



THE MASSACHUSETTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Newsletter

Vol. 33, No. 2
Summer/Fall, 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tonya Largy

The Robbins Museum has continued to welcome our Members and the public since my last report. The number of visitors has increased, I believe in response to our efforts to publicize the Robbins Museum as well as our expanded



website which gives us more exposure in cyberspace. The new children's program developed and offered monthly by Craig Chartier has brought children and their families from a wide area to the Robbins Museum. Kevin Quackenbush initiated the First Annual Poster and Essay Contest to involve fifth grade students of the Commonwealth in the study of archaeology. Over 200 submissions were judged and prizes given for the best in each category.

Efforts by the Development Committee, led by Judith Scott, our Development Coordinator, have been successful. In May, the A.D. Makepeace Corporation in Wareham awarded us a grant of \$4,000 toward our Native American Educational Outreach Project. The total cost of the project is \$8,200. We are hoping to raise the remaining funds from another grant maker. This project will enable the Robbins to hire a museum education specialist to develop tours with assistance from Native American Consultants. Also, it will enable the Robbins to open one additional day to provide more flexibility for scheduling field trips and for visitation by both our members and the public. We also received a welcome grant this Spring from the Christmas Tree Shops, as well as several generous donations from our members, which are always greatly appreciated. However, much remains to be done if the Robbins is to thrive in the years ahead.

In the last Newsletter, I reported that the Middleborough Cultural Council awarded MAS \$700 to reprint *Wapanucket*, one of our most significant publications, which went out of print in 2006. This enabled MAS to reprint 50 copies of the book, many of which have already been sold. To celebrate our success, we sponsored a month-long exhibit in the Middleborough Public Library and offered a free public lecture on recent research conducted by Dr. James Bradley, our *Bulletin* editor, on Paleo-Indian artifacts from the Wapanucket site on the north shore of Assawompsett Pond in Middleborough. The Technology Committee's grant proposal to the IBM Corporation, prepared by Tom Largy, was successful once again. We have received a new desktop computer and a network printer.

Collections inventory work continues with an increase in hours spent by volunteers and staff. During the past Winter, a group of Native Americans from the Wampanoag Education Program at Plimoth Plantation came in weekly to assist us with the inventory, until they returned to work at the Plantation. The inventory process discovered a child's skeleton, which was unrecognized years ago when all other human remains were repatriated. The skeleton is being studied by Dr. Ellen Ingmanson, Physical Anthropologist at Bridgewater State College, prior to repatriation to the Wampanoags. Their volunteer hours have helped greatly to advance the inventory process. Diane Rosa, a student intern from Bridgewater State College, and Melissa Plasse, a regular volunteer, continue working on the inventory, under the direction of Dr. Curtiss Hoffman. We are now reviewing our museum accession procedures, and we hope to improve those as well.

MAS was invited by the Wayland Cultural Council to mount a six week exhibit in their ArtSpace in the Wayland Town Building, which began in early May and ended in mid-July. This exhibit highlighted the mission of MAS and informed Wayland citizens about the Robbins Museum. We received high accolades from the Council members for the appearance and informative nature of our exhibit and have been invited to exhibit again in the future. I want to thank Jean-Jacques Rivard, who prepared the artwork and exhibit materials, and Judith Scott, for her advice and assistance in hanging the exhibit.

One of our greatest challenges this year was to raise money for needed repairs to the Museum. Windows needed to be repaired and some had to be covered over to prevent vandalism, and a new door was installed in the basement. We raised \$3,700 from two of our members toward these repairs, which were underway when the Museum's facade sustained storm damage in April from high winds and driving rain. While insurance covered the cost of replacing our sign and residing the front of the building, we had to use most of our remaining building repair funds to cover the \$1,000 deductible. The rest of the repairs must wait until money can be found to continue with this project. A second challenge is an unanticipated \$2,000 increase in insurance on our building, effective as of the end of June.

Our Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at the Middleborough Public Library on October 13, 2007, with a Symposium, organized by Rhode Island member Alan Leveillee, on the *Transitional Archaic Period*. An open house for conference attendees and the general public will immediately follow the afternoon presentations. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will be able to join us and see the recent changes in the Robbins exhibits.

Even though MAS faces numerous challenges as a small non-profit organization run almost entirely by volunteers in today's fiscal climate, I remain optimistic that we hold an important position in the Commonwealth as keepers of Native American artifacts entrusted to us and the culture they represent. I ask for your continued support for our mission to make this information available to our members, Native Americans, archaeologists, historians, and the interested public.

