

The Datum Point

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

Chapter Website - www.nvcasv.org

March 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

It's March, and we are looking forward to more time out in the field (yea!), with opportunities for survey and excavation. On a recent warm day, several of us joined Mike Johnson in checking out an open area at Riverbend, where we found remnants of several small buildings, fencing, and some old farm machinery. We also uncovered a newly-hatched snake, probably a rat or corn snake, a harbinger of spring. We carefully covered her up with leaves again.

For the next month or so, Mike will be heading out to Riverbend on Tuesdays and Saturdays when the weather permits to complete his survey of the park. At the same time, Paul Inashima and Aimee Wells will be leading a survey and excavation project in a section of Riverbend – an opportunity for certification candidates to get in some excavation (see Mike's report).

Later in the spring, we expect to begin shovel testing at the McCue site near Colchester, where Mike hopes to find a multi-component prehistoric site.

Our chapter was well represented at the recent meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, with six papers, including three by George Mason interns who also chaired their sessions. Good job!

We're still awaiting some course offerings for the certification program. In the meantime, Maggie Johnson, John Kelsey and I are working to reorganize and expand our certification library.

At our Northern Virginia Chapter meeting on March 12 (James Lee Center, 7:30 p.m.), we'll consider proposals from Liz Crowell to spend \$300 to start purchasing a set of books on historic artifacts, and to amend the rules governing our scholarship fund.

See you at the chapter meeting and in the field! Ann Wood, President

MARCH SPEAKER: DON WILSON BULL RUN VIRGINIANA LIBRARIAN

THE GENEALOGY DOCTOR IS IN!



Don Wilson, a native of Indiana, has a BA in history from Ball State University and a masters degree in library science from Indiana University. He has worked as Virginiana Librarian for the Prince William Public Library System since 1979. He heads the Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC) at Bull Run Regional Library, the source for genealogy and local history in Prince William County. His duties include editing the department's quarterly electronic magazine "Prince William Reliquary." In the 1980s he was a volunteer for the NVC/ASV, including editing "The Datum Point" for a spell! Mr. Wilson will discuss the ins and outs of genealogical research. Come and try to stump him!!

WILLIAMS/MULLEN SCHOLARSHIP-

Opportunity for chapter members - This a <u>reminder</u> to chapter members that the Williams/Mullen Scholarship Fund is available to chapter members for field school work. The deadline for submitting an application is April 1st. 2008. For more information and an application form contact Pat Fuller at <u>pmfuller@juno.com</u> or call her. Tel. 703-207-0440. Both the Kittiewan and Alexandria field schools would apply, as well as other opportunities listed in this issue.

HERITAGE RESOURCES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

This notice is to advise your organization of the community meetings scheduled on the proposed countywide Heritage Resources Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

The Fairfax County History Commission <u>History</u> <u>Commission</u> in conjunction with the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning will hold community three meetings to provide information to the public on the proposed plan amendment and to solicit community comment. We encourage members of your organization to attend one of these meetings.

The meetings, which will follow the same agenda, will take place:

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008, 7:30pm at Stone Mansion, 3900 Stoneybrooke Drive, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008, 7:30pm at Frying Pan Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008, 10am at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria

The doors will open half an hour before each meeting. Display maps with photographs will be on exhibit.

A major component of the proposed amendment is an update to the Inventory of Historic Sites figures in the Comprehensive Plan. These figures were last revised in 1994. Newly designated sites have been added to the Inventory. In addition, Inventory sites have been demolished and properties added to the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places.

The plan amendment will require public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. It is anticipated that these hearings will be held later this year. However, hearing dates are not currently scheduled.

Thank you for sharing this meeting information with your membership. This email notification is being sent to over 70 local history-based organizations in Fairfax County. However, we may have missed someone, so please forward this invitation to anyone you know who has an interest in this topic. If you have questions on the proposed plan amendment, you may reply back to this email or contact the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1380, TTY 711. Information on the Inventory of Historic Sites can be found at <u>The Fairfax County</u> <u>Inventory of Historic Sites</u>.

ANNOUNCING THE 2008 GUNSTON HALL'S ANNUAL LIBERTY LECTURE SERIES:

Barbara Farner, Research Assistant, Gunston Hall Plantation

"**The Power and Privilege of the Executive**" will take place on three consecutive March Sundays.

March 2, "Was it Fatigue or Was it Washington? Why Did the Framers Get the Presidency Wrong?" by David O. Stewart with opening remarks by George Mason (portrayed by Don McAndrews).

March 9, "The War Powers of the President and Congress: Who Holds the Arrows and Olive Branch?" by W. Taylor Reveley with opening remarks by James Madison (portrayed by John Douglas Hall).

March 16, "American Regicide: The Fate of America's Post War Presidents" by Russell Riley.

The lectures begin at 3 p.m., are FREE and open to the general public. Light refreshments at 2:30 p.m. Tour of Gunston Hall included.

Reservations are recommended: 703/550-9220. Gunston Hall Visitors Center, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079.

FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT ARCHIVES

Fairfax Circuit Court Archives, which houses court records from 1742 through the 1940s, as well as State Highway Plat Books, Name Changes and DD-214s will be <u>**CLOSED**</u> Tuesday, March 4, 2008 through Friday, March 7 to move our collection from the Fairfax Court House to the 3^{rd} floor.

If during this time you require any documents housed in Archives, please call the Archives room at (703) 246-4168 or e-mail <u>arch@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>. We will try to respond in a timely manner to any requests that come in. Archives will reopen on Monday, March 10 in our new location on the third floor of the Court House near the Land Records Office.

<u>PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORY FORUM -</u> <u>SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH (YOU'RE INVITED...)</u>

Historic Prince William in partnership with the Prince William County Public Schools will host a local history forum highlighting recent primary research and offering field trips. Forum will be held on Saturday March 8 2008 at Forest Park High School near Dumfries (15721 Forest Park Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22193). There is no cost to attend!

The now-annual Virginia Forum was the inspiration for this county-specific event. Both forums offer an opportunity for exchanges of ideas among scholars, teachers, archivists, librarians, museum curators, and all those interested in Virginia history environment and culture.

Keynote speaker will be Virginia historian Brent Tartar from the Library of Virginia, talking about Billys, Botts, and Brents: Prince William as the Center of the World. He is author of numerous publications, one of the editors of the ever-expanding Dictionary of Virginia Biography and wise sage on this VA-HIST list server.

Free registration at Forest Park High School starts at 8:15am on March 8. Morning talks and panel presentations will run from 9:00am-11: 30am. Local museums and organizations will offer displays in the lobby throughout the program.

Morning topics include Slavery and Slave Holding in Prince William County, A comparison between 1810 and 1860 - The History of Ownership at LaGrange - From the Courthouse to the Web, Digitizing the Prince William County Chancery Records - Elk Run Anglican Church Site Project, Uncovering a 250-year old Church Site – Buckland, Prince William County's First Inland Port - It Ain't Necessarily So, The Shelter and the discrepancies between family lore and public record - Moor Green, Discovering the Past, Preserving for the Future - Teaching about Prince William County History.

After lunch (provided at no cost) the afternoon will be dedicated to historical tours of Liberia and the Manassas Museum. Buses will return everyone to Forest Park High School by 3:30pm. For more information, please see www.historicprincewilliam.org.

RIVERBEND PARK SURVEY

By Mike Johnson

Certification training in field survey has continued throughout the Winter, weather permitting. The crew

continued to add sites to the inventory as the work moved up stream toward the main bend in the Potomac for which the park was named. Another 5-10 sites have been added to the 60+ already recorded.

Two artifact finds were of particular note. One was a large quartzite corner notched point, probably of Late Archaic or later age. The other was a unique artifact in the history of the Fairfax County Archeology program. We recovered an atlatl weight ("banner stone") preform. Although finished atlatl weight and atlatl fragments have been recovered, this is the first example of a preform. That end of the park appears to have been a major focal point for prehistoric American Indian activity.

Currently, the Park Authority Archeology Program is continuing its survey. Additionally, Paul Inashima and Aimee Wells have begun testing the Clarks Branch site at the upstream end of the park. They will be examining whether or not a proposed pedestrian bridge abutment will impact the site. One of the options appears to be on part of the site and the other is probably at the site margin. Since the site may extend into the floodplain, the testing will involve some deeper test squares.

