

Future Events

August 6

1:30 - 2:30, 2664 Riva Road
*Keeping "Indian Landing"
on the Map*

Historian Paul Mintz will describe the history of Indian Landing, a tobacco inspection port established in 1747.

August 18

9:00 - 2:00, London Town
Public Dig Day

The public is invited to help screen soil, take tours, and attend workshops and video screenings.

September 10

1:30 - 2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Steward Shipyard

Field director Jason Moser will discuss the archaeological investigations centered on this important Anne Arundel County site.

September 22

9:00 - 2:00, London Town
Public Dig Day

The public is invited to help screen soil, take tours, and attend workshops and video screenings. This will be the last Dig Day of the season!

October 15

1:30 - 2:30, 2664 Riva Road
The Search for Herrington

Assistant Director John Kille will explain the process of searching for the port, established in 1668.

November 5

1:30 - 2:30, 2664 Riva Road
Investigating All Hallows

Historian Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito will describe research conducted on this early London Town parish community.

Letters from Lost Towns

Pipe Kiln Expert Visits *Lost Towns* Project

Dr. Al Luckenbach

With assistance from the *Lost Towns Project* and the London Town Foundation, English tobacco pipe expert Dr. Allan Peacey recently came from "across the pond" to visit our excavations and view the finds from the kiln at Swan Cove. Dr. Peacey has been a frequent advisor to the project via email as the Swan Cove dig has continued. He is in a unique position to provide such support since his Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Liverpool involved the study of over 140 tobacco pipe kilns excavated in England. This has been turned into a publication titled *The Development of the Clay Tobacco Pipe Kiln in the British Isles*.

After carefully inspecting the Swan Cove materials, Allan made a number of interesting pronouncements during a lecture given at the London Town Visitor's Center. The method that Emanuel Drue was using to construct his muffles – inserting broken

pipes in the wet clay to form a herringbone pattern – is an attribute of pipe manufacturers from the London area. He was also particularly excited by the recovery of what we are calling "cross-pipe props" – objects made to lean pipes on during firing – and pronounced it to be the oldest known example to pipe kiln furniture known in the world. The only other cross-pipe prop ever discovered was a single example from Chelmsford, England.

After leaving Annapolis, Dr. Peacey journeyed through Maryland and Virginia visiting Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, St. Mary's City, and Jamestown. He inspected their seventeenth-century pipe collections and spoke to two summer field schools. He also toured the local sites with his wife, Jacqueline.

Dr. Peacey enjoyed his first visit to the 'New World' very much, and plans to keep in close contact as our work progresses. He also invited interested volunteers to participate in his summer excavations at the Pipe Aston Kiln Site in western England!

For more information of his research, check out the archaeology web page at <http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue1/peacey>.



Reconstructed view of cross-pipe prop showing original function inside muffle.

Intern Spotlight: Lauren Schiszik

This summer has been great for archaeology; there has been good weather, amazing site finds, and a great crop of interns. So far this year we have had twelve students from both high school and college. High school students are sent to us from the Anne Arundel County's Board of Education Gifted and Talented Program, although we also have had students from outside our county. The high school students must complete 66 hours and are required to submit reports on their adventures throughout their internship periods. This year our high school interns are Karen Owens, Christine DeLong and Lauren Schiszik.

Our college internship program requires more hours and involves the completion of a paper or project pertaining to their learning experience. In exchange they receive three (or up to five) academic credits. The *Lost Towns Project* college interns are: Sarah Andrews, Melinda Clavell, Shelly Cook, Carl Hehrman, Trina Mendiola, Tracy Smith, all from UMBC, and Christina Serevertnick from St. Johns College. All interns are a great help to us in the field, lab, and office.

This year we had an exceptional intern, Lauren Schiszik. Her school advisor she did undertake a community hours to the web, contacted us, and work with us for the summer.



Lauren did not send Lauren to us, nor internship to fulfill her graduate. Lauren found us on came in for an interview to

Lauren Schiszik lives in Silver Spring area and will be Friends School, a liberal arts Quaker educational interviewed with me I told her only required to accrue 66 5-week period. Lauren weeks at three days per "Uhh, okay." I was impressed with Lauren from the start. I sent her home with an introductory book on archaeology, which she probably finished in two days. Lauren did not receive any academic credit for this internship; it was for her own edification.

Montgomery County in the a senior at Sandy Spring and academically rigorous institution. When she that high school students were hours, usually spread over a elected 158 hours over seven week. All I could say was

Lauren fit right in with our eclectic staff and clearly exhibited a love for learning. She plunged right into helping with feature excavation and laboratory work. Lauren energetically helped with student groups and new volunteers that came to London Town and Swan Cove. It was like having a new crewmember!

Lauren will be a high school senior this year. Her interests include comedic and dramatic theatre, and she appeared in many school and community plays. She also studies cello and is a member os the Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra. She is a poet, dancer, photographer, and is very fond of archaeology (of course!). We all wish this impressive young lady the best of luck for her future endeavors and sing out "bravo" to this star intern.

-Mehelle Kerns-Nocerito

(why you should come to) The Lost Towns Project's Lab

Dave Gadsby

Archaeology labs are usually dark, windowless, crowded spaces, often located in basements. They are usually poorly lit and ventilated, lined with ugly shelving and inhabited by unhappy troglodytes. Visitors to our lab will find that this is not the case. While occasionally crowded, our lab is

unusually bright and airy. Three walls of plate glass help to illuminate our workspace. A fully modern HVAC system complete with an active exhaust vent ensures that the air in the lab is generally fresh and that the temperature is comfortable. Shelving is sequestered to a separate room, so you don't have to look at it. The lab, located on the first floor of Heritage Building 2666 is easily accessible to all.

The lab is a great place to gain first-hand knowledge about the process of doing archaeology. One can become familiar with the information systems employed in order



Volunteer Ray Landrum in washing in the lab to track artifacts or learn about artifact identification and analysis. The facility also boasts a growing library and literature file, including several site reports and artifact studies, as well as books on archaeological method and theory. Working toward your CAT certificate? The lab is pleased to help you log hours to work towards this laudable goal.

Those who visit the lab in the near future will have the chance to be involved in the groundbreaking analysis of Swan Cove, a tobacco pipe kiln replete with fascinating material culture that must be washed, labeled, cataloged, and mended. It's like having a dirty jigsaw puzzle for which you don't have a picture or know how big it is or even how many pieces there are supposed to be!

There are still discoveries to be made in the lab - the crumm horn pipe, the Emmanuel Drue pipe stamp, and a dated wine bottle seal were all found by volunteers in the lab. Sound like something in which you would like to be involved? Call us at (410) 222-7328 to make arrangements for a visit or to volunteer.



UMBC interns Sarah and Shelly processing artifacts in the lab

Lost Towns

Awarded Grant for Research Projects

Paul Mintz and Lisa Plumley

The Maryland Historical Trust recently awarded *Lost Towns* a grant to fund two research projects. The first will investigate oyster shell assemblages from several Providence archaeological sites. The second, “Searching for the Poor of Lost London: The Almshouse Years 1823-1965”, will examine the people and landscape of the Anne Arundel County Almshouse. The following describes the individual research that will be funded by the MHT grant.

Oyster Shell Analysis

There are numerous methods that archaeologists use to help refine the dating of an archaeological deposit. Historical archaeologists generally rely on stylistic and utilitarian changes in artifacts, be it a shard of pottery, glass bottle rim, or a clay tobacco pipe. These changes generally experience one period of popularity before fading. Finding such an artifact generally pushes the date of the deposit to sometime after the beginning of this change. However, sometimes nature lends us a hand when narrowing the time period of a deposit. Certain pollens only circulate at certain times of the year; and finding certain pollens in a deposit helps determine the season of deposit. Determining a year of deposit can sometimes be achieved with a large enough sample of wood. Dendrochronology, or the study of tree-rings, is now widely used to date the felling of timbers from historic structures.



Oysters depicted in a Dutch genre painting

Just what is a ‘Crumm Horn’?

Dr. Al Luckenbach

Although the joys of fieldwork (heat, cold, ticks, mud, etc.) appeal to many, a number of the most significant discoveries at Swan Cove have been made in the Lost Towns Archaeology Lab. Four fragments of a single pipe were recently reunited by Carolyn and Dave – and what a pipe it was! At first, the pipe was believed to be a totally unique expression of Emanuel Drue’s artistry. Subsequently, it was discovered that a single similar example was one of the unique prizes of Don Duco’s pipe museum in Amsterdam – where it is called a “crumm horn” pipe (translation – crooked horn). It may have been modeled after the horn of a breed of archaic European longhorn cow.

