



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

November 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

Good news! We will have a digging opportunity starting in mid-November and probably running into December at a site on Pohick Creek near Burke. Your help is welcome. Our senior archaeologist Mike Johnson will set aside lab priorities in order to conduct emergency survey and possible excavation at the Cardinal Glen Site, which appears to be a prehistoric encampment, and which is threatened with destruction.

Certification students are invited to help Mike lay out the grid on Wed., Nov. 12. Digging STP's will begin on Sat., Nov. 15, and likely run through Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of the following week, with further scheduling to be announced; keep an eye on Mike's advisories.

On October 25, a number of us enjoyed a bit of time travel through the major digs in Fairfax County's past at a symposium organized by Liz Crowell celebrating 30 years of professional archaeology in Fairfax County. The event honored Mike Johnson, whose hiring started off a very productive 30 years. Then we celebrated the county's 30 years, our chapter's 45 years, and our editor Patrick O'Neill's birthday at a successful chapter picnic.

Many thanks to those of you who turned out at our last business-only meeting. With a special nod to Pat Fuller for all her work, we finished updating our scholarship by-laws and approved a research grant.

A round of applause to our certification graduate for this year, Alan Tidwell, one of three announced at the ASV Annual Meeting in October. The rest of our candidates are keeping busy, with field schools under way at press time at Mount Vernon and Gault, Texas.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER(S)!

Greg Beaudoin and Tabitha Eagle

LOW WATER NAVIGATION STRUCTURES AND FISH WEIRS IN THE POTOMAC GORGE: PRELIMINARY SURVEY FINDINGS

During the Summer and Fall of 2007, low water levels in the Potomac River presented a unique opportunity to search for evidence of historic and possibly pre-historic structures within the waters of the Potomac Gorge. Using satellite imagery, aerial reconnaissance and old fashioned surveying by foot, a number of undocumented structures were discovered that may shed additional light on the early history of the Washington, D.C. area. Several low-water navigation structures possibly constructed by the Potomac Company during their efforts to open the Potomac Gorge to navigation between 1784 to 1828 were documented as were several stone fish weirs. Fish weirs, although not uncommon in the tidal Potomac or the Potomac River above Great Falls, are rare within the Potomac Gorge itself.

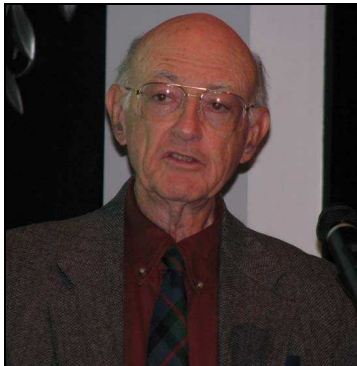
Greg Beaudoin, a native Washingtonian, spent his formative years in Asia and Europe where he developed a lifelong interest in historical geography. After returning to the U.S., he attended the U. of Maryland receiving a BA in Political Science in 1988. Since then, Greg has worked in the fields of academic and defense publishing, conventional and renewable power generation, space science, and competitive intelligence. Currently, Mr. Beaudoin is director of research for an Arlington, Virginia-based defense consulting firm.

Tabitha Eagle has lived on the Potomac River in Virginia, overlooking the Gorge, for forty years, putting her 80 acres into Conservation Easement to preserve that part of the Potomac. She is immensely interested in the natural and cultural history of this region, and continues to explore the Potomac River in all seasons, considering it a most fortunate back yard to have.

FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY
CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!!!!

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell, director of the Archaeology Division of the Fairfax County Park Authority, organized a wonderful event to celebrate their 30th year of existence! The event was not only very informative, but nostalgic as well, and everyone enjoyed the day!

Jack Hiller and Martha Williams gave a great talk about how their High School program paved the way for Fairfax County to develop their own program.

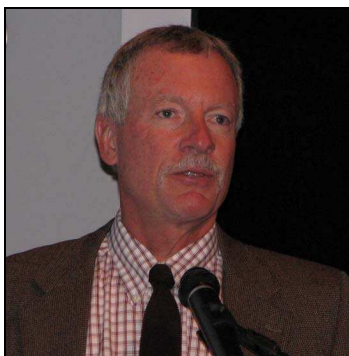


Jack Hiller



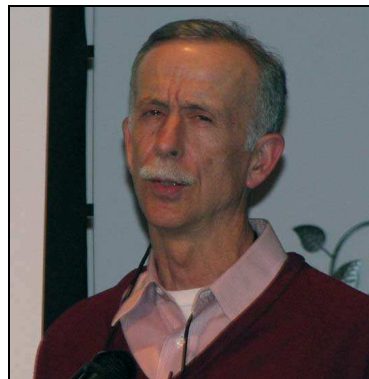
Martha Williams

Michael Rierson spoke on Fairfax County and the development of the Park Authority and using the school program as a tool on county property



Mike Rierson

Michael Johnson discussed the early years of the Fairfax County archaeology program, which has gone from 78 recorded sites 30 years ago, to over 3,800 to date!



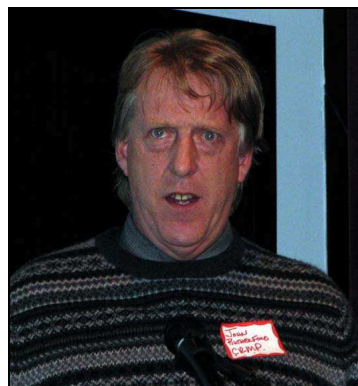
Mike Johnson

Then a series of other speakers gave presentations on archaeology and research projects in the county. Patrick O'Neill, spoke on Union Farm at Grist Mill Park and the Battle of the White House on Belvoir Neck from the War of 1812.



Patrick O'Neill

John Rutherford, County Archaeologist, gave a wonderful presentation on GIS and the finding and recording of archaeological sites.



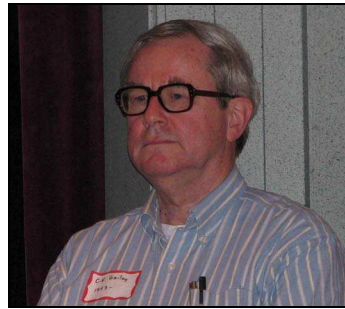
John Rutherford

Aimee Wells discussed life as an intern with the county program, her public outreach, and working with other interns.

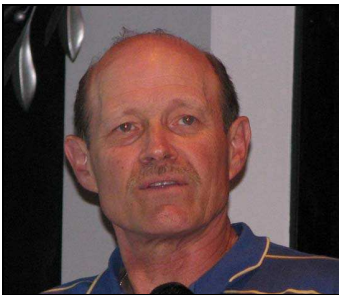


Aimee Wells

Dave Clark talked about using students to dig the Centreville tan yards.



C.K. Gailey



Dave Clark



Paul Elliot

Joe Balicki gave a presentation on the Civil War sites data base he helped develop and techniques used on finding Civil War sites in the county.

There were a many attendees from the Chapter, too!



Joe Balicki



Joyce Pearsall, CD Cox, Mary Green, Bill Brickhill

Volunteer Diane Schug-O'Neill talked about the people she has worked with and learned from in the past 20 years. Joined by Joyce Pearsall, CK Gailey, and Paul Elliot, they talked about their experiences as volunteers from the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia. The chapter has been instrumental in providing the tens of thousands of volunteer hours over the 30 years for Fairfax County!



Diane Schug-O'Neill, Jackie Cuyler, Karen Schweikart, and CK Gailey



Diane Schug-O'Neill and Joyce Pearsall



VP Pat Fuller

During the afternoon break, a special cake with candy trowel and artifacts was served commemorating Mike Johnson's 30 years with the program!



And then, we had a for both the County and Chapter anniversaries at the Chapter picnic, complete with a licorice brick foundation, chocolate log cabin, and chocolate Native American palisade!



Liz Crowell gave an introduction to the event and was great in the behind the scenes last minute details. The program was great and hopefully the information from the event will be written up and presented to the public in booklet format!



CHAPMAN'S MILL –

The Northern Virginia Chapter had a table at the Turn-The-Mill-Around-Campaign event at Chapman's Mill in Prince William and Fauquier County on October 26th. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon by the old ruins (see below!). The structure was recently declared the tallest free-standing stone block structure in the United States!



One of the dignitaries was the last miller at the site! A woman researching the slaves that worked the site, and is also an author, was signing books. Some Civil War re-enactors were also there.

HOWARD MACCORD SR.
1915-2008



MacCORD, Howard Arthur Sr., 93, of Brandermill Woods Retirement Community, Midlothian, died November 3, 2008, after a brief hospitalization. He was born in Irvington, New Jersey on October 23, 1915.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy Fleshman MacCord of Midlothian; daughters, Helen DeWell Winn and her husband, Jack, of Richmond, and Virginia Matthews and her husband, Harry, of Mouth of Wilson, Virginia; and son, Howard A. MacCord Jr. and his wife, Alison, of Greensboro, N.C.; grandchildren, Sean DeWell and his wife, Carolina, of Richmond, David DeWell of Ft. Worth, Texas, Lesley Winn, and John Winn and his wife, Susanna, of Richmond; great-grandchildren, Jacob DeWell of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Killian and Raif Winn of Richmond. Survivors also include sisters, Evelyn Hildebrand of Chambersburg, Pa., Jeanne Carter of Pocomoke City, Md., and Elnora Terry and her husband, Ed, of Las Cruces, N.M. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elsie B. MacCord, in 1972.

Mr. MacCord retired from the U.S. Army as a Colonel, after 30 years of service. He joined the National Guard in 1930, when he was only 15, and went into the Army in February of 1941. His World War II service took him to France and Germany. He served in post-war Japan and later in the Korean conflict. His lifelong interest in archaeology started in the 1930s, helping excavate prehistoric sites around his boyhood hometown of Washington, D.C. While in the Army, he excavated in Japan and Korea during his tours of duty.

Following his retirement from the military in 1962, he turned his lifelong avocation into a new career as an archaeologist with the Virginia State Library (now the Library of Virginia), from which he retired in 1976. He worked as a consulting archaeologist until 1983. He worked closely with the Archeological Society of Virginia during all those years, reaching out to educate the public. His interest in archaeology did not abate with retirement; he continued his work and contributed to the advancement of that field until his death. His contributions to Virginia archaeology were extensive.

They include excavations, or testing, at over 160 sites all over Virginia. His published works include over 127 articles, including his first publication in 1943 and his most recent in 2007. His remains rest at Bliley's-Central, 3801 Augusta Ave., Richmond, where the family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 6. A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, November 22, 2008 at Brandermill Church, Midlothian. Burial in Arlington National Cemetery at 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ASV/Kittiewan, P.O. Box 70395, Richmond, Virginia 23255.

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Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)
Pr. William Co. Archaeologist	Justin Patton	jspatton@pwcgov.org 703-792-5729

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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(W): _____

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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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