



THE DATUM POINT

May 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 the song says "It's May, it's May, the lusty month of May". Lusty or not, field work is in full swing at Gunston Hall and Chapman's Mill. Lab work for last year's excavations at Chapman's Mill and Smith Mountain Lake has been completed by Chapter members under Dr. Mike Johnson's supervision. The intrepid Fairfax County Archeology crew continues to excavate at the Lincoln Lewis-Vannoy site off Braddock Rd supported by a limited number of Chapter volunteers in the field and lab.

ASV President Carole Nash held a successful Quarterly CY 2017 Board Meeting on Saturday, April 29th at Kittiewan Plantation. Business topics included the redesigned website (roll out in June), more information on the (late) October 2017 ASV State conference in Natural Bridge (rooms will be \$99 +tax), thumbnail activity reports from Chapter presidents or representatives, and a discussion on the ASV liability and medical insurance coverage, application and processing sequence. Within the next 2 weeks, I will be working with Mike Johnson on applying for ASV coverage for our Chapman's Mill and Smith Mountain Lake sites.

We recently finalized the \$400 Williams-Mullen Field School Scholarship award check to Yvonne French in support of Yvonne's Eastern Shore Field School attendance. Congratulations to her! We look forward to her presentation in the future.

See President cont'd on page 2

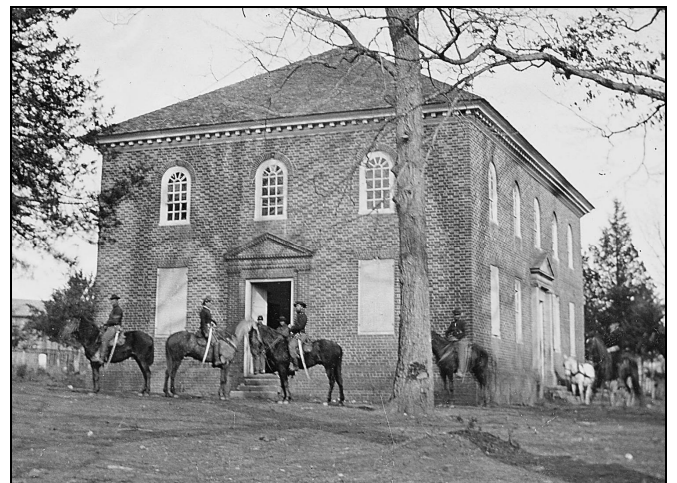
NO WEDNESDAY

MEETING IN MAY!

INSTEAD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CHAPTER FIELD TRIP TO THE FALLS CHURCH ON SATURDAY MAY 13TH AT 1 P.M.

115 E Fairfax St Falls Church



President cont'd from page 1

I need additional Chapter support in the form of three categories of photographs: photos of our members at the various excavation over the last 50 year; photos of our picnics, tours, and Christmas parties over the last 50 years; and photos of any awards received by the Chapter over the last 50 years. Mike Johnson, Diane Schug-O'Neill, and Jackie Cuyler provided me with an extensive list of excavations the Chapter participated in within Fairfax County, Virginia and other continental US Locations. Within Fairfax County archaeology alone, the Chapter has contributed in excess of 80,000 hours!

One final note, there is no May chapter meeting. We are scheduled for an interesting and informative tour of The Falls Church (yes, the Church came before the named city) on Saturday, May 13th at 1 PM. Chapter members and family, members of the community and ASV members are invited. Evidently, George Washington had a significant role in the Church's transition from its original wood to its current brick structure. We look forward to this wonderful opportunity!

CART

County Archaeological Research Team

Excavation has begun into the features at the current project area on the western side of the county. Feature 5, which Chris S. is digging in the image, is about a meter (3 feet) in depth from the top with cut subsoil at the bottom and along the walls. Filled with large stone, artifacts and charred wood flecking, this is probably the cellar for a domestic structure.

From this feature, volunteers and staff have recovered many late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century artifacts ranging from pearlware ceramics to wrought nails and large metal artifacts. Other features currently in excavation have yielded larger stone, and charred wood. Though not as deep, these other features could represent outbuildings such as a smokehouse, detached kitchen, or shed.



With the feature excavation, the soils are saved for waterscreen window screen samples. With the warmer spring days, the waterscreen process has also begun, and the samples are now dry and await the patience and great eye sight of our volunteers in the lab.

Picking through the waterscreen window screen samples usually yields seeds, straight pins, beads, and small animal bone. These animal bones inform the archaeologist of local fish in the river or livestock which were consumed by the inhabitants. Come join us in the lab to see what the samples hold.

Chris and Kayla attended an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) lecture and workshop in April to learn how to use an XRF machine. The technology is quite amazing! It is able to measure the elements present in a sample, which can be useful for archaeologists and museum professionals alike.

Knowing what elements are present in an artifact can help determine which preservation methods to use, know if an artifact could be potentially hazardous and specially stored, and help to source an artifact. Kayla brought a few samples of colonoware to the workshop and found they are

comprised of iron, nickel, manganese, calcium, copper, zinc, and several other elements.

Kayla and Elizabeth will be attending a workshop for archaeologists at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab. The workshop will cover some artifact identification, collections management strategies and field conservation.

Please email CART staff to volunteer in the field at cart.volunteers@live.com, volunteer days in the field are Thursdays through Saturdays. Email the lab at cartarchlab@live.com. Volunteer days in the lab are Wednesday through Friday.

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



This is a great selfie photo by Thea of the Balls Sellers Lab Crew in the basement of the Hume School in Arlington, home of the Arlington Historical Society! You all are welcome to come!

Contact me at patrickloneill@verizon.net



2017 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Mount Vernon	Dr. Luke Pecoraro	LPecoraro@mountvernon.org 703.799.6831
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Chapmans Mill	Frances Allshouse	chapmanmill@gmail.com 540-253-5888
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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
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!!!!