



# THE DATUM POINT

November 2017

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

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)



## **FROM THE PRESIDENT** **RICH EILERS**

The sun is shining the grass is green and most of the leaves remain on the trees. The dark ages are approaching but it still feels like early fall! Good weather for survey and excavation, taking in the historic sites and getting ready to chow down on that turkey dinner less than three weeks away.

The annual ASV conference held this year at Natural Bridge was a success with multiple parallel sessions including papers on the use of metal detecting equipment and knowledge to rediscover a lost freeman town along the Shenandoah River. Fifteen NVC members attended the conference clapping vigorously as our Patrick O'Neill won the Professional Archaeologist of the Year award. Way to go Patrick! The nomination package for his award is published later in this *Datum Point*.

ASV President Carole Nash will be our November speaker. I invite everyone to join us at Anthony's on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for dinner before her talk.

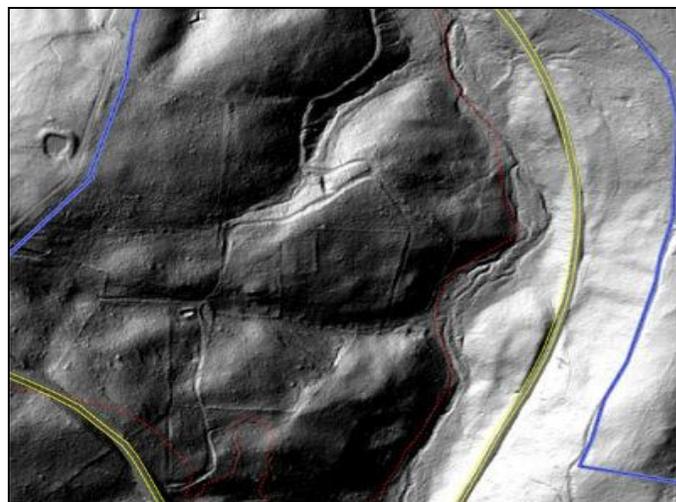
While we have a slate of candidates for the December AVC Board election, we are looking for an intrepid soul to run for the President position. Over the last year, the Board has made a concerted effort to distribute the Chapter's workload across the Board members with great success. It is no longer the President's job to do it all! In that vein, we will vote on a change to the Charter's Vice President functional description, adding the function of forming and leading a committee for Chapter Tours and Speakers. **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**

## **Chapter Talk 7:30pm** **Weds November 8, 2017**

## **LOST BELMONT VINYARDS IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK**

**By Dr. Carole Nash**



Over the past 40 years, the wine industry in Virginia has rapidly expanded from a small number of family-owned vineyards to more than 230 wineries. Shenandoah National Park holds the remains of one of the largest wineries in Virginia history that existed over 150 years ago: Belmont Vineyards. ISAT professor Dr. Carole Nash, assisted by a host of students, the park, and advanced geospatial technologies, have helped uncover the vibrant wine industry that existed in Virginia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Among teaching at James Madison University, Dr. Nash is the President of the ASV, heavily involved with the Masanutten Chapter, and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

## Cont'd from page 1 President's Column

We have been operating this way since January and will now formalize the function after our very successful beta test.

I am in the process of obtain \$250 in 2017 Chapter Block funds from the ASV, something the Chapter has not done before. These monies will be used to create 10 \$20 membership grants (ASV and NVC) for interested full time students at George Mason University. Both Yvonne and I have contacted the Anthropology Department and archaeology related personnel to inform them of these grants and solicit student interest. The plan is to have interested students bring their applications to the Christmas party where we can meet and greet in an informal setting. The final \$50 will be used for food and drinks at the party.

Speaking of the Christmas, this year's party theme is hors d'œuvres. I would like everyone attending to bring their favorite HDs to share. The Party will be on Wednesday (surprise!), Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at our favorite location, the James Lee Center. Please put this date on your calendar.

By the time you read this, several members will be reopening and expanding our excavations at Leesville Lake (Smith Mountain Dam). The work will run at least until November 10<sup>th</sup> and may extend to the 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike Johnson about the details.

Be safe and enjoy the holidays!

### **NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER NOMINEE** **FOR** **2017 VIRGINIA PROFESSIONAL** **ARCHAEOLOGIST OF THE YEAR WINS!**

It is with great pleasure that the Northern Virginia Chapter nominates Patrick O'Neill as the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) Professional Archaeologist of the Year for 2017. Mr. O'Neill has demonstrated outstanding performance and results in the pursuit of Virginia Archaeology over the last year capping many years

of equally outstanding performance as a **volunteer** in archaeological teaching, field work, laboratory, public advocacy, volunteer leadership and historic preservation in the communities of Northern Virginia.



While his important and long standing efforts at Kittiewan and the ASV alone should suffice as justification for this honor, I will briefly address the high points of his Northern Virginia academic and community service and recognition. It is important to note that Mr. O'Neill, is a practicing archaeologist with full time employment outside his professional. He chose this course to enable a full time family life, full time professional life and full time employment. Yes he is that busy.

Within the NVC chapter, Mr. O'Neill is one of only two members who have served as both Chapter and State Presidents. For several years, he has edited and published the Chapter's *Datum Point* newsletter which is distributed state wide as well as to Chapter members living outside Virginia. He routinely designs, organizes, and leads volunteer historic preservation field activities and laboratory sessions throughout Northern Virginia at the request of various historical organizations. These efforts introduce members of the community to archaeology in addition to providing local opportunities for Chapter members and certification students.

His work with for the Arlington Historical Society over the last year is particularly noteworthy. Mr. O'Neill leads an archaeological project with more than 100 volunteers at the oldest building in Arlington County, the Ball-Sellers House

(44AR0072). Their field work unearthed thousands of artifacts and is revitalizing community interest in the historic property. Moreover, this work has aided in preserving the original structure's 270-year-old foundation. He continues to lead the volunteer effort to clean and process the artifacts for continued study and exhibit. O'Neill's work, alongside Arlington Historical Society's site directory (Annette Benbow), resulted in over 2000 logged volunteer hours and counting as the laboratory and curation work continues in the Hume School.

In parallel, he led a successful community effort in Arlington County to save and preserve an historic cemetery endangered by development by conducting in-depth research on the site and its historical significance, tracing the ownership, and presenting his evidence at government hearings and in public forums including the creation of an on-line petition that garnered 1100 signatures. For his efforts, the Arlington County Historical Society presented him with an award for exceptional volunteerism (captured in the *Datum Point*).

Mr. O'Neill has published at least four articles in the *ASV Quarterly Bulletin* (2008, 2009, 2012, 2014) as well as numerous articles in the *NVC Datum Point*. His book **“To Annoy or Destroy the Enemy: The Battle of the White House after the Burning of Washington”** provided a well-researched account of a little-known precursor battle that he hypothesizes provided the basis for American forces' success at Ft. McHenry. His efforts resulted in the Ross Netherton Award from the Fairfax County Historical Commission in 2014.

This year, Mr. O'Neill designed and taught an undergraduate course in historical preservation (archaeological and architectural) field work and techniques at the Northern Virginia Community College Loudon. In typical O'Neill efficiency, this course provided hands-on experience to the students while advancing research on the oldest school house in Arlington County, the Hume School.

As Dr. Mike Johnson told me during our discussion of Patrick's accomplishments in preparation for this nomination, “Patrick does the right things for the right reasons.” In my opinion, that is the highest compliment a professional can give another professional. In light of his numerous unselfish

achievements in the research and preservation at Kittiewan and meaningful successes in Northern Virginia, our chapter is proud to nominate Mr. Patrick O'Neill for the ASV Professional Archaeologist of the Year.

### 2018 NVC OFFICER SLATE

The slate of officers to be voted on at the December elections must be included in the November *Datum Point* to allow the general chapter membership the opportunity to comment and to come to the chapter meeting and vote in the elections at the December meeting. The officers that will appear on the ballot for 2018 are as follows:

President:	Patrick O'Neill
Vice-President:	Yvonne French
Treasurer:	Barbara Leven
Corresponding Sec:	John Kelsey
Recording Sec:	Nancy Ehlke
<i>Datum Point</i> Editor:	Patrick O'Neill
Webmaster:	Chris Havlicek
Certification Liaison:	Ann Wood

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor! Please come and support your candidate, or throw your hat into the ring!!!!!!

## 2017 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Rich Eilers	<a href="mailto:eilersrl1@aol.com">eilersrl1@aol.com</a> 703-440-3753
<b>Vice-President</b>	Chris Havlicek	<a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Leven	<a href="mailto:levenbarbara2@gmail.com">levenbarbara2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Corresponding Sec.</b>	John Kelsey	<a href="mailto:jkelsey@cox.net">jkelsey@cox.net</a>
<b>Recording Sec.</b>	Nancy Ehlke	<a href="mailto:rce2@cox.net">rce2@cox.net</a> 703-978-6724
<b>Datum Point Editor</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net">patrickloneill@verizon.net</a> 703-249-9593
<b>Webmaster</b>	Chris Havlicek	<a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>
<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@gmail.com">annpwood@gmail.com</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Dr. Luke Pecoraro	<a href="mailto:LPecoraro@mountvernon.org">LPecoraro@mountvernon.org</a> 703.799.6831
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-550-0441
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<b>Chapmans Mill</b>	Frances Allshouse	<a href="mailto:chapmanmill@gmail.com">chapmanmill@gmail.com</a> 540-253-5888
<b>DC City Archaeologist</b>	Dr. Ruth Troccoli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov">Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov</a> 202-442-8836

### NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$17) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**

**Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV**

**9518 Liberty Tree Lane**

**Vienna VA 22182**

**Chapter members must join our parent organization, the Archeological Society of Virginia at [asv-archeology.org](http://asv-archeology.org)**

**The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the James Lee Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**