

Archeological Society of Virginia

Massanutten Chapter

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Celebrating 37 Years!

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POINTS



April Meeting Speakers

Submitted by Judy Marks

Judy Marks & Jeff Good, members of the MCASV & Shenandoah Valley Stargazers, will do a brief presentation entitled “Archaeoastronomy or Astroarchaeology, What is it, and why is it Important?” Please join us to explore this interesting topic on Wednesday April 6, 2016 at 7:00pm in Arey Hall at the Bridgewater Municipal Building.

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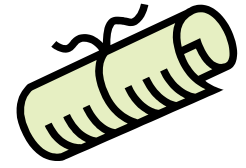
The Vikings are Coming!

Submitted by Glenn Huffman

Perhaps related to April’s topic, satellite imagery analysis has discovered a second possible Viking settlement site in Newfoundland at Point Rosee, a peninsula on the most western part of the island. This new site is several hundred miles from the only known Viking settlement site at L’Anse aux Meadows.

A physical exploration of the new site found traces of “bog iron” known to be used by Norse peoples. This type of iron is extracted from bogs in Scandinavia rather than mined. Native peoples of that area are not known to have used iron in that way. Remains of a Norse style hearth were also seen.

Dating of the site has not been completed. It is as yet unknown if the Point Rosee site is contemporary with L’Anse or represents a different time of settlement.



[Council of Virginia Archaeologists](#)

The Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) was founded in 1975 and incorporated in 1996 as an organization dedicated to the preservation and study of Virginia's archaeological resources. The council fosters public awareness, knowledge, and support for the preservation of Virginia archaeology; advances knowledge through dissemination of information on Virginia's archaeological resources; facilitates interaction between the communities of professional and avocational archaeologists in Virginia; and acts as an independent professional advisory group for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

[Virginia Department of Historic Resources](#)

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources maintains information on the Commonwealth's historic architecture and archeological sites. It is the mission of the department to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural resources.

Click on the link with DHR Official Survey Manual (PDF) in the yellow box to go to the [Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resources Survey in Virginia](#). These non-regulatory guidelines are implemented and distributed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The Secretary of the Interior has developed broad national performance standards and guidelines to assist federal agencies in carrying out their historic preservation activities. These federal standards and guidelines are titled *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines* (48 FR 44716-44742). Professionals working in Virginia have long recognized the need to standardize archeological field investigations. This set of guidelines was established to meet this need and to fill the gap between the broad-based federal guidelines and the various previously published field manuals. The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) guidelines are intended to provide standards and offer general guidance without hindering the development and use of new and innovative approaches.

[Passport In Time](#)

Passport in Time (PIT) is a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the USDA Forest Service (FS). PIT volunteers work with professional FS archaeologists and historians on national forests throughout the U.S. on such diverse activities as archaeological survey and excavation, rock art restoration, archival research, historic structure restoration, oral history gathering, and analysis and curation of artifacts. The FS professional staff of archaeologists and historians will be your hosts, guides, and co-workers.

Virginia Archeology Resources (continued from page 2) *From the ASV Website*

[Passport In Time](#) (continued)

Over the years, volunteers have helped us stabilize ancient cliff dwellings in New Mexico, excavate a 10,000-year-old village site in Minnesota, restore a historic lookout tower in Oregon, clean vandalized rock art in Colorado, survey for sites in a rugged Montana wilderness, and excavate a 19th-century Chinese mining site in Hell's Canyon in Idaho.

New PIT volunteers receive a "Passport" and a PIT Passport number. Each time a volunteer visits a project, the project leader stamps the volunteer's passport and documents their hours. Volunteers for multiple projects can fill up their passports with stamps from projects all over the country!

[The Virginia Canals & Navigations Society](#)

This organization was formed in 1977 to preserve and enhance Virginia's rich inland waterways heritage in all its fascinating aspects. History, exploration, archeology, modeling, local lore and legend, restoration, preservation, park and trail development—these are some of the many areas of interest our members pursue to their own great satisfaction and frequently to the lasting benefit of their communities and state.

[Virginia's Indians Past & Present](#)

This website offers historical information, lesson plans, bibliographies, and links to tribal home pages. The site includes sections on the Powhatan Indians as well as on topics of early colonial history such as Jamestown and Sir Walter Raleigh's expeditions. Much of the information is provided for younger readers, who may be researching class projects. The site is fully searchable and contains an index and site-map.

[Virginia Museum of Natural History](#)

This website offers information on current research, lab activities, volunteer opportunities and information with a focus on studies of Invertebrate Paleontology, Vertebrate Paleontology, Recent Invertebrates, Archaeology, Mammalogy, Marine Science and Geology.

[Guide to Virginia's Historical Resources](#)

This website offers historical information on a variety of sites and locations that contain information about Virginia's past, including library and archival sites, as well as sites for kids and families.

[Historical Archeology in Harpers Ferry and Loudoun Valley](#)

An online presentation of historical archeology studies supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

[VirginiaDigs.net](#)

A schoolteacher oriented website with emphasis on the greater Richmond, VA area.

2016 Upcoming Events

- Apr 6 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: Judy Marks & Jeff Good, MCASV & Shenandoah Valley Stargazers, "Archaeoastronomy or Astroarchaeology, What is it, and why is it Important?"
- May 4 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: Brooks Lawler, JMU Archaeology senior, "Preliminary Insights into Prehistoric Toolstone Preference of Two Igneous Materials in the Tanana River Drainage, Interior Alaska."
- Jun 1 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: Jim Schroefer, JMU History Department, "Farmer, Miller, Slave, and Hand: The Agricultural Community of the Cedar Creek Battlefield as Revealed Through Archaeology and Records."
- Jul ?? MCASV Picnic **Date Location and Time: TBA**
- Aug 3 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: TBA
- Sep 7 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: "Archaeology and Public Outreach on Virginia's Middle Peninsula", Dr. David Brown, Fairfield Foundation.
- Oct 5 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: TBA
- Nov 2 7pm, Chapter Meeting in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.
Program: TBA
- Dec 10 5pm, MCASV Christmas Party in Arey Hall, at the Bridgewater Municipal building.

March Birthdays

- April 8 Phyllis Showalter
April 8 Ray Wright
April 18 Sandra Lee Conrad



Please complete the MCAV Membership Application and submit to the MCASV Treasurer, so we have your birthdates for the newsletter

Submissions encouraged!
Deadline for issues is the 20th of each month. Please contact us with any comments, articles, tips, or concerns.

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