

The Datum Point

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

November 2003



From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

We had a great meeting last month. You really are missing something if you are not coming. Dr. Jim Snead gave a fascinating talk on a site in New Mexico ... what really happened to the Anasazi?

Several of us went down to Williamsburg to the Annual Meeting of the ASV, discussed later in this issue. The presentations were interesting, especially one by Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell about an assemblage of stone tools he found in Haiti. Guess where the only other tools like them have been found? Northwest Africa! A new settlement route?!

On Nov. 17, at Mt. Vernon High School from 6 to 9 PM, Ft. Belvoir will hold an Environmental Impact Statement information meeting regarding the proposed revision of their Master Plan. This is a chance to be there when the page is blank. There will also be an information kiosk regarding the phase I study of a Hwy 1 – Telegraph Rd. Connector. Did that get your attention?

This month, we can expect a really big show from Wil Santamaria, who worked on with a grant from the Williams-Mullen Scholarship Fund. We will also be finalizing the list of nominees for Chapter offices at this meeting, with the election in December. If you want to run, let me or any other officer know. If you want to defend yourself from being nominated, attend the meeting.

November 13th Meeting - 7:30 pm Clark House

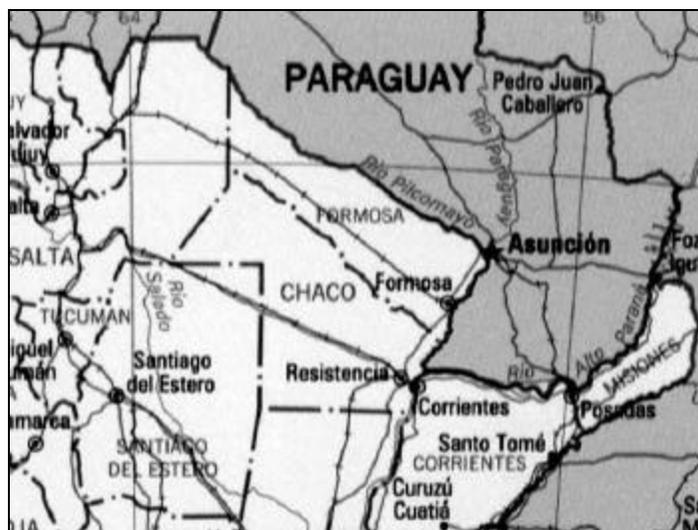
Located at **6332 Barcroft Mews Drive** in Falls Church, take the Beltway Exit east on Little River Turnpike 2 miles to a left on John Marr Drive. Make a right onto Columbia Pike, go 1.8 miles and turn right onto the service road at Barcroft Plaza (by a Harris Teeters). Turn left on the service road and proceed to the Barcroft Mews Townhomes adjacent to the plaza. Clark House is a three story yellow house on the left as you enter the townhomes. **Turn at the bus stop enclosure.** Overflow parking will be in the Plaza.

Coming from Bailey's Crossroads: West on Columbia Pike. Go through light at Braddock Road. Take the **FIRST** left (protected turn lane) and make an immediate left to townhouses. (If you pass the traffic lights at Lincolnia and Columbia Pike, you've gone too far).

November Talk

PREHISTORY AND HISTORY OF THE ARGENTINEAN GRAN CHACO

By Wil Santamaria



The Chaco Province, Northern Argentina

Two years ago, Wil Santamaria went to the Chaco province of northern Argentina to visit some friends and the little abandoned museum in the town of Charata. He was surprised at the amount of prehistoric and historic artifacts they had collected without no archeological work. They were, however, teaching the locals to recognize potential sites and try to preserve them as part of their heritage. The region is known as the IMPENETRABLE. Wil traveled to Argentina, Chaco Province, and Impenetrable region partly funded by the Williams-Mullen Scholarship Fund from our chapter! Come and see Wil's presentation on a little known part of Argentina!!

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION GROUP

Turtle Hill (44FX 2636) - The Phase 2 testing was completed in October and now they are almost done with the lab work. The site turned out to be both better and worse than hoped.

It was worse in that they did not positively identify any of the soil anomalies as intrusive features. It is possible that biological disturbances have mixed the soil of any such features with the undisturbed natural soil, thus making them invisible.

It was better than expected because they did find one positively identified fire cracked rock cluster, indicating the site does have horizontal integrity involving features. Berno and the crew also recovered an Early Archaic, Palmer point. More importantly, they recovered more than 100 Popes Creek (Middle Woodland) net marked potsherds from what appears to have been a single pot break. This is the first example of Popes Creek pottery found on an interior Piedmont site in Fairfax County.

CRPG will be recommending the site not be disturbed by construction of the proposed storm water management dam.

Land Bay A (LBA)(44FX2723) - Finally, work began on this site. The Peterson Company is funding Cultural Resources Incorporated (CRI) to do both Phase 2 (complete) and Phase 3 work on the site. In examining the results from the early Phase 2 work, it was clear the site had never been plowed - unplowed upland sites are not as rare as everyone thought (check out LTC-1, LTC-2, David, Turtle Hill, and now LBA, all in the last five years). Fairfax County Archeology volunteers and park staff are lending full-time support to the recovery effort.

The site covers at least 30,000 square feet and has produced evidence of Palmer, Lobate, Morrow mountain, possible Halifax, possible Savannah River, and Selby Bay points, and Culpeperware ceramics. The CRI crew has uncovered a charcoal scatter under a fire cracked rock concentration in an area of the site that produced relatively rare Middle Archaic artifacts. They also are working on a n area that produced numerous Middle Woodland (?) Culpeperware sherds along with to pieces of a refitted chert Selby Bay point.

