

# Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2004



## Future Events

**July 10 and September 11**  
9:00 - 2:00, London Town  
**Public Dig Day**

Lost Towns archaeologists invite the public to help screen soil looking for artifacts, take tours, and attend workshops.

**October 15-17**  
**CNEHA Conference**  
**In Kingston, Ontario**

Go and support David Gadsby while he gives his talk. Refer to the CNEHA website for more details.

Get your *Lost Towns*  
T-shirts and Hats now!  
See details on page 5.



For a donation of \$15 or more one of these lovely items could be yours!

Call Erin Piechowiak to get your t-shirt or hat today!  
410-222-7441

## **"33rd Annual Field Session in Maryland Archaeology"** **18AN934 Swan Cove**

A few quotes from this years field session.

"Oh, there's more muffle here."

"It looks like there's more loaf and bread crumbs in this feature."

"Drue's type A pipes are in abundance, but we aren't seeing many type B's."

"Is this a piece of sprigg-molded Rhenish Stoneware?"

"Now, how did Drue use the loaf and cobbles in his kiln?"

"This muffle fragment has luting on the inside."

"Check out this barberpole pipe."

What sort of foreign language is this you may ask? All those who attended the field school at Swan Cove probably read the quotes above, understood what they meant and could explain it to someone else in great detail! Many learned a new language of

including Sierra Leone, Columbia and Iran. Boy Scouts ventured out to the site, ready to work hard. Students from Whitman High School in Bethesda poured in by the dozens to get their hands dirty, working hard and trading off jobs, they really seemed

to work well with each other and also to have a great time. On the last day of the field school, students from Kennedy High School joined us, arriving at the site from around the globe. Everyone had the opportunity to experience the various aspects of archaeology— sod busting, troweling, mapping, and documentation, screening for artifacts



*John Kille teaching high school students how to map features.*

tobacco-pipe production during the 11-day field session at Swan Cove as the pieces of the "pipe puzzle" came together.

The *Lost Towns Project*, under the direction of Al Luckenbach, hosted this field session and welcomed the enthusiastic crowd of archaeologists, both amateur and professional. The old-timers were joined by many newcomers to archaeology and by students from all over the world

and lab work.

Three goals were outlined for the session; to search for the kiln itself and investigate the lower hill industrial space; to continue plowzone testing across the site; to identify features related to the two occupations of the site; the Drue occupation, and to excavate portions of the Merriday domestic area. Though we continue the search for the actual kiln, we are

happy to report that we met and exceeded all of our other goals!

In all, the ASM field session successfully excavated forty-one five-foot square excavation units, seven very deep shovel test pits, trowelled 750 square feet of features (sometimes twice), defined and mapped a series of very complicated features, including a large cellar intruding on two smaller "pipe-related" pits, excavated two intact features from circa 1660s and recovered nearly 100 gallon-sized bags of artifacts. (So any volunteers interested in helping us wash them... give Erin a call at 410-222-7441!) Each day started out with Al Luckenbach giving newcomers a tour of the site and a little background on the 17<sup>th</sup> century Providence settlement. Initially, everyone was divided into three groups, though by the middle of the first week, all efforts focused upon the features emerging on top the hillside. John Kille and Tony Lindauer took several intrepid souls "over the hill."

After much clearing of brush and poison ivy, the team tested targeted areas of the slope to the south of the industrial site, in an effort to ascer-

tain where the kiln or kilns may have been located. The team probed nearly 200 feet of the embankment looking for concentrations of cobbles and artifacts, hoping that this would reveal the potential location of the kiln. These cobble concentrations were mapped

and several discretionary shovel test pits were excavated to explore them. The STP's contained oyster, daub, flint, and to the delight of many pre-history enthusiasts, a Selby Bay projectile point! They also excavated a unit on the hillside, which produced a significant assemblage of Drue era pipes and pipe-making debris. This unit and a nearby STP were both over 5-feet deep, and produced large quantities of early artifacts, including muffle, Drue pipe stems, blue and manganese Rhenish stoneware, a

knife blade, and scissors. Dave Gadsby and Shawn Sharpe led a team of excavators who placed eight 5x5-foot excavation units in an area just to the west of features Seven and Nine-

