

ATLATL

TOO LONG HAVE I HUNTED MAMMOTH ALONE!"

RICH MCWHORTER

The Newsletter of The World Atlatl Association, Inc. 1390 South Paris Court, Aurora, Colorado 80012, USA

Bill Tate Editor

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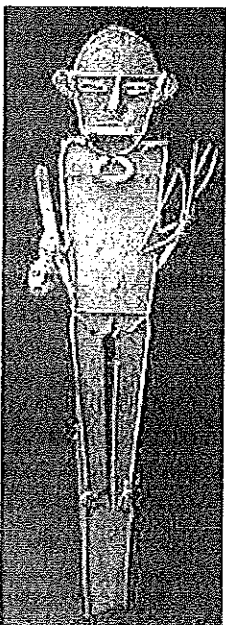


Fig. 1 Muisca tunjo with bow and arrows. Museo de Oro Boletín No. 32:2. Bogota 1992.

Dart-thrower Use in Colombia and its Representation in Colombian Rock Art

By Harry A. Marriner

Spear or dart-throwers (atlatls in Mexico) have been used worldwide since Paleolithic times to throw sharpened wooden darts to kill game animals and enemies. The wooden weapon in essence increases the length of the thrower's arm and gives a greater initial thrust to the dart. Since distance is limited by the force of one's arm, the bow and arrow replaced the dart thrower as the weapon of choice as soon as it was discovered by tribal societies. In certain areas, rock art has been dated using knowledge of when the bow and arrow was first used and depicted in that specific area.

Dart-throwers, known in Spanish as Propulsores, Tiraderas, or Estolicas, were called Queskes, Quisques, or Kcechkes, by the Muisca Indians of the Colombian highland savannah in the Cundinamarca-Boyaca area of Colombia. Muisca (A.D. 700-1600) used the Queske as their primary weapon, not the bow and arrow. A bow with arrows along with a shrunken (?) trophy head and a club are seen on flat gold and copper alloy Muisca tunjo figures (Fig. 1). Arms such as darts, estolicas, axes, clubs, spears, bows and arrows, and quivers were frequently represented on tunjos (Plazas: 85). Masses of Muisca warriors using dart-throwers and darts with fire-hardened tips battled Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada of Colombia in 1538. Selection of this weapon for serious battle was not ideal for professional Guecha warriors since thin shields provided easy defense from the darts. Estolicas were used frequently by the common person and inter-tribal traders.

Heavy Macana or Palma Boba wood was used to make Muisca dart-throwers that measured 42-60 cm. Long. Darts measuring approximately 1.6 meters long were made from bamboo (Cana Brava or Carrizo). (Castellanos in Rojas de Perdomo: 148). Removable hardwood dart tips were serrated with jagged cuts. Usually no poison was added to the tips. Two hooks made of bone, stone, or shell faced each other at opposing ends of the thrower (Fig. 2) and were fixed into place with

fique or agave twine covered with tar or tree resin (Fig. 3). This "Andean type" is the style that was most commonly used by Muisca Indians around Bogota and the Guane to the north of them in the state of Santander (Uhle: 111, Tafel IV: 5-7). Ceremonial and miniature estolicas were made from gold and used as burial offerings (Fig. 4). Full Size wooden estolicas were buried with important mummified persons to protect them in the afterlife (Fig. 5) (Marriner: 1). Some dart-throwers were represented on tunjo figures buried as prayers asking favors from Muisca gods (Figs. 6 & 7). Representations and actual dart-throwers (Fig. 8) have been found in the high Pisba Paramo and Mesa de Los Santos (see map), Guane region of the state of Santander at altitudes up to 3,500 meters above sea level (Bruechert: 1) (Cardale de Schrimppf 1987: 5) (Ardila



Fig. 2. Serrated Guane dart tips and estolica. Bray: 138

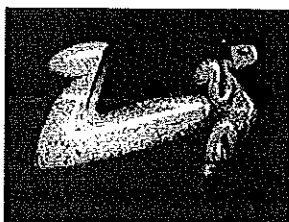


Fig. 3. Muisca stone dart hook from sogamoso region. Eliccer Silva Celis. Museo Arqueológico Suamox.

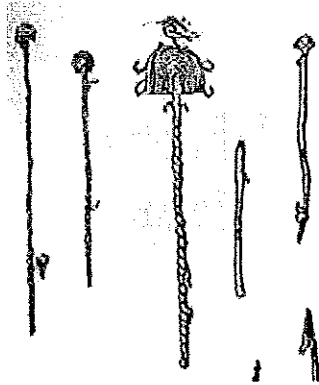


Fig. 4. Miniature Muisca gold estolica offerings. Perez de Barradas: 73 (After Kunike).

(Castellanos: 1, 122). The Tairona culture had also progressed to the use of bow and arrows by the time of the Conquest as seen on a

gold staff head representing an armed bird-man (Fig. 9) (Jones: 58). But, north of the Tairona in Chiriqui, Panama (once part of Colombia) we find gold bat-man effigies holding estolicas (fig 10). In the Darien township, Cauca (see map), one estolica from the Calima cultural zone was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1200-1290 and was apparently made from the Chonta palm. It pertained to the late Sonso period (A.D. 1100-1600) when styles distinct from the earlier Yotoco culture (B.C. 100-A.D. 1100) are seen in the Calima area. The styles were so different that the Sonso people may have been immigrants from another area. This



Fig. 8. Guane estolicas in the parochial museum at Guane, Santander. Ardila.

"Andean style" instead of a hole for the forefinger. The Sonso period estolica (now 70.2 cm. Long with a 2 cm. diameter finger hole and 3.3 cm. at its widest part at the hole, then narrowing to 1.8 cm. for the long shaft) and parts of five darts (present shrunken sizes of

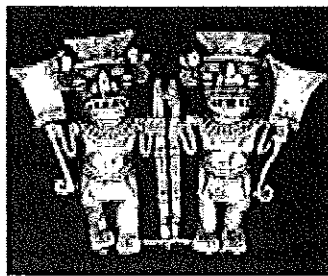


Fig. 10. Bat-men gold effigy holding estolicas. Chiriqui, Panama. Fig. 7. Jones: 38. Photo: Metop. Museum, NY

Diaz: 188), but the average habitation site of the savannah highlands north of Bogota was closer to 2,600 meters. Unfortunately, no rock art representation of a dart-thrower has been found in the Muisca or Guane cultural zones. Other tribes in Colombia also used the estolica as a weapon. Panches, bordering the Muiscas, were recorded in historic times by the Spanish conquistadors, as using "darts" (Simon: 3, 283) as well as the bow and poisoned arrows



Fig. 5a. Mummy with estolica Pisba region. Private collection.

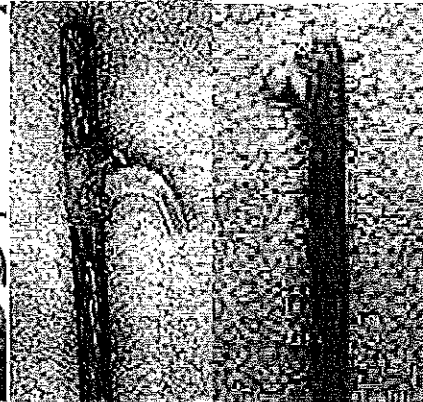


Fig. 5b. Estolica finger hook. Pisba region. Private collection.

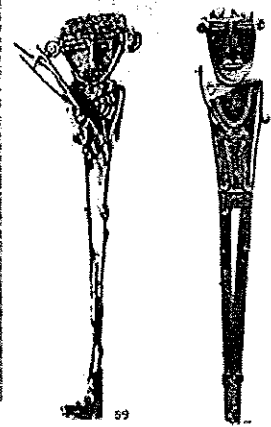


Fig. 6. Muisca gold tunjo offering with estolica. Bray: 121.



Fig. 7. Muisca gold tunjo offering with estolica. Bray: 183.

Sonso period estolica closely resembles what Krause calls the Brazilian type 2 estolica (Krause: 143) with a broadening of the shaft into a handle with a hole for the index finger. This defining characteristic is widespread in eastern South America (Spranz in Metraux: 159, 247). Only two examples of this type are known from Peru (Metraux: 246) since the usual Peruvian type is a stick with a hook similar to the Colombian

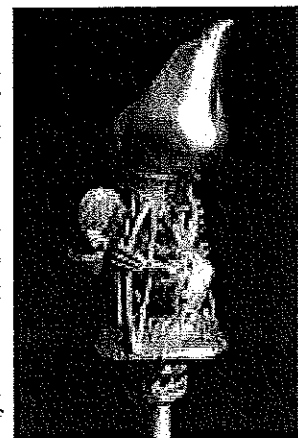


Fig. 9. Tairona gold bird-man staff head with bow and arrow. Fig. 24. Jones: 58.

parts of five darts (present shrunken sizes of three of the darts: 23.4 cm., 33.7 cm., and 42.6 cm.) (Fig. 11) were found in a wooden coffin similar in design to some found in the San Agustin area dating about A.D. 425-1180. Similar wooden coffins have also been found in the Quimbaya area and in other valleys of the Central Cordillera (Reichel-Dolmatoff: 102. and Fig. 19) (von Schulerl-Schomig: 2:250-28).

Mention of estolica use in the Calima area around the Cauca River (Rojas de Perdomo: 262) shows the diversity of dart-thrower use in Colombian climates varying from the freezing paramo to the pleasant (24 degree C., 74 degree F.) Calima area at 1,000 meters elevation above sea level. A spectacular gold estolica from the Yotoco culture measures 27.6 cm. long (Fig. 12) (Cardale de Schrimpff: 102). Similar gold estolicas with silver dart hooks have been found in Peru associated with the Moche

culture (Marriner: Sept.2000). Again, we find use, but no rock art representation, of a dart-thrower in the Calima cultural area. One shrunken and distorted extolica and dart from the Quillacinga (A.D. 600-1600) cultural area of the southern state of Narino (see map), was found near the city of Pubiales, possibly around the 3,000 meter elevation (Fig. 13.). The style is similar to the Sonso estolica, but with a squared area around the finger hole (Marriner: 1999).

Only by traveling south to the remote and nearly inaccessible region of the Chiribiquete National Park (see map) do we finally find clear depictions of dart-throwers in Colombia on stone. Red pictographs on vertical rock faces portray anthropomorphic beings with darts in one hand and a dart-thrower in the other. The Chiribiquete Park, crossing the tropical jungle-covered borders of the Caqueta and Guaviare states, not far from the Amazon River, contain at least 36 sites among large vertical precambrian and paleozoic rock formations (tepuys) covered with thousands of pictographs. Today, the Karijona Indians inhabit this remote area 400-600 meters above sea level, but it is not known who painted the Chiribiquete pictographs. Carbon associated with exfoliated rock containing red paint has been dated to human occupation during at least 750 years from A.D. 500-1,250 (Castano-Urbe: 36-39). These dates were associated with cult painting and not permanent habitation sites. There are positive indications that man was visiting this area as early as B.C. 3,600.

Scenes possibly representing shamans hunting animals with extolicas abound in the pictograph sites. Some pictographs show the relation between man the hunter, and his prey, in what some call a sexual context (Fig. 14). According to the Colombian anthropologist Geraldo Reichel Dolmatoff, hunting in the Amazon region is considered a type of courting, requiring the hunter to follow strict rules and procedures to seduce the animal, but only after a shaman has given the hunter his

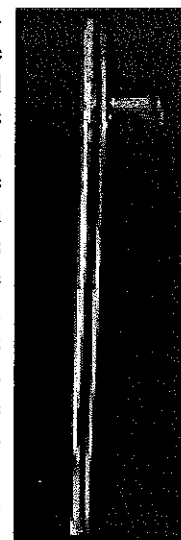


Fig. 12. Gold estolica. Yotoco culture, Cauca. Cardale de Schrimppf 1992: 102.

Fig. 11. Estolica Sonso culture, Darien, Cauca. Von SchulerSchomig: 27

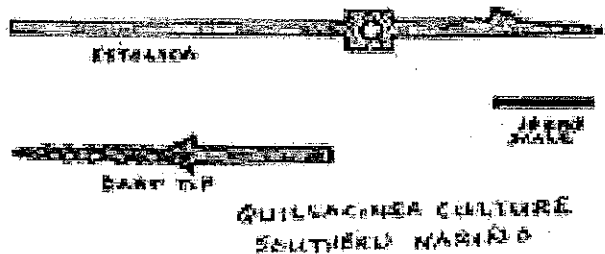


Fig. 13. Quillacinga estolica and dart. Pupiales region, Narino. Private collection.



Fig. 14. Red Pictograph. Anthropomorph with estolica. Chiribiquete. Castano: 35.

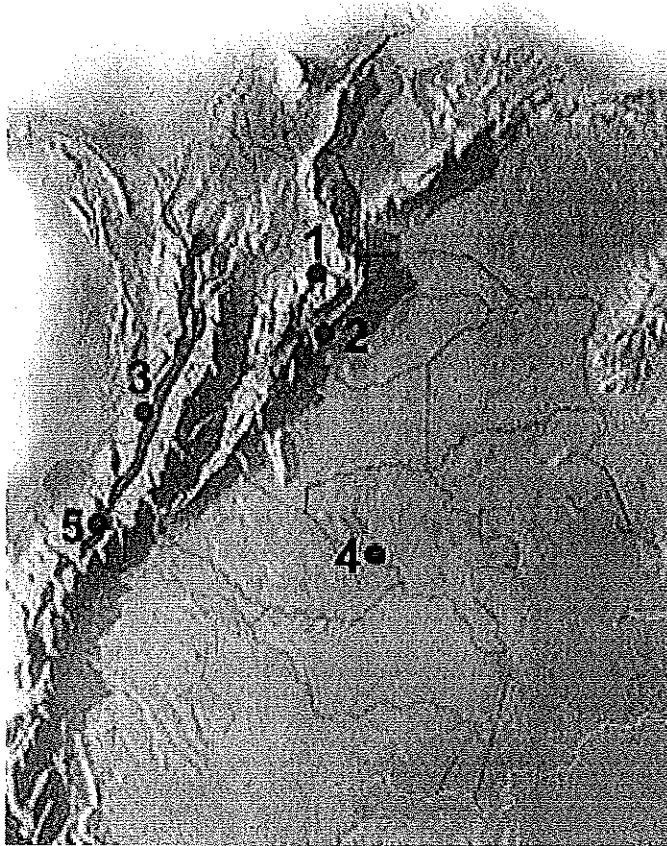
approval. Some of the most frequent rules and procedures are: sexual abstinence, vomiting, the use of aromatic plants, ritual cleaning of weapons, special diet, the use of tobacco and perfumes,



Fig. 15. Red Pictograph. Anthropomorph with barbed dart. Chiribiquete. Castano: 82, 83.

possessing amulets, and magic spells. Behind all of this preparation, it should be noted that the hunter has been in training since childhood, learning the ways of the hunter and the hunted, special rituals, and gaining a profound knowledge of the life cycles and daily movements of many animals. Various Chiribiquete pictographs show anthropomorphic figures in the act of dancing and in rites accompanied by their extolicas and darts with up to 8 barbs (Fig. 15).

In summary, three dart-thrower weapon styles were definitely in use in Colombia between A.D. 500-1538, and possibly much earlier. Use has been documented from hot tropical Panama through the warm Calima cultural area in the state of Cauca, up through the



Dart-thrower Remains in Colombia.

1. Mesa de los santos (Santander). Guane cultural area.
2. Paramo de Pisba (Boyaca). Muisca cultural area.
3. Darien (valle del cauca)/ Calima cultural zone.
4. Chiribiquete National Park. (Caqueta/Guaviare).
5. Narino. Quillacinga cultural area.

savannah highland plains of the Cundinamarca-Boyaca region where the Muisca lived, up higher to the Pisba paramo of the Guane, south to the mountainous area around Pasto, and then down into the Amazon jungle area of Chiribiquete where the Karijona live today. In Colombia, representation of dart-thrower use in rock art has only been discovered in the form of red pictographs in the remote region of the Chiribiquete National Park. Hopefully further investigations will uncover more evidence in the form of petroglyphs or pictographs.

The Author would like to thank Marianne Cardale de Schrimppff for her suggestions and loan of material, and Diego Martinez for his assistance with the graphics.

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Marriner, Harry. *Estolicas of the Colombian Muisca.* *The Atlatl: The newsletter of the World Atlatl Association, Inc.* April 2000. Vol. 13, No. 2: 1., Aurora, Colorado). Drawings of two Peruvian Moche culture gold and silver estolicas in a private collection were copied on 20 Sept. 2000. The gold shaft length was 38.4 cm. for #1 and 38.5 cm. for #2. Shaft diameter was 1.9 cm. for #1, and 1.8 cm. for #2. Weight of #1 was 52 gr. and #2 was 51 gr. Both had a cap near the hook end a little wider than the shaft diameter. Four decorative bands were spaced along the shaft one holding the silver hook and one for the cap / Marriner, Harry. Data taken in 1999 from a Quillacinga estolica in a private collection found c. 1989. Estolica shaft (present shrunken state) apparently of palm wood measures 1.3 cm. diameter, 90 cm. overall length, with 1.5 cm finger hole in a 4.5 cm area located 33 cm. from the finger hole and 8 cm. from the back tip of the estolica. Dart is serrated at tiip for 19 cm. The dart shaft is 1.5 cm. diameter and overall length is 32.5 cm. 1989.

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New Upcoming Events

by Jim Ray and Leni Clubb

We have new contests being added to our calendar this year and new states being represented. Check the calendar in this issue for the person to contact for more information on these events:

The first will probably be over by the time this newsletter is received -- March 30 to April 1 at **Moundville Archaeological Park** near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organizer, Betsy Gilbert, Education Outreach Coordinator of the Park also hopes to make this an ongoing event to be held during the annual Moundville Knap-in. WAA member, Mark Bracken from Georgia is hosting the atlatl event.

Next on the list is at **Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) at Portales, NM**, April 28th. David Batten, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at ENMU will head this new event, assisted by WAA member Chris Judson of Los Alamos, NM and by Bob Sizemore of Arizona City, AZ. There will be a local contest and an ISAC. Plans now call for a possible visit to Blackwater Draw Clovis-Folsom site on April 29th. This is where Clovis culture was defined. A not to be missed opportunity.

At the same time as the ENMU competition, April 28-29, the world's only official College Atlatl Team is hosting **The First Annual Raging Cow Atlatl Meet with ISAC at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA**. John Whittaker at (641) 269-3447 or whittake@grinnell.edu can give you the specifics. We believe that this is the first atlatl competition in Iowa in the past 1000 years or so.

On June 9th and 10th **The Edge of the Cedars Museum at Blanding, Utah** is hosting a local competition with ISACs. WAA President Jim Ray will be on hand to help Jeff Wolin organize the event. The

museum is free to the public all day Saturday, an excellent place to learn about local prehistory. Blanding is located in the beautiful Four Corners region with many site-seeing opportunities just a short distance away. Jeff Wolin states that self-contained RVs may stay in the museum parking lot.

The new Indiana Atlatl Association's first atlatl event will be held at **The Falls of Ohio Interpretive Center and Museum in Clarksville, IN**. June 22 and 23. This two-day event will have ISACs and an Indiana State Championship. Organizer, Richard Lyons hopes to make this an annual event. He will be assisted by Don Roberts of Ohio. The museum has a full size mammoth skeleton, a mannequin holding an atlatl and dart, and many other artifacts of early man. The Center's focus is the largest exposed Devonian fossil beds in the world which are being exposed by a series of waterfalls on the Ohio River.

Another western event is being held amid some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. **The Museum of the San Rafael at Castle Dale, Utah** on July 27-29th will hold their first atlatl competition. Local contests the first two days and ISACs all three days are planned. The museum features a complete authentic flint knapper's backpack filled with tools, raw and finished "flint," and bags of red ocher. There is also a partial Basketmaker atlatl on display.

Big News From France!

By Jim Ray

I recently received a wedding announcement from Benoit Debals (a member of last year's ELF, European Landing Force). Ben married Semka Kulovic from Croatia on December 23, 2000. They met at an archaeological dig at Tautavel, France five years ago. Our very best wishes go out to Ben and Semka. Well done!

New Newsletter – French!

By Bill Tate

Probably the biggest news in The World Atlatl Association is the publication of a new newsletter. This long overdue periodical is the "brain child" of Pascal Chauvaux and Emmanuel Demoulin. They are being assisted, in this first issue at least, by WAA members Pierre Cattelain and Patrick Bidart. Pascal has long stated that we would get more European members if only we published in one of their languages. This publication will be in French and appropriately titled *Le Propulseur* (French for spear thrower). Although it will not be an exact duplicate of *The Atlatl*, we do plan to trade news back and forth which might be of special interest to those on the other

side of the Atlantic Ocean. Having been the Editor of this newsletter for its entire existence, we know some of the difficulties and much of the satisfaction ensuing from its editorship. We know that there will be growth pains and sympathize with them should difficulties arise, but because of their

interest and dedication, we are confident that Pascal and Emmanuel will make this a real success. We support them 100%.

More news about newsletters: It has been a great experience for me being the editor of this newsletter these past 14 years, but the time is fast approaching where we cannot continue in this capacity. Our Board of Directors is searching the membership for volunteers to take over the job in about a year. Is anyone out there listening?

It is our hope too, that before this year is out, the newsletter can be sent electronically to as many members as would desire it. There would be a considerable savings in time, cost, and work, we believe. There will probably be more about this at the Annual Meeting at Flint Ridge, Ohio June 2nd.

2001 ISAC Results

by Lloyd Pine

The results from only a few early contests are available, but it looks like a good start. Four men have thrown scores above 80: Doug Majorsky leads this group with 89XX, followed by Dennis Lantz with 85,

and Terry Keefer and Chuck Butorajac, both with 81.

The women are led by Sylvie de Guillaume of France with 59, followed by Lory Majorsky with 56 and Milissa Dildine with 53.

Fifteen year old Jehan Speckens of Belgium leads the youth with 77. He is followed by Gael Speckens also 15 from Belgium with 70X. Twelve year old Joann Commenge of France is next with 58, followed by thirteen year old Thomas Chavaux of Belgium with 57.

Folks should check out Susie and Kris Tuomala's web site, which should be up and running by the time this newsletter is out. www.walkingonoldground.com.

Good Atlatl Publicity!

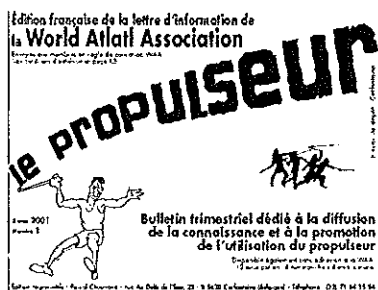
Author Paul Hughes of North Vancouver, BC, Canada learned about atlatl and WAA member, Ray Strischek from a footnote in a 1996 issue of *The Mammoth Trumpet*. He made contact with Ray via e-mail to learn more about our wonderful weapon system, the atlatl which he wished to incorporate into a new novel he is writing. Ray in his normal unfettered manner provided Hughes with pages of information on atlatl manufacture, use and history. When your editor found out about this authors untitled (as yet) book we suggested to the author that he also make contact with Lorenz Bruechert, who lives in Vancouver and who might actually show him how to use the atlatl. The book takes place 10,000 to 15,000 years ago in Beringa as the first people came across the land bridge from Siberia to Alaska.

Year 2000 Grand Champion Awards Presented by The World Atlatl Association.

by Leni Chubb

CONTEST	DATE	WINNER
Keefer's Place, Ft. Loudon PA	May 7-8	Doug Majorski, PA
Franklin Grove, IL	Jun 9-11	Doug Miller, IL
Eastern Seaboard Ch. Castile, NY	Aug 25-27	Terry Keefer, PA
Fremont Indian St. Pk. Utah	June 16-17	Charley Brown, CO
World Atlatl Open Ft. Caspar,	Jun 24	Regina Dodson, WY
Meadowcroft Meadowloft, PA	Jun 25	Terry Keefer, PA
4 th of July at Candor, NY	Jul 4	Ray Strischek, OH
Spear Shing Fling Thing, CO	Jul 24	Jim Ray, MT
IAA Contest Franklin Gr., IL	Aug 4-6	Doug Miller, IL
Cahokia World Her. Site, IL	Sep 9-10	Doug Miller, IL
Fallow Hollow, Candor, NY	Oct 7-8	Scott Van Arsdale, NY
All Hallow's Eve, Arvada, CO	Oct 28-29	Jim Ray, MT
Tioga Park, Nichols, NY	Nov 9	Terry Keefer, PA

My wild oats have turned to prunes and All Bran!



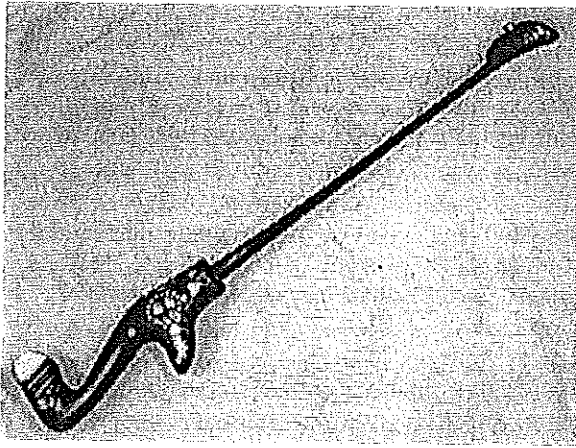
Sample cover of the new French Language newsletter proposed by Pascal Chauvaux.

Fancy Aftlatl

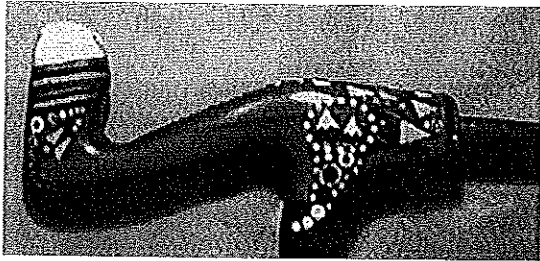
by Jack Rowe

I thought the members might enjoy these pictures. John Jefferson of Waverly, NY made this magnificent aftlatl. He said he was bored. The handle and spur end is made from Mountain Mahogany with a White Oak shaft which has been carbon 14 dated to 1500 B.C. ± 200 years, having been buried in a land slide along the Genesee River in western New York state. It was growing during the time when some of the first mounds were being built!

It is inlaid with mammoth and mastodon ivory, platinum, dinosaur bone, buffalo bone, turquoise



and other precious stones and has a golden spur. It also contains a piece of Brandon Anderson's tooth! John,



aka JJ, has over 700 pieces of inlay and around 400 hours work in this atlatl.

He makes other atlatls too. For use, that is. The one my wife uses, JJ made. It is also made from white oak and has a moose antler handle with a "Y" on the handle so she doesn't have to touch the dart.

Did you know that there is an Aftlatl Valley in the state of Washington. It is in Klickitat County on the Columbia River, west of Spearfish Lake. Just thought you might want to know.

Pascal's Corner



Happy New Years from ELF! Clockwise from top right: Jean-Jacques, Brigitte, Benoit, Emmanuel, Carine, and Pascal. Pascal writes that they had a great night at Jean-Jacques Durancet's home, above, with only wild animals - deer and chamois - on the menu carved with stone knives.



Just before Press time we received word of still another state to be included in the list of new atlatl competitions - Massachusetts. This May 18-20 event is the **New England Aftlatl Shootout at the 5th Annual Buckhorn Rendezvous all Traditional Shoot** in West Stockbridge, MA. Your contact is Tom Phillips (413) 443-7031 or imdiablo62@aol.com

Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the World Atlatl Association

June 1-3, 2001 at Flint Ridge State Memorial, Ohio
by Leni Clubb

This year's annual meeting of The World Atlatl Association, Inc. will be held during the June 1-3 Flint Ridge Ohio competitions. It seems that Ray Strischek has designed some very special events for us including a "Candle Light (after dark) ISAC. Ray says to bring your own candle.

The area known as Flint Ridge was extensively visited by the Hopewell People (100 B.C.-A.D. 500) who searched and quarried for the abundant "flint" rock from which they made tools or traded for copper, shells, etc. A tour of the Moundbuilders State memorial and the Ohio Indian Art Museum near Newark, OH will be offered. You may also wish to visit the Dilley Memorial museum as well.

The Annual Meeting of the World Atlatl Association, Inc. will be held on the evening of June 2nd, following a catered 6:00 p.m. dinner. Cost of the dinner is \$7.50 per person payable by May 15th. Please use the reservation insert included in this newsletter to indicate how many dinners you wish, and forward to WAA Secretary, Leni Clubb, PO Box 56, Ocotillo, CA 92259.

Make plans to attend this furthest east ever annual meeting. Get involved in your organization's business, express your ideas, and participate in discussions of issues. We need your opinions to help our organization grow. The future of this newsletter and Election of three new Executive Directors are among the agenda items.

FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK, UTAH

June 15-17, 2001

by Leni Clubb

Don't miss the Seventh Annual Atlatl Contest on Five Finger Ridge, Fremont Indian State Park. This is one of the best atlatl courses in the country. Assistant Park manager, Pete Weimer works tirelessly from year to year making range improvement and dreaming up additional targets with which to contend. The course consists of many difficult targets ranging from 15 meters to over 200, crossing ravines and hills making it a real challenge and loads of fun.

