

# The Datum Point



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

May 2004

## From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

Many thanks to Patrick O'Neill for his great talk last month on work he did at Arlington House (Custis-Lee Mansion). It was especially interesting to have him take us through the process of deciding where to dig and how much to do, keeping the customer's budget in mind. Finding a dry well inside the house was a bonus. It was also sobering to see how wrong the "experts" can be when they restore an old building.

Plan ahead for the June meeting. It will be at the Elmore Farm Lab and will not be a membership meeting as such. It will be a working session, helping to pack up the Lab for the move back to James Lee. Since the actual move will be on June 15 and 16, there will be a lot of packing to do. The Chapter will provide beverages and possibly pizza or maybe we'll do it as a pot-luck ... we'll decide at the May meeting. See you there!

## May 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 town homes. **Turn at the bus stop enclosure.** Overflow parking 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.

## **Stratified Prehistoric Sites along the C&O Canal By Dr. Stuart Fiedel**



Dr. Fiedel is a Senior Archaeologist with the Louis Berger Group in Washington, DC. Fiedel received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and specializes in prehistoric archeology of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. He is the author of *Prehistory of the Americas* (1987) and several articles on Paleoindian chronology, Pleistocene extinctions, Early Woodland climate change, blood residue analysis, and Algonquian migrations. Dr. Fiedel has also worked in Spain, France, and Turkey and has been recognized as a Fellow of the New York State Archaeological Association.

Geoarchaeological "prospecting," using a predictive model has resulted in discovery of deeply stratified, multi-component prehistoric sites on Potomac River floodplains in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Occupation zones sealed by alluvial deposits include Late Woodland, Terminal Archaic Broadspear, and Early Woodland components. Fiedel will explore both the culture-historical significance and resource management implications of this ongoing research.

**SHOULD BE A GREAT TALK!**

## CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION SECTION GROUP

April was a busy month. Mt. Air is currently going under a \$97,000 restoration of the brickwork remaining from the fire. Other items include creating interpretive areas and filling in the cellar hole after clean-up. The 20<sup>th</sup> century garage will be demolished and the 20<sup>th</sup> century well house will also be pulled down. The well house has been measured drawn and photographed. Fire damage was so severe nothing could save this 20<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding. It is slated to be replaced. **Monies are from the last bond – so vote for the next one this November.**



Mt. Air basement after cleanup!

Other bond funds have brought us the archaeology done at Union Mills, a treatment plan for Union mills both yet to be completed. Additional bond funds were used at Huntley for archaeology associated with the architectural construction of the original building and material culture overtime.

Working on reports of previous archaeology completed at Huntley Historic site. This includes the excavation of an outbuilding that is the mirror image of the storage/root cellar structure. No function for the structure was determined through the artifact database or structural components. It likely served as storage and was not the long sought after kitchen.

The Marker for the Manassas Gap Railroad Historic Site came in and will be placed by the abutment on the Cub Run Stream Valley trail. A view shed will be made and the abutment cleaned up and interpreted. This was done in cooperation with the History Commission Marker Committee.

John Rutherford received the RMD Stewardship award for his work with GIS and archaeology. May will be a very

busy month as we are moving to our new renovated facility at James Lee Center. More on that next month.

**Land Bay A (44FX2723)** - As we continue to deal with finishing up aspects of the site, which were not completed by the consultant, we have discovered additional Culpeper ware pottery concentrations. Interestingly, Berno and the crew's testing, when coupled with the re-do of the shovel test sample, indicates that the pottery may have been associated with a special activity area. They have recovered a very low amount of stone debitage with the pottery but have found a moderate quantity of fire cracked rocks. Approximately, 50-75 feet away, the shovel test sample has revealed an area rich in stone debitage (quartz, quartzite, rhyolite, and pitted hornfels) but lacking in pottery concentrations (so far). Before we move on to the stone debitage area, the crew will explore the exposed sub-soil for features. Hopefully, datable features from the Culpeper ware time period can be detected and dated. So far the ware has not been dated. We are looking at mid-June to finish the phase III data recovery. **Anyone interested in helping is urged to call the Elmore lab (703-787-3778). Fieldwork is six days a week (M-Sat) and lab is held concurrently on Tuesdays.**

### ASV Board Meeting by George Monken

The Quarterly ASV Board Meeting was held 1 May 2004 at Kittiewan Plantation. The following are highlights of the meeting. Mike Barber reported that the Field School would be held 12-31 July at Keyser Farms. The major goal of this year's field school will be to tie in the recent excavations with excavations done in 1939. More information on this field school and others is available at the ASV web site at <http://asv-archeology.org>.

