



The Datum Point

Newsletter of the
**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA**

Website – www.nvcasv.org

September 2006

September 13, 2006 Chapter Meeting

Speaker - Speaker: Dr. David Clark

Topic - Cultural Resource Management and Archaeological Research at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve: A 725 acre secret in Loudoun County! The naming of Banshee Reeks dates back to the 1840s and is rooted in Gaelic.

Bio: Dr. Clark received his BA from Ohio State, his Ph.D. from Pittsburgh, and conducted post-doctoral work at the Smithsonian Institution. He is on the faculty at Catholic University as well as Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun campus. At NVCC, Dr. Clark is a professor with the Historic Preservation Certificate Program. He is also on the Board of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

Don't just come to hear "Dr. Diggs" speak about an amazing resource in Loudoun County - come out to learn how you can become a part of a new archaeological outreach program in Northern Virginia based in volunteerism!



Banshee Reeks



View from Banshee Reeks

<http://www.co.loudoun.va.us/prcs/parks/banshee.htm>

Banshee Reeks web site

From the President – Patrick O'Neill

What a great day for cool weather in August we had at the Chapter Picnic! CD Cox's 90th birthday was part of the summer celebration! Congratulations! The ASV Board meeting was held in August and I informed the Board that the **Northern Virginia Chapter would host the 2009 Annual ASV Meeting, not the 2008 meeting.** The 2008 Meeting will be hosted by the new Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, Virginia. I have been analyzing artifacts from the Battle of the White House from early September 1814. Anyone wanting to assist me please contact me (see back page)! Also, anyone wanting to help me locate and move the remains for reburial of a Civil War Veteran in Martinsburg, West Virginia, contact me ASAP.

December elections! The Northern Virginia Chapter will need new officers in December, as at least the Treasurer and Vice President position will be opening up. Please think about stepping up to the plate and running. The Chapter does a great job of providing volunteer opportunities for digging, community service, and guest speakers! Use this as a chance to help the chapter make a difference!!!!!! Please!!!!!! Contact me!

Archaeological News



The pictured atlatl weight fragment ("wing") is extremely unusual from Fairfax County.

Langert '06 Project - Due to the exceptional contributions Chris Ramey made to this emergency data recovery, the site has been re-named the Ramey site (44FX3176). Many times, when I had closed down the excavation thinking that we had pretty well exhausted the site's potential, Chris would ask that I leave a few test pits for him to work on. Each time he

produced new data that caused us to refocus our efforts on more data recovery.

Now, the property owner has started clearing the site. Therefore the systematic excavation is finished. However, we have been able to do several systematic surface collections of artifacts from the newly disturbed soil. We have been fortunate to have had very timely thunderstorms.

We were also able to increase from about 20% to more than 30% the part of the site's core that is to be saved. In doing that we had excellent cooperation from the owner's representatives and the Park Authority's Trails Coordinator, Jenny Pate. This involved moving a trail alignment from cutting thru the core of the site to along the adjacent Lee Road.

In all we excavated about 900, tightly controlled, square feet of our 10,000 square foot grid. If you take away the 3,000 square feet that was saved, we excavated about 13% of the destroyed part of the site. Each artifact was mapped within one square foot of where it was recovered. That kind of control will enable us to reconstruct a much higher percentage of the activity areas than would be recovered from a standard contract excavation. Of course, based on our own preliminary evaluations, not even we would have taken this site to 13% recovery without the enthusiasm of one volunteer, Chris.

The results of the artifact quantity and quality recovered from the excavation pale by comparison with the "grab bag" surface collection from the construction site. The problem with the surface collection is that none of the artifacts can be provenienced so they contribute nothing to the site's internal patterning. They point out, though, what was missed by not excavating the remaining 87%. Had the surface collected artifacts, plus those that will never be recover, been recovered in good context the site would have had a much fuller story to tell about American Indian life.

In summary, we recovered diagnostic artifacts from the Middle and Late Archaic, and the Early, Middle and Late Woodland. Points included Lobate, Morrow Mountain II, Holmes/Bare Island, Susquehanna, Calvert, Hellgrammite, Rossville, Piscataway, Selby Bay, and medium and small sized triangles. Pottery included what appears to be Middle Woodland sandstone and crushed quartz tempered shards, and Early or Late Woodland sand tempered cord marked shards. We also recovered several diagnostic, Late Archaic, soapstone bowl fragments.



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The two Jasper projectile points recovered at 44FX3176.

Two adjoining blocks (A and I) produced our only jasper concentration. Fortunately we were able to excavate large areas of that part of the site and recovered two jasper points (pictured) and an expended jasper core. The points are of no recognizable type so they could be from any time between Pre-Clovis and Late Woodland.

