



THE DATUM POINT

January 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

I am honored to be serving as your chapter President again! Doubly honored to be serving as the President of the ASV! Yvonne French, our chapter Vice-President, has now joined the ranks on the elected ASV Board of Directors for the next two years, and Diane Schug-O'Neill is also serving the last of her two-year term as an elected ASV Board of Director.

The Northern Virginia Chapter remains healthy, with new members coming on board throughout the year. If you have not sent in your **chapter** dues for 2023, please do so as soon as possible. If you are not sure if you have paid your **chapter** dues, contact Treasurer Barbara Leven. It is also time to renew your **state** membership. You have probably received an email from me asking to renew your **state** membership. You can go to the following link to do that, cut and paste the link if it is not live. <https://virginiaarcheology.org/membership-registration/>. The chapter also voted to give \$200 to the VARC fund.

I look forward to seeing you at this month's presentation in person by Kurt Fredrickson! Come, socialize, enjoy!!!!



In Person Meeting This Month

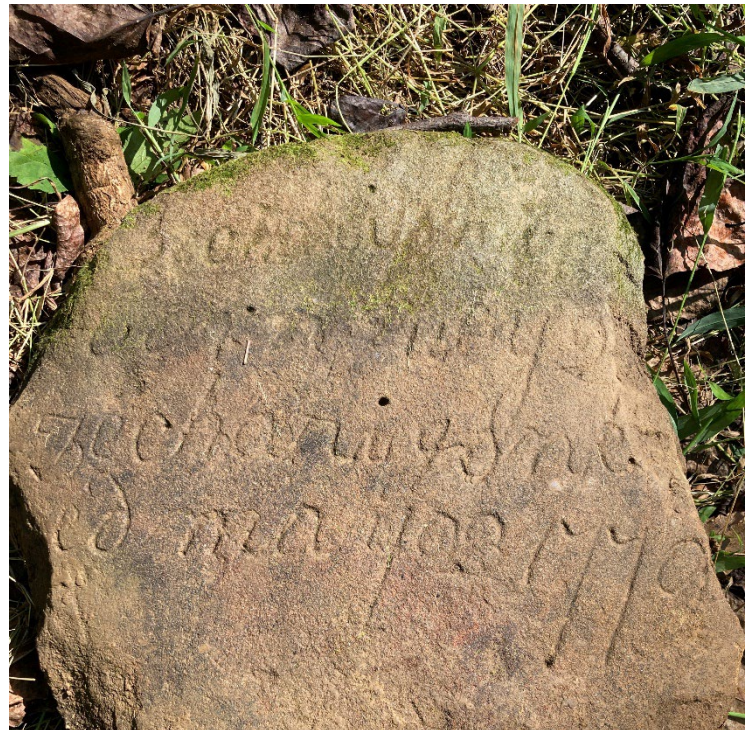
Wednesday, January 11. 7:30 p.m.

Richard Byrd Library
7250 Commerce St, Springfield, VA

This Month's Lecture

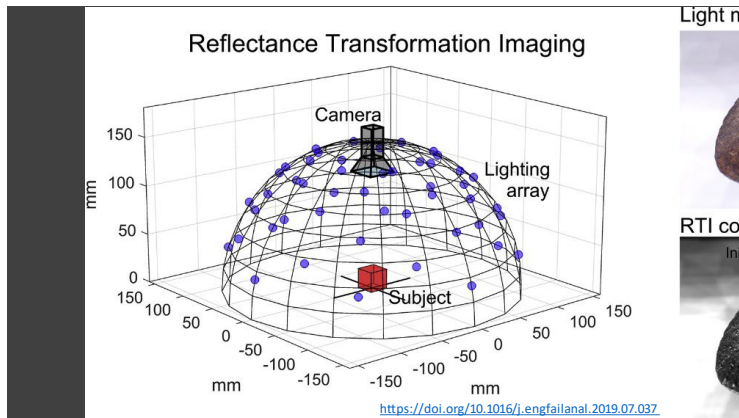
**Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) use in
grave marker examination & other applications**

By Kurt Fredrickson



Items such as grave markers and petroglyphs pose a problem for researchers attempting to collect detailed data in the field. While artifacts such as these often contain a large amount of valuable information, they are highly immobile and often affected by erosion, surface

debris and remote locations. This limits data collection to on-site interpretation, rubbings, or 2D photography. This project explores the application of reflectance transformation imaging (RTI) on in-situ artifacts for the purpose of extracting high quality data for interpretation.



RTI is a relatively new technology that basically gives virtual or 3D quality to the artifact through a series of images from a 180-degree sphere around the object being examined. The main components of a RTI system are a digital camera, a small single board computer, lights fixed at various angles, and a lot of wiring. As the computer sequentially turns on the lights, it simultaneously triggers the camera and captures an image from directly above the object. Open-source software then enables the combination of these images to create a representation of the surface that can be manipulated to accentuate details unseen in a single image, or by the human eye. A process that once required complex and expensive systems can now be constructed and executed by a determined professional who is willing to invest the time in building the system by hand and learn the necessary operational skills. I present a case study using mobile RTI on two grave markers from two remote unrecorded late 18th and early 19th century cemeteries in

Prince Georges County, Virginia. Findings indicate portable RTI is a viable means of high detail non-destructive data collection in the field.



Photos from the 2022 Holiday Party!





2022 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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!!!!