



THE DATUM POINT

November 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

The ASV Annual Meeting in South Boston was a success. I have photos later in the Datum Point on that. I saw many of you there, and I wish more could have attended.

We started the GPR work on Bull Run Mountain Cemeteries last Saturday. This was the first one, so I didn't broadcast it too far. When we do the next one, I will let you know so more can participate. I have some photos later in the DP.

Next month is the Christmas Party, which also means elections. Here is the slate of proposed officers:

Patrick O'Neill – President
Yvonne French – Vice-President
Treasurer – Barbara Leven
Recording Secretary – Diane Schug-O'Neill
Datum Point Editor – Kurt Fredrickson
Webmaster – Chris Havlicek
Certification Liaison – Ann Wood

John Kelsey has announced his retirement from the position of Corresponding Secretary. That position is open if anyone would want to run for it. This position collects archaeology/history related articles and websites to send out to the chapter for all to enjoy! Elections will be at the Christmas Party.

See inside about a vote for the purchase of water bottles for the Chapter.

Finally, look on page 5 for information on the Potomac Marble Tour on Dec. 1!!! You need to register to go!!!!

Note: not the Byrd Library

November presentation

At the

Thomas Jefferson Library

7415 Arlington Blvd

Falls Church, VA 22042

7:30 pm Nov 8, Weds

By Patrick O'Neill

**DC Workhouse
and Reformatory**



Patrick O'Neill will give a riveting presentation of the history of the Lorton Workhouse and Reformatory based on photographs he edited for the new book from Arcadia Publishing entitled, Lorton Prisons, by Kenena Spaulding and Alice Reagan.

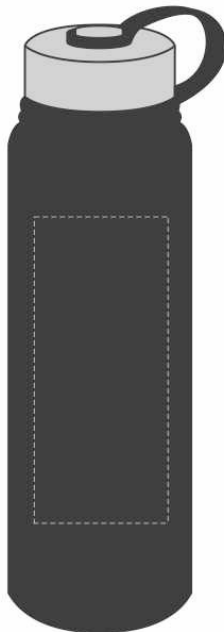
Vote Planned on Logo Water Bottles

Should the Northern Virginia Chapter spend up to \$800 on 35 water bottles printed with our logo? The water bottles are vacuum-sealed to keep beverages hot or cold for hours. They hold 36 ounces. They have a matte black finish with a white and black chapter logo. The cap is connected so it does not get lost.

The water bottles would be given to speakers as a thank-you gift and also offered for sale to chapter members for the subsidized price of \$10 to recoup some of the cost of the bottles.

Background: earlier this year the board debated whether to get ball caps for \$15 each or water bottles for a bit more and decided on high-quality water bottles. The board cannot make purchases above \$500 without the consent of the membership. At the November meeting, the board will ask the members to vote on whether to purchase the water bottles pictured here. Please note this is a mock-up only. The final appearance will be determined by the laser-printing company.


STAINLESS STEEL VACUUM BOTTLE-36 OZ. -LASER ENGRAVE
Imprint Area: 4"H x 1.75"W



2023 Annual Meeting Images



NVC table at Banquet: l-r front - Diane Schug-O'Neill, Jackie Cuyler, Sharon Butler; l-r back - Megan Veness, Kurt Fredrickson, Patrick O'Neill, Yvonne French, Mary Green, Paul Hogroian, Eric Larsen. Not pictured are Giner and Bill McGovern, Cynthia Donahoe, and Mike Johnson.



Sharon Butler, Certification Graduate and NVC member, and Dr. Carole Nash.



Mike Johnson giving talk on Jasper Ridge



Picnic at Longwood University Field Camp

CART

Colleen Boyle

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

Throughout the month the Fairfax County Park Authority will be highlighting archaeological finds from within our own community on social media. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram -- @fairfaxparks -- as we embark on a captivating archaeological adventure! Learn the fascinating secrets behind our collections, fall into the excitement of unearthing history and be wowed by the passion of those who make a career out of preserving the past.

For more information about Virginia Archaeology Month or the Archaeology and Collections Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority, visit the Archaeology Month website; <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/archaeology-month>.

Featured on the Fairfax County Park Authority blog *Our Stories and Perspectives* is "History Found Just Below the Surface". In June 2016, the Fairfax County Park Authority archaeology team uncovered a unique corduroy road that was discovered during a routine road maintenance project near an entrance to Lake Accotink Park. To learn more please visit <https://ourstoriesandperspectives.com/2018/10/29/history-found-just-below-the-surface/>



Head and foot stone of enslaved person's grave at the Diamond Hill Cemetery at Berry Hill. 300+ graves in the cemetery.



Overviews, Assessments, Identification, and Evaluation studies moving westward up the river from Prince William Forest Park to the terminus of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Highlights from this research include the discovery of new prehistoric and historic archaeological sites spanning over 13,000 years of changing human lifeways and different cultures represented by campsites, villages, workshops, stone quarries, domestic sites, taverns, kilns, mills, armories, forges, fortifications, and battlefields.



CART, the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia, and the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources hosted a presentation this month at the James Lee Community Center Auditorium!

The Archaeology of the Potomac River Valley: A View from the National Parks

With Stephen R. Potter, Ph.D.
Regional Archaeologist Emeritus
National Park Service

In the late nineteenth century, William Henry Holmes and his associates began the first archaeological survey of the Potomac Valley. Almost one hundred years later, professors William Gardner, Robert Humphrey, and Charles McNett, and their students followed up and expanded on Holmes' earlier efforts resulting in theses, dissertations, papers, and articles.

Starting in 1995 and continuing to present day, the National Park Service has been conducting

Did you know that Riverbend Park, situated on a bend of the Potomac River in northern Fairfax County, contains over one hundred archaeological sites?

Visit the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church from Oct. 9 to Dec. 31 to see artifacts from Riverbend Park, spanning Paleoindian, Archaic and Woodland periods. Discover stone tool technology adaptations to climate change.

Explore the history of the Potomac River Valley with Fairfax County Park Authority!
<https://bit.ly/3rKIAOI>

Potomac Marble Quarry Tour **Set for December 1**

We have scheduled the expedition for Friday, December 1, 2023, with a rain or snow date on Friday, December 8, 2023. In either case, we will meet at 10:30 AM. If we need to postpone the walk until December 8, you will be notified by email on Thursday, November 30.

Our guide Paul Kreingold spoke to us about the marble quarry on June 14. Contact President Patrick O'Neill at patrickloneill@verizon.net if you would like a copy of the recording.

Paul is pleased to announce that his good friend, Jon Wohl, Poolesville historian, C&O Canal expert, and journalist will join us for the walk and point out various, interesting Civil War and other historical sites along the way.

The **meeting place** is the Dickerson Conservation Area Parking Lot in Dickerson Maryland about ½ hour from Leesburg: [Dickerson Conservation Park - Google Maps](#). If you are using your GPS, remember that White's Ferry is currently closed so you will need to use the bridge over the Potomac River at Point of Rocks off Route 15. The address is 20700 Martinsburg Rd, Dickerson, MD 20842.

We will be walking about 2.2 miles each way to the quarry on the C&O Canal towpath. Once we reach the site we will cross over the canal in a spot which usually dry and then scramble up a steep incline into the quarry.

There is a well-maintained porta-potty about two miles from the starting point of the walk. We should return to our starting place before 3:00 PM.

Wear your best hiking shoes, dress appropriately and bring a snack and water to drink as you will not find any potable water during the hike. Don't forget your camera and walking stick!

YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND AS WE WILL BE LIMITING PARTICIPATION TO 20 PEOPLE. TO REGISTER REPLY TO paul@kreingold.com.

Paul is President of the Virginia Master Naturalists, Banshee Reeks Chapter, and is a Conservation Director of the Loudoun County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.



2023 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| President | Patrick O'Neill | PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275 |
| Vice-President | Yvonne French | yvonne.french2@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Barbara Leven | levenbarbara2@gmail.com |
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| Webmaster | Chris Havlicek | christo829@juno.com |
| Certification Liaison | Ann Wood | annpwood@gmail.com |

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!!!!