



# VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 2009

Issue: 7

## The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

Greetings!

### Vermont Archeology Museum

#### Vermont Archaeology Virtual Museum

After a few weeks of loading issues, we are excited to announce that the prototype **Vermont Archeology Virtual Museum**, funded with a Digital Start-Up Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is launched, warts and all! Play with it, kick the tires, have fun with it, hopefully you'll register to experience it's full functionality.

Please complete the Survey Monkey at some point!

Go to: <http://emergentmediacenter.com/vtarch/> Bookmark this!

The web museum site will serve as Vermont's archeology portal. Of course it's only a prototype, developed over 4 months this summer, so there are only a few exhibits thus far but enough to give you the lay of the land. There's also slow loading, funny spacing, just a few photos, etc. A WORK IN PROGRESS!

There are 3 types of visitors:

- Visitors who don't register and just poke around for information and to see what's happening
- Visitors who register - - they will have the full functionality of the social-networking features, can be part of the museum community, can contribute comments, articles, links, save favorites, etc.
- "Curators," who will register as such - this group includes mainly



#### Annual Fall Meeting

The VAS Annual Fall Meeting was held at Mt Independence State Historic Site on September 12. Dave Lacy and Geoff Mandel recapped this summer's excavation at the Homer Stone Quarry Site (*see article to the left*). Allen Hathaway conducted a tour of the site (*above*), which he has studied in depth. In addition, we were lucky that Fort Ticonderoga, across the lake, was having their reenactment weekend. The cannons fired from the Fort increased our enjoyment of the history of these two important Revolutionary War sites.

#### Carignan-Salieres Bus Tour

archeology professionals working in VT who will populate the web site with "exhibits" as they discover sites, write reports, etc. as well as special guest curators, for example, Abenakis and other Indigenous community members, perhaps historians, avocational archeologists, and others as appropriate.

We are very excited about this initiative and look forward to your feed-back. Many thanks!!

Giovanna Peebles  
State Archaeologist



The French Forts Tour on August 29, sponsored by the VAS, was deemed a success thanks to our guide Howard Coffin and to Notch Above Tours. One highlight was the tour of the archaeological sites at Ft St Jean where we were welcomed very graciously by the museum staff.

(<http://www.museedufortsaintjean.ca>) The dig is a **Officers and Board 2009** and the University of Laval, Quebec. A slide show of the artifacts recovered so far was presented.

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Brigitte Helzer  
An invitation to return next summer to see the progress and participate in the dig was extended to all VAS members.

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## Special Shipwreck Webcast Offers Interactive Opportunity

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM) is expanding its popular Shipwrecks! program with a live webcast of the shipwrecked schooner Sarah Ellen on November 5, 2009 at 10:00 am (EST). This FREE hour-long broadcast will take you deep under the cold dark waters of Lake Champlain where you'll hear the tragic story of the schooner's sinking in the winter of 1860. Then meet our nautical archaeologists who tell of her underwater discovery in 1989. See footage captured by a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), over 300 feet below the surface. And, since this will be broadcast live, we'll be able to take your questions via email! It's a great program for all ages: families, teachers, students, entire classrooms, and life-long learners.

How does the webcast work? Simply visit our website ([www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org)) shortly before 10:00 am on November 5th where you'll find a link to register for the program and watch the hour-long broadcast that begins at 10:00 am. A high-speed Internet connection is necessary.

Going to miss the live broadcast? Don't worry, we'll be posting the recorded program on our website shortly after the initial broadcast.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the guidance of Jan Crocker, LLC. LCMM acknowledges and thanks Rachael Z. Miller and [Shipwrecktour.com](http://Shipwrecktour.com) as founder and creator of the Shipwrecks! program. For more information, contact LCMM at (802) 475-2022; [info@lcmm.org](mailto:info@lcmm.org)

## Partnership, Compliance and Discovery at the Homer Stone site



This summer's excavation at the Homer Stone prehistoric quartzite quarry (VT-RU-107) was not only an interesting archaeological experience, but a successful partnership between the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), Green Mountain Club (GMC), UVM Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) and the VAS.

In response to a proposal to construct a new Trail Shelter atop a disturbed - but still rich - portion of the site, GMNF's Dave Lacy proposed to do "data recovery" to clear the way and contribute to our knowledge about the site. More than that, however, it became an opportunity for VAS members to have another interesting field experience (albeit two miles up the Long Trail!) while contributing additional labor to the effort.

The GMC contracted with CAP to "manage" the site excavation (a role filled ably by Geoff Mandel). Meanwhile, VAS Board members (especially Brigitte Helzer and Candace Lewis) coordinated a volunteer effort for the project, establishing a schedule and sign-up process, and promoting the opportunity through the Newsletter. Candace was also teaching an 'Introduction to Archaeology' course at CCV, and made a field component a required portion of the course.

The project ran for most of July, with roughly half the days slated for field work. Over the course of planning and implementing the project, nearly 90 "person days" were contributed by VAS members, new and old. Thank you so much!

Massive numbers of artifacts, made from both Dalton and Cheshire quartzite, were recovered -- including flakes, bifaces and cores -- in a generally unstratified context. Even before the lab analysis was underway, Geoff observed numerous worked flakes (in addition to the bifaces), suggesting that this portion of the site was as much a domestic site as an 'industrial' one (in comparison with the rest of the site, where raw material procurement and tool production appeared to be the primary function).

Analysis will take place this fall and early winter, and volunteers are invited to help out at the CAP lab (please call or email John Crock beforehand to set up a convenient time). The Forest is committed to returning to the site next summer (at two loci), so we'll keep you posted as to details and try to reprise our great partnership.



### Homer Stone Quarry Site



