March 2016

Newsletter of the COL Howard MacCord Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia

From the President

Greetings, fellow archeologists. Hope this finds you all in fine fettle, with trowels honed and pencils sharpened (after all, the work only counts if you record it!)

Speaking of records, our feature article this month is a piece by frequent contributor Bill Bjork, discussing some excellent work to reorganize and better preserve the collection from Jordan’s Journey. It’s a great example of the way avocational archeologists can have a significant positive impact on the discovery and preservation of our history.

We also received multiple submissions from Chapter member Kirby Smith, describing his work at the Rock Castle Farm site. Thanks for answering the call, Kirby! We appreciate your sharing the results of your work.

In this issue of the Plowzone, we’re introducing a new column. At the recommendation of Chapter member Lyn Lanier, we will review one or more archeology-related websites each month. There’s a wealth of knowledge out there on the internet, and archeology is a subject that receives quite a bit of attention. Those who are inclined to improve their knowledge (and have the time to do so!) can benefit greatly from this rich educational resource. Lyn has provided some material to get us started; all Chapter members are encouraged to pitch in with their own recommendations. Just send me the website url, with a brief description of its content, and tell me why you like it.

In Chapter news, we’ve found a way to put some of our treasury to good use. ASV President Dr. Carole Nash requested that Chapters consider sponsoring one or more students to attend the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Inspired by Dr. Bernard Means’ generosity in presenting our program for the February meeting, we voted unanimously to sponsor his three students who will be attending MAAC 2016 this month. It’s a great way to contribute to the future of archeology in Virginia.

- Len Blasiol

Chapter Officers

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Jordan’s Journey, Revisited
by Bill Bjork

In December of 2014, volunteers started rehousing artifacts from the archaeological digs at Jordan’s Journey site, 44PG302. DHR staff noticed that the plastic bags used in the early 1990’s to house the artifacts were beginning to crumble when handled. Artifacts were in danger of remixing and thus losing their provenience. So DHR volunteers, several of them ASV members, began the task of replacing and relabeling the bags. For information on the actual happenings at Samuel Jordan’s original English settlement, you may want to go to The Digital Archaeological Record (core.tdar.org) and brush up on the history.

The artifacts we rehoused dated from prehistoric times through modern day discoveries. And boy, did we get to see a great variety of artifacts! We re-bagged bone tools, shell beads, projectiles, jettons, ceramics, both prehistoric and colonial, coinage, pipe parts and all things relating to the cultures that have occupied the site over the years. The experience was an excellent opportunity to fulfill lab requirements for certification. In all we rehoused thousands of artifacts in 132 boxes. Rows upon rows. They just kept coming. We finished in August, 2015.

Partial coin on left was rehoused. While out it was compared to a whole coin from the study collection.

Modern (1990) artifact found with real artifacts. Field note from Taft Kiser pondering when next humans will see these artifacts.

The accompanying pictures tell part of the story. Finding the field note by Taft Kiser was fun. He wondered when other humans might study the found artifacts? We immediately alerted him that we’d found his note and it had only been 25 years. He too, was excited and alerted the world via Facebook, or some such. The rehousing exercise was valuable not only for the practical matter of protecting the artifacts, but also for the experience it provided those of us who did the work. As I’ve mentioned before, we’re fortunate to have the availability of the DHR and the many resources housed therein. Jordan’s Journey revisited was an interesting and productive journey.
At the recommendation of COL Howard MacCord Chapter member Lyn Lanier, we will review one or more archeology-related websites each month. For the inaugural edition of this column, Lyn recommended a few sites for our consideration.

* * *

“ShovelBums,” found at http://www.shovelbums.org/index.php, focuses on the archeology job market. To quote from the site, “ShovelBums is the world’s largest provider of Archaeology, Academic, and Cultural Resource Management (CRM) related jobs. Since 1999 ShovelBums has filled over 30,000 positions in academia, archaeology and CRM.” In fact, one of the job postings from earlier this month reads,

Two Seasonal Archaeologist (Temporary Hourly) positions are available for short-term employment with the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML). Both positions are located at Fort Lee, Virginia.

* * *

“Archaeologica,” found at http://www.archaeologica.org/NewsPage.htm is a source of current news items about archeology around the world. There are several new postings every day, averaging about 100 articles per month. Further, the site sponsors a weekly podcast called “The Archaeology Channel,” in which the weekly news is compiled in a format handy for those with long commutes (your editor, included!). You’ll also find on this site a great list of archeology resources, in the form of links to museums, organizations, and publications, as well as a great discussion forum, where you can share your stories and ideas, and connect with fellow archeologists from all over the planet.

* * *

“The Digital Archaeological Record,” aka tDAR, found at http://core.tdar.org is “an international digital repository for the digital records of archaeological investigations.” Its core mission is “to support better stewardship of the documents and data produced during research.” It contains a repository of field notes, site records, reports, dissertations, articles, presentations, and other material. Sharp-eyed readers will note that the feature article, by Bill Bjork, mentions this site. You can sign up for a free account to use the resources, and for a modest fee, you can contribute your own material for preservation by tDAR. As our State Archeologist is wont to remind us, it’s all about the data.

* * *

Have a favorite archeology-related website you’d like to share? Send the url and the proper name of the site to: editor.plowzone@gmail.com. Add a brief description and your comments as to why you like it...or not.

**Rock Castle Farm Site**

by Kirby Smith

At the Rock Castle Farm suspected kitchen site, 75 feet north west of the cottage, a foot print was found in a 2 foot by 3 foot pit with a brick wall on the west side. The pit fill contained:

- Straight pins of orb head and wire-wound head
- Buttons of bone, brass and copper
- Three brass garter springs (like the garter at the Dewitt-Wallace museum in Williamsburg)
- A curved brass shoe or belt buckle measuring 7 cm by 4 cm by 2 cm, with a border of raised dots and a 2.5 cm by 5.2 cm opening bordered by raised dots. It has a serpentine design between the two rows of dots, a forked tongue and bar, with tongue bar mounts on the reverse.
- Decorative iron or brass sewing scissors, broken at fulcrum
- Two bone handles for knives
- A Morrow Mountain projectile point, 17mm by 60mm
- A cowrie shell pendant or clothing adornment
- A decorated gray pipe stem with an undulating design of grape bunches on vine below and a spiraling design above
- Marbles: four stone, two granite, and two plaster

The Rock Castle farm site also contains archaic stone tools. Most of them have come from 70 feet north of the cottage foot print. There are broken quartz preforms, quartz flakes, quartz chips, and quartz blocking suggestive of a campsite. Most are broken and thick, but have bit edges; but no worn horned stones have been found. At the west cellar a Morrow Mountain gray point and a brown serrated Kirk point were found. Inside the cottage foot print an oval Caitall chalcedony yellow-tan knife or preform with a scar flaw was found. At the kitchen area pit feature, a gray Morrow Mountain point was found.

At the site there are flora and fauna that could be used for sustenance: deer, rabbit, and squirrel; white oak trees for wood and bark for binding, as well as plants for fiber. There are fields there now, but in the archaic period there may have been only woods in which to hunt, with the river and stones nearby. The land is 200 feet above sea level, an upland site.

Because of this information, Rock Castle has a new site under the 18th century site. It is The Hill Top Site at Rock Castle farm (thank you, Bruce Baker, for the name).
Monthly Programs

On **February 18th**, Dr. Bernard Means, of VCU, provided the chapter a superb presentation regarding his work in the use of 3D printing to replicate artifacts. He explained the process, the characteristics of the special equipment, and the uses to which this exciting new technology is being applied.

At our next meeting, on **March 17th**, our own Lyle Browning will present on “Archeology of the James River.”

Remember, in lieu of a regular meeting in April, the Chapter will support DHR by participating in the Earth Day celebration at Ft. A. P. Hill on **April 21st**. Dee Deroche will lead our “delegation,” and we have several participants lined up. If you’d like to join in, please contact Dee, so she can arrange for you to get access to the base. Also, we need some ideas for the DHR booth. Even if you can’t come to the event, give some thought to how we might present archeology to the public at that event.

We’re looking for a program for our May meeting. If you have an idea or proposal, please be prepared to discuss it at the next chapter meeting, or contact Chapter President Len Blasiol.
February 18, 2016

The Members of the Colonel Howard MacCord Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia, take pleasure in commending Bill Bjork for outstanding service as Chapter President, from January 2014 through December 2015. During his term of office, Bill guided our Chapter with patience and wisdom, always bringing out the best in us, and maximizing our contributions to the Society. Leading from the front, Bill consistently set the standard for volunteerism: in the field, in the lab, and in the boardroom. His vision, energy, and enthusiasm greatly enhanced the quality of our experience and helped us to advance the cause of Virginia archeology.

On behalf of the Membership,

Len Blasiol
President, Colonel Howard MacCord Chapter
Archeological Society of Virginia
Vandalism at Cattashowrock Town

ASV President Dr. Carole Nash notified us of the sad news of the recent vandalism at Cattashowrock Town. Teresa Preston of the Nansemond Chapter sent Carole an e-mail reporting the damage (see below). At our March meeting, we will entertain motions to contribute to the fund for the restoration of the village.

* * *

Dear Carole and all the other ASV members included in this email,

At our regular monthly meeting the Nansemond Chapter was shocked & saddened to learn of the recent vandalism at the replica palisade village, "Cattashowrock Town," located on the 100 acres owed by the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation, Inc. which is the 501(c)3, non-profit arm of the Tribe.

Martha Williams suggested I send you an email so you can disseminate this information to the numerous chapters members who have visited the village, attended the Pow Wows and volunteered at the ASV Nansemond Chapter's Artifact Identification Days graciously hosted twice a year since 2005 by the Tribe. By the Tribe graciously providing ASV with a free tent & roughly 50 feet of tables for artifact & book displays, the ASV has enjoyed an extensive public outreach & educational program that our chapter never dreamed possible. Chief Brown, is a life member of the ASV, and the Tribal members are all staunch supporter of archeology.

The vandalism was discovered when Chief Brown and I gave a private tour to three gentlemen from the Gloucester area. As we drove up to the village, we could see the slashed mats and whole sections of matting ripped from the longhouse and round houses. The vandals even removed some of the stones lining the hearths inside the longhouse. We haven't figured out what they did with the stones, but chances are they were flung out into the grass to damage lawnmower blades at some later date. They also pushed over and broke off numerous palisade poles that depict the unique square fort area of the village which was laid out in replication of William Byrd II village description recorded in his diary in 1728. Chief Brown called the Southampton County Sheriff's office and reported the vandalism. Deputy's found three separate sets of footprints made by tennis shoes next to one of the smaller round houses. It is likely this damage was caused by teenagers judging by the size of the tracks. The Tidewater News sent a reporter to cover the story.

http://www.tidewaternews.com/2016/02/12/vandals-damage-indian-fort/

One of the Tribal members created a GoFundMe site: https://www.gofundme.com/cheroenhaka
We estimate it will cost around $5,000 to purchase replacement mats and palisade poles. (Each 4' x 8' bamboo mat costs $49 dollars, and it took 80 just to compete the 40' x 15' long house.) The GoFundMe site has the complete storyand photographs of the destruction.

Several of the Nansemond Chapter members in attendance at this months meeting have donated toward the rebuilding of the village. This information is being sent out to all of our Nansemond Chapter membership and others on my email list. I don't have all the ASV member's emails who volunteered at last summer's field school, or who may have volunteered when we were re-establishing the excavation area of the Hand Site (44SN022), or those who attended the dedication of the Highway marker commemorating the ancestral village of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) & the ASV archeological digs in 1965, '66 & '69.

If you could share this information with all of our ASV chapter President's so they can forward the information to their members, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Teresa Preston
ASV Nansemond Chapter
2016 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

The COL Howard MacCord Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, holds monthly meetings in Richmond, Virginia usually with a speaker who discusses recent archeological findings or related topics. Chapter members are invited to participate in ASV sanctioned surveys and excavations.

Active Member dues are $20.00; Senior (65 and older) Member dues are $12.00. Another adult in the household of an Active or Senior member may become a member for an additional dollar. Full-time Student Member dues are $10.00. All dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year.

Chapter members MUST also be members of the Archeological Society of Virginia.

2016 Chapter Dues _______  Active □  Senior □  Student □
Family Member(s) _________

TOTAL: $___________

Name: _____________________________
Phone: _________
E-mail: ___________________________
Address: __________________________
City: _____________________________ State: _____ Zip: ________

Make checks payable to CHMC-ASV and remit, along with this application, to

Treasurer
Lynn Taylor
9603 Meredith Woods Ct.
Glen Allen, VA 23060
2016 ASV MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Objectives of the Archeological Society of Virginia are to study Virginia archeology, to locate and conserve archeological sites, to encourage the use of scientific methods, to develop better techniques and to share archeological knowledge. All applicants are requested to promote the Archeological Society’s objectives and signing this form will acknowledge your support of the ASV’s Code of Ethics currently found at [http://www.asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgEthics.html](http://www.asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgEthics.html).

Please complete this form and return to Carl Fischer, ASV Treasurer. Memberships are valid for the entire calendar year from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of each year. Prompt remittance ensures that members continue to receive the Quarterly Bulletin and ASV Newsletter. Other continuing benefits include major discounts on all Society publications and participation in Society supervised archeological activities.

**New Member_______  Renewal for 2016______**

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**I would like to receive the ASV Newsletter by email and help make the ASV Green!**

YES _____ NO _____

**I would like to receive the ASV Quarterly Bulletin by email and help make the ASV Green!**

YES _____ NO _____

**Membership Categories**

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<td>Each additional family member(s) (give names)</td>
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**TOTAL DUES PAID** $__________

**CONtribution (optional)** $__________

**TOTAL REMITTANCE** $__________

**CHECK #** ____________ **PAYPAL**

**Send membership dues to:**
Carl Fischer
1685 Sweet Hall Rd
West Point, Va 23181

E-mail: patrickloneill@verizon.net

Make checks out to the ASV