



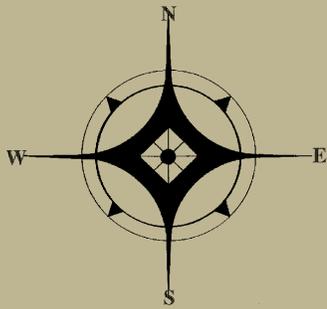
# THE ASV

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 - ELIZABETH MOORE

I am writing this having finished clearing my driveway of the ten plus inches of snow we got last night here in Martinsville. I don't know about you, but when I have to shovel for three hours, I prefer it's in the dirt and there are at least a few artifacts to wash at the end of the effort. Today I also got to read some planning documents from Nancy Rubin and the Kittiewan Committee as they continue preparations for the June 14-15 event which will commemorate activities



that occurred at Kittiewan during the Civil War. A lot of work has gone into the planning for this event and I encourage you all to participate whether it's by helping direct parking and picking up trash or just attending and enjoying the activities. You don't have to wait until June to visit Kittiewan; there are regular open house days and all are welcome. You can find open house dates on the Kittiewan web page or on the Facebook page. Other exciting news for the ASV is that the AMC Network recently filmed part of a new Revolutionary War themed TV series "Turn" at Kittiewan. It airs on April 6th - can you spot the scenes filmed at the home of the ASV?

If you haven't heard yet, David Rotenizer is leading a team of people who are working to increase our social media presence. The ASV and Kittiewan Facebook pages have regular postings about the ASV, Kittiewan, and archaeology news from around the world. ASV members Molly Kerr and Tanesha High have been submitting photos of some of the changes happening in the house as improvements are made to the exhibits and new interpretive material is put in place. If you haven't visited our pages and "liked" us yet I encourage you to do so. Then "share" some of the postings so your friends and family can see them and find their way to our pages.

Finally, I know most of you are not thinking about fall yet (Summer and warmer weather? Yes. Fall? Not so much.) but there is a group for whom fall is forefront in their thoughts these days. They are the members of the Howard MacCord chapter based in Richmond. Led by Bill Bjork, they are hosting the Annual Meetings in October. As you work inside during this cold weather in labs or basements processing artifacts, in libraries and archives conducting research, in meeting rooms listening to speakers, or just enjoying each others' company don't forget to take photos and notes so you can share your chapter's activities in October. Every year there is a session dedicated to chapter reports. It is a time set aside for all of us to see what other chapters have been doing, to share ideas, and to get to know more about each other. Stay warm. ☺

# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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## Michael B. Barber, PhD, State Archaeologist

Someone asked me the other day, “Where is Virginia archaeology going?” Without much thought I blurted out, “To a higher level.” It has taken me a few days to figure out just what I meant.

Some things are easy. The ASV, for example. Never have the avocational community and professional community worked so closely together for the benefit of the past. The Certification Program is going full bore with the pros and avos both reaping great benefits. Collections are being examined, sites are being recorded, excavations are powered by volunteers, artifacts are being analyzed, and, most importantly, data shared and papers written. If the ASV/DHR/USFS field school is any example, our cooperative efforts are reaching new heights. Data gathered, the catharsis of artifacts seen as behavior on many faces, sites saved from destruction, and opportunities to gain experience shared by all. What many fail to realize is that the professionals learn as much from the avocational archaeologists as the avos from the pros. It is an exchange of information on many levels concerning methodology, sites, artifacts, distribution, threats to sites, and cultural nuances. And this is just one of the many field schools open to volunteers in Virginia.

Then there is Kittiewan. ASV took a risk and it paid off. ASV has a home, a 700 acre research laboratory, a museum, storage, a publications center, and thanks to the efforts of many, is a fiscally sound operation. ASV membership is holding steady in a time where everyone is bombarded with video-this and digital-that which provide a multitude of distractions to something as serious as archaeology. The *Quarterly Bulletin* has retained its high quality of articles and presentations, the web-page informs our members and others in a timely manner, and the *ASV Newsletter* is, in my opinion, the best it’s ever been. Finally, the bylaws have been brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with many arcane and aged procedures put to rest. As times change, organizations need to evolve as well. ASV met the challenge.

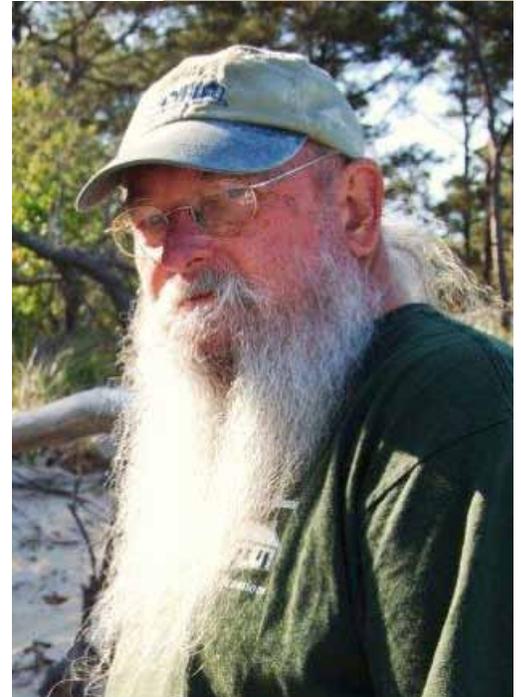
Beyond ASV, DHR has seen change and growth. The shining example of this effort is the new recordation system V-Cris. Now sites can be recorded in a much easier manner, mapping elements include aerials as well as quads (my favorite feature), and site data is easily available and searchable. The DHR lab is open for volunteers which helps clear our backlogs as well as provide volunteers with a familiarity of artifact types. Never have our collections (6.5 million artifacts) been more researched and our museum loans are ever expanding. The Threatened Site Program is in its 29<sup>th</sup> year and is still saving sites and data from across the Commonwealth.

We are, however, facing some challenges. DHR is at low ebb of archaeologists which makes the role of the avocational community ever more important. Climate change with its concomitant increase in catastrophe storm surge and sea level rise is threatening many sites on the Chesapeake and Atlantic. We have altered priorities, moved some efforts to the Eastern Shore, and applied for several grants. Challenges are on the horizon but much progress has been made.



VIRGINIA  
DHR

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



### **V-CRIS: NEW SITE NUMBERS? NEW SYSTEM! - Jolene Smith, VDHR**

Many ASV members may be familiar with recording archaeological sites in DSS (Data Sharing System). Launched in 2001, DSS had been showing its age for a while and was in major need of an overhaul. A small team of extremely dedicated DHR staff worked with an external software vendor to design a completely new system from the ground up. In September of 2013, DHR was pleased to announce the release of V-CRIS (Virginia Cultural Resource Information System). The new system contains detailed information on over 200,000 historic resources, including around 43,000 archaeological sites throughout Virginia. It also serves as the mechanism for collecting information on newly recorded sites as well as updating site records with further detail.

All ASV members working on a purely voluntary basis are eligible to receive free data entry access. This will allow you to fill out site forms electronically in order to obtain new site numbers or to enrich existing site forms. For those of you who have recorded sites in DSS, you will notice far fewer fields to fill out. We did our best to streamline data entry as much as possible while collecting useful information. One of the most noticeable improvements is in mapping sites. In the past, you may have mailed a physical map or emailed a graphic map to DHR in order to get your site number. Now, all of the mapping is done right in V-CRIS. This means much more accuracy in mapping and less data for you to enter as a user. Much of the locational information (UTM, quad, acreage, etc.) is now calculated by the system in V-CRIS, reducing error and saving time. If you have GPS coordinates, you can plug them right into the system to zoom to a precise location. All of this digital mapping also means that DHR's maps are up-to-date at all times. As soon as your record is reviewed, your information is visible to all V-CRIS users with information viewing privileges (this can help to protect sites). Recording sites at DHR is faster and easier than it has ever been before.

If you'd like to sign up for data entry access, get in touch with me directly and I will add you to the system. There is no need to go through the full V-CRIS registration process since I am personally managing all ASV accounts. I am happy to provide one-on-one training either remotely (via internet/phone) or in person. If your chapter is interested in a group training event I can also travel to you.

Certification Program graduates are also eligible to receive full system access on a project-by-project basis. This will allow you to view the V-CRIS GIS as well as to query for sites by dozens of different attributes. If you are working on a specific research question or preparing for fieldwork, please contact me and I will provide you with more detail.

We at DHR truly value the work you do as ASV volunteers. I send a hearty "thanks" to each of you for all of your efforts throughout the years.

Jolene Smith  
Archaeology Inventory Manager  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
(804)482-6438  
jolene.smith@dhr.virginia.gov



## KITTIEWAN PLANTATION BRIEF - MARTHA WILLIAMS

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Things are never dull at Kittiewan, even though this winter's weather has been a real bear! In fact, the past two and one-half months have seen some really intensive--and different--activity on the ASV property. Two major events bracketed this period.

The middle of December was especially busy, as literally hundreds of actors, prop and makeup persons, set-up and take down crews, teams of oxen and horses, sound and lighting equipment, and miles of cable descended on our normally peaceful property. The front rooms and exterior of Kittiewan's Manor House were transformed into a film set for a dramatic series that is to air later this year (specific details appear elsewhere in this newsletter). The film calendar was such that Kittiewan had to cancel its annual Holiday Open House, but your Kittiewan Committee was busier than ever. For the better part of two weeks, at least one committee member was on hand every day to answer questions and ensure that the property remained essentially unscathed. Bruce Baker and Bill Bjork deserve special kudos for their persistent efforts to ride herd on the organized mayhem and ensure that things went smoothly. Unfortunately, we have no photos to convey the scene, since ASV's agreement with the film company precluded taking any pictures.

On February 1, Kittiewan hosted a special group for a day at the plantation (see the photo gallery this issue). A dozen students and faculty from Virginia State University's History Club visited the property for a tour of the house and presentations on a variety of topics related to the problems and promises of managing a historic property. Attendees heard presentations on



▲ Kittiewan in the snow.



Kittiewan's history (including African American history), the ASV Library, the Kittiewan archives, collections management, archeology, historic landscapes, property management, and potential career opportunities for history majors. Committee members and volunteers provided lunch for the visitors, and the event resulted in at least one new volunteer. The visit also laid the groundwork for a more lasting association between Kittiewan and VSU, including possible student internships.

In between, three weekends were taken up by meetings - of the Committee itself, a special planning meeting for the 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War observance in June, and the ASV Board meeting in Charlottesville on January 25 (five Kittiewan Committee members are also on the Board). Kittiewan's 2014 budget will allow the committee to move forward on several fronts, including long-overdue capital improvements at the Visitors' Center and preparation of an updated National Register nomination that will encompass the whole property, instead of just the Manor House. Randy Turner continues to plug away at cataloguing the ASV Library and creating a proper ASV archives. Others on the committee have begun the arduous task of cleaning and re-arranging the house and Visitors' Center in time for the first open house in April and the Civil War observance in June. Bill Bjork and his Richmond chapter are coming out on February 22 to start cutting back the undergrowth in the Rickman cemetery, and Patrick O'Neill will be leading an effort to clear vegetation from the Civil War trench during March and April.

We ALWAYS need help, so if you can donate some time on Wednesdays or Saturdays, PLEASE contact us ([mwilliamslonomo@aol.com](mailto:mwilliamslonomo@aol.com)). And be sure to "like" us on our updated Facebook page, too. ☺

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**You are invited to show off your skills for Kittiewan's  
150<sup>th</sup> Civil War Anniversary Open House Observance  
June 14<sup>th</sup> & June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Each area will need a lead coordinator & additional volunteers.**

To sign up or for more information, please contact: Nancy Rubin - [nlrubin@mindspring.com](mailto:nlrubin@mindspring.com) or 804 921-1025

**Areas Needing Coordinators and Volunteers - Each area will have details to follow**

1. **Grounds - Set Up & Clean Up/Parking/Trash and Porta -Johns**
2. **Recruit Volunteers to help with Observance** (*To include ASV chapter exhibitors, ASV certification students, individual ASV members;, hunt club members, local history clubs boy scouts – troop 2860*)
3. **Re-enactors/Musicians/Demonstrators/Docents**
4. **Visitor Center/Civil War Exhibit**
5. **On-site Archaeology and/or displays of previous Archaeology?**
6. **Food/Beverages/supplies for all volunteers/re-enactors and public**
7. **Advertising / Media/ Tickets/Special invitations to V.I.P.s**

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Kittiewan's committee invites you to join in continuing the work of preserving and interpreting this special property. For more information, contact Martha Williams at [mwilliamslonomo@aol.com](mailto:mwilliamslonomo@aol.com).

