



THE DATUM POINT

March 2023

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

Starting to warm up! Field schools are being planned, Certification Classes are being scheduled, people are coming to speak to our chapter IN-PERSON!!!! We are thawing out of winter, although this year we didn't do too bad on the severe cold end!

Chris McDaid is our In-Person speaker this month! President of the Historic Triangle Chapter, Chris is also on the Annual Meeting Committee. Come to the presentation and reconnect with the chapter in person!!!! Remember it is at the Richard Byrd Library in Springfield!

I am planning two days of hard labor at Kittiewan to remove some overburden near the barn where the VARC Lab is being outfitted. This will probably be Saturdays March 25th and April 1st (no fooling). If you are interested in helping, let me know! patrickloneill@verizon.net

In-Person Meeting This Month

Wednesday, March 8. 7:30 p.m.

Richard Byrd Library, 7250

Commerce Street Springfield, VA



This month's presentation

Wide-Ranging Archaeology and Cultural Program at Tidewater's Fort Eustis

Archaeologist Christopher L. McDaid will speak about the wide-ranging archaeology at an Army base in Tidewater.



McDaid is the Lead Archaeologist and Cultural Resources Manager for the Fort Eustis portion of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. The 8,000-acre military installation has an active cultural resources management (CRM) program that ensures compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act, The Native American Graves Protection Act, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act. Some 234 archaeological sites have been

identified on the installation, with the earliest dating from the Early Archaic period. McDaid will discuss the range of cultural resources and the CRM program, which has several major aspects: compliance, consulting with Native Peoples, curation, public engagement, and research.



He will provide an overview of the sites, discuss recent archeological testing, share ongoing research projects being done with the College of William and Mary, and show how archeological sites from the Civil War are used for military education. He will discuss results of testing archeological sites 44NN0014, 44NN0162, 44NN0163, 44NN0200, 44NN0206, 44NN0207, and 44NN0355 for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places.

He will cover current research projects being conducted with graduate students and a post-doctoral fellow at the College of William and Mary, including the examination of the landscape of enslavement in the early 17th century, the geochemistry of Native American ceramics, and sustainability in Native American oystering practices. He will address the installation's exceptionally well-preserved Civil War earthworks, which are used by Army historians to instruct current officers on "staff rides," during which they tour historic places to learn timeless military lessons.

McDaid received his BA from the University of Denver in Colorado, his MA at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and his Doctorate from the University of Leicester's School of Archaeology and Ancient History, UK. He has worked for the University of Denver's Archaeological Research Institute, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Department of Archaeological Research, The William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research, The U.S. Army's Installation Management Command, and Fort Eustis, Virginia. McDaid has conducted fieldwork in Arizona, Bermuda, North Carolina, and Virginia, and has presented at archeological conferences throughout the United States and in Canada, England, Austria, and Ireland.



ASV certification students including Cynthia Donahe and Laura Colombi (not pictured) got public outreach hours by hosting an ASV NVC table at the 36th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at Mount Vernon High School . (The phone could be an artifact because it is older than 50). New ASV NVC pamphlets went out in more than 350 gift bags thanks to ASV and Friends of Fairfax Archaeology member Sallie Lyons!

CART

COLLEEN BOYLE

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team



CART staff members, Crew Chief Colleen Boyle (above) and Field Director Robin Ramey, participated in the 2023 Annual Mount Vernon Town Hall meeting on February 11th. They engaged with the public about what recent work has been done by the archaeology and collections branch, as well as upcoming programs and events. ACB staff displayed examples of artifacts from their type collections to provide a hands-on experience with the artifacts.

Remember Me as You Pass By:

The Archaeology of Cemeteries

Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:00 AM -4:00 PM
Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA

Grave Misunderstandings: Purpose and Progress of the Fairfax County Cemetery Re-Survey
Aimee Wells, Archaeology and Collections Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority

Reflectance Transformation Imaging Use in Grave Marker Examination
Kurt Fredrickson, Archaeological Society of Virginia

The "Undisappearing" of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground
L. Daniel Mouer, Anthropologist

Hidden No Longer: The Archeological Study of Williamsburg's First Baptist Church Cemetery
Jack Gary, Colonial Williamsburg

Documenting Neglected Historic Cemeteries around Richmond, Virginia Using Cost-effective 3-D Tools
Dr. Bernard K. Means, Virginia Commonwealth University

The Ratcliffe Cemetery and Calloway Methodist Church Cemetery
Patrick O'Neill, Archaeological Society of Virginia

Advance registration is available on the Gunston Hall website (www.gunstonhall.org). The fee includes the program and a tour of the Gunston Hall cemetery. \$15 for members of the public. Lunch is an additional \$15.

Act Now! \$10 for members of FOFA and Docents and Friends of Gunston Hall. To receive the discounted rate, please call 703-550-9220, or email lvilliva@gunstonhall.org.



CART Senior Archaeologist Aimee Wells will be giving her presentation *Grave Misunderstandings: Purpose and Progress of the Fairfax County Cemetery Re-Survey* Saturday March 4, 2023. The lecture series starts at 9:00 am and is located at *Gunston Hall*. To see more from CART, check out our latest artiFACTS blog posts. ***PRESERVED PEWS HIGHLIGHT COMMITMENT TO FAITH FOR BLACK RESIDENTS IN 18TH CENTURY FLORIS COMMUNITY***
By Kelsey Atwood, M.A.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts>



Julian Williams and Eleanor Mullen Field School

Scholarship Available

To be eligible for consideration for the scholarship the applicant must be a member of the ASV in good standing for at least four months prior to the application deadline date of May 1. The scholarship award of up to \$400 but not more than \$750 in special circumstances may be used for: tuition and fees; travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses; equipment and supplies to be used by the recipient during the field study experience; or any other legitimate expense that serves to enhance the field study experience. The recipient(s) will be announced on or before the June issue of the Datum Point. Two people may receive a scholarship in any one year.

Learn more about the scholarship at [Williams-Mullen Field School Scholarship](#) and how to apply at [Williams-Mullen Scholarship Application](#).

Availability of Rubis-Fuller Research Fund

The purpose of the Rubis-Fuller Research Fund (RRF) is to provide financial support to the scientific research efforts in the Northern Virginia Chapter (NVC) of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV). This will enhance the level of archaeological knowledge among the Chapter's members through the recommended recipient's sharing the results with the Chapter.

The Rubis-Fuller Research Fund was established through generous donations from the family and friends

of Dave Rubis and Patricia Fuller. Dave Rubis, a Chapter volunteer, was committed to the use of scientific methods in archaeology and developed new techniques that greatly enhanced the Chapter's archaeological efforts, particularly at Cactus Hill. Patricia Fuller was a longtime Chapter member who volunteered on many sites and held Chapter offices.

No more than \$300 will be awarded in any calendar year. The Chapter officers retain the right to accept a part of the proposal. A higher amount may be recommended, under exceptional circumstances, where the potential benefits to the Chapter are deemed to justify the higher level of funding.

Completed applications may will be received between January 2 - September 15.

A recipient of the award must:

- Provide the Chapter Treasurer with an accounting of the research fund expenditures on a form to be provided by the Chapter, with appropriate documentation;
- Give the Chapter a copy of the research results, in an appropriate format;
- Write an article for the *Datum Point* within three months of receiving the results of the research testing. This article will describe the item(s) being tested, the methodology of testing, the anticipated results, the actual results, and the way the results will be incorporated into the project's continued research and/or its reporting. This article will be 150-300 words in length;
- Give an oral report at the monthly meeting when the written report is handed to the Chapter.

The following are examples of how the fund award might be used:

- dendrochronology
- phytolith analysis
- carbon analysis
- neutron analysis
- pollen analysis
- analysis of wood or cloth
- ethnobotanical and faunal analysis
- forensics
- Soil analysis
- Carbon-14 (C14) dating

While these are examples, they are not meant to limit applications; all legitimate scientific research efforts will be considered for the Rubis-Fuller Research Fund award.

The application is available at

<http://www.nvcasv.org/rubisfuller.pdf>. Once complete, give the application to any chapter officer. All proposed awards will be approved by the Chapter membership. This approval will be sought through the usual voting procedures of the Chapter. A notice in the *Datum Point* will precede the vote and a period of discussion will follow the call for vote.



Thomas Balch Library to Host Class on Artifact Documentation

Archeologist Kelly Arford-Horne will be at the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, VA on Saturday, March 4 where she'll discuss documenting artifacts from archaeological excavations.

In July 2021, Thomas Balch Library received a collection of between 350 to 500 ceramic fragments collected at the Sycolin Pottery site located just outside of Leesburg. Discovered in 2004, the site once hosted two kilns used



in the production of redware and stoneware ceramic vessels by potters from the Garner and Duncan families of Loudoun County. Currently, Thomas Balch Library is working through a Loudoun County Library Foundation grant awarded to support cataloging the collection.

Participants will have the opportunity to catalog a unique piece of Loudoun County's history during the event, which begins at 11 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Please call 703-737-7395, email balchlib@leesburgva.gov, or [register online](#).



2023 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
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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: _____

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!!!!