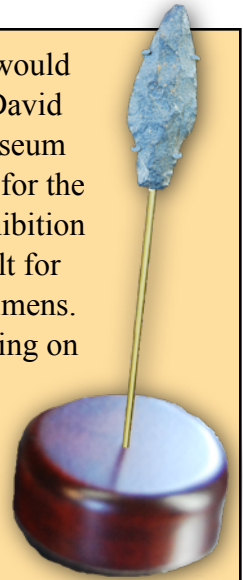


The museum has applied for three grants - two of which include video installations of primitive technology, and the third for carbon testing samples from the Palisades Park. The video series will feature artists recreating local aboriginal pottery and stone weapons in the custom of people who lived in the Palisades thousands of years ago. I and Murphy Donovan witnessed the knowledge base of primitive technology on display during a weekend at Oregon Ridge Park, Maryland. The event brought knappers, and other primitive technologists together to demonstrate stone-tool manufacture, curing animal hides, creating aboriginal pottery, and just about anything it takes to get by in the woods. There was even a knapper from Sweden who worked rock according to European stone age techniques.

Besides a hodgepodge of aboriginal souvenirs, I returned from the event with some *Nicotiana rustica* seedlings. In the latest issue of National Geographic, an article about Jamestown begins with changes of the landscape due to the colonist's first cash crop - *Nicotiana tabacum* brought from Trinidad and Venezuela. Its arrival supplanted the Indian's "poor, weak [untrue], and biting" tobacco, *Nicotiana rustica*. The *rustica* is now being transplanted to the garden aside the museum building. Now we can be the judge of how lousy the tobacco is, although not for sometime. Besides the supposedly inferior taste, another shortcoming of the crop (perhaps the cause of the first) is that *rustica* requires a curing period of two years!

The museum would like to thank David Graham, a museum mount maker, for the wonderful exhibition mounts he built for our finer specimens. David is working on more creative mounts for our axe-heads.



A living roof adds another shade to the already "green" museum building.

In addition to indigenous tobacco, the museum is also experimenting with a steep-pitch roof garden. The succulents have time to establish themselves before their true test - snow.

On June 5, I will present the archaeology of the now completed Palisades Park. Those interested in attending should contact me as the date nears. The number of prehistoric and historic artifacts totals close to 100 items. A video on the park's archaeology, and our part in salvaging the record, was shot and produced by National Geographic photographer Maria Stenzel and Sarah Park. I hope to make this available via the museum's [website](#) soon.

On a final note, I hope that archaeologist Dr. Stuart Fiedel has settled into his new position in Richmond, VA. I'm hoping Skype will keep his expertise within reach as the museum expands its collection and quest for knowledge.

-Doug Dupin, Director