2008 MAAC

Liz Crowell was Program Chairperson for the 38th annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference held in Ocean City, Maryland, February 28 – March 2, 2008. The conference had a total of 327 registered attendees, a MAAC record. One hundred thirty (130) papers were presented by 159 authors and coauthors. In addition, there were 7 posters displayed. Aimee Wells served as Program Co-Chair. Interns Madhumita Basu and Melissa Thayer served as Program Assistants.

Several presentations were made by Cultural Resource staff and interns. Liz Crowell presented Public Archaeology in Fairfax County, coauthored with Aimee Wells. Aimee Wells presented From Clovis to the Cold War: 30 Years of Archaeology in Fairfax County, coauthored with Liz Crowell. Mike Johnson presented In a Land Called "Moyomps": The Search for Smith's Tauxenent. Intern Madhumita Basu authored and presented Archaeological Investigations at Dogue Quarter. Intern April Cantrell presented Lithic Analysis of Prehistoric Materials at the Lincoln Drive Site in Northern Virginia. Aimee and Liz also prepared a poster entitled 30 Years of County Sponsored Archaeology in Fairfax County. In addition, Aimee Wells and interns, Melissa Thayer, Madhumita Basu and April Cantrell all served as session chairpersons.

In addition to Cultural Resource staff and interns, Liz enlisted Joseph Balicki of the Fairfax County History Commission to chair a symposium entitled "Seeing the Elephant": Conflict Archaeology in the Middle Atlantic Region. Kerri Holland and Jo Balicki coauthored a paper in this symposium entitled 4th Month, No Money...No Rations...No Pants, No Patriotism: Metal Detector Investigations at the Blenheim Estate in Fairfax City. Gerald and Sallie Lyons of Lyonshare Studio prepared a poster entitled Use of Illustrative Tools for Visualization in Archaeological and Historical Studies. Sallie Serves as a Fairfax County History Commissioner.

Charles Lee Decker of the Louis Berger Group presented a paper entitled *Mortuary Practices at the Wrenn-Hutchinson Cemetery, Fairfax County, Virginia*, a project being done in cooperation with the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section.

Alexandria Archaeology organized a session entitled Cemeteries: History, Social Context, and Archaeology, chaired by Antonia Davidson. Eric Larsen presented Archaeology and the Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia. Steven Shephard and Francine W. Bromberg presented Evidence of Nineteenth-Century Coffins in Alexandria, Virginia: The Results of Excavating Two Cemeteries. Antonia Davidson presented Freedmen's Cemetery: Prehistory in a Historic Setting.

In addition, Liz Crowell, in her role as Awards Committee Chairperson awarded two Lifetime Achievement Awards to archaeologists who had made substantive contributions to the field. The awards were presented to Tyler Bastian and Dan Griffith. The Program and Abstracts for MAAC will be posted soon on the MAAC website at http://www.maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/. Liz also serves as MAAC Secretary.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER CAMP

Alexandria Archaeology will be hosting an archaeology camp for kids this summer, and registrations are being accepted now. Campers will learn professional excavating, recording, and artifact-processing methods as they help uncover Alexandria's buried past while protecting historical resources.

This summer campers will assist City archaeologists at the Shuter's Hill excavation site, located on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, where Nicolas Cage filmed part of "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" last year. Other activities include lectures about investigation of artifact looting, special field trips to historic sites like Mount Vernon, and ice cream stops!

Hey, Kids, Discover How to Really Dig History! Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp Now Enrolling



The camp is open to children ages 12 through 15. There are two one-week sessions, which run from Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, and from Monday, July 28 through Friday, August 1. The camp day starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m., and campers supply their own drinks, snacks and lunch. Camp costs \$350 per session and scholarships are available. Space is limited to 15 campers per session and a non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to hold a slot. Each camper will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

A video about Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp can be viewed on Youtube.com at <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyROMzqaGLo</u>. For more information or to register for camp, please visit <u>www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org</u> or call 703.838.4399.

REMEMBERING A LONG TIME COLLEAGUE By Howard A. MacCord, Sr., RPA

Hugh V. Stabler died December 24, 2007 at the age of 90. He was a uniquely talented person who as a young man contributed much to the archeology of the Maryland-Virginia region.

