



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

April 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

We are expecting to see more digging and certification opportunities as spring settles in. Crews have been working at Cardinal Glen, even though the tranquility has been disrupted by a backhoe right next to us that is starting to build a water catchment pond.

At Riverbend, final approval is anticipated any day for Paul Inashima to resume digging at Clark's Branch. In association with this, our chapter voted to become an "interested party" in Paul's application to the National Park Service.

For certification candidates, we are in the process of scheduling classes or field opportunities on basic lab, Native American ceramics, laws and ethics, anthropological archeology, topo maps, and transit and related survey skills. You will be notified of details by email.

At our March meeting, we were pleased to elect the father-son team of Wilke and Will Nelson to fill our vacant vice presidency.

Bring your calendars to our chapter meeting on April 8. We need to set our chapter picnic date sometime in July, decide whether to meet on October 14 just after the state ASV meeting in Fredericksburg, and decide what to do about our November meeting that falls right on Veterans Day. I am hoping all of you will find your way to Fredericksburg October 9-11 to take in at least some of the talks on Virginia archeology.

APRIL SPEAKER –

David Thulman

Paleoindian issues in Florida



Thulman's dissertation at Florida State University explored how the first people in Florida organized themselves in an uninhabited landscape by testing alternative hypotheses of Paleoindian social organization in Florida during the post-Clovis, Middle and Late Paleoindian periods (ca. 10,900 – 10,000 BP) through analysis of artifact typology and distribution and the application of anthropological theories of band-level social and subsistence structure. He collected images and location information of Paleoindian points from Florida, measuring and analyzing them for the purpose of producing a typology. The location information was entered on a GIS

The New Vice-Presidents

Will Nelson. Hi, my name is Will Nelson, and I am one of the new Vice-Presidents for the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia with my Dad. I am an 8th grade student currently enrolled at Osmond Stone Middle School in Centreville, Virginia. Besides my interest in archaeology, I enjoy whitewater canoeing and participating in Boy Scouts. Last year, I had the great opportunity of participating in an exchange program with a school in England. During my visit, I enjoyed seeing the Tower of London and exploring Warwick Castle. I have always been interested in history and I for some strange reason like digging holes in the ground. I asked my parents what type of job I could get with these two characteristics and they said why not become an archaeologist. So, I have decided that I want to be an archaeologist and I've set out on a path to learn as much about archaeology as I can, which led me to the society. This past fall, my Dad and I participated in a dig near Jamestown, Virginia, where I excavated several flint tools. The field of archaeology that interests me the most is the ancient Mayans. My dream is to go to the Yucatan Peninsula and excavate a Mayan ruin. I joined this Chapter because I want to learn all I can about archaeology and I look forward to doing whatever has to be done as one of the new Vice-Presidents.

Wilke Nelson. My name is Wilke Nelson and I am Deputy Vice-President for Resource Development at American Rivers. I have more than 18 years of experience in the conservation field, having worked in fundraising, private/public partnerships, and land acquisition. Before working for American Rivers I worked with the National Park Foundation and the Nature Conservancy. I enjoy the outdoors and am an avid sea kayaker, sailor, and boat builder. Recently, I've revived an earlier interest in bicycling. When I was Will's age, I biked throughout Nova Scotia. Currently, I'm training for the Seagull Century bicycle race on the eastern shore of Maryland. Though I was an English major in college, I've always been a history buff, and I've shared my love of nature and history with my son, Will. Now, he's teaching me and I'm working to learn more about his interest – archaeology.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Announcing: The Julian Williams and Eleanor Mullen Memorial Field Study Scholarship. *Attention: Applications are now being accepted from NVC and ASV members for this annual scholarship for attending field*

school. Applications will be accepted through May 15, 2009.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the Julian Williams and Eleanor Mullen Memorial Field Study Scholarship. The scholarship provides funding up to \$400 (though, at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, awards not exceeding \$750 may be given). A maximum of two scholarships are awarded in any calendar year. The scholarship is designed to offset costs of those intending to enhance their archeological field skills by attending field schools. Application and eligibility information available at: <http://www.nvcasv.org/scholarship.html>

Applications should be mailed to:
NVC Chapter
2855 Annandale Road
Falls Church, VA22042

FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY

By Mike Johnson

Cardinal Glen (44FX3379) - As of this writing the crew has completed excavating the A soil. The site continues to produce moderate amounts of quartz artifacts and fire cracked rocks. It has produced a surprisingly low number of diagnostics. To date we have recovered one possible sand tempered potsherd and a fragment of a corner notched quartz point. During preliminary deep testing of the initial trench, we encountered the top of what appeared to be post mold. As a result of the possible post mold feature the threatened parts of the site will be deep excavated. The work schedule on Cardinal Glen will be determined by the work schedule on Clarks Branch.

Clarks Branch (44FX3226) - Detailed excavations on expanding Square 1 will begin as soon as the federal permitting process is complete. That should be in early April. Once that happens Paul will be working full time on the site and will need all of the help he can get to finish the data recovery so the bridge construction can be accomplished before winter.

GIFT IN MEMORY OF PAT FULLER

Our Northern Virginia Chapter has received a generous gift from Hal Fuller in memory of his wife Pat, our chapter member, friend, and recent Vice-President. In making the gift, Hal said, "The work of the chapter and the friendships of its members were central components of Pat's life. I thank you all for the friendship that you

gave her and for the support that you have given me in coping with her illness and death."

After discussion among officers, staff, and members, the chapter decided to use the gift to substantially enlarge the Dave Rubis Research Fund. This fund is used very selectively, with chapter approval required, to support scientific research and testing in cases where other funding is unavailable. Members expressed their appreciation and said they thought Pat would have liked the decision. A letter of thanks to Hal said, "We in the chapter are pleased to honor Pat by putting your gift to use in this important way, knowing that she participated in the decisions to do this scientific work when she was among us."

Pat Fuller and Dave Rubis would have been part of the same crew on those occasions when Pat dug at Cactus Hill. Pat also dug at Gunston Hall and other local sites, was a regular in the lab, and participated in the chapter in many ways. She became a Certified Archaeological Technician in 2003.

FORMER CHAPTER MEMBER, BOB HEUSER

It was nice to receive the following report from Bob Heuser, one of five members of the Northern Virginia Chapter who graduated from the certification program in 2003. From Ann Wood

Every time I get and read an issue of the Datum Point I say I have to write ... I have remained a member of No. Va. chapter since we moved to CO three years ago so I can keep up with what's going on there. I have become a member of the Denver chapter of the CAS (Co Arch Soc) and have participated in some field survey, excavation, and lab activities. This past year I was asked to be on the Board of the Denver chapter (must be no one else was interested). One of the responsibilities is to write an article a year for the monthly newsletter, so I wrote my first one on archaeology at Gunston Hall.

I am really glad I finished the certification program in VA; that has given me some measure of credibility when I'm asked about my experience. CO also has a program that is quite different from VA's. It includes 13 20-hour courses with an exam at the end of each course which must be passed to receive credit. There are 4 or 5 different types of certificates, each requiring different courses. Since rock art is big out here, I took the rock art course (one night a week for 7 weeks) and somehow passed it. But, I don't think I'll go for any certificates. I really enjoyed the VA program with it's hands on approach, even though we did have to take a final exam (can't believe that was 5 years ago)!

Another difference out here is that there is no year-round program of excavation etc., like at Gunston Hall and Fairfax County. I miss my weekly days at Gunston and the occasional lab or field survey at Fairfax Co. (in spite of the lyme disease) and am really thankful that I had the opportunity to go to Cactus Hill! Weather here is GREAT... no humidity. We're busy in a variety of activities, including work trips to New Orleans for post Katrina relief (me 4 times and Chris 2 times), many activities through our church, and of course taking care of our now-3 year old granddaughter, who will be getting a baby sister in January (more infant care on the horizon). If your travels bring you this way let us know... we love to see "old" friends from back East.
Bob Heuser

FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX CO. ARCHAEOLOGY

By Sallie Lyons

The Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources steering committee held its first meeting on March 5 at James Lee. Harry Glasgow of the Park Authority Board went over the mechanics and advantages of establishing a friends group, and said that there is a general opinion in the Park Authority that this support group is much needed. Some things we touched on in discussion were obtaining 501 C3 status, creation of a website, fundraising, investigation of corporate sponsorships, both pursuing and giving of grants, educational outreach, scholarships, internships and the creation of programs supported by the Friends. John Kelsey was there representing NVCASV and we discussed ways in which we could interface and be mutual beneficiaries. There were substantial refreshments and Paula Elsey brought pie! Jerry Lyons has offered logo designs. The next meeting will held at James Lee on Monday, the 13th of April at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Anyone from the Chapter who would like to participate would be very welcome.



NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)

Chapter Sponsors	call 703-534-3881
Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
Mike Johnson	michael.johnson@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
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

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 should join our parent organization,
the Archeological Society of Virginia.
asv-archeology.org*

**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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2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

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