



Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2009

Native American Discoveries at Pig Point

~ Al Luckenbach

News & Future Events

2009 Saturday Public Dig Days: July 11 & Sept. 12!

9 am - 2 pm, London Town
Lost Towns archaeologists invite the public to help screen soil and find artifacts, take tours, and attend workshops. Call London Town at 410-222-1919 to reserve your spot.

Lost Towns Evening Lecture Series: July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, London Town Visitor's Center.

We invite you to attend our new evening lecture series! *Lost Towns* staff will present our latest archaeological research and host a discussion following. Light refreshments provided. Free for members, \$3 for non-members.

July 8 Stephanie Sperling - "The Middle Woodland Period in Anne Arundel County"

Aug. 5 Lauren Schiszik - "The Old Treasury Building in Annapolis"

Sept. 9 Jessie Grow - "Understanding Subfloor Pits at Java"

As part of the Maryland Historical Trust Middle Woodland Grant, the *Lost Towns Project* has recently begun excavations on a bluff overlooking the Patuxent River at Pig Point. As usual, the project only excavates in wonderfully scenic settings...

One of the most exciting developments has been the discovery of small posts outlining Native American wigwam structures dating from sometime around A.D. 500-1200. How important is this? These are the first Indian structures ever found in Anne Arundel County, the first ever found in Tide-



The arc of small postholes represents the outline of a wigwam - a very rare find!

water Maryland, and perhaps the oldest in the state. Only three such structures have ever been completely mapped in Maryland – two from the Winslow Site in Montgomery County (circa A.D. 1350), and one from Western Maryland dating from around A.D. 1500.

A hearth from the same excavation block has yielded ample charcoal for a Carbon-14 date; although this hearth does not appear to relate to the three to four structures whose outlines are being revealed, hopes are high that when those hearths are discovered they will prove equally testable. This will be critical because the ceramics have been quite variable ranging from Pope's Creek Ware (400 B.C.) through Middle Woodland Mockley to Townsend Ware (A.D. 1250). We sent off our first three charcoal samples last week for C-14 testing.

A second excavation block located several yards away has revealed a number of Middle and Late Woodland features, including hearths and pits filled with local freshwater clams and tiny oysters. This area has wonderful bone preservation – including prolific bone tools – as well as carbonized nuts and seeds. We should learn a great deal about subsistence and Native

Continued on page 3

The Lost Towns Project Thanks our Partners and Supporters



Please Consider Renewing Your Sustaining Membership Today!

~ John E. Kille

We hope that you will consider renewing your annual *Lost Towns Project* sustaining membership if you have not done so within the past year.

Your gift will be especially important in light of a significant across-the-board Anne Arundel County budget cut of \$53,000 in operating expenses for the *Lost Towns Project* in the next fiscal year, which begins in July. Unfortunately, this reduction comes on the heels

of \$130,000 already cut from our current budget.

On a positive note, our sustaining membership program is helping us to support and continue many worthwhile educational activities within our local community. Please consider renewing your *Lost Towns Project* Sustaining Membership today! Many thanks to the following individuals who have recently joined or renewed their *Lost Towns Project* memberships:

Special Contributor

Marvin Anderson
Bruce and Nancy Bauer
John T. Chew Jr.
Robert and Cynthia Chew
Ronald and Melissa Chew
Wayne and Margaret Clark
Donald and Keren Dement
Jeremy and Angela Dover
Peter and Elizabeth Edmondo
The Grow Family
Edward and Caral Grunwald
Marjorie Hegge
Jean Hicks
Douglas and Donna Hole
Ray and Nancy Huff
M. A. Kaucher
Paul and Gwendolen Marshman
David McKenna
Carol Peterson
Orlando and Elisabeth Ridout IV
Mollie Ridout
Herbert and Marjorie Sappington

Carol Sanner
Jeffrey and Christine Savich
Harold and Elizabeth Slanker Jr.
William Storey, Jr.
Barbara Sweeney
Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael Tilghman
Jeffrey and Laura Tomitz
Caroline Wugofski

Family

The Cleaver Family
William and Betty Doty
Ingrid Gehle
William Murray III
Joseph Peake and Family
David and Diane Rey

Individual

John and Cynthia Bennoit
Sandra Bryant
India Bell Davin
Penny Goldstein
Diane Haberstich
James Hooper

Frederick Hunt Jr.
Marion Kay
Jane Miller
Richard Morin
Michael and Carolyn Quinlan
Dale and Lee Rains
Jean Russo
Mark and Ann Schatz
L. Silberman
Cheryl Stanley
Michael and Patricia Towle
Elizabeth Williams

We appreciate your support! You can now conveniently make your contribution online via Paypal, a secure payment portal by going to our new website at www.losttownsproject.org/support.html.



Your Will and Estate Planning: Please Keep the Lost Towns Project in Mind

~ John E. Kille

Each year thousands of people in their wills designate that a portion of their assets be used for the benefit and support of America's charitable organizations. These gifts enable supporters to make significant contributions and leave lasting legacies that may not have been possible during their lifetime.

As unbelievable as it may seem, more than 70% of adults in this country die intestate, meaning that they die without a valid will. Each of us has a precious legal right to dispose of property as intended rather than deferring this privilege to the government by default. In making decisions concerning your estate planning, you may wish to consider a living trust in conjunction with a will. You could also designate the trust as beneficiary of life insurance policies and retirement plan benefits.

In addition to the personal satisfaction of making a philanthropic bequest, there is a definite estate-tax benefit, as a charitable estate-tax deduction can be made for the full value of your gift. For more information on establishing a will or legacy dedicated to the *Lost Towns Project*, please contact ACT Treasurer John Kille at 410-222-7440.

Lost Towns Project Receives Gift of the Ogle Prehistoric Research Collection

~ Jane Cox

Several months ago, Dr. Al received a phone call from a dear friend of the *Project*, Mr. Bob Ogle. Bob, an avid avocational archaeologist since before many of the *Lost Towns* team members were born, has a wealth of knowledge about archaeological resources and prehistory in the region. He has collected at sites throughout the mid-Atlantic and beyond for several decades. Mr. Ogle was calling to offer his entire collection of artifacts to the *Lost Towns Project* for study and for posterity in a publicly-accessible institution.

His impressive prehistoric as-

semblage presents a wealth of systematically collected assemblages from not only Anne Arundel County, but also Prince George's, Calvert, and Charles County's. Several counties from Virginia are also represented. Having already offered this collection to a reluctant State of Maryland, the *Lost Towns* team instantly recognized the wealth of data that was stored in Bob's many boxes and coffee cans. As almost

all of the 200+ boxes were well-provenienced and well-labeled, the team knew that we could not pass up this opportunity! We took on the arduous task of transferring his collection from his home to the Anne Arundel County Archaeology Lab at London Town, and now we are looking for funding to process all of the materials from Anne Arundel



Al and Steph transfer the Collection from the moving truck!

County, which will include washing, re-bagging, and cataloging the assemblages so that we can begin studying them.

While running one's hands through a bag filled to the brim with exquisitely-made projectile points is exciting for us "dirt diggers," we are even more eager to begin extracting information from Mr. Ogle's impressive collection. The research potential for this collection is nearly endless, as one can embark upon comparative studies within and between the sites, detailed artifact analysis and study, such as what variations there are in ceramics or projectile points found throughout the region, and can even examine the distributional characteristics of these assemblages.

While there are no dedicated funds or staff to take on this very exciting and substantial project at this time, the team looks forward to carving time out of our regular schedules to give this collection the attention it deserves. If you would like to support the study of this collection, please consider making a directed gift for the study of the Ogle Collection!



An assemblage of spearpoints and tools.



Bone tools from Pig Point (from top to bottom): an arrowhead, needle, awl, and worked bone.

Continued from page 1

American lifestyles from these thousand-year-old features uncovered three feet below the present ground surface.

It's a very interesting site, in a beautiful setting with sandy, easily screened soils – so there's no excuse for not coming out to volunteer!

Living and Travelling in Anne Arundel County, 2,000 years ago

~ Stephanie T. Sperling

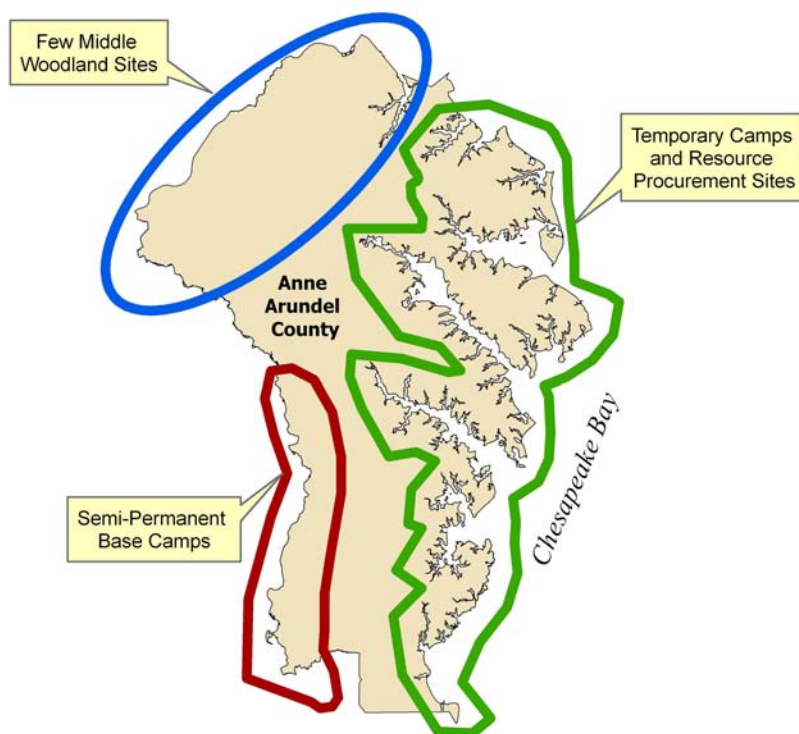
In early May, we wrapped up the first year of our Middle Woodland Project, funded by the Maryland Historical Trust. It was a great success! In my last newsletter article, I wrote a little about the transitional Middle Woodland period of prehistory (ca. 400 B.C. – A.D. 900). Archaeologists mark the beginning of the Woodland period around 1000 B.C. when Native peoples began making pottery, and within 600 years people were gradually settling into village life. They still traveled around the region to harvest various resources and they also traded and interacted with distant societies.

We began our study of the period with a wide-ranging review of the literature on the Middle Woodland. It was important to begin the project with an understanding of what previous archaeologists had already figured out about settlement and trade patterns, as well as typical artifact and feature types. The results of this part of the study are available online at the *Lost Towns Project* website and in the latest issue of *Maryland Archeology*.

In order to understand the types of activities that were taking place during the time period, we then researched and visited every known Middle Woodland site in Anne Arundel County – all 169 of them! We discovered that the banks of the Patuxent River in the southwestern corner of the County were a popular spot for settled villages, which is understandable considering the rich natural resources in that area. Game, fish, and shellfish, along with a wide variety of edible plants, were available year-round in the estuary. Smaller bands of people would camp for a few weeks at a time on the eastern side of the County at the reliable oyster beds along Chesapeake Bay and the tidal rivers, leaving evidence of their short stay in the form of shell heaps or middens. The center of the County was used mainly for hunting and gathering, and countless spear points and stone tools mark the spots of temporary extractive camp sites.

Interestingly, while the northwestern part of the County was used by people for thousands of years be-

fore the Middle Woodland and for hundreds of years after, there are far fewer period sites in this region. People had long come to this area near the geologic fall line to gather prolific quartz cobbles that could be made into stone tools. Yet archaeologists have long noted that Middle Woodland people preferred so-called “exotic” lithics that had to be obtained from distant locations



This map depicts how the Native Americans of the Middle Woodland utilized the land and resources in the County.

like Western Maryland and Pennsylvania. Could this be the reason that we see few Middle Woodland sites in the quartz cobble-rich areas of Anne Arundel County? Or was there some other cultural reason that they rarely used this area?

The final part of the first phase of the project was to choose several Middle Woodland sites to investigate further this summer, as our second phase of the multi-year grant. These sites have the most potential for telling us more about this period in prehistory, and they are spread from north to south across the County, which gives us a good comparative geographic range. We have already begun working at Pig Point, and the exciting finds there make us hopeful that the rest of the sites will be just as interesting!

Scenes from the Past— Railroad Towns of Anne Arundel County

~ Gabriela Harris

The towns of Gambrills, Millersville, and Odenton in Anne Arundel County barely existed before the establishment of railroads in the mid-19th century. Equidistant from three major metropolitan areas—Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Annapolis—these railroad towns became a transportation nexus, their prosperity directly tied with the trains that ran through them.

In 1835, the first railroad to cross Anne Arundel County, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O), was inaugurated providing service from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. The Maryland legislature did not want Annapolis to remain isolated and chartered the Annapolis & Elk Ridge Railroad (A&ERR) to connect Annapolis with the B&O. The A&ERR opened in 1840 and it spurred the growth of the first railroad town in the County, Millersville. The new railroad performed modestly at first, but business improved considerably with the opening of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1845.

At the same time that the tracks of the A&ERR were being laid, Anne Arundel County was struggling economically. Tobacco production, an important and lucrative cash crop, led to severe soil erosion. This erosion led to sedimentation of the tributaries of the Chesapeake, the traditional transportation venue in Anne Arundel County, and thus hindered water traffic. The railroad thus was a boon to commerce in the County, as it provided an alternate mode of transportation.

The next railroad town to develop was Odenton in 1867. Its development was triggered by the junction of the A&ERR and the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad which connected Baltimore to points near Washington, D.C. Odenton was named in honor of Oden Bowie, president of the railroad and future governor of Maryland (1869-1872).

The last railroad town to develop was Gambrills whose fortune was closely tied to the

United States Naval Academy Dairy Farm (1913) and Fort Meade (1917). Incidentally, the locations for both the Dairy Farm and the Fort were selected because of their proximity to the railroad tracks.

The railroad brought new prosperity to the County. After the electrification of the tracks in 1908, the neighboring towns could tap into the electric grid. Stores, hotels and entire communities sprouted near the train stops and along the tracks. Truck farmers used the railroad to transport fresh produce to the metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. An influx of population after the end of the Civil War and World War I opened new markets along the entire Eastern seaboard to the farmers and the oyster and canning industries in the County. Unfortunately, the prosperity was not to last. The same railroads that provided access to Anne Arundel farmers brought cheaper products and competition from the southern states. The arrival of the automobile in the 1920s, combined with ambitious road construction programs in the state and, finally, the Great Depression of the 1930s dealt a deadly blow to the railroads.

In 1935, the last incarnation of the railroad, the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railroad, was put on the auction block, its tracks dismantled and sold for scrap. The former railroad towns fell into decline and their busy streets and stores became silent. Fortunately, post-World War II suburbanization turned these towns into bedroom communities for Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Annapolis thus preserving their unique character. However, new development sparked by the imminent expansion of Fort Meade threatens the history of these railroad towns and their remaining rural pockets. Few people are aware of the railroad history of Gambrills, Millersville, and Odenton but their history is worth remembering and preserving.

Jason Vaughan's final project for the University of Maryland Masters of Historic Preservation program, *Tracking Change: The Significance, Identification, and Preservation of Railroad Town Development in Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, was the main source for this article.

The *Project* has an Informative new Site...on the Web!

~ Lauren Schiszik

We are proud to introduce our new website for the *Lost Towns Project*, which you can visit at www.losttownsproject.org. Funded in part by a Mini-grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area, the new website has a lot of great features. We intend for it to serve as an information portal for researchers, colleagues, supporters, Anne Arundel County residents, and others.

On the website, we have a Middle Woodland Research tool for those who want to learn about this period of prehistory, access to our most recent scholarly articles, past newsletters, as well as information about our archaeology sites, upcoming events, volunteer and internship opportunities, and links to other archaeological websites and research tools. We have a donation page, so you can conveniently and securely become a member of the *Project* online and support our endeavors. We also now have a blog that we update frequently with posts about our latest news and exciting finds!

We will be adding more content to the site over the summer (when I'm not in the field) including some video tours of sites we are currently excavating. We already have a video tour up for our lab, a very important archaeology "site" indeed! For those of you on Facebook, please join our organization page to stay informed about our adventures in archaeology that way. We hope that you will visit and use the website and let us know what you think!

Lost Towns has some newly minted grads!

~ Lauren Schiszik

As if we weren't edified enough working here at the *Lost Towns Project*, some of our staff pursue higher education in their free time. This spring, three of our crew were awarded diplomas. Congratulations to John Kille (Ph.D), Stephanie Sperling (M.A.A.), and Steve Tourville (B.A.)!

John Kille earned his Doctorate in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. His areas of research are cultural landscape studies, material culture, and working class labor history. His dissertation is about 19th-century Baltimore stoneware potters.

Stephanie Sperling received a Masters degree
Continued on page 7



The Graduates! (from left to right): Dr. Kille, Steve Tourville, B.A. and Stephanie Sperling, M.A.A.

Mystery Artifacts

~ Shawn Sharpe

Among the most interesting artifacts recovered this Spring at Pig Point were two large tobacco pipe fragments. These pipes aren't the commonplace white European pipes or even the rarer locally-made 17th-century pipes produced by entrepreneurs such as Emmanuel Drue of Providence. These pipes are far older examples of Native American craftsmanship produced long before any contact with Europeans. We are awaiting results from the radiocarbon tests that will tell us

the approximate date of the layer of soil in which these pipes were found, but based on similar pipes, they appear to date to the Late Woodland period. We will learn for certain when we get the results! The two pipe bowls recovered are of different styles; one is called a collared pipe and the other is referred to as a bulbous ringed pipe. Intriguingly, the bulbous bowl is somewhat similar to 17th-century



The collared (l) and bulbous ringed pipes(r).

European belly bowls, though without the heel and much larger. Perhaps this style of pipe inspired the belly bowl?

Volunteer Opportunities Abound at the *Lost Towns Project*

~ Jessie Grow

Whether you have a great eye for detail or prefer fast work, like to get your hands dirty or would rather stay clean, the *Lost Towns Project* has a volunteer task for you! As we continue to take on new projects with new challenges, it seems as if our volunteer opportunities are growing exponentially.

The best part about our volunteer opportunities is that, unlike other organizations, we don't require any previous experience or a minimum number of hours each week! It's up to you, the volunteer, to decide how much you want to be involved or learn about archaeology.

As usual, we have plenty of artifact washing to do in the lab. I was so proud of our lab volunteers for processing thousands of artifacts this past winter, but our excavations bring in more bags of artifacts each day! That's the nature of archaeology...

Lab volunteer opportunities also include labeling for those who are good with scissors, and data entry for those who are computer savvy. In addition, we also have a critical need for people to sort water screening. This entails using tweezers to



Volunteers Penny Goldstein and Camille Privette wash artifacts in the lab.

pick up and sort very small artifacts. This is time-consuming but can be very Zen, I swear!

For those who love doing research, we always have projects to do at various libraries and archives. This includes research on a person or piece or property as well as transcribing historical documents. Often the beautiful loopy handwriting of the 17th century can be a bit of a challenge to read today, but it is thrilling once you get the hang of it.

Of course, our excavation sites are always open for volunteers. There is usually an endless supply of buckets of dirt to screen for artifacts.

And you are welcome to learn the other steps of archaeology, such as troweling, mapping, shoveling, and photographing.

Finally, we also have a need for volunteers to help us with our education program at London Town. Just about every Wednesday we work with school groups or summer camps who visit London Town to learn about archaeology and early Maryland history.

Volunteers help us screen artifacts with the kids and teach them about what artifacts tell us about the past.

If you'd like to learn more about our volunteer opportunities, contact Jessie at 410-222-1318 or at volunteers@losttownsproject.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Continued from page 6

in Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park. The Middle Woodland research project that she completed for us also fulfilled the requirements for her Final Project in the program, and resulted in an article in *Maryland Archeology* and a paper presented at the MAAC conference in March! She did a stellar job!

Steve Tourville, who started with the *Project* as an intern in 2007, received his B.A. in Ancient Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus. This afforded him the opportunity to work at a Mycenaean site in Pylos, Greece associated with the Palace of Nestor! Ultimately, his experiences here at the Project piqued his interest in Public History, and this fall he will be pursuing a Masters degree in Public History from his alma mater. Congratulations to John, Stephanie, and Steve on their achievements!

Lost Towns Project Staff

Al Luckenbach....Director/County Archaeologist

John Kille....Assistant Director

Jane Cox....Cultural Resources Planner

Darian Schwab....Historic Preservation Planner

Shawn Sharpe....Field Director/Conservation Specialist

Jessie Grow....Lab Manager/Education and Volunteer Coordinator/Archaeologist

Lauren Schiszik....Archaeologist/Intern Coordinator/Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Sperling....Archaeologist

Part Time

Steve Tourville....Archaeologist/Lab Specialist

Gabriela Harris....Assistant Architectural Historian

Carolyn Gryczkowski....Lab Specialist

Tony Lindauer....Historian

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

Become a Sustaining Member of the *Lost Towns Project*!

If you are not yet a sustaining member of the Lost Towns Project, please consider becoming one, or give the gift of membership to a friend or loved one. Your tax-deductible contribution supports our public outreach and education programs, such as our "Public Dig Days", our high-quality newsletter publication, and helps us fulfill our mission to discover, interpret, and educate citizens and students about the history of Anne Arundel County. We greatly appreciate your support!

Member Benefits:

- 3 newsletters per year
- 20% off *Lost Towns* gear and publications
- Free admission to our lecture series
- Invitations to special events and trips

Levels of Membership:

- \$50 or more Special Contributor
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Individual
- \$5 Student (send copy of valid student i.d.)
- Give as a gift!

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Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible.

**Send this form and checks payable to "ACT/ Lost Towns Membership" to:
Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) / P.O. Box 1573 / Annapolis, MD 21404
OR**

**You can now become a member online at:
www.losttownsproject.org/support.html**

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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