

# THE DATUM POINT

November 2015

Newsletter of the  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

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



## **FROM THE PRESIDENT** **DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL**

Congratulations! We hosted a very well received, well attended, anniversary annual meeting. Can I add any more to that? No. The 75th Anniversary Annual ASV Conference was attended by about 150 people! Many thanks go to many people, too many to list. A special note of thanks goes out to **Sallie Lyons** who pretty much *single handedly* set up and manned the Hospitality Suite, sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax Archeology (FOFA). Another note of *Thanks!* to the strong legs and back that lugged much of Sallie's items up to the Suite. Many, many thanks to all of you who manned our Registration Table.

Our Chapter also had three Certification Graduates! Philip Mulford, Anatoly Policastro, and Merry Beth Policastro. **CONGRATULATIONS!** Chapter Member, Megan Veness, won the Student Presentation Award. We look forward to seeing her article in a forthcoming *Quarterly Bulletin*.

I can't tell you how many compliments I received about a well run, very enjoyable conference. So, a hearty "*Thank You*" to our State Archaeologist, Michael Barber for setting up a fine slate of talks. Our Chapter was also able to send over \$500 down to the ASV treasury with the sales of the books in the Hospitality Suite. We also received a refund for the bus that never showed up. It was nice to see that many people were able to go to the Bristoe Battlefield tour via carpooling. **Cont'd on page 2**

**Join Chapter members at Anthony's  
Restaurant at 6 pm before the meeting!  
Located at 3000 Annandale Rd, Falls  
Church, VA 22042 - (703) 532-0100**

**NO CHAPTER MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BECAUSE OF VETERANS**  
**DAY!**

**CHAPTER MEETING HAS**  
**BEEN RESCHEDULED TO**  
**MONDAY NIGHT**  
**NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT**  
**730PM**



## **Smith Mountain Gap** **Archaeology**

**By Michael Johnson**

Mike Johnson will give a presentation on his ongoing project at Smith Mountain Gap.

## Cont'd from page 1

Now, on to the rest of our year.

The November meeting was to be on the 11th (Veteran's Day). I thought it would be a wonderful day that would allow everyone an easy commute to the meeting, since it would be a light traffic day with the Federal Holiday. However, even though Fairfax County Schools are in session, James Lee Community Center will be closed. So, I have arranged for our meeting to take place on **Monday, Nov 16th @ 7:30pm**. The meeting will take place in the Urbanites Room and our speaker, Mike Johnson (USN veteran), will even bring the latest and greatest update on the Smith Mountain Gap project, as he will have just returned from there on Sunday!

**Thank you, to all our Chapter members who have served in our armed forces.** We appreciate what you've done for us all.

December is our annual Holiday Party - please be prepared to hear about preparations. For new members, we always hold our annual elections just before digging into some awesome food and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share. We'll be in the Urbanites Room for the party.



Before the conference, NVC members gathered for an envelope stuffing party!



Name tags and envelope labels crew



Bridget and her classmate Lydia got service hours stuffing envelopes!



Gene, Isabel and Diane at the registration desk and the banner NVC donated to the ASV





Ginger and Diane at the registration desk



Nancy and Dick



Diane, Chris, and Phil



Ginger and Leigh



Don and John



Jack Hranicky, Dennis Stanford, and Mike Barber





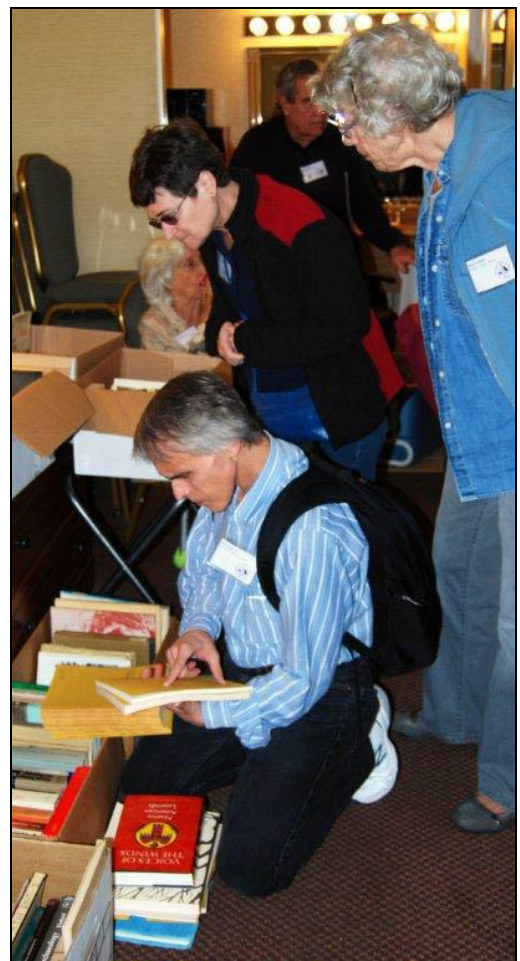
Graduate Anatoly Policastro and Dr. Carole Nash



Graduate Phil Mulford and Dr. Carole Nash



Graduate Merry Beth Policastro  
and Dr. Carole Nash



Looking at books in the FOFA Hospitality Suite:  
Chris Havlicek kneeling with Belinda Urquiza (left)  
and Maxine Grabill standing



Anatoly and Merry Beth were trying to see how many archaeologists they could get their photo with at the banquet. Here is one with Bridget! How many did they get?



