

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

Volume 32, Issue 2

February 2011



POINTS



Archeology on the Web

Submitted by Tom Hester

At our January MCASV meeting Joe Sharrer offered his recommendation that our newsletter, Points, include a series that would highlight interesting archeology websites. I want to thank Joe for this idea and encourage all MCASV members to submit their review of an archeological website for publication in Points. I understand from Dr. Carole Nash, our MCASV vice president, that in the past Points used to include a feature called Website of the Month. Jeff Good, the publisher of Points and MCASV webmaster, will add links to each reviewed website from our own website, mcasv.org.

Joe reports the following: The home page for Time Team America has a useful explanation on the proper technique for bisecting a posthole and a post mold presented by Eric Deetz, something few of us have had the opportunity to do. Was it a tree root or a rodent burrow or a posthole? Proper excavation technique is essential to answer the question. Go to http://www.pbs.org/opb/timeteam/sites/ft_raleigh/diary_eric.php to read about this topic and scan the other topics regarding field archaeology presented by the Time Team America crew.

Another website of note is Texas Beyond History, Making Cordmarked Pottery at: www.texasbeyondhistory.net/theme/cordmarked/index.html. This site comes from Dr. Carole Nash. She included it as part of the certification course work on Native American ceramic analysis.

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Archeology on the Web Continued

This is an outstanding webpage for amateur archeologists.

First, it is easy to read without too much technical or scientific jargon.

Second, it has great color photographs as shown below, that vividly illustrate the points made in the written narrative.



Continued on Page 3

February Birthdays

Robert Frye February 4

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



Archeology on the Web Continued

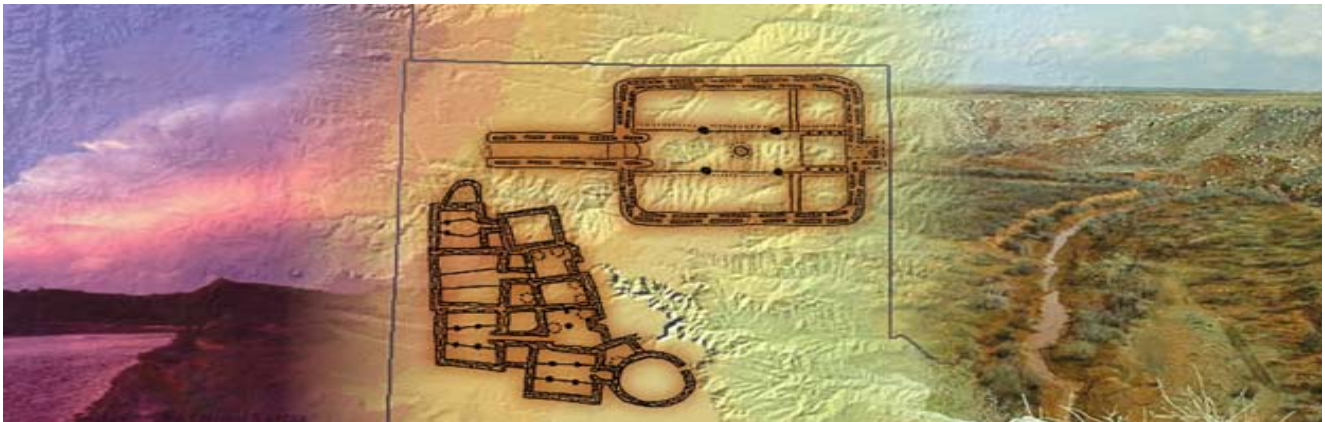
Third, it provides a solid foundation about the development of cordmarked pottery and the native peoples of the Texas panhandle who made it.

Fourth, it explains why cordmarked pottery was a technological advance because it:

strengthened the thin walls to create a better weight to strength ratio, enhanced the grip on the pottery to avoid slippage, and increased the surface area to improve transfer of heat from the cooking fire to the pot contents.

Finally, this webpage is excellent because it highlights the work of an amateur archeologist and member of the Panhandle Archeological Society, Alvin Lynn. His recreation of cordmarked pottery is reported and illustrated step by step including the gathering and preparation of raw materials, making pottery tools, forming the pot, drying and firing.

I should note that this webpage is part of a larger website called Pains Villagers of the Texas Panhandle by the University of Texas at Austin. Here, there is much more information about these interesting people and the archeological excavation. It even includes detailed diagrams and building instructions of a pithouse.



I hope this review has encouraged you to visit this website and to do your own website review. Keep on surfing and email your reviews to me at www.twhester1782@yahoo.com.

2011 State and Chapter Dues

Submitted by Tom Mizell

Now that 2011 is here, we are gently reminded that "Dues for ASV are now due." Please check your records and start the New Year with a smile and show of support for both ASV and your local chapter. Annual Membership Renewal Dues were due **January 31, 2011**. Please be aware that **dues increased** this year. Prompt remittance ensures that members continue to receive the Quarterly Bulletin and Newsletter. Other benefits include major discounts on all Society publications and participation in Society supervised archeological activities in the field.

There is a **Membership Renewal Form** that is included in the most recent ASV mailing and available on the ASV website. You may submit the **form with payment** directly to Carl Fischer, ASV Treasurer. Mr. Fischer's address is provided at the end of this article. A second option is for you to submit both the Massanutten Chapter and State dues to me. I will be glad to forward the State dues to Mr. Fischer for you. If you opt for this alternative please provide the completed **Membership Renewal Form** and the funds to me at your earliest convenience. I will have a stock of the forms available at meetings. The **MCASV Chapter Membership Application** will also be available at the meetings.

Chapter Dues are \$5.00 and State dues vary as shown below:

Regular Membership Dues	\$35.00
Senior (65 and older)	\$25.00
Student	\$15.00
Life	\$450.00
Sustaining	\$65.00
Additional family members	\$3.00 (please provide their names)

You may take care of this on-line through PayPal: <http://asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgMembers.html>

For those opting to submit directly to Mr. Fischer (ASV Treasurer) his mailing address follows:

ASV Treasurer
Carl Fischer
1685 Sweet Hall Road
West Point, VA 23181
Email: flyfischn@aol.com
804-843-9194

The Massanutten Chapter ASV appreciates your attention to this matter and we look forward to your participation in the life of our Chapter in 2011!

Interesting Bits

Submitted by Joe Sharrer

The latest issue of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, volume 118 number 4, has a lead article with a focus on Port Republic and the Shenandoah River waterway. Titled "The Shenandoah River Gundalow: Reusable Boats in Virginia's Nineteenth-Century River Trade" by Seth C. Bruggeman, this paper recounts the story of construction, use and recycling of the gundalow from its start in Port Republic to its deconstruction and reuse in buildings in Harpers Ferry. The products of the region and the need to export to the market economy of the east coast made the gundalow a viable means of trade on the Shenandoah River. The magazine is published by the Virginia Historical Society and is available at most libraries.

Certification Program Opportunities

Submitted by Carole Nash

The following is information on upcoming certification opportunities:

Historic and Prehistoric Lab Work: Artifact processing and analysis from several 19th century historic home sites and prehistoric base camps. M, W, F schedule -- set your time! Contact Carole (432-6864 or nashcl@jmu.edu) for parking information and directions to her new JMU lab space.

2010 Field School and Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities available throughout the state for Certification members and Chapter volunteers. Check out the MCASV website at www.mcasv.org for a full listing of the programs, their websites, and contact information.

****New Opportunity****

March 7-11, 2011: North Carolina National Forest, Uwharrie Ranger District will be hosting a 'Windows on the Past' archaeology dig that will qualify for historic survey and excavation. Contact Joel Hardison at jhardison@fs.fed.us for more information.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Volunteer Program

Volunteer days can be arranged during the week for anyone interested. Prehistoric and historic artifact processing, cataloguing, data entry, documentary research, and outreach activities are some examples of what work is available. Please contact Chief Curator Dee DeRoche at dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov or (804) 367-2323 x134 for an application and to set up day(s) to volunteer if you are interested.

The Certification Program is on Facebook!

Kay McCarron has created a Facebook page for the Certification Program, and it's available for your comments/photos. We have plans to post materials for the program and are open to your suggestions. Please look for it the next time you're social networking: "Virginia Certification and Training Program for Archaeological Technicians."

Upcoming Events

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|---------------|--|
| Feb. 2, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: Katie Cross (JMU Dept. of Soc/Anth and Winner of Best Prehistoric Paper at the 2010 ASV Annual Meeting): "Hunter-Gatherer Site Function in the Blue Ridge Mountains: An Analysis of Artifacts from the Pryor's Camp Site (44NE153)" |
| Feb. 17, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. The Heritage Museum. Lecture and book signing by Dr. Warren Hofstra on his book " <u>The Great Valley Road</u> ". |
| Feb. 18, 2011 | 3:35 p.m. Room 107, Jackson Hall, JMU. Eric Bryan of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia presents "West Africa West of the Blue Ridge: Challenges and Opportunities at the Frontier Culture Museum's West African Farm" cosponsored by JMU's history department and Lord Fairfax Community College; free |
| Mar. 2, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: TBA |
| Apr. 6, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: TBA |

MCASV February 2, 2011 Meeting Agenda

The MCASV monthly meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome to Guests
- III. Program: Katie Cross (JMU Dept. of Soc/Anth and Winner of Best Prehistoric Paper at the 2010 ASV Annual Meeting): "Hunter-Gatherer Site Function in the Blue Ridge Mountains: An Analysis of Artifacts from the Pryor's Camp Site (44NE153)"
- IV. Secretary's Report
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Newsletter Editor's Report
- VII. Primitive Technology Day Report
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Certification Program Report
- X. Morris Pottery Kiln
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Adjournment

We Need Your Help in Contributing Articles!

Your article could be here!

Please help by contributing articles each month.

The deadline for any information to be included in the newsletter will be the TWENTIETH of each month. Please have articles sent to Tom by this time.

Please email the Newsletter Staff with any comments or articles or concerns.

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