



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

March 2013

The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

Greetings!

Archaeology Course on Wabenaki People Taught at Middlebury College

A seminar course on the archaeology of the Wabenaki people of northern New England was taught in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN) at Middlebury College during the 2013 winter term. This course focused on the Western Abenaki with a brief survey of Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Mi'kmaq and Maliseet. Major themes concentrated on the relationships between settlement patterns, population increase, and subsistence economics. Classroom discussions and research projects were directed at major topics including: peopling the Americas; wild plant domestication transition to cultigens and horticulture; Native American impact on natural ecologies; present-day popular myths and misinformation about Abenakis; and Vermont Abenaki state recognition.



Distribution of Proto-Algonquian languages
within Late Archaic Traditions

Issue: V-3

Alexandria VA Archaeology Summer Camp

Help Alexandria's City archaeologists excavate a real archaeological site!

Learn professional excavating, recording, and artifact processing methods. Uncover Alexandria's buried past while protecting the City's valuable historic resources.

For ages: 12-15.

July 15-19, 2013. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

C O S T : \$400 with available scholarships.

For more information and to register, visit the Historic Alexandria web site at alexandriava.gov/historic

Renew Your Membership

Memberships are renewable on January 1st of each year. If you have not yet renewed (or wish to join) a membership application can be found on the VAS Web site at

of the Northeast Woodlands. (Base map
modified from Tuck 1978 in Trigger 1978.)
(After Mathewson 2013).

Four outside speakers presented their own perspectives for student discussions concerning contemporary Native American issues: Dee Brightstar - "Historical Reflections from N'dakinna and the Wabanaki Homeland"; David Lacy - "Archaeology and Tribal Relations in the Green Mountain National Forest; Jeff Benway - "Revitalization of the Vermont Abenaki Community: Past, Present, and Future"; and James H. Douglas - "Native American Vermont Recognition: Government Reflections".

Student research projects included topics involving - land tenure and the concept of native property rights; evolution of trade and diffusion; cultigens horticulture on intervale flood plains; deconstructing popular myths and misinformation; peopling of the Americas; the role of native women; ecological shifts and climate change, and ethnographic comparison between Mi'kmaq and Western Abenaki culture. Several student research projects will be cited in the forthcoming book *First Peoples of the Dawnland: Western Abenakis of New England* being prepared for publication next year by the University Press of New England.

- Submitted by

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VAS Spring Meeting

May 4th

O'Brien Community Center, Winooski

Revisiting the Winooski Site and The Middle Woodland Period in Vermont

For this special Spring Meeting the VAS is bringing together several people who took part in the historic excavations at the Winooski Site in the 1970s and others to discuss the site, its importance, and more recent work on the Middle Woodland Period in Vermont. Invitees include Louise Basa, Frank Cowan, John Crock, Giovanna Peebles and Jess Robinson.

Reserve the date! Additional information will be available soon.

vtarchaeology.org/members

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