

# The Datum Point



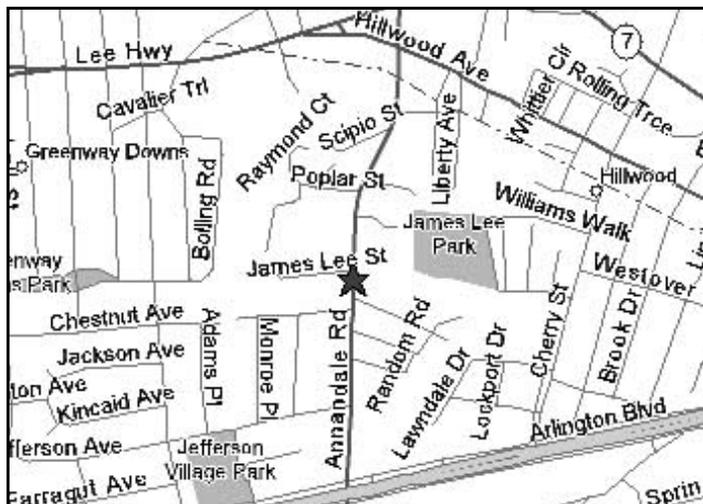
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

September 2004

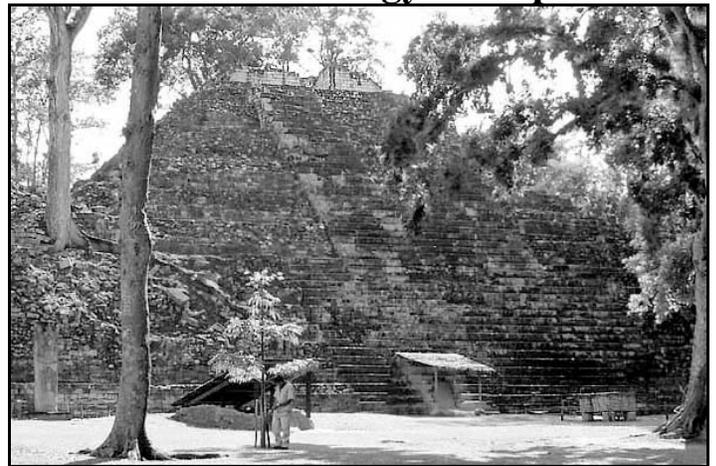
## From the Veep – C.K. Gailey

I'd encourage everyone to come out next week, for our meeting on the 9th. There are several things we need to decide. The big one is what to do about our meetings. After next week, we can not meet in the rooms in James Lee on Thursday night. Do we change nights? Do we move out of James Lee? Those at the meeting will decide. We also need to talk about making an offer to host the ASV annual meeting in 2006. Come on out! I'll have available copies of two publications the chapter gets: the ASM Ink (Maryland) monthly and the NPS Newsletter. We're going to be at Centreville on Sat the 11th with a table of archaeological stuff. Anyone who wants to help be at the site of the tanyard dig at 11 AM. We're also going to be in attendance at Herndon's NatureFest on Sat the 18th. Call Pat O'Neill or me at 703-249-9593 for details.

**Directions:** Go east on Route 50 from the west side of the Beltway and go west of Route 50 from Seven Corners. When you come to Annandale Road, turn north, there is a Chili's on the west side of the road after you turn. At the first light about 1/4 to the north, the James Lee Center will be on your right. Turn right into the parking lot and go in the nice large main entrance on the east side of the building. We will be using one of the Literacy Council's classrooms (room 112) for the next two months (Aug and Sept). Also, we will have to be out of the room by 9:45, so the meeting will move right along!



## September Talk - By Dr. Charles Cheek The Archaeology of Copan



Copan, Honduras, was one of the major Mayan cities during the Classic period (AD 250-900). A series of major projects over the past 30-plus years has revealed new information about the dynasty that ruled Copan, how they used their buildings, the sequence of construction of the plaza and the Acropolis, who they made war with, how they governed, and how they eventually lost control of their vassals and their subjects. The talk will focus on these topics and the archaeology of the plaza and the acropolis.

Charles Cheek earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the U. of Arizona and a B.A. in Sociology from Catholic U. He has worked in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, the Mid-Atlantic region, and Oklahoma. He studied ceramics at both Monte Alban in Oaxaca, Mexico and Tikal, Guatemala. He excavated at Kaminlajuyu in Guatemala City, a Mayan site affected by contact with Teotihuacan. He spent four seasons in charge of the excavations in the Main Plaza at Copan and on a Middle Classic platform and mound complex bordering the Plaza. In the Mid-Atlantic region, Dr. Cheek has conducted contract work on prehistoric and historic sites, working primarily for John Milner Associates on the archaeology of cities including DC, Baltimore, New York, and Boston.

## Summary: ASV State Board Meeting, Roanoke, VA. August 7, 2004

The ASV's Annual Meeting 2004 will be held in Lexington, Virginia on the weekend of October 29 – 31. Program chair Randy Turner has planned a full session:

- A Friday evening COVA session (program to be announced)
- Regular Saturday sessions, including two from our own NOVA representatives Mike Johnson and Jack Hranicky, both speaking about Paleoindian research.
- Annual membership meeting and officer election.
- Saturday afternoon workshops geared towards certification: Mike Barber on ethnozoology and ethnobotany, with a possible second workshop on artifact analysis.
- Chapter reports and student presentations (5)
- The traditional banquet and awards presentation Saturday evening. Featured speaker will be Wayne Clark, who formerly worked in Virginia and is now associated with the Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum in Maryland.

Conference location: Best Western Inn at Hunt Ridge, 25 Willow Springs Road, Lexington, VA 24450 (540) 464-1500. Conference Rate: \$74.95+tax. Cut-off date for rate is October 10.

### ***Other business of interest:***

1. *The ASV's 2007 Committee (Chair: Ed Bottoms) has been in discussions with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation over ways to collaborate and coordinate the observances planned by the two organizations.*
2. *Threatened sites Committee (Moldenhauer): all but \$14,000 of this year's allocation has been awarded. Some recipient projects include the Maycock's Point site, Fort Hampton, the Landon Carter site, and **our own LAND BAY site**. Moldenhauer said that **the deadline for submitting applications for Threatened Site funding for next year will be March, 2005, to enable the committee to meet and discuss.***
3. *Publications (Browning): New Publication nearing completion and heading to the publisher sometime this year: Noel Hume's technical report on the 1990-1995 excavations at Fort Raleigh, North Carolina (the "Lost Colony").*
4. *From COVA (Heath): COVA is reviewing regulations governing how excavations are done in Virginia and*

*will offer recommendations for changing Virginia's standards.*

5. *New Business: Va. Burial regulations (Heath and Williams): Discussions are underway concerning some modifications to the present Virginia Burial Excavation regulations. Current standards require, in general, the analysis of skeletal materials (generally to determine age, sex, racial/ethnic origin, pathologies, etc.) and reburial of the remains within two years of excavation. Exceptions and extensions are made on a case-by-case basis. Two collateral issues are: (1) under what circumstances, if any, should excavated skeletal materials remain with a collection (instead of being reburied), and how/with whom should these be curated?; and (2) under what circumstances, if any, should skeletal remains be displayed, either in photographs or as museum exhibits?*

**If you have an opinion on this last entry, please feel free to express it via email to [mwilliamslonomo@aol.com](mailto:mwilliamslonomo@aol.com). Martha Williams (NOVA Chapter member) represents the ASV on the special committee in Richmond.**

### **Arlington House - Candlelight Tour**

By Mary Green

The evening of October 8, 2004, Arlington House will hold an Open House. Last year we parked behind the House. It was lit by 'candlelight' and torches. The costumed interpreters were on hand. There was a brass band in the garden, lectures in the amphitheater, gospel singing on the front porch. The loveliest sight was the view of Washington from the darkened porch.

### **NATUREFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!!**

Susan Lilly has asked the Northern Virginia Chapter for participation in the NatureFest in Herndon, Virginia on September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 5 pm!!!! Call the O'Neill's at 703-249-9593 if you are interested. They usually send the chapter a tidy amount for helping!!!!!!