Hugh was born in Worcester, MA, but spent most of his youth and adult life in the Washington, DC area. He worked thirty years for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. When he retired, he and his wife Mellie made their home in their beloved Shenandoah Valley, at Inwood, WV, located a few miles north of Winchester.



Hugh enjoyed canoeing, caving, hiking, and exploring the countryside. He worked two weeks in the summer of 1938 as a volunteer with archeologist Dr. Waldo R. Wedel at sites in Kansas. With Gates Slattery and another friend, he toured some of the greater Southwest to see archeological sites they had read about. He was a Life Member of the National Speleological Society, and an active member of the Archeological Societies of Maryland and Virginia.

His significant contributions in archeology were made while working as an avocational archeologist with Richard Gates Slattery, now of Davenport, IA. As early as 1934, they were a recognized team who set high standards for their work, always relying on the advice and encouragement of archeologists of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. Together, they pioneered archeological survey, testing and study of Indian sites in the Potomac River valley and tributaries, laying a solid foundation for work by others. They did careful field work, published their data, and donated artifacts and field notes to the National Museum of Natural History, and the official archeological repositories of both Maryland and Virginia.

They set out to relocate the Potomac River Indian sites named on Captain John Smith's Map of 1612. They recognized a major site directly across the river from Mount Vernon and were digging a test unit there in the fall of 1934, when the landowner, Mrs. Alice L. L. Ferguson came upon them. Being convinced of the site's importance, she later led and financed extensive excavation there, contributing much new data on the Potomac Creek Phase of prehistory. They recorded many sites in the 1930s, including the two major Patawomeck sites (ST 1 & 2) at Potomac Creek, in Stafford County, Virginia.



Using a canoe and a car, Hugh and Gates transferred their attentions upriver to the Piedmont and Mountain portions of the Potomac drainage. Major village sites they tested extensively were: Shepard Site (18 MO 1); Winslow Site (18 MO 9); Fisher Site (44 Ld 4); Frye Site (44 Ld 10); Kern Site (44 Ck 3) near Berryville, Virginia; and the Miley Site (44 Sh 2). The data for these are published - most in the Montgomery Focus.

On Selden Island they tested the site of a large, palisaded village (18 MO 20), which they called the Walker Site, known now as the Gore Site. Also on Selden Island, they found and tested a deeply-buried stratum with pits containing pottery tempered with steatite, with a conical

rather than a flat base, which they named Selden Island ware, a name still applied to that ceramic type.

I first met Hugh in 1940 when he was working at the Fisher Site. I remember helping at the Winslow Site, and I did later follow-up work on the Shepard, Fisher, Walker, Patawomeck, Miley, and Frye Sites. Though he did not actively pursue archeological work in later years, Hugh retained his interest and inquisitive attitude with regard to the work of others in Maryland and Virginia. I am proud to have known and worked with him and to have enjoyed his friendship over these many years. I will miss him.

Added note: A newspaper article in 1930 showed a 16 year old Hugh Stabler already pursuing his archaeological interests.



Hugh Stabler from the Washington Post in 1930

Boy Discovers Safe and Loot In Cornfield

Finds \$5 in Dimes on His Arrowhead Safari; Notifies Police.

Hugh Stabler, 16, of 6123 Broad Branch road northwest, and his dog, Bunky, went hunting for Indian arrowheads yesterday. Instead they found the handiwork of more recent marauders.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COMING EVENT:

The George Washington University & Alexandria Archaeology Field School in Public & Historical Archaeology May 19-23, May 27-31, 2008 Alexandria, Virginia.

American Studies 193.80/294.80, CRNs 10388/10389 Anthropology 113.80/213.80, CRNs 10450/11326

This ten-day introductory course in field and laboratory methods conducted by City of Alexandria archaeologists in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, is designed to introduce students to archeological basics and the uses of archaeology for the public. Students will learn the components of public archaeology while gaining experience in the process of site excavation, laboratory work, and public interpretation of field and archival data. Topics will include collections management, site preservation, public interpretation, historic park planning, ethics and professional responsibility. For students in Anthropology, American Studies, History, Historic Preservation, Museum Studies, Museum Education, or for anyone interested in experiencing the archaeological discovery process. Instructors: Professor Pamela Cressey & the Alexandria City Archaeologists.

Address inquiries to: GW Summer Sessions Phone: 202.994.6360 Fax: 202.994.9133 Email: <u>gwsummer@gwu.edu</u>

For registration information visit: http://www.gwu.edu/~specprog/registration.htm Address course content inquiries to: archaeology@alexandriava.gov www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org

NEW ASV CHAPTER FORMING!!!

Loudoun County Archaeologist Michael Clem is forming a new chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, which will bring the total number of active chapters in the state to 15!!! I attended the first gathering of the group in February and gave a presentation of what our chapter does both in digging and camaraderie. For further information contact:

Michael Clem Archaeologist of Loudoun County Department of Building and Development 1 Harrison Street, S.E. Leesburg, VA 20177-7000 703-737-8862 (phone)703-737-8993 (fax)



Archeological Society of Virginia Field School May 10-18, 2008



Archeology of 18th c. Kittiewan Plantation Home of VARC

(Virginia Archeological Research Center) Charles City County, Virginia

All ASV members welcome!

If you are not a member, join and come!



Signup deadline May 2, 2008

Contact:

Archeological Society of Virginia P.O. Box 70395 Richmond, VA 23255-0395. 804-273-9291

Or go to: www.asv-archeology.org

Field Director: Patrick O'Neill, MA patrickloneill@verizon.net (703-244-6275)



The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia will take place October 9 - 12 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, in Martinsville, Virginia. Each year the ASV holds an Annual Meeting, usually held over 3 days. In conjunction with the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA), the meeting has a series of presented papers, poster sessions, exhibits, a book room, an awards presentation and a banquet featuring a nationally-known dinner speaker.

Individuals wishing to make a paper presentation should provide a title and abstract to:



Dr. Michael B. Barber, Program Co-Chair Office of State Archaeology Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23221 *Or email at* <u>Mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov</u>.



Paper abstract deadline: August 15, 2008



Program Co-Chair Dr. Elizabeth Moore Virginia Museum of Natural History Martinsville, Virginia <u>elizabeth.moore@vmnh.virginia.gov</u>





Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Meeting: October 9 - 12, 2008 STUDENT PAPER CONTEST

http://asv-archeology.org/



 \mathcal{J} he Archaeological Society of Virginia provides prizes to outstanding student papers presented at the Annual Meeting. The competition is open to undergraduate students and graduate students. Two official award categories exist, recognizing student research contributions in either Prehistoric Archaeology or Historical Archaeology. In 2004, judges added a "Collections" category, to recognize a student's analysis of an older, existing collection for their research. Two independent judges will evaluate the student presentations. Mentors will be provided to aid students during the writing process to provide advice on content and presentation.

 \mathcal{J} he student papers will be judged on subject content, effectiveness of presentation, level of preparation, and the enthusiasm of the presenter. Judges will include one professional archaeologist and at least one avocational archaeologist.

 $m{J}$ nterested students should submit an abstract and paper title by August 15th to:



Dr. Michael B. Barber, Program Co-Chair Office of State Archaeology Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23221 *Or email at* <u>Mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov.</u>



Please be certain to indicate that you are participating in the student paper competition, and please include a photocopy of your student id card





 $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}$ he 2008 Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia will take place October 9 – 12 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, in Martinsville, Virginia.



Remember, awards of \$100.00 are provided to contest winners, once

they submit their winning presentation to ASV's *Quarterly Bulletin*. In addition, award recipients will receive a free one-year membership in the Archaeological Society of Virginia.



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Mike Johnson <u>michael.Johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>			Renewal
Bob Wharton	robert.wh	arton@fairfaxcounty.gov	
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Mount Vernon		white@mountvernon.org	2855 Annandale Rd.
Gunston Hall	-	<u>rchaeology@gunstonhall.org</u> 03-550-0441	Falls Church, VA 22042
Loudoun Co. Archaeologist		nichael.clem@loudoun.gov 03-737-8862	Chapter members are encouraged to join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.
Alexandria	Pam Cressey p	amela.cressey@alexandriava.gov	
Museum		03-838-4399 (information)	The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second
Pr. William Co.		spatton@pwcgov.org	Wednesday of each month at the James Lee
Archaeologist	7	03-792-5729	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