



THE DATUM POINT

April 2018

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT **PATRICK O'NEILL**

Spring is just around the corner, I promise, again! I am starting STPs at Kittiewan ahead of a timber cut. If you are interested, email me and let me know at patrickloneill@verizon.net.

Speaking of Kittiewan, the ASV will hold a field opportunity (field school) there from May 15-21. Dr. Carole Nash, the ASV President, will be the Principal Investigator in charge. The field work will concentrate of the first terrace above Kittiewan Creek where known Native American components have been identified, with possible contact and colonial components. An announcement will follow in the coming days, which I will email to the chapter.

May will have us on a field trip to Salubria in Culpeper County on May 19th, with no monthly meeting. Please plan to come on this field trip, it will be worth it!

I am giving a presentation to the Arlington Historical Society this Thursday, April 12th on the Ball Sellers House excavations. See inside this DP for an ad! And, I hope to do some STPs at the Ball Sellers House this summer, too.

Mike Johnson is continuing his lab work on Chapman's Mill and Smith Mountain Lake. If you would like to be involved, email him at mj44fx1@verizon.net! You will learn a lot!

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

Chapter Talk 7:30pm **Weds April 11, 2018**

GOLD: **HISTORIC & PREHISTORIC**

By Dr. Michael Johnson

Dr. Mike Johnson has done many things in life, archaeology, golf, travel, and in recent years, he has learned how to pan for gold. During this time, he has studied the art of panning, and the artifacts associated with gold in both prehistoric and historic times. Come listen to what he has found!

Mike Johnson: Retired Fairfax County Senior Archeologist after 32 years; BA (history) from George Mason College of the University of Virginia; MA (anthropology) from The American University; PhD (archeology) from University of Exeter (U.K.); senior author of the Dr. Ben C. McCary Virginia Fluted Point Survey (1990-2000); 42 years experience as a lithic technologist and author of two book articles on the Lithic Technology and Material Culture of the First Virginians (Paleo-Americans); Principle investigator for the ASV team at the Pre-Clovis and Clovis age Cactus Hill, Blueberry Hill and Rubis-Pearsall Paleo-American projects (dissertation); Principle investigator at the Chapman's Mill (Thoroughfare Gap) Paleo-American excavation, and co-principle investigator at the Smith Mountain Gap Archeology (SMGA) excavations focusing on Paleo-American uses of those two water gaps.

CART **County Archaeological Research Team**

Warmer, slightly drier weather allowed CART to open a few units at Old Colchester Park and Preserve, adjacent to a sub-floor pit which was discovered and bisected in 2015. These units revealed a stone chimney base just below surface (shown on right side of image).

All the artifacts removed from Stratum A date to the eighteenth century. Excavations will continue outward from the chimney base to reveal any postholes or other structural elements, as to establish the overall dimensions.



In the lab, artifact processing continues. The CART lab also added a few steps to the procedures which means going back over some already processed items. As CART grows, CART strives to ensure that artifacts and information is kept for as long as possible. Updating procedures as standard practices in the field of archaeology and curation improve is part of how to do that.

Picking continues as normal. The volunteers in the lab are beginning to pick Feature 9 (large round feature with charred wood and brick inclusions). The amount of artifacts found in the picking has decreased from the amount found in Feature 5 (large cellar feature). This data parallels the amounts recovered in the quarter inch screen of the features, it is no surprise.

Megan V. and Christopher S. attended the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) in Virginia Beach from 15-18 March 2018 and presented on the ongoing excavations in Fairfax County. Over 200 people attended the conference,

discussed and learned about the different archaeological excavations all over the region. In April Christopher, Haley H. and Megan are heading to the Society of American Archaeology (SAA) Conference in D.C.

Metal detection survey continues on the site in the western side of Fairfax County. A few wrought nails and iron kettle fragments were recovered the past few Saturdays. Some modern trash is also noted, which was probably deposited when the barn about 200 feet to the west as it was still in use until the 1980s.

For questions about volunteering in the field, email CART staff in the field at cart.volunteers@live.com. Volunteer days in the field are Thursdays through Saturdays, weather permitting. Volunteer days in the lab are Wednesdays through Fridays. Keep an eye on our blog: cartarchaeology.wordpress.com for information on local events, winter weather delays and recent finds by CART.

UNEARTHING HISTORY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS AT THE BALL-SELLERS HOUSE WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST PATRICK ONEILL

Thursday,
April 12, 2018

7:00 pm

Reinsch Library Auditorium, Marymount University

The archaeological excavations at the Ball-Sellers House—the oldest building in Arlington County—recovered thousands of artifacts relating to the daily life on the property for more than 270 years. The investigations uncovered structural details of the razed eastern addition, primarily used as a kitchen and dining area. The project has also raised tantalizing questions about the construction and evolution of the original log house built in the 1740s. He will also show a selection of artifacts.

Patrick O'Neill, the lead archaeologist, has conducted research at Mount Vernon and Arlington House. He has also worked with Calloway United Methodist Church in Hall's Hill to ensure the

cemetery received historic district preservation status. He is the current President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia, he has a Bachelors of Anthropology and a Masters degree in history.



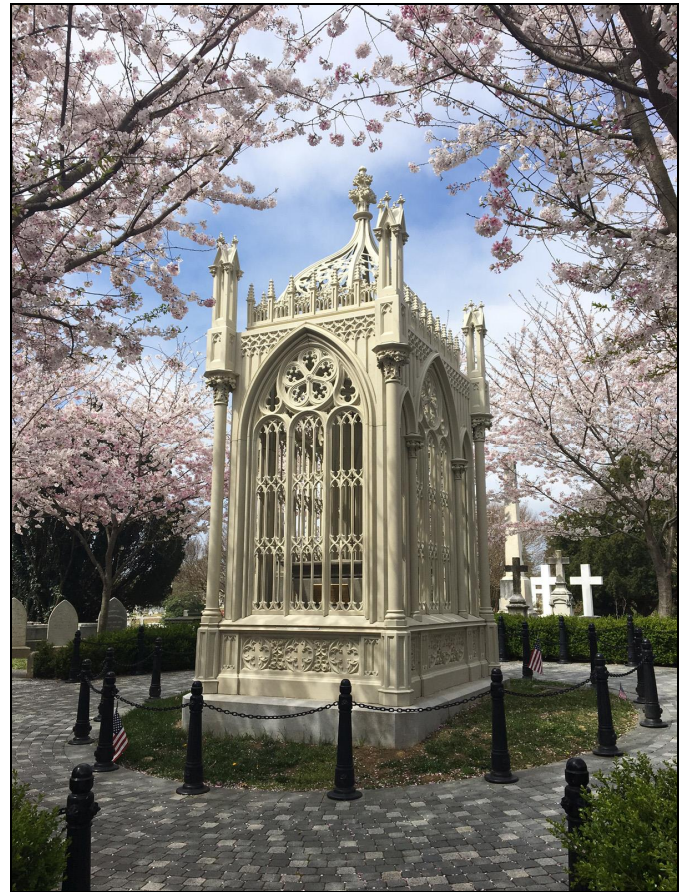
This program is free and open to the public. It is part of a monthly series of public programs sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society and Marymount University's Department of History and Politics. For more information, please visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org, Email: info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call: 703-892-4204.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS and FREE PARKING: Attendees should enter the Marymount University campus at the library gate on N. 26th Street. Then turn left and park in the garage at the bottom of the incline. Handicapped parking is available at this 26th Street entrance immediately upon entry at the library. For complete directions to the Main Campus of Marymount University (2807 N. Glebe Road) go to <http://www.marymount.edu/Home/Contact-us/Locate-us>

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: A free Marymount Shuttle bus is available from the Ballston-MU Metro Station (Orange and Silver lines). The University is also accessible via Metro bus routes 23A and 23T; exit at the N. Glebe Road and Old Dominion Drive stop.

JAMES MONROE'S GRAVE

I visited James Monroe's grave at the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond this past week for the first time. President John Tyler's grave is nearby. I do not think I could have taken a more perfect photograph with the blossoming cherry trees! Just wanted to share!!!



2018 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA) | Dr. Elizabeth Crowell | elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881 |
| Mount Vernon | Dr. Luke Pecoraro | LPecoraro@mountvernon.org 703.799.6831 |
| Gunston Hall | Dave Shonyo | archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441 |
| Alexandria Museum | Dr. Eleanor Breen | Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 |
| Chapmans Mill | Maggie Lovitt | chapmanmill@gmail.com 540-253-5888 |
| DC City Archaeologist | Dr. Ruth Trocolli | Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov 202-442-8836 |

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

9518 Liberty Tree Lane

Vienna VA 22182

Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at www.virginiaarcheology.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!!!!