



Newsletter of the VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Board Update

Since the September Newsletter, the Board has met twice, once at the Radisson Hotel on the waterfront in Burlington on Saturday, October 4th and the second time on Thursday, November 20th at the Charlotte Library. The Annual Fall Meeting was a success even though the attendance was the lowest we have had at any meeting, only around 30 people attended. The program was devoted to ceramics, specifically concentrating on Vermont archaeologists working within Vermont and beyond. We also voted three new members onto our Board: Francis "Jess" Robinson, Charles Knight and John Hamun.

At our November Board Meeting in Charlotte we had a long agenda of various topics ranging from a discussion of how to get more involvement from the VAS membership for meetings, projects and VAS sponsored events to VAS advocacy for preservation of archaeological sites. This was our first official Board Meeting since July so we had many topics to cover. We had a brief discussion about how we can communicate better with the membership. The outcome of this discussion resulted in generating an e-mail list of the membership to create a list serve, so that we can e-mail members VAS news and they can e-mail us what they want out of us, as a Board. A second topic we discussed was the type and number of VAS meetings per year. There has been low attendance at our spring and fall meetings over the past couple of years. With this in mind, we discussed only having one meeting per year. The general consensus was that two meetings per year were adequate. We want to try something new with the meetings and as for attendance we will now try to better advertise the meetings through the media.

Thirdly, Jess Robinson and I reported on our recent experience at ESAF's (Eastern States Archaeology Federation) annual meeting held in Mount Laurel, New Jersey at the beginning of November. This federation is supported by various societies throughout the eastern US. Jess Robinson was then elected by the Board as the VAS ESAF representative for 2004.

Last but not least, we are now in the process of trying to establish a list of guidelines that the VAS can follow for our sponsored projects. We are attempting to set up a VAS sponsored lab project in conjunction with state colleges and universities.

Our next meeting will be in January when we will reelect committees and officers. In the meantime, we would like to ask the membership what they would like out of us. We want to urge the membership to contact us with any comments or concerns through snail mail at our PO Box address or e-mail at emma@vfp.org.

—Emma Coldwell, Secretary



Cloverdale Site (see article page 4)

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General inquiries should be directed to the Secretary

From the Editors Desk. . .

As of this issue, the VAS Newsletter has a new Editor. Victor Rolando, who has been editing the Newsletter, has decided to concentrate on the Journal, which will become a yearly publication. I hope that I can continue his high standards.

With a new Editor comes a new outlook and a few (not very radical) changes. I am hoping to have the Newsletter come out quarterly. If I continue to receive submissions as I have so far, this timetable should be no problem.

New features will be appearing. A report from the Board of Directors will appear in every issue. The membership needs to be apprised of what the Board is doing in their name. Feedback is important, so if you like (or hate) what the Board is up to, let them know. If enough mail is received a *Letters to the Editor* column could be added.

Reports from the various agencies, organizations and companies doing archaeology in Vermont are going to be a regular feature. In this issue there are reports from Archaeological Consulting Team, Agency of Transportation and UVM Consulting Archaeology Program. Any other group wishing to submit a report of their activities should feel free to do so. I have a list of contributors, which I would like to expand.

Information on Conferences, Meetings or Lectures that will be upcoming would be a welcome addition to the Newsletter. The more information available to the membership the more informed they can be and the better advocates they will be for archaeology.

VAS is its members. Therefore, any information on individual members activities will be included. This can mean notification of papers given at meetings, awards received or individual projects undertaken.

This issue includes a book review by John Crock. Keeping the membership aware of the current literature in the field is an important part of the function of a newsletter. If you have a book or article recently published or know of one, please forward that information to the Editor.

Finally, I want comments. Compliments would be best, but criticism will be accepted. I want the Newsletter to be a conduit of information for the membership—and I want it to go both ways.

Write, e-mail or telephone with your comments and your contributions. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Georgeana Little, *Editor*

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Upcoming Events

January 2-5

Archaeological Institute of America
Annual Meeting—San Francisco, CA
archaeological.org

January 7-11

Society for Historical Archaeology
Annual Meeting—St. Louis, MO
sha.org

March 31-April 4

Society of American Archaeology
Annual Meeting—Montreal, PQ, Canada
saa.org

Contributions to this section are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

ACT Reflects on a Year of Archaeological Contributions to Vermont and Beyond

The slumping economy and poor weather of 2003 haven't stopped Archaeology Consulting Team, Inc. (ACT) from making contributions to archaeology in Vermont and the rest of the world.

ACT was asked to conduct another *History In Our Backyard* program in Westford, VT. For the past few months, students from the Westford Elementary School have been researching an archaeological site in the woods behind their classrooms (read more about the program on page 7).

This fall, ACT finished Phase II excavations at VT-CH-900 as part of the planned Winooski Downtown Redevelopment project in Chittenden County. The preliminary results suggest that VT-CH-900 contains evidence of each major period of Vermont's Native American history from the Paleo-Indian period through the Woodland period. ACT also encountered plenty of evidence of European American use of downtown Winooski, and the 1960s urban renewal project that created the existing downtown area surrounding the Champlain Mill. ACT began work at VT-CH-900 in 2000, and returned this year to complete mitigation of a series of Native American hearth features encountered during the Phase IB study. The development team and ACT have worked together to protect and preserve this site instead of conducting a full site mitigation. ACT is currently working to complete the laboratory work and analysis, and will prepare reports for an upcoming VAS newsletter and meeting.

Douglas Frink and Allen Hathaway's article, "Behavioral Continuity on a Changing Landscape" was published this year in *Geoarchaeology of Landscapes in the Glaciated Northeast: Proceedings of A Symposium Held at the New York Natural History Conference VI*. The paper discusses geomorphologic research and its implications for the study of Paleo-Indian period sites in Vermont and New England.

This year, ACT contributed to archaeology outside Vermont, too. In May, Douglas traveled to Pisa, Italy to present a paper, entitled "Examination of the Unexplored Balk Between Pedology and Archaeology," at the Second International Conference on Soils and Archaeology. The paper discusses overcoming cross-disciplinary boundaries to achieve a more thorough understanding of soils and the sites that they contain.

Douglas and Matthew Boulanger presented papers at the Fifth World Archaeology Congress in Washington D.C. earlier this July. The papers were presented in the session *Comparative Archaeology and Paleoclimatology: Sociocultural Responses to a Changing World*. Douglas authored and presented two papers. "Transforming Linear Limits into Dynamic Solutions: Changes in

Environmental Constraints and Cultural Adaptations" addressed the past, present and future of the relationship of environmental, climatic and archaeological research. "Taphonomic Processes Affecting Monumental Earthen Architecture as a Proxy for Climatic Change" examines the effects of climate, environment, humans and time on monumental earthworks and considered correlations between soil development and paleo-climatic data. Matt's paper, entitled "GIS Study of Settlement Structure in Response to Climatic Change During the TRB: Moravia, Czech Republic" examines the human response to climate change evidenced by settlement location and distribution during the Neolithic and Copper Age of Central Europe.

Douglas and Matt also prepared a summary report of their 2002 research in the Czech Republic for the 9th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (held in Saint Petersburg, Russia in September 2003). The paper, presented in the session *Archaeology of Burial Mounds*, was co-authored by Dr. Maximilian Baldia, Frink, and Boulanger. "Unique Methods, Unique Results? The 2002 excavation of Dzban Long-mound 1, Olomouc District, Czech Republic", detailed the results of using a pedological approach to examine the architecture of a Late Neolithic/Copper Age burial mound.

In the past year, ACT has integrated and synthesized this research data with our CRM projects to interpret Vermont's history in the broader world context.

—Matthew Boulanger

Membership Renewals

If the code on your membership label reads "02" or "03" you need to renew now.

Please use the form in this Newsletter to renew your membership.

In addition to the Newsletter, your membership (once renewed) entitles you to a copy of our yearly Journal.

To maintain your membership and receive the Journal RENEW NOW.

VTrans Archaeology Year in Review—2003

As most of you know, Vermont Agency of Transportation is active statewide in archaeological research to make sure all undertakings by the Agency do not adversely impact any significant archaeological resources. The Agency has two full-time archaeologists: VTrans Archaeology Officer, Duncan Wilkie and Senior Archaeologist, Jen Russell as well as Chris Slesar, an archaeologist working as an Environmental Specialist for the Southwestern Quarter of the State. Chris handles as much archaeology in that part of the State as his permitting duties will allow. This past summer an internship in archaeology was held by Ashley Andrews, a native of Salisbury, VT, and a recent graduate of the University of Maine-Farmington.

The southern half of the State this year was relatively quiet. University of Maine-Farmington is working on finishing up and getting out reports for the Bennington Bypass. The southern leg of the Bypass had been placed on "hold" by the legislature, so completion of fieldwork is in a holding pattern. The Bennington Bypass from the NY line to Rte. 7 remains under construction again this year with the construction of the Walloomsac River Bridge for which University of Maine conducted the archaeology at the well known Cloverleaf Site (VT-BE-233) and the Silk Road site (VT-BE-33) on the opposite side of the river. A total of 38 sites are involved with the Bypass. In the south-central part of the State, the Searsburg-Wilmington Rte. 9 project has been under the construction phase this year and last year. UVM-CAP did the archaeology on this project and it is summarized in two reports. VTrans archaeologists



Aerial View of the Cloverdale Site

looked at a number of waste and borrow areas for this large project in its second season of construction.

Further to the north, mitigation on the Grafton-Rockingham Rte. 121 project included an excellent display of professional photographs of the Cambridgeport Mill, the remains of a historic stone woolen mill. Jen Russell was responsible for directing this display in Bellows Falls as part of Vermont

Archaeology Month. On the western side of the State the Rte. 7 Brandon-Pittsford project is being permitted by Chris Slesar, and early in the summer a complete Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed for all



Cambridgeport Mill, Rockingham

remaining aspects dealing with archaeology, such as acquisition of Fort Vengeance Site, displays, archaeologist in-school residence, signage, etc. Hopefully, future funding will allow this work to start on the various tasks identified in the MOA.

In the Rutland area this summer Hartgen Archeological Associates completed Phase II testing at the Rutland Airport where a site was eventually considered not to be significant for nomination although originally showing promise in Phase I. Summer intern Ashley spent over a week at the Green Mountain National Forest Office in Rutland working with Dave Lacy (GMNF archaeologist) to compile a complete copy of site forms which will be entered into a statewide data base this winter. A total of 261 site forms were copied, but an additional 152 needed to be checked by Dave. VTrans hopes to combine these 413 GMNF sites into a statewide data base. Ashley worked all summer long getting site forms copied from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation as well. All of these site forms are VTrans' attempt to create a data base that will have all the known sites in Vermont in one electronic data base by sometime next year. This is a very ambitious task but a necessary one for future archaeology in Vermont. Last year, the Agency contracted with UM-F (300 sites) and UVM-CAP (1,971 sites) to enter a total of 2,271 sites

into the data base. By the end of October 2003, Ashley had paper copies of 1,240 additional archaeological site forms from Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to be entered this coming winter. Once these paper copies are electronically entered there will be 3,772 known archaeological sites in this data base. VTrans discovered that an additional 1,408 site numbers were given by DHP to archaeologists but no site form exists for them. We are hoping that archaeologists will fill out and return site forms for these sites, so they can be entered into the data base in the future. This winter VTrans hopes to contract out the remaining data entry and development of a printable electronic site form for archaeologists to use in the future.

In the central part of Vermont, Louis Berger Group conducted Phase I/II at an iron furnace site in East Middlebury along Rte. 125. Project engineers are working on design changes that would minimize most impacts to the historic site. University of Vermont conducted a Phase I study in North Ferrisburgh for a new highway garage along Rte. 7 and found nothing. University of Maine-Farmington's Phase III proposal for two sites along Rte. 125 in Cornwall was "tabled" while the engineers redesign the bridge crossing the Lemon Fair River to avoid most of one site and part of the other. The field work in this location is extremely difficult because the dense clayey soils require water screening of all site sediments. In late November, Hartgen Archaeological Associates conducted a Phase I testing around an 1850s structure in Stockbridge. The structure was slated for destruction before winter, so the work schedule had to be accelerated. Some of the interior contents will be donated to the local historical society.

