



# VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 75

March 1995

## **"Join Hands With the Past" Is Poster Theme of Second Annual Vermont Archeology Week May 7-13, 1995**

*by Kathy Callum*

Vermont Archaeology Week State Coordinator

Join all hands to celebrate the Second Annual Vermont Archeology Week (VAW), a public outreach effort sponsored by the VAS. The aim of this week-long outreach is to increase public awareness about Vermont's endangered archeological resources and promote careful stewardship of our archeological heritage. The VAW '95 Committee met in the Ilsley Library at Middlebury in January to approve the catchy slogan *Join Hands with the Past*. Volunteer artists Martha Hull and Geoff Mandel have designed a poster intended to link each of us to Vermont's past. Posters will be distributed to non-profit organizations across the state to promote Vermont Archeology Week 1995. Volunteer Regional Coordinators (Megan Battey, Vic Rolando, Sheila Charles, Jen Russell, Rob Sanford, Chris Schlosser, and Duncan Wilkie) are gearing up for initiating, coordinating, and publicizing the many exciting events that will occur in their local areas.

The VAS will kick off this year's celebration with an "Awareness Auction" at the annual spring meeting on April 29 in Montpelier (see related "Awareness Auction" article, page 4). VAW events, including historic tours, demonstrations, excavations, and presentations, will take place in many communities across state. Event hosts who submitted their Event Data Forms by the March 1st deadline will be publicized in the *Vermont Archeology Week Event Calendar*. Last year over 6,000 event calendars were distributed, and this year we hope to increase the number that will be available. Event hosts will receive packets that will include multiple copies of the *Vermont Archeology Week Event Calendar*, promotional newsletters *Archeology Through Vermont Libraries* and *Archeology and Vermont Education*, VAS membership applications, and other archeological materials for distribution to the public.

Another unique outreach for this year's VAW is a logo, slogan, and poster contest, targeting high school art classes. This effort, spearheaded by Audrey Porsche of the Chimney Point State Historic Site, grew out of last year's informal poster contest open to young students flocking to Chimney Point. Although some expressive artwork was submitted, return on the informal contest was somewhat limited. This year's high school art classes will receive an invitation to explore archeology through Chimney Point or another site, examples of other archeology week posters, guidelines for the contest, and a bibliography on Vermont archeology. Contest winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony. We hope we will see some great VAW logos, catchy slogans, and stunning artwork for future public outreach efforts.

This year, the VAW Committee and State Coordinator Kathleen Callum contacted archeologists, museums, galleries, high school art teachers, bookstores, libraries, and historical societies to invite participation in planning Vermont Archeology Week activities. The first contact mailing of over 1,200 hit the streets in mid to late February (slightly later than initially planned). Distribution of materials to event hosts, and the calendars, newsletters and posters to others is targeted for April 6th, approximately a month in advance of Vermont Archeology Week (another monumental mailing!). Publicity through newspapers, radio, television, and other media has also been planned. An excellent article in the recent issue of *Vermont Life* titled "Heritage at Risk" by Curtis Johnson (DHP) promotes our public outreach effort.

How much does the VAS public outreach effort cost? There are two ways of reckoning our outreach effort: through volunteer time and actual expenses. Be-

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**VAS Spring Meeting and  
Vermont Archeology Week Auction  
on April 29 in Montpelier  
See Program on Page 13**

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## The Vermont Archaeological Society

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Address general inquiries concerning the Society to the  
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cause Vermont Archeology Week is deemed an effective means of outreach and education, the volunteer enthusiasm has been high. We hope that it remains high, and VAS and archeology aficionados continue their support. Volunteer assistance will continue to be critical for organizing individual archeology events, coordinating events at a regional

level, recruiting sources of funding, and developing such outreach materials as the poster and newsletter articles. Our volunteer hours are used to match federal dollars and assist severely slashed budgets for DHP programs. Over four months of volunteer State Coordinator time alone during VAW '94 went into initiating contacts, developing mailing lists, dunning funding, organizing the organizers, promoting and troubleshooting events, and other planning issues.

Last year's VAW expenses totaled over \$5000. This year, if funding is realized, the VAS board and the VAW Committee hope to add the cost of VAW State Coordinator time to printing and other expenses. Consequently, VAW '95 may cost over \$13,000. Most of the '94 budget consisted of only printing charges for calendar, poster, and other outreach materials, telephone tolls, and mailing envelopes or poster tubes. We had some help for the "hidden" postage costs of mailings. During VAW '94, the DHP contributed a lion's share on an emergency budget overrun basis. This year, DHP has promised a bottom line of \$500 for VAW public outreach. The US Forest Service has also offered an equivalent amount. The rest must be raised through contacts with archeological consultants, businesses and utilities that work with archeologists, historical societies, granting agencies, the VAS auction, and others.

Fund drive letters have been drafted by Michael Werner and Kathleen Callum. Some poster donors (over \$500) such as Hartgen Archaeological Associates and the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, have already responded. Other VAW sponsors (less than \$500) will be listed on the *Event Calendar*. Bob Sloma, Gordon Cawood, and Kathleen Callum have focused on granting agencies. State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles has initiated contact with historic preservation groups. The VAW Committee and State Coordinator have been actively organizing the "Awareness Auction" to be held in conjunction with the VAS spring meeting. Despite this flurry of fund-raising activity, we will not know whether we can even meet our publications budget (not to mention the organization budget) until after outreach materials are ordered. The financing of continuing VAW outreach needs your help! Ideas, and especially assistance for "institutionalizing," streamlining, and increasing the effectiveness of our funding drive, are welcomed.

How do you "join hands with the past" and try your hand at helping encourage the VAW public out-



reach? Our short term goals are to increase the breadth of our initial contacts and include all interested in Vermont archeology and their local history in VAW programs. Assistance is always welcome for event organization, production of the poster, calendar, and newsletters, and outreach publicity. Many areas of the state lack access to interesting VAW activities. Your assistance as Regional Coordinator can address these needs. Give a call to any VAW Regional Coordinator if you can help with initial contact or host packet mailings (typing mailing lists, stuffing envelopes, etc.). Calendar and newsletter typists or poster graphics volunteers are needed. Offers of help for funding drives (auction, grants, businesses) will be treated with joy! Through adequate, continuing funding of Vermont Archeology Week, we can achieve our long-term goals and raise awareness of the meaning of good archeological stewardship of Vermont's heritage.

This year's VAW Committee is comprised of many interested archeology aficionados representing public, private, and individual sectors. It is proposed that future VAW committees direct outreach emphasis through two public input meetings: one in January to plan the coming May's event theme and one in July to assess results. VAS members and representatives of key groups interested in guiding public outreach efforts should contact the current year's VAW State Coordinator by the fall VAS meeting to be included in all organizational mailings. If funding can be raised, the State Coordinator will be a paid consultant position, reporting back to the VAS board. The goals, budget, event statistics, and results of the continuing Vermont Archeology Week outreach should be summarized in an annual report, with an abstract destined for the *Vermont Archaeological Society Newsletter*.

We look forward to "joining hands" with you in our VAS/VAW venture toward helping save "the past" through Vermont Archeology Week.

### **VAS Officers for 1994-95**

The following officers were elected at the November 17, 1994 board meeting: President David Starbuck, Vice President Audrey Porsche, and Secretary Marjorie Robbins. Appointed were Treasurer Joseph Popecki and Newsletter Editor Vic Rolando. David will also continue as editor of our biennial *Journal of Vermont Archaeology*. See page 2 for a complete list of board members and officers.

On January 19, the board appointed Ann Clay to finish the 1994-95 term of Chris Schlosser, who resigned from the board.

All board meetings are open to the membership. Contact the VAS Secretary Marjorie Robbins on 802/388-2881 for date and place of next meeting. If you are interested on serving on the board, contact any officer or board member. In addition to annual elections, the board experiences resignations for various reasons, thereby creating openings that need to be filled. Get involved!

### **1995 VAS Spring Meeting & Auction Saturday, April 29 Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier**

Come one, come all! The VAS board has selected the historic Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 100 State Street, in downtown Montpelier as site of the society's annual spring meeting on Saturday, April 29 (see program on page 13). The hotel is diagonally across the street from the Pavilion Building. Registration will commence at 8:30 a.m. in the Ethan Allen Room at \$5 for VAS members and \$7 for non-members (coffee and muffins included). There will be an additional charge for lunch, entrees hailing from the renowned "classic cuisine with an American flair" catered at the Café Capitol.

The newly renovated Capitol Plaza Hotel (formerly the Tavern Motor Inn) has served dignitaries, Montpelier area citizens, and state visitors since the 1930s (we had our spring 1986 meeting there). Take exit 8 off I-89, turn left at the third light onto Taylor Street, then turn right on State Street. Park behind the Capitol Plaza; parking permits can be obtained at the front desk. For further information, contact Kathy Callum at 802/247-8127.

### **Notes from the State Archeologist**

*by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist  
Division for Historic Preservation*

The late fall and winter have been incredibly busy. Those happy days of "lighter" winter workloads, when field work and field visits came to a halt and we could "catch up" are a very distant memory. Ever increasing workloads result from an increased awareness about archeological resources; an increased number of agencies, developers, educators, and other "players" involved with archeology in different ways; an increased desire to protect resources through non-regulatory means; and an inability to say "No." This is all good but a constant challenge.

In the day-to-day workload, so much of it involving efforts to help federal and state agencies and com-



munities comply with federal and state historic preservation laws, some projects and programs stand out for their long-term value to Vermont's archeological resources.

The Division is working closely with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), the Vermont Land Trust, the Upper Valley Land Trust, and the Addison County Community Land Trust to develop ways to best protect archeological resources on farm conservation projects. These organizations protect working farms by purchasing development rights (the VHCB provides the funding) and then developing conservation easements to ensure protection of farmland forever. Since so many archeological sites—from both the prehistoric and historic period—are contained within farmland, joint efforts with the these conservation organizations are invaluable for protecting Vermont's archeological heritage. In addition to protecting the Skitchewaug Site with conservation easements (see "Skitchewaug Site" article, page 7), a number of other important archeological sites were protected in perpetuity through farm conservation projects in 1994: four 18th-century historic archeological sites; two possible late 18th-century sites; two 19th-century sites; and three prehistoric sites. Future articles in the VAS *Newsletter* will feature these site preservation projects. Recent review of 80 farm conservation projects in various stages of VHCB grant application shows the potential for protecting 30 recorded sites and hundreds of acres of sensitive land.

The most devastating threat to Lake Champlain's unique and remarkable collection of historic shipwrecks are the rapidly forming colonies of zebra mussels. In the Great Lakes, some shipwrecks have a 3+ feet thick skin of mussels!! The Lake Champlain Basin Program, through the Environmental Protection Agency, is funding a special study to evaluate zebra mussel impacts to our historic shipwrecks and to provide information on alternative treatments (and costs) for mitigating impacts. The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum prepared the successful proposal and are already hard at work on this project.

The U.S. Department of Defense has funded a \$40,000 project for the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, in partnership with the Division, to inventory all sunken U.S. Navy vessels in Lake Champlain. This includes all shipwrecks related to U.S. military activities in the lake. This is a major archival research project with one field component to intensely document two War of 1812 wrecks in the Poultney River, the Royal Navy 16-gun brig *Linnet* and a U.S. Navy gunboat. The Maritime Museum, in collaboration with other organizations,

is offering a field school in underwater archeology from July 5-28 (see "Upcoming Activities and Meetings," page 10).

The Draft Lake Champlain Basin Plan has been published and contains a comprehensive Cultural Resources chapter. This is the first Basin Plan in the country that considers archeological and historic resources. The plan outlines the key issues effecting archeological sites in the Basin (such as lack of public awareness, lack of information, looting, erosion, and others) and priorities for future action that are worth looking at. The VAS can play major role in implementing many of these actions, should it choose to do so. Contact me (802/828-3226) or the Basin Program (1/800/468-5227) for a copy of the Plan. The National Park Service continues to fund Lake Champlain Basin cultural heritage efforts. In 1995/96, they will provide over \$100,000 to continue the Basin Cultural Heritage Resources Coordinator position, for special projects (such as heritage tourism), and for Partnership grants. The Partnership grants are a great opportunity for communities and non-profit organizations (such as the VAS) to carry out great projects including funding archeological inventories, other studies, public education programs (such as exhibits and brochures), and other archeology-related projects such as development of sensitivity maps. Partnership grant applications are due April 15 (call the Lake Champlain Basin Program at 1/800/468-5227 to get a copy of the application).

### **"Joining Hands" at the Vermont Archeology Week "Awareness Auction"**

What's new, fun, and exciting in Archeology? Find out at the Second Annual Vermont Archeology "Awareness Auction," to be held in conjunction with the VAS Spring Meeting on April 29 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Auctioneers will be State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles and AOT Archeologist Duncan Wilkie. The auction will help provide funding crucial for producing this popular VAS public outreach effort. Be sure to bring friends (and cash!) to the spring meeting and publicize the auction in your home town. The auction will be open to the public as well as VAS members.

This year's Vermont Archeology Week theme, *Join Hands With the Past*, evokes the close relationship Vermonters share with their archeological heritage. Vermont's archeological heritage inspires a sense of wonder and represents an endangered resource vital to our economic well-being and sense of identity.



The auction presents to VAS members and the interested public new, fun, and exciting resources for participating in, learning about, and teaching archeology.

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## **Vermont Archeology Week**

### **Needs Your Help**

**Suggested Donation: \$10.00**

**to VAS, address on back cover**

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The "Awareness Auction" needs you! Auction goods can include archeological, historic, or ethnographic items such as reproductions, services, books, maps, artwork, and tools (no artifacts, of course). Contact a Regional Coordinator near you (see page 11) for pick-up of your or your organization's donations for the auction. This year's donors include the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, ARCHMAT (of New Hampshire), Prairie Edge (of South Dakota), and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, among others. We are hoping for an absolutely phenomenal auction donor participation this year, linking us to a wide array of exciting resources.

We are still counting on your contributions! Here is your chance to "join hands with the past" and actively participate in the effort to protect our endangered heritage. "Awareness Auction" donation forms, and spring meeting and auction publicity flyers, will be available from any VAW Regional Coordinator or VAS board member.

## **VAS Education Committee Update**

*by Audrey Porsche*

Chairperson, Education Committee

The Vermont Archaeological Society sponsored its first-ever bus trip on Saturday, November 12, 1994 with an exciting visit to Pointe-à-Callière Museum in Montréal! Thirty-four VAS members and guests boarded the Vermont Transit Coach and headed north for an informative and thought-provoking tour of this new archaeology and history museum located atop the birthplace of Montréal.

Look for announcements about future trips. The Education Committee will be organizing another bus tour, tentatively slated for the fall. Possible destinations will be the New York State Museum,

Albany, or New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation at Peebles Island, Waterford, for a look at new exhibits and hopefully a view of their archaeology lab. Suggestions for future trips are welcome; please contact me (address below).

Work is well underway on the *Educator's Guide to Archaeological Resources in Vermont*. New committee member Jane Gibbons is busy entering data. We collected over 25 entries from various institutions and individuals. The guide will be released during Vermont Archeology Week.

The Education Committee will meet again on April 29, at the end of the VAS Spring Meeting in Montpelier. For more information about the Education Committee and any of our projects, or if you are interested in becoming involved in the committee, please contact me at Chimney Point State Historic Site, RD 1 - Box 3546, Vergennes, VT 05491. Phone weekdays: 802/759-2412.

## **Strong Mansion "On" for Another Dig**

*by William C. Murphy*

The Daughters of the American Revolution have given their approval for another excavation at the John Strong Mansion in Addison. Due to conflicts the earlier part of the summer, this year's two-week dig will run from the day after Labor Day, September 5, to Saturday the 16th.

The thrust of this year's examination, which again is sponsored by the VAS, will be a continuation of the three sites that held definitive wall foundations and a variety of artifacts. One area in particular, with a perfectly formed south dry wall that was on bedrock at 80 cm., will be extended to uncover a possible southwest corner and west wall. One of the other structures uncovered was a double wall lined with fill that will be excavated to find its extent and possible use. Excavation of the final foundation, which appears to be part of a barn, will also be continued in order to establish its dimensions and use.

All artifacts from the 1994 season have been washed and partially catalogued. As many VAS members know, Susan Dugan, who is responsible for the laboratory work, had a medical problem shortly after the dig closed last year and was unable to continue on conservation and cataloguing until quite recently.

When you consider the number of artifacts that were uncovered in the two-week period, it is understandable why the strictly volunteer labor



force is taking time to complete the site report. There are 5,456 sherds of ceramics, 4,169 sherds of glass, 1,088 nails/fragments, 710 unidentified metal fragments, 3,386 bone fragments, 29 teeth, 2 jawbones (tentatively identified as pig), clay pipe stems, 3 glass vials (one with material intact), 3 buckles, 104 buttons, lead shot, pieces of lead, knife blades, a drill bit, pins, nuts and bolts, a jack knife, pieces of tin, and a canister of shot, for a rough total of over 15,000 artifacts uncovered.

So if you have free time during that period, there are trowels and spaces available for any VASers to get their hands (and knees) dirty helping uncover a part of the Strong Mansion's past. For further information, phone me at 802/388-7577.

### ***The Journal Selling Well***

Sales of Volume 1 of *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology* are doing well. Of a printing of 500 copies, 233 are gone and we have already recovered about 45% of our expenses. Copies are being sold by Vic Rolando under the auspices of Mountain Publications (PO Box 1812, Manchester Center, Vt 05255), through which he sells other publications on Vermont archaeology. Copies of *The Journal* have been ordered from all over the country, plus Canada and Australia, and are available at all major independent book stores throughout Vermont.

David Starbuck, Journal Editor, is now soliciting articles for Volume 2, planned for publication in 1996. If you have not received his notice, which contains input specifications and due dates, and you are interested in submitting an article, contact him at 518/747-2926.

### **News From the Green Mountain National Forest**

*by David Lacy, Forest Archeologist  
U.S. Forest Service*

The Heritage Resources Program on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) is "thriving on chaos" (thanks a bunch to author Tom Peters for the concept). A combination of Presidential direction for Federal Agencies to "reinvent" themselves, and across-the-board budget cuts forcing a shift in priorities, has challenged the comfort level that some of us had achieved (no doubt thereby accomplishing the original intent of "reinvention").

Nevertheless (or perhaps "Therefore"), we have pro-

gram developments and plans for 1995, which we take pride in and which may be of interest to VAS members:

1. We have renewed our Cost Share Agreement with the Abenaki Research Project, wherein we share costs for mutual stewardship of some of the many Heritage sites on the National Forest.
2. We developed and signed a new Cost Share Agreement with Technical Communications (Dick Andrews) to record and transcribe oral histories relevant to the history (and historical sites) of the GMNF.
3. We are developing a Cost Share Agreement with GEOARCH (Kathy Callum) to research (and develop research designs for pursuing) archaeologically useful information analyses related to the nature, occurrence, distribution, and "finger-printing" of quartzite(s).
4. Shelia Charles has consulted with us to develop a Collections Management and Curation Plan for the National Forest (something that has been long overdue).
5. We are planning a two-week (and possibly longer) relationship with the AmeriCorps crew assigned to the GMNF to get their assistance in the Oral History Project and to process backlogged artifacts this spring.
6. We plan to use the Forest's new Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, in partnership with members of the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) to map/document the geographic distribution of a series of enigmatic mound/cairn sites located in a section of the GMNF early this spring.
7. The UVM School of Natural Resources' GIS Lab will complete the entry of our site inventory data into a GIS system (this is about 75% complete at the moment), and we will be developing the substantive data base to back up these geographic points.
8. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies have been encouraged to work more closely with one another. We will be developing a working partnership with the Forest's "sister" USDA agency: the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS; formerly SCS—the Soil Conservation Service). David Skinas and I have already started working on this.
9. We anticipate working closely with Consulting Archaeology Program archaeologists this spring and/



or summer as they evaluate a small prehistoric site that was found in the upper Mad River Valley last fall. The site was discovered as part of an EIS study associated with expanded snow-making capacity at the Sugarbush Ski Area (the ski area operates, in part, on GMNF land).

10. Finally, I have submitted a session abstract titled "Feds in the Field: Dimensions of Agency Archaeology in Northern New England" to the Northeastern Anthropological Association (NEAA) for their Annual Meeting to be held in Lake Placid, N.Y. Participants include Karl Roenke and Kathy Wheeler (White Mountain National Forest), David Skinas (NRCS), Paul Russo (PAL, Inc.), Cheryl Bluto-Delvental (Abenaki Nation), Duncan Wilkie (AOT), State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles (DHP), and yours truly. For all the exciting details, keep your eyes out for the NEAA program (see "Upcoming Activities and Meetings," page 10)

## **Skitchewaug Site Stabilization Successfully Completed**

*by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist  
Division for Historic Preservation*

One of Vermont's (and New England's) most important archeological sites has been protected forever through an amazing partnership involving various public and private partners. The Skitchewaug Site, situated along the banks of the Connecticut River in Springfield, Vermont, was reported to me in 1978 by the site's discoverer, Maurice Crandall.

Efforts to protect the site started a decade ago as rapidly accelerating, dramatic streambank erosion along this stretch of river led to ever increasing loss of the site. Studies directed by archeologists Jim Petersen (University of Maine, Farmington) and Michael Heckenberger in the late 1980s, funded by New England Power Company and through Jim's, Mike's, and others' unstinting volunteer efforts, established the site's singular importance as northern New England's earliest farming site. By at least 1125 A.D., Native Americans were growing corn, beans, and squash in Vermont along the banks of the Connecticut River. The site was also a major settlement area containing extraordinary remains of house floors and firepits, providing unique information about prehistoric diet and other aspects of everyday life.

It took a decade but the necessary team to protect the site forever finally came together. The most important partners were the landowners, Janice and

Ken Young. If they had not been willing to protect the site, the rest would not have happened. Working together with Dick Hodge at the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Division for Historic Preservation, the Youngs applied for, and received, critical funds from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) that allowed them to sell their development rights to the site to the VHCB and the Division. Strict conservation easements were then developed with the Youngs to protect the site forever in its undeveloped condition, with the provision that the Youngs could continue to farm the land, as they are currently doing.

The next critical step for long-term protection of the site was the costly, monumental stabilization of the riverbank, a major stretch of Connecticut River. The stabilization team included the Youngs; the Vermont Legislature (at the eleventh hour, they approved an appropriation of \$25,000 as a direct result of phone calls made by several community members—one is a VAS member); New England Power Company (provided the lion's share of the funds for this very costly project); Dennis Borchardt at the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development District (administered the project); Tom Maclay (came out of retirement to supervise the project); Dave Skinas (served as a key member of the stabilization effort and project archeologist although involvement with the project started a long time ago during his tenure with the Division) and Dana Young (project engineer) at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service); the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (provided some funding to the Youngs); Jim Petersen and other archeologists from the University of Maine at Farmington (who volunteered their time to recover cultural information from along the margins of the eroding bank); and Frank Whitcomb (Construction, Inc., who donated time and materials to the project).

Stabilization of the bank was completed in record time, just before the winter set in. Without including the "in-kind" and volunteer time—an enormous value in time and dollars—the total project cash cost has been immense. And the project isn't totally finished yet—the new riverbank and field needs final vegetative cover and landscaping; and the recovered cultural information needs analysis and reporting. Efforts continue. However, the value of protecting a resource as important as this forever is incalculable. The people of the State of Vermont are indebted to the remarkable partners who contributed so much and cooperated so well to ensure the long-term protection of the Skitchewaug Site.



## The 1994 Field Season at GEOARCH

by Kathy Callum  
GEOARCH, Brandon

Business at GEOARCH took on a new image this year. In addition to the usual geoarcheological activities that owner Kathleen Callum has been involved in on projects in the Northeast and Midwest, a team of independent consultants from throughout New England is offering archeological consulting services within Vermont under the auspices of GEOARCH, which recently obtained a Vermont WDBE listing.

Consulting Archeologist Sheila Charles has worked on a number of archeological projects in Vermont, especially those of historic archeological interest. Karen Turnmire specializes in zooarcheology, computer graphics, and archeological editing. Tom Buchanan, field director and geoarcheological assistant, has a strong interest in northeastern precontact period archeology. Peter Morrison came to us with a wide background in contract projects and a focus in historic archeology. Pam Carmichael serves as archeological illustrator and helped out in the field during the 1994 field season, as did Shelley Hight.

We were involved in eight archeological consulting projects during the 1994 field year. Phase IA archeological reconnaissance of the Red Village/Severance Hill traffic corridor near St. Johnsbury for the Northeastern Vermont Development Association showed that there may be lots of terrain highly sensitive for both historic and precontact period archeological resources. Phase I archeological survey of a proposed pipeline route through Swanton for Vermont Gas Systems, Inc., demonstrated that no significant archeological remains are to be impacted within the pipeline corridor (representatives of several Abenaki organizations had already helped plan corridor placement) but did locate the general vicinity of a Swanton brickyard site (VT-FR-288). A Phase I survey of a proposed bridge replacement over Cook Brook in Londonderry for Dufresne-Henry, Inc., also revealed little in the way of significant archeological remains. A Phase IA reconnaissance of the proposed Hunger Mountain Cooperative building site in downtown Montpelier has been accomplished and a Phase IB survey recommended.

Two of our projects yielded the unexpected. A locality being "cleared" for the Putney Paper Company on a high sandy terrace appeared like it would be sensitive for Paleoindian or Early Archaic period sites. Instead, we recovered kaolin pipe

fragments, free blown bottle glass, a glass bead, gunflint, creamware ceramics and other materials indicative of an early frontier historic site. Except for redware in our one postmold, most artifacts resided in the plow zone. Unfortunately, very intensive Phase II testing did not locate any of the structural remains of an early cabin site alluded to during archival research. Perhaps it has already been eroded by the Connecticut River, was plowed up, had been previously developed, or lies next door and is as yet undiscovered.

The Windsor County Courthouse is planning a drainage system and foundation renovation under the direction of Architect Christopher Holm. Our Phase I survey yielded over 900 artifacts and plentiful faunal remains from just a handful of shovel-test pits. An in-situ mortar feature, and early historic artifacts including a fragment of annularware, reminiscent of one illustrated in Ivor Noel Hume's (1969) *Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*, mark this site (VT-WN-208) as a critical segment of Woodstock's early history. We look forward to working with the courthouse administrators and Christopher Holm in the effort to protect and manage this significant reminder of Woodstock's past.

We also maintained a role in geoarcheological consulting. Louis Berger and Associates, Inc. invited Kathy Callum to work on a bridge replacement project in Bethel. She also teamed up with Doug Frink and ACT for a project in Essex Junction. We continue to investigate the eolian (sand dune) geoarcheology of the Paleoindian Hedden site in Kennebunk, Maine, with Dr. Art Spiess and the folks at Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Deep-testing projects along the Ohio River in Indiana (for Gray and Pape, Inc., and the Indiana University's Glen Black Lab) went well; Tom Buchanan actually pulled an Early Archaic point out of the sedimentary column sample at "Egypt Bottom" (over 1 m. deep and on the last day!). Professional presentations given by Kathy in 1994 included "Nahanada Site Pedology and the Archeological Record Morphology" at the 2nd International Conference on Pedo-Archeology in South Carolina and "Geoarcheological Context" at a Soil Science Society of Northern New England meeting in Farmington, Maine.

In addition to their professional "doings," consultants working under the auspices of GEOARCH are justifiably proud of their public educational and archeological outreach efforts. Kathy Callum and Sheila Charles were among strong proponents for organizing the first Annual Vermont Archeology Week last May. Kathy served as volunteer State



Coordinator (and Addison County's Regional Coordinator), and Sheila volunteered as Regional Coordinator for the Rutland County area. They continue these roles for the 1995 Vermont Archeology Week. Both were involved in a number of talks throughout the year (Sheila focused on the Rutland school system) and are members of the VAS Education Committee. Our group of independent consultants looks forward to protecting and managing endangered archeological resources with you over the coming year.

### **"Washington, D.C. or Bust" A Personal Account of The 1995 SHA Meeting**

*by David Lacy, Forest Archeologist  
U.S. Forest Service*

In January, Giovanna Peebles, Karl Roenke (White Mountain National Forest), and I attended the annual meeting of the Society for Historical (and underwater) Archaeology (SHA) in Washington, DC. It was both inspiring and just plain fun! The following account is less than a comprehensive review, but more than a postcard; I hope it gives you a flavor for the meetings as experienced by my palate.

We got off on the right foot: Karl, Giovanna, and I took an unmarked (but bright red) Forest Service Bronco on the nearly 11-hour cruise to DC. The trip was characterized by non-stop talking and punctuated by occasional shouts of "Road Trip!"

The conference was held at the J. W. Marriott Hotel, a block from the Mall and a stone's-throw from the Washington Monument. Record attendance of more than 1,000 people was announced, but given the scale of the building and the well-organized schedule, it felt like a smaller gathering. In fact, I was struck by how unpretentious the gathering was—lots of social interaction across age, employment, and specialization boundaries.

The papers were a nice mix of mundane-and-inspired, "scientific"-and-humanistic, analytical-and-theoretical. I caught Part 2 of the Plenary Session; the nicest paper was one by a Caribbean woman, Ywone Decarlo Edwards (visiting scholar at Colonial Williamsburg), who discussed how African-American sites (particularly slave sites) were traditionally understood as the reactive products of a monolithic, oppressive white society. She made a good case for the utility of seeing these sites on their own merits as the remains of communities and resources available to them.

A session titled "Rethinking Rural Contexts" was entertaining; the most memorable paper was the first, given by organizer Lou Ann Wurst, "America's Rural Myths and Historical Archaeology," discussing the ways in which we cast "rural/urban" and "agrarian/industrial" dichotomies as synonymous, and the backdrop to "modern" America. This tends to do a gloss on the dynamics of industrial development in the countryside (e.g., mills, factories, blast furnaces, railroads), and presents a skewed image of the development of capitalistic markets in the United States. The ability of archaeology to counter some of these myths was demonstrated (I think!). This paper could have been written about Vermont: rural, but integrally tied into the development of the 19th-century iron industry, for example. Ed Hood gave a paper in the same session about the Forest's historic Perkins Barn, cleverly tying the "archaeology" of the barn's (standing) architecture and changing floor plans/uses with the evolution of the local rural economy over a 150-year period.

These papers tied nicely into another session titled "Social Space, Social Engineering, and Social Control in 19th-Century America." Of the papers I saw, the most exciting was by Mike Nassaney and Bob Paynter: "Spatiality and Social Relationships." The focus was the Green River Knife Factory and company housing, with a big emphasis on the organization of space and production as mechanisms of social control and how archaeological remains can contribute to an understanding of how and when it worked. David Starbuck was the session's discussant and provided pithy comments about each paper as well as some well-measured comments about the need to ensure that there is really a connection between the "history" and the "archaeology" in historical archaeology.

In "Non-Traditional Archaeological Resources: Perspectives from Above the Ground," Don Hardesty's "Landscapes and the Archaeology of Mining Communities in the American West" really knocked my socks off. He addressed the idea that various modes of production will have different footprints (my words, not his) on the ground; these footprints will also have implications for the nature of the social controls being exerted on the work force as well as the ecosystem. I can see the potential for using this logic in evaluating abandoned communities on the GMNF and elsewhere in Vermont that were established and abandoned for a variety of reasons. Starbuck also delivered an interesting slide illustrated paper in this session based on his Shaker work and research.

Finally, one of the most moving papers of the conference was delivered by Steve Loring (my



former grad school buddy, a familiar face in Vermont in the 1970s, and present Smithsonian anthropologist) titled "Where There are No Borders: Community Archaeology With the Innu in Labrador." Late 20th-century tragedies (personal, cultural, economic) in Innu communities of Labrador can be seen to stem, in some part, from the loss of traditional cultural values. Innu elders recognize that some of those patterns/values can be recovered or implied through archaeological research. The involvement of Native peoples in "their" historical archaeology is also empowering for them. A nice application of our methods to serve a specific peoples' modern social needs.

On the political side, Giovanna spent an hour with U.S. Senator James Jeffords (R-Vt), and we all hung with U.S. Senator Leahy's aide, Brooks Preston, at an evening reception in the Russell Senate Office Building, comparing notes and generally "making contact." We also spent a fascinating couple of hours with Bruno Frolich, Vermont resident and Smithsonian archaeologist, in his office/lab getting a demonstration of his elaborate GIS system.

Other Vermont-connected folks in attendance included: Art Cohn (I saw his articulate and well-received paper in one of the "underwater" sessions); Kevin Crisman (I know he was there, but I didn't actually SEE him); former VAS Prez Bill Murphy (well, his name was on the program, anyway); and Charity Baker (former Archaeology Consulting Teamist, now a happy student at William and Mary). No doubt there were other folks at that I missed; my apologies if you missed being "cited" in this exciting account.

For the record, I also spent one hour at the National Museum of American History, two hours at the National Museum of American Art, and a pleasant evening in Civil War General Nelson Miles' carriage house, now a neat restaurant. DC is a fun place, and I highly recommend attending the next time SHA convenes there. Cheers.

### **Historic Preservation Conference to Celebrate Historic Preservation Week**

*by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist  
Division for Historic Preservation*

National Historic Preservation Week (May 14 - 20) follows on the heels of Vermont Archeology Week. Rather than organizing many events and programs

across the state, as done with Vermont Archeology Week, Vermont's historic preservation community has chosen to focus their efforts on one major conference to celebrate Vermont's outstanding historic built environment. By nice coincidence, the conference will fall within Vermont Archeology Week.

The May 5 conference, to be held at Shelburne Farms, will offer an exciting day of workshops and speakers to interest archeologists, historic preservation enthusiasts and the general community. Two workshops of particular interest to VAS members are "Using Historic Resources for Community Activities and Education" and "Heritage Tourism." For more information or to register, contact Meg Campbell at 802/985-8686.

### **Upcoming Activities and Meetings Around the Greater Northeast**

April 2-5: Northeastern Anthropological Assn. (NEAA) Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn Grand View, Lake Placid, NY. Contact: Dr. James Armstrong, Dept. of Anthro., State University of N.Y., Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Phone 518/564-3003.

April 7-9: Council For Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Ocean City, MD. Contact: John Sprinkle, Jr., c/o Louis Berger & Assoc., 1819 H St., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006

April 22: New York State Archaeological Assn., Syracuse, N.Y. Contact: David Starbuck, 518/747-2926

April 29: Vermont Archaeological Society Spring Meeting (see pages 3 and 13 for details)

April 29: New Hampshire Archaeological Society, University of N.H., Durham. Contact: Bob Goodby, 603/664-5033 (home)

May 5: Historic Preservation Conference, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne. Contact: Meg Campbell, 802/985-8686.

May 7-13: Vermont Archeology Week

May 11-14: Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA) 24th Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD. Contact: Dennis Zembala, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230. Phone 410/727-4808

May 14-20: Historic Preservation Week



June 25-30: Workshop on Abenaki Studies led by Frederick M. Wiseman, Johnson State College. Phone 802/635-2356, ext 293

July 3-28: Rogers Island Archaeology Field School at Ft. Edward, N.Y. (18th-century military encampment site). Contact: David Starbuck, 518/747-2926

July 5-28: Nautical Archaeology Field School on War of 1812 Shipwrecks sunk in Lake Champlain, by Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Basin Harbor, Vergennes. Contact: Arthur B. Cohn, 802/475-2022

July 31-Aug. 25: Archaeology Field School at Whitehall, N.Y. (18th-century house and out-building sites of Philip Skene). Contact: David Starbuck, 518/747-2926

September 5-16: Archaeology dig at DAR Strong Mansion, Addison; sponsored by VAS and DAR. Contact: William C. Murphy, 802/388-7577 (see related article page 5)

January 2-7, 1996: Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Dr. Kim McBride, Program Coordinator, Anthropology Department, 211 Lafferty Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506. Phone 606/257-1944

### **Coordinators for Second Annual Vermont Archeology Week**

Contact any of the following Coordinators for Vermont Archeology Week information or if you have suitable VAS spring auction donations such as museum reproductions, T-shirts, videos, books, etc. We can provide pick-up of one or more of your or your organization's items of archeological, historic, or ethnographic interest. No artifacts please. Thank you for your support of Vermont Archeology Week.

#### **VAW State Coordinator**

Kathy Callum, GEOARCH  
RD 2 - Box 2429-1  
Brandon, VT 05733  
Phone/FAX: 802/247-8127 (work/home)

#### **Division for Historic Preservation**

Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist  
135 State Street - Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-1201  
Phone: 802/828-3226 (work)

#### **VAW 1996 Poster Contest**

Audrey Porsche  
Chimney Point State Historic Site  
RD 3 - Box 3546  
Vergennes, VT 05491  
Phone: 802/759-2412 (work)

#### **Regional Coordinators:**

##### **Northeast Vermont**

Duncan Wilkie, AOT Archeologist  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
133 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Phone: 802/828-3965 (work)

##### **Northwest Vermont**

Jen Russell and/or Chris Schlosser  
UVM Consulting Archeology Program  
1700 Hegeman Avenue #2  
Colchester, VT 05446  
Phone: 802/655-5480 (work)

##### **Addison County Area**

Megan Battey, Avocational Archaeologist  
Middlebury College Art Department  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
Phone: 802/388-3711 ext 5233 (work), or  
388-9819 (home); for E-mail, use:  
battey@middlebury.edu

##### **Rutland County Area**

Sheila Charles, Consulting Archeologist  
9 Elmwood Drive  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone: 802/747-4533 (work/home)

##### **Southeast Vermont**

Rob Sanford  
RR 1 - Box 33  
North Springfield, VT 05150  
Phone: 802/886-2215 (work)

##### **Southwest Vermont**

Victor R. Rolando, Industrial Archeologist  
RR 1- Box 1521-3  
Manchester Center, VT 05255  
Phone: 802/362-4382 (work/home)

Send your tax-deductible donations (payable to Vermont Archaeological Society) to offset the volunteer production of Vermont Archeology Week to:

Joseph T. Popecki, Treasurer  
Vermont Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 663  
Burlington VT 05402-0663  
Phone: 802/863-4121 (home)



## **Vermont Archaeology Featured in *Vermont Life***

For those who haven't seen it, "Heritage at Risk" in the Spring 1995 issue of *Vermont Life* states that "Vermont's rich archaeological resources are much appreciated, and in danger." Written by DHP's Curtis B. Johnson, the effects of looting on a variety of archaeological sites in the state and its legal implications are discussed.

In addition to State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles, those also who shared their concerns at the loss of our irreplaceable cultural resources were David Skinas, Scott Dillon, David Lacy, Dr. Peter Thomas, Douglas Frink, Bruno Frolich, and Chris Fichtel. Dr. Thomas compared the looting to someone pulling every other page out of all the books in a library, resulting in unintelligible information.

An accompanying column titled "Digging into Vermont Archaeology" lists reading selections, organizations (including the VAS), and a spot about the upcoming Vermont Archeology Week.

## **The Editor's Corner**

Submissions to this Newsletter by all readers are invited. This is your Newsletter and all inputs pertaining directly to archaeology in Vermont, but also archaeology in general, will be accepted. Reports of work-in-progress, whether by individuals or contract archeologists, are especially welcome.

Travelled to an interesting archaeological site, conference, or museum? Tell us about it. Read a new book on some aspect of archaeology? Share the title and why you do or don't recommend it. Heard any good archaeology humor (e.g., "Archaeologists will date almost any old thing.")? Jot it down and mail it in. Got a query? Ask the membership through the Newsletter. There are many good resource people out there.

Consider accompanying full-length articles with line or halftone illustrations (and captions). The Newsletter is composed on WordPerfect 6 so most popular software programs can be converted. Lengthy typed input should therefore be accompanied with a 3½- or 5¼-inch diskette (it will be returned). The next Newsletter is planned for early summer. Mail your inputs to Vic Rolando (address/phone on page 2).

## **Contributors to This Issue**

Kathy Callum, Art Cohn, David Lacy, William Murphy, Giovanna Peebles, Joseph Popecki, and Audrey Porsche

## **Archaeologist Seeking Work**

Old Sturbridge Village field school staff member 1984-89, 94; field supervisor 1990, 92; Lab Ass't 1981-94; contract work with Archaeological Assessments, Inc. of Nashville, Tenn. 1987-90; nine years experience using computers in archaeology; Ripton College, Wisc., history major. Contact: Greg Hill, 17 Nashoba Rd., Acton, MA 01720. Phone: 508/263-4768.

## **Rolando Leads Blast Furnace Recording Project in New Hampshire**

A number of VAS members crossed over into New Hampshire last fall, participating in a 3-day weekend of blast furnace recording, surface inspection, and surveying at Franconia. The standing ruin of a ca.1805-1884 blast furnace was the main object of the exercise, currently on private property, but being considered by the Franconia Area Heritage Council for inclusion into a local historical park.

Project leader was Vic Rolando, who was assisted by VAS members Marjorie Robbins, Duncan Wilkie, Dennis Howe, and Megan Battey. A number of Northern New England Chapter—SIA members also participated during the sometimes drizzly weekend of September 9-11, 1994.

The Franconia blast furnace stack's most visible characteristic is its eight-sided configuration, the only one of this type known to exist in the Northeast. Close inspection of the furnace's interior binder hardware appear to indicate, however, why the stack was built with eight sides rather than the usual four sides. The analysis of slag found in the adjacent river by a project participant is also adding new information regarding the early history of the site.

Rolando and a few recorders plan a return inspection this spring to check some measurements and fill a few gaps in the data, after which he hopes to finalize his report to the Heritage Council.



# Vermont Archaeological Society

1995 Spring Meeting and Auction

**Saturday, April 29th**

The Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center  
100 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont

## Program Summary

- 8:30 Registration, coffee, and conversation (check out the silent auction anytime during the day).
- 9:00 Open forum (announcements from VAS members and guests).  
Kathy Callum (1995 Vermont Archeology Week State Coordinator):  
**The Second Vermont Archeology Week.**  
Report from State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles.  
Introduction of Dr. Richard Hunter (Hunter Research).
- 9:30 Kathy Callum (GEOARCH, Brandon):  
**Fire on the Plains: Environment of Maine's Paleoindian Hedden Site.**
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Michael Werner (Werner Archaeological Consulting, Albany, NY):  
**19th-Century Iron Mining in Southern Vermont.**
- 11:00 Robert Sloma (UVM Consulting Archaeology Program):  
**Early 19th-Century Burial Practices: Excavations at St. Johnsbury's First Cemetery.**
- 11:45 Lunch at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.
- 1:00 Doug Mackey (Hartgen Archaeological Associates):  
**Archeological Inventory of Three Sites at Bennington Acres.**
- 1:45 Peter Morrison (GEOARCH):  
**Fragments From the Frontier: Survey along the Connecticut River in Putney, Vermont.**
- 2:15 Vermont Archeology Week's "Awareness Auction"  
by our stellar auctioneers, Giovanna Peebles and Duncan Wilkie

VAS Education Committee Meeting at end of meeting



## Application for Membership or Renewal

☐ NEW    ☐ RENEWAL

I SUBSCRIBE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY AND HEREBY APPLY  
(OR REAPPLY) FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATEGORY CHECKED BELOW.

Please print or type:

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CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

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COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (if senior)

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Signature

DUES SCHEDULE (please check one)

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☐ Contributing (\$50.00)

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☐ Non-profit Institutional (\$25.00)

☐ Institutional (\$50.00)

\*Senior: 65 years or over. Students must be full-time and provide photocopy of active student ID card.  
Anyone wishing a membership card, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.  
You may photocopy this form.

Make check payable to **The Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.** and mail to:  
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