

The SCOOP

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



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The Collections Edition

Fairfax County is the steward of over 10,000 historic objects, such as furniture and paintings, and of over 3 million archaeological artifacts dating back to 10,000 B.C. These irreplaceable objects are inadequately stored at various facilities across the County, including the basement of the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church. Please consider supporting the 2016 Parks Bond on this Tuesday's ballot, which establishes initial financing toward the establishment of this new facility.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Please join us on Saturday, November 19, 2016 for a presentation by Dr. Bly Straube, one of the founding members of the Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological Project in 1994 and part of the archaeological team

who located James Fort. She served as the Senior Curator for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation for twenty-one years, overseeing the management and study of over 2 million artifacts (!) and helped design and install the archeological museum at Historic Jamestowne, known as the Archaearium <http://historicjamestowne.org/collections/exhibits/archaearium/>.

Dr. Straube also had the honor of personally leading Queen Elizabeth on a guided tour of the site during the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown. *Continued on Page 2.*

PRESIDENTS CORNER – COLLECTIONS FACILITY NEEDED IN THE COUNTY

Contributed by Jim Evans -

The Friends of Fairfax Archaeology (FOFA) is supporting the campaign to fund the design and construction of a Cultural Resource Protection Facility to store and preserve millions of Fairfax County archaeological artifacts and historical objects.

The County's current collections are inadequately stored at sites across the County. There is an urgent need for a repository that is safe, secure, environmentally controlled and can meet the national museum accreditation standards of the American Alliance of Museums.

Archaeologists employed by the county have carefully inventoried and catalogued all of these finds (see and stored them at the laboratory in the but every year more sites are discovered and investigated adding thousands of artifacts and objects to the collection. *Continued on Page 2.*

FOFA Meeting (continued from Page 1)

Her most recent publication on Historic Jamestowne is co-authored with Karin S. Bruwelheide, Douglas W. Owsley, and Jamie E. May, and is entitled "Evidence for Early Seventeenth-Century Surgery and Dissection at James Fort, Virginia", found in the edited volume *The Bioarchaeology of Dissection and Autopsy in the United States*, published by Springer.

Dr. Straube received her M.A. in American Studies from the College of William and Mary, and her doctorate in Archeology from the University of Leicester, in England. She has more than forty years' experience in the field of Historical Archaeology on tidewater Virginia sites and is especially knowledgeable of material culture found on colonial Anglo-American sites. Currently, she is the Curator for the First Colony Foundation and is responsible for the identification and interpretation of artifacts recovered during the search of Sir Walter Raleigh's Lost Colony.

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.

President's Corner (continued from Page 1)

These cultural resources must be safely protected from flood and fire damage in a facility with environmentally controlled heating and cooling systems that will prevent mold and mildew damage and eliminate destruction by insects and rodents. *Most importantly*, a proper repository would also make these priceless artifacts and objects accessible for study by citizens, scholars and historians and it would add to the educational opportunities for students and teachers.

Please consider voting YES on November 8th for the 2016 Fairfax County Park Bond which will finance park renovations and upgrades, land acquisition, new park development, and natural and cultural resource stewardship, including but not limited to the following:

- Archaeology conducted as part of capital improvements;
- Funding to support Historic Structures Curator Program to prepare historic structures treatment plans, connect utilities and support infrastructure needs; and
- **Advance History and Archaeology Collections Facility** to properly curate and store County history and archaeology collections.

For more information on the Bond, please see: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2016bond.htm>

ARCHEOLOGY AND COLLECTIONS BRANCH

This summer, Fairfax County restructured the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch into the Historic Preservation Branch, with David Buchta as manager, and the Archeology and Collections Branch, headed by Liz Crowell.

Buchta was the former Executive Director and State Curator of Kentucky, where he was responsible for all construction projects impacting the State Capitol building, Governor's Mansion, Old Governor's Mansion and other important architecture in the Commonwealth.

Buchta will oversee the Resident-Curator program and all historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes within our county; Crowell will continue to direct the archeology program and oversee archeological and museum collections. Together, they will be responsible for the preservation and protection of Fairfax County's historic resources.



Lorillard's Tobacco Promotional Pipe
Excavated at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

Share your favorite county artifact with us!

MEET THE COLLECTIONS SIDE OF THE ACB

Elizabeth Paynter began her career with Fairfax County in 2010 as a field archeologist for the Colchester Archaeology Research Team (CART), but was quickly promoted to the CART Archaeological Lab Director.



Elizabeth received her degrees in Archaeological Studies *and* in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin, and spent the next 15 years as a professional archaeologist – interning at the Clovis-period Gault Site, excavating Archaic-period villages in Utah and Kansas, and numerous historic-period sites – prior to working at the Colonial port town of Colchester.

Elizabeth was recently honored by Fairfax County with an Outstanding Performance Award for creating a relational database for cataloging all county archeological artifacts. Over 36 years' worth of data, including handwritten and typed descriptions and data from 30 odd years of outdated computerized software has now been standardized and entered into the Artifact Material Analysis System (AMAS).

Finally, please join the Scoop editor in congratulating Elizabeth and Kirk, who were married over the 2016 Labor Day weekend!

Aimee Wells has been with the ARB since 2006 when she joined as an intern while she completed her B.A. in Anthropology at George Mason University. Soon after she was hired as a limited-term archaeologist to work on projects such as interpretation at Laurel Hill Park (perhaps better known as the former grounds of Lorton Prison), the Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse, Fort Willard, and the Schantilla Road Battery in Centreville. She completed her Master's Degree in 2009, shortly after the birth of her twin sons, James and Ryan; that same year she was hired as a merit staff member in the Branch.

Aimee's research interests reflect the variety of work she has been involved in at the ACB. She enjoys research on and preservation of cemeteries and graveyards as well as funerary traditions and headstone iconography. It was a historic family cemetery in her home state of Kansas that first got her interested in archaeology. As a young girl, she discovered a small fenced cemetery adjacent to an agricultural field. The names were inscribed in Hebrew, and represented all that remained (on the surface!) of a small Jewish agricultural colony that had existed near her home in 1882. Called Beersheba, and founded by sixty Jewish families from Russia, they had homesteaded for a decade but were beset by harsh winters, tornadoes, and drought. By 1890, the town was gone, but the cemetery remained for a curious young girl to ponder and research.

In addition to communing with those no longer with us, Aimee has an interest in archaeological collections management and data retention. Because archaeology is inherently destructive, it is incumbent on the principal investigators of archaeological projects to ensure that their analysis can be replicable. This is only possible if all of the archaeological data is retained in perpetuity, be they field notes, photographs, drawings, or the artifacts and their specific proveniences. For the last few years, Aimee has been working with her colleagues to ensure that their work be accessible for researchers in the future by conducting the "archaeology of archaeology."

Though a historical archaeologist at heart, some of Aimee's favorite artifacts include a greenstone atlatl weight preform and a broken micaceous schist gorget, part of the County's collections.

Aimee's greatest pride as an archaeologist is the ability of both of her sons to identify sites when out on hikes through the woods. Most recently, James identified a stacked stone springhouse, while Ryan found a Piscataway point and a number of bifaces while on a walk in Albermarle County during Thanksgiving (both sites have been recorded with the state).

DC Archaeological Curation Facility

Contributed by Ruth Troccoli -

The District government is working on obtaining curation space so we can consolidate and manage the District's archaeological collections in a location that meets archival standards. The DC Public Library is adding a new floor onto the MLK, Jr. main library building, and we are negotiating for floor space in the new archival storage area. Because the project entails adverse effects to a National Register-listed landmark building, the library has agreed in principle. There is an environmental assessment out for public comment that includes a draft Memorandum of Agreement with language for providing that space. If you don't mind and you have the time, please review it and let them know what you think about it. This is something we've been working towards for years, and it's extremely exciting for us to finally make some headway.

<https://www.ncpc.gov/project/mlklibrary/>

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/>.

UPCOMMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 12, 2016 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Fairfax County's 12th Annual History Conference,
"Fairfax County's Founding Fathers - Part II"
Sherwood Community Center, Fairfax, VA

November 9 -14, 2016

Spanish Galleon tour

El Galeon Andalucia, Old Town Alexandria

Come visit the replica galleon docked in Old Town!

<https://www.fundacionnaovictoria.org/tickets/el-galeon-alexandria-va/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY

The signature celebration will take place on June 17, 2017 in the area surrounding the historic courthouse in central Fairfax. That day you'll find a myriad of events, historical organizations, entertainment, living history, performances, and hands-on family friendly activities - all free, and open to the public.

THE 2016 FOFA BOARD

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**FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARCHAEOLGY
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: Paula Elsey, P.O. Box 223482, Chantilly, VA 20153

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