



# THE DATUM POINT

September 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**

I look forward to finally hearing Becca Siegal's presentation about the Alexandria Slaughterhouse. I enjoyed the presentation at the ASV Annual Meeting in 2013. I scheduled Becca to speak to our Chapter in 2014; however, the weather did *not* cooperate. We had to cancel the meeting at the last minute (love NoVa's weather and its traffic). It's an interesting site; I think you'll enjoy the story.

We had our most successful Chapter Picnic in over two decades! We must have had at least 40 members, several extended family, and guests. **Thank you, Eric Cox** (extended family), for opening your farm to us, once again. I trust he is enjoying our "We've Shared a Lot of Dirt!" ASV shirt that we gave him as a "thank you" gift. You'll find pictures at our web page and flickr site.

I'd like you to get a good visual of our Chapter Officers, so we took a picture of us in front of the Best Western (10820 Balls Ford Rd, Manassas VA) (see next page). Sallie Lyons, President of FOFA, also joined us. FOFA (Friends of Fairfax Archeology) will be assisting us with the Hospitality Suite at the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or time to help, please reach out to any of us. Our contacts are at the end of the newsletter, as usual. For those of you who have already offered to help or you who have already stepped up and helped **ó Thank You!**

**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**

**September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**7:30 PM James Lee Center**

## **A Late Nineteenth Century Slaughterhouse in Old Town Alexandria**

**By Becca Siegal**

Staff and volunteers at Alexandria Archaeology, in collaboration with URS Corporation archaeologists, recently completed excavations of a possible slaughterhouse in operation from the 1870s to 1890s. During excavations, a well/sump, several post holes/molds, and industrial metal artifacts were uncovered.

Becca Siegal has participated in several archaeological excavations in Virginia and Maryland over the last few years. She is currently an intern at Alexandria Archaeology. She was named Volunteer of the Year. She has helped excavate at several sites in Alexandria, including the slaughterhouse site.

This past summer she helped out with Alexandria Archaeology's summer camp at Fort Ward. This fall GWU and Alexandria Archaeology held a field school, and Becca assisted supervising the field and lab work during the semester. She is also the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) Membership Chair.





## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OFFICERS!**

## **2015 NVC PICNIC**





## OLD COLCHESTER

### BY CART

In August two archaeology youth ***Dig it*** camps joined CART in the field and lab, and had a grand time learning archaeological techniques and information about various artifacts. This is our third year working with camps from Huntley Meadows and Riverbend Parks. Discovering 200 year old artifacts and discussing the importance of context of the artifacts will make new young stewards of history.

The campers spent a day working with CART staff in the field helping to excavate the Colchester site. The following day the campers visited James Lee Community Center where they learned more about laboratory procedures and got to try their hand at analysis of an archaeological site.



Seven staff members of the Cultural Resource Management Protection Branch are preparing graphics and papers for the upcoming ASV conference. These papers range from archaeological work conducted at Old Colchester Park and Preserve to collections management at the James Lee Center.

Attending and presenting at conferences is an integral part of the work we do. It allows us to share our research with other scholars in the field as well as learn more about current projects being conducted by our colleagues at other sites.



Wet, window screen, waterscreen processing continues in the lab. More small glass beads and copper straight pins are being discovered along with tiny fragments of glass and ceramics. One interesting artifact of note recovered in the window screen was a small metal brooch which had three cut glass ðstonesö in the setting.



Starting in the end of August, CART will be using the float machine at the archaeology department at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Many samples of soil were taken across all of Old Colchester Park and Preserve from excavated strata. These samples will be analyzed for charred wood fragments and microscopic seeds by our specialist in paleoethnobotany.

With the information from the float results, CART can understand any burnt seeds from cooking or other plant remains which were grown in the area during the eighteenth century as well as evidence of trees which would have provided the raw materials for buildings.

Our 2015 Summer Intern Kellie W. has spent her time with CART completing a cross unit examination of artifacts. Throughout her project she learned valuable skills that encompass a range of archaeological processes required for professional work- everything from field excavation to cataloging artifacts in the lab.

