



# The Datum Point

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

October 2005

## From the President – Patrick O’Neill

In September, we were treated to a wonderful talk by Eleanor Breen of Mount Vernon. Eleanor is the senior archaeologist in charge of the site at George Washington’s Distillery. She reviewed the site’s activities and the progress being made on the construction of the replica building. Eleanor was also our first speaker to receive one of our new gifts – she chose a fanny pack.

Speaking of our honoraria gifts, the sales of our hats and packs continue to do well. So well, in fact, that the sale prices will continue until December 31. Hats are \$9 (Khaki & Forest Green, Khaki & Blue, Putty & Red, Putty & Navy Blue) and Packs are \$10 (black w/white logo) and a combo deal for \$17.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. The October meeting will not be held at the James Lee Center on the 2nd Wednesday, but rather at **Gunston Hall** on **Saturday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**. We will be treated by Dave Shonyo to a tour of the archaeological activities.

## This month’s meeting: Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at Gunston Hall

**Date:** Sat 15 October  
**Place:** Gunston Hall <  
<[www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org)>  
**Time:** 10:30am  
**Address:** 10709 Gunston Rd,  
Mason Neck, VA 22079

We will meet Dave Shonyo at the Kitchen Yard (north side of the mansion). There is plenty of parking (no charge). Sneakers will suffice – there will be some walking.

TOURS of the mansion will be available at a cut rate (\$4). These tours start on the hour and half hour and last approximately 45 min. Gunston Hall Plantation opens at 9:30am.

Our Annual ASV meeting will be in Winchester, VA on Oct 28-30. The website has registration forms ([www.asv-archeology.org/2005regform.pdf](http://www.asv-archeology.org/2005regform.pdf) and [www.asv-archeology.org/2005regform.doc](http://www.asv-archeology.org/2005regform.doc)). The conference hotel is the Holiday Inn (1017 Millwood Pike, Winchester, VA 22602; 540-667-3300). Room rate = \$69/night, if you mention you’re with ASV. The COVA (<http://cova-inc.org/>) meeting will take place on that Friday. Our own Martha Williams will be chairing a session on Urban Archaeology.

## **County Happenings in Archeology Mike Johnson**

**Meadowood** - Last Saturday we opened a parallel set of test squares on the east side of the trench. We did this to expose the rest of the area around our small brick concentration. We completed six levels in three test squares, exposing the bottom of level two all around the bricks. No additional bricks were exposed. However we did not hit the top of the gravel lens either. The only significant artifacts we recovered were some more probable pearlware and a sherd of hand painted Chinese export porcelain. Next we plan to complete the first two levels in the last of the four new test squares and begin testing level three. Hopefully we will finally be able to expose the cobble concentration enough to explain it.

## **Announcements**

Fairfax County’s First Annual History Conference “People, Places, & Preservation” will be held Sat Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-4 pm, Ellmore Farm Center, Frying Pan Park, Herndon. It will feature Ron Maxwell, film maker of epic Civil War motion pictures (*Gettysburg; Gods & Generals*), and a panel of presenters including Jean Federico, Director, Historic Alexandria, and others. Hear about history groups’ plans for 2005-2006 and preservation issues, and attend group discussions to address current issues. Cost \$10 which includes catered lunch; send check (payable to FCPA History Conference) to Michael Rieron, FCPA, 12055 Gov’t Ctr Pkwy, Ste 936, Fairfax VA 22035-1118.

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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 7:30 p.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