



THE DATUM POINT

August 2018

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT **PATRICK O'NEILL**

July was surprisingly wet, eh?! Hopefully, August will allow us to get some projects outside completed. A lot happening in the next two months. Picnic in September, Chapter tour in September, and ASV Annual Meeting in October!

NVC CHAPTER PICNIC - The Chapter picnic will be held on Saturday, **September 8th** at the Picnic Pavilion at Mason Neck State Park. The park is a wonderful piece of property overlooking Belmont Bay for those of you who may not have been there before. Plan to bring a dish to share!

SALUBRIA TOUR on **September 29th**. Bring a packed lunch and eat with us on site.

ASV ANNUAL MEETING on Here is the link to everything you need to know and can sign up for. <https://www.virginiaarcheology.org/2018-asv-annual-meeting/> If you are going, I would register for the meeting and reserve a hotel room as soon as you can! And register for the banquet, too!

MIKE JOHNSON RESEARCH PROPOSAL on Inside this issue, find the proposal for research funding by Mike Johnson for work near Chapman's Mill. This will be voted on at the **September 12th** meeting.

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 August 8, 2018**

THE LAZY SUSAN – IS IT **PETER WAGENER'S HOUSE** **FROM OLD COLCHESTER?**

By Patrick O'Neill



The Lazy Susan Restaurant is located on the west side of Route 1 on the bluffs on the north side of Occoquan Creek. The archaeological question is whether or not information exists to indicate if this building or location was the site of Peter Wagener's House in the late 1700s? By the request of the Fairfax History Commission, Patrick O'Neill conducted an architectural, archival, and archaeological study on the site, coinciding with an architectural study by Debbie Johnson from Fairfax County.

Patrick O'Neill is a career archaeologist, living in Fairfax County for 20 years. He is past president of the Northern Virginia Chapter and State ASV, and

is the current president of the NVC and editor of the Datum Point and State Membership Secretary. He wears many hats!

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

These past few months four college interns joined our ranks! Lily, Sean, Sumner, and Emily have been a huge help to us as they are getting experience in the field and lab. Each are also researching an artifact typology of their choice and preparing a blog post of their findings.

In the field, we exposed the north wall of Feature 139 (stone chimney structure) and Feature 86 (brick foundation structure) at Site 44FX0704 in the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. As the stone foundation stopped abruptly, we surmised that the stone had either been robbed out or that the rest of the structure was made of logs which had since decomposed or been repurposed. Post-in-ground architecture is common for homes of this time period so we have kept a close eye out for post molds in the soil. Our search has uncovered two probable post holes, filled in with stones that stick up vertically.

Some cool finds from our recent excavation include a thimble, hand painted porcelain, hand painted tin glazed coarse earthenware, and window glass fragments. The thimble is probable evidence of the women that are associated with the site. One hypothesis proposes that it may specifically suggest the presence of girls that would have used thimbles when first learning to sew. It is believed that, unless working with very coarse cloth or leather, as women aged, that they less frequently used thimbles as they built callouses that protected them from painful pin pricks. The thimble we found measures slightly less than 2 cm which supports that notion.

For the next few months, CART is returning to the site in the western side of Fairfax County to finish excavations around a house foundation which dates to the 1800s. Evidence of an old porch and bulkhead entrance into the cellar are visible on the surface. Let's hope for some dry weather so that excavation can continue.

Just last month Haley H. (field and lab archaeologist) left CART for graduate school. Her hard work and dedication over the years will be missed, but CART wishes her best of luck at school and in her future archaeology positions!

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



Thimble discovered at Colchester (possible evidence of a girl that once lived here).

The Rubis-Fuller Research Fund

Northern Virginia Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia

Mike Johnson has submitted an application for the Rubis-Fuller Research Fund, and is asking \$1,000. The total cost of the soil study on both areas around Chapman's Mill in Prince William County is \$3,000.00. He is seeking matches from the two property owners for the rest. If that money isn't available he may either not use the NVC money or use it to supplement person funds for a partial study.

The Chapter Vice-President, the chair of the scholarship and funds committee will present this to the Chapter as a motion at the September 2018 Meeting, at which time, if the motion is seconded, the item will be voted on for approval by the membership present at the meeting.

The information provided below outlines Johnson's proposal.

Research issues:

1. Scientific approach/objectives of this research effort(s) – To provide geomorphological context for five years of research at Thoroughfare Gap I (Chapman's Mill) and Thoroughfare Gap II (north side of RR tracks) through a contract with Daniel Wagner, one of the foremost soil scientists associated with Chesapeake Bay watershed Paleoamerican studies.
2. What you expect to learn from this research – I expect to learn, first, if results of the archeology are consistent with the water gap geology and soils, and second, what and where are the potential areas where Paleoamerican occupations are most likely. The latter is to guide future research. The archeology part of this project was done to test the broader, regional application of the research model I am applying to the data from our Smith Mountain Gap Paleoamerican research.
3. How you will use the information - This soil study report (the end product) is the critical scientific analysis I need to either validate or refute the application of the Smith Mountain Gap model to the areas we tested in Thoroughfare Gap.

2018 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Alexandria Museum	Dr. Eleanor Breen	Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
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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:

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 www.virginiaarcheology.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!!!!