

The Datum Point

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

July 2004



From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

Many thanks to the dozen of you who helped pack up the Archeology Library and reference material in the Elmore Farm Lab. You did a great job, which saved the archeologists many hours of work. I can testify that your boxes arrived in excellent condition and many of the contents are already on the shelf & in use.

Speaking of the move, the James Lee Center Lab is open for business, albeit with some of the resources still in a state of flux. Come on by and see the new facility. The address is on the back of the Datum Point. The Center has very nice meeting rooms; I hope they will be the site of our Chapter meetings.

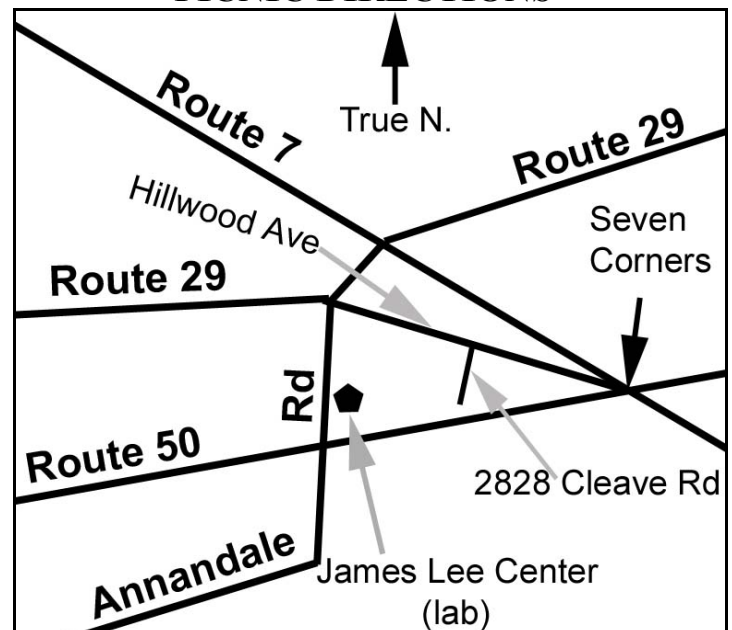
As many of you recall, Edith Sprouse wrote a series of historical papers for the Datum Point, titled "Peopling the Past." She would have been gratified to know that we had a request for a copy of one of the articles, from a lady in Delaware who saw it on our web site (thanks, Diane, for the scans of back issues.)

Thanks to Pat O'Neill, some of us got to see how test samples are collected and prepared for analysis in an archeomagnetism lab. Thanks, too, to Esther White and Mount Vernon for being far-sighted enough to donate some heat-treated soil for this effort. Having a site with a tight date allows the possibility of establishing a data point on the archeomagnetism graph for the East Coast. We all extend to Pat our hopes that the samples produce consistent results.

CHAPTER PICNIC Thursday JULY 8TH

The next meeting will be our picnic, to be held at Mike Johnson's house; **2828 Cleave Dr., Falls Church, Virginia (703-798-6662 - cell)**. Your Chapter will furnish meat and beverages, with the rest being pot-luck. The VEEP understands a Thursday night is a problem for some of you and he apologizes for that; other factors prevailed. **Cleave Road** is situated south of Hillwood Avenue between Seven Corners and Annadale Road, where the James Lee Center is located. See the map below for directions. If using a compass, please remember to adjust for magnetic north!!!

PICNIC DIRECTIONS



The New James Lee Center

As of June 16, the entire Cultural Resource staff is now located at the James Lee Center at 2855 Annandale Road. The James Lee Center was totally renovated and provides us with beautiful, state-of-the-art facilities. As part of the move, they were provided with new furniture, compactor storage in the lab, and a bright new setting. They are slowly unpacking all of our many belongings and settling in. The challenge is to get two operations-worth of books, artifacts and equipment into their space and to use the space most efficiently. But, as a result of the consolidation, they have an exceptionally well-equipped facility. They continue to discover and marvel at the wealth of resources that we have collectively. As with any move, there have been a few hiccups, mainly with getting the phone system and email up and running. But, they have been making forward momentum and look forward to welcoming members of the Chapter to our new "home".

They wish to thank all of the Chapter members who assisted in the packing of the Ellmore Farm facility. Without their assistance, the move would have been far more chaotic.

LBA (44FX2723) - Berno Tops and his crew have completely exposed a new "platform hearth" in the vicinity of where we recovered a spurred "thumbnail" endscraper made of quartz (Block I). As of now, they were opening squares around another concentration of FCR. Due to the varieties of tools around each, these concentrations suggest residential locations.

The cicada invasion helped to explain why they have found no positive postmolds or pit features (the previously reported pit may have been caused by a tree fall). Imagine every 17 years for thousands of years, having up to a million cicada grubs per acre emerge through the upper soil layers from their feeding grounds (sic), 2-8 feet below the surface. The soil becomes like swiss cheese each time.

The newest finds from Block I include a Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain point and a Late Archaic soapstone bowl fragment, in addition to the endscraper, which should date from the Paleoindian or possibly Early Archaic period. No other, positively

identified, early artifacts have yet to be recovered from the block.

The Park Authority has requested a Threatened Sites grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to fund the analysis and report writing on the site. The money will be used to fund Berno for that purpose. The intention is to work as long as possible at the site until September 1 or construction starts, whichever comes first.

Space Still Available in the Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp!

A few slots remain in the Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp 2004. The day camp is designed for 12-15 year olds. Campers will excavated the Shuter's Hill site in Alexandria, process their artifacts in the laboratory, visit a historic site and have an ice cream break in Old Town! Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Session I runs from July 19 - 23 and Session II from July 26- 30. The cost is \$300/session.

For more information contact the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at 703.838.4399.

GIS Database for Fairfax County

The week of May 17-24 marked a significant development in the recording of archaeological sites in the state of Virginia. The Department of Historic Resources was able to receive and use the archaeology Geographic Information System database used in Fairfax County. All of the sites recorded in Fairfax County are on the database, which was developed and is maintained by FCPA archaeology volunteer C.K. Gailey.

Keith Egloff, archaeologist at VDHR, said the advantages of using Fairfax County data include not having to duplicate the plotting of sites, eliminating the possibility of site data which differs in VDHR and Fairfax County, and having access to added information on each site. Egloff added that Fairfax County is the **first** jurisdiction in the state to provide a county-wide site database electronically.

Jackie is leaving!

Jackie Vollmer Cuyler is officially moving to Arizona with her husband Chris in mid-July. Jackie has been volunteering with the NVC for over 20 years and we believe that in that time, she may have actually excavated on some sites. Jackie will be missed, not only for her hard work on the excavations, but for her willingness to attend “beer-thirty” events at the drop of a trowel. Goodbye Jackie and keep in touch. We want to know where the drinking (ahem, er, uh, digging) places are located in the southwest!!!



This photograph, taken by Martha Williams, shows not only three very competent archaeologists of the NVC, but also three good friends: Jackie Vollmer Cuyler (bottom), Karen Schweikart (right) and Diane Schug-O’Neill (left). Not to belittle the other volunteers of the chapter, but there is almost 50 years of experience shown in this one photograph!

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
2855 Annadale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

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 at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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Northern Virginia Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annadale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED