



# THE DATUM POINT

January 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**

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

## **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.

## **THE ORIGIN OF HOMININ STONE TOOL PRODUCTION**

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



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 ( <a href="#">site map</a> ), along with Seven Query Options	<a href="#">Artifact Queries</a> 
<a href="#">Object Queries</a> 	<a href="#">Site Information Queries</a> 
<a href="#">Context Queries</a> 	<a href="#">Document Queries</a> 
<a href="#">Image Queries</a> 	<a href="#">Mean Ceramic Date Queries</a> 

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

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a> 703-244-6275
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### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

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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 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!!!!**