



THE DATUM POINT

May 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

This month's presentation is IN-PERSON! And a great speaker on a fascinating subject!

Spent last Saturday on Bull Run Mountain, finding 7 more sites! Quarries, low water bridge crossings, and confirming old paths/roads! Beautiful weather. I will be going back, and will let you know when, if you want to join me!

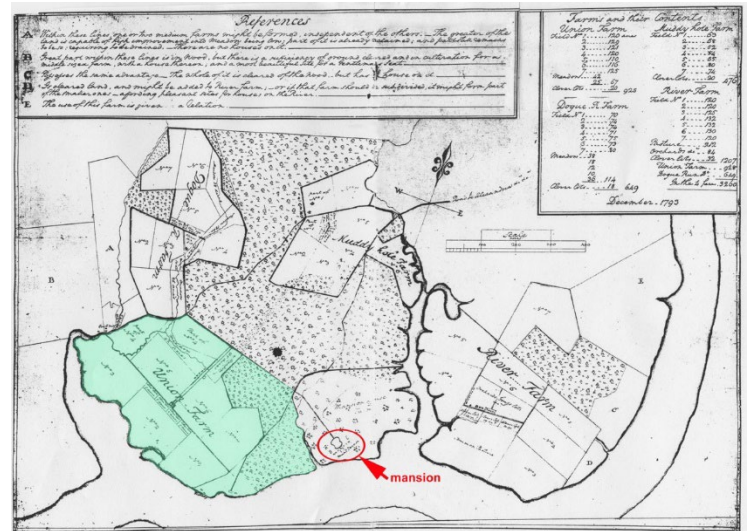
The ASV Board meeting in April was held at Kittiewan in the newly remodeled barn that is becoming the home of the Archaeological Resource Center (VARC) for the ASV! We discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting, VARC setup, finances, and future field opportunities. I will let you know when they are coming!

Already almost summer, the NVC needs to think about our summer picnic which will be in August (usually). Where would you like to have it? Give me some ideas!

This month's presentation

George Washington's UNION FARM

by Patrick O'Neill



Patrick O'Neill conducted an archaeological project on Union Farm (44FX2001), now known as Grist Mill Park in the Fairfax County Park System. Located along the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway, Union Farm was one of George Washington's five farms around his beloved Mount Vernon on his contiguous 8,000 acres. Mount Vernon Archaeology has also conducted archaeology on the site. Union Farm was the location of Washington's famous barn, and site of an overseer's house and several small huts for enslaved workers. Washington learned crop rotation on this farm, and this was the place he was visiting in the snow and rain where he caught his fatal sickness on December 12,

In-Person Meeting This Month

Wednesday, May 10. 7:30 p.m.

Richard Byrd Library,

7250 Commerce Street Springfield, VA



1799. O'Neill will present his findings at this presentation.



CART

COLLEEN BOYLE

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team



CART Staff (Left to Right) *Kelsey Atwood, Heather Hembrey, Amanda Benge* and *Tyler Ball*, working the 2023 *Bluebells at the Bend* festival, which was held on April 8th 2023. The event was held at Riverbend Park, where citizens could come and talk with our team of archaeologist. The **CART** table also had puzzles and hands-on activities including an excavation activity with reproduction ceramic shards and attempt to reconstruct objects from their findings.

Upcoming **CART** Outreach:

- **April 22**, [Earth Day Fairfax at Sully Historic Site](#)
- **June 10**, [Archaeology in the Community's Day of Archaeology Festival at Dumbarton House Museum](#)

Staff Spotlight



Earlier this month, **CART** senior field technician *Brittany Blanchard* was promoted to Assistant Lab Director. Brittany has worked as an archaeologist for Fairfax County for almost five years. In her new role, Brittany will have a key role in processing artifacts and will work closely with lab volunteers. We know she will do amazing.



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 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.



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!!!!