



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

**March 2010  
Number 196**



**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

Mother Nature is not cooperating with archaeologists this winter. However, that said, tell your neighbor now that they have finally learned how to use a shovel, maybe they would like to put that new found knowledge to use and join the Archeological Society of Virginia!!!



Excavating the car!  
(Courtesy of Patrick O'Neill)

The ASV Board meeting in January was canceled because of southern Virginia's blizzard, then all of Virginia had a blizzard, and 12 ASV Boards members finally met in Roanoke on February 13, 2010. The next planned meeting at Kittiewan Plantation in April should be snow free, we hope so!

The ASV is joining forces with the Eastern States Archeological Federation (<http://esaf-archeology.org/>) to hold both of our annual meetings at the same time and place in Williamsburg, Virginia, on October 28-31, 2010. More information will follow, but this gives the ASV the ability to show off our society to a larger audience and allow for a wider format of presentations to the ASV membership! The combined meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel Historic District, 351 York Street, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, (757) 229-4100. Special tours will be held at Jamestown and Chippokes Plantation State Park. ESAF is taking the lead in the organization of the meeting with Program Chairs Michael B. Barber & Bernard K. Means.

VARC (Virginia Archeological Research Center) at Kittiewan Plantation will host a Field Opportunity at Kittiewan from June 19-27, 2010. Patrick O'Neill (me) will be the professional archaeologist in charge of the investigations, which will finish probing the Rickman/Harrison Cemetery, investigate the Ice House depression, and hopefully find Doctor Selden's office. This is first and foremost an archaeology opportunity for all ASV members, with classes and hours being provided for Certification students as well.

I am finalizing my book entitled, "Images of America: Virginia's Presidential Homes", presenting the major residences of the eight men born in Virginia and became president: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.

In this book, there are a couple of references to Kittiewan, the home of the ASV, since Harrison's sister, Elizabeth Harrison Rickman, lived there and put in the elaborate raised pine paneling!

Your dues have been paid for 2010, or you would not be receiving this Newsletter! This is also the first Newsletter to be sent electronically to members that have agreed to receive it by email! This is a big step forward for the ASV, as we try to tighten our belt financially and be a little greener, too, by not printing in excess.

If you want to join the Newsletter email list, contact me at [patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net)!

Rabbit tracks at Ferry Farm in  
January 2010  
(Courtesy of Laura J. Galke)



## *From the Office of State Archaeology*

by Mike Barber, State Archaeologist

The new year is upon us and there seems to be a lot going on. And a lot that is not. As with most of us, I am covered with a couple of feet of snow. Well, actually I am in my office, not covered with snow but just about everything I want to do is. Site visitation, survey, field school arrangements, all on hold. I tried to get to the Hand site in Southampton County but the farm road was too wet. I need to get to Maycock to flag some sites for the James River Refuge but they are snow-covered. I should be making final arrangements for the spring field school but the interstate is impassable. So I guess I'll just sit here and catch up on writing. Maybe I can actually finish some reports, satisfy some commitments, and get some articles to Charlie Manson, the new QB Editor (as promised).

There still is a lot going on with chain-reactions in all directions. The Eastern States Archaeological Federation's annual meeting is a fine example. Mike Madden and I, with ASV approval, wanted to bring their annual meeting back to Virginia. ESAF usually meets in November and ASV usually meets in mid-October. So we thought that a joint meeting would be a fine idea (still awaits consideration by the ASV Board which is having trouble making due to, you guessed it, snow). So we compromised and set the date for the last week in October. But the last week in October is usually the Chippokes Plantation Field School. So that was moved to July 12 - 21 and will be held in conjunction with the annual Pork, Pine and Peanut Festival. So that will mean, should we have an earlier field school, it would be moved to the spring. We're still working on it.

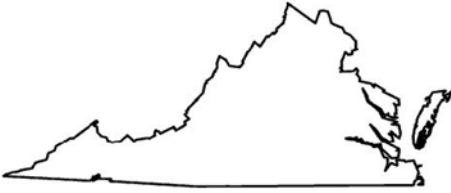
If the snow ever ends and the weather clears, there will be many opportunities for archaeological experiences. In addition to the Chippokes Plantation Field School, we will be surveying to re-locate the Hand site and 2 nearby sites in Southampton County. The area is slated for timber harvesting and the managers, South River Forestry Consultants, want to avoid impacts to the archaeological resources. There is also a chance for some work at the James River Wildlife Refuge in Prince George County. And several DHR employees have been asked to develop a strategy for battlefield survey and protection which will likely involve some pilot field work. A preservation plan for Clermont, an 18th Century dwelling in Berryville, Virginia, will involve archaeological survey as well. Lab work continues in Richmond with artifact processing of Camden, Chippokes, and Corotomon. Volunteers welcome.



Good digging to you; hope it is soon to be soil, not snow.

2008 Excavations at Chippokes  
(Courtesy of Mike Barber)





# ASV Archaeology Around Virginia

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## Possible Discovery of 17<sup>th</sup> Century "Argall Towne"

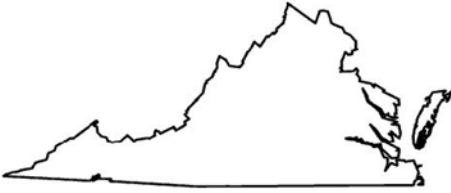
Photographs and text submitted by Jason Noah, AES Consulting Engineers

Archaeologist Alain Outlaw, of Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., has uncovered soil patterns and artifacts that suggest a site near Jamestown was "Argall Towne" and an earlier settlement. Working with Mr. Outlaw and James City County, AES Consulting Engineers (AES) is providing archaeological surveying and mapping services in support of this major archaeological discovery.



The historical record is murky at best, but records indicate that in 1617 Captain Samuel Argall was dispatched to Virginia with 200 settlers. His destination was what is now Carter's Grove and his assignment was to establish a settlement. For reasons unknown, Captain Argall did not reach his intended destination. Unlike Captain John Smith, Captain Argall did not record his actions for posterity.





## ASV Archaeology Around Virginia

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Captain Argall oversaw the establishment of a settlement referred to as "Argall Towne" in the Atlas of the Dutch West India Trading Company on a map drawn in 1639 by the Dutch cartographer Johannes Vingboons.

To assist Mr. Outlaw in deciphering the mysteries of the site, AES is providing topographic surveys, the mapping of archaeological features and mapping overlays. By combining maps dating back nearly 400 years with modern technology including Trimble Robotic Total Stations and Autodesk Civil 3D Land Development Software, AES has assisted Mr. Outlaw in uncovering evidence of a palisade wall and other structures.

As with many archaeological endeavors, each new discovery leads to new questions. Why is so little written about "Argall Towne"? Was this site an alternative to the inhospitable, and at one time abandoned, Jamestown? What insights will this site offer into the ways settlers moved beyond Jamestown? Perhaps the investigation of this site and the examination of recovered artifacts will provide answers to these questions.

Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., James City County and AES will continue to work together to explore this potentially significant discovery.





## Middle Peninsula Chapter Report

*Photographs and article by Thane Harpole*

In 2009 the Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia (MPCASV) continued working on several projects with the Fairfield Foundation. The Fairfield Foundation is a not-for-profit research organization focusing on the archaeological study of the Burwell family plantation in Gloucester County, and on involving and educating the public in the process of archaeology and the value of historic preservation activities.



**Interns and ASV members at Bailey Site**

This year, MPCASV members helped throughout the year with fieldwork at Fairfield, and also focused on chapter excavations at two additional sites: the mid-17th-century Bailey Site in Mathews County and the Middle Woodland period Hogge site in Gloucester County. Both sites provided members of the MPCASV with the opportunity to learn excavation techniques and participate in the discovery and documentation of understudied periods of the region's history. Members and other volunteers excavated shovel tests to establish site boundaries and dug test units to evaluate site



integrity, finding cultural features at both sites (a post hole and a small pit). Both sites were identified previously by other archaeologists, but reports had not been written on their findings. As part of this effort we are analyzing the past collections to form a better picture of what kinds of activities occurred at these places. These projects have allowed us to draw attention to significant sites in the area, complete the analysis, and share our findings with the public through both the fieldwork as well as exhibits at local events and presentations. The field projects also generated interest in the lab, with volunteers and members meeting during the Fairfield Foundation's weekly lab nights to wash, sort, and catalog the finds.

A handful of our chapter members are pursuing Archaeological Certification. Certification students and graduates are one of the most valuable resources in Virginia for completing archaeological projects which often have limited time and funding, and they have been instrumental in working on these sites. Chapter Vice-President Forrest Morgan and chapter Treasurer Linda Bryson are both Mathews County residents and are actively involved with the survey, excavation, and analysis of the Bailey site. Chris Knowlton, a Gloucester resident, is researching prehistoric sites that were found in his neighborhood by archaeologists in the 1970s. Eric Van Fössen is completing the analysis of the Hogge site, which was identified and tested in the 1970s. Eric is the MPCASV's first official graduate of the certification program, receiving his certificate at the October 2009 ASV Annual Meeting. We look forward to getting several new certification students who will begin working with us in 2010.

By helping take the survey and excavation work from start to finish, and adding previous research into the mix, certification program participants are leading by example. Archaeology is about much more than finding cool stuff. These volunteers understand that there is tremendous hard work and time necessary to do archaeology and that this work comes with an obligation to both accurately document and share our findings with the public. Through their hard work, the certification program is also ensuring that our community has proponents of archaeological site preservation beyond the limited ranks of professional archaeologists. The Fairfield Foundation is honored to be able to work with these dedicated volunteers on a variety of projects, and appreciates all of the hours they spend helping out at Fairfield.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Fairfield Foundation, or in joining any of our activities with the MPCASV, visit us on the web at [www.fairfieldfoundation.org](http://www.fairfieldfoundation.org) or send an email to [Fairfield@inna.net](mailto:Fairfield@inna.net), and we'd be happy to put you on our update list.

Thane Harpole, Co-Director

The Fairfield Foundation

P.O. Box 157

White Marsh VA 23183



Volunteers at Hogge Site on July 29, 2009



# CALL FOR PAPERS



## **Eastern States Archaeological Federation 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Hosted by the  
Archeological Society of Virginia**

**October 28-31, 2010**

**Clarion Hotel Historic District  
351 York Street, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185  
(757) 229-4100**

**SPECIAL EVENTS  
Tours of Jamestown and Chippokes Plantation State Park**

**Program Chairs  
Michael B. Barber & Bernard K. Means**

**Abstracts are due August 31, 2010**

Please send abstracts for  
individual papers or  
sessions to:

bkmeans@juno.com *or*,  
1902 Woodlyn Drive, Apt. 3  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Presenters must be individual members of ESAF for 2010 and pre-registered for the meeting**

**Arrangements Chair  
Mike Madden  
540 265-5212 or [mjmadden@fs.fed.us](mailto:mjmadden@fs.fed.us)**

**For more information, go to: [esaf-archeology.org](http://esaf-archeology.org)**



## **Preliminary Announcement**

### **Cemetery Workshop --- May 21-22, Richmond, Virginia**

A workshop for cemetery owners, caretakers, nonprofits, and volunteers, presented by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources



*Stop ye travellers as you pass by  
As you are now, so once was I  
As I am now, soon you shall be  
Prepare yourself to follow me.*

#### Friday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Lectures and Presentations

Lecture topics include: Researching and Recording Historic Cemeteries, Cleaning and Conservation of Funerary Monuments, Mortuary Archaeology, Funerary Symbolism, Genealogy, and Virginia Burial Law

#### Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Hands-on Training, on Location in Richmond's Historic Cemeteries

Training session topics include: Using DHR's Cemetery Recording Form, Techniques for Photographing Historic Funerary Monuments, and, Stone and Masonry Conservation and Cleaning

Formal Workshop and Registration Information will be Made Available Soon

**For more information, please contact Dee DeRoche at (804) 367-2323 ext. 134 or [dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov)**

Register early for Friday only or for both days.  
Saturday's Hands-on Training limited to 25 persons  
Register Early!!



*To follow you  
I am not content  
How do I know  
Which way you went?*

*George Washington's*  
**MOUNT VERNON**  

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**E S T A T E     &     G A R D E N S**

***Historical Archaeology Internship at Mount Vernon, Summer 2010***

George Washington's Mount Vernon, located near Washington, DC, is the historic site museum dedicated to interpreting the life of the first president within the context of his home and plantation. Under the management of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the property is preserved and restored to reflect the 18th-century home of the Washington family. The Ladies employ a professional archaeological staff to study the buried remains on the property. Over the past five years the archaeologists have conducted excavations in the Upper Garden, the formal flower garden. Their work has provided an understanding of the garden's layout during the last years of George Washington's life. This space will be fully restored in 2011 based upon the results of the archaeological investigation.

**Description**

- Conduct flotation of soils from the Upper Garden. Flotation is designed to recover botanical specimens and other fragile remains from the 18<sup>th</sup>-century garden beds. These seeds will aid in the 2011 restoration of the garden.
- Design a research plan for the recovered samples.
- Conduct preliminary analysis of the flotation samples and produce a report and webpage detailing the procedures and results of preliminary analysis.

**Benefits**

- Opportunity to develop research skills, especially in crafting a research design and managing a project from start to finish.
- Responsibility for a project that will contribute to the authenticity of Mount Vernon through the restoration of the Upper Garden.
- To gain experience supervising volunteers as a member of a museum's professional staff.
- Daily interaction with staff who are dedicated to your personal and professional growth.

**Qualifications**

- Undergraduate with good academic standing who will be returning to college full time in the Fall of 2010.
- An archaeological field school or formal field training in archaeology.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Ability to work creatively and independently.

**Commitment:** A 10-week program, May 31<sup>st</sup>-August 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, 40 hours a week.

**Stipend:** \$2750, made possible by the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program.

**Application:** Applicants should submit a resume, names of two references and cover letter, including a statement detailing interest in this program and their archaeological experience. Deadline is March 26, 2010. Selection will be made by April 9, 2010.

Please email applications to Esther White, [ewhite@mountvernon.org](mailto:ewhite@mountvernon.org).

*Director of Archaeology*  
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Mount Vernon Ladies' Association · P.O. Box 110 · Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121  
[www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org)



**Summer Research Internship in Historical Archaeology**  
**At**  
**Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest**

The Department of Archaeology and Landscapes at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest is offering one funded research position for **June 1** through **July 16**. This internship is intended for early-phase graduate students and advanced undergraduates who have previous field training and are looking for more experience conducting fieldwork and supervising field school students in a research-oriented setting.

Poplar Forest is the former retreat home and working plantation of Thomas Jefferson, and is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Lynchburg, Virginia. Over the past twenty-five years, archaeologists have uncovered evidence of Jefferson's time on the property and the lives of the enslaved laborers who lived and worked on the plantation during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This year's fieldwork will focus on Sites A and B, a fascinating portion of Poplar Forest that has connections to both the plantation's enslaved community and Jefferson's ornamental landscape. The successful applicant will work alongside the Poplar Forest staff to assist in all phases of field excavation, including working with and teaching field school students, during the five week field school beginning June 6. This will involve strenuous, outdoor labor in the hot Virginia sun, so good physical health is a must. In addition, the intern will need to be comfortable interacting with the public and explaining the archaeological process to museum visitors. While in residence, the successful applicant will also be granted access to the collections and research facilities of Poplar Forest. This includes a collection of several hundred thousand artifacts, a database system containing both archaeological artifact and context records, and a complete inventory containing over 1,000 historical documents relating to Poplar Forest. By partnering with the Poplar Forest staff, these collections may then be drawn upon in the future to support the student's own research, the products of which could include professional conference papers, journal articles, Masters theses, and Ph.D. dissertations.

The intern will be housed at Lynchburg College in a furnished room with access to kitchen facilities, located about a fifteen minute drive from Poplar Forest. Additionally, a stipend of \$625 will be provided and the intern will be responsible for their own meals and transportation. Successful applicants should have at least one field school and more field experience is a definite plus. Knowledge of historical material culture is required.

By **April 7, 2010**, send the following information to Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology and Landscapes, Poplar Forest, P.O. Box 419, Forest, VA 24551.

- 1) Personal information: Include your full name, home address, home and work/school telephone numbers, occupation, and e-mail address.
- 2) A resume or curriculum vitae.
- 3) A two-page statement of personal and professional reasons for participating.
- 4) Two letters of recommendation from others addressing the following: 1) your academic and professional ability and performance and 2) your personality and ability to work well with others.

Selections will be made by the Poplar Forest Archaeology Department by April 14, 2010.

For more information on Poplar Forest's ongoing archaeological research visit: [www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org). Any questions can be directed to Jack Gary at [jack@poplarforest.org](mailto:jack@poplarforest.org) or 434-534-8105.

# Current ASV Officers

<b>President</b>	Patrick O'Neill	patrickloneill@verizon.net
<b>President-elect:</b>	Dan Kegley	hearthside@ntelos.net
<b>Vice President:</b>	Martha Williams	MWilliamsLonomo@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Stephanie Jacobe	aureus@usa.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Carl Fischer	cfischer@hughes.net

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

Winter at Ferry Farm  
(Courtesy of  
Laura J. Galke)



The newsletter editor resides at:  
1902 Woodlyn Drive, Apt. 3, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Electronic submissions are acceptable and preferred:  
[bkmeans@juno.com](mailto:bkmeans@juno.com)

Send newsletter submissions to:  
Bernard K. Means, Ph.D., RPA  
Deadline for Submission to January 2010 Newsletter is: **May 1!!**