



The Datum Point

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

Website – www.nvcasv.org

August 2007

From the President – Patrick O’Neill

I was fortunate to be on National Public Radio (NPR) this past week, and got some good exposure for the NVC and ASV, as well as Fairfax County. We have already had people wanting to volunteer as a result! See this issue for details! Come to the picnic and enjoy some good food and fellowship!

August 8th, 2007 Chapter Meeting – CANCELLED

Speaker – Don Wilson (aka: Dr. Geneology) had to cancel his talk and he regrets any inconvenience. The Chapter will work with Don to reschedule his talk.

CHAPTER PICNIC – August 18th - STILL ON!!

The picnic will be held at Cox Farm again. The Chapter now has a *standing invitation* to hold our picnic there every year!

DAY: Saturday, August 18th
TIME: Noon – 3pm
ADDRESS: Cox Farms
15621 Braddock Rd
Centreville, VA 20120

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

The Chapter will bring meat, drinks, & condiments and pay for a port-o-let to be placed at the site. We will spray for bugs, around the picnic area – using *non-toxic* spray, of course.

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt. 495 & 66

Route 66 West to Route 29; exit 52; right onto Rt. 29; right at 3rd light at Pleasant Valley Road; 4 miles to Braddock Rd.; at the corner of Braddock Rd. and Pleasant Valley Rd.

From Herndon/Reston

Old Centreville Road to Rt. 50; West 1.5 miles to Pleasant Valley Rd. on left; 3 miles to Braddock Rd.; at the corner of Braddock Rd. and Pleasant Valley Rd.

From Manassas

Route 28 past Routes 29 and 66 to Braddock Rd.; left on Braddock Rd. for 4 miles; at the corner of Braddock Rd. and Pleasant Valley Rd.

From Points West

East on Rt. 50 to Pleasant Valley Rd. on right; 3 miles to Braddock Rd.; at the corner of Braddock Rd. and Pleasant Valley Rd.

Archeological Lectures & Events

SEMINAR ON HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Justin Patton

The Prince William County Planning Office, and the Prince William Historical Commission are hosting a *Seminar on Historic Archaeology in Prince William County*. The seminar will be on **October 13, 2007** in the auditorium of the Dr. A.J. Ferlazzio Building, with seminars starting at 1 pm.

The Ferlazzio Building is located at 15941 Donald Custis Drive, in Woodbridge, VA.

Preliminary list of speakers:

Justin Patton – County Archaeologist
Heather Crowl – Archaeologist
Heather Hembrey – Preservationist
Matt Laird – Archaeologist
Curt Breckinridge – Archaeologist
Tammy Bryant – Archaeologist
Boyd Sipe – Archaeologist
John Mullen – Archaeologist
Alain Outlaw – Archaeologist
Doug Dinsmore – Archaeologist
Joe Balicki – Archaeologist

For questions call the Prince William County Archaeologist, Justin Patton at 703-792-5729. FYI – this is the same weekend as the Annual ASV Conference.

Kittiewan

WORK DAYS – OPENING DEBUT

September 29, 2007 is Heritage Day for Charles City County. **Kittiewan will mark her opening debut on that day.** However, preparations still need to be made and *Work Days* have been scheduled:

Following are work days at Kittiewan:

August	16-17-18
September	20-21-22

Call Royce McNeal (804-829-2272) or Harry Jaeger (804-273-0274). Let them know which days you are available, so they can coordinate the work that needs to be completed. They will also need staff/volunteers on the 29th to conduct tours.

The Certification Committee is pleased to report **107 enrollees**, with graduation planned for several students in October. The Spring and Summer have brought many lab and field opportunities for Certification students; regular e-mail announcements of activities are being sent, and the list of field school opportunities maintained on the ASV web page has been updated. (Field School page is at: <http://www.asv-archeology.org/FSchool.html>) After the field school at Keyser Farm (July 23 – August 5), mini-field schools are planned for the fall at New London Arsenal (Campbell County), Battersea Villa (Petersburg), and Chippokes Plantation (Surry County).

The Certification Committee has also been gathering outlines of lectures developed by professionals for the program. The goals of this endeavor are to generate a complete archive of lectures and to develop basic standards for materials that should be covered under each lecture topic.

At the April board meeting, we distributed a draft of a White Paper on the certification program that will be posted to the ASV web site. This document covers the particulars of registration, requirements, and contact information.

