



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

February 2015

Chapter meets at the James Lee Center, 2855 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, 2nd Weds. of each month

FROM PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

We're into February and already the Chapter and the ASV are gearing up. For those of you in the Certification Program, keep a sharp eye open for all the opportunities coming down the pike. You should be able to fulfill at least some of the requirements this year.

Carole Nash (ASV Pres.) and Bruce Baker (Kittiewan Mgr.) are the guiding hands of the Certification Program. They have been doing a great job gathering a wide range of opportunities throughout Virginia.

Our own Chapter liaison (Ann Wood) is trying to make sure our members know what's available as well as relay participant needs back to the state level. If you are interested in the program, contact Ann.

I would like to take this time to point out that we have upgraded our Chapter's website. It's the same address: <http://www.nvcasv.org/> it just has a new look. That look will continue to grow/change, as our officers collaborate and wordsmith our information to match the new look. I hope you will agree that the new look is an improvement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2015 is the 75th anniversary of the Archeological Society of Virginia ó the new anniversary logo has been created and approved. It will be featured on much of our Chapter information as well as the Annual Meeting brand. The Chapter Board has begun to discuss the various tasks associated with this year's meeting. **Cont'd page 2 Prez Column**

February 11th Meeting

So What if It's Not in Situ?: The Temple Mount Sifting Project in Jerusalem, Israel By Frank and Anatoly Policastro



Classical archaeologist Frank Policastro worked during the 1970s-1980s with the Israel Antiquities Authority and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Specializing in the Herodian era, he excavated many sites, particularly Jericho where he also lived in a goat-hair tent with the bedouin who were his helpers. Frank's mentor was Prof. Ehud Netzer, credited with discovering King Herod's Tomb. Now a pastor, Frank enjoys illustrating sermons with archaeological insights. He met his wife, Merry Beth, on an excavation in Israel in 1977. A current graduate student in Biblical Archaeology, she and their son, Anatoly, also hopes to graduate from the Certified Archaeological Program this year. **Cont'd page 2 Temple Mount**

Cont'd page 1 Prez Column

If you are interested in lending a hand, please let one of the officers know. Don't be surprised if one of us calls or emails you requesting that hand, as well.



Cont'd from page 1 Temple Mount

Eighteen-year-old Anatoly is a freshman at the University of Leicester in the UK, majoring in archaeology. He researched Civil War Crimean Ovens for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum when he was 15, read about the Certification program in their newsletter and began the course when he turned 16. He now works part-time at Biblical Archaeology Review magazine in Washington, DC. With three more teens at home, this family may one day be their own cultural resource management firm!

Policastro's talk discusses the problem with looting or destruction of archaeological sites, an on-going, worldwide issue. Israel has a unique program to deal with literally tons of debris from unauthorized digging at one of the focal points of three world religions: The Temple Mount.

Once home to Solomon's Temple and Herod's Temple, the site is holy to the Jewish people. Later, Crusader installations and a Byzantine church connected it to the Christian faith. Much later, it fell into Muslim hands and two mosques were built there on top of earlier remains.

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Now part of Israel, the Temple Mount has never been formally excavated in a systemic way. The Israelis have allowed unrestricted indigenous Muslim control over the area until the turn of the 21st century when massive underground building took place and antiquities were destroyed, disregarding the law calling for archaeological salvage excavations first. Dumped unceremoniously into the nearby Kidron Valley, an Israeli archaeology student glimpsed tremendous finds among the rubble of over 400 dump truck loads of earth removed.

Many years and court orders later, the once-student Zachi Dvira oversees, along with well-known Bar Ilan University archaeologist, Gabriel Barkay, the Temple Mount Sifting Project. Their team of students, professionals, and volunteers examine every bucketful of the original cast-off debris. The project is located on the nearby Mount of Olives in the Emek Tzurim National Park. Treating the finds as one would a surface survey, the pieces are still easily datable for the most part and hail from the 10th century BCE (Iron Age) onward. The dry- and wet-sifted artifacts include: mosaic tesserae, architectural pieces, clothing, rings, coins, animal bones, beads, game pieces, projectile points, and more. Finding Jewish, Christian and Muslim artifacts of great interest, the project welcomes volunteers of all backgrounds while giving hope to those aiming to live together in peace.