The skills she acquired allowed her to complete a formal analysis of three different locations on our current excavation site in the Colchester Park and Preserve, and to better understand archaeology as a process in its entirety. Kellie will continue her education at George Mason University as she completes her Senior year, as she is scheduled to graduate with a B.A. in Anthropology in May.

Please check out our blog for information about volunteer opportunities, and about other happenings around Fairfax County

at

[cartarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com)

## **PROTECTING OUR PAST IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

By Christopher Sperling, FCPA

My tasks as an archaeologist at the Fairfax County Park Authority require that I regularly scour archaeological site forms from across the county. One thing that has struck me is the sheer number of sites registered by NVC members. From what I have observed, during the county's boom years when housing developments sprouted seemingly overnight, members gained access to construction sites and examined push piles and bulldozer tracks for evidence of past human activity.

Countless sites were recorded in this fashion. Although the context of the finds was highly disturbed, the site conditions did not allow for systematic examination and recovery, we nonetheless gained valuable data that would otherwise have been lost. It is a tribute to these efforts, and to those of my predecessor Dr. Michael Johnson, that Fairfax County boasts more registered archaeological sites than any other county in the Commonwealth.



However, focusing on the recovery of the artifact rather than retaining context can have negative effects. In the past, undeveloped lands and the archaeological sites they contained disappeared at an alarming rate often with few preservation requirements. A salvage approach was necessary and appropriate for the future to have any understanding of the past.

Those days, for the most part, are gone. The present economic realities and the relative shortage of undeveloped land in the county combine to greatly diminish the amount of new ground disturbance. Federal, state, and/or local preservation laws and ordinances have been enacted or strengthened, allowing for professional archaeological investigation and review prior to disturbance.

Furthermore, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the largest individual land owner in the county, places "Enhancing Stewardship" at the top of its list of values and codifies this in policy. The county as a whole recognizes the importance of preserving sites of historic significance.

The Park Authority understands its responsibility for the preservation and interpretation of cultural resources for the benefit of current and future residents. For that reason, archaeological sites on park land are protected and any removal of artifacts prohibited, even if done for what is thought to be the right reasons.

When anyone notices artifacts in our parks, we encourage them to take note of where the artifacts are located and if possible take pictures, especially if there seems to be a threat to the resource. Then we ask patrons to notify park staff and/or the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch (CRMPB). With this information, CRMPB with NVC assistance can visit the site, assess any threats, record the site with the state, and determine if any action is required to manage and preserve it.

This process is intended to provide information about the resources at the parks and to ensure that methods are used to minimize impacts to the site as a whole while retaining whatever context remains. The goal is to not only recover objects of antiquity, but to better understand the culture of the persons

and societies that produced them. When artifacts are interpreted in association to others found in the same context, we can get a more complete picture of what life was like in the past.

The CRMPB has long enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship with the NVC. The cadre of trained and motivated volunteers bolsters, often outnumbers, CRMPB staff. Nearly every project has been accomplished either in part or nearly entirely with volunteered time. There is little doubt that this will continue. Members of CRMPB and the NVC share an appreciation of the past and can work together to ensure the preservation of those resources we all cherish.

## **YARROW MAMOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

By Ruth Tricoli, DC Archaeologist

We'll be working tomorrow & Saturday if you'd like to volunteer or just come see what's going on. There's plenty of dirt to move and we welcome experienced excavators and screeners. We appreciate your help and support!

**3324 Dent Pl, NW**, 10am-3pm on Friday, 9-3 on Saturday. Fence talks are at 10:15am and 1:45pm.

Wear sturdy shoes if you plan to help, and bring sunscreen, a water bottle, and a hat. Parking is first come, first served, so be prepared to walk a few blocks if you drive.

The latest media article on the project:

<http://www.currentnewspapers.com/admin/uploads/GT%2009-02-15.pdf>

To register and pay online, go to <http://www.nvcasv.org/2015asv.html>

## 2015 Annual ASV Meeting

October 16-18

Best Western Battlefield Inn, 10820  
Balls Ford Road, Manassas, VA 20109



Phone: To get \$85/night use the code: **ASV75**  
703-361-8000 The hotel has non-smoking, smoking, and pet friendly  
800-780-7234 rooms.

Conference Attendee – Standard	\$35.00/ea.	Enter number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banquet Attendee	\$35.00/ea.	Enter number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Attendee – must present valid ID	\$25.00/ea.	Enter number:	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Register by September 15<sup>th</sup> to receive a  
free gift when you get to the conference!**

Name (as it will appear on badge)

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Chapter Affiliation

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School Name

---

Guest Name Attending Banquet ☐

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**Mail to the ASV**

**Treasurer:**

Carl Fischer

1685 Sweet Hall Rd.

West Point, VA 23181

**Make Check Payable to:**

Archeological Society of  
Virginia

Contact:

flyfischn@aol.com

Attending Conference ☐

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
enclosed with form

The ASV is offering a special shirt order timed to the 2015 Annual Meeting! **Please submit orders by September 9<sup>th</sup>!**



## ASV Long Sleeve Denim Shirts PreORDER

**\$30 each**

ASV Logo Embroidered on the left pocket paid for and picked up at the ASV Annual Meeting in October

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	QUANTITY	DARK or LIGHT	Men's or Women's	SIZE M: XS- 6XL W: XS- 4XL	Will you be at the meeting? Y or N



Your order will be emailed to be tallied and ordered. A printout will be at the October Meeting. You will be able to pick up your order then and there.

Cindy Schroer (Massanutten Chapter) is organizing this. She'll either have your order at the meeting or will get it to you. **Money will be collected at the meeting in Manassas.**

Please send email request to PreOrder to Diane Schug-O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter): [schugoneill@gmail.com](mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com). Simply listing the information above in an email is fine. You will receive an email acknowledging your order.

If you fill this paper out, please mail it to:  
**Diane Schug-O'Neill, 9902 Rand Dr., Burke VA 22015**  
 Or email to [schugoneill@gmail.com](mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com)

**The Friends of Historic Huntley Invite You to the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Special Event  
Saturday, October 3, 2015  
1-4 p.m.**



**Historic Huntley c. 1825 ♦ 6918 Harrison Lane ♦ Alexandria**

**Presentation and Tour by Debbie Robison, Preservation Consultant**

*Huntley Farm: How contemporary trends influenced the cultural landscape*

Including new information on the tenant house, Huntley's double ditches  
and the influence of pattern books on villa design

**House and Grounds will remain open until 4 p.m.**

**Suggested Donation \$5**

**Historic Huntley is a Fairfax County Park Authority Facility**

**For more information: 703-768-2525 ♦ [www.historichuntley.org](http://www.historichuntley.org)**





**See historic Fairfax  
County court  
documents!**

**Showroom open  
10 am to 3 pm**

**ON DISPLAY:**

- Original pages from George and Martha Washington's Wills
- Documents related to the return of both original Wills

**Free and fun  
for all ages!**

**Archivists'  
Presentation in  
Historic Courtroom,  
1-2 pm**

**OCTOBER 10, 2015**

**"The Return of Martha Washington's  
Will: A Centennial Celebration"**

**1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Fairfax Historic Courthouse**

October 2015 marks the *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of the return of Martha Washington's Will to the Fairfax Circuit Court, after its removal from the courthouse during the Civil War!

As part of the City of Fairfax Fall Festival, the Clerk of Court, John T. Frey, cordially invites you to attend a special presentation, held in the Historic Courthouse, featuring Fairfax Circuit Court Archivists Katrina Krempasky and Heather Bollinger. The Archivists will share the exciting (and somewhat unbelievable) history of the removal of the Will, its travels, and how, with the help of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax reacquired this important court document in October 1915.

**FAIRFAX HISTORIC  
COURTHOUSE**

4000 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030

**Historic courthouse  
showroom and building  
open 10 am to 3 pm!**

## 2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Diane Schug-O'Neill	<a href="mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com">schugoneill@gmail.com</a> 703-249-9593
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<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@verizon.net">annpwood@verizon.net</a>

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

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<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
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Francine Bromberg	<a href="mailto:Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov">Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<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.Trocolli@dc.gov">Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov</a> 202-442-8836

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**Return to:**

**Isabella Martinez, 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!!!!**