2016 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology
May 27 to June 6, 2016

The River Farm Site (18AN881) at the Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Come help the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) Rediscover the County’s Prehistoric Past!

The 2016 Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology will be held in Anne Arundel County this year, at the “River Farm” Site located on the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Lothian, Maryland.

The Field Session is presented by the ASM (Archeological Society of Maryland), in cooperation with the Maryland Historical Trust. Anne Arundel County’s Cultural Resources Division, in cooperation with the Recreation and Parks Department, will be hosting the field session.

This is an exciting public-private partnership that will allow citizens of the County to explore the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and experience this park’s rich confluence of natural, ecological and cultural resources.

Join us for this once a year event. Participants can sign up for just one day or the whole session. As you work alongside professional archeologists you will be helping discover this little known chapter in the County’s pre-history. No experience required.

When: May 27-June 6, 2016
(Field and Lab work will be ongoing from 8am – 4pm daily)

How to register:
Pre-registration will be available until May 17th.
Registration form available at http://marylandarchaeology.org/

Registration will also be available on-site during the Field Session.
For information about onsite registration, contact Volunteers@losttownsproject.org

Fees:
ASM Members: $20/day (up to $60)
Non-ASM Members: $25/day (up to $75)

Principal Investigator Stephanie Sperling excavating a trash midden in 2015 which yielded burnished bone tools and decorative ceramics dating to the Late Woodland (ca 900-1600AD).
What to Expect...

Survey work conducted in 2015 identified a large and complex prehistoric base camp or village site on the shore of the Patuxent River, a place that was occupied from as early as 8,000 BC.

The River Farm site is located less than a mile from a prolific Native American ceremonial site (18AN50) and was a significant component of the larger ‘Pig Point’ Complex.

Previous studies have identified buried living surfaces, cooking hearths, a Late Woodland trash ‘midden’ that was radiocarbon dated to 1010 AD, and over 10,000 artifacts proving that humans were present at the site at least 8,000 years ago!

In addition to participating in excavations and laboratory work, several special presentations are scheduled (see sidebar). There will also be lunch time lectures covering topics such as recent archeological discoveries in the County, the colonial history of Jug Bay, the impacts of climate change on natural and cultural resources, the story of tobacco barns in South County, and the work some of Jug Bays’ own scientists are doing at the park. A guided canoe trip on the Patuxent will highlight the River’s history and will include an excursion to Mt. Calvert.

The following Field Session events hosted by Jug Bay will be open to the public by reservation only for those not registered as participants in the field session. Space is limited however.

To reserve your spot, please email Volunteers@losttownsproject.org

May 28, 2016
@ Jug Bay Visitors Center
Principal Investigator Stephanie Sperling will share her research into the impact climate change on archeological resources along the Patuxent and across the County.
[6:00 – 8:00pm]

May 29, 2016
@ The River Farm Site
Former County Archeologist Al Luckenbach will present the latest discoveries from the Pig Point Ceremonial Complex and explore how it is related to the work at River Farm
[12:30 – 1:15pm]

June 3, 2016
@ The Plummer House
Research Archeologist Mandy Melton will lead a guided tour through the Glendening Nature Preserve and share some recent discoveries.
(Refreshments to follow)
[4:30 – 6:30pm]

Several special tours will be offered for the Friends of Jug Bay volunteers, County Staff, and teachers with AACPS. Please note that to participate in the field session work, you must be registered directly with the ASM.

The Field Session in Maryland Archeology is made possible by the following: