The Newsletter
Vol. 33, No. 1
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Tonya Largy

I am happy to report that activity is increasing both within the Society and the Robbins Museum. One exciting accomplishment is the recent expansion and ongoing development of our website. I hope you take a few minutes to have a look. Our address is: www.massarchaeology.org. Liz Diaz, who is based in Texas, set up our website design which is being enhanced and maintained by Tom Largy, Chair of the Technology Committee. Liz has graciously continued to advise Tom on a pro bono basis— an invaluable contribution. Thank you, Liz! If members would like to publicize local archaeology events, please send a notice and we can add it to the website.

The Education Committee has developed an Outreach Program in elementary schools and small local museums in southeastern Massachusetts. They are also planning to offer a program on Saturdays. Check our website for forthcoming information. We have also received invitations from several high schools to send an archaeologist to lecture to science classes.

The Society has been awarded three grants in recent months. The Lobl Trust once again has come through with a grant of over $8,000 to help us meet our goals of education and preservation of Native American artifacts and culture. The Middleborough Cultural Council awarded the Society $700 to enable us to reprint our publication, Wapunecket, which has gone out of print. This book, originally published in 1980, reports the excavation of a site with significance far beyond the borders of Massachusetts. See the article below for information on events we have planned to celebrate.

One of our long-time members, who prefers to remain anonymous, gave a grant of $3,000 to fund needed repairs to our building. We depend on our members to assist us in the work of the Society and the Robbins while we continue to search for other sources of funds. Another longtime member, Elinor (Fuzzy) Downs, facilitated the donation of 44 stackable chairs for the Ludlue Lecture Hall, given by Springhouse in Jamaica Plain. This item has been on our wish list for several years. Thanks you, Fuzzy!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
Kevin Quackenbush

Education –
A long term goal of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society is the education of our youth to the joy of knowing our rich past. To be certain, over the years there have been various opportunities for MAS to successfully share archaeological information with different groups, including children (e.g. the Herring Run Day Celebration). However, there have been no sustained programs that reach out to a wide audience of grade school students. These children are the future of our society, and of archaeology itself. There are very real financial and personnel obstacles as well. These have not lessened to any great extent, but we are now renewing our focus on establishing a series of programs and events that will carry forward from year to year to reach increasing numbers of children across the State. We have great plans for 2007, and beyond. It will take a prodigious effort to get started, and a group effort to keep going, but the rewards are well worth the hard work. These programs and events will also require support from all our members, and others. Moral support and encouragement are welcome, but we also need volunteers and, of course, donations.

The following are just a few of the ideas the Education Committee will be targeting through 2007, and beyond.

1. Promote, arrange & schedule an Archaeology visit to as many fifth grade classes/schools as possible during the year (see box below), for the students to actually handle and marvel over the artifacts being passed around, while discussing that artifact group. Actually being able to hold and examine the artifacts unquestionably makes the visit unique. These are fifth grade classes in more than 45 schools within a 30 mile radius of the Robbins, all with multiple classes in each school. These are exciting discussions, waiting to be the magic of Archaeology revealed to and kindled within them.

2. Hold an "Archaeology hour" Show & Tell once a quarter at the Library for all ages with games for smaller kids.

3. Hold an archaeology-related essay contest and/or drawing contest for fifth grade classes in each participating school and advertise the winner. Appropriate prize for the winner (see box on next page).

4. Add the Robbins Museum to the list of Fifth grade School Calendars as a 'Things to Do/Places to Visit' entry.

And there are others! Can we implement them all? Why not? It's a reach, but, with perseverance and your support, we can make it a reality! I very much welcome comments and ideas. Please feel free to contact me at: jquackenbush@ips.invensys.com.

MAS CO-HOSTS 73RD ANNUAL ESAF MEETING
From November 8th – 12th, MAS co-hosted with the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) the 73rd annual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, at the Plaza Crown Best Western Hotel in Fitchburg, MA. This was a highly successful meeting, with 243 attendees from all over the eastern U.S. and adjacent Canada. For the first time in several years, ESAF made a profit on the meeting – and shared these profits with the host organizations. As well, sales of publications were brisk, and netted more profits for our organization.

Highlights of the meeting included presentations from all of the New England State Archaeologists; a showing of the latest version of Ted Timreck’s film, “Hidden Landscapes: A Northeastern Ceremonial Landscape”, which showed that professional archaeologists, antiquaries, and Native people can cooperate to identify ancient stonework sites in the Northeast; a session dedicated to the memory of Dr. James Petersen; a panel discussion on efforts by Native people and town officials to preserve stonework sites in three New England towns; and a keynote address by Dr. Brian Robinson, “Unique Potential of the Bull Brook Paleo-Indian Site”, in which he discussed new research into the excavation of this famous site.

