

# The Datum Point



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

June 2004

## From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

Many thanks to Stuart Fiedel for his talk last month. For those of you who missed it, Stu presented preliminary results from the first 3-year phase of the survey of the C&O Canal. He told us about sites which have deeply stratified deposits and multiple buried A-horizons, ranging from Paleo/Early Archaic to Late Woodland. He finished with a discussion of possible causes for the depopulation of the Potomac Piedmont before 1600 (Was it climate, including a Little Ice Age and two major droughts? Was it warfare between tribes? Epidemics?)

It's really happening! The Elmore Farm lab is really moving back to James Lee. The Lewinsville lab has already moved, as has Liz Crowell. The move for Elmore Farm will be June 16 and 17. Needless to say, a whole lot of packing has to happen.

Which brings me to the next meeting. **There will be no speaker at the June meeting.** We will be packing up whatever needs packing for the move, especially the library of technical reports and the NVC materials. As agreed at the last meeting, the Chapter will provide soft drinks and pizza for those who are working. With many hands it should go quickly. Hope all of you can make it.

## June 10th Meeting/Moving Party **6:00 pm Elmore Farm (Barn Lab)**

The directions are: west on West Ox Road from the Fairfax County Parkway (Rt. 7100) (that is south of Herndon and north of Fair Oaks/Rt. 50) or east on West Ox Road from Centreville Road (Floris); if you are heading west from the Parkway the lab is the first right past Monroe Street, which comes in from the right about 1/2 mile + west of the Parkway (you will have gone too far if you see Frying Pan Farm Park on your right); if you are heading west from Centreville Road the lab is the first left after Frying Pan Farm Park; the lab is the red barn behind the old farm house; plenty of parking is available.

**Volunteer Opportunity** The Loudoun County church site is in operation pretty much every Saturday that the weather is good. Contact Carol at Mycompost@aol.com.

## **VDHR state burial permit regulations and procedures**

VDHR is forming a committee currently holding meetings concerning some re-writing of the state burial permit regulations and procedures. Specifically, the issues are (1) whether or not to curate some of the remains excavated (under a VDHR permit) from gravesites for future types of testing such as DNA or isotope sampling; and (2) whether human remains should be displayed publicly or used to illustrate publications circulated to the general public (e.g., National Geographic, etc.). The committee includes a wide variety of people, including a bio-ethnicist, a representative of the Virginia Council of Indians, Dr. Doug Owsley, Dr. Barbara Heath (chair, representing COVA)--and Martha Williams (Williams is considered as the ASV representative). The first meeting was this last week--intended largely to present the issues and generalized discussion. Two other meetings will follow. If anyone has any ideas on how to handle these issues, they can email Martha Williams at [MWilliamsLonomo@aol.com](mailto:MWilliamsLonomo@aol.com).

**Chapter Outreach** On Wed, May 26, CK Gailey took some artifacts and pamphlets to the Reston Community Center for their Senior Leisure and Fitness Fair. About 50 people stopped at our table and took materials on the program. Two were folks who had dug years ago in the area. The people were glad that there was an archeology program in the county; most had never heard of it. The table cost the Chapter \$5 and was well worth it to get the word out. This is an annual event; we've been there every year and should continue attending in the future.

**Dig Alexandria!** Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp invites 12 to 15-year olds to work along side City archaeologists at the Shuter's Hill excavation site, just west of the King Street Metro station in Alexandria, Virginia. Day campers discover Alexandria's history and learn about the archaeological methods used to uncover and protect the past. Choose one or two week-long sessions, Session I: July 19 to 23 and Session II: July 26 to 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost of each session is \$300; full scholarships are available. For registration information contact Alexandria Archaeology at 703-838-4399 or apply from the web at [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org)

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## NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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