



# THE DATUM POINT

February 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**

Brrrrr!!!!!!

The chapter generously voted to contribute \$1000 to matching funds to the Fairfield Foundation, which has a matching fund goal from the Cabell Foundation of \$100,000 if they meet that goal. The Fairfield Foundation is largely run by members of the Middle Peninsula Chapter of the ASV, including Dave Brown and Thane Harpole. I then, took our donation amount to the ASV Board and challenged the ASV to donate the same, and they did!!!! I also challenged the other ASV Chapters to donate what they thought each chapter could donate. Thank you NVC, for stepping up to the plate!!!!

## If you haven't done so, pay your chapter and state dues!!!!

See the last page of this Datum Point for how to renew your chapter membership. Your state ASV membership is also due by the end of January. If you have not received an email from me about state ASV renewal, please email me at [patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net).

**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 February 13, 2019**

## **FOX ON THE RUN CUFFLINK BY CHRIS SPERLING**

### **So, What Does It Mean...Symbolism of Artifacts from a Slave Quarters Outside Centreville.**

There are countless ways to interpret archaeological assemblages. One can take a purely functionalist approach. Plates are for eating and cups for drinking; fasteners keep clothing from falling. However, confronted with a range of symbolically charged artifacts from a Late Colonial through Early Republic period slave quarters site outside Centreville, one is tempted to draw upon our anthropological origins to find meaning.



A cuff link commemorating the fox hunt as well as coins and pottery bearing classical imagery. Are they simply the artifacts of everyday life in late eighteenth through early nineteenth century rural

Virginia? Do they speak to the how citizens of the new republic saw themselves or what they aspired for others to see? Could the symbology represent an understanding among enslaved persons of the inherent contradiction between American bondage and American freedom? To paraphrase a legendary quote, is a cigar ever really just a cigar?

## CART

### Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

The wintery weather has kept the CART field team inside most of this month. Although the crew is beginning to go a little stir-crazy, extended time inside gives us the opportunity to focus our undivided attention on important lab projects that may otherwise be left on the back-burner. Some of the projects our crew is currently working on include entering old excavation and artifact information into our updated tracking database, photographing unique or representative artifacts from past excavations, and using geographic information systems (GIS) to help streamline digital site mapping processes.

On the few days that field work was possible, the crew continued to uncover the remains of a stone foundation at Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Finds recovered from above and around the foundation include a variety of 18<sup>th</sup>-century domestic and architectural artifacts such as ceramic sherds, vessel glass, window glass, and iron nails. An intact gunflint was also among the more recent finds.



Datum Point

February 2019



We would like to welcome our newest intern, Moni Islam. Moni is a junior studying Anthropology at George Mason University, and will be assisting both the lab and field crews during the spring semester.

Since the field crew have been inside a few days this winter, the extra hands spent a day organizing and deep cleaning work surfaces and floors. A clean lab is a happy lab, and more productive. That productivity is made possible by our amazing lab and field staff and our volunteers who are busy washing, weighing, measuring, labeling and organizing the artifacts excavated earlier in the season.

Both the lab and field crews are keeping their fingers crossed for drier and warmer weather ó common spring!

Please join us in the field or lab, for questions about volunteering in the field, email CART staff in the field at [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto: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](http://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com) for information on local events and recent finds by CART.

## 2019 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a> 703-244-6275
<b>Vice-President</b>	Yvonne French	<a href="mailto:yvonne.french2@gmail.com">yvonne.french2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Leven	<a href="mailto:levenbarbara2@gmail.com">levenbarbara2@gmail.com</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>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Chris Havlicek	<a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>
<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@gmail.com">annpwood@gmail.com</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	<a href="mailto:LPecoraro@mountvernon.org">LPecoraro@mountvernon.org</a> 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>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<b>Chapmans Mill</b>	Maggie Lovitt	<a href="mailto:chapmanmill@gmail.com">chapmanmill@gmail.com</a> 540-253-5888
<b>DC City Archaeologist</b>	Dr. Ruth Troccoli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov">Ruth.Troccoli@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!!!!**