



# THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)

May 2009

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

A Northern Virginia Chapter proposal to try to create an archaeology license plate for Virginia was received with considerable enthusiasm at the quarterly board meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia in April.

Maggie Johnson, who brought this great idea to our chapter, was encouraged to come up with some specific designs for the next ASV Board meeting in July, working in collaboration with others who are interested. If you would like to participate, please email her at [<stillmaggie@cox.net>](mailto:stillmaggie@cox.net)

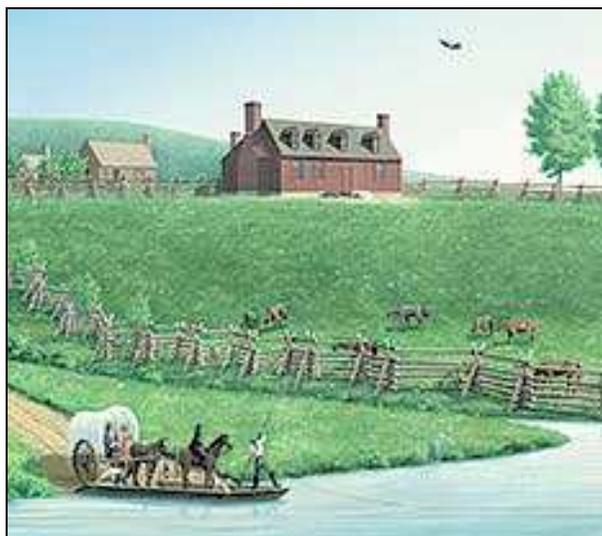
The special license plate would cost \$10 a year. Maggie has agreed to coordinate the process, which requires developing a design, getting it approved by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and collecting 350 prepaid applications. The plate would remain available as long as 200 cars were using it, a relatively inexpensive way to call attention to archaeology.

In the field, approvals for Clark's Branch are finally completed and Paul Inashima's work is getting underway. In our certification program, Liz Crowell, our section manager, has agreed to teach courses on Anthropological Archaeology and Archaeological Laws and Ethics, with the classes scheduled for Thursday evening, May 28.

See you in the field or the lab!

## MAY SPEAKER – LAURA GALKE

### FERRY FARM – BOYHOOD HOME OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



Laura Galke is originally from Falls Church. She attended George Mason University for her undergraduate education during the mid 1980s. It was during this time that she volunteered with Fairfax County Archaeology briefly, helping in the laboratory and in the field. Her master's degree is from Arizona State University in Tempe. Laura has worked in the Middle Atlantic Region, especially in Virginia and Maryland. While lithics drew her in to the field of archaeology, opportunities have molded her into a historical archaeologist. She is especially fond of colonial studies and cultural interaction and creolization. She is an ardent supporter of ASV, serves as head of the ASV Student Affairs Committee, and treasurer for the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Inc. She has worked as the artifact analyst for the George Washington Foundation at Ferry Farm in Fredericksburg since August.

## CLARKS BRANCH

By Michael Johnson

Clarks Branch - All of the necessary paperwork has been signed just in time for the worst flood in several years. Paul visited Riverbend Park earlier this week and the Potomac River is out of its banks up there. As a result, currently it is impossible to get to the site. Hopefully, the water will have gone down by early next week and we can begin fieldwork.

Lab - Unless otherwise announced, we will have a regular winter schedule with lab on Saturday (5/9) and Tuesday (5/12).

## RUSSELL DARDEN

By Michael Johnson

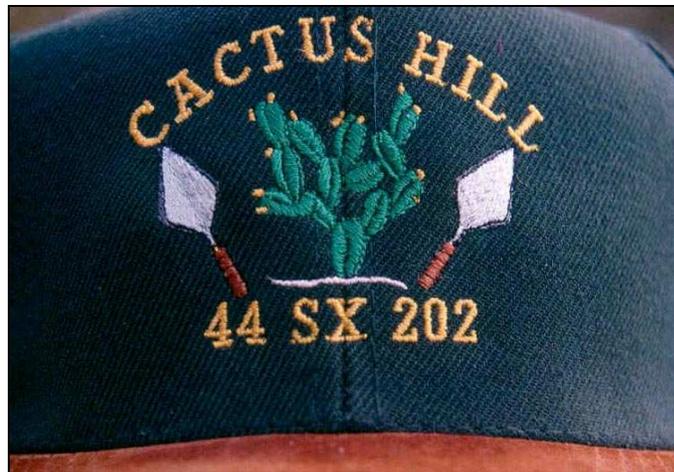
The ASV Treasurer for the VARC at Kittiewan Plantation, Russell Darden passed away earlier this week. Russell was a great advocate for and friend of Virginia Archeology. His active involvement in the ASV spanned at least five decades, as he was a member for over 46 years.

