



# Newsletter of the VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Atlatl Championship—Chimney Point State Historic Site

September 18, 2004 marked the ninth Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship at the Chimney Point State Historic Site. This perennially well-attended Vermont Archaeology Month event attracted 141 visitors, including spectators, volunteers, demonstrators of Native American skills and crafts, and 38 contestants from the surrounding New England states and New York. This year's event drew extra publicity. It was designated a Top Ten Fall Event by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and was filmed by Maine Public Television for their *Quest* science series. An active hurricane season threatened rain the Friday before the competition, but conditions cleared for Saturday's spear-throwing contests. Men, women, and youths competed in accuracy and distance events for wooden "medals" in honor of this Olympic year. The gold medal winner in the youth category, Vermonter Lewis Fox (*see photo*), went on to outshoot the winners of the men's and women's categories for the Grand Champion Award provided by the World Atlatl Association.



Each year, the site also hosts an International Standard Accuracy Competition (ISAC) in which atlatlists throw at a standardized target from 15 and 20 meters. ISACs are held worldwide and allow competitors to compare scores. VAM's second ISAC was held on Sunday and yielded the highest scores of the weekend. Atlatlists of all levels are welcome. Some are true novices who construct their atlatl and darts at Bob Berg's workshop held the Friday before the event or for John Peterson's Rutland High School Anthropology class. VAS members Scott Dillon, Jim Petersen, and Charlie Knight returned to serve as championship judges. Please join us next year for the tenth anniversary of the Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship on September 17th and 18th, 2005.

—Casey L. Carmolli  
Site Interpreter, Chimney Point State Historic Site  
Co-coordinator, Vermont Archaeology Month

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General inquires should be directed to the Secretary



From the Editors Desk. . .

Once again, I need to apologize and correct a mistake that appeared in this column in the last issue. In discussing VAM, I inadvertently named Prudence Doherty as the Webmaster for the VAS Web site. Prudence was in charge of getting the information on VAM uploaded, but our Webmaster has been, and remains, Sarah Hadd. I apologize to Sarah for demoting her. I understand the time and effort needed to maintain a Web site and appreciate all she has done and continues to do.

This issue is a little sparse. The end of the field season, the advent of the Holidays, and the general lethargy that seems to overtake us all at the beginning of winter have contributed to a dearth of material.

An article on this year's atlatl competition is included. This was the first year I was able to attend the event, and despite less than optimal weather, it was interesting and exciting. I recommend it to all members.

With the active encouragement of Matt Boulanger, a (fairly) new Board Member, the VAS is organizing a Cataloging Committee. We hope this will be a way to promote archaeology throughout Vermont and to get members actively involved in the Society. Please read Matt's article (page 3) and consider volunteering to help in this new venture.

Alden Oliver, another new Board Member, introduces us to the Marvin Collection. This eclectic collection of "stuff" is in danger of being broken up, despite its donor's wishes, and scattered. The VAS, along with Essex Junction and UVM are collaborating in an attempt to keep the collection in Vermont.

A short article about the Spring Meeting rounds out this issue of the Newsletter. Although well attended, only a small percentage of VAS members were present. Following this note, there is an announcement received at the last minute from the NPS which should be of interest to the membership. The Board (and the Editor) welcome feedback from the members. Please contact any Board Member with your concerns or questions. If you have suggestions for meeting speakers or locations please let us know.

Georgeana Little, Editor  
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National Park Service's 2005 Archaeological  
Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2005 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled *Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will be held May 16-20, 2005, at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources. The workshop will focus on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, interpretation, and on-hands use of the equipment in the field. Special topic for this year is the introduction of geophysical techniques in archaeological excavations. In addition to the workshop, there will be an equipment fair on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a tuition charge of \$475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/>>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: <[steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov)>.



## VAS Cataloging Committee Forms

During a recent survey of Vermont's privately and publicly held archaeological collections<sup>1</sup>, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers interviewed Ms. Gainor Davis and Ms. Jacqueline Calder from the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) regarding archaeological collections held by the society. Ms. Davis stated that the VHS was "Interest[ed] in developing educational programs and exhibits utilizing the collections." Although the VHS had previously attempted to coordinate such programs and exhibits, their efforts had been impeded by the lack of a catalog and inventory of their holdings. At that time, due to financial and staffing constraints, VHS was unable to begin such a catalog.

This situation is by no means unique. Libraries, schools, historical societies, and private individuals across the state possess a variety of archaeological materials that are not accessed by students, educators, researchers, and most importantly, the general public. Without a formal survey, there is no way to estimate the extent of artifact collections across the state, but I'm guessing that as you're reading this article, you're thinking of at least one collection that is gathering dust in someone's den, a library's basement, or a historical society's holdings. Wouldn't it be great if that collection was available for viewing and study?

The VAS can offer a unique program for organizations and individuals that maintain collections of archaeological artifacts. The VAS membership, a mixture of educators, both avocational and professional archaeologists, and people who have a heartfelt desire to learn about the past, is ideally suited to conduct educational programs that serve the general public and provide information to those interested in archaeology. The VAS membership can cooperatively work with organizations and individuals to catalog and inventory their artifact collections. In the case of formal institutions, such as historical societies, libraries, etc., the VAS can also aid in designing and implementing educational uses for their collections.

Currently, five VAS Board members have volunteered to help coordinate this project, but five people cannot possibly do all the work that needs to be done. In my opinion, the key to success will be to involve the VAS membership in both planning and carrying out this program. Are you a VAS member who has been looking for a way to get involved? Maybe you want to help us organize this project, or maybe you'd just like to help with cataloguing artifacts. If you don't know much about artifacts, but want to learn, we'll be glad to teach you. Even if you aren't sure what you'd be able to do, but you're looking for a way to get more involved with the VAS and your local community, we can find a niche for you. As long as you have an interest in archaeology, and are willing to donate a little time, we would appreciate your help.

Some ways that you might be able to be a part of this program:

- Contacting institutions: everybody visit their local library or Historical Society!
- Cataloguing: includes measuring, weighing, description
- Photography
- Data entry/Data Transcription
- Public outreach: We need to explain what we're doing and why
- Presentation of data: Tired of seeing the same old faces up in front at the VAS meetings? Maybe it's time to speak up with your own voice.

If you'd like to get involved, or would like to know a little bit more about what we're doing, please feel free to contact me by telephone, post, or e-mail.

—Matt Boulanger

*Archaeological Consulting Team*

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2003 *Preserving Vermont's Archaeological Collections: Background and Feasibility Study for a Vermont Archaeological Heritage Center*. Prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Curation and Archives Analysis Branch, St. Louis, MO. Prepared for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Montpelier, VT.

### Membership Renewals

If the code on your membership label reads "03" or "04" 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.*

New members are also encouraged to use the enclosed form to join in order to keep abreast of archaeology in Vermont.



## The Marvin Collection



Dr. David Marvin collected over 3,000 Native American Indian artifacts from his grandfather's farm in Alburg, Vermont. Various tools and projectile points were found by his family and Dr. Marvin himself. Other tools, pottery, effigies, pipes, and points were acquired by Dr. Marvin before he opened his collection to the general public in 1950.

As a founder of the Essex Trust Bank, Dr. Marvin was able to display his collection to the public in the bank lobby. When Dr. Marvin died, his artifact collection was willed to the Village of Essex Junction for the "benefit, for educational purposes [of] the general public and most especially all the inhabitants of

Essex Junction". Prior to Dr. Marvin's death, the Essex Trust had merged with the Howard Bank. For various reasons, the collection was moved from the bank lobby to the Albert D. Lawton Middle School. Under the stewardship of Principal Stanley Knapp, the collection was actively used by interested students. Following Principal Knapp's retirement, the Marvin Collection appears to have been primarily for display, housed in seven glass cases at the entrance to the guidance office.

Suffering from general disinterest and minor neglect, the collection was available, but not an active asset. Renovations to the school during 2003-2004 placed the collection at risk. School officials and the Prudential Committee requested the artifacts be removed to another non-school location.

The Village of Essex Junction took this opportunity to contract the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program to inventory, photograph, initiate a catalog, and package the collection for transport to storage at the Village vault. This work was accomplished in April 2004 and the collection remains in storage today.

Recognizing their responsibility to carry out Dr. Marvin's bequest, the Trustees of the Village of Essex Junction asked their Village Manager, Mr. Charles Safford, to investigate



and coordinate the search for a new location to house the collection. Mr. Safford organized a Task Force of interested parties including, Dr. James Petersen (UVM), Giovanna Peebles (State Archaeologist), Phillip Kolvoord (Dr. Marvin's attorney), Kelly Ross (Banknorth ), Beth Ward (Prudential Committee), Matthew Boulanger (VAS) and myself, Alden Oliver. Currently this group is actively working with Mr. Safford to answer the challenge of how to best execute Dr. Marvin's intent. Consultations are ongoing, with a strong propensity to transfer the collection to the University of Vermont where a small portion of the collection will likely be displayed at a forthcoming permanent exhibit at UVM's Fleming Museum.



If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments concerning this situation—"that this collection shall be forever kept intact and well-preserved and shall be used exclusively for a public, educational and charitable purpose and under no circumstances be used for profit"—please contact me, or any VAS Board member.

—Alden Oliver  
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Photos courtesy Alden Oliver

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## VAS Spring Meeting 2004

The VAS Spring Meeting was held on October 2, 2004, as the final event of Vermont Archaeology Month. The meeting, at Mann Hall Auditorium on the Trinity Campus of the University of Vermont, was well attended.



Casey Carmolli

After brief opening remarks, Casey Carmolli, Co-Coordinator of Vermont Archaeology Month, gave a recap of the events of September 2004.

Duncan Wilkie, VTrans Archaeology Officer, discussed "Preserving Vermont's Archaeological Collections, Feasibility Study for a Vermont Archaeological Heritage Center". This topic provoked a lot of discussion from audience members, including Giovanna Peebles, State Archaeologist, and Douglas Frink from Archaeological Consulting Team. This subject will be returned to in the future.



Duncan Wilkie

After a short break, Kate Kenny, from the Consulting Archaeology Program at the University of Vermont, brought us up to date on the recent burials found on North Street. Most of the information on these important finds has been communicated through the popular press, so a more scholarly presentation was appreciated.



Kate Kenny

The morning concluded with Victor Rolando discussing the future of Industrial Archaeology in Vermont. He was both hopeful and pessimistic.



Vic Rolando

In the afternoon, Rod McIntosh of Rice University talked about "High Crimes and Lowly Archaeologists: Being an Account of my Travels Amongst the ART-DRUGS-ART tribesmen". This intriguing talk introduced many of us to the use of archaeology in money laundering and the illicit drug trade.

The day concluded with a tour of the new CAP facilities.



Rob McIntosh

Photos courtesy of Joseph Popecki

## VAS during VAM

This year, The Vermont Archaeological Society, in addition to sponsoring the Atlatl Championship, manned an interpretative table at Chimney Point. Several VAS members were present to answer questions from the public about archaeology in general, and Vermont archaeology in particular. Board Member Matt Boulanger was able to identify and interpret several artifacts brought in by interested people. Some artifacts defied interpretation, but the attempt seemed to be important to the participants. This was the first time that VAS has attempted direct outreach to the public through this type of interpretive project. We hope to continue this experiment in the future.



Board Members Georgeana Little, Matt Boulanger, and Brigitte Helzer at Chimney Point State Historic Site

The Vermont Archaeological Society was also represented at Kid's Day at Mt. Independence on September 25th with an informational table and likewise at Dr. Brian Fagan's lecture in Montpelier on September 28th.



Atlatl contestants at Chimney Point.



University of Maine, Farmington archaeologists conduct a tour of their excavation at Cornwall.



VAS Vice President Scott Dillon speaking to a group of students at Addison County Conservation Days on September 13th.



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**Membership Application/Renewal**

New     Renewal     Address Change

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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.

Make check (US Funds) payable to The Vermont Archaeological Society and mail to P. O. Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402-0663

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

Anyone wishing a membership card, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.  
You may photocopy this form.