



# THE DATUM POINT

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

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

May 2015

## FROM THE PRESIDENT DIANE SCHUG-O'NEILL

The April Showers brought us May Flowers; let's hope the pollen doesn't keep too many of us from the field!. May's meeting will be in a different location: **Burke, VA**. We are having it at the Ponds Community Center because *at the end of the Power Point presentation, Stephen will display and discuss some of the tools used by long hunters, "meat getters," squatters, and others.*

There is a map on the website (via [Speakers page](#)) as well as on Page 2 in this newsletter. For your GPS and favorite online map service, the address is: 9837 Burke Ponds La, Burke VA 22015. We'll meet at the normal (7:30pm-9pm).

We'll also have a 50/50 Drawing to raise some money to defray some of the meeting costs that the Chapter will incur. The 50/50 drawing is \$1/ticket; keep a ticket - toss the matching one into a hat; draw a winning ticket; winner gets half the pot - Chapter gets the other half. If this is a success, we might have another drawing at the Chapter picnic.

June 13th will be the the *10/75 Day* at Kittiewan Plantation. This event is sponsored by the ASV for ASV members to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Kittiewan's trust with the ASV and the 75th anniversary of the Archeological Society of Virginia. There will be a Ceremony @ noon and luncheon (12:30-1:30). This day will include an open house tour of the property and lunch for members of the ASV. (see the flyer on **page 5**).

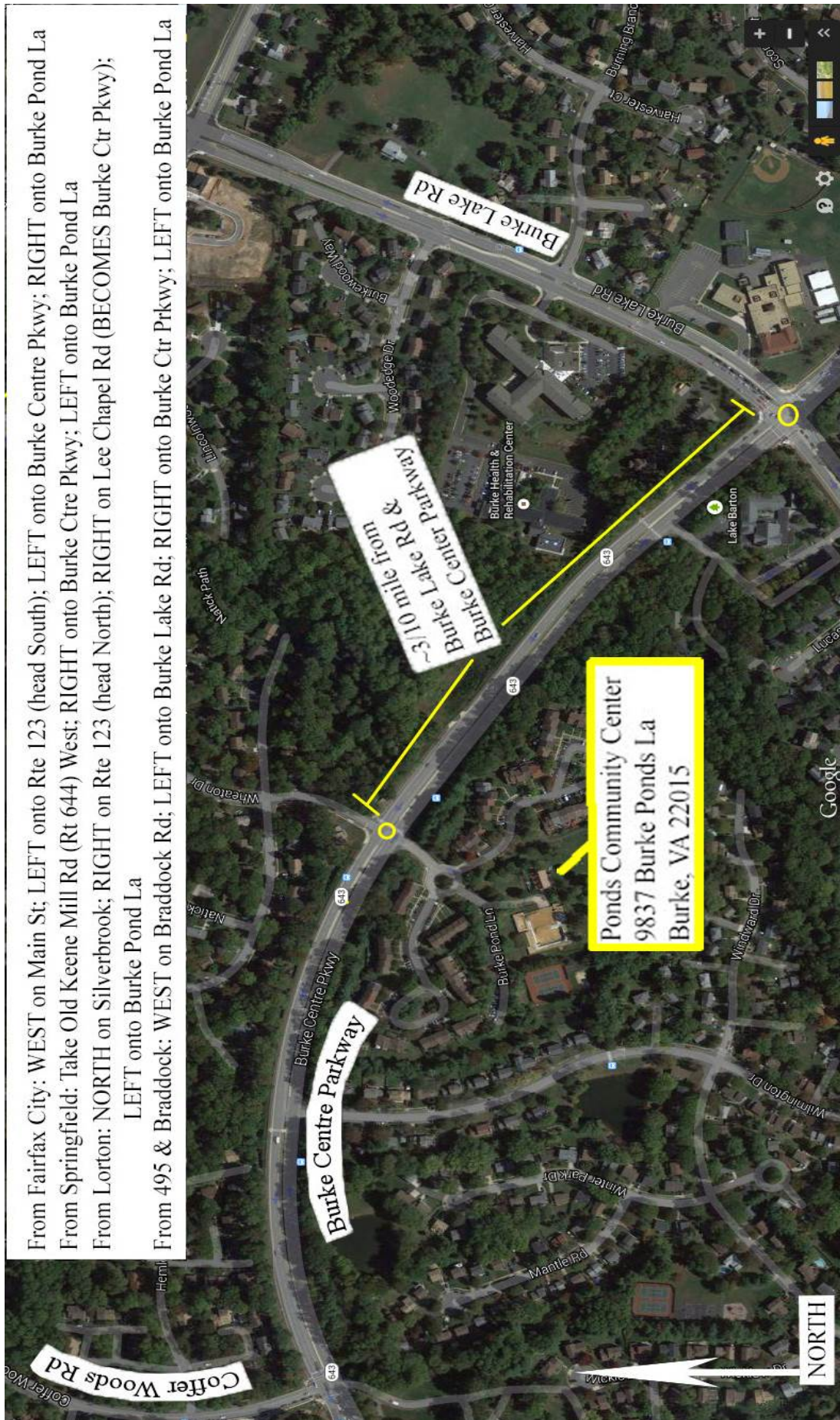
## MEETING THIS MONTH IS IN BURKE, VA!!

### BISON IN THE EAST: A STORY OF PIGS, PEOPLE, & PIGEONS

By Stephen R. Potter, Ph.D.  
Regional Archeologist  
National Capital Region, NPS

After living in small numbers east of the Mississippi River for hundreds of years, perhaps longer, bison populations began to flourish in the southeastern United States sometime in the middle of the sixteenth century A.D. The bison's reemergence east of the Mississippi River is probably due to the violent incursion through the Southeast of Hernando De Soto's private army of 600 people and their horses, war dogs, and pigs, during 1539 to 1543.

However, the principal critter which caused the subsequent cultural catastrophes and ecological changes may not be the most obvious one. After discussing the demise of the key species (people) and two outbreak populations (bison and pigeons), Dr. Potter examines the eastern bison in the 18th-century Anglo-American exploration and settlement of the Great Valley, Appalachian Mountains, and the lands beyond. He illustrates the life and times of the long hunters, "meat getters", market hunters, squatters and settlers, and the part they played in the destruction of the bison in the East.



From Fairfax City: WEST on Main St; LEFT onto Rte 123 (head South); LEFT onto Burke Centre Pkwy; RIGHT onto Burke Pond La  
 From Springfield: Take Old Keene Mill Rd (Rt 644) West; RIGHT onto Burke Ctr Pkwy; LEFT onto Burke Pond La  
 From Lorton: NORTH on Silverbrook; RIGHT on Rte 123 (head North); RIGHT on Lee Chapel Rd (BECOMES Burke Ctr Pkwy);  
 LEFT onto Burke Pond La

From 495 & Braddock: WEST on Braddock Rd; LEFT onto Burke Lake Rd; RIGHT onto Burke Ctr Pkwy; LEFT onto Burke Pond La

## MORE FROM THE NVC PRESIDENT

Annual Meeting: (in case you'd like to stay on top of things) ;-)

Hotel: Best Western Battlefield Inn  
Address: 10820 Balls Ford Rd  
Manassas, VA 20109  
Phone: 703-361-8000  
Room Rate: \$85.00/night

To let them know you're with this meeting...use the code: ASV75. There are pet friendly rooms available; smoking and non-smoking rooms, too.

### Opportunities:

As always, there are opportunities: Ann Wood ([annpwood@verizon.net](mailto:annpwood@verizon.net)) can fill you in on any Certification opportunities.

Gunston Hall: contact Dave Shonyo ([archaeology@gunstonhall.org](mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org))

C.A.R.T.: If you have not yet volunteered at the Colchester site, you'll need to build in time to attend a preliminary orientation ([CartArchLab@live.com](mailto:CartArchLab@live.com) or [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto:cart.volunteers@live.com)). FOFA is sponsoring an "Open House" on June 6th at Colchester.

### Out & About:

Our dear friend from the Middle Peninsula Chapter & [Fairfield Foundation](#), Thane Harpole was spotted at the ASV meeting modeling our hat! Turns out it's his "go-to" hat these days. Thane gave us an *awesome* tour of Fairfield in Sep 2012. [See in our [Flickr stream](#)] We're glad to see our speakers gifts get used!



This brings up the speakers gifts - the Chapter will need to purchase gifts to give to speakers for 2016. Please let me know what you would like to see as a gift *and as a possible purchase item for yourself to own, use, or wear!* [schugoneill@gmail.com](mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com). We can look into more hats; shirts; coffee mugs; bags; knee pads - think of things.

## OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

During the first few weeks of April (before the spring showers arrived), CART continued work at Old Colchester Park & Preserve. Test Units have not revealed the corners of the structure near the Cemetery site, but plenty of eighteenth century artifacts have been recovered such as bone, nails, white salt glazed ceramic, and other household items. With the spring rains the units have flooded and so CART returns to the lab for artifacts processing and report writing.



Figure 1: artifacts from OCPP

For a few weeks CART took a break from Colchester and headed to Hidden Pond Park in Springfield to do some limited testing. Many years ago archaeological work was done near the nature center by the historic home, but our current focus was closer to the parking lot on the northern edge of the park. Thirty STPs and four test units have

revealed a lot of quartz debitage and a few possible stone tools.

A recent new volunteer orientation brought eight new faces to the James Lee Center. After the power point orientation, which discussed the archaeological process and the history of Old Colchester Park & Preserve, volunteers washed artifacts from both Hidden Pond and Old Colchester Park. There are still sandbags of lithics to process from Hidden Pond as well as the historic artifacts from the Cemetery Site.

We are hoping that the summer brings even more new faces. We are looking forward to our summer intern, Kellie, who will be washing, picking, and evaluating small artifacts from three units at the Cemetery Site. She will have a choice of how to address the analysis within the levels or units that are picked. There are several different ways to approach such a project. We hope to not only pass along methodological skills in both the field and lab, but also teach qualitative analysis of artifacts and technical writing.

The CART Open House sponsored by Friends of Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA) will be held on 6 June 2015. Town tours, active unit excavations, and artifact displays are some of the activities for the day. Please mark your calendar. See you there!!

Please email [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto:cart.volunteers@live.com) if you could like to volunteer. Also check out our blog [cartarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com) for information about artifacts, the Open House, and other events in Fairfax County.

**WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!**  
*...and you're invited!!*



## **KITTIEWAN PLANTATION**

*It's the 75th Anniversary of  
the Archeological Society of  
Virginia and Kittiewan's  
10th Anniversary!*

*Come help us  
celebrate!!*

**JUNE 13, 2015**

**10:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm -4:00pm**

Kittiewan Plantation  
12104 Weyanoke Road  
Charles City, Virginia



### Schedule of Public Events

10:00am - 12:00pm: Open House Tours

1:00pm - 4:00pm: Open House Tours

### On-Going:

- Music by the Bowld Sojer Band
- Artifact Identification Session (bring your collection!)
- Displays/information by ASV Chapters
- Special archeological exhibit: ASV and Kittiewan History
- Cake and punch for all visitors

### ASV Member Events

12:00pm - 12:30pm: ASV 75th Ceremony

12:30pm - 1:30pm: ASV Member Lunch



Suggested donation: \$5 per family  
The Archeological Society of Virginia is a  
non-profit 501-C(3) organization

## 2015 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Diane Schug-O'Neill	<a href="mailto:schugoneill@gmail.com">schugoneill@gmail.com</a> 703-249-9593
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<b>Corresponding Sec.</b>	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie@cox.net
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<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	annpwood@verizon.net

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:ebreen@mountvernon.org">ebreen@mountvernon.org</a>
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Francine Bromberg	<a href="mailto:Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov">Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$17) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Isabella Martinez, 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](http://asv-archeology.org)**

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**