



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

JUNE NEWSLETTER

June Meeting, Saturday June 5, 2010

Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester, MA

AGENDA

7:00: Informal Meeting: Preparation. Pay Thirza if you have not paid your dues.

7:30: Business Meeting: Janet Bessette. During the business meeting we will be voting for the 2010-2011 slate of officers. The proposed slate includes Janet Bessette as Chapter Chair, Tonya Largy as Program Committee Chair, Mary Aronson as Recording Secretary, Al Smith as Corresponding Secretary, and Thirza Joost as Treasurer. We will also be discussing a field trip to the Peabody Essex Museum to visit the new exhibition called "Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea". This exhibition is the first to explore the profound influence of water on the ancient Maya civilization. The Maya lands were surrounded by the sea and so it affected their religion, agriculture and daily lifestyle. This exhibition is a traveling exhibit and will end on July 18 at the Peabody Essex. This will be a group tour and as such will receive a reduced entrance fee of \$12. The date and time is Sunday June 20 at 1PM. Please let me know by e-mail if you want to attend.

7:45: Refreshments: Potluck Desserts. This is our favorite month as you can bring a dessert and share it with others.

8:00: Speaker: Jeffrey Moore, Bridgewater State College

Topic: Plymouth County: It's a Long Story, Pilgrims

Jeffrey Moore is a senior anthropology and public archaeology major at Bridgewater State College and he is conducting, as a research project, the analysis of the prehistoric artifacts in the Whiting Collection.



The goal of this research is to better understand the proveniences and habitation of the Native inhabitants in Mr. William W. Whiting's collecting territory around Southeastern Massachusetts which will allow insight into the role of these Natives in the history of the Northeast prior to European contact. His collection is almost entirely composed of artifacts from Plymouth County. This regional purity offers an impeccable look at the activities of Pre-European Contact peoples

Mr. Whiting was one of the charter members of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and had been an avid enthusiast in local archaeology. His enthusiasm has been a gift to subsequent generations because, during his time, understanding of local archaeology had been very limited. Without such detailed documentation, a lot of data would be unavailable to this project.

The project that is before me is the analysis and categorization of the Whiting Collection, an assortment of prehistoric artifacts housed at the Robbins Museum of Archaeology located in Middleborough, MA. This collection numbers to at least 5,000 artifacts however the number is likely to grow as it has not been fully inventoried by the museum staff. The artifacts so far identified date from as far back as 9,000 years ago although no comprehensive study of sites has been done to establish their prehistoric proveniences, which is part of my study. I will attempt to match sites that contain diagnostic artifacts to specific time spans and geographic locations, as demonstrated in the established typologies of cultural material.

THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

ROBBINS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY – P.O. BOX 700
Middleborough, MA 02346-0700
508-947-9005

Web site address: www.massarchaeology.org; email: info@massarchaeology.org

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING (at Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Ave. Worcester)

From I-290, merge onto I-190 North via exit #19 towards Rt.12/Holden/Fitchburg. Take Rt.12/Gold Star Blvd. Exit #1 towards W. Boylston St. and bear right onto Gold Star Blvd. (Rt. 12) Follow Route 12 and travel 0.7 miles up a hill, over a bridge.

Follow Route 12 which curves to the left and continue through two stoplights. Take the right onto Whitmarsh Ave. right after Greendale Pizza and go up the hill for 1 block.

The Zion Lutheran Church will be on your left at the end of the block. The parking lot is on the right.

NOTE: Entrance stairs are on the side of the church facing the parking lot, not the basement steps of prior meetings at the church.

Archaeology Exhibits

LOCATION: Robbins Museum, 17 Jackson St. Middleboro, MA 02346

DATE & TIME: Every Wednesday, 9:00am-4:00pm; Thursday & Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm; and by contacting the Robbins Museum Education Coordinator, Mary T. Concannon, voice messages 508-759-0887, education@massarchaeology.org; our Education Department Staff offers a flexible schedule for tours that meets your organizational and classroom needs!

INFORMATION: Curt Hoffman, 508-947-9005, info@massarchaeology.org

SPONSOR: Massachusetts Archaeological Society

ADMISSION: \$2.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult

The Robbins Museum is handicapped accessible.

Come visit the oldest archaeological society in the country. Enjoy our exhibits on the Massachusetts past. Learn about archaeology from our dedicated staff, volunteers, and archaeologists. Fun for the whole family. The Robbins Museum and the Massachusetts Archaeological Society offer education programs for all ages. Lectures for adults and hands-on programs for schools, boy scouts, and libraries. Have a real archaeologist visit your group and teach you about the fascinating history of New England as discovered through the science of archaeology.

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Officers for 2009-2010

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Al Smith, 508-853-5245

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Chapter Chairperson

Co-Chairs, Program Committee

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer