



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June 2013

The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

Greetings!

VAS Volunteers and Forest Service Explore Warren Falls

Green Mountain National Forest archaeologists discovered a small quartzite "lithic scatter" (VT-WA-180) above Warren Falls last summer (2012). Several VAS members helped dig additional shovel test pits to determine the site's lateral extent in the fall.



As announced in the April VAS newsletter (where additional details about the site are available) we re-joined forces in May for two 3-day sessions. We endured some weather challenges ("Hang up another tarp!") while enjoying the camaraderie of digging 11 entire meter squares (and portions of four more) in our attempt to better define and understand the site.



Seventeen Society members donated nearly 400 hours of their time, and several die-hard folks showing up day-after-day. Thank you all - with special kudos to Peggy Mongeon, John Caron, Brigitte Helzer, Bob VanArsdell, Sarah van Rykevorsel, Shirley Paustian, Christie Ertel and Eric Bowman for their time. We also had the pleasure of welcoming some new VAS

members/faces to the site.

We recovered hundreds of quartzite flakes, almost entirely from the shallow

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Otter Creek Archaeology Program

The Northeast Archaeology Research Center is conducting archaeological studies at the Native American Huntington Falls site in Weybridge again. We will be welcoming visitors and volunteers on two separate weekends this summer:

June 29 - 30
Saturday and Sunday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
and

July 13 - 14
Saturday and Sunday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

For more information call
(207) 860-4032 or email
nearc@nearchaeology.com

See more information on our Web
site: vtarchaeology.org

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President

Brigitte Helzer
bahelzer@gmavt.net

plowzone (aerial photos from the 1930s indicate that this was pasture, consistent with this thin layer) and the very top of the BZone - but no diagnostics. We'll take a closer look this winter to see if we have any use-wear on some of these flakes. While most of the material suggested reduction from prepared cores brought to the site, there were a handful of slightly larger flakes with hints of cortex which supported an alternate scenario that folks could have used local river cobbles (available in abundance). There were also four very small chert sharpening flakes from 3 different but adjacent units.

Given the nature of the recovered material and the site's location well up the Mad River, a 'story' of sorts starts to tell itself: one can imagine a small group of folks moving to/from the western-most branch of the White River (to the south), through the gap and along the Mad River, stopping for a brief time - overnight? - replenishing with quartzite and maintaining the chert items in their tool kits. Then moving on.



While we have closed up our pits, we have not entirely moved on. We will be returning for two days during VAM (Sept 6-7) to open a few more pits and host an "Open House" for members of the public to show them what we've been up to, how we do our work, and what we are finding. Please come visit.

-Contributed by Dave Lacy

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christie.ertel@gmail.com

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rgtle@stoweaccess.com

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aloahsi8@aol.com

Shirley Paustian

sphavetrowel@myfairpoint.net

Niels Rinehart

niels_rinehart@hotmail.com

Sarah van Ryckevorsel

sarah.van.ryck@gmail.com

Journal Staff

Niels Rinehart, Editor

niels_rinehart@hotmail.com



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Georgeana Little

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