



# THE DATUM POINT

July 2024

Newsletter of the  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – [www.nvcasv.org](http://www.nvcasv.org)



## FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

PATRICK O'NEILL

No Chapter Meeting this month, not even Zoom! Everyone is out of town!

Hot! Hot! Hot! Mike Johnson is busy with Jasper Ridge, doing both field work and lab, and lets you know his schedule on a week-by-week basis. If you would like to get on his email list, contact him at [mj44fx1@verizon.net](mailto:mj44fx1@verizon.net). Cut and paste that into your email.

We are working at the Everhart Mill in northwest Loudoun County, and I have included some pictures later in the DP. All are welcome, but please contact me to get dates and location information, plus parking is at a premium!

[Patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:Patrickloneill@verizon.net)

ASV Board meeting on July 27, 2024 at DHR. Let me know if there is anything you want us to discuss.

The chapter is in the process of getting a PayPal system in place where you can pay your dues online. We will let you know when that is up and running.

## No Chapter Meeting this Month

Here are the links from the last two meetings we have had!

Copy and paste link into browser!

**Select Reexamining Factory-Made Slipware at George Washington's Mount Vernon by Alice Keith, Museum Curator for Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, in Jacksonville**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uH1iJ6PANqsciDYnVlMOKyMm\\_DuNWZyHloITrJZJf5ZvO99sIJR4fMoaAYInSgM.6KqcbTBWc7qvEpG4?pwd=WE333oDtPBZvfH0lIl5xS6t93X0Sh6Tp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uH1iJ6PANqsciDYnVlMOKyMm_DuNWZyHloITrJZJf5ZvO99sIJR4fMoaAYInSgM.6KqcbTBWc7qvEpG4?pwd=WE333oDtPBZvfH0lIl5xS6t93X0Sh6Tp)

**Is it Real or Fake? By Heather Hembrey, Fairfax County Archaeology**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-aFU4x42\\_A-rgFNsQaCQ6lpWt8RIVen8/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-aFU4x42_A-rgFNsQaCQ6lpWt8RIVen8/view?usp=drive_web)

**Eagle Scout Project at Ball Sellers House**



*Finn (right) and his dad, in front of the finished garden fence.*

found small items such as pottery shards, butchered bone, and pieces of handmade bricks. These will be added to the AHS collection.



## **Virginia Passes Landmark Preservation Law**

This year, the Virginia General Assembly passed HB 1395, a bill that provides the filing of a building permit demolition application shall stay a locality from issuing any permit to raze or demolish a historic landmark, building, or structure until 30 days after the rendering of the final decision of the governing body of the locality pursuant to a historic preservation ordinance. The bill was championed by Delegate Patrick Hope (Arlington) in response to the demolition of the historic Febrey-Lothrop Estate in the Upton Hill neighborhood of Arlington.

The Febrey home was built before the Civil War and became the residence of several prominent individuals including Alvin Lothrop, co-founder of Woodward & Lothrop Department Store, Howard Hughes, and developer, Randolph Rouse and his wife, actress Audrey Meadows of Honeymooners fame. The original bill included a provision that would have allowed certain parties to appeal to the circuit court the decision of the governing body to raze or demolish a historic landmark, building, or structure.

I am Finn Cupples, a 16-year old sophomore at Washington-Liberty High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 647. As I aspire to become an Eagle Scout, one of the requirements is to organize and complete a service project in the community. I learned that the Ball Sellers House vegetable garden was in need of a fence to expand the garden. Working with Jessica Kaplan, I looked into the Arlington Historical Society and found that all the food from the garden helps support Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture, Plot Against Hunger Program. I knew it was the perfect project for me. After planning and working with Ms. Kaplan, I came up with a plan to extend the garden eight feet on both sides, doubling the garden space. With help from 26 volunteers across the community and my troop, we got to work on June 1st. On the first day of the project, we did most of the work, setting the posts and rails, making a great base to put the finishing touches on the next day. I am happy my project will support the community, the Ball Sellers House and the Plot Against Hunger Program. While carefully digging the holes for the posts, we set aside the dirt on tarps. Archaeologist Patrick O'Neill and his volunteer crew

Unfortunately, that provision was rejected by the Senate. Current law requires the governing body to pass by ordinance the parties entitled to appeal a final decision of the governing body for review. Arlington's ordinance only permits the owner or the developer to appeal the County Board's decision. The legislation will go into effect July 1 and represents an important step forward in finding a better balance between preserving historically important structures in our community with development needs and benefits.



## 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

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.

### **Everhart Mill Project- Patrick O’Neill**

The Northern Virginia Chapter is partnering with the Banshee Reeks Chapter at the Everhart Mill in northwest Loudoun County. The landowner wants to find the exact footprint of the mill and any associated walls that might be adjacent to the mill. The project is simple. Remove the thin layer of dirt and organics that have been formed on top of the foundation, screening the dirt, and recovering any artifacts for analysis. Draft a detailed map of the foundation and construction details, as well as the mill race and access roads.

The landowner, William Chip, bought the land a few years ago, and has added onto the historic house. He has graciously set us up with a porta-john!!! If you want to come work/visit, just email me and I will give you directions and dates we will be there. Right now, I know we WILL be there on July 20 and August 31. Parking is tight, and I will send you a map of where to park as well as a map on the whole site and how to get there.

Patrick O’Neill  
[patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net)  
703-244-6275 cell



North wall of mill before excavation



North wall of mill after excavation



Above: Looking north inside the mill lower level. Below: Staying out of the sun!!!!





Inside lower level of mill

## 2024 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	<a href="mailto:PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET">PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET</a> 703-244-6275
<b>Vice-President</b>	Yvonne French	<a href="mailto:yvonne.french2@gmail.com">yvonne.french2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Leven	<a href="mailto:levenbarbara2@gmail.com">levenbarbara2@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Webmaster</b>	Chris Havlicek	<a href="mailto:christo829@juno.com">christo829@juno.com</a>

### Other Public Archaeological Programs in Northern Virginia/DC

<b>Fairfax Co. Archaeology (FCPA)</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Crowell	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov">elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> 703-534-3881
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Joe Downer	<a href="mailto:JDowner@mountvernon.org">JDowner@mountvernon.org</a> 703.799.6831
<b>Gunston Hall</b>	Dave Shonyo	<a href="mailto:archaeology@gunstonhall.org">archaeology@gunstonhall.org</a> 703-638-9724
<b>Alexandria Museum</b>	Dr. Eleanor Breen	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov">Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov</a> 703-838-4399
<b>DC City Archaeologist</b>	Dr. Ruth Troccoli	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov">Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov</a> 202-442-8836
<b>Germanna Foundation</b>	Kelly Arford-Horne, MA, RPA	<a href="mailto:kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org">kelly.arford-horne@germanna.org</a> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!!!!**