

# MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

APRIL 2010

• FROM SHOVEL TO SHOWCASE •



DISCOVERY



PRESERVATION



STEWARDSHIP



EDUCATION

MARYLAND STATE MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY



[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)  
[www.jefpat.org](http://www.jefpat.org)



You are cordially invited to join  
Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley  
in celebrating April 2010 as  
"Maryland Archeology Month"

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland  
**MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH**  
APRIL 1 - 30, 2010

- WHEREAS,** *Maryland's many remarkable archeological discoveries at such sites as St. Mary's City, Piscataway Park, Fort Frederick, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and the colonial capital of Annapolis are of national and international significance; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Archeological sites and artifacts provide a tangible link to at least 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland, deepen our understanding of the State's diverse history and culture; and reveal otherwise unavailable information about the origins of our communities and traditions; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The protection, study and interpretation of these unique and irreplaceable links to the past provide educational, scientific, and economic benefits for all citizens; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Maryland Department of Planning's Maryland Historical Trust has combined forces with the Archeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, the State Museum of archaeology at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Maryland State Highway Administration, and other individuals and organizations to inform and involve the public in the excitement of archeological discovery in our state.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim**  
**APRIL 1 - 30, 2010 as MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this celebration to all of our**  
**citizens.**



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 1st day of April  
Two Thousand and ten

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State

## MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

### *Maryland State Museum of Archaeology: From Shovel to Showcase*

Michael A. Smolek, Executive Director, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

This year's theme, *From Shovel to Showcase*, highlights the importance of bringing archeological discoveries out of the ground and all the way to the public. Raising the public's awareness of and appreciation for Maryland's archeological resources and programs helps assure their survival. It is appropriate that in 2010, Maryland Archeology Month should showcase archeology at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM), for it was 30 years ago that Mrs. Patterson's tenant, Lana Brown, contacted representatives of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) about artifacts she had found on Patterson's Point Farm. The actions of a single interested citizen set in motion a chain of events that have changed archeology in Maryland forever. Three years after that initial contact, the property was formally donated to MHT to become an archeological research and educational facility. What makes JPPM unique is the combination of the state-wide responsibility for collections management, the state and national artifact conservation customer base, and the strong archeological and historical education programs. This is all situated on a National Register of Historic Places Archeological District with 75 known sites, dating from the Early Archaic to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1998, Maryland archeology took a giant step forward with the opening of the 38,500 square foot Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory. Here the millions of archeological artifacts from almost 4500 sites from all over Maryland found a home, a home specifically designed for them. While the facility was designed to research, curate and conserve Maryland's archeological patrimony, a basic goal was to make artifacts more accessible to the public, students and researchers. Toward this goal, digital databases of artifacts and records have been developed, as well as web-based analytical tools that assist researchers and students. Researchers from around the globe make regular use of the Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland website. The website is updated regularly and is being expanded to include new information. The MAC Lab is a nationally-recognized archeological conservation facility that not only conserves Maryland artifacts, but provides fee-based conservation services to the federal government and organizations from all over the country.

JPPM is also committed to archeological education. Over 3,000 students visit the facility each year and engage in the *Discovering Archaeology* program, which teaches them that archeology is a lot more than just digging up artifacts. Both students and the public regularly enjoy behind-the-scenes tours of the MAC Lab, primitive technology demonstrations in the reconstructed Indian Village, and the Visitor Center's new permanent exhibit, *FAQ Archaeology*. Annual archeology-themed events and speaker series help JPPM continue to reach other audiences as well. Getting the word out about Maryland archeology is at the core of JPPM's mission and we are proud to be a part of Maryland's Archeology Month programs.

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## Maryland Archeology Month Events

Numerous special events celebrating the archeology of Maryland will be held throughout the State during the month of April. These include museum displays, talks and lectures, workshops, and archeological lab and field volunteer opportunities. Please visit the Maryland Archeology Month website often at [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org) to learn of other events – the list of events there will be updated throughout the month!

# Discovering Archaeology

April 17, 2010  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



**Join us at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum on April 17th to celebrate our opening season!**

- Hands-on displays and activities for all ages from archaeological organizations from across the state of Maryland.
- Watch archaeologists excavate at the JPPM Public Archaeology site
- Guided tours of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory
- Primitive technology demos in the Eastern Woodland Indian Village
- Guided tours of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

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**A note regarding the spelling of Archeology.** Archeology or Archaeology? Both are correct! The Office of Archeology is established in Maryland law, and as a result the “archeology” spelling is the standard throughout this booklet. The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) uses the alternative spelling. Whenever reference is made to the MAC Lab or its specific programs in this booklet the “archaeology” spelling is used.



### The Truth About Archeology

Patricia Samford  
Director, MAC Lab

Archeology comes from the Greek word *arkhaiologiā*, meaning “antiquarian lore.” Today, archeology is defined as the study of past human lives and cultures through the systematic recovery of material evidence. In North America, archeology is the primary means of studying pre-Columbian cultures. Archeology also has the capacity of shedding light onto other groups under-represented in the historical record—the enslaved, free blacks, people of lower socioeconomic means, children, and women. Through recovering traces of houses and other buildings, landscape features, food remains, material possessions and the like, archeologists are able to reconstruct past cultures and provide a broader picture of human history.

While archeology emerged as a scientific discipline in the late nineteenth century, our third president Thomas Jefferson is credited with conducting the first scientific archeological excavation in the United States, exploring an Indian burial mound near Charlottesville, Virginia. Like archeologists of the present, he used color and texture changes in the soil to guide his excavation and subsequent study of the human remains and grave goods. Today, archeologists work all over the world, studying human cultures from all time periods, employing scientific techniques that would surely astound Jefferson.

Chances are that you, like most people, have some pre-conceived ideas about archeology. I’d like to address a few of them below:

- *Archeologists excavate dinosaurs and other fossils.* No—we leave that work to the paleontologists. Archeologists only study physical traces left behind by humans. At present, archeologists have recorded over 12,000 terrestrial archeological sites in the State of Maryland. Many of these sites have been discovered as a result of construction and development projects, like highways, energy corridors and housing developments.
- *Archeologists dig in the ground.* Yes, but archeologists also explore under water to find submerged cultural resources like shipwrecks, wharves, prehistoric sites and even aircraft. The State of Maryland has an active underwater archeological program that has led to the recording of almost 500 underwater sites.
- *Archeologists get to keep what they find.* No—and we don’t get paid by the artifact either! All of the broken bits of pottery and flaked stone that we recover comprise pieces of a puzzle that, when put together, provide a picture of the past. If one or more of those pieces is removed, then our conclusions about the past could be compromised. The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park and

Museum currently houses over 8 million artifacts, each forming an important part of Maryland's past.

- *Archeology is only about digging.* No—archeologists do dig, but excavation is just one part of archeology. Archeology is a destructive process, with the very site being explored disappearing under the archeologists' trowels as they dig. Good fieldwork requires patience and exacting record keeping of what was found where. And fieldwork is only the beginning. For every day spent exploring in the field, archeologists spend about three days in the laboratory, caring for and studying the artifacts they have found. In the following essays, you will see how these processes occur at one of Maryland's archeological institutions, the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory.
- *Archeologists lead exciting and dangerous lives.* Yes and no—we don't, as a general rule, carry around whips a la Indiana Jones or have his death-defying adventures, but we do get to discover the hidden past through our work. What could be more exciting than that?

If you would like to learn more about archeology, there are a number of professional and amateur organizations that can help get you started.

JPPM Archeology (<http://www.jefpat.org/2archaeology.htm>)

About Archaeology ([www.archaeology.about.com](http://www.archaeology.about.com))

Archeological Society of Maryland ([www.marylandarchaeology.org](http://www.marylandarchaeology.org))

The Maryland Historical Trust ([www.mht.maryland.gov/archaeology.html](http://www.mht.maryland.gov/archaeology.html))



The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum currently curates over 8 million archaeological artifacts from Maryland. It also has an active research program and a large conservation laboratory.



## **A Quarter Century of Excavation and Research at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum**

Ed Chaney

Deputy Director, MAC Lab

Since its creation, JPPM has been a center of archeological research, conducting excavations at numerous sites on Museum property. In addition, we administer the Southern Maryland Regional Center of the Maryland Historical Trust, which has undertaken investigations throughout the state. And as the home of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, JPPM is a leader in collections-based research.

One of the first sites to be explored here was King's Reach, the home of Richard Smith Jr. from c. 1690-1711. This was a time of turmoil in Maryland – the ruling Calvert family had been deposed in 1689, and Smith was a Calvert loyalist. Excavations at King's Reach showed how the Smiths adapted to the uncertainty of their era. Smith coped by spending his money on portable luxury items – fine clothes, imported wine glasses, leather-bound books – while living in a plain wooden house. If you were threatened with arrest and the loss of your



Excavating a trash pit at the Smith's St. Leonard Site.

land, as Smith was, major capital expenses made little sense. But by 1711, when Smith's political status was more secure, he was comfortable building a large brick house. This structure, located today at the Smith's St. Leonard site, is the focus of our most recent investigations. Unfortunately, we have learned that most of the house has washed into the Patuxent River. However, other buildings at the site, including the kitchen, slave quarters, and a possible

stable, are still archeologically preserved and revealing evidence about the people who lived there.

Work has also been done on the 17th-century home of Smith's father, as well as at the post-Civil War house of a woman formerly enslaved on the plantation that became JPPM. The latter site is known as Sukeek's Cabin. Working with descendants of the family that lived there, archeologists combined oral history, documentary research, and archeological evidence to paint a picture of life for African Americans during the period after Emancipation. For example, there were few opportunities for African Americans in Southern Maryland to attend school after the war. But the recovery of slate pencils and sherds of alphabet plates (dishes with letters printed on them, used as teaching tools) at Sukeek's Cabin show the importance of education within the household.

Together, work on various Smith family sites, at Sukeek’s Cabin, and other sites at JPPM, is allowing us to reconstruct the property’s changing landscape from the mid-17th century to the early 20th century, and beyond. We are seeing how the people who lived and worked here – owner, tenant, and enslaved – interacted and adjusted to their ever-changing circumstances. Future research at JPPM will continue to explore these issues.

Research beyond our museum’s boundaries has focused on sites ranging from prehistoric villages to Jesuit missions, from the 17th-century home of the Third Lord Baltimore to the late 18th-century home of Charles Ridgely at Hampton National Historic Site, from War of 1812 battlefields to a Civil War hospital. Currently, we are working with Julie King of St. Mary’s College, who is surveying the Zekiah Swamp of Charles County in an effort to find sites like Lord Baltimore’s summer house and the long-lost locations of the county’s 17th-century courthouse (which she found in 2008) and a Piscataway Indian fort (still looking!).



Palisade ditch at a prehistoric village site in Calvert County. of the county’s 17th-century courthouse (which she found in 2008) and a Piscataway Indian fort (still looking!).

By researching the vast artifact collections at the MAC Lab, we have developed on-line tools for people interested in identifying objects found on sites. The Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland webpage has sections on prehistoric and historic ceramics, as well as rarer items like cufflinks and horse bridle hardware. The webpage is not just an identification guide; it provides information on how these artifacts were made and used. New categories are constantly being added. Another JPPM webpage contains a database and detailed summary of sites in Maryland where plant remains were recovered. This information is useful for tracing the changing environment of Maryland, or the diets of the people living here for the last 12,000 years.

These are just a few examples of the research conducted by JPPM over the last 25 years. The next 25 years will no doubt bring many more discoveries!





### The Importance of Conservation

Caitlin E. R. Shaffer

Conservator

Conservation is the profession dedicated to the long-term preservation of cultural materials such as art, objects, structures, or places that are valuable to a society. This work is carried out by conservators, specialists trained to care for such materials through examination, documentation, analysis, treatment and stabilization, and on-going preventative maintenance. Objects may require conservation because of deterioration or instability due to the passing of time, changes in their environment, or physical damage. However, even objects that look flawless in a museum display case benefit from the care provided by conservators, as changes in temperature and humidity can significantly affect an object's condition over time.

Conservators aim to provide the best possible care for objects in their custody, and do so through adherence to ethical guidelines put forth by professional organizations such as the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC). Conservators strive to maintain the aesthetic, historic, and physical integrity of artifacts while using the best known materials and methods. Artifacts are cared for according to the highest standard regardless of the object's value, significance, or condition. Conservation treatments must be as reversible as possible, because it is sometimes necessary to change old repairs made to an object in order to utilize new materials or techniques that have been proven to be more effective. Conservators are encouraged to carry out their own research, to stay abreast of technological developments, and to participate in on-going education.

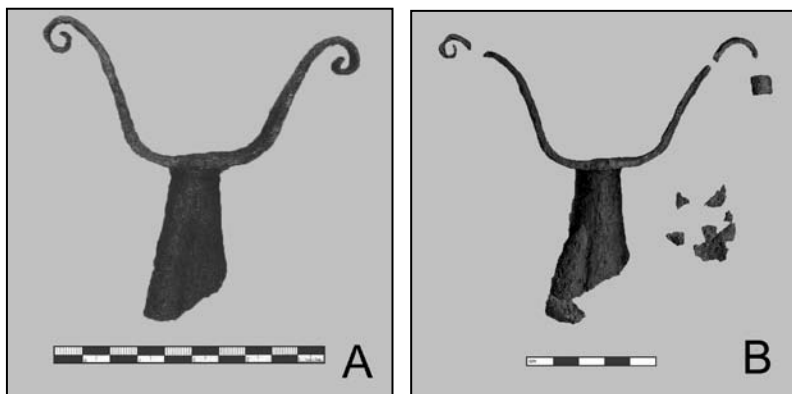


Figure 1. A c.1620 iron musket rest that received insufficient conservation treatment that received insufficient conservation at another conservation laboratory in 2003 (A), which has become fragmented due to salt damage (B).

Conservation treatment can be as simple as removing encrustations of soil, or it can be a multi-step process that takes many months, or even years, to

complete. The type of treatment varies greatly depending on the type of material being conserved. Archeological sites can uncover a wide variety of objects that benefit from conservation: iron, copper alloys, lead, glass, ceramics, wood, bone, and leather. Each type of material is affected by different factors. Salts found in the soil cause iron artifacts to corrode and cause pottery to lose its glaze. Moisture makes glass flake into thin, iridescent layers. Pests can break down objects made of organic substances. Eventually, all of these materials can be reduced to fragments (Figure 1), sometimes to the point of being unrecognizable. Artifacts can also be damaged by handling or by exposure to the air during excavation. Conservation halts this degradation and protects artifacts from future damage (Figure 2). Common treatments include mechanical or chemical cleaning, desalination, impregnation with stabilizing chemicals, application of protective coatings, and the creation of stable storage environments.

Conservation is critical to the preservation of cultural material, but why is it important for cultural material to be preserved at all? Archeological sites can tell us about the lives of the people who were here before us. Through study and research, artifacts reveal all kinds of information – how people lived and worked, their beliefs, traditions, and personal stories. There are a finite number of archeological sites in any particular region or country, and once they are excavated, those artifacts will shape our understanding of the past. The methods of study and ways of analyzing artifacts used by archeologists have evolved over time (x-radiography, microscopy, material composition analysis), and innovative techniques will continue to be developed. Artifacts may be analyzed in the future in ways that we cannot even imagine today. If the objects in our care are allowed to deteriorate, future archeologists and researchers will not be able to study them, and a great amount of historical information could be lost. While the preservation of cultural material is important to our own understanding of the past, it is also our duty to protect such materials for the next generations.

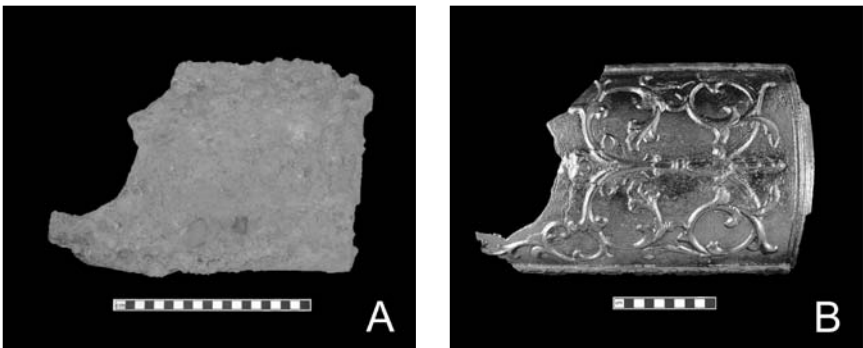


Figure 2. An iron stove plate before (A) and after (B) conservation carried out at the MAC Lab. The plate was chemically cleaned to remove concretions and corrosion products via electrolysis, desalinated, and coated with materials that will protect it from moisture damage. Photos courtesy U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground.



## Archeological Conservation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory

Nichole Doub  
Lead Conservator

The Conservation Laboratory at the MAC Lab is a custom designed facility that allows conservators to address a wide range of treatment issues for a variety of object types. The Lab is outfitted with analytical equipment (a 320kV x-radiography unit, density and pH/ISE meters, a Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer, and a UV-Vis Spectrophotometer), cleaning tools (two air abrasive plants, pneumatic cleaners, electrolytic reduction station and ultrasonic descaler) and preservation equipment (two vacuum freeze dryers, cold rooms and filtered PEG tanks). These facilities allow for the treatment of most material that may be retrieved from both terrestrial and marine archeological sites.



Air abrading an oversized iron artifact.

The size and quantity of material varies between projects. Some projects can be made up of thousands of objects, requiring extensive documentation and logistical planning. The Conservation Department is experienced with establishing batch treatments of similar object types to reduce treatment time

and costs to the benefit of both the artifacts and the client. The lab is also able to manage the treatment of large objects such as cannon and small watercraft. This is facilitated by an assortment of heavy lifting equipment including a 5-ton capacity crane that runs the length of the main treatment lab, and custom designed doors, loading bay and hallways that allow for easy passage within the building.

The Conservation Department's primary obligation is to the over 8 million artifacts in the State's collection that are held at the Lab. Conservation works very closely with the Curation Department to assess the treatment priorities of individual sites and material types. The greatest area of work lies with the large quantities of archeological iron, which pose a preservation



Conservators lifting oversized object from PEG tank.

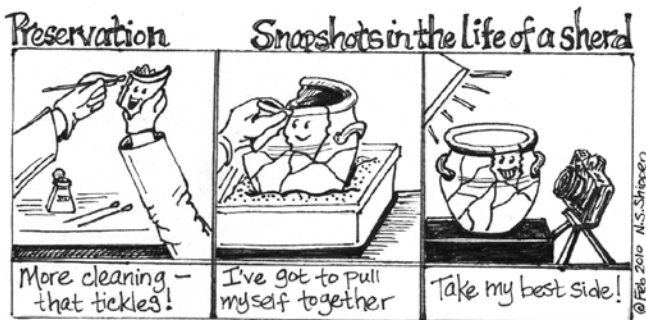
challenge not just at the MAC Lab but in all archeological storage facilities, as iron is susceptible to multiple sources of deterioration. Some of the state projects currently undergoing treatment at the lab include material from Addison Plantation/Oxon Hill Manor (Prince Georges County), Horne Point (Dorchester County), Mason Island (Frederick County) and Angelica Knoll (Calvert County).

The MAC Lab also takes on external conservation contracts from museums, non-profits, government agencies and cultural resource management firms from all across the country. Recent PEG treatment and freeze drying projects include a 19th century firewell pump (Alexandria, VA), a chest recovered from the Civil War Ironclad, the Monitor (Mariners Museum, Newport News, VA), palisade posts from Historic Charlestown (SC), and stockade posts from Fort Frederick (Albany, NY). The conservators are experienced in preserving iron and bronze cannon, including objects from Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas (FL), Havre de Grace (MD), Fort Monroe (VA) and the Washington Navy Yard (DC). The MAC Lab has also worked closely with the National Park Service at Everglades National Park (FL), Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA) and Historic Jamestown (VA) to preserve their collection.



Conservator mechanically removing corrosion products from an iron artifact.

The experience of the MAC Lab conservators together with the tools and facilities available in the Conservation Department allow for a broad range of treatment capabilities that provide the necessary preservation care of Maryland's collection as well as external institutions that have a need for our specialized preservation services.





### **The Importance of Curation**

Rebecca J. Morehouse  
Curator of State Collections

When most people think about archeology, they think about field work. However, for any given excavation, far more time is spent in the lab than in the field. Once an artifact is excavated it must be washed, cataloged and analyzed, perhaps conserved, and then packaged in such a way that will preserve it for the future. Archeologists may spend just a few months in the field, but they can spend years processing and analyzing their finds. When archeologists have completed their research, the artifacts must be cared for in perpetuity. Good stewardship of archeological collections, also called curation, is accomplished through adherence to professional museum and archival standards, which are outlined in both State and Federal guidelines.



Researcher using a study collection at the MAC Lab.

Good curation practice ensures collections are well-organized, documented and stored in such a way as to promote preservation and security, while also being easily accessible. A collection must be recorded when it is accepted for permanent curation. This process is called accessioning and provides a collection with a tracking number. This number, along with precise storage location information, is included in accession files, on boxes that hold the collections, and in computer databases used to track collections. Artifacts, as well as the boxes and bags they are housed in, must be labeled with and organized by detailed provenience information. Provenience or context information tells an archeologist where an artifact was found in the ground, and without it an artifact has very little research value. Good



Oversized object storage at the MAC Lab.

accessioning procedures and a good tracking system are integral to curation and ensure that collections retain their provenience information and can be located quickly and easily for monitoring of condition or access by researchers.

Curators promote long term preservation of collections by protecting them from what are called “agents of deterioration”. This is done by monitoring storage environments, housing artifacts in archival, acid-free materials, storing objects in a secure area, and promoting careful artifact handling. Poor environmental conditions, such as high or fluctuating temperature and humidity, can damage metal objects by promoting corrosion, and can harm organic objects, such as leather and wood, by promoting mold growth. Insects or rodents can cause considerable damage to organic objects by using them as a food source. The acids in non-archival packaging materials can cause packaging and supports to fail and acids to migrate to objects. Acid migration can lead to staining, corrosion, or physical destruction of an object. Improper handling and lack of security can also lead to physical damage and loss.

While a primary mission of curation is preservation, this should not be seen as preservation for its own sake. Preservation is important because it ensures the availability of collections for use by present and future generations. Archeological collections are valuable for what they can teach us about the past; they are non-renewable cultural resources, which are a significant part of human history and prehistory. Collections can provide a unique perspective on past peoples and give voice to groups that may not be represented in historical documents. Archeological collections can be important for comparative purposes, providing resources for archeologists to identify or date new finds. They can offer insights into how types of objects were used and made. New and innovative research techniques can provide fresh opportunities to learn from collections. This is why their preservation is essential.

Without proper curation care, these valuable pieces of our heritage would be lost forever. Curators, as stewards of history, are the first line of defense in protecting archeological collections and maintaining a balance between preservation and accessibility.



Curator working with collections in MAC Lab Collections Storage.



## **Archeological Curation at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory**

Sara Rivers Cofield

Curator of Federal Collections

Several museums, counties, and local institutions in Maryland have archeological collections, but the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) is unique because it is the only curation facility in the State that stores collections from every county in Maryland. Collections that result from archeological projects all over the State are commonly donated to the Maryland Historical Trust, the MAC Lab's parent State agency, for long-term curation.

Some archeological collections in Maryland come from Federal property, however, and cannot be donated to the State because law requires they be the responsibility of the Federal government. Federal agencies can partner with the MAC Lab to curate their collections for them though. About 13% of the collections at the MAC Lab are Federal, while the rest belong to the State. The MAC Lab has two curators to manage the collections; the State Curator who takes care of the Maryland Historical Trust's artifacts, and the Federal Curator who maintains Federal collections in partnership with the agencies that own them.

The MAC Lab's Curation program constantly works with collections to ensure that artifacts and field records are preserved and accessible for research. Preservation is promoted by State and Federal standards for archival packaging, and curators work with archeologists processing collections to make sure these standards are followed. If curators find important artifacts that are falling apart, they work with the MAC Lab's Conservation program to get them treated.

In order to provide access, the MAC Lab's curators act like librarians for special collections. Just as one might go to a library to do research with books, people can come to the MAC Lab to do archeological research with collections from all over Maryland. The curators are here to help people know what is available for study. They have specialized knowledge of Maryland's collections just as librarians have specialized knowledge of research tools that a library has to offer. If someone is interested in 18th-century tobacco pipes, for example, the curators are good people to ask because they are likely to know which collections in the MAC Lab from the 18th-century have pipes.



Researchers use the Visiting Scientist room at the MAC Lab to examine and discuss artifacts.

Once a researcher knows what they want to look at, they can come to the curators to get access to collections. Unlike a public library, the MAC Lab does not let people go to the stacks to retrieve items themselves because many archeological collections are fragile, and preservation and security are also the curator's responsibility. Instead, curators will use their databases that track where collections are located to find the artifacts that were requested for study, and then they will retrieve them for the researcher. There is a visiting researcher room at the MAC Lab just for people to have a quiet space to work with collections. The MAC Lab curators keep track of the research projects conducted to document how collections are being used to expand our knowledge of Maryland's cultural history.



Curators ensure proper handling and organization of archaeological collections.

When people making exhibits want to use collections from the MAC Lab, there is a loan system for "checking out" artifacts, just as one might check out a book from a library; curators track where the artifact is going, ensure that it is properly packaged for travel, and make certain that the exhibit provides a safe environment for the artifact.

If people can't come to the MAC Lab, the curation department still helps promote access to collections through online research tools that the MAC Lab has developed (<http://www.jefpat.org>), such as the monthly "Curator's Choice", and the "Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland" webpage.

As the people responsible for the long-term well-being of Maryland's archeological artifacts, the MAC Lab's curators work to ensure that proper care is taken with collections from the time they are processed in the lab to the day they get requested for research or exhibit. Because of their dual responsibilities for preservation and access, the curators have a hand in every aspect of an artifact's life, "From Shovel to Showcase."







**Educational Opportunities: Archeology Month and Beyond**

Kim Popetz  
Director of Education

Archeology Month is all about getting the public involved. Archeologists look forward to this chance to work with the public for multiple reasons. The first is the opportunity to give people a better sense of their shared heritage or the history of a particular location. This is the month when many archeological excavations will be open to the public who will have the option to learn about sites in their towns or counties and maybe even have a chance to try excavation for themselves. A second reason is to give voice to those who could not speak for themselves. I often ask school kids who writes history. The general response is, "People who can write!" It may not seem like a profound statement but it is as profound as they come. Historically, rich men did the record keeping and essentially wrote history. This meant that the poor, women, slaves and Native Americans are not seen in the history books except as footnotes or sidebars. Archeology can tell their stories and is creating a common history for everyone. A third, and equally important reason, is to introduce the idea of stewardship to the public. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines stewardship as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Archeologists are painfully aware that the average person doesn't know that archeological sites can be found literally anywhere. The information contained in those sites is our heritage and it's our job to protect them. If we as archeologists can facilitate an understanding of what archeology is and why it's important, we might actually have a shot at fostering stewardship of sites in our communities and protecting those sites for the generations to come.

Archeologists try to get the word out in a variety of ways. They give public talks, publish books, and even appear in television programs. As you look through the wide variety of offerings in Maryland this month you may encounter these and other events such as site tours, public archeology days, and museum programs. Here at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum (JPPM) we try to give the public the most hands-on experience



Examining animal bones in the MAC Lab.

possible through our Public Archaeology Program (see the following article by Ed Chaney).

We do our best to address the questions that the public asks most through our *FAQ Archaeology* exhibit. Did you ever wonder how an archeologist knows where to dig or what they do with all of the stuff they find? You'll find the answers here. We also want to give folks the opportunity to talk with as many different kinds of archeologists possible. Join us for our *Discovering Archaeology Day* on April 17th and you'll have the chance to talk with professionals who work on underwater sites, historic sites, prehistoric sites, work in the lab doing chemical or x-ray analysis, folks who have worked on a single large site their entire career and those of us who have worked all over the country. We'll have games and demonstrations so that the youngest visitors can really "dig" into the topic.

Want more? At JPPM, we offer archeological programming so you can try your hand at experimental archeology in our Indian Village or really dive into the science of the thing during our *Science of Archaeology* workshop.

Want to learn more but still look presentable at the end of the day? Try a Docent Tour, where you'll be taken out onto the Park to visit some of the places we've already



Excavating a trash pit at the Smith's St. Leonard Site.

excavated with a trained interpreter who will help you see things as they were long ago, or take a tour of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory and see artifacts from land and underwater excavations being conserved, or attend one of our Speaker Series lectures – this year we're looking at *Archaeology on the Edge* whether it be on the edge of a mountain in Peru or the edge of society in a historical red light district. No matter what your age or interest we have something that will suit you. Come and join us!



## Public Archeology at JPPM: A Hands-on Learning Opportunity

Ed Chaney

Deputy Director, MAC Lab

Since 1996, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum has conducted an annual Public Archaeology Program. It is designed specifically to give people of all ages, with no prior archeological experience, the opportunity to volunteer with JPPM while we excavate and analyze a site. You can work in the field or in the comfort of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, or both. It is a great chance to experience what archeologists do, and to understand how they make sense of the evidence they uncover in the ground.

In past years we investigated a 17th-century residence for servants or slaves, and the post-Civil War home of a formerly-enslaved African American. More recently, we have been examining the site where the Smith family lived in the 18th century. The Smiths owned the plantation that became JPPM. In 1711, Richard Smith Jr. built a brick house at the south end of his farm. A separate kitchen, a stable, a slave quarter, and other



Excavating.

In 2010, the Public Archaeology Program will return to this site. We hope to someday reconstruct the slave quarter and other buildings, and in order to do that we need to know what they looked like. As a participant in the Public Archaeology Program, you can help us achieve that



Labeling artifacts at the MAC Lab.

buildings were erected nearby, and we have found the remains of most of them. But by the 1750s the site was abandoned, and the buildings slowly fell into ruin. Most of the main house eventually washed into the Patuxent River, but the other structures still survive below the ground surface.



18th c. German stoneware sherds found at the site.

goal, while at the same time having fun and getting your hands dirty! Families will appreciate the educational and entertaining experience that Public Archaeology offers youngsters. Non-youngsters will appreciate the chance to get out of the house and enjoy the riverside scenery while you uncover the past.

The 2010 program begins May 11 and runs through July 3. Fieldwork takes place on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Volunteers can help wash and label the artifacts in the Lab on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The



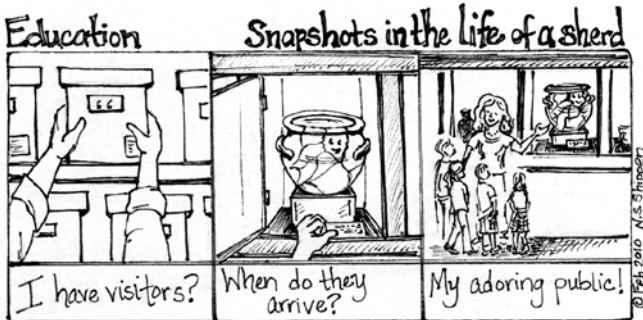
Screening for artifacts.

program can only accommodate a limited number of participants each day, so reservations are required – but there is no fee! Please contact Ed Chaney at 410-586-8554 (echaney@mdp.state.md.us) to schedule a time. While all ages are

welcome, children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. You can stay as long as you like – just an hour, or the entire season. We have picnic tables at the site, so bring a lunch and make a day of it. And when you have had enough of dirty fingernails, you can visit JPPM's reconstructed Indian village, tour the *FAQ Archaeology* exhibit at the Visitor Center, or hike our interpretive trails.



Troweling a test unit.



**Archeology Volunteer Programs**

Following are examples of programs in Maryland that offer opportunities to get involved in archeology. For more information about these and other similar programs visit [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org).

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***Archaeology in Annapolis***

Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland College Park

Archaeology in Annapolis is a research project that has explored the heritage of Maryland's capital since 1981. Opportunities to participate are available throughout the year, and fieldwork will be conducted from June 1 to July 9, 2010 during a field school offered by the Department. The field school is offered as a class for undergraduate or graduate credit, or a workshop for non-students. Contact Summer Programs at (301) 314-8240, or visit [www.summer.umd.edu](http://www.summer.umd.edu). For information about Archaeology in Annapolis Contact Jocelyn Knauf ([jknauf@anth.umd.edu](mailto:jknauf@anth.umd.edu)) or call (301) 405-1429.

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***The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission***

Prince George's County, Natural and Historical Research Division

Public Archaeology programs are offered at the Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, located on the Patuxent River east of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Volunteers are welcome from April through October. For more information call the archaeology program office at 301- 627-1286 or email Don Creveling at [Donald.Creveling@pgparks.com](mailto:Donald.Creveling@pgparks.com), or Mike Lucas at [Michael.Lucas@pgparks.com](mailto:Michael.Lucas@pgparks.com)

Prince George's County  
Historical Resources Division, Archaeology Program  
8204 McClure Road  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

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***Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project***

The Lost Towns Project is an archeological research and public education program sponsored by Anne Arundel County and the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. (ACT) in cooperation with the London Town Foundation. Participation in archeological and educational experiences is invited, no previous experience is required! London Town is open for tours Wednesdays - Sundays. Public Dig Days are scheduled at London Town May 22, July 10, and September 11, from 9am - 2pm. Contact Jessie Grow 410-222-1318 [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org); or visit [www.losttownsproject.org](http://www.losttownsproject.org).

Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project  
Historic London Town & Gardens  
839 Londontown Road  
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

***Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum: Public Archaeology Program***

Smith's St. Leonard Site; May 11 - July 3, 2010

Join Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum archeologists this summer in the excavation of the 18th century Smith's St. Leonard Site plantation complex. The program will run Tuesday through Saturday, May 11 through July 3. Tuesdays and Thursdays are "Lab Days," while Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays will be "Field Days," weather-permitting. To volunteer contact Ed Chaney at (410) 586-8554 or by email to [echaney@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:echaney@mdp.state.md.us).

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum  
10515 Mackall Road  
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685  
Ph: 410.586.8501 Fax: 410.586.8503 [www.jefpat.org](http://www.jefpat.org)

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***The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission***

Montgomery County Parks Department, Park Planning and Stewardship

Join the Montgomery County Park Planning and Stewardship archaeology program in uncovering the county's past through the investigation of prehistoric Indian sites, Civil War encampments, slave dwellings and post-reconstruction sites. Volunteers are welcome on Wednesdays. Contact Heather Bouslog, 301-840-5848 or [heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org), or visit [www.ParksArchaeology.org](http://www.ParksArchaeology.org)

Needwood Mansion  
6700 Needwood Mansion  
Derwood, Maryland 20855

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***Historic St. Mary's City: A Museum of History and Archaeology***

Historic St. Mary's City is the site of the fourth permanent English settlement in North America, Maryland's first capital, and the birthplace of religious toleration in America. The Archaeology program at HSMC, with St. Mary's College of Maryland, will sponsor a Field School from May 26 - August 1. While in the field, we offer tours of the excavations and learning opportunities, including Tidewater Archaeology Weekend (July 24- 25) when the public is invited to be an archeologist for a day. Special tours of the archeological laboratory and lectures are available. Contact HSMC Volunteer Coordinator [mmpadukiewicz@smcm.edu](mailto:mmpadukiewicz@smcm.edu) or the Visitor Center at 240-895-4990 for more information. For a list of events visit <http://www.stmaryscity.org/events.html>.

Historic St. Mary's City ,  
Museum of History and Archaeology  
P.O. Box 39  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

**Washington College****Public Archaeology Laboratory Volunteer Opportunities**

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Washington College in Chestertown maintains a public archeology laboratory in the Custom House, where students and volunteers process artifact collections from the region. Displays and interpretive signs are found throughout the laboratory. To make arrangements for volunteering or for a tour contact Elizabeth Seidel, Lab Director, at 410-810-7164 or [eseidel2@washcoll.edu](mailto:eseidel2@washcoll.edu).

Washington College Public Archaeology Laboratory

101 S. Water Street

Chestertown, MD 21620

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**Maryland Historical Trust****Archeology Programs**

The Maryland Historical Trust is committed to involving the public in archeology. The Maryland Maritime Archeology Program provides opportunities for volunteers in field activities on a seasonal basis. Participants need not be divers. Terrestrial archeological programs include an annual Field Session co-hosted with the Archeological Society of Maryland. This eleven-day field investigation combines education with research, and provides unparalleled professional-avocational interaction. Additional field projects occur throughout the year. An Open Lab is held on most Tuesdays during the year teaching proper archeological lab techniques. Presentations, displays, publications, and internships are also offered. To learn more contact State Terrestrial Archeologist Charlie Hall at [chall@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:chall@mdp.state.md.us), or State Underwater Archeologist Susan Langley at [slangley@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:slangley@mdp.state.md.us).

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032

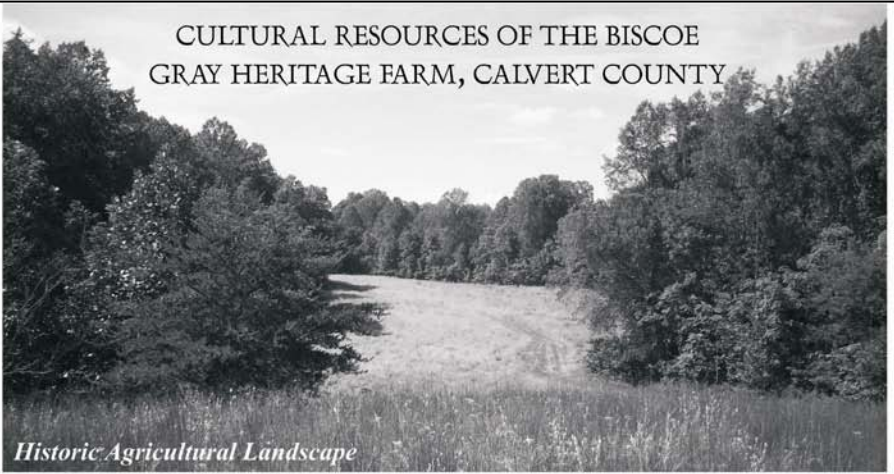
**[www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net](http://www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net)**

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***Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians***

The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM), the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Council for Maryland Archeology offer a Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians (CAT Program), providing an opportunity to be recognized for formal and extended training in archeology without participation in a degree program. Certificate candidates must be members of the ASM, and work under the supervision of a mentor. A series of required readings and workshops is coupled with practical experience in archeological research. For information about the CAT Program, and application forms, visit the ASM web site at **[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)**.

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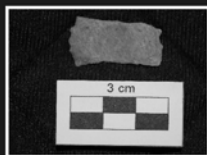
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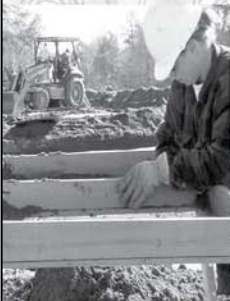
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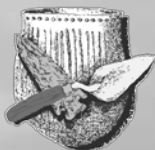
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