



THE DATUM POINT

November 2020

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



VETERAN'S DAY PRESENTATION: THE ROLE OF FORT MONTGOMERY AND THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS OF NEW YORK DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Zoom Meeting this month! Dana Linck will talk about Fort Montgomery and the American Revolution. Here is the link in case the email I sent out did not reach you!

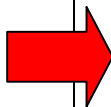
**Topic: Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting
November 11, 2020**

Time: Nov 11, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoomus/j/81521466915>

Presentation and meeting will start at 730pm.



FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT PATRICK O'NEILL

The first ever Virtual ASV Annual Meeting was a success and a necessity! To see the presentations on Vimeo, use the following link.

<https://www.virginiaarcheology.org/2020-asv-annual-meeting/>

To see my presentation on the Catletts Branch Quarries, use the following link.

<https://vimeo.com/468704018>

I have been elected Vice-President of the ASV, and will serve under the new President Mike Barber! Runoff election for the ASV Board position between Tom Karow, Nancy Rubin, and NVC's own Diane Schug-O'Neill. If you did not get an email regarding the runoff election, let me know and I will send it to you.



In August 1775 the Continental Congress ordered immediate construction of fortifications on both sides of the Hudson River in the Hudson Highlands of New York. Fort Constitution was begun on what is now West Point. By March 1776 work was diverted to begin erecting Fort Montgomery about six miles downriver. Fort Montgomery, its nearby twin, Fort Clinton, and Fort Constitution all were taken by British forces in early October 1777. Despite loss of those defensive works and thus the control of the entire Hudson Highlands, the battle played a significant role in why the British campaign to divide the Colonies failed.

With a focus on Fort Montgomery, this talk will summarize archeological investigations through the years and relay how important the Hudson Highlands were to defending the Colonies from before the first parapet was raised, up through and following the time when Benedict Arnold traitorously attempted to give up West Point.

Dana Linck is an archeologist with fifty years of field experience, including 27 years with the National Park Service, 11 with FEMA, and others with private companies. His first paycheck was for archeological fieldwork at Fort Montgomery in 1967, and pending USPS delivery, his next payment will be for work at the same site. Dana has a long history of work with a variety of Revolutionary War era sites in the Highlands region, including forts and redoubts, tent and hut encampments, and homesites. Now a Maryland resident, he intends to continue building that experience.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

As we get farther into the fall season the weather continues to improve for field archaeologists. There are less bugs this time of year and some of the denser foliage begins to die off giving much better sightlines through the parks. Field work at Mount Air was finished up earlier this month, there is always the possibility of returning but for now the team will focus on writing up the results from the past year of investigations.



This month CART has been taking time to focus on research and reporting on several different projects that have been completed over the past few months. Some of our team members have been visiting the Virginia Room and using other sources to further understand the histories of these parks as well as deed research and transcription to trace back the ownership of these sites. Our lab director and assistant lab director continue to work hard on cataloging and processing all of the artifacts brought in from these projects while also managing our databases.

Fairfax County Park Authority ArtiFACTS blog recently highlighted a cache of glass marbles uncovered by CART from our Ashgrove site excavated a few years ago. Artifacts like these marbles offer a glimpse into the lives of those who lived there, for more information on artifacts like these please check out the CART blog <https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com/2020/03/24/dont-lose-your-marbles/>



Our volunteer program is currently suspended, and our offices remain closed until further notice. If you would like to be notified when we can again accept volunteer assistance, 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 703-638-9724
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!!!!