The surface collection produced several very unusual functional artifacts. The pictured atlatl weight fragment ("wing") is extremely unusual from Fairfax County. If memory serves me I do not remember ever recovering an atlatl weight from more than 30 years of work in the County. Again the credit goes to the non-professionals. It was recovered by the owner's Project Manager from an area our crew had already examined.

We also recovered four examples of an unseal hornfels knife-like tool. The surface collection produced two whole, one almost whole and one fragment of one-piece knives/hand saws. The one-piece tools had distinct handles and blades. I do not recall ever seeing this tool type in Fairfax County. The most prominent examples of this general technology are "Danish daggers," made of flint from the European Neolithic, which, of course our examples are undoubtedly not related. Unfortunately, the Ramey site tools are made of hornfels in which the surface flake scars have weathered off. Therefore, the details of the technology are not preserved.

The excavation was the easy part. Now the hard part begins. All 900+ bags of dry screen residue have to be washed, sorted and catalogued. -- Mike Johnson

Archeological Lectures & Events

October is Virginia Archaeology Month

Visit the DHR website to view and sign up for an event <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/> Or you can contact Dee DeRoche, Chief Curator at DHR for more information or to suggest an activity at 804-367-2323 ext. 134 or email Dee.DeRoche@dhr.virginia.gov

The Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Meeting is October 27-29

Where: Richmond, Virginia!

Conference Hotel: Holiday Inn, Select, Koger South Conference Center, 1021 Koger Center Blvd
Richmond, VA 23235 (804) 379-3800
(Holiday Inn-Select near Johnston - Willis Hospital on Midlothian Turnpike)

Student Registration: \$18.00

Conference Registration: \$28.00

Banquet Registration: \$32.00 (before October 18, 2006)
\$40.00 (after October 18, 2006)

Cost: \$79.00 (plus tax) per room

A block of 40 rooms is reserved for conference guests at the Holiday Inn. When you register, please tell the hotel that you want the ASV Conference rate. Hotel special rates will be honored until October 6, 2006. After this date they have the option to not honor our rate. We encourage you to register early. Be sure to say you are with the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) Sponsoring Chapter: Greater Richmond Area Chapter (GRAC)

Conference registration includes entry to all of the presentation sessions, break refreshments, book and display rooms. The Council of Virginia Archeologists (COVA) invites you to their Friday night session for no additional fee. A registration form is included in this DP issue. October 28 the ASV banquet will include a reception with a cash bar, followed by a buffet dinner. Also awards will be presented to those being honored. We are pleased to announce our guest speaker is Dr. Michael B. Barber, Virginia State Archaeologist.

For more information contact:

Arrangements: [Royce McNeal](#): Work (804) 644-0656

[Shirley Jaeger](#): (804) 273-9291

Program: [Randy Turner](#): Work (757) 886-2815

Bookroom (displays and book sales): [Harry Jaeger](#)

(804) 273-0247 Please let us know if you would like to help with registration, bookroom setup, and take down. We are most appreciative of extra helping hands.

WHAT'S NEW IN RELIC: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The 19th issue of Prince William Reliquary, RELIC's online historical and genealogical magazine, has just been posted. Go to www.pwcgov.org/library/relic and click on Prince William Reliquary.

Following are upcoming programs at Bull Run Regional Library related to local history and genealogy. Regular times for monthly programs are the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 p.m. Group programs are held in the Library's community room. Sign language interpretation
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of library programs is available if requested three weeks in advance. For details on all history-related programs sponsored by Prince William Public Library System, see their website at www.pwcgov.org/library, click on Events. To reserve a seat for these free programs, contact RELIC at (703) 792-4540 or TTY: (703) 792-4524 or at relic2@pwcgov.org.

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.

BUILDING A FAMILY HISTORY WEB PAGE USING PBWIKI.COM.

One way of sharing what you've discovered, as well as attracting contacts with other family members, is to set up a family web page. One researcher has found that with Pbwiki.com it's quick, cheap and EASY as making a peanut butter sandwich. Mary LeCompte will demonstrate how it can be done on Tuesday, September 26, at Bull Run Regional Library, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.

RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOME

Want to know when your house was built? Who built it and who has lived there over the years? Do you have a complete chain of title to the property back to the earliest settler? RELIC's Virginian librarian Don Wilson will describe the steps needed to find that information, using examples from Prince William County. The work can be challenging but rewarding. The program begins at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday October 24, at Bull Run Regional Library.

THE GENEALOGY DOCTOR IS IN

For tips on starting your own research or to discuss and analyze an historical or genealogical problem that has stumped you, schedule a private, 30-minute visit with RELIC's Don Wilson. First and Third Thursdays of each month, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon, at Bull Run Regional Library. Upcoming available dates: August 17, September 7 and 14. Choice of times: 10:00, 10:45, 11:30 a.m. Call RELIC at 703-792-4540 for a free appointment.

