



THE DATUM POINT

February 2017

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT RICH EILERS

As I look out the window at the snow clinging to the tree limbs, I am glad that I am not trying to push moist dirt through a frozen screen! The days are getting longer and the opportunities for getting back to the field approach. Thanks to Patrick for implementing the Datum Point publication to the website a month early. Diane is in the process of uploading the URLs for a number of Northern Virginia archaeological and historical organizations' volunteer pages. This should make it easier for our members to explore opportunities beyond those created by Patrick and Mike.

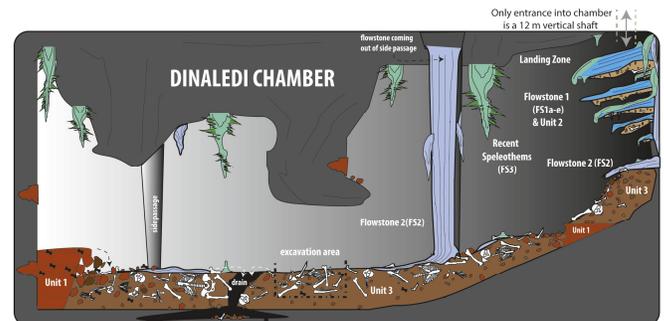
Isabel and I attended the winter quarter ASV Board meeting in Charlottesville on January 28th. Of interest to Northern Virginia was the discussion on new ethics rules and processes that I will discuss further in the Board Meeting article. Of note, the 2016 state conference was very successful!!!! The Board selected a new web site developer, hosting platform and hosting service which promises to provide a 21st century web experience. Website contractual actions and reviews are underway.

This month's meeting is an experiment in community outreach. Yvonne published a notice of our meeting speaker and topic in the local Falls Church newspaper. We hope this effort will reach interested parties in the community resulting in new memberships. If successful, the Executive Committee will look towards **Contd page 4**

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

Weds, February 8, 2017, 7:30PM

SPELUNKING TO EXCAVATE HOMO NALEDI IN RISING STAR CAVE IN SOUTH AFRICA



Stratigraphic position of flowstones and sedimentary units (not to scale- sketch only)

- Unit 1: laminated maroon mudstone.
- Unit 2: older mud clast breccias.
- Unit 3: cave floor sediments; youngest mud clast breccias.
- FS 1: Series of older flowstones restricted to the 'landing zone'.
- FS 2: Series of younger flowstones on chamber floor and walls. Directly covers hominin bones in places.
- FS 3: Recent speleothems.
- Hominin fossils.
- Micro-mammal fossils.

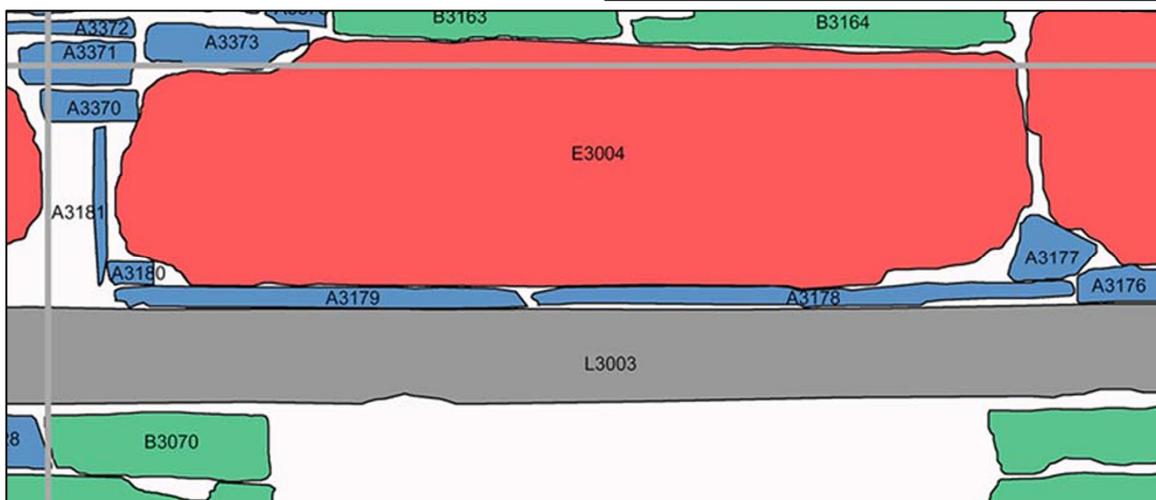
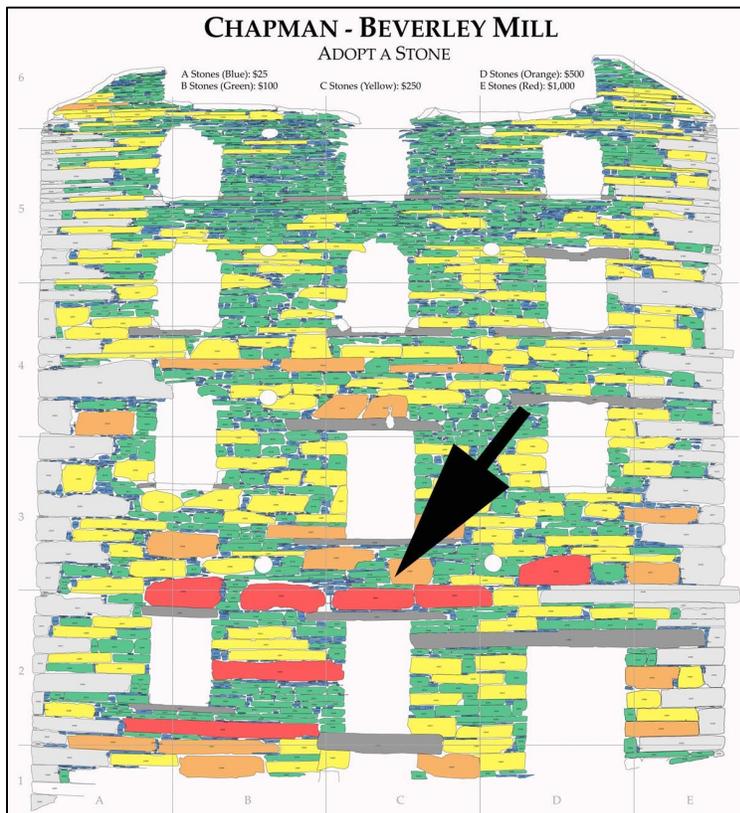
**By
Rebecca Peixotto**

Becca Peixotto is a PhD candidate focusing on historical archaeology and resistance landscapes of the Great Dismal Swamp. Her areas of specialization are historic landscapes, material culture, ideas of wilderness, and public engagement with the past. She embraces scientific methods such as pXRF, remote sensing and GIS in order to address theoretical, social and historical questions. Becca is involved in several projects outside of the Dismal Swamp including the National Geographic/Wits University Rising Star Expedition which excavated the fossils of Homo naledi and the Maryland Historic Trust/Archaeology Society of Maryland Biggs Ford project investigating Middle and Late Woodland villages.

MILL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

by Frances Allshouse

At its last meeting, Turn the Mill Around Campaign's Board of Directors voted to formally recognize the work that the archaeology crew has done and continues to do to advance our knowledge of the history of the Mill and Thoroughfare Gap. The board awarded a Resolution of Appreciation in addition to dedicating a stone, located on the Mill's eastern wall, to the archaeology crew. Your stone, **E3004** (see below), was the first to be dedicated from the eastern wall. It overlooks the area where most of the excavations have taken place and is situated at the center of the wall, symbolizing the central role that the archaeology program plays in TTMAC's programming. To see the stone visit <http://shopchapmansmill.org/shop/adopt/#EastWall>. Click on the map, then, click on the red stone above the center window on the first floor.



TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 207
Broad Run, VA 20137
(540) 253-5888

BOARD RESOLUTION OF TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN

DULY ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 6, 2016

IN RECOGNITION AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BY TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN'S ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUNTEERS

WHEREAS, TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN'S ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUNTEERS have recovered and documented tens of thousands of archaeological artifacts from the grounds of the historic Chapman - Beverley Mill, a site on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register; and,

WHEREAS, TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN'S ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUNTEERS have worked tirelessly to analyze and interpret the artifacts uncovered at the site; and,

WHEREAS, the findings of TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN'S ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUNTEERS have significantly deepened public understanding and appreciation of the history and prehistory of the Chapman - Beverley Mill as well as the Thoroughfare Gap area;

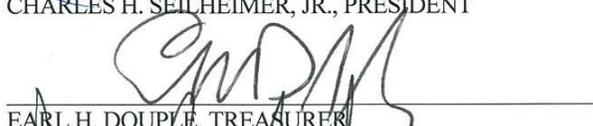
RESOLVED, that TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN'S Board of Directors formally acknowledges and extends its profound appreciation to the TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN'S VOLUNTEER ARCHAEOLOGISTS for their many years of service to TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPIAGN and to the cause of understanding and interpreting the history of Thoroughfare Gap.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the President of TURN THE MILL AROUND CAMPAIGN is hereby authorized and directed to take such further action as may be necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution; and

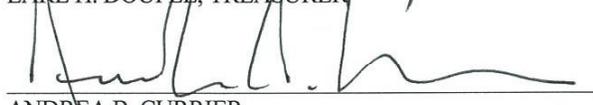
We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we as a quorum were present at a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 6 day of October, 2016 and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of all members present, and that said Resolution has been duly recorded in the Minute Book and is in full force and effect.



CHARLES H. SEILHEIMER, JR., PRESIDENT



EARL H. DOUPLE, TREASURER



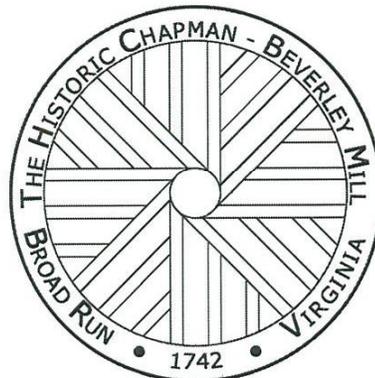
ANDREA B. CURRIER



ADRIENNE C. GARREAU, SECRETARY



DR. STEPHEN W. SEAGER



Cont'd from page 1

í expanding the outreach to additional communities. My personnel thanks to Chris and Yvonne for their rapid implementation of the new Speaker and Trip committee procedures. At this time, the 2017 calendar is complete and can be viewed on our chapter website.

Patrickø Ball-Sellers, Chapman Mill, Smith Mountain, and the County Archaeology labs are available and looking forward to your participation. Until next month, be safe and healthy

CART UPDATE
COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH TEAM

Dry winter weather allowed CART (County Archaeological Research Team) to continue excavation at our current site, outside of Centreville. The edges of Feature 5, the large, dark stain have been revealed, at an approximate size of about 24 feet by 9 feet. Excavation into the feature will begin a few weeks. The artifacts, in the plowzone directly above the feature, date to the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. This could be a cellar for small dwelling, since CART has discovered many personal items from tobacco smoking pipes, to buttons to gun flint fragments.

Approximately 50 feet away from Feature 5 is another area of darker soil (Feature 6) with large architectural stone and domestic artifacts, which could represent an outbuilding, such as a detached kitchen. Both of these features are located below approximately 8 inches of plowzone, so artifacts and the architectural stone have been pushed out of place over the past 100 years of plowing in the area.

CART research has discovered who owned the property, but the documents do not mention who actually lived on the land, nor where their dwellings were located. Further excavation in the area surrounding the features will occur in the next few months, so please lend a hand and volunteer in the field with CART. Shown in the image are CARTø newest members, Haley and Samantha are hard at work starting paperwork and measurements for a new unit.

During the wet and cold days CART field and lab teams work together to get all the artifacts cataloged and entered into the Access database for analysis to use in the report writing. Many of our volunteers are assisting with the washing, weighing and labeling of the artifacts. CART will be holding an orientation for new volunteers at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church on Saturday 11 February 2017. If you are interested in volunteering please use the links below to register or contact staff with any questions.

Some CART members are heading to the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC), next month to discuss our recent findings. CART also looks forward to hearing of all the discoveries made by other organizations across the Middle Atlantic region. For more information on the MAAC conference please follow this link: <http://maacmidatlanticarchaeology.org/conferences.htm>

Please email CART staff to volunteer in the field at cart.volunteers@live.com or in the lab at cartarchlab@live.com.

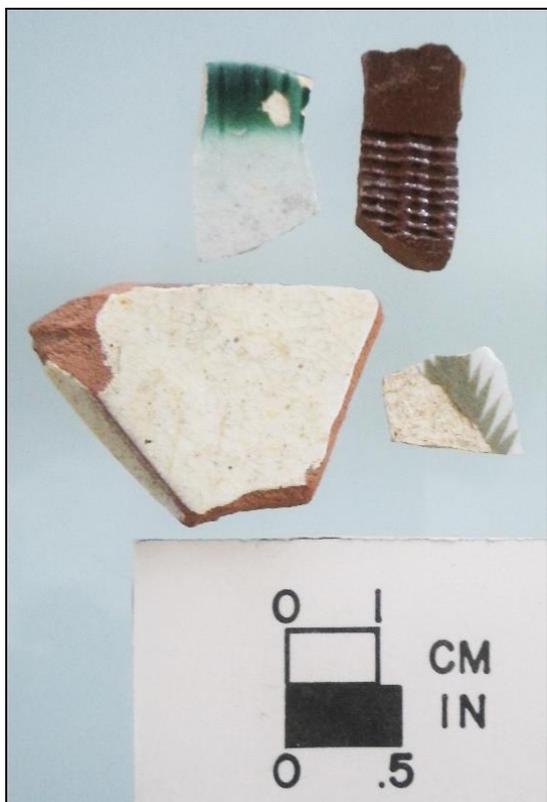
Keep an eye on our blog: cartarchaeology.wordpress.com for information on local events and recent finds by CART.





The following Agenda items are of note to our Chapter members:

- The Development Committee has neared completion of a toolbox for chapters. We are providing the electrons on our NVC brochure for inclusion in the toolbox at the committee chair's request
- Kittiewan is looking for more Chapter archaeology support. There are several rooms in the house that can be used by participants for overnight stays. Information will be provided on contacts points
- The Williamsburg conference was successful!!!!!! The 2017 conference will be hosted at the old Natural Bridge Hotel at ~ \$110/night with tax. The call for papers will be released in April. A brief discussion was held on potential sites for the 2018 conference with no decision. Our sponsorship of the 2015 conference excludes us from 2018 conference sponsorship pool
- The Maritime Heritage Chapter will have its initial organizing meeting at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on February 11th at 1 pm. Details can be found on the chapter's Facebook page.
- The Mid Atlantic Archaeology Conference will be held in Virginia Beach March 16-19th. There will be a behind the scenes tour of the Civil War ironclad Monitor restoration facility on the 16th for a small additional charge. The conference registration fee is \$45.
- The Virginia Archaeology Charitable Trust (VACT) needs \$850 to complete its tax exemption paperwork filings. They are asking the Chapters for support. This group will focus on crowd funding of Virginia



JANUARY ASV BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

Rich Eilers, President NVC

Isabel Tonkavitch and I attended the Winter quarter ASV Board meeting convened at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities in Charlottesville Virginia. ASV President Carol Nash presided over a well-controlled and sometimes lively agenda and discussions across the wide range of ASV activities.

archaeology projects. Chapters will be encouraged to submit projects

- The Board received a presentation by ASV member Terri Aigner, a professional web designer, on redesigning and rehosting the ASV web site using 21st century tools. The presentation was well received resulting in the Board's direction to pursue a written leading to a follow-on contract with Aigner Graphics. The website will enable Chapters to host a page on this website.
- Significant discussion occurred on the Ethics Committee proposed updates to the ethics rules and procedures. As presented, the rules violation and disciplinary process section put certain NVC members at risk due to their volunteer work under a non-COVA or Department of Interior criteria compliant staff archaeologist. At my request the wording in the ethics rules now states the requirement for volunteers to work under the oversight (NOT "supervision") of a standards compliant archaeologist. The proposed procedures addenda was deleted by general consensus. Board members felt that the professional and advocational procedures are sufficiently documented in other sources.

Carol ran a very effective meeting dealing with a large agenda that contrary to standard government or business practices, finished nearly on time. As a first time attendee, I was impressed by the range of ASV activities and the quality, dedication, and hard work of its Officers and Board members.

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECOGNIZES NVC MEMBERS

In December, 2016, the Ball Sellers House Committee President Annette Benbow and the Arlington Historical Society President Karl VanNewkirk presented Diane Schug-O'Neill and Patrick O'Neill with an Honorary Membership to

the AHS for their hard work and volunteerism at the Ball Sellers House and other Arlington County archaeology and history projects! **See next page for the letter of appreciation!**



Karl VanNewkirk, Diane and Patrick O'Neill

Patrick O'Neill gave a presentation at the Arlington Historical Society meeting in January on the War of 1812 and its effect on Arlington County and its militia. After the program, AHS President Karl VanNewkirk presented him with a glass plaque which reads:

Arlington Historical Society Presented to Patrick O'Neill In Sincere Appreciation For Exceptional Volunteerism



Karl VanNewkirk and Patrick O'Neill



December 17, 2016

P.O. Box 100402
Arlington, VA 22210
703-942-9247

Arlington Historical Museum
1805 S. Arlington Ridge Rd.

Patrick O'Neill
Diane Schug-O'Neill
9902 Rand Drive
Burke, VA 22015

Ball-Sellers House
5620 Third St. S.

Dear Patrick and Diane,

OFFICERS
W. KARL VANNEWKIRK
PRESIDENT
JOHNATHAN THOMAS
VICE PRESIDENT
GERALD J. LAPORTE
SECRETARY
JOHN TOUHY
TREASURER

In appreciation of the extensive archaeological field work you have conducted at the Ball-Sellers House, the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) Board of Directors is providing you an honorary Donor membership. The AHS is a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association. As a Donor member of the AHS, you are eligible for NARM benefits!

DIRECTORS
ANNETTE BENBOW
BARBARA BOUCHARD
JEN DUBINA
ALI GANJIAN
CATHY HIX
TRACY HOPKINS
FRANK O'LEARY
SUSAN WEBBER
ROBERT WHITE

The NARM website is <http://narmassociation.org/> and includes a list of more than 800 participating museums worldwide. You simply present your current AHS membership card with the NARM icon at any participating NARM institution to receive:

- Free/member admission during regular museum hours
- Member discounts at museum shops
- Possible discounts on concert/lecture tickets

DIRECTOR,
ARLINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM
DR. MARK BENBOW

Please be sure to contact the institution you plan to visit prior to visiting to avoid any confusion about the NARM benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Karl Van Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

W. Karl Van Newkirk
President

2017 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Rich Eilers	eilersrl1@aol.com 703-440-3753
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Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@verizon.net

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. Luke Pecoraro	LPecoraro@mountvernon.org 703.799.6831
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Francine Bromberg	Francine.bromberg@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
Chapmans Mill	Frances Allshouse	chapmanmill@gmail.com 540-253-5888
DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Troccoli	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!!!!