



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 82

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Update of Archaeological Fieldwork at the Bennington Bypass Project

by *Belinda J. Cox, Research Supervisor*
Archaeology Research Center
University of Maine

The University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center (UMF ARC) returned to the Silk Road site (VT-BE-33) earlier this summer to conduct phase III data recovery excavations (see previous article by Belinda J. Cox in June 1997 VAS Newsletter, pp. 1, 4). The phase III field work took place over a period of 23 days between June 23 and July 23, 1997, and a total of 70 square meters of site sediment was excavated as a result. Overall, the phase III field work at the Silk Road site was extremely productive and resulted in the identification and documentation of at least 12 cultural features, and the recovery of over 30,000 prehistoric Native American remains including thousands more stone artifacts (produced as a result of tool manufacture), pottery, calcined (burned) bone, and several specimens of charred floral remains (charcoal), which will allow for radiocarbon dating of the site deposits and will provide information about the types of food resources that were available and being consumed by the site's prehistoric inhabitants.

Several of the cultural features encountered at the site contained fragments of prehistoric ceramic vessels. Based on the decoration evident on some of the ceramic specimens, the Silk Road site was utilized by prehistoric Native Americans minimally from the Early Woodland, or Ceramic, period, ca. 1000-100 B.C., through the Middle Woodland period, ca. 100 B.C.- A.D. 1000. In addition, based on diagnostic characteristics of some of the projectile point types recovered during this phase III work, the site was also apparently occupied or utilized during the Middle to Late Archaic period, ca. 5500-1000 B.C., although none of the prehistoric cultural features encountered during the phase III work seem to have been utilized during this time period.

The archaeological phase III field work at the Silk Road site has yielded much interesting data that will undoubtedly contribute to a better understanding of

see Bypass Project →4

Relics and Ruins

by *Sheila Charles, Historical and*
Archaeological Research Consultant, and
David Lacy, US Forest Service Archaeologist

The Green Mountain National Forest, the educational Hayes Foundation, and the Wallingford Historical Society co-sponsored a two-week summer day camp for twenty-five 10-14 year old students. Staff included archaeologists Sheila Charles and David Lacy, artist (and reenactor) Steve Halford, historian (and reenactor) Michael Barbieri, photographer Lowell Klock, musician Steve Spensely, and elementary school teacher Debra Gardner-Baasch.

Entitled "Relics and Ruins", the camp used art, photography, music and dance, historical documentation, and archaeology to bring to life a ca. 1890-1915 logging village named Aldrichville (VT-RU-313, about 2½ miles east of South Wallingford).

NOTICE

VAS Annual Fall Meeting
Business, Reports, Elections, and Papers
Saturday, October 11, in South Burlington
Mark your Calendar Now
See Page 3 for Further Details

The site provided an opportunity to teach the students local history, changing life-styles and economies over the last 100 years, several technical methods for research and preservation, and the changing nature of the local ecosystem. The combined route of the Long and Appalachian Trails follow the old road bed that runs through the center of this cluster of US Forest Service owned mill, house, school, and blacksmith shop remains, providing a ready-made opportunity to interpret the site and our activities to a wide variety of hikers and interested local residents. Materials recovered reflected the functionally specific activities associated with the different structures within this abandoned mill village (see photo, page 3).

see Relics and Ruins →3

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Address general inquiries concerning the Society
to the Secretary

Candidates for VAS Board

The VAS Nominations Committee proposes the following candidates for election to the Board at the October 11 Annual Meeting for the 1997-2000 term:

Scott McLaughlin: Long-time VAS member Scott McLaughlin was appointed to the Board on April 9,

1997 to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. Scott is a Staff Conservator at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and is handling the Long Range Master Plan for the VAS.

James B. Petersen: Another one our "old-hands," Jim Petersen recently returned to the area from the University of Maine, Farmington, where he was Director of the Archaeology Research Center. Jim is a past VAS Board member (1978-81) and has written extensively on Vermont archeology.

Jill Oliver: Relatively new to the VAS, Jill Oliver immediately made herself known by running last spring's outstanding Archeology Awareness Auction in Middlebury. Jill was appointed to the Board on April 9, 1997 to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. She works at Middlebury College.

Frank Bump: Development Committee chairman Frank Bump is seeking his second 3-year term on the Board. Frank designed, and is now promoting, our popular new T-shirt, thus "showing the VAS flag" far and wide.

The following candidate is proposed to fill the unexpired year of a recently vacated 1995-98 term:

Victor Rolando: Another long-time member, Vic has been VAS Newsletter editor since 1995, is a past Board member (1986-94), and a past President (1989-92; 1993-94).

Twenty-five Years ago in the VAS

Fifty VAS members braved "miserable weather" to attend the 1972 fall annual meeting at the Pavilion Building in Montpelier on December 9, where Dr. Peter Pratt of SUNY-Oswego talked on the subject of the disappearance of the St Lawrence Iroquois; Jon Fackler and Louise Basa were involved in a dig at Essex Center; and following a nation-wide search, it was announced that Dr. William Haviland was appointed Chairman of the "new" Department of Anthropology at UVM.

Erratum

The June 1997 issue of the VAS Newsletter mistakenly credited the page 1 article titled "A Brief Report of Archaeological Work Related to the Bennington Bypass Project" to Brenda J. Cox. The author's correct name is Belinda J. Cox. The editor regrets the error.

VAS Fall Annual Meeting October 11

The 1997 Fall Annual Meeting will be Saturday, October 11, and will be held at the Windjammer Conference Center in South Burlington, same place as past years. From Exit 14E of I-89, drive about 1,000 feet (300 meters) east on Williston Road (Route 2), then turn left (north) into the Econo Lodge driveway. Drive straight to the rear parking area. The Conference Center is the rear corner building. Registration desk will be just inside.

Registration is 8:30 to 9:30 AM; \$5 for VAS members, \$7 for all others. Lunch choices (approx. \$8-\$9) will be made during registration. Morning coffee and muffins will be available. Plan to attend, meet old friends (make new friends), buy books, and have lunch with the speakers.

The tentative program includes "Benedict Arnold's Gunboat Found!" by Scott McLaughlin; a report on a dig at Clay, N.Y., by Don Thompson; a report on the Mount Independence archaeology master plan by John Feidel; "Archeology at Fort William Henry: Site of the 'Last of the Mohicans'," by David Starbuck; and "Archeology at the US Pottery Site, Bennington" by Victor Rolando. A panel discussion on possible formation of VAS chapters is also planned. Paper presentations will follow election/re-election of Board members (see related article, page 2). At this writing, a few paper openings still exist. If interested, contact David Starbuck at (518) 747-2926.

Relics and Ruins (continued)

The results of this first year of study, including display of artifacts, historic photos, and student paintings, models, and photographs, will be part of an exhibit from October 24 to November 28, 1997 at the Chaffee Center for Visual Arts (16 South Main, Rutland), a center of cultural activity for the whole county.

For more information, check the VAW calendar for Aldrichville events and try visiting our student generated home page (as it develops) at <http://www.sover.net/~kplew/Aldrich.htm>.

Boy Scouts Announce Archaeology Merit Badge

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

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has just announced the introduction of the Archaeology merit badge. Although Indian Lore has been a merit badge for many years, the Boy Scouts have realized the



Screening for history at Aldrichville (Charles photo).

widespread interest in archaeology and have chosen to recognize the importance of the conservation and preservation of "these resources."

A variety of topics are included in the merit badge pamphlet, and the overall focus is upon historic preservation. The requirements involve a full range of archaeological activities from research planning to fieldwork and analysis to curation of records and artifacts. This will not be an easy badge to earn. Counselors who administer the badge will include vocational and avocational archaeologists. To serve as a counselor, you will need to register to serve with your State Archeologist's office to get on the list. You will also need to register as an adult leader with their local Scout council office.

