



# THE DATUM POINT

February 2026

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

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



**THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE VIA  
ZOOM**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

**[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89228388972](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89228388972)**

## **CANINE TRAINING AT THE PRESERVE ON BULL RUN MOUNTAIN**

by Patrick O'Neill

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

It will thaw out at some point! And when it does, I have several projects to get back to, including Everhart Mill in Loudoun Co., Saint's Hill in Fauquier Co., and The Preserve in Prince William County. I will inform you when I am getting out to these project areas.

Mike Johnson is still having lab hours on Thursday evenings and Saturdays in Arlington. If you are not on his Jasper Ridge email list, please contact him at [mj44fx1@outlook.com](mailto:mj44fx1@outlook.com).

I have an archaeology intern from NOVA this semester, Bao Truong. He will be very visible on my projects as well as with Jasper Ridge lab and field work. He took my field survey class at NOVA last summer and wants to continue to become a field tech (and beyond).

Looks like the 2026 ASV Annual Meeting will be in the Richmond area. The COL Howard MacCord Chapter has stepped up to sponsor!!!!



Press Release from VOF (Virginia Outdoors Foundation):

At the end of 2025, BRMNAP (Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve) welcomed out a team of canine archaeologists (Seamus, Sheena, Keegan, and Quest) - and their human counterparts (Kathleen, Jan, and Jane)!

This skilled Human Remains Detection (HRD) team was led by Dr. Kathleen Connor, who kindly partnered with us to contribute to our understanding of the Preserve's cultural resources and keep these four-legged archeologists sharp.

The use of trained HRD dogs is an emerging remote sensing technique used to identify the locations of human burials.

As a state-designated NAP, our "no dog" policy helps us greatly reduce the spread of invasive plants and ensure that the Preserve's 2,500 acres remain as wild as possible. That said, we relished the chance to host this meaningful exception!

This method is often used to recover lost loved ones in search and rescue settings, but is an emerging non-invasive application used in archeological applications when paired with other data.

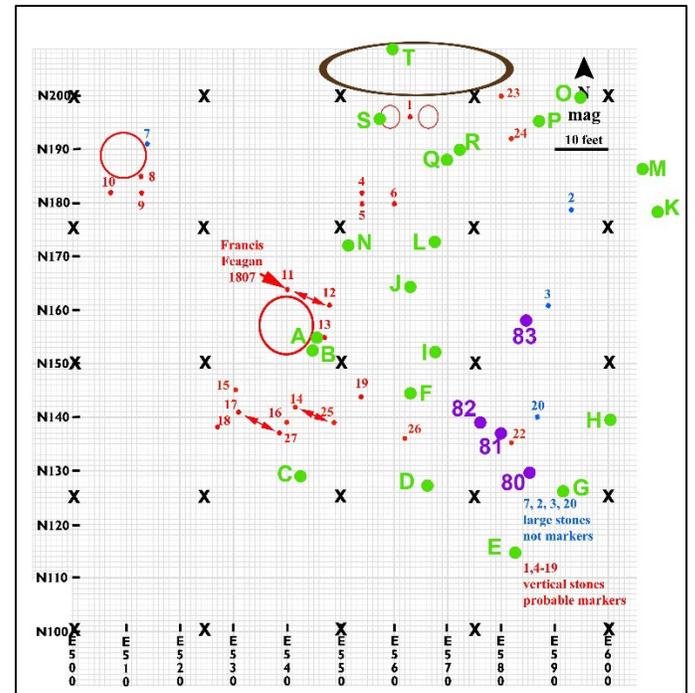


Seamus marking a hit

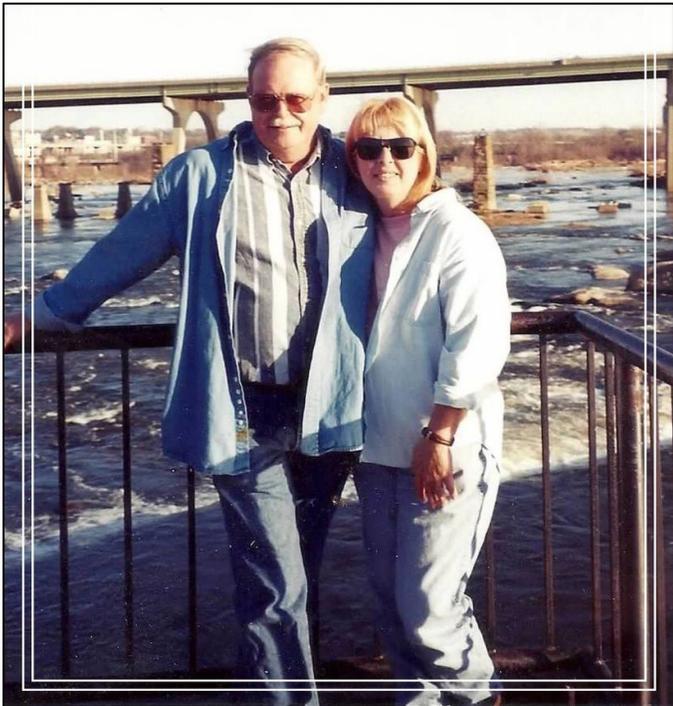
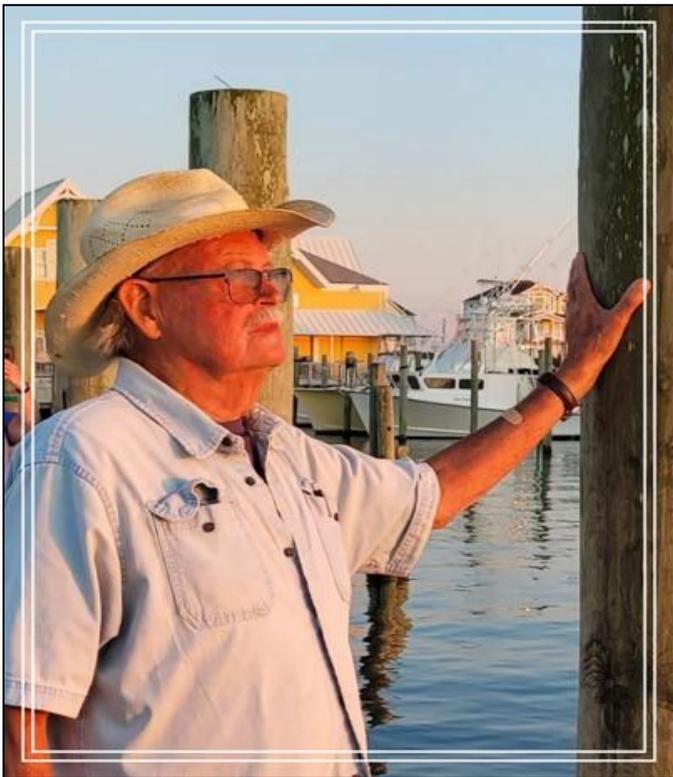
Professional survey of our homesteads and cemeteries has been ongoing, thanks to a partnership with local historian and archaeologist, Patrick O'Neill, and his team of

volunteers associated with the Archeological Society of Virginia.

The HRD team's visit provided us with further evidence to insure that the boundaries and burial count within our historic cemeteries are accurate - as markers and other grave characteristics are not always obvious at the surface level."



Map of Feagan Cemetery with red #s marking known field stone markers and green #s marking Seamus hits



Bob and Gail Wharton

[Full Obituary  
https://www.ealvinsmall.com/obituaries/robert-walter-wharton-wharton?ttm\\_pid=210779164&ttm\\_affiliate=legacypro&ttm\\_affiliatetype=standard&ttm\\_campaign=legacy](https://www.ealvinsmall.com/obituaries/robert-walter-wharton-wharton?ttm_pid=210779164&ttm_affiliate=legacypro&ttm_affiliatetype=standard&ttm_campaign=legacy)

It is with a heavy heart that we note the passing of Bob Wharton on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Bob was a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, he was also an employee of Fairfax County, in the Heritage Resources Branch. He worked alongside Mike Johnson for many years before retiring to Hopewell.



Bob Wharton (in his cowboy hat), supervising fieldwork south of Winchester in Frederick County, Virginia, Fall 1996. – David Rotenizer (of Western Waters Research)

After retiring, Bob did not sit still. He spent many hours volunteering at Kittiewan. An integral part of the inner workings of both Historic Kittiewan and Virginia Archeological Resource Center (VARC). Up until about a year and a half ago, one would see Bob on either Wednesday or Saturday. Sometimes he would be seen cleaning out the artifacts storage areas, other days he would be outside moving dirt or clearing vegetation. He and his contributions will be sorely missed.

If you would like to share memories of Bob, feel free to send them to Diane for future *Datum Points*.

## 2026 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

|                           |                     |  |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>          | Patrick O'Neill     | <a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a><br>703-244-6275 |
| <b>Vice-President</b>     | Darius Roby         | <a href="mailto:darius.robby@live.com">darius.robby@live.com</a>                           |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Barbara Leven       | <a href="mailto:levenbarbara2@gmail.com">levenbarbara2@gmail.com</a>                       |
| <b>Recording Sec</b>      | Matt Windt          |  |
| <b>Datum Point Editor</b> | Diane Schug-O'Neill | <a href="mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com">schugoneill@gmail.com</a>                           |
| <b>Webmaster</b>          | Chris Havlicek      | <a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>                               |

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

|                                       |                                |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b> | Dr. Jeffery Alvey              | <a href="mailto:fcpa-archaeology@fairfaxcounty.gov">fcpa-archaeology@fairfaxcounty.gov</a><br>703-534-3881 |
| <b>Mount Vernon</b>                   |                                |  |
| <b>Gunston Hall</b>                   | Dave Shonyo                    | <a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a><br>703-638-9724               |
| <b>Alexandria Museum</b>              | Dr. Eleanor Breen              | <a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a><br>703-838-4399         |
| <b>DC City Archaeologist</b>          | Dr. Ruth Troccoli              | <a href="mailto:Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov">Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov</a><br>202-442-8836                             |
| <b>Germanna Foundation</b>            | Kelly Arford-Horne,<br>MA, RPA | <a href="mailto:kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org">kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org</a><br>540-423-1700       |

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