

THE DATUM POINT

May 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

Well we are solidly in Spring. The first formal call for volunteers call has been made: "So, here is your chance to do archaeology in the field" (from Maryland). Soon we will be hearing from many corners of the DMV! I recommend you open that kit bag and sharpen your trowel, dust off your field shoes and get ready. Don't forget to buy something like *Technu* for the dreaded Poison Ivy/Oak/Sumac!

September is approaching and that means the *Northern Virginia Chapter turns 50!*

Gunston Hall would like to coordinate an Archeology Day celebration with us in September. Dave Shonyo would very much like to include us in the day to help with NVC displays; Friends of Fairfax Archeology; and touring visitors around. We're talking about table displays with tri-folds, helping kids find artifacts in a sandbox set up (like we used to do at Herndon Days), helping visitors at a mending station with tape, and manning a table with Mike Johnson's point castings. I would like feedback from Chapter Members about holding our annual picnic at Gunston the day of the celebration.

Regardless of where we hold our 50th celebration, Isabel came up with a great idea of having the Chapter pay to have our picnic catered. To that end, Isabel is looking into various options. *We're 50 - We deserve it!* I'm going to look into getting more hats made up and possibly t-shirts. (cont'd Page 2)

**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**

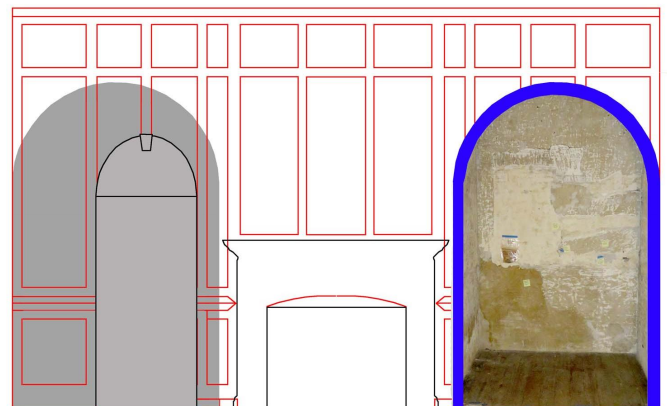
KITTIEWAN RESTORATION

By Patrick O'Neill

Weds. May 11th The Urbanites Rm
James Lee Center 7:30PM



Kittiewan is undergoing a massive transformation, simply by removing the wallpaper and re-plastering years of water damaged surface treatments. Many unknown details of the original late 18th century design of the house have come to light, exciting to the Colonial Williamsburg professionals who have been monitoring the progress. Re-interpretations will be presented!



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We had a good ASV quarterly business meeting at Kittiewan in April. Part of the meeting included a tour of the house and a firsthand look at all the things the Kittiewan Committee and Volunteers have accomplished recently. This is the topic of this month's talk, by our very own Patrick O'Neill. I think you'll find it very interesting. If you haven't visited, you'll get to see some in-depth discoveries and decision making. If you've already seen Kittiewan, you'll be astonished at what is being learned and how much has gone on recently. See you at the meeting!

OLD COLCHESTER

By CART

At Ellanor C. Lawrence (ECL) Park initial testing has wrapped up for the time being. One of the most fun artifacts found was a decorated pipe stem with lettering. Unfortunately, the lettering was faded to the point where it seemed impossible to discern, but once photographed under the microscope camera, we were able to determine what it said. One side says "TRY LORILLARDS TOBACCO" and the other bears the address "16.18.20 CHAMBERS ST". This is an address in New York City where the Lorillard Tobacco Company operated a retail location out of stores at 16, 18, and 20 on Chambers Street selling tobacco products. This company was in business from 1760 until it was purchased by Reynolds American in 2015, making it the longest running tobacco company.



Thanks to our volunteers we were able to get all of the artifacts from ECL washed and ready for cataloging in record time. The assemblage is quite interesting and gives us more information about the activities on the historic property. One of the most common artifacts recovered were nails, the majority of which were machine cut dating to the 19th century. In a few areas, we found earlier hand wrought nails and ceramics such as creamware. The rest of the ceramic assemblage was indicative of the 19th century as well including a lot of whiteware and ironstone.

We also discovered a large amount of animal bone; while identification is best left up to a specialist we can say that there were definitive signs of butchering on several of the pieces. In some cases, there is clear evidence of gnawing marks made by rodents after the bone had been discarded. Clues like these help us to figure out what happened to certain materials throughout their use and eventual deposition.

Megan and Erica had a table at Eagle Fest at Mason Neck State Park on April 23rd. This yearly event brings all sorts of people who want to learn more about the natural and cultural history of the Mason Neck area. A cool rainy day kept the visitor count a bit down, but those that stopped by the archaeology table had a lot of questions about artifacts and the history of Colchester. The kids, in particular, enjoyed the chance to handle some of artifacts and learn about how things were used in the past. For more kid friendly fun Erica went to SpringFest at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center on Saturday, April 30th. She led activities to introduce kids to artifact identification and excavation techniques.



At the end of April, Megan spoke to a group of 15 docents at Pohick Church. The docents were most interested in the interaction between Colchester (located approximately 4 miles away) to the use of Pohick Church and if the large brick foundation CART discovered last year is evidence of the first Pohick Church in the area.

In the next couple weeks CART will be saying goodbye to our spring intern, Haley. Haley has been with us since January working on an independent project analyzing some of the samples recovered around the brick foundation at Colchester. Her analysis compares assemblages found in cellar fill to those found along the intact brick foundation. We'll be sorry to see her go, but we wish her the best of luck as she moves on to a new adventure interning with the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission this summer!

CART will be working at a new site near Centreville and we are accepting volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email us at CartArchLab@live.com. When you write, please let us know if you have taken the new volunteer orientation. We ask that anyone who has not taken it to do so prior to volunteering in the field or lab.

We have two new volunteer orientations on the schedule. One is on Wednesday, May 18th and the other is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th. Contact us for more information about how to apply and sign up for volunteering in the field or for information about the orientation. Keep an eye on our blog for more information about the new project and the ongoing work in the lab processing artifacts: cartarchaeology.wordpress.com.

2016 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
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Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
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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

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!!!!