

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

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POINTS



Return To Lester Hogshead's Camp

Submitted by Tom Hester

"I'm flummoxed." So concluded Dr. Carole Nash on June 29th 2011 after carefully eyeing 19 more rock piles discovered by Lester Hogshead at his Bath County retreat. She was not as baffled on her first visit to Lester's camp in conjunction with Massanutten and the Highland Chapters of ASV on May 19th 2010 when she declared that a solitary rock mound that puzzled Lester for years was indeed an ancient Indian burial site (see Points October 2010).



Lester Points the Way to the Rock Piles

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Return To Lester Hogshead's Camp Continued

This time, Dr. Nash returned to Lester's camp with five MCASV members (Cindy Schroer, Kay Veith, Janice Biller, Robert Oliver and Tom Hester). They were joined by Lester's daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Chuck Reed and Lester's brother, Richard Hogshead. The weather was perfect, mostly sunny and in the 70's. The setting was delightful. Filtered light streamed through the forest canopy and a clear and sparkling mountain stream gently babbled. Lester distributed walking sticks to help the group climb the challenging mile from Lester's cabin at 2,200' elevation to the top of a 3,800' ridge.



Preparing For the Ascent

The arduous hike was punctuated with many pauses for the group to enjoy wildflowers and plants including rattle snake orchids, winter green, acorn squash, sphagnum moss, and lobelia. There were many mushrooms, but sadly no morels.

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Return To Lester Hogshead's Camp Continued



Richard Hogshead Leads the Climb

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Wintergreen



Rattle Snake Orchid

Return To Lester Hogshead's Camp Continued

After catching their wind at the summit, the intrepid investigators trundled down to a bench (a flattened area) overlooking a stream. Here they were led to the first two rock piles; they did not impress Dr. Nash as Indian. Then things became confusing.

A linear rock pile 100' long, 5' wide and almost 4' tall stretched alongside the bench.



Lester Hogshead, Carole Nash & Robert Oliver Ponder the 100' Rock Pile

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Return To Lester Hogshead's Camp Continued

Scattered nearby were 16 other smaller sandstone rock piles, some very similar to the site identified last year.



Lester, Cindy Schroer & Carole Wonder, Could It Be A Stone Burial Mound?

It is clearly a cultural feature, but what was the purpose of this stone assemblage? Was it just the byproduct of clearing a field for planting? There were too many, too close together for this to make sense. Did loggers somehow use the rocks in some way to help remove timber? If so, it was not clear how this would work. Was it a group of ancient Indian stone burial mounds similar to Indian Grave Ridge in Page County? It was intriguing that this site on Lester's property was located near a sink hole and that similar burial sites were also located near caves.

Upon return to camp, Dr. Nash reflected on a beautiful, but confounding day by saying "this is the way it often is in archeology, I'll need to do more research." Lester and the rest of us can't wait to learn what she finds out.

Archeology on the Web

Submitted by Carole Nash

Check out this cool website. Syracuse University Library Plastics Collection at <http://www.plastics.syr.edu/>

According to the website, "The Plastics Collection at the Syracuse University Library, founded in 2008, is the largest university-based resource on the history of plastics. The purpose of the Plastics Collection is to serve as a research and programming center to advance the study and understanding of plastics in modern society, including its role in chemistry, technology, industry, marketing, health, art, design, and other fields. The Plastics Collection includes expansive collection of books, periodicals, manuscripts, and plastic objects produced from the late-19th Century to the present day. "



July Birthdays

July 15 Carole Persinger

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



Whatizit?

Submitted by Joe Sharrer



Answer In Next Month's Points

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.

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@hr.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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Jul. 6, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: Alyson Wood, JMU: Understanding Data Recovered During Metal Detection at Cedar Creek Battlefield". |
| Aug. 3, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: TBA |
| Sept. 7, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: TBA |
| Oct. 5, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: TBA |
| Nov. 2, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. Arey Hall in the Bridgewater Municipal Building.
Program: TBA |

MCASV July 6, 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: Alyson Wood, JMU: Understanding Data Recovered During Metal Detection at Cedar Creek Battlefield".
- IV. Secretary's Report
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Newsletter Editor's Report
- VII. ASV Annual Meeting 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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