### **Alexandria Archaeology Family Dig Days!**

Join City archaeologists and volunteers and screen excavated soil for artifacts at the Shuter's Hill site. Saturday September 11 and 18 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. \$5/person/session. A participating adult must accompany children under 16. The excavation site is located on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. For reservations, which are required, and

more information call the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at 703.838.4399

## Partake for Parks, Por Favor!

Support our hundreds of park volunteers by eating great Mexican food. Sound too good to be true? It's not! On **Tuesday September 14th, Chevys restaurant in Merrifield** is sponsoring a fundraising night for the Resource Management Division's Volunteer Program. From 4pm - 10pm, 20% of the revenue generated from customers who identify themselves to their server, as supporting the Park Authority's fundraising night will be donated to our Volunteer Program to help train and thank our many dedicated volunteers. Anyone can participate so spread the word, gather your friends, and come to Chevys on September 14<sup>th</sup> to eat, drink, be merry, and partake for parks! Chevys is located in Merrifield, VA at 3052 Gatehouse Plaza just off Gallows Road near the intersection with Arlington Boulevard. Reservations or coupons are not required. (Remember to mention the Park Authority's fundraising night to your server, otherwise we won't get the 20%!). For more information, contact Erin Chernisky at 703-324-8750 or [erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## Fairfax County Cultural Resource Protection Group

Historic background and data gather began in earnest for the 100% STP survey at **Huntley** completed in 1999. The survey found areas of possible significance when distribution maps were produced. In addition, a feature that we believe was a staging area for the construction of Huntley was mostly excavated and included whole bricks, sand, burnt shell and most surprising flakes of soapstone. We found that the soapstone lined the interior of the all first floor hearths. Stay tuned for further developments as we sort through a mass of interesting artifact and distribution data.

**The Mt. Air \$125,000+ bond preservation project** is nearing completion and will soon be open to the public as an un-staffed Historic Sites Park. The filling in of the main cellar with gravel to protect the walls of this circa 1740s foundation was finished along with the mortaring of bricks of the foundation for later additions. A small part of the cellar hole was left open for public interpretation. Other severely fire damaged structures were removed and the entire site

cleaned up. With the addition of interpretive signage and trails, the site will finally be ready for the public. A big job and a lot of thanks go to John Rutherford and our Parks Operations construction manager, Jack Van De Riet who dealt with contracting and supervising this phase of the project.

**LBA (44FX2723)** - The Murphy's Law of archeology has come into play at the LBA site. The last week before our Sept. 1st deadline for completing the site they found their most important feature: a fire cracked rock filled pit feature. It is the first positively identified intrusive feature on the site. All other positive features have been "sheet" features, immediately under the "A" or top soil horizon. The feature fill is less compact and rocky, except for large fire cracked rocks, than the surrounding soil which is full of rounded pebbles in a hard packed soil. The pit soil also has charcoal, which may provide both wood identification (if they can find a large enough piece) and a C-14 date. The feature was found while removing during the process of excavating Feature 12, which is the large fire cracked rock scatter that Berno and the crew have been working on for more than a month. It extends through at least three levels (nine inches). Because of impending development and a need to finish so the lab work, analysis and report writing before Berno heads home to the Netherlands in December, the new target for completing fieldwork is September 18.

**Meadowood Farm survey** - Paul Inashima and Nancy Anthony have been hired and are already working in the field. They have found one large prehistoric and historic site.

**Lorton Town Center 2 (44FX2077)** - Mike Johnson has completed editing the publishable version of the excavation report by Nancy Anthony and Johnson. Anyone wanting a copy please let Mike Johnson know.

**Nottoway River Paleoindian Survey Geoaerchology** - CD Cox, George and Vicky Monken and Mike Johnson will be attending the first Archeological Sciences in the Americas conference in Tucson Arizona on September 23-26. Johnson will be giving a paper in the Geoaerchology Session on the research that has grown out of the ASV's Cactus Hill project. The paper will focus on the geological work Berno, Bob and Gail Wharton and Johnson did in the spring on an area south of Cactus Hill. They examined more than 35 auger cores and located three new buried sites, which Johnson intends to test in the spring and, if necessary, Fall of 2005.

## NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President position open  
Vice President C.K. Gailey [vpnvc@nvcasv.org](mailto:vpnvc@nvcasv.org)  
703-425-4668  
Treasurer George Monken [gmonken@BraemarNet.com](mailto:gmonken@BraemarNet.com)  
703-393-6775  
Corresponding Sec. Vicki Monken same as above  
Recording Sec. Rachael Mangum 703-934-2336 (work)  
EDITOR Patrick O'Neill [patrickoneill@erols.com](mailto:patrickoneill@erols.com)  
703-244-6275 (cell)

## FCPA ARCHAEOLOGISTS

### **CHAPTER Sponsors:**

Elizabeth Crowell ([elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov))  
Mike Johnson, Richard Sacchi, Bob Wharton, John Rutherford  
call 703-534-3881

### 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  
2855 Annandale 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!!!!**

### **The Datum Point**

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED