



THE ASV

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THE MISSION OF
THE
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SOCIETY OF
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PROMOTE THE
ARCHEOLOGY AND
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OF VIRGINIA AND
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REGIONS.



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PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL – PATRICK O'NEILL

Hopefully the heat of the summer is winding down by the time you get the ASV

Newsletter!!!! It has been an extreme summer, yet, I know that many of you have been able to do many archaeological activities across the state! Kudos! October is Virginia Archaeology Month! Enjoy!



The Annual Meeting is fast approaching, and the ASV has sent many reminders for people to register for the meeting (online deadline Oct 13) and banquet (online deadline Oct 2), as well as the hotel. Please go to <https://virginiaarcheology.org/2023-annual-meeting-hotel-reg/>. Do this as soon as you can, and do not let that deadline come and go!! See you at Berry Hill in October!

The ASV Board met at Germanna the first week in August, a hybrid meeting with many in personal attendance and several on Zoom. Thanks to Eric Larsen for setting that up for us. Virtual attendance for Board meetings does count as personal attendance, so all "present" at the meeting could vote.

Among the many items discussed was the decision by the entire Board to get a permanent upgrade for the wi-fi system at Historic Kittiewan that will benefit both Kittiewan and VARC for research, tourism, and security systems.

With the approval of the ASV Board, Lyle Browning is going to re-establish site recording awards for individuals and chapters with guidance on recording site criteria and procedures coming directly from DHR. I encourage all ASV members to get involved, but to also adhere to the guidelines set forth by DHR.

COVA's 50th Anniversary will coincide with the ASV's 85th Anniversary in 2025. The ASV is looking in to how both groups can celebrate each milestone in 2025. If you have any thoughts, please let us know! ☀

FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST – Elizabeth Moore

Greetings, everyone. It's that time of year again when the state budget turns over and DHR makes new rounds of grant awards. I am happy to report that we have had another successful round for the Threatened Sites program.

DHR's Threatened Sites Program provides financial support for the mitigation of damage to important archaeological sites and collections in Virginia sites. Each year, hundreds of sites are damaged by construction, erosion, flooding, and looting. Each year, more data associated with archaeological collections are lost when they are not stored and managed in a way that retains important information.



Each year, archaeological professionals submit proposals to DHR for funding from the Threatened Sites Program. A review committee consisting of DHR archaeology staff and representatives from ASV and COVA reviews, scores, ranks all proposals, and selects those to be funded. Threatened Sites grants tend to be small; professional archaeologists often donate their time to these projects, using the grants to hire students or purchase supplies and equipment. These projects also often draw heavily on volunteer support, especially from ASV members. Many of them have provided certification field and lab hours and some have provided important and unique training opportunities.

Here are this year's selected projects:

Evaluation and Analysis of a Shell Midden in the Poropotank River, King & Queen County

Site 44KQ0176 is a Middle Woodland Period (300-900 C.E.) shell midden and potential Native American domestic site on an island in the Poropotank River just north of the border between King & Queen and Gloucester Counties. The island was once connected to the mainland but is now a single stand of trees surrounded by marsh. The area is known locally for its oysters and was the subject of substantial oyster farming in the 19th/20th centuries with efforts to revitalize the industry in the 21st century. Sea level rise and cataclysmic weather events are increasingly threatening the cultural and natural resources. Ancient shell middens provide unique preservation conditions; shell helps neutralize acidic soils and shell middens have provided much of the data we have of the past that can be used to examine long-term environmental change. This is done with the examination of well-preserved plant and animal remains, fragile materials that are rarely preserved at other sites. DATA Investigations, Dr. David Brown and Thane Harpole.

"Kiln 2" in Elkton, Virginia

This previously undocumented kiln is part of a late 18th/19th century pottery-distillery-tannery-mill complex owned by colonial settler Stephen Conrad. The Shenandoah Valley has a rich history of pottery production but many of the sites of these kilns and their associated artifacts have been lost due to construction, erosion, and looting. Erosion, exacerbated by cattle walking over the site, is damaging the Kiln 2 deposits. The town of Elkton is considering the property for annexation and preservation of the site is at risk. The current property owners, who are supportive of this project, have conducted hand-excavations on the site, recovering thousands

of sherds. The excavations proposed for this site will determine the function and dates of construction and use. This work will be conducted with assistance from ASV-COVA-DHR certification program field school students, providing a valuable training opportunity. Mountain Valley Archaeology, Dr. Carole Nash.

Lynchburg Mills

Historic maps of Lynchburg project at least eight mills in the city in the mid-19th century; only one of these sites has been previously recorded. Rapid expansion of the city has affected the integrity of the remaining structures/ruins of historic mills through new construction projects pushing growth closer to the river. These projects have redirected rainwater, increasing erosion along the riverbanks. Increased bank collapse threatens the stability of mill ruins and will eventually also cause the loss of associated deposits. This project proposes a water-based survey to locate the mills in the historic record and document their current integrity status and future research potential. All sites will be recorded in VCRIS and a report of the survey results, potential National Register eligibility, and recommendations for preservation and future research will be submitted. Hurt & Proffitt, Randy Lichtenberger.

44PY98

A complex of at least six sites bearing Paleoindian or Early Archaic artifacts have been identified within a 3km reach downstream of Smith Mountain Dam. Because of a unique erosional situation, large areas are exposed down to surfaces that date between 8,000-13,000 years ago. These eroded surfaces have revealed *in situ* artifacts that span the transition from the last Ice Age to the modern era. These sites have the potential to inform us of regional settlement patterns during the time of some of the earliest occupation of the continent. Previous testing at this site has been limited and the current project will extend excavations in depth and breadth and will use fine-grained point plotting for all artifacts to better understand depositional history and site occupation in the earliest time periods. Organic materials will be carefully collected, and radiocarbon dates will be acquired where possible to more fully understand the long history at this site. Ohio University, Dr. Joe Gingerich.

100 Most Threatened Shoreline Sites in Northumberland, Lancaster, Middlesex, and Mathew Counties

Since the late 1960s, more than 1,100 archaeological sites have been recorded within fifty feet of the tidal shorelines of Virginia. Variations in local environmental conditions create variable levels of threat and vulnerability of these sites. In 2017 and 2018, archaeologists from Longwood University created a model to quantify the threat posed to archaeological sites based on continuing erosional trends. Testing and assessment of this model requires knowing existing site boundaries and integrity; information not known when the predictive model was created. The current project will document the 100 most threatened sites in the area addressed by the model to provide critical and essential baseline data on which to assess future site loss and test the model. With property owner permission, STPs will be excavated to determine site boundaries and integrity, sites will be mapped and photographed, artifacts will be recorded, and all information will be entered into VCRIS for future analysis. Dominion Research Group/DATA Investigations, Craig Rose. ☀

THE KITTIEWAN BRIEF – K. C. McCurley

As the summer comes to a close and we progress into the cooler autumn months (a most welcome transition), activities at Kittiewan continue at a slow pace and are primarily focused on routine maintenance and upkeep of the Manor House and surrounding property. We have weathered the heat and humidity fairly well, along with occasional torrential rainstorms and ubiquitous summer thunderstorms that have left us with a few downed trees and limbs, which have been removed as part of our ongoing maintenance. As a small group of dedicated volunteers, we have done our best to keep things looking presentable (considering the majority of us are on the sunny, down -slope side of middle age, we have kept things together for the most part). By far the biggest challenges have been keeping our wonderful lawns and meadows in good order and to a manageable height, and cleaning up debris and limbs left in the wake of the aforementioned storms.



While working around the property, we have been frequently entertained and treated to wonderful glimpses of our local wildlife population. Migrating songbirds and butterflies are making regular appearances now, as well as members of our abundant and prolific deer and turkey community. We have also kept our eyes peeled and senses open to chance encounters with less common visitors such as

black bears and exotic looking reptiles, insects and amphibians. Of special note was the discovery this past summer that our resident, tractor-shed dwelling groundhog “Grady” (a superb archaeologist in “his” own right who has unearthed a multitude of artifacts including 19th pottery and a beautiful, finely crafted, possibly archaic projectile point) is actually a *she* as evidenced by a fine litter of baby whistlepigs (known as “kits” or cubs” in groundhog-ese) that emerged into a brave new world earlier this summer. Perhaps “*Gradina*” would be a more suitable moniker moving forward?

On another front, we look forward with great anticipation to the ASV’s upcoming VARC (Virginia Archaeology Resource Center) dedication and opening of the superb, new laboratory facility in our renovated barn lower interior. We are working to integrate our efforts and responsibilities as the Kittiewan Committee with those of the VARC team in support of archaeology- related field and lab initiatives. VARC leadership will now be overseeing all archaeological work and research onsite, while we of the Kittiewan Committee will maintain the responsibilities of upkeep and interpretation at the Manor House, as well stewardship of all things related to the history and legacy of the former property owners and the possessions they have left in our care.

Archaeological artifacts currently in secure storage in the Visitor Center basement will be assessed with some relocated this fall to the VARC barn facility for display as well as research and teaching purposes. We also have an abundance of additional inside tasks that should keep us (and any interested volunteers) well occupied during the winter months. Among the pending projects we have at hand are the evaluation and continued inventorying of an extensive ephemera collection in our possession, ranging from Victorian trading cards, early to mid 20th century holiday greeting cards, to a multitude of additional and sundry papers, postcards and documents that have local and regional historic interest. The “Cropper Collection of Americana”, currently in storage, will also continue to be carefully sorted and evaluated as well to decide which objects are relevant to the history and interpretation of the property and which should become part of our ongoing displays.

Active archaeology onsite remains at a minimal level although we do plan, under the guidance and auspices of the VARC leadership, to complete a timber tract Phase One survey. Our plan is to lay out and follow a sole remaining transect and complete a series of STP’s to conclude a project initiated at our field school in the summer of 2022. Additional fall projects include the highly anticipated completion of the newly constructed pier down along Kittiewan Creek, a much needed cleanup of the Rickman - Harrison Cemetery, and the consolidation of publications and artifacts in the Visitor Center basement. We are also anticipating another visit by the wonderful folks and HRR canines of VRK9 to continue our work in confirming and/or locating additional possible historic burial sites on the property.

In conclusion, we as a committee would like to extend an offer to all active ASV members who have not had the pleasure of experiencing and exploring Kittiewan to pay us a visit. Fall along the James River basin is the

best time of year to experience all that our culturally and historically rich region has to offer. We will continue with our monthly open-house days on the second Saturday of the month through December, but special visits at other times can be accommodated with a bit of advance notice. While our committee is not taking on new members at this time, we are always looking for willing volunteers to help with a variety of projects including those listed above. If you have an interest in helping, please reach out to the Kittiewan Committee chair, Kevin McCurley at kevinmccurley@hotmail.com.

Thanks and hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in October! ☀

ASV NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDDATE – Mike Barber

The 2023 Nominating Committee is made up of Bill Bjork, Wayne Edwards, and Mike Barber (Chair). For 2023, elections will be held for two openings on the Board for Member-at-Large. These terms will run from 2024 through 2025 and will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting in October 2023. The bios of nominees were formally sent out to the entire membership by email on August 23rd or USPS on August 26th to ensure that all ASV Members received them 30 days in advance of the elections. Submitted biographies for the nominees include are below:

Diane Schug-O'Neill – Running for Elected Director to the Board

Diane Schug-O'Neill's current Board membership ends this year. She has been a member of the ASV since the late 1980s and a Life Member for more than two decades. Throughout her time in the ASV she has served on the Board multiple times; twice as President of the Northern Virginia Chapter (NVC). She has held multiple roles in NVC leadership and is currently Chapter Secretary. She organized and facilitated the 2015 ASV Annual Meeting. Schug-O'Neill also currently serves on the Kittiewan Committee. Archaeologically, she has volunteered in VA, DC, MD, and TX. Schug-O'Neill was honored with the 2016 Avocational Archaeologist of the Year Award. She seeks your vote for the 2024-2026 ASV Board position.

Megan Veness – Running for Elected Director to the Board

Joining the Archeological Society of Virginia Board as an At-Large Member appeals to me because it is an excellent organization with a purpose that I fully support. ASV promotes proper preservation, sharing of knowledge, collaborates with other groups and encourages education and outreach of all aspects of Virginia history. All principles I believe in as well. I have done archaeology for over 20 years including leadership roles at historic Colonial Williamsburg, the town of Colchester in Fairfax County, Shenandoah National Park and presidential homes of George Washington and James Madison Jr., and as well as numerous sites associated with First Peoples occupation. I believe I can contribute to the goals and help continue the fine and much needed path ASV has performed and continues to do for Virginia and archaeology. This group is all inclusive with professionals and amateurs as well as just the interested person, promoting volunteerism. I am eager to step-up from being a long-time member to being on the Board and help in any way I can.

Megan Veness is a graduate of George Mason University (M.A.) and James Madison University (B.S.) whose career started in 2001. Her current job at Colonial Williamsburg, include project goals of understanding land use over time, location and identification of John Custis IV elaborate gardens, outbuildings, including enslaved peoples' quarters and other landscape features. She has organized and supervised student archaeological field schools and large volunteer groups as well as directed all levels of archaeological field, laboratory, and historic research investigations including Phase I, II and III. Megan has conducted public site interpretation for guided visitor education. She has volunteered at Eyreville and Westover through the DHR. She regularly presents findings of her research to professional organizations, including Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA),

Society for American Archaeology (SAA), the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Society (MAAC), and the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV). Since 2019, she has been a Field Director at Custis Square in Colonial Williamsburg and has recently attended class in Greece to learn geoarchaeology and micromorphology. ☀

ASV-COVA-VDHR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT- Carole Nash and Bruce Baker

As of August 25, 2023, the Certification Program has 148 students enrolled.

Field opportunities for May-July included the following:

- Fairfield Foundation continued its offering of field days (excavation requirement) with the on-going project at King William Courthouse.
- Fairfield Foundation opened the Pamunkey Indian Reservation Survey to Certification students.
- Thunderbird Quarry test excavations continued with Mike Johnson.
- Germanna Archaeology opened its annual field school to Certification students and will continue to offer field and lab opportunities through the fall.
- Otter Archaeology, Inc. offered excavation hours to Certification students at the Lewes Dairy Site, Lewes, Delaware.

The 11th Annual VDHR Lab School ran from July 31-August 4 at the Archaeology Lab in Richmond. Course offerings included laboratory overview, V-CRIS, glass, historical ceramics, metals, ethnozoology/ethnobotany, lithics, and Native American ceramics. Each course was either fully subscribed or close to being fully



subscribed (20 students each course). This year, lab work was integrated into the courses, providing immediate hands-on training with the material culture type that is the focus of

Participants of 11th Annual VDHR Lab School with Carole Nash. Photo courtesy of Cynthia Donahe.

each class. We greatly appreciate our instructors: Laura Galke, Sean Tenant, Jolene Smith, Elizabeth Moore, Katherine Ridgway, Eric Larsen, Mike Barber, and Carole Nash.

Laura Galke continues to welcome Certification students in the DHR lab at Headquarters and provides rich experiences with the backlog collections. Mountain Valley Archaeology has sponsored the Certification Lithics Course and offered lab days, as has Fairfield Foundation.

The program overview course was offered in July to new Certification students via Zoom, with 9 in attendance.

Carole Nash and Mike Barber will lead a workshop at the First Conference on Public Archaeology, Pensacola, FL, September 21-23. Titled, “Reciprocal Archaeology: Citizen Science in a Time of Collaboration,” the workshop will focus on the Certification Program. Sponsored by the Florida Public Archaeology Network, the conference will bring together archaeologists from across the country to experience the wide range of public archaeology programming that is shaping American archaeology.

Informal discussions with new students about the possibility of phasing the program (courses > field/lab work > advanced sequence) have met with interest.

We look forward to fall activities, which include continued field work with the Germanna Foundation, Fairfield Foundation, and Colonial Williamsburg. We will have one graduate at this year’s Annual Meeting Banquet. ☀

RECENT NEWS FROM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GRADUATES

The ASV-COVA-VDHR Archaeological Technician Certification Program has graduated 90 students since its inception in the early 1990s. Almost half our graduates continue to work with the program in some capacity after completing their requirements. This summer, the Certification Committee, comprised of members of the three sponsoring organizations, encouraged graduates to write vignettes of their experiences. We are pleased to publish two in this edition of the ASV’s newsletter and look forward to more. We are grateful to Laura Wedin (2010 grad) and Yvonne French (2018 grad) for getting us started. The lifelong learning that is a hallmark of the Certification Program is evident in their compelling stories. Carole Nash. ☀

My Certification Journey – Laura Wedin

It started in 2002 when, as a volunteer, I began documenting the Preston Cemetery of Historic Smithfield in Blacksburg, the home of Colonel William Preston (1729-1783). I realized I needed a new skill set to do this properly and started to cruise the still new internet for information. Up popped the ASV certification program with archaeologists at the U.S. Forest Service office in Roanoke. I hesitantly inquired because I was an employed older person but they assured me that I was *exactly* the kind of person for this program. My first field work was in Bath County at Jackson River Bluffs in summer of 2002 at a prehistoric site. I camped near the site. I was paired with Certification grad Bruce Baker at a unit with ‘feature 45’. I met and worked with Dr. Mike Barber and Mike Madden among others. I was doing real archaeology with trowels and screens and dirt (I mean soil...)! Despite the heat and bugs, I was hooked. I was around crazy, interesting people like me. I was ready to grow up to be an archaeologist!

Being in Southwest Virginia, I put many miles on my vehicles (first a blue mom-van and later the now notorious orange Honda Element) to get my hours in – to Roanoke, the Shenandoah National Park, Richmond, Stafford Co., Kittiewan and other locations to the east, and one trip down in North Carolina in the Uwharrie

National Forest. I set my tent up many times at the various field sites. I served on the ASV board and was the newsletter editor for six years, several of those paired with the wonderful Randy Turner.

I oversaw a Phase 2 project at the Preston Cemetery working with Dr. Cliff Boyd and his Radford University students in 2003 and 2004. I worked 3 seasons at the Keyser Farm project which really helped me cut my teeth with a prehistoric site. I worked with Dr. Carole Nash in the Shenandoah Skyline area for two seasons and in between, I have done ‘Camp Misery’, a Union encampment in Stafford County two seasons and time at Poplar Forest, and Kittiewan.

Because of my job, and some life events, I had to step away for some time. I was so close to finishing but the years stretched on. Finally in 2010, eight years after I started, the desire to complete the program nagged on me and I contacted Carole Nash who inspired me to finish. That summer I recorded my sites and submitted them to VCRIS. I took my written exam with Tom Klatka in Roanoke and practical exam with Carole.

Post-graduation work continued which included Smithfield, Historic Cabellsville, two seasons at Eastern Shore, a day at Monticello, and three seasons at the White House Farm with Carole Nash, perhaps one of my favorite sites.



Laura Wedin at White House Farm, 2014.

More recently, this year, I was able to offer my time to the Old Swan Tavern site in Charlottesville where I met and worked with some amazing certification program women for several days. It reminded me of my skill set – it is still there.

I have met so many amazing people in the Virginia archaeology community over the past 20 years. Imagine my surprise after identifying a tiny prehistoric/possible historic site at Kittiewan at the confluence of Mapsico and Kittiewan creeks, later named 44CC0404-0010, on a hot June day in 2010 as part of my certification requirements to discover, years later in 2018, that site had become a major area of prehistoric and historic significance at Kittiewan. The initial diagnostic feature/artifacts included a fire cracked rock hearth, a quartz flake, a very small ceramic sherd, and an

iron rim fragment of a large cast iron kettle, found at the water line of Kittiewan creek. Carole Nash walked me around to discuss evidence of a Weyonoke village, Townsend and Gaston ceramics, a Civil War era bridge and so much more. That day in November, an intact terra cotta burnished pipe was found! This, from a site I had recorded to fulfill the certification program requirements!

Over the years, in the *ASV Quarterly Bulletin*, I have read about sites where I worked and even the very unit I worked on. It all goes to what comes next in archaeology whether that be a few years from now or decades from now.

The story in this is to not underestimate your work in archaeology as a cert student or graduate. We are so fortunate to have this program with a cohort of professional archaeologists supporting our learning, discovery, and work in Virginia archaeology. ☀

Certification Grads from All Three Corners of State Respond to Charlottesville Emergency Dig - Yvonne French

ASV Certification Program Co-Director Carole Nash put out the call late on a Saturday night in March:

I am writing about an archaeological emergency that is transpiring in Charlottesville. Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville are planning to construct a large court complex in the downtown area where the Swan Tavern used to sit. Rivanna Archaeological Services has been working on the project, and they are running out of time. I don't have the particulars, but they may have until only Wednesday to excavate. Are any of you available Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to assist? Please let me know. Thank you, Carole.

Within 16 hours three certification grads, one from each corner of the commonwealth, were confirmed, and within 36 hours two were onsite at 360 Park Street, with a third arriving early the next day, and a fourth joining after hearing about it from her volunteer work at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

They assisted through and beyond Wednesday, March 29, mostly screening the clay soil but also digging briefly when the need arose.



ASV volunteers at Swan Tavern (l to r): Yvonne French, Northern Virginia Chapter, 2018 certification graduate; Cindy Shelton, Col. Howard MacCord Chapter, certification student and Monticello volunteer; Nancy Rubin, Col. Howard MacCord Chapter, 2018 certification graduate; Laura Wedin, New River Valley Chapter, 2010 certification graduate. Photo by Abe Crane, Rivanna Archaeological Services.

"I had just retired and was thrilled to be asked and to be able to just pick up and assist. It had been a while since I was able to work at a site and this one was really interesting. I was reassured that the skills I've learned over the years are still there," Wedin said.

Under the direction of Field Archaeologist Nick Bon-Harper of Rivanna Archaeological Services (RAS), they first screened soil from a unit on a possible midden, finding an array of ceramics, glass, animal teeth and part of a mandible, and other bones, metal, and beads, but not as many straight pins as the RAS team before them.

"This amazing site gave us a glimpse into Virginia's history that you don't experience often. It was a great learning experience," said Rubin.

The 1773 Swan Tavern was one of the first buildings in Charlottesville, according to an [article in the *Daily Progress* newspaper](#). Its

lot fronted on what is now Jefferson Street, occupying a high point a block northeast of the downtown pedestrian mall. By 1830 the building was 90 feet long, and at the time of the dig, adjacent parking lots had been removed in preparation for the dig and the new city-county general district courthouse complex.

RAS had already found what appeared to be four sub-floor pits west of the building. Tavern owner John Jouett, Sr., died there and was supposedly buried behind his tavern, but his remains were not found.

Shelton offered a history footnote: “John (“Jack”) Jouett, Jr., son of John Jouett, Sr., is sometimes referred to as the Paul Revere of the South. He warned Thomas Jefferson and his legislature that the British were coming to capture them. Jefferson and his legislature were able to flee Monticello safely because of Jouett’s action.”

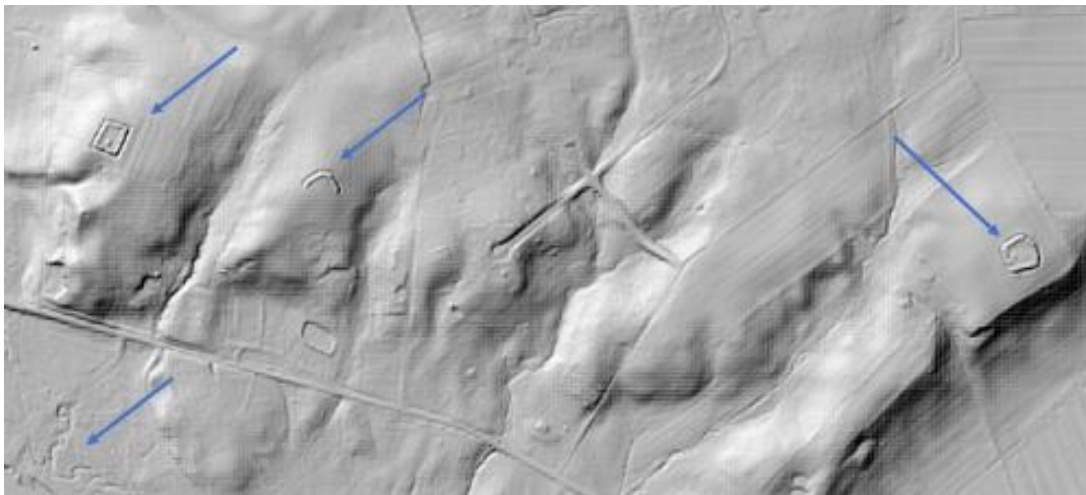
There was a kitchen 33 feet from the tavern and 39 feet from a stable. Per contemporary insurance regulations, kitchens had to be at least 30 feet away, explained Bon-Harper in an introductory tour. Other highlights included daily visits from volunteers and principals of Monticello Archaeology, a brief happy hour, a tour of the RAS offices and lab space followed by a stop at a coffee and ice cream shop, plus a follow-up celebration marking the completion of the project.

Based in Charlottesville, Virginia, Rivanna Archaeological Services, LLC, is owned and managed by Ben Ford and Steve Thompson, both PhD graduates of the University of Virginia. It was formed in 1999. ☀

REVIVING THE ASV SUVEY PROGRAM - LYLE BROWNING

At the August 5, 2023 ASV Board of Directors meeting, I made a successful motion to reconstitute the Site Survey Awards program that went dormant a couple of decades ago for various reasons. The chief reason was that farmers had gone to no-till agriculture. That effectively removed the best and easiest means of finding sites using the A1M1 Human Eyeball to locate artifacts. Farming has remained no-till, but archaeology has moved onward.

An award will be given for the most sites recorded by an individual and an award will be given for the most sites recorded by a chapter over the space of a year. Awards will be presented at the ASV Annual Meeting. When that system was up and running, literally hundreds of archaeological sites were identified and recorded by ASV members. That’s Historic Preservation from the ground up.



DEM with four Civil War earthwork complexes identified.

The ASV Certification Program has a requirement to identify and record new sites. In addition, sites that were recorded can be updated to show new info that wasn’t then recorded. Both count as site recordings.

In addition, Armchair Archaeology (the good kind) is now seeing a resurgence. You can sit at

your computer, download a few Digital Elevation Images from the National Map (see forthcoming article by Browning in the QB), and with about 4 mouse clicks, produce a DEM (Digital Elevation Model) that can be zoomed in and sites recorded directly from it. If it’s too hot, no problem. If it’s too cold, no problem. Armchair Archaeology is weatherproof. From the comfort of home, you can locate sites.

Combine these with the Nathaniel Michler 1867 various maps of Civil War sites in VA and literally hundreds of sites can be put into the DHR VCRIS. Once those sites are in there, they're the first line of protection against destruction. Henrico County has taken my original work on earthworks and digitized it and it is in their county GIS system. The value of that is that developers will know in advance what is there before they've spent large sums and cannot avoid them. That's a win-win situation.

I'm working with DHR to get a system going such that the individuals and chapter affiliation can be part of the data set in VCRIS.

In the field recording of sites will continue as well so consider chapter days finding sites. A site type that desperately needs doing is the iron furnace. Photos from all four sides and 2 quart bags of glassy slag are needed. Armchair Archaeology can record railroad lines that are defunct, mines for mineral extraction, rock quarries, mills with their dams and headraces, and river/canal features that have not yet been recorded. I have scoured shoreline satellite photos in Google Maps and found shipwrecks. There are causeways at the mouths of creeks that were built for communication, transportation or industrial reasons that need to be recorded. These are very visible on Google Maps. Scouring 15' USGS Quads for railroads, mills, quarries and the like is easily done with downloadable georeferenced maps from The National Map website.

If you're interested, let me know what you want to do and I'll get you started. I can be reached at lebrowning@att.net ☀

MILESTONES IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA OF ARCHAEOLOGY – David Rotenizer

Just over a decade ago, the Archeological Society of Virginia Facebook page entered the social media sphere on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 when its official page was created. Since that time, it has gathered a literal following of over 5,000 individuals – or an average increase of 500 new followers per year.

The 5K of followers is a milestone. According to a definition by Oxford Languages (2023), the word milestone is a noun representing “an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development.” If we view the ASV as joining the global movement into social media, it is a participant in the emergent digital era – thus a development stage.

The ASV was not alone with joining the Facebook social media platform. In fact, at least 69 Facebook pages in Virginia associated with archaeology were created between 2007 and the present (2023). Pages based outside Virginia are not included in this review.

For a good summary of social media history and development, Michael Ray (2023) presents an outline. Meanwhile, Mark Hall (2023) offers a history and context regarding Facebook.

The ASV is no stranger to the concept of the integration of technology. Writing on the future outlook of the Archeological Society of Virginia, Howard A. MacCord, Sr. (2002:135) noted, “I see an active archaeological world receptive to new developments in science and technology, with information disseminated quickly through the internet. Those will be exciting, challenging times, with archaeology changing ways we do not imagine today.”

It is interesting to note that S. Terry Childs, like MacCord, also writing in 2002 (Childs 2002) saw the emerging potential of the internet for the public benefits of archaeology. These writers were in a pre-Facebook

era context, as outlined by Hall (2023), Facebook did not emerge until 2004, with several years passing before becoming more mainstream. The development of the internet – the “web” – was a developmental process which helped foster the emergence of social media.

It is worth capturing: “In the mid-1990s the Web was considered by many to be a passing fancy or a game. It is neither. The huge increase in the number of Web users over the last five years suggests it will not go away soon. Instead, it offers archaeologists and others a ‘one-stop shopping’ medium whereby they may communicate with and teach a large and diverse public about archaeology’s multiple values. The Web also provides new avenues by which archaeologists may capture the attention of Web users who know virtually nothing about archaeology, while also sustaining the attention of interested supporters. Therefore, archaeologists need to use the Web more proactively” (Childs 2002:237).

Going back to the 1990s, Lyle Browning (1992) in a review of the ASV next 50 years, noted: “We need to look at the benefits of technology and apply those benefits to our profession. I’m sure that the computer of tomorrow will have the computing capacity of today’s top mainframes; will fit on a wrist, will be voice activated; will repeal ticks, chiggers, poisonous snakes, vicious dogs; and will irate landowners as well as sample, analyze, and do most report writing in the field. But in the meantime, there is an amazing amount of stuff which has never seen the light of day which fairly begs for computerization.” and “Our archaeology needs to be tied to something which can be seen to have immediate benefit, such as tourism.”

An ASV Facebook Presence

Credit for the first ASV Chapter to embrace Facebook goes to the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter debuted in 2011. It would be three more years before another chapter stepped into the digital space with the Middle Peninsula Chapter in 2014. In two years, 2016 bore witness to two more ASV Chapter Facebook pages (Roanoke Area and Maritime Heritage). The Richmond-based Colonel Howard McCord Chapter issued its presence in 2017, followed the next year by Banshee Reeks (2018). The last two ASV Chapters to rollout pages were the Massanutten and Historic Triangle in 2018, respectively.

Outside the ASV Chapters, the society’s presence on Facebook included Historic Kittiewan, the home of the ASV, was created in February 2011. Until November 19, 2021, it went by the name Kittiewan Plantation. The first ASV associated Facebook alignment was in 2010 when the DHR COVA ASV Archaeological Technician Certification Program launched a Facebook page.

Some of the ASVs movement into the digital era has been documented by Rotenizer (2007, 2013, 2017, and 2018).

Overall Trends of Virginia Archaeology with Facebook

Evidently, the first Facebook page with a connection to archaeology occurred in 2007 represented by the Virginia Museum of Natural History. This, followed by pages of the Mariner’s Museum and Park, Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, and James Madison’s Montpelier, respectively in the following year (2008) were at the vanguard of the highwater mark of emerging new Facebook pages in 2009 and 2010, with each introducing 12 new pages, 24 in total, to the social media arena involving Virginia archaeology. Over the next nine years (2011 – 2015), 39 additional Facebook pages would emerge averaging 4.3 per year. At the peak of the COVID pandemic in 2020 was the only year in which no new pages emerged. Since 2020 to 2022, only one new page per year was introduced (Mountain Valley Archaeology in 2021 and Chartrand Geophysical Solutions, LLC in 2022). As of this writing, no pages have emerged in 2023. Obviously, the introduction of new Facebook pages related to Virginia has diminished. If there was going to be a page, it would have been created. New pages may yet emerge, but more than likely, Virginia archaeology has embraced, or will, new digital platform

experiences. Of the 69 Facebook pages identified here, nearly half (n= 34) were created within the five year window of 2007 – 2011.

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Chart 1: Virginia Archaeology-associated Facebook Pages

Facebook pages listed here are familiar to the author as to being located within Virginia and currently post matters of an archaeological type, or have done so in the past. If a Facebook page is missing from list or requires editing, please notify the author so list can be updated for future benefit.

For data presentation, Facebook pages are listed under the year created along with month and day, the name of the page, and the Facebook page URL (if not created, N/A used).

2007

- 4 Dec Virginia Museum of Natural History / @VirginiaMuseum

2008

- 6 Apr Mariner's Museum and Park / @MarinersMuseum
- 27 May Thomas Jefferson's Monticello / @TJMonticello
- 18 Sep James Madison's Montpelier / @JMMontpelier

2009

- 4 Mar Frontier Culture Museum / @FrontierCultureMuseum
- 25 Mar Hampton History Museum / @HaptonHistoryMuseum
- 10 May The Fairfield Foundation / @TheFairfieldFoundation
- 20 May Menokin: Re-Imagining A Ruin / @Menokin
- 4 Jun James River Institute for Archaeology / @JRIArchaeology
- 15 Jun Colonial Williamsburg / @ColonialWilliamsburg
- 16 Jun Archaeology at Monticello / @MonticelloArchaeology
- 14 Jul Patrick Henry's Red Hill / @PatrickHenrysRedhill
- 15 Sep Alexandria Archaeology Museum / @ArchaeologyAlexandriaVA
- 15 Oct Marstel-Day / @MarstelDay
- 20 Nov Petersburg National Battlefield / @PetersburgNPS
- 23 Dec The Plowzone: Historical Archaeology Bog / N/A

2010

- 4 Jan Patrick Henry's Scotchtown / @HistoricScotchTown
- 6 Jan Historic Jamestowne / @HistoricJamestowne
- 31 Jan Friends of New London, Virginia, Inc. / N/A
- 12 Mar Historic Sandusky, University of Lynchburg / @ N/A
- 30 Apr William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research /
W illianAndMary.CAR
- 3 Aug Flowerdew Hundred Archaeology Collection / @FlowerdewHundred
- 1 Sep Department of Historic Preservation at Mary Washington /
MaryWashHISPDEPT
- 29 Sep Colonial Williamsburg Archaeology / @CWArchaeology
- 12 Oct Friends of Fairfax County Archaeological Cultural Resources / N/A
- 27 Oct DHR COVA ASV Archaeological Technician Certification Program // N/A
- 10 Nov Mount Vernon's Mystery Midden / @MVMysteryMidden
- 29 Nov Longwood Archaeology / @LongwoodArchaeology

2011

- 6 Jan Fairfax County Park Authority / @fairfaxparks
- 8 Feb Jamestown Rediscovery / @JRarchaeology
- 22 Feb Historic Kittiewan / @Kittiewan
- 28 Apr James Monroe's Highland / @MonroeHighland
- 7 Jul Virginia History & Preservation News / [Unoffical page of the Virginia
Department of Historic Resources, forerunner to current official page – updates ended
May 2014]
- 30 Aug Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia / [private
group]

2012

- 12 Feb Council of Virginia Archaeology/ @CoVaArchaeology

- 3 Aug Poplar Forest Archaeology / @PoplarForestArchaeology

2013

- 9 Jan DAACS / @DAACSorg
- 15 Jan Fort Eustis Cultural Resources Management / @CRMftEustis
- 16 Apr Historic Preservation at Mount Vernon / @HPAtMountVerno
- 13 Aug Archeological Society of Virginia / @Virginia.ASV
- 21 Sep Cabellsville Archaeology Project / @CabellsvilleArchaeology

2014

- 20 Jan Washington and Lee University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology / N/A
- 20 Mar The Middle Peninsula Chapter of the ASV / @MPCASV
- 3 April George Washington's Ferry Farm and Historic Kenmore / @FerryFarmAndKenmore
- 8 Apr Virtual Curation Laboratory / @VirtualCurationLab
- 15 Apr Archaeology at Montpelier / @MontpelierArchaeology
- 15 May Friends of Alexandria Archaeology / @FriendsALexArch
- 19 Aug RVA Archaeology / RVArchaeology
- 18 Dec Germanna Archaeology / @GermannaArchaeology

2015

- 15 Jan Dovetail Cultural Resource Group / Dovetailcrg
- 9 Mar Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc. / @WetlandStudies
- 29 Mar Paxton House Historical Society of Buena Vista / @PaxtonHouseHistoricalSociety
- 28 May Coan Hall Archaeology / @CoanHall
- 31 May Barger Cabin Archaeology at Natural Bridge / @BargerCabinArchaeology
- 8 Jul Public History at Liberty University / @LUPublicHistory
- 1 Dec Virginia History Podcast / @VaHisPod

2016

- 15 Feb Roanoke Area Chapter – Archeological Society of Virginia / @RoanokeASV
- 10 Mar Virginia Archaeology Charitable Trust / @VACTRUST
- 16 Oct Maritime Chapter of the ASV/ @MaritimeASV

2017

- 3 Jan Montpelier Archaeology / Private Group
- 20 May Eastern Shore Archaeology / [public group]
- 14 Aug COL Howard MacCord Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia / @MacCordASV

2018

- 10 Jul Banshee Reeks Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia / bansheereekschapterofthearcheologicalsocietyofvirginia

2019

- 3 Apr Massanutten Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia / N/A
- 19 Aug Woodrow Wilson House / WoodrowWilsonHouse

- 6 Sep Bethel, Glenns, and Woodville Schools Archaeology Project /
@BethelGlennsWoodvilleSchoolsArchaeology [dissertation project – updates ended 7
Aug 23]
- 4 Dec Historic Triangle Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia / N/A

2020

- No Activity

2021

- 6 Jul Mountain Valley Archaeology / N/A

2022

- 1 Mar Chartrand Geophysical Solutions, LLC / N/A ☀

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE UPCOMING ASV ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for the 2023 ASV Annual Meeting, which will be held on October 27-29 at Berry Hill Resort and Conference Center, South Boston, Virginia Meeting/Banquet Registration, and Hotel Information are available on the ASV web site (<https://virginiaarcheology.org/>).

The cost of the hotel room is \$98.00 plus \$6.17 tax plus \$15.00 facility fee for a total of \$119.17/night. You need to call the hotel to make reservations (see ASV web page for information).

Deadlines: Banquet Registration and Hotel Registration: October 2; Meeting Registration: October 13.

You may register for the meeting/banquet on-line or through mail (downloadable form on the web site). Meeting registration will be available at the meeting. Banquet registration will not be available at the door. Registering early is highly recommended!!!

Please note: if you purchase your meeting/banquet registration on-line and use PayPal, you will see an error message after you submit the payment. Ignore this -- it's an issue with a PayPal upgrade. You'll automatically receive an email from the ASV with your receipt, which is confirmation that the payment went through.



Hope to see you in South
Boston! ☀



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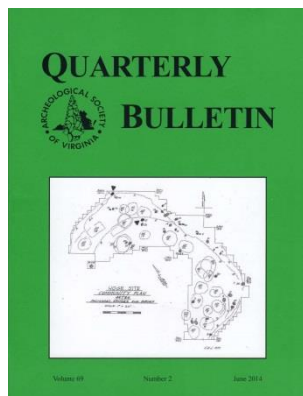
UPCOMING EVENTS

Historic Kittiewan Open House – Second Saturday of Each Month April Thru November, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

ASV Annual Meeting, South Boston - October 27-29.

Check out the ASV website at:

<https://www.virginiaarcheology.org/>



ASV QUARTERLY BULLETIN

AVAILABLE DIGITALLY – The ASV's Quarterly Bulletin is now available digitally. If you would prefer to receive it as a PDF instead of a paper copy, contact Patrick O'Neill at patrickloneill@verizon.net. This follows the ASV's newsletter which has been offered digitally for several years now.



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