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Wanser, Jeffrey C.

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This study, intended as a management, planning, and research tool, reexamined existing artifact collections recovered from sites in Charles and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland in order to reconstruct prehistoric settlement patterns in the lower Potomac drainage (Maryland Archaeological Study Area 10). The report is divided by time period, and a number of maps in each chapter demonstrate the spatial distributions of diagnostic artifact classes, including projectile points and ceramics.

The Middle Woodland period is divided into a Popes Creek and a Selby Bay phase (pp. 142-159). Artifacts associated with the former include Rossville and Adena points, and Popes Creek net-impressed and cord-marked ceramic sherds; artifacts associated with the latter include Selby Bay lanceolate, stemmed, and side-notched points, and Mockley cord-marked, net-impressed, and plain sherds. A predominant Popes Creek occupation was noted in the St. Clement-Breton Bay area, along with an associated concentration of points in nearby Zekiah Swamp. More Selby Bay phase artifacts were recovered from sites closer to the Potomac, suggesting a shift in base camps downriver from the earlier phase. Considerably fewer Selby Bay points than Popes Creek phase were found in the study area, but they were again concentrated in the uplands or the Zekiah Swamp area.