



THE DATUM POINT

April 2021

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



Zoom Meeting this month! Dr. David Brown will give a presentation on archaeology in Urbanna, Virginia. Here is the link in case the email I sent out did not reach you.

Topic: Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting
Time: April 14, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time
Join Zoom Meeting (may have to cut and paste)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625212975>

Presentation and meeting will start at 7:00 pm

Archaeological Discoveries in Urbanna: the Sandwich, Gressit, and Lister Properties

By Dr. David A. Brown



Chapter Membership Renewal!!!
See the information to renew your membership to the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASV on the last page of this and every Datum Point. Send the form and check to Barbara Leven, Chapter Treasurer.

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT PATRICK O'NEILL

If you are interested in helping with the survey and mapping at the Bull Run Mountain Preserve. It will be fairly physical and consist of a pedestrian survey and mapping with no STPs planned at this time. Over 1200 acres to do so get psyched! Joe Villari from the Preserve wants to get some Virginia Outdoor Foundation (VOF) people out to help us! I plan on being out there Saturday April 17th. Email me at patrickloneill@verizon.net so I can give you the details!!!!

According to Dr. Brown, these three properties can highlight the complexities of Urbanna's colonial and Antebellum past. He is hopeful that work will illuminate the lives of the enslaved Africans on these town lots, the complex commercial activities along Virginia Street, and provide a glimpse at everyday life in an 18th-century port town on the lower Rappahannock. The town of Urbanna has the potential to redefine how we look at urban life in Virginia, including its connection through artifacts to cultures from across the Atlantic world.

Dr. David A. Brown is the Co-Director of the Fairfield Foundation and Co-Owner of DATA Investigations. He earned a B.A. in Anthropology

with a focus in archaeology from the College of William & Mary, an M.A. In History/Historical Archaeology from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Ph.D. in American History from The College of William & Mary. He is a founding member of the Werowocomoco Research Group.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

The weather has been beautiful for CART archaeologists this month, the warm temperatures help to dry out the ground from a snowy February but we still often encounter issues this time of year. Weather can have a huge impact on field work, even when it may seem like a perfect time to be outside sometimes the soil will retain water from weeks of rain and snow. We will often work around areas with standing water on the surface or even some spots of frozen ground still lingering until it can dry out. Excavating in areas with water saturation would likely do more damage and increase the chance of missing potential artifacts or subsurface features. Unfortunately this means that our plans for projects have to change when encountering obstacles like this.

Field work continues at Riverbend park, the crew is enjoying the nice weather while it lasts now that the frost has finally melted. We love this time of year before the heat and bugs overtake the parks. The lab continues to process all of the artifacts we bring in, and recently some of our field staff have been assisting with washing these artifacts to help with the backlog we have gained over the past year without our wonderful volunteers.



In the last weekend of March many of our staff attended the virtual Mid Atlantic Archaeology Conference (MAAC), it was originally supposed to be held last spring but was unfortunately cancelled due to safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. We look forward to the time when conferences can be held in person again, but until that then a virtual conference is a good compromise!

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.



2021 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
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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 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month via ZOOM until the pandemic is over.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!