



# THE DATUM POINT

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

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

November 2009

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – ANN WOOD

Welcome home, Gault-ers! Some two dozen Northern Virginia Chapter members and friends have been heading home after digging for all or part of the last half of October at the preeminent Gault Prehistoric Site in Texas under the leadership of Mike Johnson. We look forward to hearing much more about their adventure.

We plan to resume a more normal schedule of Tuesday labs and Saturday digging, weather permitting, at least for a short while, at Cardinal Glen. Look for Mike's announcements.

NVC Members ...A huge thank you from ASV President Patrick O'Neill and me for an absolutely outstanding performance in all respects in hosting the ASV Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg. You were everywhere, keeping the registration tables staffed, graciously welcoming delegates to our hospitality room, providing some delicious and even memorable cookies and snacks, and participating in meetings, field trips, classes and banquet.

To top it off, four of the nine certification graduates were from our ranks. Big congratulations to Jackie Cuyler, John Kelsey, Dick Long and Janet Martin for their work and commitment in becoming Certified Archaeological Technicians! If you have questions about getting there yourself, please ask these stellar graduates how they did it.

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## November 11, 2009 Speaker

**Richard Sacchi**

## **THE MINNICK HOUSE - ACQUIRED HOUSE IN THE PARK SYSTEM**

Richard Sacchi is a senior archaeologist for the Fairfax County Park Authority where he has worked for the last 20 years. Prior to that, he spent many years in contract archaeology and worked for American University, Maryland University and the Cultural Resources Section in North Carolina. He received an M.A. in Anthropology from American University in Washington, D.C.

## ALGONQUIAN/COLONIST INTERACTIONS IN THE 17TH CENTURY POTOMAC BASIN

Stephen Potter is speaking on Algonquian/colonist interactions in the Potomac Basin in the 17th century.

Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center, Nov. 18, 7:30. The Fairfax History Commission and the Northern Va. Chapter of the ASV are co-sponsoring it with the Friends.

FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY  
SCHEDULE

Mike Johnson

**Fairfax County History Conference (Sat. 11/7/09)** - The annual conference will be held at the James Lee Center this year. The County Archeology Program is one of the main attractions so we will be in the lab rather than in the field at Cardinal Glen. Since we will be hosting lab tours, volunteers are welcome in the lab on Saturday.

**Cardinal Glen (44FX3379)** - Due to the History Conference we will not be in the field on Saturday (11/7). We will try to finish up the excavation on Saturday (11/14). The schedule is to meet at the end of Rockwell Court at 9 am.

**Gault Field Trip** - The crew had a great time and helped the Gault staff get closer to their goal of opening up a large Paleoamerican surface at the bottom of their block. Much of our help was focused on getting through the thick Archaic cultural levels on top of the Paleo levels.

The block is approximately 6 meters (18-20 feet) square. Our crew and friends provided approx. 160 person days at about 8 hours each for almost 1300 hours. Considering the quality of the crew one would estimate the value of the time contributed to be about \$20,000. If it were a consulting firm that would equate to more than \$50,000. Crew pictures also are attached.

The crew completed numerous 10 centimeter levels in very hard, clayey soil. The soil difficulties were compounded by the large quantities of burned limestone and thousands of artifacts, some pictures of which are attached. When we arrived they had no features visible in the block. When we left they had 3 positive FCR lined features and two possible other FCR lined features. A picture of the first feature, which was discovered by Jackie Cuyler and Karen Schweikart, is

attached. Other pictures will follow as we get copies of pictures taken by the crew.

The Virginia crew was invited back. They did an outstanding job that is a great credit to Fairfax County Archeology and the ASV's Avocational Archeologist Certification Program.



Rock-lined hearth



Gault Crew, 1<sup>st</sup> week



Gault Crew, 2<sup>nd</sup> week



Etched chert tool



Paleo Point (getting close!)



Pedernales Point  
(pronounced Perdehnahez)



Chert awl

## **NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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

<b>Chapter Sponsors</b>	<b>call 703-534-3881</b>
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!!!!**

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

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