ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

85th ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24-26, 2025

Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Welcome from ASV President

Dear ASV Members and Guests attending the
85th Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia:

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the ASV!

Having an opportunity for the ASV membership to meet with colleagues and friends is essential to the continued success of the organization. Exploring the diversity of history, bringing to light the forgotten, the underrepresented, all of those humans who came before us, is what makes our time doing archaeology and research so rewarding. Sharing that knowledge with others is just as fulfilling, and needed, to help others understand the meaning and context of history. Listen to the presentations, ask questions, talk with others, then take this knowledge back and share it with your chapter, your community, your friends. Write an article! Each of us can be a disciple of history in many ways! Again, welcome to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the ASV!

Enjoy,

Patrick O'Neill
ASV President

Archeological Society of Virginia Officers

President: Patrick O'Neill **Vice-President: David Givens**
(Northern Virginia Chapter)

Secretary:	**Acting Treasurer:**	**Assistant Treasurer:**
Stephanie Jacobe	**Carl Fischer**	**Beth Gunn**
(At-large)	**(Historic Triangle Chapter)**	**(MacCord Chapter)**

Outreach Committee Chair: Carole Nash (Massanutten Chapter)

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Education Committee Chair: Stephanie Jacobe (At-large)

Research Committee Chair: Mike Barber (Roanoke Chapter)

Administration Committee Chair: Stephanie Jacobe (At-large)

Annual Committee Meeting Chair: Open

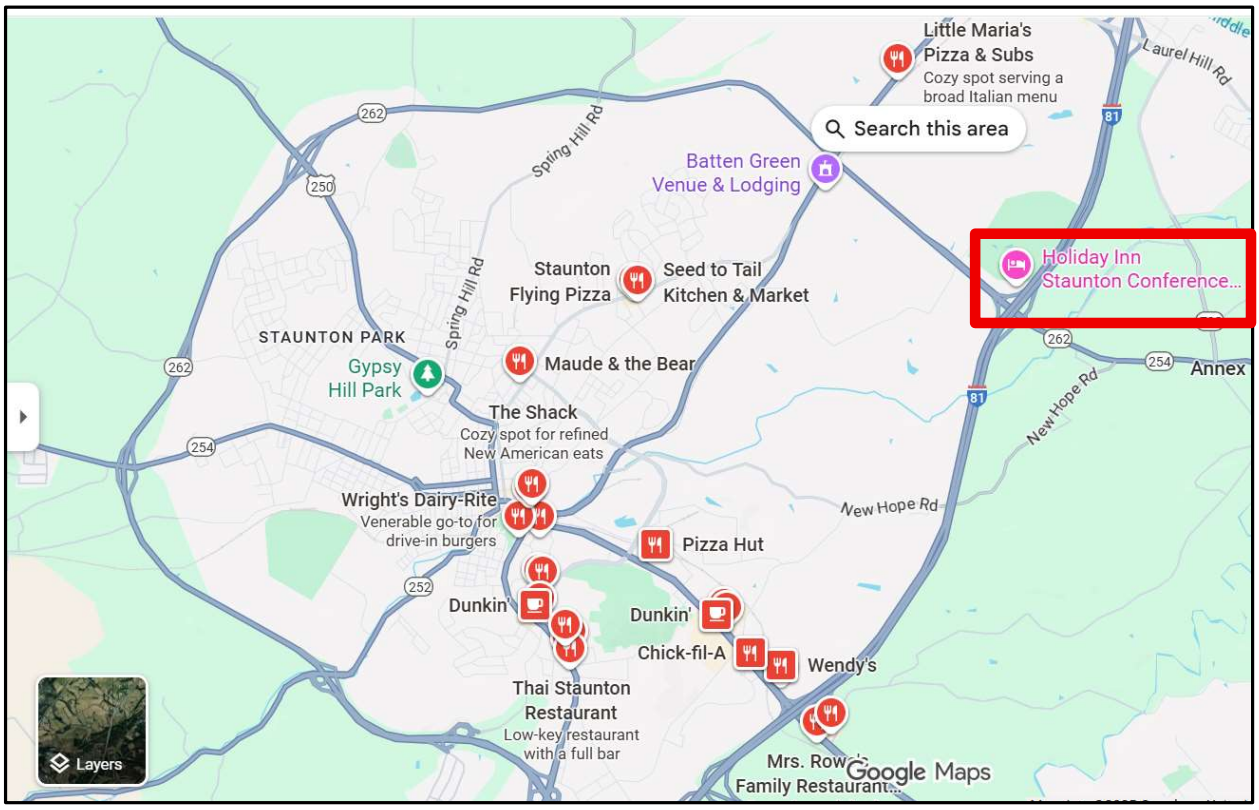
Program Co-Chairs: Mike Barber (Roanoke Chapter)
Stephanie Jacobe (At-Large)

Membership Secretary: Patrick O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter)

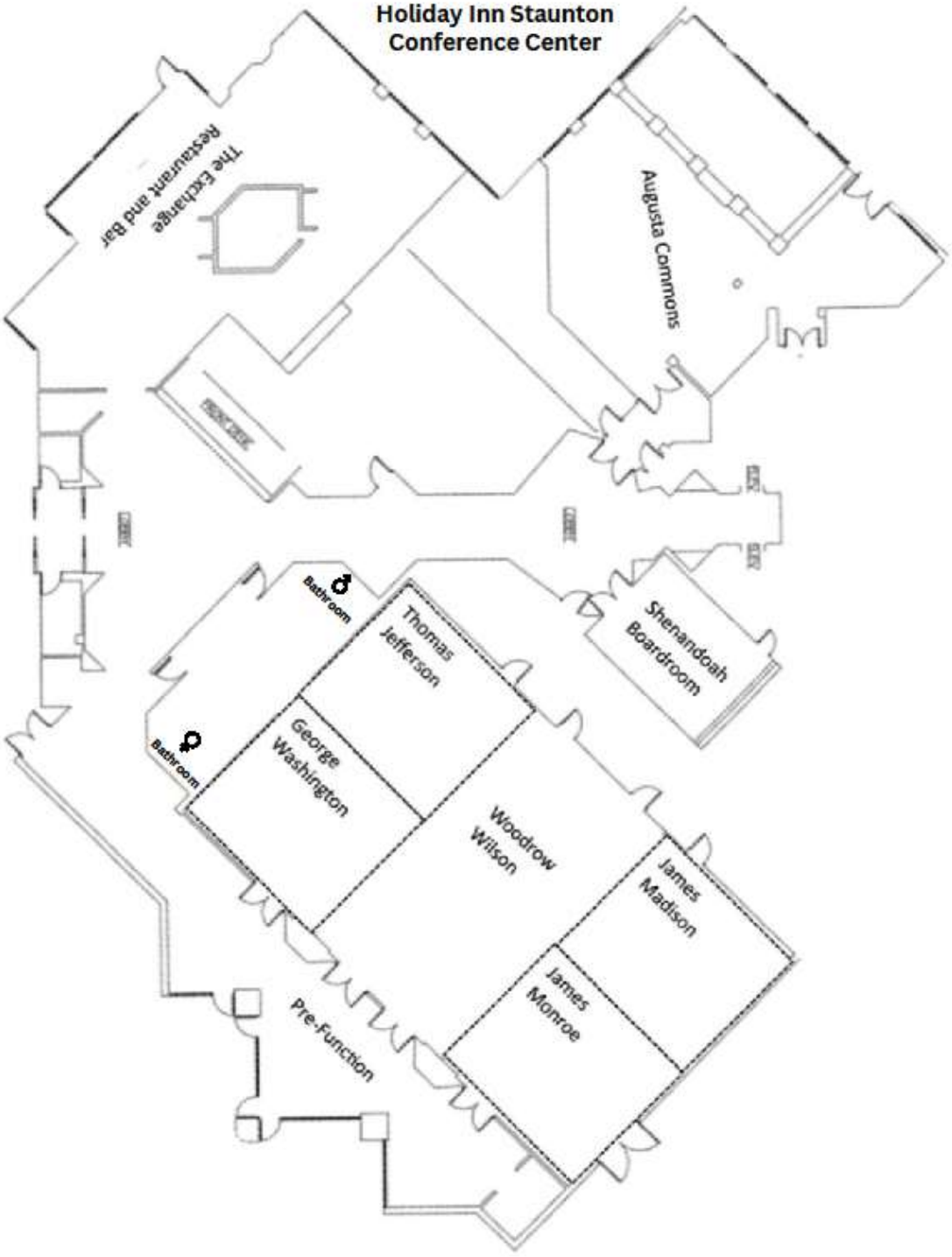
Hotel Logistics (see map on Page 4)
Book Room: Woodrow Wilson
Meeting Rooms: Washington/Jefferson and Madison/Monroe
Poster Session Room: Woodrow Wilson


Holiday Inn

Location Map



Hotel Map


Holiday Inn Staunton
Conference Center
The Exchange
Restaurant and Bar
Augusta Commons
Bathroom
Thomas
Jefferson
Shenandoah
Boardroom
Bathroom
George
Washington
Woodrow
Wilson
James
Madison
James
Monroe
Pre-Function

Nearby Dining Information

Please note the list below was made based only on distance from the conference hotel.
It is not a list of restaurants recommendations.

Located North off Route 11

1. Sam's Hot Dogs of Verona 1450 Commerce Road #10 (1.8 miles)
2. Little Maria's Pizza and Subs 1555 Commerce Road (2.5 miles)
3. Triple T BBQ 26 Sutton Lane (3.2 miles)
4. Armstrong's Family Restaurant 358 Lee Hwy (3.3 miles)
5. Rackem Smackum Ribs 385 Lee Hwy (3.3 miles)
6. Ciro's Pizza Verona 52 Laural Hill Road (3.6 miles)
7. Mi Rancho Mexican 571 Lee Hwy (3.8 miles)

Located north off Exit 227 for Verona or north up Route 11 to Laural Hill Road VA-612

1. The Bluebird Bakery and Café 50 Lodge Lane (3.6 miles)
2. El Puerto Cantina and Grill 6 Lodge Lane (3.5 miles)

Located south down Route 11 Toward Staunton

1. Seed to Tail Kitchen and Market 2303 North Augusta Street Apt A (3.3 miles)
2. Staunton Flying Pizza 2221 N Augusta Street (3.3 miles)
3. Maude and Bear 1106 N Augusta Street (4.6 miles)
4. Marino's Lunch 901 N Augusta Street (4.4 miles)

There are many other restaurants in downtown Staunton, which can access via I-81 exit 222 or from Route 11 bypass.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA:
85th ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 24-26, 2025

Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Friday Morning, October 24, 2025

Room: **Washington/Jefferson**
8:00 – 8:10 **ASV President Patrick O'Neill**
Welcome

Room:	**Washington/Jefferson**
Session 1:	***Recent Work and New Directions from the U.S. Forest Service***
Moderators:	***Mike Madden***

8:10 – 8:30 Mike Madden (USDA – Forest Service)
The Rest of The Story, -or- It's Not Just about the Projectile Points, The Identification of the Accompanying Paleo Tool Kit from 44SC095

8:30 – 8:50 Martha Mihich (USDA – Forest Service)
On the brink of war: Lasting questions and impacts of the Glen Wilton Virgina Ordnance Works' explosion.

8:50 – 9:10 Gabriella Reina Marcucci (USDA – Forest Service)
Getting lost in grey literature: What we miss when do not present to broader audiences

9:10 – 9:30 David Kleppinger (USDA – Forest Service)
If a Tree Falls in the Woods: Salvage Archaeology in Southwest Virginia

9:30 – 9:50 Genevieve Frissell (USDA – Forest Service)
Hardscrabble Homesteading: The High Elevation Sarver Cabin Tract

9:50 – 10:00 **BREAK**

Room:	**Madison/Monroe**
Session 2:	***The Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit as Experimental Archaeology: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future***
Moderators:	***Carole Nash***

8:00 – 8:20 Victoria Ferguson (Monacan Indian Nation and Virginia Tech)
From the Ground Up: Reconstuctive Archaeology and the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit

8:20 – 8:40 Lauren McMillan (Virginia State Parks)
Cultural Resource Management and Tribal Engagement at Virginia State Parks

8:40 – 9:00 Ángel A. García Jr. (James Madison University)
Karst in Context: Visualizing Virginia's Surface and Underground (and Applications for Archaeology)

9:00 – 9:20 Carole Nash (James Madison University)
A Different Kind of Experiment: Archaeological Studies of the Monacan Indian Living History

9:20 – 9:40 Jessica Hernandez (Independent Scholar)
Virtual Recreation of the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit

9:40 – 10:00 BREAK

Room:	**Madison/Monroe**
Session 3:	***Maritime Archaeology in Virginia***
Moderator:	***Robert Hayes***

10:00 – 10:20 Kelly Wells, Sandra Ewell, and Paul Ewell (Maritime Heritage Chapter)
The Disappearing Dock: Industrial Heritage and Waterfront Transformation on the Eastern Shore

10:20 – 10:40 Ethan Bean (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District)
Full Steam Ahead: A Selection of Maritime Archaeological Projects Conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

10:40 – 11:00 Taft Kiser (Maritime Heritage Chapter)
Five Days in July 1862: James F. Gibson on the Men-of-War Galena, Monitor, and Teaser

11:00 – 11:20 Adam Parker (Maritime Heritage Chapter/AECOM)
Going Down the River: Volunteer Investigations at a Potential Ferry Shipwreck in the Pamunkey River

11:20 – 11:40 William Waldrop (Maritime Heritage Chapter)
Results from the 2024 Threatened Site Survey of the Pamunkey River

11:40 – 12:00 Robert Hayes (Maritime Heritage Chapter/Institute of Nautical Archaeology)
Survey of a Dugout Canoe from the Chickahominy River Marsh, Charles City County, VA.

Room:	**Washington/Jefferson**
Session 4:	**Late Woodland Siouan-Speakers Along the Roanoke (Staunton) River: Ceramics, Radiocarbon Dating, Archaeozoology, and Cultural Interpretation**
Moderator:	**Brian Bates**

10:00 – 10:20 Brian D. Bates (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
Radiocarbon Dates from the Staunton River Valley: A Longitudinal Perspective

10:20 – 10:40 Madilyn Bottomley* and Hanna Gordon* (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
I have a Bone to Pick with You: Zooarchaeological Evidence from the Burton Site (44HA0451) and the Wade Site (44CH0062)

10:40 – 11:00 Emily Ault* and Cassidy Wade* (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
The Cove Archaeological Project: A Collaboration

11:00 – 11:20 Margaret Dudley*, Savannah Hall* and Saverio Lombardo* (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
Taxonomy Smackdown: Dan River Series vs "Clarksville Series"

11:20 – 11:40 Lily Boysworth*, Devin Edwards*, and Thomas Wiles* (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
Ceramic Pipe Analysis of the Wade and Sanders Site Collections

11:40 – 12:00 Michael B. Barber, Ph.D., RPA (Longwood Institute of Archaeology)
Revisiting the Archaeology of the Shannon Site (44MY0008), Montgomery County, Virginia: Data to be Mined

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

*student presenter

12:00 – 2:00 pm - Lunchtime Seminar (Washington/Jefferson Suite)

Sponsored by the Council of Virginia Archaeologists and the Archeological Society of Virginia

What Now? Strategies and Next Steps for Addressing Sexual Harassment and Assault in Virginia Archaeology

Over the last decade, the field of archaeology has widened its focus towards confronting sexual harassment and assault in the discipline. A 2024 Council of Virginia Archaeologists (CoVA) survey drew on insights from earlier work by the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) (Meyers et al. 2018) to understand if and to what extent Virginia archaeologists experience sexual harassment and/or assault while on the job or in training. Members of the CoVA Ethics Committee will briefly present the results of this survey, which have been previously discussed at CoVA and SEAC meetings. The workshop will also include a presentation by Dr. Carol Colaninno, Washington University (St. Louis), whose research on this topic is nationally recognized. It will end with a panel discussion to provide possible next steps for making archaeology in Virginia a safer, more inclusive, and welcoming discipline for all. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide their own perspectives on how to create change in the field.

Registration is required for those who want an included lunch (deadline 10/1/2025):
Registration for ASV/COVA Sexual Harassment Workshop

Friday Afternoon, October 24, 2025

Room:	**Washington/Jefferson**
Session 5:	**Archaeology of Virginia's First People's and early explorers**
Moderator:	***Christopher Stevenson***

2:00 – 2:20 Christopher M. Stevenson (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Ceramic Rehydroxylation Dating of Native American Earthenware from Tar Bay, Virginia

2:20 – 2:40 Christopher Egghart (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) and Judith Paulos
Guide to Identifying Virginia Projectile Points: A Preview

2:40 – 3:00 Taylor B. Callaway* (Wake Forest University)
Bottomland Swamps, Bottomless Feasts: Archaeological Evidence of Feasting at the Hand Site

3:00 – 3:20 Robert F. Maslowski (Council For West Virginia Archaeology)
The Archaeology of the Batts and Fallam Journey

Room:	**Madison/Monroe**
Session 6:	**A Look at Archaeological Programs and Methodology in Virginia**
Moderator:	***Lyle Browning***

2:00 – 2:20 Anthony A. Burke (Col Howard McCord Chapter
The Blackwater Drainage System: a Preliminary Report, Analysis of Site Survey Reports

2:20 – 2:40 Elizabeth Crowell (Northern Virginia Chapter)
Archaeology in Fairfax County: A Retrospective

2:40 – 3:00 Yvonne French (Northern Virginia Chapter)
Using Geographic Information Systems for Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites

3:00 – 3:20 Lyle Browning (New River Valley Chapter)
Metal Detecting At Speed

*student presenter

Room: **Woodrow Wilson**
Session 6: ***Poster Session***
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

1. Alison Bell, Liliane Mafon*, Mendrel Tshering*, Keven Rice, Washington and Lee University
   Reporting from the Lab: Research with Longdale Mining Community Artifacts and Records at Washington and Lee University
2. Kathleen Connor (Massanutten Chapter)
   Canine and GPR Survey of Forest Hills Park for Locating Unmarked Burials
3. Vincent Guercin (Eastern Shore Chapter) and Richard Guercin (Eastern Shore Chapter)
   Last Picture Show at the Booker T Drive-In Theater
4. Matilyn Carter* (James Madison University)
   The Geocultural History of Brock's Gap, Virginia

<u>Council of Virginia Archaeologists Membership Meeting</u> (David Brown, President)
Room: Washington/Jefferson
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 (-ish)

*student presenter

Friday Evening, October 24, 2025

Council of Virginia Archaeologists – Public Education Forum

(ASV Members are encouraged to attend)
Washington/Jefferson/Woodrow Wilson

Celebrating 50 Years of COVA

Since 1975, the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) has gathered professional archaeologists to share ideas, support new initiatives, and advocate for the study of Virginia's archaeological resources. Generations of Virginia archaeologists have contributed to programs that advance COVA's mission, move the profession forward, and chart new pathways for the future. Critical to these successes are strong partnerships with organizations like the Archaeological Society of Virginia (ASV) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), whose shared education, preservation, and advocacy goals foster community connection, public participation, and lasting support for heritage protection. This session will explore COVA's engagement with the ASV Certification Program, broader material culture initiatives, and public engagement and advocacy efforts, to better understand how these endeavors have made lasting impacts to historic preservation in Virginia, more broadly.

7:00 – 7:10 **Opening Remarks (Dave Brown, COVA President)**
7:10 – 7:30 Carole Nash (James Madison University)
Building Collaborative Practice: The Virginia Archaeological Technician Certification Program
7:30 – 7:50 Eleanor Breen (Alexandria Archaeology)
Collecting Virginia: 50 years of rescuing, wrangling, and reinvigorating our tangible heritage
7:50 – 8:10 Beth Sawyer (Thomas Jefferson Foundation)
COVA Connections: A Look at Advocacy and Engagement Initiatives
8:10 – 8:30 **Discussion**

8:30 – 10:30 **COVA Reception**

Saturday Morning, October 25, 2025

Room:	**Washington/Jefferson**
Session 7:	*The Chesapeake Chronology Consortium: A Case for Radiocarbon Dating and Evaluating Historical Narratives*
Moderator:	***Martin D. Gallivan***

8:00 – 8:10 Martin D. Gallivan (William & Mary)
Introduction and Explanation of the Chesapeake Chronology Consortium

8:10 – 8:30 John Henshaw (William & Mary), Martin Gallivan (William & Mary), and Brad Hatch
The Patawomeke Chronology Project

8:30 – 8:50 C. Zoe Doubles* (University of Illinois), Brandon T. Ritchison (University of Illinois), Maureen S. Meyers (New South Associates)
Building Chronologies, Building Communities: A Social Network Approach to Life Along the Mississippian Frontier in the Cumberland Gap

8:50 – 9:10 Sydney Tamsett *(William & Mary) and John Henshaw (William & Mary)
Ceramic Seriations in the Late Woodland Potomac-Shenandoah Drainage

9:10 – 9:30 Jessica A. Jenkins (Clemson University) and Martin D. Gallivan (William & Mary)
Timing the Chesapeake 'Oyster Revolution': Bayesian Modeling of Shell Midden Chronology

9:30 – 9:50 Madelena DiFabio* (William & Mary) and John Henshaw (William & Mary)
Environmental Histories in the Chesapeake: Aligning Site Histories with Ancient Droughts in the Potomac River Drainage

9:50 – 10:10 Julia A. King (St. Mary's College of Maryland)
Reconstructing Chronology from Plow Disturbed Deposits: A Case Study from the Cuttatawomen Site (44KG0006)

10:10 – 10:30 Molly Morgan* (William & Mary) and John Henshaw (William & Mary)
Cordage Twist and Chronology: A Potomac Case Study

10:30 – 10:45 Questions

10:45 – 11:00 BREAK

Room:	**Madison/Monroe**
Session 8:	***The Archaeology of the 18th and 19th Centuries in Virginia***
Moderator:	*Eric Schweickart*

8:00 – 8:20 Patrick O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter)
Saint's Hill Cabin and Mansion

8:20 – 8:40 Eric Schweickart (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)
Backyard Birds: A Comparative Analysis of Articulated Chicken Skeletons Recovered from Yard Contexts in Williamsburg's Historic Core

8:40 – 9:00 Mary Armstrong, Elliot Alvey, Josephine Schrieber (Thomas Jefferson Foundation)
Preliminary Analysis of Archaeological Findings from Monticello's Mountaintop Access East Lawn Project

*student presenter

9:00 – 9:20 Kelly Arford-Horne (Historic Germanna)
Exploration of BIPOC Resources at Germanna – A Comparison of Subfloor Pits

9:20 – 9:40 Patrick O'Neill (Northern Virginia Chapter)
Everhart Mill in Loudoun County

Room:	**Madison/Monroe**
Session 9:	***The Archaeology of the 19th and 20th Centuries in Virginia***
Moderator:	***Lynn Rainville***

9:40 – 10:00 Lynn Rainville (Hidden History Group)
Burying the Poor: analyzing pauper gravestones and cemeteries

10:00 – 10:20 Lucia Butler, Margaret Dudley (Peter Francisco/Patrick Henry's Red Hill)
The Double Cabins Site: Investigating Life at Red Hill's Quarter Place

10:20 – 10:40 George Piccininni Avery (Historic Germanna)
Who has a License to Butt in?: examining a forgotten joke cycle through small finds

10:40 – 11:00 Molly Kerr, History Revealed, Inc.
Shopping Stories: Using Ledgers in an Archaeological Context

11:00 – 12:00pm
ASV Annual Membership Meeting (Patrick O'Neill, President)
Washington/Jefferson

Room:	**Washington/Jefferson**
ASV Chapter Presentations	
Moderator:	***ASV President Patrick O'Neill***

12:00 – 12:10 Maritime Heritage
12:10 – 12:20 Northern Virginia
12:20 – 12:30 Massanutten
12:30 – 12:40 Col Howard MacCord
12:40 – 12:50 Northern Shenandoah Valley

Saturday Afternoon, October 25, 2025

Saturday afternoon field trips: Choose Your Own Adventure!

Mountain Valley Archaeology

Visit Mountain Valley Archaeology!
755 South Main Street, Mount Crawford, VA 22841

Mountain Valley Archaeology works with communities in and around the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge to discover, understand, and promote cultural heritage through education, citizen science, and focused research. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, staffed by volunteers who work with the guidance of professional archaeologists. We run an archaeological laboratory and undertake a variety of local and regional projects. Please join us for our ASV Open House.

Frontier Culture Museum

Visit the Frontier Culture Museum!
1290 Richmond Road Staunton, Va 24401

Self-guided tours utilize walking paths and trails to allow Museum guests to visit all 11 permanent exhibits. You'll enjoy "living history" as communicated through costumed interpreters in both the Old World and American sections of the Museum.

On October 25-26, 2025, The Frontier Culture Museum is hosting a special program called *Home Front at War*. Visitors will learn what happened to the home front during the American Revolution.

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum

Visit the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum!
230 East Frederick Street
Staunton, VA 24401

Nestled in the heart of Staunton, Virginia, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum invites you to embark on a captivating journey through time.

Step into the life and times of one of America's most influential presidents. Immerse yourself in the World War I trench exhibit, take a peek at Wilson's Pierce-Arrow limousine, walk the halls in the house where he was born and learn more about what makes Wilson a consequential and controversial president. From his humble beginnings in the Shenandoah Valley to his transformative tenure in the White House, you will learn about it here at the WWPL.

Connect with the ideals that continue to shape the world today. Engage in thought-provoking conversations with knowledgeable guides, or lose yourself in the tranquil beauty of the surrounding gardens, providing a serene backdrop for introspection and contemplation.

Thornrose Cemetery

Visit Thornrose Cemetery!
1041 West Beverly Street
Staunton, VA 24401

During the early 1900's, one of Thornrose Cemetery's most influential Presidents, Arista Hoge, directed the expansion and beautification of the grounds with extensive landscaping that now consists of 30 acres. He commissioned noted local architect T.J. Collins to design an impressive limestone Gatehouse Entrance, Bridge and Tower, Mortuary Chapel, and Stone Walls that surround the property. There are loverly walking trails that take you through the cemetery.

Saturday Evening, October 25, 2025

Banquet – Washington/Jefferson/Woodrow Wilson
6:00 – 7:00 – Cash Bar Reception
7:00 – 10:00 – Banquet, Certification Graduation, & Awards

Banquet Speaker:

Sara Bon-Harper, Ph.D. – Executive Director of James Monroe's Highland

Title:

Archaeological Foundations: Research and a New Direction at James Monroe's Highland

Sunday Morning, October 26, 2025

10:00am – 12:00pm ASV Board Meeting
Location TBD

Archeological Society of Virginia
2025 Annual Meeting Abstracts

Individual Abstracts

Preliminary Analysis of Archaeological Findings from Monticello's Mountaintop Access East Lawn Project

Mary Armstrong, Elliot Alvey, Josephine Schrieber, Thomas Jefferson Foundation

Beginning in January 2025, Monticello archaeologists began mitigation efforts for a new pathway on Monticello's East Lawn. The East Lawn has been subject to archaeological investigations as part of the 2010 Kitchen Road project and during Phase I survey in 2018/2019. Findings from these past excavations and documentary indicate that the mountaintop was leveled and subsequently terraformed, both during the initial construction of the mansion in 1768 and again when it was remodeled beginning in the 1790s. This project has given us an opportunity to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the construction of the mountaintop landscape and how it changed over time. Using information from one test square, this paper aims to discuss preliminary findings regarding the creation of the East Lawn landscape and when/how it has changed, using both stratigraphic and artifact analysis.

Exploration of BIPOC Resources at Germanna – A Comparison of Subfloor Pits

Kelly Arford-Horne, Historic Germanna

In 1852, 36 individuals enslaved at Germanna, ranging in age from two months to 70, were emancipated and sent to Liberia. Records from the American Colonization Society shed light on their experiences after they left Germanna; however, little documentation exists regarding their experiences while enslaved. Likewise, 17 enslaved individuals are listed in Alexander Spotswood's 1741 probate inventory from Germanna, but little more than their names are known. Recent archaeological excavations within the dependencies of Spotswood's Enchanted Castle (ca.1720) and the work yard of the Gordon House (ca. 1797) have focused on uncovering details about the experiences of those enslaved at Germanna. Two large pit features have been identified in those areas, one dating to the first half of the 18th century and one dating to the first half of the 19th century. These pits are likely associated with those who were enslaved on the property. Although excavations are still ongoing, these features present a potential not only to learn about the experiences of those living and working in these areas, but to explore differences and similarities between experiences of slavery at Germanna 100 years apart. This paper will examine insights gained from these two pit features to date.

Who has a License to Butt in?: examining a forgotten joke cycle through small finds

George Piccininni Avery, Historic Germanna

During the excavation of the Bray-Digges yard in Williamsburg archaeologists uncovered a small stick pin. The cracked face of the pin appeared in the shape of a badge and boldly displayed the phrase, "License to Butt in". Based on the pin's manufacture and the location on site, it likely dates to the period the building was used as The College of William & Mary's first women's dormitory, Brown Hall. Grounded in theories of performance, gender, and comedy, I aim to contextualize the

women and the object as agents within the broader historical "License to Butt in" Joke Cycle (or Bit) active at the time of the building's use as a dormitory from 1926 to 1930. This will be done through primarily two means. First, I bring to fore the way the pin connects to other historical joking contexts, specifically the "Buttinsky" ethnic joke, as well as the "Sons of Buttinsky"/License to Butt in" postcard. Second, I examine how the women likely performed with, interpreted, and related to the artifact as a commodity, a fashion piece, and a practical joke. This research finds that the women of Brown Hall potentially used the "License to Butt in" joke cycle to both reinforce and subvert norms about ethnicity and gender. A close examination of a single small find, along with its surrounding context thickens our understanding of the cultural practices that proliferated among William & Mary's inaugural female students.

Poster: Reporting from the Lab: Research with Longdale Mining Community Artifacts and Records at Washington and Lee University

Alison Bell, Liliane Mafon*, Mendrel Tshering*, Keven Rice, Washington and Lee University

We appreciate this opportunity to share our current and ongoing research with legacy collections from the Longdale Mining Complex (Alleghany County) at Washington and Lee University. Between 1992 and 2004, W&L field schools tested dozens of domestic and, to a lesser extent, industrial sites at Longdale. In this 12 years of field work, at least seven archaeologists served as principal and/or co-principal investigators. A greater number of work-study students, staff, and volunteers processed the collections; hundreds of students participated in field work and artifact analysis. For two decades, progress with Longdale collections stalled due to inadequate laboratory space. From 2023 to the present with marginally improved infrastructure, W&L Archaeology jumpstarted analysis of Longdale assemblages. Given the circumstances, field records and artifact inventories are uneven, but the artifact collections are intact, extensive, and fascinating. Here we report on our multi-pronged approach to working with them through combined efforts of current students, community researchers, and W&L faculty. Our poster offers an overview of salient methodological and interpretive initiatives. Among the former: a) tacking between hand-written artifact inventories, Excel spreadsheets, and contents of artifact bags to ensure that we have a complete roster of artifacts recovered on each site; b) tacking between inter-site archaeological maps, census returns, other archival sources, and oral historical knowledge to infer populated geographic landscapes; c) using site photos and artifact inventories to (re)construct some missing site maps. Interpretive strands include dynamics of alienation / worker sovereignty, exigency / comfort, received wisdom / facts emerging from data, and a commitment to shining all possible light on the full, equal, inherent dignity of everyone who lived and worked at Longdale.

Metal Detecting At Speed

Lyle Browning, New River Valley Chapter

With the use of current unified Metal Detector Survey (MDS) systems, there are efficiencies of speed, identification and cost to be made. The demonstrated results are accurate mapping of individual artifact types, a reduction in cost and an increase in accuracy. A replacement of standard methodologies is probable. The entire venture is non-intrusive. No subsurface investigation unless it is desired. You get a map of artifacts and from the data processing, you can decide what to dig or not. For battlefield protection, this is a definite positive. The association with relic hunters has

stunted growth in the use of MDS technology that has thankfully largely been seen for what it was and eliminated.

The Blackwater Drainage System: a Preliminary Report, Analysis of Site Survey Reports
Anthony A. Burke, Col Howard McCord Chapter

This presentation includes analysis of a number of sites, periods represented by sites, lithics analysis, ceramics analysis, elevation/ distance from water source/ site description analysis and soil analysis.

The Double Cabins Site: Investigating Life at Red Hill's Quarter Place
Lucia Butler, Margaret Dudley, Peter Francisco/Patrick Henry's Red Hill

The Double Cabins site (44CP144) at Patrick Henry's Red Hill is marked by two sets of stone foundations. These are the remains of two 19th-century log cabins that once stood side-by-side on Red Hill's Quarter Place - a part of the plantation where the enslaved and, later, free African American community lived and worked. Few records exist to provide information on the cabins' construction or who lived in them, yet the available documentary evidence shows that they were used by sharecroppers as late as the 1940s. Through archaeological fieldwork, Red Hill sought to address questions about the time of construction, period of occupation, the material culture of Quarter Place residents, and the functions of the buildings and the space around them. In 2025, Red Hill's archaeological staff excavated the foundations of both cabins and conducted a metal detector survey of the surrounding area. Preliminary analysis of artifacts suggests that both cabins were used as domestic spaces and were likely occupied by families.

Bottomland Swamps, Bottomless Feasts: Archaeological Evidence of Feasting at the Hand Site
Taylor B. Callaway, Wake Forest University

In this paper, I consider the history of Native American feasting in the Woodland Tidewater through the archaeology of the Hand Site, a prominent political center located in southeastern Virginia. I discuss the ceramic, faunal, and floral remains of four feasting deposits at the site in order to explore how feasts were provisioned and when feasts were held across the Middle to Late Woodland. Working from this data, I stress the ways people come together during feasts by considering how feasting builds relationships through gift-giving, labor coordination, and engagements with plants and animals. Ultimately, this case study pushes us to consider how feasting was employed as a distinct mode of civic-ceremonial action in the region.

Poster:The Geocultural History of Brock's Gap, Virginia
Matilyn Carter*, James Madison University

The North Fork Shenandoah River watershed in Northwestern Rockingham County, Virginia is known to archaeologists for its dense Native American settlements. This project evaluated eight archaeological sites ranging in age from 10,000-500 years before present, to determine the use of lithic raw material, an indicator of hunter gatherer mobility and site type. Methods included cataloging curated collections made in the 1980s, field visits, and pedestrian surveys. The

analysis indicates a strong preference for local chert as tool stone, with different site types reinforcing a focus on the immediate Brock's Gap area.

Poster:Canine and GPR Survey of Forest Hills Park for Locating Unmarked Burials
Kathleen Connor, Massanutten Chapter

Canines have long been used as detection resources to locate drugs, explosives, and lost people, both live and deceased. Recently, canine detection and GPR (ground penetrating radar) have been combined to provide non-invasive tools for determining the location of unmarked burials. This is important due to the sensitivity of most of the these burials; ie enslaved people and Native Americans. With this poster, I will discuss the combined use of canine detection and GPR to locate unmarked burials at the Forest Hills Park in Richmond Virginia.

Archaeology in Fairfax County: A Retrospective
Elizabeth Crowell, Northern Virginia Chapter

The Fairfax County Archaeology program has been in existence since 1978 when it was established at the behest of the Fairfax County History Commission. Because of rampant development in Fairfax County, archaeological sites were being destroyed without being documented. The establishment of the County program in 1978 and the Park Authority program in 1987 allowed for the documentation of both pre-Contact and post 1607 archaeological sites. More than 3500 archaeological sites have been recorded in VCRIS. This paper will discuss the importance of the identification of these sites to our knowledge of Fairfax County's past.

Guide to Identifying Virginia Projectile Points: A Preview
Christopher Egghart and Judith Paulos

The presentation previews the *Guide to Identifying Virginia Projectile Points*. This work serves as a comprehensive reference source, the primary focus of which is to assist the reader/user in identifying the diverse array of arrow tips and spear points found throughout the Commonwealth. Emphasis is on visual depictions supported by brief descriptive analysis. Over one thousand individual points are illustrated in full color. These are presented in four main sections. The first consists of types commonly seen across the Commonwealth. A separate section presents point types found primarily in Southwest Virginia. The other two sections cover unusual and extra-regional types, and provisional point types. The latter consists of types and subtypes that have not been formally described in the regional literature. While the work is voluminously illustrated, an important chapter emphasizes the need to analyze point assemblages by considering a suite of attributes not just morphological outlines. Such a multi-attribute analysis, which is key to proper point type identification considers size, width to thickness ratio, material use, flaking process and reduction trajectory, the presence or absence of basal grinding/smoothing, and patterns of retouch and rejuvenation. The first edition of the work will be published in electronically downloadable format.

Using Geographic Information Systems for Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites
Yvonne French, Northern Virginia Chapter

Look under the hood of mapping software at prehistoric Jasper Ridge in Warren County and historic Gunston Hall in Fairfax County. At Jasper Ridge (44WR506), a possible summer base camp in the Flint Run Complex, you will see heat maps showing the distribution and density of artifacts from 20-foot-interval shovel test pits. At George Mason's Gunston Hall (44FX113), you will see LiDAR-derived 3D visualizations of the historic landscape showing two approaches to the mansion, and also experience a visual pun that Mason enjoyed showing visitors.

Poster:Last Picture Show at the Booker T Drive-In Theater
Richard Guercin and Vincent Guercin, Eastern Shore Chapter

For decades the remains of what is presumed to be Virginia's first African American drive-in theater slumbered in the woods of a quiet Roanoke County neighborhood. During this 60 plus year slumber, the only active disturbance occurred in the 1970's with the construction of a church which managed to impact only a small portion of the property. Today, the bull dozers have arrived and the remains that might have been documented through shovel test pits and mapping are obliterated. This poster discusses the value of paper documents, aerial maps, and other remote means to preserve what would have been left of the Book T drive-in.

Shopping Stories: Using Ledgers in an Archaeological Context
Molly Kerr, History Revealed, Inc.

Store ledgers detail a wealth of information about a community – describing people, places, objects, economies, politics, religion, events, etc. They often reveal insights into the lives of less recognized members of a community through their accounts and purchases made by and on behalf of them by others. The Shopping Stories Project is currently transcribing Colonial, Revolutionary, and Federal era store accounts from Alexandria, Virginia. Learn how these pages can be used by archaeologists to learn more about their discoveries and put excavation results into a broader community context.

The Archaeology of the Batts and Fallam Journey
Robert F. Maslowski, Council For West Virginia Archaeology

Traditional historians credit Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam with the discovery of the New River near the West Virginia/Virginia border. The most detailed analysis of the Batts and Fallam expedition was done by Briceland, who ended the Journey at Matewan, West Virginia. Briceland reconstructs the journey using the recorded distances and directions in the Fallam journal and plots them on topographic maps. The most recent interpretation of the Batts and Fallam expedition by Emrick ends the journey at Sandstone Falls on the New River. This paper uses Google Earth to compare the Briceland and Emrick Routes and ends the journey at Logan, West Virginia. Based on this interpretation, the Moneton Village visited by Gabriel Arthur was the Marmet site on the Kanawha River. This was the first documented European contact with a Fort Ancient village and establishes a Siouan presence in southern West Virginia.

Everhart Mill in Loudoun County
Patrick O'Neill, Northern Virginia Chapter

The Everhart Mill was established in the 1760s on Dutchman's Creek, 1/3 mile from the Potomac River. Once having both a grist mill and saw mill, the site sits on the floodplain of the creek with the stone house on an overlooking bluff. Owned and operated by the Everhart family for 120 years, the property also hosted a ford across the Potomac to Maryland. The mill area also contained a blacksmith shop and wagon repair facility. The ASV approved a research proposal where archaeology uncovered the mill foundation and mapped the races, roads, and mill pond areas, all still visible on the surface.

Saint's Hill Cabin and Mansion
Patrick O'Neill, Northern Virginia Chapter

Saint's Hill was part of the large Broad Run Tract of the Carter family in modern-day Fauquier County. The remains of a 1745 log house and nearby cemetery as well as an early 19th century brick mansion with a nearby large, stacked stone icehouse have been identified. Evidence also points to landscaping around the mansion that include features such as a possible lawn/garden, cut slope, and possible terracing, with fields all aligned on the same axis. This project has included students from the NOVA Community College as the Northern Virginia and Banshee Reeks chapters.

Burying the Poor: analyzing pauper gravestones and cemeteries
Lynn Rainville, Hidden History Group

One of the most overlooked graveyards are those associated with town poor farms. In this paper, I present data from dozens of cemeteries in Virginia which house the remains of 19th and 20th century paupers. These burial grounds contain the former residents of the Town Poor Farms (also referred to as Poorhouses). For hundreds of years, these institutions were found in communities across the country to care for impoverished citizens. This initial mission expanded greatly and resulted in a cross-section of residents who had been forgotten (or even sent to the farm) by their neighbors and relatives. These people included elderly slaves who were abandoned by their owners, town drunks, the aged and ill, “dissolute women,” orphans, the deaf and blind, and even criminals. Most of these folks were interred on site, in poor farm cemeteries. In this talk I will examine the material remnants from these indigent burials to illuminate a national pattern of attitudes towards the poor and the management of their deaths.

Backyard Birds: A Comparative Analysis of Articulated Chicken Skeletons Recovered from Yard Contexts in Williamsburg’s Historic Core
Eric Schweickart, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

In this paper, I will present the initial findings of a zooarchaeological analysis of the remains of 19 articulated chickens that have been found on archaeological sites in Williamsburg Virginia over the last three decades. Unlike other published examples of chicken burials, these remains were all recovered from features placed in the yards surrounding 18th and 19th century structures, rather than being placed within the footprints of the buildings. The purpose of this analysis is to create a

comparative dataset of the contexts where un-butchered chickens were deposited around 18th and 19th century structurers in order to help interpret the why these unusual features were created.

Ceramic Rehydroxylation Dating of Native American Earthenware from Tar Bay, Virginia
Christopher M. Stevenson, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

The method of ceramic rehydroxylation dating for earthenware ceramics converts the amount of hydroxyl (OH) that has diffused into the ceramic paste to time (years), using experimentally developed rates of rehydroxylation. Shallow pit firings of clay vessels used to make a durable ceramic drive out the OH from the clay crystalline structure and cause it to collapse. However, these firings only reach temperatures of 800-900oC, and as a result, not all the crystalline clay structure becomes amorphous. As such, the remaining crystalline structure can be reconstituted by OH diffusion into the ceramic after it has been discarded into the archaeological record. In this presentation, we will describe this process for the smectite family of clays and show how accelerated dehydroxylation and rehydroxylation methods can provide ages for Middle Woodland ceramics recovered from an archaeological site at Tar Bay, Virginia.

Session Abstracts

Recent Work and News Directions from the U.S. Forest Service

The Rest of The Story, -or- It's Not Just about the Projectile Points, The Identification of the Accompanying Paleo Tool Kit from 44SC095.
Mike Madden, USDA – U.S. Forest Service

In 2024-2025 a re-examination of the lithic artifacts retrieved from the 1991 Phase II testing of the Pine Bluff Lithic reduction site and quarry (44SC0094 & 44SC0095) was performed. This presentation is a review of the non-projectile point diagnostic artifacts pertaining especially to those found withing the paleolithic tool kit. Furthermore, the recovered artifacts will also reflect the frame of use of the quarry materials as paleo peoples entered the Middle to Late Paleo-Indian periods.

On the brink of war: Lasting questions and impacts of the Glen Wilton Virginia Ordnance Works' explosion.
Martha Mihich, USDA - US Forest Service

The Virginia Ordnance Works at Glen Wilton was in operation for only nine months before an explosion resulted in the facility closing. Only 85 years later, the impacts from this explosion make investigating the area with traditional archaeological methods dangerous. While a more recent element of Virginian history, more questions remain surrounding the Ordnance Works than are solved. Archaeological investigations involving Lidar and satellite imagery are potentially the only methods to answer lasting questions about the Ordnance Works. This presentation reviews the history of the Virginia Ordnance Works, and lidar and satellite imagery used to investigate it.

Getting lost in grey literature: What we miss when do not present to broader audiences.
Gabriella Reina Marcucci, USDA – US Forest Service

The definition of Grey Literature is generally agreed to be research created outside of the confines of conventional publishing and distribution networks. This incorporates reports, self-published works, field notes, theses, presentations, and much more information that often does meet bibliographic standards. Allowing for information to face problems with being accessed in person and online and allowing for gaps in knowledge about certain topics. This presentation will delve into the intricacies of grey literature within archaeology while exploring the Brown Mountain archaeological site located in George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

If a Tree Falls in the Woods: Salvage Archaeology in Southwest Virginia
David Kleppinger, USDA – US Forest Service

This presentation will go over the struggles of salvage archaeology in the mountains of Virginia after Hurricane Helene. Explaining the difficulties of this survey, from a physical, a light legal perspective, and the methodologies used on the ground. The salvage operation that we helped undertake was preparing for the harvesting of downed timber in order to lighten the potential fire hazards and allow the forest to start its regrowth efforts in the area. Over these last few months my

coworkers and I, working for the Appalachian Conservation Corps and the United States Forest Service, have been participating in the phase I archeological survey down in the Mt Rogers National Recreation Area and the Clinch Ranger District. I hope this presentation will shed a little light on the nuances of salvage archaeology in the mountains of Southwest Virginia.

Hardscrabble Homesteading: The High Elevation Sarver Cabin Tract
Genevieve Frissell, Forest Service Archaeologist

During a Section 106 Phase I pedestrian survey for the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests in Montgomery County, my colleagues and I came across the ruins of a known historic property - The Sarver Cabin. Positioned high above the Craig Creek Valley on the rocky side of Sinking Creek Mountain, this 19th-century hardscrabble homestead included a log cabin, log outbuildings, a springhouse, animal pens, and a family cemetery. Research showed that the cabin had previously been recorded architecturally, but that the site had never been recorded archaeologically. The buildings have since deteriorated significantly so that little standing structure remains. This presentation endeavors to describe the features of this site, compare them to those of other subsistence farms of the period, reveal the lifestyle of its inhabitants, and discuss why this location may have been chosen for a dwelling.

The Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit as Experimental Archaeology: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future

The Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit at Natural Bridge, Virginia, which educated thousands of visitors between 1999 and 2019, was designed and constructed based on information recovered from archaeological studies of Late Woodland/Contact Period Native American settlements in the upper James River Valley. The exhibit, encircled by a palisade and including replica *ati* and longhouse structures, work areas, and a garden, modeled Eastern Siouan Native American living spaces of the late 17th century. Encouraged by the Monacan Indian Nation and supported by Virginia State Parks, the 2023 removal of the exhibit provided the opportunity for a full-circle experience, with archaeologists documenting the experimental site with drone-mounted LiDAR and survey-grade mapping, excavation, and photography. The papers in this session describe the history of the project, the technologies used to document the exhibit, the results of the archaeological study, and the potential for a virtual recreation of the exhibit.

From the Ground Up: Reconstuctive Archaeology and the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit
Victoria Ferguson, Monacan Indian Nation and Virginia Tech

Reconstructing the Eastern Woodland Eastern Siouan Exhibit at Natural Bridge of Virginia was a complicated process. The key to understanding and reproducing the structures and palisades required intense study of the archaeological record, early artist depictions, written descriptions from the Late Woodland period, and working with the natural resources available. The process included studying every nuance recorded during archaeological digs from Virginia's Interior and using those observations for the reconstruction. This research describes the processes used in

building of the round house, longhouse, and palisade for the Monacan Indian Exhibit at Natural Bridge.

Cultural Resource Management and Tribal Engagement at Virginia State Parks
Lauren McMillan, Virginia State Parks

In 2023, Virginia State Parks launched a new programmatic area focused on cultural resource management. Many resource types and duties fall under the umbrella of the State Parks Cultural Resource Manager, including the management of 43 state parks' historic architecture, archaeological sites and collections, cemeteries, cultural landscapes, and museum collections. This new position also serves as the State Parks tribal liaison and works with interpretive staff on exhibits and programs focused on Indigenous history. One of the first major projects embarked on under this new program was the experimental archaeological and oral history study of the Monacan Indian Village at Natural Bridge State Park. This presentation will outline the new cultural resource program at Virginia State Parks and discuss the importance of this specific project within the system.

Karst in Context: Visualizing Virginia's Surface and Underground (and Applications for Archaeology)
Ángel A. García Jr., James Madison University

Karst is a distinctive landscape formed by the dissolution of soluble rocks, resulting in features such as caves, sinkholes, and underground rivers. Globally, karst covers approximately 17% of the Earth's ice-free surface and is a predominant physiographic feature in the Commonwealth of Virginia. At James Madison University (JMU), we utilize advanced visualization techniques to study karst environments, including UAV-based remote sensing with infrared, multispectral, and LiDAR capabilities, as well as handheld LiDAR systems equipped with Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) technology. This suite of instruments enables multidisciplinary collaborations that contextualize climate change research, support archaeological investigations, and enhance student learning through hands-on fieldwork and data analysis.

In this presentation, we discuss how the integration of these technologies—combined with ethnogeological approaches—contributes to a deeper understanding of karst systems and their broader significance. By merging technical innovation with ground-truthed research, we aim to foster community engagement and advance scientific inquiry at JMU.

A Different Kind of Experiment: Archaeological Studies of the Monacan Indian Living History
Carole Nash, James Madison University

The Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit, created at Natural Bridge in 1999, was based in part on archaeologically derived data from western Virginia Late Woodland sites inhabited by Eastern Siouan communities. The Buzzard Rock Site (44RN0002) in Roanoke, Virginia, provided a template and was supplemented with Monacan Indian Nation oral history and historical research into Contact Period trade settlements. Containing atis, a long house, palisade, garden, and work areas, the exhibit was an example of reconstructive archaeology. In March 2024, archaeologists from James Madison University sampled the exhibit as an archaeological site, bringing

archaeological methods to bear on feature excavations, mapping, and artifact analysis. This presentation is an overview of the archaeological bookend that allows us to compare a site with a recent and well-documented occupation history with one last occupied hundreds of years ago.

Virtual Recreation of the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit
Jessica Hernandez, Independnet Scholar

The dismantling of the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit at Natural Bridge, Virginia, in 2023 ended more than two decades of public interpretation based on archaeological evidence and oral traditions of Eastern Siouan lifeways. Its removal highlights the need for new approaches to preserve the knowledge gained through its construction and the cultural narratives it embodied.
This paper outlines plans for a Virtual Reality (VR) recreation of the exhibit. Drawing on LiDAR mapping, excavation records, and oral histories, we propose to employ Rhino and Unity to digitally reconstruct the village and animate aspects of daily life. Collaboration with the Monacan Indian Nation is central to this effort, ensuring cultural accuracy and appropriate representation.
By extending experimental archaeology into digital practice, the project seeks to create an accessible archive, safeguard Monacan heritage, and foster intergenerational dialogue through immersive technology.

Maritime Archaeology in Virginia

The Disappearing Dock: Industrial Heritage and Waterfront Transformation on the Eastern Shore
Kelly Wells, Sandra Ewell, and Paul Ewell. Maritime Heritage Chapter

Virginia's Eastern Shore has long been defined by its working waterfronts—dynamic hubs of commerce, community, and maritime industry. However, recent decades have witnessed a profound transformation, driven by economic pressures and shifting cultural values. This paper presents the findings of an extensive survey documenting the gentrification of these vital coastal spaces. Through comprehensive photographic documentation and site analysis, our research chronicles the systematic displacement of traditional maritime industries, with a particular focus on the impact on commercial fishing communities.
We examine the material culture of this transition: the changing face of new residential and tourism-focused construction supplanting the functional structures of the past. This process actively alters the industrial archaeological landscape, often erasing the tangible evidence of generations of maritime labor. The result is the creation of a curated and romanticized version of coastal life that caters to new residents and visitors, while simultaneously marginalizing the very industries that forged the region's identity. We argue that this ongoing transformation represents not just a socioeconomic shift, but a critical and rapid process of heritage erasure. Without recognition and intervention, the authentic industrial and logistical legacy of the Eastern Shore's working waterfronts is in danger of being permanently lost.

Full Steam Ahead: A Selection of Maritime Archaeological Projects Conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

Ethan Bean. Maritime Heritage Chapter/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

One component of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) mission includes dredging and maintaining navigational channels and material placement areas within the Chesapeake Bay. As part of these operational activities, the USACE maintains compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act through consultation, survey, and documentation. This presentation highlights two USACE projects, separated temporally and geographically, that resulted in the documentation of the steamship Columbus (18ST625) in St. Mary's County, Maryland and the steam yacht Polynia (44MT0184) in Matthews County, Virginia.

Five Days in July 1862: James F. Gibson on the Men-of-War Galena, Monitor, and Teaser

Taft Kiser. Maritime Heritage Chapter

On Virginia's James River, July 4, 1862, the ultra-secret Confederate Navy Submarine Battery Service committed a classic textbook blunder. The unit made the tug Teaser its floating headquarters and while using her as an aircraft carrier they allowed her to drift aground off Turkey Island. Grabbed by U.S.S. Maratanza, Teaser gave up secret materials ranging from experimental weapons like "the silk-dress balloon" to engineering plans for the Richmond defenses, and even a letter from Hunter Davidson's wife asking him to return the tin she had borrowed to send him fried chicken. Ashore, the Seven Days Battles had just passed and MG George McClellan was consolidating the U.S. Army at Harrison's Landing, below City Point. The Navy had its men-of-war arrayed between Eppes Island and Jordan's Point, roughly at the modern Benjamin Harrison Bridge, and Maratanza dropped her prize near the line's ironclad anchor, U.S.S. Monitor. James Gibson – helping invent photojournalism - found the vessels irresistible and lied to get aboard. He shot at least 13 plates, a group most famous for including the only-known photographs of "the old cheesebox," Monitor. Attempting to interpret the internal evidence, this paper proposes a reconstruction of Gibson's sequence. Previously unknown details are noted, such as some of the earliest-documented hexagonal nuts on the North American continent.

Going Down the River: Volunteer Investigations at a Potential Ferry Shipwreck in the Pamunkey River

Adam Parker. Maritime Heritage Chapter/AECOM

In the Summer of 2023, members of the Archaeological Society of Virginia Maritime Heritage Chapter documented the remains of a potential ferry shipwreck at Elsing Green Plantation. The shipwreck is located along the plantation shoreline shallows and is partially buried. Conditions on site provided volunteers with ideal conditions for documenting the vessel remains, resulting in the creation of a full site map. Research into the shipwreck has provided evidence of the crucial role ferries and barges played in the initial colonization of Virginia up to Reconstruction. While the ferry shipwreck is unidentified, the research and documentation of the site offers the chance to place emphasis on every day working vessels and their place in both Virginian and American maritime history.

Results from the 2024 Threatened Site Survey of the Pamunkey River

William Waldrop. Maritime Heritage Chapter

In August of 2024, the Archaeological Society of Virginia was awarded a Threatened Sites Grant from the State of Virginia to conduct a remote sensing survey of the Pamunkey River from Williams Landing continuing downriver to just beyond Sweet Hall landing. This survey was undertaken by the members of the Maritime Heritage Chapter. Josh Daniel of Seafloor Solutions based in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland would conduct the first part of the survey using his Edge Tech 4125 Side Scan sonar as well as his Geo Metrics magnetometer. Several weeks later, Brian Abbott of Abbott Underwater Acoustics based in Haslett, Michigan, conducted the second half of the survey using his Kongsberg Mesotech 1,000 Sector Scanner on the numerous shipwrecks and other anomalies initially found and scanned by Mr. Daniel.

The purpose of this presentation is to show the results from this survey as well as identifying a mystery that exists regarding a shipwreck called the Logan. This vessel was scuttled about 11 miles above Williams Landing during McClellan's Peninsula campaign in May of 1862. However, a Corps of Engineers map from 1896 shows a wreck labelled the Logan nearly 20 miles further down river. This wreck may very well prove to be the largest wreck in the Pamunkey River. Further investigation and research is warranted to solve this mystery.

Survey of a Dugout Canoe from the Chickahominy River Marsh, Charles City County, VA

Robert Hayes. Maritime Heritage Chapter/Institute of Nautical Archaeology

In January 2012 a Charles City County farmer discovered approximately 4 feet of a dugout canoe protruding through the mud at low tide in a feeder marsh creek of the Chickahominy River near the dock on his property. The dugout canoe was removed by the farmer and placed in a small pond owned by a relative living adjacent to his farm. Approximately one year later members of the Virginia Maritime Heritage Society and Conservation Association, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and Spritsail Enterprises removed the canoe from the pond for an initial survey and photographs, and re-sunk the canoe until further disposition could be determined. In early August 2020 the Mid-Atlantic Logboat Registry (MALR) Team contacted the farmer and found out that the canoe was still submerged in the pond. In Mid-August the MALR Team, along with members of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (JYF), removed the canoe from the pond to perform a more detailed survey and analysis, and determine if it was an artifact of significance for preservation. The canoe is slightly over 13 feet in length with a maximum width of 25 inches and a maximum depth of 12 inches. It is about 90% intact. It is of single-log construction, most likely from a young cypress tree. The hull is shaped with a noticeable rocker keel, with the bow and stern demonstrating the rocker from a profile view. Unique features of the canoe include: a flattened and carved out "platform" on the blocked, square-ended stern; holes through the center of the bow and stern, packed with what appears to be fabric netting material; holes in the bottom of the hull that may have been for the builder to determine thickness of hull at various stages, and later plugged; nails along the length of the canoe's port and starboard sides/gunwales (inside and outside); outlines indicating the possible location of interior ribs; and, construction marks that appear to be made from iron tools. All characteristics indicate the canoe is of post-European contact construction. The canoe is light-weight, even when waterlogged, and can easily be moved and lifted by two people. Based on the canoe's characteristics, and comparison with similar canoes documented in the registry, this presentation will discuss the possible origins of the canoe, how it

may have been built and modified over time for specific uses, the status (to date) of preservation activities, and areas for further research and study.

Late Woodland Siouan-Speakers Along the Roanoke (Staunton) River: Ceramics, Radiocarbon Dating, Archaeozoology, and Cultural Interpretation

Major advances in the understanding of the Eastern Siouan-Speakers has been on-going by the Longwood Institute of Archaeology for over 20 years. Beginning with the long-term excavation of the Late Woodland Wade site village (44CH0062) in Charlotte County, Virginia, recent studies have placed an emphasis on a more regional approach. Embracing a collaborative framework, much new data has been generated by recent excavations at the Sanders (44HA0375) and the Burton (44HA0451) Sites located on the Ward Burton Wildlife Preserve in The Cove, a tight horseshoe meander on the Staunton River. Comparative studies have included data from Siouan sites beyond Virginia's Southern Piedmont and into the headwaters of the Roanoke River, west of the Blue Ridge as well as Algonkian and Mississippian counterparts.

Radiocarbon Dates from the Staunton River Valley: A Longitudinal Perspective
Brian D. Bates, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

During 24 seasons of field research, the Longwood Institute of Archaeology (IoA) ran 39 radiocarbon dates from features at the Wade site (44CH62) located along the banks of the Staunton River in Charlotte County. This project involved the Sappony Indians as valued partners. More recently, the IoA has collaborated with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation (WBWF) and the Sappony, surveying and excavating sites located at The Cove on the Halifax County side of the Staunton River between 10 and 14 miles upriver from the Wade site. In 2025, two radiocarbon dates were run for the Sanders Site (44HA375) and two were run for the Burton Site (44HA451), both located at The Cove. This paper examines the radiocarbon data from all three sites and explores how this information informs our understanding of the Sappony Indian occupation of this region in the Late Woodland.

I have a Bone to Pick with You: Zooarchaeological Evidence from the Burton site (44HA0451) and the Wade site (44CH0062)
Madilyn Bottomley and Hanna Gordon, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

In the summer of 2025, the Longwood Institute of Archaeology (IoA) conducted the first excavation at the Burton site (44HA451), following the sites discovery by the IoA team earlier in 2025. Noteworthy during this work was the presence of large quantities of animal bone marking this site as similar to the Wade site (44CH62) located 14 miles downriver. This paper will examine the zooarchaeological data from the Burton site and compare it to that from Wade and what this material tells us about these two important southern Piedmont sites.

The Cove Archaeological Project: A Collaboration
Emily Ault and Cassidy Wade, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

The Cove is term that refers to a large, sharp bend in the Staunton River and to the nearly 3,000 acres of land located in Halifax County on the south side of the river that is owned by the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation (WBWF). The Longwood Institute of Archaeology (IoA) and WBWF have a longstanding collaborative relationship that includes the Sappony Indians and, more recently, the Federally-recognized tribes in Virginia. Notable among the sites located through this project are the Sanders site (44HA0375) that was the subject of field investigations in 2022-2024 and the newly-identified Burton site (44HA0451) that was the focus of the 2025 Longwood Archaeology Field School. This paper discusses the work at the Sanders and Burton sites and, more broadly, the collaboration between the IoA, WBWF, and the Sappony Indians that has contributed to greater understanding of the prehistoric past of this part of the state.

Taxonomy Smackdown: Dan River Series vs "Clarksville Series"
Margaret Dudley, Savannah Hall and Saverio Lombardo, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

This study analyzes two ceramic series: the Dan River and Clarksville series; both of which can be found extensively throughout Southern Virginia. Previous literature reveals a discourse between lumpers - those who believe they are not distinct series; and, splitters - those who believe they are distinct series. We compared rim sherds recovered from excavations on the Wade Site and Sanders Site against Paul Gardner's 1980 Dan River Series definition, and Clifford Evan's 1955 Clarksville Series definition. This paper explores whether the definitions of both series are accurate and, ultimately, if these are two distinct ceramic series.

Ceramic Pipe Analysis of the Wade and Sanders Site Collections
Lily Boysworth, Devin Edwards, and Thomas Wiles, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

In the southern Piedmont of Virginia there are typically 3 types of prehistoric ceramic pipes found on archaeological sites: Dan River, Potomac Creek, and Mississippian. The Longwood Institute of Archeology has been researching the significance of intercultural exchange at the Wade (44CH0062) and Sanders (44HA375) Sites. The goal of this project is to analyze the ceramic pipes found at these two sites and group them by typology to better understand the ratio between them. It was expected that the Dan River typology would be the dominant group due to the site being occupied by Dan River people groups. This paper explores the results of this research

Revisiting the Archaeology of the Shannon Site (44MY0008), Montgomery County, Virginia: Data to be Mined
Michael B. Barber, Ph.D., RPA, Longwood Institute of Archaeology

Under the auspices of the Virginia State Library, the Shannon Site, a Late Woodland Palisaded Village in Virginia's Ridge and Valley, was excavated prior to total destruction by the construction of a golf course. The excavation took place in 1968 and the report written the following year (Benthall 1969). The report is a classic in the annals of Virginia Archaeology with the data included an exemplary example of field and analytical precision. Over the years, I have mined the

report for data through studies of the faunal utilization system, clan affiliation, site population, dates of occupation, distribution of exotica, long-distant trade, and the evolution of palisaded villages in Southwestern Virginia. This paper summarizes the increased understanding of the site.

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The Chesapeake Chronology Consortium: A Case for Radiocarbon Dating and Evaluating Historical Narratives

In recent decades, archaeologists have become increasingly focused on developing new chronologies for historical processes and re-evaluating traditional narratives. At varying scales, researchers have sought to clarify our understanding of time by generating large numbers of new radiocarbon dates and applying sophisticated statistical techniques to create precise chronological models. In this session, we aim to bring together archaeologists from around Virginia and adjacent areas to focus on updating our understanding of the ancient past of the region. We showcase projects with an element focused on chronology to not only highlight current research but also to make a case for the need to emphasize absolute dating in the state. Papers point toward the usefulness and need of intensive radiocarbon dating, as well as unpack how archaeologists can collaborate with each other and with Indigenous partners to develop research questions and projects which can address the shared interests of scholars and stakeholders. The aim of this session is to provide a forum for sharing ideas and techniques and to focus on an important thread in precolonial archaeology.

Explanation of the Chesapeake Chronology Consortium

Martin D. Gallivan, William & Mary

The Patawomeke Chronology Project

John Henshaw, Martin Gallivan, and Brad Hatch, William & Mary

In 2023, the Chesapeake Archaeology Lab began generating new radiocarbon dates for Late Woodland period sites along the Potomac River. Using Bayesian chronological models, this research sought to create more precise estimates for occupation histories throughout the drainage. A major part of this research is the identification of significant sites which could contribute to regional narratives for the centuries preceding the European invasion of the continent. The Potomac Creek site, the ancestral village of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia and the predecessor of the historically known town of Patawomeke, provided a perfect site for this project and an opportunity to develop a model for engaged archaeology in the Chesapeake. This paper presents techniques for chronological modelling alongside the process of aligning archaeological research projects with the interests and questions most significant for descendant communities. The goal of this project is to both investigate a site with a compelling history and create a process for ethical engagement with Indigenous stakeholders in the modern research landscape.

Building Chronologies, Building Communities: A Social Network Approach to Life Along the Mississippian Frontier in the Cumberland Gap
C. Zoe Doubles, University of Illinois, Brandon T. Ritchison, University of Illinois, Maureen S. Meyers, New South Associates

Within the Cumberland Gap region of Virginia, what is known about settlement and interaction is based on dated archaeological surveys (Holland 1970; Webb 1938), ceramic typologies (Egloff 1987), and summations of settlements across three states, all with varying degrees of site excavation and radiocarbon dating (Jefferies et al 1996; Jefferies 2001). There is a great need for more work in this region of Virginia, both to inform migration and trade narratives of the pre-contact and early contact past and how communities related to one another more directly. This paper presents current work involving extant radiocarbon data from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia to reconstruct narratives of migration and settlement to determine the contemporaneity of sites. This chronological model can then be used to infer interactions between sites and settlements via trade or other forms of relations – kinship, marriage, etc.- and allows for different approach to Social Network Analysis that ensures greater specificity than material typologies, both ceramic and lithic.

Ceramic Seriations in the Late Woodland Potomac-Shenandoah Drainage
Sydney Tamsett, William & Mary, and John Henshaw, William & Mary

As new radiocarbon dates and chronological modelling techniques become available in Chesapeake archaeology, it has become increasingly apparent that traditional narratives and assumptions in the region need to be empirically tested and sometimes challenged. Recent efforts have demonstrated that some existing models do not align with the most recent data but persist in the archaeological literature. In this paper, we test the seriation of several key ceramic types in the Potomac-Shenandoah Drainage using Bayesian chronological modelling and a suite of new radiocarbon dates. This stage of the Potomac Chronology Project initiated by the Chesapeake Archaeology Lab is the needed step of evaluating the underlying assumptions that guide our interpretations of the Late Woodland period.

Timing the Chesapeake 'Oyster Revolution': Bayesian Modeling of Shell Midden Chronology
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Around AD 200, many Chesapeake communities shifted toward estuarine lifeways, marked by intensified use of aquatic resources, the establishment of dense shell midden sites, and the widespread adoption of oyster shell-tempered ceramics. We term this transformation the "oyster revolution," though participation varied, with some groups maintaining upland mobility and sand-tempered pottery traditions. Whether this shift occurred rapidly or gradually remains unclear, partly due to the lack of a regional chronological framework. This paper presents the first systematic compilation and Bayesian modeling of radiocarbon dates from Chesapeake shell midden sites, integrating site distribution mapping to identify temporal patterns and gaps in current knowledge. Our analysis provides a foundation for evaluating the pace and scope of the "oyster

revolution," establishing priorities for future dating efforts, and advancing collaborative research with descendant and tribal communities.

Environmental Histories in the Chesapeake: Aligning Site Histories with Ancient Droughts in the Potomac River Drainage
Madelena DiFabio, William & Mary, and John Henshaw, William & Mary

The Chesapeake region is often excluded from environmental histories of the Eastern Woodlands, particularly for the Southeast. However, this is largely due to a lack of engagement with the nuances of the differences between the Chesapeake, with its unique position relative to the Appalachian Mountain and coastal ocean currents, and surrounding regions. Furthermore, there needs to be much more robust engagement with site chronologies and their association with much more temporally precise histories of drought. In this paper, we align existing site occupation models with more precise datasets for historic precipitation to assess the role of drought in the developments of specific communities within the Late Woodland period. Our objective is to consider the differences in precision between radiocarbon-based occupation models and tree ring-based drought data to develop a model for exploring environmental chronologies.

Reconstructing Chronology from Plow Disturbed Deposits: A Case Study from the Cuttatawomen Site (44KG0006)
Julia A. King, St. Mary's College of Maryland

How does one address interpreting chronology in plow-disturbed soils? This paper invites suggestions for techniques with the potential to open up far more assemblages for analysis. Specifically, the Rappahannock Indigenous Cultural Landscape project uses large-area archaeological survey and legacy collections to document and interpret ancient (past) landscapes in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Methodology consists of shovel testing, test units, artifact analysis, a variety of mapping technologies, documentary research, and oral history, but rarely the excavation of sealed feature or midden deposits suitable for radiocarbon dating. I share an example of how we have built a chronology for a legacy collection from the Cuttatawomen Site (DeShazo, 44KG0006) using formal typologies, horizontal stratigraphy, and relative dating (seriation) and solicit your feedback, minor and major, for feedback.

Cordage Twist and Chronology: A Potomac Case Study
Molly Morgan, William & Mary, Liam Painter, William & Mary, and John Henshaw, William & Mary

Recent research in the Chesapeake Archaeology Lab has focused on communities of practice evident in patterns of surface treatment on ceramic vessels. Cordage twist presents one such practice which is particularly relevant for the Potomac region. Most Late Woodland ceramics throughout the Potomac drainage were decorated with cordage impressions. These impressions now give archaeologists a signal of relationships which emerged between different cultural groups throughout the Late Woodland. In this paper, we consider new cordage twist data along with updated radiocarbon assays to evaluate the patterns of interaction and exchange which characterized the closing centuries of the Late Woodland Period.