

The Datum Point



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

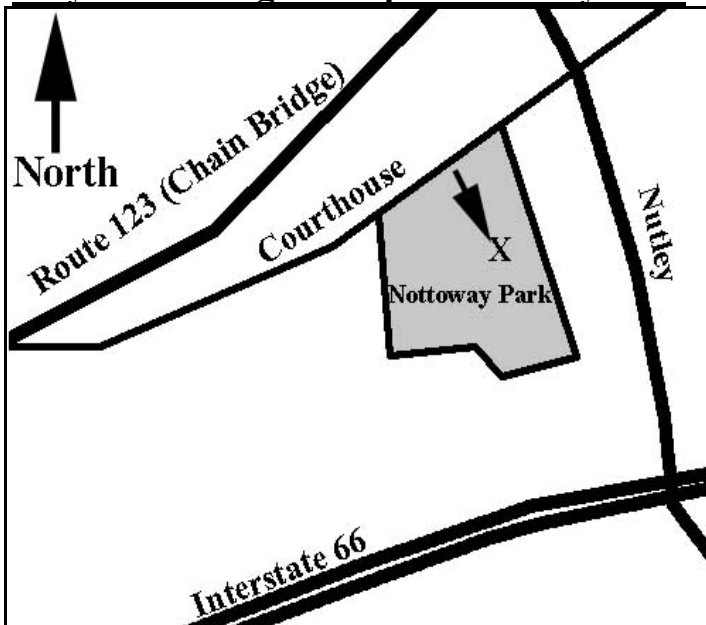
May 2003

From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

Hello, again. One more time at Hunter House; we'll see you on May 8th to hear Chris Wilson. This will be a special night for saying goodbye to Joyce and Frank Pearsall. Chris Wilson's talk will start at 8 PM.

Joyce has meant so much to the Northern Virginia Chapter and to Virginia archaeology in general. Joyce has been part of just about everything of importance in our area. She organized the site file library, cataloged the site reports, kept the site maps current, recorded sites, and generally held things together for years. Newer members may not remember Joyce was the Chapter president in the mid-90s. For several years she submitted more site registrations to Richmond than anyone else did. Joyce was also recognized by the ASV as Virginia Amateur Archaeologist of the Year in the mid-90s. That's the kind of person we will be losing when Joyce goes off to Transylvania. (County, N.C., that is) We truly won't know how much we will miss her until she's gone and can't answer the questions, can't provide the guidance, can't raise everyone's spirits at the dig, can't go out on a survey on a moment's notice, etc., etc.

May 8th Meeting - 7:00 pm Nottaway Park



May's talk: Tudor Place **By Chris Wilson**



Chris Wilson has been involved in the historic preservation movement since he was a teenage son of preservation activists. Since then, he has attended University of Louisville, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Vermont and received a graduate degree in Historic Preservation at Savannah College of Art & Design. He has been a preservation officer for local, state and federal governments. He is currently the Curator of Buildings and Grounds for the Tudor Place Foundation. Tudor Place, a National Historic Landmark in Georgetown, is currently undergoing a detailed conservation assessment and has been the recipient of a Save America's Treasures Grant.

Chris will discuss an archaeological investigation conducted by Brian Corle of John Milner and Associates. While replacing infrastructure for a heating system, an archaeological investigation that followed the earth disturbance has given Tudor Place new insight into what the site may have been like in the late 18th Century and early 19th Century.

The May meeting will be the Northern Virginia Chapter's chance to say goodbye to Joyce Pearsall. The meeting will start at 7pm with desserts and momentos being presented to Joyce. Please feel free to bring both or at least a dessert/snack. The event will precede the meeting part of the evening.

Cultural Resources Protection Group

By Rich Sachi

Although the Park Authority's budget is getting smaller, the cuts, fortunately, don't effect Capital Improvement Projects - yet. This spring several projects started up with the utilization of bond funds. Areas adjacent to the Huntley house and outbuildings are currently being excavated by Berger & Associates under the field guidance of Charlie LeeDecker and John Bedell. The purpose of these excavations is to explore the underground architectural remains of the buildings, as well as investigate the material cultural of those who once lived on the plantation. The excavations are part of a larger bond project which will eventually lead to the preservation and public interpretation of the historic site.



Plate 1. Trench showing buried surface beneath Terrace fill.



Plate 2. Excavation Unit showing old ground surface and pre- 20th C. piers of unknown extension to main house.

Mt. Air has also been the beneficiary of Park Authority bond funds. Currently, contracting is underway for cellar hole preservation and stabilization of site elements. The unique design of the project will allow viewing of an 8-Datum Point

foot section of the cellar foundation while protecting and preserving the remaining portion the cellar hole. Demolition of the garage, a non-contributing feature, and the removal of the mid-20th century dilapidated pump house (safety hazard) is also part of this CIP program. Archaeology surveys and a cultural landscape report are next on this years list and will begin this summer or fall. Further site development and interpretation needs to wait for the next bond referendum but we should be in good shape to obtain additional funding.

Union Mills, the third heritage resource park receiving large bond funding, will see an archaeological assessment and cultural landscape study and treatment plan by the fall. This significant site is set for future funding which will see Camp Early be preserved and interpreted to the public. Aerial photography for a detailed topographic map has just been flown, just days before the tree canapé blossomed.

John Rutherford is finishing up the Cultural Resource assessment of Laurel Hill (Lorton). The Park Authority staff will be making a major presentation to the public and John will present our findings and answer questions from, what appears to be a very large group of very interested and vocal citizens. Additional testing, carried forth by Mike Johnson, helped to clear up a few remaining issues left over from the Federally funded study.

Watch for John on channel 10 this month. That's right, John talked with Supervisor Hanley for ½ hour about the Civil War Sites Inventory: how it works and why it was done. He was in GIS heaven. A great performance if ever there was one and a much-needed informational talk.

CRP staff does get around. Our assessment of trails at Lake Accotink found that the biking trails were negatively effecting the Civil War sites on the park. Documentation of this transgression lead to the closing of the trails. Now, if Wakefield Park could be as easy.

Thanks to Bob Wharton, Nancy Anthony and other volunteers for their help with the Sully Phase I survey. The work is being done to clear a large section of the historic site for development of a new access road and parking lot. The new site developments are being caused by the Route 28 re-alignment project that will close off Sully's present entrance by this summer.

Go to <http://www.nvcasv.org> and see what Diane is doing for the chapter website!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alexandria Archaeology

By Ruth Reeder

Alexandria Archaeology has the following calendar of events:

1. Summer Camp 2003:

(See attached file: flyer2003.wpd)

2. Family Dig Day

Sat., May 31 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

\$5/person reservations required, call 703-838-4399

3. National Trails Day Bike Tour

Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

15-mile guided bicycle tour of the Alexandria Heritage Trail with a focus on Civil War sites. Start/Finish at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria VA. Free, but reservations and helmets required. Ride includes some hills and street riding. 703-838-4399.

4. Field Orientation for new volunteers Sat., June 7 from

10 a.m. to noon Required for all new field volunteers, must be 16 or older. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria VA. Free, but reservations required. 703-838-4399

ASV Certification Lab Practical

By George Monken

The meeting schedule with Mike Johnson for May 8th at 7pm has been postponed. It has been reschedule for June 12th at 7 pm. MARK YOUR CALENDAR. It will take place just prior to the monthly Chapter meeting. This will be an opportunity for Certification Participants to learn what will be expected when taking the Lab Practical, ask questions, obtain additional information, and/or to arrange to take the Lab practical.

Early warning! We will be meeting in June at Clark House, not Hunter House. Clark House is in the Lincolnia area, off Columbia Pike just past Lincolnia Road in the direction of Barcroft Dam. Parking (when the small lot is full) will be at the neighboring mall. More info and a map in next month's DP.

Fare Thee Well

What can I say about 27 years of volunteering for Fairfax County archeology, except Old Town Alexandria, and the "wells" (OK so it's not FX, but that was my start), Cub Run, Lowes Island, Birch House (where I learned to love prehistoric archeology), surveying the Occoquan by canoe and by foot, and of course Cactus Hill (yeah yeah - so it's SX and not FX) to name but a few. What can I say about my mentors: George Long, the late great Mac McDaniel, Mike Johnson, Kay McCarron, Ann Cherryman, Edith Sprouse, Martha Williams, Nancy Anthony, the late great Dave Rubis, Joel Langert, Russell Darden, Harry Jaeger, Bob Wharton, CK Gailey, to name but a few. And thanks to all those who helped me when we went to the BOS during budget crunch time: Diane Schug-O'Neill, Jackie Cuyler, Pat Fuller. And thanks to those who shared chapter officerdom with me: Dale Brown, Barbara Welch, Donna Blosser, Vicki Via. What CAN I say? What WILL I do without them??

I have learned more than I can say, really. There is no greater group of people than all of you. I hope I have shared at least a little of my education here with others and will take with me wonderful memories. Please know that we are open for visitors in UTM Zone 17, Brevard NC USGS quad, NAD: 1927 Northing: 342,390 Easting: 3,899,220. 227 Grove Circle (that is if all the sales go through-stay tuned for coordinate changes at the last minute).

Fare Thee Well, my friends. Come see me, please!

Joyce Pearsall

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone (H): _____

(W): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

NVC/Archeological Society of Virginia
2739 West Ox Road
Herndon, VA 20171-3807

Chapter members are encouraged to join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED