



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

June 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

Save the date Saturday, July 18, 1-5 p.m., for our annual chapter picnic at our beautiful pond side location at Cox Farms. The picnic replaces our regular second Wednesday meeting in July, so come to our meeting on June 10 prepared to offer grills, side dishes, coolers and such. We'll have final directions and details in the July Datum Point.

As summer arrives, a few of our members are pressing toward the finish line on certification. Liz Crowell gave successful lectures on two key courses in May, and we are working with Mike Johnson to arrange three field courses in the survey section, along with lab tests, in the June/July time frame. We are hoping to have several graduates at the ASV annual meeting in Fredericksburg October 9-11.

At our last chapter meeting, we voted to award a \$700 Williams-Mullen Scholarship to Mike Johnson and CD Cox for their attendance at a spring field school at the Gault prehistoric site in Texas. They will give us a report on the interesting work currently being done there.

The chapter approved a \$50 donation to the Virginia Archaeological Resource Center (VARC) in memory of Russell Darden, who died suddenly this spring. Russell was a huge contributor to Virginia archaeology at all levels. He taught countless schoolchildren the fascination of archaeology and was a key contributor to the work at Cactus Hill.

We decided to meet as scheduled on October 14, even though it's right after the ASV meeting. We're still considering whether to meet on November 11, the traditional Veteran's Day.

JUNE 10TH SPEAKER - LYNETTE ALSTON NOTTOWAY INDIANS IN SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA

She spent her formative years through high school, in Drewryville, (Southampton County) Virginia, and for the past twenty years, she has maintained the farm passed down to her by her grandfather. She currently serves at the Tribal Chief and Chair of the Tribal Council for the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Incorporated.

The historic domain of the Nottoway Indians in Southeastern Virginia is along the Nottoway River through several counties including Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Sussex, Surry, Isle of Wight, and Southampton. Evidence of the presence of indigenous people in this part of Virginia, dating to over 15,000 years ago, has been documented by archeological excavations at a site called Cactus Hill at Stony Creek near the Nottoway River. The Hand Site, south of Courtland on the lower Nottoway River drainage, is a historical Nottoway Indian site dating from 1580-1645.

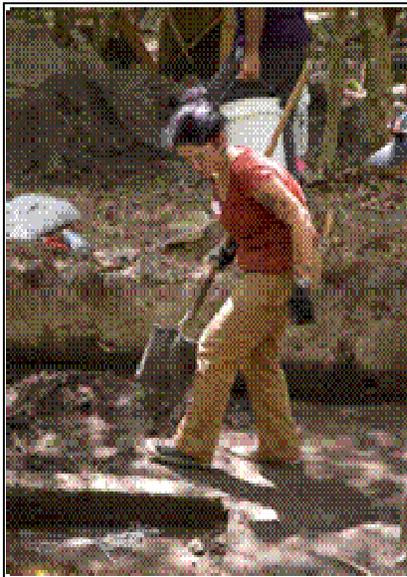
Alston will present the rich history of the Nottoway Indians in southeastern Virginia

(<http://www.nottowayindians.org/home.html>)



Lynette Alston and Edwin Dukes

**Watch Archaeology as it happens when
TIME TEAM AMERICA debuts
Wednesday, July 8 from 8-9 PM, ET on
PBS**



For most Americans, any examination of the people who lived before us begins and ends with the reading of a book or the viewing of a film. There are some, however, whose curiosity and desire drive them to get their hands dirty by digging into the places where history began. Finding evidence buried for centuries is the only way to satisfy their hunger for knowledge. This kind of passion drives the archaeologists, geologists, geophysicists and historians in **TIME TEAM AMERICA**. Based on the hugely popular British series, **TIME TEAM AMERICA** pulls viewers into the trenches of the country's most intriguing archaeological sites --

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Part extreme adventure, part science and part reality show, **TIME TEAM AMERICA** premieres **Wednesdays, July 8 from 8-9 PM, ET on PBS.**

Screening copies of this five-part summer series and interviews are available upon request. To preview the series and for detailed press materials, including team member bios and artwork, visit

http://pressroom.pbs.org/programs/time_team_america.

Please contact us with any questions or for additional information. Many thanks for your story consideration.

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USDA PROJECTS PROTECT CULTURAL RESOURCES

By Pat O'Leary, USDA Office of Communications

This is an advance TV snippet taken from the cultural resources DVD which is now being produced in final form.

mms://ocbmtcwmp.usda.gov/content/bmtc/vnr/projects_protect.wmv

Likely the county GIS has the 1878 "Atlas of 15 miles around Washington" digitized and maybe even georeferenced. If not, this link leads to online atlas at John Hopkins U –

<http://braddockheritage.org/resources/item/233/>

<http://braddockheritage.org/resources/item/233/>

CLARK'S BRANCH

By Mike Johnson

Paul and the crew have 19 full and partial 4x4-foot squares open. This involves the area for the bridge abutment footing and the area between there and the drop off into Clark's Branch, both of which are threatened. Most of the squares are down through the "A" (top) soil and many are down through the first level in the "B" (second) soil stratum. Several others are into the second level in the "B" soil stratum. The levels are 3 inches thick (.25 of a foot).

The process involves trowel and shovel removal of the disturbed "A" soil. The "B" soil is trowel excavated with all functional and chronological diagnostic artifacts being plotted in three dimensions. All features are being full excavated, plotted and recorded. All soil is being sifted through 1/4-inch mesh and the dry screen residue is then washed and sorted on site. Depth control is maintained, using a water level.

Approximately three new features have been located and are in various stages of recovery. The initial "B" soil levels appear to date to the Woodland, possibly Late Woodland period. The rationale for this determination has been the recovery of triangular points and prehistoric pottery in the first two levels of the "B" soil. Various other point styles have been recovered from disturbed contexts in the "A" soil, which appears to be derived from slope wash from the higher parts of the site.

Now that June has arrived volunteer crew numbers have increased dramatically. For example, the crew numbered eight people on Wednesday (6/3).

Volunteer crew members wanting to work on days other than Wednesdays or Saturdays are advised to make an appointment with Paul directly (pinashima@att.net). Those wanting to work on Wednesdays or Saturdays should meet at the Riverbend Park Nature Center at the end of Jeffrey Road at 9 am.

MORRIS POTTERY KILN

By Patrick O'Neill

Here are a few photographs of the ASV-owned Morris Pottery Kiln Site (44RM430) in Rockingham County, Va. This late 19th century rural kiln is protected by a new shelter and under the watchful eye of the Massanutten Chapter.

<http://www.mcasv.org/Documents/02%20Notes%200on%20the%20Morris%20Pottery%20Kiln.pdf>

<http://www.mcasv.org/Documents/03%20Massanutten%20Chapter%20ASV%20and%20the%20Morris%20Pottery%20Kiln.pdf>



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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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