



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

**December 2009
Number 195**



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

From the Desk of President Patrick O'Neill

As was mentioned in the last ASV Newsletter, Bill Thompson, the Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the ASV for many years, passed away in July after a life-long career as an architect, archaeologist, family man and friend. He had been a member of the ASV for over 42 years, and his lengthy service and dedication to the ASV and his life is detailed in the September 2009 *Quarterly Bulletin*.



Bill Thompson and his wife Kitty in June 2009
(Courtesy of Patrick O'Neill)

In the past twelve months, the ASV has lost Bill Thompson (42 years), Russell Darden (46 years) and Howard MacCord (over 65 years) for a total of over 153 years of dedicated service to the ASV!! Not only has their friendship been lost, but the collective memory and their functions within the ASV are diminished and a greater loss is felt.

Howard MacCord was a leading force behind the ASV reaching out into the archaeological community to answer questions Virginia archaeologists have been asking about the beginning of the human presence in this region. Russell was instrumental for his understanding of archaeology, recruiting new members and expressing the joy of history wherever he traveled. Bill Thompson, with Russell, were the guiding forces of the treasury and membership of the ASV for decades, and this loss is the hardest felt of all.

As a result, the elections at the Annual Meeting were designed to fill these positions, as well as the new positions opened by expiring Board terms. Carl Fischer, my Vice-President, was elected the ASV Treasurer, and he is a welcome asset to that spot, bringing with him years of financial experience. Martha Williams was approved by the ASV Board to complete the Vice-President's term which will expire on January 1, 2011.



ASV President and Chapter Presidents
(Courtesy of Patrick O'Neill)

Rich Guercin, from the US Forest Service, Cindy Dausen, from the Kittiewan Committee, and Elizabeth Moore, from the Virginia Museum of Natural History, were elected to the ASV Board for the 2010-2013 term. Charlie Manson was elected to complete the Board position left open by Chris French, which will expire in January 2012.

Diane Schug-O'Neill and myself have agreed to take over the ASV membership and separate that function from the Treasurer. This will allow the Treasurer to concentrate on the financial matters of the ASV.

Membership is growing slightly this year. As of the writing of this newsletter, the ASV has 450 members, with 100 Life members, 4 Honorary, 220 Active, 7 Active/family, 86 Senior, 7 Senior/family, and 26 Students. Make sure you send in your 2010 renewal form ASAP to ensure not being dropped from the list!

The 69th Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg over Columbus Day weekend was an exciting and fun weekend, with many great presentations, a wonderful field trip to Ferry Farm, where George Washington lived as a boy and young adult, and a superb banquet speaker in Kristen McMasters from the American Battlefield Protection Program! There were over 12 Certification Program graduates this year, and a hearty congratulations goes to them!



Certification Program graduates
(Courtesy of Patrick O'Neill)

Cynthia Hanson won the coveted ASV Avocational Archeologist of the Year Award, a well deserved award. She also was the foundation for this successful Annual Meeting as well as many of the past ASV Annual Meetings. She is handing that job over to me for 2010, so I hope to follow well in her footsteps!

A total of 133 people registered for the Annual Meeting, and there were enough presentations to fill all day Saturday and Sunday morning! The banquet, too, was a huge success, with a great Southern BBQ. And, an honorable mention goes to the Northern Virginia Chapter for hosting the Hospitality Room that will be hard to top!



Cynthia Hanson – ASV Avocational Archeologist of the Year 2009! (Courtesy of Patrick O'Neill)



Ferry Farm, Fredericksburg: George Washington's Boyhood Home
(Image courtesy of Bernard K. Means)

From the Office of State Archaeology

by Mike Barber, State Archaeologist



Keith Egloff readies for time off.
(Courtesy of Laura J. Galke)

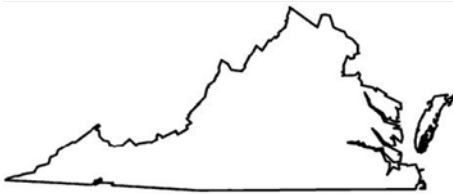
Virginia Archaeology has suffered a bittersweet fall with some very good things happening, tempered with some misfortune. The bad things were very bad with the loss of both Keith Egloff and Chris Stevenson from the DHR. Both were the result of the current state budget reductions. Keith was the Assistant Curator of Collections and had more than three decades with the department. His expertise in ceramics and lithics and his overall corporate knowledge will be sorely missed. Chris had spent less time at DHR but brought a sense of science to the department, a much needed facet to the archaeological program. Godspeed to both.

Some of the good things were the field schools and the annual meeting. The first field school in the fall was at Camden in Caroline County. The Camden Complex is made up of 20± Virginia Indian households on the Rappahannock River dating to AD 1640 - 1680. The site tested, 44CE40, was in close proximity to 44CE3, a site tested by Howard MacCord in the 1960s which produced one of the few peace medals issued to Virginia Chiefs. While the current site tested did not produce such data-rich artifacts, the overall mix of Native American and Colonial artifacts pointed to a changing life style, a true cultural creolization. My thanks go out to the hardy volunteers who fought off noisy owls, coyotes, bald eagles, lack of water, and fog just to be there.

The ASV Annual Meeting followed soon after with three days of events in Fredericksburg. The meeting went well with local papers given by COVA members Mike Carmody and Doug Sanford. Another high point was a full session on Ferry Farm complete with excavations, icons, widows, cherry trees, and fiery destruction. Other sessions included a broad variety of Virginia archaeology including Native American population movements, chronologies, frontiers, and ethnicities. Historic papers touched on plantation houses, iron furnaces, cultural dictionaries, geographic tools, oral histories, log cabins, Civil War sites, outreach programs, and metal detecting. Student papers and chapter reports were enlightening with a full banquet, awards, and an American Battlefield Protection Program closing out the banquet. All in all, an enjoyable week-end.

On the heels of the annual meeting was the Chippokes Field School. An adventure in partnering, ASV, DCR, and USDA-Forest Service Passport in Time, and DHR held the week-long archaeological program at Chippokes Plantation State Park on the banks of the James River. Although the survey portion of the field school yielded only meager results, various Phase I techniques were implemented in a teaching environment. Excavations proved more rewarding with a multi-component Native American and 17th century colonial site excavated, a 18th / 19th century “kitchen” examined, and the area in front of the slave quarters tested. With the crew of volunteers varying from 25 to 50 per day, a plethora of data was recovered. Thanks to all who participated.

Looking forward to more good things in 2010 replete with field schools, solid data recovery, less turmoil with personnel, another good annual meeting, and the Eastern States Archaeological Federation in Williamsburg next November (I will be Co-Program Chair for ESAF with Bernard K. Means so expect to be harassed for papers).



ASV Archaeology Around Virginia



Paul Antsen proudly wearing the first season's project shirt
(Courtesy of Paul Inashima)

adding to a similar total which was contributed to the first season's investigation.

Although most of the volunteers came from Fairfax and Loudoun counties, others came from as far away as Baltimore (Stephen Israel), Greene County (Stephanie McGuire), and North Carolina (Joyce Pearsall). The youngest volunteer was 3 year old Gabriel Webb and the oldest, nearly 93 year old C.D. Cox.

Volunteers Contribute to Second Successful Season at the Clark's Branch Site (44FX3226)

Paul Inashima, Principal Investigator

Forty-one volunteers from the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia and from the surrounding region participated in the second season of work at the Clark's Branch Site (44FX3226). Clark's Branch is a stratified, multi-component site situated in the northern end of Fairfax County. It contains cultural components ranging from Contact to, at least, Late Paleoindian and retains evidence of stratified, radiocarbon-dated, single component living floors.

The second season centered around a Phase III mitigation of a small portion of the site which was scheduled for impact by the construction of an all-season pedestrian/horse bridge. The field excavations extended from mid-May to early August, and were accompanied by concurrent laboratory processing. To date, nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer time have been contributed to the second season's efforts,



Spanning generations: left to right, C.D. Cox,
Stephen Israel, and Michael and Gabriel Webb)
(Courtesy of Paul Inashima)



ASV Archaeology Around Virginia

While most of the volunteers came merely to assist, some of the participants such as Dick Long, John Kelsey, and Chris Ramey utilized the opportunity to fulfill the laboratory and field requirements for ASV certification. Others such as Stephanie McGuire, Miranda von Reyn, and Jessica Webb, with recently or soon to be acquired degrees in archeology, came to gain excavation experience in lieu of a field school.

The archeology at Clark's Branch was funded through two grants from the National Park Service which were administered through the Fairfax County Park Authority. Radiocarbon and ethnobotanical analyses were facilitated by a supplemental grant from the Rubis Fund. The first season's report, "Phase I/II Archeological Investigation for the Proposed Clark's Branch Bridge Crossing Project," was completed in 2008 and included a geomorphological study by Daniel Hayes, an ethnobotanical analysis by Justine McKnight, and AMS radiocarbon assays by Beta Analytic, Inc. Data from the second season's investigation are currently being analyzed.



Associate Field Director Dana Linck (right) briefing the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department.
(Courtesy of Paul Inashima)



The excavation.
(Courtesy of Paul Inashima)



Nansemond Chapter Report

Photograph and article by Burt Wendell, Jr., President

Cynthia Hansen was presented the Archeological Society of Virginia's (ASV) 2009 Avocational Archaeologist Award on October 10, 2009. The award was given to her by ASV, President Patrick O'Neill at ASV/COVA Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg, VA. She is a 12 year member of the Nansemond Chapter of ASV in the Tidewater

area, was Chapter President 2005-2007 and Secretary for 2008. Cynthia, an ASV certified archaeology field technician, is very active in site excavations in Virginia and the Gault Site in Texas. She served as a member of ASV's Board of Directors and a member of the ASV Committee and Co-Editor of Volumes I and II of the ASV's Jamestown 2007 Trilogy books. She is a graduate of Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Anthropology.



Alexandria Archaeological Commission Announces Winners of Brenman Archaeology Award

Excerpted from a press release

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission announced the winners of the third annual Bernard "Ben" Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award. The awards, named in honor of the late Ben Brenman, a longtime Commission chair, were presented October 27. The 2009 honorees are: *Vivienne Mitchell*: As a founding member of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) in 1975 and a long-time member of the Archeological Society of Virginia, Vivienne is being recognized for her community involvement. *Joe Reeder*: As the owner of a historic property on Prince Street, Joe Reeder is being recognized for his stewardship. He is an outstanding example of a resident safeguarding archaeological resources and working as a partner with City archaeologists. *Elizabeth Henry Douglas*: A knowledgeable source and generous donor of West End history, Elizabeth Henry Douglas is being recognized for her contribution to oral history. Her contributions form the basis of the "African American Walking Tour" at Fort Ward and help researchers identify other potential archaeological sites at the Fort. *The Louis Berger Group, Inc.*: For its historical study and archaeological investigations of the Bruin Slave site located at 1707 Duke Street, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., is being recognized for producing an outstanding report about one of the least-known places of African American enslavement. *Sarah Borgatti*: For her project with the Children of the American Revolution, Sarah Borgatti is being recognized as an archaeology advocate. A primary goal of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) is to raise funds for historical preservation, train leaders and good citizens, and increase knowledge of U.S. history.

Current ASV Officers

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Vice President:	Martha Williams	MWilliamsLonomo@aol.com
Secretary:	Stephanie Jacobe	aureus@usa.net
Treasurer:	Carl Fischer	cfischer@hughes.net



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

VCU student Tanja Hughes
waterscreens soil from “The Well”
at Jamestown in September 2009.
(Courtesy of Bernard K. Means)



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Deadline for Submission to January 2010 Newsletter is:
February 1!!