Plans call for ISACs only on Friday and Sunday with Saturday activities scheduling a full day of competition. A Dutch Oven Dinner will be held Saturday evening. Camp sites 22, 23, 24, 25, and 27 have been reserved for WAA members at no charge on

a first come, first served basis for both June 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday nights. Please sign up on the form inserted in this newsletter.

Foam Target Backing

by Lloyd Pine

The International Standard Accuracy Contest (ISAC) Rules Committee has decided that the matter of providing a suitable target backing is part of the overall responsibilities of contest organizers. If an organizer wants to use a particular type of backing it is up to him to ensure that it is suitable. We do not want to put out a list of "approved" materials as this would stifle the initiative of people to come up with even better target systems. We prefer to give the organizers as much freedom as possible as long as it does not affect the uniformity of the contests. It should be pointed out that these foam materials are to be used as backing only, and not the target itself.

The foam target backing has been used successfully in the past and can continue to be used if the organizer takes some care in the selection and maintenance of the backings to be used in the ISAC. Unfortunately, we received almost no feedback on the properties of "good" and "bad" target backings so we can offer little guidance on new purchases. A study was made that clearly shows that a foam backing that is initially satisfactory will, with use, start bouncing even well thrown, sharp darts. These bounces will be from hits closest to the center of the target since this is where the majority of the wear takes place. This wear also causes the backing to become convex in the direction of the line of throw. This problem can be solved by simply turning the backing around and throwing at the other side. We do not know how long this solution will work, but it has been tested for several hundred throws.

There is no evidence that this type of backing needed better support than other target systems. This study was made with a backing that had a density of 5.3 lbs./cu. ft. The complete report is posted on Susie Brown's web site www.worldatlatl.org. It is strongly suggested that these backings be stored flat and if stored outside, be covered to resist UV degradation.

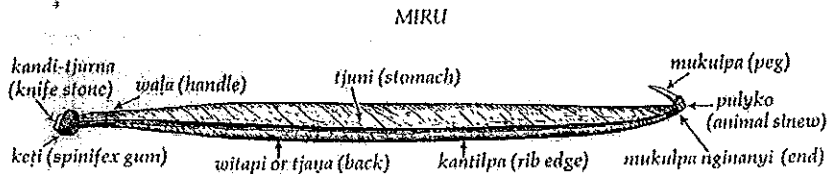
We intend to issue an auxiliary document discussing the pros and cons of different target backings. This guideline will aid contest organizers in selecting and building suitable targets. This is not to be used as a list of "approved" target systems. In addition to containing a summary of the information developed for the foam backings, we will discuss hay bales, pass through, a rigid foam/cardboard sandwich, and any others on which people would like to contribute information from their experience.

Aboriginal 'Miru' Explained

By Ted Bailey

Concerning your reference to "Miru" in the previous newsletter, I found information about it in a book titled "Down Among the Wild Men" by John Greenway (1972). The ISBN is 0-316-32680-1. I am attaching a drawing from page 194 that shows the Miru with the Aboriginal terms for all of the features on it.

Also mentioned in the text, page 187, was that the author saw a Mundjandji tribesman from Amata put a spear into a 2 foot target at 90 yards! The text states that the Aborigine specifically used a flexible



kurku (mulga wood, acacia aneura), apu pirampa (white rock, knife edge material), malinguru (peg from kangaroo), malujina nguru (kangaroo leg)

dart that bent nearly double like a vaulting pole at the release! This is the first real life account that I have seen about the use of flexible darts. There are also a couple of pages with details about the hunt: One paragraph reads as follows:

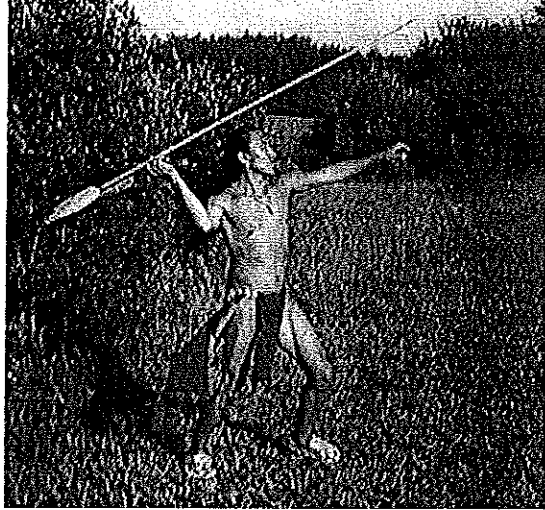
"The Aborigines used to stalk their prey with spear in spear thrower, held somewhat as we hold a rifle before aiming, and shaking the spear for the feel. One of it's flexibility, as we hold a dart before throwing it. When the distance and the feel were right, they hurled their spear as now they fire their guns."

In another note, the text mentions that the common 'bush' name for spear thrower, "woomera" is the term used by the now extinct Dieri tribe.

A Picture Story of Involvement

by Garnet Anthony

I take my atlatl to all the black powder shoots and rendezvous that I attend. Whenever there is space to throw, I demonstrate the atlatl. There is no problem finding willing students. Most people have never seen an atlatl and the flight of a dart impresses everyone. I have even demonstrated on two occasions on golf courses. It is encouraging to all first timers that after a few practice throws, the technology shows its potential, and the relative ease of mastering the basics. Most certainly one feels a kinship with the ancients and one wonders how so many ancient peoples used this technology without contact with one another... or did they?



At White Oak, near Deer River, Minnesota last August. This fellow is a Lakota Sioux who came to demonstrate some of his culture through dance and music. After being shown the atlatl, he wants to re-introduce it to his people.



At Home Study Students and their parents all wanting "Basic Atlatl." They were all in fur trade era costumes and spent the weekend at the Rocky Site. Me giving some guidance to a youngster.



The introduction to the atlatl to these Japanese exchange students took place in a church yard in south Edmonton. After the demo, they cooked a Japanese dinner to thank me.

