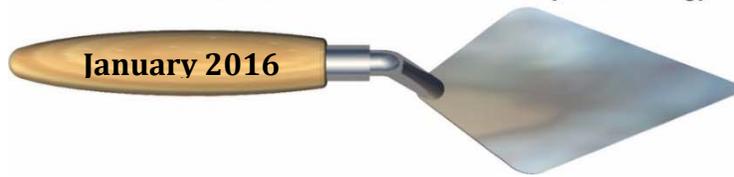


The SCOOP

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



Please join the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources, Gunston Hall Plantation, and the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority in hosting an archaeological symposium.

History beneath our Feet: Archeology in the Chesapeake Region

Saturday, February 6, 2016 - 9:00 AM -3:30 PM

At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079

Barbara Heath

Indo-Pacific Cowrie Shells: Global Trade and Local Exchange in Colonial Virginia



Many archaeologists have interpreted cowrie shells found on sites from the Northeast to the Caribbean as evidence of material expressions of African or African American ethnicity or spirituality. However, understanding the routes by which these non-native shells made their way to the New World, and their distribution and use over time and space, shows that they were global commodities with localized meanings.

Barbara Heath will present historical and archaeological evidence relating to the movement and modification of these shells from harvest to delivery. She will examine the distribution of two main species of cowries, *Monetaria moneta* and *Monetaria annulus*, on late 17th- and 18th-century Virginia sites, arguing that

they can be usefully interpreted as artifacts of global, and local systems of trade.

Barbara Heath is an associate professor of Anthropology who specializes in the archaeology of colonialism and the African Diaspora, with a focus on the Chesapeake and the Caribbean. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2006, Dr. Heath worked for more than 20 years as an archaeologist at historic houses and museums in Virginia, including Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello, and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest.

Heath has authored *Hidden Lives, The Archaeology of Slave Life at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest* and, with Jack Gary, edited *Jefferson's Poplar Forest, Unearthing a Virginia Plantation*. She is currently working on *Material Worlds: Archaeology, Consumption, and the Road to Modernity*, co-edited with Eleanor Breen and Lori Lee.

Julia King



What Towne Belong You Too? Indian Mobility in a Colonial Landscape.

Using a landscape archaeology approach to Native mobility in an occupied landscape, Dr. Julia King will examine wide-area survey data, archaeological assemblages, and the rich documentary record to reveal how Native people in the lower Potomac valley maintained and adapted familiar practices, schedules, and rituals using both Native- and European-made objects. At the same time, Natives recognized and used the power of European objects in their hands to provoke colonial anxieties.

Dr. King is professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland where she studies, teaches, and writes about Chesapeake history and archaeology. She is a past president of the Society for Historical Archaeology and spent eight years as an Expert Member on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In 2012 she received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that focuses on people, places, and archaeological sites in the Potomac River drainage occupied from circa 1500 to 1720 AD.

Charlie LeeDecker, Chardé Reid, and Ruth Trocolli

An Overview of the Search for Yarrow Mamout in Georgetown

The Yarrow Mamout public archaeology project was conducted between June and October 2015 in Washington, DC. Mamout was a formerly enslaved African Muslim who purchased an upper Georgetown lot in 1803. He was well-known in his time

and may have been buried on the property. The intensive investigations included mechanical and manual excavation, GPR, and geoarchaeology. Over 8,000 artifacts were retrieved and are still being processed.



Also pictured Jim Johnson (rear) and Mia Carey (far right)

Charlie LeeDecker has spent over 30 years conducting archaeological research primarily in the Washington DC region and recently retired from the Louis Berger Group. On May, 6, 2015, he received a District of Columbia Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for his extensive work in the city.

Chardé Reid is the Assistant City Archaeologist with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and participates in every aspect of the program from archeological fieldwork to collections management, compliance review and public outreach, and education. Reid received her B.A. in Archaeology from the George Washington University.

Dr. Ruth Trocolli is the City Archaeologist for the District of Columbia. She reviews federal and local cultural resource projects and maintains the archeological site files. Dr. Trocolli received her doctorate from the University of Florida. Trocolli recently was awarded the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award for Excellence in Public Leadership.

Bios adapted from the archaeology staff page <http://yarrowmamoutarchaeology.weebly.com/staff>

Laura Galke



Social Dimensions of Antebellum Colonoware Use at Manassas, Virginia

The social dimensions of locally-made, low-fired colonoware vessels is debated, and varies between regions and time periods. Decades of National Park Service, National Capital Region-sponsored archaeological investigations have yielded material culture from a variety of antebellum-era domestic sites. These assemblages indicate that main stream conventions in this community relegated colonoware to the enslaved population: an emblem of bondage rather than cuisine or ethnicity.

Laura Galke is the field supervisor and data analyst for The George Washington Foundation. Her published works include analyses of the material culture of 19th-century African American spirituality, of 17th-century European and American Indian contact in the Chesapeake, antebellum college surveillance strategies on the campus of Washington and Lee University, and spatial analysis of the mid-eighteenth century home and landscape of George Washington's Childhood Home. Her current research is contributing to a richer understanding of the role that historical narratives serve in contemporary society.

Megan Veness and Christopher Sperling

A Slowly Unraveling Mystery: CART Excavations at the Cemetery Site

The Old Colchester Park and Preserve (OCP) is situated along the Occoquan River in Lorton, Virginia and is maintained by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Colchester was a tobacco port

town that was in operation from ca. 1754-1830. Beginning in 2010, the Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) has been researching the architectural



and archaeological history of the OCP. People have left their mark on the land for at least 10,000 years and CART is slowly revealing their secrets.

Christopher Sperling is the Fairfax County Senior Archaeologist. Sperling has extensive archaeological experience throughout the Middle Atlantic region and his professional interests include early European contact with Native American cultures and the archaeology of slavery in colonial Virginia and Maryland.

Megan Veness has been a member of the Colchester Archaeological Research Team from its onset and has been the Field Director since 2011. Prior to joining CART, she worked at Mount Vernon, James Madison's Montpelier and other sites across Virginia. Megan graduated from James Madison University with a B.S. in Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in U.S. History from George Mason University.

Dessa Lightfoot



Cracking the Code: Exploring Oyster Exploitation in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake

Dessa Lightfoot is a faunal analyst with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Environmental Archaeology Laboratory, and is conducting a multi-site

study of oyster shells recovered from archaeological sites to assess their potential for revealing information about daily life, the larger economic system, and past environment. Dessa holds a B.A. in English and Textual Studies from Syracuse University and an M.A. in Anthropology from New Mexico. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the College of William and Mary in the Department of Anthropology, with a focus is on zooarchaeology and cuisine in the Anglo-American colonial world.

ARCHEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

Contributed by Jim Evans -

Urban archeology can reveal surprising finds in terms of both prehistoric and historic activity, as demonstrated by recent local discoveries, including the [Yarrow Mamout Archaeological Project](#) conducted at 3324 Dent Place, NW.

The circa 1850 dwelling on this lot fell into disrepair and necessitated its removal; however, redevelopment plans were put on hold until excavations were completed, as the site was the former home and possibly final resting place of Yarrow Mamout.

Mamout was born in Guinea in 1736, enslaved in 1752 and sold to a plantation owner in Tacoma Park. Freed in 1796, he pursued brick making and basketry from his cabin in Georgetown.

The former slave's portrait was painted by the famous [Charles Wilson Peale](#), who painted the founding fathers in 1819. Another portrait of Mamout was painted by James Alexander Simpson and now hangs in the Peabody Room at the Georgetown Library.

Mia Carey, who led the excavations this past summer, conducted public "fence

talks" about the project. The team relied heavily on volunteers and needed to raise funds to rent some of the equipment needed to conduct specialized studies. Lab work is underway on the thousands of recovered artifacts to determine if any relate to Mamout's occupation. This research will become the subject of Carey's dissertation at the University of Florida.

Contributed by Chris Sperling -

In October of 2015, the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch (CRMPB) received a call from the Fairfax County Utilities Design and Construction Division (UDCD). Excavations for a road improvement project near the City of Fairfax had struck an old, buried macadam surface. When that was lifted it exposed a cedar log road. In the past, it was common to use logs as a road surface, in particular during the Civil War when high traffic in the area mucked up what had been dirt roads.

A detailed map of the logs was drawn and they were survey located in three dimensions. Combined with the information recovered about the log road and other, now long-gone, Civil War encampments and fortifications in the area, the hope is to virtually reconstruct the historic landscape of this area, providing a better understanding of Fairfax County's Civil War history.

None of this would have been possible without the remarkable and expedient coordination between county and state agencies from the moment of discovery though reburial.

More information on this corduroy road can be found [here](#) and at the Washington Post <http://wpo.st/V1U41>.

Contributed by John Mullen -

A colonial-era ship was unearthed in December 2015 during archeological investigations at the Hotel Indigo site in Alexandria, Virginia. Only the remnants of the port side of the ship were found, and it appeared to have been purposely dismantled in order to be used as the framework for “banking out” or infilling the Potomac River in this location. Although the ship is as yet unidentified, its size and construction suggest that it was likely an intercostal trading vessel.

Ongoing studies of the remains and associated artifacts, additional archival research, may result in identification of the type of ship, where it may have sailed, and what cargo it carried.

The ship’s discovery was the final result of months of archeological work at the site, which has already revealed the remains of Alexandria’s first public warehouse (ca. 1755), stone house foundations, a brick-lined well, three late 18th to early 19th century privies, and warehouse foundations from the late 19th and 20th centuries.

More information can be found [here](http://wetlandstudies.com) (wetlandstudies.com) and online at the Washington Post <http://wpo.st/NHU41>.

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/>.



MEET THE 2016 FOFA BOARD

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**FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY
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Membership Application

Date: _____ New Member ___Renewing Member
Annual Dues: Individual (\$15) ___Family (\$20) ___

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

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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.)

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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
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Please make checks payable to FOFA, and mail to: Paula Elsey, P.O. Box 223482, Chantilly, VA 20153

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