



THE DATUM POINT

October 2021

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**

See the information in this issue on how to get registered for the Virtual 2021 ASV Annual Meeting!!!! Unlike last year, this year's meeting will cover three days, as the in-person meeting was designed to do. The presentations will be offered for viewing on the ASV website in case you are not able to attend the real time virtual presentations.

Sadly, I must report that John 'JR' Rutherford has passed. A writeup appears after the Annual Meeting information. I worked with JR at Parsons in the late 1990s, with Liz Crowell. He was a colorful person to say the least. He smoked like a chimney and drank coffee like there was no tomorrow. His motto was "pee clear by 9 am!", something I still aspire to do to this day, only with Diet Coke! He loved to help you with graphics on a project, and was a great field archaeologist, but his health kept him solely in the office for many years. He and Dennis Knepper taught me how to use Photoshop Elements over 20 years ago, and for that I am forever grateful, as he helped change my reports and research exponentially!



On a great note, see below that River Farm is not going on the auction block after all!!!!

NO CHAPTER TALK THIS MONTH

Join Us for the Virtual Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Meeting – October 22 - 24, 2021

As with so many of our activities, the Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia has gone virtual again. Here's how it works: we will hold the meeting on the original meeting dates -- October 22, 23 and 24, 2021.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom links to attend the live sessions. Please use this link to register:

<https://forms.gle/bw4KVkAmAHBYTJyN6>

There is no fee associated with this registration. Registration will close on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Zoom links will be sent on Thursday, October 21, 2021 to all who register.

Questions to presenters can also be submitted via the registration form or they during the session in the Zoom chat box. Presentation will be posted on the ASV website and available there until the end of 2021.

Please see below for the schedule.

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Friday, October 22, 2021 9:30 am-12 pm

Colonial Williamsburg Archaeology

1. Ongoing Excavations at Custis Square, Colonial Williamsburg Virginia. Megan Veness (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
2. Revisiting the Custis Teabowls. Victoria Gum (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
3. Rescuing Timmy from the Well: An Investigation into the Late Eighteenth-Century Children's Artifacts from the Custis Square Well. Tamara Stulen (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
4. Military Buttons of Custis Square and How They Got There. Adam Macbeth (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
5. Finding First Baptist: Archaeological Investigations of a Historic Black Church. Katherine Wagner (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
6. Re-finding Forgotten Burial Grounds: Some Preliminary Results from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Historic Cemetery Survey Experiment. Eric Schweickart (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)

COVA Meeting 1 pm to 3 pm

Friday, October 22, 2021 3:30 pm to 5 pm

Research Under the Yellow Flag: Maritime Archaeology in the Commonwealth During Quarantine

1. To Preserve and Protect: Underwater Archaeology at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Brendan Burke (DHR)
2. Site Survey Update of the C.S.S. Richmond and the James River Squadron. Mike Nusbaum (ASV)

3. Survey of a Dugout Canoe from the Chickahominy River Marsh, Charles City County, VA, Robert Hayes, (ASV)

Friday, October 22, 2021 7 pm

Keynote Speaker

1. Discoveries from 50 Years of Excavating the Buried City of St. Mary's. Dr. Henry M. Miller (Maryland's Heritage Scholar, Historic St. Mary's City)

Saturday, October 23, 2021 10 am-12 pm

Historical Archaeology 1

1. Selfie-sticks: Not just for Selfies, but also for Detailed Archaeological Documentation Jane Kim (The Fairfield Foundation/DATA Investigations)
2. Into the Webiverse of Madness: The Process of Creating a Digital Outreach Website for the VAARNG Archaeological Collections. Kristina Donnally (DHR)
3. Enslaved People Escaping to British War Ships on the Potomac in 1814. Patrick O'Neill (ASV)
4. Rock Castle: An Archaeological Journey through Time. Kirby Smith (ASV)
5. Historic Sandusky's 2021 Kitchen Excavation. Emma Coffey and Hailey Sabolcik (Lynchburg College)

Saturday, October 23, 2021 2 pm-4:30 pm
The Archaeology of Virginia's First People

1. Monumental Stone Serpent Effigies in Virginia. Dan Pezzoni (Landmark Preservation Associates)
2. Human Long Bone Medicine Tubes in Southern Virginia: The Power of Shamanism Michael B. Barber (Institute of Archaeology, Longwood University)

3. Non-Invasive Approaches to the Study of Accretional Burial Mounds in Western Virginia. Carole Nash (James Madison University)
4. The Prehistoric Neighborhood of Eustis Lake. Courtney Birkett (Fort Eustis Cultural Resources)
5. Palisaded Settlement Chronology in the Middle Atlantic: A Bayesian Model. John Henshaw (The College of William & Mary).
6. Anadromous Fish, Freshwater Mussels, and Maize: An Isotopic Investigation of Late Woodland Foodways in the Fresh Tidal Region of Coastal Virginia. Dane Magoon (University of Leicester)

JOHN 'JR' RUTHERFORD



Sunday, October 24, 2021 10am to 12 pm Historical Archaeology 2

1. Stitched Together: Clothes, Labor, and Place on the Buffalo Forge Iron Plantation. Erin Schwartz (The College of William & Mary)
2. Coal, Volunteers, and More Coal: Rescue Excavations at the Woodville Rosenwald School. Colleen Betti (UNC Chapel Hill)
3. Mining The Maps. Lyle Browning (Browning & Associates, LTD.)
4. Preliminary Survey Results for Stonemason's Marks in Western Virginia. Richard Guercin and Jonathan Mayes (USDA - Forest Service)
5. Public Outreach at Fort Eustis. Christopher McDaid (Fort Eustis Cultural Resources)

Park Authority Family, on behalf of our new Executive Director, Jai Cole, we are deeply saddened to report the news of the death of our long time, highly respected Heritage Resource Specialist/Staff Archaeologist, John Rutherford who died earlier this week. Mr. Rutherford was an archaeologist in the eastern and southwestern United States for over 30 years, working with the Fairfax County Park Authority for over 20 of those years.

His research specialties included Native American stone tool replication and refitting of lithic artifact assemblages. His responsibilities included the direction, design and implementation of large- and small-scale archaeological projects in addition to field and laboratory supervision, research, artifact analysis, photography, cartography, report writing and public outreach. At the Park Authority, he was involved in building and maintaining Geographic Information Systems (GIS) databases and maps of all cultural resources in the county, including the Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory.

Mr. Rutherford was well-known for his skill in using computer-based GIS to supplement on-the-ground archaeological studies. John used to say, "GIS, when combined with historic aerial

photography, is mind-boggling, literally a time machine at your desktop.” John also won two OPAs, including one for the work he did digitizing and orthorectifying the 1937 and 1954 historic aerial photographs.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

This month the CART team has been focusing on a variety of lab tasks! The field team is working to assist the lab staff with wrapping up recent field projects as well as reorganizing the labs to make better use of the space we have. Some of the crew has been washing artifacts while others have been picking through the water screening from the recent Ash Grove investigation. With the weather changing we will soon be back in the field, but these past few months have been great for everyone to get reacquainted with lab procedures as well as wrapping up projects and preparing them for collections to take them.

Daphne, our assistant lab manager, has been working hard cataloging the artifacts recovered from the Ash Grove investigation last month, and she will soon take on the challenge of cataloging the very small artifacts found in the water-screening and picking process.



The field crew will soon return to Riverbend to continue the survey of the park for a few days of the week so the team can continue to assist with lab activities or other small field projects that might come up through the end of the year. It has been a few months since the field crew has done work in Riverbend, it will take some time to time to reorient ourselves to the park and to the types of artifacts that are typically found.

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



RIVER FARM NO LONGER FOR SALE BY AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The American Horticultural Society has seen leadership changes in recent days and now is keeping River Farm as its headquarters.



Emily Leayman, Patch Staff



River Farm is no longer listed for sale American Horticultural Society. Pictured are state and local officials at a Save River Farm rally in May 2021. (Emily Leayman/Patch)

FORT HUNT, VA — River Farm, a community attraction that was once one of George Washington's farms, is no longer listed for sale by the American Horticultural Society.

AHS announced it would keep River Farm as its headquarters. The property had been listed for \$32.9 million in late 2020 with AHS citing financial challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

"Thanks to the overwhelming outpouring of support from our American Horticultural Society members

and donors, neighbors and stakeholders, public officials and the community over the past year, we are extremely pleased to announce that River Farm will continue to be our national headquarters and remain a priceless asset for the general public and future generations to enjoy," AHS stated on its website. "We are grateful to all of those individuals and groups who rallied around us to help preserve and protect this historic property."

When the property was put up for sale, community members rallied to keep River Farm as a publicly-accessible resource. River Farm is not only AHS headquarters but a popular spot for the community to enjoy its gardens and host events such as weddings.

The Save River Farm movement highlighted the condition of Enid Annenberg Haupt's financial gift that allowed AHS to purchase the property in 1973. The group argued that her gift to AHS was under the condition of keeping the grounds accessible to the public.

AHS previously maintained that the gift did not have the condition but that River Farm was kept publicly accessible anyway. Now the organization is sharing a new stance.

"First and foremost, we know that it is our ongoing ethical responsibility to honor the wishes of our benefactor Enid Annenberg Haupt, who provided the funds to purchase River Farm in 1973," AHS stated. "Her only stipulations were that River Farm serve as the national headquarters of AHS and that the beautiful grounds and gardens remain open for public enjoyment."

AHS took River Farm off the market after the board could not come to an agreement on selling the property. The board rejected several offers from NOVA Parks, which was working with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust on the Save River Farm movement. As reported by the Washington Post, the board was not considering an offer from former Department of Education official A. Wayne Johnson to purchase River Farm and adjacent sites for a luxury resort.

The change in direction for River Farm comes as AHS experiences changes in leadership. As noted by NVCT executive director Alan Rowsome in a statement last week, the AHS executive director and several board members resigned.

"Over the past few months, the divisions that existed on AHS' board had prevented them from moving forward as an organization, and hopefully that changes now," Rowsome stated on Sept. 30. "We are excited to work together with the new leadership of AHS to support them and to ensure that River Farm remains an incredible community asset that honors the cultural, historical, and natural legacy it represents."

River Farm remains temporarily closed to the public for walk-in visits. AHS said reopening River Farm to the public and restarting the garden volunteer program would be top priorities in the coming days and weeks.

AHS also said it would work with public and private partners to "fortify safeguards that will eliminate the threat of development on the property permanently."

As for its financial future, AHS will launch a fundraising campaign to secure long-term operations of River Farm, help it remain an open space and make a platform for horticultural programs with a national reach. AHS is also celebrating its 100th anniversary.

2021 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month either in person or on Zoom.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!