

**THE STATE OF VIRGINIA STATE ARCHAEOLOGY:
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY IN THE LAND OF SHPO**

MICHAEL B. BARBER, PH.D., RPA

VIRGINIA STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Most archaeologists in the Middle Atlantic Region have the opportunity to interface with the archaeologists within their state's State Historic Preservation Office. While this is most frequently under the guise of Section 106 compliance, this paper will have absolutely nothing to do with that process. Through the grace of organizational bureaucracy, Virginia's Division of Archaeology does not oversee 106 but focuses on collection management, artifact conservation, the Threatened Sites Program, and archaeological research. In other words, the fun things in archaeology. DSA's working mantras are "Do What's Right" and "If It's not Fun, Don't do it." This presentation will describe the cooperative efforts with the archaeological community noting the successes, failures, and near-misses over the past decade.



Michael B. Barber, Ph.D., RPA

Mike Barber has been Virginia State Archaeologist since April 2006. Prior to that time, Dr. Barber served for 30 years as USDA-Forest Service Archaeologist for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in the western part of the Commonwealth. He holds a BA from College of William and Mary, an MA from Kent State University, and a Ph.D. from UVA, all in Anthropology. Barber has published over 100 papers and made over 300 presentations on archaeology. He is a Past –President of ASV, COVA, and MAAC. His main interests are lithic and ethnozoological studies. Barber's current focus is the study of prehistoric bone tools. Active in the ASV/DHR/COVA Certification Program, he has presented lectures on stone tools, faunal analysis, archaeology as anthropology, and the prehistory of Virginia. In his capacity as State Archaeologist, he has been involved in one form or another with such sites as Camden, Eyreville, Flowerdew Hundred, Great Neck, Hand, Hatch, Jamestown, Keyser Farm, Maycock, Patawomeke, Shannon, Trigg, and Werwocomoco as well as others.