



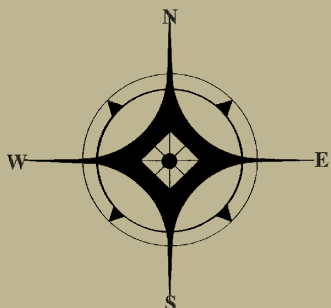
THE ASV

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

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THE MISSION OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA
IS TO PROMOTE THE
ARCHAEOLOGY AND
ANTHROPOLOGY OF
VIRGINIA AND
ADJACENT REGIONS.



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PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL - DAN KEGLEY

This has been an historic spring and summer for the ASV, and you have an insightful and dedicated board of directors to credit for two landmark actions.

The first came in April when the board adopted a new committee structure that reflects the modern ASV's workings. A little backstory: At the July 2011 two-day board meeting and retreat in Roanoke, the board charged me with "having a look" at the committees and making recommendations. Before recruiting a committee to assist in that project and as a starting point, I redesigned some of the ASV's committees, their responsibilities and their inter-relationships. Late that summer ASV Treasurer Carl Fischer showed me a concept he had independently worked out, and his and mine were remarkably similar. Since we mutually saw the need to discontinue the Virginia Archaeological Resource Center as the ASV's fundraising arm, I asked Joey Moldenhauer, likely VARC's strongest advocate, to work with us as a counterbalance in reaching a proposal to present the board. We hammered out plan to the board in January. Following excellent discussion there, we made further modifications and the board adopted the new structure at Kittiewan in April.



At that meeting, the board then agreed to consider new bylaws and again stepping up to responsibility was Carl, a veteran of bylaws drafting for other organizations. Adhering to a modern philosophy in bylaws construction that promotes less as more, Carl sought to streamline the governing document while making it strong enough to well serve its purposes. One of those purposes of any bylaws is enabling the governed organization through language crafted to effectively establish policy, but Carl's approach is to avoid so tightly defining policy as to require frequent amendment by the general membership -- a condition for years attending the current bylaws.

More of the directors stepped up to serve as a review committee that I appointed as a means of anticipating concerns the full board would have about the new bylaws. Bruce Baker, Lyle Browning, John Kelsey, Charlie Manson, Patrick O'Neill, Faye Wade, and Martha Williams, who also coordinated their work, gave the document a thorough examination and made a number of excellent recommendations.

After six hours of refinement of the bylaws article-by-article, and in places sentence-by-sentence, the board adopted this July the draft that will be presented to the ASV membership for ratification at the annual meeting in October at Wytheville.

Hats off to you, ASV directors! I've said it before in this space: the board is an outstanding group with whom it is a pleasure to work.

Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter Bert Wendell publishes a photo of the board members at the meeting/retreat this July and identifies them in promoting more awareness of the board among the members. I salute Bert for doing so.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Michael B. Barber, PhD, State Archaeologist

The Department of Historic Resources is currently developing a comprehensive plan for dealing with underwater archaeological resources including, but not limited to, ship wrecks, inundated terrestrial sites, eroding shell middens, military fortifications, cemeteries, wharfs, fish weirs, Paleoindian sites on continental shelf, watermen sites, and ship building loci. The need for the study and preservation underwater resources has recently come to the fore. The tenth ship in the Cornwallis sunken fleet has been identified, side-scanning sonar has confirmed likely cannon at City Point, ship wreck identification continues on the Potomac, the association of a Clovis point and a mammoth tooth on the continental shelf has been postulated, and both Paleoindian (and pre-Clovis Solutrean connection) and Early Woodland Adena cultures have been recorded eroding away on Mockhorn Island. The need for an underwater preservation presence has been demonstrated for both DHR and the public. The ultimate goal will be to develop a program which will enhance the preservation of underwater resources through inventory, testing and evaluation, and site and data preservation and management.

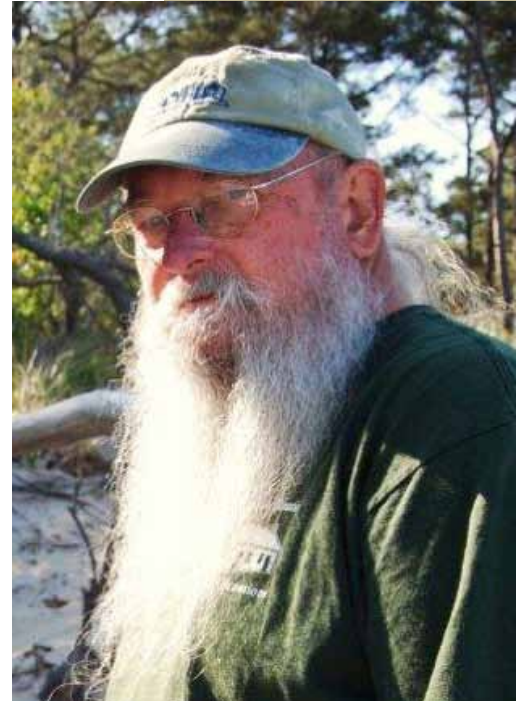
Threats include sea level rise, catastrophic storms, breakwater improvements, shoreline development, artifact collecting, permit violations, wave action erosion, wind turbines, dredging, shell fishing, etc. The ultimate goal will be to develop a program which will enhance the preservation of underwater resources through inventory, testing and evaluation, and site and data preservation and management. The impetus for archaeological program has shifted to the Chesapeake and Eastern Shore for the survey, evaluation, excavation, and preservation of these fragile resources. The Threatened Sites Program is one tool which can be used to help combat sea level rise. In the past, the Eastern Shore, both bay and ocean-side, have been surveyed for archaeological sites. Ship wrecks in the York, Mattaponi, and Pamunkey Rivers have been examined. A comprehensive study of the effects of inundation was delivered in the 2011/2012 TS Program. In all, upwards to 30 projects have been completed which have dealt with underwater resources. This is not to say that other portions of the state will be ignored, only that the most threatened sites will receive the highest priority.