He also was a strong supporter of our efforts at Cactus Hill and the other research sites in the Nottoway. Russell, who before retiring was a senior level manager for the Union Camp Corporation in Franklin, was instrumental in sensitizing Union Camp to the importance of the Clovis and Pre-Clovis discoveries at Cactus Hill, which was on Union Camp land. Largely through his efforts they ceased sand quarrying, which helped greatly in reducing the threats to the site and later to its conservation.

Russell also was an active volunteer at Cactus Hill, Blueberry Hill (where he also supplied and ran the bobcat that backfilled the 5X30-foot long by 4-foot deep trench) and the three newest sites, Koestline, Watlington and Rubis-Pearsall. He was always a font of historical knowledge about local prehistory and the history of Southeastern Virginia and the Civil War.

Russell's influence was magnified by his dedication to getting the word out about Virginia's prehistory. As an ambassador for Datum Point

Virginia archeology and the ASV he would give slide presentations all over the country. I have attached a picture of the hat logo he wore every time he worked with us on the Nottoway. The Oregon Archeological Society had the hat made especially for him after he gave them an unsolicited presentation on Cactus Hill and Virginia Archeology. He and his wonderful wife, Pam often treated our crew to the finest of southern hospitality. He was a good friend and will be sorely missed.



Logo worn by Russell Darden



Russell on steps of Kittiewan in 2007

**FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL**  
**RESOURCES**

By Sallie Lyons

The steering committee for the friends group held its second meeting on April 13. A by-laws committee was launched. We had a very informative discussion on achieving successful fund raising and engaging participation in today's economic climate. It was decided to plan a first public meeting for the organization in the fall.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 11, at 6:00 p.m at the James Lee Center. All chapter members are encouraged to participate. There will be ample refreshments.

**DEVELOPMENT OF A VIRGINIA**  
**"ARCHAEOLOGY" LICENSE PLATE**  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

By Maggie Johnson

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASV is proposing the development of an archaeology license plate for Virginia and they need your help! Maggie Johnson, NVC member who suggested this idea, is coordinating the effort, which is supported by the ASV Board. Currently Maggie is developing several specific designs for the July ASV Board meeting. If you are interested in helping with the development of the designs (and you do not need to be an artist!) please email Maggie at [stillmaggie@cox.net](mailto:stillmaggie@cox.net).

The goal is to present the samples at the ASV annual meeting this October and on web sites so that the favorite can be selected. Attendees can also vote on the important issue of how the plate will spell "arch(a)eology" - with or without the "A"! The favorite plate will become part of the application package that is sent to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Now, here is where your help is REALLY needed! It is absolutely critical that the application package include at least 350 prepaid (by check) applications for the special plate. The special license plate would cost \$10 a year in addition to the regular registration

fee, and you can keep your current personalized plates (6 letters maximum). Copies of the application (available on the DMV web site) will be available at the ASV Annual Meeting. Maggie is also collecting the prepaid applications. The plate would remain available as long as 200 vehicles are buying it annually. This is a relatively inexpensive way to show your support for Virginia Archaeology. We hope you will support this effort!

**DIG ALEXANDRIA!**

By Ruth Reeder

Interested in volunteer field work in Alexandria? Then sign up for the Alexandria Archaeology field orientation on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. The orientation is required for all new field volunteers. It's free and no previous experience is necessary, but participants must be at least 16 years old and reservations are required. Contact Fran at [francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov](mailto:francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov) if you'd like to participate. The orientation and this season's field work will take place at the Shuter's Hill excavation site <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/ar-shuters.html>, located on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Just a quick, but steep, hike up from the King Street Metro Station.

**"Cactus Hill & Werowocomoco: Everything You Ever Needed to Know" Teachers' Workshop**

The Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) and the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) are hosting a teacher's workshop on Friday, June 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

All Virginia public school teachers are encouraged to attend, as the new USI and Virginia Studies Standards now include Cactus Hill and Werowocomoco <http://powhatan.wm.edu/> as essential knowledge for students. This workshop is an opportunity for teachers to hear from Fairfax County Archaeologist Michael Johnson and Dr. Martin Gallivan, the archaeologists who have explored these sites and determined their importance. Not only are these sites important to the

SOL, they are major discoveries for historians and archaeologists around the world.

This is an exciting opportunity for all teachers to hear of these discoveries. All are welcome, but 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will have preference. Teachers will receive recertification points and should sign up on ERO. Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling. Light refreshments will be served.

The following upcoming orientations are free and open to the public (16 years and older), but reservations are required.

