Starvation Stones
Artifact proposal for Rivanna Reconnaissance
Bonnie Bernstein

[artifact label]

Starvation Stones
RivR 2023-44AB1006
Surface survey along the riparian buffer. August 2002.


Design/Art
I’d like to create a page that is paper engineered to be a pop-up (involving a fold-in or fold-down extension). An image of Starvation Stones, including the incised boulder will rise up out of the river when the page unfolds.

Inspiration
Centuries-old low-river stones, also called Hunger Stones, have emerged in Europe’s receding rivers during prolonged periods of drought. The stones, forged some 400 years ago, are ancient markers of drought, inscribed with doomsday warnings – see photos.

Virginia’s own historic droughts include two that are considered largely responsible for the disappearance of the Lost Colony of Roanoke in 1587-89 and failure of the Jamestown settlement during what was called the Starving Time. Only 61 of the some 500 residents survived. George Percy, president of the Jamestown colony during the Starving Time, kept a record in which he described the “crewell hunger” suffered by the colonists.

The worst drought of the 20th Century in Virginia was in the 1930s, the same period of the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma.

Collaborators
I would welcome project partners, especially those with paper engineering and/or printmaking skills.