



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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VAS to Host the 74th Annual Eastern States Archaeological Conference at Doubletree Hotel, November 8th-11th, 2007

Jess Robinson, VAS President

Like every active northeastern state archaeological society, the Vermont Archaeological Society is a member of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation. ESAF is an umbrella organization that organizes and advocates for archaeology in the northeastern United States and Canada. Among other things, it is responsible for the production of the *Archaeology of Eastern North America* journal, one of the most respected regional, peer reviewed archaeological journals in the United States.

For the last 73 years, ESAF, in partnership with a state society, has also hosted the region's only multi-day archaeology conference. The conference aims to bring together the premier scholars in Northeastern archaeology, as well as consultants, students, avocational archaeologists and the interested public to present their research and to learn about the current state of archaeology in the northeast.

This year, the VAS is proud to host the 74th annual ESAF conference. It will be held from November 8-11, 2007, at the Doubletree Hotel in South Burlington, VT. On Thursday, there will be a tour of local museums and attractions. The conference will take place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Saturday night there will be a banquet with a keynote speaker, and the annual Canadian-American friendship party will take place on Friday night. There will also be a book room, where interested parties will be able to buy journals, books, and other merchandise related to the archaeology of the northeast. Prices for the conference, as well as the tour and the banquet are still being finalized, but they will be posted very soon on the VAS website (www.vtarchaeology.org).

see ESAF 4

"Lake Champlain Voyages of Discovery: Bringing History Home"

Update and VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

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

Planning is moving forward rapidly to create a rich, summer archeology and history program for Addison County communities, educators, and volunteers. The last issue of the *VAS Newsletter* (December 2006) announced the large grant awarded last fall to the Chimney Point State Historic Site, the VT Division for Historic Preservation, VT Public Television, and Bixby Memorial Free Library "to discover and present new information about the Champlain Valley in the 17th and 18th centuries, a place and time of international significance."

A "door-to-door" survey is being planned for June to discover, map, and record new archeological sites pertaining to this time period that may be known to community members but aren't yet recorded. Landowners, and farmers in particular, find artifacts in their backyards or farm fields that can reveal locations of French period settlements and other types of sites.

An ambitious two week summer program for teachers is planned from July 16 – July 27. Offered as a 1 or 2 week option, the program includes daily morning archeological excavations at a French period site at the DAR State Park (or nearby) in the Town of Addison. Each afternoon a great cast of gifted instructors present mini-seminars on a rich variety of topics, including curriculum development, Native American prehistory, Contact with Europeans and its consequences, French settlement history, material culture, archeological laboratory techniques, use of primary sources, reading and using old and new maps, computer applications to enhance history teaching, and other topics.

see "Voyages of Discovery" 4

**News from
The Green Mountain National Forest**
*David Lacy
US Forest Service Archaeologist*

As a good bureaucrat I am constantly juggling the innumerable planning and team meetings, conference calls and email traffic that keep our information exchange going -- a necessary but time-consuming aspect of the job. It is not all face-time with peers on the computer, however! This year, as usual, I have numerous (usually small) compliance reviews and surveys to complete for timber sales, wildlife habitat projects, trail re-locations, special use permits, and more that the Forest conducts, sponsors, or permits. In addition, I consult with field personnel who are implementing projects that we surveyed in past months or years to help ensure that we are on the same page when it comes to actually protecting sites.

This year we want to increase the degree of monitoring work on the Forest. One aspect of this monitoring is determining whether natural processes or people have affected sites since last we examined them ("site condition" monitoring). Another goal is to assess the degree to which we have implemented our site protection/mitigation methods on projects and, when implemented, how effective they were in accomplishing our goals.

And we are once again running our summer camp for kids -- "Relics & Ruins" -- in partnership with the Hayes Foundation and the VAS. This year's theme is "Flowing Through Time," in reference to the aquatic environmental focus that will complement the historic archaeology in "Old Job," Silas Griffith's 19th century mill village in the mountains of Mount Tabor, Vermont. For more information on the camp, please visit the Forest Service web site at



Bag that artifact!



Screening for artifacts at Old Job.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/> -- or come see the presentation in Montpelier that Sheila Charles, Vic Rolando, and yours truly have put together for the up-coming VAS spring meeting in Montpelier!

A Tribute to our Life Members

The following are VAS Life Members, listed alphabetically by year of record:

- 1978: Sanborn Partridge, Shelburne VT
Jane R. Hanks, North Bennington VT
- 1979: Mrs. Durwood Smith, Kalamazoo MI
- 1980: Robert L. Schuyler, Philadelphia PA
- 1982: Frederick Royce, Brownington VT
Anne Fenton Spencer, Shrewsbury VT
- 1985: William A. Haviland, Deer Isle ME
- 1986: Richard T. Malouf, Twin Falls ID
- 1989: Scott McLaughlin, Jericho VT
- 1990: Louise Basa, Schenectady NY
Prudence Doherty, Winooski VT
- 1993: Clark W. Hinsdale III, Charlotte VT
Jeanne & Joseph Popecki, Burlington VT
Victor R. Rolando, Bennington VT
- 1998: Univ. of Maine ARC, Farmington ME
- 2004: Graham Newell, St. Johnsbury VT
- 2005: John Crock, UVM CAP, Burlington VT
- 2006: Barbara Bullock Jones, Charlestown NH
Suzanne Kaiser, Dorset VT
Sarah van Ryckevorsel, Burlington VT
Nichole Warner, North Bennington VT
Cameron Wesson, Charlotte VT
- 2007: Megan Battey, New Haven VT

The Vermont Archaeological Society
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Term: 2004-2007

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Address general inquires concerning the Society to the Secretary.

From the Editor's Desk . . .

It's good to report that membership is again on the rise. As a result of dues reminders that accompanied the Spring Meeting announcements, renewals have picked up and many have decided to become Life Members in the society (see a Life Member recognition article elsewhere in this Newsletter). Paid up membership hovers some-where near 130 at this point, still a drop from over 200 that we enjoyed only a few years ago, but at least going in the right direction. Since we are still below the critical 200 membership level, however, we cannot take advantage of Bulk Mailing permit that reduces our mailing expenses. Find a friend out there who you know has an interest in Vermont archaeology; maybe consider a surprise gift subscription?

HELP WANTED:

Vermont Archaeology Month Coordinator

The VAS is currently looking for a coordinator for the Vermont Archaeology Month (VAM) 2007. If you, or someone you know may be interested in this position, please let us know. The position will start immediately.

Job Description:

The Vermont Archaeological Society is seeking an enthusiastic, self-disciplined, and focused individual to coordinate a variety of public-oriented events and administrative tasks for the annual, state-wide Vermont Archaeology Month. Responsibilities will include soliciting and coordinating archaeologically-related public events throughout the state for the month of September; development, layout, and printing of the VAM 2007 poster and calendar; contacting print, radio, and television media for publicizing events; acting as the main contact and liaison for VAM 2007; developing partnerships with other educational organizations; and producing the final report which summarizes VAM 2007 for submission to the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree preferred, but not necessary. Enthusiasm and interest in Vermont's past is central to this position, as is creative thinking and ability to develop and carry through with suggestions and ideas. Experience in program development, coordination, and record keeping required. The qualified candidate will have excellent presentation and communication skills plus a strong ability to manage details. Access to a computer with word processing and database management software a must. Knowledge of Vermont archaeology and history preferred.

This is a part-time position without benefits. The independent contractor position will be effective immediately. Competitive salary provided. Send cover letter, resume, and three (3) references to Charles Knight at cknight@uvm.edu

or by mail to:

The Vermont Archaeology Society
PO Box 663
Burlington, VT 05402-0663

ESAF (continued)

Additional notification will also be sent via mail. Rooms are available at the Doubletree at a reduced conference rate. If you are interested, please contact the Doubletree and be sure to mention the ESAF conference.

Please do not miss the opportunity to participate in the region's premier event for archaeologists and for those interested in archaeology. We want to make sure that the VAS is well represented! See you there.

**for ESAF meeting information:
visit the VAS Website at
<http://www.vtarchaeology.org>**

"Voyages of Discovery" (continued)

Public evening lectures, free to the public, are being planned for July and September at Bixby Memorial Free Library and perhaps elsewhere. A dedicated web page will be launched at some point to keep everyone involved with new discoveries, updates, events, and information. Stay tuned!

Volunteers are invited to participate in the following aspects of the project in the coming months:

1. Documenting Community Discoveries -- June:

"Door-to-door" interviews in June will provide new information about as-yet-unrecorded archeological sites. Are you interested in helping with the door-to-door survey in some capacity? Tasks may include transcribing interviews with landowners, photographing, and otherwise document artifacts and sites, and other possible tasks.

2. Archeological excavation at the DAR State Park, Addison, and laboratory analysis at Chimney Point State Historic Site -- July:

July 16 – July 20 (morning lab, excavation in the afternoons)

July 23 – July 27 (morning lab, excavation in the afternoons)

July 30 – August 3 (excavation and lab available all day)

3. Other possible Tasks that we have yet to delineate...

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Giovanna Peebles, archeology project director, at giovanna.peebles@state.vt.us or (802) 828-3050, or grant director Elsa Gilbertson at elsa.gilbertson@state.vt.us or (802) 759-2412.

Twenty-five Years ago in the VAS . . .

In 1982, Michael Jackson's "Thriller" sold 20 million albums to become the largest selling record ever. Ozzy bit the head off a live bat thrown at him at a January 20 performance, and Liposuction was introduced.

Closer to home, the VAS held its Spring Meeting at the Anthro Department, Williams Hall. Speakers were Prof. Bill Haviland on "Skeletons in the Archaeological Closet," Prof. Peter Thomas on "The Tyranny of Ants, Worms, and Grubs," and Prof. Aulis Lind on "Looking for a Needle in a Haystack." The speaker sessions were followed by an informal wine & cheese gathering; registration was \$1 for VAS members and \$2 for guests.

Dr. Elanor Ott reported on the NGS Study of Vermont Stone Chambers by Peter Reynolds, and Giovanna Peebles described a "mystery artifact" found by Ed Colvin "in the high country around Shaftsbury, Vt" (one possibility was a ca1905-1912 reciprocating washing machine).

Society president was Bill Noel, Newsletter editor was Prudence Doherty, and VAS active membership stood at 91 people. The joke among pit buddies was "Archeologists will date any old thing."

Early 19th-Century Blast Furnace at Bennington Suffers Mid-Winter Collapse

Vic Rolando

About 10 PM the night of January 15, 2007, a major section of the west stack (VT-BE-11) of the Bennington Iron Works (1822-1853) slid off to a thunderous roar, but brought to light what appears to be a novel binding system not known until now. Close inspection reveals thick iron brackets imbedded in what was a corner wall. Study is under way; results to be published in a few months.



January 16, 2007 photo by Meg Campbell.

The Vermont Archaeological Society Annual Spring Meeting
Pavilion Building Auditorium
109 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont
Saturday, May 12, 2007

- 8:00 - 9:00** **Registration, Coffee, Bagels, and Donuts**
- 9:00** *Welcome and Opening Remarks*
Francis W. Robinson, VAS President
- 9:15** *Vermont's New Archeology Heritage Center: A Dream Begins to Take Shape*
and
Lake Champlain Voyages of Discovery: Bringing History Home - A Rare Archeological & Educational Opportunity Comes our Way
Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
- 10:00** *Relics & Ruins: Kids and Research at the Old Job Site*
David Lacy, US Forest Service Archeologist, Rutland
Shelia Charles, Historic and Archaeological Research Consultant, Nashua, NH
Victor R. Rolando, Industrial Archeology Consultant, Bennington
- 10:40 - 11:00** **Break**
- 11:00** *The Archaeology of The French and Indian War*
Dr. David Starbuck, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Plymouth State University,
New Hampshire
- 12:00 - 1:00** **Lunch** in the Snelling Room (food is not allowed in the auditorium)
- 1:00** *Archaeology Alive! - Vermont's History from the Ground Up*
Amy Cunningham, Director of Education, Vermont Historical Society
- 1:40** *A Brief Overview of the Archeological Collections at the Vermont Historical Society*
Jacqueline Calder, Curator, Vermont Historical Society
- 2:30 - ±4:00** **Guided Tour of the Vermont Historical Society Museum**
Jacqueline Calder

Registration and Lunch \$20 fee (\$22 for non-VAS members or members not in good standing) includes registration, admission, morning coffee, bagels, and donuts, and lunch, which will be a variety of sandwiches (turkey, chicken, and veggie), salad, and beverages. Pre-registration not required.

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



Application for Membership, Renewal, or Change of Address

NEW RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Signature

Please print or type:

NAME _____
MAIL ADDRESS _____
CITY/TOWN _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
COUNTRY _____ PHONE _____
EMAIL _____
DATE _____ AGE _____ (if senior)

Dues Schedule (please check one)
R Individual (\$15)
F Family (\$25)
ST/SE Student/Senior* (\$10)
C Contributing (\$50)
L Life (\$250)
IN Non-profit Institutional (\$25)
IP For-profit Institutional (\$50)

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 Archæological Society, Inc. and mail to:
P.O. Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402-0663