### **Oral History Orientation**

**Saturday, May 16** from 10 a.m. to noon  
Learn how to conduct professional interviews with local residents while contributing to the City's vast Oral History Project. Contact: Jen Hembree [jen\\_hembree@hotmail.com](mailto:jen_hembree@hotmail.com)

**Field Orientation Saturday, June 6** from 10 a.m. to noon  
Learn how to professionally excavate an archaeological site while contributing to the understanding of the City's past Contact: Fran Bromberg [francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov](mailto:francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov)



Patrick O'Neill with FOAA (Friends of Alexandria Archaeology) VP Joan Amico after his talk on the Battle of the White House

### **ON THE ROAD AGAIN WITH CD AND MIKE**

By Michael Johnson

CD Cox and I just returned from another exciting trip, again to the Gault site in Texas and the Pearsall B&B in Brevard, North Carolina. The reason for Datum Point

the excursion was for me to meet with Bruce Bradley, of Exeter University in England, who was heading up a field school at Gault. Bruce is my PhD advisor and co-author with Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian on the upcoming book about a Solutrean origin for the first Americans.

CD again took charge of the highly sophisticated water screening operation, which was greatly appreciated. Fortunately, the weather was not too bad since a recent wind storm had blown down and mangled the canopy covering the screens. However, the heavens did open up one day with about 3 inches of rain and hail. Although that shut down the screening operation it did not stop the excavation.

Besides the Exeter crew of five, CD and me, and regular volunteer Nancy Littlefield the excavation was augmented by four visiting volunteers: two couples each from Colorado and New Mexico. Some progress had been made since our Chapter crew was there in November. Although much of the digging being done by the students was in the Late and Middle Archaic, several four people were working in the Early Archaic. As usual most levels produced points including a classic reworked Pedernales point, which caused quite a bit of excitement.



Pedernales Point (pronounced **Perdenales**)

On the day of the deluge we had a pleasant visit from George and Vicki Monken, who were on their way to Arizona. They visited the site for about a half a day and escaped just before the big rain. They promised to join our next expedition to Gault.

However, the most exciting find of the week was not archeological. A hummingbird (Costa's) got in the Texas sized Quonset hut covering the excavation block and could not get out. Finally it

gently crashed on the ground from exhaustion. One of the Exeter students was familiar with them and allowed the bird to rest up on his hand until it regained enough strength to fly away.



Due to the recession, the Gault site has lost some of its funding and has had to lay off some of its long-time research help. There was some fear that the planned November 2009 trip back by Chapter members and friends was in jeopardy. That is not the case at this point and in fact the staff members were enthusiastic about having our crew back.

After a brief stop in Atlanta on the way back, the small, two person Virginia crew spent a couple of days with at Joyce and Frank Pearsall's famous archeological Bead & Breakfast in the mountains of Western North Carolina. It was a great respite from all of the traveling. The 300 milkweed from Joyce's new hobby (banding monarch butterflies) were staring to peak out of the ground in her garden. Although she discovered that her house is on a 7,000 year old prehistoric site no archeological excavation units were open.

One of the highlights of the trip occurred when Joyce took us to the nearby North Carolina Arboretum. They have one of the best collections of bonsai plants in the United States. One of the unique aspects of the garden is that many of the plant species are native to the Appalachian Mountains. It is a recommended stop for anyone traveling to the Asheville area.

## ARLINGTON COUNTY

New documentary chronicles "smart growth": The county recently completed a 53-minute documentary detailing the history of its fight during the 1960s and '70s to put as many Metro stops in Arlington as possible and avoid the suburban sprawl typical of neighboring counties. "Arlington's Smart Growth Journey" uses archival photos and on-camera stories to capture the urban planning approach that led to the Arlington of today. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/22/AR2009042201477.html>

## ORANGE COUNTY

BOS rejects Wilderness Battlefield Coalition offer: Supervisors said they won't take the WBC up on its offer to fund a land-use planning study that might suggest a new location for a proposed Walmart Supercenter on Route 3. At an April 14 meeting, Orange County supervisors approved a written response rejecting the coalition's bid that could delay the project by six months. [http://www.orangenews.com/ocn/news/local/localgovtpolitics/article/county\\_says\\_no\\_thanks/39158/](http://www.orangenews.com/ocn/news/local/localgovtpolitics/article/county_says_no_thanks/39158/)

## THE MONKENS

The NVC says a very fond adios (not farewell) to Vicki and George Monken, who have been such a wonderful part of our lives these past years. From Cactus Hill to Kittiewan (and yes, George found the Spanish reale!), they have been involved in some pretty wonderful archaeology in this state, as well as the Gault site in Texas. Their great humor, friendship, and willingness to chip in \$ during a beer:30 will be truly missed!



## **NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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## **Fairfax County Archaeologists (FCPA)**

**Chapter Sponsors** call 703-534-3881

Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>
Mike Johnson	<a href="mailto:michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov">michael.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>

## **Other Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.**

Mount Vernon	Esther White	<a href="mailto:ewhite@mountvernon.org">ewhite@mountvernon.org</a>
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	<a href="mailto:pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov">pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov</a> 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](http://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!!!!**

## **THE DATUM POINT**

Northern Virginia Chapter  
Archeological Society of Virginia  
2855 Annandale Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22042

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