



# Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2010

## Hoping for Hopewell

~ Al Luckenbach

### News & Future Events

#### Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference, March 18-21 Ocean City, Maryland

On the morning of March 20, the *Project* will present an entire session on our findings from Pig Point! Hope you can join us!

#### Mark your calendars for the 2010 Public Dig Days:

May 22, July 10, &

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.

#### Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Open House on the Bay

May 15, 2010 10 am - 3 pm

Come out to SERC for their annual open house with hands-on activities from historical and environmental organizations in the area, including the *Lost Towns Project*. For more info, visit <http://www.serc.si.edu>.



*Hopewell projectile point discovered at the Pig Point site.*



*Another Hopewell point from the Johnson collection.*

One of the more intriguing aspects of the Pig Point artifact assemblage is the presence of a projectile point made out of a very exotic chert (apparently from Ohio) which appears to be a resharpened Hopewell Point. If this attribution is correct, then a number of other finds at Pig Point might raise similar suspicions. Included in this list is a rolled copper bead, marginella beads, drilled canines, a zoned incised sherd, and a broken platform pipe. However, none of these are definitive by themselves or even as a group - just suspicious.

The Hopewell, famous mound builders of the Ohio Valley, were the beneficiaries of an "interaction sphere" which included trade contacts with most of Eastern North America, but notably not the Middle Atlantic - at least that's the old paradigm. On the Delmarva Peninsula, Darrin Lowery has been finding Hopewell materials among materials from the Middle Woodland Period. Then there is the mythical Tracey's Creek site that the *Project* spent days searching for last year - and will again next year. Our long-time volunteer Lois Nutwell reported finding Hopewellian pottery and a projectile point at this unspecific location near Deale.

The most recent Hopewellian clue from Anne Arundel County comes from the Johnson collection. Dick and

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### 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  
Mr. and Mrs. William Brown III  
James Cheevers  
Robert and Cynthia Chew  
Ronald and Melissa Chew  
Wayne and Margaret Clark  
Ned and Betty Crandell  
Donald and Keren Dement  
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Wayne and Michelle Walker  
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Michael and Carolyn Quinlan  
Mark and Ann Schatz  
JoAnne Schneider  
L. Silberman  
Ethel Stephan

### Student

John Fury

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## Another Outstanding ACT Awards Ceremony

~ John Kille

I am pleased to report that the annual Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) awards ceremony held last October 28th at the Marley Neck Rosenwald School in Glen Burnie was a resounding success! ACT President Will Mumford again hosted this much-anticipated event, which honored efforts to preserve the historical, archaeological, and cultural resources of Anne Arundel County.

The 29th Marjorie Murray Bridgman Award was presented to Donna Ware, Executive Director of

Historic London Town and Gardens. Donna served for over two decades as Anne Arundel County's Historic Sites Planner where she established the county's stellar preservation program. She also served for eight years as the Chair of the Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission. Her book "Anne Arundel's Legacy" remains the primary source on the county's architecture.

The 34th Orlando Ridout Prize was presented to the Marley Neck Rosenwald School. This award honors the name of the Anne

Arundel County native who served as first director of the Maryland Historical Trust and continues to lead in preserving the architectural heritage of Anne Arundel County. The historic Marley Neck School is a significant example of a Rosenwald School design and represents a landmark era in black education in the period before federal support of local education. The School was built in 1927 with funds raised by the local African American community and matching

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funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. It is one of eight known surviving Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County. The school closed in the 1960s, but served the needs of Hall United Methodist Church until it fell into disrepair in the 1980s. It sat idle until a collaborative effort began in 1999 to restore this significant cultural resource. The restoration and rehabilitation of Marley Neck took nine years to come to fruition. In March 2008, work was finally completed, and on April 11, 2008 it officially opened its doors once again as a community center. The award was received by members of the non-profit that spearheaded the restoration, the Friends of the Marley Neck School Center.

Three awards were also given in recognition of significant contributions to the Marley Neck School restoration project. Pat Barland, Senior Planner in the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning, Donna Ware, and the Arundel Community Development Services were honored.



*Left to right: Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold with awardees Donna Ware, Executive Director of Historic London Town and Gardens, and Lisa and William Brown.*



*Left to right: Members of Friends of Marley Neck School Center Yvonne Henry, Helen Johnson, and Rosalie Gaither.*

This year, two Special Contribution in Archaeology awards were also given out. The first was awarded to Bob Ogle who has spent most of his lifetime collecting

prehistoric and historic artifacts in the county, along with the vital information about their provenance. Earlier this year, Bob donated this astounding collection to Anne Arundel County's Archaeological Laboratory to be preserved for research and display.

