



THE DATUM POINT

June 2019

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

We had a successful field school at Kittiewan last week, with myself, Yvonne French, and Jessica Gonzales from our chapter attending. Small test units were placed across the landform and found cultural material probably covers the entire area, with several temporal occupations.



Yvonne French was recognized in the professional GIS map contest at the Loudoun GIS Forum last week!!! Her cartography on Flying Squirrel Habitats took home third place.

June 15 and 16, I am mapping a rather large cemetery and stone foundation on The Preserve at Bull Run Mountain. I can offer Phase I survey hours to Certification Students for this work. **I can use help if you want to come.** It's in the woods, but not a bad walk to get there. Email me at patrickloneill@verizon.net or text me at 703-244-6275 if you want to come and I will send details.

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 Meeting 7:30pm Weds June 12, 2019

CLOVIS CAME FROM WHERE?

This slide lecture discusses the origin of the Clovis Paleoindian projectile point. It defines how to identify the point, where it is found and the various stones from which it was made. The talk discusses how the point was made, the point's lithic ancestry, and amplifies how complicated the study of Paleoindian archaeology is. Included is a short history of the archaeological investigation on pre-Clovis sites in the Middle Atlantic area. Two cases of pre-Clovis artifacts from the Williamson site will be displayed.



Jack Hranicky has over 50 years of investigating prehistoric artifacts and sites. He has 40+ published books and over 200 published papers in archaeology. He is currently administrating 10 PaleoAmerican sites. A publication is forthcoming. He is a past president of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), past president of the Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF), and past chairman of Alexandria's Archaeology Commission. He is a charter member (1976) of the Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA).

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

While field work is the most conspicuous part of an archaeological project, it is only a single step in the larger archaeological process. After the holes have been back-filled and shovels put away, there is still much work to be done. In fact, the bulk of the time CART archaeologists spend on a given project almost always occurs after survey and excavation are complete.

Artifacts must be washed, sorted, cataloged, labeled, and prepped for long-term storage. Samples such as soil samples, carbon samples, wood samples, etc. must be processed and sometimes sent out for expert analysis. There are field documents to digitize, digital maps to be made, artifacts to analyze, and reports to be written. For the past month, CART archaeologists have taken a brief hiatus from the field to chip away at some of these tasks in order to wrap up previous projects and clear our slate for upcoming field work.



CART Archaeologists, Robin and Avery, at Eagle Festival

Between lab tasks CART archaeologists, Avery and Robin, had the opportunity to represent CART at the 22nd Annual Eagle Festival at Mason Neck

State Park. Despite the rainy weather, many folks stopped by to check out the CART table. The staff had a blast sharing information about our excavations throughout the county and learning about other resource conservation and stewardship efforts in our region.

Our volunteer program is currently full, but we hope that **New Volunteer Orientations** will resume later in the summer. For questions about volunteering in the field, email CART staff in the field at cart.volunteers@live.com. Keep an eye on our blog: cartarchaeology.wordpress.com for information on local events and recent finds by CART.

FROM THE VEATCH COLLECTION

By Mike Johnson



Quartz Savannah River variant point. Savannah River points were used from about 3,500 to 4,700 years ago and come in a variety of forms and stem shapes. In the Middle Atlantic region they also tend to be made of more coarse grained materials like quartzite and hornfels, which is the most common material. The Veatch collection has a surprisingly high number of greenstone points, which are not common elsewhere. Quartz, shown here, is usually a minor stone type. It is likely that the Savannah River knappers developed a highly sophisticated technology for working coarse grained materials.

This is unlike the Middle Atlantic Paleo-American knappers who appeared to be proficient at working almost any knappable material.



Piscataway (1,200-2,000 BP) and Rossville (1,500-2,000 BP) points, dating to the Middle Woodland period are sometimes confused with Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain points II points (5,700-6,300 B.P.). A Rossville/Piscataway point is shown to the left and a Morrow Mountain II point to the right. Although the difference is obvious between the two points, some Rossville points also have small shoulders and contracting stems, which makes the differences far more subtle and problematic as long as the points are not from stratified contexts.



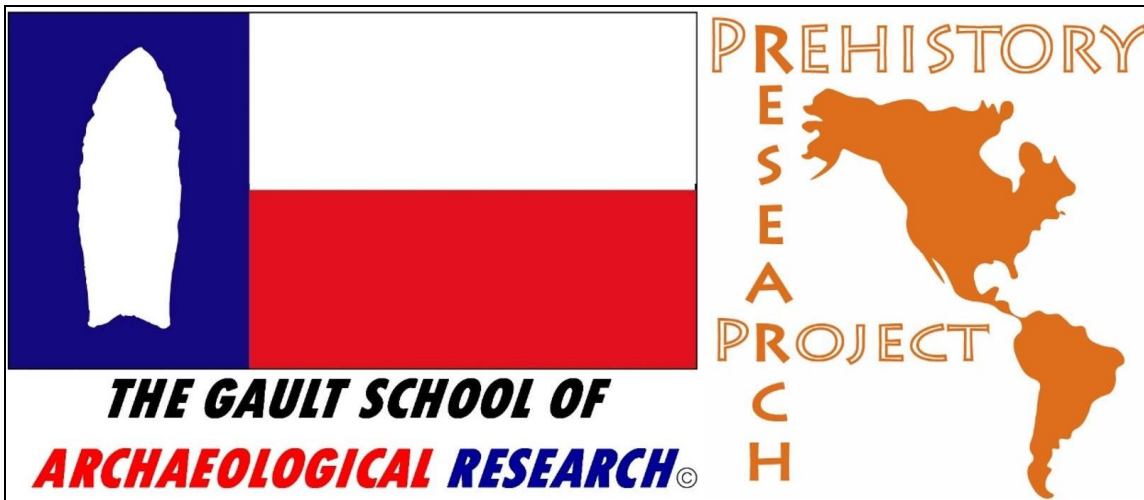
The Veatch collection from Stone Point is producing a surprisingly high number of what appear to be quartz hammerstones. They tend to be shaped like a ball, with distinct areas of battering, especially on the high points. These features are the result of high angle striking that one would expect if the object was used to remove flakes from another tool, rather than being the object being struck. The battering is obvious on the two hammerstones to the right in the image.



Two greenstone Savannah River points. The mastery of this material never ceases to amaze. Both points are very well made and thinned. Due to their sizes, both probably served a knife/saw-like function. The point in the center shows some reworking of the broken tip (distal) end.



One quartz St. Albans-like point. We have recovered several of these points dating to about 10,000 years ago. This one appears to have been heavily reworked, which may be why it is so short.



We've Moved!

The Gault School of Archaeological Research has moved back to Austin!

Our new address is:

PO Box 81563

Austin, TX 78758

The Prehistory Research Project (our academic affiliate) has moved to Bldg. 5C at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) at the Pickle Research Campus of UT Austin (near Braker & Mopac).

Our new phone number is: 512-232-4912

Thank you all for your support during our move!

2019 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

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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!!!!