



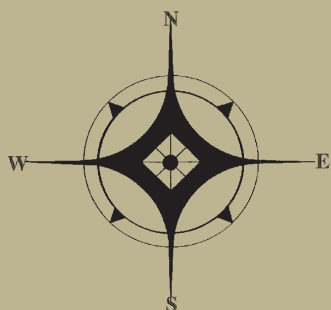
THE ASV

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1940

MARCH 2011 · NUMBER 200

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



PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

I wish there were less-used words than these to write, but all I can do is write them in sincerity. It is such an honor and a privilege to serve this wonderful organization as your president. I appreciate and deeply respect the trust you have shown in asking me to serve in this role and I will uphold that trust to the best of my ability as together we carry out the work of the Archeological Society of Virginia.

And this is a we, not a me, organization. A number of individuals have formal leadership positions; many play critical roles outside that structure; and many more support them and assist them in their work. But may our focus always be on the organization, this cross-section of people who care about the past and the art and science of learning from it.

You are holding in your hands or viewing on an electronic device a manifestation of this "we" philosophy. When I asked Randy Turner and Laura Wedin to consider taking the newsletter editorship, within hours they had become a "we," a team already deep in talks together with a plan for division of labor and backing each other up. In January, the board of directors gave that plan a hearty endorsement for which they have my thanks. There's something very dignified in the ability to refer to the newsletter "staff," and I thank you, Randy and Laura, for so immediately owning the opportunity.

No further delay must postpone words of appreciation to Bernard Means, the previous newsletter editor, for his exemplary work. He made look easy a job that is not. He collected content when content was not always readily forthcoming, and his results without fail gave us a good picture of the ASV and made us proud every issue. Thank you, Bernard.

My immediate predecessor Patrick O'Neill has my gratitude for his steerage of the good ship ASV through turbulent waters. Thanks also to Carl Fisher and others who helped maintain operations after the loss of Bill Thompson and Russell Darden.

That experience revealed to me the value of redundancy or backup in key ASV positions. The board has already seen the wisdom of appointing an assistant to the treasurer, a job now in the hands of Bill Bjork, who has my thanks for taking on a job he didn't see coming. Thank you, Joe Corley, for earlier serving as our assistant treasurer. The dual-newsletter editorship is the result of my own early push to enable the safety of two. My thanks to Teresa Preston for agreeing to back Patrick on membership.

As a "we" organization, we all have ideas for the ASV but sometimes we do not know the best avenue for sharing them. If you have an idea, I want to hear it. Take a moment to write it down and outline the action steps you see that could be taken to accomplish it, and send it to me at hearthsideside@embarqmail.com. I will be sure the ideas go to the appropriate people and committees for consideration.

With that I'll close. Enjoy your newsletter. And contribute to it. Randy and Laura want to share your news. In this organization, it's our news, too.

Dan Kegley

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Journal - 1
State Archaeologist - 2
Kittiewan Brief - 3
Upper James River - 4
Volunteer Form - 5
Fairfax County - 6
COVA - 7
VMNH - 8
Special Feature - 9
Board Update - 12

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Michael B. Barber, PhD, State Archaeologist

It's always interesting to watch people around artifacts. It's more interesting to watch people around artifacts with an extended timeframe, years not minutes. I've had people, at first meeting, show me their favorite artifact, usually a spear point (which they invariably call an arrowhead), with the comment that "it's perfect." This means nothing more than it's not broken. I usually ask, "What else?" If there is no reply, I just say, "Join the Certification Program, come back in a year, and we'll talk about it then." Most walk away a little unhappy but some join the Certification Program and do come back in a year with the same artifact. This time, however, it's not "perfect." This time it's a Late Archaic Savannah River projectile point, used ca. 3000 – 1000 BC, is made of quartzite, was a surface find found on a knoll above a major river (with the site now recorded with DHR), and generally fits our current understanding of Late Archaic settlement patterns involving hunting and gathering with an emphasis on riverine environments. Now we can talk. This is the kind of catharsis that makes the Certification Program so important – when the artifact ceases to be a thing in and of itself but becomes a conduit to understanding the past.

And the DHR houses approximately 6.5 million artifacts. Granted, not all are spectacular to the eye or of display quality for the public but they are all data – bits of information relating to past cultures. Each has its own story. We, as archaeologists, whether avocational or professional, have an interest in discovering these stories. I am often asked about my "best" discovery or the most "important" artifact I have ever found. These are hard questions and I always have to reflect. But it eventually dawns on me that perhaps my best discovery was that the Middle Woodland people at Maycock (44PG40) were using a completely unique bone tool kit. Or that the people occupying Keyser Farm (44PA1) were ensconced in the deer skin trade with copious feasting and imported pottery from an exchange system to the north. Such discoveries are not readily apparent in the field but are formulated later in the lab. In the field, you find things; in the lab, you discover things. If the goal of archaeology is the reconstruction of the past (which it is), then the lab is where the action is.

So I would encourage you to use the DHR Collection for your own studies. Pick an artifact type or a site and do the analysis. If you're in college, all the better, use the collection for your course work or thesis. If you're in the Certification Program or a graduate, hone your skills and write a paper for the annual meeting. And, if you're just starting out, volunteer with us and help us maintain and process the collection. With 6.5 million artifacts, there should be something at DHR which meets your interest.

Department of Historic Resources: www.dhr.virginia.gov
mike.barber@dhr.virginia.gov



Mike Barber examines a deer beamer found at the Keyser Farm site.



THE KITTIEWAN BRIEF

Greetings and Happy 2011! With this issue, we begin what we hope will become a regular column in the ASV Newsletter. As most ASV members know, Kittiewan Plantation, a 700+ acre property located in Charles City County, was bequeathed to the ASV in 2005 by its owner, William Cropper. Of the several buildings on the property, the Kittiewan Manor House, probably constructed ca. 1770 by Dr. William Rickman, is historically the most significant and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Society's library; archives; archeological collections; laboratory and research space; and an apartment are housed in the modern Visitors' Center.

A relatively small group of dedicated ASV members keeps Kittiewan going on behalf of the Society. In 2010, these folks volunteered over 2,750 hours, doing everything from mowing grass and leading tours of the house to sorting and archiving the extensive collection of Cropper memorabilia and decorating for this year's Holiday Open House event. Those who participated in the two excavation opportunities last year also contributed significantly to that total. Their efforts produced evidence of at least three outbuildings near the manor house.

What's in store for Kittiewan in 2011? As always, the house will be open for tours at least one weekend per month. The Manor House needs regular upkeep and repairs (painting, cleaning, regular general housekeeping), and the grounds need constant attention (mow, weed, trim shrubbery, etc). At the Visitors' Center/ASV Research Center, work will continue on re-arranging the ASV research library; inventorying and curating the archeological collections that have been donated to the ASV; and cataloguing the vast Kittiewan/Cropper archives. And plans are being developed to continue the archeological investigations around the manor house.

But Kittiewan also needs to "progress." Under discussion are opening up and interpreting other rooms in the Manor House [e.g., refurbishing the kitchen and creating a hallway exhibit on the families of Kittiewan]; creating and rotating new showcase exhibits; cataloguing and rearranging the "Museum of Americana;" and installing a vegetable garden outside. All that is needed is more manpower.

Our corps of volunteers works every Wednesday and tours happen on the second Saturday of each month (March – December); special long term work "events" (e.g., excavations) are scheduled as needed. We hope you will join us in making Kittiewan Plantation an all-ASV endeavor. If you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to hear back via the survey form included in this issue. Thanks in advance!

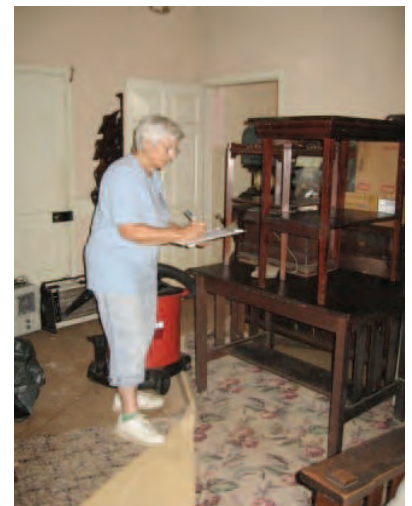
Kittiewan Plantation
12104 Weyanoke Road
Charles City, VA
804.829.2272
www.kittiewanplantation.org/



Volunteers "decked the halls" at Kittiewan for the December open house.



Hunt Club folks maintain road and trim trees last fall.



Shirley Jaeger inventories furnishings in the northwest wing of the house.

Kittiewan Plantation - 2011 Saturday Open House Schedule

March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10 (Holiday Open House)



Volunteer Docents Needed!

Contact Shirley Jaeger to volunteer
(804)-273-0247 - shirley.jaeger@verizon.net.

Upper James River Chapter

Hi, everyone! On February 19th the Upper James River Chapter participated in a surface collection on a small farm in Rockbridge County on the floodplain of Walkers Creek. Chapter President Hannah Short has known the landowner for some time, and he mentioned to her that he had found a few prehistoric items while working his large garden field. He gave our Chapter permission to look around after he had disked his field. The 19th was a beautiful, sunny, breezy Saturday. Several members came, divided part of the field into 5' strips, and did a surface collection. We found chert, ferruginous quartzite, and red jasper flakes, some fire cracked rock, and what is possibly some shatter. Based on a projectile point that the landowner had found in the same field (a small quartzite Savannah River point) Chapter member and DHR archaeologist Tom Klatka dated the site as Late Archaic. We hope to do a lab session soon to clean up our finds and learn more about them! We also plan to register the site. Happy Spring!



KITTIEWAN VOLUNTEER SURVEY FORM

If you'd like to help out at Kittiewan in 2011, let us know. Use this form to indicate your availability, your area(s) of interest, and your skills and/or experience. Print, fill out and return the form to Harry/Shirley Jaeger, 3914 Forestford Road, Richmond, VA 23294. This form and the latest "Kittiewan Brief" also are online at the ASV website at <http://asv-archeology.org/index.html>. Click the link to the Kittiewan website; fill out the form, and return via email to shirley.jaeger@verizon.net. **THANK YOU** in advance!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (Landline) _____ (Cell) _____

EMAIL: _____

My special skills or areas of expertise (check all that apply):

- Yard/garden maintenance
- Computer (data entry)
- House repair (e.g., painting, carpentry, electrician, etc.; please specify)
- Library and archives
- Archeological field work
- Archeological lab work
- Public interpretation/outreach/publicity

I would like to help with (check all that apply):

- Building maintenance
- Grounds maintenance
- Archival cataloguing
- Archeological field work
- Archeological lab work
- ASV Library catalogue and maintenance
- Publicity/public interpretation (displays, tour guide, etc.)

I can be available to help (circle): weekdays weekends

The Colchester Archaeological Research Team

In 2006, Fairfax County purchased a large tract of land on along the Occoquan River, near its confluence with the Potomac. The property was known to contain numerous archaeological sites including a portion of the colonial port town of Colchester and a Late Woodland site in the vicinity of the village of Tauxenent, as mapped by Captain John Smith during his 1608 exploration of the Chesapeake. When asked what they wanted from this new parkland, the local community resoundingly articulated its desire to better understand the cultural history of the region through archaeological investigation.

Towards this end, Elizabeth Crowell and Aimee Wells of the Cultural Resources Management and Protection offices of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) assembled a group of researchers dedicated to investigations on the proposed Old Colchester Park and Preserve. The Colchester Archaeological Research Team (C.A.R.T.) came into being in September 2010. Kathleen Lowe leads the archaeological crew tasked with assessing prehistoric resources; Christopher Sperling directs the historical archaeological crew. Archaeologists Alisa Pettit, John Mayes, Megan Veness, Elizabeth Payner, and Sean Tennant round out the field and lab team while Maddy McCoy, the team historian, scours the documentary record. Experts Michael Johnson and John Rutherford provide technical support and advice.

C.A.R.T. began field investigations in mid-October after a brief organizational period. The prehistoric crew has been focusing on defining the boundaries of the Late Woodland site, as defined by previous archaeological survey. Meanwhile, historic excavations were initiated within the former Colchester town limits. Discoveries by both are beginning to paint a picture of the people and cultures of Mason Neck.

The prehistoric team has identified several potentially intact, artifact bearing deposits. Artifacts, including a large Potomac Creek pottery sherd, confirm the Late Woodland chronology of the site and suggest a high degree of integrity with a minimal amount of disturbance. As a result of these efforts, the true expanse of this Late Woodland site is being realized and a better understanding of prehistoric lifeways attained. Moving forward, once the perimeter has been properly defined investigations will shift into the interior, core of the site.

Historic excavations inside Colchester have revealed a treasure trove of information regarding the townscape and everyday life in colonial Virginia. Structural features, including two stone foundations and a brick and stone filled pit, line the edge of historic Old Colchester road. Although now a quiet residential neighborhood, these features speak to the once bustling town now encased below the earth. Post hole features identified towards the rear of the town lots may indicate the location of post-in-ground structures. The variegated construction techniques, stone in the front and wood in the rear, highlight the expression of permanency concurrent with the need for expedience and economy and may indicate a social division of space within town lots. Although the historic team will be moving on, investigating sites peripheral to the town, outreach days will remain focused on the town site. In this manner we can glean an idea of the relationship between the town and country.



C.A.R.T. member Alisa Pettitt displays large Potomac Creek sherd.

Since beginning field investigations, several outside experts have assisted the C.A.R.T crews. Early identification of an intact piece of wood, in feature context, exposed the need for long-term storage pending analysis. Howard Wellman of Wellman Conservation, LLC graciously advised us of treatment. Dennis Johnson of Below the Turf, LLC provided a demonstration of his ground penetrating radar (GPR) system. The three-dimensional remote sensing technology, normally employed for non-archaeological purposes, is cutting edge and may be of use on future C.A.R.T. sites. Dr. Ann Palkovich, professor of anthropology at George Mason University, visited the site to discuss her findings from the 1980s and provided us with all her slides from past excavations. Dr. Daniel Hayes conducted an initial geomorphological study and will continue to help us understand site stratigraphy and formation. Laurie Burgess of the Smithsonian Institution



C.A.R.T. member Megan Veness assists Dennis Johnson with GPR survey.

has generously offered to analyze glass beads recovered from our studies.

We are similarly indebted to the community for an outpouring of support. Sallie and Jerry Lyons, founders of the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FoFA), were integral to the successful open house held on December 4 and remain invaluable to our ongoing and future successes. Our relationship with the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), Northern Virginia Chapter (NVC) has proven most rewarding and mutually beneficial. Between November and December, volunteers from the ASV/ NVC logged approximately 600 hours with C.A.R.T. We benefit from the extra hands and knowledge of the chapter and help candidates for the Certified Archaeological Technician program attain the necessary field and lab experience.

Thanks to the foresight guidance of the FCPA Cultural Resources Management and Protection office, and with the help technical experts, friends, and volunteers, excavations on the Old Colchester Park and Preserve move forward with outstanding results. We hope that ASV will follow our progress in the press and on our blog, <http://cartarchaeology.blogspot.com/>. Anyone in the neighborhood and interested in volunteering or just touring the site should contact us at CART.volunteers@gmail.com. To receive weekly updates, drop a line to the same address and we will put you on the list. Thanks for the help and support! ♣

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS SURVEY - COVA

The Council of Virginia Archaeologists is conducting a survey of all organizations that may own/house/curate archaeological collections in Virginia. The goals of the survey are to assess the approximate volume of existing collections, their current state, any needs for assistance in caring for collections, and if researchers can access materials. For further information contact Esther White, Co-Chair of the COVA Collections Management Committee. She may be reached by telephone at 703-799-8626 and by email at ewhite@mountvernon.org.

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (VMNH)

MACCORD LIBRARY AT THE VMNH

Elizabeth A. Moore

For the past 20 years, the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) has been a grateful recipient for the donation of library materials from Howard MacCord. The steady stream of books, journals, and reprints helped provide the foundation of the growing research library at the museum. We were honored and thankful to learn from Betsy MacCord that Howard had named VMNH as the recipient of the remainder of his library upon his passing.

The 33+ boxes of an estimated 6,000 items add significant depth and breadth to the archaeology sections of the library collection. We have also been delighted to find ephemera and correspondence associated with some of the materials; some books have Howard's reviews, edits, and copies of letters Howard sent to the author and the author's responses. This correspondence provides insight into the growth, and some of the growing pains, that archaeology in Virginia has had over the past 50 years or more. VMNH Research Librarian, Mary Catherine Santoro, has begun cataloging and shelving items from the collection, making it accessible to museum visitors. Items will also be available through interlibrary loan. If you are interested in visiting the library or are looking for a specific item, you can reach Ms. Santoro at 276 634-4172 or send her an email at marycatherine.santoro@vmnh.virginia.gov.



SPECIAL FEATURE - EGYPT: HOPING FOR PEACE AND PRESERVATION

Editor's note: ASV President Dan Kegley, a 21-year journalist with Media General, first published a version of this column in the Feb. 5 edition of Smyth County News & Messenger. Used by permission.

Five years ago my friend Dr. Charlie Bartlett and I were prepared to board a February 9 Lufthansa flight from Washington, D.C., to Frankfurt and then another on which to complete our journey to Egypt.

We anticipated a 10-day tour there with an alumni group from Charlie's UNC Chapel Hill alma mater that would take us through 5,000 years of Egyptian history, much of which has been and continues to be learned through the art and science of archaeology, the common interest Charlie and I share.

We descended though mid-afternoon skies still tinted orange by the previous day's dust storm that for several hours shut down the Cairo airport lying somewhere on the desert below us.

From our high Nile Hilton balcony Charlie and I watched as the dimmed and setting sun silhouetted the famous pyramids standing faint through dust and distance at Giza. Then we walked out in the twilight streets to see Cairo firsthand and off-tour.

Here and there, along broad streets and back alleys, we found groups of men huddled around storefronts. Inside the little shops, televisions flickered with images of a soccer game. A merchant's mix of Arabic and English eventually told us it was a close, hard-fought championship match between Egypt and Ivory Coast across the city in Cairo International Stadium.

Egypt won the African Cup of Nations for a record fifth straight time, settling the 0-0 game on penalties for a final 4-2 score.

Cairo erupted, its people flooding the streets like the wild, undammed Nile once inundated croplands. We were swept up in throngs of men shouting in Arabic and waving the Egyptian flag in the now-famous Tahrir Square. The din was overwhelming, the energy inescapable. So glad were we that the noise was jubilant, the energy positively charged, and that two Americans alone in the middle of it were welcome to take part.

A native Egyptologist with our group told us the next morning after the crowds had vanished she had never seen nationalism so strong in her country.

I wonder what she is saying now.

Five years later, those same streets Charlie and I wandered that night are filled with the din of angry shouting and gunfire, the energy of nationalism surging in support of toppling a regime, and the opposition to that energy by regime supporters. It is painful to see these formerly peaceful people, among whom we felt safe, now in such turmoil.

Just days after the unrest began, *revolution* soon replaced *riots* in descriptions of the events. President Mubarak announced he would not seek re-election. His supporters rose up, and it seemed inevitable that blood would flow in those streets.

Here at home in the demonstration's first days we saw history in the making via televisions, the Internet, cell phones even.

But then we saw history destroyed.



The Kasr al Nile Bridge carrying traffic to the Tahrir Square roundabout just behind the river-facing Nile Hilton, now the Nile Ritz-Carlton, from which the photo was taken.

One of my early thoughts as the protests first made news was of the safety of the collections in the Egyptian National Museum standing so near Tahrir Square, site of vigils and then violence. Surely the people of a country with a history so long and unparalleled, whose sharing of that history with visitors represents so much of their economy, would protect the national treasures that fill Egypt's counterpart to our Smithsonian Institution.

Many of those who would protect it chained off the building, linking arms and bodies against intrusion, theft and vandalism.

The bad guys got in anyway, through a rooftop skylight.

Archaeologists and Egyptologists around the world expressed horror and decried the vandalism and loss and urged offers to buy smuggled goods be refused and reported.

My heart sank on seeing video images of the damage, especially those showing a mummy's head and bones scattered on the museum floor.

Not that any of Egypt's ancient royalty deserves such desecration, I was relieved to see the mummy's face was not that of Ramses the Great.



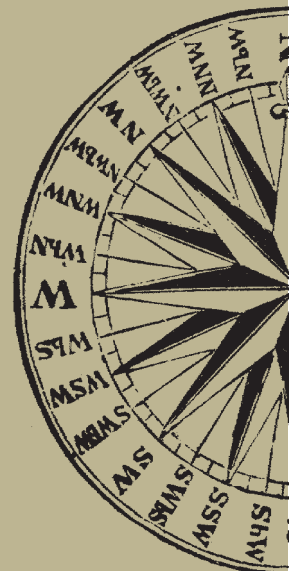
The museum's mummies lie in regal repose in their own room on the second floor where five years ago I pretended to have a reunion of sorts with the great Ramses II. When I was a small boy, Ramses' mummy and Egyptian artifacts toured the United States, and my parents took me to see the collection. To this day I remember looking with a mix of fear and fascination at leathery old Ramses lying behind glass at my eye level, his distinctive profile indelibly drawing itself in my memory. He was also the first dead person I ever saw.

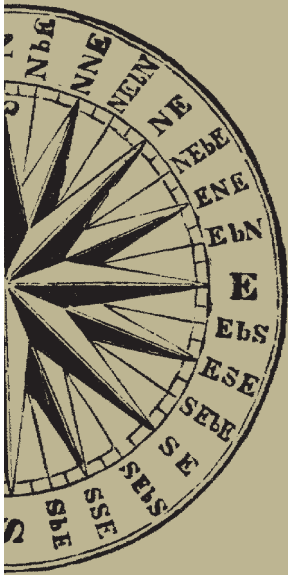
I did not want to find his location in the Cairo museum's Mummy Room by using the identifying placards on the mummies' exhibit cases. Instead I walked into the room intent on recognizing him from memory. And there, beyond several other mummies, he lay, the sight of the desiccated pharaoh little more vivid than my recollection of him. The encounter was like finding here in middle age someone I knew from childhood, across a long span of time for me, but a mere blink of an eye for an old pharaoh. I worry about him. I worry about all the treasures in the museum. The people of Egypt can be the engineers of their destiny, but the artifacts of their past have no self-determination.

And the two, the actors and the artifacts, are not inseparable. While it is easy to support those who want a better life for themselves and their peers,

that sympathy could be strained by further destruction of a historic material culture unequalled anywhere else. Those fomenting revolution, and those opposing it, should bear in mind popular opinion around the world toward them can be tainted if the country's physical cultural heritage becomes an unnecessary collateral casualty of political uprising.

The security of artifacts on view in the museum is one concern. But in the basement





of that museum is stored, literally, who knows what. The museum's collections have been curated over time under a less than ideal accession policy. Collection records are incomplete.

Charlie and I learned in Egypt of plans for a new museum to be built out by the Giza pyramids, and how the move to the new facility from the old would usher in a kind of new golden age of Egyptian archaeology. Uncatalogued artifacts in the old museum's basement would be discovered anew, the found and forgotten come to light again as for the first time.

Therein lies a greater cultural loss that must be prevented. If the museum is lost, so potentially are thousands of unknown artifacts and the information they hold. Loss of recorded and studied artifacts is terrible enough. Losing those that are unknown, unrecorded and unstudied is worse. Closer home, that unfortunately is the legacy of looters of Native American sites in our own country and notably in Southwest Virginia: we are robbed of information we can never recover, nor can we ever know for certain what knowledge was taken from us.

Discussion of the politics of Egypt's future I will leave to others, but with a benediction of hope for peaceful resolution or for revolution with succession by a moderate, democratic government, with preservation of their antiquities in the meantime and forevermore.

And I will look forward to a time when crowds in the streets of Cairo are there to cheer about another soccer victory, and a time when the desert dust, not the future of the state and its cultural treasures, is the only thing unsettled in Egypt. ♣



Ruins at Saqqara, under the watchful eye of a camel-mounted guard protecting both antiquities and tourists.



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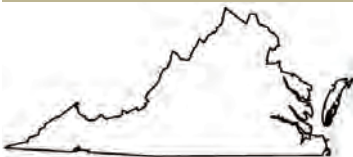
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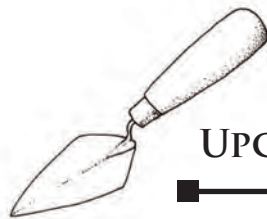


The State Executive Board held its first meeting of 2011 at the offices of the Virginia Foundation of the Humanities on Saturday, January 22nd. The board received a final report on the Joint Annual Meeting with ESAF in October showing that the Society not only made a significant profit from the meeting itself but also from the book room. Thanks to Bruce Baker and the team that ran the book room for making that happen. The 2011 Annual meeting hosted by the Massanutten Chapter is presently planned for October 14, 15, and 16. It will be held at the Museum of Frontier Culture in Staunton.

After a number of years of dedicated service, Newsletter Editor, Bernard Means stepped down at the end of 2010. Website editor and past-president Lyle Browning moved that the board through a letter from the President formally thank Bernard for his service to the Society. The board also approved the nomination of two new co-newsletter editors, Randy Turner and Laura Wedin. The board also approved the nomination of William Bjork as the new Assistant Treasurer who will also serve as treasurer for Kittiewan. Thanks to Randy, Laura, and William for agreeing to serve.

The board also agreed to sponsor both a student and a certification graduate attending the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Society meeting in March. The Society will pay the attendance fee for each.

Finally the board was given a presentation on the state of Kittiewan Plantation by Carl Fischer and Martha Williams. As many members know ASV member William Cropper gave Kittiewan Plantation to the Society in his will. Mr. Cropper asked that the ASV make no changes until we had held the property for 5 years. That time has past and we have been able to make various changes including altering the agreements with tenants and in relation to the working farm. Due to those changes instituted by the Kittiewan Committee and approved by the board, Kittiewan will produce enough money through income to meet the its expenses in 2011 and be self-sufficient for the first time. Thanks goes to the to the Kittiewan Committee for their hard work.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| April 8-9 | VDHR Cemetery Preservation Workshop, Lynchburg |
| April 16 | ASV Spring Board Meeting, Kittiewan |
| April 17-18 | Virginia Battlefield Preservation Conference, Manassas |
| July 23-23 | ASV Summer Board Meeting, Roanoke |
| October 13-16 | ASV Annual Meeting, Staunton |
| October 14 | COVA Fall Meeting, Staunton |
| October 27-28 | ESAF Annual Meeting, Mt. Laurel, NJ |