

*Please join the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology
and Cultural Resources for our November Membership meeting with:*

Dr. Stephen R. Potter

Bison in the East:

A Story of Pigs, People, and Pigeons

Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 9:30 AM

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Frying Pan Park 2739 West Ox Rd, Herndon, VA

After living in small numbers east of the Mississippi River for hundreds of years, perhaps longer, bison populations began to flourish in the southeastern United States sometime in the middle of the sixteenth century A.D. The bison's reemergence east of the Mississippi River is probably due to the violent incursion through the Southeast of Hernando De Soto's private army of 600 people and their horses, war dogs, and pigs, during 1539 to 1543. However, the principal critter which caused the subsequent cultural catastrophes and ecological changes may not be the most obvious one – the Spanish Black Pig.

After discussing the demise of the key species (people) and two outbreak populations (bison and pigeons), Dr. Potter examines the role of eastern bison in the 18th-century Anglo-American exploration and settlement of the Great Valley and the lands beyond. He illustrates the life and times of the deer skin traders, long hunters, “meat getters”, market hunters, squatters and settlers, and the part they played in the destruction of the bison in the East.



FOFA will hold a brief meeting prior to the presentation in order to elect new officers to the Board. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided during the meeting.

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and our website <http://www.fofaweb.org/>!