



# THE DATUM POINT

August 2025

Newsletter of the  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)



## FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

PATRICK O'NEILL

Please come to the summer picnic!!!!  
Great weather and great site to tour!!!

Here is the link to my presentation last month for Saint's Hill!!!! You should be able to copy and paste into your browser to see it!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aNx5qK99HVCcnV9LtYp5x3-0sZ8QVmkoe2AYpSRsrs7Cdas7Otoj2PkWbLsFVyRu.DHIWzXVVdoPCFoM-?startTime=1755128197000&pwd=DAn4teLmcY9nIUf8kAAAAIAAAAE UE-fzN6IJBCqIUknV8qIOyvtlZSbolc6zm5sHKrS0XRJVP9k-dWXV-EGW-KV7TAwMDAwNA>



## 2025 Summer Picknick



Image: Public Domain, Wiki Commons

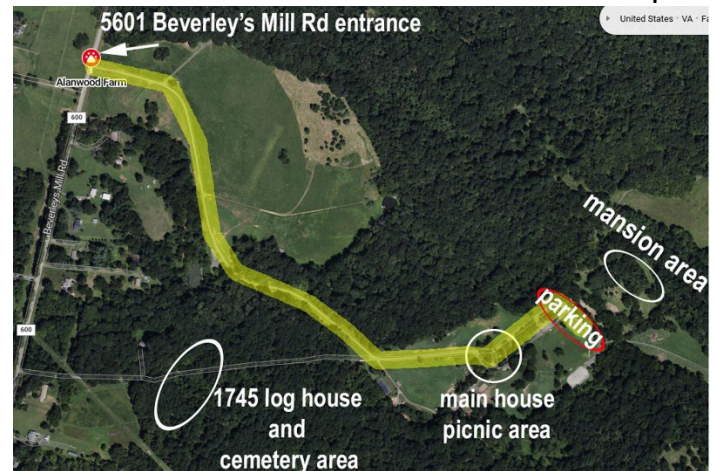
**Who:** ASV NOVA Chapter Members\*

**What:** ASV NOVA Chapter Yearly Picknick!

**Where:** 5601 Beverley's Mill Road, Broad Run, VA

**When:** September 6, 2025, 11AM-3PM

**How:** Bring yourself and a dish to share! The chapter will provide plates, utensils, drinks, and cups



\*Family and friends allowed, just let Patrick O'Neill know in advance.



# Germanna Historic Site

## Open House

Historic Germanna (44OR0003) ran a successful open house on August 2nd. Dozens of interested people from the community attended to learn more about the site, the location of Governor Spotswood's estate, and the site of the first Spotsylvania Courthouse.

The weather was fair and sunny, and the event was well attended with supervised groups visiting areas of active archaeology.



*Assistant site director Mac Guthrie recounts the story of the Gordon family*

Displays and other media were presented to provide visitors with an understanding of what the site may have looked like, and to facilitate an easier understanding of the land's layout.



*Volunteer Carol Krishnan engages with visitors about the history of brick making*

A table was set up with examples of artifacts found at the site, along with people who could answer the visitors' many questions. The wind fought with the staff and volunteers, but most of the documents and example objects remained in situ for the day.



*Visitors screen soils from nearby excavations*

Some more enterprising visitors even got a chance to help out. Above, we see a group of visitors learning how to sift through soil and spot artifacts. Lucky for them, they don't have to clean and sort what they found.





*VCU field school student Max Thompson discusses the excavation of an 1800s trench feature*

The discovery of a feature and its interpretation was a hot topic among the visitors, and a lot of questions were asked by a curious public. An important aspect of archaeology is informing the public of what is found, and both above and below pictures are perfect examples of this in practice.



*A fragment of glass stemware recovered during the Open House*



*Intern Liv Collins guides visitors on a tour of excavations*

Importantly, archaeology was ongoing during the Open House, providing the public with a realistic glimpse into what archaeology entails. In fact, several interesting artifacts were uncovered during the event, including this stemware piece (top right).

***Photos courtesy of Historic Germanna***



*Ishtar Watson recovering after a long day of work*

An enthusiastic volunteer after a long day of public outreach, her face covered in what looks like 7.5 YR 4/4 silty clay loam.

## 2025 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!!!!**