From the MAS President

Welcome to the E-Newsletter!

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our new electronic newsletter! We will be emailing you this newsletter quarterly in order to keep the membership, partners, and friends apprised of all the happenings going on at the Robbins Museum and throughout the state. Feel free to share this with your network! A copy of it can be found on our website www.MassArchaeology.org.

If you or anyone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, please ask them to email us at GoGreen@MassArchaeology.org. Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, or Pintrest. Stay up to date with the Society and with local, national and international archaeology news stories.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Graham
President

MAS Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 11, 2014

The MAS celebrates its 75th anniversary year with an exciting program set for Saturday, October 11. Join us at the Robbins Museum in Middleborough for a day of learning and conversation. Registration at the Robbins starts at 9:30am. Members are $10 and non-members are $12. The annual business meeting will be held from 10am-12pm. Enjoy lunch in Middleborough on your own.

The afternoon speaker program convenes at 1pm in the Barbara Luedtke Lecture Hall at the Robbins. Six presentations are slated for the day and will be followed by a reception and book signing to commemorate our diamond anniversary. More information about the speakers and the program for the day can be found at online www.MassArchaeology.org. See you on October 11th!
MAS Wins a Major Grant from the Mass Cultural Council and MassDevelopment

The Trustees of the MAS are proud to announce that the Society has been awarded a Cultural Facility Fund Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment. This highly competitive grant recognized the Society’s new push to update the Robbins Museum. A grant of $10,000 is pledged for work to shore up serious deficiencies with the exterior of the building and to help stabilize the interior gallery and storage spaces for the long-term preservation of the collections. The award, which requires an equal amount in matching funds, is slated to provide support for rehabilitation of the Robbins’s exterior walls, windows, doors, and other features that now require updates.

The awards were announced by Governor Deval Patrick, who honored the Facilities Fund winners with a special reception at the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, MA this July. Trustee Suanna Crowley attended the event, which highlighted the extraordinary work and economic impact of the museum and arts communities in the Commonwealth.

“It was an honor to meet Governor Patrick and to know that there is growing support for organizations that are trying to put new energy into cities and towns across the state. I know the MAS will use this award to the benefit of our collections and our visitors,” commented Dr. Crowley.

The reception in Pittsfield brought together many of the 2014 award winners and underscored the

Continued on page 4

Celebrate Archaeology Month October 2014

It only happens once a year! Archaeology Month in Massachusetts is celebrated in October of each year. And each year, there are a range of lectures, tours, and educational programs being offered to students of all ages. The MAS and its regional chapters will be hosting a number of programs, including the Annual Meeting on October 11 at the Robbins Museum. Be sure to check our website and our social media pages on Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and Pinterest for more information!

The Massachusetts Historical Commission also publishes an annual calendar of events organized around the Commonwealth. Please visit the online schedule at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc and check out the links under News and Events for more on Massachusetts Archaeology Month.

And, be sure to look for MHC’s new digital exhibit pages with content on the archaeology of the Commonwealth. Archaeological Exhibits Online can be found at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcarchexhibitsonline.

Be sure to check out the Massachusetts Historical Commission website for Archaeology Month calendar.
Excavation of a Seventeenth-Century Earthfast House in Marshfield

Contributed by Ross K. Harper, AHS, Inc.

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) recently completed a Phase III Data Recovery Excavation of an early Plymouth Colony earthfast house in Marshfield. The house remains were initially discovered as a light artifact scatter in a field covered with scrub brush during Phase I and Phase II surveys. A total of 132 square meters was excavated and many soil samples were collected from features for flotation. Features discovered include post holes, a circular sub-floor storage pit, a small rectangular-shaped unlined cellar, and a hearth. No stone remains were found, suggesting the hearth consisted of an open fire and hood or vent in the roof. The pattern of nails, post holes and other features indicates a modest one-room and end-hearth house. A number of artifacts were recovered including Border ware and North Devon gravel-tempered ceramics, liquor and case bottle glass, and fragments of kaolin tobacco pipes and seal-top spoons. Other artifacts include European flint-ballast cobble fragments, strike-a-lights and gunflints, glass and brass beads, iron clothing hooks, a brass book clasp, lead shot, and a carpenter's compass.

The house appears to be associated with Robert Waterman, who came to New England from Norwich, England in 1636 and settled in Marshfield two years later where he married Elizabeth Bourne. Waterman is listed among a small group of freemen who first settled in Marshfield, including Governor Edward Winslow. Waterman died December 10, 1652 and his probate inventory lists his house and lands, livestock, various household goods, bushels of wheat, barley and "Indian corn," flitches of bacon, a beer barrel, hens and books. Other possessions of Waterman associated with his household economy include a fowling piece, cod hooks, lines and leads, and half ownership of a shallop, which he likely moored at the nearby Green Harbor River. The house appears to have burned down and a wide variety of carbonized artifacts

Continued on page 4
News from the Region  
Continued from page 3

were recovered such as maize and beans, tiny bits of cloth, and wood, including remnants of a large house timber that had fallen into the cellar. The Waterman House represents the only First-period Plymouth Colony house to be discovered and fully excavated. The processing and analysis of the Waterman House Site is ongoing.

Excavation of Two Native American Sites in Marshfield  
Contributed by  
Brian D. Jones, AHS, Inc.

