



THE DATUM POINT

June 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

Happy June, everyone. We're well on our way to turning **50!** To that end, we held an electronic vote and ya'all have determined we will go with having this year's picnic at Gunston Hall in September. We will have it catered by *Red, Hot and Blue*. Thank you, Isabel, for doing the legwork on the catering. We'll have more details as September approaches.

The Chapter received a very nice monetary donation to put towards T-shirts and/or hats *Thank you, Anonymous!* I still need to work on this (no one has stepped forward with ideas). I'll run something via the Datum Point for approval.

ASV President, Carole Nash, was impressed with the work that our Chapter accomplished over the last five years. You all should be, too. Even with less than 20 respondents, we put forth a good showing on hours and various projects throughout the Commonwealth. We also do some good work outside the Old Dominion, too. ***Kudos to all of you.***

I am on the Nominating Committee for the ASV Board. In the past, we've had several Chapter members serve. Currently, Isabel is an elected Board member; I'm also on the Board, as President of the Chapter. If you have any suggestions for two slots opening up, please let me know. I've contacted a few folks and suggested a couple of others. My goal (as always) is to have an actual election ó options; not just one person to fill a slot. Spare John Kelsey, though; he is active with our local Chapter and has just left the ASV Board last year.

**Join Chapter members at Anthony's
Restaurant at 6 pm before the meeting!
Located at 3000 Annandale Rd, Falls
Church, VA 22042 - (703) 532-0100**

US NAVY'S SUPERVISOR OF SALVAGE AND DIVING By Captain Gregg Baumann Weds. June 8th



Captain Gregg Baumann (Ret) will present the US Navy's "Supervisor of Salvage and Diving" (SUPSALV) support for the recovery of various maritime ship wreck sites around the globe. Captain Baumann recently retired as the SUPSALV. As a navy diver and salvage engineer, he has been affiliated with US diving operations for 25 years. The SUPSALV office is based out of the Washington Navy Yard, but operates worldwide, providing search, recovery, and salvage operations for the federal government. He will discuss operations supporting the recovery of artifacts and environmental mitigation efforts for several historic shipwrecks: USS *Monitor*, USS *Mississinewa*, USS *Westfield*, USS *Chehalis*, USS *Scorpion*, and the CSS *Georgia* spanning back to 2000. Captain Baumann has been a frequent media spokesperson for the navy on diving/salvage and ocean recovery operations. He has appeared on 60 MINUTES, CNN, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, and in numerous maritime periodicals.

Chapter tour of Menokin

By Jackie Cuyler

On a beautiful sunny spring day in April, members of the Northern Virginia Chapter toured Menokin plantation, located on Virginia's Northern Neck in Warsaw, Richmond County. Our tour began at a lovely visitor center with interpretive displays and we were able to see the priceless woodwork and artifacts in the storage area. There are trails and free public access for launching of kayaks and canoes.

Historically the general area was referred to as Menokin by the Rappahannock Indian tribe. In 1608 Captain John Smith recorded the Rappahannock town of Menokin, and Francis Lightfoot Lee (his friends called him Frank), signer of the Declaration of Independence, kept the name for his home.

Lee was raised at Stratford Hall, known as the "Home of the Lees" and less than a 30 minute drive from Menokin. When Lee married Rebecca Tayloe the newlyweds received as a wedding gift from the bride's father 1,000 acres of land, money towards the construction of a home, and 50 slaves. Research indicates that William Buckland was involved in the design and construction of the home around 1769. Buckland is famous for his work designing Gunston Hall, Rockledge (Occoquan), and the William Paca House and Hammond-Harwood House (Annapolis).

Menokin was an active tobacco farm in the 18th century. During our tour we saw evidence of terraced gardens around the house and traces of the rolling roads, used to roll hogsheads of tobacco down the slopes to the and onto points east for eventual shipment to England. After the deaths of Francis and Rebecca (they died within 10 days of each other in January, 1797) the plantation passed to the Lee family. Court battles ensued and Menokin was finally returned to the Tayloe family. A succession of private owners followed.

Around 1960 the house was unoccupied and in late 1960 was severely damaged by a tree falling through the roof. Determined to save what he
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could, the last owner removed nearly 1,000 pieces of the original interior woodwork and stored it for safekeeping. He finally deeded the mansion ruins, woodwork and 500 acres to the Menokin Foundation in 1995.

Today a steel canopy protects the house structure, although it is exposed on all sides. Nearly 80% of the original structure survives. An architecture firm has developed a 10 year plan to reconstruct the missing portions of the home's exterior by partially encasing it in glass. Indoor floors will be made of glass so visitors can see from the top floor to the basement, including an incredible vaulted brick wine cellar.

Our guide, Alice French (Outreach & Education Coordinator), said this is an innovative approach to historic preservation of something that has never been done. It will offer a chance to interpret the stories of Menokin and the surrounding 500 acres, allowing the public the opportunity to "see" the house as it once existed.

Menokin is located about 10 minutes drive away from Tappahannock where our group enjoyed a hearty lunch at the Northern Neck Burger Company, including made-to-order burgers and hand-spun shakes. From there I would highly recommend a night's stay at the nearby Inn at Montross, a bed and breakfast that began life around 1800 on property where a courthouse tavern stood. The landlord is welcoming, the rooms lovely, the pub lively and the breakfast delicious.





OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

After weeks of heavy rain CART finally headed back to the field this month, but not at the Old Colchester Park and Preserve, and with the shift and promise of more work at other parks, we are feeling more like the County Archaeology Research Team! CART headed to another park to do a Phase I, Shovel Test Pit (STP) survey during the next few months.

The archaeological survey work is being completed during the planning stages for this park. The Phase I testing will allow us to determine if, and what kinds, of cultural resources might be impacted by the park. After Phase I testing is complete, CART will begin Phase II testing (one meter by one meter test units) around where high artifact concentrations are encountered.



The recent rain that has kept CART in the lab which has been good for taking care of the vital indoor tasks resulting from excavations. This includes the waterscreen picking that is almost complete, the labeling of artifacts from OCPP's Roysdon Property is well underway, creating AutoCAD drawings from hand drawn field maps, data entry of cataloged artifacts into the database, and report writing.

In the Lab, CART is wrapping up some of the older smaller projects by affixing labels to the diagnostic and notable artifacts. The label includes the site number and artifact catalog number. It is done with material that will not harm the artifact and is removable. It is important to mark the artifacts directly in an instance where they are separated

from a bag then they will not lose their provenience information. Once the labeling is finished, all the boxes are checked for proper archival bags, tags, and organization and the proper data to accompany each box.

The field crew has moved on to a new project, but the lab is still processing last season's artifacts from our work at Colchester. Our team of volunteers has spent a long winter picking through water-screened samples for tiny artifacts. We started with nearly 100 samples and now have only 12 remaining! As this project wraps up in the lab we will continue to enter data into our research database and begin labeling so that we are one step closer to final curation for these artifacts.

CART's own Shelia Koons was a recent presenter at the FOFA Prehistoric Symposium, "Establishing a Timeline for the Prehistoric Settlement of Old Colchester Problems and Answers." Her paper discussed the prehistoric finds across the Old Colchester Park and Preserve from the past five years. She concluded with a provocative discussion of gendered archaeology, the attempt to identify women and their roles in society through the material record. Fairfax County's John Rutherford presented on behalf of SWAT on the prehistoric finds at Sully Woodlands. The title of the paper, "Terrible Tools and Terrifying Ticks: Research of the Sully Woodlands Archaeology Team;" provides a clear visual of what their work entailed. The event was hosted at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church, Virginia where the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch (CRMPB) is housed.

Fairfax County Park Authority and CRMPB's Karen Lindquist celebrated her retirement with fellow staff members on May 26, 2016. Karen has worked with the county since 1989 and with the Fairfax County Park Authority since 2008. Her years of dedication to the historic and architectural resources of Fairfax County has not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten. All of us here at CRMPB will miss her, and we wish her well in her new future adventures.

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DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	Ruth.Trocolli@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

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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!!!!