



# THE ASV

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF  
VIRGINIA

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THE MISSION OF  
THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
VIRGINIA IS TO  
PROMOTE THE  
ARCHEOLOGY AND  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
OF VIRGINIA AND  
ADJACENT  
REGIONS.



ASV Headquarters at  
Kittiewan  
12106 Weyanoke Rd.  
Charles City County, VA  
23030

## IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Journal	1
State Archaeologist	2
From HQ	3
Board Meeting Update	4
Annual Meeting News	5
In Remembrance	6
Survey Program	7
Meeting Talks	9
Newsletter Guidelines	12

## *PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL – PATRICK O'NEILL*

The end of 2023 is near, and most of the excavations have stopped for the season. There is always lab work and research for the winter months. Get involved where you can!



The 2023 Annual Meeting was a success in that almost 100 people

registered to give papers and participate. So many great topics and presenters had the audience asking lots of questions to get more information. See elsewhere in the Newsletter on Certification Graduation and Awards. Dr. Brian Bates also set up a field trip and lunch to the Longwood Archaeology Camp where the Longwood archaeology students spend a lot of their time.

I was very proud of both the ASV and COVA for their professionalism surrounding the historic easement issue between Berry Hill and DHR. The session on plantation archaeology and the virtual COVA Public Education session provided the opportunity to demonstrate the value of archaeology and preservation. There will never again be on the property the number of experts whose work directly ties to the era of the destroyed structure that the ASV and COVA brought.

The ASV Board met at the end of the conference and discussed ways to enhance the Annual Meeting experience. A task force committee was formed to explore possible changes to the Annual Meeting timing, location, and format. The committee will report back to the ASV Board in January.

Lisa Jordan is stepping down as ASV Treasurer at the end of 2023. The ASV is searching for a person to be her successor. If you think you would be a good candidate for ASV Treasurer, please contact me at [patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net).

The next ASV Board is going to be on January 27, 2024, barring weather, and will meet virtually if need be. The location for the meeting has yet been determined. ☀

## ***FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST – Elizabeth Moore***

“Change is the only constant in life.” – Heraclitus

“(Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes) turn and face the strange (ch-ch-changes)” – David Bowie

Those of you who are frequent visitors to DHR’s collections are already aware that there are changes occurring in our physical space. We are at the beginning of a long period of expansion and renovation of our collections usage and storage spaces and the reorganization and associated management tasks for the more than six million artifacts in our care. This process will include input from our tribal partners and other stakeholders and will take years to complete.



### **Collections Study Room**

The first step in this process has been the renovation of the Collections Study Room, the space that most of you are familiar with. This is the agency’s main public meeting room and serves as the workspace for researchers and volunteers. As of this writing at the end of November, the room has been wired and equipment delivered for virtual and hybrid meetings, painting will commence soon, and new furniture should arrive later this week. This will be especially good news for the Col. Howard MacCord chapter because it will allow them to host hybrid meetings and members, whether from that chapter or others, can attend meetings virtually. To accommodate this renovation work, we have had to temporarily halt the work of our volunteers and access for most researchers. We hope to open back up again in December but as anyone who has gone through a renovation project knows, projects like this can be unpredictable and delays happen. If you anticipate needing access to the collections in December or early January, you should call or email in advance to ensure that we are open again and can work with you.

The Collections Study Room contains many cabinets which host our reference collections. These are collections that researchers, tribal members, and the public use to help identify artifacts or to learn more about the material culture in a particular region. Regrettably, we have determined that there are some objects from burial contexts within the portion of the study collection that holds Indigenous materials. We have begun a staff examination of all objects in these cabinets, examining their context, determining which objects are from burials or other sensitive contexts, and removing those to a secure space. These collections are now closed for access and will not be available until this process is completed. It is important to us that we can ensure to our tribal partners that no objects from burial contexts are housed in a publicly accessible area.

### **Collections Storage Spaces**

Our collections storage space is full and has been for several years. Still, the collections keep coming in. As of March 2023, we were curating 9,563 boxes of artifacts. As the main repository for archaeological materials in the Commonwealth, it has been apparent for some time that we need more space for collections curation and management. We have acquired that space from our landlord and partner, the Virginia Museum of History and

Culture (VMHC). As part of a building-wide renovation effort, VMHC was able to offer us additional space immediately adjacent to our existing storage room and thus began the long process of planning and implementing our collections storage expansion.

Our first step in this process was to hire the consulting team of Wendy Jessup and Associates, Inc. in collaboration with Sandra Vicchio & Associate, LLC, collections and conservation specialists who excel at assessing challenges such as ours and creating a program to address those challenges. In our case, they began by assessing the needs for collections storage, curation, conservation, and access and the functions and resources needed to support those tasks. They examined our spaces, our furniture and equipment, and our collections; they interviewed staff; and they examined workflows to understand our specific needs. They then created a plan for our physical space that will accommodate the work we do and maximize the volume of collections that we can hold. This process took months of gathering information and analysis and we now have a report that details the renovations we need to make to our storage spaces, all of the cabinets and shelving that need to be installed, and the most efficient way to accommodate the variety of uses and users for the collections.

We are working with VMHC staff and our equipment and furnishing vendors to create a construction and installation schedule. As soon as we have a start date, we will be contacting our many partners and stakeholders. The collections will not be accessible while we are under construction, and we will give as much notice as possible. I look forward to the day when I can show it to you in person. ☀

### ***THE KITTIEWAN BRIEF – Martha Williams***

The biggest news from Kittiewan (as we head into winter) is the nearly complete archaeological laboratory that has been set up in Kittiewan's twentieth century barn, a place that was formerly used as a repository for storing unwanted furniture from the Manor House (and other assorted junk). Thanks largely to the on-going efforts of Carl Fischer (with help from Bob Wharton, Randy Turner, Bill Bjork, Patrick and Diane O'Neill, Mike Barber, Carole Nash, and others), and a large financial investment from the ASV, and Bill Speiden, the ground floor of this heretofore unused space has been transformed into a fully functioning archaeological lab and a place for storing field equipment. The front part of the lab also will accommodate an archaeological exhibit; the panels and exhibits for this display are currently under development. The barn's upper level is being cleared of excess furniture, and plans are currently in the works to convert this space into a place to display larger pieces (think, farming equipment, for example) that until now has been jammed in odd spaces downstairs in the Manor House basement. We'll continue to work on aspects of these projects over the winter, with a dedication planned for sometime in the spring. Meantime, the pictures that accompany this brief report are worth more than a thousand words! Check them out!



Almost lost in the shuffle are a couple of smaller projects that are under development and/or discussion. One of these involves replacing the Kittiewan sign that graces the entrance to the property. The wording of the new



sign will more appropriately reflect the presence of the lab mentioned above, as well as the ASV's research library and the Manor House. And in January, the Kittiewan Committee will interview two companies to take on the task of managing the property's timber resources.

On behalf of all of us here at Kittiewan, HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL! We're working hard on your behalf. Be sure to visit us when we re-open in the spring—perhaps for some digging and/or lab work? ☀



Above and to left: various views of the new archaeological lab at Kittiewan. Right: Randy Turner in the new lab examining Native American ceramics from the Wayne's World Site at Kittiewan.



### ***ASV BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE – Stephanie Jacobs***

The ASV's Board of Directors met on Sunday, October 29, 2023 after the Annual Meeting. It heard an update about the statistics for the Annual Meeting. Nearly 100 people registered and attended the annual meeting. The field trip to the Longwood Institute of Archaeology was attended by nearly 50 people. We also sold almost \$1500 worth of merchandise in the book room. Overall, it was a great annual meeting. It's important to mention that in 2025 we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of COVA and the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASV.

ASV Treasurer Dr. Lisa Jordan presented the ASV budget for 2024 to both the general membership and the board as per the by-laws. The board also received a report about the completion of the new archaeology lab at Kittiewan. The VARC committee is planning a grand opening later in 2024.

Finally, the Board received reports from several ASV chapters. The Maritime Heritage Chapter gave an update on their work with the Mid-Atlantic Logboat Registry Project. With funding from the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, the chapter members led by Bill Hayes have logged 270 boats, which is fabulous. The Maritime Heritage Chapter has done a wonderful job with such an important project. The Nansemond Chapter is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They are having a special Christmas/Anniversary Party in December and inviting anyone connected to the chapter. Happy Anniversary to the Nansemond Chapter! ☀

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE RECOGNIZED BY THE ASV AT THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING!***



**William Waldrop (left) receiving 2023 Avocational Archaeologist of the Year Award from Kevin McCurley, ASV Vice President.**



**Mike Barber (left) accepting for Christopher Egghart the 2023 Professional Archaeologist of the Year Award from Kevin McCurley, ASV Vice President.**



**Sharon Butler (left) receiving graduation certificate for ASV/VDHR/COVA Certification Program from Certification Program Co-Chair Carole Nash.**



**Morgan McKinney (left) receiving the Williams Award for best student paper in historical archaeology from Stephanie Jacobe, ASV Secretary.**



**Mike Barber (left) receiving a President's Award for his past service as ASV president from current ASV president Patrick O'Neill.**



## ***ASV MEMBER RECOGNIZED BY COVA WITH THEIR 2023 VIRGINIA SHERMAN AWARD***

The Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) announced that Carl Fischer is the recipient of their 2023 Virginia Sherman Award. The award is named in memory of Westmoreland County's Historic Preservation Office and is presented to individuals outside of the professional realm who make significant contributions to archaeological site investigation and historic preservation within the Commonwealth. Carl was recognized for his continued dedication to Virginia archaeology. In particular, he was honored for representing the true spirit of volunteerism, dedication to the value of archaeology, and efforts to share data with the public. ☀

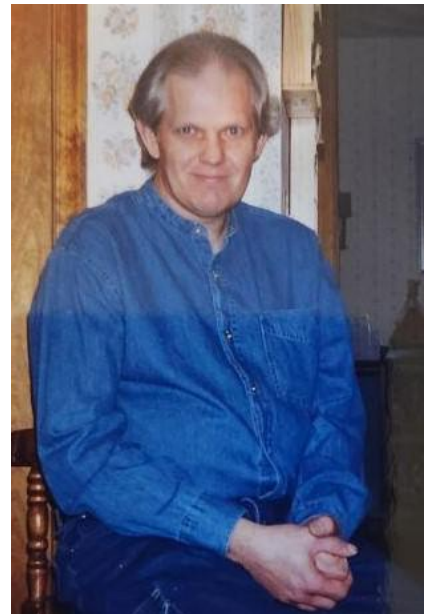
**Carl Fischer (left) receiving the 2023 Virginia Sherman Award from Mark Kostro, COVA Vice President.**



## ***IN REMBRANCE OF PAUL STEVEN SADLER, SR - Taken in Part from the Metropolitan Funeral Service Website***

Paul Steven Sadler, Sr., 70, passed away at his home August 24, 2023. He was born December 6, 1952, in Suffolk, the son of Allen Odey Sadler and Elsie Miller Sadler. He attended Western Branch High School. Following high school he served with the U.S. Army with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Paul was an enthusiastic reader and collector of books. He enjoyed numerous hobbies, music in all forms, a variety of artistic projects, and a passion for history and archaeology. He was a member of Jackson Memorial Baptist Church in Western Branch.

Paul was predeceased by his father; his brother, Allen Odey Sadler, Jr.; his first son, Paul Steven Sadler, Jr.; and his beloved wife of 40 years, Louise Buckingham Sadler. He is survived by his mother, Elsie; his sons, Nicolas Paul Sadler (Dana), and Nathaniel Steven Sadler (Rebekah); his grandson, Mason Hunter Sadler; his sister, Wanda Grimstead (Joseph); and numerous nieces and nephews.



Paul was a long-time member of the ASV's Nansemond Chapter for which he served one term as chapter president. He also was an active volunteer at the VDHR's Portsmouth Regional Office in the early 2000s, helping out on several nearby archaeological projects. He encouraged an archaeological test excavation at the Battery Park site in Isle of Wight County which was situated on his boyhood home, serving as project Co-Director with Randolph Turner. The site is an important Late Woodland/possibly Contact period Warraskoyack settlement. Due to Paul's close association with the site, it has been renamed the Sadler site in his honor. A summary of these excavations and their importance will appear in an upcoming issue of the ASV's Quarterly Bulletin. ☀