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) recently completed Phase III Data Recovery excavations at two ancient Native American sites in Marshfield, Massachusetts. The areas were in close proximity to several known archaeological components of a site identified by avocational archaeologists in the 1960s. Portions of the site had been previously investigated by UMass Archaeological Services, while AHS undertook additional archaeological surveys in 2012. These surveys identified additional Native American and historical archaeological loci. Because three of these loci could not be avoided, AHS conducted excavations in late 2013.

One of the sites, Locus 9, covers a 1 acre area of ancient Native American activity along the Green Harbor River. Excavation blocks ranged from 4 to 30 square meters in size and totaled 98 square meters. Finds consisted primarily of quartz and rhyolite knapping debris. Diagnostic projectile points document episodic site-use

Continued on page 5

MAS Wins Major Grant Award  
Continued from page 2

importance of the creative economy to the state. Museums large and small, higher education institutions, arts organizations and community groups were among the recipients of the fund. Mass Cultural Council Executive Director Anita Walker hosted the event and noted the wide range of projects that were selected. Governor Patrick echoed these ideas by saying, “Investments in our creative economy stimulate growth and opportunity in every corner of the Commonwealth.”

The MAS Trustees are currently preparing for the building work to be funded by this grant and are actively looking for additional support to complete the project. As a non-profit organization, the MAS directs every dollar to its preservation and public outreach mission. If you are inspired by this award and want to help us meet our matching fund requirement, we welcome your help!

Please consider a $75 donation to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Society, one of the oldest amateur archaeology associations in the United States. And, one that continues to protect the cultural legacy of the earliest peoples in New England.

To learn more about how the MAS Trustees, members, and volunteers are working to improve the Robbins Museum for our visitors and our collections, please visit our website at [www.MassArchaeology.org](http://www.MassArchaeology.org) for more information on how you can be a part of this effort. Thank you for your continued support.
News from the Region
Continued from page 4

primarily during the Late Archaic through Early Woodland periods. Some of the most interesting finds include a large grooved net-sinker found packed within a stone-filled feature, two plummets, as well as a number of sharks’ teeth. Features were generally small, representing simple hearths or earth ovens. While cataloging has just begun, it is estimated that over 4,000 rhyolite and 5,000 quartz artifacts were found across the site. Locus 9 appears to have been used primarily as a peripheral resource extraction and processing station by relatively small groups in what had been a forested plain beside the small coastal river. Some of this activity was clearly related to fishing.

A second site, Locus 10, reflects a very different type of site use. Artifacts here were more deeply buried, covered by a dense horizon of bulldozed earth and capped by a layer of compressed peat. Because a tidal dike was constructed downriver in 1872, the local water table has dropped about two feet, exposing what had been an inundated marsh landscape. Beneath the peat horizon was a dense concentration of rhyolite knapping debris associated with a large number of Snook Kill (Atlantic) points and drills. The site documents a number of complete knapping episodes, from split cobble cores (likely gathered at the shoreline) through the production of large bifaces and preforms, to points, asymmetrical bifaces (knives), and finally drills and spent broken bits. The site’s pristine character strongly suggests that it represents a single period of focused activity. While the inventory of this material has just begun, it is estimated that over 7,000 rhyolite and 1,500 quartz artifacts were recovered from the 59 square meters excavated. While a very small number of Middle and Late Archaic points were also found, the site reflects an uncommon episode of Snook Kill Phase activity. The nature of the site has yet to be resolved, but one possibility is that the location was used to prepare materials for and construct a birchbark canoe.

Our thanks to AHS, Inc. of Storrs, CT for contributing archaeology news from around New England. More updates from cultural resource management firms will be featured in future issues of the MAS Newsletter. Stay tuned for the latest research!

Plummet recovered from the site of Locus 9 in Marshfield by a team from AHS, Inc.

CHAPTER MEETING DATES

NE/Winter Chapter
7pm Meetings
R.S. Peabody Museum
175 Main St., Andover, MA
September 16, 2014
October 21, 2014
November 18, 2014
December 16, 2014

Central Chapter
7pm Meetings
Zion Lutheran Church
43 Whitmarsh Ave., Worcester, MA
October 4, 2014
November 15, 2014
December 6, 2014

More information on programs and directions available at www.MassArchaeology.org under each chapter’s webpage.
MAS Annual Meeting Speaker Program
Saturday, October 11 at the Robbins Museum 1-4pm
Members $10/Non-members $12. Reception to follow at 4pm.

1:00pm Registration

1:15-1:30pm President’s Welcome and Program Chair Remarks

1:30-1:55 Redefining Early Pottery in New York State by Ammie M. Mitchell

1:55-2:20pm Native American Stone Structures of the Eastern Seaboard – An Update by Curtiss Hoffman and Cory Fournier

2:20-2:30pm Break

2:30-2:40pm Memories of Donald Brown, One of the Davis Farm Site Crewmembers by Linda Brown Engelmann

2:40-3:05pm Reconstructing the MAS Dig of 1940-41 at Davis Farm, Sudbury, MA by Shirley Blancke

3:05-3:30pm The Faunal Assemblage from the Davis Farm Site (19-MD-1960; M-23-26) by Tonya Largy


3:55-4:00pm MAS President’s Closing Remarks

4:00-5:30pm Reception and Book Signing

Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the MAS with the release of Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Naragansetts: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth-Century New England and Indian Country by Julie A. Fischer and David J. Silverman.

Books available for sale. Cash and Check Only.