



THE DATUM POINT

March 2020

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

The tours committee reviewed 4 locations and decided to visit Morven Park Mansion, Gardens and Grounds, at 17195 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg, VA, on one of two dates: Saturday, May 2 or Saturday, May 16. Please save the date(s); more details will be forthcoming.



The Archaeology of Transportation Symposium will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 14 at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Rd., Lorton, VA. Speakers will be: Chelsea Cohen, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania; Catherine Davis, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, College of William and Mary; Molly Kerr, Founding Director, History Revealed; Sara Rivers-Cofield, Curator of Federal Collections, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory; and Chris Sperling, Senior Archaeologist, Fairfax Archaeology. Coffee, beverages, and light refreshments will be available throughout the day. Tickets are available at <https://gunstonhall.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1165251>

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 March 11, 2020**

THE FIRST PEOPLING OF VIRGINIA

By Wm. Jack Hranicky



This illustrated paper presents a summary of the early Virginia sites and artifacts. A time scale is argued because hundreds of Pleistocene era artifacts have been identified by numerous scholars. The paper presents methods to identify these cultural materials. Several site excavations are discussed with photographs. As for lithic technology, it discusses knapping methods used to create the artifacts from the era. Several experimental archaeologists are used explain flintknapping approaches for creating the tools and implements.

The paper is a first to mix archaeology and anthropology of hominids. Several amateurs and one ASV chapter's early efforts and participations in paleo-archaeology studies are discussed. The Mt Jackson paleo blade is presented as one of the finest jasper artifacts in the East. Two recently discovered effigy heads are presented in an anthropological perspective. They reveal the faces of early Americans in Virginia. Several excavated artifacts are argued as having Old World legacies, especially the transversal racloir which is found worldwide. Other artifacts show a history of Clovis. The talk also has display artifacts for examination by the audience. Based on new archaeological evidence, a new prehistoric timeline for Virginia is presented.

CART

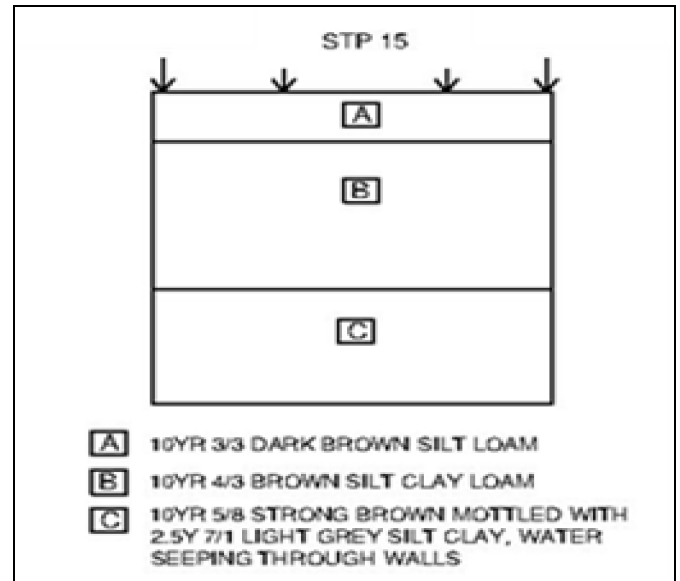
Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team



CART field crew making progress on a shovel test survey

This wet wintery weather has kept our CART field team inside for a big part of February. They miss working in the field, but this time allows them the opportunity to help the lab and collections crew clean and stay organized after last year's busy field season. While in the lab, each of the field crew has a specific project they work on. These projects include cleaning/organizing the wet and dry lab to make for a more effective working space for both crew and volunteers, cataloging artifacts from previous projects, and photographing unique or representative artifacts from past excavations for digital preservation.

Our two-woman collections crew, Heather and Melissa have been working diligently on several projects to make the collections space more productive for Archaeology and Collections Branch research.



Digital representation of stratigraphic profile made in AutoCAD.

While our field techs have been helping in the lab, Crew Chief Colleen has been writing a report for a small two-day shovel test survey project that was recently completed. Writing a report for an archaeological project involves detailed descriptions on the site and its history, the field work that was done by the crew, and the use of digital mapping programs. She has been using a software called AutoCAD to make digitized site profiles.

CART field and lab crew are eagerly anticipating the upcoming 50th annual Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) which will be held March 19-22 in Ocean City, MD. Some of the crew will be presenting their research on various archaeological projects during the Friday morning session entitled "More Than Meets the Eye: Archaeological Research in the Northern Virginia Region." We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at this year's conference!

Our volunteer program is currently full. If you would like to be notified when space becomes available for volunteering, please email cartarchlab@live.com.

2020 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
Vice-President	Yvonne French	yvonne.french2@gmail.com
Treasurer	Barbara Leven	levenbarbara2@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	John Kelsey	jkelsey@cox.net
Recording Sec	Nancy Ehlke	rce2@cox.net 703-978-6724
Datum Point Editor	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET
Webmaster	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com
Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@gmail.com

Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
Mount Vernon	Joe Downer	JDowner@mountvernon.org 703.799.6831
Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-550-0441
Alexandria Museum	Dr. Eleanor Breen	Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov 703-838-4399
DC City Archaeologist	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	Ruth.Trocolli@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 can 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!!!!