

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

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POINTS



The VMFA Grand Re-opening

Submitted by Laura Roder

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), located in the Fan district of Richmond, reopened its doors on May 1 after its long-awaited renovations were complete. While the expansion schedule allowed for most exhibits to be open in the initial stages, the museum was completely closed to visitors in the previous ten months before the re-opening. Since moving to Richmond almost three years ago, I have enjoyed strolling through the building's exhibit areas that include works from the Impressionist, Baroque, Renaissance, and Classical eras, to name just a few. The social events and gallery openings in the Marble Hall were always a big hit as well. Now with the expanded space and additional exhibits, I can only imagine what the VMFA has in store.

It was estimated that a million visitors would grace the museum's halls at the much-anticipated re-opening on May 1 and 2. From my experience volunteering at the event on May 2, this figure does not surprise me. There was an endless stream of people flowing through the front doors, stopping to listen to the musical performances presented on the stage, and jumping from room to room anxious to see what was around the next corner.

Personally, I was quite impressed with the expansion. Many of the same exhibits I knew and loved still surrounded the Marble Hall (e.g. Faberge exhibit, Impressionists,

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VMFA Front Entrance

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The VMFA Grand Re-opening

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Sporting Art), but it was exciting to see how the new space was utilized. The Cochrane Atrium bisects the two wings of the building and leads to the aptly named statue, *Large Leaping Hare* (Barry Flanagan, 1982), that is prominently displayed in front of the second-story window overlooking Boulevard. Some new exhibits in the two wings include 21st Century Art, Native American Art, and the soon-to-be-complete hall of Ancient Art.

The VMFA has more to offer than exhibits. There is the stage for musical performances, a youth education center, a lecture hall, and, of course, a gift shop and cafe. There are a variety of upcoming events including the reemergence of the concert series "Jumpin'" beginning on June 4 in the Robins Sculpture Garden. The VMFA also has a Studio School in a separate building off of Grove Avenue that offers classes in a variety of areas including photography, painting, writing, and pottery making. For more information on the museum's offerings, go to www.vmfa.museum. I hope you can take advantage of this new and improved cultural offering in the heart of Richmond!



View of Giant Leaping Hare from Atrium

June Birthdays

Tom Hester	June 6
Betty Redmond	June 9
Glenn Huffman	June 19
Linda Waggy	June 20
Agnes Donnelley	June 29

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



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.

****Just Announced 2010 Virginia Field Schools****

(More details are on Pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter)

Golden Ball Tavern, Petersburg, VA
Cemetery Workshop, VDHR, Richmond, VA
Chippokes Plantation, Surry County
Kittiewan Plantation, Charles City County
Mount Vernon
Fairfield Foundation
Wintergreen

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.

MCASV June 2, 2010 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: Dr. Elizabeth Moore, Virginia Museum of Natural History:
The Archaeology Program at VMNH

IV. Secretary's Report

V. Treasurer's Report

VI. Newsletter Editor's Report

VII. New Business

VIII. Certification Program Report

IX. Morris Pottery Kiln

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment

Upcoming Events

- June 2, 2010 Dr. Elizabeth Moore, Virginia Museum of Natural History: The Archaeology Program at VMNH
- July 7, 2010 TBA
- August 4, 2010 TBA

Updated 2010 Field School Opportunities for Certification Students

Submitted by Carole Nash and Bruce Baker

1. Mount Vernon Archaeology needs certification students in the field on Monday - Friday and two Saturdays each month through August 31. Hours are good for field survey or historic excavation as well as checking off field skill requirements. The site is an undocumented plowzone site from the late 18th - early 19th century (c. 1790 - 1830). They are sampling plowzone to recover a distribution of artifacts to better understand who might have lived on this site. In addition, Mt. Vernon staff is willing to offer historic lab hours and provide hours for the new public education component (for those who have joined the program since Jan. 1, 2010). INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CONTACT CURT BRECKENRIDGE (cbreckenridge@mountvernon.org) OR DR. ESTHER WHITE (ewhite@mountvernon.org).

2. Menokin, Richmond County (just outside of Warsaw on the Northern Neck), June 16-23. Brought to you by the Fairfield Foundation (Thane Harpole and David Brown). They will focus on investigating an area of likely slave quarters and other activities located just north of the main area that was identified during an archaeological survey in 2008. ***THEY PREFER THAT ASV CERT STUDENTS COMMIT TO AT LEAST THREE DAYS, BUT ARE FLEXIBLE. There is no charge for participating if you are a Certification student; the work at Menokin will continue for additional weeks, with the project being opened to Rappahannock Community College students. This project will fulfill historic excavation requirements and the field school requirement if Cert students can devote at least 3 days. The staff may also be able to incorporate some lab work along with this. They don't have any additional lectures scheduled but may try to fit some in if there is interest. There are some hotels and campgrounds in the area if folks need a place to stay. In addition, if anyone wants to camp on the grounds at Menokin they may do so for a small fee (around \$50 for the week -- contact Thane (fairfield@inna.net) and Dave (dabro3@email.wm.edu) with additional questions). They can also check out www.menokin.org for more information about this historic plantation. Dave and Thane have produced a nice poster that is 2MB in size, so it is not attached here. If anyone wants to see it, e-mail Carole. In the meantime, if you are interested in this field school, contact these guys.

3. Golden Ball Tavern, Petersburg. Golden Ball Tavern excavation that will run from June 16-July 19, 2010 (each Wed-Sun, except July 4th weekend). Participants can enroll for credit through Richard Bland College or volunteer. There are several different types of Certification opportunities for volunteers that include archival research, field experience in historical archaeology, and the new public education requirement. The latter would include hours spent interfacing with the public who come to the excavation during a regular work day. INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CONTACT DR. CHRIS STEVENSON -- CERT STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE THE COURSE THROUGH RICHARD BLAND, BUT MUST CONTACT CHRIS ASAP IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING (cmstevenson23805@gmail.com).

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Updated 2010 Field School Opportunities for Certification Students

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4. Kittiewan, Charles City County, June 19-27. Directed by Patrick O'Neill. Full details not yet available, but historic survey work will focus on the ice house and other areas around the dwelling and visitors' center.

5. Wintergreen Nature Foundation, Wintergreen (Nelson County Blue Ridge), June 21-26. In its 8th season, the Wintergreen Archaeological Survey, directed by Dr. Carole Nash, will focus on Archaic and Woodland-era sites in both developed and open space areas. This year's work will test GIS models of paths connecting sites to study hunter-gatherer routes of movement through the mountains. Work will satisfy prehistoric survey requirements and basic survey skills. Prehistoric lab hours will also be offered. Please commit to at least two days. We are currently working out accommodations with the Nature Foundation. Contact Carole (nashcl@jmu.edu) for more information.

6. Chippokes Plantation State Park, Surry County. July 12 - 21, 2010, VDHR/Passport In Time joint field school. Excavation directed by Dr. Mike Barber in front of the kitchen at Chippokes Plantation house. This work will satisfy requirements for historic excavation. There will also be an associated prehistoric survey to delineate the boundaries of the Middle-Late Woodland Hatch Site (44PG51). SEE ATTACHED APPLICATION FORM.

7. Fairfield plantation in Gloucester County -- another opportunity from the Fairfield Foundation fellows. This will run from July 13-17. They welcome ASV certifications students for any time during this 5-day field school, but ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COMMIT TO SEVERAL DAYS to either fulfill the field school requirement or just acquire more field experience. This opportunity will also fulfill the historic excavation requirement, as they will be working on testing yard areas surrounding the destroyed 1694 manor house, as well as working on portions of the house itself. There will also be opportunities for historic lab work, and again they may be able to do some lectures if there is interest.

Thane also writes that anyone interested in learning about other digging opportunities that might occur in our area (Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck) please contact him at fairfield@inna.net. He and Dave and crew from the Middle Peninsula Chapter will be digging at Fairfield for much of the summer; he is glad to include you in the Middle Peninsula chapter update list.

8. Additional projects in the works: more work at Camp Misery on Civil War huts (Stafford County), led by Dr. Mike Barber; survey on the Claremont Farm tract (Clarke County), led by Dr. Mike Barber; survey on Overall Run Farms, Page County, led by Carole Nash. As soon as we have details on these projects, we will send them on.

We hope that you will take advantage of some of these wonderful opportunities!

Carole and Bruce

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We're on the web
www.mcasv.org

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 Laura and Jeff by this time.

Your article could be here! Please email the Newsletter Editors at roderla@aol.com (Laura Roder) and atlatlist@comcast.net (Jeff Good) if you are submitting an article to the MCASV Newsletter.

