



Archeological Society of Virginia
Massanutten Chapter



Volume 29, Issue 5

May 2008

POINTS

May Speaker in the News

Submitted by Kay Veith

We received good publicity from the Daily News Record about the upcoming talk by State Archeologist, Dr. Michael Barber, at our May 7 meeting. I would like to encourage all members to invite family and friends to attend the meeting. The article gives a good overview of the content of Dr. Barber's talk and should be of interest to a number of members of our community. We will meet at the Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton at 5:30 p.m. for dinner with Dr. Barber before the meeting. Please let me know if you will be there so I can tell the restaurant how many will be there. We must be seated and ready to order dinner at 5:30 p.m. because the room at Thomas House is reserved for another group after us. Here is the link to the article in Thursday's Escape section of the paper:

http://www.dnronline.com/artsandentertainment_details.php?AID=16544&sub=Escape

and it is also in Rocktown:

http://www.rocktownweekly.com/rocktown/life_details.php?AID=2319

Please let me know if you plan to attend and will bring guests with you. That will give us an idea of how many chairs to set up for the meeting. We hope it will bring out a big crowd! See you there!

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Website of the Month

Submitted by Carole Nash

Historical Glass Bottle Identification and Information Site

The website is created and maintained by Bill Lindsey, Rangeland Management Specialist (retired) with the BLM in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The site includes information on; Dating, Typing/Shapes, Glassmaking, Colors, Finishes (Lips), Body and Seams, Bases, Fragment ID, Glossary, References, Links, and FAQ's.

<http://www.sha.org/bottle/index.htm>

Morris Pottery Update

Submitted by Kay Veith

Work has begun at the Morris Pottery Kiln by members Cindy Schroer, Carole Nash, Linda Waggy, Joe Sharrer, Kay Veith and a fantastic volunteer, Page Shields! Cindy, Carole, Linda, Joe and Page worked on Saturday, April 12, digging and excavating two 10 feet by 2.5 feet wide trenches, Units 2 and 4 on the south side of the kiln. There were two possible features found in Unit 2, a burned area and a possible post mold. A lot of time was spent excavating and taking away the modern trash that had been deposited on the site through the years. On Saturday, April 26, Kay joined the crew and two more trenches on the east side, also Units 2 and 4. A feature was uncovered in Unit 2 that looks like brick rubble which could not be interpreted as yet. Come join the crew on the May 10 and 24 workdays!



Pictured (from left to right) Linda, Carole, Cindy, Joe, and Page. *Photo by Kay Veith*

Morris Pottery Kiln Pledge Form

I, _____, wish to donate \$_____._____ towards the construction of the MCASV Morris Pottery Kiln shelter.

Please send this form along with a check made out to the MCASV to the following address:

MCASV
c/o Tom Mizell—Treasurer
984 Airport Road
Bridgewater, VA 22812

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.

2008 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 web-sites, and contact information.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Volunteer Program

The DHR Volunteer Program has resumed once again. Volunteers are needed the 2nd and 4th Fridays and Saturdays of each month until May 24. Contact Chief Curator Dee DeRoche at dee.deroche@hr.virginia.gov or (804) 367-2323 x134 to receive an application and set up a day to begin volunteer work. Assistance is needed with various projects.

MCASV May 2008 Meeting Agenda

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| I. Call to Order | V. Treasurer's Report |
| II. Welcome to Guests | VI. Newsletter Editors' Report |
| III. Program: Dr. Michael Barber,
State Archaeologist, Virginia
Department of Historic Resources
"17,000 Years of Human
Occupation: Virginia Archaeology
from the Coastal Plain to
the Appalachian Plateau" | VII. Certification Program Report |
| | VIII. Morris Pottery Kiln |
| | IX. New Business |
| | X. Announcements |
| IV. Secretary's Report | XI. Adjournment |

Upcoming Events

- May 7, 2008 Dinner at Thomas House in Dayton, 5:30 p.m.
Please contact Kay Veith for reservations.
- May 7, 2008 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: "The Future of Virginia Archaeology" Dr. Mike Barber, State
Archaeologist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- June 4, 2008 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: "New Deal Archaeology" Dr. Bernard Means, Washington and Lee
University
- July 2, 2008 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Program: "Excavations in a Free State: A Rare Ante-Bellum Free Black
Community in Albemarle County", Dr. Steve Thompson, Rivanna
Archaeological Associates

Morris Pottery Kiln (44RM430) Test Excavation Methodology

Submitted by Carole Nash

Prior to the construction of the protective shed over the ASV's Morris Pottery Kiln during summer 2008, the Massanutten Chapter ASV has begun a testing program to determine the potential impact of construction on the site and to assist with the placement of posts. MCASV began planning this work as soon as Rockingham County granted a zoning variance for shed construction, and field work began on April 12, 2008. Work will continue every other Saturday through mid-June 2008, weather permitting.

Because of the small size of the lot (50' x 75') and the setback requirements, the proposed shed, which measures approximately 36' x 40', will be placed in close proximity to the kiln feature, making archaeological testing critical to the construction process. As currently planned, 6" x 6" x 20' posts will be sunk 18"-24" and placed roughly every 10'-12'. The archaeological testing methodology involves trenching around all four sides in the footprint of the structure; the width of the trench is 2.5'. On the south and north sides, the trench will measure 44' x 2.5', and on the east and west sides, 40' x 2.5'. A datum has been set in the southeastern corner of the property.

Until this project began, very limited testing had occurred at the site; the focus of previous archaeological study was clearing and mapping the above-ground kiln feature. Regular excavation protocols will be followed; however, as the kiln site has been a trash repository for much of the 20th century, modern deposits will be shoveled off and not screened. In areas of the site where cultural deposits are found to be intact, field methodology will include excavation by stratigraphic level to subsoil, soil screening through ¼" mesh, proper field documentation using forms, plan and profile mapping, and photography, and artifact removal by level. Features encountered will be plan-mapped and covered, with excavation saved for a later date. Portions of features that will be impacted by construction will be excavated and properly documented.

As the time of this writing, one half of the south trench excavation has been completed. We removed 24 five-gallon buckets of trash, located a possible feature in the southwest corner, and determined that the property has been plowed up to the base of the kiln on the southern side. Cultural deposits, which include brick fragments from the kiln, extend only .8' below surface; augering established a thick layer of alluvium to 2'.

Massanutten Chapter of the
Archeological Society of Virginia
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Bridgewater, VA 22812-0204



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.