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◀ Bruce Baker extols the virtues of ASV's Certification Program.

▶ The group enjoys lunch courtesy of Kittiewan's master chefs.



◀ Tanesh High highlights Kittiewan's African American history.



▲ Nancy Rubin, emcee, arranged the VSU visit.



▲ Patrick O'Neill explains the details of the Manor House's paneled room.



▲ VSU students and staff set off to visit the (frigid) Manor House.

## AMC'S TURN FILMED AT KITTIEWAN

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The below press release for the upcoming "TURN" TV series, filmed in part at Kittiewan, was issued by the Governor's office on February 18, 2014. The two accompanying photos are from AMC's Facebook page for TURN.

### AMC STUDIOS' COLONIAL ERA SPY SERIES FILMED IN VIRGINIA PREMIERES APRIL 6

*Estimated Economic Impact for Virginia is \$45 Million for Season One*

RICHMOND, Va. When the new TV series "TURN" premieres on Sunday, April 6 at 9 pm ET, Virginians will get their first opportunity to view the Revolutionary War-era saga about America's first spy ring. They will also see the results of Virginia's efforts to create jobs and grow our economy by bringing film and television projects to the Commonwealth. The ten episodes that comprise the first season were shot entirely on location in the Richmond and Petersburg areas and feature many area locations, actors and extras.

"TURN' is the perfect show to be filmed in Virginia," said Governor Terry McAuliffe. "This high-quality show from an outstanding network like AMC will shine a spotlight on Virginia's exceptional historic sites and attractions. It will also offer the prospect of long-term employment for many Virginians and help develop our workforce by providing hands-on experience for those entering the field of film and television production."

Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones continued, "Bringing projects like 'TURN' to Virginia is an economic development strategy that will absolutely continue in the McAuliffe administration. The film industry in Virginia plays a significant role in the state's economy. In 2012, the total economic impact of the film and television industry in Virginia was \$328.4 million and 3,061 jobs were attributed to the film industry. The Governor and I are dedicated to expanding the successes the Commonwealth has had in this key area."



Virginia Film Office Director Andy Edmunds remarked, "Landing a major television series is an important milestone for our industry. Long-term job opportunities for cast, crew, and other related businesses will be a major catalyst toward growing a sustainable and thriving production industry in Virginia. AMC produces some of the best content in the business, and we are proud to be partnering with them on this exceptional series."

"TURN" is a layered, character-driven spy thriller that unravels the untold story of America's first spy ring. Set during the Revolutionary War, viewers are taken behind the battlefield to a shadow war

fought by everyday heroes: men and women who defy king and family to create a new nation while vowing to keep their work a secret.

Based on remarkable new research in the book *Washington's Spies*, by Alexander Rose, "TURN" centers around Abraham Woodhull, a farmer living behind enemy lines in British-occupied Long Island. Abraham bands together with a group of childhood friends to form The Culper Ring: an unlikely team of secret agents who help George Washington turn the tide of the war in favor of the Rebels. Their daring efforts revolutionized the art of espionage, giving birth to modern spycraft in all its moral complexity. "TURN" transforms history into suspenseful and resonant entertainment.



The series stars Jamie Bell as Abraham Woodhull, Seth Numrich as Ben Tallmadge, Heather Lind as Anna Strong, Daniel Henshall as Caleb Brewster, Meegan Warner as Mary Woodhull, Kevin McNally as Judge Richard Woodhull, Burn Gorman as Major Hewlett, Angus MacFadyen as Robert Rogers, JJ Feild as Major John Andre, and Samuel Roukin as Captain Simcoe. The series has filmed at numerous locations throughout the area including Shirley, Westover, Tuckahoe, Kittiewan and Scotchtown Plantations. The series has also filmed extensively in Petersburg, including at Center Hill Mansion, the Farmer's Market, South Side Depot and Cockade Alley.

"TURN" will be eligible for Virginia incentives based on actual expenditures in the Commonwealth, and other added-value deliverables including Virginia Tourism Corporation advertising. The economic impact of "TURN" shooting in Virginia is estimated to be \$45 million per season with 600 people involved in filming.

For information about "TURN" visit [www.amctv.com/shows/TURN/about](http://www.amctv.com/shows/TURN/about)

For information about Virginia's film industry, visit the Virginia Film Office website at [FilmVirginia.org](http://FilmVirginia.org).

For information about Virginia travel and tourism, visit [Virginia.org](http://Virginia.org)

Brian Coy  
Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe  
804-887-9147

## ASV MEMBER PROFILE – MICHAEL F. JOHNSON, ARCHAEOLOGIST

Article and Photo by Bert Wendell, Jr., ASV Nansemond Chapter

On October 24, 2013, at the Archeological Society of Virginia's Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA, Archaeologist Michael "Mike" Johnson talked to a group of ASV members about his work at Cactus Hill, Rubis-Pearsall, Blueberry Hill, and Smith Mountain Gap PaleoAmerican Complex Sites. He took follow-up questions and answered each one in a very concise and humorous manner.

Most professional and avocational archaeologists in Virginia know of Mike Johnson. Much has been written about his archaeological work on prehistoric and historic sites in Virginia and other areas of the United States. However, little is known about how he became interested in archaeology.



When asked about his first recollections of being inquisitive about nature and his surrounding environs, this mild mannered gentleman, who speaks in a soft but confident manner, said, "I grew up collecting every zero, four, and eight legged critters I could corner." "I'd say one of the more important things to influence who I am today is the five years I spent growing up in the late 1940s on a 10-acre dirt farm in central Florida." He further stated, "As an only child, I had to invent things to do and I learned to find things that were interesting in that context. However, being not so sharp at math and science and very good at history, my dream of a natural science career became an obvious delusion."

Mike Johnson, a member of the 1968 George Mason University's first four-year graduating class had plans to become a history teacher. However, shortly after graduation he went into the U.S. Navy and served from 1968 to 1973. After graduating from the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School, Newport, RI, he received his commission as an Ensign (O-1), USN. His first duty station was onboard the USS Norton Sound (AVM-1) as the ship's Communications Officer. He later transferred to the USS Holmes County (LST-836) and was the ship's Operations Officer. He also served eight months in-country Vietnam. He was an Assistant Intelligence Officer and Intelligence Briefer on the staff of the Commander, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and a pre-deployment briefer for 800 members of the Amphibious Ready Groups. Mike Johnson achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

Following the U.S. Navy, he earned a management internship (GS-9) with the General Services Administration (GSA) and then worked for four years as a Planning Specialist (GS-12) with the General War Preparedness Division of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) in the Washington, DC area.

Johnson found this work to be unsatisfying and could not wait to get away from the office and get outside. "My colleagues surely thought I was a whacko as I would spend my lunch hour breaking rocks into my trash can or wandering around Roosevelt Island", said Johnson. He further stated, "By their reaction at my farewell party, they were incredibly envious of my leaving for the Fairfax County archaeology job, because like many good people they wished for adventure and they knew I had found it."

“Finding new and interesting things has been an obsession and when I discovered a blue quartzite Savannah River point in my Chantilly, VA garden in 1973, I discovered my calling”, stated Johnson.

Archaeology became Mike Johnson’s chosen profession and he looked forward to going to work each day. “I was so hooked on archaeology that I took a 30% pay cut to take the archaeology job in Fairfax County, VA. However, that does not mean I did not learn valuable lessons from the Navy and stints as a management intern and civil defense planner”, he stated.

Johnson also pointed out that briefing 800 sailors (many of whom did not want to be there) every six months about the Russian Navy made talking to a bunch of archaeologists seem easy.

As a Fairfax County archaeologist and preservation planner, he spent many days, months, and years working on and documenting numerous archaeological sites throughout Virginia. In his spare time, he earned a master’s degree in Anthropology from American University in Washington, D.C.

During his more than 30 years of service as an archaeologist, he received special recognition and many awards for his archaeological achievements. One particular award that he is proud of is the “Outstanding Achievement Award” from the D.C. Chapter of the American Planning Association. This award was given for his and Sue Henry’s work in 1986 to produce the first comprehensive Heritage Resource Management Plan in Virginia. Also, he has authored more than fifty selected reports, articles and professional papers.

He retired in 2011 as senior archaeologist with the Fairfax County Park Authority. He continues his archaeological endeavors and in 2012 completed his doctorate’s degree (PhD) in Archaeology from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom.

Mike Johnson is a Life Member of the Archeological Society of Virginia; a member of the Council of Virginia Archeologists; and many other archaeological federations, societies, and conferences. He and his wife Gail reside in Falls Church, VA. Johnson further commented, “My wife and kids are saints for putting up with the relatively low waged, idiosyncratic archaeologist they all of a sudden had in their midst.”

Thank you, Mike, for your military service and your hard work to preserve Virginia’s artifacts. ⊕

► Mike Johnson receiving in 1911 from Dan Kegley an ASV Lifetime Achievement Award.



## UPDATE FROM THE VDHR CONSERVATION LAB – CONSERVING A CONNER'S MIDDEN VESSEL

**Lauren Jones, Conservation Intern, VDHR**

In January I began a three month internship with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Conservation Lab. I have previous experience with archaeology field and lab work including some conservation work. I wanted to gain more experience with the conservation of whole vessels including the creation of structural fills and in-painting. Katherine Ridgway, the DHR Conservator, suggested I work on a vessel from the DHR Conner's Midden ceramics collection.

Conner's Midden is a prehistoric occupation site that lies on the banks of the Roanoke (Staunton) River in Halifax County, Virginia. It was excavated for several years by the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) beginning in 1953. The excavation produced numerous amounts of sherds from a variety of different vessels. There exists no provenience information for the ceramic artifacts excavated from the site.

The DHR collection has several boxes of mended and partially mended earthenware ceramics from the Conner's Midden site. I selected a medium sized vessel that was mostly intact, but with several conservation issues. The adhesive used to make the previous repairs was yellowing and coated much of the interior and exterior of the vessel. Given more time the excessive adhesive could fail and result in permanent staining and physical damage to the sherds. There were two sections of plaster fill that extended beyond the areas of loss, covering decorated surfaces and completely masking several sherds.

After reading through the Conner's Midden files, I found a reference to the use of Duco Cement, a type of cellulose nitrate adhesive, to mend the ceramic collection in 1968. I selected acetone as the easiest and safest solvent and created a vapor chamber to disassemble the vessel. It was very effective, and most of the sherds separated in a matter of hours. The majority of the remaining adhesive was then removed with cotton swabs saturated with acetone. The plaster fills were more challenging and required careful mechanical removal. Much of the plaster remains because it could not be removed without significant risk of damage to the vessel.



▲ The vessel from Conner's Midden before treatment showing areas of plaster and old adhesive.

I have begun reassembling the vessel and chose to use Acryloid B-72 adhesive with a thinner solution of Acryloid B-72 to consolidate the break edges in areas where they are damaged or friable. I intend to create two areas of structural fill. I will then shape and paint the fill to fit the aesthetic of the rest of the vessel. At the conclusion of my internship in March I will have both expanded my knowledge of laboratory procedure and the conservation of previously mended ceramics. This project will provide the DHR Study Collection with another example of a nearly complete prehistoric vessel. If you would like to know more about this conservation project, I will be giving a talk at the Richmond ASV chapter meeting on March 20th. ☉



▲ Lauren Jones conserving a vessel from Conner's Midden.



▲ A sherd from the vessel before the old adhesive was removed.



▲ A sherd from the vessel after the old adhesive was removed.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY CONTINUES TO EXPAND IN THE NORTHEAST

### **Kelley Berliner, Eastern Regional Field Representative, The Archaeological Conservancy**

2014 marks the 34th year of The Archaeological Conservancy's efforts to permanently preserve the nation's most significant archaeological sites. As the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to this cause, the Conservancy has now protected over 465 sites in 41 states, including some considered to be America's most remarkable and famous archaeological sites. Without taking action, many of these sites would have been destroyed and the information that they contain lost forever. Once sites are acquired by the Conservancy, they are managed as permanent open-space, archaeological research preserves which are available to professional archaeologists for research; and descendant communities for passive use. Any excavations conducted must guarantee that part of the site will remain unexcavated and undisturbed in accordance with an ethics of conservation archaeology. In order to pursue diverse sites in all areas of the United States, the Conservancy operates through five regional offices. The Eastern Regional Office is located in Frederick, MD, and handles the area from North Carolina to Maine. In its more than 10-year history in Frederick, the Eastern Regional Office has doubled its holdings to over 50 sites dating from the Paleo through the 19th century.

Recently, the Eastern Office has acquired the Prince Edward or PE Soapstone Quarry, located in central Virginia. Consisting of over 150 piles of soapstone boulders, it is considered to be the largest and most intact soapstone quarry that has been found in Virginia thus far. The site dates to the Late Archaic Period (ca. 5,000 B.P.-3,000 B.P.) and has the research potential to shed light on the transition from soapstone vessels to ceramic pottery that was beginning at the end of this time period. By conserving and managing this important site as one of TAC's research preserves, the



property will remain open-space and future archaeologists will have a valuable source material site for investigations into Virginia's prehistoric soapstone industry and exchange.

Another Virginia acquisition is the well-known Jeffrey Rockshelter and Village. This site was investigated by the archaeological Society of Virginia in the 1960s and '70s, resulting in a large amount of artifacts and evidence of features including hearths and post molds. The rockshelter appears to have been in use throughout prehistory, while the village site (which has never been excavated) is from the Late Woodland period. The site's strategic location along the Potomac River could have allowed its residents to control access to the river as well as exploit its resources.

Both of these properties were generously donated to the conservancy by their owners, ensuring that they will be permanently preserved as important parts of the region's archaeological record. The Conservancy also manages eight other preserves in Virginia, including: the Bryant Site which contains a Late Woodland village; the Pamplin Pipe Factory; Ely Mound; Kippax Plantation; the Thunderbird Paleo-Indian site; Upper Lunenburg Church; the Conover Paleo-Indian site; and the Belmont Preserve, a Late Woodland village site.

In addition to saving important sites, the Conservancy also publishes American Archaeology magazine and offers archaeological-based tours throughout the Americas. These tours are generally 1-week long bus trips that take visitors to important archaeological sites and museums in the area. The Eastern office offers tours focusing on themes of the Colonial Chesapeake, the French and Indian War, and Iroquoia, with plans to add a tour of the Archaeology of Canada. The eastern regional office's next tour will visit sites connected to the French and Indian War in September of 2014.

The Conservancy's eastern regional office is led by Andy Stout. Kelley Berliner is the region's new Field Representative. They can be reached at 301-682-6359 or [tac\\_east@verizon.net](mailto:tac_east@verizon.net). Nationally, the Conservancy has also expanded its staff and it is launching a new website and outreach initiative for 2014. For more information on the Conservancy and to join its nearly 25,000 members, see their Facebook page or visit them on the web at [www.americanarchaeology.org](http://www.americanarchaeology.org). ☉



# MIDDLE PENNINSULA CHAPTER UPDATE

## Thane Harpole, Chapter President

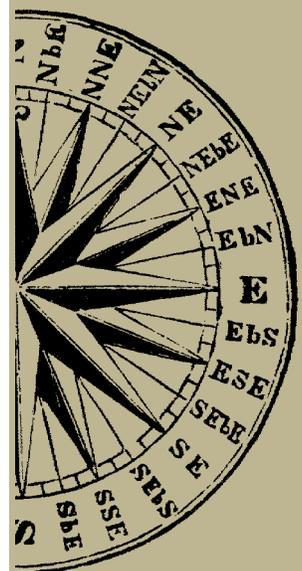
The 2014 field season is just beginning and we have a number of activities planned for this year in concert with the Fairfield Foundation, including returning to both the Middle Peninsula State Park in Gloucester and New Quarter Park in York County in the spring. Please visit [www.fairfieldfoundation.org](http://www.fairfieldfoundation.org) for more information on these upcoming opportunities and other news.

Two public archaeology projects we undertook last fall were particularly rewarding. In October we participated in the Battle of the Hook reenactment in Gloucester County, commemorating an important cavalry engagement that led to Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. This major reenacting event took place on the historic grounds of Warner Hall, colonial plantation of the Warner and Lewis families. Building on excavations conducted in 2000 and during the first Battle of the Hook reenactment in 2008, we opened two test units as a demonstration dig to share archaeology with the visiting crowds. It was a great experience to talk with the public as well as reenactors dressed in 18<sup>th</sup>-century costume. Dozens of kids helped with the digging and screening, and we excavated through an interesting 18<sup>th</sup>-century layer containing many fragments of ceramic roofing tile, as well as wine bottle glass, coarse earthenwares, and a small complete gunflint- an appropriate artifact to find on that weekend.

The next month we conducted a two-day public excavation at New Quarter Park in York County, a joint project between the park, the Fairfield Foundation, the Tidewater Virginia Historical Society, and the ASV. This excavation brought in dozens of adults and families to help survey and test an 18<sup>th</sup>-century site initially investigated by Dave Hazzard. Many Middle Peninsula Chapter members, as well as several certification students participated and assisted with the project, and several Williamsburg-area archaeologists were able to stop by to see the excavations. This work greatly expanded our knowledge about this site, which appears to have an intact midden layer as well as intact historic features, and generated good press for archaeology and our organizations through articles in the Daily Press and other media outlets. We are planning a similar dig this spring to learn more about this fascinating site and continue sharing the experience and challenge of archaeology with the general public.



▲ Warner Hall: kids help out at the screen.





▲ Warner Hall: future archaeologists discuss their finds.



▲ New Quarter Park: Teaching shovel test recording at New Quarter Park.



▲ New Quarter Park: It takes a crowd to dig a shovel test.

# NANSEMOND CHAPTER UPDATE

## Photos and Captions by Bert Wendell, Jr., ASV Nansemond Chapter

► ASV Nansemond Chapter members set up an archaeology and artifact booth as part of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe's Annual School Day Pow Wow which was held on November 15, 2013. The day long event took place at the tribe's 17<sup>th</sup> century replica Iroquoian Palisade Village Cattashowrock Town near Courtland, Southhampton County, VA. 1,000 elementary and middle school students attended the event from as far away as Norfolk. The Nansemond Chapter members gave presentations and displayed stone tools made by prehistoric and historic Virginia Indians. In the photo is David Saunders (right) talking to students about a set of bear claws (legally obtained) and how the Indians used claws and teeth to make necklaces. Other Nansemond Chapter members participating were Teresa Preston, Wayne Edwards, Thomas Saunders and Bert Wendell, Jr.



▲ At the November 19, 2013 meeting of the Nansemond Chapter, Francis Widmeyer (left) and Michael Collins (right) gave a presentation titled "Artifacts Found in Local Rivers". While working to salvage marketable waterlogged timbers, that clog Southeastern Virginia's inland waterways, they have recovered remarkable archaeological finds such as the 5 inch plus fossilized Megalodon Shark's teeth that they are holding. "These teeth are the best that they have found" according to Francis Widmeyer. The Megalodon Shark was possibly the most fearsome ocean predator in earth's history reaching lengths of 50 plus feet in length. This mega-shark lived approximately 28 to 1.5 million years ago.



◀ Edward "Ed" Bottoms (left) of Portsmouth, VA and a member of the Archeological Society of Virginia and its Nansemond Chapter receives an "Award of Excellence" plaque from Cliff Jackson (right), president of the Authentic Artifacts Collections Association, Inc. (ACA). The presentation took place at the ACA's Archaeology Day which was held on December 7, 2013 at the Moose Lodge in South Hill, VA. The plaque was presented to Bottoms "for his lifetime of dedication to the archaeology of our region through his early and prominent Paleo-Indian Projectile Point Surveys."

**Editors Note: Sadly, Ed Bottoms, a long-time ASV member, died while this newsletter was in preparation. We shall honor him in an upcoming newsletter.**



▲ Nansemond Chapter an election was held for 2014-2015 Chapter Officers. Wayne Edwards (in the red sweater) was elected as the Chapter's President relieving Bert Wendell, Jr. (right). Edward "Ed" Bottoms is the new vice-president (absent due to bad weather), and Jean Carmean, Treasurer (back row second from right). In the photo are (left to right): Barbara Saunders, David Saunders, Elizabeth Mackall, Millard Mackall, Wayne Edwards, Thomas Saunders, Bert Wendell, Jr., Mary Lamplein (guest), Sharon Cross, Jean Carmean, and Byron Carmean.

# CONSERVING TANGIER ISLAND SKELETONS

**Katherine Ridgway, Conservator, VDHR**

For just over a year now the Virginia Department of Historic Resources has played host to the skeletal remains of several former residents of Tangier Island. When super storm Sandy hit the Eastern seaboard it caused catastrophic damage to the coastline. The island was already eroding heavily, and storm surges associated with Sandy accelerated that erosion. Following the storm, a current resident of Tangier Island discovered human remains and coffin hardware exposed on a beach, and contacted the police. They determined that it was a matter for the State Archaeologist and deferred the matter to the DHR.

In the early 1900s, when the graveyard was in active use, it was much further inland than it is today. Known locally as Uppards Cemetery, the graveyard is associated with a small town called Canaan Ridge. The town, as well as other settlements on the northern part of the island, was abandoned in the 1930s due to erosion and the closing of the local school. In the 1940s there was a report that the graveyard had sustained damage during a hurricane. Erosion continued over the years until the graveyard became almost a sand bar near the remains of the abandoned town.

Over the course of two visits in December 2012 and April 2013, DHR archaeologists removed five sets of remains and transported them to the archaeological conservation lab in Richmond. The tides and weather conditions worked against the archaeologists, making excavation difficult and requiring that the burials be recovered both quickly and thoroughly. To prevent more damage to the skeletal remains, whole sections were removed in block, to be excavated in the lab so that time could be taken to make sure that the remains and any associated artifacts were fully recovered with the least possible damage. The waterlogged remains were kept wet to prevent the salt that had been absorbed



▲ Collection of miscellaneous headstones disassociated from their graves due to erosion.



VDHR archaeologists Mike Barber and David Hazzard working on site. ▲



▲ Burial with broken headstones.

from the water of the Chesapeake Bay from re-crystallizing inside the bones and thus causing more deterioration.

Once in the lab the painstaking work of removing the remains from the blocks of earth by the conservator could begin. During this process, many small artifacts were discovered that might have otherwise been lost due to the onsite conditions. Small balls of lead that were identified as bird shot were recovered, giving archaeologists insight into the diet of the local population that apparently included more than just fish. Small beads from necklaces, a ring, and an earring helped shine a light on the types of personal effects that were buried with the dead.

The desalination of the skeletal material was a challenge with limited space in the lab. A system was created that allowed for the water to access the remains, but also protected them so that each set of remains could be desalinated as a group. This method consisted of containing more robust remains in plastic window screen with monofilament (fishing line) and more fragile remains inside of plastic containers that had a number of holes drilled into them to allow for water flow. In this way all the remains could be put into a much larger container filled with water. This also made it easier and safer to change the water making the salt removal process more efficient.

Once the salt had been removed from the remains by soaking in successive baths of de-ionized water, they were slowly dried and then packaged for transport to the Smithsonian for further analysis and eventual reburial. The silver lining to this environmental disaster is that we have learned a great deal about an isolated and insular community that might otherwise have quietly washed away. ⊕



▲ Conservator Katherine Ridgway testing the water to see how desalination is progressing.

## NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT – THE KINGSTON PARISH SLAVE REGISTER

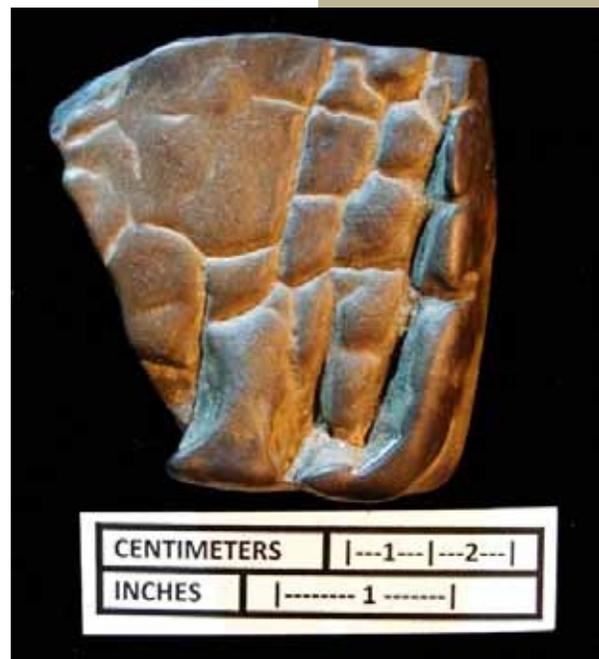
**Martha W. McCartney**

Around 1920 Gloucester County native Sally Nelson Robins transcribed the names of everyone whose vital records were entered into Kingston Parish's early register books. More than forty years after she completed her handwritten volume, two other people made their own transcription and had it published. Unfortunately, they focused exclusively on Kingston Parish's white communicants but omitted the nearly 1,860 enslaved people of African descent whose names – and their owners' names - also appear in the parish register. That deficiency is addressed in a newly published volume, *Kingston Parish Register: Mathews, Gloucester, and Middlesex Counties, Virginia, Slaves and Slaveholders, 1746-1827*. All royalties from this book, which is available from the Genealogical Publishing Company for \$17.50, will go to Kingston Parish.

## A SPIRIT FROM THE PAST

**Wm Jack Hranicky**

I have been investigating and testing the Arkfeld Site (44FK731) in Frederick County, Virginia for nearly a year. In addition to numerous lithic tool classes found at the site, the site has produced artwork and stone effigies. One major topic for these early artists was the mammoth. These art forms were discovered in test pits which argue that the site dates to the Pleistocene. The argument being that the mammoth must have been present when they created this artwork. While this is a topic for another newsletter, another major discovery shown here is a fired clay symbolic form that probably represents a spirit or god in their society. It is made from a fine black limestone clay which was molded/carved into an object that shows an anthropomorphic being. After which, it was fired to a probable temperature of 500 degrees. Based on its measurements L = 59, W = 55, T = 8 mm, it is classified as an archaeological tablet. It has a face with an eye and nose, what appear to be legs and feet, and square-typed design or pattern on its back side. The back side is flat with no designs. What is important here is that the Arkfeld site is the first paleosite to have fired clay on it. With numerous Middle Atlantic area sites having radiometric dates older than the classic Clovis date of 13,000 YBP, there is quite simply a potential for a new archaeological era that Denis Stanford and Bruce Bradley (Across Atlantic Ice book fame) call the Early American Period in archaeology. Of course, we will never know this clay object's meaning; but, we can assume that this well-made object is a symbolic form of an ancient worldview ...or, for us a view of the past, perhaps the spirit of a long ago mammoth.





## Eastern States Archaeology Federation

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Eastern States Archaeological Federation, 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

October 30 – November 2, 2014

Holiday Inn at Solomons, Maryland, south of Annapolis

ESAF rate \$119 single/\$124 double per night for rooms reserved prior to Sept. 30, 2014.

155 Holiday Drive, Solomons, Maryland 20688

(410) 326-6311; [holidayinn.com/solomons/slmmod](http://holidayinn.com/solomons/slmmod)

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday Evening Banquet:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Henry Miller, Director of Research at Historic St. Mary's City, Title TBA.

Pre-Meeting Tours: Thursday, October 30, 2014, (Accessed is via carpooling).

8:45 AM to 11:30 AM tour the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum grounds on the Patuxent River, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab (MAC Lab) and Visitor Center exhibits. There is no admission fee to Jefpat.

Lunch 12 Noon at Solomons or at Lexington Park.

1:15 PM to 5 PM tour Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland's First Capital, reconstructed Jesuit Chapel, the original city plan, and the St. John's Site Museum that preserves the foundation of a house that stood there throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Leonard Calvert, the third Lord Proprietary and Proprietary Governor, early court and assemblies met in the Governor's Leonard Calvert House. The exhibits dramatize the events that shaped Maryland the Nation colonial lifeways in the Tidewater colonies. There is a reduced admission fee of \$5.00 per person for the ESAF tour group.

Individuals are invited to submit abstracts for papers, posters, and workshops on any topic related to archaeology in the Eastern United States to be presented at the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) held Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, November 2, 2014. Thematic sessions, such as archaeology on military sites in light of the bicentennial of the War of 1812, are especially welcomed. Students are encouraged to submit papers for the Best Student Prize.

Presenters must be members of ESAF for 2014 and pre-registered for the meeting.

### Contacts:

Book Room and Exhibit Space:

ESAF Arrangements

Send Submissions to: EASF Co-Program Chairs

Kate Birmingham email: [kdbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:kdbirmingham@gmail.com)

Emily Swain email: [swemsoc11@gmail.com](mailto:swemsoc11@gmail.com)

## Excavations at 44NH0431

### Eastern Shore, Northampton County, Virginia

#### Field Work Opportunity - May 14 - 20, 2014

##### Background

The Department of Historic Resources has recognized the impacts of both sea level rise and catastrophic storms on archaeological resources on the Atlantic Coast and Chesapeake Bay. Threatened Sites funds and volunteer programs have been combined to provide for an Archaeological Marine Resources Initiative. Although information will be lost, it is the goal to recover as much data as possible as the archaeological resources are impacted. The field school program for 2014 will focus on the excavation of 44NH0431, an eroding shell midden.

Named "Nassawadox Creek #1" by Lowery during his 2000 archaeological survey of the Virginia's Bayside Eastern Shore, the site is located on an eroding bank of Chesapeake Bay on Church Neck. Recovered artifacts include fire-cracked rock, various shell species, a steatite bowl fragment, bifaces, and prehistoric ceramics associated with 5 different wares spanning the Woodland Period. The site is being heavily impacted by wind and wave action and has suffered serious damage during Hurricane Sandy.

##### Field School

The Field School meets requirements for the ASV/DHR/COVA Certification Program for excavation. Headquarters for the field school will be Kirwan Hall located ca. 5.5 miles from Eastville on the Chesapeake Bay side. Several motels are found in the environs of nearby Exmore. In addition, arrangements have been made for camping at Kirwan. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. Lunch will not be provided at the site. Porta johns with washstand will be available Kirwan and the excavation site. The field school timing in early spring will avoid the influx of insects and the hot humid weather. Work will begin at 8:30 am and shut down by 4:30 pm. Excavation may also be prone to the vagaries of the weather.

The 2014 Field School is sponsored by ASV, DHR, and USDA-Forest Service Passport in Time in cooperation with James Madison University and Northampton County.

**Application Due Date: April 20, 2014.**



## APPLICATION FOR EASTERN SHORE

### FIELD SCHOOL - May 14 - 20, 2014

Applicants should be members of the Archeological Society of Virginia and will gain the best experience if enrolled in or graduated from the Certification Program. Children as young as 12 years of age may participate if accompanied by a responsible adult, although they must be 16 years of age to enroll in the Certification Program. **Deadline for applications is April 20, 2014.**

Name of Applicant:

Date(s) of Attendance:

Address:

Email Address:

Chapter Affiliation:

Enrolled in Certification Program \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

Archaeological Experience:

Special Skills:

### CONTACTS

#### Eastern Shore Field School Applications:

Mike Barber (540 387-5398)  
WRPO - Department of Historic Resources  
962 Kime Lane, Salem, VA 24153  
[mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov)

#### Passport in Time Applications:

Mike Madden (540 265-5211)  
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests  
5162 Valleypointe Parkway  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
[mjmadden@fs.fed.us](mailto:mjmadden@fs.fed.us)

Certification Program - Carole Nash (540 568-6805)  
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Bruce Baker (804 561-0420)  
10290 Reed Rock Road  
Amelia, VA 23002  
[bakerbw@tds.net](mailto:bakerbw@tds.net)

## JANUARY 2014 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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### Stephanie Jacobs, Secretary

The ASV's Board of Directors met on Saturday January 25, 2014 at the office of the Virginia Foundation of the Humanities in Charlottesville. First the board discussed and then approved unanimously the actions that the executive committee took at the end of the year.

The board also heard a report from the Outreach Committee about the possible digitization of publications. Lyle Browning has looked into having ASV publications, particularly the COVA volumes, printed and distributed by Amazon.com and he presented the possible prices and methodology to the board.

The board also heard a report about the 2014 Annual Budget for Kittiewan, presented by Bill Bjork. Kittiewan invested some of its fund in October at the same time the ASV board decided to invest the Sandra Speiden Scholarship Fund. Kittiewan continues to run in the black and the Kittiewan Committee is planning a series of capital improvements. Bill resigned as Kittiewan Treasurer at the end of the year and is now President of the Col. Howard McCord Chapter. The Board accepted the 2014 Kittiewan budget and thanks Bill for his time as Kittiewan Treasurer.

The Board also heard a report from State Archaeologist Mike Barber about a grant that VDHR is seeking to provide funding for stabilizing the shore near Weromocomoco. The board voted to provide a letter of support for the grant.

Jack Hranicky brought a proposal to the board to hold the 2015 Annual Meeting in Northern Virginia. The board discussed the possibility and voted to accept the Northern Virginia Chapter's offer to hold the annual meeting there in 2015.

The next meeting of the board will be Saturday May 3, 2014 at Kittiewan.





## ASV OFFICERS

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**DHR/  
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Mike Barber  
[Mike.Barber@thr.virginia.gov](mailto:Mike.Barber@thr.virginia.gov)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



- April 12** Kittiewan Open House
- April 15** ASV Nansemond Chapter Meeting  
"In the Footsteps of Powhatan: An Update on Archaeological Investigations at Werowocomocco."  
Randolph Turner, guest speaker
- April 21** ASV Upper James River Chapter Meeting  
"Belmont Winery: 19th Century Viticulture in the Blue Ridge."  
Carole Nash, guest speaker
- April 23-27** Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting,  
Austin, TX  
<http://www.saa.org>
- May 3** ASV Board of Directors Meeting, Kittiewan.
- May 10** Kittiewan Open House
- May 16** Council of Virginia Archaeologists Spring Meeting,  
Poplar Forest  
<http://www.cova-inc.org>
- June 14-15** Kittiewan Open House
- July 9** ASV Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting  
"A Threatened Site on Tangier Island."  
Kate Ridgeway, guest speaker
- July 12** Kittiewan Open House
- August 9** Kittiewan Open House

For ASV chapter meetings and presentations noted above, check the ASV website for additional information on location, time, and local contacts - <http://asv-archeology.org>.



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### Updates

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- VDHR
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- Volunteer Opportunities
- ASV Board Update

**GO DIGITAL** and get your ASV newsletter in color! While the mailed version is in black and white, when you receive your newsletter by email, you will receive the color version. If you currently are getting the mailed version and would like to change, contact Patrick O'Neill at [patrickloneill@verizon.net](mailto:patrickloneill@verizon.net).