All who attended reported that they were very pleased with the conference, which broke new ground in several areas. This was a real feather in MAS’ cap!

Below: MAS President Tonya Largy, Mary Lou Curran, and Shelley Hight above: Keynote banquet speaker Dr. Brian Robinson, “Bull Brook Boys” Bill Eldridge, and MAS Trustee Gane Winter.
In late spring 2007 we will announce The First Annual Massachusetts Archaeological Society (MAS) Essay and Poster contest for Massachusetts Fifth Graders. Open to all Fifth graders across the state, the students are invited to enter either an essay or a poster, or both … which relates to New England Archaeology. There will be prizes for First, Second and Third place in both the Essay and the Poster contest and Honorable mentions. All prize presentations will be at the MAS Museum, and at the winner’s school.

Educators are encouraged to contact Mr. Quackenbush, a Trustee at the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and chairman of the Education Committee (MAS) by e-mail at j.quackenbush@ips.invensys.com or, call the Robbins Museum 508-947-9005 for entry guidelines and dates.

The programs will be one hour in length and will run from 10:30-11:30 am at the Museum. Admission to the program is $7.50 per child and $6.00 for each additional child for families with multiple children attending the programs. The Robbins Museum will be receiving 33% of the registration total. The programs are limited to 20 children and pre-registration and pre-payment will be through MAP at our website www.parp4kids.com. Registration will include admission to the museum and it is hoped that the parents and siblings of the children attending the programs will stay and explore the Museum. MAP will provide some activities (coloring pages, scavenger hunt in the Museum) available for anyone waiting for program participants. This program is being used as a test case for the educational potential at the Museum and it is hoped that in the future these programs will expand to include an Archaeology Club (possibly with Saturday morning meetings) and other Saturday and school vacation programs. Anyone with any suggestions for educational programs or education ideas, or who wishes to volunteer to assist with any of the MAP programs should contact Craig S. Chartier, Director MAP (plymoutharch@aol.com), or Kevin Quackenbush head of the Education Committee.

Eugene Winter

You may notice a new addition the next time you visit the Robbins. We have a new storm door at the office entrance to the Museum. The old one had seen better days but the wind finally destroyed it.

Exhibits at the Robbins Museum are progressing well, but much work remains to be done. Presently, we are working on an exhibit to illustrate the Contact period and Historic period. We also need to develop an exhibit of present-day Native Americans, including their work, recreation, foodways and the traditions they wish to maintain in the modern world.

A truckload of construction debris has been removed from the basement. Much of it was left in the building when the M.A.S. moved into the Read Building in 1988. Old plumbing items, pipes, scraps wire and air ducts were finally hauled away. Now we can dream of future expansion.

Some of our Wampanoag friends are now helping with the inventory of artifacts which we have held in storage but which have not been inventoried due to limited volunteer availability. It is very helpful to have this kind of assistance with museum projects and we extend our gratitude to Hartman Deetz, Melanie Deetz, Elizabeth Perry, Geoffrey M Peters, Carol Wynne, and Phillip Wynne for their time and assistance. Special thanks to John Peters, Jr, Director of the Commission on Indian Affairs and Ken Alves, Assonet Repatriation Officer for organizing and directing this important effort.

Thomas Largy

Please visit www.massarchaeology.org for a look at the MAS website. It’s still a work in progress, but photographs have been added and the website is evolving to give an idea of the kind of exhibits that can be seen at the Robbins Museum and also to show the excitement of some young visitors to the museum.

It might seem that MAS and a small museum like the Robbins wouldn’t need much computer technology, aside from things such as membership lists, office, and financial reports. However, as with the rest of our society, computers are used in many ways at the Robbins. For example, several Wampanoag tribal members have volunteered to work on an inventory of the museum’s collections to help us meet NAGPRA requirements (see the President’s report). They have been entering this data into our computerized collections database, so that this information can be easily retrieved in the future.

I’m pleased to be able to say that for what has been a very busy year to the Society, the Museum has a nice system of network attached computers, as well as the MAS website. This is due to some very generous donations from individuals, as well as a computer grant received a bit over a year ago from IBM.

More recently, the Central Massachusetts Chapter of MAS made a $250 donation to MAS to be used for computer technology needs. These funds came from earnings on a bequest made by longtime MAS and Ekblaw Chapter stalwart Lillian Harding, now deceased. The Charlestown Meadows site on her property was a primary archaeological experience for many, and since computer technology is used to advance the archaeological mission of MAS, she would have approved.

Also, software was needed to help with the publishing of photos on the website, and another donor stepped up with a contribution for the purchase of that software. MAS, as a non-profit organization, also gets a very reduced rate for software purchases.

However, there are still technology problems to be solved. For example, slides and slide projectors are quickly going into disuse with the advent of digital cameras. In archaeology, as with other fields, almost all new presentations require the use of a digital projector ($800 or so), and we are trying to figure out how to acquire one for the museum conference room. Another problem is how to extend the computer network to the back of the museum, so that computers used there such as in the conference room, for archival work, and the library can access the Internet.

(“Please note that MAS will accept as donations only newer equipment that is network capable, has USB ports, adequate memory and disk, and so forth. The attic of the museum contains a number of outdated computers and monitors that may cost the Society money to dispose of.”)

The members of the MAS Technology Committee include Curt Hoffman, Phil Graham, Gene Winter, Dave Dimmick, Jeff Stevens, Dan Lorraine, and John Rempelakis, with Tom Largy as Chairman.

Kevin Quackenbush presents a traveling archaeology program to elementary school children.

ROBBINS MUSEUM UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Massachusetts Archaeological Professionals (MAP) is now offering Saturday morning educational programs for children 6-12 years of age on the third Saturday of every month at the Robbins Museum of Archaeology. The programs that have been scheduled from February 2007 to January 2008 are listed below:

February Bones, Bones, Bones
March Roman, Roman, Roman: Life in Roman Britain
April How much does a Greek mean?
May Etruscan: Greek Life Mummies, Mysteries and Pyramids: Life in Ancient Egypt
June Introduction to Archaeology
July Look Out! Here Come the Vikings!
August Ancient Science
September Native Americans of Southeastern Massachusetts
November Introduction to Archaeology
December Pilgrims of Plymouth
January Ancient Science

MUSEUM COORDINATOR’S REPORT

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Richard Lynch

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morale and enthusiastic feedback has been the creative programming scheduled by our chapter treasurer and program chair, Jules Gordon. This season we have been treating to enlightening and engaging talks by: Paige Newby on “The Process of Peopling Black Dams – New Secrets from the Labyrinth: Bull-Leapers, Great Kings and Kingship, Peter Sablock on “Non-Invasive Remote Sensing”, Eugene Winter on “An Atlantic Phase Assemblage”, and Curtis White on “Joseph Jenkes of the Saugus Iron Works.”

We are already gearing up for the 5th Annual Massachusetts Attle Field Days and I.S.A.C.” that will be held at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers, MA on September 22nd and 23rd. 2007. This event has become one of the most popular of its type in the Northeast with many repeat attendees. Last year we had several of the world’s finest throwing enjoying the unbeatable combination of a primitive skills weekend held on the 27 acre Nurse Homestead, one of the country’s finest 17th century historical sites. This is a great event for all ages and skill levels. Hopefully, we will see you in September in Danvers.

The R. S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology continues to integrate itself with, not only the students, but with many of the educational departments at Phillips Andover Academy. This summer, the museum hopes to offer (pending student interest) a field school of archaeology at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers, Massachusetts through Phillips Andover’s Summer Session program. The Nurse Homestead grounds control MA. The camp is aimed at the mid-Archaic through first period European colonization era.

For further information regarding the Northeast Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society; please contact chapter chair Glenn Mair at 978-580-9437 or gmaire@hotmail.com.

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Maryanne MacLeod

For our first meeting of the season, Susan Jacobucci, an MAS Trustee who recently received her MA from Boston University, spoke about her research on the land use and land use practices. These changes were revealed in her analysis of pollen and charcoal recovered from the Eastern Pequot reservation in Connecticut.

In November, Anthony Mariano, Ph.D., who is a consulting geographer, presented about the mining of the New England landscape and other places he has visited. In December, Chapter members and guests viewed a French film on prehistoric France which included some beautiful examples of cave art found in Europe dating back to the last Ice Age.

Aaron Miller, who holds a Master’s Degree in Archaeology, was the featured speaker in January. 2007. He gave a presentation entitled “Excavating Taylor’s Fort: Uncovering Everyday Life on the Mid Eighteenth-Century Western Frontier of Massachusetts”. His presentation explored the 2006 excavation, which he directed, at the site of a circa 1754 fortified farmstead in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The site, known as Taylor’s Fort was the fortified and garrisoned home of two families living through the Seven Years’ War between France and England for control of North America.

Curtis and Tohi Hoffman gave a talk in February on their experience at Maya sites in Belize which were part of an anthropological study tour sponsored by Bridgewater State College.

The Chapter donated $250.00 to the Robbins Museum to be used to help meet the computer technology needs of both the Museum and the Society. The donation was made from the bequest of the late Lillian Harding, a long time MAS and CMC member and trustee.

The Chapter will host the MAS Spring Meeting in conjunction with the Archaeological Society of Connecticut on Saturday, April 14th. The theme for this year is “Archaeology and Ecology” which will include aspects of hunting, fishing, agriculture and population density as it affected the land, the environment and society.

