



THE DATUM POINT

March 2026

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



Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING
WILL BE IN PERSON ONLY!!!!
7-9 PM - MARCH 11, 2026
THOMAS JEFFERSON LIBRARY
7415 ARLINGTON BLVD., FALLS
CHURCH, VA 22042**

**FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT
PATRICK O'NEILL**

Spring is here!!!! I have an intern from NOVA this spring, Bao Truong, also a former student. He is assisting me with many projects, particularly helping me enter site data into VCRIS for the VOF's Preserve! He has also been volunteering with Mike Johnson on Thursdays with Jasper Ridge project.

You have received an announcement on the 2026 ASV Annual Meeting to be held in Richmond in late September 2026. The ASV will be sending out updates throughout the year. Book your hotel room early!!!!!!!!!!!!

I will be sending out notices when I am going into the field this spring. There will also be field opportunities at Jasper Ridge, and notices will go out for that project as well.

-Topic: The life and times of a 17th century widow on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Speaker: Mike Clem (VDHR)

Mike Clem has worked as an archaeologist in the Mid-Atlantic region for more than 30 years, much of that time focused in his home state of Virginia. He earned a BA from Georgetown and an MA in Anthropology from American University. Over the years he has conducted and managed dozens of cultural resource projects and trained and worked with numerous volunteers and cultural resource specialists. His primary interest and focus have been on historic domestic sites; from slave quarters to plantation sites, but he has also worked on industrial sites and numerous Civil War encampments as well as large precolonial sites. In recent years, his focus has been on early 17th century colonial sites on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Prior to joining The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, he worked for several consulting firms and for five years was the Archaeologist for Loudoun County, Virginia. As the Eastern Regional Archaeologist for DHR he answers requests from citizens to examine sites and artifacts they have found, he also works with local and state government officials on threatened sites and conducts field schools to help train volunteers in the processes of doing archaeology. In addition to his local experience,

he has worked on projects in the American Southwest, the Midwest, and in South America.

Jasper Ridge Quarry (44WR4)

Mike Johnson continues lab work in his Arlington home. If you're interested in getting involved, contact [Mike](#).



VDHR Shares:

In conjunction with the **Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV)** and the **Council of Virginia Archaeologists (CoVA)**, DHR has posted to its website the PDFs of two volumes that examine archaeology in the state from its millennia of occupation by Native peoples through the recent past.

[The Archaeology of Virginia's First Peoples](#) (2020)

[The Historical Archaeology of Virginia From Initial Settlement to the Present: Overview and New Directions](#) (2017)

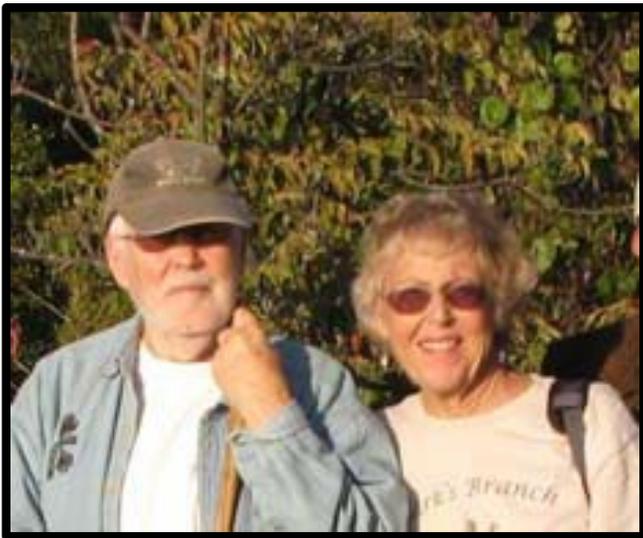
Evidence of Native American Villages Unearthed in Virginia

Live Science reports that artifacts unearthed in the Fones Cliffs area of Virginia's Rappahannock River may provide evidence of a village described by English colonist John Smith, who was elected president of the Jamestown council in 1608. Archaeologist Julia King of St. Mary's College of Maryland and her colleagues used Smith's early seventeenth-century writings, and the oral histories of the Rappahannock Indian Tribe, to guide their search. They recovered some 11,000 artifacts at two sites—a sixteenth-century settlement that Smith likely mapped, and an early eighteenth-century site that the team believes was occupied by a settler named "Indian Peter," who was probably the son of a Rappahannock woman. "The presence of these artifacts confirms both oral histories and documents that suggested settlements were located here in 1608, when Captain John Smith spent several weeks mapping the Rappahannock River," King said. The geography of this area offered natural protections and good soil for growing corn, she added. "Rappahannock people understand the greater river valley as their homeland, regardless of who may own the land today," King explained. [\[read more\]](#)

If you would like to share archaeological information with Chapter Members, send a link and note to [Diane](#).

Riddle: How does a 20-something get to see and do so much?!

Answer p.4



CD Cox and Ann Wood in 2010, here CD is only 90
Clearly, NVC membership is linked to a long life!

- World War II
- Coronation of Elizabeth II of England
- Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Backpacking through Europe in the 1960s
- US v. Soviet Space Race
- Lucy is discovered in Ethiopia (1974)
- As a lifelong fan of the [Redskins] Commanders, she's routed for QBs from Sammy Baugh to Jayden Daniels
- Civil Rights Movement
- Newspaper reporter
- First **Earth Day** celebration (1970)
- Experienced *The British Invasion* as well as *Watergate*
- Wife, mother, and grandmother
- Digging at Cactus Hill and Gault
- Becoming a Certified Archaeological Technician



Ann in 2011, at Mike Johnson's retirement party

- Great Friends & Political Rivals
Ann and Mike would "compete" to see who brought more people to the polls!
- Has voted in 18 US Presidential elections
- Serving our Chapter as President, Vice President and later as Certification Liaison for our Chapter
- Eruption of Mount St. Helen's (1980)
- Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman on the US Supreme Court (1981)
- Saw some *Hanging Chads* (2000 election)
- The birth, use, and decommissioning of the Space Shuttle
- Demotion of Pluto to dwarf planet
- Arab Spring across North Africa
- 9/11 Attacks
- Survived COVID
- White Sands Footprints are discovered (2021)
- She is also a proud member of the *Thursday Lunch Bunch*

Riddle Answer: *Ann is a Leap Year Baby!*
We CONGRATULATE Ann
on beginning her 90th Revolution
around the Sun!

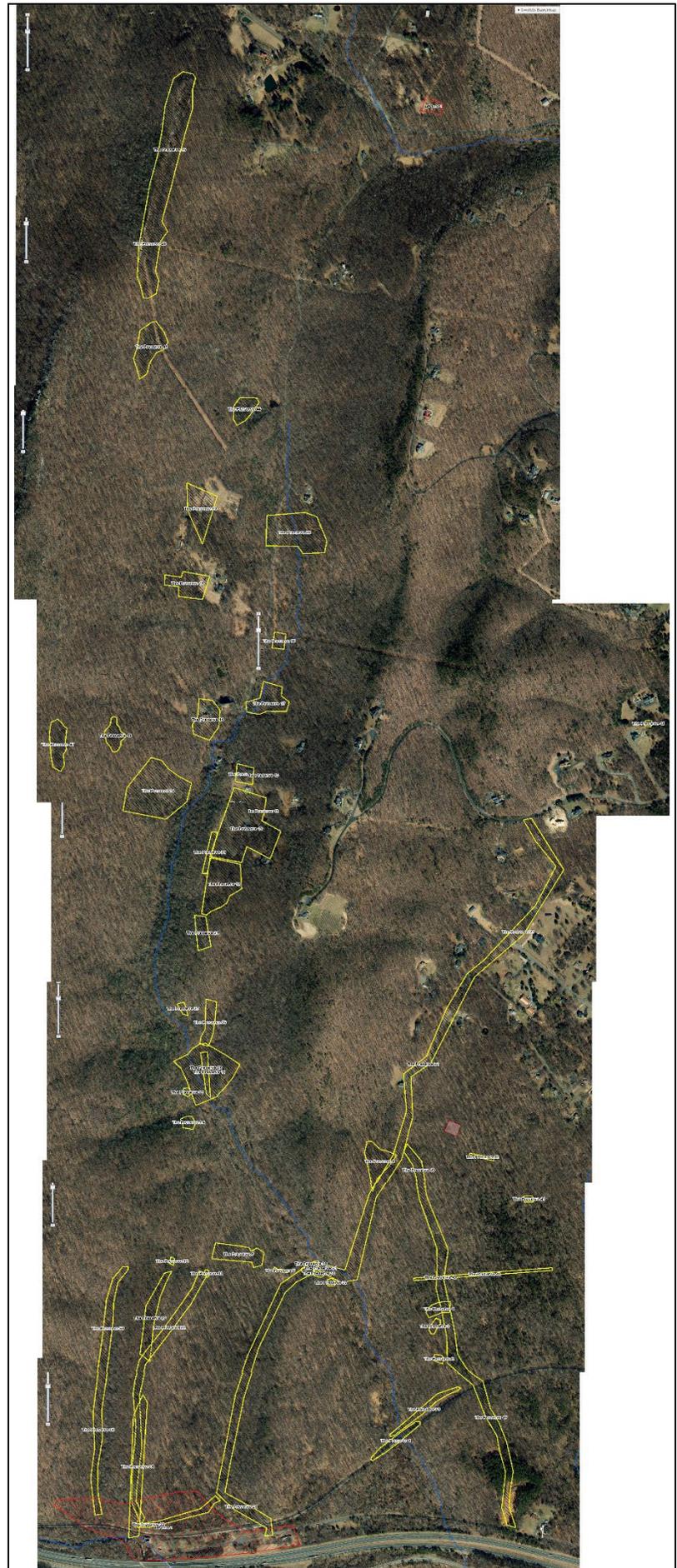
Archaeological Sites from the Preserve

By Patrick O'Neill

I have been recording archaeology sites on the VOF's Preserve for over 15 years. Finally, with the help of an intern, Bao Truong, they are being formally recorded in VCRIS!

Over the past three weeks, we have entered 50 sites into VCRIS, ranging from farmsteads, cemeteries, quarries, roads, foundations, fencelines, and more, all telling the history of the area. To clarify, the sites are completely biased towards historic sites and visible on the 1937 aerial photographs, lidar, and pedestrian survey. Surface artifacts and features have been observed on all sites, yet no subsurface investigations have been conducted, potentially for a future effort.

The map shown to the right illustrates the area north of I-66 along southern portion of the Bull Run Mountains, historically called Mother Leather Coat Mountain. **When this project began, the only known archaeological site in this area was Chapman's Mill located in red at the very bottom of the map.** That's the way to populate an archaeology map!!!!!!!!!!!!



2026 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The link above allows you to pay online via PayPal (no need for an account) or Venmo. You can still pay via a traditional check, as well. Our dues go towards many different supportive efforts beyond paying for our website. We participate throughout the state with: Scholarships; Donations to Sites; Memorials; Fieldwork Opportunities; Educational Programs; and more.

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. *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!!!!