



The Datum Point

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

May 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

There's a lot going on in the Northern Virginia Chapter these days, as spring tries to settle in. The Clark's Bridge dig continues several days a week. Paul Inashima welcomes volunteers; contact him for the schedule. It's a spectacular setting beside the Potomac River, and those who made it out in April were treated to a carpet of Virginia bluebells.



Lab work is available on Tuesdays and some Saturdays as Mike Johnson gets the cataloguing caught up in anticipation of more summer digging.

In mid-May, several chapter members will attend the Kittiewan Field School, directed by Patrick O'Neill, our Datum Point editor and president-elect of the ASV. This is a great opportunity to fulfill some requirements for the ASV certification program.

Thanks to some great organizational work by Maggie Johnson and John Kelsey, we are filling gaps in our certification library. New books include the seven-volume Archaeologist's Toolkit, on permanent loan to our chapter from the ASV. And Carole Nash, co-director of the certification program, is working with us to resume lecture courses, with tentative dates of May 24, June 14 and June 21.

Two items are on the floor and ready for a vote at our chapter meeting on May 14. One would make an initial set of changes to the Williams-Mullen Scholarship by-laws. The other would approve funds to purchase a set of books on ceramics for our chapter library.

At our last meeting, we endorsed a suggestion from Mike Johnson to move our summer picnic to October, the month when we will be celebrating 30 years of archaeology in Fairfax County. Details to come, and we welcome your participation!

MAY SPEAKER AND TOUR:

SUZANNE LEVY AND THE NEW CITY OF FAIRFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY

Suzanne Levy, head of the Virginia Room at the City of Fairfax Regional Library of the Fairfax County Public Library System, will give a talk and tour of the new facilities in downtown City of Fairfax.



Location:

10360 North Street

City of Fairfax, VA 22030-2514

Telephone: 703-293-6227

Date: May 14, 2008

Time: 7-8:30pm!!!!!!!

KEVIN "RICK" KOESTLINE, 1955-2008



We received the sad news that long time friend and archeology volunteer, Rick Koestline passed away last week. Until recently, he had contributed many hours during the last 10-15 years helping out on County projects. He also worked for several of the local consulting firms on archeology projects. Rick was a regular in the Tuesday evening lab, where he worked on the artifacts from the Cactus Hill, Koestline (named for him), Watlington and Rubis-Pearsall sites in the Nottoway River Valley.

Services were held at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Burke. Mike Johnson, CK Gailey, Patrick O'Neill, and longtime co-archaeology friend Leigh Watlington attended. The theme for Rick from his family and friends was one of a quiet, detail-oriented person, who laughed with his family, but kept to himself. They all knew he excelled at archaeology and expressed himself in that field in ways he could not in public. They were truly moved when they knew some of his archaeology friends had come.

If anyone wants to express condolences directly or has any remembrances that the family might like you can call (703-913-1408) or e-mail (abhammel@cox.net) his sister, Allyn Hammel. Please make any donations to the Virginia Archeological Resources Center (VARC) fund in Rick's name. That VARC donation address is: c/o the Archeological Society of Virginia, P.O. Box 340, Courtland, Va 23837.

COMMENTS ON THE WILLIAMS-MULLEN SCHOLARSHIP AMENDMENTS

By Pat Fuller, Chair

These amendments which would A) allow a written report in lieu of an oral presentation; and to B) shorten the membership requirements in the NV Chapter (and alternatively the ASV) from one year to six months, were proposed to the Northern Virginia Chapter on April

9, 2008 by the NVC Scholarship Committee (Pat Fuller (VP), chair; Bill Brickhill, Ann Wood (NVC President). A motion to adopt these amendments is pending before the Chapter. The amendments may be further amended if needed prior to a vote of adoption. We hope to vote on these amendments at the May 14th meeting.

Other Amendments pending:

That the scholarship be broadened to offer monetary help to archaeology interns to attend professional meetings as well as to chapter members giving presentations when there is an expense involved. The latter suggestion was offered by Martha Williams. Martha Williams sends her regards to all.

WILLIAMS-MULLEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The NVC Scholarship Committee has awarded a \$200 scholarship to Patrick O'Neill to be used at the Kittewan Plantation Field School during this coming season.

CLARK'S BRANCH UPDATE

By Paul Inashima

Both trenches are being excavated below the 3 foot level. A gravel deposit has been encountered in the middle section of Trench 1 and may represent a relict meander channel. The overlying two levels have been relatively sterile above this feature. The base of the gravel deposit has not been found. As the gravel is uniformly small, a slow moving drainage is suspected.

A lithic work station has been uncovered in Trench 2 and may be either Middle Archaic or late Early Archaic. Cobble cores of quartz, quartzite, and black chert have been recovered. Flakes ranging from very small edge retouch flakes to medium sized flakes to decortication flakes have been found. The flakes included fine grained rhyolite, chert, jasper, quartz and quartzite. Fire-cracked rock scatter and wood charcoal indicate the former presence of an associated hearth.

A curved rock line to the west of the work station suggests a possible perimeter wall for a circular or oval structure of about 9 to 10 feet in diameter. As the line extends north and south past the trench and the projected east extent is beyond the east trench end, it will not be possible to confirm this interpretation during the present project. The knapping area lies within the rock line.

Small gravel-sized soapstone fragments, possibly from the ultramafic bedrock pockets within the local area, have been observed in the gravels from Trench 2. The bridge across Clark's Branch remains inundated, and no work has been conducted on the opposite side.

