

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

February 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN KELSEY

Jack Hranicky got us off to a good start in 2012 with his talk on the Spout Run site in Clark County. **Diane Schug-O'Neill** is in the process of lining up speakers for the year, and we're also looking into possibilities for field trips. Your thoughts and suggestions would be welcomed. You may send them to me or Diane.

The pace of membership renewals for 2012 is good so far. I'd like to encourage you to renew by the end of February, if you haven't already done so. Remember that we have changed to a calendar year membership, so everyone has to renew except those who joined since last September. Please don't forget your ASV membership, too. See the note below from our Treasurer, **Isabel Pease**, for more information.

Speaking of the ASV, I recently attended an ASV Board Meeting in Charlottesville. Some points from the meeting included:

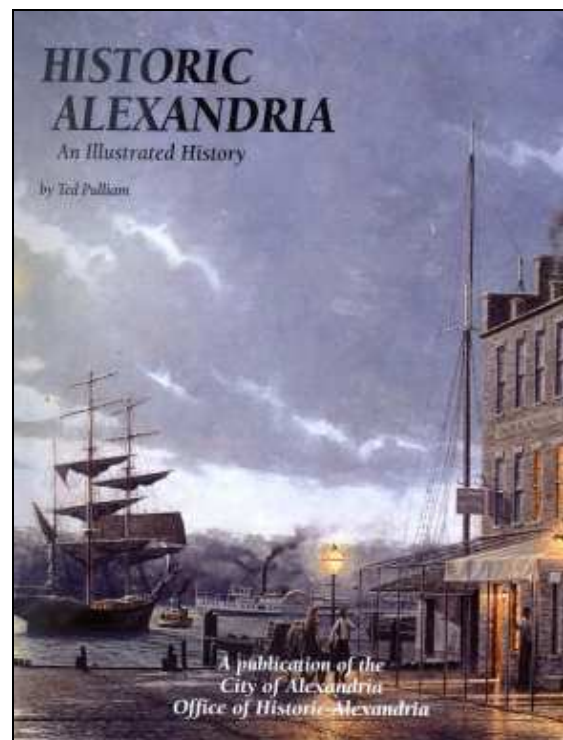
- A reminder of the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, March 23-24, at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA.
- The ASV is considering a proposal to establish a new maritime chapter for underwater archaeology along Virginia's coasts and rivers.
- The ASV 2012 annual meeting will be held out west in Wytheville, October 12 – 14. Blocks of rooms at two nearby hotels have been reserved for \$90 per night. Tours are being arranged to Wolf Creek Indian Village and Museum and the Museum of the Middle Appalachians.

(cont'd pg2)

February 8th talk

STORIES OF ALEXANDRIA

By Ted Pulliam



Author Ted Pulliam will talk about historic Alexandria from the first occupants at its establishment in the mid-18th century to its years as part of the District of Columbia to Civil War and Reconstruction to the Civil Rights era to the present day. Pulliam is a member of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and the Secretary of the Alexandria Historical Society.

President's column (cont'd from pg1)

Patrick O'Neill has recently completed digitizing the back issues of the ASV's *Quarterly Bulletin*. In order to OCR the entire 70 years of the *QB*, he needed Adobe Acrobat Pro X Teacher and Student Edition, which he bought for \$107.99. At a Chapter meeting last year, Patrick discussed the project, and there was a sentiment that supporting the project would be a worthwhile Chapter contribution to the work of the ASV. At our February meeting, I will bring to a vote the question of reimbursing Patrick for his software purchase.

The Williams-Mullen Memorial Scholarship Fund provides limited financial support to Chapter members who attend field schools. The window for applications is now open. Applicants are encouraged to apply by the end of April. Applicants must be members in good standing of the Chapter for at least four months and members of the ASV. Applications for field school attendance this year should, if at all possible, be forwarded to the Chapter by the end of April. Applications and further information on the program are available on our website at <http://www.nvcasv.org/scholarship.pdf>. Send your applications to our Vice President, **Chris Havlicek**, at christo829@juno.com.

Finally, I've been remiss in not recognizing new members for the past couple of issues. The list that I have includes **David Belford, Paula Eley, Kristen Clarke, Robert Shuey, Beth and Jim Stenstrom, Jurate and Carl Landwehr, Belinda Urquiza, Bill Yaeger, and Jeff Irwin**. That's pretty impressive for only a couple of months, and I hope I haven't left anyone out.

UP-COMING AND ON-GOING EVENTS

Programs at Gunston Hall in February include:

- Seeds of Independence Between the Lines: Mason Neck During the Civil War, Sunday, February 12th, 2 PM
- Presidents' Day – The Two Georges: George Mason and George Washington, Monday, February 20th, 9:30 AM to 5 PM

- Liberty Lecture Series – After the Revolution: Now What? Sundays, February 26th, March 4th and 11th, 3 PM.

Other locations have upcoming events!

The Majesty of Troy: Recent Discoveries 1990-2010, a lecture by C. Brian Rose, University of Pennsylvania, February 7th at 7 PM, 1957 E Street, Elliott School, Room 113, **George Washington University**.

<http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/anthropology/sites/default/files/u12/Rose%20on%20Troy.pdf>

The First North American Migration: Not a Strait Route, a talk by Dr. Dennis Stanford, Director of the Paleoindian Program at the **Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History**, Wednesday, February 29th, 6:45 to 8:30 PM.

<http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/reserve.aspx?performanceNumber=223643>

Anglo-Saxon Hoard: Gold from England's Dark Ages, an on-going exhibit at the **Explorers Hall, National Geographic Society, Washington, DC** through March 4th.

<http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits/>

A Death in the Village: Lessons from the Mycenaean Chamber Tombs of the Nemea Valley, a lecture by James C. Wright on Bryn Mawr College at **George Washington University**, Tuesday, March 6th at 7:15.

<http://www.archaeological.org/events/5522>

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

From Isabel Pease, Treasurer

We have received dues from about half of our members so far for 2012. \$15 for individuals, \$17 for families, \$5 for students – what a deal! Please remit renewals payable to “NVC/ASV” to:

Isabella Pease
NVC/ASV Treasurer
8304 Graceway Drive
Lorton, VA. 22079

If you joined the chapter after September 30, 2011, your dues will carry over through 2012.

COLCHESTER UPDATE

It has been an eventful month for CART despite the rain and cold. First, we want to say a big thanks to ASV for supporting our trip to Baltimore and presentations to the Society for Historical Archaeology. Your generous grant enabled several of our team to present who otherwise would not have been able to attend. It was a resounding success with some of the audience having to sit on the floor as all the chairs were filled. We received all positive feedback. You will get to see our papers as we will be presenting them at upcoming meetings.

CART has been really getting its name out there. Aside from SHA, Chris spoke to the Daughters of the American Revolution and spoke at the Mason Neck archaeology symposium, sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources. Next up we organized a session about Archaeology in Parks at the March Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference.



CART Session Co-Chair, Kathleen Lowe, introduces the motley group of presenters.

When weather conditions allow, the prehistoric crew is back on the ridges. A small number of sites had been recorded on these landforms during a pedestrian survey. A formal shovel test survey, conducted in 2006 failed to identify any appreciable deposits. Last March we conducted some initial testing and found material in nearly every hole. Now we have returned and are in the process of defining the boundaries of the finger ridge sites to better understand exactly what we have up there.

However, based on the data to date, it looks like we may have stratified deposits. What initial analysis indicates is Early Woodland pottery has been recovered from near the transition between the organic layer and B horizon. After a discernable void, the artifacts increase near the base of the B horizon just above sterile subsoil.



It can be a haul out to the ridges, but worth it for one of the prettiest areas on the park

Moving forward, once we have established site boundaries on the finger ridges, we plan to excavated a small number of test units. We do not intend to excavate enough to formally evaluate these sites, but would like the control of a test unit to better understand the stratigraphy and to guide future work. Apart from the ridges, Kathleen scouted out a new site in the park interior. It is a

small site but we hope to start testing there once the ridges are complete. That said, it is near an upland wetland and we all know about the famously high water table in this park.

Speaking of the water table, when the historic crew's units are not inundated, they are out at 44FX0704, a.k.a. the "Cemetery Site." Excavation has begun into a dark, rectangular feature. So far it has been impressive for the amount and diversity of faunal material. We have several species represented and are even getting fish scales from the water screening. When the water table has been up, the historic team spends its time at JLC processing artifacts. They are getting caught up with the catalog, thanks in part to the help of volunteers.



Dark rectangular feature at Site 44FX0704

As usual we can always use help in the lab or field. Our field days are Thursdays through Saturdays (unless there is a symposium or something) for historic, Thursdays and Fridays for prehistoric. Almost all lab operations are at JLC and we have a ton of work ranging from washing, rebagging, picking fine mesh recovery, cataloging, and labeling.

Lab volunteer days are Wednesdays through Fridays. Drop us a line to let us know your coming in to lend a hand. The email address is CART.Volunteers@gmail.com. If you cannot make it but want to keep up with events, check us out at CARTArchaeology.blogspot.com.

ASV CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNICIANS

Submitted by Ann Wood

(President's note: The certification program has been in existence for some time, with many graduates from Northern Virginia. This article is offered for the new members who have recently joined the Chapter.)

Open to volunteers, Virginia's Archeological Technician Certification Program is designed "to give individuals the opportunity to obtain recognition for formal, extended training in the techniques and goals of archaeology without having to participate in an academic degree program."

The statewide certification program is sponsored by the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA), and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). Co-chairs are Carole Nash of COVA and Bruce Baker of ASV.

About two dozen archeology volunteers in Northern Virginia are currently in training to become certified archeology technicians.

"The aim, as I understand it, of the Cert program, aside from producing archaeological technicians, is to foster a wider understanding of the practice and application of archaeology ...and for me it has certainly done that," says Bill Cole, who graduated and received his certificate at the ASV annual meeting in October.

"The field work has its own inherent interest and fulfillment, but I'd like to take it to the next level. Completing the certification program is a major part

in achieving this goal,” says Anthony Burke, who is well along in the program and has traveled from Petersburg to Northern Virginia to take courses.

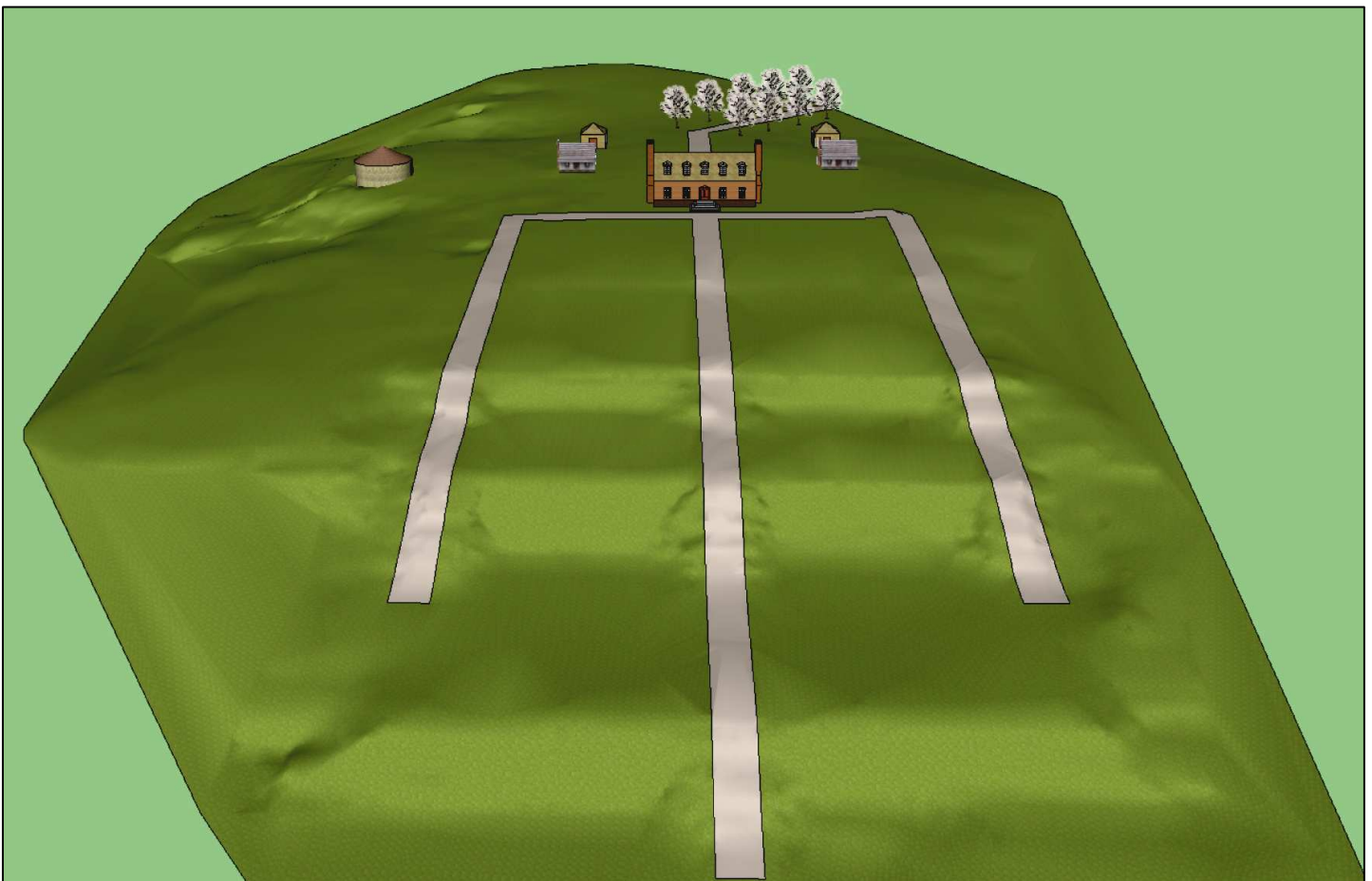
To earn a certificate, a candidate must complete 180 hours of hands-on experience in the field and laboratory, attend 11 formal lectures, receive specific field instruction on a number of topics, take part in a field school, read a list of required books and articles, and pass laboratory and written tests. The requirements include historic and prehistoric archeology, field survey, excavation, laboratory processing, and site recording.

A variety of opportunities are provided to complete these requirements over a period of 2-3 years or longer. Candidates are assigned professional and avocational mentors, and must keep a journal.

Those interested in finding out more about Virginia’s certification program should go to the ASV website: <http://asv-archeology.org/> Under “Organization,” go to “Certification”. Instructions for enrollment are included. Participation requires membership in the ASV, which must be maintained in good standing.

New enrollees from Northern Virginia are invited to email Ann Wood, certification liaison for the Northern Virginia Chapter of ASV, at annpwood@verizon.net to be notified of courses in the area.

This is just one of the most wonderful topographic images of the landscape at historic Lexington by Paul Inishima. Note the sculptured terraces in the front of the image! This is just a draft image, so we can only imagine how great the end product will be!



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703-534-3881

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Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Pam Cressey	pamela.cressey@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399 (information)

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

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ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

[] Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Return to:

Isabella Pease, Treasurer, NVC/ASV
8304 Graceway Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

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

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center at the above address.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

THE DATUM POINT

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

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