The Southern Connector Project, which will connect I-89 to downtown Burlington, has been slowed down by evaluation of land on the north bank of the Barge Canal, which is a superfund site. University of Maine-Farmington and Werner Archaeological Consulting have been working the archaeology on this project for a number of years. UM-F's proposal for backhoe trenching in the remains of the north canal in the Barge Canal has had to go through EPA review and a difficult landowner situation. An on-location meeting with the landowner in late November has cleared the way for the archaeological assessment study. There is a high potential for buried shipwrecks in the filled-in canal or buried lakeshore sites. This area is proposed for the partial relocation of the railroad yard in Burlington.



North End of Barge Canal

A significant amount of archaeology was conducted by UVM-CAP on the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway (CCCH) in the Town of Colchester, the segment between the currently built portion and I-89 north of Burlington. The sections in Essex, Essex Junction and Williston had been completed for archaeology and the Williston section (from the built section to I-89 south across the Winooski River) was planned to go to construction starting late this fall. Due to a slight shift in alignment in Colchester, some Phase I and II (VT-CH-610) field work had to be done near the relocation of a radio station, a continuation of last summer's field work. Newly found sites included VT-CH-931, 932 & 933 which brings the total number of sites to 85 for this project. The public was informed of this archaeological study and became interested once evidence of Paleoindian artifacts were uncovered and reported in the press. Phase III field studies were done at these sites: VT-CH-240, 611, and 9179. In 2004, Sites VT-CH-241 and 612 will be excavated, so we anticipate some exciting new information. The Agency recently printed another 1500 copies of "An Introduction to Vermont Archaeology" which is a "public" version of all the prehistoric archaeology done between 1984-1992 on the CCCH project. Copies are available by calling the VTrans Archaeology Officer, DHP or UVM-CAP.

A lot of this year's archaeology was done in the northern part of Vermont. Hartgen conducted two airport studies in Caledonia County, and a third is started in Barre City. On the lake side of the State, UVM-CAP created the most excitement this year with the final Phase III study at VT-GI-26/32 on the Alburg side of the Rte. 78 Bridge crossing Lake Champlain. Previous studies had identified very late prehistoric artifacts that possibly dated to the 1500-1600s AD; but when they exposed just less than an acre of land, hundreds of postmolds appeared showing the presence of St. Lawrence Iroquois structures. This is the first confirmed evidence of Iroquois residences in the State of Vermont. Not all the fieldwork was complete, so UVM-CAP will return in the spring to finish the remaining field work in the project impact area.

Not too far away on the east shore of the Lake where Rte. 78 continues easterly through the Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge, UM-F returned again this year to conduct Phase II study at VT-FR-318. This site extends for a long distance along Rte. 78 from the Refuge's Headquarters easterly. UM-F developed a test pit safety device to place over excavated units so vehicles will not crash through into the hole in the ground. This was

necessary because of the high traffic volumes and the subsurface testing on the shoulder of the roadway. Excavations uncovered intact and complex layering of many occupations dating back to the Archaic Periods. The Rte. 78 project is to upgrade the roadway, which will most likely include burying part of the site under fill to elevate the road. Site sediments clearly extend under the existing highway and appear on both sides of the roadway. This section of Rte. 78 parallels the Missisquoi River and, located on the other side of the river, is the famous Jesuit Missionary site where Native American burials have been exposed whenever any land disturbance takes place.

The Agency of Transportation now maintains a collections storage facility for all archaeological information and artifacts accumulated during all phases of study. The facility is in East Montpelier at the State Surplus Warehouse off of Rte. 2. It is a secured facility with shelves and lights. All archaeological consultants



VTrans Collections Storage Facility, East Montpelier

working for the Agency must deposit all archaeological information at this facility. The statewide archaeology consultants working for the Agency have until the end of their current contract (2004) to make sure all information and collections are deposited in the E. Montpelier facility or funds are appropriate for that to happen before the termination of their contracts. Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and VTrans have produced a document entitled *"Preserving Vermont's Archaeological Collections"* which is available to the public. This document outlines where the collections are and what needs to happen to create a statewide archaeological research center.

