



THE DATUM POINT

December 2022

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

The Holiday Season is upon us! The Chapter Meeting for December 2022 is the Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 14th at Anthony's Restaurant. Be there by 6:30pm if you can. We will have a short business meeting at the beginning so we can get have elections. Then we will eat! This is "Dutch treat", which means everyone pays for their own meal. And then, we can visit with each other! Please come!



CART

COLLEEN BOYLE

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

Last month CART staff led volunteer clean ups at the county's two cemeteries for the poor- St. Paul's Cemetery in Lincolnia, and the cemetery at the Jermantown Maintenance Facility, as well as at Wakefield Chapel Park Cemetery in Annandale. CART led over 25 volunteers over the course of 4 days in brush removal, invasive plant removal, marker cleaning, and general landscaping and repair.



Markers at St Paul's Cemetery before and after cleaning with water.

CART staff also provided oversight for the Daughters of the American Revolution in their cleanup of Summers Family Cemetery. Staff will continue to map, photograph and plan for maintenance activities at county-owned cemeteries throughout the fall and have begun documenting privately owned cemeteries this month. CART would like to congratulate their own Tyler Ball on winning the 2022 Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) photo contest! It was a tight contest in the final round between Tyler Ball's illustration "Shark-e-ology" and the "Building X" overview photograph by Kevin Bradley.

Tyler entered an illustration of modified fossilized shark teeth from the Chesapeake Bay area in the graphics genre of the contest. These teeth had holes drilled through them, leading archaeologists to believe that they were possibly worn as pendants, seen as symbols of higher status or even attached to objects and used as blades for weapons.

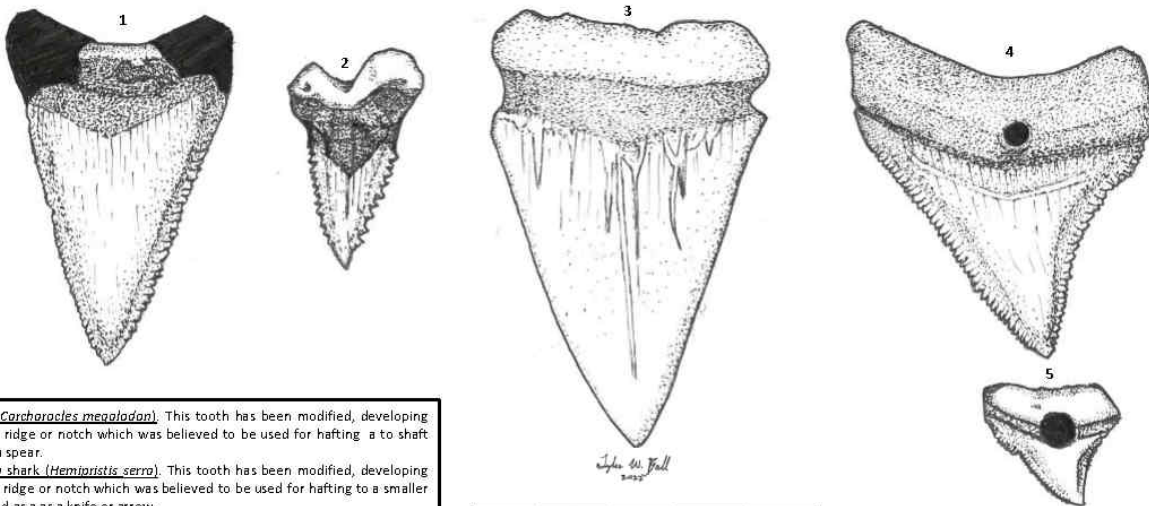
Ball says, "Artifact Illustration is a dying art, but it is still very useful for highlighting multiple details in one graphic that might otherwise be difficult to capture in one photograph. These illustrations are used to better convey depth and textures that might appear flat and two dimensional in a photograph."

CART would also like to congratulate all of the other contestant entries for their amazing work. Together they captured a beautiful array of perspectives that depict the many forms of archaeological processes used in Virginia.

Please note that we are not currently taking volunteers until further notice. We will post new opportunities on the [Fairfax County volunteer website](#) when they become available. Until then, CART volunteers are encouraged to share their talents with other organizations and programs in Fairfax County where opportunities are now available.



Typology of Modified Fossilized Shark Teeth from the Chesapeake Bay Region



1. Megalodon (*Carcharodes megalodon*). This tooth has been modified, developing an unnatural ridge or notch which was believed to be used for hafting a to shaft and used as a spear.
2. Snaggletooth shark (*Hemipristis serris*). This tooth has been modified, developing an unnatural ridge or notch which was believed to be used for hafting to a smaller shaft and used as a knife or arrow.
3. Broad-tooth white shark (*Isurus hastalis*). This tooth has been modified, developing an unnatural ridge or notch which was believed to be used for hafting a to medium to large shaft and used as a spear.
4. Megalodon (*Carcharodes megalodon*). This tooth has been drilled and most likely used for a pendant, possibly to show higher status.
5. Gray shark (*Carcharhinus ebertoni*). This tooth has been drilled and most likely used for a pendant, possibly to show higher status. This tooth could have also been attached to a large wooden club (like the Calusa war club).



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NVC/ASV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues:

Individual (\$15) _____

Family (\$17) _____

Student (\$5) _____

Please make check payable to NVC/ASV.

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

9518 Liberty Tree Lane

Vienna VA 22182

The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month. *Due to COVID-19 concerns, meetings may take place in-person and/or on Zoom. Details with start time and on-line/in-person information will be provided in the Datum Point newsletter prior to each meeting.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!