



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

**Spring Meeting
Save the Date**

Greetings!

The VAS Spring Meeting will be held on June 6th at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch.

The program is currently under development. The full agenda will be available soon.

Please save the date and plan to join us at one of the state's most important historic sites.

Welcome Tim Watkins



My name is Tim Watkins and I am the new Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Program Manager for the Green Mountain National

Forest. I come to the Forest Service from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Arizona where I am originally from. The BLM is a federal land managing agency, much like the Forest Service. Their multiple use mandates provided me with a well-rounded experience in the many facets of heritage resource management and protection. In addition, I was quite busy fostering positive working relationships with the numerous Tribes that considered the areas we managed to be traditional homelands. The perspective I gained from Native American traditional cultural practitioners almost always gave new insight to the sites I was discovering and it allowed their traditional values to be incorporated into the process.

One of the highlights of my experience with BLM was working with the volunteers there. Like many archaeologists in the west, the area I managed was so vast and contained such a wide variety of prehistoric and historic resources that my success was only measured by the level of volunteer support I received. Everything from rock art, cave sites, and pueblos to historic mining complexes and ghost towns benefited from the efforts of volunteers that truly cared about the resources as much as I did

VAS Member Receives "Bright Spots" Award

Dr. Luisa Millington, a VAS member for several years, has been honored with the "Bright Spots in Education" award from the ETA Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International. The award honors women educators who inspire others through creative projects and lessons.

Dr. Millington, who has a PhD in Anthropology from the University La Sapienza in Italy, teaches at Arlington Memorial High School.

Officers and Board 2015

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While clearly a drastic change in climate and culture history, my family and I are totally enthralled by our new environs here. My fascination with New England, and Vermont in particular, began many years ago when my wife, Tammi, gave me my first copy of The Original Vermonters.

Over the years, she took me to a number of places where she had worked on archaeological projects. Her enthusiasm really triggered my fascination with the majestic cultural landscapes and centuries old lifeways, many of which still exist today.

The Heritage Program I have inherited was built from the ground up by my predecessor, Dave Lacy. Since my initial start date in January, I have been fortunate enough to learn a great deal about the program from Dave himself. I know I have a full plate when it comes to keeping the program moving forward, but I am truly humbled by this opportunity and look forward to its many challenges.

In my short time here, I have already had the opportunity to meet a few members of the VAS and I'm glad to see that volunteers play such a vital role in Vermont as well. I look forward to meeting the rest of you and working on some great projects together in the future!

Please feel free to contact me anytime!

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Winter 2015 Lab Volunteers

Once again this winter VAS volunteers generously contributed hundreds of hours of their time working on important and interesting artifact collections that originated on the Green Mountain National Forest.

Under the supervision of Geoff Mandel (UVM-CAP), VAS VP and uber volunteer Al Oliver - with occasional assistance from Dave Lacy, Brigitte Helzer (VAS Board), and Tim Watkins (USFS) - continued work on the Homer Stone Quartzite Quarry collection (VT-RU-107) at the Consulting Archaeology Program lab. Most VAS members will know that the site is an extensive pre-contact quartzite quarry located along the Mt Tabor/Wallingford town line on the National Forest. By early April (and after four years of processing) the cataloging was finally completed! The next step will be for Geoff, primarily, to do a finer grained analysis of the tool production and the distribution of manufacturing activities at the site.

Meanwhile, a larger VAS contingent (many of whom had worked on Homer Stone in winters past) accepted State Archaeologist Jess Robinson's

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invitation to spend time at the Archaeology Heritage Center in Barre (housed in the VT History Center). We spent most of our time working on artifacts from the Warren Falls site (VT-WA-180), which the VAS and Forest Service tested and then excavated in several stages between 2013-2015. Material was almost exclusively high quality, homogeneous quartzite debitage with the rare small chert flake mixed in. Some expedient flake tools were recovered, but no diagnostic materials.



The site's small size (less than 100 square meters); location along a travel route (i.e., the Mad River/White River corridors as part of the connection between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River); preponderance of fine flaking debris, and corresponding lack of large early stage reduction material; lack of debitage with cortex (despite the presence of thousands of river cobbles next to the site); and visual homogeneity of the raw material all contribute to a preliminary conclusion that people were stopping at the site, re-working some of their tool kit and, mostly, making new tools from preforms they brought with them (coincidentally not unlike the bifacial "blank" preforms that were taken out of the Quarry site!). The site's size and lack of well-defined vertical separation of deposits also suggest it may well be a single-component site. All the artifacts were washed, analyzed and cataloged by mid-April and are now awaiting further attention and analysis.

Now, just as the field season is starting up, the Heritage Center crew has turned our attention to the Molodeski Site (VT-BE-155). This extensive pre-contact site is located in the National Forest (and along the Long/Appalachian Trail) on the Stamford/Woodford town line, above 2000' a.s.l. Forest Service personnel and VAS volunteers tested this site in 1991 (yes, 24 years ago!). Participants back then included current VAS members Dave Lacy, Eric Bowman and Megan Battey. Materials are, again, almost exclusively quartzite. At first blush the assemblage seems to reflect a set of activities that lies somewhere between the Homer Stone-style quarry production and the Warren Falls' finish work with a lot of secondary reduction material evident and a curiously large number of large reduction flakes that were not worked any further. We are just beginning to massage this collection, so stay tuned!

Submitted by Dave Lacy