The existing four statewide retainer contracts with the Agency will expire in 2004, so a new round of proposals will be requested in mid-2004. If you want more information on any of these projects please contact the VTrans archaeologists and consult the Agency's website <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/archaeology/design/default.htm>.

—Duncan Wilkie

University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program 2003 Field Season Update

The University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program has just concluded a highly productive and important field season. Excavations undertaken this year have and will continue to expand our shared knowledge about a number of prehistoric periods in Vermont ranging from the Paleoindian period through to the changing dynamics of cultures late in prehistory. The following update will highlight two important sites at either end of this timeline which have received particular attention from the public and the archaeological community.

The Mazza site, or VT-CH-9179, was initially identified in 1992 by the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program in Colchester during a surface survey of Sam Mazza's lower farm fields. The survey was being conducted for the VAOT in advance of construction on the Colchester section of the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway (CCCH). These fields, bordered on the east by a drainage formed by a tributary of Sunderland Brook, and on the south by Sunderland Brook proper, were identified as archaeologically sensitive with a high likelihood of containing Native American sites. Indeed, this proved to be the case as a spurred scraper or graver, indicating a possible Paleoindian affiliation, was recovered from a low knoll located approximately 30 meters from the eastern drainage edge.

After a decade hiatus, UVM CAP returned to the site in 2002 to conduct Phase II testing not far from the previous find spot. Focused on the alignment of a proposed offramp, testing in 2002 was extremely limited to areas immediately adjacent to the eastern terrace edge. Nevertheless, test pits soon yielded lithic debitage and several tools of a non-local, or "exotic" material subsequently determined to be Mt. Berlin "jasper", a flow-banded rhyolite primarily derived from mountain quarries in what is now Berlin, New Hampshire.

Returning a few weeks later to conduct additional Phase II excavations, the basal portion of a Berlin jasper late stage preform or knife was fitted to a previously recovered tip, forming a complete tool with a parallel oblique flaking pattern characteristic of the Paleoindian period. At the conclusion of Phase II testing, the aggregate evidence of a Paleoindian occupation indicated that the site was significant and eligible for the National Register. Given that the site could not be avoided, Phase III data recovery was recommended to salvage a sample of the site prior to highway construction.

UVM CAP returned once again to the site in August 2003 and carefully excavated 63 square meters during

ten days of field work. In total, 83.75 square meters were excavated during all three phases of work.

Though laboratory analysis has yet to be undertaken, initial impressions from the recovered artifacts attest to the importance of the Mazza site in both a regional and national context. The Mazza site represents the first systematically excavated Late Paleoindian site (ca. 9500-9000 BP) in Vermont, and one of only a few in the greater Northeast region. This affiliation is confirmed by the discovery of three basal portions of Plano-like lanceolate projectile points, and a portion from at least one other point. In addition, approximately fifty other tools were recovered, including knives, choppers, end and side scrapers, and at least one drill. Interestingly, it appears that approximately 85%-90% of recovered artifacts are Berlin rhyolite, with local Hathaway formation chert and Cheshire quartzite comprising only a small percentage of the artifact inventory.

Much more laboratory analysis must be conducted in order to elaborate on these initial findings, yet the importance of the Mazza site already is being recognized by the archaeological community and beyond. We look forward to sharing our future research with you on this exciting and important discovery. We would also like to thank the Vermont Agency of Transportation for the opportunity to study this site, and the Mazzas for their support and interest in our work.

Immediately following excavations at the Mazza site, UVM CAP conducted eight weeks of extended Phase III data recovery at the Bohannon site, a late prehistoric settlement located in East Alburg, Grand Isle County. The UVM CAP had previously conducted excavations at this important site in 1988, 1999 and 2000. Based on the results of past testing, it was determined that significant information was present at the site. Specifically, the site represents the first St. Lawrence Iroquoian site to be systematically studied in the state of Vermont. The 2003 fieldwork focused on collecting information pertaining to the site's internal structure, age, size and material remains. Typical field methods were employed to achieve these goals.

The 2003 fieldwork began with mechanical and hand stripping of the plow zone over almost an acre of the project impact area (the proposed approach to the new bridge over Mississquoi Bay). Following this, the entire surface was hand cleaned and all possible features and postmolds were mapped, resulting in the identification of over 100 features and 800 potential postmolds. To aide in the interpretation of the site's structure, a crane and bucket were used for aerial

photographs. A majority of the cultural features were then excavated, and as time and weather dictated, excavation strategies were adapted. Collecting 100% of the feature sediment matrix remained a constant practice throughout. Ultimately, approximately 5 tons of feature sediment were collected and returned to the UVM CAP laboratory where it will be water screened and floated – a process that already has begun. Due to high water levels, a small portion of the exposed site remains to be excavated in the upcoming year.

Following identification of probable postmolds, most were bisected to determine their authenticity. Some were determined to be natural but most were postmolds associated with the Native American settlement. Analysis of postmold diameter, shape, depth below stripped surface, association with features and patterning has begun in the laboratory. At a minimum, several structures appear to be represented.

Based on the 2000 fieldwork which was focused, as we now know, on a small portion of the site, the age of the site through radiocarbon dating was determined to be somewhere between ca. 1350-1650 A.D. Collecting data to establish a more precise age, as well as an occupational chronology, was a main objective of the 2003 fieldwork. Carbonized floral remains recovered from all excavated features and several postmolds will likely answer questions about site formation processes. Was the site occupied for a short period, continuously for hundreds of years, or was the site occupied periodically? Interpreting this data will undoubtedly go a long way toward understanding the site's function.

Lastly, the data obtained from the 2003 fieldwork will add to the past field and lab studies. Data classes, including information about diet, technology and ceramic typology among others, will be further fortified and expanded. With this important new data, coupled with all of the past archaeological work undertaken in the Mississquoi Bay region, our understanding of the people and the environment in

which they lived will be better understood and appreciated. In particular, the Bohannon site offers a rare opportunity to study Native American cultural dynamics just prior to the arrival of Europeans in the region.

We would like to take this opportunity to express UVM CAP's appreciation to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for their opportunity to study the Bohannon site, to Nancy and Ed Christopher, the landowners, and to the many volunteers and members of the public who visited and worked at the site.

—Geoffrey A Mandel, John G. Crock,
and Francis W. Robinson IV



UVM CAP crew excavating features
at the Bohannon site

Significance In Westford Archaeology



The Archaeology Consulting Team, Inc. is again partnering with the Westford Elementary School to conduct the *History In Our Back Yard* program. As first reported in the Vermont Archaeological Society Newsletter (Frink and Allen 1993), the *History In Our Back Yard* Program consists of professional archaeologists teamed with classroom teachers and students to conduct studies of actual archaeological sites located on school property. The program runs the full school year, and enhances existing curricula through hands on experiential learning. Liberally following the "Enrichment Triad" model (Renzulli and Reis 1985), the program offers an enriching opportunity for fifth and sixth grade students in the fields of science, geography, social studies, mathematics, as well as computer use and teamwork skills. VT-CH-692, a Native American site first identified in 1996 during the first Westford *History In Our Back Yard* (WHIOBY) program (Frink 1997), serves as the focus of study.

The program begins with a walk-about the 50 acre school property, where the students are introduced to the geomorphologic history of their playground, which some 14,200 years ago was the shoreline of Glacial Lake Vermont, Fort Ann Stage. The composition of forest communities and their associated soil types become topics of Socratic discussions. The students learn to make connections between discovered animal tracks and scat, and the particular niches that certain animals prefer within this forest mosaic. At the end of the walk-about, the students discover their site, which, as with the Paleo-shoreline, the forests and animals, has a context on the landscape.

