

The ATLATL

“Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!”

Rich McWhorter

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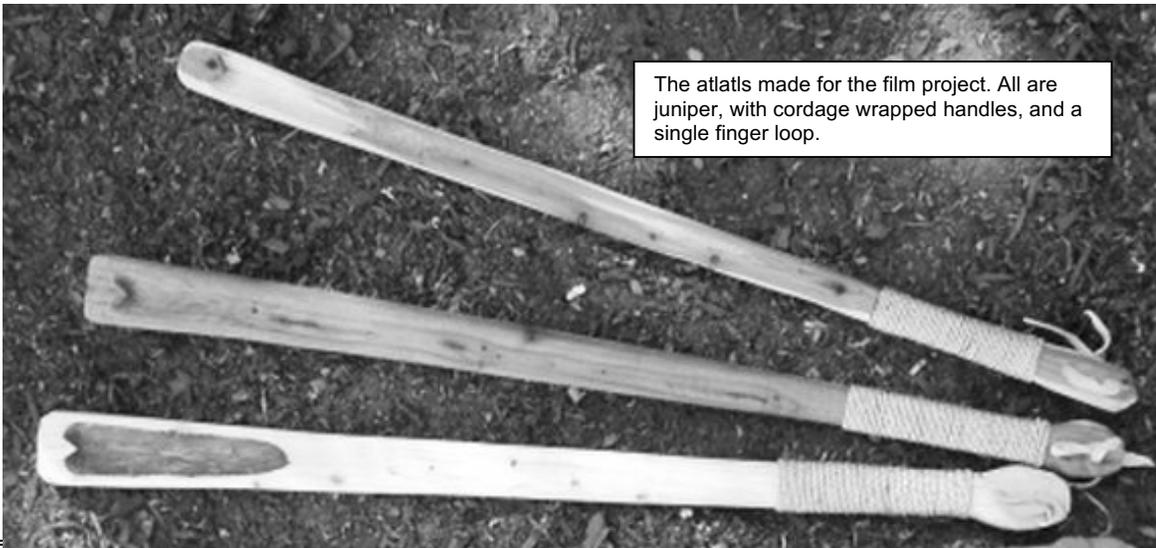
October 2004

The Atlatl's Television Debut!

By Tom Mills

There's exciting news in the atlatl world! Our heretofore relatively obscure interest is about to make a showing on prime time cable television. On Sunday, October 31, 2004, at 9:00 P.M., the Discovery Channel will be running a 2-hour special, entitled "L.A., 10,000 BC." This program (initially called "Ice Age Beast") will provide glimpse of what it may have been like to live in a hunter/gatherer society, in southern California during the conclusion of the last ice age. For those of us who share a present day fascination with this ancient weapon, I am proud and pleased to announce the atlatl will be a prominent feature throughout much of the show!

I know these things, because I was hired on as an "atlatl expert." Many of you who know me are aware that the term "expert" might be a bit lofty. Be that as it may, I accepted the offer without hesitation, as the assignment was clearly the opportunity of a lifetime. Since childhood, I have been keenly interested in prehistory and obsessed with prehistoric technology. In order to shed light on the depth of my excitement to participate with this project, it's important to note that aside from my general interest in such matters, I am an avid atlatlist and flintknapper. Merely to say that I was thrilled at this opportunity is an understatement - I was elated!

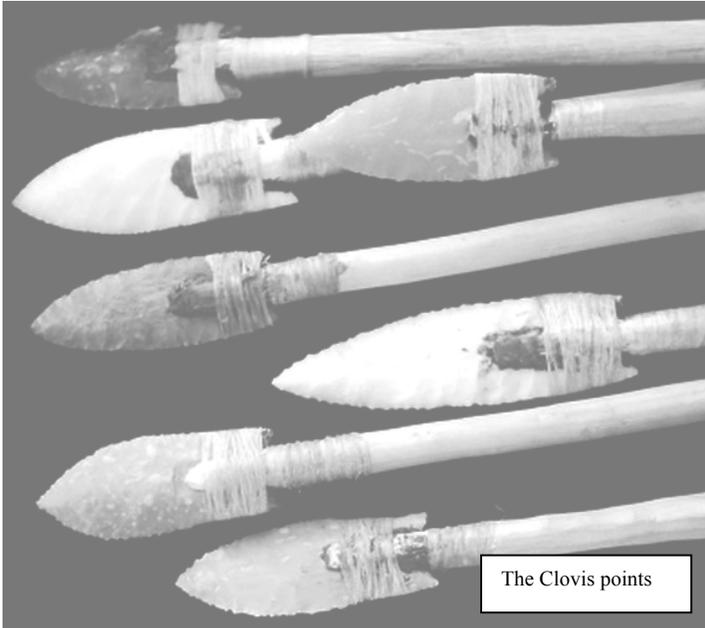


The atlatls made for the film project. All are juniper, with cordage wrapped handles, and a single finger loop.

In becoming part of this project, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my good friend, Jim Winn. Jim is an outstanding local flintknapper (he's featured in Derrick McLean's 2005 knapping calendar). Some years back, Jim and I met at the now defunct,

Wrightwood, California Flintknapping Rendezvous, where I held atlatl events twice a year. Jim had previously assisted a film crew on another Discovery Channel special that concerned the Mayan culture.

As Jim tells the story, he was once again contacted by the production company and asked if he would be interested in doing some more work for them. When the producer informed Jim that they were also in need of an atlatlist, Jim gave them my name. Ironically, I later learned that in searching the land for an atlatlist, the producer previously contacted Bob Berg. I was told that Bob had also given them my name (thanks Jim, and thanks Bob, this should have been your gig)!



I won't get into a lengthy account of exactly what transpired during the film project, as I'd certainly bore you, and spoil your viewing. Instead, I'll just provide an overview of the program.

In short, this 2 hour long special will concern the Clovis culture, set in the area now known as Los Angeles. From what I've been able to piece together, the idea is to contrast life in present day L.A., with life in Clovis times. The plan was to have 3 stunt-actors (2 men and one woman) learn about making and using Clovis tools, and then be transported back in time to put their education to use. Aside from learning to make stone tools and use atlatls, the actors were to receive instruction from a modern big game hunter in tracking elephants, as time travel would find them hunting a mammoth.

As I was present for only 3 days of multi-week filming, I have only a limited understanding of how this will all come together. My best guess is that the program will be a bit light on science and archeological accuracy – kind of a morph between a science program, and a fun, action packed, reality TV show. This is the same crew that produced the "Anatomy of a Shark Bite" and some other, similar television programs.

My first contact was with a fellow named Bill Martens, the Producer. Bill gave me a general overview of the

nature of the program and what they needed in the way of atlatl related props and expertise. He said that they needed someone to provide both a number of functional atlatls and darts, as well as instruction to their stunt-actors in using this equipment. Although Bill informed me that I would be filmed providing this instruction, I didn't realize until later on that this would ultimately be part of the show. As it turned out, their idea was to create a literal outdoor classroom (complete with desks, chairs, and a blackboard) in which the students would receive their instruction.

At the risk of spoiling my 15 minutes of fame, I felt it proper to advise Bill that there is no direct archeological evidence to support the notion that the atlatl was part of the Clovis tool kit. He assured me that he and the Director were aware of this fact, but that they still wanted to have the atlatl used in the program. Whew! A close call!

My next concern was their expectations as far as the prehistoric accuracy of the tools they expected me to provide. Although I had a garage full of bamboo, and locally occurring "river cane" (*Arundo donax* – a species introduced from the Mediterranean), I had little or no locally occurring natural shaft material! I was contacted only about 1 week prior to the filming date, and there was simply insufficient time for me to cut and cure any local material.

I was assured that the bamboo atlatl dart shafts would be just fine, as most of the scenes involving the atlatl would be set in the present day. And that even the "reenactment" scenes weren't true reenactment scenes, in the sense that the actors weren't to portray actual Clovis hunters, merely present day stunt-actors being transported back in time.

