

THE DATUM POINT

Newsletter of the
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

April 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

We have a treat coming up at our April chapter meeting on the 14th. Paul Inashima, who is well known to many of us, will be talking about the excavation he led at the Clark's Branch site in Riverbend Park. Many chapter members worked there with Paul, and we know that he is a meticulous archaeologist who goes out of his way to share his knowledge and experience with volunteers. This will be an opportunity for those of us who worked in the trenches to find out what Paul thinks it all means.

Put Saturday, May 8th on your calendars. That's the date of our field visit to historic Brentsville in Prince William County, which we'll combine with our annual picnic at the very good facilities they have there. Details on the tour and picnic will follow by email, but suffice it to say that Diane Schug-O'Neill has set up a great program, including a talk by an archaeologist and tour of the complex of historic buildings. I need to mention that this event is overlapped by a field school that Mike Johnson is putting on down on the Nottoway beginning on May 3rd. We discussed the conflict, but both events needed to go ahead as scheduled. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend both activities. -- See you in the field.



APRIL PRESENTATION

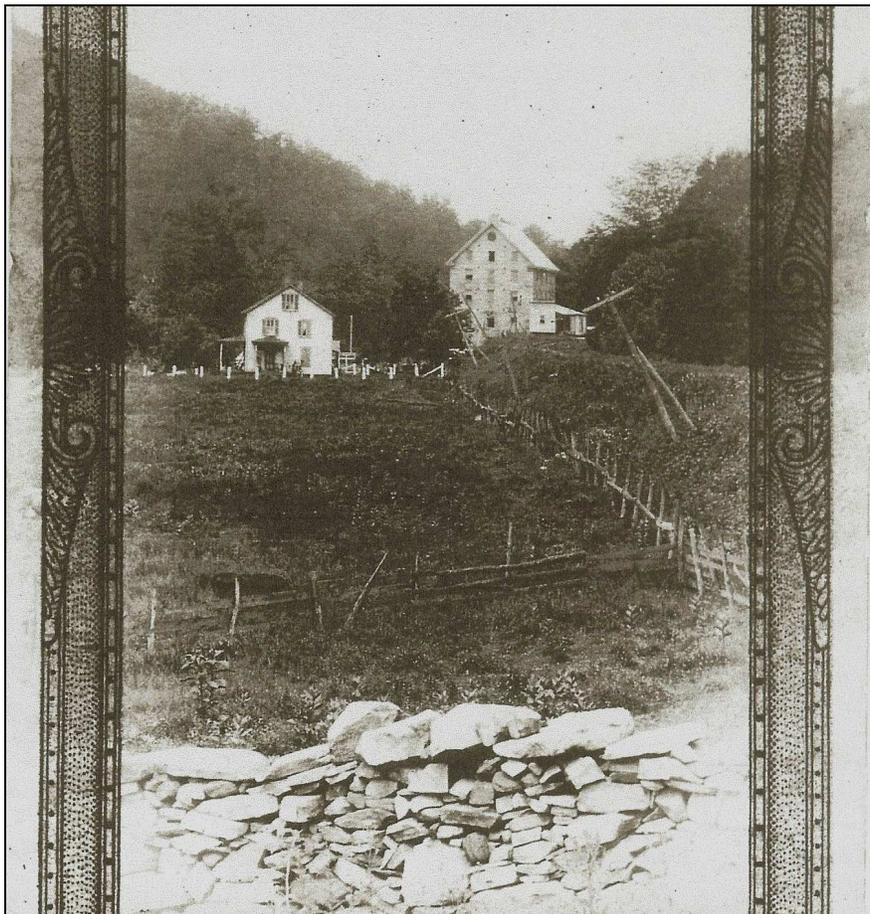
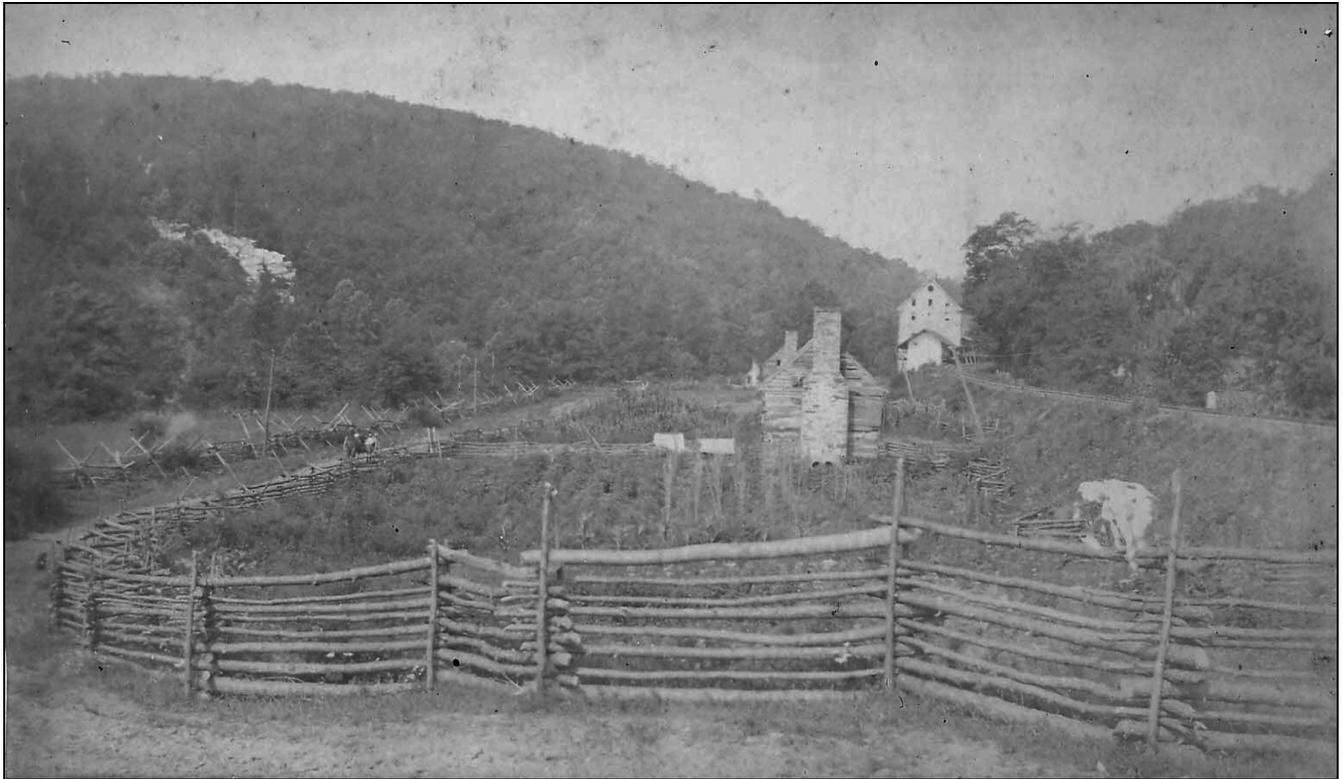
BY PAUL INASHIMA

CLARK'S BRANCH

AN EARLY STRATIFIED SITE IN THE EASTERN VIRGINIA PIEDMONT

Paul Y. Inashima is a freelance archeological consultant. He served for fourteen years as Assistant Chief/Senior Archeologist of the former National Park Service Eastern Applied Archeology Center, receiving seven agency awards for excellence. He has been a President of the Council for Maryland Archeology (CfMA), a member of the CfMA Executive Committee, a Trustee of the Archeological Society of Maryland, a Director of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), an Editor of the ASV *Quarterly Bulletin* and of the CfMA *Abstracts in Maryland Archeology*, the Maryland-Virginia Coordinator for the Current Research Section of the *Southeastern Archeological Conference Newsletter*, the Co-Program Chair of the First Joint International Archeological Conference. He has authored over 100 archeological reports, papers, and articles and has worked on projects ranging from a nineteenth-century frontier trading post in the southwest to a deeply stratified Paleoindian site in Pennsylvania. He has served as principal investigator on six externally funded projects for Fairfax County: a Phase II/III investigation of the David Site (VDOT), a comprehensive 100% survey of Meadowood Farm (BLM), a Phase I survey of Lexington (Virginia State Parks and VDHR), a Phase I/II investigation of Clark's Branch (NPS), a Phase I survey of Mason Neck State Park (Virginia State Parks), and a Phase III investigation of Clark's Branch (NPS). Currently, he is consulting as an advisor to the archaeology program at Gunston Hall and is on the Readers Panel of *Nature*, *The International Journal of Science*. He received his undergraduate training at Dartmouth College and his graduate degree at The American University.

CHAPMAN'S MILL – Patrick O'Neill



Two important photographs exist for Chapman's Mill. The 1880s image above contains two log cabins, which could be older slave quarters. The lane on the left of the image and crossover in the foreground are clearly defined. In the 1910 image to the left, the log cabins are long gone, and a late 19th century house has been built closer to the mill. The stone wall in the foreground is at the crossover, where the railed fence was located above.

In order to facilitate where to place STPs at the site, it was imperative to know where the footprints of the log cabins were situated, in order to help the mill foundation determine how to develop that portion of the site.

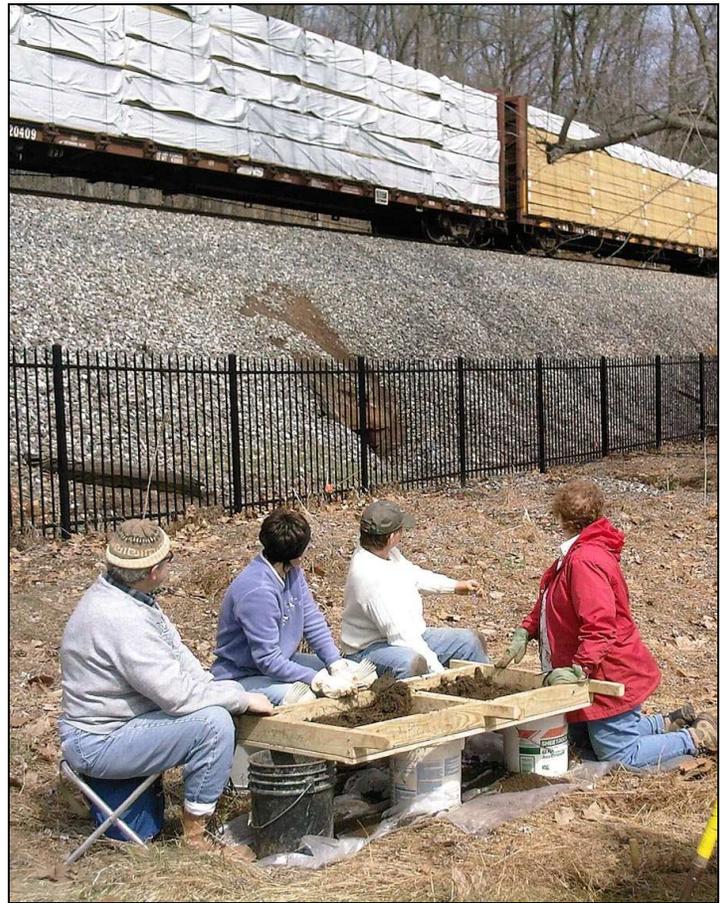


I made an overlay of the 1880s photo and then once it was resized to fit on a modern photo, I drew the pertinent landmarks, such as fences, buildings, mountain, railroad, on the overlay (above). Then, after turning off the historic photo layer, I could see where the highest potential for locating the log buildings and other features (below)! Early STPs have revealed a rich area of domestic and architectural artifacts ranging from the mid-1700s to late 19th century, probably representing the yard area around the cabin in the foreground.





Diane Schug-O'Neill, CK Gailey, and Maggie Johnson



What the heck is that?



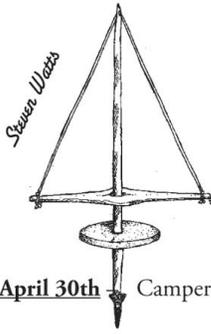
CK, Karen Schweikart, Jackie Cuyler, and Diane



John Kelsey and confirmed prehistoric guy Chris Ramey doing historic archaeology!



Pipe bowl



PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY WEEKEND

MAY 1st and MAY 2nd 2010

AGENDA



Friday, April 30th - Campers arriving before 5 PM to register at the Nature Center. Please arrive by 8 PM
\$ 1.00 to camp per person.

Barbecue Dinner... If you want to partake of the barbecue at 5 PM Saturday rather than eating out, please contact us and send a check for \$13.00 made out to Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council. Enclose a note. The Dinner will include pork barbecue, chicken breast, coleslaw, baked beans, and lemonade.

Saturday, May 1st 2010

- 10:00 AM **Safety Officer Jim Mezick** supervises bow and arrow shooting each day for families, children, and adults. Target butts will be open both days for supervised shooting. The target range will also be open all day.
- 10:00 AM **Clay Coils and Pinch Pots** – Ongoing both days. Learn the basics of native pottery and build your own pot with traditional tools.
- 10:30- AM **River Cane Gadgets** – Doug Meyer will show you how river cane is adaptable for making a wide variety of tools.
- 11:30- AM **Mud, Sand and Fire** – Greg High will help you understand the shapes and building styles of the pottery in the Southern traditions of the Catawba in N. Carolina. Greg will concentrate on styles, proper construction technique, drying and firing of pots. A firing will be conducted weather permitting.
- 1:00- PM **Wild Edibles and Resource Management** – Steve Adams is well known for his thoughtful articles on wild smoke, hiking sticks and foraging. He will share his insight on manipulating wild edible plant communities for short & long term harvesting as well as sustainability of their communities.
- 2:00- PM **The Non-Returning Boomerang** – Bill Kaczor of Ancestral Knowledge presents “Rabbit Sticks the Non-Return Boomerang.” Rabbit sticks were incredibly important for taking small game. Many abo groups used them from the South East Catawba to Oregon’s Great Basin.
- 2:30- PM **Soapstone & Quartz Cookery**– Join Scott Silsby and Jack Cresson as they show you how to cook stone and cook with stone. Scott will discuss how form follows function within the ancient design of soapstone pots and stone mortars for processing plant and animal foods.
- 8:00 PM **Beyond Cactus Hill: New Discoveries in the Search for the First Americans from a Middle Atlantic Perspective**
Mike Johnson will discuss many compelling discoveries from the 1990’s Nottoway River Survey. Discoveries from the Archeological Society of Virginia of probable pre-Clovis cultural levels at the Cactus Hill site on the Nottoway River in will also be discussed. These discoveries led to a revival of the hypothesis that people from Europe may have arrived in North America before Clovis. Following an introduction on Cactus Hill, the presentation will focus on that research and discuss some new discoveries that make the Middle Atlantic a “hot bed” of pre-Clovis research.

Sunday, May 2nd 2010

- 8:00 AM **Traditional Bow Shoot** - Everyone is welcome! Bring your traditional bow, target arrows, judo pointed and rubber blunt arrows for a shoot based in part on Callahan’s Roving Handbook. We will have field shooting as we roll the inner tube, toss discs into the air and try to pop rising balloons. Those wanting to continue can enter the forest range for 24 woodland targets.
- 10:30 AM **Squirrel Skin Bow Strings** - Dan Coates of the Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake presents, “Squirrel Skin Bow Strings (Cherokee style).” One of the toughest critters in the forest is the gray squirrel. Dan will show you how to turn a road-kill squirrel into a 4 or 6-strand bow string.

NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
Phone (H): _____
(W): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____
Student (\$5) _____
Family (\$17) _____

New _____
Renewal _____

Return to:
NVC/Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

Chapter members should join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia.
asv-archeology.org

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

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Northern Virginia Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
2855 Annandale Rd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

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