Although anxious to dig and discover the "treasures" of their newly found site, the students, must first work out their plan for a scientifically sound excavation. The importance of context, discovered during the walk-about, is applied at the microscale. The excavations, and discovered material, must have a context within an established grid of meter squares. Sounds simple, but how does one actually make a square, one that is perfect and true? Through brief studies of early Chinese, Greek and Egyptian geometry we learn how past cultures have also had to solve this problem. The importance of the number sequence of 3, 4, and 5 (what most of us have learned only in terms of the Pythagorean Theorem), the Golden Mean, and Square Roots are introduced within their cultural context.

Once armed with a methodology and a goal of perfection, the team returns to their site to lay out the grid of meter squares. At first, the normal student behavior of "close enough" is employed in their measurements. It is at this stage of the program that the team-leading professional archaeologists set the level of expectations for scientific studies. Close enough is not acceptable, and the developing scientists are given opportunity to redo their grids. Once learned, this high level of expectation is carried over into all subsequent phases of the program.

Excavations commence the following week. The teams, prepared with the knowledge of soil horizons gained during the walk-about, and challenged by the quality expected of them, discover the complexity to be found in a hole in the ground. Flakes from stone tool manufacture are collected, along with virtually every stone



that catches their fancy – “Well, it looks like it might be a tooth.” The Taphonomic processes that affect a site are also observed through the discovery of woolly bear caterpillars and toads burrowed in for their winter’s sleep.

As the weather turns cold, the team moves indoors where the classroom is transformed into an archaeological laboratory. Everything collected and provenienced during the excavation is washed – yes, even the piece of water worn quartz that looked like a tooth. Learning to differentiate between cultural artifacts and all the other things collected requires some focused scientific experimentation. During one session, flint knapper Matt Boulanger demonstrates the tools and methodology of stone tool manufacture using the same material found at our site – Cheshire quartzite and Clarendon Springs chert. Flakes, the kids learn, have specific morphological characteristics; bulbs of percussion, thinness and yes, some discovered that they are sharp enough to cut fingers. A second lab session focused on cooking without pots or pans. In a synthetic experiment we used marbles (boiling stones) heated on a hot plate (our hearth). Once hot, the marbles were placed into a Tupperware container (our birch bark pot) filled with water (our soup). Temperature measurements were taken both before and after transferring the marbles to the Tupperware to assess the effectiveness of this cooking technology. We all agreed that today’s microwave ovens are much quicker, and as we discovered, much cleaner. Due to the thermal stress placed on our marbles, they cracked and shattered, like small scale replicas of many of the broken quartz and quartzite cobbles recovered at the site.



Over the rest of this winter the artifacts will be catalogued, and entered into a database for analysis, and research into the lifeways of Vermont’s earlier inhabitants will be conducted using both Native stories and written essays. Abenaki guest speakers will join us for discussions, questions, and demonstrations.

One last task awaits the WHIOBY team. It is the obligation of all scientists to report their findings to the public. Each student, or group of students, will produce a report of the 2003-4 study at VT-CH-692. The venue and style of report will be selected by the students, and may take any form—booklets, art projects, theater productions, prose, or computer programs—the only limitation will be their imagination and ability to bring the final product to completion. I would not be too surprised to see one of these reports in the Spring 2004 issue of the Vermont Archaeological Society Newsletter.

Particularly in CRM, we think of an archaeological site in terms of its significance as defined under Federal statutes. Significance is not an inherent trait of a site that can be identified upon discovery. Rather, significance is an attribute we assign a site according to its potential or actual use. Public outreach programs that involve hands on participation imbue the site, and the discipline of archaeology, with a greater level of significance.

—Douglas S. Frink

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Membership Application/Renewal

☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Category (please check one):

- R ☐ Individual—\$15
F ☐ Family—\$25
SE* ☐ Senior—\$10
ST† ☐ Student—\$10
C ☐ Contributing—\$50
L ☐ Life—\$250
P ☐ Philanthropic—\$1,000
IN ☐ Non-profit Institutional—\$25
IP ☐ For-profit Institutional—\$50

*Senior: 65 years or over

†Students must be full-time and provide photocopy of active student ID card.

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