



# THE DATUM POINT

July 2021

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

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)



## **In Person/Zoom Meeting this month!**

Historic Blenheim will give a presentation on the recent studies on graffiti at Blenheim and other locations! The meeting will be a hybrid meeting with in-person as well as Zoom. Here is the link in case the email I sent out did not reach you.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88107123229>

**Presentation and meeting will start at 7:00 pm**



**WEDS JULY 14, 2021 AT 7PM  
HISTORIC BLENHEIM  
3610 OLD LEE HIGHWAY  
FAIRFAX CITY, FAIRFAX**

## **WRITING ON THE WALLS: CONSERVING AND ANALYZING US CIVIL WAR GRAFFITI WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

**By Andrea Loewenwarter and  
Michael Toth**

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

This month marks the first time we have meet in person since March 2020. Historic Blenheim has graciously opened there doors so that we can meet there in the evening and have a hybrid meeting. There is plenty of room for all that want to come in person. We will also have a Zoom version of the meeting and you can still watch remotely! See the link for the Zoom meeting above.

Diane and I attended the ASV Board meeting at Kittiewan this past weekend and she has written a report for the chapter you will find on the next couple of pages.

The ASV Board voted to have an in-person Annual Meeting in Williamsburg from October 21-24. We will get information to you as soon as possible! Please think about coming!



Andrea Loewenwarter and Mike Toth will be speaking about their work in Northern Virginia imaging Civil War graffiti in historic houses over the last year (amidst COVID), in support of conservators and scholars.

As President of R.B. Toth Associates and an Honorary Research Associate at University College  
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London, Michael B. Toth is an international leader in the use of advanced imaging solutions for manuscript and cultural heritage studies around the globe. His work has taken him from St. Catherine's Monastery Library in the Sinai Desert to the Marciana Library in Venice. With 30 years of experience in system engineering and program management, Mike leads teams of technical experts and scholars as they help make our previously unknown cultural heritage openly available for research online.

R.B. Toth Associates LLC ([rbtoth.com](http://rbtoth.com)) provides program management, systems integration, strategic planning and technical support for archives, museums, universities and libraries around the globe. Mike has led many advanced imaging and digitization programs as program manager. He has a degree in History from Wake Forest University, where he also studied science.

Andrea J. Loewenwarter, Historic Resources Specialist in Fairfax City, Virginia, is Site Manager of Historic Blenheim. With over 25 years of museum experience she has led the deciphering, research, and interpretation of the Civil War graffiti in the historic house since 1998. She collaborates with the staff curator, educator and volunteers; authors and living historians, archaeologists, conservators and historic architects. She coordinates a monthly speakers' series, an annual Fairfax History Day, and most recently a graffiti symposium as part of the Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail. She has an M.A.T. in Museum Education from George Washington University.

## **ASV BOARD MEETING @ KITTIEWAN**

By Diane Schug-O'Neill  
ASV Board of Directors

"Hello!" from your neighborhood ASV Board Member. We had our first in-person ASV Board meeting July 10 at Kittiewan. It was great to see nearly all the Board members and hear a few across the phone line. I'll start off with some really good

news: During the general committee reports it was reported that the ASV received a grade of 100 (out of 100) in Fiscal Responsibility. See for yourself: [Archeological Society of Virginia | Rating by Charity Navigator](#). This score provides an assessment of a nonprofit's financial health (stability, efficiency and sustainability) and its commitment to governance practices and policies. Pretty nice.

Here are some of the major topics discussed:

The ASV partnered with Charles City County High School to create a scholarship advancing the study of history/archaeology. The first award will occur during the next school year (2021-2022).

The Board discussed altering the name of the ASV by adding the a to Archaeology (v. Archeology). Archeology without the a was following the government spelling. Over the years, several ASV members have expressed a desire to include the "a". This will be brought to the membership for a vote in October.

Our membership meeting will be in-person, in Williamsburg 21-24 October! More information will be forthcoming, but the organizers are setting up many cool tour options for Saturday afternoon. A new twist may include a Thursday evening tour in Williamsburg. The banquet speaker is all but finalized. This looks like a great way to return to a normal ASV celebration!

A new projectile point publication is underway. You'll hear more about this at the October meeting.

The Kittiewan Committee is planning a field school 20-25 September. Mike Barber and Randy Turner will organize/run this school. Other field schools and Certification opportunities are being organized in different areas of Virginia. *Keep on the lookout!*

State Archaeologist, Elizabeth Moore announced that Brenden Burke has been hired as Virginia's Underwater Archaeologist. Virginia has a rich, diverse maritime heritage; this has been a long time, coming. Brenden is already organizing volunteer opportunities. He will speak about his program

objectives at the Annual Meeting. Dr. Moore also announced that VDHR is open to volunteers and more than one person researching at a time.

Our own Patrick O'Neill is also the ASV Membership Secretary. He reported on ASV member totals (over 500) including Lifers; Families; and Institutions. There are still some who have not renewed, so don't be shy about reminding your friends.

PHOTOS:



A local neighbor listened in from one of the porch pillars.



New roof on Kittiewan Visitor's Center



Kittiewan, the house



The field crew has been assisting the lab by washing the artifacts brought in from current projects and will soon begin water screening some recent samples collected from the field!



It has been a long time since the team has waterscreened so everyone is very excited. This finer method of collecting artifacts in the field is typically used when you encounter a feature while excavating. These features can range in size and depth which means the amount of soil we collect in the field can vary. Sometimes the entirety of the feature soil will fit into one sandbag, but other features can yield dozens! Over the next few weeks the field and lab teams will work together to clean the features soil brought in from the field, and hopefully gain a better understanding of the feature with the artifacts recovered from it.

We hope everyone is staying safe in this hot weather! 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](mailto:cartarchlab@live.com)

### **CART**

#### **Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team**

This month the CART team has been splitting time between the field and the lab. There are a number of projects the crew has been working on in the past few weeks that have pulled us away from our ongoing survey of Riverbend Park.

## 2021 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a> 703-244-6275
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>vacant</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Leven	<a href="mailto:levenbarbara2@gmail.com">levenbarbara2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Corresponding Sec</b>	John Kelsey	<a href="mailto:jkelsey@cox.net">jkelsey@cox.net</a>
<b>Recording Sec</b>	<b>vacant</b>	
<b>Datum Point Editor</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Chris Havlicek	<a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>
<b>Certification Liaison</b>	Ann Wood	<a href="mailto:annpwood@gmail.com">annpwood@gmail.com</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Joe Downer	<a href="mailto:JDowner@mountvernon.org">JDowner@mountvernon.org</a> 703.799.6831
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-638-9724
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<b>DC City Archaeologist</b>	Dr. Ruth Trocolli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov">Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov</a> 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/](http://www.virginiaarcheology.org/)**

**The Chapter meets at 7:00p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month either in person or on Zoom.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**