

**Virginia Association of Science Teachers
2021 Virtual Professional Development Institute**

**General Session II
Wednesday November 17, 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm**



Dr. Carole Nash

Director

Environmental Archaeology Laboratory

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"Spinning Stories: The Science of Archaeology and Complex Problem Solving"

Teaching complex problems requires us to integrate evidence from multiple disciplines. Inherently interdisciplinary in practice, archaeology models collaboration between the sciences to explain past events and demonstrate their relevance to contemporary issues. With its long-term perspective, archaeology also provides a systems basis for understanding human responses to social, environmental and technological change. Nevertheless, the real power of archaeology for teaching and learning lies in its storytelling -- the narratives that allow students to see themselves in both the process of the work and the result. We will explore examples of archaeological studies, ranging from the end of the Ice Age to the 20th century, from across Virginia.

Biography

Dr. Carole Nash, RPA, has over 40 years of experience in the archaeology of the Middle Atlantic region and is a specialist in the archaeology and historical ecology of the Appalachians. Her main research interests are the long-term environmental and cultural history of upland Native American cultures. She teaches courses in field technologies, historical ecology, environmental science, and human geography. She is the author of over 175 technical reports, scholarly papers, and publications, including co-author of *Foundations of Archaeology in the Middle Atlantic* (Routledge 2018). She has directed archaeological research in Shenandoah National Park (SNP) since 1999 and Wintergreen since 2003 and has employed over 100 undergraduate students in this work, resulting in student conference presentations, publications, and co-authorship on technical reports. She completed four years as the President of the Archeological Society of Virginia and has served as President of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference and the Council of Virginia Archaeologists. She is a founding member of the Virginia Archaeology Charitable Trust and is involved in several projects that merge archaeological evidence with historical cartography and remote sensing to understand the impacts of sea level rise on heritage resources and contemporary communities. She is chair of the Society for American Archaeology's international committee on Climate Change Strategies and Archaeological Resources Committee. A practitioner of citizen science, Carole co-directs the Archaeological Technician Certification program for the Archeological Society of Virginia and the Department of Historic Resources.