Ciao, Martha! Time for Fun in the Sun

Chapter member **Martha Williams** finally retired (again). Martha taught History for Fairfax County at Marshall High School, then after retiring; she turned her passion for archaeology into a second career. After many years with a local CRM firm, she has retired for real – down to North Carolina, no less! Martha lives near Virginia Beach, so we shouldn't be surprised to see her at various Southern Virginia events. If you want to contact Martha, she can be reached at: 252-426-3734 or mwilliamslonomo@aol.com.

Local Celebrities

WAMU – KOJO NNAMDI SHOW

Patrick O'Neill, President, Northern Virginia Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia

Susan Langley, State Underwater Archaeologist for Maryland

Stephen Potter, Regional Archaeologist for the National Park Service, National Capital Region

<http://www.wamu.org/programs/kn/07/07/23.php#16541>

Look for "Listen to this segment" to the RIGHT of the Digs and Dives: Archaeology in our Region

“They uncover our region's history, whether they're sifting through massive layers of dirt or plunging into murky waterways. And local archaeologists say that their work is more crucial than ever as development changes the look of D.C. and the suburbs. Join Kojo for a look at new archaeological discoveries by local sleuths.”

Datum Point

Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist for Alexandria, appeared July 26th on Channel 5 early in the morning. Joined by many others who frequent the waterfront--a Torpedo Factory Art Center potter, a bagpipe player, a man playing Yankee Doodle on glasses, and those who bake for and dress dogs--Pam had a few minutes to talk about Freedmen's Cemetery and show artifacts found in Alexandria. Prehistoric tools from the cemetery as well as Civil War artifacts, Alexandria-made stoneware and redware, and an English child's cup with Franklin's Maxims from a slave site were shown.

(Search for “Off the Set: Alexandria City Marina” to see Pam's segment.)

Also, if you fly United Airlines in August, be sure to look at *Hemisphere* magazine; it has a good article on Alexandria. Pam and archaeology are featured as one of the aspects of Alexandria that is important—its historic character and ethic to preserve the past.

Northern Virginia Chapter – VARC Donation

The final tally for the Silent Auction in April came to **\$777** – donated to VARC. The Auction featured particular items of interest as well as tours of area archaeological sites. Chapter members enjoyed the auction and the show and tell brought in by CD Cox.

In June, About 20 members took a wonderful tour with Pam Cressey of the Alexandria Freedman's Cemetery and Alexandria's National Cemetery. Steven Shephard also provided a detailed tour of the dig with explanations of the findings. **August 11th** is the *last day* the Freedmen's Cemetery will be open for tours (2 – 3pm). (see last page for photos)

Auburn Battlefield – Patrick O'Neill

Members of the NVC and the Bull Run Civil War Round Table participated in a metal detecting survey on portions of the outlying areas of the Auburn Battlefield in Fauquier County, Virginia, these past two weekends. The NVC is trying to show Fauquier County that local archaeologists and Civil War enthusiasts can be used to help interpret the counties historic sites.

The survey found Civil War artifacts in a core study area defined by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). These finds help two-fold. One, they show how important it is to use metal detectors when STPs and surface surveys do not work. Two, it also shows the ABPP that defining study areas works in interpreting Civil War sites.

The ABPP has been adding the approach and supply routes to battle fields in recent years to incorporate a broader understanding of the battles and landscape.



Ann Wood, Carolyn Johnson, Leigh Watlington, Hal & Pat Fuller, Felicia Glapion, Mike Johnson, Phil Mulford, Diane Schug-O'Neill, Vicki & George Monken, Pam Cressey, Bill McGovern



Shephard pointing out soils and explains how the changes provide clues to how the area impacted by man



Photo Shooters – Maggie Johnson & Ginger McGovern



Pam Cressey – the USCT section at National Cemetery



Steven Shephard – the Freedmen's Cemetery



Older & Newer tombstones at Alexandria's National Cemetery

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	patrickoneill@erols.com 703-244-6275 (cell)
Vice President	Ann Wood	annpwood@comcast.net
Treasurer	C.K. Gailey	treas@nvcasv.org
Corresponding Sec.	Vicki Monken	vmonken@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@erols.com
Editor	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@erols.com

Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)

Chapter Sponsors	call 703-534-3881
Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
Mike Johnson	Richard Sacchi
Bob Wharton	John Rutherford

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!!!!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED