



THE DATUM POINT

September 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

We are so very privileged to have Dr. Stephen Potter give us another presentation this month! You owe it to yourself to come hear him talk in person!!! It will be recorded and a link sent out afterwards so you can watch it if you cannot make it in person. Dr. Potter is also giving a huge presentation at the James Lee Center in October, which will take the place of our regular meeting. See the flyer for that talk inside the DP!

The Virginia Outdoor Foundation is going to have the Forensic Lab from George Mason University conduct GPR on many of the cemeteries we have been recording on Bull Run Mountain. I will let you know if we can allow visitors, but we will definitely have someone from that group give the chapter a talk on the results!!! GMU has also established a "Body Farm" for forensic study!!!!

I also hope you have registered to come to the ASV Annual Meeting at the end of October!! If not, do it now!!!! Go to <https://virginiaarcheology.org/> to register and get more information about the Annual Meeting!



In-Person Meeting This Month

Wednesday, September 13. 7:30 p.m.

Richard Byrd Library,

7250 Commerce Street Springfield, VA

This month's presentation

The World of Stonehenge; A Personal Perspective

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

In June of 2022, my family and I traveled to England to see the first exhibition organized by the British Museum about the era of Stonehenge, bringing together objects from 35 museums and research institutions across western Europe, Britain and Ireland. Built around the same time as the pyramids of Egypt, Stonehenge took similar effort and organization to construct. To understand the purpose of the great stone monument constructed on Salisbury Plain, it was necessary to consider the

culture of its builders and their connections with equally powerful societies across Europe.



Beginning in the time of hunter gatherers, the exhibition explored the environmental and cultural impact of the earliest farmers, whose transformative way of life gradually spread across Europe before reaching Britain around 6,000 years ago. The new economic basis introduced dramatic changes in social relationships and in attitudes to nature, property and landscape. The arrival of peoples from across Europe 4,500 years ago brought different beliefs and innovative technologies, such as metal working, which stimulated and changed monument building. These migrations and international connections have been revealed through recent developments in archaeological science, shedding new light on the character of the communities who came together at Stonehenge.

By 4,000 years ago Stonehenge was a focal point in a cemetery landscape. The grave goods from this period reveal the beliefs and impressive connectivity of communities, as portable objects began to carry greater spiritual and social importance and communal monuments began to fade in importance. With an increase in cross-Channel connectivity and trade between 1500 and 800 BCE, there was also a rise in warfare and a warrior class.



My presentation ends with excursions to Stonehenge, Avebury (the largest henge and megalithic circle in Britain), West Kennet long barrow, and Silbury Hill.



Stephen R. Potter received his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In July 2016, Stephen retired after 39 years of Federal Service, 36 of them as the Regional Archaeologist for the National Park Service, National Capital Region. Prior to retiring, Dr. Potter received the prestigious John L. Cotter Professional Achievement Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archaeology and in 2020 he received the first Holmes-Gardner Medal awarded by the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference in recognition of his enduring contributions to research and practice in the region. The author of two books and numerous articles, Stephen's

research interests include both the prehistoric and historic archaeology of the eastern United States, the southern Algonquian Indians, the 17th-century Chesapeake frontier, the history and development of the American longrifle, and the archaeology and history of the American Civil War.



CART
COLLEEN BOYLE
Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

Earlier this month, CART staff surveyed the Cranford United Methodist Church cemetery. A recent ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey contracted by the church revealed the location of unmarked burials in the cemetery.



CART staff uses a tablet to document a grave at Cranford United Methodist Church cemetery.

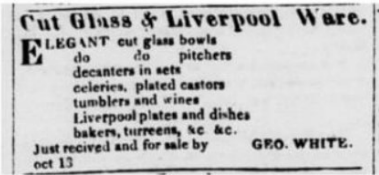
These discoveries gave CART staff the opportunity to record both marked and unmarked graves, resulting in more accurate and inclusive documentation of the cemetery in Lorton, Virginia.

CART is proud to announce that Amanda Benge has been promoted to Senior Archaeological Field Technician. A skilled researcher and field technician, Amanda has been a part of the CART team for the past 4 years. We look forward to watching her take on this new role and are glad to have her expertise.



To see more from CART, check out our latest artiFACTS blog post at

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



[An American Patriotic Plate Made in England](#)

[By Heather Hembrey, M.A., M.A.A](#)



The Archaeology and Collections Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority,
the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia,
and the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources are honored to present:

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

Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
James Lee Community Center Auditorium
2855 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, VA 22042

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 the present day, the National Park Service has been conducting Overviews, Assessments, Identification, and Evaluation studies of 10 major parks in the Potomac River basin. These investigations were planned as a connected series of 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.

Free and Open to the Public
Door opens at 9:30 AM (with Coffee and Light Breakfast)
the Program begins at 10:00 AM



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
Corresponding Sec	John Kelsey	jkelsey@cox.net
Recording Sec	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com
Datum Point Editor	Kurt Fredrickson	Kurt.N.Fredrickson@hotmail.com
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
Germanna Foundation	Kelly Arford-Horne, MA, RPA	kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org 540-423-1700

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!!!!