



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

March 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

Ah, glimmerings of spring. Seven of us enjoyed a late February day of digging at Cardinal Glen. Mike Johnson is planning to extend this dig. We laid out an expanded grid, so look for more opportunities to get out in the field in the coming weeks as the weather improves (it must!).

The father-son team of Wilke and Will Nelson has volunteered to fill our vacancy for vice president. We will vote on these nominees for a co-vice presidency at our chapter meeting. Many thanks to Wilke and Will, who are diving right into chapter activities.

Last call for our certification program on March 7. Jolene Smith of DHR will be giving a training session on DSS electronic site form filing, and CK Gailey will present the companion course on site form preparation. Contact Ann Wood to sign up.

Right now is the time to apply for our annual scholarship funds for attending a field school. See the related announcement inside this newsletter, and go to the Northern Virginia Chapter web site for further information.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Now is the time to apply for our annual scholarship for attending field school. For more information, go to <http://www.nvcasv.org/scholarship.html>. Applications will be restricted to NVC members until April 1. If no NVC members apply, applications will be opened to all ASV members until May 15.

To apply for scholarships for interns attending a conference, or for chapter members speaking at a conference, please email annpwood@comcast.net until we finish updating our web site.

MARCH SPEAKER –

Dan McDermott

STROLLING ON THE C&O CANAL



Dan McDermott is professor emeritus at Montgomery College, where he has taught since 1970. He was used as a consultant in the creation of two postal service stamps—the Earth Day 1972 depiction and the new Louisiana Purchase stamp.

Trailmaps, etc recently published The C and O canal map, a series of four maps depicting the history and geography of this beloved canal. In addition to his interests in history and geography, Professor McDermott does fine art photography and has won a number of prizes. He is especially proud of winning first-prize in a National Park Service competition in the Washington DC region.

Get the Datum Point via email and be GREEN! Plus, it will be in Living Color!!!! Contact patrickloneill@verizon.net to check into this!

FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY

By Mike Johnson

Important Certification Notice - Two classes on recording sites will be given for certification students at our archaeology lab this Saturday, March 7, 9:30 am to 3 pm. The classes are Standard Site Form Preparation and DHR DSS Site Form Training. (Contact: anpwood@comcast.net)

Maryland Workshop in Archeology - In spite of the wonderful weather predicted for this weekend, sadly we will not be in the field at Cardinal Glen on Saturday. I will be giving a talk on Cactus Hill and the Search for Pre-Clovis this Saturday, March 7, at the 18th Annual Maryland Workshop in Archeology. The talk will be followed by an amiable panel discussion between Stuart Fiedel, Joe Dent and me on the issues surrounding Pre-Clovis in the Americas. By the make-up of the panel it is assumed that Joe Dent will be the referee. The panel will also entertain questions from the audience.

Other topics include Clay Tobacco Pipe Manufacture (Paul Jung), a two part Prehistoric Overview (Charlie Hall), Searching for the Lion of Baltimore (David Shaw and Steve Anthony), An Introduction to Post-Colonial Earthenwares (Patricia Samford), Small finds, Big Concepts (Sara rivers-Cofield), The Woodland Bow (Roy Brown), and Volunteering in Underwater Archeology (Dave Howe). Here is the link for detailed information about the workshop: <http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/workshop.html>

Cardinal Glen (44FX3379) - During our last session, we completed two, two-inch levels below the A soil (level 1) in the southern end of the trench. We continued to notice artifacts through both levels, including a notched point fragment (possibly Early Woodland) in level 2 and what appeared to be a post mold at the bottom of level 3.

In re-evaluating the construction plans it appears that more of the site area next to the cut bank will be removed as part of the stream stabilization associated with the storm water management pond reconstruction. As a result of this and the high

potential for good data from the projected impact area we plan to expand data recovery on the more extensive threatened areas of the site.

We set up a 10x10-foot block and laid out the A soil horizon grid for "swizzle stick archeology." It will be removed in two-foot contiguous shovel test pits down to the bottom of the A soil. We will then re-grid the floor of the block into four 5x5-foot excavation squares and trowel excavate them. This will be an opportunity for certification candidates and interested volunteers to get experience in tightly controlled excavation methods - we will be plotting artifacts, mapping features (hopefully) and recovering charcoal.

However, with the Saturday Workshop (above), the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference (March 20-22), and monitoring the clean-up of the McCue property at Colchester (March 28), we may be hard pressed to get much done until April. The plan was to work the site mostly on Friday's and Saturdays but that has to change. This is a higher a priority. We will be out there more than planned during the week, this month.

Schedule: Weather permitting, we plan to be at Cardinal Glen on Saturday (3/14). If the weather looks good you will be notified of other field days a few days before we go out.

Lab - Generally, unless otherwise announced, we will continue to have regular lab on Tuesday's. We are now re-processing the artifacts from the Neha Site (44FX1561), excavated by Larry Moore in the late 1980s. That is the site where Dave Rubis recovered the attached Paleoamerican point, which is the most impressive point yet recovered from Fairfax County.



Quartzite projectile point from Cardinal Glen



Working at the Cardinal Glen site



Betsy MacCord, Dr. Dr. Sung-rak, Patrick O'Neill



Lithics from the Cardinal Glen site



Shirley Jaeger, Betsy MacCord, Diane Schug-O'Neill, Harry Jaeger

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASV went to the Korus House of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington D.C. on February 10, 2009 to listen to a presentation on Korean archaeology by Dr. Choi Sung-rak. Dr. Sung-rak is a professor of archaeology at the Mokpo National University in Cheonggye-myeon, Muan county, Jeollanam-do. Dr. Sung-rak is also the President of the Honam Archaeological Society. The late Colonel Howard MacCord of Virginia did some of his earliest international archaeology in Korea in the 1950s. His research is still used and referred to as some of the earliest archaeology in Korea. His widow, Betsy MacCord, came to the presentation in his memory, as well as Harry and Shirley Jaeger, and Diane and Patrick O'Neill.



Keyhole-shaped burial mounds in developed area

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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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