



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

January 2010

Issue: II-1

The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

Greetings!

Web Site

In the next few weeks we will be redesigning our Web site. In order to have more control over content we are taking the Web site in-house.

We are looking for VAS members who have Web design experience who would be willing to help in the new upgrade to the site.

If you have experience in html, php or other languages used in Web design please contact the VAS Coordinator, Georgeana Little at rgtle@stoweaccess.com.

Field Class Takes Archaeology Students to Arizona

**Author: Amanda Kenyon
Waite**

**Photo courtesy of: Moriah
Hounsell**



Original Release Date: 10-28-09

If you thought digging in the dirt stopped being a suitable summer activity in sixth grade, think again. For four weeks this July, seven UVM undergrads and two teaching assistants joined Scott Van Keuren, assistant professor of anthropology, on an excavation at Fourmile Ruin, the largest Ancestral Pueblo, or Anasazi village, in Eastern Arizona.

The archeological site is an important one for Van Keuren's research, which focuses on a shift in pottery styles that took place around 1325. "Potters in this area begin to reorganize the way that they painted bowls," he explains. "These are really gorgeous vessels that are red and black and white. And in the 1320s, for whatever reason - we're not sure why - they begin to embellish these bowls with very important, symbolic subject matter. So the larger research is intended to understand this transition and the broader social and economic implications of this major change in craft production."

The site, which was recently donated to the Archaeological Conservancy,

Giovanna Peebles Promoted to SHPO Post

Giovanna Peebles, known to us all as Vermont's long-time State Archaeologist has been named State Historic Preservation Officer and Director of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

"Giovanna Peebles has served the people of Vermont as State Archaeologist since 1976. Her long experience in this field and in historic preservation overall, as well as her passion for our state's

was relatively unexplored by anthropologists. Although Van Keuren had been once before with other UVM students, this year's trip was the first field school offered at Fourmile Ruin and one of the first chances archaeologists had had to map the village and begin excavations.

"You hear so many stories of people digging and not finding anything, but from the first day we were finding sherds of pottery," says Liz Wright, a sophomore anthropology/art history double major.

The group found their share of pottery shards, having sorted and washed bags upon bags of findings. But the biggest discovery came later when the group revealed the intact bench and floor of a kiva, a subterranean structure used by the Ancestral Pueblo for ritual activities. Finding the structure in such good condition on a site that has been ravaged by looting and bulldozing was especially gratifying.

See photos from the excursion, taken by junior Moriah Hounsell, and listen to commentary by Van Keuren and Wright, along with junior Sydney Ganon, in this audio slideshow. [Click here!](#)

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Vermont Collection Survey

Collectors Name: Marcia Steckler

Investigator: Robert Brinck

Collection History and Description

(This is an edited version of the site report submitted to the state archaeologist)

The collection consists of one artifact, a stone pestle. The pestle was surface-collected by her husband from an undeveloped property near their home. The artifact may have been unearthed as a result of construction activity associated with a septic system installed on the property in preparation for development. The site is quite probably VT-WD-3, because the west boundary of this property contains a rock, now underwater, with Native American petroglyphs on it.

The artifact is a water-worn rock of mica-schist. The rock, because of inclusions of staurolite, most likely originated from the Ludlow, VT, area. The artifact was worn almost smooth on both ends from its use as a pestle. The piece measures 31 cm long, and three circumference measurements were taken, measured 4 cm from each end, and directly at the center. The larger end is 17.5 cm, the center is 19 cm, and the smaller end is 14.5 cm.

extraordinary heritage makes her well qualified to take over as State Historic Preservation Officer for Vermont." according to Kevin Dorn, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

He doesn't have to tell any of us that.

Congratulations Giovanna!

Officers and Board

2009

(The Officers for 2010 have not yet been elected)

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All VAS memberships are renewable as of January 1st.

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Mail to PO 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.

Georgeana Little
Vermont Archaeological Society