



# THE DATUM POINT

September 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 kids are back in school and the weather has turned surprisingly mild just right for field work. Thoroughfare Gap II, Fairfax County, and Gunston Hall are all conducting field work on weekdays and weekends. I encourage all Chapter members interested in either field or lab work to contact Mike Johnson, Patrick O'Neill, the CART team, or Dave Shonyo.

Our August Chapter Picnic provided 40 members and guests the opportunity to visit one of Europe's iconic Heritage structures now located in the rolling hills on Cox Farms. As you can see from the attached photograph, we toured the recently transplanted Foamhenge structure at the Farm getting a pre opening walk through from our gracious hosts, Eric Cox and family. Our picnickers got their fill of pulled pork, smoked chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, salads, cakes and Mom's Pies.

There will be no Chapter meeting in September. Diane and Patrick have organized a tour of Roosevelt Island for Saturday, September 16th. You have seen Patrick's and John Kelsey's emails with the details. Our turnout as of September 6th is sparse. I encourage Chapter Members to look up Roosevelt Island and reconsider attending. While on the subject, planning for calendar year 2018 tours has begun. Please provide a John Kelsey, Yvonne French or myself with your recommendations for those two events.

The Chapter voted to support the Gunston Hall archaeology day on September 30th. They would appreciate 5 volunteers between 9:30 and 10:30 am for setup and 4 to 4:30pm for takedown. At this  
**Cont'd page 2 President Column**

## NO WEDS MEETING THIS MONTH!

CHAPTER TOUR  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>  
12:30PM

## HISTORY OF ROOSEVELT ISLAND

BY ELISE MILSTEIN

The Northern Virginia Chapter will conduct a field trip to Roosevelt Island on September 16. Docent Elise Milstein will focus on the cultural history of Theodore Roosevelt Island, highlighting notable occupations and ownerships during the Woodland and historic periods, ending with the island's development into a memorial for Theodore Roosevelt, the "Conservation President."

The tour will begin at 12:30 and last between 1-1 1/2 hours. We will make a 1.5-mile loop around the island on flat, well-maintained paths.

If you would like to bring a lunch, you can sit on the benches which line the memorial plaza in the center of the island or on the walls around the moat at the plaza. But there is no water fountain there, and the only "comfort station" is about a half mile down the trail.

Please let Yvonne French know whether you will attend the tour. Yvonne's email is [french.yo@gmail.com](mailto:french.yo@gmail.com).

Theodore Roosevelt Island is part of the National Park Service It sits in the Potomac River near the  
**Cont'd page 2 Roosevelt Island**

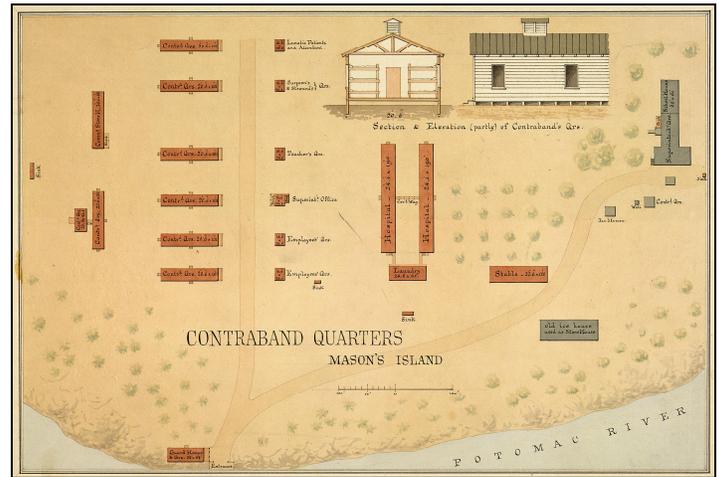
**Cont'd from page 1 President Column**

point the Chapter is not going to provide a formal presence. Various members will be supporting as individuals.

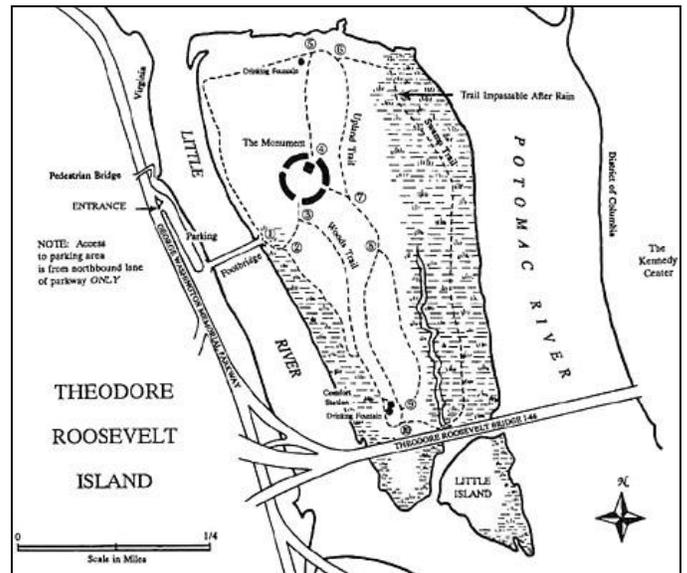
I have informed the Board that I will not stand for reelection in December. It is not too early to begin the process of identifying candidates for the position. If you are interested in running, please contact me for details on the position and it's workload.

**Cont'd from page 1 Roosevelt Island**

Key Bridge. Directions: Drivers can reach Theodore Roosevelt Island from the northbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway only. After Memorial Bridge, follow the sign to turn right into the parking lot. Meet at beginning of foot bridge to island.



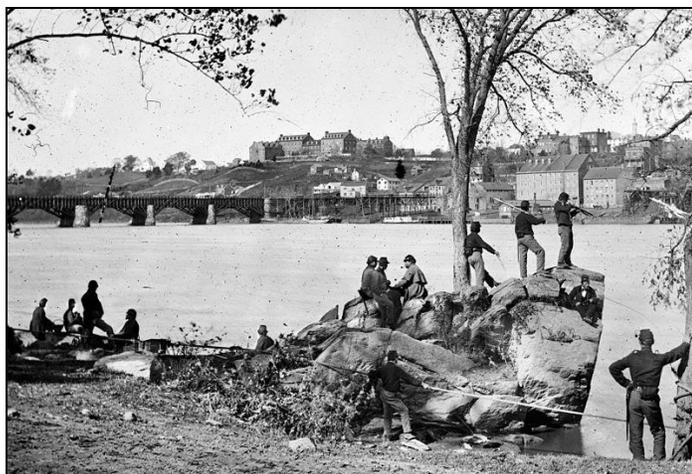
Contraband camp on the Island after the Civil War



Roosevelt Memorial on the Island



Mason home on the Island



Union soldiers on the island during the Civil War

Other dining options in the Roosevelt Island area include:

- Anthony's Restaurant (3000 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, VA, (703) 532-0100, <http://www.anthonysrestaurantva.com/home>)
- Tarbouch Mediterranean Grill (3110 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA, (703) 528-9200, <http://tarbouch.com/>.)
- The Italian Store (3123 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA, (703) 528-6266, <http://italianstore.com/>) (buy a sub and eat on the island)

## ARCHAEOLOGY DAY AT GUNSTON HALL

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, George Mason's Gunston Hall will partner with the Archaeological Society of Virginia, Northern Virginia Chapter to bring you Archaeology Day, a day dedicated to digging up the mysteries of the past! Head to George Mason's historic home from 10AM to 4PM for activities for all ages, including sifting for ancient artifacts, mending archaeological objects, discovering what remains after 200 years, and dressing like an archaeologist. This event is included with Gunston Hall's general admission.

Gunston Hall is the 1750s home of founding father George Mason who authored the Virginia Declaration of Rights and advocated for the United States Bill of Rights. Today, his home is a museum that hosts two naturalization ceremonies a year.

For more information, contact Mary Kristen Craver at (703) 550-9220 ext. 240 or [mkcraver@gunstonhall.org](mailto:mkcraver@gunstonhall.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2017

Mary Kristen Craver

George Mason's Gunston Hall

10709 Gunston Road

Lorton, VA 22079

703-550-9220

[mkcraver@gunstonhall.org](mailto:mkcraver@gunstonhall.org)



Bridget and Diane at Gunston Hall last year manning the chapter table

## CHAPTER PICNIC

Foam Henge has arrived!!!! The Northern Virginia Chapter held their annual picnic at Cox Farm in August! The picnic was well attended, and the newly erected Foam Henge was on display and a tour given for the chapter! The chapter said goodbye to Isabelle Tonkavitch, and another happy birthday to CD Cox, now 101!!!! Thank you Eric Cox for hosting!





## CART

### County Archaeological Research Team

Field work continues in the summer weather. Luckily the screening area is in the shade, so CART staff and volunteers can rest a bit in the shade with some cool water on hot days. Some recently recovered artifacts range from pearlware and creamware bowl bases, to wrought nails, and large mammal bones, such as pig and sheep. The image shows the variety of ceramics recovered. Just a few days ago, a large piece of wood was recovered near the bottom of the large cellar feature.

The large cellar feature is about half excavated into sterile subsoil. The units continue to be just over a meter deep, but CART is still unsure of where the historic land surface was, as to how deep the cellar was under the structure. The large stones are present in each unit of the cellar fill (see photo of unit profiles). A few days of heavy rain have dampened the excavation of the cellar, as it fills with ground water, so excavation must wait until the water drains away. CART excavation of the cellar should be completed in the next few months.



On a recent rain day, five volunteers assisted in the lab with washing and picking artifacts. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, they washed several

large bags in a matter of hours! Their assistance with the washing and picking processes allows lab staff the time to catalog and enter the artifact information into the database for analysis. Volunteers can now assist with waterscreening through window mesh screen. Please email [cartarchlab@live.com](mailto:cartarchlab@live.com) if you would like information about helping staff with the waterscreening.



CART would like to welcome our newest team member: Avery J. He is finishing up his B.S. from James Madison University, and he just completed his summer internship with CART.

CART would like to recognize and congratulate Emiko Takeuchi for her selection for the Outstanding Volunteer Award at the Archaeology and Collections Branch. The award is part of the Elly Doyle Park Service program, which recognizes volunteers for their outstanding service toward the preservation of natural and cultural resources.

Emiko has been volunteering with the Archaeology and Collections Branch for over three years. Even though most archaeological processes are time consuming and tedious, Emiko accepts each task assigned to her with excitement and enthusiasm. We appreciate her hard work and dedication to preserving cultural resources! Thank you Emiko!

For questions about volunteering in the field, email CART staff in the field at [cart.volunteers@live.com](mailto:cart.volunteers@live.com). Volunteer days in the field are Thursdays through Saturdays. Volunteer days in the lab are Wednesdays through Fridays. Keep an eye on our blog: [cartarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com) for information on local events and recent finds by CART.



**ASV Annual Meeting Mail-In Registration**  
**Join us in Natural Bridge, October 26-29, 2017!**  
**Deadline for pre-registration, hotel rooms and banquet tickets:**  
**September 25, 2017**

The 2017 ASV Annual Meeting will be held at the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center (15 Appledore Lane, Natural Bridge, VA). <http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/>

To contact the hotel, call 1-800-533-1410. There is no code to book rooms, but you need to mention "ASV Annual Meeting" to get the conference rate of **\$99/night plus taxes**. Breakfast is not included.

The meeting registration fee is **\$25/person**.

Tickets for the Annual Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, October 28, are **\$30/person**.

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Field trips are in the planning stages. In addition to Natural Bridge itself, the property includes the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit (<http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/education/monacan-indian-living-history/>). Other field trip possibilities include Peaks of Otter on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

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The ASV is offering sponsorships of **\$55 each** for students (undergraduate or graduate) who present papers at the meeting. This fee covers the cost of registration and banquet. We hope that you will consider sponsoring a student as you are registering for the meeting. Your name will appear in the program, if you so choose.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Registration (please complete):**

Conference Attendee (\$25/each)                      Enter Number \_\_\_\_\_                      Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter or Organizational Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Name to Appear on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Tickets (\$30/each)                      Enter Number \_\_\_\_\_                      Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Student Sponsorship (\$55/each)                      Enter Number \_\_\_\_\_                      Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

*(As a sponsor, I would like my name to appear in the program \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No)*

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: Archeological Society of Virginia and mail with this form to:**

**Carl Fischer, ASV Treasurer, 1685 Sweet Hall Road, West Point, Virginia 23181**

## 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>
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<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 Trocolli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov">Ruth.Trocolli@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!!!!**