



THE DATUM POINT

May 2019

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 here!!!!!!! Eyreville ended last weekend, and I hope many of you were able to get over there and experience that wonderful site!!!! The field opportunity at Kittiewan will be from May 28th thru June 2nd. If you want to come and participate, contact Dr. Carole Nash at nashcl@jmu.edu.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 15th and 16th. I will conduct a personal field project at the Virginia Outdoor Foundation's Preserve at Bull Run Mountain, next to Chapman's Mill, in Prince William County. Four historic cemeteries, four historic stone foundations, and other associated features (to be discovered) will be mapped after brush clearing. I will contact Dr. Carole Nash to see if this can be used for historic survey hours for Certification Students. Contact me if you want to participate at patrickloneill@verizon.net.

Inside, also see an article about one of our longtime chapter members that moved away years ago and has recently passed away, Ann Cherryman McClelland. Joyce Pearsall has written a wonderful tribute about her.

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 Meeting 7:30pm
Weds May 8, 2019**

Artifact Show and Tell

Bring some of your favorite artifacts to show us, and tell us about them!

VEATCH COLLECTION SAMPLES

Some interesting items catalogued by Mike Johnson's crew recently include:

1. One soapstone probably gorget fragment (44STP ó V23-PZ-32) with notched edges. Earlier we catalogued a soapstone bowl rim with similar notches but the notches on this item are on two edges.



2. One nicely worked rose quartz corner notched or stemmed point (44STP ó V26-Bag 5-02). The only special thing about the point is the color of the quartz, which is unusual on finished tools.



take some experimenting to figure out what was going on.



3. One conical core (44STP - V26-Bag 5-04). The interesting aspect of the core is the bipolar-like crushing on the distal end (bottom end in image) away from the striking area (top end in image) from which blade-like flakes were struck. That would indicate two possible reasons for the crushing. The first is that the distal end was placed on a hard anvil or rock (see 44FQ271 image for example) to aid in knapping longer blades. The anvil ensures that the core does not shift away from the blow during impact, thus reducing the energy transfer of the blow to the core. The second is that the distal end of the core could have been intentionally crushed enough to ensure that it absorbed some of the energy. This would be the opposite intent for the crushing. It would be designed to reduce the energy transfer during the blade removal just enough to prevent too much shock causing the blade to break during its being removed. It would



44FQ271-A Prehist, 3-105-0, QZPPTA Anvil 01

4. One nice ovoid scraper (44STP - V26-Bag 5-12 bit and top).



5. In one of the Veatch collections we catalogued two prehistoric potsherds (attached) that demonstrate the arbitrary distinction we use to distinguish between cord marked and cord impressed surface treatments. Many years ago, while at Fairfax County I observed that different archeologists in the region (and beyond) were using the two terms either interchangeably or inconsistently. For example, two different archeologists were calling the same sherd either cord marked or cord impressed and that was true of the terms net marked and net impressed. Also archeologists were not making a clear distinction between the relatively random use of cord wrapped paddle to press the coils together on a body sherd with applied

patterned cord decorations on rims and collars.

As a result, I made an arbitrary distinction in our catalogue. In the old Fairfax County catalogue ó I don't know the current practice ó and the one we are using here we use (d) òí markedö (right body sherd in attached) to refer to the more random pattern used in the technological aspects and òí impressedö to refer to the decorative application (left rim sherd in attached). Interestingly, the right òcord markedö sherd also has subtle punctate decorations in the center of the sherd.



6. One of Veatch's collections (our V49) stood out. It contained a relatively high proportion of what appears to be Uwharries (North Carolina) meta-volcanic stone (three attached images). The collection was further intriguing in that it contained both black and greenish meta-volcanics. The presence of two Morrow Mountain II points (one of black meta-volcanic rock and the other of local silicified sandstone), suggests that the site may contain a discrete 7,000-year old Morrow Mountain component. A major source for the Carolina meta-volcanics is Morrow Mountain in North Carolina.

ANN CHERRYMAN MCCLELLAND
1951-2019

Ann Cherryman McClelland passed away March 26, 2019, at her beloved home in Tucson, Arizona. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, she spent her childhood and adolescence in Williamsburg and Virginia Beach, Virginia. She attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri and the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design in 1976.



Ann was a gifted graphic designer, working in the profession from 1976 to the early 1990s. She began volunteering with the archaeology program of Fairfax County Historic Resources in 1991 and it was at the Fairview Site (44FX16) where she met John McClelland, her future husband. Subsequently, Ann and John both decided to change careers.

Ann earned a Masters Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies ó Archaeology from George Mason University in 1994, the same year she and John were married. During her studies, Ann served as Instructor of Record for the George Mason summer

archaeology field school, investigating underwater Late Woodland archaeology sites in Belmont Bay, Fairfax County. This work was the basis of her M.A. thesis.

After graduation, Ann worked for Fairfax County Heritage Resources at the Hobo Hill site (44FX1517), the Barnes-Owsley site (44FX1326), and as Project Director at the Bacardi site (44FX06). In 1995, Ann and John relocated to Tucson, Arizona, where John pursued his doctorate.

She adapted well to the harsh conditions of Sonoran Desert archaeology, working on several Later Archaic/Early Agricultural Period and Hohokam projects for local cultural resource management firms and other projects for the National Park Service and the Arizona State Museum. Ann was passionate about the flora and fauna and cultures of the Sonoran Desert and the Greater Southwest.

Ann and John were fortunate to travel extensively, including a cruise around the British Isles, a trip to Argentina with the film crew of *The Desert Speaks*, and tours of France, Germany, and the Netherlands. They also toured the east and west coasts of Canada, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, the Sea of Cortez, as well as throughout the U.S.

Ann was an accomplished photographer who was well known among her Facebook friends for her amazing photos of wildlife visitors to her yard. Ann left us much too soon. She is survived by her husband John, sister Constance Saunders, and niece Kaytlen Saunders.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

The CART crew has been enjoying the lovely spring weather at John C. and Margaret K. White Garden Park in Falls Church, VA. The park is comprised of 13 acres of land featuring a late 19th-century barn, a 20th-century brick dwelling, a collection of outbuildings, an open grassy meadow, mature tree stands, and extensive ornamental gardens. The park's name derives from the White family who owned the property from 1938-1999 and gradually developed the property's elaborate garden landscape.

Over the past few weeks, CART conducted a systematic, shovel test pit (STP) survey of the property. The survey included over 150 STPs, spaced at 15m intervals across the park. While few artifacts were recovered from the survey, the field crew enjoyed soaking in the sun in the park's idyllic garden setting.

CART lab staff attended a Small Finds Workshop Group hosted by the Rappahannock Indian Tribe and St. Mary's College of Maryland. The workshop focused on colonoware, a type of low-fired, hand-built ceramic that is often recovered from contexts associated with enslaved African-Americans. The program featured presentations from subject-matter experts, hands-on exercises, and a show and tell segment in which attendees were encouraged to bring their own specimens for discussion.

CART staff brought along a sample of puzzling unidentified clay objects that were recently excavated from a mid-18th to early 19th-century slave quarter at Patriot Park North. The objects are composed of clay that was manually manipulated and shaped as evidenced by visible finger prints, hand impressions, and pinching in the clay before being fired at a low temperature or left to harden in the sun. The size and shape of the objects vary, as does the presence of inclusions in the clay and surface characteristics. The function of the objects is still unknown, but CART is open to suggestions!

Our volunteer program is currently full, but we hope that **New Volunteer Orientations** will resume in the late spring or summer. 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 and recent finds by CART.



Unidentified, low-fired clay objects recovered from Patriot Park North

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

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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!!!!