



THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

April 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

After trying for two years, the sun was shining on the one day I needed to record the Spring Equinox at my Spout Run site. It has been overcast with no sun; with this winter's off/on snow etc., I finally was able to photograph the site with the sun on it. I have a sun dial that works for days, months, and year; I will be giving a paper on it at the ASV Annual Meeting.

The 2013 ASV Annual Meeting will be held from October 25-27 in Virginia Beach, Virginia at the Cavalier Hotel, 4201 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451. See the ASV webpage for more details: <http://asv-archeology.org/News/NewsAM.html>. Last year's meeting was held in Wytheville, Virginia and a high number of our chapter members attended; it is always a great meeting. Make plans to attend.

The Archeological Society of Maryland's annual Spring Symposium will be held Saturday, April 13th at the Howard Community College in HS150 new Health Science Building, 10901 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, Maryland. As always, ASM presents the Richard E. Stearns memorial lecture and this year's lecturer is Julie Schablitsky whose talk is "After the Burning and Before the Banner: The Battle of Caulk's Field".

Also, there is the Iris McGillivray lecture which I have given in the past. I knew her and she would, in many years past, let me present a paper. She was the finest person in the history of the ASM. Anyway, this year's program has a wide variety of papers. You probably guessed it, I enjoy any archaeological conference. There is always something new to learn.

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April 10th Presentation

The Archaeological Use of Metal Detectors

By Mark Michael Ludlow

Mark Michael Ludlow, RPA, at age 66, is currently a PhD student in Archaeology at The School of Archaeology, History and Anthropology at The University of Wales ó Trinity Saint David, Wales, UK. He also has a B.A. in anthropology from Drew University, an M.A. with Merit in archaeology from The University of Leicester, Leicestershire, England. He has experience in Eastern Woodlands, historic archaeology, historic standing buildings, and Pre-Columbian Caribbean archaeology.

Metal detectors have been extensively used by treasure hunters/collectors (avocational metal detectorists) for some time. Those unenlightened activities tainted their less destructive scientific and pedagogical applications. Used in a systematic and controlled manner, metal detectors have particularly insightful results in conjunction with current/traditional survey and excavation schemes.

This presentation will de-mystify the technologies and the machinery and further demonstrate their simple use and applications, with an emphasis on simple, uncomplicated, and the immediate use of the equipment. The proper and efficient archaeological usage of the equipment will be demonstrated using a recent case study where extensive STPs were first used, then systematic metal detecting was utilized on the same site, demonstrating the equipment's effectiveness in contrast to the use of the STP.

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You have a chance to work on the ASV's own Kittiewan Plantation. Patrick O'Neill is conducting field work which will consist mainly of digging STPs in the higher probability areas. This area is planned for de-forestry so it needs to be tested. Contact him to help out; work is scheduled off/on through June.

Otherwise, see everyone at the meeting. I have a historic trivia question most, but not all, will know the answer to it.

NVC LOGO:

SPEAKER GIFT – MEMBER PURCHASE

By Diane Schug-O'Neill

Folks we are at the end of the hats we give to thank the many varied speakers. ***We need your input.*** The following are options to be considered to provide as gifts and for member purchase. I will compile the responses and report at the April meeting.

Embroidered Hat - \$8.50
Short Sleeve T-shirt - \$8
Long Sleeve T-shirt - \$12.50
Sweatshirt - \$29
11 oz. Ceramic Mug - \$4.60
16 oz. Travel Mug - \$7

Please send your comments to Jackie Cuyler (jackiecuyler@comcast.net) by **April 9 @ 12pm**. Please let her know that you'd purchase 1 hat or 2 short sleeve t-shirts or 1 travel mug, etc. at the price listed ó **also** feel free to send a comment like: I would buy 3 ceramic mugs if they were í (Ceramic mugs go drop to \$3 if we buy 72; hats drop to \$5.00 if we buy 100.)

This is just a survey, you will not be obligated to buy anything, we are merely getting an idea of interest.

As of 31 Mar 13, approximately 1/3 of our membership have not paid their 2013 dues. Dues are now \$10.00 for individuals (plus \$2.00 for families) for membership to continue in good standing through January 2014. This is a gentle reminder for your continued support for this great organization. Dues can be mailed to:

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

CART UPDATE

By Megan Veness

Salutations from the CART crew! To start off, CART would like to welcome Jonathan our new field technician. March has certainly been a very exciting month! The survey at Enyedi was completed just prior to the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, where Megan and Chris presented their papers on Cemetery and Town. The session in which their papers were included focused primarily on late colonial sites and projects located within the Lower Potomac region. It was great seeing all of the hard work done by crew members and volunteers at Town and Cemetery presented in a broader context.

Upon our return from MAAC, we immediately began excavations of test units on downtown Colchester in the front yard of the Roydson Property. CART is extremely excited to finally be back on the town site! Our GIS specialist, Marion, is using ArcMap to place GMU's test units from the 1980's onto our grid. She was able to successfully overlay the map Kayla drew based upon the artifact bags from their excavations in the 1980's, onto a recent aerial photo and project it using CART's grid. This helped us to better place their finds on the landscape relative to our own. Due to the amount of fill we have found in one of our first test units located near the stone lined well, the maps are beginning to line up. In addition, Megan may have discovered a foundation located closer to Old Colchester Road. There are large architectural stones, brick, and large metal fragments recovered within burned soils, which could be evidence for a structure which burned in the early 1900's. The

artifacts recovered from this unit range from ceramic, to iron fragments, to a large light aqua green glass container.

Excavations on Town for this year have already been very promising for the new season. We encourage volunteers to come out and join in our efforts of excavating Town and processing artifacts in the lab. There is plenty of work to do in both the lab and field! Visit our blog at <http://cartarchaeology.blogspot.com> to stay updated on CARTø progress and to sign up to volunteer! You can also email us at cart.volunteers@live.com. Hereø to hoping spring brings lovely weather and even more promising discoveries!



SALONA ARCHAEOLOGY

From Aimee Wells

Fieldwork is underway at Salona Park. This park, which is not owned, but rather, an easement that the Park Authority manages, is undergoing the Master Planning process. This work is meant to determine the presence or absence of archaeological sites at Salona Park, to assist the Master Planning effort and aid in public interpretation of the park and its place in Colonial, Early National, and Civil War history.

This portion of the project will focus on the Resource Protection Zone, the forested area in the southern portion of the park. Additionally, this study will include initial characterization of above-ground architectural ruins as well as documentation of their current condition, measured drawings, photographs, and both architectural and archaeological investigation into their age and use. Finally, the study has the potential to uncover the remains of portions of Camp Griffin, an important, centrally-located, Union winter camp. The site has the potential to contain both winter hut and Sibly-tent features and associated artifacts, though it is acknowledged that the area has been relic hunted in the past. Should such features be discovered, they will be noted but left unexcavated at this time. Further work is anticipated at the site.

Team Excellence Award

Team Excellence Awards recognize the outstanding efforts of groups of employees, often from different agencies, with interdisciplinary membership. Teams may be a diverse group who come together to accomplish a specific goal and then disband or an on-going group which has performed in an outstanding manner on a specific project which has a start and end date. Team members receive a certificate of commendation, two days of administrative leave, and a special team cap.

County Indigent Cemetery

One of the most ancient of government functions is to assist with the burial of indigent or unclaimed persons. For many years Fairfax County interred such persons at a county-owned cemetery, but this location was closed to new burials in 1993. Since then, the county has contracted out these services to private cemeteries while looking for an appropriate new cemetery on county property. Burials often involve people who were once clients of the Department of Family Services; therefore, Family Services initiated the request for a new cemetery and enlisted the Department of Planning and Zoning's help to find a location. While the result—finding an appropriate place to respectfully honor those who have passed away—speaks for itself, the most important aspect of the Team's success was the willingness to work cooperatively searching for, and investigating the merits of a suitable cemetery site. This task was not on any one agency's work plan, and no one person or agency had the expertise to do all of the necessary work on their own. Each person on this Team made time out of their normal work duties to meet, identify opportunities and constraints, perform the necessary field work and due diligence, and prepare the necessary documents for ensuring the county's commitment to those less fortunate. The process was long. Five different county properties were presented as possible cemetery candidates and each required investigation and consideration. Eventually, two sites were selected for serious consideration and each member of the Team brought their expertise to the table as these sites were analyzed. The selection of the Lincolnia Road property was the culmination of a nearly 20-year search for a suitable cemetery and a 4-year county staff-led commitment to achieving a viable solution.

Each person on the Team was necessary for success: Barbara Antley's institutional knowledge of the problem and her desire to provide a needed county service; Leanna O'Donnell's planning skills to research viable properties and navigate the planning and zoning approval process; Hayden Coddling's legal skills to interpret the deed, conduct title searches and perform other legal research related to the property purchase; Teresa Lepe's and Andy Miller's acumen to identify the engineering constraints and opportunities on the candidate properties and provide workable solutions; and Liz Crowell's and Aimee Wells' fieldwork and guidance to ensure that cultural resource and preservation elements were thoroughly investigated to allow the development of the property.

Each member of the Team performed at a high-level of professionalism over a period of four years. Each exhibited outstanding communication skills and technical proficiency, and a willingness to work as a Team, resulting in the purchase of an Indigent Cemetery site that will serve the citizens of the county for decades.

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Please send *Datum Point* via e-mail

Individual (\$15) _____

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8304 Graceway Drive
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