

LOST TOWNS PROJECT INC.

SEPTEMBER 2015



Greetings from the Executive Board

The Lost Towns Project incorporated in July 2014, and over the past 1½ years, we have pursued our mission to support and encourage the stewardship, preservation, and research of historic sites across Anne Arundel County and beyond.

Please enjoy and review our first Annual Report. We hope you will find inspiration--and continue to support our efforts to explore and preserve local heritage. You will find we have developed a broad range of partnerships across the local heritage preservation community, sponsored nearly a dozen research and public education projects, and engaged with the local community, students, and professional historians and archaeologists in the quest to rediscover, explore, and better understand our collective heritage.

Sherri, Jane, and Janis

Students exploring Galesville history in a hands-on archaeology program, conducted in cooperation with Central Middle School and the AA Public School System.



Our Mission

To promote, facilitate, and enable the preservation, discovery, academic study, appreciation, and stewardship of public and privately-owned cultural resources, historic structures, and archaeological sites in Anne Arundel County, the State of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region by supporting the technical, scholarly, and intellectual work of academics, professionals, and students.

For More Information: www.losttownsproject.org

The Lost Towns Project:

A Legacy Reborn

The ***Lost Towns Project*** was formally established as a 501-c3 recognized non-profit in July of 2014. Though the name has been used for over a decade to refer to a consortium of scholars who have worked on numerous archaeological sites in Anne Arundel County, for the benefit of various organizations, and is a recognized as a leading force in historic studies, architectural history, archaeological investigations and public/ educational outreach in Maryland, it was never a legal entity, until now.

The ***Lost Towns Project Inc.*** is administered by a volunteer three-person Executive Board, which includes Sherri Marsh Johns (Pres.), C. Jane Cox (Treas.) and Janis Markusic (Secty.). The organizational structure provides for an advisory committee of up to 15 advisors with professional and avocational interests in furthering historic and archaeological research in the Mid Atlantic.

The Lost Towns Project Advisory Board includes;

- ♦ **Rosemarie Collage (Public Outreach and Administration);**
- ♦ **Gwendolyn Gibson (Environmental and Natural History);**
- ♦ **Ron Katz (Maritime & History enthusiast and Legal Counsel);**
- ♦ **Lauren Schiszik (Historic Preservation and Archaeology);**
- ♦ **Christopher Sperling (Archaeology & Government Coordination);**
- ♦ **Heather Ersts (Museums and Heritage Tourism);**
- ♦ **Tom O'Connor (Public Outreach and Volunteer Advisor); and**
- ♦ **Luc Renaux (Junior Board Member, Education and Archaeology)**

LTP Board members reach out to heritage organizations, scholars, and students seeking to advance cultural resources studies or preservation initiatives, and may recommend activities and projects for LTP sponsorship or support. This may take the form of administering grant-funded research, providing direct financial or in-kind support, backing events, conferences, or educational opportunities that share cultural resources and heritage with the public, and encouraging academic internships, volunteer opportunities, and citizen education. Citizen historians and volunteers are an important part of the mission, as their participation is a key to building stewardship, and with it, the appreciation and advocacy for preservation of heritage resources and historic sites.

Sampling of Exotic Artifacts recovered from Pig Point, including potential 'Adena' artifacts.



Zoned Incised Pottery
350 B.C.



Flint Ridge Flint
Hepewell Point



Platform Pipe Fragment
Jasper Blade



Prismatic Blade

Projects supported or launched by LTP in 2014 and 2015:

- A Renewed Website at www.LostTownsProject.Org was made possible with generous support from the Four Rivers Heritage Area, allowing LTP to better disseminate information on local cultural resources.
- Ongoing research on the highly significant Native American Ceremonial Complex at Pig Point, including excavations and hosting an academic conference this summer. This will culminate in a book meant for both professional and academic audiences.
- Professional support for the Gibson Island Historical Society assisting them in their efforts to explore several archaeological sites on the Island. So far, the team has identified prehistoric and several late 18th and 19th century archaeological sites, and the work has been supported by an active group of citizens from Gibson Island.
- Partnership with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools and its STEM program. LTP brought professional archaeologists and historians to mentor more than 375 STEM students from the 7th grade (and their teachers.) They participated in a hands-on archaeological project, and explored historic Galesville, the Hot Sox Negro League Ball team legacy, and the 1870s Henry Wilson House & Park. This partnership will continue in 2016 as a new group of 100 6th graders learn about the rich heritage of early 20th century beach resorts in the County, including Beverly Triton Beach Park.
- Assisted Galesville Community Center with an exciting public outreach initiative that has brought a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit to their Center. The exhibit— ‘Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America’— has launched a fresh investigation into the legacy of the Hot Sox Negro League ball team, resulting in extensive community engagement, and the documentation of a history that was almost lost to time.
- Launched a project supported by a National Park Service Grant to conduct data recovery on five archaeological sites that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. This is part of a larger initiative to address erosion and sea-level rise impacts on cultural resources across the region.
- In partnership with the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, the Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division, and the Anne Arundel County Library, LTP will help rededicate the Joan Cass Beck Library collection. Established in 2005, this is a special archaeology and historic preservation research library that is open for scholars and citizens to explore the County's history.
- In the coming year, we will install several exhibits at public venues across the region that focus on archaeological object from the Anne Arundel County Archaeological collections with grant support from the Maryland Humanities Council. LTP is also offering a hand to Caroline County to help with the emergency repairs to an historic building 's cornice.



Artifacts recovered during archaeological investigation on Gibson Island.



Since its formal founding in July 2014, the *Lost Towns Project* has had a substantial and meaningful impact on the discovery, preservation, and stewardship of historic resources in the region. Through LTP sponsored projects, more than 800 citizens-- students, volunteers, and interns-- have been directly involved in exploring and protecting the areas heritage as they assist independent scholars and professionals undertaking historic site investigations and research.

We have established exciting partnerships with several local heritage organizations and partners including Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division, Public Library, Public School System, and the Recreation and Parks Department, the Gibson Island Historical Society, the Galesville Community Center, the Four Rivers Heritage Area, and the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation. Special thanks to both individual donors and to our many partners for their support.

The Board is always seeking out new partnerships or research initiatives, and welcomes your support as we continue to grow. If you have a research idea, know of a threatened historic site that needs protection, or need assistance in administering a heritage project, contact us at projects@losttownsproject.org.

If you can help support the organization financially, your donations would be gratefully accepted, and are fully tax deductible. Donations can be sent to The Lost Towns Project, 1621 Defense Hwy, Gambrills, MD 21054 or can be sent via Paypal at the www.losttownsproject.org website!

A soil profile showing evidence for some 8,000 years of occupation at Pig Point based on C-14 dates.