Saturdays, September 9, 16, 23 and 30, at 10 a.m. –

TREASURE BOOKING.

Learn how you can apply multimedia to your family memories! Scan, edit and organize your family photos! Cut, paste, and add music and special effects! Sept. 9 - An overview of multimedia creations. Sept. 16 - Learn about video editing. Sept. 23 - Learn about audio editing. Sept. 30 - Digital photo magic.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oral History Interviewer Training Session

An Oral History Interviewer Training Session for new volunteers interested in assisting with the Alexandria Legacies Oral study. Program will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16th from 10am-12noon t the Archaeology Museum. Alexandria

Legacies seeks volunteers who will interview long-time City residents as part of our Black History Museum and Potomac Yard Oral History Projects, as well as our new City Employee Oral History Project.

If you or any friends and family would like to become oral history interviewers, please RSVP to: jen_hembree@hotmail.com by Sept. 9th. The session is free, but Space is Limited! For more information, visit: <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/oha-main/oha-legacieshome.html>

**Chapter News –
Fun stuff at the Library**

Sometimes I really get a kick out of my job at the Library of Congress. Truth is stranger than fiction. Who would think such an item would have been published on a map?! Take time to read this little item snipped out of an 1862 map, titled: *Lloyd's map of the southern states showing all the railroads, their stations & distances...* Today, Wm. W. Johnson would certainly sue whoever arranged for this paragraph to be printed!

One of the most interesting parts about this paragraph is that it concerns a boarding house in Ohio, the Burnett House in Cincinnati. The map itself only skirts Ohio and only one railroad line even gets close to Cincinnati. This railroad ends at Covington, Kentucky. The entire map is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3860.ct001867>

Diane Schug-O'Neill

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

The traveling public are cautioned against stopping at the Burnett House, Cincinnati, O., as no respect or attention is shown to guests, excepting when their bills are presented. The proprietor spends much of his time in gambling, caring little for the comfort of his guests, or how badly his clerks and servants act. Almost daily ladies are insulted in this house. Drunken men have been known to light their cigars and smoke at the dinner-table, compelling the lady guests to rise and leave the room. One of the clerks, name Wm. W. Johnson, the very personification of impudence, forces himself into ladies rooms uninvited, and often insults them in the grossest manner. Yet Mr. Saunders, the Proprietor, refuses to discharge him, or correct the evil; and it is high time the Public should have this matter before them to decide upon. On the 13th of October this impudent clerk, Johnson, went into a lady guest's room at the Burnett House, uninvited, and threatened to WHIP HER LITTLE BOY, TWO YEARS OF AGE, for making a noise in the halls. Had the lady's husband been present he would not have dared insulted her. The matter was laid before Mr. T. P. Saunders, the Proprietor—but what can be expected from a gambler?—he paid no attention to it, and Mr. Johnson is still king of the Burnett House. The former proprietors of this house were broken up for far less grievances than this. LET THE SEAL OF PUBLIC CONTEMPT BE PUT UPON THE BURNETT HOUSE AND ITS UNGENTLEMANLY CONDUCTORS, for where a lady cannot stop without being insulted it's no fit place for a FATHER, HUSBAND, OR

—Hull's R. R. Guide.



CD just shy of 90 years old! (within days!)



CD's cake by Ann Wood with excavation unit, wheel barrow, back dirt, and more!



Nancy and Jim's surprise!



The happy crowd!



ANNUAL MEETING 2006
When: October 27-29, 2006
Where: Richmond, Virginia

Conference will be at the Holiday Inn- Select Koger Center

Holiday Inn Select,
 Koger South Conference Center
 1021 Koger Center Blvd, Richmond, VA 23235
 V 804-379-3800
 www.hiselect.com/ric-kogerctr

Send your registration to: Royce McNeal
 ASV Arrangements Chair
 12522B Harrison Landing Rd
 Charles City, VA 23030

(Make checks payable to the ASV)
 Cost: \$79.00 per room

Be sure to say you are with the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV)

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

Additional Associated names: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone number and / or email address _____

CHAPTER or ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

Registration : Regular-\$28.00, Student-\$18.00

No. of people: _____ \$ _____.

Awards Banquet (Buffet) \$32.00 and \$40.00 (after Oct 18th)
 No. of people: _____ \$ _____.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____.

Banquet registration ends October 18, 2005

Two Entrée Buffet: Sliced Roast Beef, Vegetarian Lasagna
 Garden green salad with assorted dressings, Cinnamon Honey Glazed Carrots, Buttered Potatoes, Rolls, Assorted Desserts
 And Beverage

Entered in system _____
 Cash or Check # _____
 Receipt filled out _____

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED