

THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org

June 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT – JACK HRANICKY

On June 1st, the Fairfax County Park Authority held an open house at the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Chris Sperling, Magan Veness, and Elizabeth Paynter were out to tell us everything about the site's history and their archaeological work; well nearly everything. As Colchester is an Colonial-era port town, it has a lot of information to add to our knowledge of Fairfax and Virginia.

We were given a tour of the site area, had various excavators tell us about their digging experiences, shown the port's layout, and artifacts from the site were on display. Many of our chapter members are volunteering their time to help with excavations, washing artifacts, and numerous other activities involved with the future park for the public.

The site has everything ó house foundations, warehouse areas, ancient vineyards! was a center for the trade of tobacco. Well, in the early 1800s, the old port gave way to other larger ports and was lost to history.

Of course, Fairfax archaeologists with the aid of volunteers are bringing the port back to life. The tours were informative and provided the public a look at archaeology in action.

June 12th Presentation

BIPOINT BEFORE CLOVIS

BY W. JACK HRANICKY, RPA



Jack Hranicky is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA). During his forty-year career his scholarship has focused on the Paleo-Indian period and, in particular, stone tools and rock art. He has published more than 200 scholarly papers and 32 books, including a two-volume, 800-page survey of the material culture of Virginia. He is the webmaster of www.bipoints.com, which is a site on American early prehistory. Jack is also the current President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, and Past President of the ASV (1985 ó 1986).

JUNE 2013 FROM CART

By Megan Veness

Survey of the front yard of Roysdon House is complete. The dark loam feature located near the Roysdon driveway that Kayla M was working on for the last few months has finally terminated at the red, clay subsoil consistent with the rest of the front yard.

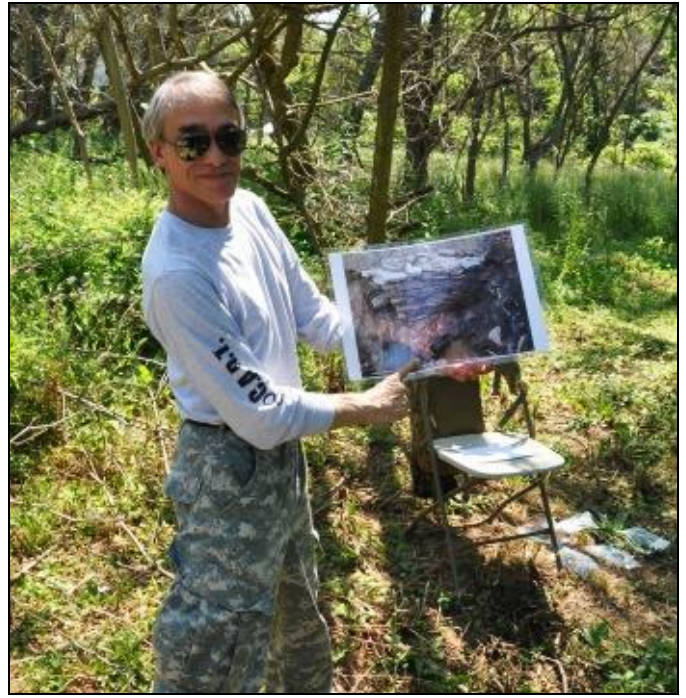
The CART crew has now moved to the backyard of the Roysdon House. Kayla, Jonathan, and Megan are now working on units about seven meters apart right on the slope in the backyard. Jonathan is currently excavating two units to expose a dark stain feature containing a brick located below a fill layer. Some of the artifacts Jonathan has recovered include creamware, pearlware, and smoking pipe, all dating to the mid to late 18th century. An excavation unit near the gravel driveway has exposed large architectural stone and artifacts ranging from Mason jar fragments, milk glass, window pane fragments to porcelain sherds.

The Old Colchester Park and Preserve Open House was a complete success! Aside from the extremely hot weather, we had a great turn out of about 100 interested visitors. Christopher Sperling gave tours of the town site, showing our enthusiastic visitors the outline of the Morris Pound House and several other features found in the past couple years.

Jonathan and Kayla presented their open features to the public and displayed artifacts similar to what they found during their excavations. There was also a nature walk given by Fairfax County Park Authority naturalist, Charles Smith, showing our visitors some of the natural habitats of the plants and animals of OCPP.

Thank you to Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FoFA), for sponsoring the event, and providing cool beverages on the hot day. If you would like to volunteer with CART please email cart.volunteers@live.com. See you by the back dirt pile!





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