



The Datum Point

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

May 2005

From the President – Patrick O’Neill

Smell the dirt in the air? It's time to get out and dig, dig, dig! Opportunities are coming to exercise your field and lab talents! We will try and decide at the June meeting when and where the picnic should be this year. Let us know your thoughts!! The Chapter has also been given permission to publish Edith Sprouse's *Peopling the Past* articles she wrote from 2001 to 2003. More on that in this issue. Come to the meetings and get involved with the chapter!!

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday May 11

This Month’s Speaker:

Dr. Ann Palkovich

**Bioarchaeology and Reanalysis in the
American Southwest**

Dr. Palkovich is Krasnow Associate Professor at George Mason University. Her recent work on the reanalysis of a major ancestral pueblo site in the American Southwest has revealed some new insights about community dynamics and disease in the 14th century Northern Rio Grande area. Her talk will discuss some of the ways we now view skeletal pathology data in prehistoric populations.



Montezuma’s Castle, near Sedona, Arizona

Certification Liaison

Ann Wood has expressed an interest in becoming the chapter's liaison to the ASV certification program. At the last meeting, Ann said she would be interested in succeeding George Monken, who has given up the position. She noted that others in the chapter might also be interested in being liaison or supporting that role. If you would like to explore this with Ann, please email her at annpwood@comcast.net or call her at 703-620-6098. The subject will be considered at the May meeting.

Certification Opportunity: Lithic Workshop

Archaeologist Mike Barber will present a lecture and workshop on prehistoric lithic utilization systems entitled:

Written in Stone: the Analysis of Prehistoric Lithics
Tuesday May 17, 2005 7:00 pm

USDA-Forest Service Supervisor’s Office
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, Virginia 24153

Sponsored by the Roanoke Chapter, ASV

For info contact Mike Barber at mbarber@fs.fed.us

Volunteers Needed

Archeology has been allotted a space this year at Celebrate Fairfax, at the County building. The event is on Friday, June 10 (6 PM to midnight); Saturday, June 11 (10 AM to midnight) and Sunday, June 12 (10 AM to 6 PM.) In the past we have set up on Saturday morning and needed people from 9 to 6 on Saturday and 10 to 6 on Sunday. It may be a little different this year, but that's the general requirement. We will have an approximately 6 foot table. We'll discuss possible activities at the meeting on May 11. We can take volunteers then, or call C.K. Gailey at the lab. If we have enough folks each shift could be as little as 3 hours. In the past volunteers got a free pass into the event. In the past we've had posters, handouts, artifact

displays and even did some artifact washing during this festival.

Announcement

Arlington's Secret History Revealed!

Free Public Lecture

Thursday, May 19, 2005 at 7 pm
Arlington County Government Building
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Room 307
Arlington, Virginia

Arlington didn't just happen. History happened and Arlington is part of it! Come learn about how the neighborhoods we call home came to be - and how Arlington made history and history was made in Arlington. Noted architectural historian Dr. David L. Ames is passionate about the evolution of America's early suburbs. He's giving an entertaining and information-packed free presentation about how Arlington grew into the urban village it is today. Find out:

§ How the Union Army created prime sites for development.

§ About the time the market for housing was even hotter than it is right now!

§ How Arlington became the birthplace of the garden apartment phenomenon.

Dr. Ames is an urban and cultural geographer, historic preservationist, professional urban and regional planner, and architectural photographer. A native of Falls Church, Dr. Ames is the Director of the Center for Historic Architecture and Design and Professor of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and Geography at the University of Delaware.

This special presentation is sponsored by Arlington County's Historic Preservation Program in honor of National Historic Preservation month. For more information, please contact the Arlington County Historic Preservation Program at 703.228.3830.

County Happenings in Archaeology **Mike Johnson**

Nottoway River Survey - We completed the excavation of approx. 52 tons of sand in six test units on three terraces. The soil and artifacts, so far, fit the Nottoway River geoarcheological model perfectly. We are missing only the Paleoamerican

component. The first terrace (closest to the river) produced a nice stratified sequence with pottery thru Savannah River (ca. 2000 BC) in the 9-inch plowzone, Halifax (ca. 3500 BC) in the 9-13 inch level, late Morrow Mountain/Guilford (ca 5000 BC) in the 13-17 inch level and nothing diagnostic below 17 inches. The site was named the Koestline site for Rick Koestline who has spent about 10 years helping with the Cactus Hill lab.

The second terrace started with Morrow Mountain II (ca 5500 BC) in the 17-21 inch level, probable Ft. Nottoway (ca. 8000 BC) in the 21-25 inch level and a Palmer point base (ca 9500 BC) in the 25-29 inch level with nothing below. Another test trench, 100 feet to the south, produced a strong St. Albans point component (ca 7500 BC). Both trenches produced features and cross mended artifacts, indicating excellent integrity. The plowzones produced almost no artifacts. The soil and artifacts resemble those found in Area D at Cactus Hill and the Barr site, which produced nothing earlier than Palmer points. This site was named Watlington for Leigh Watlington who also has been helping, for about as long, with the Cactus Hill lab and field.

