



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

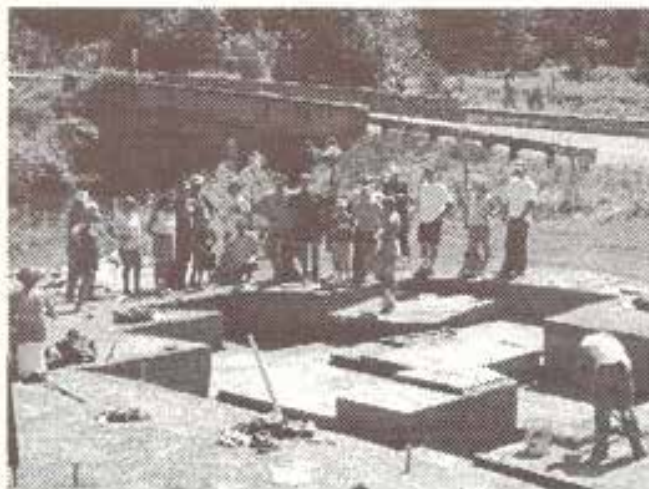
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Phase III Data Recovery at the Spaulding Site VT-WN-188, Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont by Geoff Mandel Research Technician, UVM CAP

The University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) recently conducted a Phase 3 data recovery at the Spaulding site, VT-WN-188, located along Vermont Route 14 in the town of Royalton, where the Vermont Agency of Transportation proposes to replace a bridge over the Second Branch of the White River. As the largest archaeological investigation ever undertaken within the White River watershed, this study produced significant information pertaining to the Late Archaic - Early Woodland period, ca. 2500-1000 B.C. Originally identified by the University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center in 1991 and further evaluated during 1992, the Spaulding site offers a glimpse into a little-understood time period within Vermont's prehistory. Preliminary results indicate that Vinette 1 type pottery was recovered, thus making the Spaulding site one of few known and intensively studied sites containing this type of Native American pottery studied in Vermont. Other artifacts recovered from the site include side notched projectile points, large bifaces/knives, utilized flakes, and burned bone fragments among others. The possible association between the Vinette 1 pottery and the projectile points is especially intriguing.



In total, 75 m² (807 ft²) were excavated at the site over the five-week duration of the project, exposing at
see Royalton → 5

Preliminary Results of the 2001 Archaeological Investigation and Field School at Mount Independence by Sheila Charles Historic Archaeologist

Twenty-nine volunteers (including many sterling Coalition members and experienced archaeological veterans) and 11 Castleton State College undergraduate and graduate students assisted in the first subsurface archaeological investigation on Mount Independence in almost a decade. The focus of the 2-week summer field school in July was the new proposed alignment of the White Trail, which extends east from the Visitors Center into the South Battery. Once completed, this 1,515-foot trail will be the Mount's first handicap-accessible trail. Participants were exposed to the military history of Mount Independence, and learned historic and archaeological methods under the supervision of Principal Archaeologist Sheila Charles, Historian Donald Wickman, Surveyor David Pinkham, Field Crew Chiefs Chris Slesar, Pamela Lewis, and Frank Schlamp, and Lab Supervisor Ann Clay. In addition, joining us to share their expertise were specialists and friends, including Historian Scott McLaughlin, Natural Resources Conservation Services Archaeologist David Skinas, Green Mountain National Forest Archaeologist David Lacy, Historian Ennis Duling, and Reenactor Sherman Lohnes. We also enjoyed personalized tours of Fort Ticonderoga and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

NOTICE

**VAS Annual Fall Meeting
Business, Elections, Reports, Papers, and Lunch
Saturday, October 13
Delahanty Hall, Trinity College
Burlington, Vermont**

Shovel test pit and block excavation along the proposed trail alignment confirmed the widespread ambient scatter of Revolutionary War Period cultural material. The trail unavoidably extends through a line of soldiers' huts. Especially exciting was the excavation of an officer's hut that contained a two-tined fork with an
see Mount Indy → 4

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Address general inquires concerning the Society to the Secretary.

Upcoming VAS Events by Victor R. Rolando VAS Editor

VAS Fall 2001 Annual Meeting

As always, the Fall Annual Meeting will take place in Burlington, with a slight twist this year - a new location. Whereas we have met at the Windjammer Conference Center the past decade or so, we are meeting this fall in Delahanty Hall at the former Trinity College (driving directions, parking, lunch schedule, and program coming later in a separate mailing). Reason for the switch in venue is due to the Windjammer's facilities getting smaller (or maybe we're getting larger???)

Brigitte Helzer, a recent addition to the VAS Board, did an excellent job in organizing this spring's meeting at Billings Farm Museum, and is doing an encore by spearheading this fall's meeting. And, being our main meeting of the year, she will need help with registration and other 'behind-the-scenes' activities. Anyone who would like to help Brigitte, please contact her (address/phone/email in the "Officers and Directors" column at ~~top~~ left).

The spring 2002 meeting will be at Bellows Falls, courtesy of Richard Ewald, Rockingham Historic Preservation Coordinator, who has invited us to his Connecticut Valley Community. Home to petroglyphs and the Bellows Falls Canal (and more), this should prove to be an exciting meeting. I will liaison with Richard to help organize this meeting, set a date, and the usual logistics.

Vermont Archaeology Week 2001

This year's Vermont Archaeology Week (VAW) is September 16-22, 2001. Posters and calendars went out in the mail a few weeks ago and all VAS members should have received theirs by now. If you haven't, or need additional copies, write to: Consulting Archaeology Program, 112 University Heights, Burlington VT 05405; call (802) 656-4310; visit <http://www.vtarchaeology.org/vaw2001.htm> or email to uvmcap@zoo.uvm.edu soon, as supplies might disappear rapidly.

This year's theme is "History Beneath the Surface" and the poster and calendar feature *The Lost Gunboat*, a colorful and dramatic painting by marine artist and teacher Ernest Haas of South Burlington. The painting depicts an underwater remote operated vehicle (ROV) exploring the bottom of Lake Champlain to document the *Spitfire*, one of the vessels that General Benedict Arnold sank after an intense battle with British forces at the Battle of Valcour Island in 1776.

Vermont Archaeology Week is generously supported by the Federal Highway Administration and the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and is co-sponsored by the VAS and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. It is also made possible by the many individuals who donated funds and time, and who volunteered their skills that make all of the 24 VAW events possible.

Change your Bookmarks by Sarah MacCallum VAS Webmaster

In an effort to increase our on-line presence, the VAS website has moved to its own site, now located at www.vtarchaeology.org. Links to Vermont Archaeology Week, Spring and Fall Meeting agendas, and information on VAS journals can be found on our new site. Keep watching, as the site is still under construction and more additions will be made. If you have questions or comments on our new site, please e-mail the web page editor at maccallum@eudoramail.com.

**The Past and Future of Vermont Archeology:
Food for Thought**
by Giovanna Peebles
Vermont State Archeologist

In late winter I was invited to speak at the spring 2001 Conference on Northeastern Archeology (CNEA). The conference topic was "Looking Back - Looking Ahead: Celebrating 20 Years of CNEA." Four "old timers" (Nick Bellantoni, Kevin McBride, Martha Pinello - former Vermonter and VAS member - and I) were asked to give our perspectives on the topic.

As preparation for my talk, I circulated a questionnaire at the VAS spring meeting at Billings Farm Museum and also asked Department and Division members for their thoughts. Although only 14 questionnaires were returned, split evenly between professional archeologists and non-archeologists, people's comments are consistent about where we should focus efforts.

A summary of the very interesting, insightful, and useful survey results is presented below. Not surprisingly, there is a need for a great deal more education and outreach targeted for different audiences. The survey results were inspirational as I prepared my CNEA talk and reaffirmed a lot of my on-going thinking. The next issue of the *VAS Newsletter* will include the talk that I gave at the CNEA offering my point of view of where we've been in Vermont archeology (with many important successes) and where we need to go (which successes still lie beyond our grasp).

Vermont State Archeologist's Unofficial Poll

With the hind sight of 20 years, Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going? What do you see as successes in Vermont archeology over the last 20 years?

- * Mount Independence Visitor Center - bravo!
- * The response to the Monument Road burials in 2000 was not perfect, but I saw it as step in the right direction. I was very impressed with much of it. Donna Roberts, John Moody, and April St. Francis gave a presentation about this in my class. It was very well received - perhaps one of the only positive outcomes of a tragic situation.
- * Lake Champlain Survey. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum conservation lab.
- * Successes often personality driven.
- * Annual meetings.
- * Recent inception of the VAS' archeology journal.
- * Getting kids connected with the process of discovery that archeology can bring.
- * Protecting sites from destruction under Section 106 and Act 250.
- * People are now aware that there are archeological sites in Vermont.
- * Increased public awareness due to outreach and educational programs and an improvement in public's view of the value of trained archeological methodology.
- * Protection of sites.

- * Public information.
- * Starting the Vermont Archeological Inventory and maintaining it; establishing the Division for Historic Preservation, Act 250 Criterion 8 archeology.
- * Vermont Archeology Week.
- * Hiring a State Archeologist in 1976.
- * Support of VAS and journals.
- * Establishing a state archeological database.
- * The State Plan.
- * Act 250 and federal triggering of professional archeological review and investigations.
- * We've increased public awareness.
- * Keeping the faith - not giving up.
- * Having an active avocational organization which has demonstrated a commitment to archeological resources.

What do we do really well?

- * Identifying site at Phase I level. Vermont consultants do a much more thorough job than I've seen in other states.
- * Annual meetings.
- * Historic research.
- * Predicting site locations.
- * Keeping the importance of archeology a secret until it becomes an anti-development issue.
- * Education and reporting.
- * Involving the public.
- * Good conferences and meetings.
- * School programs.
- * Great energy, enthusiasm and ideas.
- * Giovanna's contagious enthusiasm for archeology.
- * Proactive communication with VAS members.
- * Outreach.
- * Annual meetings of archeologists and interested members of public.

What are we doing less well?

- * Lack of central curation facility. Getting collections back to a central repository-curation facility.
- * Educating the public about why archeology and especially archeology in Vermont is important enough to use regulations and public funds.
- * Using Vermont archeology as a curriculum in Vermont schools.
- * Education, summer activities (such as field schools).
- * More archeology publications.
- * Writing short reports.
- * Active public outreach and education.
- * Follow-up on potentially important sites.
- * Overall preservation of cultural resources, supporting broad research initiatives, reviewing compliance archeology, proactive preservation stance in Montpelier.
- * We need a state museum, equivalent to New York or Maine, with archeological exhibits.
- * Reviewing all development projects.
- * Maintaining high standards for archeology projects, especially for historic archeological sites at Phase II and III.
- * Proactive communication with public.

- * Political arena.
- * Bridging the gap between the various levels of archeologists with public outreach (making archeology visible and thus important). The "public" should include New Englanders, tourists, developers, and legislators.

What should we be doing a lot more of?

- * Educate the public-you preach to the choir and then feel you have strong public support. It may not be as deep or as wide as you think. Archeologists should become missionaries and preach to the heathens.
- * Public outreach. We have improved tremendously in last 10 years but a lot more room for growth in this area. More general practice archeology curricula rather than mainly site specific.
- * Articles for popular consumption about our work (e.g., *Vermont Life* magazine) - there are many world class projects and topics to share.
- * Community archeology and community planning.
- * Integration with education curricula - need education coordinator full time.
- * More television coverage.
- * Public involvement - including short little events, amateur digs, etc.
- * Telling of the discoveries, as a human story, in the popular press.
- * Public education on the importance of archeology.
- * Expanding to unsurveyed areas.
- * Archeology training in Vermont colleges other than UVM.
- * Develop a repository research center.
- * Collaborate better with historians, historical societies and cultural advisory panels (i.e. Abenaki, French Canadian, trappers, etc.).
- * Survey private collections and collections in museums, historical societies.
- * More discoveries in southern Vermont.
- * Reviewing development projects.
- * Integrating historic structures and archeology.
- * Obtaining grants or other sources of funding to implement projects such as GIS mapping, lithic sourcing, interpretation of land archeology sites for public.
- * Working more with private landowners to provide \$\$ and expertise (for purposes of stewardship, adopt a site, etc.).
- * Communicating with and doing programs in public schools, especially high school level.
- * Outreach, research, and curation center.
- * Awareness of where archeology fits into and is a significant part of our heritage.
- * Although hard, keep plugging away at making archeology a public concern.
- * Knowledge gained from excavating and protecting sites needs to be passed on to the general public and, through them, to legislators and developers.

What would you do to preserve important archeological sites?

- * Prioritize and preserve the best.
- * Stewardship: when communities are on board, they

become stewards of the sites; improved community involvement.

- * Commitment to archeology interpretation such as Mount Independence Visitor's Center.
- * Education and outreach is the strongest avenue for Vermont archeology.
- * Public education - get into school programs.
- * Get the word out, archeology can be fun, an educational way to learn more about our past: it's a mystery and a challenge to uncover.
- * Inform town zoning boards and building permit issuers, even excavating companies of sensitive spots where planning commissions are ineffective.
- * Encourage professional guidance in site digs.
- * Adopt a site, contribute \$\$.
- * Hire more Division archeology staff.
- * Get grants through DHP for new, hi-tech innovative approaches to archeology.
- * Educate the public at large to emphasize the sites' importance to Vermont's heritage. Increased respect and appreciation for site will help in preservation process.
- * Tours.
- * They need to be identified, protected and to some extent excavated or put on display in order to demonstrate their importance to our present, past, and future.

Pick one:

- * To the greatest extent possible, preserve sites without excavating them (1)
- * To the greatest extent possible, excavate sites to learn more (1)
- * Find a balance and do both of the above where most appropriate (12)

(ed. note: to respond to the above article or for further information, contact Giovanna Peebles at the Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501; phone: (802) 828-3050, FAX: (802) 828-3206, email: gpeebles@dca.state.vt.us or visit the DHP at <http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org/vdhp/vdhp1.html>)

Mount Indy (continued)

antler handle, two French gunflints, a molded blue glass bead cufflink, bottle glass fragments, a hand grenade, and iron shot. Although the trail extends through former British military defense locations established after the capture of Mount Independence in 1777, no diagnostic artifacts confirm the occupant's country of origin. Two other significant artifacts recovered nearby, and identified by with help of Fort Ticonderoga curator Chris Fox, include the rear tip of a French musket trigger guard c.1766-1777 and a nose-cap from a British musket c.1756-1777. In addition to the soldier's hut, a cluster of worked chert flakes and hammerstones were identified in the South Battery, reaffirming that Mount Independence chert deposits were recognized as valuable resources and lithic quarrying and activity areas are widespread. As no diagnostic tools were recovered, it has not been determined whether this is a Native American or Revolutionary War Period lithic activity

area. Mount Independence chert has been identified on Native Americans sites confirming quarrying activities associated with toolmaking and trading. A 1776 entry in the 2nd New Jersey Orderly Book affirms the discovery of the "vain of prodigious fine black Flintstone" which prompted commanding officers to make inquiries for "any old Countrymen in their Corps who understand the hammering of flints."

Now that the field season has ended, the analysis of the results of the investigation will proceed. Recommendations will be made regarding some trail design alterations, however, as the proposed trail will have minimal subsurface impact, we look forward to the future when the handicap accessible trail will make this exciting historic mountaintop fortress accessible to all.

Royalton (continued)

least three buried surfaces or paleosols. Although difficult to initially separate, the paleosols and the analysis of a large portion of their contents will allow for an intimate understanding of the landform's past 6,000-year history. Radiocarbon dates should help to establish a more accurate chronology for the site. In conjunction with the UVM CAP study, geomorphologist Bob Brackenridge examined the site's natural and cultural stratigraphy and his results will certainly aid in our understanding of not only the natural context of the site but also that of the surrounding region.

Situated along an intermediate terrace above the Second Branch of the White River, the site's location and intensive use suggest that the smaller tributaries of the main stem of the White River served as valuable inroads to a broad area of resource exploitation and for travel and trade. From the Second Branch to the White River and then to the Connecticut River, one could easily travel south towards Long Island Sound or westward to the Hudson River drainage.

In conclusion, UVM CAP would like to thank George and Agnes Spaulding, the landowners, for their hospitality and permission to work on their property, the Vermont Agency of Transportation and to all of the visitors and local residents who visited the site and offered their support.

Book Review

Demarest, Amy B., *This Lake Alive: An Interdisciplinary Handbook for Teaching and Learning about the Lake Champlain Basin*, Shelburne, Vermont, Shelburne Farms, c1997. vii+502. Funding from the Lake Champlain Basic Program (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and the Christa McAuliffe Foundation. \$29.95.

reviewed by Joseph T. Popecki
VAS Treasurer

Serendipity! A happening during which one discovers something pleasing or useful in a place where one wouldn't expect to find it.

I was engaged in a periodic browsing through the

book collection of the Visitor's Center at Shelburne Farms. What Chittenden County resident could resist picking up a large paper-bound volume with the title, *This Lake Alive?*

That's right, I was paging through the book within about five seconds. The subtitle, "An Interdisciplinary Handbook for Teaching and Learning about the Lake Champlain Basin," didn't stop me. The book is published by Shelburne Farms and is written and edited by Amy B. Demarest. Bonnie Acker and Holly Brough supplied the line drawings, and Lou Boric did the photography.

There are 14 chapters, several of which should be of interest to professional and avocational archaeologists, whether or not teaching is part of your life. Here are some of the titles: "The Geologic History of the Lake Champlain Basin (it's mostly about rocks);" "The Geography of the Lake Champlain Basin," which compares the modern lake with the Champlain Sea; "The History of the Lake Champlain Basin," which moves from the days of the Native Americans to the present time; "It's About Time," which provides the timelines through the ages; and "Nautical Archeology in the Lake Champlain Basin."

The illustrations are beautifully simple, which enhances their value in communicating understanding to readers of all ages. All the aspects of the region are knit together to provide the total story of the Lake, from pre-history times to modern printed literature. The list of contributors will contain names familiar to most of us interested in Vermont's history. This one is worth a second look for your personal library.

Teachers may photocopy parts of the book for non-commercial use. There is no ISBN Number, but you can get further information from Shelburne Farms by calling (802) 985-8686.

Cost Analysis for Producing Public Outreach Videos for VAOT Archaeology Projects submitted by Duncan Wilkie VAOT Archeologist

(This information was compiled by Cathy Glidden, FHWA internship with the Vermont Agency of Transportation - Summer 2001. A "No-frills" video tape was produced from archaeological public outreach/ education (volunteers, summer camp, and field school) on the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway Project.)

Problem Statement: Thanks to recent amendments to historic preservation legislation and public outcry, the public at large is being involved more in more in planning and conducting state and federally sponsored highway projects in Vermont and throughout the country. At no other time has VAOT been more accountable to the public concerning how their tax dollars are being spent. This includes the results of archaeological mitigation conducted prior to constructing highways. It is thus absolutely vital that VAOT do its part in bringing the results of archaeological

projects to the public in a straightforward and easily presentable form. Short videos documenting the results of archaeological projects have the power to do this. The cost for producing professional style videos generally makes these prohibitive for our contractors. However, research conducted this summer by VAOT suggests that low budget videos can be produced relatively easily and inexpensively. The following cost analysis will outline the approximate costs involved in this process.

Suggested Result: It is suggested that contractors include a public outreach video as a project cost for Phase II archaeological projects or larger. The higher-end video production costs could be used for large-scale projects or those projects that are likely to have some sort of public controversy.

Lower Scale Cost Proposal for No-Frills Video:

Lower budget videos can easily be produced using a simple hand-held video camera. Footage taken in the field can then be edited in the simplest manner by purchasing a \$200 VCR with the capacity to do video editing and audio dubbing. Our research suggests that a simple 'no-frills' 20-minute video can be produced at a cost of only \$3,650 with \$1,000 in video equipment.

A good handheld digital video camera is light, versatile and easily carried to any project site. In order to keep costs at a minimum, contractors could train some of their archaeological staff to take footage during the course of an archaeological project. It would not be necessary to have a staff person dedicated to taking video footage, rather it could be included as part of the activities that a staff member could do during a regular field day. Batteries included with most hand held videos allow approximately 1½ hours of shooting time. Our research suggests that for a 2-week project, 1½ hours of video footage per day would be more than adequate to produce a 20-minute video.

Once in the office, the same staff member that shot the video in the field would ideally complete the video editing. This would cut down on project costs since the person would already be familiar with the project and the footage. He or she would also likely to have a better idea of which footage was the best quality. Since this is not always possible, it is recommended that the field photographer produce a log for the video footage while in the field to assist whoever may take over as video editor.

Estimated Cost of No Frills Video (based on 10-hour footage over a 2-week period): Minimum video equipment cost: JVC GR-SXM920U, JVC's best VHS-C digital camcorder, which includes software and cables; recommended retail price: \$799.95. JVC-compatible VCR with audio dubbing and video editing functions: \$200. Color TV for viewing video footage: \$200. Estimated total equipment cost: \$999.95.

Video production costs: Video photographer* \$30/hr x 1½ hrs/day x 10 days = \$450. Video editor (lab)* \$40/hr x 40 hrs = \$1,600. Final production (lab)* \$40/hr x 40 hrs = \$1,600. Other costs \$1,000. Total cost \$4,650.

* Salary based on cost for crew chief level archaeologist.

* Salary based on cost for draftsman.

* Salary estimates include overhead costs.

Equipment Costs for Higher Cost Public Outreach

Video: More elaborate, professional-quality video equipment can be bought to create more sophisticated video products. The *Mac* web site (<http://www.mac.com>) lists camcorders, software, and computers that allow you to perform a wide range of editing functions on your Mac. The software program in iMovie2 allows for the production of professional quality videos. It is compatible with iMac and is supported by most camcorders (<http://www.apple.com/imovie/shoot.html>). iMovie2 can be downloaded from The Apple Store at <http://store.apple.com> for \$49.

FireWire allows for desktop digital video editing that makes editing videos as simple as 1-2-3 and is compatible with Macs and PCs. *FireWire* allows for video capture directly from both DV camcorders and built-in *FireWire* (available on some *Macs*) allows the creation of broadcast-quality videos. For older computers, consumers can purchase *FireWire* drives. The Imation Tavern *FireWire* 20gb tape drive is specifically designed for digital video editors and can be used to backup completed projects. List: \$489 at The Apple Store.

For PC-based operations, a number of software programs are available that allow video editing. A great discussion group on comments and advice about digital video editing using Windows-based PCs can be accessed at <http://www.dvreview.com/dvboard/index.html>. Digital imaging software such as Premier 6 for PC's and Macs is available from Adobe. A free trial of Premier 6 can be downloaded at <http://www.adobe.com/products/premiere/demoreg.html>. Adobe Premiere 6.0 costs \$549.

The JVC web site lists a number of higher end/professional quality video cameras such as the DY-70U D-9 camcorder head (<http://www.jvc.com/proff/features>). This camcorder is lightweight, has excellent picture imagery and allows for a variety of sophisticated functions while filming. One of the camera's features allows for scenes to be edited while they are being shot - thus requiring no post-production. This camera also includes features such as an external mike to better focus in on desired sound in the field (camera listed at \$8,000).

While the initial investment in video equipment can be costly, sophisticated software can make the edit and production of videos simple and fast. Simple on-line tutorials can also provide basic information on how to create professional quality videos (see <http://www.mediacollege.com/resource/tutorials/index.html>). Additional resources for video production can be found at <http://www.videomaker.com/scripts/index.cfm> (full access to this site requires a subscription).

A complete system might look as follows (from the site <http://www.johnpr98.com>): 700 Celeron, Super Micro BX P6SBA (Intel chipset), 384mb RAM, 17gb Diamond Maxtor HDD 5400 (33), 40gb Diamond Maxtor HDD 5400 (33), Mitsumi CD Writer 2801 TE, Panasonic DVD SR 8584 - ADS *Firewire* Drive, USB Scanner, V90 Modem, ATI All in Wonder 128 16mb, Soundblaster AWE64, Windows 98 SE & Windows 2000 Dual boot, ADS Pyro 1394 *Firewire* Card, Ulead Video Studio 5 & MS Pro 6, Sony TRV120e camcorder. Rough estimate for the above system: \$3,500.

