



# THE DATUM POINT

July-August 2016

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**

Happy [*hot*] summer, everyone! Since we took a hiatus over July, we're combining the July & August newsletters. July has made our summer even hotter than most of us expected, I'm sure. I'm happy to report that people have been able to get out and about, nonetheless.

CART is up and running at Old Colchester Park and Preserve; you can sign up for an orientation at this TinyURL: <http://tinyurl.com/h7g6xzj>. Patrick O'Neill has information about an opportunity in Arlington. Mike Johnson has struck up his two projects: Chapman's Mill and Smith Mountain Gap.

I've procured our memorial canopy to honor Jack Hiller and CK Gailey. We used it at the Ball Sellers House dig and will be using it at the Picnic at Gunston Hall, as well. It opened up nicely and quickly and returned to the holder just as easily.

**August Meeting Saturday**  
**(NOT WEDNESDAY)**  
**August 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in**  
**James Lee Center Classroom**



## **PIG POINT SITE -18AN50** **DR. AL LUCKENBACH**

Up to seven feet of stratified cultural deposits have been found at Pig Point, going back 10,000 years. The site has also been an important ritual center, especially during the Delmarva Adena circa 300BC to AD325. To learn more about the site go to their blog: <http://losttownsproject.blogspot.com/>.

Dr. Al Luckenbach was the County Archaeologist for Anne Arundel County, Md for 28 years. As part of the Department of Planning and Zoning, his main responsibilities involved the review of proposed development in order to protect and study the county's archaeological and architectural resources.



CK Gailey and Jack Hiller Memorial Canopy

He has published on a wide range of research interests, including such diverse topics as prehistoric soapstone bowls, Aztec languages, ancient Greek coins, and the uniforms of the Republic of Texas.

As director of the county's *Lost Towns Project*, Luckenbach conducted research and excavations at three seventeenth-century towns ó Providence (1649), Herrington (ca 1650), and London Town (1683). He has produced numerous publications as a result of this work, mostly centering on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics and architectural forms discovered at these settlements.

In the last few years the *Lost Towns Project* has turned its attention to the excavation of the prehistoric Pig Point Site ó a deeply stratified site spanning over 10,000 years of human occupation. Among other discoveries, this site has produced evidence of the earliest known structures in Maryland, and nearly a millennia of ritual mortuary activity associated with the Delmarva Adena.

Dr. Luckenbach received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology/archaeology from the University of Kentucky. He has taught at the University of Kentucky and the University of Texas at Dallas.

#### **VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY – NEW RESEARCH FEES, AS OF AUGUST 15, 2016**

VHS members will continue to use the library free of charge. Researchers who are not members have the option of becoming members at the academic level (\$50), previously reserved for students and teachers.

- Nonmembers may use the library for \$20 per day
- Nonmember students (with a valid student ID) may use the library for \$10 per day
- Nonmembers who do not request materials or use the library materials are welcome to study in the library for no charge

#### **ARCHEOLOGY DAY AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (ASV NVC) (50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY) PICNIC**



Gunston Hall in conjunction with the Archeological Society of Virginia, Northern Virginia Chapter will host Archeology Day and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic of the Archeological Society of Virginia, Northern Virginia Chapter on the grounds at Gunston Hall on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

The Archeology Day events will include demonstrations to the public on digging for artifacts, mending pottery, flint knapping by Mike Johnson, display of copies of ancient artifacts, and displays from local organizations of their role in archeology. The Archeology Day events will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the picnic starting at 4:30 p.m. Contact Isabel Tonkavitch by September 14<sup>th</sup> at [itonkavitch@gmail.com](mailto:itonkavitch@gmail.com) if you are interested in:

1. Volunteering for events associated with Archeology Day.
2. Volunteering to assist with the picnic (i.e., set up or clean up).

3. Attending the picnic. (A headcount for the picnic is needed to determine how much food to order. **ASV NVC will provide bar-b-que from Red, Hot and Blue** as well as beverages. You are welcome to bring additional items pot luck style (like side dishes or dessert). Tables and chairs will be provided by Gunston Hall). No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the grounds of Gunston Hall.

All volunteers for the Archeology Day and the picnic as well as participants at the picnic are invited for a free tour at Gunston Hall the same day. Details regarding the tour will be provided at a later time. **Please consider volunteering to make this a very successful event!**

### **OLD COLCHESTER**

By CART

July has been a busy month for the Colchester (or County) Archaeology Research Team, although as with last month most of our work has not actually been at the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. It has been very hot and humid the past few weeks and we are in desperate need of some rain, but the intrepid CART team is still hard at work both in the field and the lab.

Our biggest project at the moment involves surveying a park in the western portion of the county looking for any potential archaeological sites ahead of planned development. Over the past two months CART has dug hundreds of shovel test pits across the site and recovered artifacts ranging from prehistoric lithic debitage to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century materials. All of those samples are now in the lab and swiftly moving through cleaning, identifications, and recordation processes.

As we wrap up Phase I of this project the data recovered will be mapped using GIS which allows us to locate clusters of artifacts for further

investigation. As we move into August, CART will be opening up test units to further define and better understand those areas which represent sites from the past.

CART has also been working on a smaller project at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (ECLP). The park is updating trails to comply with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) regulations. Earlier this spring CART dug shovel test pits across the area which will be impacted by the development. Now, as the work progresses CART is on site monitoring the construction.

We are particularly interested in identifying any features that will be disturbed. Early on in the project we did identify one feature, defined by very dark silty soil, unlike the natural soil in the area which indicated that it had been modified by human presence. Construction ceased in that area until we could excavate a couple of test units to better define the size and function of the stain. Work has since progressed on the ADA trails and we have recovered some 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, but no other features have been found.





Image: An assortment of the artifacts recovered from the excavations at ECLP.

Work in the lab is busy as usual. We have a number of different projects in various stages of processing by both staff and volunteers. Nearly every day we have volunteers who diligently wash the newest samples coming in from the field. This quick turnaround allows staff to move quickly to catalog the artifacts into our database where the information can assist us with decisions in the field such as which areas will require further testing.

The past few seasons of work at Colchester have yielded a tremendous amount of artifacts and information. We are still wrapping up work on these samples; some picking of waterscreened window-mesh samples is ongoing, while labeling is in full swing for artifacts from the Roysdon property at the town of Colchester. Other volunteers are helping to create archival tags for our samples and ensure that everything is in order before they move from the lab over to our collections team for final curation. One final project moving through the lab is the cleaning of previously unprocessed collections that were curated many years ago.

As part of our bid for accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) we have to go through our entire collection and ensure that it is up to current curation standards. We found that some of our artifacts were in need of a little TLC and our volunteers are in the process of cleaning and rehousing these collections.

July has been a big month for outreach activities. Summer is always a busy time and there are a number of programs and camps throughout the country and the region that focus on archaeology. First, Erica DøElia and Chris Sperling worked with educators from Hidden Oaks Nature Center to present an archaeology program and simulated dig to a group of Boy Scouts earning their merit badge in archaeology. The scouts participated in a stratigraphic dig where they uncovered artifacts, recorded their finds, and analyzed their units level by level to interpret the history of the site much like professional archaeologists do.



Image: Erica works with Boy Scouts at Hidden Oaks Nature Center

July 16<sup>th</sup> was DC Day of Archaeology. Erica D. and Alisa Pettitt attended a family-oriented event at Dumbarton House which saw archaeologists from all over the region presenting their work and activities for kids. Fairfax County archaeology camps also take place in July and August. As part of the program the campers visit our lab at the James Lee Community Center for a day of archaeology activities in various hands-on analytic methodologies such as cataloging, mapping, and animal bone identification.

CARTø Lab Director, Elizabeth Paynter, was honored this month by the county with an Outstanding Performance Award. These awards are given to recognize employees whose work goes above and beyond expectations. Elizabethø expertise in database management led her to overhaul and streamline the county cataloging database. This invaluable project standardizes collections records management and will allow present and future researchers to access information. CART and Fairfax County will greatly benefit from this accomplishment. Congratulations Elizabeth!!

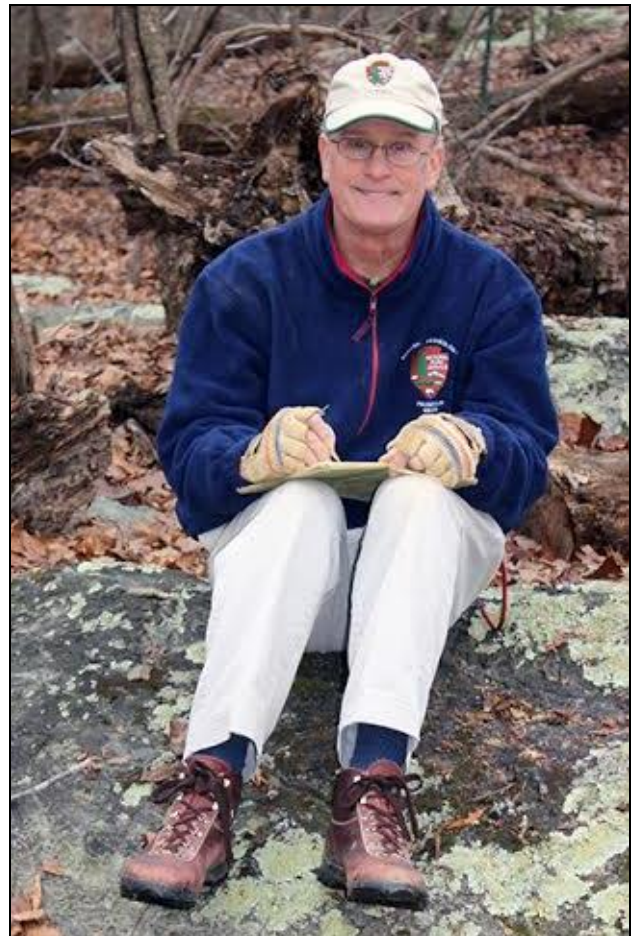
CART has a new acronym to share. We are now part of the Archaeology and Collections Branch (ACB) of the Fairfax County Park Authority. The old CRMPB is no more. We think this one is a lot easier to remember. Our friends in historic preservation now have their own branch, but we

will continue to work closely on projects to ensure protection of our cultural, archaeological, and architectural resources throughout Fairfax County on Fairfax County Park Land.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ARCHEOLOGIST,**  
**DR. STEPHEN POTTER, RETIRES**

Dr. Potter has been a most welcome friend to this Chapter and is known simply as Stephen, to many of us. We heartily wish him a wonderful retirement and hope to see Stephen at future gatherings. Along with our perpetual admiration, Dr. Potter received a *Dedication Arrowhead* from the Office of Ranger Services. The office commemorated Potter for his past 30+ years service in the National Capital Region, providing unwavering support and assistance to the rangers in the region who investigate cultural resource crimes.

Based on these recent photos, Stephen has been lucky enough to labor with love. One would never suspect he served in the Government for 36 years.





Stephen was also honored at the 49<sup>th</sup> **Society for Historical Archaeology** conference with a symposium: *Potomac Past: Papers Honoring the Career of NPS Archeologist Dr. Stephen R. Potter*.

National Park Service, Office of Learning and Development gave Dr. Potter **The John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archeology** for expanding scientific knowledge in the region's 88,000+ acres, advocating for urban archeology, and for improving interpretation of archeological resources.

Dr. Stephen Potter has truly been a great example of our tax dollars at work! *We thank you for your dedication and taking so much time to share your knowledge with us the many Chapter meetings.* We look forward to hearing about projects of you choose to work on in the future. Congratulations on this next phase of life!

### **THE LEFT-ARM CORPS**

Submitted by Diane Schug-O'Neill

During the Civil War, Bourne served as a chaplain at Central Park Hospital, a military hospital in New York City where he collected three autograph books of reminiscences by patients. As a hospital chaplain during the Civil War, William Oland Bourne collected the names of the wounded soldiers he tended and, in doing so, noticed a terrible trend:

Many soldiers used their left hands to sign his autograph book because their right arms were missing. How, Bourne wondered, could these grievously wounded men adapt to the amputation of their arms, to postwar life, to new jobs and how could he help?

Bourne had an idea: a left-handed penmanship contest for previously righthanded veterans who suffered the loss of their right arms in combat as a small way to demonstrate self-reliance, adaptability and the skills necessary to find postwar employment.

More than 60 years after the war, the entries in the two contests staged by Bourne found their way to Datum Point

the Library of Congress and, last month, were placed online as a collection of some 1,500 items that includes photographs, pamphlets and nearly all the contest submissions.

The Wm. Oland Bourne Papers, donated to the Library in 1931 by prominent New York bookseller Gabriel Wells, are now available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000043>.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

### **BALL SELLERS HOUSE** **ARLINGTON COUNTY**

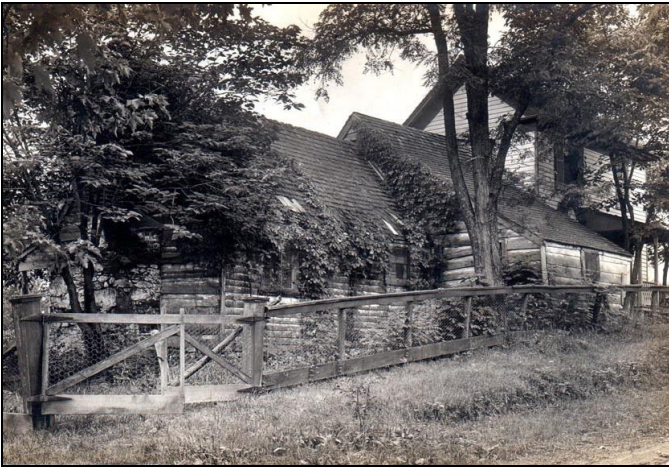
Patrick O'Neill will be conducting archaeological investigations at the Ball-Sellers House in Arlington County, Virginia, beginning Saturday August 6, 2016 (5620 Third Street South, Arlington VA). The investigations will be conducted each Saturday and Sunday through August, from 8-4pm Saturdays and 9-4pm on Sundays.

**However, we will stop around 230pm this Saturday to attend Al Luckenbach talk on Pig Point!!!!**

Depending on the results from the August excavations, the project may continue through September, but not during Labor Day Weekend.

The Ball Sellers House contains a 1742-era log cabin, considered to be the oldest structure in Arlington County (but originally was part of Fairfax County). An 1880s addition was built on the west side of the log cabin (see first photo).

A much earlier addition was added to the east side the closest portion to the left. This eastern addition was razed sometime in the early 1900s, maybe as late as 1920 (see second photo).



Patrick O'Neill is the Principal Investigator, providing *pro-bono* work, analysis, and write-up. He encourages all ASV members, especially the Northern Virginia Chapter to come and participate.

Please contact him at [patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net) if you would like to come! He can also be reached at 703-244-6275 (leave a message!). Ball Sellers House is located at 5620 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South, Arlington, Virginia, in the Glen Carlyn area.

See you there!

Patrick O'Neill



The Ball Sellers House is proposing a storm drainage system to prevent erosion in the part of the site where the missing addition was located (see third photo). The archaeological investigations will center on finding the edges/remnants of the missing addition foundation and chimney (if they still exist). Based on these results, the storm drain system will be placed outside the east edge of the missing addition footprint.

## 2016 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Diane Schug-O'Neill	<a href="mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com">schugoneill@gmail.com</a> 703-249-9593
<b>Vice-President</b>	Chris Havlicek	<a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Isabella Tonkavitch	<a href="mailto:itonk@cox.net">itonk@cox.net</a>
<b>Corresponding Sec.</b>	John Kelsey	<a href="mailto:jkelsey@cox.net">jkelsey@cox.net</a>
<b>Recording Sec.</b>	Nancy Ehlke	<a href="mailto:rce2@cox.net">rce2@cox.net</a> 703-978-6724
<b>Datum Point Editor</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net">patrickloneill@verizon.net</a> 703-249-9593
<b>Webmaster</b>	Diane Schug-O'Neill	<a href="mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com">schugoneill@gmail.com</a>
<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. Luke Pecoraro	703.799.6831
<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 Trocolli	<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 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!!!!**