



Newsletter of the **VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Number 101

ISSN 1043-1918

June 2005

Annual Spring Meeting Billings Farm & Museum • April 9, 2005

This year's spring meeting was held in Woodstock at the Billings Farm and Museum. Approximately fifty were in attendance. The day began with a welcoming message from David Donath, President of the Woodstock Foundation and Director of the Billings Farm & Museum, followed by a brief film outlining the history and mission of the Foundation.

The first talk, by Matthew Boulanger of Archaeological Consulting Team, was entitled "Thinking Outside the Rocks: Using High-Tech Methods to Understand Lithic Scatter and Ground Stone Tools." He argued for the use of chemical analysis of stone tools to determine provenience in order to map movement and use patterns within the region. Thomas Jamison of Hartgen Archaeological Associates followed with "The Summit Site and the Passage Site, Town of Alburg, Grand Isle County, Vermont." This presentation is summarized elsewhere in this newsletter (p. 3). Charles Paquin followed, discussing "An Experimental Investigation into the Process of Firing Early Prehistoric Ceramics." He presented the results of several test firings on local clays designed to determine the likely cause(s) of differences between pottery of different eras.

Attendees were encouraged to explore the grounds of the Museum during the lunch break, which was followed by "Canalers Afloat Once Again: Bringing the History of Canal Boat Life Alive" presented by Scott McLaughlin of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Scott emphasized that archaeology should be part of the school curriculum and outlined how the Maritime Museum has integrated archaeology into the new curriculum guidelines. "Using Ground Penetrating Radar to Locate Unmarked Burials along Monument Road in Swanton and Highgate", was presented by Dave Skinas of the National Resources Conservation Service. He has attempted to locate burials non-intrusively using ground penetrating radar and the latest software. His results so far have been encouraging.

continued on page 4

See us online www.vtarchaeology.org

In this Issue

Annual Spring Meeting	1	Membership Application	6
Field School Opportunity	4	The Summit Site and the Passage Site	3
From the Editors Desk	2	Your National Forest Welcomes Comments	5

Officers & Directors
2005/2006

<i>President</i>	Emma Coldwell 802/373-9775 emma.coldwell@uvm.edu
<i>Vice President</i>	Brigitte Helzer 802/425-3719 bahelzer@gmavt.net
<i>Secretary</i>	Francis "Jess" Robinson IV 802/656-4310 frobinso@uvm.edu
<i>Treasurer</i>	Joseph T. Popecki 802/863-4121 popecki@globalnetisp.net
<i>Journal Editor</i>	Victor Rolando 928/453-6907 vrolando@maddog.net
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Georgeana Little 802/644-5675 gmlittle@sover.net

Board of Directors

Matt Boulanger	R. Scott Dillon
John Ham	Charles Knight
Alden Oliver	Jeannine Russell

General inquires should be directed to the Secretary

See us online
www.vtarchaeology.org

From the Editors Desk. . .

This just in... Vic Rolando, our Journal Editor (we hope) has returned to Arizona. After moving to Arizona in the Fall, he returned to Vermont in the Spring. He decided that cold was better than hot. Health reasons forced him to return to the desert. I'm sure everyone wishes him well and hopes he can return to Vermont, where he belongs, at some time in the future.

A couple of announcements:

Elsa Gilberston of Mount Independence State Historic Site, with Matt Boulanger and Allen Hathaway of Archaeological Consulting Team, have developed a display on **Mount Independence Chert** which they will be exhibiting at Mount Independence this season.

The VAS will have two displays at the **Vermont History Expo** in Tunbridge on June 25th and 26th. Our normal booth will be devoted to artifact identification. If you have an artifact you would like dated or explained, bring it by on either day and one of our experts will try and answer your questions. In addition to the booth, this year, along with the Department for Historic Preservation, we will conduct a small test excavation on the grounds in Tunbridge on Saturday. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions Any artifacts found will be displayed at the DHP booth on Sunday.

This is a short Newsletter. The highlights of the Spring meeting are included as well as a longer article on one of the papers, about two sites in Alburg. There is also an update on the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

As always, a membership application/renewal is included. If you haven't paid your 2005 dues yet, you can use this form and be up-to-date.

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
P. O. Box 8,
Cambridge, VT 05444-0008

The Summit Site and the Passage Site Town of Alburg, Grand Isle County, Vermont

In November and December 2004 Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. (HAA, Inc.) was contracted by Phelps Engineering, Inc. to conduct Phase IB archeological reconnaissance survey for the proposed South Alburg Fire District #2, Town of Alburg, Grand Isle County. The project is sponsored by the South Alburg Fire District #2 to provide water service to the southern part of the Town of Alburg. Water lines are proposed along the side of many roads in the town. In addition, an access road, water pipe alignment and water storage tank are proposed for a high ridge on the peninsula. Phase IB testing to date has encountered 10 archeological sites. Two of these sites are clearly eligible for listing on the National Register. The remaining sites need more work to make that determination or are not eligible based on disturbance.

The Summit Site (VT-GI-49)

The access road and pipe alignment to the storage tank are proposed to be placed along the western edge of the high ridge that forms the high point of the Alburg peninsula. The Summit Site was initially encountered in one shovel test of a transect of tests excavated at 10 meter intervals along the route of the access road to the storage tank site. Shovel Test 11 encountered several fragments of Native American pottery and some animal bone fragments in Level 1, very close to the surface. The largest pottery fragments are decorated with incising along the inside, outside and top of the vessel rim. Smaller fragments from a vessel body from the same level exhibit a check stamped decoration and may or may not be from the same vessel. The bone is unburned and was determined to be animal bone in the field by Erin Kling, HAA, Inc. osteologist.

Confirmation tests were excavated at 5 meter intervals around Test 11 and one, Test 31 excavated 5 meters to the southwest encountered additional pottery of a smaller vessel but with similar rim decoration accomplished through cord-wrapped stick impression. During a second week of testing additional tests were excavated at the Summit Site in an attempt to provide some definition of site boundaries. These tests extended in transects out

from Tests 11 and 31 to the southeast, northeast and southwest. Tests 177 and 191 each encountered one small undecorated pottery sherd. Both tests were located about 17 meters to the northeast of Test 11. In addition, Test 166 encountered a thin lens of charcoal at the base of the A horizon and Test 207 encountered a reddened subsoil on one side of the test. No artifacts were found in association with either deposit, but they may represent precontact features. Both of these tests are located southeast of Test 11 within about 15 meters.

The Passage Site (VT-GI-50)

The Passage Site is located along the project area of potential effect on the west side of Poor Farm Road. In this location shovel tests were excavated at 10 meter intervals in a transect at the top edge of the roadside ditch furthest from the road. Tests 52, 53, 55 and 56 encountered precontact materials. From south to north, Test 52 encountered a small chert flake in the A horizon. Test 53 encountered the bit of a ground stone adze and several expedient tools made from quartz, a shaley chert and an unidentified material in the A horizon. Test 55 encountered precontact materials 34 cm below the surface. These materials included cord-wrapped stick impressed pottery, chert flakes, a red slate projectile point, a fragment of calcined bone and fire cracked rock. In addition, the test encountered a human burial. The test exposed the top of the cranium and several phalanges of a hand resting against the skull. The outline of the burial pit was visible and a stone capping the burial at the shoulder was partly exposed. Once the bones were determined to be human, Scott Dillon of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation contacted April Rushlow of the Abenaki Self-Help Association. All of the skeletal materials were left in place and the burial was precisely located according to local landmarks. The artifacts in Test 55 appear to not be associated with the burial, but present as part of the surrounding site deposits. In particular, the fine preservation of the bones indicates a Late Woodland date for the burial while the pottery is Late Woodland and the adze and red slate point are diagnostic of the Late Archaic period, c. 4,050 to 850 BC. Test 56 encountered a fragment of a rough chert biface in the A horizon.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

The topography of the Passage Site slopes gently down to the road. The original topography may have continued in a gentle slope to the top of the bank that drops down to the lake. Therefore, it is possible that the site deposits extend intact under the road. This possibility must be considered in planning for avoidance of the burial and site deposits and will be investigated in the Spring 2005.

Dr. James B. Petersen of the University of Vermont visited the Summit Site and the Passage Site during the week of November 15 and identified the pottery from both sites as Late Woodland period in age. Pottery from the Passage Site is early Late Woodland in age, ca. A. D. 1000-1300, while that from the Summit Site is late Late Woodland in age, specifically related to the St. Lawrence Iroquoian in design and dating to approximately AD 1400-1500. This identification follows the recent work by UVM-CAP at the Bohannon Site in northeast Alburg, adding to the thesis that a Saint Lawrence Iroquoian population was present in the vicinity at least during the Late Woodland Period.

Other Sites and Conclusions

Of the additional sites encountered in the 2004 season, one is a precontact site of unknown date, two have both precontact and middle 19th-century artifacts and five are middle to late 19th-century deposits or features. Redesign of the project is being explored in an effort to avoid as many of these sites as possible. During the 2005 season further Phase IB testing will be conducted for other portions of the project and Phase II studies may be conducted on some of the known sites.

Thomas R. Jamison, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.

continued from page 1

Dave Lacy of the Green Mountain National Forest presented "Remember Me As You Pass By: Historic Cemetery Maintenance in the Cultural Landscape of the Green Mountain National Forest." He, along with Sheila Charles, who was unable to be present, have created a mechanism to locate and maintain cemeteries, some long forgotten, within the National Forest.

The final talk of the day was by Ellie Cowie of the University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Resource Center entitled "From the Archaic to the Woodland: The Archaeology of the Passamaquoddy Site - Ntolonompemk 'Our Ancestor's Place', Meddybemps, Maine." She skillfully explained the archaeology and geology of this complicated site.

The Fall Meeting will be on October 1, 2005 at the Sheraton in Burlington. All members are encouraged to attend.

—Georgeana M. Little

ANNOUNCEMENT

**RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AT
THE NEVILLE II SITE
NH STATE CONSERVATION AND
RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM
2005 SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL
MANCHESTER, NH
JUNE 28—AUGUST 5, 2005**

Contact Richard Boisvert
NH Division of Historical Resources
603-271-6433
rboisvert@nhdhr.state.nh.us

See us online www.vtarchaeology.org

Your National Forest Welcomes Comments on its Draft/Revised Land Management Plan

Lands and resources—including historic and archaeological sites—on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) are managed in accordance with Federal laws (of course) and, more specifically, according to supplemental details and direction provided in our more local Land & Resource Management Plan (LRMP). Our current LRMP was created in the 1980s and is due—legally and logically—for a Revision, reflecting new laws, new science and new public perspectives on how best to manage this resource held in common for all citizens.

Over the last two years, the GMNF has held over 75 public meetings across the state to gather input about how we should be managing the Forest, and what things about our Plan could be improved. Based on these public comments, observations solicited from other professionals, and our own internal analyses, we generated five Alternative scenarios for a new Plan, a Draft EIS which evaluates the impacts of these Alternatives, and then selected one Alternative to present as our Draft Revised Forest Plan. As you may have read in the paper or heard on the radio, these Draft documents were released to the public for comment in May—and Comments on them are due by July 5th.

The Heritage Resources sections provide an overview of the cultural historical record on the Forest, broad Standards and Guidelines for the protection of sites, and a handful of Objectives for the next few years. Generally we tried to avoid reiter-

ating every Federal law on the books, instead emphasizing key areas where we must meet our obligations, or which have been underserved in the past (for example, National Register-evaluation of archaeological sites).

We welcome everyone's comments, and I would be particularly gratified to get feedback from VAS members.

If you have not yet had a chance to read these documents and would like to, they are available on-line at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision

Or, if you would like to receive a CD version—which includes the Revised Plan, DEIS, Appendices, and appropriate maps—please call Holly Knox at 802-747-6718 or email her at hknox@fs.fed.us.

Or, finally, if you would simply like an informal photocopy of the excerpted Heritage Resource sections (a request Vic Rolando originally made), I can mail you these 20 or so pages. Please email me at dilacy@fs.fed.us or give me a call at 802-747-6719.

—David Lacy
Forest Archaeologist

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.

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

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT
Permit #126

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.

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.