Atlatl Events Around the World – 2001

- Mar 17 April Fool's Atlatl Throw (on St. Patrick's Day) with ISAC and pot luck meal, at the home of Susie and Charlie Brown, 14560 w. 58th Pl., Arvada, CO. Contact Susie Brown at (303) 421-0035 or ssazzi@earthlink.net
- Mar 30-Apr 1 Valley of Fire State Park, Tenth Annual Atlatl Contests. Near Overton, NV. Contact Leni Clubb (760) 358-7835, (619) 462-4638 or LENIWAA@prodigy.net
- Mar 30-Apr 1 Moundville Knap-In with atlatl and archery contests. Thirteen mi. south of Tuscaloosa, AL, off Interstate 20/59. There will be a fee. Contact Betsy Gilbert (205) 371-2234 or hjones@bama.ua.edu
- Apr 1 Michigan Flint Knappers Spring Knap-in, 3-D course, MAA contest and ISAC, Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Apr 4-8 North Georgia Primitive Arts Festival with atlatl contests including ISACs each day, Gatewood Park on Allatoona Lake near Canton, GA. Contact Mark Bracken (770) 345-7305.
- Apr 7 Fourth Annual Alaska Competition with ISAC, Throwingboard talk, demonstration and display at The Museum of the Aleutians, Unalaska, Alaska. Contact Richard VanderHoek (907) 271-1386 or atlatl@pobox.alaska.net or Jim Dickson (907) 581-1845 or dickson@arctic.net or Museum of the Aleutians at (907) 581-5150.
- Apr 7-8 European championships at Samara, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux pascalC@swing.be
- Apr 7-8 Many Voices Weekend including ISAC at 2:30 p.m. each day at the Missouri Historical Society Museum, Forest Park, St. Louis, MO. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 or rmertz@dttd1.slps.k12.mo.us
- Apr 10 European Competitions with ISAC at Tautavel Museum, Tautavel, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux pascalC@swing.be
- Apr 11 European Competitions with ISAC at Tarascon Prehistoric Park, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux pascalC@swing.be
- Apr 12 European Competitions with ISAC at Mas d'Azil Cave, Mas d'Azil, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux pascalC@swing.be
- Apr 14 "Rain or Shine" ISAC and Local contest Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- Apr 14-15 European Competition with ISAC at Montaner Castle, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux pascalC@swing.be
- Apr 21-22 European Competition at Ramioul, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux pascalC@swing.be
- Apr 21-22 Third Annual Earthday Gathering and Mastodon Open. (two atlatl contests and ISAC) EMC Clubgrounds, Rt. 34, 4.1 mi. north of Waverly, NY. Sponsored by the new Tyoga Atlatl Association and the EMC Club. Contact Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 fieldwalker@stny.rr.com or contact Dennis Lentz (507) 358-3000.
- Apr 22 European competition with ISAC in Rome, Italy. Contact Bruno Morucci arca@fivenet.it
- Apr 28 Wooster Archaeology Day with Atlatl Contest and ISAC at College of Wooster, Ohio. Contact Michael Miller at millemj@acs.wooster.edu
- Apr 28-29 European competitions with ISAC at Tascaron, France. Contact Emmanuel Demoulin at Emmanuel.Demoulin@wanadoo.fr
- Apr 28-29 ISAC and Local Atlatl contest and fun the 28th, and possibly a tour of Blackwater Draw Clovis and Folsom Site on the 29th, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM. Contact David Batten (505) 562-2750 or david.batten@enmu.edu
- Apr 28-29 First Annual Raging Cow Atlatl Meet and ISAC at Grinnell College Campus, Grinnell, IA and is sponsored by the Grinnell College Atlatl Team. Contact John Whittaker (641) 269-3447 or whittake@grinnell.edu
- May 5 Annual Idaho State Open Atlatl Competition with a specially built course just for ISAC at Celebration Park, Melba, ID. Contact Tom Bicak at (208) 495-2745.
- May 5-6 European Championships at Les Eyzies, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- May 6 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- May 18-20 No Name Rendezvous with European, ISAC, World Open, and Novelty Competitions with an atlatl workshop. Throw at "Big Red" and an "Ice Age Bison" at Ahlman's 3 miles north of Morristown, MN. Contact Dale Torma (218) 865-7049.
- May 18-20 New England Atlatl Shootout at the 5th Annual Buckhorn Rendezvous All Traditional Shoot near W. Stockbridge, MA. Contact Tom Phillips (413) 443-7031 or imdiablo62@aol.com
- May 19-20 Fort Osage Atlatl Competition and Spring Knap-in. Local competitions and ISAC. Fort Osage is located 20 miles east of Kansas City Missouri along the Missouri River. Contact Ray Madden at (417) 781-0962 or rhmadden@janics.com
- May 19-20 European Championships with ISAC at Tarascon, France. Contact Emmanuel Demoulin at Emmanuel.Demoulin@wanadoo.fr
- May 25-28 Michigan Atlatl Association's 10th Annual Atlatl Marathon with four ISACs and primitive archery at Wilder Creek Conservation Club, Marshall, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- May 26 one Day Atlatl Contest and ISAC at Russell's Place, Buford, WY. Contact Russell Richards (307) 772-0550 or coyoteclown@aol.com
- May 26 "Spring Fling" ISAC and Local contest Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- May 26 Paleo-Indian Spear Factory with atlatl demonstrations, practice, and an ISAC at 2:00 p.m. at Mastodon State Park located about 20 miles south of St. Louis, MO. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 or rmertz@dttd1.slps.k12.mo.us
- May 26-27 European Championships at Crepy-en-Valois, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Jun 1-3 Fourteenth Annual Meeting of The World Atlatl Association plus ISACs, Candle Light ISAC (after dark) plus State Accuracy Competitions at Flint Ridge State Historic Site near Newark, Ohio. Contact Ray Strischeck nights at (740) 592-3465 or harsec@yahoo.com, or Leni Clubb (760) 358-7835, (619) 462-4638 or LENIWAA@prodigy.net
- Jun 2-3 European Championships with ISACs at Tautavel, France. Contact Jacques Pernaud at Jacques.Pernaud@wanadoo.fr
- Jun 3 Chelsea Rod & Gun club 3-D Course and ISAC at Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Jun 8-10 ISAC and European style Competitions (ISAC only, Friday) at Chaplin Creek Historic Site, Franklin Grove, IL. Contact Don Asp (815) 456-2305.
- Jun 9-10 Local contest and ISACs Edge of Cedars Museum, Blanding, UT. Contact Jeff Wolin (435) 587-3432 or jeff_wolin@hotmail.com
- Jun 15-17 Atlatl contest and ISACs at Fremont Indian State Park, Sevier, UT. Contact Pete Weimer (436) 527-4631.
- Jun 15-17 Allegany Festival 2001 with atlatl competition and ISAC. Island Park, Wellsville, NY. Contact Jack Brown (716) 593-4678 or jac@stonesbone.com or Dana Klein (716) 365-8048 or danakchert@aol.com
- Jun 16-17 Demonstration only walkabout on 3-D target range at Camp Tuscarawas about 20 miles south of Canton, OH via Rt. 8. Contact Ray Strischeck (740) 592-3465 (nights)