Archaeology Camp 2001, Colchester
by Dr. John G. Crock
Director, UVM CAP

In June 2001, the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) presented two week-long archaeology camps for children 8 to 12 years old as part of a larger public outreach effort for archaeology conducted for the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway (CCCH) project. The camps were designed to introduce the concepts of archaeological excavation techniques, record keeping and Native American lifestyles. A total of 39 campers from all over the northern Champlain Valley participated in the program held at Native American site VT-CH-201 in Colchester. Campers hailed from Bristol, Burlington, Cambridge, Colchester, Essex, Essex Jct., Hinesburg, Jericho, Milton, Montpelier, South Burlington, South Hero, Swanton, Underhill, and Westford.

The week-long camps were organized as follows:

Day 1. Introduction to archaeology and the site. Campers were introduced to topographic maps, orientation, and the history of the Colchester site (VT-CH-201). They were given a tour of the site and a lecture on archaeological excavation and then the campers were divided into two groups. One group stayed at the site and each camper was assigned a 1x1 meter unit to work on with a professional archaeologist. They remained at this unit for the week and each day spent at least two hours excavating at the site alongside UVM students, volunteers and professionals. Campers were given disposable cameras to document the week's of activities. The non-excavation activity on the first day involved making clay pots using coarse sand temper to strengthen the pots so that they might endure the firing that would take place later in the week.

Day 2. Native American Arts and Crafts. Judy Dow, an Abenaki artisan, spent the second day with the campers. She started with a show and tell, passing around baskets, tools and other items. The campers were encouraged to guess the uses of these items and spent time discussing what the native people ate, how they cooked and what they wore, among other cultural issues. They then made paper using tissue paper that resembled birch bark to use in later craft projects. Campers made ducks out of cattails and fishing hooks out of branches, stones, sinew and corn cobs and later were introduced to Native American games. Campers also were given the opportunity to throw spears using the atlatl (spear thrower), an activity that proved to be popular all week long.

Day 3. Basket making demonstration. On the third day, students were given a basket making demonstration by Abenaki basket maker, Jesse Laroque. Jesse brought a large black ash log to the camp and through demonstration and discussion, showed the campers how to make Native American baskets.



Day 4. Firing clay pots, games and archeology. Campers dug a hole and collected wood from the area to make a fire pit. The pots were then arranged on pieces of wood in the pit and covered it with hay to fire. Campers watched as most of the pots broke and began to understand the challenges of making strong, yet light, ceramic vessels. When the pieces cooled, campers sorted through the remains and tried to see if they could fit together any of the pieces to form a whole vessel. Campers played more of the games they had learned during the week as well as some others that tested what they had learned during the week.

Day 5. Visit to the UVM CAP lab and wrap up. On the last day, campers were given a tour of the UVM CAP laboratory and introduced to what goes on after archaeological field work is completed. They looked at animal skeletons from the faunal collection and the tools/equipment used for more in depth analysis of artifacts and soil from fire hearth features. They also were shown a video on stone tool making.

At the end of the camp, participants received camp T-shirts, certificates of completion, and were given the photographs they took during the week to bring home. The experience of working in the field on a real excavation made a significant impact on the kids and helped to emphasize the importance of archaeological investigation and scientific methods. The complementary activities helped bring to life the archaeological record and enabled the children to develop a greater appreciation for Native American lifeways and living Native Americans. Overall the camps presented a wonderful opportunity to educate both the campers and their parents and, by extension, the larger community about the prehistory of Chittenden County and the need to conduct archaeological investigation as part of the development process in today's society, specifically in advance of transportation projects like the CCCH. The day camp and larger public outreach program was supported by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Federal Highways Administration.

Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 663
Burlington, VT 05402-0663

Application for Membership or Renewal

NEW RENEWAL ADDRESS CHANGE

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

Signature

Please print of type:

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Dues Schedule (please check one)

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NOTE: The VAS does not sell the use of its membership list. However, we occasionally allow its free use by select organizations with announcements of specific interest to VAS members. Do you authorize us to share your mailing address with such organizations? YES NO

*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 (US Funds) payable to The Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc. and mail to:
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