



# THE DATUM POINT

September 2016

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

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



## FROM THE PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

Congratulations, everyone! *We are 50 this month!* That is no mean feat! As many in our Chapter know personally. You should all be proud to be part of a very successful Chapter within a successful state organization. Together we have accomplished more than many of you know.

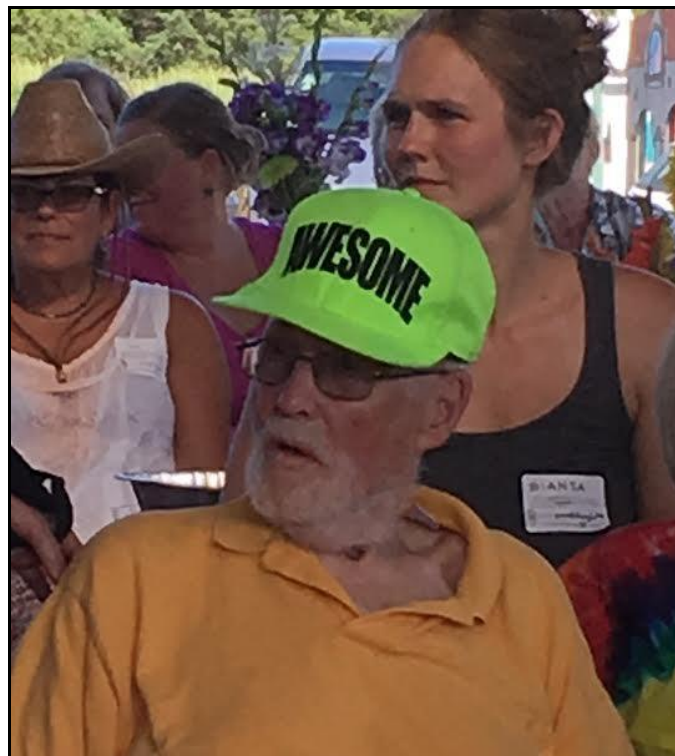
Over the years we have participated in countless recovery missions; research projects; publications; and educational outreach. We've assisted in many projects throughout the Old Dominion; we've volunteered across this great country. We have made a name for ourselves and left our good mark all the way from New York to Texas, from the Eastern Shore to Arizona.

We have maintained one of the largest headcount in the state for more than a decade. Granted we are in one of the more populated areas of Virginia, but don't forget that we've also maintained members who moved outside the state and proudly count members residing the Old Line State of Maryland. In our membership we have members who have been awarded the Amateur; Professional, Out of State Avocational, and Out of State Professional.

So, to all of our newer members, please do not be worried about filling big shoes. While we have accomplished much, we all started with that first step, that first trowel, that first question. Most of us have plugged away for love of learning and meeting new friends with no official accolades or formal appreciation. Come to the sites, come to the meetings and ask how you can participate.

While we turn a collective 50...one of our esteemed members turned 100!

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CD COX!***



## NO WEDNESDAY MEETING

## **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

**Saturday**

**September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4-6pm**

**GUNSTON HALL**

**10709 Gunston Road**

**Mason Neck, VA 22079**

**ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 10AM-4PM**

**ARCHAEOLOGY DAY AND**

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER 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!**

## SHERWOOD FOREST – ANTIBELLUM PLANTATION

By Jackie Cuyler

In early July, 2016 chapter members Diane Schug-O'Neill and Jackie Cuyler attended the ASV field school offered by Dr. Lauren McMillan of the University of Mary Washington at Sherwood Forest, a historic property located in Stafford County just outside of Fredericksburg. Current research at Sherwood Forest is partially funded by the property owner, the Walton Group.

We joined Dr. McMillan and her students as they expanded on last summer's inaugural field season, investigating features around the standing frame duplex slave quarter (which is crumbling and slated for demolition) and the brick kitchen quarter, including Civil War components of the site from the Union Army occupation of Sherwood Forest through 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation.

The property, consisting of 800 acres, was granted to William Ball in the mid-1600s. Mary Ball Washington (mother of George) acquired the land at the age of five and owned it until 1778. It later passed to a Ball descendant, Jane Downman, who married Henry Fitzhugh in 1837, shortly after which they began construction on Sherwood Forest. The couple, their 11 children and numerous slaves farmed the land. During Union Army occupation of Stafford County from 1862-1863 the house and property were used as a picket post, a launch for balloons and a field hospital following Chancellorsville. Sherwood Forest, the



outbuildings and the property are currently owned by a development corporation.

The field school was an excellent opportunity to explore various aspects of Sherwood Forest's history and to gain a better understanding of the plantation's enslaved community. Not to mention that it is always fun to meet fellow archeology/history enthusiasts, especially the hard working crew from the Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington!





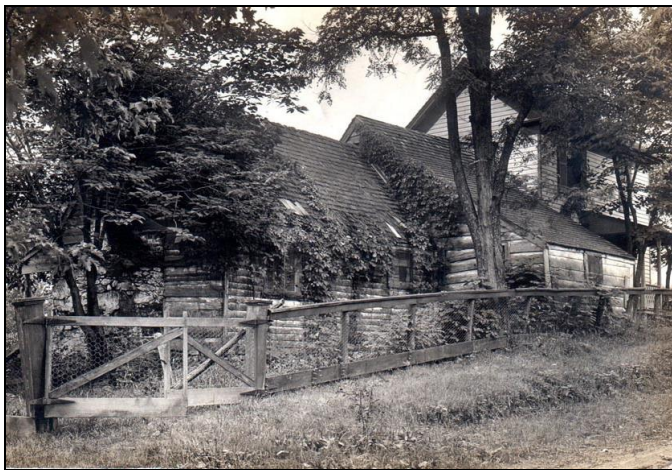
# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

## **BALL SELLERS HOUSE ARLINGTON COUNTY**

Patrick O'Neill is conducting archaeological investigations at the Ball-Sellers House in Arlington County, Virginia, each Saturday and Sunday until the end of September, from 8-4pm Saturdays and 9-4pm on Sundays. The site is at 5620 Third Street South, Arlington VA.

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).



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.



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

## 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           |
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| <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><br>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!!!!**