



THE DATUM POINT

February 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**

A big thank you for all of the NVC Officers for making this year a good one so far! Getting speakers lined up, getting the Datum Point out, and getting field trips and archaeology opportunities are all big tasks, and help is always appreciated!

The ASV is going to do some STPs at Kittiewan, hopefully in March. These STPs will precede a timber cut. I will also be conducting some STPs at the Ball Sellers House in March, or whenever the weather warms up. The Ball Sellers House wants to expand their garden and I want to do STPs across the whole property to get an idea of the cultural resources of the whole location. I will get you firm information of time and place when I know it. Be safe, and when you can, get out there!!!!!!!



Field School Scholarship

The ASV NVC is soliciting applications for the Julian Williams and Eleanor Mullen Memorial Field Study Scholarship to provide limited financial support to individual members of the ASV seeking to enhance their archaeological field skills.

The deadline for application is May 1, 2022

The application form and additional information can be found the NVA Chapter website.

<http://nvcasv.org/about.html>

Join This Month's Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84804904508>

February 9, 2022 7pm

This Month's Lecture

Templeton: A Deeply Buried 12,000 Year Old Site in Western Connecticut

By Zachary Singer, Ph.D.

The Templeton site in western Connecticut was first archaeologically investigated by Dr. Roger Moeller in 1977. Dr. Moeller chose to excavate at Templeton due to the alluvial soils at the site, which suggested the possibility of a stratified archaeological site. During the first few weeks of the 1977 excavation, Dr. Moeller encountered chert lithics around 3 feet below the ground surface in a buried paleosol. Moeller's continued investigations of this deeply buried paleosol yielded a fluted preform and many channel flakes confirming the presence of a Paleoindian occupation at Templeton (Figures 1 and 2). When Moeller excavated and analyzed the Paleoindian Assemblage from the Templeton site in the late 1970s and early 1980s, only a handful of Paleoindian sites in the Northeast had been studied.



Figure 1. Roger Moeller piece plotting a fluted preform base during the 1977 excavation.

In 2015, Dr. Zachary Singer reanalyzed the Templeton materials generated by Dr. Moeller's excavation as part of his dissertation research on Paleoindian sites with fully fluted points in southern New England. Singer's reanalysis suggested that Moeller's excavation block yielded three areas where hunting tools were made around 12,000 years ago. With the enthusiastic encouragement of the landowners, Dr. Singer and colleagues renewed excavations at Templeton beginning in 2016. Since 2016, the excavations at Templeton have investigated spatial patterning at the site via a close



Figure 2. Biface fragments from fluted point production. All Normanskill chert. A. Large biface fragment with refits; B. Preform distal fragment, arrow indicates isolated tip; C. Overshoot channel flake retaining distal preform fragment, arrows indicate isolated tip; D. Biface lateral fragment; E. Fluted preform refit from two fragments; F. Preform medial fragment; G. Biface lateral fragment; H-J. Fluted preform basal fragments.

interval shovel test pit survey and block excavations. These excavations have identified additional deeply buried Paleoindian activity areas related to the production of hunting tools and the processing of organic materials (Figure 3).

The large quantity of fluted point production debris and lack of discarded completed fluted points recovered from the excavations at Templeton suggest that the excavated areas are locations where fluted points were produced, perhaps during a gearing up event to prepare for a future communal caribou hunt. The

presence of formal and informal flake tools of Normanskill chert, Pennsylvania jasper, and siltstone from an undetermined source indicates that tasks involving the processing of hide, wood, bone, and antler also occurred, but to a limited degree compared to similar sites in the region. Perhaps some of the organic processing indicated by the flake tools was associated with preparing the organic components related to Paleoindian hunting weapons.

The study of the Paleoindian component at Templeton indicates that the site is likely a gearing up site. The location of Templeton in the southern portion of the NEM provides an important example of a site

located in a denser forest environment that may reflect one portion of an annual round, with Paleoindians perhaps occupying the spruce parkland and tundra environments of the northern NEM during other seasons. Future excavations and multi-disciplinary analyses are planned for Templeton to attempt to locate additional Paleoindian loci and to study the Paleoindian materials in more detail.

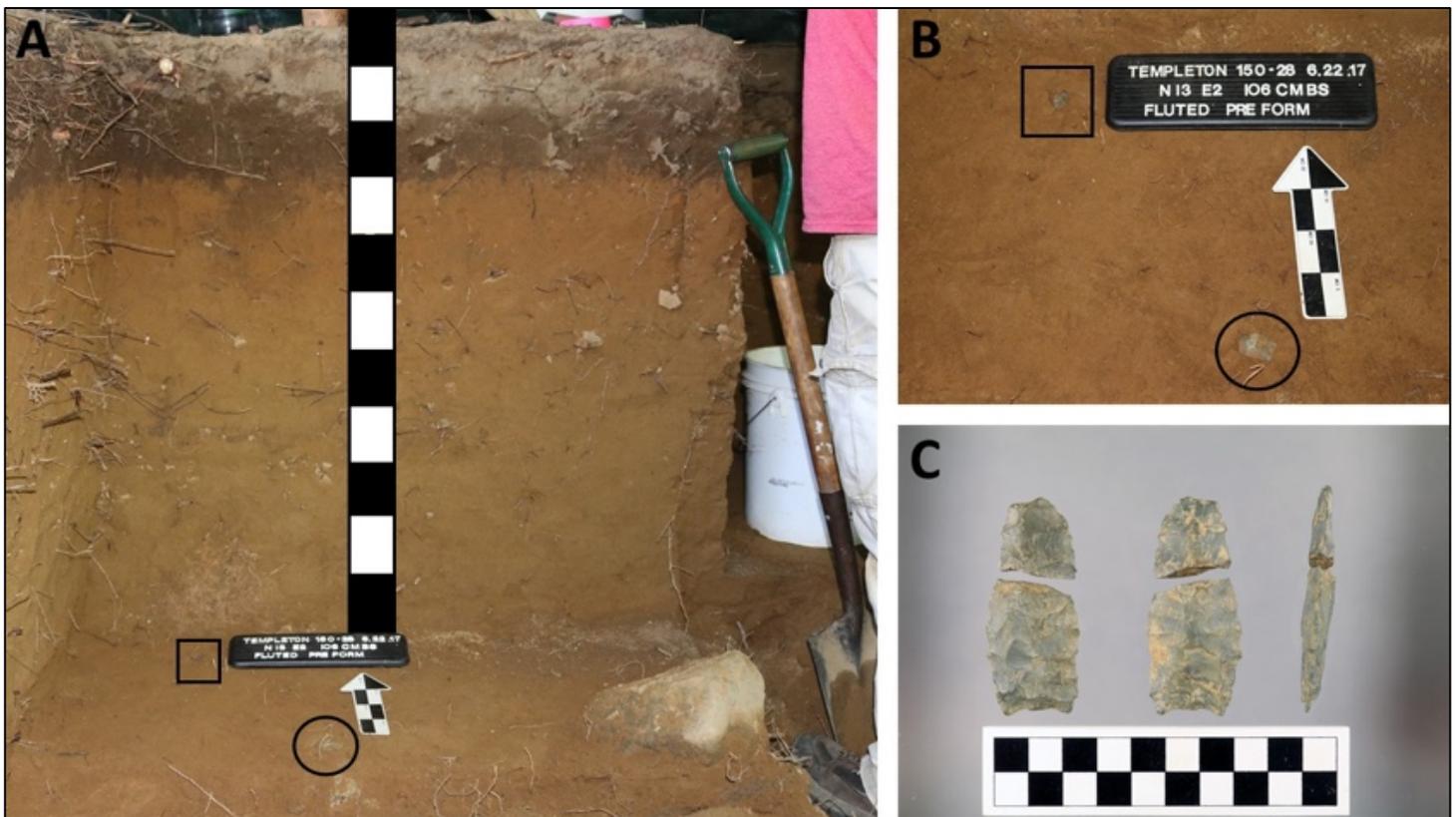


Figure 3: Recent excavations at the Templeton Site; A) Deep alluvial stratigraphy at site, with Paleoindian layer exposed at 106 cm below surface, with a snapped Normanskill chert fluted preform point base (circle) and tip (square) shown in situ; B) Close up of in situ snapped fluted point preform base (circle) and tip (square); C) Dorsal, ventral, and side photographs of snapped fluted point preform.

CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

This month the CART team is taking a break from field work due to the amount of heavy snowfall Fairfax has seen over the last few weeks. The field crew will regroup in February at Riverbend to continue the survey of the southern ridges! At this point the team has completed about 20% of the southern ridges bringing the park survey to about 60% completion!

This month some of the crew has been transcribing old field paperwork into digital field forms using ArcGIS. The field crew has been using this method through most of the recent Riverbend survey and has been an asset to the entire department. Updating some of these legacy projects allows for a more visual experience when reviewing and writing a site report, as it can be difficult to visualize a site without having been there. Attaching our field data to an interactive map will streamline some of our post-field processing in the lab and make it easier to access field data when writing up the results of an investigation. The collaborative environment of CART helps to actively improve the use of this technology and how it can be implemented throughout the entire investigation process!

The Fairfax Count ArtiFACT blog has been recently updated by CART's own Heather Hembrey, telling the story of a 18th century glass bottle seal found at Newgate Tavern! Over the next few months will be updated frequently by the archaeology and collections department, keep an eye out on the artiFACTs blog page <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts>

A BOTTLE OF LIQUOR AT NEWGATE TAVERN, 1787 TELLS TALES OF THE PAST



We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season! Please note that we are not taking volunteers at this time, and our offices remain closed until further notice. We will post new opportunities on the Volunteer Management website when they become available. Until then, ACB volunteers are encouraged to share their talents with other branches and/or parks where opportunities are now available. For more information, please visit Fairfax County's Volunteer page for more information. If you would like to be notified when we can accept volunteer assistance again, please email cartarchlab@live.com



Remember to pay your 2022 Chapter Dues

Please see the last page of the DP for Chapter Dues! Mail a check to the name and address.

ASV Board Meeting Notes

President

- Dr. Mike Barber ASV President (retired State Archaeologist)
- Kittiewan is about to undertake another Timber Tract Survey. This should be sometime in March - weather and Covid depending

DHR

- Dr. Elizabeth Moore
- Field opportunities are still not available, due to Covid Protocols
- Volunteers are working at the Lab - about 3-4 people each day
 - slots are limited, again, due to Covid Protocol
- Lee Monument Time Capsules
 - The two boxes are being curated at VDHR, with no extra funds being IDed/given
 - The two videos had over 1 million views (at our meeting date)
 - Other statue pedestals also have time capsules
 - Unlike the Lee Statue, these are City owned statues on City properties; it remains to be seen where and how those objects will be curated.
 - A [Blog Series](#) has been developed and displayed on the VDHR site
- Please contact your State Representatives concerning the Governor's Budget
 - Threatened Sites; Outreach Person (tribal oriented) are two of the more pressing issues
- Preservation Virginia is also another legislative initiative

COVA

- Dave Brown is the new President in 2022
- Reviewing some projects (annually)
- Looking forward to an in-person meeting in October
- Associate Membership to COVA for ASV members is available at the [Joint COVA page](#)

ASV Treasurer

- Dr. Lisa Jordan
- Finances are in order; Nancy Reuben was added as alternate person to deposit funds
- Insurance issues are up-to-date
- Chapter annual reports are still being accepted
- New museum quality cases have been received at Kittiewan; to be used to display items at the Visitor Center (a welcome donation)
- The last CD came due and has now been transferred into an interest-bearing account at the same bank as the others
- Three life memberships were transferred into that same account from 2021 and one in January 2022.

Kittiewan Funds

- Carl Fisher
- General funds reported (capital spending and income)
- Board Elections: Kevin McCurly and Martha Williams are both ending terms
 - Kevin can run again; Martha cannot
 - Lisa Jordan will chair the nomination committee - I can get you her contact information, if you are interested in running for the committee or assisting in finding someone to run

Certification

- Dr. Carole Nash
- New candidates have already stepped forward for 2022 - exciting!
- Botany Course: while this is a welcome course, it needs to be done in-person and Covid protocol is not allowing for this, at this time
- Some Certification Courses are available online; check the [Program](#) page out and ask Carole or Bruce for more information

Williamsburg Meeting

- Chris McDade is heading this up, again
- ASV is hoping (once again) to have an in-person meeting in October
 - more information will be sent out as we get closer to October
 - COVID dependent

Kittiewan Committee

- Len Blaisol is Committee Chair
- The Committee concerns itself with all site structures, not solely with the manner house
 - The committee is grappling with a number of issues concerning structure soundness, repairs, fundraising for repairs
- Strategic Planning
 - Len is attempting to create a strategic plan to cover current costs as well as increasing revenue to cover future costs
 - Timber cutting is a major fundraising aspect to Kittiewan's upkeep; prior to cuts, surveys are a cultural resource necessity
- Volunteer Hours
 - 2021 had 2400 volunteer hours
 - Pre-Covid experienced around 4000 volunteer hours

- Patrick and Diane will relay volunteer opportunities, but you can look online to see if anything is advertised on the [Kittiewan page](#)

ASV Membership

- Patrick O'Neill
- Patrick sends out lists to chapter presidents when new or renewing ASV members request that a chapter be identified to or suggested for them
- As of January 2022, 40 new members have signed up
- Renewals are still coming in; if you haven't renewed, the [membership page](#) has online payment options

Chapter Reports

- Several chapters are only holding meetings (online and in-person)
- A few chapters are conducting projects
- Covid protocols are impacting all chapters

New Business

- A letter was published announcing an extension to Julie Langdon to continue as SHPO (State Historic Preservation Officer)
 - For those who don't know, this post (SHPO) is different than State Archaeologist (Dr. Elizabeth Moore) and is also quite necessary for Virginia preservation
 - This brief extension of Langdon continuing in the post is also hopeful that it will become a more permanent post

Lastly:

If you have any state-wide questions, feel free to bring them up to me. I will do my best to get you an answer.

2022 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
Vice-President	Yvonne French	yvonne.french2@gmail.com
Treasurer	Barbara Leven	levenbarbara2@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	John Kelsey	jkelsey@cox.net
Recording Sec	Maggie Johnson	stillmaggie2@gmail.com
Datum Point Editor	Kurt Fredrickson	Kurt.N.Fredrickson@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Chris Havlicek	christo829@juno.com
Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@gmail.com

Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-534-3881
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!!!!