



# **VERMONT** **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*2017 ANNUAL REPORT*

# OUR MISSION

To promote and support archaeological study, research, and conservation of archaeological resources, and to educate the public in understanding, appreciating and supporting the aims and limits of such study, research, and conservation in the State of Vermont.

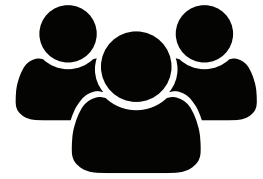


# MEMBERSHIP

The VAS is a volunteer-run, member-driven organization. Membership is free and open to all individuals, regardless of age, professional experience, or geographic location.

Our membership roll currently is comprised of our e-newsletter subscribers. On January 1, 2017, we had 450 subscribers. At the close of 2017, our list had grown to 569 subscribers (a gain of 119). On average, 40% of recipients open the newsletter in their email client (228 active readers at year end).

We have also increased our engagement on Facebook. On January 1, 2017, we had 230 Facebook followers. At the close of 2017 we had 311 followers (a gain of 81 for the year).



## 569

Newsletter Subscribers

## 40%

Newsletter Open Rate

## 311

Facebook Followers



Special thanks to VAS members and our volunteers (pictured left) who finished cataloging the artifacts from the Perrigo I Site in 2017, especially:

Bob Van Arsdell,  
Ruth Hagerman,  
Eric Bowman,  
Karin Gottlieb, and  
Jack Sabon

# AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT

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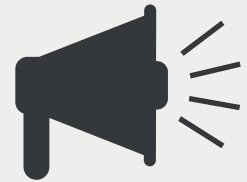
## PROTECTION

The VAS was founded on the principle of safeguarding Vermont's archaeological resources. From our beginnings assisting with the Vermont Site Survey to our later work coordinating volunteers to assist with fieldwork and inventories for mitigation projects, the VAS is committed to conserving above and below-ground cultural resources and to protecting existing collections. The organization upholds professional ethics and believe that archaeological heritage is best protected in place.



## EDUCATION

Since our founding, the VAS has hosted public meetings and events and published newsletters, monographs, and a scholarly journal to promote academic research and further public education. We support scholarship in Vermont's Native American, colonial, and post-colonial material culture as well as provide venues for professional and avocational archaeologists to disseminate their research and provide ethical educational opportunities to Vermont citizens.



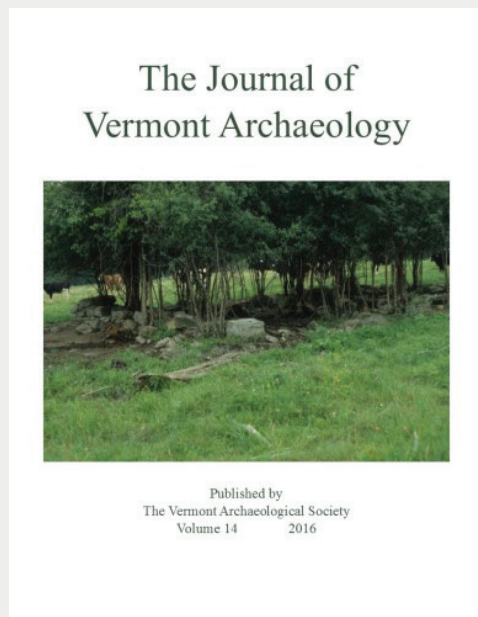
## ADVOCACY

The VAS has long engaged with Vermont's public policy arena. Our early members lobbied for a professional state archaeologist and protective legislation for Vermont's archaeological resources. After achieving both, the organization has continued to track the effectiveness of our public agencies and their policies, and raise citizen support to bolster conservation efforts. We collaborate with public officials, private citizens, and academics to build public support for protecting the state's archaeological heritage.

# 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“My interactions with collectors in Vermont fundamentally changed how I specifically view artifact collecting, and in general how I judge (or should wait to judge) people.”

- Jack Rossen, “Remembering The Archaeology on the Farms Project (1991-1993) or Growing Up on the Farm” from Volume 14 of the *Journal of Vermont Archaeology*



The Vermont Archaeological Society had an active year, and we are excited to report on a number of activities and achievements that span our three focus areas of protection, education, and advocacy.

We outline some of these below.

## PUBLICATIONS

- \* Volume 14 of the *Journal of Vermont Archaeology* (2016) was published online, including articles by Jack Rossen and Niels R. Rinehart
- \* All back issues of the *Journal of Vermont Archaeology* were digitized including three VAS monographs. These materials are available to the public for free as downloadable and searchable PDFs. Please visit <http://www.vtarchaeology.org/publications/> to access these resources.
- \* Entered into agreement with EBSCOhost, an online research platform used by thousands of institutions and millions of users worldwide so that the *Journal of Vermont Archaeology* is now indexed and available through searching library catalogs worldwide.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

\* The VAS held its 2017 Annual Meeting at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier on Saturday, March 11, which was attended by approximately 40 people. The program featured the following eight presentations:

Paleoindians and the Inland Sea, *Jess Robinson, State Archaeologist*

Fraud in Archaeology, *Bob Van Arsdell*

Recent and Future Underwater Archaeology of Lake Champlain, *Chris Sabick, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum*

Archaeology and Public Interpretation at Vermont's Western State Historic Sites, *Elsa Gilbertson, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation*

Visualizing the "Somewheres": Using GIS to Create Landscapes Encompassing Clusters of Upland Sites in Hinesburg, Vermont, *Niels Rinehart*

Highlights from Recent UVM CAP Projects, *John Crock, University of Vermont*

Salvage Archaeology at the Perrigo Site, Shelburne, Vermont, *Scott Dillon, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation*

New Guidelines for Conducting Archaeology in Vermont, *Jess Robinson and Scott Dillon*

\* Hosted a booth at the Windham County History Fair Saturday, August 19, on the Newfane Common. We shared artifacts, publications, and gave flintknapping demonstrations

\* Hosted a table at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, November 10-12 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

VAS President Jacob Clay gives a flintknapping demonstration at the Windham County History Fair in August. He was joined by Christie Ertel, Bob Van Arsdell, and Angela Labrador who shared artifacts and publications with fairgoers.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- \* Hosted volunteer opportunities to identify and catalog artifacts from the Perrigo I site.
- \* Established the Vermont Volunteer Emergency Field Crew of 50 individuals ready to assist the VT Division of Historic Preservation with emergency fieldwork when the use of paid professionals is not possible due to extenuating circumstances.

## FIELD SCHOOL SUPPORT

- \* In collaboration with the US Forest Service, awarded \$1000 to South Champlain Historical Ecology Project to fund the purchase of a total station.

## STUDENT PAPER CONTEST

- \* As part of Vermont Archaeology Month, organized our first ever student paper contest to raise interest for archaeology among high school students, and to learn from them what significance the field has in their lives and their future. Twenty-six students took up the challenge and answered the prompt, "Why Does Archaeology Matter?" Each paper offered distinct insights. It was so hard to pick a winner that we chose two:

Second prize of \$100 to **Shannon O'Kelly**, a senior at U-32 High School in Montpelier,

First prize of \$500 to **Katherine Blassingame**, a sophomore at St. Johnsbury Academy.



First prize winner, Katherine Blassingame (left) honored for her first prize win by VAS Board Member Christie Ertel and Head of Social Studies at St. Johnsbury Academy, David Eckhardt.



## ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENTS

- \* Sponsored an Owl Prowl and Ghost Hike at the history trail of the Little River State Park in Waterbury, which presents the archaeological remains of the 18th–19th century inhabitants of Ricker Basin. The VAS paid for attendees' entrance fees to the park.
- \* Assisted with the 22nd Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship Weekend at Chimney Point.

## ADVOCACY

- \* Launched new advocacy section of our website (<http://www.vtarchaeology.org/advocacy>), which provides contact information and tips for reaching out to elected officials as well as writing letters to the editor to Vermont newspapers.

It also provides an archive of official actions VAS has taken on political issues, and provides links to legal resources regarding archaeology for Vermont citizens.

- \* Submitted a 10–page public comment to the Department of the Interior regarding Executive Order 13792, which called for a review of certain National Monuments. We focused our comments on Katahdin Woods & Waters in Maine, which was the only monument in the northeast under review. Consistent with the VAS's recommendations, in December, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended that Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument not be shrunk in size nor feature commercial forestry. Our official comment is available on our website at <http://www.vtarchaeology.org/advocacy>.



The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument comprises a tiny slice of the the North Woods of Maine. Its lands have been host to human settlement for at least 11,000 years, and contain the archaeological and historic resources as well as burial sites of many generations of human habitation and land use, from the early Paleo-Indians to the contemporary descendants of timber loggers and mill workers.



# 2017 BOARD MEMBERS



*Jacob Clay*

## **PRESIDENT**

Jacob is the Cultural Resources Specialist/Archaeologist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Vermont State Office. His work primarily involves reviewing conservation practices on privately owned agricultural land throughout Vermont and Massachusetts. Jacob joined the VAS board in the spring of 2015 and was elected as President in the spring of 2017. He currently lives in Barre and can often be found hiking through the ruins of granite industry in the Barre Town Forest with his bear-sized dog, Jasper.



*Angela Labrador*

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Angela is an anthropologist and managing partner of Coherit Associates. She develops community-based heritage initiatives to responsibly grow local economies while safeguarding cultural resources. She edited *The Oxford Handbook of Public Heritage Theory and Practice* (2018) and completed her doctorate at UMass Amherst (2013). For the past six years she has worked across the Caribbean and is delighted to live in Vermont, where she first worked in CRM in 1999. Angela now lives in Barre, and hosts the history podcast, *Places of Legend*. She edits the VAS newsletter and the VAS website.



*Christie Ertel*

## **SECRETARY**

Christie graduated from Elmira College with a BA in Classical Studies in 2009. She then moved home to Vermont and was excited to discover an archaeology community she'd never known was here. She has happily been with the VAS since 2011. She lives in Barnet with her boyfriend and a small menagerie of pets, and in her other (less interesting) life she is a medical coder.

*Niels Rinehart***JOURNAL EDITOR**

Niels is a recent transplant to Vermont, moving to Jericho in 2012 with his wife Lauren and two sons, Liam and Abe. He has a Masters in Anthropology (Archaeology) from SUNY Binghamton and pursued a doctorate in Anthropology at UMass Amherst. He has worked in CRM archaeology for many years predominantly throughout the Northeast and Vermont, as well as elsewhere in the United States and Africa. He works for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in the Lands Administration Division, where his responsibilities include managing archaeology projects on State lands.

*Sarah van Ryckevorsel***TREASURER**

Sarah first served on the Vermont Archaeological Society board from 2004 to 2008 and a second time from 2012 to 2017. She is now in the appointed position of Treasurer for the Society. While Sarah ran a small business with her husband Maarten for many years, she always found time to participate in archaeological work, periodically employed in the field but with most of her experience being gained in an avocational volunteer position. Sarah has worked on numerous sites in New York State and Vermont. She has also participated in projects in France, Wales, Ireland, England and, for the last number of years, Bronze and Iron Age sites in Scotland. Born in Bennington, Vermont, Sarah has a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from Johnson State College.

*Yvonne Benney Basque*

Yvonne Benney Basque is a Historic Resources Specialist and Archaeologist for the State of Vermont. Yvonne has been passionate about archaeology since the first grade, participating in volunteer and avocational archaeology, cultural resource management and regulatory archaeology throughout both the Northeast and other exotic locales such as Orkney and Texas. Yvonne completed her master's degree at SUNY Binghamton with her research on Paleo Indian caribou hunters in Northern New Hampshire. She lives in Central Vermont with her cats and her long-suffering husband, who has yet to be convinced that caribou make good pets.

### *Claire Robinson-White*

Originally from Canterbury, Kent, England, Claire Robinson-White attended the University for the Creative Arts where she earned a Bachelor's degree with Honors in Fine Art. In 2001, Claire moved from England to Vermont. In 2016 she earned her Master of Science degree in Leadership from Champlain College and is now undertaking her second Master of Education degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at UVM. Since moving to Vermont she has worked for Shelburne Museum, Champlain College and the University of Vermont. Currently, she lives in Richmond with her husband Jess (VT State archaeologist), son Eliot and dog Jack. Claire is an avid ultra trail runner. She manages the VAS Facebook Page.

### *Randall Kuhlman*

Originally from the Finger Lakes region of New York, Randall attended Elmira College where he earned a Bachelor's in Classical Studies and History in 2010. In 2013, Randall earned his Master's degree in Applied Archaeology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, completing his thesis: Classical Traditions in Central New York State: Analyzing Classical Influences in 19th Century Syracuse, New York. He then worked for Public Archaeology Laboratory out of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, as an Archaeological Technician. Randall and his wife moved to Vermont in 2014 to start raising a family. Currently, he lives in the Mad River Valley with his wife Ali, daughter Penelope, and dog Hazel. He enjoys hiking local trails, skiing at Sugarbush, and swimming at the Valley's many swimming holes.





# FINANCIALS

The VAS is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

The organization's operating budget for 2017 reflected an increase of \$640.35, the majority of which was related to our student paper prize awards. At the close of 2017, the VAS held \$24,111.47 in its checking account. The 5 year cost share agreement (2012-2017) with the Forests Service is now closed.

A summary of our expenses and revenue sources is given below. A complete accounting of our checking account is available to any member on request.

## TOTAL EXPENSES

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Government (VT Nonprofit Filing)	\$20.00	0.1%
UVM Cost Share Agreement	\$11,539.11	66.4%
Grants and Awards	\$5,236.00	30.1%
Office/Mail	\$165.80	1%
Website	\$173.17	1%
Advertising	\$93.31	0.5%
to Petty Cash (speaker per diems, refreshments)	\$140.00	0.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,367.39</b>	<b>100%</b>

## TOTAL REVENUE

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PERCENT
US Forest Service Cost Share	\$18,039.11	98.3%
US Forest Service Administrative Fees	\$310.89	1.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,350.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## CONTACT

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