The annual ASV/PIT/DHR field school is another program which can be brought to bear on the loss of sites to sea level rise and catastrophic storms. In May 2012, the field school followed up a study by the Smithsonian Institution which tested a 3000 year old shell midden at Salvage Neck on the Eastern Shore. The field school brought an average of 26 people a day to the site for 9 days and, hence, recovered a huge amount of data which would otherwise be lost. Due to the tempo of coastal erosion, the site will likely be gone in the next 10 years. We will continue in that vein and are currently evaluating threatened sites on the Chesapeake.



**VIRGINIA
DHR**

<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>



At Patrick's suggestion, during the annual meeting the board of directors, both those sitting and just-elected, will stand before the members in assembly as the floor is opened for input, questions and suggestions. The members have long trusted the board to work for the ASV's greater good. It's time to put names with faces so you know who those people as well as have a chance to talk with them at the meeting and through the weekend.

Your input is always welcome and is best transmitted to the board through me or more directly through your chapter presidents who by virtue of office are also board members. Regrettably, few exercise that privilege but those who do are among the most devoted folks in the ASV. Encourage your chapter presidents to attend board meetings and serve as that crucial link between the state-level organization and its local components.

The directors and I look forward to seeing you in October! ⊕

SANDRA SPEIDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Michael B. Barber

In her will, Ms. Sandra Speiden, a dedicated member of the Archeological Society of Virginia, left the ASV an endowment to be used for the purpose of funding graduate students in the study of archaeology within the Middle Atlantic Region. An ASV Committee was formed for the purpose of considering candidates for awards. Established parameters were that only the interest for the endowment would be used for granting purposes, that the successful candidate would be a member of the ASV, that the successful candidate be enrolled in a recognized archaeological program, and that the graduate studies would be focused on Virginia and/or the Middle Atlantic Region. Members of the Committee include David Brown, Molly Kerr, Carole Nash, Laura Galke, Catherine Slusser, Dan Kegley, and Mike Barber (Chair).

The Sandra Speiden Scholarship Committee received six applications for consideration for the \$3,000 award available for 2012. All were of high quality and ranking the proposals was of high difficulty. In the final tally, Ms. Lindsay Bloch, a graduate student in Anthropology, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, was the successful candidate. Ms. Bloch is a native of Virginia and has worked at Jamestown, Green Spring Plantation, and Monticello and graduated with a BA in Anthropology from The College of William and Mary. She will pursue the study of the variation in lead glazed course earthenwares to determine spatial and temporal variation. This will be implemented through the use of inductively plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) which has previously demonstrated that there are chemical differences in the elemental composition of the ceramics. This study will be the basis of Ms. Bloch's dissertation.

Congratulations to Ms. Bloch and thanks to the committee for dedicating time to evaluation the applications.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dee DeRoche

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Dee DeRoche (chair), Mike Barber, Cynthia Hansen, and Randy Turner, met in July and recommended the following persons for ASV Board of Directors vacancies: Carole Nash – Vice President; Stephanie Jacobe – Secretary; Carl Fischer – Treasurer; Cindy Dausen – Board Member; Rich Guercin – Board Member; and Forrest Morgan – Board Member. ASV membership will have the opportunity to vote on these board vacancies at the upcoming annual meeting in October.



Archeological Society of Virginia 2012 ANNUAL MEETING



The Archeological Society of Virginia is pleased to announce that the 72nd Annual Meeting will be held **October 12 -14 in Wytheville, Virginia** at the

**Wytheville Meeting Center
333 Community Boulevard, Wytheville, VA**

Lodging arrangements at:

Comfort Suites: 276-228-1234 and Country Inn & Suites 276-223-1058

Intersection of Peppers Ferry Rd. & Community Blvd.

(Adjacent to the Wytheville Meeting Center)

ASV CONFERENCE ROOM RATE: \$90 Blocked rooms – 50

(Rooms guaranteed through August 31, 2012)

ACCOMMODATIONS: Studio king suites or double queens

AMENITIES: Continental breakfast; high-speed internet; free local calls; heated indoor pool, spa, and fitness center; meeting room; and lounge/TV area.

REGISTRATION

Early Conference Registration: \$25.00

After September 15: \$35.00

Student Registration: \$20.00

(At door) \$25.00

BANQUET

By October 5 \$30.00

Banquet Menu: Parmesan Crusted Chicken Breast, Herb Crusted Pork Loin, (Vegetarian Entrée Option* - Ricotta & Spinach-Stuffed Manicotti), Fresh Garden Salad, Red Skin Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Rolls, Chocolate Layer Cake w/Sour Cream Fudge Icing, Pumpkin Pie, Coffee, Sweet/Unsweetened Tea.

*Available only to attendees who pre-select this option.

FIELD TRIP: Saturday afternoon, October 13: Saltville, whose namesake mineral attracted prehistoric fauna, humans who hunted them, and served people from the Pleistocene to the modern day. Featuring a visit to the Museum of the Middle Appalachians. Special museum admission \$1. Round trip bus fare \$20. Catered box lunch \$7.95

2012 ASV ANNUAL MEETING ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please send with correct amount (check payable to "ASV") to

Carl Fischer, ASV Treasurer

1685 Sweet Hall Road

West Point, VA 23181

ITEM	COST	NUMBER	TOTAL COST
Meeting	\$25 until Oct. 5		
Registration	(\$35 at door)		\$
Student Meeting Reg. (Copy of Student ID Required)	\$20 until Oct. 5 (\$25 at door)		\$
Banquet*	\$30 until Oct. 5		\$
TOTAL			\$

*Note: Banquet tickets will not be available at the door. Check if Vegetarian Entrée required ☐

Please print clearly the following:

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Name(s) for Conference Badge(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

ASV Chapter or Professional Affiliation for Conference Badge(s):

HISTORIC SALTVILLE FIELD TRIP – May Tabor

“Saltville is the most fascinating 2 square miles in Virginia, or possibly the entire United States...” (Bartlett, 2003, in Oklahoma Geological Survey Circular 109). This is not a preposterous claim at all when you cite the largest thrust fault east of the Mississippi River where you find North Carolina rocks on the south edge of town that moved twenty miles or more long before the now-extinct mammoths and mastodons pastured in the valley and sipped from the briny springs.

Later, two-legged hunters discovered this assemblage of steaks so large they fed families for a month with ample leftovers for friends. Still later since 1790 and ongoing, the ground beneath has yielded over 27 million tons of salt and was the primary source of this essential product for the Confederate States during the Civil War. The replica of a mastodon and actual bones from this animal and others excavated from test pits and accidental discoveries as early as 1782 are displayed in the excellent Museum of the Middle Appalachians (MOMA) in “greater downtown” Saltville.

Several years ago, a fine collection of Indian artifacts was donated to MOMA by the family of Mrs. Pat Bass, deceased former ASV member from Marion. This collection is well displayed and highlights an outstanding variety of shell ornaments. All this and much more will be seen on the field trip, Saturday afternoon, October 13, to be narrated by your “Favorite Rock Star,” Charlie Bartlett and Professor Cliff Boyd who will review the recent exploration of a portion of a Woodland Indian Village that was largely destroyed when the Saltville High School was constructed ca. 1957.



ASV ANNUAL MEETING – CALL FOR EXHIBIT ROOM DISPLAYS – May Tabor

Chapters, archeological organizations, and individuals are encouraged to provide archeological displays for the Exhibit Room at the Wytheville Meeting Center at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Text should be minimal with visuals and captions encouraged. Chapters', organizations', and individuals' names should be clearly displayed. Tables will be provided and posters may be free-standing. Security cannot be guaranteed, so please don't include items of value for which neither the ASV nor the Wolf Hills Chapter can be responsible.

A \$50 award will be presented for the best chapter and the best individual display as judged by a panel that will make the selections. Winners will be announced during the Sunday morning session.

Saltville Field Trip Pre-Registration

This trip will depart by bus immediately following the noon adjournment of the general membership meeting. Catered boxed lunch on the bus offers choice of sandwich with chips and potato salad or pasta salad and sweet or unsweet tea.

Bus fare (\$20 per person) and meal payment (\$7.95 per person) payable to **ASV**

with field trip pre-registration form by **Oct. 1** to

Carl Fischer, 1685 Sweet Hall Rd., West Point, VA 23181

Museum admission (\$1 per person) payable at the museum.

Bus returns to the Meeting Center at 5:15 pm.

	Number	Total
Bus Fare	\$20.00	\$
Lunches	\$ 7.95	\$
Grand Total \$		

Print name(s): _____

Choose one per person (put number in box): (All sandwiches served with lettuce and tomato)

- ☐ Honey ham with American cheese
- ☐ White meat chicken salad croissant
- ☐ Smoked turkey breast w/ American cheese
- ☐ Virginia ham with marble cheese
- ☐ German bologna with American cheese
- ☐ Pastrami and Swiss cheese
- ☐ Deli roasted chicken breast & cheddar cheese
- ☐ Roast beef with horseradish cheese

Choose one:

- ☐ Potato salad ☐ Pasta salad

Choose one:

- ☐ Sweet tea ☐ Unsweet tea

Questions? E-mail mtabor.1935@gmail.com.

KITTIEWAN PLANTATION BRIEF - MARTHA WILLIAMS

THE KITTIEWAN BRIEF – Martha Williams

Warmer weather always means increased activity at Kittiewan Plantation, and Spring/Summer of 2012 has really been an active season—from building fences and creating gardens to renovating the manor house and exploring the archeology of the property. On the theory that “one picture is worth 1000 words,” this edition of the Kittiewan Brief presents a picture gallery showing some of the folks who work to make Kittiewan an action center for the ASV.



▲ Bill Bjork hangs drywall to transform the former manor house bathroom into exhibit space.



▲ This pie safe will eventually reside in Kittiewan's refurbished 19th century kitchen.

► Griddles, anyone?
These will also go into
furnishing the manor's
kitchen.