A Special Contribution in Archaeology award was also bestowed upon William and Lisa Brown who have graciously allowed the *Lost Towns Project* to excavate the prehistoric Pig Point site located on their property. They have also donated the artifacts to Anne Arundel County. The Pig Point site is one of the most important prehistoric sites ever excavated in the state containing the earliest known evidence of structures found in Maryland.

Our condolences go out to the family of Helen Johnson, an active member of the Friends of Marley Neck School Center, who passed away shortly after the ACT awards were held. Her contributions to preservation were significant and she will be missed by all.

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## Sorting Out the Middle Woodland

*~ Lauren Schiszik*

In the wintertime, our efforts turn towards lab work, research, analysis, and report writing. In my case, I am reading reports on other archaeologists' findings. Lots of them. While some archaeologists think of this as a low-grade level of torture, I am embracing the opportunity to delve into the data found in the reports.

You may remember the article that Jane wrote about our Middle Woodland Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool that she and Stephanie developed last year. My task for the winter is to build upon that tool for the second year of our Middle Woodland grant, which is generously provided to us by the Maryland Historical Trust. We have chosen to include over 20 Middle Woodland sites in Anne Arundel County that have well-

documented excavations. I am collecting artifact data as well as information about features (such as hearths, pits, shell middens), specialized analyses, and excavation methodologies. All of this will be compiled into the GIS tool and made available to other researchers with an interest in Maryland's prehistoric collection. This will allow archaeologists to conduct both inter- and intra-site analysis of Anne Arundel County's Middle Woodland sites.

So, why is it important that I am a glorified bean-counter this winter, you ask? (Believe me, I've been asking too.) Basically, I am doing this so that others won't have to do it again in the future. For those of you

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## Native American Subsistence

~ C. Jane Cox

Many of our *Lost Towns* friends and volunteers know that when food is placed in front of certain archaeologists, it is quickly devoured - doughnuts and pizza don't stand a chance! We have recently turned our attention to these core cultural issues of food ways and subsistence in the Middle and Late Woodland Period, as an outgrowth of the work underway at Pig Point.

Subsistence studies explore how Native peoples exploited their environment and found the nutritional resources needed to survive. What they chose to eat is a large part of this investigation, and the faunal and archaeobotanical materials being diligently recovered at Pig Point may lend new insights into these questions. The excavations have clearly shown that wild animals, such as deer, elk, wildfowl, even BEARS (oh my!), and aquatic resources such as clam, oyster and fish supported the nutritional needs of Native Americans. We are also focusing on the plant resources readily available in the rich environment of what is now Anne Arundel County.

While many equate Native American diets with plant cultigens such as corn, beans and squash,

these standard staples did not actually come onto the scene until relatively late in the Coastal Plain environment. Early corn is not seen



*Marshelder that may have grown here in Anne Arundel County.*

in this Chesapeake Bay coastal plain region until ca. AD 900. Our investigations will explore what the Native American populations were eating *before* the arrival of corn.

The "Eastern Agricultural Complex" is a phrase you may hear in the future, as we believe that this collection of selected plants may

have formed the mainstay for Native American diets in the Middle and Late Woodland (200 BC to AD 1100) period of Anne Arundel County. Now we have the task of proving that selectively cultured plants - such as Sunflowers, Chenopodium, Sumpweed or Marshelder, and native Squash - were in fact used by the Native Americans, and we hope to explore how they utilized such resources. We also have speculated that the rich ecosystem in the County offered a broad array of plant materials that Native populations would have exploited in the marsh or riverine environments - such as Amaranth, Tuckahoe or Wild Rice.

Food is so culturally sensitive and specific that it offers an opportunity to really understand and appreciate Native American lives. We hope that our investigations in the coming year will help us understand the challenges and rewards these people experienced 2,000 years ago. And I can't wait to try a yummy amaranth and dandelion salad covered with sunflower seeds, roasted walnuts and blackberries, topped with thinly sliced medium rare roasted elk, with a side of squash, wild rice or tuckahoe!

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## Update: Archaeology Through a Microscope

~ Steve Tourville

During the winter months the weather has grown colder and the ground at the Pig Point site has frozen over, but that hasn't stopped us from doing archaeology! Even though we are not currently making new finds in the field, we are discovering microscopic ones that lie hidden in soil samples.

