



THE DATUM POINT

May 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

Len Blaisol has stepped down as Kittiewan Committee Chair and Kevin McCurley has accepted President Barber's placement at the helm. Thank you Len for your years of service in that role, and Kevin, you have the full support of the Northern Virginia Chapter.

What a great field trip we had to Germanna! Read about it inside! You know you can volunteer there?!!!!

Mike Johnson is going full throttle at Jasper Ridge!!! Finding some great things! Go help him out!



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.

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>

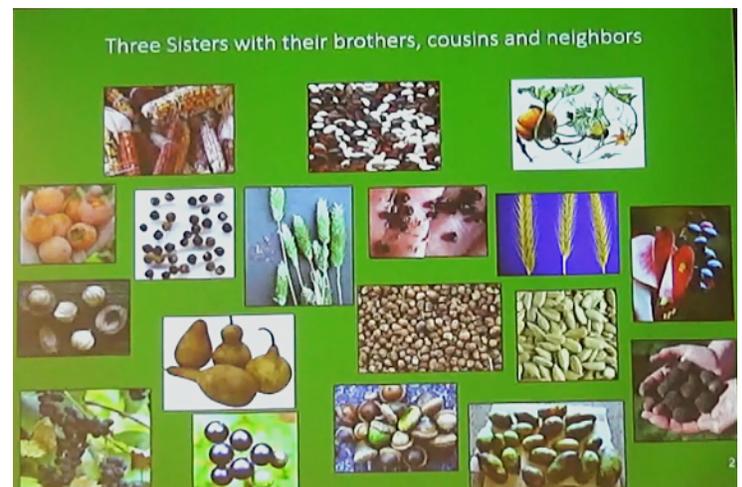
Join This Month's Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89802664777>

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Early Crop Domestication in Virginia

A lecture about early domestication of crops in Virginia will be the subject of the May virtual meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia Northern Virginia Chapter.



"Towards an Understanding of a Native American Legacy: Pre-contact Origins and Development of Domesticated Crops in Virginia" will start with a recorded lecture by Tom Klatka, Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archaeologist for the Western Preservation Office based in Salem. He received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Virginia in 1988, and has

worked for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for 33 years.

Klatka originally gave the wide-ranging talk in person on July 21, 2021, as part of Kegley Lecture Series of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, which meets at the History Museum of Western Virginia / O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke. The Society subsequently posted the lecture on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/sNUC3AtvHfM>.

Klatka shows how floodplain weeds began to be domesticated in the Late Archaic period and discusses when the practices were adopted in different regions of Virginia. This horticultural history facilitated the rapid adoption of maize (and her sisters, beans and squash) to become a dietary staple of the Late Woodland period.

Also a lifelong home gardener, Klatka started piecing together and revising this talk years ago after processing countless floatation samples and reading subsequent reports by ethnobotanists. Although he is not an expert on early crop production, he enjoys talking and learning about plant foods. After the recorded lecture, Klatka will be on hand to virtually address your questions and comments about one important legacy of the Native Americans.



CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Germana Field Trip PATRICK O'NEILL

Kelly Alford-Horne and Eric Larsen of Germanna Foundation gave the NVC a wonderful tour of the Germanna Site and the lab! Nineteen chapter members attended the field trip, first having lunch on the site. Kelly showed us the archaeology and features with Eric assisting in the interpretation. The chapter was shown terraces, buried cultural horizons, foundation remnants, sidewalks/floors, fill episodes, and a possible dairy and dependency.



Walking into the woods, several large stones were being uncovered that might have been one of the early versions of the courthouse, known to be somewhere in the vicinity. Remnants of what could have been a palisade around part of Fort Germanna are being interpreted as well, through archaeology. Walking around the mansion grounds gave us an understanding of the vastness of the

mansion site that cannot be comprehended on paper or in a Zoom presentation!



The laboratory was also just as impressive. Large pieces of carved stone, thought to be Freestone, possibly from Aquia, were on the shelves, showing an elaborate décor that was at Germanna. Even an ornate Freestone “pipe” for carrying water, very similar to a terra cotta pipe. How they were able to make a circular shaft inside the stone is amazing!

Jasper Ridge Project

MIKE JOHNSON

We recovered two new points, both from screening the perc trench #2 backhoe spoil pile back into the trench. The first is a heavily burned, jasper, Early Archaic, Palmer-Kirk-like point fragment and the second is the basal (proximal) end of a quartzite, Late Archaic, Savannah River variant (Bare Island-like?) point. The probable Early Archaic point is redundant data, but the

Savannah R. var. point adds a much later cultural period to the understanding of the site.



Jasper Ridge Perc Test 2



Jasper Ridge Perc Test 2

We have been recovering large, flat, high quality, quartzite flakes in the Jasper Ridge STPs. The presence of heavily ground, lipped striking platforms on several of them suggested that Savannah River knappers were present on the site. Quartzite is the second most numerous knapped stone type recovered so far. The presence of and now confirmed Savannah River technology on a jasper (chert-like material) workshop adjacent to a massive jasper quarry offers an opportunity to test the model that Savannah River knappers did not use chert-like stone. Unlike Clovis age knappers, Savannah River knappers seem to have been less flexible in their technology. We may be able to challenge that model.



CART
COLLEEN BOYLE

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

The weather is getting warmer which means CART will be working hard over the next few months on several field projects! It was recently announced that we have been working on a project across the county to re-survey all the known cemeteries in Fairfax County, report current conditions, and make this information available to the public.

“The purpose of this work is to create an accurate survey of cemeteries in Fairfax County. This will include updated location information including nearest street address, geographic coordinates and tax-map and parcel number. Furthermore, it will provide information regarding current legal ownership, current caretakers and a general description of the current conditions. Where feasible, headstone transcriptions may be provided, as well as an estimate of any unmarked burials. This information will assist genealogical researchers, staff providing comment for development projects, homeowners and homeowners associations and scholars studying the history of Fairfax County.” The full announcement can be read here:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/archaeology/cemeteries>

The team also attended a cemetery conservation workshop in Fredericksburg, VA that was put on by the University of Mary Washington’s Center for Historic Preservation.



Spring cleaning in the lab this month! Everyone has been busy maintaining collections, organizing our lab and library, and processing current field projects.

Please note that we are not currently taking volunteers 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



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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!!!!