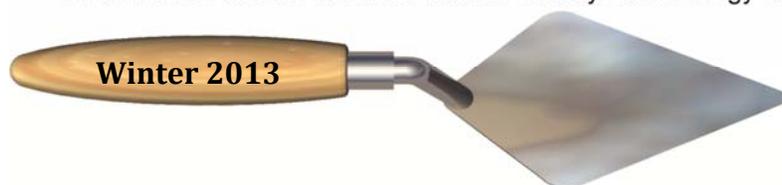


The Scoop

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



Please join FOFA in welcoming Mara Kaktins (Ferry Farm) to our December Annual Membership Meeting:

New Results on Old Glue Using Science and Experimental Archaeology to Analyze Mary Washington's Ceramics

**Saturday, December 7th
10:00 AM -12:00 PM
in the Urbanities Room
James Lee Community Center
2855 Annandale Road,
Falls Church, VA**



Mara Kaktins in the Archeology Lab at Ferry Farm

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Members Meeting of the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources will be held this Saturday, December 7th. Following a brief business meeting and the election of 2014 FOFA officers and board members, our guest speaker will be Mara Kaktins, from Ferry Farm.

In this issue:

1. Annual Membership Meeting/ Election of 2014 Officers and Board
2. Mara Kaktins: An Analysis of Mary Washington's Ceramics from Ferry Farm
3. Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) Update...
4. FOFA Needs You!
5. Upcoming Events

DECEMBER PRESENTATION

Mara Kaktins is the ceramics and glass specialist at George Washington's boyhood home of Ferry Farm, where she is currently conducting an in depth study of Mary Washington's table and teawares, and is overseeing the mending of American and German (Westerwald/Rhenish) stonewares from all historic periods of occupation at Ferry Farm. [For more information on Ferry Farm, see: http://www.kenmore.org/ff_home.html].

The analysis of ceramics excavated from Ferry Farm revealed that a many vessels exhibited glue residue. These table and teawares are associated with Mary Washington, George's mother, and have raised a number of questions. What is the

composition of the glues? How were the adhesives prepared and would their production leave a signature on the landscape? What compelled Mary to mend these wares? What do these sociotechnic artifacts say about a woman of Mary's standing and economic position?



**Chinese porcelain tureen (1770-1800):
Martha Washington is believed to have
owned a punch bowl in this pattern**

(Source: http://www.kenmore.org/foundation/pic_of_month/pic_of_month.html)

To begin examining these questions Mara turned to chemists working with Direct Analysis in Real Time mass spectrometry in order to establish the composition of the residues. Additionally, archaeologists at Ferry Farm reproduced 18th century glue utilizing period recipes and conducted tests with them. Mara will present the latest results of chemical analysis of the glues as well as the experiments conducted at Ferry Farm.

Mara Kaktins is a PhD candidate in Temple University's Anthropology Department, from which she also holds a Master's Degree in archaeology. Her dissertation research centers on the changing treatment of the poor throughout the colonial period, focusing on data recovered from her excavation of a privy associated with the first Philadelphia City Almshouse.

In addition to Mary Washington's table and teawares, Mara has been studying the ceramics and glass from Kenmore Plantation in order to identify the table and teawares owned by Fielding and Betty Lewis (George Washington's sister) with a goal towards aiding in the accurate refurbishing of the dining room table with period pieces.

CART UPDATE and DIRECTION

*By: CART Members Megan Veness,
Elizabeth Paynter, and Marion Constante*

The Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) has finished the fieldwork for identification level investigations of the floodplain and lower terrace areas around the Occoquan River. Many of the prehistoric diagnostic artifacts date to the Early Woodland (ca. 1000 – 500 ybp) and Late Woodland (ca. AD 900 – 1600) periods. We are now analyzing the artifacts and soil information to refine site boundaries and reconstruct the general prehistoric land use on the south side of the Old Colchester Park and Preserve. CART will focus on artifact concentrations or possible features in the months to come.



The CART lab is processing artifacts and information from the recently finished survey areas. Additionally, the analysis of the data from the larger prehistoric site is being refined to take a more in depth look at the assemblage. This will provide an opportunity to beta test our new database with multiple data sets. So far the database is giving us the tools to easily identify important concentrations of

various artifact types and time periods. Collectively, database and GIS are informing preparation of the current survey report, and isolating locations that warrant further examination. Ultimately these tools help the team best protect the resources of the OCPP in the most efficient manner possible.

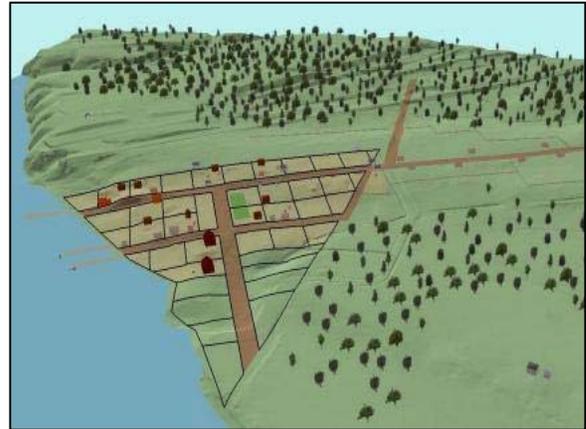
Just a few weeks ago, CART moved back to the Enyedi Property for more testing, and to sample the features discovered earlier this year. The Enyedi property was the original beta test data set for the MS Access artifact database. After all the artifacts were catalogued and entered, specific queries allowed for GIS projections of artifacts by type and time period. Eighteenth century artifacts were shown to cluster along the Old Colchester and Furnace Roads. Our current investigations will help ground-truth the GIS projections.

Virtual Colchester

Marion Constante, our GIS specialist, has been working hard on integrating archaeological data and historical data to create a “Virtual Colchester”. The town of Colchester and some of the buildings, from around circa 1760 - 1790, are overlain on a modern terrain model.

The Virtual Colchester model is an ongoing project for CART to recreate – as a data driven virtual reconstruction – the eighteenth century port town of Colchester, utilizing both archaeological investigations within Old Colchester Park and Preserve and archival research. The various structures within the virtual Colchester town were created by first establishing their spatial location during the eighteenth century. This was done through archival research and archaeological investigations.

The archaeological investigations identified architectural features that enabled the exact placement of several structures on the landscape. For some of the structures, the archaeology resulted in establishing the size of structural footprints.



Virtual Colchester is laid out according to the town lots described in the 1754 George West survey. Data from the 1937 aerial photograph, historic records, and extant structures have been aligned to the historic and modern terrains. Along with the structures found within the town boundary other structures were modeled for a more complete representation of Colchester. These structures, fences, and roads were digitized from the georeferenced 1782 Rochambeau map.



All the buildings, town data, and 3D surface were created using ESRI’s ArcGIS Desktop software. The terrain was built using modern day features and is

representative of the current landscape. In archaeology, using 3D does more than represent a historic environment; it can be used to see and enhance topography and features that cannot be seen from aerial photographs and ground surveys. This ability enhances our understanding of past landscapes and helps guide research direction.

New Directions

CART interns from a few local universities are building a glossary of cataloging terms. The glossary will include photos of items in the type collection, allowing more accurate identification. So far each intern has chosen particular types of artifacts to research in greater depth. Two of the interns are now splitting their time between both lab and field, providing them with a more holistic understanding of the flow of items as well as data.



In the months and years to come, CART expects many new adventures. The Old Colchester Park and Preserve continues to reveal its secrets and, more often, present more mysteries. While CART works in support of the Fairfax County Park Authority Mission and to fulfill Park Policy to identify and evaluate cultural resources, it continues to be multifaceted. The team provides educational opportunities as it benefits from the efforts and experience of interns and volunteers. The Colchester project has allowed for the development and beta testing of new approaches through technology and innovation. Finally, CART attempts to give back to the local and avocational communities that support ongoing and future efforts.

FOFA NEEDS YOU!

FOFA is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that supports the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. We seek to further promote the understanding and appreciation of Fairfax County's cultural resources through archaeology and historic preservation. Among our other activities, FOFA can now offer support in the acquisition of needed field equipment, artifact storage systems, and computer software.

We need you to becoming a supporting member! Please fill out the attached membership application, and especially let us know areas that you can assist (i.e. website development and maintenance, fundraising, outreach, etc.).

Follow us on Facebook and on the internet at <http://fofaweb.org/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bull Run Civil War Round Table Lecture:
CSS Hunley- Civil War Submarine
1863/1864. Centreville Regional Library-
December 12, 2013

Slave Life Holidays at Ben Lomond
Historic Site - **December 14, 2013**

Gunston Hall Symposium: *The*
Archaeology of Slavery in the Chesapeake
Region - **February 16, 2014**

Middle Atlantic Archaeological
Conference - Langhorne, PA -
March 13 - 16, 2014

FOFA Spring Symposium
(TBA)



***Supporting Archaeology,
History, and Preservation
in Fairfax County***



**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: _____