



# THE ASV

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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

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



Summer is upon us, and I hope you are able to enjoy some of the history and archaeology field opportunities that are available in-state or traveling elsewhere. Many field schools are in motion, and a few chapters have projects ongoing as well.

The ASV Board met in April at Kittiewan, in a hybrid Zoom session. Work is still ongoing to create a Grievance Committee, Ethics Committee, and get legal counsel to review the Bylaws so any issues can be addressed through voting at the General Membership Meeting in October at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell has stepped down as the chair of the Research Committee, still remaining on the committee. The ASV is thankful for her past leadership in that role. I have placed Dr. Michael Barber as the new Chair. ☀

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

I recently spent the better part of a week with several dozen archaeologists from across the country and all sectors of archaeology – federal and state government, academia, private Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firms both large and small, independent consultants, tribal representatives, and descendant and affiliated community members. We were meeting to discuss some of the critical challenges facing archaeology as a discipline and how to move forward to address them. The results of several days of discussions will be presented in a series of reports and publications that not only summarize our work but issue calls to action. I will be sure to share these with you as they come out.



Since I have returned from these meetings, I have thought a lot about some of the strengths and weaknesses in Virginia archaeology and how they can be addressed. Our greatest strength in Virginia is the people involved in archaeology, including the highly skilled and experienced professionals working in CRM; talented academics teaching the next generation of archaeologists and leading fascinating research projects; the many local, state, federal and non-profit employees protecting, investigating, and interpreting our many archaeological resources; community members who provide insight and perspectives that enhance our understanding of the past; and a dedicated and passionate group of avocational archaeologists who are willing to participate in all aspects of archaeology and give of their time and talents. This last group refers, of course, to the members of the ASV. It is all of these people who together have vision, get the hard work done, and make archaeology relevant to the challenges we face every day.

One of the larger challenges that archaeology is facing is a growing shortage of trained archaeologists entering the work force. For the period of 2022-2031, Altschul and Klein project that annual spending on CRM will increase from about \$1.46 to \$1.85 billion leading to the creation of 11,000 new full-time positions in CRM. An estimated 8,100 of these positions will be in archaeology at all levels of experience. With current university graduation rates, there will be a projected deficit of about 2,400 archaeologists with an MA or PhD, and thousands more with no graduate degree (Altschul and Klein 2022:1). A subsequent analysis of job postings highlighted the demand for highly skilled professionals essential to meeting current challenges and gaps in academic programs when providing those skills (Morgan 2023).

One of the benefits resulting from employers competing for a too-small pool of candidates is an increase in wages and salaries. For far too long, archaeology wages have lagged behind other disciplines. Not surprisingly, private sector firms can react much more quickly than can any level of government and non-profits, responding with increases in wages that sometimes jumped monthly over the past few years. Prior to the pandemic, it was not unusual to see entry level technician jobs advertised at \$12-14/hour; now I am not surprised to see them advertised at \$20-25/hour. Some CRM firms unable to find qualified candidates will provide on-the-job training and mentorship for those people who haven't had a field school.

What does this mean for members of the ASV? It means that you are more critical than ever. ASV members have skills and abilities essential to the work done at DHR and elsewhere, whether it is conducting survey or data collection in the field or processing and helping curate collections in the many labs across the state. Those of you who volunteer often dedicate hundreds or thousands of hours, ensuring that fieldwork is conducted,

artifacts are identified and analyzed, and collections are curated properly. Government agencies and non-profits simply do not have the funds to hire people to do all of the essential work involved in the archaeology desperately needed across the state. Between climate change and the increasing rate of development in Virginia, we are losing sites and important data at a rapid pace. Your help in responding to these challenges is essential.

The certification program has provided many of you with important skills and knowledge. Your dedication to this program is recognized and appreciated by many. We also recognize that not everyone has the desire or the time to participate in this program but still has just as much to offer. While DHR has had to limit the number of volunteers we can accept until we increase our capacity and space when our construction project is completed, we hope that you will come back to work with us when we can accommodate more people. Until then, I know that there are many more organizations and opportunities in need of your help. Thank you for all that you do.

#### References Cited

Altschul, Jeffrey H. and Terry H. Klein

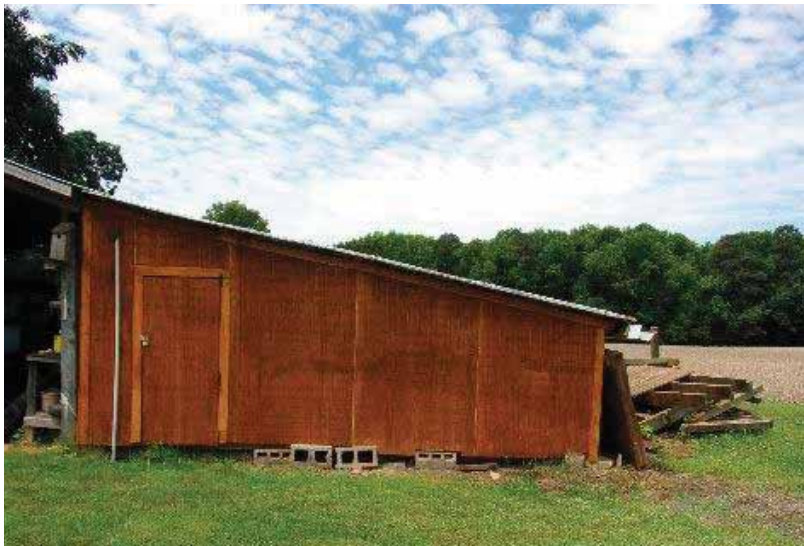
2022 “Forecast for the US CRM Industry and Job Market, 2022-2031.” *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. 10(4):355-379.

Morgan, Rachel

2023 “Ready or Not: An Archaeological Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Needs Assessment.” *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. 11(4):371-387. ☀

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

The first two months since we’ve opened officially for 2024 have been less than stunning, with only a few visitors showing up to tour the Manor House during each Open House. But that does not mean that things have not been progressing in the meantime in other areas of the property. So-o-o-o...while you weren’t looking...



Thanks largely to the efforts of Bill Bjork and Bob Wharton, the equipment shed has been getting a “do-over”. Nicely stained paneling has replaced the old tarpaper and particle board that used to (sort of) form the outer wall of the building. And (also due to Bill and Bob), the archeological equipment that used to reside somewhat haphazardly within has all been moved to the new VARC facility. More about that later. The guys are still working on various aspects of the renovation, but it’s progressing nicely.

For his part, your President Patrick O’Neill has taken on reorganizing the basement of the Visitors’ Center—and the results are amazing!! One can actually find something now (like MacCord’s minutes and other notes). Lighting has been improved as well; new LED lighting has replaced the old fluorescent rods. Much of the discarded and unusable paint and other “junk” has been removed and (re-)discarded. All in all, a real improvement! (And, BTW, thank you, Patrick, for moving the extra refrigerator down into the garage.)



Finally, the new VARC archeological facility is officially open. The lab there is available for ASV-sponsored projects, and we anticipate considerable certification program training taking place there. The facility is also available for chapter meetings when chapters wish to visit the ASV headquarters at Kittiewan. ☀

## ***CHAPTER UPDATE***

### ***Historic Triangle Chapter – Megan Veness***

The first few months of 2024 brought many interesting presentations to the Historic Triangle Chapter meetings which are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. David Givens, Director of Archaeology from Jamestown Rediscovery updated the Chapter about current excavations at Historic Jamestowne and the use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to find rising water impacts on current and previous archaeological excavations. Jack Gary, Executive Director of Archaeology for Colonial Williamsburg presented about the recently completed and current archaeology projects at Colonial Williamsburg, ranging from The First Baptist Church, to the Powder Magazine and John Custis IV garden excavations. Highlighting Virginia's rich maritime history beneath and beside its waterways, Brendan Burke, VA State Underwater Archaeologist discussed the various projects of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (VDHR) Underwater Archaeology Program. Paul A. Presenza, Archaeologist and Cultural Resources Specialist for the Fort Monroe Authority presented about the importance of archaeology at Fort Monroe and the recent Fort George excavations. Wrapping up the spring, Randolph Turner gave a presentation on the archaeology of Kittiewan, the ASV headquarters in Charles City County, to introduce chapter members on how they might help out on archaeological projects there. ☀

### ***METAL-DETECTING AND ARCHAEOLOGY – Michael B. Barber***

With regard to metal-detecting, I have always vehemently spoken against their indiscriminate use by relic hunters on historic sites. Such activity results in the complete destruction of historic context by the removal of artifacts from their original setting. The oxymoronic argument that one is somehow saving the objects from destruction is ludicrous as metal objects reach an equilibrium with soil chemicals. Ironically, they only begin to deteriorate when exposed to the air. Presented by collectors as 'saving history,' the opposite is clearly true. I adamantly remain against the loss of history for pretty objects on the mantelpiece or, even worse, for sale on the open market.

I have, however, always supported the use of metal-detectors when used properly. This approach involves the metal-detectorists to work under the direction of a professional archaeologists using appropriate recordation techniques and all applicable lab methods. When State Archaeologist, I presented a paper on metal-detecting at the 69<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia in Fredericksburg on Sunday, October 11, 2009, in the Historic and Public Archaeology Session which I moderated. The paper was titled "Professional Archaeology, Metal Detecting, and the Civil War: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." I found my notes for that presentation and the final statement is as follows:

The Good –

Metal-Detectorists working with Professionals  
Archaeologists learning to use metal-detectors  
STP regimes on Battlefields futile  
Archaeologists not inherently stupid, can learn  
Metal-Detectors just another tool.

I think that summary points out that I do not detest the use of metal-detectors in archaeology, as some have said, only that I condone their proper use. In addition, DHR worked diligently to arrange for the *Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist* program to come to Virginia. Given by Chris Espenshade of New South Associates, the workshop taught the archaeological community the proper use of the metal detecting machines in an ethical, professional setting. Sanctioned by the *Register of Professional Archaeologists*, the project was held in partnership with the Department of Historic Resources, James Madison University, Shenandoah University, and Claremont Foundation in addition to New South. Twenty-nine students participated in the program from November 15 – 17, 2013, on the grounds of Claremont Manor, a plantation complex in Clarke County, Virginia, owned by DHR. The workshop proved of great benefit to the research and management of resources at Claremont where a site thought to be a Civil War encampment proved to be a quarter for enslaved people.

Most recently, under the leadership of Mr. Brad McDonald (2024), DHR once again brought *AMDA* back to Virginia. For three days in spring 2024, thirty-two professional archaeologists from across the Commonwealth participated in the program. The program emphasized best practice including survey strategies, equipment maintenance, and data recording methodology. After a day of classroom training at the VCU Rice Center, the class implemented fieldwork at Malvern Hill, the site of a Civil War battle and 19<sup>th</sup> Century residence. The completed fieldwork will be used to develop better preservation strategies for the site.

While metal-detecting typically is not the best way to locate nor test historic archaeological resources, there are some cases where the use of metal-detectors is appropriate, and in TRUTH, it's just another tool in the archaeological arsenal.

#### References

Barber, Michael B.

- 2009 Professional Archaeology, Metal-Detecting, and the Civil War: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. Paper presented at Archeological Society of Virginia 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, October 11, Fredericksburg. McDonald, Brad
- 2024 Professional Archaeologists Attend Metal-Detecting Workshop. Blog, Archaeology Blogs, *Department of Historic Resources Newsletter*, April 10. . ☀

### ***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.
- Submissions should not exceed two to three typed pages; for longer submissions please consult with the ASV newsletter editor or consider publication in the ASV Quarterly Bulletin.

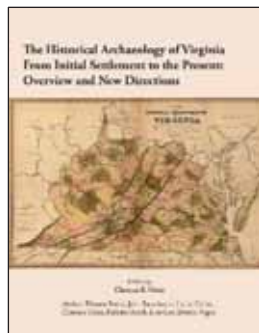


- The newsletter comes out on a quarterly basis – March, June, September, and December. Any material received 15 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each of the above months will be considered for publication for the upcoming newsletter issue. Typically, all ASV board members (including chapter presidents) 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). ☀

### ***ASV SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE – Clarence R. Geier***

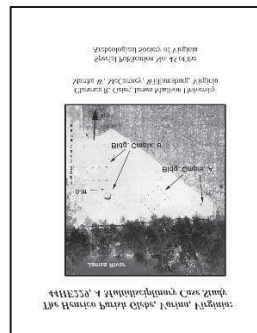
Along with the *Quarterly Bulletin* and Newsletter, the Archeological Society of Virginia supports the publication of a *special report* series. While in the past these have been published directly through the ASV, cost of such printings has become excessive. None-the-less the importance of these in-depth, focused publications for informing the public on issues and topics dealing with the Native American and European occupations of the Commonwealth remains a primary concern. To that end, new venues are being explored to provide this service to members of the ASV and the public at large in a cost-effective way. Following extensive review to ensure the quality and accuracy of content, hard copies of most reports will be made available through Amazon publications, while pdf digital copies, particularly of larger manuscripts, will be made available directly from the ASV or one of its partners. It is our hope that the digital format will be something you will find appealing. Not only is it cost-effective, but it allows the document downloads to be larger, include greater detail, and provide access to color photographs and a wide range of historic and professionally prepared maps and graphics. All profits from these publications will be used to support new and ongoing ASV programs.



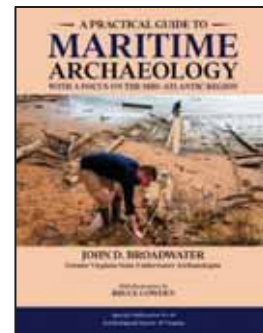
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1. **The Historical Archaeology of Virginia from Initial Settlement to the Present: Overview and New Directions.** Clarence Geier, editor (2017). A series of articles presented by historical archaeologists with long histories of field research in Virginia review key studies that address everything from initial settlement, through the Civil War into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Topics needing more research are noted. Available in hard copy from Amazon, and as a free, digital download at Virginia Department of Historic Resources. <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/The-Historical-Archaeology-of-Virginia-From-Initial-Settlement-to-the-Present.pdf>

2. **A Field Guide for Virginia Archaeology (and the Middle Atlantic Region in General): a Practical Guide to a Dirty Business.** Dr. Michael B. Barber (Special Publication 43, 2010). This book provides guidelines and instructions on conducting archaeological fieldwork. Written with humor, the author tells not only how to do the work of archaeology but also why the work needs to be done a certain way. Includes forms that can be reproduced for your own use and a list of recommended readings. Hard copy only, available through Amazon.
3. **The Henrico Glebe, Varina, Virginia: 44HE229, a Multidisciplinary Case Study.** Clarence R. Geier and Martha W. McCartney (Special Publication 45, 2017). Excavations carried out at the Henrico Glebe Site, a significant Colonial Period habitation on the James River located within Henrico Parish Glebe lands at Varina, opens the door to a discussion of the role of the Church of England in the Virginia Colony and the types of housing parish leaders were obliged to provide to the clergy. With evidence of two building periods dating from as early as 1680 through the mid-18th century, the glebe served as the home of Rev. James Blair, the first recognized head, or Commissary, of the Church of England in Virginia, and the first president of the College of William and Mary. While developing a history of the glebe of Henrico Parish, which included the Richmond area by 1741, the town of Varina, east of the study area, is introduced. That community, though short-lived, served as Henrico County's seat and was an important early inland port. Hard copy only, available through Amazon.
4. **A Practical Guide to Maritime Archaeology: with a Focus on the Mid-Atlantic Region.** Dr. John B. Broadwater, available through Amazon. (Special Report 49, 2023). This book introduces readers to the terminology, tools, and techniques used by maritime archaeologists in their quest for new sites that may add important details to the ever-expanding story of human interaction with the seas, bays, and tributaries of Virginia and that link almost all the people of Earth. While the book has broad application, it focuses on maritime remains within the Mid-Atlantic Region and in particular the critical role of such sites to the history of the Commonwealth. The guide is essentially a textbook on maritime and underwater archaeology for nonprofessionals. Hard copy only

### *Upcoming in 2024*

### **"An Extensive and Enchanting View," Tinged with Tragedy: Willis Hill on Marye's Heights, Fredericksburg, Virginia.**

Prepared by Martha W. McCartney and Clarence R. Geier (Special Publication #49) this publication builds on a multi-year historical archaeological project conducted on a 33-acre parcel of land at the south end of Marye's Heights named Willis Hill after the initial family that settled and developed the land in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Funded by the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, the primary goal of the project was to gather information needed to interpret the landscape as part of the Battle of Fredericksburg fought in December 1861 and to restore a key battlefield feature known as the Sunken Road.

Research documented the initial exploration and settlement of the upper Rappahannock River and the establishment and development of the inland seaport of Fredericksburg. The family of Henry Willis, one of seven individuals chosen to oversee the development of the town, is introduced. Project archaeology included documenting the remains of a plantation residential complex established by Henry's son Lewis, and which was shown to have burned in 1812. Cultural features on the hill at the time of the Civil War, an 1860 era slave quarter, and a line of Confederate rifle trenches and artillery emplacements belonging to the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, were identified and are discussed. The place held by the Willis Hill landform in the military actions of the Battle of Fredericksburg and subsequent Battle of Chancellorsville is considered; both





actions contributing to severe destruction to the town of Fredericksburg which lay to its front. The volume is heavily illustrated with historic and project related maps and photographs. Publication format to be determined.

### *In the Works*

The following reports are in preparation and should be available within the next several months.

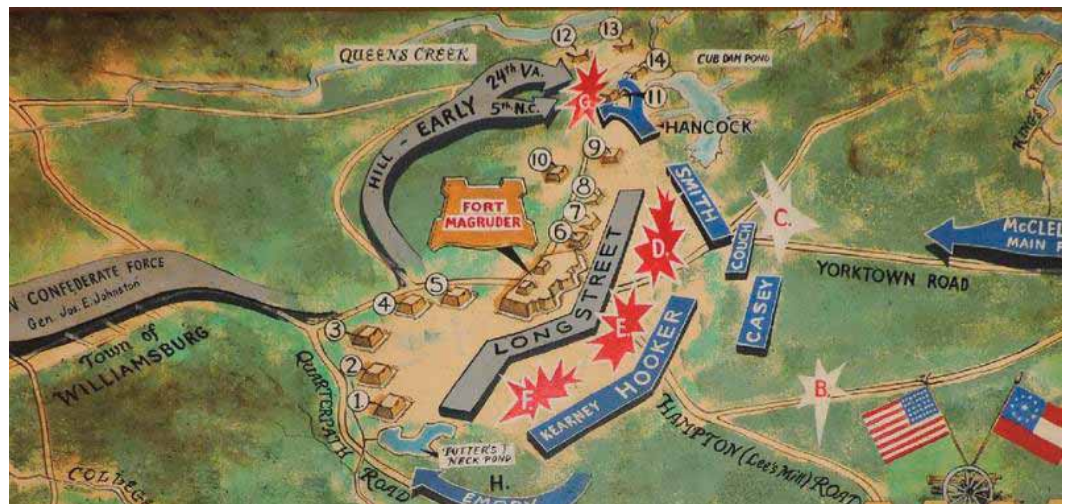
Report #50. **Native American Bone Tools: A Guide for Virginia and the Middle Atlantic Region.** Michael B. Barber.

Report #51. **The Governor's Land Archaeological District; Insights from Documentary Sources.** Martha W. McCartney.

Report #52. **The Historical-Archaeology of Stokesville, A Western Virginia Company Town and End-of-Track for the Chesapeake and Western Railway.** Clarence R. Geier and Carole Nash. ☀

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The ASV Annual Meeting will be held on October 4-6, 2024 at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center. Located at 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, Virginia, the newly renovated facility will be the central location for the meeting. From here, you can explore the many attractions of the Williamsburg area. ☀





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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)

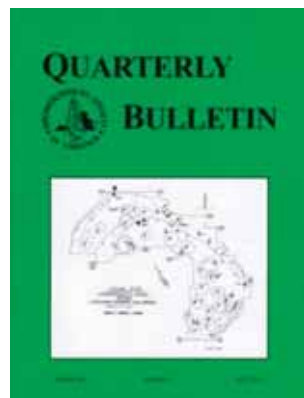
## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ASV Annual Meeting – October 4-6, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, Williamsburg.

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](http://smile.amazon.com) with Archeological Society of Virginia chosen as the applicable charity.



Archeological Society of Virginia  
12106 Weyanoke Road  
Charles City County, VA 23030

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