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**The E-Newsletter of the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc.
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This periodic newsletter is designed to communicate with the friends of and volunteers associated with the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation (LAF) and to introduce the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation (LAF) to those persons in the Greater Loudoun County community interested in local archaeology and to keep that community knowledgeable about and updated on the programs and activities of the Foundation and the cultural and historic resources of Loudoun County.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, we want to use this 2008 issue of the Foundation's E-Newsletter to wish all of our volunteers and friends our continued appreciation for your hard work and many contributions -- in money, time, goods, and services -- that have made the Foundation's public archaeology program so widely successful, both in terms of public recognition and support and substantive accomplishment. We also want to extend to each of you our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a successful new year.

While our public dig day program, unfortunately, was more limited this year than in 2007, that fact does not mean that there was a diminution of interest or a lack of effort on the part of LAF. As in the past (2007), several well-attended dig days were held at Claude Moore Park and Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve and three Mobile Archaeology Lab – Training (MALTS) days -- where adult volunteers and children participated in the washing, cleaning, and classify of artifacts recovered at those digs -- were held at Waterford, Claude Moore Park and Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. The Foundation also participated at the Lucketts and Waterford Fairs, as well as at a number of other local Loudoun community programs. The Foundation's "Public School Archaeology Discovery Program" was conducted at a number of public elementary schools, including Sterling and Lovettsville. In addition, several dig day programs were held for Girl and Boy Scout troops, home school children, and other groups. During all these various activities, nearly a hundred trained adult volunteers came out to conduct our dig activities while over a thousand children of all ages, and nearly as many adults, learned to screen soil for artifacts, and to collect, wash, clean, and classify those artifacts.

LAF had planned an extensive archaeological investigations program at two adjacent, planned development sites in Leesburg in coordination with the town's 250th anniversary celebration. Although, the Leesburg Town Planning Commission and Council were enthusiastic and supportive of our efforts, the landowner and developer were not cooperative and the town, unfortunately, lacked any legal authority to require the developer to allow the LAF to conduct any pre-construction archaeological investigations.

On a broader note, I had the pleasure of making a presentation on "Public Archaeology in Loudoun County" at a special conference at Shepards town, W. Va. in September which honored the well-known archaeologist Dr. William Gardner.

LAF's research/educational programs are professionally linked to a series of archaeological classes taught by Dr Clark and affiliated with the Historical Preservation Certificate Program, Humanities Department (Northern Virginia Community College-Loudoun Campus) and GIS Program (NVCC-Reston Campus).

These classes are also linked to an extensive archive research program at the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, Virginia. Much of this archival/archaeological research is geared toward gathering information about the early development of Leesburg and Loudoun County as a guide to celebrating the 250th anniversaries of Loudoun County and Leesburg.

Thanks to the 2007-2008 financial grant from the Virginia General Assembly, and a number of cash contributions by local citizens and friends of the LAF, we were able to make a number of important equipment purchases this past year (which along with the numerous in-kind donations from 2007) enabled the LAF to more effectively serve the community. Among these purchases were a pick-up truck, two metal detectors, a field-quality lap top computer and projector.

Several articles and photographs about the Foundation and its programs were carried in editions of the *Washington Post*, *Loudoun Times-Mirror*, *Leesburg Today*, *Loudoun Times*, *Loudoun Connections* and other local, weekly newspapers. Additionally, the Foundation has been

favorably mentioned in several archaeological journals and on archaeologically-oriented internet sites.

We are currently planning the Foundation's 2009 year public archaeology program with the intent of expanding the "School Public Archaeology Adventure Program" into a number of additional Loudoun County elementary schools. In addition, we hope to greatly expand the number of active dig days by scheduling digs during the Spring and Fall seasons, as well as during the Summer season. We also hope to add several new archaeological sites for our 2009 dig program. In addition, we are working on a major effort to upgrade our website and to maintain the site in a more current fashion. In this sense, we are seeking a volunteer (s) with substantive website development experience.

While the Foundation received in 2007 a large number of items donated for archaeological field, laboratory, and office use -- as well as our 2008 equipment purchases (as noted above), we are looking toward the acquisition of additional field investigation items this winter which will be required to support the Foundation's work efforts next year. However, if any readers of this newsletter are aware of any local, regional, or national individuals or organizations that might be willing to support the Foundation through financial contributions or in-kind donations of goods or services, please put us in contact with those individuals or organizations. Volume I, Issue 2 of the Foundation's E-Newsletter of June 20, 2007, which can be found on our website (www.loudounarchaeology.org) under the heading of Press Center, provides a comprehensive list of the most important items of equipment and supplies needed by the Foundation. Keep in mind that all contributions to the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation are eligible as charitable deductions for federal income tax purposes.

As always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for the Foundation's program activities.

Sincerely,

David T. Clark
Executive Director/
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