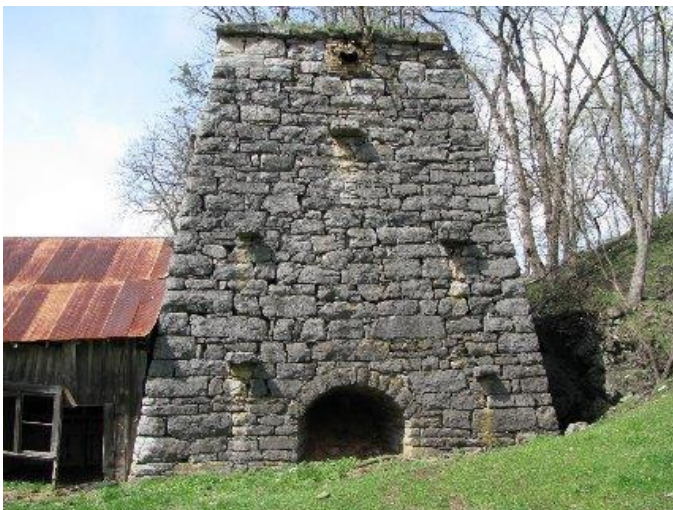
## ***ARMCHAIR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: HERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES – Lyle Browning***

I am aiming this epistle at ASV Chapter Presidents and at the ASV Membership. The CP's would work as general guidance and clearinghouses for chapter efforts and the membership would work as doers and instigators of ideas that basically forward the ASV Mission. ASV has for the majority of its existence been a democracy, sometimes messy but always a democracy. ASV embodied the ideals of Stakeholder Theory long before there was Stakeholder Theory. I think this is because people who do archaeology are by their nature inquisitive, curious in the “Ted Lasso” darts game sense and are by and large not fans of stovepiped directives.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned rejuvenating the ASV Site Survey Contest that had fallen by the wayside largely due to changes in agricultural practices brought about by no-till farming. Open plowed fields were the means by which the vast majority of archaeological sites in VA were discovered. Without open fields, the inarguably laborious and also inarguably inaccurate digging of Shovel Test Units became dominant.

What the new version of the Site Survey Contest involves is going after sites that can be discerned by other means than STU's. That is not to say that if people are motivated enough to do a full STU regimen on a place where they suspect sites are located, by all means, please do so.

By means other than STU's covers a lot of new ground. For instance, I happen to be a devout IronHead, meaning that one of my major interests is the recording of former iron production sites in VA. There were about 100 charcoal era furnaces that ran from 1621 until about 1900. These were characterized by truncated pyramidal stone stacks with 2 to 3 arches per stack. Their money product was pig iron that was shipped off to make what you'd go to a hardware store today to buy. Their other product was glassy slag in a variety of colors. It is the scientifically valuable product that has the complete technological history of the furnace within it. What is needed is to take photos of the sides of the furnaces as the older photos were all slide film that was quite low resolution compared with a standard cellphone today. Tom Brady recorded the physical dimensions of the stacks. But he didn't record the general shape of the stacks. Some are straight sided, most lean inwards, some are stepped like a ziggurat and a few are cylindrical. That needs to be recorded. And, the scientific analysis needs two quart Ziploc bags of glassy slag that has all of the colors present. Finally, the site forms need to be updated. Any furnaces located on US Forest Service lands and on State Lands cannot be collected.



The left figure above shows Noble Furnace with stones that stick out from the sides that were presumably used to lay planks upon for construction. The shed to the left is the only surviving casting shed left in the state. The right figure shows Speedwell Furnace with its ziggurat shape and with a hot blast apparatus on top.



For those who are aquatically inclined, Brendan Burke, the VA Underwater Archaeologist at DHR is surveying the rivers again. Bill Trout published various River Atlases across the state and recorded most of the stone locks, culverts, dams and so forth that made up a canal. Using Trout's work, each individual stone feature in the system should be photographed. On the stones are often found Mason's Marks that are used by individual masons. Very little work has been done on them to identify who they were and when they worked. First order of business would be to record all of the marks on any given canal feature, then to compile a database of the marks and then to dive into the archives to identify these invisible folks to correlate names and dates with marks to see where they operated. For instance, did the James River & Kanawha Canal stone masons move westward as the canal was built, or did different crews of masons compete for stretches. Basically, it's an unknown that ASV could make known.

There are also prehistoric fish weirs still surviving in the rivers and there are also US Army Corps of Engineers dams put in to aid steamboat travel. The New River at Radford has several that are visible from the I-81 bridge, although it is not recommended that one stop to see them. Below is a V-shaped weir from the Richmond area.



There are also multitudes of dock remnants that need to be recorded. The colonial highways were the river so produce was shipped out from docks.

Steamboat Era in VA led to riverine docks by the hundreds. These are often now visible as pilings sticking up out of the water. Very few are recorded. Likewise, gravel barges and small sailing/steam vessels are present on the shores of the river and creeks. These are very much visible using Google Earth Satellite views and can be recorded. The figure to the right shows the remnants of the 1845 Port Walthall dock on the Appomattox River that exactly conforms with the historic maps of that time. The piers are the dots. The linear features are fallen trees.



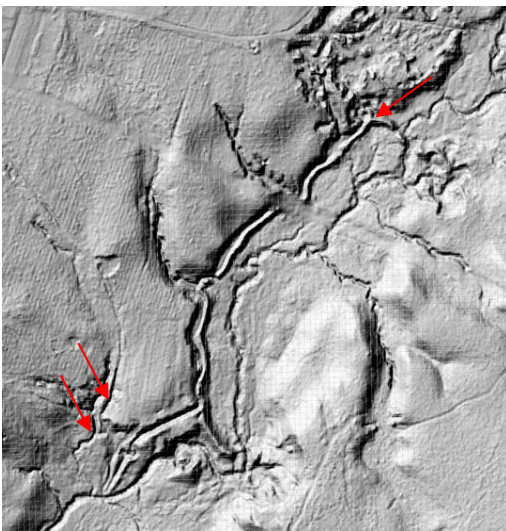
For the Martiall Inclined, Henrico County is the only county in the state that has had all of the Rev War, War of 1812 and Civil War earthworks mapped and put into the county GIS. That alerts developers that they exist before they find them at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Early planning leads to them being incorporated into the design of the development. What was done there was to download the 1867 Michler Maps from the Library of Congress



website, bring it into GIS, trace the earthworks and create Shapefiles of them that are geo-referenced. Prince George, Dinwiddie, Hanover, and Chesterfield in the Richmond-Petersburg Theater of Operations still need to be done. And the major battlefields of Grant's Overland Campaign of 1864 as he moved south from DC to the Siege of Petersburg need to have their earthworks mapped as well.

All of that can be done using a computer in the comfort of home. Field checking what remains is also workable from home by downloading Digital Elevation Models from The National Map website and recording the remnants with DHR.

As the duly appointed State Molinologist, I have been recording mills of all sorts since the early 1980's. The then State Molinologist was Jon Sass who, as he phrased it, was tired of being a serf to David Harrison and was returning to England. He looked at mills systematically as is needed. He anointed me because, as he again phrased it, I seemed to be the only archaeologist interested in mills in the state so I was by default appointed.



The figure to the left shows a dam at the upper right (top arrow) that has been cut by the stream. Following the headrace downstream as it follows the landform to where it cuts across, there is a rectangular feature (middle arrow) that was where the mill was located and below that in the lower left is the tailrace (bottom arrow) for exhaust water that went back into the stream. That translates into looking at maps to gain an appreciation of where mills were located. There are literally thousands of them across the state. Once the location on a map is known, the next step is to translate that location to current maps. The older maps have rather wide margins of error for various reasons. The USGS Quads that were the gold standard also have margins of error in the low hundreds of feet range as anyone who has ever tried to edge match 4 quads together can testify. Once that is done, the next task is to use Digital Elevation Models to find their actual locations. Once geolocated, the final step is to record them at DHR.

The figure to the right shows Fort Boykin in Isle of Wight County. Aerial photos do not show it while the DEM shows excellent detail.



These are just what I am most interested in, but there are vast numbers of other features in the landscape that are waiting to be discerned. ASV should be wide open to new ideas that can be translated into recorded sites by people who have an interest in doing so and for ASV Certification students who need to fulfill their requirements. Feel free to contact me at [lebrowning@att.net](mailto:lebrowning@att.net) for more on any of the above. ☀

### ***THE ART OF THE 20 MINUTE PAPER – Michael B. Barber***

Most meetings of archaeological organizations, whether emphasizing avocational and/or professional archaeology, live and die by the 20 minute paper presentation. Twenty minutes is not a long time. These presentations usually fall into one of three categories. The first is the formally hard-copy written paper which is

read along with accompanied slides. The second is more or less a slide presentation with no written paper (perhaps some notes) but is given from memory. The third is a slide show where all the points of the presentation are included on the slides and is sometimes read from the slides. No matter what the format might be, careful preparation and familiarity is required. You also need to know who your audience might be and how familiar they are with the material you plan to present. In some cases, laying the groundwork may take a little longer than others. In any case, the results are what people want to hear.

The first thing to determine is that you have something important to say. Some folks who give papers forget that part. The second thing to remember is that you cannot cover everything. You may be summarizing ten years of field work or four years of artifact analysis, but 20 minutes is 20 minutes. Leave the details to the written report and FOCUS on what you want to convey to the audience. If you have too much material, find a co-author to present a second paper or prepare one for the next meeting. For a 20 minute paper, you are looking at 10 pages of double-spaced writing. Ten is good, eight is better. No matter how disciplined you are, you will find places where the temptation to add data will add time. Also remember that there will be wasted time in changing speakers, pulling up power points, and introductions which will reduce your time as well.

Plan your talk and outline your time. Too many presentations spent half or more of their time speaking to the research design and then cannot adequately present their conclusions because they ran out of time. Your research design segment should be no more than 5 minutes at most. People do not need to know how big your lab is, who the 6 techs working there are, nor how tight security is. If your lab people are important enough to be named in the presentation, they should be co-authors. Stick tightly to the techniques of analyses and then reduce that by half. Get to the results, that's what people want to hear. Do not spend too much time on raw numbers but use that time to tell what the numbers mean. At least half of your presentation should be on the results with a brief conclusion on where the study should go next. Go over your presentation ad nauseam. When you are completely sick of it, you are ready to present it.



**Mike Barber (left) trying to bring order to a group of presenters at the ASV's 2013 annual meeting.**

The presentation itself should be organized by what you want to say. Do not let the slides you happen to have on-hand dictate the video you present. Plan ahead, get the slides you need. Re-take some where the holes are. When possible, include charts instead of tables. No one can tell anything from a projected table (unless you are focusing on one small area of the table). Use shots with people in them used as human scales or otherwise (anthropology is about people, both past and present). In the field, clean up for your photographs. You can do a lot with photoshop but not everything. The quality of your field work reflects on the quality of your analysis and presentation. And make sure it fits the 20 minute requirement. Although a small point, the audience needs to know unequivocally when the presentation is over. A short, "Thank you for your time" will do this.

I have made more than 300 presentations over the last 50 years. And I have done the good, the bad, and the ugly. I have also observed some serious shortfalls in presentations. There are always those who cannot tell time, the ones who have a 40 minute presentation and believe it's OK to present it. These people are either incompetent, cannot tell time, or are so egocentric they believe their data is more important than others. There are also those who think reading fast is a viable solution although this only garbles the presentation. One can forgive a first time presenter for taking too much time; but do not do it twice, that would place you in one of



the above categories. Unfortunately, the problem falls to the moderator to control. If possible, know your presenters' track record. Some folks are known for their inability to tell time. Caution them before the session that they will be cut off. Some moderators use cards with 5, 3, and 1 on them to notify the presenter of the time left. This sometimes even works. Some folks will need to be verbally reminded when approaching the end of their time and when it ends. If all else fails, remind them that you know some guys from Jersey.

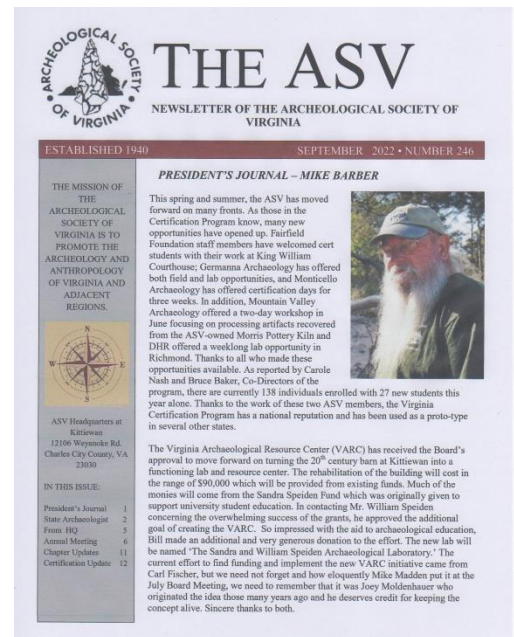
So, in summary, know your audience, plan and outline your presentation, place the emphasis on the results of the study, familiarize yourself with the presentation, and adhere religiously to the 20 minute time limit. The results will be a good, well-organized, accepted presentation. ☀

## ***GUIDELINES FOR ASV NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS – Randolph Turner***

The ASV newsletter is for its membership and thrives only with ASV members participating in providing submissions for each of its four yearly issues. As a result, we will work with all members in completing a successful submission. However, one can greatly assist the editor by following a few simple and basic guidelines which are listed below.

- The newsletter is created as a Microsoft Word document using a “No Spacing” style.
- The font is Times New Roman, with a font size of 12 for all text.
- Illustrations are strongly encouraged, but please submit any, along with captions, separate of any text for a submission; *do not* embed any illustrations within submitted text.
- The newsletter comes out on a quarterly basis – March, June, September, and December. Any material received 15 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each of the above months will be considered for publication for the upcoming newsletter issue. Typically, all ASV board members (including chapter presidents) will get a reminder email preceding each issue; sometimes the deadlines noted in that email may extend the above “15 day” rule, with the email deadline date being a firm date. Materials received after such deadlines will, with author permission, be considered only for a later issue of the newsletter.

A newsletter is only as good as its submissions, and we have been very fortunate to have an active membership with numerous submissions for each issue. As editor, if I can be of any help or answer any questions related to the newsletter and submissions, never hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at [erturner48@cox.net](mailto:erturner48@cox.net). ☀



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## ASV OFFICERS AND SUPPORT

### PRESIDENT

Patrick O'Neill

[archaeova@gmail.com](mailto:archaeova@gmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin McCurley

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

### SECRETARY

Stephanie Jacobe

[aureus@usa.net](mailto:aureus@usa.net)

### TREASURER

Lisa Jordan

[lisa.jordan@southside.edu](mailto:lisa.jordan@southside.edu)

### QUARTERLY BULLETIN EDITOR

Thane Harpole

[thane@fairfieldfoundation.org](mailto:thane@fairfieldfoundation.org)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Randolph Turner

[erturner48@cox.net](mailto:erturner48@cox.net)

### WEBMASTER

Terri Aigner

[aignerad@cox.net](mailto:aignerad@cox.net)

### CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Carole Nash

[nashcl@jmu.edu](mailto:nashcl@jmu.edu)

Bruce Baker

[bakerbw@tds.net](mailto:bakerbw@tds.net)

### ASV WEBSITE

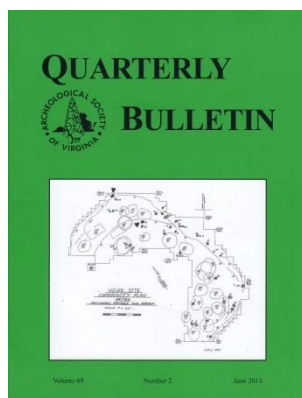
[www.virginiaarcheology.org](http://www.virginiaarcheology.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net). This follows the ASV's newsletter which has been offered digitally for several years now.



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### SAVE THE ASV MONEY AND GET YOUR QUARTERLY BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

**For every Newsletter and Quarterly Bulletin you receive though email, you save the ASV \$7.99 in printing and mailing costs. Over the course of a year, that adds up to \$31.96 that can go directly toward ASV programming. Go green and fill the ASV coffers with green!**

*Check our website when renewing your dues if you would like to go digital.*

**The ASV recently established an account with AmazonSmile through which Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases. The purchases must be made through smile.amazon.com with Archeological Society of Virginia chosen as the applicable charity.**





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## ***IN THIS ISSUE:***



- **President's Report**
- **State Archaeologist's Desk**
- **From ASV HQ – Kittiewan**
- **Annual Meeting Awards**
- **In Remembrance – Paul Sadler**
- **Armchair Archaeological Survey**
- **Art of the 20 Minute Paper**



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