From the moment Bill contacted me, I snapped into action and started preparing materials for atlatls and darts. Although the producer and art director weren't tremendously concerned about the use of realistic materials (i.e. the bamboo dilemma), this continued to bother me. As a viewer of many television programs of this type, I've often been disappointed by less than accurate representations of tools and such, and would have much preferred having a wee bit more lead-time.

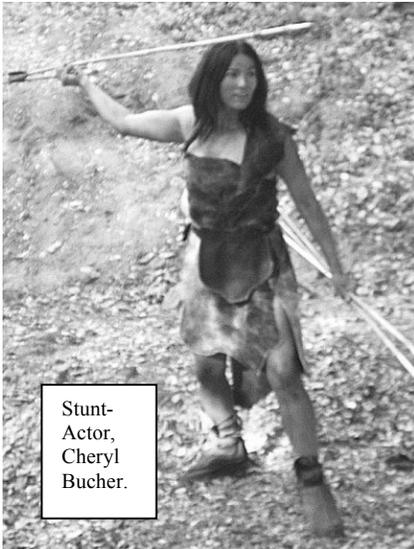
I decided to make 3 generic looking atlatls – nothing fancy, just Basketmaker type spurs, simple handgrips made

of hand twisted cordage, and a single finger loop. The Art Director suggested black fletching, instead of more natural looking turkey feathers.

Although nerve-racking, the first day of filming was a blast! I was introduced to the actors:



Stunt-actors - Greg Fitzpatrick (stunt double for Ben Stiller), Richard Bucher (Seabiscuit, Minority Report, All the Pretty Horses, and many others films, far too numerous to mention), and Cheryl Bucher (lost my notes on this score...sorry Cheryl!).



Stunt-Actor, Cheryl Bucher.

After meeting the stunt-actors, we were introduced to another expert (this time, a true expert), Nicole Waguespack, PhD., who holds a teaching position at the Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming.

Nicole is a wonderfully pleasant young woman, who is presently involved with a Folsom project in Colorado (the Barger Gulch site). Clearly, she was called in for her expertise on Paleoindian subsistence strategies in general, and the Clovis culture in particular.

The crew finally got set up and ready to roll in the late morning. Jim Winn, began, giving his presentation to the “students” about flintknapping. Thanks to the camera glitch, I was able to finish up my preparations, and get back to watch Jim in action. He looked a bit nervous at first, but quickly shook it off, managing to appear like a real pro. Watching Jim, I was struck by my first real pangs of fear! He had 3 cameras on him, sound folks all around, a spider web of wires and monitors just off camera, and about 30 people, sitting and standing around, doing the things that film crews do. I’ve never been in front of a camera before, and frankly was frightened at the prospect of shortly being in Jim’s shoes!

After Jim’s brief classroom instruction, he demonstrated his art of making a Clovis point with all natural tools. He started with a large cobble of obsidian, and masterfully waltzed through the stages of reduction. All the while, the cameras were rolling, there were distracting questions from the students, requests from the Director for slight re-takes. For those among you, who are strangers to flintknapping, let me tell you that that it is difficult to make a Clovis point under the best circumstances. Add to that the pure tension of the situation, and you’ve got a recipe for failure. Not only did Jim pull it off, he did so with flying colors and produced an absolutely gorgeous work of art! He used direct percussion to flute the point at the end. There was a tense moment when his first fluting strike went slightly awry. He quickly recovered though, rebuilding his fluting platform and proceeding to flute both sides of the point like the master that he is.

My real work started after Jim finished his instruction. I was filmed teaching the stunt-actors to use the atlatl. They

were naturals. Although several of the initial throws were off target, they executed good throws, and the darts flew well. With only a small bit of encouragement, and direction, they were quickly hitting paper on most of their throws. When you see the film, keep in mind that the actors had absolutely no practice before hand – their first throws ever were the ones you see on film!

Following this segment, we filmed a penetration test on a side of beef. The test was between a hand thrown spear, a thrusting spear, and a dart propelled by an atlatl. I was afraid that my equipment would fail (the side of beef had been buried in ice all day, and it was hard and tough, like rubber. In this segment, the archeological expert, Nicole, and I shared the “stage.” We held an on-camera discussion about our test, before, during and after. Neither Nicole or I were given any script – we just chatted it up as best we could, with Nicole easily slipping into her professor mode, with me as the student and not-so-lovely assistant!

With cameras rolling, and about 60 eyeballs burning into me from all sides, I stepped up to throw the atlatl dart. The pressure was really on! I’d never thrown this dart with this oversized Clovis point; and I didn’t know how the dart would perform. As it turned out, I managed to execute a

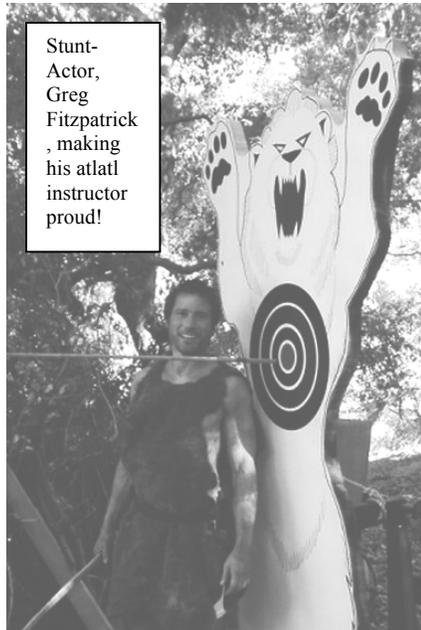
powerful and accurate throw, and the penetration test was a tremendous success.

The atlatl dart was the obvious winner. It penetrated through about eleven inches of the ice-cold fat, meat, and bone, coming to rest inside the body cavity of the beef. Had this been a warm, living, breathing animal, I haven’t a doubt that the dart would have penetrated clear through.

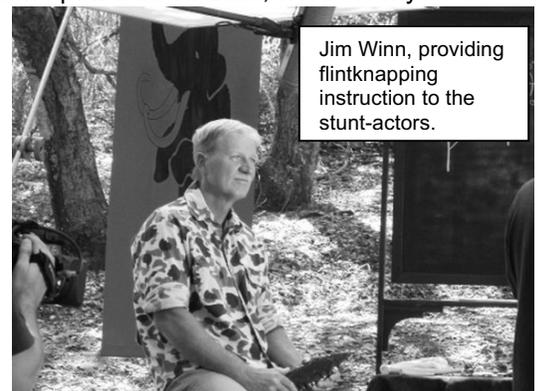
James Younger, the Director, was very pleased with the outcome of this sequence. The rest of the film staff, having never witnessed the power of an atlatl, were clearly

fascinated too. Rather than packing up and heading home as others had started to do, the stunt-actors returned to the practice bales with renewed

interest in the atlatl. They were getting better quickly, and you could see that they were hooked on the atlatl!



Stunt-Actor, Greg Fitzpatrick, making his atlatl instructor proud!



Jim Winn, providing flintknapping instruction to the stunt-actors.

As the film crew began to pack up in the fading light, the Director, James, excitedly asked/demanded that I return on Friday to help out on the filming of the mammoth hunt. As this wasn't originally part of the plan, I was pleasantly surprised to be asked, and happy as could be with the situation. I agreed enthusiastically.

By the time I finished with my contribution to the project, I had returned two more times (that Friday, and for a final day of shooting the following Thursday).

My final two days of filming weren't as event filled, or as exciting as the first day. My remaining contribution involved further instructing the actors off camera, and assisting them with their throwing technique for their mammoth hunt.

Each of the actors threw like real pros during the mammoth hunt. Along the mammoth's trail, ice-aged predators ambushed them, and they had to throw at these targets before the predators pounced. They made their teacher proud!

On the final day, the crew set up another penetration test for the atlatl. This time, the test involved an attempt to pierce the hide of an elephant. I have no idea where they obtained this hide, but I was told that it was over 20 years old. It was basically a 1" thick piece of rawhide, with the consistency (even after days of soaking) of an automobile tire.

The crew affixed the rehydrated elephant rawhide to a metal and wood frame, and then clamped the frame to the side of a huge mechanical mammoth they used in other portions of the film. Behind the rawhide, they placed "blood bags" for visual effect, and behind them, a thin sheet of plywood to hold the blood bags in place. I was a bit disappointed in this setup, as I knew that the plywood would present huge problems for the penetration test. My cautions fell on deaf ears however (after all, I was just the atlatl guy, and what the heck did I know).

For the most part, the darts easily penetrated the 1" thick rawhide and punctured the blood bags, but having been robbed of much of their energy in the process, failed to penetrate the plywood. The result was that they appeared rather ineffectual. Had my advice been taken, some foam board would have replaced the plywood backing. With such an arrangement, the darts would have passed through the hide completely.

On the final day of my involvement with the filming, a bit of sadness crept in. I had bonded with many of the film crew, and especially with the Director, the Producer, several of the camera and sound people. Most if all, I'd become friendly with the stunt-actors. Everyone made me feel welcome and appreciated, and just like one of the gang. I knew that I'd be returning to my desk job the following day, and that these interesting folks would be off somewhere to work on their next film project.

Combined with this were very positive feelings of having participated, and a sense of pride at having had the opportunity to make my contribution towards spreading knowledge and awareness about the atlatl. As this show will certainly be viewed by hundreds of thousands of people

(if not more), I strongly suspect we'll see an increasing



The Elephant hide, fixed in its frame and attached to the mechanical mammoth.

interest in the atlatl following on its heels.

So don't forget, at 9:00 P.M., on October 31, 2004, tune your televisions in to the Discovery Channel, and take a peek at "LA 10,000 BC!"

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~Message to members~

Please remember to renew your WAA membership on time. Your expiration date will be on the cover of "The Atlatl" by your name and address. If you can sign up any new members or want WAA brochures/applications to hand out let us know. Please send renewals and inquires to Richard B. Lyons, 5024 King Rd., Jeffersonville, IN 47130.

Thanks, Richard

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~NOTICE~NOTICE~NOTICE~

There is a NEW Community site replacing the original.

<http://www.communityzero.com/atlatlworld>

Thank you, Susie Brown, for founding and funding our beginning community Internet site!

ISAC RESULTS
Mark Bracken Leads Men's Division
True Tie in Women's Division Still Unbroken
 By Lloyd Pine

Mark Bracken leads the men's division with a 97XXX, only one point behind his world record score of 98-5X. Ray Strischek is only an "X" behind Mark for second place. Mike Glenn, Dennis Lantz, and Gary Fogelman, hold down third fourth and fifth places respectively, all with 95X. The order is set by the number of tens that each threw. Jim Gilligan is sixth with 94X and Mike Waters is seventh with 93. Douglas Bassett, 92XXX, Chuck Butorajac, 92X, and Scott Van Arsdale, 91X, complete the top ten men. Doug Leeth, Mamerto Tindongan, and Dave Santos are to be congratulated for throwing 90 or greater this year, all new personal best scores.

Neither Melissa Dildine nor Margie Takoch has been able to improve on their tying scores of 87. Jo Anne Fogelman and Sherry Bracken still hold down third and fourth place with 86 and 79 respectively. Their scores have also remained unchanged since the July newsletter. Sharon Keefer and Anita Lukes have moved into fifth and sixth places with scores of 78. Lori Majorsky improved her score to 68 to hold on to seventh place. Linda Brundage, 67XX, Toni Roberts, 67X, and Kerry Opel, 65 round out the group of top ten women.

The top three youth remain in the same position but all have greatly improved scores. Nick Mertz is first with 89, followed by Teddy Eyster with 84x, and Allan Tindongan is third with 83X. Mason Miller's 87X moved Carol Bracken from fourth to fifth place even though Carol had raised her score from 57 to 71. Kyle Adams is sixth with 70X. The next three places are all held by ten-year-olds. Levi Miller, 67, Torin Tindongan, 65, and Harold Eyster, 63. Austin Smith completes the top ten youth with 61.

A Reminder to ISAC Contest Organizers

By Lloyd Pine

Contest organizers need to plan ahead if they plan on having an ISAC as part of their atlatl event. Please read the rules that are part of the package sent to each contest organizer. The rules require that the event be announced in the news letter before the event takes place. Remember that the deadline for each edition of THE ATLATL is about three to four weeks before the newsletter actually issues. If this deadline is missed, permission to hold the ISAC can be obtained by contacting Lori Majorsky the Executive Secretary. However, this permission is not to be considered automatic. There should be a good reason for not getting the contest announced in THE ATLATL, not just an "I forgot".

These rules are not just to put a burden on the organizers. The reason for these rules is two-fold. First, in some locations where there are a lot of contests planning ahead allows the dates to be coordinated so that no two contests that are located close together are held on the same weekend. Second, we want scores that are thrown under truly competitive conditions. Announcing the contest ahead of time increases the opportunities for more people to make travel arrangements and compete. This does not guarantee a large field of contestants, but it does improve the odds.

ISAC SCORES

MEN

Score	Name	Contest
97XXX	Mark Bracken	Meadowcroft,PA
97XX	Ray Strischek	Flint Ridge, OH
95X	Mike Glenn	Flint Ridge, O
95X	Dennis Lantz	Waverly, NY
95X	Gary Fogelman	Hancock, NY
94X	Jim Gilligan	Marshall, MI
93	Mike Waters	Cartersville, GA
92XXX	Douglas Bassett	Brockway, PA
92X	Chuck Butorajac	Meadowcroft,PA
91X	Scott Van Arsdale	Meadowcroft,PA

WOMEN

Score	Name	Contest
87*	Margie Takoch	Flint Ridge, OH
87*	Melissa Dildine	Waverly, NY
86	Jo Anne Fogelman	Bald Eagle, PA
79	Sherry Bracken	PaynesPrairie,FL
78	Sharon Keefer	Meadowcroft,PA
78	Anita Lukes	Cahokia, IL
68	Lori Majorsky	Hancock, NY
67XX	Linda Brundage	Waverly, NY
67X	Toni Roberts	Hancock, NY
65	Kerry Opel	Meadowcroft,PA

YOUTH

Score	Name	Contest
89	Nick Mertz(15)	Grain Valley,MO
84X	Teddy Eyster(13)	Fenton, MI
83X	Allen Tindongan(15)	Saegerstown, PA
82X	Mason Miller(13)	Letchworth .NY
71	Carol Bracken(14)	Letchworth ,NY
70X	Kyle Adams(12)	Sherman, NY
67	Levi Miller(10)	Brockway, PA
65	Torin Tindongan(10)	Flint Ridge, OH
63	Harold Eyster(10)	Fenton, MI
61	Austin Smith(15)	Brockway, PA

Mas d'Azil 2004

By Anne-Françoise Cabaraux

Do you know about Mas d'Azil? The cave of this French village supplied such important archeological treasures that the founder's name has been used to represent a period of the prehistoric civilizations. The « faon aux oiseaux », an atlatl known throughout the world was found in this cave.

It was natural to organize a round of atlatl contests in this historically rich place. The first contest took place in 1997, thanks



to a first contact between Pascal Chauvaux and the mayor of the village.

2004: the association « Le propulseur azilien » is in mourning this year. Frédéric Gauthier, who was behind of the foundation of the association in 1997 died one week before the 8th atlatl meeting, after a long fight against

cancer. The competitors respected a moment of silence in his memory.

Saturday 2004, 14 August, the sun warmed everybody's heart. ... The tree's shadow was welcome to the 103 partakers of the archery contest. Climbing up on the hills surrounding the well-known cave, the best archers succeeded in hitting each target! They obtained the following scores::

	Arrows	points
1 st : José Binon (Belgium)	30	118
2 nd : Yannick Pouessel (France)	30	115
3 rd : Françoise Agneray (France)	30	110

.... Men and women started on Sunday 2004, 15 August to compete with the atlatl. If somebody thought there were moving targets around the 20th one, they were wrong: the cows who walked beyond the targets were not part of the competition! Some cows were so curious that they got over the fence to observe better. Let all be assured, they are still healthy.

Results are:

	arrows	points
1 st : Cyril Huc (Ariège France)	26	89
2 nd : Pascal Chauvaux (Cerfontaine, Belgique)	27	79
3 rd : Rebeix Michel (Limoges, France)	23	59

Cyril Huc organized a successful ISAC in front of the ancestral cave. Tourists and interested people could see the modern Homo sapiens reproduce the hunting movement the Magdalenian did some 14,000 years ago.



Français

Connaissez-vous le Mas d'Azil ? La grotte de ce village ariégeois a livré tant de trésors archéologiques qu'une culture préhistorique en a emprunté le nom. Le « faon aux oiseaux », un propulseur connu mondialement a été découvert dans celle-ci. Il était dans la nature des choses d'organiser une manche des concours de tir au propulseur en ce lieu historique. La première manche y eut lieu en 1997 grâce à un premier contact entre Pascal Chauvaux et le maire du lieu.

2004: l'association « le propulseur azilien » est en deuil cette année. Frédéric Gauthier, qui était à la base de la fondation de l'association en 1997 est décédé la semaine précédant la 8eme rencontre de tir au propulseur, après une longue lutte contre le cancer. Les compétiteurs respectèrent un moment de silence en son souvenir.

Samedi 14 août 2004, le soleil réchauffait le cœur de chacun.

L'ombre des arbres était appréciée par les 103 participants du concours de tir à l'arc. Grim pant les versants entourant la cavité, les meilleurs tireurs réussirent néanmoins à atteindre chacune des 30 cibles ! Ils obtinrent les scores suivants :

	Arrows	points
1 st : José Binon (Belgium)	30	118
2 nd : Yannick Pouessel (France)	30	115
3 rd : Françoise Agneray (France)	30	110

.... Hommes et femmes démarrèrent ce dimanche 15 août 2004, propulseur à la main, afin se mesurer à eux-même. Si quelqu'un s'imagina qu'il y avait des cibles mobiles aux environs du 20^e blason, il se trompait : les vaches broutant tranquillement derrière celle-ci n'étaient ni des cibles mobiles ni des manœuvres destinées à déconcentrer les champions. Ce public inattendu était si curieux qu'il avait franchi les fils afin d'observer son voisin occasionnel de plus près. Que les protecteurs des animaux se rassurent, toutes ces vaches sont toujours en excellente santé.

Results are:

	arrows	points
1 st . Cyril Huc (Ariège France)	26	89
2 nd : Pascal Chauvaux (Cerfontaine, Belgique)	27	79
3 rd : Rebeix Michel (Limoges, France)	23	59

Cyril Huc eut beaucoup de succès avec le concours de tir de précision organisé face à la grotte ancestrale. Touristes et amateurs eurent l'occasion d'observer l'Homo sapiens moderne reproduisant le geste de tir qu'effectuaient les magdaléniens il y a quelques 14 000 ans.



French Creek ~ Saegertown, PA Event

By Gary Fogelman

16th Annual Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Contest

By Gary Fogelman

The turnout wasn't bad, with 21 ISAC's thrown on Saturday and 16 on Sunday. Most of these people also took part in the 3-part local event, vying for points to get the Grand Champion Round. Following is a list of the top 3 finishers and their scores in the local contest. When all was said and done, it was Allan Tindongan for the Youth, Lori Majorsky for the Women and Doug Bassett for the Men who toed the line, Doug Bassett emerging as the Grand Champion.

Youth

Allan Tindongan	145
Torin Tindongan	111
Devin Johns	94x

Women

Lori Majorsky	161
JoAnne Fogelman	160
Margie Takoch	147

Men

Doug Bassett	245xxxxx
Mamerto Tindongan	244
Gary Fogelman	244xxxx

There was a lot of wind most of the day Saturday which probably affected the ISAC scores a bit, Sunday no one could use that as an excuse. There were some good scores in the ISAC, some personal bests for the year for some individuals.

Men

Gary Fogelman	92xx
Doug Bassett	89x
Mamerto Tindongan	87x
Mike Glenn	86x
Chuck Butorajac	85
Don Roberts	82

Women

JoAnne Fogelman	72
Lori Majorsky	66
Kerry Opel	54

Youth

Allan Tindongan	83x
Torin Tindongan	46

Lastly, a big THANK YOU to John Sites and the French Creek Chapter of the SPA for supplying the trophies, and the grounds for the event

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.
--Marie Curie

For the 16th Annual ESAC, held again at Letchworth State Park in Western New York State, the format of the event returned to its roots. There were three parts in the quest for the Grand Champion plaque: a distance throw, closest to the pin contest and an accuracy contest. For the first two parts, only three throws at each were allowed per day. In the accuracy, a state round using distances of 5-10-15-20-25 and 30m was used, three shots each distance. One could do this four times per day.

The contest ended Saturday at 6pm. Following are the top places in each division;

MEN

Distance	Closest to Pin	Accuracy
1- D. Bassett	1. R. Strischek	1 G. Fogelman
2 G. Fogelman	2. G. Fogelman	2. D. Bassett
3. D. Santos	3. D. Bassett	3 R. Strischek

WOMEN

1 M. Dildine	1 J Fogelman	1 J Fogelman
2 J Fogelman	2 P Johns	2 M Dildine
3 P Johns	3 M Dildine	3 S Strickland

YOUTH

1 E Johns	1 E John	1 D Johns
2 D Johns	2 D Johns	2 E Johns

Points were awarded by how you finished: 1 for first, 2 for second, etc., with the lowest score winning. Thus it was Ethan Johns, JoAnne Fogelman and Gary Fogelman who lined up for the three shots each from 10, 15, and 20 meters respectively. And JoAnne bested the men and won the Grand Champion award!

Following are the high ISAC scores for the three days:

Mark Bracken	92xx	Mason Miller	82x
Greg Bessette	88	Devin Johns	51
Scott Van Arsdale	88xx	Missy LaDue	58
Ray Strischek	91x	Charlie Bracken	72
Doug Leeth	84	Carole Bracken	71
Bob Chaffee	73	John Morris	49
Doug Bassett	88	Gary Fogelman	91x
Dave Santos	84xx	Stephen Litwhiler	73
Jack Rowe	87xx	Dennis Lantz	90xx
Mike Waters	88	Linda Brundage	54
Melissa Dildine	75	JoAnne Fogelman	79
Sherry Bracken	79	Mark Bracken	92xx
Reg Tully	78	Kyle Adams	54

Above all, challenge yourself.
You may well surprise yourself at
what strengths you have,
what you can accomplish
--Cecile M. Springer

Concours à Schwerte



Rencontre du clan du Bison de Coux

photos by



Concours à Tongres



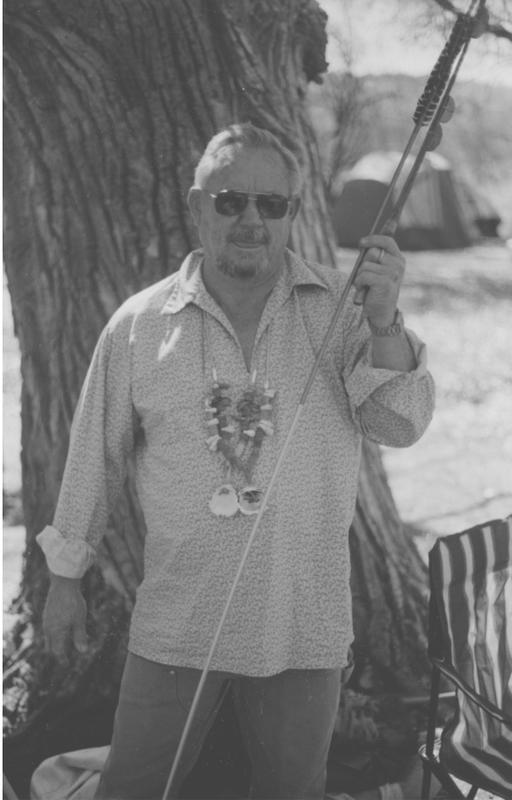
All Pascal Chauvaux



Greetings to All from Arizona

By Wayne Brian

Some of you know me as the Long Distance Guinness Book World Record Holder for four years. I was 62 when I set the record, then set it several times until age 66. At which time I conceded to a fellow with an object like an



atlatl. So I thought, so what, four years that's enough.

For approx. 8 years I had more or less put the atlatl on the back burner. But in 2003 I decided to try my hand at the ISAC. I then started to develop a target throwing unit. I had never done that before. After about a year

of trial and error I had a unit that worked real well.

I did pretty good in several contests. Pretty good means....forget it. Then at the 2004 Wintercount, I entered the ISAC. No Field round, just ISAC. I was down to the last of the 10 throws with a score of 64. To reach International recognition I needed a score of 70 or better. I realized if I hit the outermost circle, which is a 6, I would have it. My turn came...I held my breath and let it fly. I hit the last ring...I had my 70 and would be recognized for something other than Long Distance Throwing! Leni Clubb always encouraged me to target throw before the ISAC. Well Leni, What do you think? Am I on my way?

If there is a message here, it is to never give up. Never say I can't do it. You CAN do it. So starting at age 74 I will endeavor to score my age or better until I run out of time.

Challenge is the core and the mainspring of all human activity. If there's an ocean, we cross it; if there's a disease, we cure it; if there's a wrong, we right it; if there's a record, we break it; and finally, if there's a mountain, we climb it.

--James Ramesy Ullman

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK, Overton, NV

April 1, 2, 3, 2005

This is the thirteenth year for this atlatl event at the Park. For those of you who are new to WAA, the Park contacted us and asked us to put on an atlatl contest in the spring of 1991.

We, as an organization, had never held an atlatl contest outside of Colorado and we were really excited about going to Nevada to show off this new sport.

It was a great success and we have been going to this beautiful high desert ever since. This event was a stepping stone for WAA to encourage other atlatl events across the country and eventually to Europe.

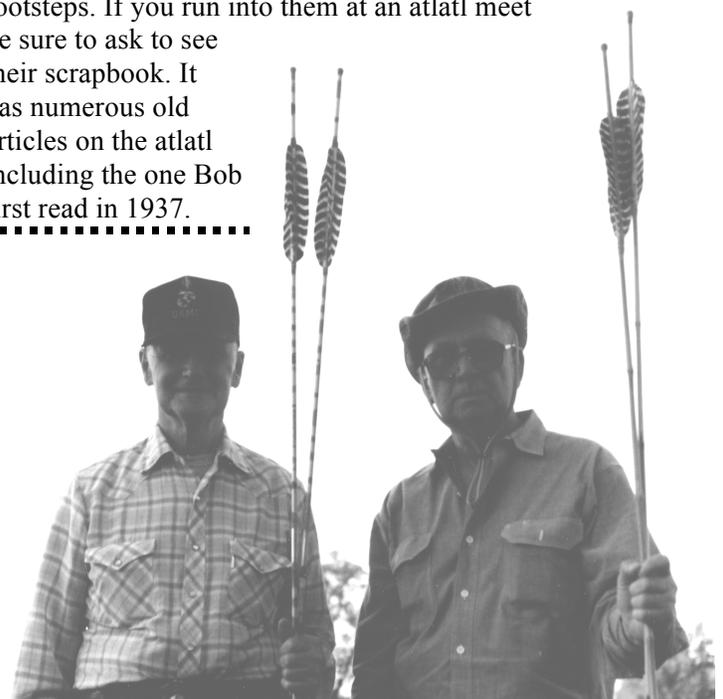
The Park is beautiful at this time of year and the weather is mild. Activities will begin on Friday after 3:00 PM in the Beehive Group Camping area with an ISAC after enough contestants have arrived. Saturday, the WAA Target Round will be held at the foot of Atlatl Rock at 9 am with the new Great Basin Field Round in the afternoon followed by an ISAC. At about 6 PM we will enjoy the traditional Pot Luck Supper. Another ISAC will be held on Sunday morning.

Try to join us at this gorgeous Park with the red, red rock formations, thousands of Rock Art figures pecked out on the canyon walls, good fellowship with other atlatl throwers. Additional information will be in the January 2005 newsletter.

The Graham Brothers.

By Richard Lyons

I thought I had been fooling around with the atlatl for a long time until I met the Graham brothers. Bob, the one on the left, first heard about and started using an atlatl in 1937. He is 76 today so, if my calculations are right, he has been fooling around with the atlatl off and on for 67 years. His baby brother Bruce, the one on the right, clocks in at 71 years of age and he soon followed in his big brothers footsteps. If you run into them at an atlatl meet be sure to ask to see their scrapbook. It has numerous old articles on the atlatl including the one Bob first read in 1937.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the April addition of the Atlatl, Jim Wilson posed the question "How do you get past the school mandates of ABSOLUTELY no weapons on or near school grounds!!" I would like to respond in hopes that other educators may dare to take up the atlatl. Our school, St. George, a private, Catholic school, does observe a zero weapons policy. However, our much beloved principal, Ms. Bernadette O'Leary, sees the difference between a lesson about Paleolithic people and a threat. I must present her with the lessons objectives, lesson plan, and explain the safety precautions. Once she is satisfied with validity and safety, then she is willing to go to bat for her students. The Paleolithic lesson is an easy sell. One of her favorite expressions is "Say, and I will forget. Show, and I will remember. Do, and I will understand." She loves it when her students "do." St. George is not the only school out there hurling darts. This lesson was originally inspired by a teacher on a Native American reservation who I saw, long ago, on an episode of "Nova." His class was hurling darts, made by parents, at an enormous cardboard Mammoth stuck to hay bales. A quick search of the web will reveal other schools throwing the venerable hunting tool. If another teacher would like to throw atlatls, I offer the following tips. I recommend enlisting the help of a javelin coach. They know all the procedures and have developed a great eye for possible problems. Pick up a book on archery or rifle range safety. I find that the "firing line" rules are the most important. The most common error my students make is that they tend to throw side arm. Since most people are right handed, the dart will often veer sharply to the right. Test the intended field to see if an overthrow is possible. Have the students practice throw with empty atlatls or even one by two pieces of wood. It speeds up the learning curve dramatically by cutting down dart retrieval time. Have the student practice withdrawing darts (I use field points) straight out of the grass the way it went in. The dart tip may snap off otherwise.

For materials, I find that Thunderbird Atlatl (on the web) makes atlatls and darts that are good for beginners. Or you can make your own. Though I haven't seen a lot of blueprints, I like Mr. Jim Ray's, of Belt, Montana, plans the best. (Wouldn't carving atlatls and turning darts be a great shop class?)

In sum, if one would like to get an atlatl class going in one's school, I recommend bringing solid learning objectives, a complete lesson plan and a safety plan to the table. If the school does not agree, I found the local Scouts to be very enthusiastic.

Sincerely, Matthew T. Ruane, Teacher, St. George School
5117 13th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108
206.762.0656 or Email: Eireson@aol.com

P.S. A small correction: The student who wrote the article was named "Reinard" Sahagun not "Richard." "Reinard" is French for "fox". No doubt our Belgium colleagues know this already.

On a sidebar: Thank you for your kind offer of donating an atlatl. We would, of course, love one. However, the reason you see the students lining up single file is that I had no parent volunteer that day and so I could only monitor one line safely. This is really one of my best lessons. Every year at least one more student runs out and becomes a real thrower! We are proud WAA Members!

Dear Margie,

I just ran across this article on the internet: The Use of the Atlatl on Lake Patzcuaro, Michoacan. (<http://www.msu.edu/~oberg/articles/duck/hunt.html>) I thought someone might be interested in it. I have been interested in, and visited, the area of Mexico called the Bajio for several years but since learning of the use of the atlatl there a few years ago, I have been unable to return because of my wife's health and the declining years of both of us. I have been a member of the WAA for around 3 years.

Sincerely, Glen H Bremer, TN

Dear Glen,

Thank you for your letter and letting others know of this. This article is put onto the Internet by one of our Michigan members. His web site has many good articles. If you get back to Bajio and find some information on the atlatl, please keep this newsletter in mind. Take care, Margie

Dear Editor,

Today Fremont Indian State Park in Utah received the July edition of the Atlatl newsletter and I read Bob Sizemore's story about our annual atlatl competition. Let me begin by taking care of some housekeeping. Our address has changed and is Fremont Indian State Park & Museum, 3820 West Clear Creek Canyon Rd, Sevier, UT, 84766-9999. Also, Fremont is spelled with only one "e".

Now, if I may, I'd like to respond to Mr. Sizemore's article.

In his article entitled "Fremont Indian State Park, Utah" Bob Sizemore expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Pete Weimer over the years. We too appreciate Pete's contributions and recognize that his efforts in organizing the annual atlatl tournament here are outstanding. Mr. Sizemore also voiced a concern that the atlatl competition will not be continued here in the years to come. Please assure your readers and members that we are committed to the continuation of this wonderful event. The staff is already making plans for next year. We eagerly look forward to building on to the great tradition already begun here. We don't know if it's possible to improve on an already super event, but we're sure going to try.

Sincerely, Bob Hanover, Park Manager



Boy discovers rare arrowhead in base housing

By Sarah McCaffrey

96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

8/19/2004 - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) --

What started out as a souvenir for the Lilley family living on Arrowhead Court in base housing here has turned out to be a very significant discovery of American Indian culture.

Six-year-old John David Lilley and his 10-year-old sister, Nancy, were playing in a sandy area of the cul-de-sac when they discovered what appeared to be an arrowhead. John and Debbie Lilley were skeptical when John David showed them the arrowhead he found near their home.

"It didn't seem like it was real," Mrs. Lilley said.

She decided to contact cultural resources division officials here to learn more about the arrowhead and find out if it was authentic.

The arrowhead was real and very rare. The archaeological program here has found more than 1,900 archaeological sites in the past 20 years, but most of the finds have been common artifacts.

Archaeologists here have found much broken pottery and many shell piles called middens, which were used for waste disposal, but few artifacts as important as this arrowhead.

"This arrowhead turned out to be very significant in the archaeological site we're investigating," said Mark Stanley, archaeologist with the environmental program directorate. "What makes it so significant is not that it is rare, but that the way it is made helps us determine which period of prehistory it came from."

The artifact is a Hardee beveled dart point measuring 2.5 inches long by 1.5 inches wide. The dart point would have been attached to a spearlike hunting tool called an atlatl. Archaeologists estimate the dart point dates back to 3,000 to 2,000 B.C. and was probably made by ancestors of the 18th or 19th century Seminoles or Creeks. The dart point is carved from coastal plains chert, a type of stone found about 100 miles from this area.

"Arrowheads and other stone tools are very rare in the panhandle because American Indians had to travel over 100 miles to get them," Mr. Stanley said.

American Indians from the panhandle would trade feathers and shells with other groups to obtain arrowheads and dart points, which were essential for hunting.

Stone tools were very valuable to them because of their rarity and expense. Hunters would follow their

prey for long distances to retrieve an arrowhead or dart point, Mr. Stanley said. If the arrowhead was damaged during the hunt, the tribesmen would recycle it by shaping it into a new tool.

The Lilley family's donation of this artifact to the cultural resources division is helping archaeologists learn more about the former residents of the panhandle.

"The material it is made from can tell us something about their trade networks," Mr. Stanley said. "The style that it is made in can tell us about their hunting practices."

As technology develops in the future, archaeologists may be able to learn even more from this artifact, Mr. Stanley said.

"It was very generous and selfless of the Lilleys to come forward and present this artifact," said Tara Cheek, environmental public affairs spokeswoman.

"Projectile points and pottery shards kept in private collections could hold the key to important archaeological questions, especially when their exact original location is known," Mr. Stanley said.

"It is difficult to understand the difference between what is a keepsake and what could potentially be a piece of history," Ms. Cheek said.

The dart point found by the Lilleys will be showcased in the interpretive center which is similar to a museum. It houses more than 600 cubic feet of artifacts in climate-controlled facilities for proper preservation.



If an artifact is found on federal property, the finder is obligated by the Archaeological Resource Protection Act to leave it in place and contact the proper authorities. When an artifact is found, mark the area with a flag or some other easily distinguishable marker.

Ice patch finds keep amazing archaeologists

WebPosted Sep 9 2004 09:13 AM CDT

WHITEHORSE - Another summer of research in the Yukon's melting high-altitude ice patches has produced dozens of prehistoric First Nation hunting artifacts. Archeologists say they're still discovering ancient weapons technology they've never seen before.

Researchers have found that prehistoric Yukoners once hunted caribou herds in high altitudes, near the tops of mountains and high hills. Evidence of those hunts have begun appearing as snowpacks melt.

"Here's a really nice dart with three long feathers, still attached to it," says government archeologist Greg Hare, showing off the summer's finds of wooden darts, arrows, and stone points.

The perfectly intact dart is part of an ancient atlatl, one of 35 treasures found this summer.

Hare says when bow and arrow technology replaced the atlatl, hunters switched from stone points, to a variety of barbed antler points.

"This is a beautiful barbed antler point, that's made in two pieces. It's the first time we've seen that kind of composite antler point," he says.

Most of the summer's finds are from an intensive First Nation search at one ice patch in the Kluane region.

Even after eight summers of research, Hare says the collection of artifacts just keeps getting better.

"After a while the superlatives start to ring false," he says. "But it's hard to overstate the importance of this icepatch collection and the insights it's going to provide for us and future generations into how people lived in the Yukon for the past 9,000 years."

Radio-carbon dating of selected artifacts will be take place over the winter.

<http://north.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=sep09icepatchfi n09092004>



Dean Pritchard sends this picture. He says, "You Europeans sure like to create difficult courses for your contests!"

Q. What followed dinosaurs?
A. Their tails!

New Top Ten Awards.

By Richard Lyons

Dennis Lantz has been doing research on finding a nice award plaque for the Top Ten winners on the ISAC. He has come up with a very nice mahogany colored plaque that has a gold wreath with the WAA logo at the top and a brass-bordered nameplate at the bottom. They will go to the winners this year in place of the award certificates. The first place award will continue to be the same fine walnut plaque as in the past. The next nine winners in each category (men, women, and youth) will be the new plaques. We want to thank Dennis for doing such a fine job and coming up with such a nice award plaque.



There cannot be a sense of abundance or the experience of prosperity without appreciation. You cannot find beauty unless you appreciate beauty. You cannot find friendship unless you appreciate others. You cannot find love unless you appreciate loving and being loved. If you wish abundance, appreciate life.--
William R. Miller

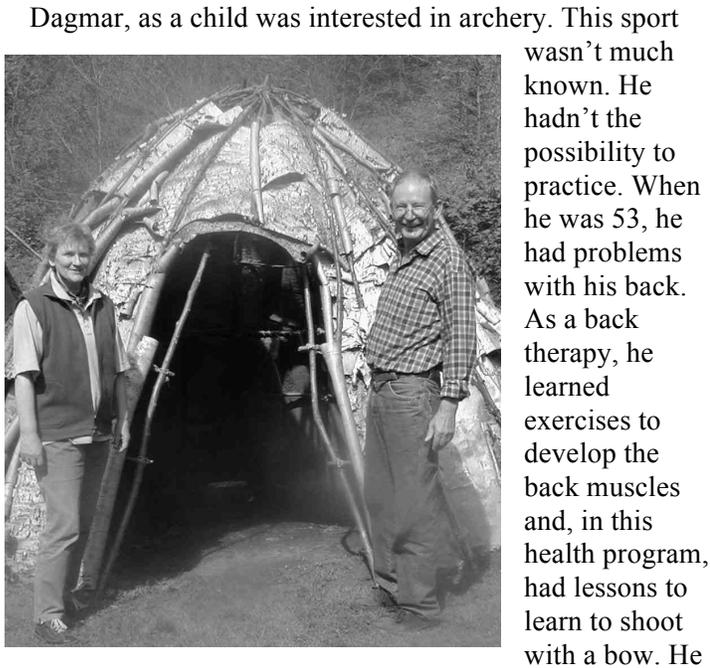
Q. What do you get when a dinosaur crashes his cars?
A. Tyrannosaurus wrecks

Why do they throw VI?

By Anne-Françoise Cabaraux

Dagmar and Jochen Claus Oerlinghausen (Germany) 62 and 64 years old

Retired, was heating engineer, /retraité, était ingénieur
chauffagiste



Dagmar, as a child was interested in archery. This sport wasn't much known. He hadn't the possibility to practice. When he was 53, he had problems with his back. As a back therapy, he learned exercises to develop the back muscles and, in this health program, had lessons to learn to shoot with a bow. He

found an archery club and practiced regularly. He used to shoot on 3 dimension targets in the woods.

Living in Oerlinghausen, he visited the archeological museum of his city. He saw an atlatl and rented one some years ago to take part in the atlatl contest organized at the museum. He won the round!

However he had to avoid throwing too much with the atlatl to be careful of his shoulder. He likes to throw to take part in pleasant contests. He and Jochen appreciate the atmosphere of the prehistoric contests.

Français

Durant son enfance, Dagmar était fasciné par le tir à l'arc. Ce sport étant peu connu, il n'eut malheureusement pas la possibilité de le pratiquer. A 53 ans, il eut des problèmes de dos et suivit des traitements ayant pour but de renforcer les muscles dorsaux. Le tir à l'arc faisait partie des exercices préconisés. Il ne tarda pas à s'inscrire dans un club d'archerie moderne et pratiqua régulièrement. Il tirait principalement dans les bois, sur cible en trois dimensions. Habitant d'Oerlinghausen, il visita un jour le musée d'archéologie de sa ville. Il découvrit les propulseurs et en loua un afin de participer au concours de tir au propulseur organisé au sein du musée. Il en fut le vainqueur ! Quoiqu'il évite de trop pratiquer à ce type de tir afin d'épargner son épaule, il aime participer aux concours qu'il trouve fort agréables. Jochen et lui apprécient l'atmosphère de ce type de rencontre.

Jean-Jacques Durancet Tarbes (Pyrenees, France)

58 years old

Architect; president of the Biface association

Jean-Jacques bought a book about prehistoric man when he was 11.

Archeology rapidly became a passion. When he was 17, he used to take part to archeological camps each year during the holidays, helping in excavations.

Hunting is also a passion. Jean-Jacques collects arms

and gun. He collects and examines also animal's skulls. He hunts by means of modern cross bow with a club: classic bow and also horse archery (hunting from the horseback).

He was 52 when he saw his first atlatl: a friend named Marc Chiron showed him one. As arms lover, Jean-Jacques couldn't be uninterested about it. He discovered then the European atlatl contests.

He set up the Bifacial association to promote the knowledge about prehistory. Thanks to different activities like expositions, demonstrations, presentation to schools etc. He took part in his first atlatl contest in Les Eysies de Tayac.

He attends now +/- 6 à 7 contests a year. He likes to throw because throwing and hunting are still a passion of course, but also because it's a good occasion to see friends and exchange ideas, information, books and things.

Français

Jean-Jacques acheta un livre traitant de préhistoire alors qu'il avait 11 ans. L'archéologie devint rapidement une passion. Il consacra ses vacances aux fouilles archéologiques dès l'âge de 17 ans.

La chasse est aussi une passion. Jean-Jacques collectionne armes et canons. Il recueille et examine également les crânes d'animaux. Il fait partie d'un club avec lequel il chasse à l'arc à poulie. Il lui arrive même de chasser à cheval.

Il avait 52 ans lorsqu'il vit son premier propulseur: un ami, Marc Chinon lui en présenta un. En tant qu'amateur d'armes, il ne pouvait qu'être intéressé par cette nouvelle technique. Il découvrit ensuite les concours de tir au propulseur. Il avait fondé son association « Biface » pour promouvoir la connaissance de la préhistoire grâce à des activités telles que expositions, démonstrations, présentations dans le cadre scolaire lorsqu'il participa à son premier concours à Les Eysies de Tayac.

Il participe actuellement à 6 ou 7 concours par an. Il aime ces rassemblements non seulement parce que les sports de chasse restent une passion pour lui mais aussi parce qu'ils sont une excellente occasion de rencontre entre amis, d'échanges d'idées, d'informations, de livres et d'objets.



Nelle De Beuckeleer Mol (Belgium)

25 years old

Archeologist



When she was 14, Nelle found a plate in the forest behind her house. She considered it as a treasure. History was a subject she liked to study at school. She liked especially to learn about the daily life of people in the past. When she was 16, she went on holiday in France for an archeological course in a medieval castle. She undertook later to study archeology in the University of Leuven. After some hesitation between the middle Ages and prehistory, she chose prehistory. She

wrote a master's thesis about experimental archeology. She wanted to make and cook pottery.

Christian Casseas and his wife France helped her to succeed in this project. She made a copy of the pottery of Espierre. Christian and France introduced her in the prehistory of Ramioul where she was engaged some times later as Flemish guide.

When she saw her first contest in 2001, she had to guide visits of the archeo-site. She felt very frustrated not to be able to take part to the contest! Luckily, she found the possibility to throw on Sunday's contest!

Currently, she attends +/- 5 contests a year and appreciates the ambiance of such a manifestation very much. Exchanges of ideas and technology, application of it and realization of fantasy about atlatl and archeology are other reasons to continue.

Français

Nelle avait 14 ans lorsqu'elle découvrit une assiette dans la forêt attenante à sa maison. Elle la garda comme un trésor. L'histoire était un sujet qui la motivait beaucoup. Elle adorait par-dessus tout étudier les détails de la vie quotidienne à travers le temps. A 16 ans, elle consacra une partie de ses vacances à des fouilles archéologiques dans un château médiéval en France. Elle entreprit plus tard des études d'archéologie à l'université de Leuven. Après quelques hésitations car le moyen-âge l'intéressait beaucoup, elle bifurqua résolument vers la préhistoire. Elle consacra sa thèse à l'expérimentation archéologique. Son but était de reproduire une poterie en la façonnant et cuisant avec les moyens de l'homme préhistorique. Elle bénéficia de l'aide de Christian Casseas et de son épouse France. Ils reproduirent ainsi la poterie d'Espierre. Christian et France lui firent découvrir le préhistosite de Ramioul où elle fut engagée plus tard en tant que guide néerlandophone. Lorsqu'elle vit son premier concours en 2001, elle guidait des visites de l'archéosite. Elle ressentit une terrible frustration de ne pas pouvoir y participer. Heureusement elle put s'organiser le dimanche pour prendre part au parcours!

Elle participe à environ 5 concours par an et apprécie énormément l'ambiance de ces manifestations. Les échanges d'idées et technologies, l'application et la réalisation de fantaisies concernant

l'arc et le propulseur sont d'autres bonnes raisons pour lesquelles elle aime prendre part aux concours.

Eric Sauvion

42 years old

**French railroad worker employé SNCF
Saintes (Charentes Maritimes/ France)**

Eric is like the comic book's hero Obélix : he felt the magical potion when he was a little child.

His father was interested in prehistory and gave Eric the desire to know more about it. He prospected when he was 10 years old. He found a flint knife in a field. He did excavations in caves as a teenager and learned little by little about archeology as an adult. He wanted to be able to place the things he discovered in the correct era.

In 1998, on holiday in Les Eysies de Tayac,

he was very surprised to see that people threw atlatl for fun and that contests were organized. He watched the contest and made his own atlatl to take part to the 1999 contest.

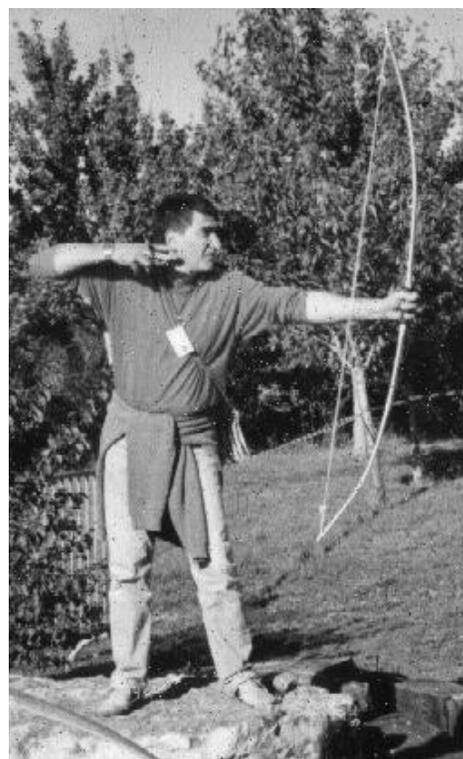
He likes to go to the contests so that he can meet other enthusiasts, and have the pleasure to redo the movement his ancestor did but also for the festive side of the contests.

Français

Eric est comme le héros de BD Obélix : Il est tombé dans la potion magique quand il était petit. Son papa s'intéressait à l'archéologie et transmit à Eric le désir d'en savoir plus à ce sujet.

Il prospectait déjà à l'âge de 10 ans et trouva un couteau en silex dans un champs. Il participa à des camps de fouille durant toute son adolescence et apprit l'archéologie petit à petit, ayant pour objectif de parvenir à situer toutes ses trouvailles dans les époques correspondantes. En 1998, alors qu'il passait quelques jours de vacances au Eysies de Tayac, il eut la surprise de voir des gens tirer au propulseur. Il assista au concours en tant que spectateur et fabriqua son propre propulseur afin de participer au concours de 1999.

Il aime les parcours de propulseur pour y rencontrer d'autres amateurs, avoir le plaisir de reproduire le mouvement de chasse de ses ancêtres, mais aussi pour le côté festif des compétitions.



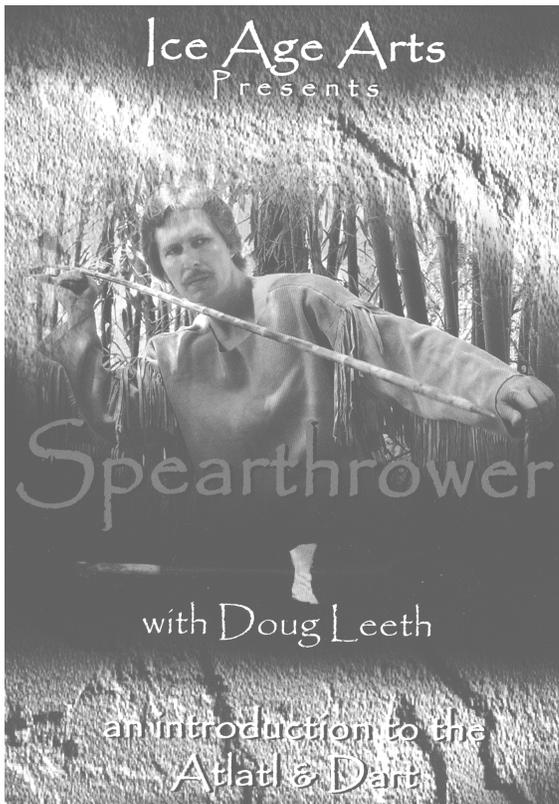
WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION 2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 1,2,3 Contact	Lake Atwood PowWow at Lake Atwood, OH. - Ohio Standard Accuracy Contest and ISAC all 3 days, plus Demonstrations & Training Ray Striscek - Ph. (740) 592-3465 harsec@yahoo.com
October 9, 10 Contact	Opochtli's Challenge on the Luther College Campus in Decorah, IA Field Course, Local Events, ISAC Saturday PM and ISAC Sunday AM Colin Betts - Ph. (563) 387-1284 bettscol@luther.edu
October 9, 10 Contact	3rd Annual Sun Mountain Gathering at the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Santa Fe, New Mexico - Field Round & ISAC Contests Chris Turnbow - Ph. (505) 476-1252 cturnbow@miaclab.org
October 9, 10 Contact	Annual Candor Fall Festival / Fallow Hallow Deer Atlatl Contest & Hunt in Candor, NY - ISACs & Local Contest & Hunt - \$25 per person to hunt Bob or Cheryl Berg - Ph. (607) 659-3854 or 1-800-836-4520 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
October 19 Contact	Indoor Atlatl League at Wilderness Archery, MI. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Jim Gilligan - Ph. (810) 599-6881 primitive1@chartermi.net
October 30 Contact	Roar Day at Lake Hope Lodge - Zaleski National Forest near Albany, OH. Ohio Standard Accuracy Contest + ISAC Steve Barnett - Ph. (740) 698-6553 barnz@juno.com
November 13 Contact	Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix, AZ - Local competition and ISAC. Contact Bob Sizemore bobandcarolathome@yahoo.com 520-466-6104
November 16 Contact	Indoor Atlatl League at Wilderness Archery, MI. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Official ISAC Jim Gilligan - Ph. (810) 599-6881 primitive1@chartermi.net
November 26 Contact	Turkey Toss, TBA, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Official ISAC Jim Gilligan - Ph. (810) 599-6881 primitive1@chartermi.net

EUROPEAN CONTESTS (with ISAC)

October 9, 10 Contact	European Championship + ISAC at Bougon (France) Rodolphe Aubugeau Rodolphe.aubugeau@cg79.fr
October 23,24 Contact	ISAC Contest in the Ezies, Dordogne (France) Cyrille Huc cyrille-huc@wanadoo.fr





Spearthrower

We've waited a long time for what Doug Leeth has put together in his DVD, titled "Spearthrower" It will be a welcome addition to everyone's library. See and learn first hand: the history of the atlatl, construction of the atlatl, construction of cane darts, along with instruction on how to throw with the atlatl and dart system. Doug Leeth narrates, along with his special guests: Richard Lyons, Bob Berg and Mark Bracken. In Color, approximately 120 minutes

To Order a copy of Spearthrower,
Send check or money order (US funds) to:

Doug Leeth
114 Ball Park Rd
Lawndale, NC 28090

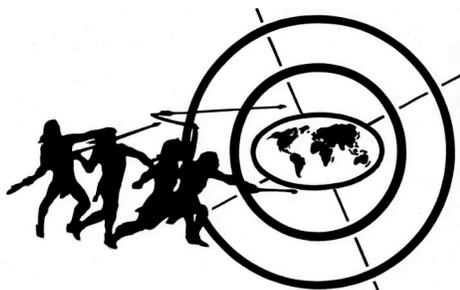
First Class Mail: \$22.00 + \$2.25 = \$24.25

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