These photographs were from the Paleo Conference in San Antonio, Texas and a trip to the SAA's in Vancouver , BC by Ann Wood.



C. D. Cox chats with John McClelland of Tucson, a former NVC member.



It was standing room only for Mike Johnson's paper at the Society for American Archaeology.



Madhumita Basu was among Northern Virginians attending the SAA.



Ann Wood admires a giant spruce on the Olympic Peninsula following the SAA meeting.



Mike discusses his paper following his talk at the meeting in Vancouver BC.



Symbol of our day, spotted deep in the Hoh River Rain Forest.

CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY

Some of you have expressed an interest in participating in the Chippokes Field School that is advertised on the ASV web page. This is the second year of the program directed by Dr. Michael Barber and Michael Madden. Chippokes Plantation State Park is located in Surry County.

For those of you planning ahead, the dates for this event are October 26-November 1, 2008. The application form is already posted to the ASV web site (<http://www.asv-archeology.org/>); click on the link "Organization/Field Schools".

We hope that you will be able to attend! Mike writes that the field school will be working on the prehistoric site 44SY162 (unit testing), with a shovel test program for nearby 44SY163, also a prehistoric site. These activities fulfill hours for the excavation (unit testing) and survey (shovel test pits) requirements. Carole Nash and Bruce Baker

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE BRENNAN AWARD; ARCHAEOLOGY AWARD HONORS LEGACY OF LATE ALEXANDRIA PRESERVATIONIST

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) is now accepting nominations for the Bernard 'Ben' Brennan Archaeology in Alexandria Award. The AAC established this award last year to celebrate the contributions of the late Ben Brennan, who devoted himself to finding, preserving and sharing Alexandria's rich and diverse heritage. Brennan was a founding member of the AAC, a City of Alexandria commission which was the first of its kind established in the U.S., and served as its chair for 21 years.

The Brennan Award is open to businesses, organizations, families, professional preservationists, volunteers, students and other individuals who have demonstrated work or efforts in archaeological investigation, research, site protection, education, public interpretation, open space design, collections, or conservation.

Nomination forms are available at www.alexandriaarchaeology.org or by calling the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at 703.838.4399. The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2008.

The winners of the inaugural Brennan Award in 2007 were:

E. Sanders Partee, a resident of Alexandria, for his outstanding backyard stewardship and cooperation in the excavation of the 200-year-old Henry Piercy pottery in Old Town;

Eakin/Youngentob Associates (now EYA), a local developer, for the company's commitment to the highest quality archaeological preservation at Ford's Landing, Stonegate, and Old Town Village, where a historic wharf, ship hulls, 5000-year-old American Indian tools, and a Civil War site were documented; and

John Milner Associates, Inc., a cultural resource management firm, for its professional archaeologists who pioneered improved methods of identifying Civil War campsites in small spaces including two campsites and a Crimean oven in Alexandria backyards.

Appointed by City Council, the 14-member AAC develops goals and priorities for Alexandria's archaeological heritage. The commission works closely with citizens, government agencies, developers and teachers to promote archaeology in the City.

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Alexandria Preservation 101



To celebrate National Preservation Month, the Office of Historic Alexandria will present a special series of historic preservation lectures & workshops of particular interest to historic property owners in Alexandria.

Preservation Lectures

7:30 – 9:00 pm

- **May 6:** An Fun-filled Overview of Secretary of Interior Standards and Design Guidelines. *Pratt Cassity, Director of Public Service and Outreach, College of Environment and Design, University of Georgia*
- **May 13:** The Basics of Alexandria Architecture. *Al Cox, FALA, City Architect*
- **May 20:** Archaeology and your Backyard. *Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist*



Hands-on Workshops

10:00 am – Noon, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

May 10 *Hayles & Howe, Inc.*

- 10:00AM: Ornamental Plaster
- 1:00PM: Wall Plaster

May 17 *David Gibney, Restoration Carpenter*

- 10:00AM: Repairing Historic Windows
- 1:00 PM: Managing your Historic Porches

The Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.838.4554



Workshop Registration Form

Please complete this form and return it with your payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture: \$10 per lecture: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> May 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 20 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop: \$15 per workshop _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> May 10 10AM | <input type="checkbox"/> May 10 1PM | <input type="checkbox"/> May 17 10AM | <input type="checkbox"/> May 17 1PM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture: \$25 for series _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop: \$50 for series _____ | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plus, kindly accept my additional donation to support the Office of Historic Alexandria _____ | | | | |
| Total _____ | | | | |

Please make checks payable to **OHA**, 220 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To pay with a credit card, please register online at www.historicalexandria.org and select the link labeled 'shop.'

- ☐ Please add me to the mailing list for future programs.

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Ann Wood	annpwood@comcast.net 703-620-6098
Vice President	Patricia Fuller	pmfuller@juno.com
Treasurer	C.K. Gailey	treas@nvcasv.org
Corresponding Sec.	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie@cox.net 703-455-6902
Recording Sec.	Felicia Glapion	glapfk11@yahoo.com
Editor	Patrick O'Neill	patrickloneill@verizon.net 703-244-6275

Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)

Chapter Sponsors call 703-534-3881

Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
Mike Johnson	michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov
Bob Wharton	robert.wharton@fairfaxcounty.gov

Other Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	ewhite@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Loudoun Co. Archaeologist	Mike Clem	michael.clem@loudoun.gov 703-737-8862
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)
Pr. William Co. Archaeologist	Justin Patton	jspatton@pwccgov.org 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

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