



THE DATUM POINT

March 2025

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

What a beautiful spring! This month's chapter presentation is on Zoom, not in person! Please follow the [link](#) to join the talk at 7:30pm this Wednesday.



Had a few join us at the Baldwin Ridge Cemetery and search for the foundation of Christ's Chapel near Warrenton. The excavation part is complete, as we have identified all four corners of the building and the foundation of the stairs. We will still have one more day to lay string and gutter spikes around the graves found in the GPR survey in 2012. That will occur on April 19, 2025. NOT EASTER WEEKEND!

This month's meeting at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, April 9th, via Zoom. To join follow this [Zoom link](#).

Speaker: Colleen Betti

Topic: This month's speaker is Colleen Betti, speaking on **"Go Ahead and Erect the Building Themselves: The Archaeology of Three Black Schools in Gloucester County, Virginia"**

Colleen Betti has over a decade of experience in the fields of archaeology and historic research in the mid-Atlantic region, particularly on seventeenth through twentieth century historic sites. She has had the opportunity to work on projects in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina.

Her work has been published in the Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage, and she has presented numerous papers at the Society for Historical Archaeology conference, the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Southeastern Archaeological Conference, and the Archeological Society of Virginia conference. Ms. Betti currently serves on the board of the Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation.

Artifacts From Harriet Tubman's House



Diane Schug-O'Neill (left) Sharon Butler (middle) Amber Miller (right)

I am setting up some mapping and brush clearing near Haymarket on the Saint's Hill mansion site. Dates still to be announced. Saint's Hill is part of the historic Broad Run Tract of the Carter family from 1724, and the mansion is thought to date from the 1840s.



Photo Copyright Maryland Department of Transportation

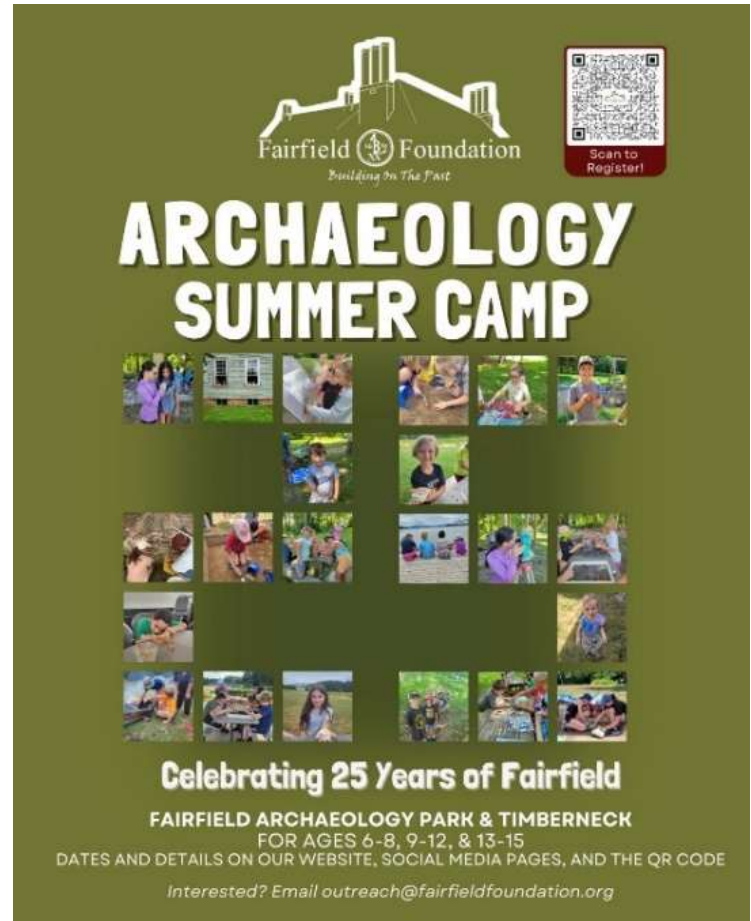
Maryland Department of Transportation has uncovered numerous artifacts from the location of the former home where Harriet Tubman spent her teenage years. The site of the home of Ben Ross (Mrs. Tubman's father) in Dorchester County has become the focus of extensive work by MDOT archaeologists, who have put their [findings online](#) for all to see.

MDOT's [website](#) details the methods used to locate the Ross home and the history surrounding the land. The site features detailed, high-resolution images of artifacts and a detailed explanation of how the site was located. The reader is encouraged to visit the site and learn more about this fascinating topic.



Sharon Butler (left) and Amber Miller (right)

Mike Johnson continues to do field and lab work on Jasper Ridge, and you should be getting updates from him via email.



Are you looking for a fun way to spend an evening with your kids? Bring the whole family out to Family Night at the Hitt Archaeology Center on Wednesday, April 16 from 6:30-7:30pm. There will be hands-on history and archaeology activities for kids and adults of all ages. Visitors will also have the opportunity to tour the lab and view artifacts from recent excavations at the Historic Germanna archaeological sites. We hope to see you there!

Call for Content

- ❖ Working on a project?
- ❖ Found a fascinating article?
- ❖ Visited someplace interesting?
- ❖ Reviewed a book you have read?
- ❖ Have an artifact you want to discuss?

The Datum Point newsletter could use your content. Please contact Ishtar Watson with your ideas and content suggestions and submission. The deadline is the first of each month. Each submission will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Voting is now open for the Poster Contest. How many emails do you have? That is how many votes you can cast! Go forth and conquer! Special thanks to Anne Bader and Leigh Stein for the wonderful artwork! <https://www.saa.org/education-outreach/public-outreach/state-archaeology-celebrations/poster-contest>



The 2025 Conference on Public Archaeology will be held in Washington, D.C., from August 8 to 9, 2025. Archaeology in the Community is hosting this event for public-minded archaeologists and cultural heritage professionals.

Abstract submissions close February 19th, and advanced registration starts in March. Don't miss out on a chance to join workshops, panels, and special events tackling key topics like:

- Public archaeology & Section 106
- Community science & site stewardship
- Climate impacts on heritage
- Digital outreach & education
- Engaging with schools & educators

This unique conference will skip traditional paper presentations in favor of discussions, hands-on activities, and networking opportunities. Let's shape the future of archaeology together!

<https://zurl.co/rz4yg>

**STATE POSTER CONTEST
TIME TO VOTE!**

Now is the time to vote for the SAA State Archaeology Poster Contest, sponsored by the Public Education Committee and the Council of Allied Societies (CoAS). Winners are chosen online by SAA members and the general public and are acknowledged at the SAA Annual Meeting. The winning posters will be highlighted throughout SAA and CoAS to create more awareness for your state's unique focus on archaeology.

In-person voting will close on Saturday, April 26, at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

Online voting will close on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 10:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

Visit www.saa.org/postercontest to cast your vote online or vote on-site in Denver.

Get Involved!

- ✓ Create a poster
- ✓ Vote for your favorite
- ✓ Spread awareness

SAA
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

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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!!!!