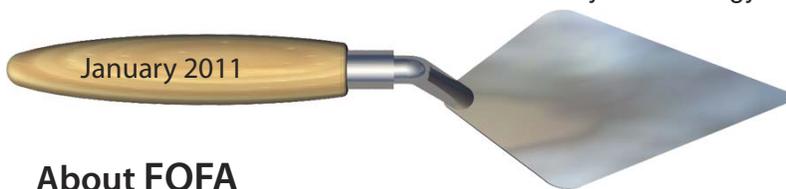


The SCOOP

A Newsletter of the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources **FOFA**



About FOFA

A new support group for archaeology has been formed, the **Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources. (FOFA)**

FOFA exists to befriend and support the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section of the Fairfax County Park Authority, and to further the understanding and appreciation of Fairfax County's cultural resources through archaeology and historic preservation.

FOFA will offer support in such areas as communication, community education programs, volunteer activities, personnel and funding, and advocacy for archaeology and historic preservation

The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section of the Fairfax County Park Authority (**CRMPS**) is the primary steward of cultural resources in Fairfax County and conducts archaeological and other cultural resource studies county-wide. **CRMPS** oversees the protection of archaeological sites, historic structures, historic districts, cemeteries and the great variety of cultural landscapes in Fairfax County.

CRMPS conducts archaeology, maintains a collection of over three million artifacts, has a GIS/aerial photo cultural resource mapping project and sponsors the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia. **CRMPS** and the Chapter offer volunteer opportunities for excavations and a certification program in archaeology.

FOFA anticipates providing its members with a regular newsletter reporting on-going archaeological and preservation activities. It will offer professional presentations, opportunities for the public to participate in volunteer activities, tours of on-going excavations and a diversity of entertaining events.

For further information contact Sallie Lyons at **lyonshare@cox.net**.

Friends Of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources also lives on Facebook.



**Supporting
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January 2011

The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section (CRMPS) of the Fairfax County Park Authority is the county agency that conducts and oversees archaeological and other cultural resource studies in the county. The Section is the steward for cultural resources. Cultural Resources are defined as physical evidence of any past human activity identifiable through field survey, historical documentation, or oral history. This includes archaeological sites; archaeological and museum collections; historic buildings, structures, objects or districts; cemeteries; and cultural landscapes.

Archaeology has been formally a part of the county government, since 1978, when County Archaeological Services (CAS) was established by the Fairfax County History Commission. It was managed as a component of the Heritage Resource Branch, Office of Comprehensive Planning [which is now the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ)]. Its primary mission was "the identification, recording and mitigation of cultural resource sites located on parcels subject to rezoning and special exception plan review." A Heritage Resource Management Plan was developed in the 1980s and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1988. This document allowed for the protection and preservation of the County's significant heritage resources over the long term.

The Fairfax County Park Authority can trace its connection with cultural resource stewardship since its establishment 60 years ago, when they acquired Sully Historic Site. Over the years, the Park Authority acquired numerous other historic properties including, but not limited to, Colvin Run Mill, Dranesville Tavern, Green Spring, Cabell's Mill and Walney, Hunter House and Huntley, which were administered by the Division of History (later the Division of Historic Preservation). The Park Authority established a strong Museum Collections program and in 1979, the first properties were accredited by the American Association of Museums. In 1987, the Fairfax County Park Authority, Division of Historic Preservation established the Cultural Resource Management Office. Its primary mission was "the identification, protection, management and interpretation of cultural resources located and preserved within parks and on potential parkland."

In 1996, County Archaeological Services was transferred to the Fairfax County Park Authority. A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up at that time, which indicated that the Park Authority would continue to conduct the functions previously served by County Archaeological Services. CAS staff continued to conduct county-wide plan review and conduct excavations on threatened sites. From 1996 though 2003, the two groups continued to operate more or less independently of each other. In 2003, the two groups were consolidated as part of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section. In the summer of 2004, archaeological staff was moved to the newly-renovated James Lee Center in Falls Church, Virginia. In 2008, both Museum Collections and Historic Preservation were transferred to the supervision of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section.



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Ceramics - David Site



Effigy - Hartwell Site



Excavation - David Site



Excavation - David Site



Excavation - Colvin Mill Site

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The Northern Virginia Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia

You carefully scrape away the soil and a shard of pottery comes to light – still bearing the delicate pattern placed there over 2,000 years ago by an early Native American potter. Or you slowly uncover the brick foundation of an 18th century plantation. As you peel back the past, each layer of soil brings forth surprises. This is archeology in your own back yard: Northern Virginia.

One of the earliest pieces of evidence of human occupation in Northern Virginia is a Clovis-like fluted point dated to 11,000 B.C., uncovered by a bulldozer near Tysons Corner. Archeologists have determined that Northern Virginia was continually occupied for more than 13,000 years – first by Native Americans, then by Europeans, Africans, and other immigrants. Remnants of their lives buried in the soil help archeologists to reconstruct their cultures.

Over 7,000 archeological sites have been recorded in Northern Virginia. It is the mission of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia to rescue information from these sites before they are lost forever. As members of the Northern Virginia chapter, men and women of all ages and walks of life engage in this work under the guidance of professional archeologists. Hands-on training is offered at survey and excavation sites and in the laboratory; no experience is needed. For those wanting more, a state-sponsored program is offered leading to certification as an archeological technician.

Membership in the Chapter is one of the best ways to stay in touch with current archeological activities, whether in the field or lab. Members of the Chapter go on archeological digs at historic and prehistoric sites throughout the state of Virginia and beyond. For example, members have helped to excavate a very old prehistoric site near Austin, Texas – one of the premier Clovis-era sites in North America. Work is beginning now on Mason Neck at Colchester, an 18th Century tobacco port. This is also believed to be near the location of Tauxenent, a major Indian village shown on Captain John Smith's 1612 map. **This promises to be one of the most interesting and important recent digs in Fairfax County.**

Call for Volunteers

Excavations at Colchester have begun, and the team would like to invite volunteers to take part. Currently, excavations are being conducted within the former town area. The field crew has been assembled, the screens and drying racks were lovingly made by hand, and the shovels have been sharpened. The crew refers to themselves as the Colchester Archaeological Research Team (C.A.R.T.), and is under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Crowell, head of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section (CRMP) of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). and volunteers are invited to work with the professional team in the field Thursdays through Saturdays, between 9 AM – 3 PM. please email CART.volunteers@gmail.com. Individuals of all levels of expertise are welcome to assist with a comprehensive range of activities. GoCART! Knowing that some of you may not be able to make a 9 AM start time with rush hour traffic, you are welcome to join the work in progress when you can get there.

Conditions at the site can be rustic and moderately overgrown, but we will be working initially in close proximity to the lab and office facility, which is located at 10709 Old Colchester Road, one of the last houses before the ferry site over the Occoquan. Limited parking is available in the driveway of the house and along Old Colchester Road. If you have your own gloves and trowel, please bring them.



Colchester Archaeological Research Team (C.A.R.T)



Location of the C.A.R.T. Field Lab at 10709 Old Colchester Road and the Colchester Park





FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY
AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Membership Application

Date: _____ New Member ___ Renewing Member
Annual Dues: Individual (\$15) ___ Family (\$20) ___

Title (Mr., Ms, etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Street Address City State Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Cell Phone Email Address

___ Check here if you prefer that your contact information NOT be published in a future directory of members.

Please indicate skills or background that you would be willing to share with the Friends:

___ IT ___ Fundraising ___ Public Relations ___ Events Planning ___ Graphics ___ Photography
___ Writing ___ Archaeology ___ Preservation ___ Other (please specify) _____

What ideas would you suggest for the enhancement and support of Fairfax County's archaeology and other cultural resources programs?

For Family memberships, please provide information for a second member (spouse, partner, or child):

(To provide information for more than two family members, please use multiple membership forms and attach them together.)

Title (Mr., Ms, etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone Cell Phone Email Address

Please indicate skills and background that might be shared with the Friends:

___ IT ___ Fundraising ___ Public Relations ___ Events Planning ___ Graphics ___ Photography
___ Writing ___ Archaeology ___ Preservation ___ Other (please specify) _____

Please make checks payable to FOFA, and mail to:

Charles Balch 2922 Oakton Ridge Circle, Oakton, VA 22124

CBalch@aol.com

For Internal Use: Date Received: _____ Amount Received: _____