The 92-page merit badge pamphlet (item #35,000) can be purchased from your local Scout shop for \$2.00 or can be ordered from the Boy Scouts of America Distribution Center by calling 1-800-323-0732. For additional information about the merit badge contact your local council office and ask to speak to the Advancement Chairman. The Special Interests Subcommittee of the Public Education Committee of the Society for American Archaeology is compiling information about merit badge activities and should be sent to S. Alan Skinner at PO Box 820727, Dallas TX 75380 or e-mail at arcdigs@aol.com.

Bypass Project (continued)

prehistoric Native American lifeways in this important area of Vermont.

Following the completion of phase III field work at the Silk Road site in July, more substantial excavations were undertaken at the Cloverleaf site (VT-BE-233), which lies directly across the Walloomsac River to the east of the Silk Road site.

Although less than half of the proposed phase III data recovery excavations at the Cloverleaf site have been initiated, already more than 22 additional cultural features and other prehistoric remains have been identified. These remains include stone artifacts, calcined bone, and abundant charred floral remains (charcoal). Interestingly, several of the stone artifacts represent diagnostic Normanskill-type projectile points, which have been dated to the same time period the phase II radiocarbon dates indicated.

Since the beginning of the 1997 field season, the UMF ARC has been able to reach over 1,000 people through the ongoing efforts of our public education and outreach coordinator, Corbett Torrence. Corbett will continue to provide tours of the site and answer questions on visiting days set aside for the public and any private organizations that may be interested in scheduling a visit. Public visiting times are Monday through Friday and weekends of September 20 and October 4, 1997. Additional days during 1997 Vermont Archaeology Week will be announced in local newspapers. Tours are held at 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays (see "how to get there" map on page 9).

A limited volunteer effort continues to be coordinated at the Cloverleaf site by the UMF ARC. Although the response to this effort has been tremendous, there is still room available for interested individuals who have not yet scheduled days for helping the field crew. Volunteers are being asked to commit to a minimum of two days of field work. Details concerning both the Vermont Archaeology Week activities and the volunteer effort are available and anyone interested in either of these may contact the UMF ARC, in Vermont at 447-7363, or in Maine at (207) 778-7012. (ed. note: Corbett Torrence will present a "Wrap-Up" program to the public at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening, October 9, in St. Peter's Episcopal Church parish hall, Bennington, sponsored by the Southern Vermont Archeology Group. Contact is Vic Rolando at 442-0105.)



The Montvert Project

by Sheila Charles and Pamela Lewis

Funded as a Learn and Serve Community Based Initiative and in cooperation with Troy Academy of Green Mountain College and the Middletown Springs Historical Society, a second annual archaeology day camp ran from June 23 to July 3 with 18 students ranging from 9 to 14 years old. Camp directors included Administrative Director, Juanita Burch Clay, Coordinator and gifted and talented teacher Pamela Lewis, and Historic Archaeologist Sheila Charles.



Doing it the right way at Montvert (Charles photo).

Last year's excavation concentrated on locating the site of the Middletown Healing Springs Bottling plant. Although structural remains were not identified, a significant bottle dump site was found. This year, the pits were spread more widely in hopes of finding more varied information, with students working on both sides of the Poultney River, behind the "tin shop" and spring house, in the bowling alley foundation, and near the tennis courts and dump site. Although substantial amounts of artifacts were recovered (e.g., metal containers and implements, bottle glass, lighting fixtures), discrete structural remains were not identified and several areas were highly disturbed.

Our immersion into Victorian culture continued with numerous workshops. A presentation by Ursula

Smith and Linda Peavy, authors of seven books based upon American women's diaries and journals, highlighted writings of specific individuals in Middletown Springs during the mid 1800s. Following their guidance, students kept daily journals in the character of 19th-century guests and employees of the Montvert Hotel. Students enjoyed gathering around the piano each morning with music director, Juanita Clay, who taught songs and movement. Other workshops included typical Victorian summer crafts such as basket weaving, paper making, and flower pressing. Once again, students were enthralled by 19th-century toys and games presented by Garet Livermore, Education Director at the Shelburne Museum. We chronicled our ongoing experiences with student photography and videography.

Be sure to see the VAW calendar listings of presentations pertaining to the history and archaeology of Middletown Springs at the Historic Society, Springs Park and Chaffee Center for Visual Arts.

Brushing away the Cobwebs from Sunny Gables Junior Archaeology at the Chaffee Center for Visual Arts, Rutland

by Sheila Charles

It is doubtful George Thrall Chaffee ever imagined the grounds of his Queen Anne style mansion, built in 1896 and occupied as a family dwelling until 1925, would be investigated by archaeologists to commemorate its centennial. As a prominent lumber merchant and businessman, his attention was focused on affairs of his mill and his market on 47 Merchants Row, his interests in the Rutland Railroad, the Bank of Rutland, the Paramount Theater (ca. 1913, which is hoping for renovative funding from the legislature this year), and on maintaining his beautiful home, "Sunny Gables." Located at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, across from the village green, the house site had previously been part of the historic block where the original ca. 1792 Federal Court House and Franklin House hotel stood prior to burning in 1868.

During the first two weeks of August, 27 students between the ages of 7 and 13 attended a summer camp, initiated and coordinated by Chaffee's education director, Pam Monder. Under the professional supervision of archaeologist Sheila Charles, they conducted an investigation and were introduced to historic and archaeological research techniques, Rutland history, Victorian culture, and architecture. Historic research included field trips and tours of the Rutland Historic Society, Paramount Theater, downtown Rutland, and the Rutland Free Library (site of

the second Federal Courthouse). Field investigation focused on the south yard of Sunny Gables where three 1-meter test pits were excavated. Although originally intended as a simple hands-on exercise, field work resulted in the recovery of several hundred historic artifacts, many of which predate the construction of "Sunny Gables." Structural material, as brick fragments, mortar, machine cut nails, and window glass predominate; however, the collection also includes several buttons, components of a kerosene lamp, clay pipe fragments, free blown bottle glass, lead glazed redware, and transfer printed and annular earthenware dating minimally to the early to mid 1800s. Many artifacts reveal evidence of burning. Further investigation is needed to determine if older, intact deposits or structural features remain below the final depths encountered in our excavation, approximately 30 to 40 cm below surface. Maybe a burn layer relating to the Federal Courthouse demise?

On-site field activities also included learning the potential, appropriate use of metal detectors and an orienting exercise where students made their own compasses. Students in the program also began the laboratory process. All artifacts have been washed, and some cataloguing and sketching of artifacts was accomplished. Additional laboratory time is needed to complete cataloguing and analyzing the Sunny Gables collection.

Architecture was another focal element of this project as the Chaffee Center is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Students never tired of reciting and defining characteristics of our Queen Anne style structure to their parents and visitors: asymmetrical, multi-colored, wrap-around porch, patterns and gingerbread made with wood shingles, and a tower and turret. Hands-on activities included coloring pictures of a Queen Anne style house and Victorian parlor room and building models.

Our immersion into Victorian culture also included making flower presses and calling cards, performing a melodrama, playing croquet, and dressing in Victorian costumes for our crew party complete with homemade lemonade and cookies. Don't you wish you were a kid again?

Several follow-up events and an exhibit are planned, and the public is invited to see some of the results of this project: Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. during Vermont Archaeology Week is Family Day; October 24–November 16, the Chaffee's featured Community exhibition will be "Ruins, Relics, and Reflections of the Past: Exploring Vermont's Archaeological Heritage." Family Day events are also scheduled for Saturdays, October 25 and November 8, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call Sheila Charles (747-4533) or Pam Monder at the Chaffee (775-0356) for further details.

News Briefs from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

by Scott A. McLaughlin

New Conservation Laboratory

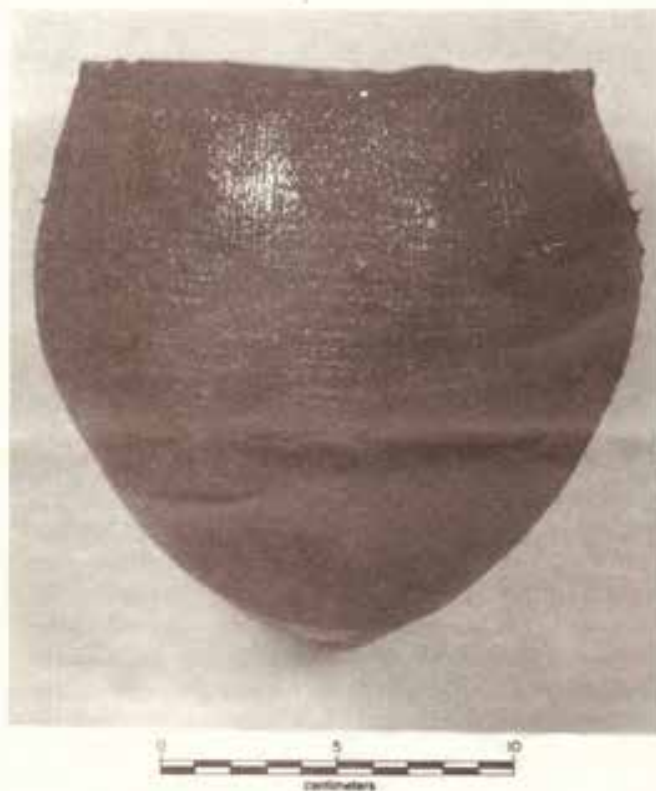
The dedication of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's (LCMM) newest building was held on June 1st. The 30 by 60-foot building contains a conservation laboratory, classroom, library, photographic darkroom, archival storage and exhibition space. The new building is attached to and completes the museum's Nautical Archaeology Center (NAC). Exhibits in the NAC discuss the process of underwater archaeology including site discovery, documentation, recovery, artifact conservation, historical research, experimental archaeology, and public interpretation. The NAC offers a unique opportunity for visitors. Unlike most laboratory environments, the year round conservation lab is open to the public. The building is designed to encourage visitors to observe and learn about the process of underwater archaeology and archaeological conservation.

The new classroom in the NAC will serve as a multifunctional room housing the museum's library, making it more accessible to the public and allowing the books to appear as part of the museum's exhibits. The 1,800-square-foot archival space is fully climate controlled, providing the museum with a safe environment for the museum's collections. The space also will allow the museum to continue its active collecting of Lake Champlain related materials.

Numerous projects are underway in the new conservation laboratory. This year the conservation staff and volunteers will be working on artifacts recovered from the sailing canal schooner *General Butler* (1862), Civil War artillery ammunition recovered from Mirror Lake in North Calais, War of 1812 artifacts recovered from Plattsburgh Bay, and a 1,000-year old Native American pot found in Lake Champlain. The zebra mussel invasion of Lake Champlain has initiated the museum to systematically survey the entire lake bottom in order to locate and document the lake's archaeological resources. The zebra mussel, accidentally introduced to Lake Champlain in 1993, attach themselves in thick colonies to shipwrecks and other underwater cultural resources. The resources are covered to the point that they are barely recognizable. Last year the museum surveyed approximately forty square miles of the lake and located ten previously unknown shipwrecks. This year's lake survey will be based out of the NAC and will undoubtedly provide lots of work for the museum's staff and volunteers.

The Maritime Museum's new curator and conservator, Anne Lessmann, says that "volunteers are

needed for a number of tasks including organizing the collections and library, assisting in the conservation laboratory and a long list of other exciting projects." Volunteers play a significant role in all museum activities. Volunteer Gordon Lawrence, returning for a second year, said that "working at the museum is not only an educational experience but it is exciting to be part of such an active, growing organization. The opportunity to lend my skills to be part of preserving our heritage is very fulfilling. LCMM utilizes all of my skills and is always presenting me with new and interesting challenges." (ed. note: The lab also recently conserved some badly rusted artifacts from the blast furnace ruin at the Forestdale Ironworks State Historic Site.)



Prehistoric Pot Found in Lake Champlain

Recently, William Jennison of Johnson and David Knight of Cambridge found a complete prehistoric Native American clay pot lying on the bottom of Lake Champlain. The scuba divers found the pot in about 40 to 50 feet of water off Thompson's Point in Charlotte, Vermont. The pot, which dates from about 800 to 1000 AD, was sitting in less than an inch of fine silt. Although a popular diving site, no one has reported finding anything of such historical significance. Jennison claims it was just pure luck that they came across the pot in water with such poor visibility. Immediately after the divers recovered the pot, they took their find to the Maritime Museum.

The approximately 7-inch diameter, 11-inch tall,

elongated conical pot is decorated only around the outside of the rim. There is an alternating series of two panels encircling the pot. Five square vertical bars made by a wooden comb-like tool created the first panel. The second panel was made to imitate the appearance of the wavy pattern of a scallop shell. This pseudo-scallop shell design running horizontally around the pot was also applied at an angle above the other panels.

Fewer than a dozen complete prehistoric Native American pots have been found to date in the Champlain Valley. How and why the pot ended up on the bottom of Lake Champlain is a mystery. There were no other objects or evidence found by the divers to indicate anything about the pot's history. Dr. James B. Petersen, Anthropology Professor at UVM and expert in northeastern Native American pottery, believes "this pot is the only complete example of this period and design for the Champlain Valley. It is a rare and extremely significant find for northeastern archaeology. The pot will provide invaluable information in the clarification of the current pottery classifications of the northeast."

This is the second important find Jennison and Knight have found in recent years. In 1993, they located and brought to the attention of the State of Vermont a collection of Civil War artillery ammunition called shrapnel or spherical case shot. This collection of live ammunition was found in a small upland pond called Mirror Lake in North Calais, Vermont. The collection of ordnance was recovered in 1996 by the Maritime Museum, disarmed by the US Navy, and is currently undergoing conservation at LCMM. Knight believes that if any of his "finds are historically significant that they should be in a museum for all the public to see and archaeologists and historians to study. This is the environment they should be in rather than on my shelf where only a few of my friends will see them." LCMM director Arthur Cohn stated that Jennison and Knight are historically minded divers who are helping to preserve and protect Lake Champlain's cultural resources for generations to come.

Recognizing the rarity and importance of the prehistoric pot, Jennison and Knight have presented their amazing find to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the state agency responsible for the preservation and protection of Vermont's submerged cultural resources. The Thompson's Point pot is currently undergoing conservation at the Maritime Museum's new conservation laboratory. The pot can be seen on display as it safely undergoes the process of conservation to dehydrate and stabilize the object in preparation for its exhibition in a dry case.

Lake Champlain is a valuable resource not only for Euro-American shipwrecks but also for Native

American prehistory according to archaeologist Douglas Frink of the Archaeology Consulting Team, Essex Junction. The lake is a largely untapped resource for prehistoric archaeologists. Native Americans have been navigating on the lake for nearly 8,000 years. There are cultural resources possibly lost or intentionally sunk in the lake representing all periods of occupation in the Champlain Valley. The lake could preserve resources like canoes, paddles, and baskets that simply would not survive buried in the ground.

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Archaeological Collections

William Leege and a number of friends founded the Lake Champlain Archaeological Association (LCAA) in the early 1960s around the Plattsburgh, N.Y. area. The organization was set up as a non-profit educational organization interested in the history and archaeology of Lake Champlain. LCAA spent nearly 21 years systematically exploring the lake bottom, concentrating its efforts at the site of the Battle of Valcour Island, Arnold Bay, and the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay. Leege located and excavated the hull remains of the Revolutionary War vessel, *Galley Congress*, in Arnold Bay. He also located concentrations of artifacts from the War of 1812 naval battle site in Plattsburgh Bay to Crab Island at the southern end of the bay. LCAA divers systematically collected the artifacts, took note of their provenience, sketched and photographed some of the artifacts, and conducted some rudimentary conservation work. Leege believes that the artifacts were thrown from the American and British vessels at the end of the battle in an attempt to clear the vessels of loose debris before they were to be repaired at Crab Island.

The LCAA disbanded in the late 1970s, after which Leege curated the archaeological collection and field notes. Last year, Leege donated a large collection of War of 1812 anchors found in Plattsburgh Bay. This year with the new conservation laboratory and larger archival storage facility, Leege decided the best home for the collection of nearly 10,000 artifacts was at the Maritime Museum. The collection consists of complete and broken objects including bottles, ceramics, buttons, buckles, swords, musket parts, gunflints, leather shoes, cannon carriage parts, ship timbers, ammunition, utensils, and iron tools.

This collection is going to require hundreds of hours to clean, conserve, catalog, draw, photograph, and research. The value of this collection is immense to archaeologists and historians of early United States military history.

For more information about any of these news briefs call (802) 475-2022, visit LCMM in Ferrisburgh or its Web site at www.lcmm.org.

Second Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship

by Kim McKay, Site Interpreter
Chimney Point State Historic Site

On Saturday, September 20, 1997, Chimney Point State Historic Site will host the Second Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship. Please join us for a great day of spear-throwing and demonstrations of early Native American skills and craft in celebration of Vermont Archaeology Week.

Anyone who can safely use an atlatl and dart is welcome to bring their hi-tech or traditional gear for the championship. The contest will include distance (10, 20, 30 meters) and accuracy events. Traditional atlatl assemblages can also be entered in the "reproduction and authenticity" competition.

From 10:30 to 12:30, participants can check in and practice. You may also wish to visit demonstrators (10:30 to 4:00) and picnic (food and snacks will be available or bring your lunch basket). At 12:30 the championship begins with a special ceremony. After the competition we will open the range to curious novices and invite experienced atlatlists to share their skills.

While you are here, visit Chimney Point's permanent exhibits on Vermont's Native American and French heritage, housed in an historic tavern and inn on Lake Champlain. This season includes special atlatl and birch bark art exhibits.

Camping will be available locally at the New York State DEC campground at Crown Point (1-800-456-CAMP), and the Vermont State Park at Button Bay in Vergennes (1-802-241-3655). Information on area bed and breakfasts is available at 1-802-388-0800.

We are also seeking volunteers to set up the range on the 19th, various important details on Saturday, and demonstrators of early Native American technology, skills, and craft. If you or a friend are interested, we would love for you to join us.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged (phone 1-802-759-2412 immediately for a form and/or information). A \$5 registration fee enters you in as many events as you wish and includes museum admission. We hope to see you in September for a great day in celebration of the atlatl.

New Archaeology and History Exhibit Opens

by Joseph Delecki

If you are planning a trip to the Lake Champlain Islands, consider a visit to the Grand Isle Fish Hatchery to see the just-opened archaeology and history exhibit.

The location of the hatchery is significant since it is adjacent to the Grand Isle-Cumberland Head ferry (on Vt. Route 314, two miles NW of Keeler Bay), which is one of the narrowest crossings on the lake. This site played an important role in the land use of the hatchery site both in historic and prehistoric times.

Prior to construction of the hatchery, it was necessary to do an assessment of the cultural resources on the property. Any below-grade culturally rich sites located within the project construction area were excavated by the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program. In addition, an underwater survey was conducted by LCMM Director Arthur Cohn to assess the impact of installing hatchery intake and discharge pipes.

Using these findings, along with the extensive research completed by VAS member Herman "Charlie" Brown and other volunteers of the Grand Isle community, an exhibit was designed with financial support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Vermont Agency of Transportation which describes the likely evolution of the site over the last 11,000 years. Topics covered in the exhibit include Native American occupation, early French and English settlement, maritime history, and more recent 19th- and 20th-century material. As an added bonus, plan to tour the newest high-tech fish culture facility in the state. The visitors center (372-3171) is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM daily. (ed. note: see *4,500 Years at Gordon's Landing: Archaeology at the Grand Isle Fish Hatchery*, UVM Consulting Archaeology Program, 1992.)

The Bennington Bypass Archaeology Project: How to Get There



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