



THE DATUM POINT

May 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

Yvonne French will leading this month's meeting. Diane and I are out of town this Wednesday because we are attending Bridget's College Graduation!!!! Yes, she is graduating college with a Degree in Music Education and German Language from Kansas State! Lizzie is also graduating with a Degree in Biology from ODU! The ASV Board met at Kittiewan on April 27th and it was a successful Zoom/In-Person meeting! Dedication for the new VARC facility will be in late June, and the ASV hopes to be doing some archaeology at Kittiewan later in the year. The chapter will have a table at the Day of Archaeology event on June 1 at Dumbarton House in Georgetown. If you are a certification student in need of public outreach hours please contact Cynthia Donahe at cynthia.donahe@gmail.com. The chapter also plans have a table during the Southeastern Archaeological Conference under a big-tent public event sponsored COVA (Council of Virginia Archaeologists) on November 16th in Williamsburg. All chapter members are welcome to attend both events.



**Chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8
Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St,
Springfield, VA**

“Is It Real or Fake? Faux Historic Foods for Museum Displays

By Heather A. Hembrey



A well-set table pleases the eye, even if the food isn't real.

This month's talk is about something we all know, need, and love ... FOOD. Displaying real food in a museum isn't responsible, yet food can bring a setting to life and provide something that every visitor can identify with. The solution is to use faux foods that appear realistic and are created for the museum's specific historical period.

From 2011 through 2017, Heather Hembrey owned History's Table Faux Period Foods. Working from her home in Manassas, she created custom



1820s holiday meal. The Haymarket Museum, Haymarket, Virginia



Union soldier's supper.

artificial historical foods for museums, replicating items from ancient Rome through the 1960s. History's Table emerged from Heather's love of history and her desire to be creative and have fun when she worked. Drawing from her career in the museum profession and her experience as an archaeologist, Heather helped clients develop interpretive plans including faux period foods that depicted the historical, cultural, and social influences unique to each museum as well as the preferences, if any, of the historic people being interpreted.

She conducted extensive research to recommend faux foods that were appropriate for each exhibition or display, locating and examining period letters, journals, newspapers, recipes, and artworks as well as recent resources such as archaeology reports, scholarly books, articles, and photographs. She replicated foods to appear as they would have before refrigeration – blemished, imperfect, and even sporting an occasional fly.

Heather created faux foods for museums in Michigan, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Florida, and Virginia. Much of her work is still displayed.

Heather holds BAs in History and Fine Arts from the University of Colorado, a MA in History and a Certificate in Historical Agencies and Administration from Northeastern University, and a MAA from the University of Maryland. Her former employers include the Smithsonian Institution, the National Park Service, and the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division. She is currently the Archaeology Collections Assistant with the Fairfax County Park Authority Archaeology and Collections Branch.



CART

Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team

Upcoming Outreach Events



Image: **CART** Staff hosting a table at an outreach event.

CART staff will be participating in several public outreach events this spring. Events are listed below. We hope to see you all there!

Wetland Awareness Day

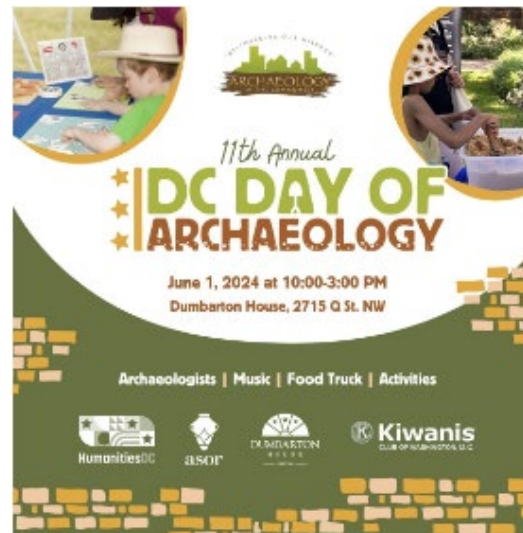


May 5, 12-4 p.m., Free
[Huntley Meadows Park](#)

Discover the beauty and importance of wetlands as you stroll forested paths and the immersive boardwalk trail. Learn about plants and animals that live in the park and see live raptors, reptiles and

amphibians up close. Enjoy interactive displays and activities. This **free** event is open to all ages and is a rain or shine event. To register and learn more please visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park>

DC Day of Archaeology Festival



June 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Free
[Dumbarton House](#)

Talk to archaeologists and explore the archaeology and history of DC, Maryland, and Virginia through amazing hands-on activities. This **free** event is open to all ages! To learn more please visit:

<https://www.archaeologyincommunity.com/upcoming-events.html>

News & Highlights

To see more from **CART**, check out our latest *artiFACTS* blog posts please visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts>



[Etching Their Names in Sully's History](#)

Heather Hembrey, M.A., M.A.A.



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.



2023 NVC/ASV CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Patrick O'Neill	PATRICKLONEILL@VERIZON.NET 703-244-6275
Vice-President	Yvonne French	yvonne.french2@gmail.com
Treasurer	Barbara Leven	levenbarbara2@gmail.com
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Certification Liaison	Ann Wood	annpwood@gmail.com

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
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!!!!