

The ATLATL

“Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!”

Rich McWhorter

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Atlatl Use on Moche Pottery of Ancient Peru.

By John Whittaker

The Moche civilization developed along a 550 kilometer strip of the dry coast of northern Peru between AD 100 and 800. Farmers produced corn, beans, squash, chili, peanuts, avocados, and guava. Domesticated llamas, guinea pigs, and ducks, as well as fish and shellfish from the sea and rivers provided animal protein. The system supported a large population with a complex hierarchy of elite priests and rulers, who oversaw the construction of massive adobe pyramids and orderly cities. Extraordinarily skillful artisans worked in gold, silver, and copper, shell and turquoise, weaving cotton and llama wool, and creating the elaborate pottery that is the most familiar part of Moche culture.

Moche culture was as brilliant and vicious as that of the Aztec. The pottery, typically stirrup jars, depicts homely life, elite ritual, individual portraits, medical problems, local animals, birds, and sea life, and famously erotic scenes. There are also numerous scenes of bloody battle, human sacrifice, and supernatural creatures that blend human bodies with crab claws, fish tails, sea urchin spines, and animal heads with large sharp teeth. Snarling deities are often shown cutting off heads with spade-shaped copper knives. It was not good to be a Moche alone after dark.

Two finely illustrated books display some of the best of Moche pottery:



Donnan, Christopher B.

2004 Moche Portraits from Ancient Peru. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Donnan, Christopher B. and Donna McClelland

1999 Moche Fineline Painting: Its Evolution and Its Artists. UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles.

Both books have an art history orientation. They discuss the chronological development of Moche art styles, and focus on how things were depicted, rather than on what they mean. Unfortunately, most of the Moche pottery we have today was looted without record by early explorers and local grave-robbars, so many important archaeological questions remain unanswered. The portraits on stirrup jars show that some important people were depicted at different points in their life spans, sometimes as both warriors and captives, and because most were made in molds and then individually finished, similar images could have been widely distributed. The fineline painting on pottery also goes through distinctive phases of development, and here the authors believe they can identify individual artists, each responsible for several different pots. A number of stock scenes and motifs appear again and again, and give some idea of what was considered appropriate and important to paint on pots.

The authors are curiously silent on the subject of atlatls, although atlatls are prominent in some of the commonly shown scenes, and differences in how they are drawn could be used to distinguish individual artists just as well as details of hands or clothing. The atlatls are the distinctive Peruvian style, a shortish rod with an attached hook, and a hook-like decorative projection at the handle. This is often shown in the form of a bird head, and there are actual Peruvian specimens with such ornaments. The darts appear to be unfletched, although in one case fletching may be indicated. They can have either plain or barbed points. I see three main contexts in which atlatls appear: warfare and warrior depictions, hunting, and ritual.

As in many cultures, warfare helped to define the elite members of society, sustain and symbolize their power, elevate their prestige, and pass their time. Although the images in the books are not a statistical sample, it is evident that themes of war, warriors, and weapons make up a large portion of the paintings, and ritual and hunting depictions are also symbolically related to war. If you weren't willing to knock heads, quite literally, you would not have gotten far in the Moche world. The weapon of choice was the mace, which appears in almost all



weapon bundles, carried by almost all warriors, and used with gusto in virtually every scene of battle. Atlatls are carried by only a minority of warriors, and while maces cracking skulls are everywhere, I found only one really good depiction of atlatl battle. At one end of a long scene, a warrior with a mace faces another who holds a mace in one hand, and an atlatl, dart nocked, in the other. Elsewhere in the scene, a warrior falls, speared from behind, while his opponent approaches to club him, brandishing the atlatl in the other hand, and another is about to finish him off with a mace from in front. Deer hunt scenes often have a similar format.

Weapon bundles and the gear held by warriors always includes shields and maces, often slings and darts, but only sometimes an atlatl. It may be of course that atlatls were more important in warfare than shown, just as

swords and individual combat got the glory in medieval times, while archers often won the battles. However, the goal of Moche warfare was mostly to capture valiant enemies for sacrifice.

Battle scenes form only a part of what the authors call the “Warrior Narrative,” a sort of comic-book story that convinced me not to become a Moche. Winners of course are glorified, but I felt more sympathy with the losers, since the Moche rulers were even less troubled by Geneva Convention moral issues than any of our current world leaders. If your brains were not dashed out on the field, further scenes in the Narrative show that your captor tied a rope around your neck, punched you in the face with his mace so your nose spouted blood, and dragged you off to face an unarmed but well decorated priest or ruler, who consigned you to the next comic book, the “Sacrifice Ceremony.” The sacrifice depictions don’t involve atlatis, but feature lots of aggrieved looking captives being manhandled by the victors in a shower of blood drops, and a priest or deity being presented with a goblet. Given the fondness for sprays of gore and decapitation or throat-slitting scenes, we suspect the beverage was not tomato juice. Archaeological evidence has confirmed these depictions of human sacrifice, blood-sipping priests, and final dismemberment of the victims.



The deer hunting scenes are so similar to some of the battle scenes that they are probably symbolically related. Although maces are shown in use, especially to finish a wounded deer, the deer is usually shown pierced by darts, and sometimes the hunter is shown with his atlatl. As in warfare, he usually carries two or three spare darts.

Ritual depictions include not only the Sacrifice Ceremony, but also what the authors mislabel “Ceremonial Badminton.” Badminton is a poor analogy to describe pictures that show some kind of ritualized competition or game using atlatis. In the several versions shown, the participants usually have animal or bird heads, and there are

usually racks of darts and round jars of drink or food. The participants are shown with darts ready to throw, and selecting darts from the rack, and the darts themselves have bars or crosses not far from both ends, unlike those used in hunting or war scenes. Loose darts and some of those in use also have what appear to be flowers attached, perhaps a target successfully struck. The repeated supernatural elements show that this event has more significance than the average ISAC.

Although I wish more attention had been paid to interpreting Moche culture, (and especially giving atlatis the emphasis any WAA member knows they deserve), these are both gorgeous and fascinating books for anyone interested in the Moche or some of the world’s most dramatic prehistoric art.



(The illustrations are all from Moche Fineline Painting).

2006 WAA ISAC scores As of June 19

2006 ISAC Results for Men (70 and above)

Score	Name		St
95	Douglas	Bassett	NY
92X	Mike	Waters	NY
92	Gary	Fogelman	PA
91X	Dennis	Lantz	PA
90XX	Doug	Leeth	NC
90X	John	Whittaker	IA
89X	Mamerto	Tindongan	OH
88X	Ray	Strischek	OH
87	Scott	Van Arsdale	NY
87	Greg	Besette	NY
86x	Hohn	Thomas	FRANCE
85	Bob	Bronish	NJ
84	Steve	Barnett	OH
83X	Jack	Rowe	PA
83	Charles	Swanson	TN
83	Ginelli	Bernard	FRANCE
83	Kevin	Ashley	TN
82	Jim	Gilligan	MI
81X	Allan	Tindongan	OH
81X	Andy	Majorsky	PA
81	Jim	Hopkins	TN
80X	Brandon	Anderson	NY
80	Galetti	Jerome	FRANCE
80	Brian	Dennison	NY
79	Lenny	Riemersma	WI
79	Greg	Maurer	VT
79	Bernat	Laurent	FRANCE
79	Troy	Helmick	MT
78	Erich	Zeh	NJ
77	Jason	Samson	NY
76X	Bob	Kitch	WA
76	Ron	Mertz	MO
76	Terry	Keefer	PA
76	Tom	Goble	NY
75X	Jim	Gilligan	MI
75	Lawrence	Ariel	TN
74	Alexander	Woods	IA
74	Avi	Pogel	IA
73X	Jim	Fisher	NY
72	Collin	Johnson	TN

Points made by Bob Hansleman from petrified wood from North Dakota. Bob is shown throwing in picture below.



2006 ISAC Results for Women (50 and above)

83	Melissa	Dildine	PA
80X	JoAnne	Fogelman	PA
78	Lori	Majorsky	PA
70X	Linda	Brundage	NY
60	Karen	Finnemore	NY
56	Judy	Pritchard	ID
54	Mary	Riemersma	WI
51	Aimee	Ashley	TN

Here is a picture of some atlatls sent in by George Miller of Pennsylvania



2006 ISAC Results for Youth (40 and above)

87	Teddy	Eyster	MI
64	Torin	Tindongan	OH
61	Coby	Hopkins	TN
58	Harold	Eyster	MI
56	Elliott	Timm	NY
56	Rebeix	Nicolas	FRANCE
49	Keagan	Gerber	NY
46	Joe	Sandori	NY
43	Jared	Ariel	TN

WOW! All these HIGH scores so early in the season!! Congratulations!!
Editor

Raging Cow Atlatl Competition

By John Whittaker

The annual Raging Cow Atlatl Competition at Grinnell College was a roaring success and the largest ever. The weather, always chancy in an Iowa Spring, was perfect. About 40 throwers registered, mostly Grinnell students, but including 12 students from the University of Iowa, led by Grinnell alumni Alex Woods and Grant McCall, plus Mary and Lenny Riemersma from Wisconsin, Ron Mertz and Ray Madden from Missouri, and several others from around Iowa. Another 40-50 students, townfolk, families, visiting parents, and athletes from the other campus events stopped to watch, get an explanation of atlatl archaeology or learn how to throw, and some even ended up participating in the competition. Four new WAA members signed up.

The college track was being used for more mundane athletic events, but our location on the soccer field along a major campus street and across from a dorm complex made the fearsome Raging Cow target quite visible and attracted a lot of attention. The expected Luther College team failed to appear, and Grinnell narrowly outshot the U of Iowa team to return the Raging Cow trophy to its home. No records were set, but Len and Mary had the high ISAC scores for the day. Other events included the Megafauna Massacre with 3D targets and the flying pig, tic-tac-toe, and close range throws at standard pistol targets.

BUNDLE-UP-AND-THROW CONTEST - 2-19-06

by Gary L. Fogelman

Aptly named this time, we did have to bundle up, it was cold. And slightly breezy. Ten of the twelve people who showed up participated to some degree. Not many wanted to brave the cold to participate in the local, but some did, and ten took a shot at the ISAC.

As cold as it was, several responded with personal or season highs. Notably, Doug Bassett came on board with a 91x, not a personal best but a season high so far. We'll hear more from him I'm sure. Bob Bronish, he of the power throw, did an 85, his personal best ever. And Erich Zeh threw a 78 (with a miss), only two off his personal best ever. The rest of us just showed up.

The local contest was the one used last contest. We did a State Round using an Ultra target, with participants allowed to do this only twice for the day. Throwing three darts, only the best two are counted. We also did a State Round using a regular ISAC target, and participants were allowed to do this as many times as they desired. Again, they threw three and only counted two. The results were as follows:

Div. I Men - 1st - Gary Fogelman, who edged 2nd place Doug Bassett by 1 point and 1 x.

Div. II Men - 1st Erich Zeh

Div. I Women - 1st - Lori Majorsky, 2nd - JoAnne Fogelman.

Despite the weather we always have a good time gathering with friends.

MARCH MADNESS CONTEST

by Gary L. Fogelman

A cold, windy day welcomed the 13 intrepid outdoors people to Fogelman's first Saturday in March. Conditions weren't great, but we really can't complain. It's worked out so well for us here the past couple of years weatherwise. And, even though windy, we were able to throw on the lower yard targets, and, even though cold we had a fire and a shop to keep warm in. Most were familiar faces, except Bob York, a new member from Prospect Park, Pennsylvania and his wife joined us and we hope to see more of them.