The Park Authority crew has been working on an area where a one-foot cubed STP produced 25 quartz artifacts. Berno Tops immediately encountered a three-foot diameter fire cracked rock concentration that

looks like the one from the David site. A variety of points, including Palmer, Savannah River (?), Halifax/Vernon, and a possible Piscataway point also have been recovered from around the FCR concentration.

Because of defects in the preliminary shovel test pattern the Park Authority staff is trying to arrange access to the property so the STP pattern can be redone. Without the high quality STP sample, the features and excavation blocks will have no cultural context within the site.

ASV Certification Program

Ann Wood proudly wanted me to make sure that the Datum Point recognized the five ASV Certification graduates that received their diplomas at the recent ASV meeting. We should all put our hands together for these five: Bob Heuser, Pat Fuller, Gene Silva, Ann Wood, and George Monken. George couldn't make the event, something about welcoming home his son from the Middle East.... (priorities!!!)



Above: Gene and Ann

Below: Bob and Pat



ASV Annual Meeting and the ASV Board Meeting 2003

By Martha Williams

The Patrick Henry Inn in Williamsburg was once again the venue for the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia, and the Northern Virginia Chapter was amply represented by a number of individuals. Northern Virginia Chapter Vice-President C.K. Gailey summarized for the (over) 100 attendees the accomplishments of the chapter during the past year. At the business meeting, chapter member Martha Williams was re-elected *in absentia* to serve another three-year term on the board (actually, she was only late!).

Northern Virginia—both the chapter and the region—also walked away with the lion's share of honors as the Society's annual awards were handed out at the banquet on Saturday evening. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association won COVA's group award for its continuing commitment to sponsoring an excellent archeological program, and Esther White, Mount Vernon's chief archeologist, took home ASV's Professional Archeologist Award for 2003.

Another highlight of the evening's awards program honored four NVC chapter members—**Pat Fuller, Ann Wood, Gene Silva, and Bob Heuser**—for having completed the ASV/COVA certification program; **George Moncken**, who also completed the course, was unable to attend. George will receive his certificate at November's chapter meeting. Congratulations to all of us here in Northern Virginia! We still have the best chapter in the state!

ASV's Board of Directors met on Sunday, and several items on the agenda will be of great interest to our members. First, some upcoming events you might want to attend. The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville will be offering a lab certification workshop the weekend of November 8-9; contact Dr. Elizabeth Moore at the Museum for more information. From November 13-16, the Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF) will meet (I think in Cherry Hill, NJ); Jack Hranicky (703-26-1304) can fill you in on the details of that meeting.

Publications were a hot topic—and hot sellers in the book room, too! *Quarterly Bulletin* editor Ted Reinhart announced that the next issue will continue the series of articles updating the Virginia archeology volumes which were published in the 1990s. Thus

far, these articles have covered new research into the Paleoindian and Early-Mid Archaic periods; the next issue will present current updated information on the Late Archaic-Early Woodland.

Remember—***if you are not a member of the state society, you are not getting the latest information, SO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!***

Also of note—the state society just received from famed historical archaeologist Ivor Noel Hume the draft of his long-awaited report on the 1990-1995 excavations conducted at Fort Raleigh, the Lost Colony, on Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Mr. Hume has graciously offered the ASV the publication rights for this manuscript, which tells about the discovery of North America's first metallurgical laboratory, dating from 1585.

In other news of note, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond (despite threatened budget cutbacks) has managed to reserve approximately \$70,000 to continue its program of salvaging threatened sites around the state. Nominations of threatened sites that need immediate attention should be directed to Randy Turner, director of VDHR's Portsmouth regional office.

Another VDHR sponsored research initiative that deserves prominent mention is the ongoing work at the Werowocomoco site in Gloucester County. This site was the location of Powhatan's chief village from 1607-1609. Currently being excavated by William and Mary students, the site is for Native Americans the "prehistoric" equivalent of Jamestown, and is being developed as such for Virginia's 2007 400th Anniversary observance.

Randy Turner (VDHR) announced that the Archeological Conservancy has purchased its first site in the State of Virginia: the Conover Site, a National Register listed PaleoIndian site in Dinwiddie County. The purchase means that the site is protected in perpetuity for further study.

FINALLY—RESERVE THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 29-31, 2004, ON YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The 64th Annual Meeting of the ASV will take place that weekend in Lexington, Virginia. Details to be announced later—stay tuned!

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President position open
Vice President C.K. Gailey vpnvc@nvcasv.org
703-425-4668
Treasurer George Monken gmonken@cox.net
703-426-8722
Corresponding Sec. Vicki Monken same as above
Recording Sec. Rachael Mangum 703-934-2336 (work)
EDITOR Patrick O'Neill patrickoneill@erols.com
703-244-6275 (cell)

F CPA ARCHAEOLOGISTS

CHAPTER Sponsors:

Elizabeth Crowell elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8675 (work)
Mike Johnson and Bob Wharton 703-787-3778 (work)
Rich Sacchi and John Rutherford 703-827-8672 (work)

Archaeological Educational Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon Esther White ewhite@mountvernon.org
Alexandria Museum Pam Cressey 703-838-4399 (info)

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!!!!

The Datum Point

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Herndon, VA 20171-3807

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED