



The Datum Point

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

Website – www.nvcasv.org

April 2007

From the President – Patrick O’Neill

PLEASE LOOK at 2007 field school opportunities listed in this issue! Remember the Northern Virginia Chapter has a scholarship for a chapter member to attend a field school! Go to www.nvcasv.org/scholform.html and download the application today!

I am also very proud of the Chapter’s response to helping with the Phase I survey at the new ASV headquarters at the 17th century Kittiewan Plantation east of Richmond. April 14th and 15th will also be a dig weekend there. Contact me for details! The Show and Tell and Auction this month will be fun, come and enjoy, and get some early Christmas presents!

April 11th, 2007 Chapter Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

SILENT AUCTION WITH SHOW & TELL ON THE SIDE

How it works:

Some items may list a minimum bid and may be displayed in the Historic Lab by April 5th. This will allow early bids. Bidding will close during the meeting at 8:30pm, April 11th – winning bids announced at 8:45pm. To place a bid prior to the Wednesday meeting, come by the Lab or contact CK Gailey at (703) 534-3881 ext. 404 or ckgailey@hotmail.com.

SELECTED ITEMS:

- ❖ Tour of Mount Vernon – 4 people
- ❖ Tour of Alexandria Archaeological sites
- ❖ Membership to Gunston Hall
- ❖ Tour of Brentsville Courthouse Complex (Prince William County)
- ❖ Signed copy of Images of America: Mt Vernon - by Patrick O’Neill
- ❖ Items from Spilman-Mosby House (Faquier County)
- ❖ 8 hours of quality genealogical research

REMEMBER: Proceeds will go to the VARC fund; the operational fund for Kittiewan Plantation.

Rubis-Pearsall Site (44SX360)

By Mike Johnson

At the end of March a crew of volunteers from the Nansemond, Richmond and our Northern Virginia Chapters, and George Mason University completed the first systematic testing on this site, which is located down the River from Cactus Hill (44SX202). The purpose of the archeology was to test a model predicting the possible location of a second Cactus Hill-like Paleoamerican site.

Previous testing since 2003 on the nearby Koestline and Watlington sites and auger sampling of Rubis-Pearsall confirmed the possibility that Rubis-Pearsall could have even earlier prehistoric occupations than Koestline (1000-7000 BP) and Watlington (6000-12,000 BP). A problem with Rubis-Pearsall site is its sheer size (approx. 50,000 square feet) and depth (17-45 inches below the surface for the main component).

The March testing consisted of five new 5x10-foot rectangular trenches, flat shovel excavated in 2-inch levels. These test trenches were excavated near auger core locations that produced relatively high artifact quantities or quality.

The results, though very interesting, failed to produce conclusive evidence of Paleoamerican presence. The only item that appears to be early is a proximal (struck) end of a small prismatic blade-like flake of a unique material not found elsewhere during the field session. The remaining artifacts appear to all be associated with the Taylor/Ft. Nottoway phase of the Early Archaic (ca. 10,000 BP). It is important to note that the most recent dates on each site appear to get older the further the site is from the current river.

Interestingly, the artifacts were almost devoid of tools. The only obvious tools consisted of one base of a Taylor/Ft. Nottoway point, a probably Early Archaic celt and several biface edges. Surprisingly, the biface edges all appeared to be the distal ends of what are called “over-shot” flakes. This kind of flaking is one of the hallmarks of the Solutrean of Europe, 20,000 years ago

and used by Dennis Stanford and Bruce Bradley as a link between Europe and Clovis in North America.

“Over-shot” flakes are produced when a biface is struck on one edge and the flake runs all the way across the biface, dives thru the biface at the opposite edge and removes the opposite edge. This sophisticated technology should have been expected with Taylor/Ft. Nottoway, because their technology produced thin, wide, flat cross-sections to the bifaces. To achieve this a knapper has to drive flakes well beyond the middle of the biface. In the case of Taylor/Ft. Nottoway “over-shot” flakes, it is possibly a case of “accidents happen” rather than design.

To get a grasp of the level of effort put in by the crew, they moved approximately 35 tons of loamy sand in seven days: all by hand. That included excavating the soil out of the trenches and then putting it back.

All of the work was done on the western edge of the site nearest the current Nottoway River, where the auger testing produced the most interesting artifact quantities and qualities. The next and hopefully final stage in the testing program will involve testing near the eastern edge and center of the site.

Field School & Volunteer Opportunities

By Esther White

TIDEWATER

DHR Tidewater Regional Office

Volunteers are accepted for a variety of activities. Willing to work with certification students.

Contact Dave Hazzard (757) 886-2820

dave.hazzard@dhr.virginia.gov

APVA / Jamestown Rediscovery / National Park Service / UVA Continuing Education

Six-week field school at Jamestown, **June 4th – July 13th**. Excavation at site of James Fort and survey methods covered. Tuition \$1,494 Virginia residents, \$2334 non-residents; six graduate credits.

<http://www.apva.org/fldschl.html>

Volunteers are needed year-round to help interpret the site. Tonia Deetz Rock, (757) 229-0412 trock@apva.org

Colonial Williamsburg / William & Mary

Two sessions of field school:

May 29th – June 29th

July 2nd – August 3rd

Participants must register for the program through William and Mary www.wm.edu.

Points of Contact (757) 220-7330

Marley Brown mbrown2@cwf.org

Datum Point

Andrew Edwards aedwards@cwf.org
Meredith Poole mpoole@cwf.org
http://research.history.org/Archaeological_Research/Programs/Field_School.cfm

William & Mary

Field school at Werowocomoco, Powhatan’s village in Gloucester County, May 29th – June 29th. *Volunteers not accepted*. Participants must register through William and Mary.

Contact Martin Gallivan, (757) 221-3622, mdgall@wm.edu <http://powhatan.wm.edu/index.htm>

Fairfield Foundation (Gloucester County)

Volunteers and certification students are welcome year-round to assist in the excavation of Fairfield Plantation, the 17th- and 18th-century plantation of the Burwell family in Gloucester County. Volunteers are also needed year-round to complete lab work and historical research. Lab nights Thursdays from 6 – 9 pm at the Rosewell Visitor Center. Some survey opportunities possible.

Contact Thane Harpole or David Brown, Fairfield Foundation, (804) 694-4775 or fairfield@inna.net.

<http://www.fairfieldfoundation.org>

Colonial National Historic Park

Certification students and volunteers are needed for excavation at Green Spring. Lab assistance needed Tues. & Thurs. at the new Historic Jamestown Research Center on Jamestown. Contact Andrew Veech, (757) 564-0068, andrew_veech@nps.gov

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Mount Vernon

Very willing to work with certification students. Volunteers accepted year-round for both lab and field projects. Volunteers needed for historic lab work. Excavations during the spring and early summer assisting restoration projects.

Contact Eleanor Breen (703) 799-6314

ebreen@mountvernon.org www.mountvernon.org

Gunston Hall

Very willing to work with certification students, field work from April – mid-December. Field work is focused on understanding George Mason’s landscape for interpretation; lab work Jan. – March; Tuesdays - Saturdays. Volunteers may work any number of hours for 1 or more days per week.

Contact Dave Shonyo, archaeology@gunstonhall.org

(703) 550-0441

<http://www.gunstonhall.org/archaeology/>

DHR Northern Regional Office

Volunteers are accepted for a variety of activities. Willing to work with certification students. Contact Robert Jolley (540) 722-3442 bob.jolley@dhr.virginia.gov

Fairfax County Park Authority Archaeology

Volunteers are accepted for both field and lab projects. Both prehistoric and historical archaeology opportunities are available. Ongoing lab work occurs Tuesday evening (Cactus Hill). Cold weather lab days for both historical and prehistoric artifacts are Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. A systematic survey to locate new archaeological sites will be undertaken in the Spring / Summer. Testing will occur on both prehistoric and early historic sites in late Summer / Fall. Test excavations on an historic Colonial site are also in the planning stages and could occur this year. Contact (703) 534 – 3881 Robert Wharton - ext. 403 robert.wharton@fairfaxcounty.gov Mike Johnson - ext. 409 michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov

Alexandria Archaeology

Field school in Alexandria, May 21st – June 2nd. Participants must enroll through George Washington University. Contact GW Summer Sessions (202) 994-6360 or gwsommer@gwu.edu <http://www.gwu.edu/summer/summerDC/fieldschool07.htm> <http://oha.ci.alexandria.va.us/archaeology/ar-programs-fieldschool.html> Volunteers always welcome in a variety of activities both in the lab and in the field. Contact Ruth Reeder (703) 838-4399 www.alexandriaarchaeology.org archaeology@alexandria.gov

FREDERICKSBURG / RICHMOND AREA

Ferry Farm / Kenmore / University of South Florida

Volunteers and certification students are welcome for both excavation at the Washington Family plantation and lab work year-round with survey opportunities available. **There is no charge for non-credit participation during the field school May 29th – July 6th.** Contact Dave Muraca (540) 370-0732 muraca2@gwffoundation.org <http://www.kenmore.org/archnewfieldschool.html>

DHR Richmond

The Collections Section accepts certification students and volunteers to help with a variety of collections

management, artifact processing, and outreach activities on the second and fourth Fridays and Saturdays through May. Plans for the summer are not finalized. Contact Dee DeRoche (804) 367-2323 ext. 134 dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov

University of Mary Washington / Stratford Hall

Field school at Stratford Hall, May 21st – June 22nd. Volunteer opportunities after the end of the field school. Contact Doug Sanford (540)654-1314 dsanford@umw.edu

Flowerdew Hundred Foundation

Volunteers are needed for a variety of projects. Will work with certification participants. Contact Karen Shriver (804) 541-8897 karenshriver@flowerdew.org

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Poplar Forest

Field school at Poplar Forest June 3rd - July 6th. \$400. for non-credit participation. Additional fee for housing. UVA School of Continuing and Professional Studies (434) 243-5319.

Volunteers are accepted year-round except during the field school. Field work this season will focus on an early 19th-century site containing architectural and landscape elements and a high density of domestic artifacts located adjacent to Jefferson's ornamental grounds.

Contact Jack Gary (434) 534-8105 jack@poplarforest.org <http://www.poplarforest.org> <http://www.poplarforest.org/archfldschool.htm>

Monticello

Field school focused on understanding the greater Monticello plantation complex, June 4th – July 13th.

Free for ASV certification students willing to participate in the complete program. Volunteers needed year-round for various projects.

Contact Frasier Neiman (434) 984-9812 fneiman@monticello.org <http://www.monticello.org/archaeology/fieldschool/index.html>

Montpelier / James Madison University / SUNY Potsdam

Field schools:

May 15th - June 15th James Madison University
July 3rd – 28th SUNY Potsdam

Non-credit participation is free for those willing to enroll for at least three days.

A work / study program:
Sept. 24th – 29th

Lodging provided, certification students encouraged to attend. Earthwatch excavations:

April 2nd – 12th

August 6th – Sept. 13th (3 sessions)

Oct. 8th – 18th.

These 2-week sessions include housing and food, participants must register with Earthwatch. Volunteers are welcome at Montpelier year round for both field and lab work.

Contact Matthew Reeves (540) 672-2728 ext. 160

mreeves@montpelier.org www.montpelier.org
http://www.jmu.edu/sociology/archaeology_at_james_madison_uni.htm

James Madison University, Geographic Science Program / Shenandoah National Park / Wintergreen Nature Foundation

Volunteers are invited for field survey and testing of prehistoric and historic sites at Wintergreen Resort, as well as assist in the field documentation of the Mount Vernon Iron Furnace in Shenandoah National Park. Mid-May – June 30.

Contact Carole Nash nashcl@jmu.edu (540) 568-6805

Washington & Lee University

Certification students can work in the laboratory with historic artifacts from 19th-c. valley kiln sites, late 18th-c. Liberty Hall Campus, and 19th-c. Longdale Iron Mining Community. Hours 10 – 2, Tues. & Thurs. Jan. – Mar. *Must make an appointment.*

Contact Laura Galke (540) 458-8574 Galkel@wlu.edu.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

DHR Roanoke Regional Office

Certification students needed to participate in Community Archaeology at the Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum, Main St. & Cummings Ave., Abingdon, Aug. 2nd – 6th during the Highlands Festival. Using historic maps explore and document outbuildings. Volunteers are also accepted for a variety of projects and will work with certification participants.

Contact Tom Klatka (540) 857-6047

tom.klatka@dhr.virginia.gov

George Washington & Jefferson National Forests / Archeological Society of Virginia / Department of Historic Resources (DHR) / Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) / Radford University

Co-sponsored field school at the Keyser Farm Site in Page County. July 23rd - August 5th.

Contact (540) 265-5212

Michael J. Madden mjmadden@fs.fed.us

Richard Guercin rguercin@fs.fed.us

Radford University

Field school July 2nd – 27th, the first two weeks mapping an African American cemetery in Radford with the second half working at Keyser Farm (see above). *Non-credit volunteers are encouraged, especially for the mapping portion.*

Contact Cliff Boyd (540) 831-5948

clboyd@radford.edu

<http://www.radford.edu/~soc-anth/>

Virginia Museum Natural History

Certification students and volunteers needed to work in the archaeology department cataloguing, rehousing, labeling and photographing artifact collections and working in the department library. Volunteers interested in zooarchaeology can assist with ongoing research projects and learn the basics of faunal identification and analysis.

Contact Elizabeth Moore (276) 666-8634

elizabeth.moore@vmnh.virginia.gov

NORTH CAROLINA

Uwharrie National Forest

Passport in Time fieldschool to survey and test a PaleoIndian – Early Woodland lithic workshop and quarry, July 16th – 29th. *Participants must commit to two days.*

<http://www.passportintime.com/>

Contact Joel Hardison (910) 576- 6391 ext. 109

jhardison@fs.fed.us

From RELIC @ the Prince William Library

Tuesday, April 17, 2 p.m. - Interlibrary Loan for Genealogists.

@ the Central Community Library

<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001207>

Thursday, April 19, 11 a.m. - Genealogy 101: Family History for Beginners.

@ the Potomac Community Library

<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001210>

Tuesday, April 24, 2 p.m. - Genealogy 101: Family History for Beginners.

@ the Chinn Park Regional Library

<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001206>

Tuesday, May 1, 11 a.m. - Missed by the Census Taker?
Tips for those missed by census indexes.
@ the Chinn Park Regional Library
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001206>

Monday, May 7, 2 p.m. - Finding Your Ancestor in the News. Sources to flesh out your ancestor's story.
@ the Central Community Library
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001207>

Thursday, May 10, 11 a.m. - Not Found on a Passenger List? Tips for those missed by immigration indexes.
@ the Chinn Park Regional Library
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001206>

Tuesday, May 22, 2 p.m. - A Genealogical Library on Your Desktop. Finding Your Family in Online Books.
@ the Central Community Library
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001207>

Tuesday, May 29, 11 a.m. - Electronic Resources for Family History. Sources available through PWPLS.
@ the Potomac Community Library
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001210>

Thursday, May 31, 11 a.m. - An Overview of RELIC Services: Genealogy and Local History.
@ the Chinn Park Regional Library
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=3D040034001030001206>

2007 Virginia Forum

A two-day conference devoted to all aspects and time periods of Virginia history, will be held at the Library of Virginia (800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219) **Friday, April 13th, and Saturday, April 14th, 2007.**

The Virginia Forum brings together historians, teachers, writers, museum curators, historic site interpreters, librarians, and others engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research, and experiences.

The first Virginia Forum took place in April 2006 at Shenandoah University in Winchester. Organizers hope that the Forum will become an annual event and that it

will be hosted by different universities and historical organizations around the state in future years.

For a copy of the program, hotel reservation information:
<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/vaforum/index.htm>

Open Plenary Session:
"Making" History: Virginia Indians Yesterday and Today

Fri, 13th - Concurrent Sessions
1:30pm – 3:30pm:
Gender and Power

Rethinking Jamestown and Its Legacies

Black Nationalism and Civil Rights

4:00pm – 6:00pm:
Violence in the Neighborhood

Virginians and the World of Faith

The Civil War at Home and in Memory

Sat, 14th - Concurrent Sessions
8:30am – 10:30am
State and Nation: Grand Narratives in Va. History

Rethinking Virginia's Business History

Virginia in Ecological Perspective

10:45am – 12:30pm
The Changing Historical Memory

Into the Archives: Discovering the Lives of Everyday People

Writing and Print Culture

2:00pm – 3:45pm
African American Material Culture and Folklore

Rethinking Indians' Histories

The Era of School Desegregation: Two Documentaries

Closing Plenary Session
4:00pm – 5:15pm
Writing a Four-Hundred-Year History of Virginia: Challenges and Opportunities

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	ewhite@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	7030838-4399 (information)
Pr. William County Archaeologist	Justin Patton	703-792-5729

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!!!!

The Datum Point

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED