



THE DATUM POINT

January 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 VIA
ZOOM**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83139105570>

THE ORIGIN OF HOMININ STONE TOOL PRODUCTION

BY DR. METIN EREN
(Kent State University)
S Hill

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT PATRICK O'NEILL

Elections held at the December Chapter meeting results:

Patrick O'Neill – President
Darius Roby – Vice-President
Treasurer – Barbara Leven
Datum Point editor – Diane Schug-O'Neill
Recording Secretary – Matt Windt
Chapter Webmaster – Chris Havlicek

A lot of chapter activity going on. Mike Johnson is still hosting lab work for Jasper Ridge, depending on the scheduling. Field work there may also resume depending on the weather.






I am going to be going back out to Saint's Hill and the Bull Run Mountain Preserve, and maybe back to the Everhart Mill in Loudoun County for some cleanup work. Diane Schug-O'Neill, Matt Windt and I and VOF (Virginia Outdoors Foundation) personnel observed canine training on the Preserve at the Jones, Poplar and Feagan cemeteries in December. It was a great opportunity to see how the process works and enhance our knowledge of these archaeology sites.



Dr. Eren is interested in how Paleolithic (Stone Age) technology functions and evolves via a Darwinian system of descent with modification, and how technology helped hominins survive on the landscape, especially during dispersals into new and unknown territory. With a specialty and main interest is flaked stone technology, his research also at times involves other materials (e.g., ceramics, metals, etc.). He also pursues and publishes research questions involving non-human primates, as well as on later Holocene, and even historical, archaeological contexts.

Site of Interest:
Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS)

This site has: *Cataloging Manuals* for data consistency among catalogers with a description of how the data were created; *Color Data* to provide an objective method of describing color by matching artifact colors to a Munsell code; *Stylistic Elements* providing individual decorative elements and motifs; and more, including a *Glossary*.

Archaeological sites throughout the Southeastern US and the Caribbean (site map), along with Seven Query Options	Artifact Queries 
Object Queries 	Site Information Queries 
Context Queries 	Document Queries 
Image Queries 	Mean Ceramic Date Queries 

In December, a few NoVa Chapter members assisted and observed a few members of the Archaeology Human Remains Detection (AHRD) Dogs on Bull Run Mountain, in cemeteries on the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) property.



Handlers and K9s at the end of the day



Seamus searching and indicating



Left: Deneith Reif (VOF) entering GPS data;
 Right: John Lennox (VOF) flagging a hit

2026 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
Vice-President	Darius Roby	darius.robby@live.com
Treasurer	Barbara Leven	levenbarbara2@gmail.com
Recording Sec	Matt Windt	
Datum Point Editor	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com
Webmaster	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com

Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Jeffery Alvey	fcpa-archaeology@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
Mount Vernon		
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

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. *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!!!!