Kittiewan's committee invites you to join in continuing the work of preserving and interpreting this special property. Plans for 2012 include more archeological work, continued organization of the archives, gardening and landscaping, and modifications to the interior of the Manor House. For more information, contact Martha Williams at mwilliamslonono@aol.com. ☎

Kittiewan Plantation
12104 Weyanoke Road
Charles City, VA
804.829.2272
www.kittiewanplantation.org/



▲ Thanks to Patrick O'Neill, a new "worm" fence is beginning to define the historic manor house property.



▲ Volunteer archeologist Tanesha High and certification student Walter Maginnis work on a test pit.



▲ Wayne Edwards shows volunteer Adam Rosenfeld how to excavate an STP.



▲ Certification students and new volunteers join old hands in excavating shovel tests.

WOLF HILLS CHAPTER CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

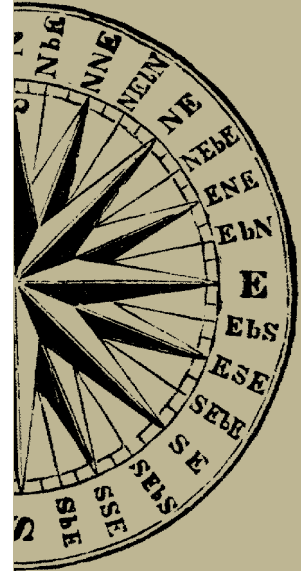
May Tabor, Chapter President

In the early 1970's, three guys with the first name "Charlie", from diverse professions crossed paths in Abingdon. One, Charlie Weisfield, was a local newspaper publisher; one, Charlie Herndon, was a shop skills instructor at Virginia Highlands Community College; and one, Charlie Bartlett was a geologist "with rocks in his head," at that time a newcomer to Abingdon employed as a professor at nearby Emory & Henry College. Together, due to shared avocational interests in archeology, they bonded. Subsequently, they met with Col. Howard MacCord, Virginia State Archeologist, who encouraged them to form a local chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia. In time, two of the Charlie (Herndon and Bartlett) received *Avocational Archeologist of the Year* recognition from the ASV. Weisfield and Herndon are now deceased.

The first gathering of the newly-formed chapter attracted a surprisingly large turnout of 32 individuals. By the end of 1972, the group had blossomed to 171 members and had adopted the name "Wolf Hills Chapter," taken from the early storied name of Abingdon. Highlights of their ambitious field activities included assisting Col. MacCord in the excavation of the Sullins site, a palisaded Woodland Indian village located south of Abingdon and radiocarbon dated at AD 1,425 ± 95; salvage of the two mid-1800's pottery kilns near the North Fork of the Holston River; the search for the footprint of Black's Fort in Abingdon during and after the nation's and Washington County's Bicentennial; the multi-season exploration of the Cornelius site, a large palisaded Indian village on the upper shore of the South Holston Lake; and numerous other Southwest Virginia archeological sites. By 1978, 162 archeological sites had been recorded. The pictographs on Paint Lick Mountain in Tazewell County were visited and Chapter members participated in excavations at the Tazewell County Crab Orchard Site. Dr. Bartlett and E&H students explored the Saltville location impacted by the development of the Town Park—bones of extinct mammals were found. In 1979, Chapter members assisted in testing the Preston Site which yielded a large number of Woodland arrow points and pottery shards. Work on the Cornelius Site continued.

In October 1980, the Wolf Hills Chapter hosted its first Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia at the Martha Washington Inn. There were 150 attendees from across our state as well as nearby states. The Chapter received many plaudits from those who attended the meeting. In 1981, excavation work continued at the Cornelius site under the supervision of Charlie Herndon. That year also, Charlie Bartlett reported the finding of a flint knife of likely Paleo-Indian age from the extinct musk ox excavation pit at Saltville. 1983 saw both Charlie Weisfeld and Charlie Bartlett elected to the ASV Board, later Bartlett served a term as president of the state society. Meetings of the Chapter were moved to the Abingdon Craft Center, the little house adjacent to the "Virginia Creeper" train engine. In 1984, the Cornelius Site had yielded 1,674 projectile points, 7,128 pottery shards, and 625 stone tools. Spring months of 1985 were spent identifying and cataloging artifacts from the Cornelius Site. Nine members spent two weekends camping out in Lee County to test and explore five Archaic campsites in this area of Virginia that was almost devoid of modern archeological exploration.

Bi-monthly meeting are now held at the Washington County Public Library in Abingdon. More recent activities have consisted, among many others, of participation in Paleo digs and the annual Kids' Digs at Saltville; assisting professional archeologists with the



▲ Archaeological excavations at the Cornelius site.

investigation of kiln sites in Washington and Smyth Counties; participating in demonstration excavations at the historic Fields-Penn House on Cummings Street with Tom Klatka during the Virginia Highlands Festival; holding “Native American Demonstration Days” during Virginia Archeology Month.; a salvage dig on the Barter Green and a cave site investigation with Klatka; and public education. The Chapter helped the Wolf Creek Indian Village & Museum kick off an ongoing public archaeology project involving screening unexamined backfill piles from the Brown-Johnston site that the museum and village now interpret. Our latest, but not least, contribution has been to provide the ASV with another Southwest Virginia president, Dan Kegley. ☉



▲ Charlie Weisfeld and Charlie Herndon in the field, 1970s.



▲ 1978 newspaper clipping of Charlie Bartlett at Saltville excavation.



▲ Wolf Hills Chapter 40th anniversary cake.