teen (Drue industrial features exca-



vated in 2001) in an effort to determine the extent of the so-called "Industrial Area" and the extent and impact of modern earth-moving activities on seventeenth-century features in the area. Two principal results arose from these excavations. Firstly, modern filling and earth-moving has impacted archaeological deposits in the area. Some grading seems to have occurred, and a great deal of fill overlays the natural slope in this area. This fill is more than four-feet deep at its southern extent. It is clear, however that soils containing archaeological materials exist below this fill, but in the deepest parts, it is very difficult to reach. Second, a lens of crushed oyster shell extends from roughly N 170 to N125 with uncertain east-west dimensions beneath the plow zone. The northern boundary, determined through the use of a steel probe, trends roughly northwest to southeast. While few diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the area, small amounts of seventeenth-century ceramic, namely North Devon Sgraffito Earthenware, indicate that the lens is likely a seventeenth-century sheet midden that resisted incorporation into the plow zone due to its

density. A single feature was located below the oyster lens, in unit 89. The feature is filled with oyster shell, but has only been partly uncovered, making it difficult to ascertain the feature's function or chronological standing.

Jane Cox, Erin Piechowiak, and Lauren Franz led the charge on the hilltop, looking to expose and investigate the Merriday features. The first several units were easily explained as artifacts typical of a post-1680s occupation (related to Merriday) were recovered from the plowzone excavations. Removal of the plowzone exposed a well-defined dark circular stain, typical of

a large cellar hole. Abundant sherds of ceramics, bottle glass, wrought nails, animal bone, oyster shell and white European marked pipes marked this post 1680 cellar feature. Excavation units were placed to define the extents of the cellar. As the lines of plowzone units stretched south to the North 180 line, screeners and excavators began noticing a subtle change in

the artifacts. Ceramics from an earlier decade, and the appearance of dense brick-like bits and bats along with strangely colored pipes indicated that we had come upon an area that was related to the 1660s occupation by Emmanuel Drue. This exciting discovery fueled the further excavation of units to the south in an attempt to

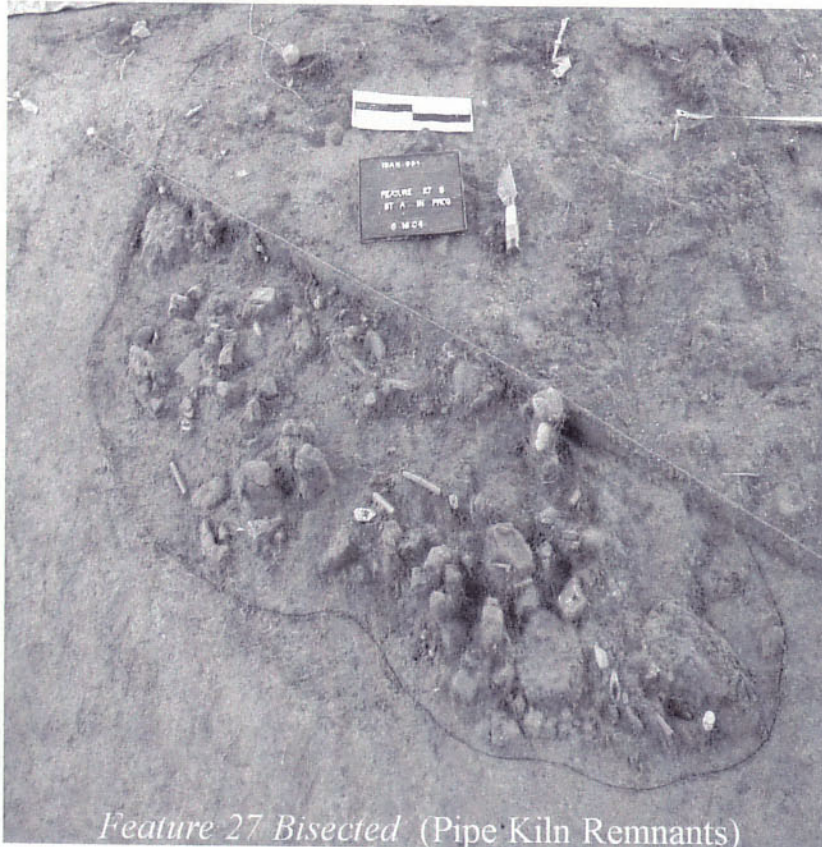
expose Drue era features and possible remnants of the kiln. A complex of features, including two kiln and pipe filled pits were recorded and excavated. Al Luckenbach kept a watchful eye on the developments as these unique features were explored.

While excavation of these two intact features was underway, the remaining workforce began exposing the complicated interaction between features from two different decades (1660 and 1680). Careful (and repeated) troweling of the interface re-

two ephemeral postholes that supported a wattle and daub chimney were recorded to the western edge of the large cellar feature.

The teams preliminary assessment is that Emmanuel Drue may have built the structure that is represented by the Merriday-filled cellar hole in the 1660s. Drue passes away in 1699 and Merriday moves into the extant house in the late 1670s. Merriday then begins to fill the open cellar with his circa 1680s trash, overlapping the deposit with Drue's workspace, represented

by the two kiln-debris filled trash pits. This hypothesis will need to be tested by additional excavations. Additional plowzone removal will hopefully reveal the postholes related to this building and their subsequent excavation will confirm or deny our hypothesis regarding the construction date for the building. Testing the cellar feature will also lend insight into the buildings' construction date. If there are Drue era deposits at the base fill of the cellar, then we can assert that Drue built and lived in the structure. This area was not backfilled at the end of the field session so the Lost Towns Project can continue in-



*Feature 27 Bisected (Pipe Kiln Remnants)*

vealed a clear line between a complex of Drue related pipe debris filled features and the Merriday cellar, marked by the presence of charcoal in Merriday-era features. Additional troweling on the final day revealed even more information about the complex of features. A burned area that may be the hearth location, along with

investigating these questions. We expect to be out on the site each Friday throughout the remainder of the summer. Volunteers are welcome both in the field and in the lab. Please contact Erin Piechowiak at 410-222-7441 if you'd like to be on the Lost Towns volunteer or mailing list.

On Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, the entire field school moved to London Town. The primary goal for this day was to allow ASM'ers to participate in some "experimental archaeology". Tony Lindauer ran two pipe-making workshops in the morning, which allowed everyone to explore the difficulties, and intricacy of making pipes. This experience certainly sheds light on the labor-intensive efforts pursued by Drue at Swan Cove in the 1660s. One pipe was tough enough—imagine the number of pipes Drue was turning out!

The ASM field school also spent some time excavating at London Town. London Town, a port founded in 1683, thrived for about 100 years until the growing importance of Annapolis rendered it obsolete. This day of excavation gave participants the opportunity to compare the riches of the Swan Cove site with a more ephemeral occupation of a less well-off colonist. In 1999 a posthole and some early to mid 18th century artifacts were discovered at 18AN576. The ASM field school attempted to define this possible structure but due to an abbreviated schedule and heavy root activity, none of the 4 units started were completed. However, a fair amount of 18th century ceramics such as English Brown and White Salt Glazed Stonewares were recovered as well as bricks, daub, and wrought nails. Though no further structural features were discovered, the artifacts strongly suggest a town period dwelling.

Later in the day, excavations in the poison ivy covered woods were suspended so that all participants could see the reconstructed pipe-kiln in action. Tony Lindauer showed how the kiln would be loaded and fired. This demonstration illustrated the precise use of each item we had found bits of all week. The cobbles, muffle, loafs,

## ?Mystery Artifact?



In the course of conserving artifacts from Homewood's Lot, this odd twisted piece of iron perked our interest. It seems to be forged from a simple piece intentionally bent to shape. One side is mostly intact whereas the other has rusted away, though what little is left appears to mirror the intact side. The center of the artifact exhibits a well formed protrusion; perhaps for mouting the artifacts to something or maybe just purely decoration. Regeadless, none of us are quite sure what to make of it. If anyone has any ideas, please feel free to call the archaeology lab at (410) 222-7328.

kiln furniture and props all came to life, and revealed to participants the significance of what is being recovered at Swan Cove.

Carol Cowherd, Belinda Urqueza, Stacy Streett, Bob Tracey, John Newton, Mary Ellen King, and John Fivash where just some of the many dedicated field school participants that worked so hard, and were there during nearly the whole session. Everyone quickly picked up our documentation methods and produced carefully documented records of the excavation. Many made large strides towards fulfilling their CAT certification. Charlie Hall and Dennis Curry also deserve a huge round of applause, for keeping this field school going and working so hard to make sure everything goes smoothly. Good job guys!

The Lost Towns Project would like to thank everyone who made the project a success. We were all impressed by the conscientious approach everyone took towards the site and we welcome each and every one of you to come back and visit. Thanks also go to Thackray Sez nec for opening her property up for the campers at the Cottage!

Last but not least, we would like to extend a special thanks to the Storck Family for allowing us to invade their pasture for the two-week session. Commandor Storck, his son, Bill and their families remain loyal patrons of archaeology in the County and we appreciate their continued interest and support.

~Jane Cox

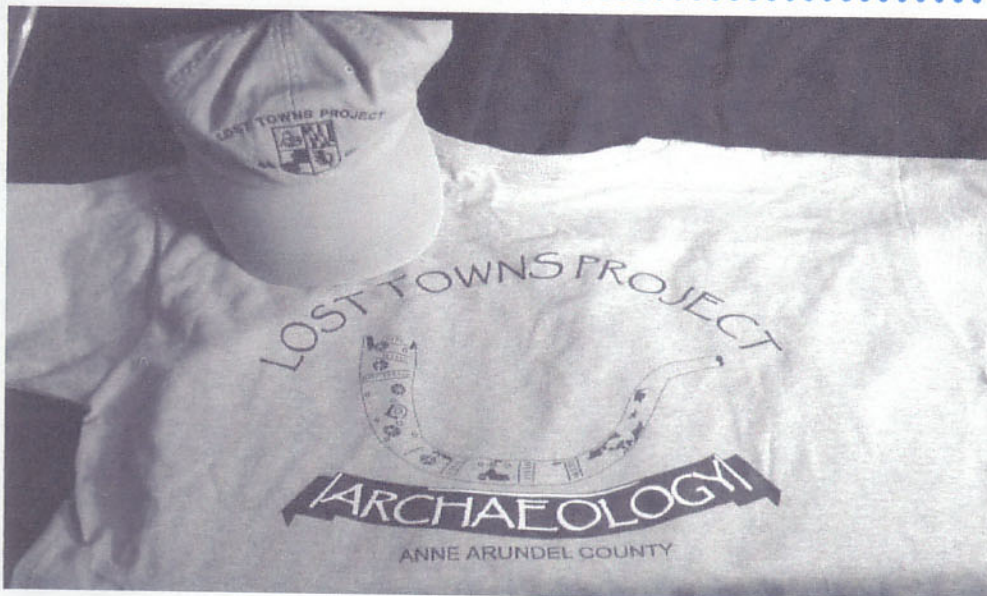
“*Scanning History: The Wave of the Future*”

Well, it was a long winter in the lab and office, but a lot of work has been accomplished. One of our big projects was getting all of our slides (it seemed like billions) scanned into the computer. We spent a couple of months on this project, but it is now finished...until we get back into the field and start taking more pictures. There were so many slides, many funny ones at that. There were the ones from the 60's and 70's; with all those longhaired hippie boys digging in the dirt. And can you imagine finding many from the 80's that weren't even labeled and trying to figure out where they came from, well, it was tough but I managed, especially leaning on Al's memory

I must say it was quite an adventure, it's amazing to see how many sites we have excavated throughout the years, and to see all the different adventures people have taken throughout the world visiting different archaeological sites. While I was busy scanning, everyone at work would get a little giggle every once in a while watching me yell at the slide scanner and computer (it had a tendency to get stuck every now and again), but for the most part everything went smoothly. If you ever get a chance, or are curious about some of the pictures that we have, you should check them out sometime...you would get a kick out of them too. You can see what all of the Lost Towners' where do-

ing back in the day, and also sneak a peak at London Town before the Lost Towns Project even started digging there. All the pictures are pretty neat to look through. If anyone ever needs any help learning how to scan slides they have at home, look no further, I can help you with that problem!

*Erin Piechowiak*



For a donation of \$15.00 or more one of these items could be added to your wardrobe!

T-shirts and hats may be obtained at the *Lost Towns Project* office at 2664 Riva Road on the 4th floor or a donation check may be sent to:

The Lost Towns  
Archaeology Project  
P.O. Box 1573  
Annapolis, MD.  
21404

This year's Lost Towns T-shirts feature the "Crumn Horn Pipe" that was excavated at our Swan Cove site in Providence. We have added something a little different this year; we have both men's and women's t-shirts. The men's shirts have the Lost Towns logo on the front left pocket, the women's shirts are v-neck with the logo on the front left side (no pocket).

Our hats this year are all one color (khaki), and they also feature the Lost Towns logo in navy blue.

### *Lost Towns Field School Update*

The Lost Towns Project will be offering a special 2-day intensive archaeology field school on Thursday and Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Participants will get a personal, hands-on introduction to numerous aspects of archaeological research, from a morning introduction to historic research at the Maryland State Archives, to intensive excavations at a 17<sup>th</sup> century Providence site, to laboratory procedures and artifact identification. The session will include an "Insiders Tour" at London Town and depending on enrollment, we'll tour several unique archaeological sites in the County.

The entire session will cost \$200 per person and registration includes a complementary Lost Towns T-shirt or hat and lunch each day. Please contact Jane Cox at 410-222-7441 if you'd like more information or would like to sign up. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants and only a few spots are left so act now!

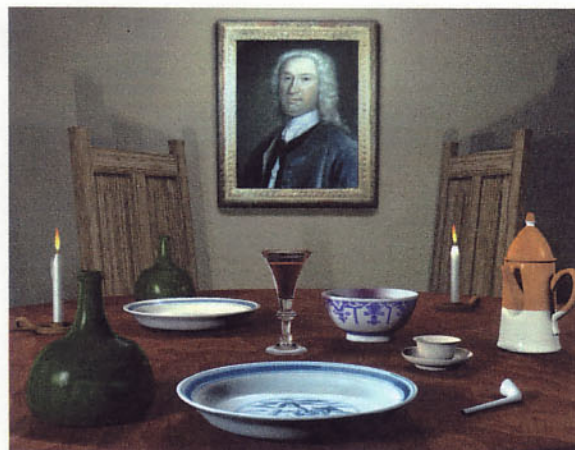
### *Animated Life at London Town's Rumney-West Tavern*

An innovative 3D educational program designed by Carl Gehrman and supervised by John Kille is now complete, and is one of many interpretive exhibits that will be installed in the new museum facility under construction at Historic London Town and Gardens. The program will run on several touchscreen activated monitors, enabling visiting museum goers and school

children to explore and navigate a digitally recreated interior of London Town's ca. 1725 Rumney's Tavern. This work is based on archaeological data and artifacts recovered from Lost Towns Project archaeological excavations, as well as related archival research. Included are period architectural elements and furnishings and the arrangement of glass and ceramic vessels as part of two table settings. Interactive components include: an English Delft plate; punch bowls; and fire place tiles; wine bottle and glass; stoneware coffee pot and cups; earthenware bowl; oyster plate; clay tobacco pipe; leaded casement window; and portraits of Hanna West and Stephen West Sr.

These superb visual effects are enhanced by period background music performed by the Baltimore Consort, engaging discussions of the function and context of the tavern, and intriguing sound effects such as the crackling of a fireplace and the pouring of wine, punch, and coffee. The program is the first of its type to be developed for broad museum audiences, and is a collaborative effort between the London Town Foundation, Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, and Preservation Maryland which provided a special grant of \$5,000 to complete the project.

*-John Kille*



### *Lost Towns Project receives grant from Four Rivers Heritage Area*

The Lost Towns Project, in cooperation with Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation received \$1,000 from the newly initiated mini-grant program offered by what until recently was known as the Annapolis, London Town, South County Heritage Area. This grant assisted us with staffing of the ASM field school in May. The funding also supported Tony Lindauer's pipe-making workshop at London Town on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Field school participants produced nearly 40 pipes as they learned the intricacies and difficulties of colonial pipe making techniques. The students became quite artistic as they stamped and scribed on the raw clay! Recently renamed the Four Rivers Heritage Area, this organization supports heritage tourism within the environment fashioned by the Severn, South, Rhode and West Rivers. The program supports preservation and interpretation activities within this cultural landscape. Certified in 2001, Four Rivers, a partnership among the State of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, and local heritage organizations and businesses, is one of 12 designated heritage areas within Maryland. For more information, check out there newly revamped website [www.fourriversheritage.org](http://www.fourriversheritage.org).

## Special Thanks to 2004 Dig Day Sponsors!

### Constellation Energy and Loews Annapolis Hotel

The *Lost Towns Project* is extremely grateful for financial support provided by its 2004 Dig Day sponsors. The project was fortunate to receive assistance in the form of a substantial corporate grant of \$5,000 from Constellation Energy and a generous gift of \$500 from Loews Annapolis Hotel.

This much needed help will enable the Project to continue hosting its popular hands-on educational program for people of all ages and backgrounds at Historic London Town and Gardens. The first Saturday dig day held on May 15 coincided with the Archaeological Society of Maryland

Field Session and was a resounding success. Two more 2004 dig day

should make a point of stopping by Loews Hotel to view the permanent *Lost Towns Project* exhibit on London Town. This outstanding display features several ceramic vessels and architectural materials in an exhibit case strategically located near the hotel's main entrance. Also, as a reminder, Loews offers first class dining, as well as overnight accommodations. Please feel free to contact Bill Dougherty, director of sales and marketing, at 410-263-7777 with questions about special arrangements and group events.

~John Kille



events are scheduled for July 10 and September 11.

Anyone touring downtown Annapolis

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## Four Rivers Supports Herrington and London Town Projects

Much appreciated support has arrived from the Four Rivers Heritage Area Association for two *Lost Towns Project* grant projects totaling \$8,000.

The first \$4,000 grant will create a permanent 3 X 5-ft. outdoor signboard exhibit on the legislated 17th-century town of Herrington that will be located at the Herrington Harbour North Historical Village in Deale, Maryland. This project will interpret discoveries involving archaeological features that indicate the presence of two earthfast or post-in-ground

buildings, as well as thousands of artifacts associated with the town occupation. ACT, Herrington Harbour North, and Severn Graphics also provided generous matching financial assistance for this collaborative effort.

The second \$4,000 grant will fund with the production of a "time-lapse" VHS/DVD video of the reconstruction of the Lord Mayor's Tenement, a 17th-century structure that once stood in proximity to London Town's Scott Street, a main thoroughfare leading to the South River ferry landing. This work will be carried out by

*Lost Towns Project* animator Carl Gehrman, who has already written a creative script and begun filming segments featuring Al Luckenbach, architectural historian Willie Graham, master housewright Russell Steele, and London Town Foundation board member and volunteer Ward Brockett. ACT and the London Town Foundation also provided significant matching funds for this project.

~John Kille

## 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

**Donna Ware.....**Architectural Historian

**Carl Gehrman.....**3-D Specialist

**Carolyn Gryczkowski.....**Lab Specialist/

Curator

**Tony Lindauer.....**Historian/Archaeologist

**Sherril Marsh.....**Assistant Architectural

Historian

**Erin Piechowiak.....**Archaeologist/Volunteer

and Education Coordinator

**Lauren Franz.....**Archaeologist/Lab

Specialist

**Shawn Sharpe.....**Archaeologist/Conservation

Specialist

*Letters from Lost Towns* is published in May, September, and January 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 Erin Piechowiak, Office of Environmental and Cultural Programs, 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401, Annapolis, MD 21401 or call (410)222-7441. Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project* is supported by the Ann Arundel County government, in cooperation with the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. and the London Town Foundation, Inc.

## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### Digging, Screening, Cleaning

or ..... Whatever

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 projects. Call Erin at (410)222-7441 for information. The lab is open Monday through Friday from 9:00-4:00. Call the lab phone, (410)222-7328, for information. The lab is located on the 2nd floor of 2666 Riva Road in the Heritage Government Center.
- 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.

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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2664 Riva Road, MS 6402  
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