



THE DATUM POINT

January 2024

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



Winter is here, and most of us are staying bundled up inside! We had a great turnout at the December Holiday Party and Elections! The NVC gives a HUGE thank you to John Kelsey and Ann Wood for their years of service to the chapter! In talking with those present at the meeting, it was decided before the elections that the position of Corresponding Secretary and Certification Liaison would be discontinued, at least for now. If you have a website or article you would like to share with the Chapter, send it to me and I will send it out!

I go down to Kittiewan to volunteer at least once a month, and usually on a Saturday. There are always opportunities to volunteer there, from archiving, moving artifacts and museum pieces,

working on the library, and basic grounds work, with upcoming lab work this spring and summer. If you would like to come down, I would be happy to drive. Let me know if you are interested!



**Chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday,
January 10, at Thomas Jefferson Library,
7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church.**

Jasper Ridge (44WR506): A Large Summer Base Camp in the Flint Run Paleoindian Complex, Warren County, Virginia

Michael F. Johnson Mike will discuss distributional and lithic analysis results from the first two seasons of tight-interval STP samples; perc test spoil pile clean-up, and experimental archaeology on Jasper Ridge (44WR506) in Virginia's Northern Shenandoah Valley.

Preliminary 20-foot, transect interval, 1-foot square STP sampling (1/400-sample) (286 STPs) of this intensively used site produced more

than 18,000 artifacts, mostly of jasper, dating so far to the fluted point, Early Archaic, Bifurcate and Savannah River-age time periods.



Jasper Ridge is the forested landform in the center.

Photo by Yvonne French

Jasper Ridge’s broader regional and local contexts will be discussed. This research aims to determine if datable functional areas can be isolated within this severely deflated, plowed, and collected site. Jasper Ridge covers the highest, most exposed landform previously unexplored within Catholic University’s (William M. Gardner’s) “Flint Run Paleoindian Complex.” The site is located adjacent to and above the Flint Run Quarry (44WR4) on an exposed ridge crest. Coupled with the high volume and diverse quality of the artifacts, the landform and context strongly support a significant summer base camp addition

to Gardner’s Thunderbird settlement pattern model. Additionally, a paucity of obvious “imported” stone supports and broadens Gardner’s highly localized settlement pattern model for the Flint Run Complex.



A jasper blade from perc test 1 at Jasper Ridge 44WR506.

Photo by Mike Johnson.

Experimental work is being led by site owner Robert D. Richards, M.D., a flintknapping student of the late Errett Callahan's. Thermal spalling of primary flakes from otherwise, difficult jasper raw material sources was completed and an array of flintknappers are using the spalls to replicate stone tools, saving the flakes as they go. Additional experimental work is planned on a newly observed knapping strategy called dorsal valley flaking, and a potentially noteworthy prismatic blade industry both at

Jasper Ridge and in the stratified Early Archaic and Paleo components in the Thunderbird Site (44WR11) collection at the Smithsonian.

Mike Johnson retired as Fairfax County Senior Archeologist after 32 years. He has a BA in history from George Mason College of the University of Virginia, an MA in anthropology from The American University, and a Ph.D. in archeology from the University of Exeter (U.K.). He was the senior author of the Dr. Ben C. McCary Virginia Fluted Point Survey (1990-2000); He has 42 years of experience as a lithic

technologist and author of two book articles on the Lithic Technology and Material Culture of the First Virginians (Paleo-Americans). He served as principal investigator for the ASV team at the Pre-Clovis and Clovis age Cactus Hill, Blueberry Hill, and Rubis-Pearsall Paleo-American sites (dissertation). He also served as principal investigator at the Chapman's Mill (Thoroughfare Gap) test excavations, and co-principal investigator at the Smith Mountain Gap Archeology (SMGA) excavations, both focusing on Paleo-American uses of water gaps.



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, or 25 percent of the fund total 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. Under exceptional circumstances, a higher

amount may be recommended where the potential benefits to the Chapter are deemed to justify the higher level of funding.

Completed applications will be received between January 2 and 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, and
- 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



2024 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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
Germanna Foundation	Kelly Arford-Horne, MA, RPA	kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org 540-423-1700

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!!!!