LIBRARY REPORT

Kathy Fairbanks

Since the Powers That Be have decided to extend the northwest wall of the Library another ten feet beyond the previously planned limit, we are especially glad of the furniture donation from The Foxboro Company. We now will have space to utilize more of it. In the winter months, when fewer research questions came in, we spent our time clearing some of the donated boxes of "mixed media" -- everything from clippings, booklets and pamphlets to photos, periodical issues, flyers, programs, even items of correspondence. We reviewed every scrap, and, once each box was sorted, found we had places for everything except the really extraneous. We were then able to do away with the boxes and the sagging old table that had held them.

We next followed Jeff Stevens' suggestion on managing the files of booklets, reprints and pamphlets. Thanks to several days' of help from volunteer Diane Parent, most of these are now in a folder system that makes them easier to find quickly. I figure that these files deserve to occupy the "new" filing cabinets from The Foxboro Company!

Diane, by the way, had a cottage next to the Wapanucket site. She lent us one of the best photos I've seen of the so-called "Viking Ship" carved on the rock in the lake. I scanned and printed it for posterity. Many visitors come in asking about "that little picture of a boat that the Vikings made". (We let them down easily from that assumption, but at least we can show them a good picture!)

On future Wednesdays the Librarian will be getting up to speed on the Library's PC, which will let us communicate better with other libraries and researchers.

www.massarchaeology.org

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Thomas Largy

Pertaining to technology, several good things have happened at the Robbins Museum over the last several months. First of all there were some very nice grants made to MAS and the Robbins, which are enhancing the Museum's technological capability.

A big one was another equipment grant from IBM, through the IBM "On Demand Community" Program for IBM retirees, of which I am one. The program provides IBM "retirees with leading-edge technology solutions to expand the value and impact of their volunteer work". For this grant MAS received a high-speed network laser printer and another IBM tower computer system, with flat screen monitor. The printer is useable from all computers at the museum and will provide MAS with a high quality and cost effective method of producing day-to-day printouts, as well as society letters and forms. The new IBM computer will be used for membership, an application that is being brought over from a Mac system.

A network printer isn't much good unless all computers and areas of the museum are connected to a network. Through a grant from the Central Massachusetts chapter of MAS, network connectivity has been established all through the building. This means for example that the Society laptop, also a previous grant from IBM, can be used in the museum conference room for presentations, with connection to the new printer and the Internet. Also, a computer freed up by the new IBM computer grant can now be installed in the library area, and will also be able to connect to the Internet, for such tasks as looking up Library of Congress numbers.

One of the victims of the "March of Technology" has been the tried and true, but now old-fashioned slide projector. Slide film is now hard to get and to have developed, and presentations nowadays are in a "PowerPoint" digital format, which incorporates photos from digital cameras. An example was last Fall's MAS/ESAF conference, where virtually all sessions featured digital projections from a computer.

The rub to this technological advance, for organizations like MAS, is that digital projectors are very expensive. Again, grants have come to the rescue, in this case from three different sources. The Northeast Chapter of MAS stepped up with a technology grant to be used toward a new digital projector, and officers of the inactive Cohannet Chapter of MAS also agreed to use the remainder of their treasury dollars for the same purpose. In addition, Mayflower Bank also came forward with a grant to be used toward a digital projector. This projector will be obtained before the MAS Fall meeting.

The MAS website has been continually improved, again with the help of some pro-bono work from Liz Diaz, who lives in Texas.

In the category of disposal of old stuff, definitely of the non-artifact type, David Dimmick hauled off quite a load of obsolete PCs and monitors for re-cycling. Donations are valued, when they have current technology capabilities.

Unfortunately, old equipment may be almost categorized as hazardous waste, with many towns now charging to take them at their landfills.

Looking ahead, there should be an effort to come up with better forms and documents for MAS, so that something can be printed out on the laser printer, as required, and be available on the website, so that forms, such as membership and meeting registration, can be printed on home computers. This will solve the problem where large amounts of old forms, which were originally expensive to print, are now obsolete.

Another technology need is for the library catalog to be converted from an old Apple computer to a format that can be used on any computer. Kathy Fairbanks has entered about 2,000 library acquisitions into the Apple file over the years. However the system is now so obsolete that the files can't be moved and aren't useable on any other computers.

Also, the website needs continual attention and enhancement. A lot of inquiries to MAS and the Robbins are now coming in through info@massarchaeology.org which is reached through the MAS website www.massarchaeology.org. The simple fact is that a very large number of people, including young families and also plenty of retirees, use the web to get all kinds of information. They find out about MAS and the Robbins on the web, they learn where the Museum is located, dues are paid, events are advertised, and so forth. Also, if you go through the website pages you'll see lots of pictures; kids at the museum, school groups, exhibits, educational events, talks, etc. The aim is to show that MAS and the Robbins Museum are a terrific resource for the public good.

Lots of additional items can be put out on the website: a listing of the library collection, a good gallery of photos from the museum collection, a showcase of the Museum's exhibits, etc.

Through prior donations, and the grants and donations mentioned above, MAS has a good technology framework, which came at very little cost to the society. Your future technology contributions will help to build onto this framework.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kevin Quackenbush

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society completed its First Annual Essay & Poster contest in June. The contest was open to all Fifth grade students or equivalent, in public, private and Charter schools, or home school equivalents. The archaeological theme for the contest was creatively rendered by several dozen entries ranging from artistic depictions of scenes from a past age, to very engaging stories that swept the reader back to long ago times!

The First Place winners for both the Essay and Poster contest were from the John Martin Elementary School in Attleboro, MA. Marissa Gifford won First Place in the Poster portion, while Kerrin McTernan took First place in the Essay portion of the contest. Second place winners were Rachael Murphy-poster, and Kelly O'Neil-Essay. Thomas Orfan received an Honorable Mention. All winners received an award plaque, a certificate, and caps that stated 'Archaeology Rocks!' Archaeology-related books were also given as prizes. The awards were provided by a generous donation from Penny at Keller Williams Realty, an individual interested in promoting MAS educational in-school efforts to students of all ages.

The Martin School student entries drew upon discussions they engaged in during in-school archaeology sessions during the year. In-school Archaeology sessions are offered by Kevin Quackenbush, an MAS Trustee, who has been providing these to schools across the state for several years. Archaeology sessions are also offered to (e.g.) libraries, scout groups, and senior centers, etc. The Second Annual MAS Essay & Poster Contest is planned for 2007/2008.



Kevin Quackenbush & 1st Place winner Marissa Gifford

Patrons of the East Smithfield Library, RI participated in an evening Archaeology session the last week in July. The group ranged from early grade school students to grandparents, and all enjoyed handling the numerous artifacts, and engaging in a lively dialogue. Although scheduled as one hour, questions and discussion stretched to two entertaining hours. Kevin Quackenbush, a MAS Trustee, has been providing these Archaeology sessions to schools, libraries, scout groups, etc. across the state for several years.



Kevin lectures at the E. Smithfield, RI library



Lecture participants examine archaeological artifacts

ROBBINS MUSEUM REPORT

Eugene Winter

A plan has been made to finish a small room at the rear of the meeting room to serve as an office for the museum coordinator. It will be furnished with a drafting table, one wall of shelving, bookcase and file cabinet. It will also serve as a convenient storage room for equipment used in the meeting room such as projectors, extension cords, adaptors and other items used during meetings and programs. Photography and art supplies will also be stored there.

We also plan to expand our research library by about a third by moving a partition. This will allow for a new and proper entrance to the room from the central hallway. Additional bookcases will be needed to store our growing collection of books and periodicals.

A floor plan of the Robbins Museum is being drawn which will identify the office, exhibit rooms and spaces, the meeting room and various work rooms. This will be an aid to those who visit the Museum.

Each Wednesday the Robbins Museum is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Most of the time our officers and volunteers are present so we can give tours, speak with donors and help researchers find what they need. The Middleboro Historical Society, located across the street from the Robbins, is also open during the summer months. Some people prefer to visit both museums on the same day.

SITE CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Alan Smith

On July 8th, the House Senate Conference Committee completed negotiations on the fiscal year 2008 State Budget and sent it on the full House and Senate where it was adopted. The budget was then sent on to Governor Patrick for his 10-day review. On July 10th the Governor sent his vetoes, reductions, and amendments to the legislature for their veto overrides. Governor Patrick vetoed some \$41 million from the total \$26.8 billion budget, which was far less than the \$150 million cut in the last few years. Cultural and natural resource programs were reduced by \$2.4 million, with most reductions to special interest projects submitted by legislators for their districts.

The fiscal year 2008 budget saw cultural and natural resource programs and projects increase in funding by only 2.5% as compared to the 10% increase from the fiscal year 2006 to the 2007 budget. This can be attributed to the decrease in tax revenues this last year. The Massachusetts Cultural Council's final budget received a 7.7% increase in funding. The Cultural Council provides grants to non-profit organizations to further the arts, sciences, and humanities.

For ten years, visitor services and routine maintenance for state parks and forests have been neglected. The state beaches did receive a 200% increase in funding, but overall Massachusetts is ranked 49th in park spending in the United States. Increased funding of over \$10 million is needed per year to begin to address the years of neglect. For the fifth straight year, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program was not included as a line item in the state budget.

MAS CHAPTER REPORTS

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Janet Bessette

The Central Mass. Chapter continues with its busy schedule of monthly meetings and special events. Currently, the Chapter has 37 members. Among the programs that the Chapter has sponsored this past year are the following speakers

March: Timothy H. Ives spoke about excavations at Preston Plains in Connecticut.
April: the Central Mass. chapter hosted the MAS Annual Spring meeting at the Briarwood Community Center in Worcester. It was a joint meeting with (ASC) Archaeological Society of Connecticut. The theme was Archaeology & Ecology. It

included aspects of hunting, fishing, agriculture, and population density as it affected the land, the environment and society.

May: Maryanne MacLeod was the speaker. Her topic was Forgotten Women: Evidence of Women's Work at the Cedar Swamp Site in Westborough, MA

June: James A. Chiarelli was the speaker. His topic was Sugar and Slavery: Historical Archaeology at Coconut Walk Estate and New River in Nevis, West Indies.

The chapter held their annual election at their June meeting and the following slate of officers were elected:

Chair: Brenda Toomey
Vice Chair: Al Smith, Curt Hoffman, and Maryanne MacLeod, co-chairs
Treasurer: Thirza Joost
Corresponding Secretary: Bruce McAleer
Recording Secretary: Janet Bessette

Our annual potluck dessert followed the business meeting!

In the Fall of 2007, the Chapter will resume their programs of monthly speakers and activities beginning in October. The following is our proposed speaker schedule:

October: Curt Hoffman will speak on work being done at the Middleborough Little League site

November: Vic Mastone from the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources will be the speaker

December: Jeff Bendremer, Mohegan Tribal Archaeologist, will speak on sites on the Mohegan reservation

January: We are planning to put together a joint meeting with the Worcester chapter of AIA (Archaeological Institute of America)

February: tentatively Marc Banks from Connecticut will speak on a Late Archaic site on the Farmington River

The Central Mass. chapter holds its meetings the first Saturday of the month at the Briarwood Community Center in Worcester. Our meetings are at 7:30 pm. They are free to the public. We invite all MAS members to attend our meetings.

Brenda Toomey, Chairperson

The first Central Massachusetts Chapter Meeting I will chair will be on October 6. Our own Curtiss Hoffman will be the speaker. One week later, on October 13, MAS will hold the annual meeting in Middleboro. For the upcoming season we have a wonderful list of speakers scheduled.

I know I have "big shoes" to fill in replacing Maryanne McLeod as Chairperson of the Central Massachusetts Chapter. She has always done a great job, and worked tirelessly over the years to make the Chapter a success. She has sent me the Chapter paperwork, and tried to see that I have the information I will need to do a passable job.

I appreciate the confidence the members have shown me in electing me into the position of Chapter Chairperson. I hope everyone will feel free to offer me advice and suggestions, and that all will be tolerant any mistakes I will undoubtedly make. I shall be reviewing *Roberts' Rules* in an effort to keep the meeting as orderly as it has been run in the past.

MASSASOIT CHAPTER

Judy Macioci

Chapter members continue to meet every third Thursday of the month. A brief business meeting is held followed by presentations. Several members presented lectures about individual archaeological interests. For example: Elaine Nudd discussed a book review about the preservation of "bog man". Judy Rembisz presented a lecture about her trip to Machu Picchu. Bernie Otto, Chapter Chair, talked about the King Phillip's War. We also have "show and tell" when members show off their favorite artifacts. Refreshments are always served after the meetings.

We also enjoy cookouts during the summer. Last July and August, Patty and Dennis and Elaine Nudd graciously offered their homes for these fun events.

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

Glenn Mairo

The Northeast Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society meets at the R.S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology – Phillips Academy – Andover, Massachusetts the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. from September through May. A brief business meeting is held followed by a presentation from a guest speaker. Refreshments are served at the conclusion of the meeting.

At our April 2007 annual meeting we reelected the following chapter officers: Glenn Mairo – Chair, Donald Slater – Vice Chair, Jules Gordon – Treasurer, Harriet Hornblower – Recording Secretary, and Dick Miller – Corresponding Secretary.

Jules Gordon, also serving as the chapter's program chair, has already booked several interesting guest speakers for the 2007-2008 season. Among them are: Marc Paiva of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on "Investigations at the Emerald Necklace Olmstead Park System – Boston", Jerry Hagler on "DNA", Martin Klein on "Marine Archaeology", and Dr. Curtiss Hoffman on "Site Management and Digging in the Field of Dreams: Archaeology at the Middleborough Little League Site."

This summer, the Phillips Andover Summer Session Archaeological Field School, directed by Dr. Nathan Hamilton of the University of Southern Maine has had a great time at the historic Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers, Massachusetts, with active participation from the staff of the R.S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, and members of the Northeast Chapter. There will be much more to

relate about this important, high-profile archaeological survey that has yielded historic and prehistoric artifacts later this year.

Speaking of later this year, this September 22nd and 23rd the R.S. Peabody Museum, the Northeast Chapter of M.A.S., and the Rebecca Nurse Homestead will hold the "5th Annual Massachusetts Atlatl Field Days and I.S.A.C." in Danvers, Massachusetts on the beautiful grounds of the Nurse Homestead. We invite everyone to attend this great annual event! For further information about the Massachusetts Atlatl Field Days or the Northeast Chapter of M.A.S. please contact: Glenn Mairo at 978-580-9437 or gmairo@hotmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF MASSACHUSETTS

Ann-Eliza Lewis (MHC), John Rempelakis (MassHighway)

Transportation Collections at the Massachusetts Historical Commission

Several years ago the MHC received a grant from the Mass. Highway Dept. through the ISTEA program (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act), a federal program that provides money for projects that will enhance surface transportation system. The program also funds certain historic preservation and archaeology projects. For the last 2 years, MHC has been working on a twofold project that enhances the care and public appreciation of the archaeological collections that stem from transportation projects. The project includes both curation and outreach programs.

The curation program provides funding to the MHC, the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC), and UMASS Archaeological Services in Amherst to bring the collections up to modern curatorial standards. The grant includes support for conservation surveys at the BLC, MHC, and UMASS Archaeological Services that are being conducted by Dennis Piechota from the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at UMASS Boston. The MHC has drafted curation guidelines that make suggestions for packaging and handling all elements of the archaeological collections including documents and photographic records as well as the artifacts. MHC is also using the grant money to develop an MS Access-based cataloging and collections management program that includes a barcode tracking system for all elements of an archaeological collection. One goal of the database is to improve the accessibility of older archaeological collections for research and loan for public exhibit and programming.

The public outreach part of the grant includes publications and exhibits. Three short booklets will be written and distributed free of charge by request. The first booklet will highlight the many excavations that have been conducted over the last 30 years and the significant contribution they have made to our overall knowledge of prehistoric and historical archaeology in Massachusetts. There will also be short booklets on the Flagg Swamp Rockshelter in Marlborough, and on the late Woodland Period site of Indian Crossing in Chicopee. Indian Crossing will also have a small exhibit, as will Sampson's Tavern in Lakeville and the Skerry House in Salem. The exhibits will be designed to travel to a variety of venues, but first priority will be given to circulating the exhibits through the areas that were most effected by the construction project.

This curatorial program for transportation collections is overseen by the MHC's Archaeological Curation Center. As the state's curatorial facility, MHC curates a variety of archaeological collections, but its first priority is to curate the most "at risk" collections: that is, collections which otherwise may not have a home. These are often older archaeological collections that have had little care since they were excavated. We hope that this program to enhance the care of transportation-related programs will lead to similar programs for other archaeological collections in Commonwealth.



Indigenous Oral History & Traditions and Their Relevance to Archaeology

**An Archaeology Roundtable Discussion
Saturday, September 22 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

Join Dr. Lucianne Lavin, IAIS' Director of Research and Collections, along with fellow archaeologists and Native American leaders for presentations and a usually rousing roundtable discussion of the relevance of indigenous oral history and traditions to archaeological method and interpretation. Speakers and panelists to be announced.

Open to the public!

Fee: free admission to discussion and museum

Check website for directions: www.birdstone.org

Archaeology on the Taunton Canoe/Kayak Tour

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society and the Taunton River Watershed Alliance will sponsor "Archaeology on the Taunton a Canoe/Kayak Tour" on October 6 guided by Dr. Curtiss Hoffman. This tour will celebrate the Taunton River; present its rich archaeological history, recreational and environmental value to the Commonwealth. It will help support the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Taunton River and advocate for protection of the associated archaeological sites.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Planning for this event is ongoing and will not be finalized until after the trial run scheduled for Aug/Sept takes place to determine start and end sites, check water levels, accessibility of parking, portage sites,

5th ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS ATLATL FIELD DAYS & I.S.A.C.

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2007 10AM - 4PM

REBECCA NURSE HOMESTEAD
149 PINE STREET
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS
www.rebeccanurse.org

FEATURING:
ATLATL THROWING – FREE TO THE PUBLIC
(ALL AGES)

“AZTEC ATLATL BATTLE FIELD GAME”

I.S.A.C. ACCURACY COMPETITION
(FOR QUALIFIED THROWERS)

RICHARD PARKER’S LITHIC AXE FACTORY

“TRAPPER JON” ENOS WORKSHOPS,
AND SALES - WASICUN KNIVES

BOSTON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
THUNDERBIRD ATLATL

HOSTS:

ROBERT S. PEABODY MUSEUM OF
ARCHAEOLOGY – PHILLIPS ACADEMY

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY – NORTHEAST CHAPTER
REBECCA NURSE HOMESTEAD

Glenn Mairo – Event Coordinator
(978) 580-9437
gmairo@hotmail.com

**SPECIAL EVENT - SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2007!!!**

THUNDERBIRD ATLATL WORKSHOP

Build (if you can tie your shoes and use sandpaper; you will do fine!) a Naticoke Atlatl and 3 six foot darts. Workshop may include cordage making and flint knapping. Workshop starts at 10:00 AM and will last approximately 4 hours with Time for lunch. At the conclusion of the workshop you will be able to throw your new atlatl/darts.

FEE PER PERSON - \$60.00

**A GREAT WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS AND
STUDENTS!**

CONTACT EVENT COORDINATOR FOR MORE
INFORMATION

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Curtiss Hoffman

I would like to thank all of those members who joined or renewed in 2006-07 at higher levels of membership. Your contributions above and beyond regular membership dues are a very important part of our ongoing efforts to fulfill our mission to educate the public of Massachusetts about the Native past.

Sustaining members:

John Ausevich	Bernardine Birch	
Esther Braun	Richard L. Burt	
R. Winsor Carver	Kimberley Connors	
Ruth M. Doyle	Donald Fulcher	
Linda Grubb	Anne Yost Harper	
Thirza Joost	Prentice Lanphere, Jr.	Frederick Martin
Donald Pearson		
John Kevin Quackenbush	Brona Simon	
William A. Stokinger	Sally Syrjala	
Julie Woods	David C. Woolman	

Supporting Members:

James E. Bradbury	Ashton Bradshaw
Paula Churbuck	Andre Cormier
Christopher Cox	Timothy Fohl
Henry Hammond	Susan Jacobucci

Lloyd W. Keyes
Tim Largy
Thomas Lux
Gerald Macomber
Robert W. Scheer
Kenneth Scott Throckmorton
Eugene Winter

Tonya Largy
Doris Lewald
Richard Lynch
Glenn Mairo
William B. Taylor
Franklin J. Tobey II
Dr. Robert & Judy Zeitlin

Patrons:

Janet M. Bessette
James Bradley
Marilyn D. Crary
Lorri McGarvey Devlin
Dr. Elinor F. Downs
John Harrington
Kenneth B. Knowlton
R. Wayne Legge
John Paul Murphy
Dorothy L. Robinson
Mrs. Phyllis Thomas
Douglas Wicher

Dr. Shirley Blancke
Barbara Brown
Mike Cronin
Frederica Dimmick
Nathan Hamilton
Dr. Curtiss Hoffman
Kathryn Kucharski
Dan Lorraine
Darrell Pinckney
Thomas Skibinski
John Thompson

I would also like to extend a hearty welcome to the 44 new members who have joined MAS since last Fall:

Joseph Bagley
Michelle Bayly
Ashton Bradshaw
Barnett Childress
Kimberley Connors
Lorri McGarvey Devlin
Marjorie Doran
Annie Gordon
Beverly H. King
Molly King
Brian LeCuyer
Alyson MacDonald
Fred Madio
Frederick Meli
Mildred Noel
Richard Palson
Jonathan Patton
Brian Robinson
Happy Robinson
Bruce Rusch
Bonnie Sousa
Allie K. Thurston

Betty Bates
Marshall Becker
Mary C. Butler
Gary Clayton
Honey Cronin
Jaime Donta
Linda B. Engelmann
Karen Gray Amanda Hughes

Kathryn Kucharski
Hope Luhman
Lorna Macort
David McKenna
Arthur Miller
Kirsten Palson
Tara Palson
William Pearson
Dorothy L. Robinson
Ellen Rubin
Leslie Russo
Trainer Thompson
Mary L. Torra

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Richard Lynch
12 Greenbrier Road
Greenville, Rhode Island 02828**

hstrclrsch@aol.com

ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

October 2007
ROBBINS MUSEUM

October 6th or 7th (weather dependent) :

Archaeological Canoe Trip, led by Curtiss & Tobi Hoffman

Co-sponsored by the Taunton River Watershed

October 13th:

**10:00 am -12:00 am Annual Business Meeting –
Robbins Museum**

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm Panel – Middleborough Library

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Open House – Robbins Museum

October 27th:

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm Program – Kevin Quackenbush
“Archaeology Rocks!”**



MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 2007

AFTERNOON PROGRAM
1:30pm – 4:00pm

Middleborough Public Library Middleborough, Massachusetts

**Interpreting the Fragmented 3,500 Year-Old Message
In Broken Vessels: It is *Always* Transitional**

This program will include presentations by a panel of eminent archaeologists, recognized and prominent members of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, each noted for research contributions to the consideration of Transitional Archaic Period cultural materials, sites, and peoples.

Six formal presentations will be followed by an open audience discussion on topics related to the dynamic epoch bridging the Archaic to Woodland Periods. We are especially honored that Dr. Dena F. Dincauze will distinguish the panel, provide comments, and facilitate discussions.

Program:

- 1:30 – 1:40pm ***Greetings and Introduction***
Alan Leveillee, RPA
PAL and Roger Williams University
- 1:40 – 2:00pm ***Contrasting the Typology and Lithics from Seaver Farm and Mansion Inn with the Hawes Site***
Jeff Boudreau
Massachusetts Archaeological Society
- 2:00 – 2:20pm ***Early Susquehanna Tradition in the Merrimack Valley Region***
Gene Winter
Massachusetts Archaeological Society
- 2:20 – 2:40pm ***Conceptualizing the Transitional Archaic: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed...***
Curtiss Hoffman, Ph.D.
Bridgewater State College
- 2:40 – 2:50pm ***Break***
- 2:50 – 3:10pm ***Titicut During the Transitional Archaic Period***
Bill Taylor
Massachusetts Archaeological Society
- 3:10 – 3:30pm ***Transcending Material Culture at Millbury III: Archaeology and Animism***
Alan Leveillee, RPA
PAL and Roger Williams University
- 3:30 – 3:50pm ***Underwater Archaeology and Evidence for a Transitional Archaic Drowning***
David S. Robinson, RPA
PAL and The University of Connecticut
- 3:50 – 4:00pm ***Comments and Audience Discussion***
Dena F. Dincauze, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts



Position Paper

***On “Old Friends” and the Distinguished Panel of
Presenters for the 2007 MAS Annual Meeting Program***

Alan Leveillee and the presenters

The concept of this year’s annual MAS meeting afternoon program sprang from discussions between the *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* Editor, Jim Bradley, and me, intermittently between 2006 and early 2007. At the heart of our talks was our shared interest in social patterns reflected in material culture and Jim’s diligent efforts to acquire submissions for publication in the *Bulletin*. Noting that much has happened in the past decade relative to discoveries and insights into the Transitional Archaic, Jim suggested that I might take a crack at a synthesis article, summing up what light our latest perspectives have shed upon the archaeology of Susquehanna Tradition peoples. I initially agreed and began to revisit the literature. As I did, several truths were revealed: that I don’t know as much about the Transitional Archaic as I thought I did; that some very good work has been done by old friends; and that a synthesis in my (written) voice would be nowhere near as effective or eloquent as through their own. Accordingly, I suggested to Jim that instead of an article, let’s explore if the *Society* would be interested in a panel discussion forum with the participants including those old friends.

I’ve repeated the term *old friends* deliberately here. It’s indelibly linked to the subject at hand, in my mind, thanks to Dena Dincauze. Years ago, I sat by an excavation unit on the Millbury III Site trying to make sense of a few broken bifaces, calcined bone fragments, and their contexts. Recalling Dena’s remarkable 1968 monograph *Cremation Cemeteries of Eastern Massachusetts* gave me the possibility of a hypothesis. On the drive back to the lab that afternoon, I posited that just perhaps we had discovered a Susquehanna secondary cremation burial feature. The crew was either unimpressed with my speculations or too tired to say much (probably both).

In a short time, I became convinced of the nature and importance of Millbury III and shared my thinking with close colleagues, all of whom advised that I be absolutely sure before making an announcement that would trigger unprecedented legal, logistical, and financial consequences. There was only one place and person to turn to: Amherst and Dena Dincauze. As I visited with Dena she held the small assemblage cupped in her hands and with a knowing smile said... “Alan, this is like visiting old friends.” With that visit, I cemented a bond with one of my intellectual mentors and joined the fellowship of her *old friends*. And the circle continues as we prepare for the 2007 Annual Meeting. Here, excerpted from abstracts prepared by the panelists for the afternoon session, are some of the topics that Dena and the panel will be considering.

Jeff Boudreau notes that the typology and lithics of ceremonial assemblages from the Seaver Farm and Mansion Inn sites are notably alike. Similarities include incinerated woodworking tools, Susquehanna Tradition broadblade bifaces and exotic lithics. The ceremonial assemblage from the Hawes Site is composed of steatite bowls and narrow blades dominated by Normanskill and Orient points. Absent from the Hawes Site assemblage are woodworking tools and exotic lithics. Jeff will describe these assemblages from his unique perspective as a flintknapper, graphic artist, and archaeologist.

Gene Winter will contrast two lithic technologies represented in the Merrimack Valley at the time of the introduction of the Atlantic Phase of the Susquehanna Tradition. He will compare and contrast these technologies through an analysis of materials from archeological features created by both the established and newly introduced peoples. Gene brings a remarkable depth of experience to the panel.

Curtiss Hoffman's research interest is to bring to the Transitional Archaic discussion a better sense of the ways in which cultures interact and relate to one another. He will provide a recent ethnographic analogy to suggest that cultures like those we infer in the archeological record for the Transitional Archaic are neither unitary blocks which can be moved wholesale from one region to another, nor seamless amalgams of interest groups, but are rather made up of interlocking systems which allow for some traits deriving from outside the culture to be incorporated while still retaining other traits which are indigenous and traditional. He will ground the discussion in recent discoveries at the Middleborough Little League Site, which suggest both innovation and continuity across the time span between the Late Archaic and Early Woodland. Curtiss brings an inspiring combination of academic talent, energy, and imaginative insight to the panel.

Bill Taylor will first describe the Titicut area and artifacts discovered there. He will discuss the various resources that drew Susquehanna peoples to this location as a sacred place and a core for settlement. Bill will then focus on the Seaver Farm crematory and discuss the recovered artifacts, which collectively indicate that the site was used for a span of over 1,000 years. Like Gene Winter, Bill Taylor's years of experience and precise records and recollections are providing new insights and allowing us to consider both material culture and the cultures of material.

Alan Leveillee will discuss and illustrate ideological and spiritual aspects of the Millbury III Susquehanna cremation complex through the lenses of material culture analyses, on-site Native American and archaeologist dialogues, and site-related experiences. Alan attributes his success as a professional archaeologist and educator to collaboration with more talented colleagues, whom he has counted coup upon with regularity, this program being an example.

David Robinson observes that Susquehanna cultural materials are well represented in the Gallo Site assemblage from the shores of Cedar Tree Point in Narragansett Bay. His discussion will highlight the Transitional Archaic component of the site and consider implications for on-going and planned research. He will also discuss long-held assumptions about the nature and timing of coastal adaptations, from the vantage point of finer resolutions of data and scale. David's work relative to discoveries and research potential of underwater prehistory promises to bring a new and exciting dimension to our understanding of the past.

Dena Dincauze brings unparalleled experience and insights to the considerations of the archaeology and anthropology of the Transitional Archaic. In applied social science, each of us contributes to, or diminishes from, the illuminative qualities of our professions by individual conduct and achievement. In this regard, the career of Dina Dincauze as the preeminent archaeologist of the region is radiant.

The 2007 Annual Meeting promises to be a memorable gathering of *old friends* and distinguished Massachusetts Archaeological Society members whose collective membership in the Society exceeds 200 years. This year's meeting will be one to remember. Please join us for a fascinating panel discussion and a celebration of society fellowship.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2007 Fall Meeting

**Robbins Museum
Middleborough Public Library
Middleborough, Massachusetts**

Meeting Registration Form

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

MAS Member \$10.00 Paid in advance _____ (return by October 1st)

 \$12.00 Paid at the door _____

Non-members \$12.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Checks payable to: Massachusetts Archaeological Society

Mail to: Fall Meeting Registrar
 c/o Robbins Museum of Archaeology
 P.O. Box 700
 Middleborough, MA 02346-0700



THE ROBBINS MUSEUM

17 Jackson Street, Middleborough, Massachusetts 02346

Directions: Take Exit 4 off Rte. 495, the Middleborough Center - Lakeville exit. Then at the end of the ramp turn left to go north toward Middleborough Center on S.R. 105 through two traffic lights. At the next intersection, turn right onto Jackson Street. The Museum is a white building located on the right at number 17 Jackson Street. The Museum is also a 2 mile walk from the Middleborough-Lakeville commuter rail station. The Library is at the corner of Rte. 105 and Jackson Street.

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc.
Robbins Museum of Archaeology
P.O. Box 700
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