



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

January 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

I was elected during the December meeting to succeed Ann Wood as your chapter president. Following Ann is a pretty tall order, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude. In fact, she has agreed to continue to lead our certification program -- thanks, Ann! I'll do my best as new president, and, with your help, we'll have a great 2010. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for things that we should be doing differently or new things that will help to keep the chapter vital. My contact information is on the back of this issue of the Datum Point.

My top concern for the moment is to help protect the County archaeology office from further cuts, which would have a devastating effect on the volunteer program and county archaeology in general. Ann sent out information in December to each of us to help members write to their county supervisors. I have written to my supervisor, and sent copies to the Chairman and other members of the Board of Supervisors and the Park Authority; I hope many of you will do likewise. If you haven't received the information, please let me know and I'll make sure you

get it. I can't stress strongly enough how important it is for our community to let our feelings be known.

Despite this dark cloud, projects are bright for some exciting work in the spring and summer. While not all details have been settled, I hope that Liz and Mike will be able to give us at least a tentative projection at our January meeting.

To make our Treasurer happy (which we always want to do, or else he'll go over the financial report in excruciating detail), please remember to renew your membership for 2010 in both the chapter and the ASV.

See you in the field

JANUARY 13TH MEETING

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER IS HAVING A SHOW AND TELL THIS MONTH. BRING SOMETHING TO SHOW AND SHARE, AND BRING AN ARTIFACT YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT!



CLARK'S BRANCH BRIDGE

These photos, which were taken on December 17, 2009, are of Robin Rentsch of the Great Falls Trailblazers and her horse, Rennie, who were the first equestrians to cross the new bridge over Clarks Branch in Riverbend Park. Robin's husband, Sam, lays claim to being the first cyclist.



This bridge completes the section of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) between Great Falls National Park and Algonkian Regional

Park. The Park Authority is planning a formal ribbon cutting ceremony later in the spring, but I did not want to wait that long to acknowledge the quite astounding number of people who contributed their time and skill to the successful completion of this project.

Park Authority staff, volunteers, and consultants have been working towards this goal for over three years. Many others from outside organizations also made very significant contributions along the way. I would like to sincerely thank the many contributors who include:

Don Briggs, the Superintendent of the PHNST with the National Park Service, who provided the impetus for the whole process by entering into a cooperative agreement with the Park Authority to fund the initial hydrology and feasibility study. Later on he followed up with another agreement to fund the Phase II and III archaeology.

Robin Rentsch, Eleanor Weck and other members of the Great Falls Trailblazers who helped create the political will to fund the bridge design and construction and gave advice along the way on how to make the bridge horse-friendly.

Stephen Potter, National Park Service, and Ethel Eaton, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, who, along with Liz Crowell of the FCPA and Don Briggs, sprang into action to expedite the Memorandum of Agreement allowing the Phase III archaeology to commence at a critical point in the project schedule.

An enormous effort was mounted by Park Authority staff and volunteer archaeologists to conduct the field research needed to determine the best place for the bridge and then excavate the sensitive area for the bridge abutment before actual construction began. Their dedication and work ethic was essential to keeping the project on schedule. Liz Crowell, Mike Johnson, and John Rutherford all provided timely documents and advice. Paul Inashima headed up the field work with assistance from Mike Johnson, Nancy Anthony and Dana Linck and a host of volunteers including: Paul Antsen, Laura Brown, C.D. Cox, Jackie Cuyler, Ed Galvin, Becky Garbee, Susie Grealy, Mary Green,

Estelle Holley, Vicky Hudgens, Barbara Israel, Stephen Israel, John Kelsey, Sabrina Klein, Jane Long, Alex Long, Maressa Long, Richard Long, Ginger McGovern, Stephanie McGuire, Robert Norton, Chris Ramey, Dave Radloff, Justine Rothbart, Wil Santamaria, Heather Schinkel, Karen Schweikart, Diane Shug-O'Neill, Giselle Spahr, Bernadette Toner-Whitney, Jon Tucker, Pat Varley, Miranda von Reyn, Chris Washburn, Leigh Watlington, Gabriel Webb, Jessica Webb, Michael Webb, Ann Wood, and Willie Woodson.

Also, thanks to those who contributed in the lab: Nan Barrera, Bill Brickhill, Jackie Cuyler, Pat Fuller, John Kelsey, Richard Long, Jeremy Fion, George Monken, Virginia McGovern, Kevin Gushner, Joyce Pearsall, Maggie Johnson, Jim Reid, Evelyn Wells and Johanna Young.

The design firm of Bowman Consulting Group, including project manager, Matt Tauscher, and an engineering staff of Roy Waugh, Gregg Eberly, Jeff Rickard, James Irre, Jessica Fleming, and Stan Sheehan, who worked diligently to come up with solutions, resolve technical issues, obtain permits, and keep the project on schedule.

Brian Maguire and Lee Jewell of Contech who provided hours of valuable advice and assisted in the resolution of many technical issues throughout the design and bid phases of the project.

Jack Wilson of Westlind Construction who came up with the scheme that allowed us to move forward with a bridge solution.

Our contractor, Harbor Dredge and Dock, headed up by Paul Smith and project foreman Pat McLaughlin, and their tough and resourceful crew who took to heart their mandate to protect the trees and archaeological resources even as they were maneuvering large construction equipment into impossibly tight places.

The engineers at Wheeler Lumber, including Ron Dokken and Dan Robinson, who responded quickly to questions and issues, even if technically on vacation.

The staff at Riverbend Park, led by Marty Smith, and including John Callow, Jim Dewing, and Gary Eisner, who were extremely accommodating and offered many ideas and creative suggestions.

Wayne Brissey, Devon Treasure, Alan Crofford, and Jody Delsignore, of FCPA Park Operations, who attended numerous meetings and provided valuable advice for the duration of the project concerning feasibility and site access.

Butch Lowry, Lee Smither, and the rest of the FCPA Forestry crew, who were invaluable in preparing the access road for construction traffic and responded quickly when they were needed to trim dead tree branches.

Lastly, the project managers in FCPA Planning and Development including Kirk Holley, John Lehman, Tim Scott, Cecil Hardee, Rich Fruehauf, and Tom McFarland who were willing to drop what they were doing and discuss construction and contracting options.

Thank you again for your time, talent, and professional attitudes that made this project a pleasure to work on.

Very sincerely,

Liz

Liz Cronauer

Trail Program Manager

Fairfax County Park Authority - PDD

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Contact patrickloneill@verizon.net

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

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(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!!!!

THE DATUM POINT

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

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