The Central Massachusetts Chapter holds its meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the Briarwood Community Center, Lunenburg, MA. The chapter is cordially invited to attend its lectures. For more information, call Maryanne MacLeod (978-368-8552) or mamaroeten@comcast.net.

NEWS FROM THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF MASSACHUSETTS

John Rempealakis

In response to historic preservation and environmental laws and regulations, MassHighway, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, sponsors archaeological investigations for federally funded bridge and roadway projects across the state. Some of the more recent archaeological work undertaken by MassHighway is summarized below.

South-Central Massachusetts

Intensive (locational) and site examination surveys were conducted within a 3.8-mile section of the proposed Blackstone River Bikeway. A portion of the proposed route parallels the Blackstone River adjacent to portions of the towpath of the former Blackstone Canal. Several canal related features including bridge abutments, locks, basins and vestiges of the canal trench and towpath are recorded in the project corridor.

During the intensive survey four pre-contact Native American archaeological sites were identified that could contribute additional information to the archaeological record of the Blackstone River drainage. Three of the four sites were interpreted as low-density lithic scatters, with the fourth representing a moderate-density campsite with diagnostic artifacts and possible cultural features. The presence of steatite sherds indicates this site dates to the Orient Phase of the Transitional Archaic Period (3600–2500 B.P.).

A site examination at each site undertaken to collect sufficient information (site boundaries, size, integrity, complexity, period of occupation, seasonality) to assess site significance confirmed the importance of three of the sites. Given their proximity to one another, two of the sites have been combined and represent a high-density multi-component campsite dating from the Middle to the Late Woodland Periods. Chipping debris composed of quartzite, quartz, rhyolite and jasper, diagnostic tools such as Jack’s Reef and Levanna projectile points and some shell and fish remains have been recovered from the site. The third important site contains temporally distinct loci representing the Late Archaic/Transitional Archaic and Late Woodland Periods. Chipping debris composed of flint, Penobscot and Saugus jasper, rhyolite, argillite, quartz and chert, diagnostic tools such as Brewerton- eared, Madison, Susquehanna Broad and Squibnocket Triangle projectile points and some shell and caliced bone have been recovered from the site. MassHighway, in consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, is currently assessing the National Register eligibility of each site and investigating the feasibility of design changes to avoid each of the sites.

Southeastern Massachusetts

In 2003, an intensive (locational) archaeological survey conducted for the proposed Route 24 Access Improvements project area identified the Buffinton-Wordell Site, a potentially important site that was in use from at least the mid-nineteenth century up until the early twentieth century. Based on the deed research, it appeared that the house and barn were constructed in the 18th century and that the site was occupied through the early 19th century. Further historical and archaeological investigations resulted in the recovery of primarily late nineteenth and twentieth-century cultural material. A small amount of eighteenth-century domestic (ceramic, bottle glass and clay pipes) and architectural debris (nails, window glass, brick) also was recovered from several of the test pits and excavation units, indicating an earlier occupation of the site and bringing the depth of its history to that effect. The site’s density and integrity of these earlier materials, however, has been severely compromised by later occupations at the site. Furthermore, the results from the field investigations and laboratory analysis indicate that the integrity of the Buffinton- Wordell Site has been compromised as a result of long-term occupation by post-contact activities. MassHighway, in consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, is currently evaluating the National Register eligibility of the site. A. Peter Mair II (PAL, Inc.), John Rempealakis (MassHighway)

I will briefly summarize the three other sites with Native American sites as well as above-ground features and buildings. Five of the 30 nominations approved by the MHC in the past 12 months are with prehistoric or post-contact archaeolo- logical sites, added to Native American sites as well.

Another particularly significant Native American site was the Hassanamissett Woods property in Grafton, which was part of lands associated with the Nipmuc. The collaborative effort between the town and the tribe to save the property from development received recognition from the MHC through a Preservation Award. Intensive investigation of the occupa- tional history of its Native owners through archaeology and archival research conducted by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe at UMass Boston provided the necessary documentation for the Preservation Award.

I will briefly summarize the three other sites with Native American affiliation known through archaeological data. An earlier example was the excavation at Sachem Rock Farm in West Bridgewater for a sewer line survey documented the presence of prehistoric occupations prior to the historic-period usage of that site as a meeting ground by Native groups, and added to that property’s cultural significance. The Major John Bradford House in Kingston was nominated primarily because of its potential to color history, but excavations conducted there in the early 1970s by James Deetz and a team of researchers from Plimoth Plantation revealed a prehistoric occupation at the site as well. I would also note that the house’s current condition has added to its archaeological significance. A final National Register property with

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

November 2005-October 2006

Judith Franc Zeilitz

M.A.S. Representative to the M.H.C.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission held nine formal meetings between November 2005 and October 2006. As the M.A.S.-designated commissioner, I was able to attend all but one of the in-person meetings here to present the MHC’s perspective on the more important issues that came before the Commission during the past twelve months. Commission meetings are chaired by Michael Mariesco, as the Secretary of State’s representative; Brena Simon, the State Archaeologist, has been serving as Acting Executive Director of the MHC since Cara Metz resigned in June 2005. The routine matters taken up by the MHC include 1) the approval of individual properties and historic districts nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, 2) the review of Local Historic Districts proposed by town governments, and 3) the review of matching fund grant applications made to either of two MHC funding programs, the Survey and Planning Grant Program, and the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF).

National Register nominations may include archaeological sites as well as above-ground features and buildings. Five of the 30 nominations approved by the MHC in the past 12 months are with prehistoric or post-contact archaeologi- cal sites, added to Native American sites as well.

Another particularly significant Native American site was the Hassanamissett Woods property in Grafton, which was part of lands associated with the Nipmuc. The collaborative effort between the town and the tribe to save the property from development received recognition from the MHC through a Preservation Award. Intensive investigation of the occupa- tional history of its Native owners through archaeology and archival research conducted by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe at UMass Boston provided the necessary documentation for the Preservation Award.

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known prehistoric significance, but no single prehistoric archaeological study is the Old Indian Grounds in West Brookfield, where collections of projectile points and other lithic artifacts point to a significant usage of an area primarily known for its significance in Native-Settler conflict.

Although none of the projects that were submitted in the past year for the MAHPF or Survey and Planning Grant programs entailed archaeological research, these funds have been important instruments for facilitating archaeological surveys that lead to National and State Register nominations, as was the case with the Hassanamesett Woods study. It would be wonderful if more communities took advantage of these grant competitions to inventory their cultural resources through archaeological surveys. As the MHC’s 2006-2010 State Historic PreservationPlan noted, only about 1% of the state has been covered by systematic survey thus far. It estimates that the present inventory of 6000 archaeological sites represents only 3-5% of the existing archaeological resources in the Commonwealth. While not all of these sites might merit inclusion on the National Register, their presence on the state inventory and MACRIS database is vital for regional planning and for conservation. When the State Archaeologist’s professional staff begins one of the approximately 10,000 environmental reviews of construction projects that it conducts each year, the state inventory is first consulted; absent specific known archaeological sites, predictive models based on established site distribution with respect to environmental features are used to determine the likelihood of prehistoric sites being affected by the project in question.

Inclusion on the National Register is the ultimate line of defense for historic properties, however, as is clear from recent legislative pressures on both the federal and the state levels. Congressional efforts to limit the application of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to environmental review mandates to properties listed on the National Register were thwarted in late 2006, due in large part to the concerted letter-writing campaign by national and state archaeology organizations, MAS included. Various interest groups continued to exert pressure to limit or bypass the review process. This pattern was seen closer to home this past March, when a proposal to build a Liquid Natural Gas terminal on Outer Brewster Island made its way to the state legislature. After being notified by the State Archaeologist of this initiative, Tonya Lary of the MHC, as did the archaeologists from UMass Boston and UMass Amherst, to protest the negative impact the LNG terminal would have on archaeological sites first documented by the late Barbara Lukerd. In light of these new pressures, it is especially appropriate that this year’s Archaeology Month observed the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Antiquities Act. The MHC is using the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act as a theme for public education efforts this year. As it looks forward to the next five years, the MHC has set a number of planning goals for protecting archaeological sites, prominent among which is “to develop the advocacy role of local avocational archaeological groups, Native American tribes, and local preservation commissions to further the protection of archaeological resources.”

The Peabody expanded its repertoire of hands-on activities this winter through a collaborative project with PA’s History Department. It involves a trebuchet, built from a kit, which flings small projectiles. Although not directly related to our subject matter, the trebuchet is a further elaboration of the physical principles of leverage and mechanical advantage that made artillery so effective. And besides, it’s a lot of fun! Our students found soft fruit to be the most effective ammunition, due of course, to its satisfying “splat!”

The Peabody’s two expeditionary learning programs for PA students, Pecos Way and BALAM (Bilingual Archaeological Learning Adventure in Mesaamerica) will be taking place again this summer. These trips have been described by students as “life-changing,” attesting eloquently to the power of firsthand experience.

**Wapanucket Celebration**

Thanks to a grant awarded to MAS by the Middleborough Cultural Council, Wapanucket will be reenacted for the month of February. It went out with planned several events to celebrate to which all are invited.

1. A free lecture will be presented to MAS members and the general public at the Middleborough Public Library on March 31st at 1:30 pm. Dr. James W. Bradley will present “Middleborough’s First People: PaleoIndians at the Wapanucket site”, discussing the results of his recent research on artifacts from Wapanucket, with a focus on the Paleoindian component. Copies of the Wapanucket publication will be available for purchase.  
2. An Open House at the Robbins Museum will be held immediately following the lecture at 3 pm. Of special interest is the ongoing exhibit on the Wapack Heritage site, including maps of the village and house plans inferred from post molds that were discovered at this site, the first evidence ever found for houses from the Late Archaic period. All are invited to see our updated Walk Through Time exhibit and other recent displays. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

3. An exhibit of artifacts from Wapanucket will be set up in the Middleborough Public Library during the months of March and April to inform the public about this important excavation undertaken in the 20th century by the Cohasset Chapter on the shore of Assawompsett Pond.

The Museum continues to develop its new strategic plan for preservation for the purposes of Phillips Academy, the governing body of our parent institution, in the winter of 2008. Upon approval of the plan, the Museum will embark on a course of measured, sustainable growth in its program.

We are again offering our “Introduction to Archaeology” field school designed for students not enrolled at Phillips Academy entering 9th through 12th grades as part of the Phillips Academy Summer Session (www.andover.edu/summersession/home.htm). We will continue excavating at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead, a 17th century house and property in Danvers, MA. Last summer’s testing produced prehistoric and 17th and 18th century artifacts, as well as copious amounts of later material associated with continued habitation of the house up to the present day. Dr. Nathan D. Hamilton, Associate Professor in Anthropology at the University of Southern Maine, will direct the field school. Dr. Hamilton, a Peabody Museum Research Associate, is great with kids and very highly regarded as a teacher and scholar. We are extremely fortunate that he has chosen to lead our project.

“Dig This: Unearthing the American Past,” is another Summer Session course designed for PA’s new Lower Summer Institute. This course makes extensive use of electronic resources available through the PA Library and teaching units developed around Peabody Museum collections. The Lower Summer Institute (http://www.andover.edu/summersession/lowerInstitute.htm) is designed for all students entering grades 6 through 9th grades. Please contact Malinda Blustain at 978-749-4499 or mblustain@andover.edu for more information.

**NEWS FROM THE ROBERT S. PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, ANDOVER, MA**

Malinda Blustain

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**REPORT FROM THE CAPE AND ISLANDS WORKSHOP**

**Frederica Dimnick**

A second meeting of the Cape and Islands Archaeology Workshop was held in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, on November second. Elizabeth Hilton of the University of Massachusetts organized the meeting. Among those attending were Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, THPO of the Aquinnah tribe; Richard Burt, past president of the Vineyard Archaeological Society, Fred Dunford of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Donna Long, Director, D’Errico Laboratory, Inc.; Katie Dambach, graduate student at UMass; Steve Perlman, resident of Vineyard Haven and archaeologist, who hosted the meeting at the Twin Oaks Inn; and Freddie Dimnick, Archaeologist at the Cape Cod National Seashore and MAS Volunteer.  

Discussion at the meeting centered on archaeological site protection and preservation issues for the many groups working to preserve historic lands both on Martha’s Vineyard and the Cape. The chair of the Martha’s Vineyard Commission joined the meeting to emphasize that land protection groups need guidance from archaeologists in preparing strategies for dealing with land developers. The Vineyard Workshop, including preparation of a spring conference series of workshops in Vineyard Haven to bring the Vineyard’s archaeological past into focus for preservation groups and to provide information about this heritage to the public.

**Cracked Flints and Singed Fingers: Lessons from Living History for Firearms Archaeology**

by Dr. Neal L. Trubowitz, February 26th, 2007 at 7:30 PM

**More than Dirt and Rocks: A Geoaarcheological View of Archiac and Woodland Settlement Patterning on the Upper Susquehanna River, New York**

by Susanna C. Selby, March 20th, 2007 at 7:30 PM

**In the Drowned Lands: Adaptive Strategies to Near Swamp Environments**

by Carol S. West, April 17th, 2007 at 7:30 PM

All events are free and open to the public.
BOOK REVIEWS

Cross-Cultural Collaboration: Native Peoples and Archaeology in the Northeastern United States
Edited by Jordan E. Kerber (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE and London, 2006. 379 pp.).
Reviewed by Curtis Hoffman

One of the most significant developments in the practice of Northeastern archaeology since the passage of the 1989 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA; PL 101-601) has been the emergence of cooperative efforts between archaeologists and indigenous peoples. Prior to NAGPRA, most archaeologists in the region had operated under the pretense of a cultural vacuum, in which the views and sensibilities of indigenous peoples were overlooked or even dismissed as inauthentic. This led to the general acceptance by archaeologists of field and laboratory practices which would today be regarded as unacceptable, especially with respect to human skeletal material and associated grave goods. NAGPRA, and its accompanying regulatory framework, gave indigenous people a significant voice on archaeological matters for the first time in their history. While some of the interactions at that time can be characterized by hostility on both sides, since the mid-1990s a more salutary relationship of mutual respect has slowly emerged. This has been of benefit to both communities; in others, adjacent chapters give the differing perspectives of the two communities. This accurately represents the range of relationships. One gets a good feel for both the points of tension and the points of synergy from these case studies.

The book’s 29 chapters, by 33 authors, are organized into three broad sections: Collaboration and Regulatory Compliance – Burials and Repatriation; Collaboration and Archaeological Research – Research and Education. In the first two sections, the two communities are sometimes engaged, sometimes at cross-purposes – indeed, there is some insightful discussion in the chapter by Dean and Perelli (“Highway ‘grandfathers’ of the animals that they knew.” In some cases, the two communities are sometimes engaged, sometimes at cross-purposes – indeed, there is some insightful discussion in the chapter by Dean and Perelli (“Highway Native legends may preserve memories of the late Pleistocene, when Paleo-Indians and megafauna actually coexisted. This certainly cannot be said of the Mesozoic fauna which are so frequently encountered in erosional cuts in the West – but the Native imagination was clearly stimulated by these finds, and legends about cosmic battles between thunderbirds and water monsters abound in their myths. When compared with the views of contemporary 19th century European students of what was then called Natural History, the Native views seem much more advanced and closer to what we have come to understand through paleontological science.

Mayor is particularly engaged to refute the claims of the famous evolutionary biologist George Gaylord Simpson, who stated in 1942 that, “various reported Indian legends of fabulous beasts represented by fossil bones have little ethnological and no paleontological value.” She often returns to this statement and opines that, were Simpson still alive today, the evidence she has collected would convince him of the error of his ways. This appeal seems on its surface to be winfully nostalgic, but it is probably not apt. At the time in his career when he wrote this, Simpson was well known for his vehement defense of gradualism (he was one of the chief opponents of plate tectonics, though he later reversed his position in the face of overwhelming evidence), and surely one of the chief reasons he rejected Native lore about these matters was the idea of catastrophism – the idea that extinctions were not gradual but sudden and drastic. That is the reason why Georges Cuvier was so interested in these fossils and their accompanying legends – he was the chief late 18th century exponent of catastrophism. By the mid-20th century, when Simpson was most active, catastrophism had been relegated to the dustbin of history – only to reemerge in the writings of Stephen Jay Gould. Though he anticipated some of these developments in his later writings, today’s paleontologists are much more sympathetic to these kinds of explanation than Simpson would likely have been.

Fossil Legends of the First Americans
by Adrienne Mayor (Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 2005. 446 pp.)
Reviewed by Curtis Hoffman

sometimes a book comes along which literally opens up a new field of inquiry. **Fossil Legends of the First Americans** is certainly such a book. Adrienne Mayor, an independent researcher who has written previously on the role of paleontology in Greco-Roman culture, has done a fine job of collecting information from all parts of North America to support her surprising thesis: that Native peoples, both before and after the arrival of Europeans and ever since, have been aware of fossils and have incorporated them into both their beliefs and their ritual practices. Well-trained in paleontological fieldwork, Mayor is particularly engaged to refute the claims of the famous evolutionary biologist George Gaylord Simpson, who stated in 1942 that, “various reported Indian legends of fabulous beasts represented by fossil bones have little ethnological and no paleontological value.” She often returns to this statement and opines that, were Simpson still alive today, the evidence she has collected would convince him of the error of his ways. This appeal seems on its surface to be winfully nostalgic, but it is probably not apt. At the time in his career when he wrote this, Simpson was well known for his vehement defense of gradualism (he was one of the chief opponents of plate tectonics, though he later reversed his position in the face of overwhelming evidence), and surely one of the chief reasons he rejected Native lore about these matters was the idea of catastrophism – the idea that extinctions were not gradual but sudden and drastic. That is the reason why Georges Cuvier was so interested in these fossils and their accompanying legends – he was the chief late 18th century exponent of catastrophism. By the mid-20th century, when Simpson was most active, catastrophism had been relegated to the dustbin of history – only to reemerge in the writings of Stephen Jay Gould. Though he anticipated some of these developments in his later writings, today’s paleontologists are much more sympathetic to these kinds of explanation than Simpson would likely have been.

Readers familiar with the archaeological sequence will also find Mayor’s use of the term “Paleo-Indian” troubling. She appears to apply it to all pre-European groups in some cases: for example arguing that Paleo-Indians built the mounds in the Ohio Valley 2000 years ago. Her knowledge of Northeastern archaeological materials goes no further east than the Connecticut Valley; one is left to wonder what Native people would have made of the Cambrian trilobite fossils of the Blue Hills, or of the fossil shark teeth in the collections of many archaeological museums in our region. But it is not unlikely that some of her observations from elsewhere in the continent would apply here also. She describes dinosaur gastrooliths in terms very similar to my own description of “polished pebbles” from the Middle Littleton site and her description of the Cheyenne legend about a giant water serpent overturning a Native canoe brings to mind the Titicac petroglyphs. But these are minor faults in what is altogether an absorbing and eye-opening book.

This review appears in the current issue of the American Anthropologist, reprinted courtesy of University of California Press.
A couple of significant events affecting cultural resource protection took place at the state level in the last few months. In November, before Governor Romney left office, he used his executive powers to cut $425 million from the state budget though state revenues were at an all-time high. This resulted in reductions to operating budgets and projects for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Park maintenance and staffing, plus the watershed and drinking water protection programs were cut. In addition, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs’ Office of Geographic Information Systems lost their funding for the production of land use maps that would help state agencies, municipalities, and other organizations make educated decisions about land use. Efforts are underway to restore these cuts.

On December 22, 2006, cultural resource protection and preservation were given a major boost when, after fifteen years of languishing in the legislative system, An Act Relative to the Taxation of Forest, Farm and Recreation Land (S.2683), also known as the Chapter 61 Reforms (a bill which this committee has followed for many years), was signed into law by Governor Romney at the urging of many groups and individuals. This bill had passed the Senate in a July 2006 informal session, then made its way though the House Committee on Ways and Means where it had resided for the past decade, on through the House Committee on Steering and Policy, to Bills in Third Reading; and then, in an unusual informal Friday session, it passed the House on December 8, 2006 to be signed by the governor. This legislation corrects most of the ambiguities, inconsistencies, and loopholes in the original 1973 law. The original law provided for a reduction in property taxes for land enrolled in active forestry (Chapter 61), productive agriculture or horticulture (Chapter 61A), and open space and recreational uses (Chapter 61B), and this kept many Massachusetts working farms and forests in business by allowing them to get a tax break. This will continue, thereby also protecting the cultural resources on these properties. The new law also enhances the opportunities for municipalities to protect working farms, forests, and recreation lands once they lose their Chapter 61 status.

On the federal level, most advocates for historic preservation believe that the Democratic majorities in the next Congress will bode well for historic preservation. The key victim of the Democratic sweep was Representative Pombo (R-CA) who chaired the House Committee on Resources. Most believe that dramatic changes to the Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), the Endangered Species Act, and the Environmental Policy Act which he proposed can be laid to rest now that Pombo has been sent home. Pombo built his political career around the repeal of the aforementioned Acts and the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Most new key committee chairs support cultural and natural resource preservation, and this can be seen in their past voting records – so you can see why there is cautious optimism.

The last few months have been one of change on the legislative scene. The November elections brought about many changes at the state and federal legislative level. Massachusetts elected and inaugurated a new governor and installed the present legislature for the next four years. At the federal level the November election saw the Democrats put into a majority position in both the House and Senate. These changes have caused cultural and natural resource advocates to become cautiously optimistic about the future – a mood change that has not been seen in several years.
Meeting Registration Form

Name _______________________________________________________ Member of MAS ______

Address _____________________________________________________ Member of ASC ______

City ______________________________ State _______ Zip________ Other ______

Telephone ___________________ E-mail _______________________________

Member of MAS or ASC $10.00 Paid in advance ______ (return by April 7th)

$12.00 Paid at the door ______

Non-members $12.00

Buffet Luncheon $7.50 (Payment required by April 7th)

TOTAL ______

Checks payable to: Massachusetts Archaeological Society

Mail to: Thirza Joost, Spring Meeting Registrar

557-87 Southwest Cutoff

Worcester, MA 01607

For questions: Maryanne MacLeod, 978-368-8552 – marmacester@comcast.net

Thirza Joost, 508-757-7960 – thirza@aol.com

Spring Meeting — APRIL 14, 2007

MORNING PROGRAM

9:00 – 9:45 Registration and Coffee

9:45 – Presidents’ Welcome

10:00 – Maurice Foxx, Chairman, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs

“Native Perspectives on Ecology”

10:40 – Lucinda McWeeney, Ph.D., Consultant in Archaeobotany

“Digging for Ecological Evidence: What Methods Do We Use?”

11:20 – Susan Jacobucci, M.A., University of Massachusetts Boston

“Changes and Continuities in the Landscape: Analysis of Pollen and Charcoal from the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Reservation”

12:00 – Lunch

AFTERNOON PROGRAM