



# THE DATUM POINT

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

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)

May 2014

Chapter meets at the James Lee Center, 2855 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds. of each month

## FROM THE PRESIDENT –

### JACK HRANICKY

Three chapter members, CD Cox, Michael Johnson, and myself, attended the Society for American Archaeology's annual meeting in Austin, Texas. From our viewpoint, there were great paleo-papers with informative posters. As per usual, I could not get through the book room without bringing a few books home. I did examine a set of books ó Archaeologist's Toolkit. It is a seven volume set covering the entire range of the practice of archaeology. The set is expensive at \$199.95 and is published by Rowman & Littlefield. It is great for students.

Hope everyone can attend the Colchester open house on May 3. John Kelsey and I will be attending the ASV Board meeting at Kittiewan and be able to attend the open house. And as you know, the ASV is hosting an event on June 14-15 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Civil War actions on the Kittiewan property. This event is not simply a re-enactment, although there will be re-enactors, but will also include tours, activities, music, and more. The Kittiewan Committee and the event planning committee have been working hard for months to create an exciting, educational, and fun-filled weekend. Hope you will plan to attend.

## May 14<sup>th</sup> presentation

### THE ARKFELD PLEISTOCENE QUARRY SITE OF FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA Wm Jack Hranicky RPA

This chapter presentation is an illustrated paper which discusses the Arkfeld quarry site which is major occupation in Virginia. These ancient Virginians exploited the area for shale and limestone that they manufactured into tools and sculptured artforms. The site has produced fossilized mammoth tusks and fired-clay objects. There are over 25 classes of stone tools, including 12 bipoints. Several classes are compared to Paleolithic tools in Europe. There is no other site like Arkfeld in the United States. The following photograph is one of the artifacts found at Arkfeld. Other Arkfeld artifacts will be displayed at the meeting.



Fossilized Ivory Bird Effigy Found at the Arkfeld Site

## Old Colchester

By Cart

CART members Jonathan, Jean, Megan and Chris have been working with volunteers and George Mason University student interns excavating test units along the eastern side of the park. Excavations early in the project yielded a concentration of cord-marked prehistoric pottery and some lithic point fragments. This month CART has discovered similar artifacts.

On 3 May 2014, CART will have an Open House sponsored by FoFA (Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources). FoFA has assisted us with past open houses and other events around the county. There will be free walking tours of the park and exhibits about the ongoing archaeological investigations from CART in the past three years.

Jean and Megan represented CART at Eagle Day at Mason Neck State Park on 19 April 2014. This outdoor festival had great activities for the kids and adults alike. Many interested people stopped by the CART tent to learn about the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. CART has attended this festival for the past three years, and gained local volunteers and interest throughout the community.

Sheila and Julie are busy in the lab re-cataloging the prehistoric artifacts recovered from CART fieldwork in 2010-2012. This more in depth and detailed cataloging will help Marion create heat maps of reduction techniques to fully understand the activities that happened at OCPP. Jean and Jonathan have continued picking the feature fill from the stone foundation discovered at the intersection of Furnace Road and Old Colchester Road. This feature was excavated a few months ago, and after water-screening the soil through window screen mesh, small artifacts like straight pins, lead shot and beads are picked out of the screen. All of the artifacts recovered date to the late eighteenth century as shown in the picture with agateware, pearlware and window pane glass.





## Kittiewan Civil War Observance June 14th and 15<sup>th</sup>

Kittiewan Plantation is hosting a two-day observance of Kittiawan in the Civil War. Re-enactors, exhibits, and archaeological features will be the focus of the events, seen in the flyer below. Kittiawan invites all members of the ASV to come to the event and help promote the ASV and Kittiawan Plantation. Kittiawan needs some volunteers, too, to help with parking, exhibits and general tasks for the event. Your help is greatly appreciated and if you can only help out for one day, is also appreciated. Please contact Patrick O'Neill at [patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net) or 703-244-6275. Camping is also available.



In a little-traveled corner of Charles City County, on the James River about two miles southeast of the courthouse, lies the Weyanoke Peninsula. Historically one of the earliest settled regions of the county, by the mid-nineteenth century, the peninsula hosted four major plantations: North Bend, Upper and Lower Weyanoke, and **Kittiawan**, a modest dwelling built by Dr. William Rickman in the late eighteenth century.

When war erupted in 1861, Kittiawan was a working plantation owned by Dr. William A. Selden, who also maintained a neighborhood school on the property. The outbreak of conflict prompted two former students at the school to enlist in local defense units like the Charles City Troop. Otherwise, Kittiawan and its neighbors remained on the fringes of major military operations like McClellan's 1862 Peninsular Campaign.

That relative calm changed abruptly in May, 1864, when Union armies began their final

assault on Richmond. Bypassing the capital, Grant's forces swung east toward Charles City County with the intent of bridging the James River and moving on to Petersburg. The Weyanoke Peninsula became the site of that pontoon bridge.



Kittiawan today preserves traces of that important military maneuver, in the form of gun pits and a well-defined trench that crosses the property. The Archeological Society of Virginia invites you to join in observing the sesquicentennial of this historic event at Kittiawan.



### Sesquicentennial Civil War Observance

#### KITTIWAN PLANTATION

June 14, 2014: 10 AM – 5 PM  
June 15, 2014: 1 PM – 5 PM

#### Featured Activities

- Historic House Tour
- Self-guided Tour of Civil War features
- Period Music Performances
- Re-enactment Units
- Exhibit on Civil War Medical Practices
- Archeological Society of Virginia Exhibits
- Civil War Exhibit
- Reminiscences of a Civil War Veteran: John Edmond Graves



John Edmond Graves

Suggested donation: \$5 per car

## NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Jack Hranicky	hranickyj@archeology.org
Vice-President	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com
Treasurer	Isabella Pease	ipease@cox.net
Corresponding Sec.	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie@cox.net 703-455-6902
Recording Sec.	Nancy Ehlke	703-978-6724 <a href="mailto:rce2@cox.net">rce2@cox.net</a>
Editor	Patrick O'Neill	patrickloneill@verizon.net 703-249-9593
Webmaster	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com
Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@verizon.net

### Fairfax County Archaeology (FCPA)

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell     [elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
703-534-3881

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in N. Va.

Mount Vernon	Esther White	<a href="mailto:ewhite@mountvernon.org">ewhite@mountvernon.org</a>
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Francine Bromberg	<a href="mailto:Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov">Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399 (information)

## NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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### ***THE DATUM POINT***

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