Also joining us this day, once again, was Bob Ide, host/producer of The Great Outdoors TV show on Fox 56. He had a cameraman, John, and also brought another noted personality, Jim Bone a DJ/radio talk show host. We had all three throwing, all caught on fairly quickly, and Jim and Bob took part in their first ISACs. Filming and interviewing went on throughout the day and they seemed to be having a great time, which should come through on the program to be generated from the days activities. These are the same ones, by the way, that were here before and produced another show which I thought did a fine job of presenting the atlatl and what it's all about.

Expectations aren't too high at these early season contests. The weather conditions and extra clothing often make it all the more challenging. No matter, we have to do this! And, there's usually something interesting to report. For example, JoAnne threw an 80x with a miss! Starting with a 47x, she missed her first throw at 20m, then held it together for a good score. She's done this more than once now and threatens the 90s. Interestingly, I did about the same, beginning with a 48x, missing my 2nd shot at 20m, and also ending with 80x.

High ISAC went to Doug Bassett's 86x. Several others keep threatening to post better personal highs and I predict Greg Bessette, Bob Bronish and Erich Zeh will do this before too long. Andy was in his first ISAC of the year, stood with 77 after 9 and then missed number 10. I wouldn't be surprised to see Andy in the 90s this year. Lori has been struggling of late, but she hit all 10 for a 78.

Jo and I want to thank everyone who came and participated the last three contests here. Thanks to all who brought food, deserts and beverages. We so enjoyed it all, and hope you'll come back again.

Winner of the Men's Div. I was Doug Bassett, followed by Gary Fogelman and Andy Majorsky. Winner of Men's Div. II was Erich Zeh, followed by Bob Bronish. Winner of Women's Div. I was Lori Majorsky, followed by JoAnne Fogelman.

The Ninth Annual Alaska Atlatl Competition

Richard VanderHoek

The Ninth Annual Alaska Atlatl Competition took place April 1st in Anchorage, Alaska, kicking off Alaska Archaeology Month. The event was held at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, taking place jointly with a series of Heritage Center events titled "Gifts Left Behind", teaching the importance of archaeology.

The atlatl event had three stages. The first stage was a modified ISAC target. The second stage gave people a chance to throw from sitting in a simulated kayak at a seal target. The last stage provided throwers with a 10 foot tall, three-dimensional mammoth, constructed of different-shaped boxes covered with a brown tarp. The mammoth, constructed by Jay Denman and Lorraine Alfsen with materials donated from World Wide Movers, was a big hit, and gave throwers a visceral feel for hunting the big guys.

The event was helped by involvement of members of the Traditional Archers of Alaska (TAA). Archer and atlatlist Mike Richardson demonstrated fletching and fire-starting techniques. Neophyte atlatlist Ken Bullman, president of TAA, arrived in the morning to help set up and enjoyed it so much he stayed all day, eventually taking top honors in the atlatl competition.

The event was attended by approximately 40 people. News coverage was provided by Erik Hill of the Anchorage Daily News, who contributed an article and photo showing the mammoth and an individual caught in mid-throw to the next day's newspaper. The event was jointly sponsored by the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and World Wide Movers.

BWD Atlatl Throw Report

by Dave Batten

The Sixth Annual Blackwater Draw Atlatl Throw was held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 on a beautiful, if slightly breezy eastern New Mexico day. We had a light turnout, but those that did make it seemed to have a great time. We had a four target golf-type round in which contestants pitted their skills against a variety of ice-age mammals, to wit: giant armadillo (megadillo?), dire wolf, small-headed bison, and blue-eyed mammoth. These were set at 30, 45, 60, and 75 meters, respectively. For those of you who have been to Blackwater Draw, this part of the event was held in the pit, along the road to the South Bank building. One circuit around the targets was followed by a playoff between any ties, of which there were several.

Results:	Men	Women	Youth
1 st	Ray Madden	Jennifer Alberstein.	J.T. Bierma
2 nd	Ron Fields	Ziggy Gamble	Isaac Brown
3 rd	Robert Fraser	Rachel Douglas	Nicky Brown

All winners won Clovis points made and signed by Tommy Heflin of Portales, who deserves a big note of thanks for his continuing contributions to this event.

A shoot-off between the first place winners in the three categories determined the Grand Champion. J.T. Bierma won the playoff, a WAA Grand Champion plaque, and a large Tommy Heflin Clovis point.

Ray Madden won the distance throw and a second Clovis point with a toss of 78 meters.

Prizes and certificates of achievement were given out at an awards ceremony full of the pomp and pageantry appropriate to such a prestigious event. Of course, those in the youth category were all provided with Mammoth hunting licenses usable in any ice age.

At that point, most of the participants went home. The itinerant atlatlists and a couple of locals stayed around for an ISAC at which the Portales wind provided its usual challenges for the competitors. I found that the highly touted bamboo dart I made in 30 minutes the night before did not quite live up to expectations. But hey, six points is six points. Who can complain about that after such a glorious spring day on the Llano Estacado?

together (which is twice a year as the Old Stone Fort throw is held in the Spring and Fall). There were some of those “what ifs” and “if onlys” going thru our minds which would have made our scores even better. Kevin questioned whether he’d rather have the 82X recorded as his top score over the 83 as that “X” seemed so much sweeter. The good thing about our group is that although each of us guys would like to be the best we are supportive and still out there to have fun. I just hope these guys don’t get too much better between now and the fall as I don’t want to be left out of the pack!