See slides, a short video and hear about outstanding discoveries from this father-son team who were privileged to be a part of the project.

Did you see it?!!!!!!

Go to the new

<http://www.nvcasv.org>



Thank you Diane!

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

Finishing 2014 and before the holidays, CART excavated test units along the Ridges on the eastern portion of the park. These areas overlook the Occoquan River and were surveyed by CART in 2012.

CART recovered a small Piscataway Point. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources dates this point type to the Early Woodland (1000 \pm 500 BCE). In Maryland, this point type is considered diagnostic to possess a longer period of use lasting from the Late Archaic (2500 \pm 1000 BCE). Excavations at Pig Point in Anne Arundel County, MD indicate an even earlier context, dating back to the Middle Archaic.



The new year bring CART back to the Cemetery Site, located in the middle of the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. This historic cemetery has one headstone from a woman who died in 1769. Located about 150 feet west of the cemetery, CART discovered a brick chimney base in 2011.

Current excavations will expose more of the chimney and other features associated with the structure as CART reveals the full size and shape. Artifacts recovered in the past few weeks date from the mid to late 1700s; material types range from tin glazed coarse earthenware to hand wrought rose head nails.



The lab finished cataloging the all of the big prehistoric site and can now compare all the artifacts found in those areas from the very beginning of the Colchester project in 2010. Currently, the lab volunteers and staff are working on several different areas of the park. As the work just outside the cemetery continues, artifacts such nails, glass, brick, and historic ceramics are washed, rebagged and put in archival boxes. Cataloging the lithic debitage and stone tools from the ridges prehistoric area has begun. It will be interesting to see the information once it is all in the database in order to compare the two different prehistoric areas and discover use areas.

If you would like to volunteer please email cart.volunteers@live.com, and check out our blog: cartarchaeology.wordpress.com for more information.

VDHR NEWS

Dear Colleagues: I want to share with you some important changes within the Division of Community Services. As you are well aware, regional office staffing has been reduced over the past several years due to a series of budget cuts. In acknowledgement that the three-person office

The Tidewater Regional Preservation Office has been closed since Pam Schenian's death in December. We are in the process of permanently closing this office. David Edwards is taking the lead on clearing out the space, determining what should come to Richmond and surplusng furniture. If you have a need for a bookshelf, file cabinet, etc., please let David know.

Julie V. Langan, Director/SHPO
VA Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
(804) 482-6087 direct office
(804) 385-6936 cell

Kittiewan Plantation Archeological Project



2015 Season Timber Tract Survey Registration form/Schedule

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: Home _____ Cell _____

EMAIL _____

ASV member: _____ Yes _____ No

Certification student: _____ Yes _____ No

Scheduled days: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25 (weather permitting) (Please circle those dates on which you plan to participate)

Hours: 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Directions: From Richmond and west: Take I-64 east to Route 155 exit (Providence Forge). Go south on Route 155 to Charles City (intersection of VA Route 5). Turn left on Route 5, go about 2 miles to Route 619 (four historical markers and an old school at this intersection). Turn right on Route 619 and follow to sign at Kittiewan entrance. Proceed down entry road approximately one mile to Visitors Center.

From Williamsburg and east: Take I-64 west to Route 155 exit. Proceed as above. OR Take Route 5 west from Williamsburg, turn left onto Route 619.

Tasks will include mainly shovel testing, laying out transects, using hand held compass and/or transit

What to bring: work gloves, trowels, lunch (refrigerator and microwave available), **insect repellent** (ticks and chiggers abound once warmer weather hits).

Please complete this form and return to Martha Williams.

Via email: mwilliams1onono@aol.com

Via snail mail: 113 Randolph Loop South, Hertford, NC 27944

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia

Mount Vernon	Eleanor Breen	ebreen@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Francine Bromberg	Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

[] Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____ Student (\$5) _____ Family (\$17) _____	New _____ Renewal _____
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Return to:
Isabella Martinez, Treasurer, NVC/ASV
8304 Graceway Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

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 Archeological Society of Virginia
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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