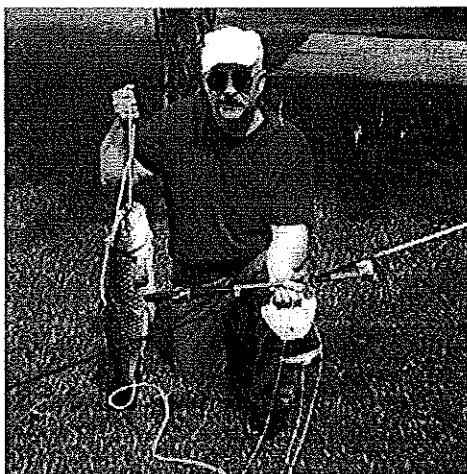
- Jun 20-24 Michigan Outdoor Survival School (MOSS) featuring many primitive skills including workshops with the atlatl. Willow Winds, Mikado, MI. Cost is \$175. Contact Jim Miller (517) 736-3487.
- Jun 22-23 ISAC and Local contests, 302 Target Road Wintersville, OH, contact Don & Toni Roberts (740) 264-9714 or donwrob317@cs.com
- Jun 22-23 First Annual Indiana Atlatl Association Atlatl Contest with ISACs both days and Indiana State championship on Jun 23 at The Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center and Museum, Clarksville, IN. Contact Richard Lyons (812) 246-9987 or atlatl@gateway.net
- Jun 22-24 MSU/MUCC Outdoor Expo with atlatl demonstrations all three days, at Nokomis Center Heritage Festival in East Lansing, MI. Contact Chris Oberg (517) 339-1808.
- Jun 23-24 European Championships with ISAC at Tarascon, France. Contact Emmanuel Demoulin at Emmanuel.Demoulin@wanadoo.fr
- Jun 23-24 World Open Atlatl Contest June 23rd with ISACs both days & Primitive Skills Contests (tomahawk, knife, spear and archery) at Fort Caspar Museum and Historic Site, Casper, WY. Contact Rick Young (307) 235-8462
- Jun 24 Local contest, ISAC, and demonstration at Meadowcroft, Avella, PA. Contact Margie Takoch (740) 264-1755 or margieandfrank@hotmail.com
- Jun 29-Jul 1 Tyrone Elks Park Knap-in and atlatl contests including ISAC at Tyrone, PA. Contact Tim Jackson (814) 684-0402 or PatTeePee@aol.com or Terry Keefer (717) 349-2262 or tkeef@cvn.net
- Jun 30-Jul 1 Atlatls in Action, contests and ISAC at EMC Clubgrounds, Waverly, NY. Contact Brandon Anderson (607) 565-7901 or contact Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 or fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
- Jul 1 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Jul 4 Candor July 4th Atlatl Contest and ISAC at Moyer Park, Candor, New York. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg 1 800 836-4520, (607) 659-5967 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
- Jul 7-8 European Championships with ISACs both days at Tarascon, France. Contact Emmanuel Demoulin at Emmanuel.Demoulin@wanadoo.fr
- Jul 7-8 European Competition with ISACs at Palo Laziale, Rome, Italy. Contact Bruno Morucci arca@fivenet.it
- Jul 7-8 Montana Mammoth Hunt with ISACs at Montana City, MT. Contact Troy Helmick (406) 266-3398 or Jim Ray (406) 736-5274.
- Jul 13-14 Aurora Spear Sling Fling Thing (set up and ISAC only on 13th p.m.) at Aurora History Museum's Delaney Farms, Aurora, Colorado. Contact Bill Tate (303) 75-5591 or atlatl@mho.net
- Jul 13-15 Ft Loudon Pennsylvania local competition and ISACs, at the site of historic Fort Loudon. Contact Terry Keefer (717) 349-2262 or tkeef@cvn.net
- Jul 14-15 European Championships at Guer, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Jul 21-22 European Championships at Le Grand-Pressigny, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Jul 21-22 Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament with Local contests and ISACs at Lorraine, NY. Contact Rodger Klindt (315) 639-6293 mammoth@northnct.org
- Jul 27-29 Local Contests and ISACs (ISAC only 29th) Museum of San Rafael, Castle Dale, UT. Contact Janet Petersen (435) 381-5252.
- Jul 29 Michigan Flint Knapper's Knap-in with atlatl demonstrations and knapping "pit." Contact Robert Love (810) 231-1474.
- Aug 3-5 Illinois State Championship including European Competition and ISAC (ISAC only, Friday) at Chaplin Creek Historic Site, Franklin Grove, IL. Contact Don Asp (815) 456-2305.
- Aug 5 European Competition with ISAC at Mas d'Azil, France. Contact Bruno Morucci at arca@fivenet.it
- Aug 5 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Aug 5-8 Green Flats Atlatl Rattle with local contests and ISACs all days at Green Flats, Hancock, NY. Contact Chris Pappas (607) 637-2585.
- Aug 9-11 6th Annual Bois Blanc Island Primitive Skills Gathering. Three days of primitive skills instruction and atlatl tournaments and three ISACs in a gorgeous setting in northern Lake Huron. \$85.00 Additional info: www.msu.edu/~oberg/boisblanc.html Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Aug 11-12 European contests at Boario Terme, Italy. Contact Bruno Morucci at arch@fivenet.it
- Aug 17-19 State Accuracy Competitions and ISACs, (with special Fading Light Floating ISAC at Steve's Pond on Friday) at Albany Ohio Riding Club (Fairgrounds), Albany, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553, or Ray Striscek (740) 592-3465 (nights).
- Aug 24-26 Stone Tool Show and Atlatl contests with ISAC each day at Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or gourier@spectra.net or contact Lou Hillman LBHNDP@ritvax.isc.rit.edu. Also check out the following web page: <http://eccentrix.com/business/hazmat/stonetool/index.html>
- Aug 24-26 Ahlman's Shooters Roundup Atlatl Competitions. Featuring European & ISAC, World Open plus an atlatl workshop at Ahlman's, 3 miles north of Morristown, MN Contact Dale Torma (218) 865-7049.
- Aug 31-Sep 2 State competition and ISACs with a special Candle Light ISAC on Friday at Flint Ridge Ohio. Contact Ray Striscek (740-592-3465 (nights).
- Sep 8-9 Cahokia 2001 featuring European Round, ISAC, East vs West, and more. Cahokia World Heritage Site, Collinsville, IL. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 or rmertz@tdl.slps.k12.mo.us
- Sep 9 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Sep 13 European Championships at Biemme, Switzerland. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Sep 15 Paw Paw Festival with demonstrations for the public and ISAC at Lake Snowden, Albany, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553.
- Sep 15-16 Fort Osage Atlatl competition and Fall Knap-in. Local and ISAC Competitions. Fort Osage east of Kansas City, MO. Contact Ray Madden at (417) 781-0962 or rhadden@janics.com
- Sep 22 Nokomis Center Heritage Festival with atlatl demonstrations all day. Contact Chris Oberg (517) 339-1808 or oberg@msu.edu.
- Sep 22-23 Pennsylvania State Championship and ISAC Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.

- Sep 29-30 Local atlatl contests with ISACs at EMC Campgrounds, Waverly, NY. Contact Brandon Anderson (607) 565-7901 or contact Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 or fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
- Sep 30 Michigan Atlatl Association 2001 Championship with four tournaments including ISAC at Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@jismi.net.
- Oct 6-7 Candor Fall Festival Atlatl Contest and Hunt with ISACs at Fallow Hollow Deer Farm, Candor, NY. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg 1 800 836-4520, (607) 659-5967 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
- Oct 7-8 European Championships at Bougon, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Oct 27 ROAR Event with atlatl demonstration and ISAC only, at Zaleski State Forest south of New Plymouth, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553.
- Nov 3-4 Icicle Atlatl Contest with ISACs at Tioga Park, Nichols, NY. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg 1 800 836-4520, (607) 659-5967 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
- Nov 17-18 European Championships at Bruly-de-Pesche, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Nov 23 Turkey Toss and Last Gasp ISAC. Atlatls and Kyties (rabbit sticks) at Brighton Recreation Area Organization Camp, Brighton, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@jismi.net.

Please send dates of atlatl events for the newsletter's calendar to the WAA Secretary, Ms. Leni Clubb. Include dates, location, name of event, and contact information. See address on back cover. This will insure that your event is recognized by WAA, which is absolutely required for ISAC registration.

Submit reports, cartoons, and miscellaneous atlatl related material to us. Your Editor can be reached by FAX at (303) 755-1145, or mail at 1390 S. Paris Court, Aurora, CO 80012, phone (303) 755-5591, or by e-mail: atlatl@mho.net

This is membership year.
Tell your friends about The World Atlatl Association.
Just \$15.00 annually -- \$20.00 for family.
Build the membership!



Lou Becker and carp caught with atlatl and dart.



The Hunter's Challenge at Cahokia World Heritage Site in Illinois last year. Susie Brown releases a dart at 12 meters while Charlie Brown, Ray Madden, and Jim Ray look on.

Photo by Ron Mertz

Hunting Rough Fish with the Ancient Atlatl

by Lou Becker

Pale, leathery tail fins waved above tea-colored water. Shoreline vegetation trembled; floating debris bobbed and parted under the assault of a hundred carp. "Looks like a carp hunter's paradise," I said to my son Adam, as we gazed out over a two-acre stretch of Michigan's St. John's Marsh near Lake St. Clair. Heavy rain had swollen the marsh and spilled its waters into a neighboring field that was dry just a few days

before.

Fluffy swatches of cottonwood seed gently drifted down and settled on the marsh's murky surface. This accumulation created a floating, downy mat that was being disturbed constantly by rubbery lips. We had to chuckle at the symphony of sucking and gulping sounds, but it was the kind of activity that makes a rough fish hunter's pulse race.

The relentless humidity was high enough to stifle an alligator, and the mosquitoes didn't hesitate to intimately introduce themselves. Despite the inhospitable vermin, we were eager to get started. "This carp hunt will be nothing less than fantastic." I

thought.

For years we've enjoyed the great bowfishing potential that the St. John's Marsh has offered. This time, however, we had left our longbows at home and were hunting the rough fish with our atlatsl and harpoon darts.

To those not familiar with the atlatsl, which means spear thrower, it is pronounced AT-LAT-AL. The roots of archery and bowhunting began thousands of years ago when prehistoric man found that by taking a stick with a hook on the end and fitting a five to six foot light spear, called a dart by archaeologists, that he could increase his power and accuracy many times over-compared to throwing a spear by hand. The atlatsl was used in all parts of the world. Prehistoric hunters were using atlatsls to hunt mammoths and wide-horned bison 20,000 years before the bow and arrow was even invented. In a previous article, I related how I had used my atlatsl to harvest a large boar on a hunting preserve in Georgia. This initial story sparked a lot of new interest in the atlatsl.

As Adam and I walked along a high bank, next to a creek that emptied into the expanding marsh, we could see several large carp rolling and jumping just ahead of us. Adam took a throw at a large female carp. His six foot dart just grazed the top fin and it took off through the weeds like a tank. As Adam reeled in his dart, I walked ahead and waited about a minute before another large carp surfaced enough so that we could see the dorsal fin on top of the water. I took a quick throw, remembering that the water refraction makes the fish appear higher than they really are. Just as in bowfishing, you must aim lower than you might think. The dart hit the carp just about in the middle. The water exploded as the big fish tried unsuccessfully to swim away with the six foot harpoon dart.

On a good solid throw, these darts come off the thrower at about 100 miles an hour. Another factor is the weight of the dart. The average hunting/fishing arrow weighs 600 to 900 grains. My harpoon darts weigh about 3000 grains. The penetration is more than surprising.

The dart had penetrated the fish and stuck about six inches into the muddy bottom. After a few quick tugs, I was able to free the dart from the mud and retrieve my prize. As I finished this, Adam took a throw at a gar pike, and scored a nice hit. Since gar pike are about one fourth the width of a carp, I was more than proud of his skill with the atlatsl.

As the afternoon progressed we both took about ten more throws, scoring about six more hits apiece. Just like with the longbow, anyone who practices can become very accurate with the ancient atlatsl.

When using the atlatsl for rough fish, I have had more luck throwing darts from high banks over the water or using waders in shallow water than throwing from a boat. Adam and I had used a canoe one time and just as I threw my dart at a fish, I lost my balance and we both took a cold bath.

In remote areas of Alaska, Eskimo hunters still use atlatsls from kayaks to harvest seals and large fish. Myself, I'll stick to throwing darts from high banks and wading in the shallows anytime.

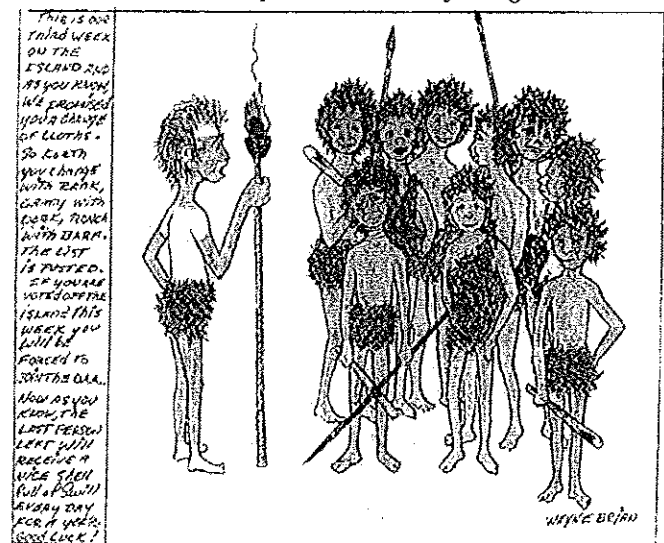
After about five hours, we had a total of fourteen fish. The large female carp with eggs would be used for garden fertilizer. The fresh, firm fish would be smoked. With a little work they make very good eating.

As we walked back to our vehicle with the string of fish, a guy in a pick-up truck pulled in and said "whose arrows are those, the Jolly Green Giant's?" referring to our six-foot atlatsl darts. Instead of giving him the 15 minute history lesson, I handed him one of my flyers on "The Amazing Atlatsl."

I said, "Read this, it will explain everything about our atlatsls and darts." An interesting thing to me is, as the atlatsl sport continues to grow, I find myself not having to explain how the atlatsl works and how it relates to the history of archery and bowhunting as much as I did five or six years ago.

Interested in atlatsls? contact: Bowsport Archery, 4136 King Road, China, Michigan 48054 or call (810) 326-0279.

Editors note: Next issue we will continue with more from Lou Becker--a report on his atlatsl fishing reel.



Points to Ponder...

- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- Why is it necessary to nail down the lid on a coffin?
- Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
- Why is the third hand on a watch called a second hand?

ON TARGET
by Leni Clubb

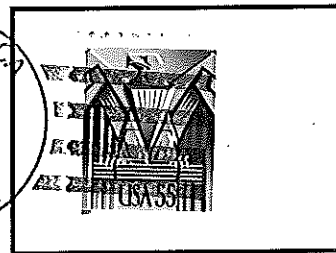
As I list the atlatl contests that have been held or that are scheduled for this year on the "official" list, I notice that there are many being held at archaeological sites, historical sites, museums, State Parks, etc. – Cahokia World Heritage Site in Illinois; Ft. Osage in Missouri; Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada, Fremont Indian State Park, Utah; Letchworth State Park in New York; Aurora History Museum in Colorado; Flint Ridge State Memorial in Ohio; Meadowcroft State Park in Pennsylvania; and others. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members to learn more about our archaeological and historical past as well as to throw darts with the atlatl. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity when you attend atlatl contests at these locations.

As you have read in this issue, something exciting has been added to WAA—a French language newsletter to be edited by Pascal Chauvaux of Belgium and Emmanuel Demoulin of France. They have been working hard on it and hope to have the first issue to the printers in March. Due to the cost of printing and mailing, if you want to receive both the French language edition and the English (American) version, there will be additional charges. U.S. members must pay an additional \$10.00 to receive the French edition, and French speaking European members will pay an additional \$8.00 a year to continue to receive the English version. We feel sure that this new publication will increase membership in Europe and wish Pascal and Emmanuel well in this new endeavor.

Leni Clubb

Membership in the World Atlatl Association is \$15.00 per year; family membership is \$20.00. Send all inquiries and dues to WAA Secretary:

LENI CLUBB
P. O. BOX 56
OCOTILLO, CA 92259 USA



JOHN WHITTAKER (9/01)
DEPT OF ANTHRO, GRINNELL COL.
P.O. BOX 805
GRINNELL, IA 50112-0806

WORLD ATLATL
ASSOCIATION
WEB SITE:
www.worldatlatl.org