Old Stone Fort Throw, Manchester, TN

By Charles Swanson

5th/6th of May, 2006

N.C. State Traditional Archery Championship

Hickory, NC 26th/27th of May, 2006

By Charles Swanson



The main thing going on at this event was the North Carolina traditional archery championship. Doug Leeth had arranged for there to be atlatl throwing as a side to the archery. I arrived Friday mid morning and there was Doug and Jim Hopkins and his son Coby from Middle Tennessee. Jim has really gotten into atlatl throwing as this is the 3rd event I've seen him at this year. Doug had a very nice set up of atlatls and darts for sale and for the public to throw. It was nice to see Doug as it had probably been over a year since I'd last seen him and I was hoping to pick up a few more his darts. He makes beautiful cane or bamboo darts. He has mainly gone to making carbon fiber darts which he prefers to compete

It was Friday morning and I was sure excited about attending my first atlatl event of the season as it had been a long 6 months. Besides just getting to throw, I was also looking forward to seeing my fellow atlatl friends. I was over half way into my drive to the competition about 175 miles away when it started to rain. I thought “oh darn, I’ve been looking forward to this for months and what a bummer it will be if it rains all weekend”. I wondered to myself (for a second or two) if I

with now but he did have a few sets of cane darts. I was mainly interested in getting a set of cane darts with inset antler points however I didn't see any on display. I asked him about such and although he didn't have any with antler points he did end up having a pair in his truck made with giraffe bone points. Didn't take much to have those sold.



should just turn around and forget it. I figured the atlatl gods couldn't be this

cruel so I drove on, hoping for the best. By the time I got to the town, the rain was now luckily a light sprinkle. I ate lunch and then went on to the park. The weather was clearing up by then. Kevin Ashley and his family were already there. A few more of the regulars showed up and we had about 10 core throwers who competed. It was kind of cool for rest of the day but we all got some good throwing in.

I am not sure how many archers were there on Friday but on Saturday possibly a couple hundred. It was hot and humid both days. Through out both days Doug demonstrated the art of atlatl throwing and held I.A.S. competitions for groups of kids. Most of the people were there primarily to compete in the archery events however some took time out to give the atlatl a try. Jim and I helped out at times too. It gave the kids something interesting to do and some of the boys kept coming back. There were two adolescent girls and a couple adults who seemed to prefer atlatl throwing over archery. It is believed that a few



people caught the "atlatl fever". I didn't throw as much as I could have because the afternoons were hot and humid and so I took a number of

On Saturday it did not rain at all thank goodness. By early afternoon the sun came out. It was kind of cool like a nice fall day, which was enjoyed by all. A couple of the Park employees decided to join us on the ISAC this day so we had about 14 competitors.

Although none in our group have ever broken 90 in an ISAC, everyone seems to be getting better each time we get

breaks from the sun. This was the first year atlatl throwing was a part of this event which wouldn't have happened without Doug Leeth. So thanks Doug, and hope to make it again next year.

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VALLEY OF FIRE

By Ron Mertz

There is probably no more appropriate location to hold an atlatl contest than in the shadows of "Atlatl Rock."

For those of you who have not had the good fortune of



participating in one of WAA's oldest annual atlatl events, "Atlatl Rock" is so named because fifty feet or so up on the rock, there is a clearly carved petroglyph of an atlatl and dart. This year, the main contest on Saturday, April 8 consisted of throwing from two different distances at seven 3-D animal targets and one paper target.

First place winners were: Men- Troy Helmick, Townsend, MT; Women- Judy Pritchard, Boise, ID; and Youth- Jessica Morgan, Provo Utah. In a very close throw-off, Judy took the Grand Champion Award. In addition to winning the Men's 3-D event, Troy also obtained the highest score on a "short distance contest" (6-10meters) initiated at Valley of Fire, and obtained the highest ISAC score during the weekend.

On behalf of the WAA, Bob Sizemore and I would like to thank Park Ranger Jennifer Finlen, and other VOF staff for all the work they do to make this such a memorable event.



Doug Leeth and his atlatl display In NC

Genesee Valley Atlatl Association

June 9th, 10th & 11th, 2006

By Linda Brundage

On June 9th, 10th & 11th GVAA in conjunction with GVFA and the SCA held their 9th Annual Living History Weekend and the New York State Atlatl Championship at Island Park, Wellsville, N.Y.

We had approximately 22 participants in the atlatl events. All three days were in the low 50's for a temp. And up to 40 mile per hour winds were reported along with a light misty rain. In the New York State Championship the plaques went to: Mens' New York State Champion: Mike Waters with a score of 91X in the mens' shoot-off.

Womens' New York State Champion: Melissa Dildine
Little Coyotes' New York State Champion: Dakota Chaffee
The Grand Champion plaque went to Scott VanArsdale.



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Meadowcroft, Avella, PA 2006

This is the 8th Annual competition at Meadowcroft. We had a great turnout...throwers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana and Michigan! We had 21 for ISACs on Sat and 22 for ISACs on Sun.

There were 3 contests for the top score for Sat. First was the local MeadowLoft ..3 darts from 10m, 15m, 20m, 25m, 30m...only counting the top 2 hits. Second was the Hunters Challenge, same distances in a random order, 1 dart at the Giant Squirrel. Third was the MeadowFling, 35m at a moose on a stake with a new scoring target on the ground.

Winners were: Men's Masters, Gary Fogelman: Women's Masters, Lori Majorsky: Men's Novice, Gene Luketic: Women's Novice, Jane Melong: Youth Novice, Ian MacLachlan

We also had fun playing Atlatl Pool, Atlatl Horse Race and Atlatl Horseshoes!

Archaeologists are racing earthmovers

June 05, 2006

By STEVE MILLER

(AP) -- Jim Donohue is trying to solve a mystery that has been building for about 12,000 years, but he has only a few days left to gather clues. Donohue, senior archaeologist with the state Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City, is supervising the excavation of a site occupied by generations of ancient hunters off S.D. Highway 79 near Buffalo Gap.

He and his crew have found artifacts, bison bones and two ancient spear points, including a rare Folsom spear point found in late May.

The new Heartland Expressway will be built over the site where ancient hunters made spear points, and other people, probably women, processed meat, scraped hides and boiled the marrow out of bones from now-extinct giant bison and other animals.

The ancient site was found while preparing for construction of the new highway, and nine 1-square-meter holes were excavated in 2003. Archaeologists found a Goshen spear point estimated to be 12,000 to 13,000 years old or older, as well as many tools, bones and charcoal from old campfires.

Work on the stretch of road between Buffalo Gap and Maverick Junction was delayed one year while the state decided what to do. The state decided to do limited excavation this spring and then build the new highway over the site.

Donohue and a small crew are working quickly to gather more soil samples from the ancient site as road-construction crews move closer from the north.

Earthmovers are rumbling a quarter-mile away as Donohue and his crew continue mapping soil strata and digging more soil to send back to the lab.

Department of Transportation area engineer Dale Russell said he believed that the archaeologists would finish last week. But Donohue said they likely will be done by Wednesday.

He is hurrying to gather more soil samples to try to clarify the chronology of the dig.

He said chronologies based on radiocarbon dating of soil and charcoal samples, as well as the finding of the ancient spear points, have so far only given a confusing timeline.

"None of our dates are matching yet," Donohue said.

For one thing, the spear points have been found much higher than Donohue expected, only a meter to a meter and a half under the surface.

Soil scientist Brian Carter, working at the site two weeks ago, found the second spear point, which was determined by its design to be a Folsom point, made of a raw material different from the quartzite rock from the nearby hogback ridge west of Buffalo Gap, from which most of the other artifacts including the Goshen point were fashioned.

"Its only the second one excavated in South Dakota that I know of," Donohue said.

The Folsom point was found in a soil stratum only a few inches above the stratum where the Goshen point was found. That adds up because the Goshen period was 200 to 500 years earlier than the Folsom, although the periods overlap, Donohue said.

Charcoal from the stratum yielding the Goshen point was carbon dated at about 12,700 years old, about the time of the early Goshen period.

However, soil from stratum 2 meters below the Goshen point was carbon dated at 12,000 to 12,200 years old.

In other words, the older cultural material was somehow on top of more recent material.

Donohue said, however, that carbon dating of soil is less precise than that of charcoal.

"We've just got to run a lot more dates," Donohue said. "We've got a lot of work to do."

He said that the soil at the bottom of one excavation, about 3 1/2 meters down, is very dark, indicating lush vegetation and, thus, a much wetter climate than in later times.

Despite the chronological questions, one thing is clear. This spot near Elm Creek was a heavily used hunting camp occupied for long periods of time by hunters and their families, Donohue said. It lies less than two miles from the buffalo gap, a major thoroughfare for buffalo for thousands of years.

The hunters used the spear points to kill bison, probably with the atlatl-dart device that preceded the bow and arrow, Donohue said.

In addition to the spear points, the broken bones, the hide scrapers and the charcoal, there are flakes of quartzite, chipped from rock to make spear points, scattered throughout the area, including some on prairie dog mounds.

"We believe this was a base camp, where the whole band of people _ mom and pop and the kids _ stayed here for a relatively long period of time," Donohue said. "Sites like this are extremely rare."

In a 33-year career in archaeology, he has worked on only two such sites: this one and the Jim Pitts site west of Custer.

Donohue said artifacts found in the limited excavations indicate the area could have been used by successions of Paleoindian hunting peoples for about 2,000 years.

Roger Williams, a project archaeologist with the state archaeological center, said that a large spring west of the site also would attract game and hunters. The site also lies between the Cheyenne River to the east and the hogback ridge.

Williams said ancient hunters probably traveled and traded extensively. "We see exotic, high-quality stone from North Dakota ending up in Paleoindian points in Texas," he said.

He said the bones found at the Buffalo Gap site have been heavily processed to get the bone grease from the marrow for food, for mixing it with pigment to make paint and mixing it with plant medicine for salves.

Donohue said the state considered rerouting the highway to the west to avoid the archaeological site, but their surveys showed the site extended to the west, too.

So, the new road will go right over the top of the current dig sites. The excavations will be lined with a black "geo-textile" material and then filled with gravel. The whole area will then be covered with the black fabric, and then, by 2 feet of gravel. The new road will be built on top of that gravel layer.

Some of the excavations have been filled already, and crews have placed the black fabric up to the edge of the largest dig hole.

Grading on the stretch of road will be finished this year, and paving will be completed next year.

Thousands of vehicles will travel the new highway, a sign of evolving progress and growth, while only a few feet below it, signs of another, much older culture, will remain.

This news is brought to you by PhysOrg.com

Please visit Alfio and Ilaria Tomaselli's interesting website:

<http://www.archeologiasperimentale.it/>

To translate the website to another language use:
<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>

**ELECTION OF WAA OFFICERS
(REMEMBER TO VOTE)**

Voting for his year’s election of the WAA President and a seat on the Association’s Board of Directors may be done by mail. **To vote you must fill out the ballot or a copy of the ballot at the bottom of this page, and mail it to the Executive Secretary; Courtney Birkett, no later than 15 days before the WAA annual meeting on Sept. 9. The back of the envelope must be legibly signed by each person voting and have the word BALLOT written on it. Please use one ballot for each eligible voter. Families voting should place all their ballots in the same envelope.**

To be eligible to vote one must be a WAA member 18 years old or older with dues current on the date of the WAA annual meeting (Sept. 9) If you chose not to vote by mail, there will be ballots available for voting at the annual meeting.

Members cannot give their ballot to anyone else nor allow anyone else to fill out their ballot.

The following categories of membership have been established and votes designated for each category.

- A. Individual-One person (1) vote.
- B. Family-Any member of an immediate family living on the same property: Each member (18) years of age or older will have one (1) vote. If additional ballots are needed for family members they may be copied from the newsletter or hand written.
- C. Institutional: One (1) vote.
- D. Supporting: One (1) vote.
- E. Contributing: One (1) vote.
- F. Fellowship-Lifetime membership: One (1) vote.

Votes will be counted at the annual meeting and results announced that evening. Results will then be printed in the Oct. issue of “The Atlatl”.

Mail your ballots to:
Courtney Birkett (Executive Secretary)
1105 Springfield Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23185

BALLOT

President:

Scott Van Arsdale

Board of Directors:

Vote for no more than ONE

Andy Majorsky

Ben Brauchler

Douglas Bassett

North American Atlatl Competition Events for 2006

June 30, July 1&2	Appalacian Traditional Archery Rendezvous, Lake Stephens near Beckley, West Virginia 30 target competition range, fun shoots, iron man competition, coon shoot, novelty shoots, kids range/activities, blanket swaps, vendors/raffle, guest speaker and church service. Contacts: President-Lonnie Sneed-phone-(304) 384-3527 carphunter100@yahoo.com Vice President-Mike Persinger-phone-(304) 252-3993 mikeprsngr@hotmail.com Vendors call- Gene Thorn-phone-(304) 682-8633 pethorn@hotmail.com Atlatl Competition: I.A.S. and I.S.A.C. all three days. Also the first ever Atlatl Wing Throwing Competition..Atlatl Info. Call- Doug Leeth-phone-(704) 538-0541 iceagearts@carolina.rr.com
July 1	Southwest Ohio Atlatl Open, Chad Wilsons mom's farm Contact chadwilson@gmail.com
July 7, 8, 9	18 th Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt, Ulm Pishkun State Park, Ulm, Montana Euro-Field Round and Moving Targets on Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Jim Ray at (406) 735-5274
July 7, 8, 9	Foothill-Mountain Atlatl Competition IIIV, Thermopolis, Wyoming ISAC-3 days, competition with atlatl, bow, spear, hawk, and knife. Contact for location and information: Russell Richard 307-772-0550 coyoteclow@aol.com or Gary & Regina Dodson 307-632-0766 wvowinds@aol.com
July 14, 15, 16	Flint Ridge State Park near Brownsville, Ohio ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
July 15-16	The 10 th & Final Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament and Morning After ISAC, Lorraine, New York Contact: Rodger Klindt mammut@juno.com , or 315-639-6293 Send correspondence to :Rodger Klindt, 25325 NYS Rte. 180, Dexter, NY 13634
July 22-23	Smoky Hollow Rendezvous, Wisconsin Directions to get to our grounds: from Milwaukee, take Hwy.43n to Hwy.57n to Hwy.28 (the town of Waldo) turn left on Hwy.28 continue thru the town of Cascade to county. Rd. F. Turn right on county rd. F to Highview rd.(approximately one mile). Turn right on Highview to Parnell rd. Turn left on Parnell rd. The club grounds are on the right hand side 1/2 mile from Highview Rd. Contact Len and Mary Riemersma at (920)528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com
July 22-23	Saegertown/French Creek Artifact/Fossil Show & Atlatl Contest , American Legion, Saegertown, Pennsylvania ISACs and local. Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman - (570) 437-3698
July 29	Yukon Beringia Interpretive Center, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Contact Michael Wanner at mtalr@yahoo.ca
August 10-13	GLP Summer Gathering, Bois Blanc Island, Michigan European, ISAC, IASC, All day, during the annual primitive skills gathering For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
August 12	ISAC, Demonstrations, and Local Events at Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa Saturday, August 12 - 12-4 PM , Effigy Mounds National Monument Teacher's Workshop 2006 Advance registration required for free admittance to the park, otherwise \$5 Field Trips, Guest speakers, and Programs starting at 8:00 AM For updated Information visit http://anthro.luther.edu/Atlatl.htm or contact Chad Landsman landch01@luther.edu
August 18	"That Dam ISAC" , Friday evening on dam of one acre pond near Albany, Ohio ISAC and IASAC Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)698-6553
August 19, 20	Seventh Annual Albany Ohio Atlatl contests, Albany Riding Club on State Rt. 32 ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
August 24	Osage Farm Contest (11:00 am - 6:00 pm), Mt. Morris, New York ISAC, IASAC, locals and Grand Champion Throw-off.

	Take the 390 Expressway to exit 7 for the park, turn west onto State Route 408, 2.2 miles to the light in Mt. Morris, turn left on State Route 36, go 1.1 miles south to BeGole Rd., turn left onto Swanson Rd after 1.5 miles on BeGole Rd. We are at the end of the road (.4 mi) on the right. Contact: Douglas Bassett (585) 493-3625.
August 25, 26, 27	4 th Annual Wakhpa-Chu'gn Buffalo Jump Atlatl Contest, Haure, Montana Euro-Field Round Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Jim Ray at (406) 735-5274
August 25, 26, 27	Letchworth Stone Tool Fair & Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Contest, Letchworth ST PK, New York ISACs, local, Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman at (570) 437-3698.
Sept. 1, 2, 3	Flint Ridge Lithic Society Knap-in, Flint Ridge State Park near Brownsville, Ohio www.ohiohistory.org/paces/flint ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Sept. 1, 2, 3	Pennsylvania State Championships, Fogelman's, Turbotville, Pennsylvania ISAC, plus all Divisions involved, many games to be competed and State Championships awarded. Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman at (570) 437-3698.
Sept. 8, 9, 10	The 19th Annual Meeting of the World Atlatl Association Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site, Collinsville, Illinois See schedule of Events in this newsletter. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 628-9376 devoemertz@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 15-17	Chimney Point State Historic Site, Addison, Vermont 7305 VT Route 125 , Addison, VT 05491(802) 759-2412 chimneypoint@state.vt.us www.HistoricVermont.org/sites Sept. 15 Atlatl Workshop – Atlatl experts Bob and Cheryl Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl will teach you how to make and use your own atlatl. \$65 fee includes instruction and all materials. Pre-registration required. Vermont Archaeology Month program. Noon – 5:00 PM. Sept. 16 Eleventh Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship – Participate in or watch this annual championship. The growing sport of atlatl throwing is based on the ancient hunting technique of using the atlatl or spear thrower. Flint knapping and other Native American life and craft demonstrations. Co-sponsored by Vermont Archaeological Society. Vermont Archeology Month program. 10:30 – 3:30 PM. Sept. 17 ISAC Atlatl Championship – Test your accuracy in a second day of atlatl competition. 10:00 AM.
Sept. 15, 16, 17	6 th Annual Fall Hunt Atlatl Contest at the Old Prison. Deer Lodge, Montana Euro-Field Round on Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Lem Oehrtman at (406) 846-1004
Sept. 15, 16, 17	Eighth Annual Pawpaw Festival, Lake Snowden, Albany, Ohio on State Rt. 32 www.ohiopawpaw.org : ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Sept. 16 & 17	Mounds State Park, Anderson, Indiana . ISAC and Indiana State Championship Contests each day. Grand Champion Award on Saturday. Contact Richard B. Lyons (812) 246-9987 or atlatlin@theremc.com
Sept. 22, 23, 24	6 th Annual Ulm Pishkun State Park Atlatl Contest, Ulm, Montana Euro-Round Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Jim Ray at (406) 736-5274
Sept. 22-24	Fall Knap-In & ISAC, Old Stone Fort, Manchester, Tennessee Contact Keith Wimberley at Keith.Wimberley@state.tn.us
Sept. 23-24	Smoky Hollow Rendezvous, Wisconsin Directions to get to our grounds: from Milwaukee, take Hwy.43n to Hwy.57n to Hwy.28 (the town of Waldo) turn left on Hwy.28 continue thru the town of Cascade to county. Rd. F. Turn right on county rd. F to Highview Rd.(approximately one mile). Turn right on Highview to Parnell rd. Turn left on Parnell Rd. The club grounds are on the right hand side 1/2 mile from Highview Rd. Contact Len and Mary Riemersma at (920)528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com
Sept. 23, 24	4 th Annual Massachusetts Atlatl Field Day and ISAC

	Rebecca Nurse Homestead, 149 Pine Street, Danvers, Massachusetts Contact Glenn Mairo (978) 580-9437 gmairo@hotmail.com
Sept. 24	State Championship, Chelsea Rod & Gun, Chelsea, Michigan 3-D, ISAC, IASC, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$9 range fee, for 3-D only For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
Sept. 30	Archaeology Show & Atlatl Competition, Holiday Inn, , Clarion, Pennsylvania Exit 62, I- 80 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ISAC and IAS Contact George Miller gmliller@brockwaytv.com
Oct. 6, 7, 8	Lake Atwood, eight miles east of New Philadelphia/Dover, Ohio ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Oct. 7-8	Atlatl Contests & Hunt, Fallow Hollow Deer Farm, Williams Road, Candor, New York Featuring ISAC both days, 3-D course, and hunt(\$).Pot Luck Dinner Saturday Day. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg, Thunderbird Atlatl, 1-800-836-4520 or Thunderbirdatlatl@gmail.com
Oct. 14-15	Knap-in and Lithic Arts Festival, Historic Fort Martin Scott, Fredericksburg, Texas ISAC both days (October 14-15) Email Bobcat Smith martybobcat@yahoo.com for questions about ISAC or Contact Bill Metcalfe at 254-634-3264 or mrbillbows@aol.com
Oct. 17	Indoor Atlatl Contest, 4 Seasons Archery, Ann Arbor, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 7-8:30 p.m..\$7 range fee For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
Oct. 27, 28	Zaleski State Forest ROAR days in Zaleski Forest at Lake Hope, Zaleski, Ohio At Hope Schoolhouse, ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Nov. 24	Turkey Toss, Klimowicz residence, Fenton, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 12 - 5 p.m., Potlatch For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881

Philippines Events for 2006

July 16	Bahawit, Lagawe, Ifugao 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM ISAC and IASAC as well as local competition, including spear (TUKAB) throwing with bare hands Contact Mamerton Tindongan at mtindongan@yahoo.com
July 23	Gohang, Banaue, Ifugao 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM ISAC and IASAC as well as local competition, including spear (TUKAB) throwing with bare hands Contact Mamerton Tindongan at mtindongan@yahoo.com

European Atlatl Competition Events for 2006

*=ISAC

dates	site	département	pays	contact
01-02 juillet	Asnapio	Nord	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
08-09 juillet	Lejre*	Sjaelland	Denmark	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be

08-09 juillet	Moneneuf*	Morbihan	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
15-16 juillet	Errentaria	Guipozkoa	Espana	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
22-23 juillet	Schwerte	Nordrhein- Westfalen	Deutschland	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
29-30 juillet	Les Fieux*	Lot	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
05-06 août	Boario	Trentino	Italia	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
12-13 août	Le Mas d'Azil (à confirmer)	Ariège	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
19-20 août	Gletterens	Fribourg	Conf. Hélvétique	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
26-27 août	Hoz de Anero*	Cantabria	Espana	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
02-03 septembre	Pescheray	Sarthe	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
16-17 septembre	Engen	Baden- Wurttemberg	Deutschland	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
16-17 septembre	Zonhoven*	Limburg	Belgique	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
23-24 septembre	Puycelsi/Bruniquel*	Tarn et Garonne	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
07-08 octobre	Eguzon	Indre	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
14-15 octobre	Bougon*	Deux-Sèvres	France	Rodolphe Aubegau Rodolphe.aubegau@cg79.fr
28-29 octobre	Berck s Mer	Pas de Calais	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be

SCHEDULE FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL WAA MEETING
Cahokia World Heritage Site
Collinsville, IL
September 8-10, 2006

Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one.John Lennon

Friday

- 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Early Registration
- 2:30 - 6:00 p.m. Atlatl practice and informal throws
- 6:00 p.m. ISAC
- 7:00 p.m. WAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 Opening Program & Group Loop Throw
- 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Competitions
European Contest, Short Distance Contest,
Hunter's Challenge, East-West Competition, and ISAC
- 4:00 - 4:15 p.m. Grand Champion throw-off (Top Man, Woman and Youth)
- 6:00 - 7:00 Pizza and Awards
- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Business Meeting
- 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Speaker/Program

Sunday

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise at Woodhenge
- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Early ISACs
- 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. Competitions
- 2:15 p.m. Announcement of Sunday competition winners

Note: There will be a Powwow at another location within the Cahokia Historic Site the entire weekend. There will also be a small Native American art exhibit in the Interpretive Center. Soft drinks are available in the interpretive center. Lunch on Saturday can be purchased at the Powwow or at nearby restaurants in Collinsville

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How do you prevent that shoulder injury?

Traditional shoulder exercises, such as overhead presses and lateral raises only target the anterior and lateral deltoid muscles. These traditional shoulder exercises don't target the rotator cuff muscles, which are critical to the throwing motion.

The rotator cuff is made up of four separate muscles that wrap around the shoulder joint for internal, external and lateral rotation and stabilization. To perform these exercises you will need an exercise tube or resistance band (both of which can be found at your local sporting good store in a variety of strengths) and an immovable fixture to secure it to.

Let's start with the infraspinatus, a muscle on the back of the shoulder blade that wraps around the shoulder and holds the upper arm in the joint. To exercise this muscle, first secure the tubing at shoulder level. Stand with your right side facing away from the secured strap. Hold the handle in your right hand and directly in front at about chest level. With your elbow slightly bent, pull tubing away from secured end until arm is straight out to left side. After performing the prescribed sets and reps, turn around and repeat for the left shoulder.

The teres minor is a small muscle that runs diagonally across the back of the shoulder that rolls the arm backwards or into external rotation. To properly work this very important muscle, secure the tubing at floor level. Stand with your right side closest to the tubing and grip the handle in your left hand. With your left hand at hip level, palm facing your body and elbow slightly bent. Bring your arm up and out until it is over your left shoulder. Hold and return to starting position. Perform the prescribed sets and reps turn around and repeat.

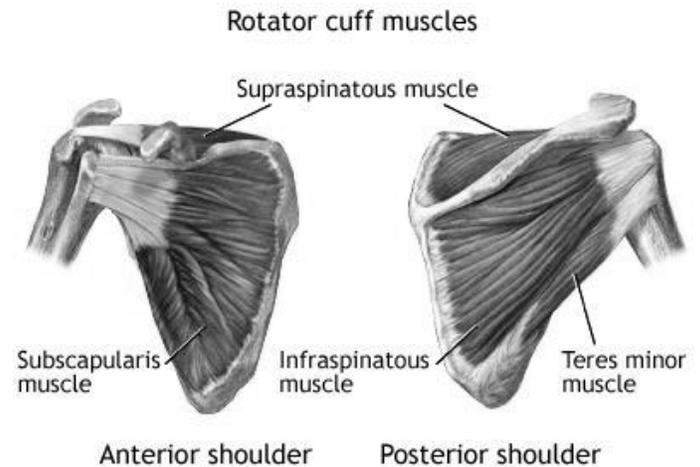
The supraspinatus is a small muscle on top of the shoulder blade which controls arm movement out and up to the side. To perform external shoulder rotation, secure the tubing at shoulder level. Turn to face where the tubing is secured and hold the handle in one hand with our palm facing the floor. With the elbow bent at 90 degrees at shoulder lever and your upper arm parallel to the floor, rotate your shoulder bringing your hand toward the ceiling. hold and return to start position. Don't forget, it is very important to keep your upper arm parallel to floor.

The subscapularis is another muscle responsible for holding the arm into the joint. It is also responsible for internal shoulder rotation. To exercise this muscle, anchor the tubing above your head and face away from the anchor. Hold the tubing handle in one hand with your upper arm at

shoulder level. Bend your elbow to 90 degrees. Without moving your elbow, slowly rotate your shoulder until your forearm is parallel to the floor. Hold and return to start position to keep your upper arm parallel to floor throughout the entire movement. As with internal rotation, work both shoulders.

Start all exercises with one set performing eight to 12 repetitions. Slow controlled movements will give you your best results. Don't rush. When you're ready, add a second set.

Combine these four movements with your regular strength and conditioning program and you'll be on your way to having stronger, more stable shoulder joints - which may help you leave that midseason



soreness or injury behind.

The Atlatl as Depicted in Ancient Rock Art by Chuck Kritzon

The history of atlatls in the new world has been recorded in stone thanks to generations of native artists who have set down images of this important hunting device in the rock art record.

Only three locations of rock art are known depicting atlatls. In West Texas, along the lower Pecos River there can be found several sites depicting atlatls. Two rock art sites are recorded in the San Juan River drainage of southeastern Utah. In both of these sites the atlatls depicted do not show weights attached to the weapon. The third and by far most prolific collection of rock art showing atlatls is in the desert ranges of southeastern California and Southern Nevada.

The largest concentration of these sites occur in the Coso Mountain Range where the greatest number and earliest drawings can be found. Images of both hunters with atlatls and atlatls drawn by themselves are present. More than 300 individual drawings have been recorded
From <http://www.primitiveways.com/rock-art.html>

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

THANKS to former Board member Jean-Jacques Durancet of France, we now have a SPANISH translation of the ISAC rules and related information. Anyone wanting a Spanish translation via email should contact our Executive Secretary, Courtney Birkett (scratchblue@lycos.com).

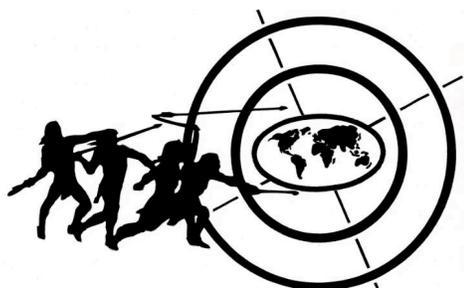
Please take time to VOTE by mail. The ballot and directions are on page 10 in this issue. As many of you know, this is the first year we are electing officers and Board members by mail rather than only at the annual meeting. We have gone to voting by mail to ensure that all eligible members have a voice in selecting individuals to represent them.

I hope you have had an opportunity to attend at least one atlatl event this season, and of course, I especially hope you are able to make it to Cahokia for the WAA 19th Annual Meeting. I have posted a tentative schedule elsewhere in this issue of the Atlatl, and provided information regarding sights to see and places to stay in previous issues. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the event (314-628-9376) or (devoemertz@sbcglobal.net).

Have a great year! *Ron Mertz*

Richard Lyons, Treasurer
5024 King Road
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
phone: (812) 246-9987 or email: atlatlin@theremc.com

First Class Mail



The WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, Inc.

World Atlatl Association Web Site:
www.worldatlatl.org