

THE DATUM POINT

March 2016

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



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

It is with heavy heart that we say good bye to two of our dear colleagues: Jack Hiller and CK Gailey. I was privileged to dig with both. I knew both of these fine fellows for over 20 years. They had a lot in common. Both men were diligent researchers; both loved and cherished local history; both took the time to share the results of their research with others; both were devoted family men. The contributions to our Chapter, our County, and our history will be appreciated for many years to come. Please read on to see special notes about both Jack and CK ó my thanks to Martha Williams and Patrick O'Neill for the notes.

Perhaps we can discuss a fitting tribute for both of these members during the business portion of our meeting. This month's meeting will feature a presentation by our very own Merry Beth Policastro. I'm very curious about linking Assyria's propaganda, intrigue, and terrorism with today's ISIS in the very same region. April won't be a standard meeting ó we'll be touring Menokin in Warsaw, VA. I'm sure I am in the majority, when I say I'm looking forward to the warmer weather coming and hoping to find some good activities, outside! *See you Wednesday*

**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**

WARFARE, TERRORISM AND PROPAGANDA IN ANCIENT NEO- ASSYRIA: COMPARING ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS

By Merry Beth Policastro

**Weds. March 9th The Urbanites Rm
James Lee Center 7:30PM**



Presenting our March lecture, Merry Beth Policastro holds a BA in History, BA Honours in Biblical Archaeology, and is currently embarking on a Master's program in Biblical Archaeology. She met her Classical Archaeologist husband-to-be when the two worked together in Israel. Their eldest son, Anatoly, is pursuing a BA in Archaeology; he and Merry Beth are 2015 Certification graduates, as well, after years of traveling the world together. Let's just say that their family's dinnertime conversations must be interesting .

What was the nature of warfare in ancient Neo-Assyria, could the written and archaeological records be considered trustworthy, and what role did terrorism and propaganda play? This month,

the ASV examines archaeological remains and iconography excavated in the Levant, comparing them with written annals of the time and how each informs us regarding the reliability of the others. Were the horrific atrocities portrayed in palace wall reliefs real, or part of royal propaganda efforts? Is there any correlation between the terrorism of long ago and the current operations of groups such as ISIS in the exact, same region today? The methodology stems from a combined archaeological, historical and cultural anthropological approach.

CK Gailey **1942-2016**

By Patrick O'Neill

It is so hard to say goodbye to a dear friend like CK. I find myself wanting to cry, but holding it in, as he would not want the fuss. Jane has asked me to say a few words about CK at his Memorial Mass, only three minutes (OMG!). The chapter filled out an a nomination for CK for the Avocational of the Year Award a few years back. While he was not selected, it was not for lack of a vita in archaeology! I will present the nomination form in its rawness without edits.

Charles K. (C K) Gailey is a tireless worker on behalf of archaeology and history in Fairfax County and beyond. As an unpaid volunteer, he puts in more hours than many of the professional staff, and normally works five or six days a week. He has recently surpassed 11,000 volunteer hours dedicated to the County Archaeology Office, not to mention his other independent research initiatives around Northern Virginia over the years. He is the "go to" person for many aspects of archaeology in the County. Without his selfless dedication, many aspects of the Office's work would remain undone or would not be done as expediently.

Mr. Gailey has been the liaison between the Fairfax County Archaeology Office and the VDHR's computerized DSS site for well more than ten years. In this capacity, he manages the County's 3,600+ site file, and assists County volunteers and professionals in registering new sites and upgrading

site information in the state-wide system. In the past several years, he has been systematically updating the County's DSS files- a monumental task. In particular, he updated Paleoindian site files, including information on Phase II and Phase III work that had not been updated in DSS. That is a massive and extremely valuable effort. Although under the old VDHR guidelines archaeologists were not required to update DSS after completing Phase II and Phase III investigation, the inclusion of 30 years backlog represents a significant contribution to our knowledge of Fairfax County sites. CK also assists the Certification program in this area by teaching the DSS system to Certification candidates and supporting them in submitting their required site survey reports. He ensures that information in the site files on County sites is correct and consistent with DHR guidelines.

Mr. Gailey is a Geographic Information System (GIS) whiz, who digitized the County's entire site mapping some ten years ago. He continues to update that layer for every new site that is reported. Several years ago, the Section obtained electronic copies of the 1937, 1943 and 1954 historic aerial photographs. CK worked with staff to gee-reference these files to be used in our GIS system. He created a reference to assist the user with this resource. This effort has resulted in expediting' our initial assessment of properties as part of development plan review and other preliminary archaeological studies. Due to his extraordinary effort and expertise with GIS, he is an absolutely invaluable resource to professionals and volunteers around the County. He handles the administrative part of providing mapping and aerial photographs to the office's development review process.

Mr. Gailey is a skilled historical researcher. He manages the County's archaeological report and historical archives and directed the computer indexing of the library. He does all of its court record research through the computerized land records (CPAN), providing chains of title and other historical documentation. He provided invaluable research assistance in determining the identities of six Civil War soldiers whose graves were discovered in 1997 during the construction of a McDonalds restaurant in Centreville. He worked

with the Sons of Union Veterans and staff in transporting and escorting their remains to the Bourne National Cemetery in Massachusetts.

As well as his volunteer efforts with Fairfax County, he has spent countless hours with Fairfax City volunteering at Blenheim. The attic of Blenheim contains hundreds of signatures left by Civil War soldiers who occupied the building. CK conducted historical research to identify these soldiers. As well, he has conducted genealogical research for the Brent family site in Aquia in support of archaeological investigations and is currently conducting research for Dr. Douglas Owsley of the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian) to support Dr. Owsley's forensic studies.

Mr. Gailey has been a mainstay of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASV. He is a past Vice President, and currently serves as treasurer of the Chapter. He handles the scheduling of the monthly meetings and ensures that facilities and refreshments are available. He has actively supported the Chapter for many years.

Mr. Gailey is not just an "office archaeologist." His field technique is flawless and thorough, and he is capable of directing fieldwork, but typically defers to the "professionals." He has worked at numerous sites, both historical and prehistoric, in Fairfax County and beyond. These include Land Bay A and the Centreville tannery in Fairfax County, Kenmore Plantation, and Ferry Farm. He has assisted Dr. Owsley of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in his work to identify and define cemeteries in Virginia and the District of Columbia. In all cases, he was among the most reliable, if not the most reliable, crew members on the projects he worked.

Mr. Gailey has also spent a great deal of time in the lab. Among other things, he is a "Master Mender." He did the mending of the thousands of glass and ceramic vessels recovered from the tannery excavation in Centreville; hence, his nickname, "Menderman."

In sum, Mr. Gailey's contributions to archaeology in Fairfax County and throughout Virginia have been extraordinary and highly worthy of recognition by the ASV. He has been repeatedly recognized by Fairfax County for his volunteer efforts. Despite his heavy, self-imposed workload, he is never too busy to stop what he is doing to help County staff, volunteers, interns, researchers, school children, and scouts to share his wealth of knowledge and experience. If you were to ask any member of the County archaeological staff, they would tell you that they consider CK a member of the professional staff and an integral member of the team. He is pleasant, professional, and generous with his time and expertise. His contribution is vital to the County effort, and the staff considers his contribution to be vital to getting the work done in an expeditious manner.



Surveying at Kittiewan



Screening



Monitoring backhoe at Bristow Station



Probing for foundations



Confering with the chief!



Digging with signature kneepads and socks outside of pants to keep out the chiggers!



Receiving awards with Tabitha Eagle, Karen Schweikart, Diane Schug-O'Neill, and Bill Brickhill



Digging with Bob Wharton



Screening with Diane Schug-O'Neill and Maggie Johnson



Translating German with Sophia

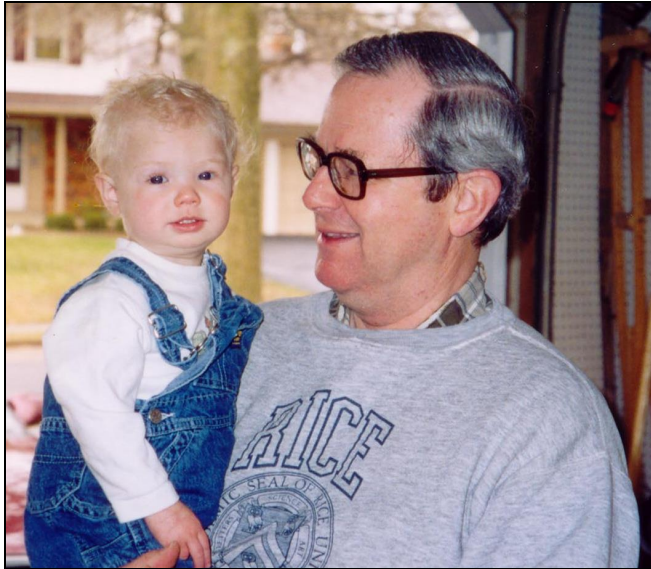


Civil War trench at Kittiewan



Fixing my tape when I broke it.
He is wearing my Dads boots. He really did walk in my Dads footsteps!

Diane, Bridget, and I will be forever grateful for the time spent with CK, as we know you will too. The Friday ladies and those Saturdays and beer:30 won't be the same! Hoisting one for you! Who will figure out who owes what and the tip, OMG?! CK's last project was tabulating the artifact data from the Battle of the White House, finished the day of the big snow storm, January 22, 2016, also Bridget's birthday.



Enjoying watching Bridget grow up

Bridget did an interview this past January 2016 about CK's volunteer work in archaeology. He did it because it was something to do, and meet people, and do interesting work, and learn new things. He was always interested in archaeology and now he got to do it! He told her he "learned how people live who weren't important enough to write about themselves, that's what archaeology does!"



CK, beer:30 won't be the same without you!



Bridget took this photograph during her interview in January, which is true CK!

Charles Kenon Gailey, III (Age 73)

On February 22, 2016, in Springfield, VA. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Stephanie; son, Charles (Vanessa) Gailey; daughter, Clare Gailey; four siblings and four nieces and nephews. A Lieutenant Colonel US Army, he was devoted to helping veterans, especially the 101st Airborne; genealogy and maintaining contact with his extended family; and historical archaeology for Fairfax County. One of the greatest of his many acts of service was locating the living relatives of soldiers who died in a plane crash in Australia in [WWII](#). His funeral mass will be at Holy Spirit Church, Annandale, VA, on March 18 at 11 a.m. His ashes will be buried at Arlington Cemetery.

JACK L. HILLER:
AN ARCHEOLOGICAL REMEMBRANCE

By Martha Williams



Jack Hiller got his first taste of hands-on archeological work in the summer of 1972, when he joined 25 Virginia high school history teachers to participate in Ivor Noel Hume's field school at the Public Mental Hospital Site (now the DeWitt Museum) in Williamsburg. That experience might well have remained merely an intellectual exercise had it not been for three happy coincidences: an Army archeologist who was desperate for volunteer help to investigate the 18th century Belvoir Manor; a couple of Fairfax County Schools curriculum specialists who were willing to "think out of the box;" and two survivors of Noel Hume's field school who were just slightly insane enough to try taking pre-college level students into the field.

For the next fifteen years, Jack was my team mate as we introduced high school students to the Datum Point

wonderful world of Fairfax archeology. Jack's particular expertise--presenting American History as an inquiry into the past rather than an exercise in memorization--laid a solid pedagogical foundation for the course. We shared equally in field and laboratory responsibilities, doing everything from field supervision to laboratory analysis to writing final reports. And the Fairfax program that Jack was instrumental in creating was indeed avant-garde; as of 1978, only three other school systems in the entire United States were doing anything similar.

The legacy of that school program was far-reaching. Fairfax County students investigated sites from one end of the county to the other, from Belvoir and LaGrange in the east, to the Dulin Site in Falls Church, to Sully Plantation, Walney, and Farmington in the west, to name just a few. The program sensitized local officials to the rapid disappearance of the county's archeological heritage, and Jack became an ardent advocate for the creation of the County's own professional archeological program. Jack also was very proud that the program had produced at least three Ph.D. archeologists: a professor at Trinity College in Connecticut; the cultural resource management chief for the Texas Parks and Recreation Department; and the lead archeologist for a contract firm in New Mexico. When informed of Jack's death, one of them wrote: "When I am in the field this weekend, I will remember fondly where it all started!"

Jack Hiller was a remarkable teacher and a long-serving member of the County's History Commission. But I remember him best as an avid archeologist for whom (in his words) "the search was worth more than the finding." I will truly miss my friend and colleague, and treasure the memory of the many sites and hundreds of students we shared.

DIGGING UP HISTORY: UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN CIVIL WAR ROADWAY

Posted on February 29, 2016 in [All News](#), [To Know](#)



There's always history beneath our feet.

But late last fall during excavation for a shoulder and sidewalk improvement on Ox Road near George Mason University, a county engineer discovered a lot of history – a hidden roadway. The site was assessed and staff discovered that a Civil War road had been unearthed.

“Corduroy roads were very commonly used in this area during the Civil War because this area was rural,” said Christopher Sperling, an archaeologist with the Park Authority.

Watch the story!

https://youtu.be/WN_hnmrb4-I

**THE CORDUROY ROAD IS ALSO IN THE
FARE FACS GAZETTE WITH LOTS OF
WONDERFUL ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AND
STORYLINE! THE ARTICLE IS ATTACHED TO
THE EMAIL WITH THE DP!**



Pile of wood from the Corduroy Road



Uncovering the Corduroy Road

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

February saw many new faces at the James Lee Community center for volunteer orientation with the CART crew. We are always excited to work with volunteers who are interested in the historical and archaeological resources in Fairfax County and with plenty of work to do, all hands are welcome! We typically run one orientation a month and are using the Fairfax County volunteer system to fill the open spots for these sessions. Volunteers assist with lab activities such as washing artifacts, labeling and picking of waterscreen window screen soil samples (as shown in the picture). Excavation on the site at Colchester has slowed with the winter weather, but there has been no slowdown in the lab processing the archaeological materials.

Park Authority Senior Archaeologist Christopher Sperling presented at the Gunston Hall Symposium on February 6, 2016, *History Beneath our Feet: Archaeology in the Chesapeake Region*. Chris discussed the ongoing excavations at cemetery site in a presentation aptly named, "A Slowly Unraveling Mystery: CART at Cemetery Site." The symposium had a successful turn out of both interested community members and archaeologists alike for the six speakers who presented on Chesapeake region archaeology.

This month, Chris and CART field director Megan Veness are presenting at the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference (MAAC) which will be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Chris will be focusing on the Civil War corduroy road discovery found during the Ox Road utility work. Megan will be discussing the progress and ongoing excavations at the Cemetery Site. CART and Fairfax County are looking forward to sharing these recent finds with other archaeologists in the Mid-Atlantic region.

For the Spring 2016 semester CART has a new intern, Haley. Haley will be working with us on an independent project to pick through waterscreened samples and produced a small technical report on her findings. This type of analysis teaches interns how to identify and classify artifacts as well as begin thinking about how to use archaeological data

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in analysis. We're looking forward to seeing her results.



Please email cart.volunteers@live.com for volunteer opportunities. And check out or blog at cartarchaeology.wordpress.com to see updates from the staff about archaeology happenings around Fairfax County.

CONGRATS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Fairfield Foundation:

15 Years and Going Strong

In 2015, the Fairfield Foundation celebrated its 15th anniversary as a non-profit dedicated to archaeological research and education at Fairfield Plantation in Gloucester County and at historic sites across the Middle Peninsula and beyond. In January and July of 2015, we shared in the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal a selection of our favorite artifact finds and a sample of the wide variety of archaeological sites we've worked on within the last year. Now we are reflecting more broadly on 2015 and our many years at Fairfield by sharing five ways that community involvement defines the Fairfield Foundation and what we do. This will complete our effort to highlight 15 reasons to celebrate the Fairfield Foundation's work over the past 15 years! If you don't subscribe to our community paper, the [Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal](#) (which just published a shortened version of the following article on February 11), you will find links to the previous two articles below.

Volunteer Program

By far one of the greatest accomplishments of the Fairfield Foundation is not ours alone, but that of our dedicated army of volunteers, who have contributed over 60,000 hours toward the mission of our organization since 2000. In 2015 alone, more than 200 individuals dedicated a collective 5,244 hours of their time excavating at sites across the region, washing artifacts from those and other sites, organizing fundraisers, running educational camps to introduce young students to archaeology, and much more. To put it in perspective, volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life have worked the equivalent of over \$1,200,000 in wages! Many of our volunteers enjoy our weekly lab nights on Tuesdays throughout the year, which offer them an opportunity to immerse themselves in archaeological finds and discussions before returning to their real jobs. Some volunteers have even worked with the Fairfield Foundation to spearhead new projects within their local

communities to bring archaeology, history, education, and preservation perspectives to new groups and new places. It may sound like a platitude, but the numbers are proof ó we literally couldn't do this without our volunteers!



Volunteers celebrate the Fairfield Foundation's 15th anniversary at a recent holiday party.

Education

The Fairfield Foundation strives to make an impact on our community by opening the doors for students of all ages to engage with local history through archaeology. Over 100 individuals, a mixture of students from local high schools and colleges across North America, have completed internships with our foundation, which provide an immersive, multi-week experience in the world of history and archaeology. "I learned that archaeology is a far more complex business than simply digging holes," reflects Mike Novak (intern summer 2015), and that "local non-profits like the Fairfield Foundation do important work, keeping local history alive in ways that the 'big money' projects just can't do."

We've also worked over the past few years to increase our interactions with local schools in order to keep local history alive as Mike noted. Last year we worked directly with Bethel Elementary School, Page Middle School, Gloucester High School, Gloucester Montessori School, Lee-Jackson Elementary School, Thomas Hunter Middle School, and the Spratley Gifted Center in Hampton, in addition to summer camps at Abingdon Glebe and

at Beaverdam Nature Park. Our goal moving forward is to expand our efforts with local schools so that we can reach every student and help teachers make Virginia history come alive.



High School Summer Interns Emma Asbury and Charlotte Yelamos get archaeological experience at the Bailey Site in Mathews County



Volunteer Rebecca Guest teaches artifact washing to participants in the Abingdon Glebe Dig History! Archaeology Camp

Archaeology

Our expanded programming and volunteer opportunities across the region may cause some to forget we continue excavations at the ancestral home of the Burwell family near White Marsh in Gloucester County. Fairfield Plantation continues to reveal its secrets each summer as our interns, Adventures in Preservation ðJammersö, and volunteers help with excavations around the 1694 manor house and in the kitchen trash midden a short distance to the west.

Work in the midden this last year focused on the analysis of the artifacts as much as their excavation ó and largely due to the hard work of Colleen Betti, a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Colleen's work is leading us to a better understanding of what went on in the work yard, which included the plantation kitchen and several slave quarters. Closer to the house, we spent two weeks excavating the layers of soil and brick rubble from the house's destruction in 1897.

Beneath this debris are remnants of the brick foundation, which historic brick mason Jason Whitehead evaluated and is skillfully repairing with the help of some of the workshop participants. We also discovered the piers to the 19th-century brick porch, which were built directly above a filled-in cellar entrance. A layer of ash and charcoal also contained pieces of the front door lock, hundreds of iron nails (galvanized by the fire and nearly perfect looking), and fragments that mended into a near complete bottle of beer from the Globe Brewing Company in Baltimore. We can't wait to return to the field and continue this work, and who knows what other discoveries we might make in 2016?



Workshop participant Jim Gloor works with historic mason Jason Whitehead to repair sections of the manor house foundation



After removal of hundreds of pounds of brick and mortar rubble, the base of a brick pier that supported the side porch became visible.

Collaboration

Collaboration is at the heart of our outreach projects. Whether we are working with schools, civic organizations, volunteers, historical societies, landowners, volunteers, or professionals from a wide spectrum of fields, we forge collaborative partnerships to more effectively study the past and communicate this work to the public. The past belongs to all of us, and there are many people in this region who dedicate themselves to preserving and studying history. By teaming together we can be more effective at highlighting and researching the people, places and stories of the Middle Peninsula and beyond. Over the past fifteen years we have worked with a wide variety of groups in the area on projects ranging from public archaeology experiences and oral history projects to local history events and classroom outreach. The partnerships are too numerous to detail in one article, but we can highlight a few.

One of our longest-running partnerships is with Gloucester County Public Schools. Over the years we have done everything from classroom visits, field trips to Fairfield and other sites, as well as working with juniors and seniors on research projects. The students have ranged from 2nd grade to 12th, and they challenge us to effectively teach history in different ways. Archaeology allows us to bring hands-on experiences to the students, and they always have brilliant questions and observations

about the past. A highlight of our work with the schools is the Save Our History program, a project completed through a grant from The History Channel. This project allowed us to plan classroom time and field trips to several historic sites around Gloucester with the students participating in observing, documenting, and taking video footage of the sites.



Gloucester students document Cappahosic House through the Save Our History Grant project

Another important partnership is with the Archeological Technician Certification Program. This program is already a collaboration between the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA), and the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and is designed to give individuals the opportunity to be recognized for intensive training in the techniques and goals of archaeology. Each student is provided technical training in both the field and laboratory along with a host of lectures, workshops and required readings.

The program is intense, requiring many hours in the field and lab, and can take several years to complete. It takes dedication, but also allows us to work very closely with participants. Partnering with our local Middle Peninsula Chapter of the ASV, the Fairfield Foundation has been able to offer many

experiences to students, and they have worked with us on nearly all of our excavation projects. We have worked closely with at least 7 students who have completed the program, and have an equal number working on their requirements now. These certification students have been some of our most dedicated volunteers, and become amazing ambassadors for collaborative archaeology and public outreach across the state.

We want to thank all of the partnering groups that we have worked with over these fifteen years. Together we make a great team!

Preservation

Preservation is a big part of what we do. From artifacts to oral histories, to brick foundations, we strive to preserve part of the past so that it may continue to be enjoyed for present and future generations. Our two primary preservation projects are at Fairfield plantation, and at the CAPE on Main Street in Gloucester. At Fairfield, preservation takes two forms: curating, studying and archiving the artifacts and information that we excavate, and preserving in place the features and foundations that are still in the ground. Once we collect artifacts from the ground, they have much to tell us, as long as they are cataloged, carefully handled, and curated so that we may continue to go back to them when we have new questions and other objects to compare them with. An artifact's work is never finished.

The features and foundations we discover in the ground we often leave in place, so that future archaeologists can study them. To do this, we usually rebury them, but the brick foundations of the manor house present a special challenge. The brick is fragile and degraded, but is also a great teaching tool about colonial architecture and life. Rather than cover over the foundations, we have embarked on a multi-year program to repoint the mortar joints, repair the exposed walls so that they are stable once again, and eventually cover the foundation with a protective structure that will give visitors the impression of the former manor house while allowing further interpretation and study. This educational structure will be the centerpiece of our ongoing archaeological outreach at Fairfield.

Meanwhile, the CAPE project is our ultimate collaboration and preservation effort. When completed, the Center for Archaeology, Preservation and Education (CAPE) will be our archaeology lab, volunteer center, and foundation headquarters, as well as a place for the community to gather, work on projects to document and share local history, stage exhibits, and more. This 1930 Texaco station, a local icon at the entrance to Main Street in Gloucester, will be transformed into a modern center for local history, while retaining its historic character.

The preservation of this building has involved many local craftsmen, and the efforts of dedicated volunteers. Many of the original features of the building, inside and out, are being preserved, while other historic elements, such as roof globes, gas pumps, and street lights are being returned, so that this building will blend the old and the new while allowing the Fairfield Foundation to continue expanding its many programs to study and preserve local history. The final stage of work on the CAPE is beginning soon and will be completed by the middle of 2016.



A SketchUp rendering of the completed renovations at the CAPE, by Ricky Wiatt of Carlton Abbott and Partners.

Don't panic if you missed the first two installments of our 15 year anniversary highlights! You can read the initial article on five fascinating finds [here](#) and catch up on the second article on five fascinating sites [here](#). As always, email us at fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org if you're interested in joining any of our activities or which you can read about on our [events calendar](#) or by liking Fairfield Foundation on [Facebook](#) and following @Fairfieldfound on [Twitter](#)!

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DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov 202-442-8836

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

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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

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!