Throughout the summer we collected these soil samples from features at Pig Point, and now I am extracting the archeobotanical remains. After drying out the soil samples, I sift the samples through a fine

mesh screen, and look at them under a high powered microscope to find seeds carbonized by our native ancestors. So far the investigation has yielded several possible food sources for our Native American friends. All of the seeds that I have found date to the Woodland Period.

The most common seed found thus far is Lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium berlandieri*), an annual weed that is found throughout North America. It belongs to

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# How Will Sea Level Rise Affect Archaeological Sites?

~ Stephanie Taleff Sperling

Earlier this year, the *Lost Towns Project* and the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning received a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to study the potential effects of sea level rise and climate change on archaeological and historical sites. A recent scientific and technical analysis of sea level rise over the next century conducted by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change projects that coastal

communities (like Anne Arundel County) may experience between 2.7 and 3.4 feet of additional rise by the year 2100. Anne Arundel County

is particularly susceptible to sea level rise, given its 530 miles of tidal and non-tidal shoreline. We estimate that nearly half of the more than 1,400 recorded archaeological sites in the County are located in or near coastal areas.



*No, Jane isn't walking on water... she is walking on a submerged archaeological site!*

In an effort to plan for the future of these resources, we are developing a Vulnerability Assessment to identify potential areas of sea level rise and storm surge inundation, assess trends and predict impacts of shoreline erosion, and develop complete inventories of resources at risk. This innovative project will be

undertaken in partnership with various County agencies and will lead to the introduction of concrete guidelines to the Planning and Zoning Director addressing how we can proactively protect and monitor threatened cultural resources.

While many European governments have conducted similar studies examining the potential effects of sea level rise on heritage resources for over a decade, this study is one of the first of its kind on this side of the Atlantic. Kudos to Jane for having the wherewithal to kick-start this project! In the words of archaeologist Michael J. Kimball, who is with the University of Northern Colorado and organized a panel discussion at the 2008 World Archaeological Congress about the impacts of climate change and sea level rise to cultural resources, we are "helping to mark the emergence of a new paradigm for archaeology." Pretty cool!

## Mystery Artifact

~ Shawn Sharpe

This issue's mystery artifact is an ornately decorated - albeit significantly burned - "drab ware" stoneware cup recovered from the cellar of the Samuel Chew mansion.



The décor is an elaborate sprig molding, which is a decorative piece of white clay applied to the outside of a gray ceramic vessel. This sprig molding, highlighted with cobalt blue, is ostensibly a floral motif, although some of the molding is missing. What is so mysterious about this cup, then? I personally find the numerous small holes in the bottom of the cup intriguing. They appear to nullify the practicality of holding liquids unless, of course, it was designed as a practical joke. If anyone knows the purpose of this strainer, please contact us at the lab at 410-222-1318!

## The Other Manhattan Beach

~ Gabriela Harris

Manhattan Beach, a quiet residential enclave on the Broad Neck Peninsula in Anne Arundel County, was developed as a planned community in the 1920s, one of the first developed as the county transitioned from a rural agricultural landscape to a recreational destination for the increasingly middle-class populations of Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.

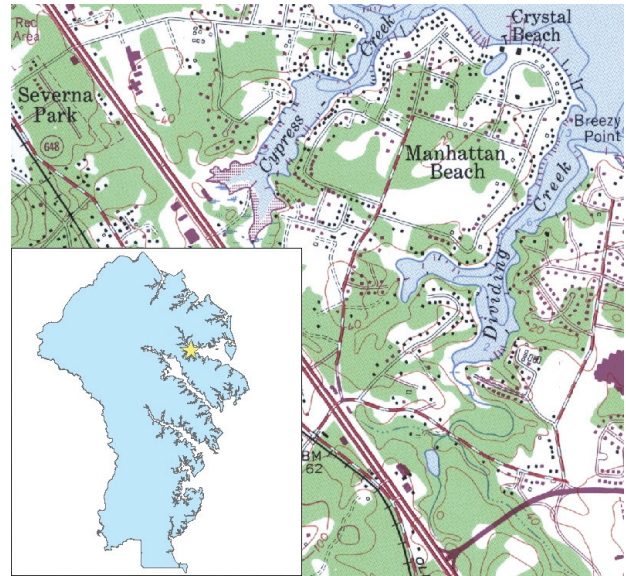
Manhattan Beach is surrounded on three sides by the Cypress and Dividing Creeks and the Magothy River. The first settlers of the peninsula cultivated tobacco; in the late 1800s and early 1900s owners operated a truck or produce farm that benefited greatly from the mild micro-climate created by the surrounding water and the proximity to the river for transportation. By the 1920s, truck farming declined due to competition, labor shortages and soil erosion. This led George Stinchcomb, whose family owned 226 acres on the peninsula, to sell 177 acres in 1921 to a Baltimore real estate company for \$37,000. The Stinchcomb family were land owners in the area since the late 1700s and a cemetery at 730 McCann Road contains family burial plots. After selling his land, Stinchcomb moved into a former tenant house on Windrush Farm Lane. This property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) as Holly Run Farm (AA-307).