With the good weather we had the opportunity to do one 5x10-foot test trench on the third terrace. It was not planned, because the adjacent property where most of the terrace is located, has not been acquired by the landowner. The results from this test were a great surprise. Our auger test near the northeast corner of the test trench produced only one small quartzite flake from about 40 inches deep. The southern half of the test trench produced a heavy concentration of quartzite flakes between 17 and 29 inches deep with what appeared to be the midsection of a Ft. Nottoway point (ca 8000 BC) in the 25-29 inch level. The soil resembles that from Areas A and B at Cactus Hill and the Blueberry Hill site, where Paleoamerican material were excavated in good context. Once the adjacent area is acquired, we will go back in and do the soil work before more deep testing in the fall.

Tuesday night lab work will begin on the material from the three sites, when state site numbers are obtained. Special thanks to the hearty crew of Dana and Rick Caniglia, Dale Harrell, George and Vicki Monken, Leigh Watlington, Ann Wood, Nancy Anthony, Russell Darden and Wayne Edwards from the Nansemond Chapter-ASV, and Darren Loomis.

Land Bay A - Washing, sorting, cataloguing, labeling and bagging is underway on this year's

emergency data recovery. Because it takes so long to sort the artifacts from the "country rock," we are only scheduling regular lab on Tuesdays.

Meadowood - Paul and Nancy are back in the field at Meadowood. Recently, they found a grooved ax and point fragment from their shovel testing and reconnaissance work. Meet at 9 am at the BLM Visitor Center on the left down Belmont Blvd., which is the second right off Gunston Road.

The Saturday crew will also start up again at 9 am on Saturdays. We will be starting to test a new site. To get there take Gunston Road east from US 1, approximately 2.3 miles. Turn right after the fire house (on the left) immediately after an orange gas line marker (post) on the gravel road. The gate will be false locked so you can open it. You should be able to see us from the gate. We will be immediately past the pond on the right side of the gravel road.

Bond site - Our crew gave Paul and Wayne Clark help with the soapstone quarry on the Patuxant River in Howard County, Maryland on Friday (4/15). It was an exciting day in which we helped excavate a soapstone bowl preform and several, bowl preform basins with the sprue (where the bowl blank was detached) still in place.

ASV Board Meeting News **Martha Williams**

From the agenda for the ASV's Board of Directors meeting on April 16 in Richmond:

Upcoming meetings for your calendar:

- **ASV Annual meeting:** October 28-30, Holiday Inn, Winchester. Sessions will include chapter presentations; other papers currently being sought. Contact Randy Turner, Program Chair, to submit a paper (757) 396-6709. Preliminary information is in current *QB/Newsletter* mailing.
- **Eastern States Archeological Federation:** November 9-12, Patrick Henry Inn, Williamsburg. ASV is the official host for this meeting. For more information, go to the ESAF website <http://www.esaf-archeology.org>

News from the State Department of Historic Resources is really good. The State Assembly increased the DHR budget and authorized 5 new positions, including 2 that will be allocated to the on-line Data Sharing System. Threatened sites money was increased, and a new curator (filling a

vacancy in the state lab) will begin work in May. Most importantly, the position of official State Archeologist was re-authorized; a committee that includes representatives from ASV and COVA will meet to decide the job description and qualifications for this position.

ASV will mark the 2007 Jamestown observance by issuing a publications "trilogy" that includes a volume of previously published ASV/QB articles on Jamestown (available in October 05); a volume on general ethnology (available March 06); and a volume on chiefdoms, with articles updated by Howard MacCord. Other publications in the offing include Noel Hume's book on the Roanoke (Lost Colony) excavations; an Algonkian Dictionary; and the 2005 Upland Symposium.

Get involved with state society activities:

- Participate in ASV's annual Field School: July 11-31, 2005---Keyser Farm Site (44PA1), Page County. Field School will be under the auspices of the Forest Service (Mike Barber, George Tolley, Mike Madden). This will be the *last year for excavations* at this site, which is on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River not far from Luray.
- Assist at the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Camp AP Hill in August, as scouts earn credits towards their archeological merit badges. Further information TBA.

Peopling the Past **Patrick O'Neill**

The Northern Virginia Chapter has expressed a desire to formally publish the 16 articles called *Peopling the Past* by Edith Sprouse. I wrote a letter of permission to her daughter Betsy and this is her response. As you can see, she is very enthusiastic about our endeavor. We will be talking to you more about this as it develops!

Pat, thank you for your letter about my mother's articles on "Peopling the Past." I know she enjoyed writing them. We would be pleased to have the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society publish these articles. Hopefully it could earn enough revenue to support your efforts as well as cover the cost of publication! I have just two requests. First, Edith preferred to use her full name on her publications: Edith Moore Sprouse. And second, please let me know when the book is available and how I can purchase one!
(signed) *Betsy Sprouse*

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
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(W): _____

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Individual (\$15) _____
Student (\$5) _____
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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 Wednesday of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED