no features, but a possible Middle Woodland occupation was evident in a buried A horizon encountered 90 cm below surface on the lower terrace of the site. Finds from the buried horizon include primarily grit-tempered ceramics and lithic debitage. A variety of pit features and

shallow basins continue to represent the predominantly Page (early Late Woodland period - ca. AD 1000-1250) occupation across the site. This year, a large portion of a Page ceramic vessel was recovered from level 1 of what is designated as the "deep test unit."

Judge removed from major Indian case

By Eric M. Weiss

Condensed from the Washington Post, July 12, 2006

A federal appeals court took the rare step of removing U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth from a long-standing legal battle involving billions in Native American oil and gas royalties, saying the judge appears to be biased against the Interior Department.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit cited Lamberth's own words to illustrate why he should be removed from the case, *Cobell v. Kempthorne*, including a July 2005 opinion in which he called the Interior Department "a dinosaur -- the morally and culturally oblivious hand-me-down of a disgracefully racist and imperialist government that should have been buried a century ago, the pathetic outpost of the indifference and anglocentrism we thought we had left behind."

The court said Lamberth's opinion "extends beyond historical racism and all but accuses *current* Interior officials of racism."

The ruling removes a sitting trial judge for only the third time in the D.C. Circuit and provides the latest twist in a contentious decade-long class-action lawsuit filed by the Native American Rights Fund over the trust accounts, which were set up in 1887 to compensate Indians for use of their lands.

Since Blackfeet tribe leader Eloise Cobell filed the lawsuit in 1996, several independent investigations found that the Interior Department had never kept complete records, used unknown amounts of the funds to help balance the federal budget and let the oil and gas industry use Indian lands at bargain rates.

The appeals court, in an opinion written for the three-member panel by Judge David S. Tatel, said that in addition to Lamberth's harsh words, it also took into account that eight of the judge's past orders have been reversed on appeal, including two reversals that accompanied the removal decision.

"He's coming very close to saying this judge can't be fair," said Stephen Gillers, a legal ethics specialist at New York University. Gillers said that in other cases appeals courts have gone out of their way to stress they have faith in the judge's fairness but are acting out of concern for appearances. "Lamberth is not getting that vote of confidence here," he said. "It's a very strong opinion."

The last time a trial judge was removed from a case was in 2001, when U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson was taken off the Microsoft Corp. antitrust case for talking with reporters. The Cobell case will be reassigned to another federal district judge.

Lamberth is a sharp-tongued Texan appointed to the bench by President Ronald Reagan. He has defenders from all points of the political spectrum and has repeatedly been ranked by lawyers as among the most skilled judges on the court.

"He is a hero and should be treated as a hero," said Stanley Sporkin, a former colleague of Lamberth's on the bench who was removed from the Microsoft case for reading a book that was not part of the official record.

"He is a very bright and able and competent judge who was doing justice," Sporkin said. "And it's hard to fault a judge for that."

But a few of Lamberth's fans said privately that he has lost his patience in the Cobell case and has made himself a target with his aggressive words. Last year, one fellow judge, speaking anonymously, said: "He's been driven beyond the limit of his patience by these people. In his heart, he may know he's no longer dispassionate."

In making the rare request to have Lamberth removed, the Justice Department said that besides using intemperate language, Lamberth has ignored appellate rulings and accused the government of "falsification, spite and obstinate litigiousness" with "no legal or factual basis." Yesterday, a department spokesman said the "decision speaks for itself."

But the appeals court said Lamberth was right about the Interior Department -- to a point:

"Although the July 12 opinion contains harsh -- even incendiary -- language, much of that language represents nothing more than the views of an experienced judge who, having presided over this exceptionally contentious case for almost a decade, has become 'exceedingly ill disposed towards [a] defendant' that has flagrantly and repeatedly breached its fiduciary obligations."

Caught with the goods, looters still walk

By Scott Sonner

Condensed from the Associated Press, June 20, 2006

RENO — On the surface, it would be hard to imagine a simpler theft case than the one against John Ligon. Three boulders bearing centuries-old petroglyphs of an archer and bighorn sheep were part of his front-yard landscaping.

So when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out convictions against the Reno man and a co-defendant, it left prosecutors and archeologists questioning whether they have any legal weapon to fight what already had been an uphill struggle: stopping the plunder of unknown thousands of ancient sites.

In asking for a rehearing, federal prosecutor Robert Don Gifford said the March ruling "effectively provides a license to steal" petroglyphs and other artifacts.

Alanah Woody, an anthropologist at the Nevada State Museum and head of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, says the ruling nullifies widely publicized convictions that had been viewed as a major victory for efforts to protect archeological resources.

A three-judge panel of the court did not dispute that Ligon and Carroll Mizell stole the boulders from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in August 2003.

The problem, the ruling said, was that the government failed to prove two critical points: It didn't show that the artifacts were worth \$1,000, or that the defendants knew or should have known they were stealing something of archeological value.

That's an impossible standard, says Sherry Hutt, a former Superior Court judge from Arizona who manages a Park Service program under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. "Essentially the government must prove the defendant knew this was an archeological resource and knew the actual scientific benefit — which essentially says only archeological scientists could be convicted in such a case," she says.

It is hard to know how many artifacts have been looted from ancient sites. The National Park Service alone recorded 11,000 violations in just one year, 2002. Only a tiny fraction of lootings are prosecuted.

The two men in the Nevada case admitted they used a winch to remove the boulders, but they insist they didn't know they were breaking the law, partly because no signs marked the site.

A federal jury found them guilty of theft of government property but acquitted them of unlawful excavation of archeological resources.

The standard that looters can be convicted of a felony only if they knew or should have known they were removing an archeological resource was established by the 9th Circuit in 2000. The precedent applies only in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Bead discovery shows culture evolved earlier

By Dennis O'Brien

Condensed from the Baltimore Sun, June 23, 2006

Researchers say they have discovered the oldest beads ever used for decorative purposes -- a finding that pushes back the date for the dawn of modern human culture by 25,000 years.

Detailed analysis of beads made from mollusk shells that were dug up years ago in Israel and Algeria show that they were probably hand carved about 100,000 years ago, researchers say. They also are similar to beads believed to be about 75,000 years old that were discovered several years ago. They were at an archeological site known as the Blombos Cave on the coast of the Indian Ocean in South Africa.

Until recently, researchers thought that culture emerged 40,000 years ago when modern humans migrated from Africa and began creating the cave paintings, musical instruments and jewelry discovered at European archeological sites.

But several years ago, scientists from France and England discovered 41 beads made from mollusk shells, with holes and wear marks, in Blombos Cave sediments that were 75,000 years old. Experts generally agree that decorative beads are an important sign of an emerging culture. **Continued on next page**

Anxious to find similar beads elsewhere, the scientists began scouring museum collections. They found that the same type of perforated shells had turned up in the 1930s and 1940s at archeological sites in Skuhl, Israel, and in Oued Djebbana, Algeria. They had never been compared with those found in South Africa, the researchers say.

Additional study showed the Israeli beads are encrusted with sediments that are at least 100,000 years old, while the Algerian beads were found with stone tools that could be 90,000 years old, researchers said.

The findings were detailed today in the journal *Science* by researchers from University College London and the National Center for Scientific Research in Talence, France.

One of Hunley's hatches was unlocked

Condensed from The Associated Press, July 14, 2006

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- Scientists say they may have found an important clue in the mystery of why the Confederate submarine Hunley sank 140 years ago after sinking an enemy warship.

Archeologists and others working to restore the submarine recovered six years ago from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Sullivans Island have found evidence the forward hatch may have been opened intentionally on the night the sub sank.

The forward hatch was one of two ways crew members got in and out of the sub. It is covered in a thick layer of sand and other ocean debris, but X-rays show the hatch is open about half an inch, according to a news release Friday from the Friends of the Hunley.

Earlier reports said rods that could have been part of the hatch's watertight locking mechanism were found at the feet of the sub's commander, Lt. George Dixon.

If the hatch was intentionally unlocked, there are several possible explanations.

Dixon could have opened it to see if the 40-foot, hand-cranked vessel was damaged when it rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship *Housatonic* on Feb. 17, 1864, becoming the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship. Or Dixon could have opened the hatch to refresh the air supply in the eight-man crew compartment or to signal that it had completed its mission.

An emergency also could have led the crew to open the hatch to get out. But because the second escape hatch was found in the locked position, that theory seems less likely.

"If the Hunley crew opened the hatch, it must have been for a critical reason," said archeologist Michael Scafuri. "Even on a calm day, three-foot swells can occur out of nowhere on the waters off Charleston. Every time the hatch was opened, the crew ran the deadly risk of getting swamped."

Although scientists said the new discovery could help determine the cause of the sinking, it also is possible that the lock was damaged after the sub sank and the hatch opened while it sat on the ocean floor.

Chapter notes

Anne Arundel

The Chapter meets five times a year in February, April, June, September, and November at the All Hallows Parish Brick Church at the Parish Hall near London Town, at 7 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito at AACHapASM@hotmail.com or visit the chapter website www.marylandarcheology.org/aacashome.php

September 19: Archeologist Don Creveling will discuss his work at the Mount Calvert Historical & Archaeological Park and the new exhibit at the Charles Town Site in Prince George's County.

<http://www.pgiparks.com/places/parks/mtcalvert.html>

Central

Central Chapter has no formal meetings planned. But if someone has a site he wants investigated, contact the Maryland Historical Trust or Central Chapter President Stephen Israel at 410-945-5514 or ssisrael@abs.net

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion. Dinner at a local restaurant is at 6. Monthly lab nights are the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 at Needwood Mansion. Contact james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org or heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org, or call 301-840-5848. Chapter website: www.mid-potomacarchaeology.org

Monocacy

The chapter meets in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Jeremy Lazelle at 301-845-9855 or jlazelle@msn.com. Chapter website: www.digfrederick.bravehost.com.

Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Dan Coates at dancoates@comcast.net

Southern

Contact Kate Dinnel for information at katesilas@chesapeake.net or 410-586-8538.

Upper Patuxent

Programs are the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Ida, near the court house in Ellicott City. Some months, potluck suppers are held at 6:30. Otherwise, dinner is available at the Tiber River Tavern in Ellicott City. Either car pool from Mt. Ida at 5:55 or meet at the tavern. For information on the chapter, contact Lee Preston at 443-745-1202 or roseannlee@earthlink.com

September 11: The Vaughan Brown Memorial Lecture, by Lee Preston, "Beaches, Bars, Bowls and Bifaces: A Look at Florida's 12,000 Year Human History, with Emphasis on the First 95%."

October 9: Lee Preston, "The Patapsco Female Institute: The School, the Staff, the Students and the 19th Century Values Found Therein."

November 13: Bob Wall, "The Barton Site." (Pot Luck Supper)

December (No Meeting)

January 8, 2007: "Archeology Lab: Mt. Pleasant" (there are many artifacts from Mt. Pleasant that need to be cleaned and articulated. There will be plenty of bottles, plates etc. to piece together.

February 12: Matt Croson on "Archeology and CSI: Time is the Only Difference."

March 12: Michael Olmert, University of Maryland, "Outbuildings: Architecture and Culture in the 18th Century Anglo-Tidewater Backyard." (Pot Luck Supper)

April 9: Bob O'Brien, "A Travelogue of Hawaii".

May 14: Program to be announced. (Pot Luck Supper)

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Ed Hanna, 301-777-1380. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wmdasm

The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM, Inc members receive the monthly newsletter ASM Ink, the biannual journal MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Belinda Urquiza for membership rates. For publication sales, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or dancoates@comcast.net.

Submissions welcome. Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD 20782, 301-864-5289 or myronbeck@verizon.net

President

Carol A. Ebright
caebright@aol.com

Vice President

Elizabeth Ragan
410-548-4502
earagan@salisbury.edu

Secretary

Kathy Steuer
301-926-9584
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410-569-8715
sweeneys@bcpl.net

Membership Secretary

Belinda Urquiza
PO Box 1331
Huntingtown, MD
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410-535-2586
burquiza@comcast.net

At-Large Trustees

Claude Bowen
301-953-1947
clauder.bowen@thomson.com

John Fiveash
443-618-0494
jsfiveash@comcast.net

Jim Gibb
410-263-1102
JamesGGibb@comcast.net

John Newton
410-558-0011
jnewton@mtamaryland.com

Annetta Schott
410-877-7000
annettaschott@comcast.net

Jim Sorensen
301-434-8316
james.sorensen@mncppc-mc.org

**Archeological Society of Maryland
ASM Ink
P.O. Box 1331
Huntingtown, MD 21639-1331**

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