The Kittiewan Committee received the ASV President's Award for 2015, including NVC member Patrick O'Neill



NVC table at the banquet



The presentations were packed



Another NVC table at the banquet





Patrick O'Neill (center) led a tour of the Bristow Station Battlefield and 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama Confederate Cemetery



Mike Johnson gave a flint knapping demonstration before a good size crowd!



## OLD COLCHESTER

### October Installment

By CART

The month of September has flown by! The team is hard at work preparing for the ASV Conference in Manassas on October 16-18, 2015. Chris, Megan, Shelia, and our summer intern Kellie will all be presenting on our recent findings at Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Hope to see you there!

Since we haven't been able to get out into the field at Colchester in a while, we have relatively little material coming into the lab for processing (except for waterscreen & floatation samples, we have LOTS of those). This means we have been able to shift our volunteer resources to work on older material from the collections.

Our collections team has been diligently working to organize and rehabilitate our curated collection in preparation for accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). Some of our volunteers are currently washing and rebagging some of those older materials to bring them up to current collections standards.

Thanks to the archaeology department at Mount Vernon for the use of their float machine to process our soil samples. When the material gets back to our lab, we separate the artifacts from the heavy screen flotation into two different sizes, larger than quarter-inch and smaller than quarter-inch. It is always surprising how many small artifacts that we find that tell us something about the function, socioeconomics, or the time period of sites.

Volunteers are an integral part of the team here at Fairfax County CRMPB. Each month we host a new volunteer orientation so interested members of the public can learn what we're all about and get involved. Our next orientation is scheduled for Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-2. As always, keep checking our volunteer [website](#) as we add new dates on a regular basis.



In September, Samantha Woodstock a student at George Mason University joined the CART team as a laboratory intern. Sam is studying Anthropology, Business and Archaeology and is interested in European archaeology. She has previous experience working with Smithsonian archives and doing archaeology at Rome's Coliseum (talk about exciting)! Sam will be learning about archaeology here in Virginia by completing a laboratory analysis project. We have selected two waterscreen samples for her to pick through and write-up a comparative analysis. Sam will be with us through December so stay tuned for updates on what she has learned.

## **OLD COLCHESTER**

### **November Installment**

By CART

What a busy month of October for CART! We continued work on Old Colchester Park and Preserve (OCP) at Site 44FX0704 to expose more of the brick foundation. Archaeologists have exposed the probable eastern wall of the structure. The bricks seem to end at the northeast corner of the structure, as the eastern wall looks to consist of only a robbed out trench with only a few brick fragments. With the warmer fall days of October, CART continued the waterscreen processing of dirt to get the samples ready for picking during the winter. Backfilling of the site, to preserve the fragile handmade brick is almost complete.

Three CART members presented at the ASV conference in Manassas, during the *Fairfax County Archaeology* session. Chris's overview of the excavations at the park and the following papers of artifact analysis by Megan and Sheila informed the audience of the range of artifacts recovered at Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Summer intern Kellie presented the results of her analysis during a session about many of the historic sites and structures in Virginia. Many thanks to the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASV and to the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA) for hosting a great conference and hospitality room. We all enjoyed the snacks throughout the three days of the conference.

Archaeologists Eleanor B. and Luke P. from George Washington's Mount Vernon visited OCP to see the large brick foundation for themselves. They too were intrigued by the odd shape of the brickwork, the size and the array of artifacts recovered. An early church and then a domestic dwelling? A small business for Colchester and Alexandria? These questions still remain. Hopefully with artifact analysis during the winter months, CART will have more answers to the function, size and time period of the large brick foundation.

As work wraps up in the field for the season CART staff and volunteers are busy in the lab working to process the backlog of materials that have come in

over the past few months. Did you know it can take 3 hours of lab work for every hour spent digging in the field? That adds up to a lot of lab time. Cataloging of the dry screened samples has largely kept pace with excavations thanks to our fabulous volunteers who have carefully washed and cleaned each artifact to facilitate identification. Processing of waterscreen window screen samples and flotation samples is progressing at a slower pace. These samples require considerable time spent picking through the small rocks to find tiny bits of ceramics, glass, bone, beads, straight pins, and lead shot. We trained a few new volunteers this month who have a keen eye and a love for small details, so we're looking forward to an exciting and productive winter!





## 2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

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<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:ebreen@mountvernon.org">ebreen@mountvernon.org</a>
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
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<b>Chapmans Mill</b>	Francis Allshouse	<a href="mailto:chapmanmill@gmail.com">chapmanmill@gmail.com</a> 540-253-5888
<b>DC City Archaeologist</b>	Dr. Ruth Tricoli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov">Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov</a> 202-442-8836

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual (\$15)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student (\$5)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family (\$17)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**

**Isabella Tonkavitch, Treasurer, NVC/ASV**

**8304 Graceway Drive**

**Lorton, VA 22079**

**Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at [asv-archeology.org](http://asv-archeology.org)**

**The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**