



THE DATUM POINT

March 2021

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

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



Zoom Meeting this month! Matt Virta, NPS, will talk about Fort Hunt. Here is the link in case the email I sent out did not reach you.

Topic: Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting
Time: March 10, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time
Join Zoom Meeting (may have to cut and paste)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85029380922>

Presentation and meeting will start at 7:00 pm

P.O. BOX 1142: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF FORT HUNT PARK

BY MATT VIRTA, NPS

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, email me at patrickloneill@verizon.net. 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 know some of you have been vaccinated, and hope all is well with that. I received the first of two Pfizer shots with no side effects whatsoever. I got mine at the Fairfax Government Center, the Taj.

Matt Virta, the Cultural Resources Program Manager and Archeologist for the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), will provide a presentation on research the National Park Service has conducted on Fort Hunt Park and the top secret military intelligence program that was housed there during WWII. GWMP staff have done archival research, WWII veteran oral history interviews, and archeological investigations. The talk is entitled "P.O. Box 1142: The Hidden History of Fort Hunt Park".

Matth Virta has worked as an archeologist and cultural resources professional for the National Park Service (NPS) for nearly 35 years. Currently he is the Cultural Resources Program Manager for the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), where he has been employed since 1999, planning and managing identification, documentation, and

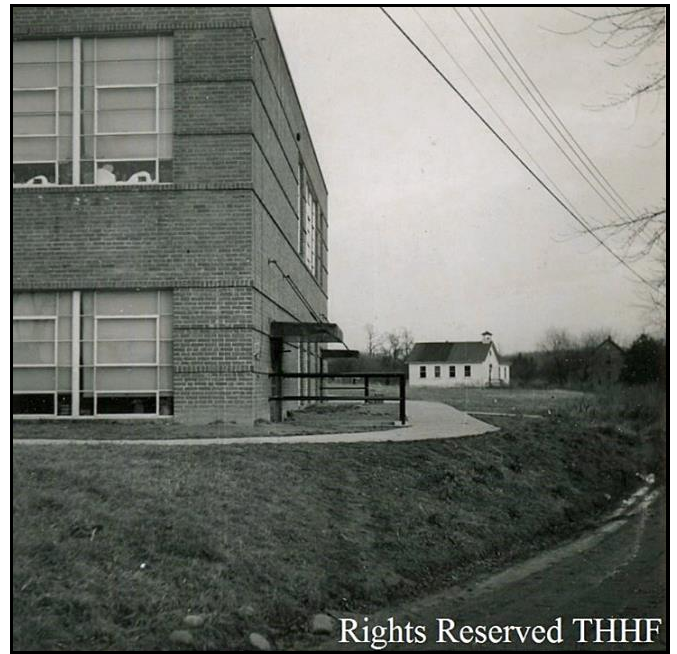
preservation projects for the park's archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes. Before joining the GWMP, Matt was employed as a Staff Archeologist and Archeology Laboratory & Collections Manager for the NPS, Denver Service Center, Eastern Applied Archeology Center, conducting archeological investigations and curating archeological collections for national parks from the mid-Atlantic through the northeast. Prior to that, he was employed in a similar capacity serving parks in the greater Washington, DC area with the NPS, National Capital Region Archeology Program (where he initially started as a University of Maryland graduate student intern). Matt holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (1984) in Anthropology (Archeology) and a Master of Applied Anthropology degree (1986 - Archeology & Cultural Resources Management) from the University of Maryland, College Park.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

This month CART welcomed our Field Director Robin Ramey back to the team! We are so excited to have her back with the field crew as we all adjust to new schedules and new projects. Field work has begun again at Riverbend; our team is using a recently burned section of the park as a place to train some of our team on our GPS receiver. It is rare to have a completely open space for an archaeological survey in this region, so we are taking advantage of these conditions to get a better understanding of the receiver in the field. We hope to use this technology for an upcoming project in the western region of the county. This will hopefully help us to streamline our data collection in the field.

This month Robin wrote a piece on the James Lee Community Center, current home of the Archaeology and Collections Branch. This historic building was originally the James Lee Elementary School which opened its doors in 1948 to the Black children of Falls Church. This school operated as a fully segregated Black school until 1966. It was one



of the last two segregated schools to close in Fairfax County. For more information on the history of activism surrounding this school and its namesake James E. Lee, please read the full article on the County blog *Our Stories and Perspectives* <http://ourstoriesandperspectives.com/2021/02/17/black-history-month-james-lee-center/>

Earlier this month the Fairfax County ArtiFACT blog also featured an interesting piece by our own Heather Hembrey on a rare textile artifact that was recovered from a tanyard in Centreville. To read the full post and others like it please visit the ArtiFACTS blog for more information <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts>.

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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Gunston Hall	Dave Shonyo	archaeology@gunstonhall.org 703-638-9724
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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

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!!!!