There was a discussion concerning "non" ASV flyers in the Quarterly Bulletin. Flyers have been included in the past, with the originator providing a donation or percentage of items sold. The Board agreed to continue the practice in the future for archeology related flyers only (no Viagra ads). Joel Hardison and Mike Madden will work on an official ASV policy concerning this issue.

Bill Thompson is soliciting nominations for this years archeology awards. No nominations have been received as of 1 May. Please contact Bill Thompson to nominate some one for Amateur, Professional, Out of State or Hall of Fame. Information needed is name of person being nominated and reason for nomination. Bill's email is [twarchitects@livenet.net](mailto:twarchitects@livenet.net).

Al Pfeffer is soliciting nominating for President Elect and at least two Board Members. If anyone wants to serve or has a nomination please contact Al at [hamptonwds@aol.com](mailto:hamptonwds@aol.com).

Randy Turner reported on DHR status. The happy news is that the State Budget for DHR should be at the same level as last year. Proposal for Threaten Sites are due NOW. DHR has developed a Resource Kit for use in teaching about African American archeology sits. The kits may be borrowed from any of the Regional DHR offices.

Ted Reinhard is soliciting articles for the March 2005 Quarterly Bulletin. You can contact him at [tedreinhard@aol.com](mailto:tedreinhard@aol.com). Lyle Browning reported the web site is being updated. If there are any problems with outdated information or bad links, there is a "hot" link to the web mistress. Our own Diane Schug-O'Neill is one of the web mistresses.

Joel Hardison reported that the Certification Program has 138 currently enrolled. Three works shops are planned for the near future. DHR DSS and Intro to Archeology on the Web will be held 15 May at DHR in Richmond. Ethno-zoological will be held 18 May at Forest Service HQ in Roanoke. Flotation Workshop will be held 15 May at Flowerdew Hundred, Hopewell, VA. Additional information is/will be posted on the ASV web site.

2004 Annual Meeting will be held 29-31 October in Lexington. Chapter Presentations will continue to be part of the program after a recent vote by the Executive Board members. Several comments were made expressing concern about the quality of previous presentations and "last minute" preparation by some chapters. Joel will send to each Chapter President outlining procedures to be followed to ensure there are no more "5 minutes before" preparation. Procedures will include send an "abstract" to the Program Chairman (Randy Turner) NLT 31 August. NVC/ASV volunteered to have a chapter presentation at the annual meeting.

Next ASV Quarterly Board meeting will be at the Forrest Service Headquarters in Roanoke on 7 August.

## **COLONIAL HOUSE on PBS shows local architectural historian**

**By Ruth Reeder**

Mark your calendars for a very special event at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria, on Tues., June 1 at 7:30 p.m. Formerly the Architectural Historian at Woodlawn, meet Alexandria's own Craig Tuminaro, of "Colonial House" fame and learn

first-hand about "Merciless insect hordes, rustic living, real scarlet letters, grueling physical labor and endless "peas pottage" and oatmeal for sustenance the two dozen people who recently found out what life was like in circa-1630 colonial America as they struggled to create a functioning economically viable settlement on an isolated stretch of the Maine coast. The result of their five-month experience is Colonial House -- the latest in a series of public television reality programs that simulate life in historical epochs past." -- From WETA Magazine, May 2004.

The event is free but reservations are required. Call Gadsby's Tavern Museum at 703.838.4242. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Carlyle House Historic Park. Colonial House airs on WETA TV 26, Monday- Tuesday, May 17-18 & 24-25 at 8 p.m.

## **FIELD SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES**

**By Bob Wharton**

These states were represented in the 2004 Field School Directory submitted from April 9th-12th via **ShovelBums.Org**:

**Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington**

If you find state you are interested in, go to our Chapter website at [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org) and pick a field school you are interested in with this directory. If you decide to contact the field schools, please be sure to let them know you found out about it through the Shovel Bum directory. The 2005 directory is currently accepting submissions at: <http://www.shovelbums.org/archaeology-field-schools.html>.

These Field Schools can also be found on the web at <http://www.shovelbums.org/field%20schools/2004/us-field-schools-2004.html>.

**Any problems, comments, suggestions please contact Joe Brandon at <http://www.shovelbums.org/comments.html>.**

## NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President position open  
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## F CPA ARCHAEOLOGISTS

### **CHAPTER Sponsors:**

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Rich Sacchi and John Rutherford 703-827-8672 (work)

### Archaeological Educational Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon Esther White [ewhite@mountvernon.org](mailto: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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED