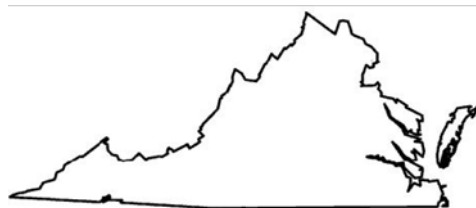




**Newsletter  
of the  
*Archeological  
Society of Virginia***

**September 2007  
Number 186**



**The mission of the  
*Archeological Society  
of Virginia*  
is to promote the archaeology  
& anthropology of  
Virginia & adjacent regions**

*From the Desk of President Mike Wilke*

It is early August here in Highland and quite humid from what has become a wet summer. I returned from two weeks at Keyser Farm several days ago and should be enjoying the cooler temperatures but the humidity is definitely trumping the thermometer.

The final season at the Keyser Farm Complex (KFC) was bittersweet since I was not quite able to fully finish the major feature that I and my fellow excavators over the past three years have been working on since its discovery in 2004. Typical of KFC, several other interconnected pits were located above the feature that had to be investigated before focusing on the main one in 2006. I headed home Sunday morning knowing that Ally and Jon would finish it up with the help of Dr. Michael B. Barber (MBB). To quote MBB, "I drew the final plan and profiles in the drone and threat of the backhoe."



ASV President Mike Wilke is well prepared for a day at Keyser Farm.

Attendance at the field school was good with a number of familiar faces playing in the dirt as well as many new ones from many states including North Carolina, Maine, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas. It was a pleasure seeing those who have become regulars at the various digs that I have taken part in over the past seven years.

Those regulars who did not attend this year were missed. It was great to see Kathleen Baker at the site on the final Saturday despite her health issues.



ASV President Mike Wilke hard at work at Keyser Farm.

Outreach was limited to one day this year since space was limited and the excavations had to be completed in only two weeks. However, a group of Boy Scouts from Richmond along with two eight year old students from Highland County were able to attend and get some hands-on experience at the dig. As those who have seen my Chapter presentation know, I am a strong advocate of outreach especially to children. They are after all the future of archaeology and if each Chapter could develop an interest in this field in just one child per year, the study of the past will thrive. In addition, the opportunity to develop an awareness of our buried past could save sites that would otherwise be lost.

All three volumes of the 2007 Trilogy are now available. If you have not done so yet, contact Royce McNeal or Harry Jaeger to

get a stock of the books for resale. We must get our publications out where they can be sold. If people don't see them they can't buy them.

I have had the pleasure of bringing my message to the Nansemond Chapter in Portsmouth, the Wolf Hills Chapter in Abingdon, the New River Valley Chapter in Blacksburg, the Upper James River Chapter in Lexington, and the Northern Shenandoah Chapter in Stephens City. I thank each of you for your hospitality and the opportunity to meet with you. I will be visiting the Northern Virginia Chapter in September and the Massanutten Chapter in October.

Make your plans now to join with fellow ASV members October 11th - 14th for the Annual Meeting in Williamsburg. October will be a busy month with the excavations at Battersea Villa in Petersburg and Chippokes Plantation near Surry scheduled during the month.

I have received several responses to date from the questionnaire included with the last issue of the Quarterly Bulletin. I am excited about the experience and skill sets that have been offered to better your Society. Keep them coming, and remember.... **YOU Are the ASV.**



ASV volunteers young and old helped at Keyser Farm.

## From the Office of State Archaeology

by Mike Barber, State Archaeologist  
(Note, adapted by the editor from ASV Board meeting notes)

### Keyser Farm excavations

The Keyser Farm excavations sponsored by the USDA-Forest Service, Archeological Society of Virginia, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and The Council of Virginia Archaeologists were scheduled this year from Monday, July 23, 2007 to Sunday, August 5, 2007. This will likely be the last year for work at Keyser Farm since the current needs of the research design will be completed. The fourth year (2006) excavation data has giving a clear picture of two occupations of the site, the first at ca. AD 1430 and the second at ca. AD 1570 - 1600, both marked by a heavy utilization of shell-tempered Keyser ceramics. The larger pits (5' -6' diameter) seem to be early with smaller pits (2.5'-3.0') later. Faunal material demonstrates a very heavy emphasis on white-tailed deer with bone tools still dominated by deer cannon bone beamers pointing to involvement in the deer skin trade.

Although it was earlier hypothesized that some of the shell disk beads were being manufactured on-site, mussel shell residue with drilled holes was recovered last season thus confirming the industry. The focus this season was to finish the excavation of some of the pits while gathering soil samples for phytolith analysis and stone tools for the study of starch.

### Chippokes State Park, Surry County, Survey and Testing Project

A survey and testing project is planned for Chippokes Sate Park from October 29 to November 3, 2007 in conjunction with Virginia's Archaeology Month. Randy Turner and Mike Barber met with Park Superintendent Danette Poole and the park enthusiastically supports the project. As a part of the program, certification lectures will be presented and local sites such as Chippokes, Bacon's Castle, and Jamestown will be toured. The current research design calls for the initial testing of two Woodland Period sites. As the park contains a multitude of archaeological resources dating from prehistory through the twentieth century, this testing regime could develop into a long-term endeavor. If interested, please contact [mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov) and sign up.



An ASV volunteer excavates a large feature at Keyser Farm.



# The McCary Fluted Point Survey: The End of an Era

Michael B. Barber, State Archaeologist  
Edward Bottoms, Member, ASV Board of Directors

Based on a recommendation made by the Archeological Society of Virginia Fluted Point Survey Committee, the ASV Executive Board voted unanimously to end the publication of the McCary Fluted Point Survey in the Quarterly Bulletin. This brings to an end an important chapter in ASV history as, soon after the Society was founded, Dr. Ben McCary initiated the survey of fluted points found in Virginia. It was in 1942 that the Virginia Relic Collector's Club became the Archeological Society of Virginia with the first publication of fluted points in 1946. In fact, it was so early in the understanding of the Paleoindian Period that Dr. Ben, at first, referred to all fluted points as Folsom. So it is with great regret, that after 71 years, it was recommended that the participation in the survey by the ASV be ended.



One of these points is fake and the other is real. Which is which? The answer is on the last page of the newsletter.

This action was not to be taken lightly. It was with much deliberation and discussion that the recommendation was made based on the four following points:

- 1) Point Authenticity: With the advent of the internet and the increased traffic in artifact sales, the prices for lithic artifacts have skyrocketed. Along with increased sales and profit margin, a concomitant increased production of stone tool fakes has proliferated. And, with the fluted points being the most expensive, fluted point fakes are ubiquitous. Coupled with chemical patination, such points are often impossible to differentiate from real points. In some cases, the inclusion of a point within the McCary survey has acted as a positive sanction increasing the value of a point which may not be of Paleoindian origin. Hence, the possibility of fakes entering the McCary Survey is a very real possibility.
- 2) Provenience: The provenience of the points is often indicated by the owner. As the precise location of a fluted point increases its value, vested interest can play a role in an owner's provenience designation. As such, many places of origin are suspect. Hence, the precise location of origin of some of the points remains in question.

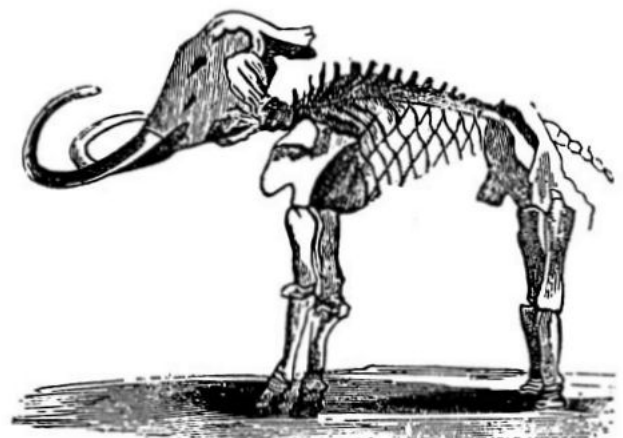
### *The McCary Fluted Point Survey continued*

- 3) Adequate Database: The McCary survey currently has more than one thousand points within the database. Statistically, 1000 points is adequate for most manipulations. It should also be pointed out that the thousand points, for the most part, were recorded during "simpler" times when Dr. Ben controlled for chicanery with first-hand knowledge and familiarity with the owner/collectors. Hence, the authenticity and provenience of the earlier compilation can be more heavily relied upon.
- 4) Lack of Control by ASV: The Archeological Society of Virginia has no control whatsoever over what is included within the survey. It has been underscored over the last several years that the survey is not owned, controlled, or reviewed by the ASV. As such, points included have not been sanctioned by the Society. As was pointed out by the committee, much disagreement has arisen concerning the inclusion of some debatable points within the survey. In some cases, the inclusion of a point within the McCary survey has acted as a positive sanction increasing the value of a point which may not be of Paleoindian origin. Hence, some points may have been included in the survey which many may not have agreed were of the Paleoindian time period.

Again, with much regret, the ASV Executive Board has unanimously supported a motion that the publication of the McCary Fluted Point Survey not continue in the Quarterly Bulletin. This is not to say that the inclusion of articles on the Paleoindian time period or articles on fluted points will not continue, only that the McCary Fluted Point Survey will not. To that end, the Fluted Point Survey Committee was thanked for its good work and dissolved.

#### ➤ Speaking of Paleoindian Points...

The *Washington Post* reported on August 16 that archaeologists working at the Freedmen's Cemetery site in Alexandria, Virginia, found a Clovis point with its tip missing, probably representing a break during manufacture according to Fairfax County archaeologist Mike Johnson. Francine Bromberg of Alexandria Archaeology noted that American Indians used the Freedmen's Cemetery site from around 13,000 to 400 years ago. The site gets its name from the fact that 1,800 former enslaved African Americans were buried at this location in the 1860s.



The Mammoth.

## Refurbishing Kittiewan: An Update

Submitted by: Martha Williams [ASV Life Member, ASV Board Member, Kittiewan Committee member, resident of North Carolina, and (at 67) still capable of pulling brush out of trees!]

At Kittiewan Plantation, the pace has been sustained, even in the summer heat. Following last spring's successful (pre-timber sale) Phase I archeological survey led by Patrick O'Neill, volunteers, and certification "enrollees," efforts are now concentrated on getting the plantation house and grounds ready for the first real public showing during Westover Church's Autumn Heritage Days on September 29. Harry and Shirley Jaeger, on-site ASV representative Royce McNeal, members of the Kittiewan Committee, and local/regional ASV chapter members (and as many family members and friends as could be cajoled into helping) have donated countless hours-gratis--to such tasks as evaluating and culling the numerous books left in the house, stripping linoleum to expose original wide-board flooring, arranging rooms with more appropriate furniture, and tearing away the dense



overgrowth that has hidden mature boxwoods, azaleas, crape myrtles and camellias around the house. Not glamorous-but absolutely necessary.

Such volunteer efforts and hours provide matching "sweat equity" that will help when we apply for grants to cover costs of major repairs like replacing the roof in an historically appropriate manner, installing French drains around the house foundation, and repairing water-damaged plaster walls.

As stewards of cultural resources, ASV members need to be concerned, not only about digging for artifacts and features below the ground, but also about the well-being and future of THE SOCIETY'S OWN NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY-KITTEIWAN. Of course, the commitment requires financial support, but it requires even more a commitment of personal time and involvement. We have jobs for everybody-and we need your help!



The next scheduled volunteer work days will be from Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22; docents also are needed for the "grand opening" to guide visitors through the house on September 29. To find out how you can help to preserve, maintain, and interpret OUR VERY OWN HISTORIC HOUSE, call Harry Jaeger (804-273-9291).

## ASV Board Election



At this fall's annual meeting in Williamsburg, ASV members will have the opportunity to elect a new member of the ASV Board of Directors. Nominees include Bruce Baker, David Brown, and David Rotenizer. Below are some words from each candidate to help you make your choice. Remember to **VOTE!**

### **Bruce Baker**

I have been a member of the ASV for about twenty years. I am a Past President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Richmond Chapter. I am also a graduate of the Certification Program and Co-Chair of the Certification Committee. I have been on the Executive Board from 2005-2007.

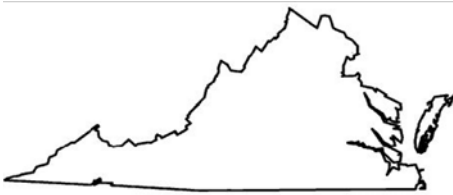
### **David Brown**

It would be an honor to serve on the board of the Archaeological Society of Virginia. Since becoming a member as a sophomore at the College of William and Mary in 1994, I have always held in great regard the society's efforts to promote archaeology, encourage public participation, and publish quality research in Virginia. As a board member, my goals would be to strengthen these efforts, support the continued growth of the society, and encourage continued support for cooperation between Virginia's professionals and avocational archaeologists through shared field and research experiences.

### **David E. Rotenizer**

BGS Radford University with concentration in Appalachian Heritage Resources. Lambda Alpha (Anthropology Honors Society). ASV Member since 1979. President Blue Ridge Plateau Chapter, former President New River Valley Chapter Chairman ASV Marketing Committee. Former Chairman ASV Excavation and Site Survey Committees. Coordinated Southwest Virginia Archaeology Month Activities (1997-2003) and 1985/1987 ASV Annual Meetings. ASV Amateur of the Year (2002), Preservation Alliance of Virginia Historic Preservation Award (2003), DHR Volunteer Recognition Awards for recording over 500 archaeological sites (1985-1987). Archaeological/Historic Preservation Employment 1982-1999 (full-time 1988-1999) - worked on over 250 projects in nine Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic states. Material published in ASV QB and Tennessee Anthropologist. Nine years employment in Tourism and Community/Economic Development with Virginia local governments. Currently Director of Tourism with the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development





# ASV Archaeology Around Virginia

---

## Keyser Farm 2007: Special Photographic Essay

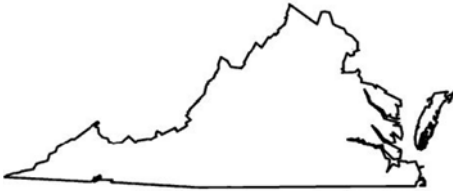


The newsletter editor (shown here on the right, with Carole Nash on the left) had the great fortune to see the excellent work conducted at the Keyser Farm site this year. Included on this page and the next (and elsewhere in the newsletter) are photographs documenting just one day of this important work. The newsletter editor also conducted some oral history interviews, but time and space preclude their inclusion here. Look for more photographs and excerpts from these oral history interviews in future editions of the newsletter. The Keyser Farm crew has accomplished many great things and are a testament to the strength of Virginia archaeology. All who worked on the project are to be commended for their efforts in uncovering this important aspect of Virginia's past.

---

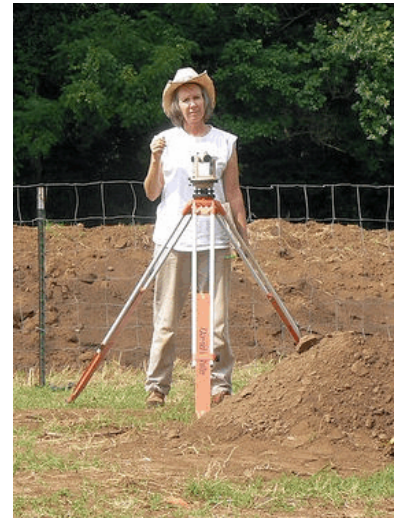






# ASV Archaeology Around Virginia

Keyser  
Photographic  
Essay  
Continued





## The Highlands Chapter

Submitted by Mike Wilkie

The Highlands Chapter meets bimonthly at the Highland County Public Library in Monterey. Speakers with a focus on the Uplands in 2007 have been featured to date including Carole Nash speaking on Native American archaeology in the

uplands, Bob Jolley on French and Indian War forts including Fort George located in Highland County, Hunter Lesser on Civil War Camp Allegheny across the state border in West Virginia, and Clarence Geier on Civil War Fort Edward Johnson atop Shenandoah Mountain. The September meeting will feature Dean Ferguson discussing the Monacan living history display at Natural Bridge and his wife Victoria who will describe the traditions and everyday lives of her people.



Nineteen students took part in the first dig day with members of the HCASV providing guidance.

The Chapter has also partnered with Virginia Extension agent Christine Hodges to provide an outreach opportunity for students at the former Ashwood School in Ashwood located south of Hot Springs. This activity features the excavation of a trash pile dating hopefully to 1908 when the school was built to 1969 when it was closed. The project is under the guidance of Dr. Mike Barber, State Archaeologist. One day of this ongoing effort has been spent at this site with another scheduled for September.

## Northern Virginia Chapter

Adapted from the chapter newsletter *The Datum Point*

Chapter member Martha Williams finally retired (again). Martha taught History for Fairfax County at Marshall High School. Then, after retiring, she turned her passion for archaeology into a second career. After many years with a local CRM firm, she has retired for real – down to North Carolina, no less! Martha lives near Virginia Beach, so we shouldn't be surprised to see her at various Southern Virginia events. If you want to contact Martha, she can be reached at: 252-426-3734 or [mwilliamslonomo@aol.com](mailto:mwilliamslonomo@aol.com). [Editor's note: don't miss the story by Martha Williams on page 6]

In June, about 20 members took a wonderful tour with Pam Cressey of the Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery and Alexandria's National Cemetery. Steven Shephard also provided a detailed tour of the dig with explanations of the findings. August 11th is the last day the Freedmen's Cemetery will be open for tours (2 – 3pm). [Editor's note, part 2: for a recent major find at Freedmen's Cemetery see page 5]



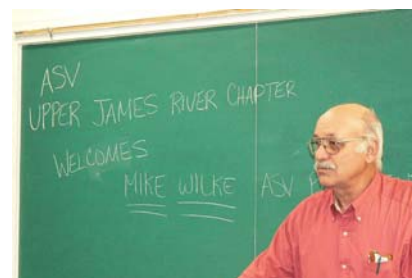


## Upper James River Chapter

Adapted from the chapter newsletter

On June 18th, ASV President Mike Wilke spoke to the Upper James River Chapter on the future of the ASV and the important role played by the local chapters within the state organization. Mr. Wilke offered suggestions on building membership, raising public awareness of

archaeology, fostering educational opportunities, and encouraging chapter interaction with local communities. President Wilke stressed the importance of keeping chapters active and supporting member involvement. The Upper James River Chapter wishes to thank Mr. Wilke for his leadership and initiative in our Chapter and in the State organization!



## The Wolf Hills Chapter

Adapted from the chapter newsletter *Points of Interest*

We've got it going on. We've had a successful rummage sale. Members have taken programs into the community and traveled to the Southwest for an archaeological meeting. Two attended a West Virginia lithics workshop. We have a new life member among us. A dig is coming up. After he visited with us in May, ASV President Mike Wilke told me he was surprised by how far it was to Abingdon. I replied that the distance does play some role in determining our



From left, Charlie Bartlett, Gail Adams, Joel Rosen, and Catherine Jewell listen as Carole Ann Rosen talks with a customer at the chapter's rummage sale tent June 23. With "lots and lots of things to sell" contributed by chapter members, May Tabor reported, including a trailer full of items from the Rosens' home remodeling, the sale generated \$330.30. "The sale went off like clockwork," May said.

involvement with the ASV across the state. Our chapter's activities and exposure in our communities and in the media are getting us and the society noticed. This is still ASV country, all the way out here.



---

## Current ASV Officers

**President:** C. Mike Wilke  
**President-elect:** Patrick O'Neill  
**Vice President:** C. Neil Manson  
**Secretary:** Stephanie Jacobe  
**Treasurer:** Bill Thompson

legypht@htcnet.org  
patrickoneill@erols.com  
nielmans@comcast.net  
aureus@usa.net  
twarchitects@livenet.net

**For more information on ASV go to:**  
**<http://www.asv-archeology.org>**



Members from the Upper James River Chapter of the ASV receive an overview of the excavations from Mike Madden (on far right) at Keyser Farm on July 30, 2007.

☹ The point on the left on page 4 is a fake.



**Send newsletter submissions to:**

Bernard K. Means, Ph.D., RPA  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, VA 24450  
or via e-mail at: [meansb@wlu.edu](mailto:meansb@wlu.edu)

**Deadline for Submission to December 2007  
Newsletter is November 15!!!**