NANSEMOND CHAPTER HOLDS ARTIFACT ID DAY

Bert Wendell, Jr., President, ASV Nansemond Chapter

The ASV Nansemond Chapter held an "ASV Artifact ID Day" on July 28-29 in conjunction with the 11th Annual Chereonhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe PowWow at the Southhampton County Fairgrounds in Courtland, Virginia. Shown in the adjacent

photo is Wayne Edwards (right), Vice President of the Nansemond Chapter, showing a study collection of different artifacts found on the surface in Southhampton County to (left to right) Elizabeth Mackall, Aimee Valentina Schneider of Marburg, Germany, and Millard Mackall. The Mackalls are members of the ASV and the Nansemond Chapter.



ASV NANSEMOND CHAPTER TOURS ROSEWELL AND FAIRFIELD PLANTATIONS

Bert Wendell, Jr. President, ASV Nansemond Chapter

When one thinks of grand Virginia Plantations, what first comes to mind are views of vast fields of crops and lush colorful floral gardens surrounding a large manor house full of period furniture and memorabilia of its past owners. But when you visit the Rosewell and Fairfield Plantations in Gloucester County, Virginia you see a much different view.

The Rosewell Plantation was started in 1725 and the Fairfield Plantation begun about 1694. Today, they do not resemble places of grandeur and importance. These two plantations do not produce cotton, tobacco, corn and other crops as they did many years ago, however, their structural remains and surrounding lands are producing artifacts through active archaeological excavations and research.

On June 30, 2012 members and guest of the Nansemond Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia toured the plantations as part of their summer activities program. Chapter members and their guest were given a tour of the Rosewell Plantation by Wendy Gay of the Rosewell Foundation.

They learned that Rosewell was home to the Page family for more than 100 years. A fire in 1916 swept the mansion and left only the outer red brick shell standing along with the complete compasshead window and carved keystone, its four chimneys, and the wine cellar. Chapter members also walked along a path behind the mansion to see the brick lined pit that was used to store food stuffs and perishable goods. Plantation workers would place large blocks of ice covered with straw into the pit to help preserve the goods. This was the plantation owners version of the "ice box".

Another important part of Rosewell Plantation is the Page Family Cemetery. Wendy Gay revealed that the Page Family tombs were removed in December 1969, by the Joseph Bryan Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, to the Abington Episcopal Church Cemetery to avoid vandalism. Remains of the Page Family members are still at Rosewell.

At Fairfield Plantation the ASV Nansemond Chapter members were greeted by David Brown, archaeologist and co-director of the Fairfield Foundation. He and a group of volunteers were actively engaged in excavating 5' X 5' test units between the ruins of the manor house, which was destroyed by fire in 1897, and existing cultivated fields. In preceding years Fairfield was also called Burwell Plantation and Carter's Creek Farm.

The core of Fairfield Plantation exists today as a large, flat agricultural field fringed by forested areas. The ruins of the house have been excavated in times past and is currently covered with blue tarps. "Further archaeological work on this area will be contacted in the future," said Brown. Earlier excavations at the site of the slave quarters recovered many items including scissors, large metal spike, glass beads, straight pins, cowie shells, slate pencils, 18th century pottery shards, Raccoon Baculum, and other items. Brown said, "In the last twelve years 600 test units have been excavated on Fairfield Plantation". He further stated, "Indian artifacts from the Middle Woodland period and colonial era items have also been found along the fingers of Carter's Creek."

After the tour was completed, David Brown and his volunteers began closing down the site due to the excessive heat of the day. The Nansemond Chapter members and guest continued on a self-guided tour of Fairfield by reviewing a number of informational plaques in various locations.

The Nansemond Chapter members then retired to have a tailgate lunch under the shade of large oak trees near the Abington Episcopal Church, founded circa 1650, and its adjoining cemetery on Route 17 near White Marsh, Gloucester County, VA. After lunch, several members braved the heat to look at the Page and Burwell Family Tombs and the gravestones of other area notables buried in this old cemetery. ⊕



▲ ASV Nansemond Chapter members and guest at Rosewell. Pictured left to right are: Elizabeth Mackall; Millard Mackall; CPT Mary Beth Webb, USA (JAG); Wayne Edwards; Carolyn Webb; Jerry Webb; Penny Smith; and George Ramsey. (Photo by: Bert Wendell)



▲ ASV Nansemond Chapter members and guest at Fairfield. Pictured left to right are: Wayne Edwards; George Ramsey; David Brown, archaeologist and co-director of the Fairfield Foundation; Willard Mackall; Elizabeth Mackall; Penny Smith; Carolyn Webb; Jerry Webb; and CPT Mary Beth Webb, USA (JAG). (Photo by: Bert Wendell)

A DAY OF ARCHAEOLOGY - JULY 10, 2012

Carole Nash

100 Degrees, High Humidity — Field School in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley
By nashcl on June 29, 2012 in DayOfArch2012, Education, Historical Archaeology

Carole Nash writing to you from Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley, where I'm finishing up a week-long field school at a ca. 1760 Rhenish stone flurkuchenhaus, the White House, on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. I teach at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and co-direct the Archaeological Technician Certification Program, an effort of the Archeological Society of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and the Council of Virginia Archaeologists. This week's field school was created for Cert students — we have over 70 grads and almost 90 active students who commit to 60 hours of lab work, 60 hours of field survey, 60 hours of excavation, 20 hours of public education, 12 courses, and a reading list a mile long. Our students range in age from 16-83 and all share a remarkable dedication to archaeology. The White House field school is but one of our 2012 Cert programs.



▲ A familiar landmark in the Luray area, the White House was built ca. 1760 by Mennonite minister Martin Kauffman.

What started as a very clear, cool week ended with a blast of summer — today's temps reached 100 degrees at the site — and we have one more day to go. Anyone who has spent a summer digging in Virginia knows what this means: start early, drink lots of water, and take a LONG lunch! Fortunately for us, we're working in an amazingly beautiful location in the shadow of Massanutten Mountain, we have shade trees and canopies, and we have a clean portajohn. We have an outdoor lab set up to wash artifacts. Actually feels pretty luxurious.

So....the White House: built by a German immigrant family in ca. 1760; now part of the White House Farm Foundation, which has put 270 acres of land in conservation easement and is working toward a National Register nomination for the structure. A flurkuchenhaus is a Rhenish (German Rhineland) design, with three rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs, plus a vaulted basement. They are sometimes referred to as 'stone forts' because they were constructed during the French and Indian War years on the Virginia Frontier, but they were not defensive structures. They're beautiful stone houses, though. This one was covered with skim and stucco at least three times. We have been reading Valley documents and know that the house was called

▼ A Civil-war era minie ball found on the east side of the house.



“White House” as early as 1769 and used as a Mennonite and Baptist meeting house.

Our goals (in addition to getting our students solid archaeological training): confirm the date of construction; learn about the evolution of the house; determine the impact of flooding on the landform (first terrace, South Fork of the Shenandoah); and learn whether the terrace was occupied by Native Americans prior to the Kauffman family. A tall order for a week of work! Gotta aim high, right? We did, indeed, find evidence to assist with each of these goals, although admittedly, the heat slowed us down today.

I am so proud of our team — today’s crew included six Certification grads (Laura Wedin, Marsha Summerson, Maxine Grabill, Janice Biller, Linda Waggy, and Kay Veith), a Certification student (Philip Mulford), our local ASV Chapter President (Cindy Schroer), and a new archaeology student (Cullen Byers). Our smaller crew today was down from 18 on Wednesday. GO TEAM! You’re the best!

Our findings from thirteen 2.5’ x 2.5 units and one backhoe trench: our arms aren’t long enough to dig on the South Fork floodplain! We have a .4’ flood deposit on top of a 1’ plowzone filled with late 18th/19th century artifacts, with Native American lithics and pottery included. Under the plowzone we have flood deposit 1, flood deposit 2, flood deposit 3, flood deposit 4, flood deposit 5 — and that’s where we stopped. The bucket auger is our friend.



▲ Carole Nash discusses flood plain deposits with site visitor Mike Madden of the U.S. Forest Service in Roanoke.

Cool artifacts: a piece of eight from the reign of Charles III (Carolus dollar); two French gun flints; English brown stoneware; Westerwald stoneware; a kaolin pipestem; creamware; a remarkable variety of pearlware; cut nails and more cut nails; Middle and Late Woodland pottery.

Our plan: come back in the Fall when the weather is cooler.

Happy Day of Archaeology from Virginia, all! ☺

Reprinted from <http://www.dayofarchaeology.com>

Read more about the White House Project:
<http://whfarmfoundation.org/blog/archeology-dig-at-the-white-house/>

White House site fun facts:

- *We had 26 volunteers
- *We worked 80 person-days
- *We volunteered a total of 570 hours
- *Over 100 degrees on two days
- *A derecho storm on Friday!



*The Hot Women of Archaeology:
Marsha Summerson, Laura Wedin, and Maxine Grabill.*

SAVAGE NECK BEACH AWASH WITH PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS

Bert Wendell, Jr., President, ASV Nansemond Chapter

The Savage Neck Archaeological Site (44NH478) is located on a strip of white sandy beach on the Chesapeake Bay side of Virginia's Eastern Shore near the town of Eastville in Northampton County, Virginia.

This is a place where the American Bald Eagle swoops down to the surface of the water to extract its next meal of fish. Deer and raccoon tracks can be seen in the damp sand at the waters' edge. Shore birds move quickly along the beach poking their bills into the sand looking for food. Just off shore a commercial fisherman in a white Chesapeake Bay Deadrise fishing boat retrieves his crab pots.

It is this availability of food sources, which exists along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, that drew Native Americans to this area thousands of years ago. These people left behind in the sand and in shell middens evidence that they were hunting, fishing and living on the Savage Neck.

In October 2011 members of the Smithsonian Institution discovered and tested the Savage Neck Site. They found pieces of Mockley (shell tempered) and Nomini (crushed quartz tempered) ceramics which dated to the Middle Woodland period (500 BC - 300 AD). These ceramic sherds along with other artifacts had washed out of their original locations by tidal wave actions, storm surges, and rising Chesapeake Bay water levels.

To further evaluate this threatened prehistoric archaeological site, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted an excavation and field school on May 2-9, 2012. Professional archaeologists from VDHR and the USFS worked alongside volunteers from the Passport in Time (PIT) Program and the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV). An average of 29 people worked on the site per day. Volunteers came from as far away as Olympia, Washington and as near as Exmore, Virginia.

Mike Madden, USFS archaeologist with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, said, "the Savage Neck's threatened site status is primarily due to the raising water level of the Chesapeake Bay." "During prehistoric times, the actual campsites were further out from the existing shore line," Madden said, "only at low tide levels can we attempt to locate and excavate these areas for artifacts." At high tide the water was only a couple of feet from the main excavation site which was located at the base of a sand dune bank covered with vegetation and large pieces of drift wood.

The archaeologist and volunteers sheltered themselves and the excavation units from the direct sun by using tent like shelters and tarps. They used a 2.5'x 2.5' drawing grid to systematically outline excavation units along the entire length of the site. The archaeologist and ASV Certification Students used a transit and stadia rod to take accurate measurements prior to, during and after excavation to determine the vertical relationship of the unit or feature with regard to the benchmark.

They began their work by removing the top layer of loose sand. As the more compacted sand/soil layer was exposed they used small hand trowels, wooden picks and paint brushes to expose and remove various types of shells, stone and ceramic shards. As each artifact was revealed, its exact location was measured within the unit and recorded. Once the artifact was removed from the unit, it was placed in a paper bag that was annotated



▲ Using small hand trowels to clear compacted sand from an excavation unit is (left) Jim Paciorek a PIT volunteer from Westfield, MA and (right) Wayne Edwards an ASV Nansemond Chapter member and Certification Student from Franklin, VA.



with the site name and number, unit number, level within the unit where found, and the type of artifact found.

The removed layers of sand/soil were placed in plastic bags, tied off with a strip of plastic ribbon which was annotated with unit information and taken off site to be washed in a flotation device. Here the sand/soil was removed exposing smaller artifacts.

Once each unit was completely excavated down to the sterile sand/soil level, profile photographs were taken by Richard Guercin, USFS archaeologist. The recovered Savage Neck artifacts will be taken back to the VDHR Lab in Richmond, VA for further study. In the lab, the artifacts

will be cleaned, sorted, photographs taken and each item cataloged. A final site report will be written and made available for future research and publication.

One of the most interesting units was a shell midden excavated by Charlie Manson, an ASV Col. Howard MacCord Chapter member, along with several other volunteers. Not only did he find many broken shells and ceramic sherds in the midden, but also several complete clam shells that were never broken open by the prehistoric occupants of the site.

Native Americans living along the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast had a wide range of food available to them such as fish, mollusks, nuts, berries, deer, birds, water fowl and smaller mammals. The discards from this food supply were usually thrown into the midden. The midden was the trash dump where prehistoric people deposited shells, broken ceramics, bones and other discarded items. Over time, many layers built up of different types of shells such as hard-shell clams, oysters, scallops, whelk, razor clams, periwinkles and soft-shell clams.



▲ Close-up of a ceramic sherd showing that prehistoric pot makers used crushed shell as temper material mixed with clay to prevent cracking and shrinking during firing. This sherd was recovered by Charlie Manson during excavation of the shell midden at Savage Neck Site.

The Native Americans here not

only dumped shells into middens. Their ceramic makers crushed and mixed shells with clay to make pots and bowls. The bits of crushed shell acted as a tempering agent to help prevent the fired ceramics from cracking or shrinking during firing.

Mike Barber, Virginia's state archaeologist and ASV member, said, "in Virginia, it has been thought that prehistoric ceramic makers started using shell-temper about 2,000 years ago (200 - 900 AD). However, the shell dating process used by the Smithsonian has moved this date back in time to about 3,000 years ago (750 - 1,000 BC)." Barber further stated, "that there is a 1,000 years difference in time here that has to be dealt with by the archaeological community."

He further stated, "the ceramic sherds found at the Savage Neck Site contains scallop shell temper material which has a higher salt content than other types of shells." "There are more questions than answers," he said while leaning against a large weather worn tree trunk that stretched the full width of the beach at high tide.

An open house was held at the site on Sunday May 6th with nearly



▲ Taking a level II depth measurement of a Savage Neck Site unit is (left to right) Belinda Urquiza, ASV Northern Virginia Chapter member and PIT volunteer; Suzanne Bucci, ASV member; and Don Millburn of Exmore, VA.



▲ Kenneth Mitchell, Passport In Time volunteer from Olympia, WA, checks the depth of an excavation unit.

hundred local residents attending. Several residents commented to Michelle Rosado, USFS archaeologist and PIT coordinator, that they were glad to see the Savage Neck area of the Eastern Shore get some of the archaeological attention that is paid to other parts of Virginia.

After all the archaeological work was completed; the excavation units back filled; shelter tents torn down; equipment removed; and the beach cleaned up, the last evidence that the archaeologists were there will be swept away by the next blowing wind and high tide.

Although this archaeological excavation produced only a limited number of artifacts, it could be said that it is not so much what was found, but what was not found that sheds light on Native American activities along the Savage Neck's white sandy beaches on the Chesapeake Bay side of Virginia's Eastern Shore. ⊕



▲ Taking advantage of the Chesapeake Bay's low tide level to excavate a unit at the Savage Neck Site is Kara Jorud (left) and Jim Paciorek (right), PIT volunteers from Westfield, MA.



◀ Putting a final rinse on residue material is Keith Sprigg a PIT volunteer from Reading, PA. Next, he laid the plastic mesh screen on a wooden platform, opened it and spread out the residue to dry. This material will later accompany larger artifacts recovered from the Savage Neck Site to the VDHR's Lab in Richmond, VA for further study. In the background are (left) Suzanne Bucci, ASV member from Shepardstown, WV, and (right) Sharon Hunt, PIT volunteer from Burdett, NY, using a flotation device filled with water to remove sand/soil to expose the residue material.

► Hannah Short, member of Upper James River Chapter of the ASV, shows William Simon, youth PIT volunteer from Harding Township, NJ, how to use the hand trowel to remove sand/soil from an excavation unit.



▲ Charlie Manson, ASV Col. Howard MacCord Chapter member, brushes away sand/soil from a ceramic shard in a shell midden during archaeological excavations at the Savage Neck Site.



▲ Utilizing a 2.5'x2.5' drawing grid to lay out excavation are (left to right) Stan Slivinski, ASV member, Mike Madden, archaeologist for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, and Michelle Rosado, U.S. Forest Service in Roanoke, VA.

► Richard Guercin, U.S. Forest Service archaeologist, takes a profile photograph of a Savage Neck Site excavation unit that has been taken down to a sterile sand/soil level.



JULY 2012 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stephanie Jacobe, Secretary

The State Executive Board met over two days between July 21st and July 22nd. The Saturday meeting was held at the office of the U.S. Forest Service in Roanoke and the Sunday meeting took place at the Western Regional office of the Department of Historic Resources. One entire day of the board meeting was dedicated to finalizing a new draft of the By-Laws and Constitution of the Society to submit to the membership for approval at the annual meeting. The overhaul of the Bylaws and Constitution took some time to accomplish, and we thank the committee that presented the draft to the Board for all their hard work.

The Board meeting reconvened on Sunday morning and went through the more standard reporting from committees that the board normally hears from. The board was asked to check out a form prepared as ASV webmaster Lyle Browning to place on the website that will assist chapters in applying to have field projects approved for insurance by the board. The board reviewed the form and offered suggestions and comments.

Bruce Baker read the conditions of Bill Cropper's Will to the board, which needs to be done every year. The Board also decided to centralize all ASV operations at Kittiewan including publications and the ASV phone. The Kittiewan Committee also reported on the work done at the plantation and continues to ask that anyone interested in helping out to contact Bruce Baker.

May Tabor of the Wolf Hills Chapter reported that all the arrangements are set for the Annual meeting in October in Wytheville. So far one fieldtrip has been planned to Saltville. Sessions will take place in the new Wytheville Conference Center and we have two hotels nearby, the Comfort Inn and the Country Inn and Suites. Information about registering for the Annual Meeting has already been placed on the website.

Burt Wendell also reported about arrangements for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which is being sponsored by the Nansemond Chapter. The meeting is scheduled for the last weekend in October and is being held in Virginia Beach at the Cavalier Hotel. More details will follow later.

ASV Board Members at Two Day Meeting in Roanoke. ►

Starting in front and going clockwise: Cindy Dausen, ASV Kittiewan Committee Member and Docent; Lyle Browning, ASV Webmaster; Patrick O'Neill, ASV Membership Chairman; Laura Wedin, ASV Newsletter Co-Editor; Charlie Manson, ASV QB Editor; Carole Nash, ASV Vice President and Co-Director of the Certification Program; Elizabeth Moore, ASV President-Elect; Stephanie Jacobe, ASV Secretary; Dan Kegley, ASV President; John Kelsey, President, ASV Northern Virginia Chapter; Bruce Baker, ASV Kittiewan Committee Chairman and Co-Director of the Certification Program; Carl Fischer, ASV Treasurer; May Tabor, President, ASV Wolf Hills Chapter; Richard Guercin, Archaeologist, U.S. Forest Service; and Mike Barber, State Archaeologist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.



Photo by Bert Wendell, Jr., President, ASV Nansemond Chapter



ASV OFFICERS

President Dan Kegley
hearthside@embargo.com

President-Elect Elizabeth Moore
Elizabeth.Moore@vmnh.virginia.gov

Vice President Carole Nash
nashcl@jmu.edu

Secretary Stephanie Jacobs
aureus@usa.net

Treasurer Carl Fisher
flyfischn@aol.com

Newsletter Co-Editors

Randolph Turner
erturner48@cox.net

Laura Wedin
lwedin@vt.edu

Webmaster

Lyle Browning
lebrowning@att.net

Certification Program

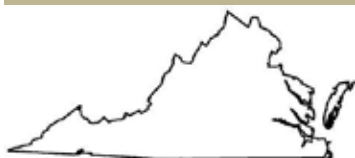
Carole Nash
nashcl@jmu.edu
Bruce Baker
bakerbw@tds.net

COVA CONTACT

Laura Galke
galke@gwffoundation.org

DHR/

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
Mike Barber
Mike.Barber@dhr.virginia.gov



UPCOMING EVENTS



- Sept. 8** ASV Kittiewan Open House, Charles City County
- Sept 14-16** 11th Upland Archaeology in the East Symposium, Roanoke
- Sept. 23-25** 27th Annual Virginia Preservation Conference, Leesburg
<http://preservationvirginia.org/>
- Oct. 12** COVA Fall Meeting, Wytheville
- Oct. 12-14** ASV Annual Meeting, Wytheville
<http://www.asv-archeology.org>
- Oct. 25-28** Eastern States Archeological Federation Annual Meeting
Perrysburg, Ohio
<http://esaf-archeology.org>
- Oct. 25-28** Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Baton Rouge, LA
<http://southeasternarchaeology.org>
- Nov. 10** ASV Kittiewan Open House, Charles City County
- Dec. 8** ASV Kittiewan Open House, Charles City County



Archeological Society of Virginia
P.O. Box 70395
Richmond, VA 23255-0395