



# INKSHERDS

## Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Delaware

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### From the ASD President....

*Archaeology Month and the ASD Annual Meeting are quickly approaching. The theme for Archaeology Month this year is Seventeenth Century Delaware, which we hope raises awareness of sites we believe exist, but so rarely find. Members are in the process of creating a poster that we hope all will find both educational and entertaining.*

*As at every annual meeting, Director positions are open to all members interested in contributing to the society. Positions open at each annual meeting are Director-at-large, and, as is custom, Directors that will serve as President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please feel free to nominate yourself or another interested member for one of the three positions. Send nominations to the society's mailing address, or to [tim@heite.org](mailto:tim@heite.org). All nominations will be forwarded to a Nominating Committee once it is formed. Anyone interested in serving on the committee, please contact Tim Mancl at [tim@heite.org](mailto:tim@heite.org).*

*We are also seeking nominations for the Archibald Crozier and Omwake Awards. The former is presented annually to any individual or team demonstrating distinguished achievement in, or contribution to, archaeology. The latter award is for any ASD member making exceptional contributions to the Society. Please submit your nominations to any member of the Board of Directors.*

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for 2008 should be submitted now to ensure the receipt of future *Inksherd*s and the *Bulletin*. Dues are as follows: Sustaining (\$50.00), Contributing (\$30.00), Family (\$15.00), Library (\$15.00), Individual (\$10.00), and Junior (\$8.00). Mail to the Archaeological Society of Delaware, P.O. Box 12483, Wilmington, DE 19850-2483. Please remember to put the year for which the dues apply on your check! See form on last page.

### ASD OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

President - Tim Mancl  
Secretary - Alice Guerrant  
Treasurer/Newsletter Editor - Jessica Billy  
President, New Castle Chapter - Joan Parsons  
President, People's Chapter - Linda Horstick  
President, Sussex Chapter - John Bansch  
President, Maritime Chapter - William Taylor  
Director-At-Large - Peter Bon  
Field School Committee Chair - Craig Lukezic  
Bulletin Editor - vacant  
ESAF Representative - Fred Carlson

### CHAPTER NEWS

#### Sussex Chapter – Data Recovery at Avery's Rest

Members of the Archaeological Society of Delaware and other volunteers completed data recovery on the threatened portion of the Avery's Rest Site on October 31, 2007.

The Avery's Rest Site is located on the north side of Rehoboth Bay, Sussex County, Delaware. This early colonial site was first occupied by John Avery, his wife Sarah and children in 1675 when John was 42 years old. At his death in 1682, John was Captain of the militia at Whorekill (Lewes), Justice of the Peace, and President Judge of the Court at Whorekill and one of the wealthiest men in Sussex County.

The Avery's Rest archaeological site was first located in 1977 during a regional survey of potentially threatened areas by state archaeologists. The site was subsequently nominated to and listed in the Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places. In 2006, the Society learned that the site would be destroyed, at least in part, by a proposed housing development. Sussex Chapter President, Peter Bon, sought and received assistance of professional archaeologists from the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and Heite Consulting, Inc. Since April 2007, Dan Griffith, retired from the Lewes Maritime Archaeology Project, joined the effort and led the fieldwork through completion in October.

The site was amazing! The Society identified fifty-five features, including two large, complicated and deep wells. The wells were twelve feet wide and up to twelve feet deep and contained numerous fill levels, including levels with domestic refuse. At the base of one well, Feature 11, an intact wood casing was recovered, the first one ever found from a 17<sup>th</sup> century site in Delaware.

The project is currently in the lab phase in space provided by Heite Consulting, Inc. in Frederica. The lab processing and analysis will continue into March, at which time the Society plans to return to the field and investigate a portion of the site outside the proposed housing development. This new area of the site may contain Avery's house site, which has not been located yet, as well as related outbuildings.

The project has been a tremendous learning experience for Society members, other volunteers (including college students from the University of Delaware and Wesley College in Dover) and professional archaeologists alike. Many of your Society members spent a long, hot and dry summer at this site insuring that this chapter of Delaware history would not be lost forever – thank you! If you would like to participate in upcoming phases of the project, please contact Sussex Chapter President, John Bansch, at 302-644-9918.



**Society members and volunteers in action removing well casing at Avery's Rest**

People - Left to Right: John Bansch, Sussex Chapter President, Wayne Mellin, Charles Mowday

**Maritime Chapter – Lewes Maritime Archaeology**

HELP IS NEEDED AT THE PEL LAB IN LEWES, DE

Volunteers are needed to assist with the labeling of artifacts, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Faye Stocum at the PEL Lab: (302) 645-6654 or via email at: [faye.stocum@state.de.us](mailto:faye.stocum@state.de.us)

Normal Lab Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-F

ANY TIME DONATED WOULD BE APPRECIATED!

**CHAPTER MEETINGS**

**New Castle County Chapter** - Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Greenbank Mill, 500 Greenbank Rd., Wilmington, DE. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

**The People's Chapter (Kent County)** - Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Delaware Archaeology Museum, 316 South Governors Avenue, Dover. Call the Museum, 302-739-3260.

**Sussex County Chapter** - Meets every other month on the 2nd Thursday starting in January at 7pm at the Zwaanendael Museum.

Most regular meetings will be joint meetings with the Maritime Chapter, in order to share training, guest speakers, and mutual projects.

**Maritime Chapter** – See above.

**DELAWARE ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Mud-dauber Egg Chambers  
By Glen Mellin**

A number of years ago, I was instructed to purge all mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments from an archaeological collection because the Principal Investigator determined them to be non-cultural. I had a problem with that decision because the nest chambers were recovered in an excavated archaeological context, probably owing their position in time and space to human activity.

Recently, however, I had the opportunity to collect another set of mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments at Bayside's Herring Creek Site, 7S-K-121, overlooking Roy Creek and Little Assawoman Bay, in Sussex

County, Delaware. The egg-chamber fragments are thought to be in association with a large pit feature complex dating to the first half of the Webb Complex (ca. 500CE-800CE).

The pit feature complex is a large pit feature, F3, containing two internal features, F1 and F2, in test units 144-148, 155, and 156 (see map). The cultural pit feature complex was identified immediately below the historic plow zone (AP) and plow zone (PZ). I assume the pit feature complex is slightly truncated by the AP.

No Native American architectural postholes were observed. However, immediately west of the feature cluster, in excavation units 111 and 112, I recovered a total of twenty-one mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments, representing at least nine “pupa-tubes.” Some egg-chamber fragments were recovered from the (AP), yet others remained imbedded in the intact upper level of the E soil horizon. No mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments were found in the PZ soil horizon between the surface and eight inches deep. No mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments were found in the pit features or on the rest of the site.

I believe the recovered mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments had originally been dispersed in, or on, what had evolved into the upper four inches of the E soil horizon. A similar depositional sequence is suggested for feature cluster 1, 2, and 3. Both the top layer of the E soil horizon and the pit feature complex would later be truncated by the historic AP soil horizon activities.

#### Similar Archaeological Documentation

Mud-dauber egg-chambers found in archaeological context may be associated with a variety of cultural remains. For example, excavations at the Buckner Ranch Site 1 (41BE2) in Texas produced mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments associated with a Paleo-Indian context (Texasbeyondhistory.net, 2007:2). Recent excavations along the Ocmulgee River in Georgia have produced clay daub and mud-dauber egg-chambers in association with Native American architectural remains (Fernbank.edu, 2007:1). Closer to home, the Maryland Historical Trust identified the presence of mud-dauber egg-chambers located in some human cranial cavities of burials from “chapel houses” (Mysteries... 2007:3).

#### The Wasp

Locally, the mud-dauber wasp genus is *Trypoxylon* with four surviving species. Our species (likely *politum*) constructs a series of organ pipe egg cells from mud and saliva. The wasp’s saliva causes the egg cell to become “petrified.” The female wasp deposits one egg in each cell. When the egg hatches, the pre-pupa

spends the winter inside the organ pipe cell. In the spring, the pupa develops, eats dead spiders deposited with the egg, and emerges as a flying wasp. Because the viability of the pre-pupa and the pupa is vulnerable to moisture and harsh weather, nest sites are found only in the most protected locations. Native American architecture afforded the Organ Pipe mud-dauber wasp especially attractive nesting locations.

#### Interpretation and Conclusion

The artifact spreadsheet from site 7S-K-121 exhibits the following ratios. Of the 207 Townsend sherds found in the PZ-AP-E soil horizons, only 8.6% were found in the E soil horizon. Of the 205 Hell Island sherds found in the PZ-AP-E soil horizons, 14% were found in the E soil horizon. Of the twenty-one egg-chamber fragments found in the AP-E soil horizons, 23.8% were found in the E soil horizon. The differences in proportion show that the mud-dauber egg-chambers fragments are associated with the Hell Island pit feature context (ca 500 CE to 800 CE) and not with any of the more recent site contexts.

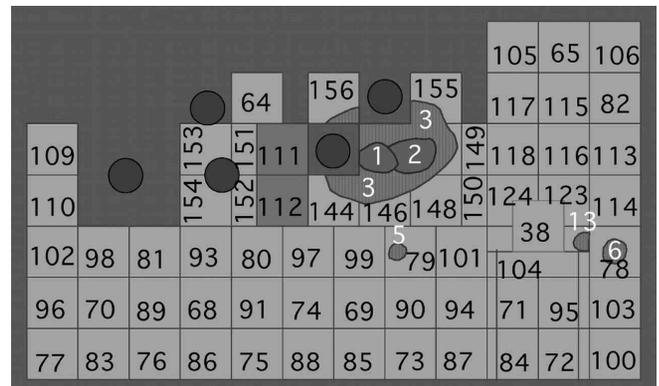
I believe the presence of mud-dauber egg-chamber fragments found in association with the pit features 1, 2, and 3 is strong supporting evidence that the pit features had been fitted with a weather-tight architectural covering.

#### Sources

[www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains). Buckner Ranch. Page 2, March 15, 2007.

[www.fernbank.edu/museum/research/sidu/highlights2006](http://www.fernbank.edu/museum/research/sidu/highlights2006). Page 1, March 15, 2007

[www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/mysteries](http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/mysteries) Mysteries: Native Americans Reburied Relatives. Page 3, March 16, 2007



**Map text: The Herring Creek Site (7S-K-121): Lowland site features. Units 111 and 112 produced several mud dauber nest fragments.**

## MAAC SCHEDULED

The Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference will hold its 38th Annual Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland from February 28th to March 2nd. For information on registration and accommodations, please visit [www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org](http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org) or contact the Program Chair Liz Crowell at Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035.

## THE LOST RADEAU DVD

The award-winning documentary "The Lost Radeau: North America's Oldest Intact Warship" is the story of the history, discovery, and scientific study of a 1758 radeau-class warship called *Land Tortoise* that was found in Lake George, New York in 1990. The French & Indian War (Seven Years War) vessel lies in 107 ft of water and is intact. The year 2008 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deliberate sinking of this British and provincial warship.

The DVD documentary covers historical background of the war and radeau warship, side scan sonar technology, including an interview with side scan sonar pioneer Marty Klein (Klein Associates, Inc.), the multi-year underwater archaeological mapping of the shipwreck, creating a seamless photomosaic of the radeau shipwreck, establishing a shipwreck preserve for diver visitation, nominating shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark, and the threat of zebra mussels to historic shipwrecks. The DVD is excellent as a tool to inform divers and non-divers about underwater archaeology and remote sensing. This documentary was completed by award winning documentary filmmaker Pepe Productions in collaboration with Bateaux Below, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) underwater archaeological team.

The documentary retails for \$39.95 (USA funds) plus shipping. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the documentary help Bateaux Below in its underwater archaeological studies at Lake George, New York, and also goes toward a legacy fund for the 1758 *Land Tortoise* radeau shipwreck. For more information on the DVD documentary, see the web site ([www.thelostradeau.com](http://www.thelostradeau.com)) - Joseph W. Zarzynski, RPA (Register of Professional Archaeologists), Underwater Archaeologist & Executive Director of Bateaux Below, Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership/Annual Dues

Enclosed are the dues for (check type):

- \$ 50.00 Sustaining Membership
- \$ 30.00 Contributing Membership
- \$ 15.00 Family Membership
- \$ 15.00 Institution Membership
- \$ 10.00 Individual Membership
- \$ 8.00 Student/Junior Membership

I would like to attend the following Chapter Meetings:

- The Peoples Archaeological Society of DE (Kent County)
- Southern Chapter (Sussex County)
- Maritime Chapter (Sussex County)
- Northern Chapter (New Castle County)

Please return to:

Archaeological Society of Delaware  
P.O. Box 12483  
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