



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

VAS Spring Meeting
May 3, 2013
Winooski, VT

Greetings!

Plans for the VAS Spring Meeting revisiting the Winooski Site are well underway. Confirmed speakers include Louise Basa, Frank Cowan, John Crock, Jess Robinson, Scott Dillon, and Giovanna Peebles. A walkover of the Winooski site will follow the meeting. A full agenda will be published shortly.



VAS Field Work Opportunity at Warren Falls

The VAS and the Green Mountain National Forest are working together again this year - 'though at a more modest scale than our summers up at Little Rock Pond! I hope this short summary piques your interest:

Project history: Warren Falls is a scenic and easily accessible stretch of Mad River rapids and cascades. It is an attractive destination for recreationists and tourists (and, as it turns out, Native people in the past). Unfortunately during periods of high use (like summer weekends) lots of people park along the shoulder of Route 100 - a dangerous practice. The Forest Service is proposing to construct a parking lot that would accommodate many of these vehicles. Forest archaeologists therefore conducted a survey (spring 2012), discovered the site, and - with the help of several VAS members and NRCS's Jake Clay - dug additional shovel test pits last September to tentatively define the site's boundaries.

Site: Designated VT-WA-180, the site consists (so far) of numerous quartzite reduction flakes, indicative of tool making (vs the large amount of primary reduction material we saw at the quarry site). It is noteworthy as the furthest up-stream pre-contact site identified on the Mad River to date.

Scale: Our Phase IA shovel test pit survey indicates that the site is roughly 15 x 10 meters, stretching along a bank overlooking a wetland and bounded by ledge to one side and Route 100 on the other.

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

vtarchaeology.org/members

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Mode: We are doing a site evaluation, intensive sampling with 1m block excavation units.

Goal: Ideally to determine the extent, age, duration and function of the site. At a minimum, to ensure that we have identified the full extent of the site so we can protect it - and, of course, that VAS members have a fun, educational, and safe experience! Our current understanding of the site's extent places it within a riparian buffer zone, so the parking lot design does not encroach on it.

Where: Just above Warren Falls (Warren, VT) on the west side of Route 100.

When: May 9-10-11 and 16-17-18. (Possible follow-up dates: May 24-25 and/or during September's VAM).

Requirements: VAS membership.

SIGN-UP: We are trying to cap the number of participants at 10 people per day so please contact Dave Lacy at the Forest Service (dlacy@fs.fed.us or 802-747-6719) to reserve a spot on the day or days you are available!

-Submitted by Dave Lacy

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Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to Host 2nd Annual Nautical Archaeology Field School

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will be hosting their second annual Nautical Archaeology Field School at their lakeside campus in Vermont from June 3-June 14, 2013.

Over the course of two weeks, students will be exposed to the methods and practices of a professional underwater archaeologist, both through classroom instruction and hands-on training. Participants will study the full sequence of shipwreck documentation methodology, from initial measurements to final drafting. They will also learn about the basics of ship construction, artifact conservation, and the maritime history of Lake Champlain.

The program will emphasize archaeological project management, divesafety, and building practical field skills. Students will participate in extensive scientific diving exercises, including the documentation of shallow-water nineteenth century shipwrecks, and examination of a number of wreck sites in the Lake Champlain Underwater Historic Preserve. This is a unique and exciting opportunity to gain the experience and skills necessary to pursue a career in nautical archaeology.



LCMM will also be offering an optional Wilderness First Aid Afloat (WFAA) course through SOLO from June 1 for an additional fee. Tuition for the field school is \$2,200. Rustic camping-style housing and meals on the LCMM campus will be provided. Academic credit for undergraduate and graduate students is available by arrangement. Each applicant is responsible for meeting several prerequisites, including diving certification, medical screening, obtaining required equipment, and arranging personal transportation. LCMM is able to provide assistance with rental gear and other accommodations.

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