

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor



Rebecca L. Flora
AICP, LEED ND / BD+C
Secretary

Elizabeth Hughes
MHT Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
June 11, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ethan Bean, Stephen Brighton, Marian Creveling, Jane Cox, Dave Gadsby, Don Housley, Bob Wall

Staff in Attendance:

Caitlin Hall (intern), Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Susan Langley, Matthew McKnight, Anne Raines, Zachary Singer, Stephanie Soder

The meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Review of the March 12, 2025, MACA meeting minutes:

The March 12, 2025, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Stephen Brighton and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Introduction of MHT Summer Intern, Caitlin Hall — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight introduced Caitlin Hall. Out of the 12 applications MHT received for the Summer Internship in Archaeology, Caitlin came out on top. Caitlin is a native of Carroll County, MD and is currently enrolled in the UMD dual degree Master's program in applied anthropology and historic preservation. She has BA degrees in Anthropology and History from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and has been working with MHT since May 20th, just before the start of the Field Session.

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Director Hughes reported that MDP does not yet have the FY26 budget from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) since the General Assembly included a \$150 million across the board reduction but did not identify how this reduction would be allocated by agency. DBM is trying to determine how to distribute these reductions now and MHT is hoping to have the final budget by next week.

The FY2025 federal budget which was approved by Congress included a total Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) appropriation of \$168.9 million. Of this amount, \$62.150 million of the HPF is set aside for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). These funds are allocated to SHPOs according to a pre-determined formula based on a state's population, land area, etc. MHT's share is approximately \$1 million which largely supports staffing costs. SHPOs can "apply" for these funds once NPS issues the FY2025

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). To date, the NOFO has not been issued so MHT cannot apply for our funds. Our understanding is that the NOFO is stuck at the Office of Management and Budget at this time. Advocacy in support of release of the NOFO is needed now.

On a broader scale, as the impact of federal fund reductions on Maryland's budget continues to grow, the possibility of a Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly increases. The purpose of that Special Session would be to identify additional budget reductions in order to accommodate the federal fund cuts.

The first meeting of the Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup will take place on Monday, June 16th at 100 Community Place in Crownsville.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reports that the Office of Archaeology served as staff for a very successful Annual Field Session, which ran from May 23 until June 2. MHT and the ASM excavated a total of twenty-two 2 X 2 meter excavation units and three 1 X 2 meter units exposing 11 archaeological features and excavating thousands of artifacts from some very intact 17th-century deposits. The artifacts date from about 1680-1720 and are clearly domestic in nature. Dr. McKnight also shared some of the drone images of the site's footprint shot by Stephanie Soder, who is newly licensed as a commercial drone pilot.

All of the FY25 HP Non-Capital Grants for archaeology projects have fully-executed grant agreements in place and are well-underway. Tim Horsley will be out in Cumberland later in June to conduct GPR survey at the site of Fort Cumberland. The archaeology boot camp for Maryland teachers will be held in two weeks at North Point State Park. And the other two projects will be ramping up this summer.

Unfortunately, the news is not so good regarding an FY26 Non-Cap round. With the passage of SB980 during the 2025 legislative session, the provision of law that permitted the transfer of \$300K in Heritage Area funds to the Non-Cap program was eliminated. However, the Governor vetoed SB980. We are not yet certain yet what that means, but as of right now there will be no FY26 HP Non-cap round. At its July 10, 2025 meeting, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority will consider whether to allocate funding for a new round. If funding is not allocated, MHT's Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program will remain closed until alternative sources of funding can be identified to support the program.

Another Senate Bill impacting us, SB354 established a working group for creating a Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites. Zac, Elizabeth, and Matt, as well as some of MHT's databases folks, and a number of cemeteries advocates all participated in the first meeting of that group on April 2. Matt will be attending the second meeting with Elizabeth scheduled for next Monday afternoon. Zac will be out in the field.

Matt has received internal staff and administrative comments on the new *Standards and Guidelines* document. He has been working to address those comments and hopes to get a more final draft ready for public review this summer.

MHT and the MAC Lab completed NAGPRA duty of care consultations with the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma concerning both the disposition of the Wye Ossuary remains and all of the associated funerary objects listed on our inventory. The remains that we recovered from the Wye Ossuary and the eroded

beach head below it back in December (10-12 individuals) were placed in a newly-established APR at Wye Island NRMA on May 14th. Matt also reports that during MHT's conversations with the Delaware we were given some clarity on a path forward for obtaining Notices of Inventory Completion for the entirety of our NAGPRA inventory. This will require some additional follow-up with other federal tribes, the National NAGPRA program, and the Governor's Office.

Matt reported that last week, MHT archaeologists successfully wrapped up the task of migrating all legacy GIS data to the new ArcGIS Pro environment.

Aside from the Field Session, MHT archaeologists were out at the Deer Creek Meeting House (Rochambeau Grant) for remote sensing on March 26, Ft. Frederick SP on April 3 (where rangers identified some new CCC-related features during woods cleanup), Elkridge Furnace Inn on April 21 and 22, and Teagues Point for the Scouting America Workshop on May 2-4.

Upcoming fieldwork is as follows. Next week MHT will be at Rose Hill Manor in Frederick County assisting Beau Lockhart with a shovel test pit survey and some GPR work. Beau is a preservation planner for the county, which just enacted new legislation with archaeological protections and as an "acting county archaeologist" we're trying to help him with this event to build up a volunteer pool to assist the county. Zac will be training Caitlin in how to use the GPR in a cemetery setting up in Baltimore County on June 25th at the Baseman Family Cemetery near Folly Quarter. Steph is heading up some additional work with the Boy Scouts and work related to our Rochambeau grant in July.

Matt reported presenting on the Cresap Fort Project at the Annual Meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) from March 20-23, and serving on the student paper review panel.

Underwater Activities Report —Susan Langley

Dr. Langley reports that in March & April staff assisted the Institute for Maritime History (IMH) with a project they were undertaking on the Choptank River, near Denton.

On March 25, Susan Langley taught the Law & Ethics class for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society's (MAHS) annual introductory course.

Throughout April, Troy Nowak participated in interviews for both the OPS Preservation Officer and Summer Archeology Intern positions.

On April 2, MMAP staff undertook electronic remote sensing of a vessel in Nabbs Creek as part of a compliance site visit.

On April 27, Susan Langley participated in a remembrance event at St. Clement's Island-Potomac River Museum for the loss of the Civil War vessel Black Diamond.

Susan recently received a copy of the edited volume. *Intertidal Shipwreck, Management of a Historic Resource in an Unmanageable Environment*, in which she authored Chapter 15. It is available from the University Press of Florida.

On May 1 and June 26, Susan Langley continued to participate in meetings with the Coast Guard and other SHPOs for the development of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for the documentation, evaluation and disposal of Coast Guard vessels. These are ongoing meetings.

On May 4, Susan Langley met with staff of the Baltimore Immigration Museum to assist with some inquiries they have about historic piers. The Institute for Maritime History (IMH) is going to work with the museum.

From May 5-8, Susan Langley and Troy Nowak participated in the Regional Response Team meetings with the Coast Guard in Chincoteague; May 5-7 in-person and May 8 virtually.

On May 20, Susan Langley made a presentation at the Edward A. Meyerberg Center about the MMAP.

On May 21, Susan Langley was a participant on a virtual panel hosted by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

On May 22, Troy Nowak and Susan Langley held two Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP) workshops, hosted by NPS at Assateague National Seashore and Assateague State Park.

During May, Troy Nowak completed maintenance on the Carolina skiff in preparation for field season, and on May 27, MMAP took delivery of a locking storage container for storage of gas cans and tanks for the survey vessels. In June Troy will be working with a facility to modify the large survey boat to mount the sub-bottom profiler as well as undertake its annual maintenance.

On June 5, Susan Langley made a virtual presentation to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.

On June 10, Susan Langley met with NPR at Mallows Bay with Charles County and Atlantic Kayak to undertake a paddling tour.

During June, MMAP staff will continue to document a log canoe near Prince Frederick.

The DOI confirmed receipt of our application for the Maritime Heritage Grant Program and assigned a number.

Susan Langley reported that she will be retiring July 31st after almost 31 years as the Maryland State Underwater Archaeologist. The Committee congratulated Susan and wished her well.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between March and June, Dr. Singer reviewed four applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reported that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 10 volunteers. The lab is currently processing the artifacts from the 2024 Field Session and preparing them for permanent curation at the MRCE. The lab is also working on processing the artifacts recovered from the 2025 Teagues Point Field Session.

Maryland Archaeology Month (MAM), April 2025 was a great success. The theme for Maryland Archaeology Month 2025 was *Clay, Temper, Fire: Exploring Maryland's Indigenous Ceramics*. The

institutional partners all made substantial contributions, which provided for the success of MAM. Donations for MAM 2025 totaled \$7,450 including \$3,950 from many CRM firms, a \$305 donation from the Council for Maryland Archeology and \$3,095.00 split between Montgomery County's Archaeology Program and Prince George's County's Archaeology Program to cover the printing of the booklet (which MDOT could no longer cover). Special acknowledgement is due to Montgomery County's Parks Program for designing the booklet, which was a vast improvement over the prior year's design! Costs for printing and mailing the MAM materials were \$6789.02. Retaining \$560.98 in surplus donations for 2025 to be added to the fund managed by the Archeological Society of Maryland, which now stands at \$3,360.09. Nevertheless, due to ever increasing price costs, the MAM Committee will need to strategize for 2025 to either increase funding or decrease costs. MAM may need to have a larger digital presence and less printed materials.

The 2025 MAM print run included: 150 full sized posters, 2000 mini-posters, 800 magnets, and 2000 booklets. 750 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) were mailed to stakeholders in the archeology community, 191 packages (1 mini-poster and 1 booklet) were mailed to the MD legislators, the remaining materials are being distributed to MD Arch Month Institutional Sponsors, ASM Chapters, and local Universities for distribution at public events held during archaeology month. 14 MAM events were listed on the official MD Archaeology Month Calendar of Events, which is hosted on the MAM website. A guest blog by ASM member and public school teacher Julia Berg highlighting an archaeology themed student poster contest project was posted to the MHT blog. Many MAM stakeholders maintained a robust online presence with the Maryland Archeology Month Website and MAM related social media posts.

The Maryland Archeology Month Poster won second place in the Society for American Archaeology's Annual State Archaeology Poster Contest. Special thanks to Scott Strickland for his efforts creating the MAM poster!

On March 12, Zac and Bob Wall presented on research at the Barton site for a virtual lecture for The Archaeological Conservancy. It currently has around 1,600 views. In May, ArchaeologyX posted a documentary regarding the PaleoDigger excavations at Barton. It has 38,000 views so far.

WMAR filmed a news segment on the Piney Grove excavations and chalcedony sourcing with MGS that ran in May. The segment has been viewed on YouTube 69,000 times.

Zac will be participating in WJZs "Where's Marty" with Marty Bass next Wednesday morning to discuss the Piney Grove excavation.

From March 20-23, Zac participated in the MAAC Conference. Zac presented on the Barton PaleoDigger results.

On March 28, Zac presented the Barton PaleoDigger results to the Western Marland Chapter of the ASM.

On April 5, Zac presented the Barton PaleoDigger results at the ASM's Spring Symposium.

On April 12, Zac participated in JPPM's Discovering Archaeology Day.

On March 16, Zac visited South River Farms Park in Anne Arundel County to document an eroding archaeological site where a fluted point was recently recovered by an avocational archaeologist. The site is now recorded as 18AN1782 Brickhouse Creek.

On March 17, Zac presented on recent research of the Maryland Fluted Point survey to the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the ASM.

Zac, Matt, and Steph participated in fieldwork at the Southeast Plank House at Elkridge Furnace on April 21 and 22. The fieldwork was designed to investigate archaeological deposits under the original floor of the plank house. Surprisingly, a plowzone was encountered and a likely pre-contact hearth was found at the subsoil interface. A sample of carbonized wood has been sent for a radiocarbon date.

On April 26, and May 3-4, Zac participated in the Scouting America merit badge program.

On May 7, Zac visited the Saltworks II site to provide guidance on an eroding Late Woodland shell midden.

From May 23-June 2 Zac participated in the Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology at the Teague's Point site.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Dr. Samford reports that the MAC Lab expansion project is 88% complete and on (or possibly ahead) of schedule, with an anticipated substantial completion date of early August 2025. The loading dock and the new isolation room are complete, and the field processing room is almost complete. The siding and roof were installed improperly and are being redone. All compactible shelving has been delivered and is almost fully installed. The landscaping work around the new wing has been completed. Subcontractors are finishing up work on the new fire suppression system and painting.

As part of the NPS-funded Witnesses of Wallville Project, *The Women of Wallville* exhibit at the Calvert Marine Museum opened on April 4th with an attendance of about 50 people. It will remain up for 18 months. MAC Lab staff got word from the NPS that they were provisionally awarded funding by Chesapeake Gateways for the creation of a long-term 1,000 square foot exhibit on the Wallville community for installation in the Exhibit Barn at JPPM. At the encouragement of Elizabeth, Rod, and others, the Wallville project staff wrote and submitted an Award of Excellence nomination for the American Association of State and Local History for the Wallville Project. Staff received notification late last week that they were awarded this honor.

The MAC Lab had full registration for their Public Archaeology program, which was held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May. A total of 125 people contributed 434.5 hours of work during the 2025 Public Archaeology program at the Straiten site. Ricardo Alvarado-Santa, an undergraduate student at St. Mary's College of Maryland, started his position as Public Archaeology intern in early May. This year's program conducted work on a Black tenant farm occupied by the Straiten family, who worked for the Petersons before the property was sold to Jefferson Patterson.

On March 26, lab staff picked up the Middle Plantation Mareen Duvall site collection from the William Doepkens family. Mareen Duvall was a French Huguenot that settled in Anne Arundel County in the 18th century and William Doepkens, the owner of the property excavated the site in the 1960s and early 1970s, consulting with professional archaeologists to guide his work. Curation staff have almost completed preliminary rehousing of the collection, but there is still a lot of work to do before the collection is ready for use by researchers.

An MHT Preservation Award Ceremony for the family of William Doepkens was held on May 2 at the

MAC Lab. The award recognized the family for their stewardship of the Middle Plantation archaeological site collection, which they donated to the State of Maryland for permanent curation.

MAC Lab staff hosted a visit from a historic preservation class from the University of Maryland - College Park in early May. The class learned about curation and conservation issues and excavated at a late 19th-century house site.

A 51-box collection arrived March 20 for a data recovery at the Newman site, 18AP39.

The lab is awaiting a signed deed of gift from the Claggett Retreat Center for the 2007 and 2008 archaeological collections from the Claggett Retreat site (18FR25).

Sara River-Cofield's revised MOU with the US Navy has been finalized.

Hannah, the lab's digital archivist, organized all NEH project files for the sites into their respective accessions, collated multiple pages into one PDF file, and renamed files to fit our standards. When complete she created digital file inventories for all the accessions associated with NEH sites, which list all files by name and extension. In total, the NEH files were approximately 98.8 gigabytes, composed of 31 sites and roughly 18,000 individual files.

Hannah has also completed digitization of all of the lab's x-rays.

The MAC Lab has decided not to rehire a third conservator, given that requests for quotes by outside clients are down over 50% from last year. Since the revenues from outside projects pay this employee's salary, we are not confident that we can generate enough funds to fully cover their paycheck. Additionally, as a consequence of this decision, we are halting our outside revenue generating work and focusing on state and federal collections housed at the lab.

Work still continues to try to purchase the X-ray unit power source. The x-ray power source died completely in March, despite the lab's best efforts.

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and MHT staff will be attending the June 24 remembrance celebration for the Deep Creek ancestral remains. Becky and Tricia will carry 4 skulls from Deep Creek to Direct Dimensions for scanning with an eye towards future facial reconstruction.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

Dr. Henry reports that the Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide technical assistance to program customers via conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, in-person site visits and meetings, and participation in interagency working groups.

Project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in the past 3 months (March, April May), the PR&C unit reviewed a total of 1,624 state and federal projects. 177 Determinations of Eligibility were also completed in those 3 months – the vast majority of those were completed as part of the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study.

The PR&C Unit is still down 1 person (Archaeologist/Preservation Officer). Staff have their

survival/triage strategies in place to keep handling the high workload and provide good customer service. Everyone is taking on more projects, determining which projects need to be prioritized, limiting the number of meetings and site visits, etc. The vacant position was posted for 4 weeks and closed on March 3. MHT received 123 applications and interviewed 7 candidates. With the current uncertainty of the HPF funds, we are not able to fill our vacant position at this time.

Dixie has attended multiple monthly and quarterly interagency meetings to facilitate agency coordination, including: MDE/COE JE meetings and the MDOT SHA quarterly meeting, as well as coordination meetings with DNR, MTA, FHWA, FEMA, and the NPS.

Some of PRC's bigger projects (large-scale, complex, or those receiving a lot of public attention) include Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study, Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project, and the Annapolis City Dock Flood Mitigation project. Staff have had several consulting parties meetings with FEMA, the Advisory Council, City of Annapolis, and other consulting parties over the past couple of months to develop mitigation measures for the draft programmatic agreement for the City Dock project.

Dixie attended the MHT Board Meeting at the Fire Museum of MD in Lutherville and provided an overview of the Section 106 process and the role of the PR&C Unit.

Dixie also provided response/guidance to Cherrywood Solar and DNR regarding unanticipated discovery of an unmarked historic cemetery in Caroline County. Dixie has been coordinating with Zac and Matt. Construction was stopped in vicinity of cemetery and SEARCH conducted a remote sensing study to delineate the cemetery (which will be avoided).

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Ms. Soder reports that the next update for the Archaeological Synthesis database is penciled in for August 13, 2025 to keep up with the 6-month update schedule. Steph is currently working on completing St. Mary's County. Once that is complete, the reports up to Feb 2024 will be complete with the exception of those that do not have digital reports on file yet.

Steph is currently working with Cultural Resource Inventory Management (CRIM) to create a Medusa layer for both the professional and the public synthesis database sides. CRIM is currently working on building the model and hope to have a "draft" model together by the end of summer that can be refined as needed.

Steph conducted a presentation for an AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) course at Perryville High School, which promotes college and career readiness for high schoolers.

The Office of Archaeology staff helped Ms. Julia Berg with her 6th grade student service-learning project in which students created PSA-style posters about why it's important to protect archaeology sites. MHT staff acted as the judges and picked the winning poster, created by Rithvik Sardaru. His poster was printed and distributed around county and state offices, which MHT assisted with.

MHT hosted the third annual Scouting America Merit Badge Workshop on April 25 and May 3 & 4. We had 15 scouts come out for the merit badge and 14 have completed it. The remaining scout needs to finish

one requirement (not fieldwork related) which he hopes to finish shortly. Since the first workshop in 2023, 64 scouts have completed the merit badge program and 11 have received partial merit badges.

This summer, MHT is participating in another Scouting America program as part of a summer “career” camp in July. As part of this program, scouts will be able to complete the fieldwork portion of the merit badge, which is usually the hardest part to accomplish, and will mean that archaeological survey will be conducted out in Western Maryland near Cumberland.

Steph will be participating in the Career Fair for the Junior Ranger program with the Department of Natural Resources, as well as hosting a Senior Ranger Program for adults 55+. Both of these events are in late July.

Steph has been on the registration and volunteer planning committees for the *Conference on Public Archaeology* which will be held in Washington DC on August 8 and 9.

The Office of Archaeology staff completed fieldwork at Deer Creek Friends Meeting House in Darlington for the Rochambeau grant. Unfortunately, there is no indication of the original meeting house in ground penetrating radar or magnetic susceptibility meter survey. Staff will be out at Cummings Tavern in July (pending landowner confirmation) to conduct GPR, gradiometer survey, and magnetic susceptibility survey. Steph also presented during the Rodgers Tavern spring virtual lecture series about the grant and updates in fieldwork.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion of Appreciation for Bob Wall — Stephen Brighton

A Motion of Appreciation for Dr. Robert Wall’s 23 years of service to MACA was read and approved by popular assent. A printed copy of the formal motion was presented to Bob.

Motion of Appreciation for Marian Creveling — Stephen Brighton

A Motion of Appreciation for Marian Creveling, MA’s 28 years of service to MACA was read and approved by popular assent. A printed copy of the formal motion was presented to Marian.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 PM, in a motion made by Stephen Brighton and seconded by Jane Cox; the motion was unanimously approved.