



# THE DATUM POINT

August 2019

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

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



## FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

**PATRICK O'NEILL**

**Come to the chapter picnic on Saturday  
August 10<sup>th</sup>!**

## NVC CHAPTER PICNIC

**The Chapter picnic will be held  
on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at the  
Picnic Pavilion at Mason Neck  
State Park. The park is a  
wonderful piece of property –  
overlooking Belmont Bay – for  
those of you who may not have  
been there before.**

**Plan to bring a dish to share!**

**The entry fee has been raised  
from \$5 to \$10 per car.**

**Address is: 7301 High Point Rd  
Lorton, Va 22079**

## CART

**Fairfax County Archaeological Research  
Team**

The CART field crew braved the sweltering July heat at the Mount Air Historic Site in Lorton, Virginia. The property, which was acquired by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1992, boasts a lengthy and storied history. The recent decision to demolish two dilapidated buildings located in the core of the property has allowed CART the opportunity to explore the site's history through archaeological investigation.



CART was tasked with investigating the area around the derelict buildings in order to identify, document, and mitigate any subterranean cultural resources in the vicinity that may be adversely affected by the demolition process.

By mid-July, the crew completed the first stage of field investigation which involved digging circular shovel test pits (STPs) on a 5-meter grid around the buildings and the area likely to be impacted by demolition. This process was easier said than done, as the stratigraphy included a thick layer of compact gravel.

Once the crew's shovels and hands get some well-earned TLC, we will move on to the second stage of investigation. Using the results of the STP survey, CART will excavate larger square test units in targeted locations to further explore artifact concentrations and soil anomalies.

Luckily, we will have an extra set of hands to help! CART welcomed a new archaeological technician, Melissa, into our ranks this month. Melissa graduated in May with a B.A. in Anthropology from Millersville University.

The CART lab has been processing a few different projects including the artifacts from Mount Air. The artifacts are thoroughly cleaned, dried, bagged, and then cataloged. After they are cataloged on paper, the artifacts will be entered into the database created by Fairfax County Archaeology and Collections called the Artifact Material Analysis System (AMAS). Diagnostic artifacts will be labeled before the artifacts are prepared for collections. Artifacts

recovered from Hidden Pond are in the process of being labeled.

With the help of volunteers, activity has returned to the artifacts from Patriot Park North in order to mend some of the ceramic vessels. See the recent post on the C.A.R.T Archaeology blog <https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com> called "Mending Artifacts."

The **CART New Volunteer Orientations** are resuming. For questions about volunteering, email the CART lab at [cartarchlab@live.com](mailto:cartarchlab@live.com).

## 2019 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a> 703-244-6275
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### 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>	Joe Downer	<a href="mailto:JDowner@mountvernon.org">JDowner@mountvernon.org</a> 703.799.6831
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<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<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:**

**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/](http://www.virginiaarcheology.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!!!!**