The land was divided into residential building lots and sold to city residents anxious to escape oppressive summers for cool air and clear waters. The community was named



*Holly Run Farm, a late-19th century vernacular farmhouse in Manhattan Beach.*

Manhattan Beach, thought to evoke the area's first native inhabitants. Visitors arrived by train at Jones Station Road from Baltimore, Washington and Annapolis and then travelled the short distance to Manhattan Beach by horse carriage.



*USGS Map of Round Bay depicting the location of Manhattan Beach. On inset map, the star marks the community's location in the county.*

At first, residences were seasonal and only a few people were year-round residents. The construction of Governor Ritchie Highway in the 1930s and the inauguration of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge made commuting much easier and many more people elected to live in Manhattan Beach on a permanent basis. During its heyday, Manhattan Beach was a lively and fun playground, with picnics on the beach, boating, pony rides and even a Ferris wheel.

Today, Manhattan Beach is home to over 500 families living in a close-knit community. Several of the original cottages dating from the initial subdivision survive, peeking out from behind the newer houses. The significance of the community does not lie wholly in its architectural inventory, as Manhattan Beach represents the transformation of Anne Arundel from an agricultural county to a recreational destination for city folk that parallels the growth of the middle class and its increasing affluence.

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the goosefoot family (*Chenopodiaceae*), and like other members of the type genus *Chenopodium*, the leaves bear a slight resemblance to the foot of a goose. The fresh, tender foliage is sometimes called wild spinach due to its appearance and taste. We have also found a few different species of nuts, berries and grapes. The grapes and berries could be eaten raw or cooked, and documents from Jesuit priests noted that Native Americans did in fact make wine. Edible nuts like walnuts, chestnuts and acorns could be eaten raw or cooked, and were sometimes ground up into a milky substance similar to soy milk. This nut milk probably served as a great source of protein. Hickory nuts were used as fuel for fires.

In the lab we continue to search for answers that will further our



*Steve examines seeds under the microscope, with seed reference book close at hand!*

research into the enigmas of Native American culture. Every day we are finding new evidence under the microscope, and this new data means new research. This is only the beginning of our archeobotanical expedition, which is shining a new light on our prehistoric past.

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unfamiliar with how archaeological excavation data is stored, let me explain. When professional archaeological excavations are conducted, they must produce a report according to state standards. This report is filed with the State Historic Preservation Office, which is the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). MHT is in the process of digitizing site reports for various counties across Maryland. However, there are thousands of site reports for Anne Arundel County alone, and dozens more written each year.

In order to conduct site analyses, one has to hand-tabulate data from the site reports. This is the reason why our Middle Woodland tool is important. After extracting all of this data and compiling it into a spatially-oriented database, we will make it available for other archaeologists' use. That way, others don't have to log in the same time and effort that I did to get this information. We hope that this type of data -sharing will become more prevalent in archaeology, as it greatly benefits all of our research efforts.

The Middle Woodland GIS tool will allow us to engage in a "big picture" approach to studying this period in prehistory. Rather than just looking at sites individually, we can look at them collectively and draw comparisons. We believe that this tool will allow the archaeological community to learn more about the broader geographic, social, and environmental patterns that shaped and influenced the Middle Woodland peoples in Anne Arundel County. We'll let you know how it turns out, but in the meantime, I have to go count some more ceramics.

*Continued from page 1*

Marjorie Johnson, lifelong avocational archaeologists, were kind enough to donate their major collection of Anne Arundel County artifacts to the Lost Towns Project. Now curated at the county's archaeology laboratory at Historic London Town, this collection constitutes a major resource for future research. Recently, I decided to go back over some of this collection that came from Tracey's Creek. In one bag I found a previously unrecognized Hopewell point - and this one definitively made out of chert from Flint Ridge Ohio. It would appear that the old paradigm might need some adjustment...

## ***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***

**Gabriela Harris**....Assistant  
Architectural Historian

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

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

**Tony Lindauer**....Historian

Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

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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!

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Lost Towns Project



of Anne Arundel County

Office of Planning and Zoning  
2664 Riva Road, MS 6402  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410)222-7440

