



THE DATUM POINT

August 2023

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

Come to the picnic! We'll talk, we'll eat!
We'll take a nature walk! But most of all,
we'll visit and talk to each other!!!!!!

CHAPTER PICNIC!!!!

No in person meeting this Weds!

**ASV/Northern
Virginia Chapter**

**Annual Summer
Picnic**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

12:00 – 4:00

MASON NECK STATE PARK



The park is located at 7301 High Point Rd., Lorton

Entrance to the park is via U.S. 1, then five miles east on Route 242 (Gunston Road) to the park entrance. We will be picnicking at a covered shelter (open sides) with two grills available. Restrooms are located about 60 feet away.

The Chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Members are asked to bring side dishes, desserts, and other treats to share.

Parking fee is \$10.00/car!

CART
COLLEEN BOYLE

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

School may be out for the summer, but the **CART** team continues to engage school age children by teaching archaeology. This July, the **CART** team joined forces with summer camps throughout the Fairfax County Park Authority and the City of Falls Church at the Cherry Hill Historic House & Farm. Part of the mission of the **CART** team is outreach and education in the community. The team is proud to spark scientific curiosity and a passion for preserving cultural resources in the next generation of archaeologists.



Archaeologist Tyler Ball explains excavation techniques (above left).



Archaeological & Museum Collections Manager Kelsey Atwood shows campers an artifact. Campers had the opportunity to touch archaeological tools of the trade, handle artifacts from our education collection and ask questions about fieldwork. Kid-friendly activities included an excavation sandbox with buried artifacts, puzzle plates featuring historic patterns and a new activity explaining the law of superposition—a method of relative dating.

Image: Archaeological Field Director Robin Ramey explains ceramic reconstruction techniques to campers.

To see more from **CART**, check out our latest artiFACTS blog posts: “Extra, Extra: Historic Finds Opens Eyes to Women’s Suffrage in Fairfax County” by **Elizabeth Paynter**. The artiFACTS blog can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts>.

Availability of Rubis-Fuller Research Fund

The purpose of the Rubis-Fuller Research Fund (RRF) is to provide financial support to the scientific research efforts in the Northern Virginia Chapter (NVC) of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV). This will enhance the level of archaeological knowledge among the Chapter's members through the recommended recipient's sharing the results with the Chapter.

The Rubis-Fuller Research Fund was established through generous donations from the family and friends of Dave Rubis and Patricia Fuller.

Dave Rubis, a Chapter volunteer, was committed to the use of scientific methods in archaeology, and developed new techniques that greatly enhanced the Chapter's archaeological efforts, particularly at Cactus Hill. Patricia Fuller was a longtime Chapter member who volunteered on many sites and held Chapter offices.

No more than \$300 will be awarded in any calendar year. The Chapter officers retain the right to accept a part of the proposal. A higher amount may be recommended, under exceptional circumstances, where the potential benefits to the Chapter are deemed to justify the higher level of funding.

Completed applications may be received between January 2 - September 15.

A recipient of the award must:

- Provide the Chapter Treasurer with an accounting of the research fund expenditures on a form to be provided by the Chapter, with appropriate documentation;
- Give the Chapter a copy of the research results, in an appropriate format;
- Write an article for the *Datum Point* within three months of receiving the results of the research testing. This article will describe the item(s) being tested, the methodology of testing, the anticipated results, the actual results, and the way the results will be incorporated into the project's continued research and/or its reporting. This article will be 150-300 words in length.

- Give an oral report at the monthly meeting when the written report is handed to the Chapter.

The following are examples of how the fund award might be used:

- dendrochronology
- phytolith analysis
- carbon analysis
- neutron analysis
- pollen analysis
- analysis of wood or cloth
- ethnobotanical and faunal analysis
- forensics
- soil analysis
- Carbon-14 (C14) dating

While these are examples, they are not meant to limit applications; all legitimate scientific research efforts will be considered for the Rubis-Fuller Research Fund award.

The application is available at <http://www.nvcasv.org/rubisfuller.pdf>. Once complete, give the application to any chapter officer. All proposed awards will be approved by the Chapter membership. This approval will be sought through the usual voting procedures of the Chapter. A notice in the *Datum Point* will precede the vote and a period of discussion will follow the call for vote.



2023 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
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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	Joe Downer	JDowner@mountvernon.org 703.799.6831
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-638-9724
Alexandria Museum	Dr. Eleanor Breen	Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov 202-442-8836

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues:

Individual (\$15) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Please make check payable to NVC/ASV.

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

9518 Liberty Tree Lane

Vienna VA 22182

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month. *Due to COVID-19 concerns, meetings may take place in-person and/or on Zoom. Details with start time and on-line/in-person information will be provided in the Datum Point newsletter prior to each meeting.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!