



THE DATUM POINT

December 2015

Newsletter of the
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

HO HO HO!, it's time for our annual party and elections. Look for the slate of officers further along in this issue. If anyone wants to also run for any post...nominations will be accepted from the floor before the vote. Don't be shy, but don't be sly (no nominating folks not present. ;-)

We've made a change to the roles of Corresponding Secretary. John Kelsey has agreed to step into this post, as he has been doing this job for our Chapter over the past few years. This position will be sharing Chapter news and information via email. If you receive this newsletter you should already be receiving periodic notes from John. These notes range from announcements about digging and lab opportunities to articles of interest to updates of field trips. If you are getting *The Datum Point*, but do not receive these tidbits from John, please let us know, we'll get you on the list.

Sorry for a late *Datum Point*, troubles with the house have distracted me. We'll be sharing a potluck dinner & dessert in the Urbanites Room at 6:30pm on Wednesday (Dec 9th). The meeting will start with elections then we dig in! Don't let any bad traffic keep you from coming, there's always plenty of food and dessert. We'll be cleaned up by 9pm.

January's talk topic will be *Turtle Hill* (44FX2636), presented by Mike Johnson. This prehistoric site was worked back in 2003; Berno Tops was the principal investigator, under Mike's oversight. The site featured Early Archaic and Middle Woodland objects. In February, we will be regaled by David Clark. Dr. Clark will discuss *Community Outreach*. **Cont'd on page 2**

NVC CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Don't be a mean one,
Mr. Grinch!**

**Come to the NVC's 2015
Christmas Party
at the James Lee Center in
the URBANITES Room!**

**Starts at 6:30 pm
on December 9th**

**Potluck, so bring something
yummy to share!**

Cont'd from page 1

He has taught at Catholic University for 35 years and Northern Virginia Community College for 15 years. His community-archaeology outreach has stretched from Washington, DC to Hawaii.

I am also working on a few tours for 2016. In **September**, we will be celebrating our **Chapter's 50th Anniversary** so I expect we will have a grand time! In that light, I want to reach out to you now to form a small group to create 50th Anniversary objects: hats, shirts, jackets, mousepads, whatever folks would like. If you can't make the time to assist in the creation of these, you can certainly send in ideas. Contact any of our officers, they will get your ideas to me.

Slate of Officers for 2016:

President of Diane Schug-O'Neill
Vice President of Chris Havlicek
Treasurer of Isabel Tonkavitch
Datum Point Editor of Patrick O'Neill
Recording Secretary of Nancy Ehlke
Corresponding Secretary of John Kelsey

OLD COLCHESTER

By Megan Veness, CART

Cooler and wetter weather forced CART into the lab for a few days. Artifact washing, weighing and window screen soil picking are the variety of activities for staff and volunteers in the lab. Using the processed artifacts, reports from work at OCPP from the past three years are almost complete.

During the warmer November days a few units were excavated at the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. The northeastern corner and possibly the southeast corner of the brick structure was exposed. The bricks in the foundation are missing from the eastern wall. These could have been removed with the other bricks of the chimney and other courses of the foundation, when the structure was abandoned in the 1770s. White salt-glazed stoneware, flat window glass and wrought nails were recently found in the excavations.



In the lab this month CART staff have been working hard to wrap up a lot of loose ends on some of the smaller projects that we have worked on throughout the year including work on the Ash Grove Meathouse, and at Hidden Pond and Eleanor C. Lawrence Parks. This has meant refining our skills in lithic and faunal identification to ensure that all the artifacts have been properly identified, cataloged, and put into our database system. Then, our wonderful volunteers have been helping to weigh artifacts and affix labels onto them. We are getting these projects ready to be passed on to the Collections team for permanent curation.

CART members are working on their presentations for the Society of Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference in January in Washington DC. Four CART members and two staff from Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch are presenting on the archaeological and collections and happenings in Fairfax County. We also look forward to hearing other papers by other presenters about other archaeology finds from around the world.

A few times throughout the past month, staff and students from the Fairfax County Public Schools have come to the Old Colchester Park and Preserve to film about how history can be learned through objects. Students conducted interviews of the CART staff, and filmed excavations, waterscreening and dry screening. Learning history through objects connects the tools of today to other activities of the past.



2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Diane Schug-O'Neill	schugoneill@gmail.com 703-249-9593
Vice-President	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com
Treasurer	Isabella Tonkavitch	ipease@cox.net
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Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
Mount Vernon	Dr. Eleanor Breen	ebreen@mountvernon.org
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Francine Bromberg	Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
Chapmans Mill	Francis Allshouse	chapmanmill@gmail.com 540-253-5888
DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Tricoli	Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov 202-442-8836

NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

Isabella Tonkavitch, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

8304 Graceway Drive

Lorton, VA 22079

Chapter members must 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, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!