



THE DATUM POINT

March 2022

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

Several NVC members came out to the Ball Sellers House to help with STPs!! I am NOT working there this coming Saturday, March 12, but AM planning on digging more STPs on Saturdays March 19 and 26. Diane has information on this and other items of interest later in this issue.

Dr. Elizabeth Moore, the State Archaeologist and Past President of the ASV, is our speaker this month! Tune in to the Zoom talk on Weds!

Anyone wanting to help fill out archaeology site form information, contact me directly at patrickloneill@verizon.net. I have several sites I need help with getting recorded on VCRIS in Prince William and Arlington Counties.



Join This Month's Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89346497502>

March 9, 2022 7pm

This Month's Lecture

DHR programs, new initiatives, new reporting tools, and recent VCRIS enhancements

Dr. Elizabeth Moore will be presenting an overview of DHR programs, new initiatives, new reporting tools, and recent VCRIS enhancements.

Over the past several years, state funding has provided support for the recording and preservation of African American cemeteries, projects that expand diversity and representation in our programs, and expansion of programmatic coverage, including a new Underwater Archaeology program. Learn about these changes and how you can participate in the agency's preservation and education efforts.



CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

NVC continues to meet via Zoom every second Wednesday of the month. Mike Johnson and Patrick O'Neill are both reviving old projects and starting new ones.

Ball Seller House in Arlington

On March 5, Phase 1 STPs were dug at the 1742 Ball-Sellers House. Patrick O'Neill is being assisted by ASV Certification students as well as Northern Virginia Chapter members and members of the Arlington Historical Society. Patrick O'Neill plans to continue Phase 1 STPs at the Ball Seller House in Arlington on Saturdays, March 19 and 26. This is the oldest home in Arlington County; built in 1742 and added onto in several episodes. The home is a remarkable example of the original 1742-era clapboard shingles and still sports original chinking amongst the logs. The 20' Survey Grid was set up the weekend before by Patrick O'Neill, Diane Schug-O'Neill, and Kurt Fredrickson.

Bull Run Preserve

Bull Run Preserve contains multiple cultural resources Patrick hopes to map later in the Spring.

Contact Patrick if you're interested in these opportunities: Patrickloneill@verizon.net



Jasper Ridge

Mike Johnson has a project at Jasper Ridge, south of Front Royal, Va.

Mike noted: Earlier this week the area within the shovel test pit (STP) grid was cleared of underbrush, logs and small trees. On March 7 the grid was setup. The site is not expected to be stratified because the only kind of soil build-up expected would be from wind-blown (aeolian) deposits (“celestial dust”). The site is on top of a hill. However, the process of bio-turbation has been proven to cause artifacts to gradually drift down over time. with the potential for 13,000 years of that process impacting surface artifacts we could identify some evidence. The other caution on all such sites is that despite the fact a site might have been plowed, intrusive pit features and hearths have been recovered below upland deflated contexts. We want to have some idea about the natural soil so we can excavate our STPs by natural soil strata.

On Saturday, March 12, starting at 8 a.m., and weather permitting, the STPs will begin. Be prepared for ticks when the weather gets warm. Bring lunch, water, and bug repellent. The site will be open to the sun until the leaves come out.

Contact Mike if you're interested in this opportunity. MJ44FX1@verizon.net



Upcoming Chapter events:

- April 23rd: A field trip to Germanna, the home of Virginia's first governor, Alexander Spotswood. Director of Archaeology Dr. Eric Larsen spoke to the chapter five years ago and the tour will familiarize members with progress since then. To review Dr. Larsen's 2017 talk, visit <http://nvcasv.org/datum/2017/2017apr.pdf>
- May 11th: The chapter will participate in a Q&A with Thomas Klatka, the VDHR archaeologist for the southwest quadrant of Virginia. During the meeting, the chapter will view his talk, Towards an Understanding of a Native American Legacy: Pre-contact Origins and Development of Domesticated Crops in Virginia. The talk may be previewed at <https://youtu.be/sNUC3AtvHfM>.

Past Chapter events:

Our Chapter records its talks, but cannot post recordings. We are trying to archive them; contact Patrick O'Neill for inquiries.

- January 12th: Patrick O'Neill discussed the Archaeology of the Dependencies at Arlington House, where he dug a well unit that is still in place, covered by plywood. Constructed from 1802-1818, the Greek revival-style mansion was built to be both the residence of George Washington Parke Custis and as the nation's first memorial to his adoptive grandfather, George Washington.

- February 9th: Zachary L. Singer, Ph.D., research archaeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust, discussed Templeton: A Deeply Buried 12,000 Year Old Site in Western Connecticut. As a student at University of Connecticut, he analyzed the 1970s work of Dr. Roger Moeller on the site, which dates to 12,000 years ago. Singer noted a large quantity of fluted point production debris.



Remember to pay your 2022 Chapter Dues

Please see the last page of the DP for Chapter Dues! Mail a check to the name and address.

Field School Scholarship

The ASV NVC is soliciting applications for the Julian Williams and Eleanor Mullen Memorial Field Study Scholarship to provide limited financial support to individual members of the ASV seeking to enhance their archaeological field skills.

The deadline for application is May 1, 2022

The application form and additional information can be found the NVA Chapter website.

<http://nvcasv.org/about.html>

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

This month CART's Field and lab crews have been very busy this month organizing and completing older projects in order to prepare lab space for upcoming excavations and the eventual return of volunteers. Reorganizing the library has been a huge undertaking and is still very much a work in progress, but it has never looked cleaner and so organized! Lab organization has also included the cataloging of artifacts, the completion of project reports, and the transfer of quite a few projects to Collections.

The Fairfax Artifacts page has updated again! This month our senior field technician Brittany wrote a piece for the Fairfax County ArtiFACTS blog on the complex history of colonoware and its link to the enslaved individuals. Colonoware might not be a term that everyone is familiar with. Typically, it describes a type of undecorated ceramic made with locally sourced clay fired at a low temperature dating from the 17th to 19th centuries. Colonoware vessels, like those pictured from the Lyndam Hill site in Fairfax County, have been

archaeologically recovered from enslaved contexts within plantation sites across the southeastern United States. The full article can be found on the Fairfax County ArtiFACTS page,

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts>.

Please note that we are not currently taking volunteers and our offices remain closed until further notice. We will post new opportunities on the Volunteer Management website when they become available. Until then, ACB volunteers are encouraged to share their talents with other branches and/or parks where opportunities are now available. For more information, please visit Fairfax County's Volunteer page for more information. If you would like to be notified when we can accept volunteer assistance again, please email cartarchlab@live.com.



2022 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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
9518 Liberty Tree Lane
Vienna VA 22182

Chapter members can join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at www.virginiaarcheology.org/

The Chapter meets at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month either in person or on Zoom.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!