Designated as Drue Type D, the hand-made pipe displays evidence off all three known Drue decorative stamps, his circular punch, and two of his rouletting tools. It is clearly one of the most fascinating tobacco pipes ever recovered in the Chesapeake Region – but such superlatives are perhaps best left to the words of other professionals:

- “I WAS TOO AMAZED TO SPEAK...” - Allan Peacey
- “It’s not Native American influence – it’s extra-terrestrial...” - Ann Markell
- “Way cool – now THAT’S different...” - Dennis Pogue
- “I would have had a hard time believing it existed!” - Andrew Matsen
- “The most bizarre ...and neatest pipe I’ve EVER seen!” - Taft Kiser



The Annapolis Maritime Museum and *The Lost Towns Project* will soon begin a study of growth breaks on oyster shells from the archaeological sites of Providence. Like trees, oysters are almost always growing. Just as trees deposit another “ring” every year, oysters record the passing years by growth breaks every winter. Growth breaks also occur after severe storms, when the deluge of freshwater causes salinity to drop, and during periods of extreme heat.

In Anne Arundel County’s archaeology laboratory, project staff and volunteers will study the placement of these growth breaks, or environmental marker years, on oyster shells recovered from tightly dated features in order to construct a schlerochronological sequence. We hope to then be able to

compare oyster shells from undated deposits against this sequence. “Dating” the oyster will then lead to dating the deposit.

Oyster shells are a ubiquitous archaeological remain on sites in Tidewater Maryland and Virginia. Finding a method by which to use this resource as a diagnostic tool has great potential for archaeologists studying these sites.

Anne Arundel County Almshouse Research

London Town, established in 1683, experienced its heyday as a tobacco port in the first decades of the eighteenth century and reverted to a farming community by the end of the century. During the depressions of the town, William Brown built a large

brick structure overlooking the South River. In 1823, James Larrimore agreed to sell this house and ten surrounding acres to the Trustees of the Poor of Anne Arundel County for use as a poorhouse. It remained the county's almshouse for 142 years, until it closed in 1965.

As part of its on-going investigation of London Town, the London Town Foundation, Inc. and Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project* will research this almshouse within the larger context of the county and state almshouse systems. Historians will utilize censuses, almshouse minutes, commissioners' notes, oral histories, and other primary and secondary documentation regarding almshouses. This research will be augmented by archaeological fieldwork seeking evidence of almshouse-period structures, including a dormitory that once housed black residents.

This investigation will provide insight into a multi-cultural group's use of the nineteenth and twentieth-century landscape, providing



Historic view of the Anne Arundel County Almshouse

scholars, an active local community, and avocational historians an opportunity to discover this little-known aspect of Maryland's heritage. This project would also provide a firm beginning for the development of a state-wide context on the treatment of the poor.

This research will enable London Town to expand its interpretation of this fascinating aspect of Anne Arundel County's history. In addition to researching archival documents and investigating new archaeological areas in London Town, we will also be able to incorporate findings already excavated from the sprawling lawns of the site, such as harmonica fragments and buttons from Baltimore firefighter's jackets. We will design an exhibit for the park's new museum and will compose a booklet describing London Town's later years.

How do I get involved?

Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project* is a team of professional archaeologists and historians assisted by volunteers and interns. Field, lab, and archival opportunities are available.

Field days vary depending on the weather and particular project. Call Lisa at (410) 222-7441 for information.

The lab is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 through 4:00. Call the lab phone, (410) 222-7328, for information. The lab is located at 2666 Riva Road in the Heritage Government Center.

Those interested in archival research opportunities should contact Mechelle at (410) 222-7441.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT), P.O. Box 1573, Annapolis, MD, 21404. Please note "*Lost Towns Project*" in any correspondence.

Thank you for your interest and support!

The Lost Towns Project's sweatshirts, polo shirts, and baseball caps are now available!

Decorated with the Lost Town's logo, sweatshirts are navy, polo shirts are cornflower blue, and hats are tan with blue bills. They are available for a donation of \$25 or more for the shirts and \$15 or more for the hats. Checks should be made out to ACT, Inc. and all proceeds go to the Lost Town's Internship Program. Thank you!



Members of Burle's Brigade 2001, who ended the softball season with an 0-10 record - nevermind which number is the team's...



Shawn Sharpe and John Kille digging STPs at Herrington

Hot on the Herrington Trail

John Kille

No, the title of this article does not refer to the 90-degree days that have been the norm during shovel test pit (STP) excavations in the Town Point neighborhood this summer. A little balmy weather is the last thing on the minds of *Lost Towns Project* staff and many dedicated volunteers who are diligently pursuing clues and following up leads in an effort to find the exact location of Herrington, a lost 17th-century town in southern Anne Arundel County. So far, our team has covered quite a bit of ground in the course of our archaeological field work, having completed 130 STPs on various parcels of private property at Town Point.

We can safely say that the search for Herrington in what was once a 200-acre parcel of land has narrowed considerably since the undertaking began earlier this spring. One of the greatest challenges has been determining the extent to which the landscape of Town Point has changed or been altered over three centuries. Notably, an evolving shoreline has been a major consideration as we search for the town. After encountering several STPs that contained at least three feet of silt runoff over dark organic soil, we now surmise that a wide stretch of open field along a cove behind

the Town Point Marina probably was once either marshland or part of the cove itself. This revelation coupled with the fact that no conclusive 17th-century artifacts have been found on several other adjacent properties seems to indicate that our best bet may be to explore northward.

An offshoot of our search for the early town has been the discovery of culturally significant occupations from other time periods. For instance, the discovery of a prehistoric projectile point is evidence that Indians once hunted wildlife along this stretch of the Chesapeake Bay many thousands of years ago. Not too far from this same area, we also found several late 19th-century items such as fancy pressed vessel glass, white-ware bearing the mark of the Edwin Bennett pottery of Baltimore, and even a woman's hair comb. Local residents recall that an African American woman known only as "Fanny" once lived in a small house near this concentration of artifacts. These occupations warrant further research and will be documented in the final report on Herrington that the project will eventually submit to the Maryland Historical Trust.

A number of Town Point residents have provided invaluable "institutional knowledge" related to development and various activities in this neighborhood over the last century. Lifelong local residents Captain Ed Crandell and his son Ned have been especially helpful in this regard. The Crandells, who own and operate the Town Point Marina, have witnessed many changes over the last century. We feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to conduct an oral history with Captain Crandell, who at the age of 95 still remembers much from his early years, including stories passed down to him by his father and grandfather. He has provided us with important clues about the area's forgotten past, such as the existence of an unmarked graveyard, a local store and post office, as well as outdated maritime and farming practices.

Another invaluable asset has been volunteer and local resident Lois Nutwell, who has turned out each week to help us in the field. Lois is extremely able, and, as we all know, always full of good cheer! We encourage anyone else interested in joining us in our search for Herrington to contact either John Kille or Jason Moser.

Volunteer Spotlight: Bob Bomback

Bob Bomback does great work for the *Lost Towns Project*. He started with us in 1999 and works tirelessly conducting historical research on London Town and Anne Arundel County. He has helped us with studies on taverns, ferryboat operations, crime and punishment in the 18th century, as well as many other court related topics. Bob specialty is primary document transcription. He takes the scrawled 17th and 18th-century script and turns them into neatly hand printed, organized and indexed datasheets. We take his work and build databases for detailed analysis. His work has truly been priceless!

His work for us is just the tip of the iceberg. Bob is a very active retiree from the NSA (can't tell you what he did, but it gave him great research skills). He was a United States Marine and recently visited all of his old base assignments. He is an avid World War II history buff and participates in W.W.II reenactments at Fort Meade. He also volunteers for the local police department! And, as you all may know, Bob does interpretive docent work at London Town playing the part of Edward Rumney and various other London Town residents. Bob's life is full of history and community contribution. We are very lucky and proud to call him part of the *Lost Towns Project*.

-Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito



Who makes up the Lost Towns Project?

Al Luckenbach.....Director/County Archaeologist
Jane Cox.....Assistant County Archaeologist/Assistant Director, Technology
David Gadsby.....Lab Director
John Kille.....Assistant Director, Operations/Grant Administration
Jason Moser.....Assistant Director, Field/3-D Coordinator
Donna Ware.....Architectural Historian

Rosemarie Callage.....Lab Technician/Education Assistant
Carolyn Gryczkowski.....Lab Specialist/Curator
Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito.....Historian/Archaeologist
Bette Lawhon.....3-D Specialist
Tony Lindauer.....Historian/Equipment Coordinator
Sherri Marsh.....Assistant Architectural Historian
Paul Mintz.....Archaeology Technician/Research Historian
Lisa Plumley.....Archaeologist/Volunteer-Education Coordinator
Shawn Sharpe.....Archaeologist/Lab Assistant

Letters from Lost Towns is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November by Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project*. Contributors consist of *Lost Towns* staff and volunteers. To be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact Lisa Plumley, Planning and Zoning, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, MD, 21401 or call (410) 222-7441. Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project* is supported by the Anne Arundel County government, in cooperation with the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. and the London Town Foundation, Inc.



LOST TOWNS PROJECT

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