

THE DATUM POINT

April 2016

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

The Northern Virginia Chapter looks forward to celebrating our **50th Anniversary** in September 2016!

The Northern Virginia Chapter also looks forward to more activity at Gunston Hall (www.gunstonhall.org/). Fairfax County may also have some upcoming opportunities for volunteering we usually get monthly updates at our meetings. (www.cartarchaeology.wordpress.com/)

Please join us! This Saturday we will be visiting Menokin (<http://www.menokin.org/>). Call 703-244-6275 if you need assistance on the way there!

NO WEDS MEETING!!!!

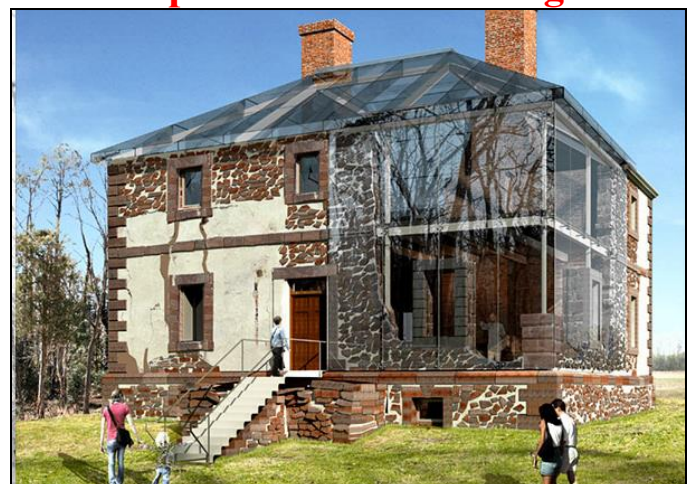
**The NVC tour of Menokin
is ON this Sat. April 16th
Meet at the site ~10am
tour starts @ 10:30am)**

**Menokin
4037 Menokin Road
Warsaw, VA 22572**

**Menokin is about a 2-hour
drive from Falls Church**



<http://www.menokin.org/>



OLD COLCHESTER

BY CART

Presentations by Megan Veness and Christopher Sperling were well received at the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference (MAAC) in early March. It was great seeing and hearing about other interesting archaeology work going on throughout the mid-Atlantic.

After the MAAC conference, Megan was at it again! This time presenting a discussion of the ongoing work at Old Colchester Park and Preserve to the Historic Prince William organization. The organization is a non-profit group working toward historic preservation and broadening public interest in Prince William and surrounding counties.

They sponsor public lectures in Prince William County, and occasionally tours of historic sites. The group also maintains and restores public cemeteries, and recently they created a new research grant program. More information can be found at historicprincewilliam.org.

The CART team has moved to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, for the past few weeks, to test along the trails around the Walney Visitor Center and Middlegate House, ahead of improvements to upgrade access to Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Proposed improvements to the trails require archaeological testing before construction can begin. Artifacts recovered in the shovel test pits range from quartz flakes to ironstone ceramics, indicating a long time range of land use.

Two units were opened around shovel test pits which contained late eighteenth to early
Datum Point

nineteenth century ceramics like pearlware and creamware. No evidence for any outbuildings were discovered during excavations, though some cut nails were recovered in certain shovel test pits across the area. Many of the artifacts from the nineteenth century could be from the Machen Family who owned and worked the land from 1843 to 1935.

The spring weather has finally allowed CART staff to resume water-screening at the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Volunteers have made great progress over the winter picking the small artifacts from the water-screen window screen samples, so more are needed in the lab for the volunteers to work through.





be altered to not impact significant resources. It is fun to be able to take a short break from our larger projects, especially because the materials coming in from Ellanor C. Lawrence are very different from the kinds of things we are used to seeing. There is also a great sense of accomplishment at being able to wrap up a project!

Please stop on by public outreach events this month which CART will be attending: The Symposium at James Lee Center on "Setting the Stage for Local Preservation" 16 April 2016, Eagle Festival at Mason Neck State Park on 23 April 2016, and SpringFest at Lorton Workhouse 30 April 2016. Hope to see you there!

Keep an eye on our blog for more information about these events and others: cartarchaeology.wordpress.com.

In the lab staff and volunteers have made significant progress on the artifact processing from the OCPP; all of the dry-screened samples have been cataloged as well as almost all of the water-screened samples. There is still more that has yet to come into the lab for processing of course. Most of the lab work has shifted to processing samples from Ellanor C. Lawrence Park as well.

Volunteers have diligently washed all of the artifacts and they are being cataloged as soon as they are dry. Often we have to pause work on our large long-term projects (like the Cemetery Site) to tackle smaller projects (like Ellanor C. Lawrence) in a quick and efficient manner. This allows us to make informed recommendations so that construction can proceed and, if necessary

After digitally mapping the field drawings into AutoCAD, CART can see the relationships of the cellar features to the intact brick foundation, as seen in the image, giving us a much larger picture of site which is especially vital now since it has been backfilled. The shaded areas to the south and west designate the cellar fill. These features have not been excavated, but have been split-spoon augered, and the fill continues approximately three feet below surface.

Check out our blog at www.cartarchaeology.wordpress.com for more information about volunteering and other happenings around Fairfax County.

2016 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

Isabella Tonkavitch, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

8304 Graceway Drive

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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!!!!