



The Datum Point

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

June 2005

From the President – Patrick O’Neill

What great weather! The Fairfax archaeology group is having a booth at the Fairfax County Fair on June 11-12, 10am-6pm. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! Please call me at 703-249-9593, email at patrickoneill@erols.com, or call C.K. Gailey at 703-534-3881, ext. 404. Ann Wood will discuss the ASV certification program this week so come and join in! If you want someone to give a talk, please let us know contact information and we will seek them out!!!

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday June 8
This Month’s Speaker:

Patrick O’Neill
Finding a Confederate Cemetery
In West Virginia

Patrick O’Neill, professional archaeologist and historian, has recently been providing volunteer services as a consultant for a private group trying to make a development near Fayetteville, WV, adhere to state historic preservation guidelines. The efforts have made the Wal-Mart design committee rethink its involvement with the developer and mandated that additional work be conducted at the site to locate a Confederate grave. Nine grave shafts were found, but were ruled as being civilian by the developer’s archaeologist; however, a 1905 newspaper article, a 1930s WPA survey, and an early 1900s tombstone all point to the site being part of the soldier cemetery. Come and find out what happened!!!!



Other News: the picnic will be discussed at the June meeting (come to the meeting or email an officer with your thoughts on a location, and your preference for a July or August picnic).

County Happenings in Archaeology **Mike Johnson**

Land Bay A - We are almost done with the lab work. All of the fire cracked rocks from feature 12 have been catalogued and boxed. It was a very hard task for the lab crew to have labeled thousands of FCR. The effort is greatly appreciated. Rachel Roesky did not get scared off by last year’s internship and is back for another internship: this time to work on all of that FCR. As many know, particularly those who catalogued the rocks, we identified stains and residues on and in the cracks of many of the FCR from feature 12. Rachel’s internship is to:

1. examine the collection,
2. identify the different kinds of stains and residues,
3. sort the FCR into the categories,
4. identify what the stains and residues are, and
5. figure out how to analyze the stains and residues.

All of the labeling and cataloguing of individual FCR was necessary so that she could freely handle the samples and be able return them to their proper provenience when she is done. If she succeeds in either dating or identifying what kinds of residues are there, this will enable us (and other archeologists analyzing similar features elsewhere) to directly date the hearths and/or establish their functions.

Meadowood - With the end of Land Bay A fieldwork and various Spring meetings, we have started up again surveying site 44FX2912 on Saturdays. When that is done the Saturday crew will shift to an unidentified prehistoric site nearby.

Paul Inashima and Nancy Anthony are still working with volunteers on Thursdays. Paul’s crew found a large rock on the surface, which fits the description of a rock that George Mason and other gentlemen from Colchester are reported to have used as a meeting place. If it turns out to be the place it will be a significant find for Mason Neck and local history.

They also discovered a large, mid-18th century, white salt glazed stoneware plate fragment in an area near where Rochambeau’s army is supposed to have camped for several days while crossing the Occoquan River. The French Army was on its way to Yorktown to join George Washington’s Colonial Army at the decisive battle that ended the American Revolution.

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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 Wednesday of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED