



# Letters from Lost Towns

Summer 2010

## The *Lost Towns Project* and County Executive Welcome International Visitors to Pig Point

~ Lauren Schiszik

### News & Future Events

**Final 2010 Public Dig Day:  
September 11, 2010  
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.

### Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) Annual Meeting

**October 16, 2010  
8:30 am- 4 pm  
Oregon Ridge Nature Center,  
Cockeysville, MD**

This meeting features presentations about archaeological investigations across Maryland and welcomes professional and avocational archaeologists. Stephanie Sperling will be presenting on our recent discoveries at Pig Point. For more information, please visit [www.marylandarcheology.org/2010\\_Annual\\_Meeting.php](http://www.marylandarcheology.org/2010_Annual_Meeting.php)



*County Executive John Leopold and Al Luckenbach welcome the group to Pig Point.*

The *Lost Towns Project* has hosted numerous visitors at the Pig Point site, and on July 2, we were honored to be visited by an international group of archaeologists, curators, and museum officials. They were in the U.S. for three weeks visiting historical sites and museums across the country through a program run by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The 22 participants were from as many different countries around the world, including Chile, Jamaica, Egypt, Tanzania, Belarus, Afghanistan, and Laos.

County Executive John Leopold - an ardent supporter of the *Project* - warmly welcomed the group, which was followed by an introduction and tour of the site by Al. The participants seemed very impressed with the site and our program, and engaged in some wonderful discussions with our



*The group poses with Dr. Al and site owner William Brown III.*

staff and volunteers. Given the breadth of experiences among the members of this group, there were many interesting questions and cross-cultural comparisons. It was an enriching experience for all, and we were honored to be on their itinerary. Now if only we could go visit them in return...

### The *Lost Towns Project* Thanks our Partners and Supporters



# A Warm Thank You to all of our Members

At the *Lost Towns Project*, we are very lucky to have supporters that value the discovery and preservation of the the past. 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! Remember, you can now conveniently make your contribution online via Paypal, a secure payment portal, at our new website at [www.losttownsproject.org/support.html](http://www.losttownsproject.org/support.html). We greatly appreciate the support of the following individuals who have recently joined or renewed their memberships:

## Special Contributor

Louise Akerson  
Pat Barland  
William and Lisa Brown  
Betty Browning  
James Cheevers  
Robert and Cynthia Chew  
Ronald and Melissa Chew  
Wayne and Margaret Clark  
Alan, Linda, and Mallory Colegrove  
Ned and Betty Crandell  
Donald and Keren Dement  
Timothy and Seely Foley  
Michael and Jo Ann Guidos  
The Grow Family  
Edward and Caral Grunwald  
Phillip and Ruth Hazen  
Marjorie Hegge  
Catherine Hess  
Douglas and Donna Hole  
Ray and Nancy Huff  
Mechelle Kerns-Nocerito  
John and Frances Koontz  
Paul and Gwendolen Marshman  
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T. Craig and Denny Wayson  
Harrison and Susan Wetherill Jr.  
John and Barbara Wing  
Caroline Wugofski

## Family

Mark and Maureen Bennett  
William and Betty Doty  
Penny Goldstein  
Kathleen Gramp-Smith  
James McLefresh  
McElfish Family  
Julie McCollough  
Patrick and Vicki McCorkle  
David and Diane Rey  
David and Mary Sedlak

Kay Spruell  
Allison Turner

## Individual

John and Cynthia Benoit  
Michael Carlton-Jones  
Jeannette Christman  
India Bell Davin  
Matt Grubbs  
James Hooper  
Frederick Hunt Jr.  
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Marion Kay  
Alex Lavish  
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Patricia Melville  
Jane Miller  
Richard Morin  
Ellen Moyer  
Richard Napoli  
Jared Pomfrey  
Charlotte Powers  
Michael and Carolyn Quinlan  
Mark and Ann Schatz  
JoAnne Schneider  
L. Silberman  
Ethel Stephan

## Student

John Fury

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## New (and Old) Faces at *Lost Towns*

~ Lauren Schiszik

This spring, we bade a sad goodbye to Assistant Architectural Historian Gabriela Harris, who stepped down from her position to pursue other endeavors. We wish her the best! Our new Assistant Architectural Historian is Matthew Bowling, a 2009 graduate of the Masters in Historic Preservation Program at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he

was the President of the Historic Preservation Organization and served on the Graduate Student Government. A native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Matt's hometown fueled his love for history and preservation. He received his BA in Sociology at Clemson University and an MA in History at Marshall University in 2006. Prior to returning to school to study Historic

Preservation, Matt worked for several years in higher education as a recruiter. His preservation interests are incredibly varied, but his favorite architecture is vernacular. He wrote his Historic Preservation thesis on maintaining the balance between historic preservation and environmental conservation in New York State's Adirondack Park.

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## Messages from the Past at Pig Point

~Al Luckenbach

We are now nearly half-way through the 2010 season at Pig Point and the site continues to astonish us with its depth and stratigraphic integrity.

Along with the stalwart *Lost Towns* crew, interns, and volunteers, we have had working visits from the field schools of Washington College and UMBC. Soil expert Dan Wagner was kind enough to spend the day carefully studying the site. He too was amazed at the depth of the site - and concludes it was mainly due to erosional instead of aeolian (wind blown) deposition.

A recent artifact found by our host and dedicated volunteer William Brown III is particularly interesting. Prehistoric gorgets were polished and drilled decorative artifacts made to be worn around the neck. The top photo shows William's new gorget fragment, which has had a design scratched on it, displaying careful internal incising. It is pictured between two examples recovered last year. All are made of slate, and all but one came from the Lower Block of excavations.

What is interesting is the fact that these are clearly from three different gorgets, incised by three different "artists," each done after the gorget was broken, and yet there is a similarity of conception in all three designs. What message this consistent iconography might be trying to impart is completely unknown at this point. The



*Three of the incised gorgets found at Pig Point.*

explanation that these are simply doodles seems unsatisfactory. Perhaps, since they were all incised after the gorgets were no longer wearable, these designs were meant to remove the "power" that these important and personal objects once had.

Yet another broken gorget was recently recovered in the Lower Block by veteran volunteer Pat Welford. It is a more complete example than the gorgets previously found, and it lacks incising. Instead, Pat's find displays



*This gorget has four notches on one edge.*

the common edge notching known as talley marks. Again, no one is quite sure what these marks mean.

As is often the case, the past is trying to tell us something with these amazing artifacts. Unfortunately, we just don't know what it is...

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Matt is a coach for a co-ed soccer team at Calvin Coolidge Senior High School in Washington, D.C., and is a mentor in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Mentor Program at Coolidge. He does his best to incorporate preservation in his work with the group. We are excited to have him on board. He's plunged right into the hard work of protecting our historic resources, which you can read about on page 6 of this



*Matt Bowling hasn't wasted any time investigating old buildings!*

newsletter.

I am sure that most of you remember Erin Cullen, our former lab director, who left the *Project* to pursue her master's degree in Forensic Anthropology. She has returned this summer to help out with our bumper crop of interns. We also hired Matthew Estes, who interned with us this spring, to work for us this summer as well. Please give these folks a warm welcome!

# Interns Galore!

~ Lauren Schiszik

This summer, we have a record number of interns - twenty, to be exact! We are so pleased that our internship program is popular and that we have such a great opportunity to teach archaeology to students. Our interns have a diverse range of previous experiences and educational backgrounds, ranging from high school to graduate school. The majority of the interns are doing general field and lab work, but a few are delving into special projects - such as a study of colonial plantation landscapes, archival research on the Chew family, analysis of faunal materials from the Java site, cataloging artifacts from the Bob Ogle collection, and cataloging ceramic vessels from Rumney's Tavern at London Town. Three interns are conducting their second internship with us - apparently, they didn't get enough of us the first time around! They are doing a terrific job, and we are lucky to have them!

Our fearless interns are: Christine Ames (Syracuse University alum), Anna Baldwin (high school), Michael Barnett (UMBC), Julie Bertling (UMBC), Gregory Bunger (Towson University), Catherine Daniels (Gettysburg College), Joe Emmerich (Saint Leo University alum), Thomas Glantz (UMBC), Mark Gradoni (UMBC alum), Josette Graham (University of Maryland, College Park), Mark Hannan (UMBC), Virginia Harness (St. John's College), Bethany Hyers (UMBC alum), Matthew Kramme (Towson University), Irene Lewis (high school), Stephanie Martin (Bryn Mawr College), Leanna Richardson (UMBC), Calley Roter (high school), Madelyn Santa (high school), and Jenna Zimmerman (University of Maryland, College Park).

This past spring, we had five terrific interns. Patrick McKittrick, an alum of St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Matthew Estes, an alum of SUNY-Oswego, did field work and A LOT of work with the Bob Ogle collection. Katie Clendaniel, who holds a Masters of Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park, assisted us with our Coastal Climate Change grant. Hoang Nguyen, a history major at UMBC, researched the Chew family, and Allison Seyler, also a history major UMBC, researched colonial plantation landscapes.

A big THANK YOU to our interns for all of your hard work!



*Madelyn Santa surveying at Java.*



*Mark Gradoni excavates a pit at Pig Point.*



*From left to right: Josette Graham, Stephanie Martin, Matt Kramme, and Catherine Daniels working at Pig Point.*



*Virginia Harness and Matt Kramme find colonial artifacts at Java.*

# *Lost Towns Project* Partners with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center on Two Research Projects

## Excavations Continue at Java

~C. Jane Cox

As SERC looks forward to interpreting the iconic c.1750 Java mansion ruins and plantation site to the public in the coming years, plans to develop visitor support systems on the hilltop are in the works. In order to assist SERC with this planning, the *Lost Towns Project* is conducting a Phase I archaeology survey of the hilltop to ascertain if any significant cultural resources survive in areas that may be developed for visitor support buildings.

With the summer army of interns, the team has completed a systematic survey of the hilltop and will submit our findings to SERC so they can continue to be responsible stewards of the highly significant 1671 Sparrow's Rest Plantation. This work comes on the heels of a recently completed temporary stabilization effort to keep the mansion ruins from further degrading while more permanent plans can be developed and funded.

This work, supporting in part by a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, also offers a public archaeology component. The *Lost Towns* archaeologists will expand excavations on several intact 17th-century deposits near the mansion ruins in August and September of 2010. We welcome the public to join in the fun on August 3rd and August 17th through a public program managed by SERC. Please contact Karen McDonald at [mcdonaldk@si.edu](mailto:mcdonaldk@si.edu), or by phone at (301)238-2737 to reserve your spot. Find out more about SERC's Public Programs at [www.serc.si.edu/public\\_programs](http://www.serc.si.edu/public_programs).

## A Partnership to Evaluate Threatened Coastal Sites... or, More Site Visits, Huzzah

~ Stephanie T. Sperling

Lauren and I spent a few days in late June and early July visiting coastal archaeological sites threatened by sea level rise in the Rhode River area. This is part of our Department of Natural Resources grant to study the potential effects of climate change in Anne Arundel County. We decided to focus our site visits on the Rhode River area in order to partner with our friends at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) who are conducting an interesting cultural study of their own in the watershed. Smithsonian scientists are attempting to gain a better understanding of shell middens in the Chesapeake Bay under the direction of Dr. Torrey Rick, Curator of North American Archaeology at the National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Rick has done extensive work using radiocarbon dating on stratified shell midden sites in the Channel Islands of California. This has helped to clarify the prehistoric timeline of that region and he hopes to bring the same success to our area.

The SERC scientists were kind enough to take us out on one of their aluminum jon boats which made visiting the coastal sites quicker and much more fun! As we evaluated current state of the previously recorded archaeological sites, we kept detailed records of the

conditions of the shell middens (which accounted for 48 of the 60 visited sites - the others were small lithic scatters or were historic period sites, including the 18th-century Ivy Neck plantation and a 19th-century free black cemetery). Many of the middens were badly eroded and some have already eroded away, as



*Lauren (right) and SERC intern Edgar Alarcón-Tinajero examine a highly eroded shell midden on the shoreline of the Rhode River.*

we saw no trace of them. But 15 of the shell middens seem to still have excellent integrity and would make good candidates for Dr. Rick's study. He plans on excavating several of them in August and we hope to help out in any way we can. We'll keep you posted on his progress!

# Evaluation of Anne Arundel County's Inventory of Historic Properties

~ Matt Bowling

First off, for those of you with whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I'd like to say "greetings". In May, I was hired by the *Lost Towns Project* to serve as the contractual Assistant Architectural Historian.

My first big assignment was to draft a report on the current state of the Anne Arundel Inventory of Historic Properties (AAIHP). The report assessed the status of historic resources throughout the County, and highlighted some of the biggest challenges and threats facing historic properties.

The study confirmed that 1,040 historic resources are listed on the Anne Arundel County Inventory of Historic Places. These resources include 731 buildings, 104 archaeology-related sites, and 86 transportation-oriented resources. Within the County are 97 historic resources that are located on military facilities, and as a result, fall under the purview of the Federal Government. I also learned that 121 of the 1,040 historic resources listed on the AAIHP have been demolished.

There were 148 historic resources listed on the AAIHP that had "no information on file," meaning that those resources lacked sufficient, if any, documentation. Of these, 98 are still extant and in the County's jurisdictional oversight. I was able to locate, identify and conduct historic integrity evaluations on these properties. Now we have at least basic information on 96 out of the 98 resources that previously had no information on file.

The vast majority of these 98 resources were located north of US-50. Development pressure, in the form of unchecked growth around suburban Baltimore, Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), and Fort George G. Meade, continue to make a significant impact to historic resources in northern Anne Arundel County.

In southern Anne Arundel County, new development does not pose as big of a threat. However, perhaps the most significant single endangered historic site in the County is located in Galesville. The Wilson Farmhouse was built sometime between 1865 and 1878 by a former

slave named Henry Wilson or his son, Richard Wilson. When Henry Wilson purchased the parcel of land in 1865, he became the first African American property owner in Galesville, and one of only 462 former slaves to own land in the State of Maryland. Unfortunately, a recent site visit confirmed that the Wilson Farmhouse is on the brink of being demolished by neglect. In addition to the house, a remarkable semi-professional baseball field, used by a local Negro League farm team named the Galesville Hot Sox, was constructed on the property in the early 1920s. What became known as "Wilson Field" (AA2320) is still located on the property today and still has everything needed to play baseball: home and visitor dugouts, grandstand, backstop, fencing down both the first and third baselines, and even a snack-shop. On more than one occasion, Wilson Field played host to teams from the Negro Professional Baseball League.

In the course of my appraisal of the County's



*The Wilson Farmhouse, located in Galesville, was constructed by a freed slave or his son.*

preservation policies and historic sites, I developed recommendations for how the County can better use its inventory of historic properties as a tool for enhancing its historic preservation program. Just a handful of enhancements would bring about more meaningful, thought-provoking, and tangible historic preservation for the citizens of Anne Arundel County. Some of these improvements could include the creation of a

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# In Memoriam: Marion Francis and Tracey Corder

~ John E. Kille

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Marion Francis and Tracy Corder, two very special individuals who made significant contributions to the *Lost Towns Project* over the years.

Marion Francis, Administrator of the Anne Arundel County Public Library, was both a friend and supporter of the project. She provided guidance and expertise that was vital for the establishment of the special collections library at the Anne Arundel County Archaeology Laboratory at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater. This library branch now houses an impressive array of print, digital, and audio/visual resources devoted to the earliest history of Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Colony.

This special collection is but one of many examples of how Marion

played an important role in improving the quality of life of residents of Anne Arundel County through ensuring greater access to library resources and educational programs and activities. This legacy will undoubtedly continue to enrich the lives of people of all ages for many generations.

Tracy Corder interned with the project in the late-1990s as an undergraduate student at UMBC. The project's first 3D intern, he was instrumental in launching our innovative program which involves the digital reconstruction of historical landscapes, buildings, and artifacts. Tracy created many outstanding 3D reconstructions during his internship, most notably the earthfast home of Robert Burle, the first surveyor of the c. 1649 Providence

Settlement. His rendering was so outstanding that it was selected as the centerpiece of the 1999 Archeology Month poster.

It should be noted that Tracy was admired not only for his considerable artistic talents, but also his determination in the face of adversity. Following his paralysis from a diving accident as a young man, he persevered and accomplished a great deal in his life. At the time of his untimely passing he was employed by the Federal government and was following an enviable career path.

Both Marion and Tracy will be truly missed...

*Continued from page 6*

local historic preservation tax credit program, the establishment of a transferrable development rights plan, the implementation of better outreach and educational initiatives, or the formation



*A tobacco barn in Glen Burnie is threatened by encroaching development.*

of stiffer penalties for property owners who either intentionally demolish or who allow for historic resources under their control to be demolished by neglect. The implementation of these policies would ultimately produce more effective historic preservation in the County. I hope this brief article gives you a better understanding of the AACIHP, some of the challenges, and a handful of the possible solutions confronting Anne Arundel's evolving historic preservation program.

## *Lost Towns Project Staff*

**Al Luckenbach**....Director/County Archaeologist

**John Kille**....Assistant Director

**C. Jane Cox**....Assistant Director/  
Cultural Resources Planner

**Darian Schwab**....Historic  
Preservation Planner

**Shawn Sharpe**....Field Director/  
Conservation Specialist

**Jessie Grow**....Lab Director/  
Education and Volunteer

Coordinator/Archaeologist

**Stephanie Sperling**....Research  
Archaeologist

**Steve Tourville**....Archaeologist/  
Lab Specialist

### *Part Time*

**Matt Bowling**....Assistant  
Architectural Historian

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

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

**Tony Lindauer**....Researcher

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
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- \$20 Individual
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**Send this form and checks payable to "ACT/ Lost Towns Membership" to:  
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Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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