Transition to a Digital Newsletter

Dear members,

Exciting things are happening with our newsletter. Starting in April we will be moving to a monthly email newsletter instead of the current biannual format. One of the major reasons for this shift is that there are so many interesting and exciting things happening on a monthly basis that a monthly newsletter will give us the ability to keep our membership up to date in a timely manner. If you haven’t done so already, please send us your preferred email address by emailing us at gogreen@massarchaeology.org with the words ‘Email Address’ in the subject line. Make sure to include your name and address in the body of the message. This monthly newsletter will also be available on our website www.massarchaeology.org. If you would like to continue receiving a streamlined paper copy of the newsletter twice year (March and September), we ask that you please fill out the attached tear sheet and mail it back to us at the Robbins Museum, 17 Jackson St, Middleboro, MA. We hope that you are looking forward to this change as much as we are. Don’t forget to ‘Like’ our Facebook page to stay up to date with Society happenings as well as local, national, and international archaeology news stories.

Sincerely,

Philip J Graham, PhD
President, Massachusetts Archaeological Society

Fall 2014 Newsletter: President’s Report

Since my last letter, there have been lots of interesting happenings going on at the Robbins Museum. I was happy to meet with and speak with so many of our members at the annual meeting held in October at the Robbins. The meeting was well attended and featured a full slate of interesting speakers. Topics ran the gamut from historic bottle glass to pottery from ancient Israel. At the conclusion of the speaker program we had a reading from poet Faye George’s new book Voices of King Philip’s War. The semi-annual meeting also featured the dedication of the Jean Jacques Rivard memorial archaeological laboratory and art studio. As many of you know, Mr. Rivard was a long time illustrator and resident artist at the Robbins Museum as well as a tireless supporter of the society. I can think of no better way to commerorate his accomplishments and keep his memory fresh in our minds than this lab and art space. Next time you are at the museum, please check it out and read the memorial plaques. It is located adjacent to the library. The semi-annual meeting concluded with a reception during which I had the pleasure of conversing with many of our members. I hope to see you all again at the semi-annual meeting in April!

Those of you that have visited the museum recently will notice that we are now using the original ‘main entrance’ (where the handicap ramp is) instead of the entrance to the office. This was the way that the museum was originally designed. By knocking down a wall, the entrance to the Nemasket Hall, containing an exhibit on the Middleboro Little League site and a mishoon, now connects to the front office. Visitors to the museum will now begin their experience by going into Nemasket Hall first.

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We recently completed an overhaul of the Middleboro Little League Site exhibit, spearheaded by MAS trustee McKayla Hoffman. The exhibit, while providing information and displaying artifacts from the Middleboro Little League site, also provides introductory information about archaeology, what archaeologists do, and how we understand the past. It provides a great introduction into the rest of the museum. If you haven't visited yet, make sure to come by. There are lots of great things happening.

I expect that 2014 will be even better than 2013. This year is the 75th anniversary of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. We hope that you celebrate with us at the semi-annual meeting, which will be held at the Peabody Museum in Andover this coming April, and again in October at our annual meeting at the Robbins Museum. I want to thank the entire membership for their continued support. In particular, I want to thank those of you who responded to our annual appeal. Your financial support is what allows us to keep the museum open and keep the society strong. As always, I am happy to hear your comments, ideas, and opinions. Feel free to email me at archaeobotanyguy@gmail.com. Also, don't forget to 'Like' the Massachusetts Archaeological Society on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Philip J Graham

By-Laws Revision Committee Report

At the Annual Meeting last Fall, the membership approved a number of changes to the MAS by-laws. However, once the Board began to meet in the Fall, we discovered that the process was not quite complete. As a result, we will hold a brief (15 minute) business meeting at the semi-annual meeting on April 5th to deal with three additional by-law changes which the Board has approved. They are as follows:

Article VIII:
Current wording: "The fiscal year of the Society shall be from September 1 of each calendar year to August 31 of the following year."
Proposed wording: "The fiscal year of the Society shall be from July 1 of each calendar year to June 30 of the following year."
Rationale: While the change to a September to August fiscal year would have saved us this extra year, we discovered that to effect this we would have to pay an additional fee to the IRS. In addition, the change would not in fact make his compilation of an annual report any easier. The Board proposes returning to the previous July to June fiscal year.

Article X, Section 2:
Current wording: "The Museum's operations will be governed by a Museum Director selected by the Board of Trustees"
Proposed wording: "The Museum's operations will be governed by a Museum Director."
Rationale: This is needed because we now elect the Museum Director (formerly the Museum Coordinator).

Article IX, SECTION 1:
Current wording: The Nominating Committee shall ... obtain the written consent of the nominees and report such nominations to the Corresponding Secretary before the next succeeding June 1.
Proposed Wording: The Nominating Committee shall ... obtain the written or electronic consent of the nominees and report such nominations to the Corresponding Secretary before the next succeeding June 1.
Rationale: This will allow the Committee to collect digital signatures from nominees.

Please come to the meeting prepared to vote on these proposed changes to the by-laws.

-Curtiss Hoffman
Eugene C. Winter, Jr. 1927 – 2014


Gene was the Museum Coordinator for the Robbins from the fall of 1999 to the fall of 2012. When the Museum (and the Society) was in need Gene found a way to help. He was not only responsible for designing and constructing some of the exhibits but often for acquiring the cases in which the items were displayed. Gene used his contacts throughout the archaeological community to find cases that were available and then he would either arrange for someone to pay for the shipping of the units to the Robbins or he would pay the freight costs himself. He occasionally designed the devices used to mount the artifacts within the cases. His gifts to the MAS did not end with display items.

When the Society needed new racks for artifact storage, Gene purchased them with his own funds. He also acquired the trays used to hold the artifacts. Often the source of these items was the Robert S. Peabody Museum, an institution (along with the staff) that was very dear to his heart.

Along with the physical objects that Gene donated to the MAS, the other things that he gave mattered more. Gene was always ready, willing and more than able to share his vast knowledge of New England archaeology, whether the recipients were fellow archaeologists, students or visitors to the Museum. Gene’s recall of past events and the people involved was legendary. He would be asked about an event from the late 1950’s and without hesitation he would describe the situation. During a recent discussion at an MAS board meeting he helped resolve an issue by describing a similar situation that he had witnessed many years ago at the Peabody.

Then there was the pleasure derived from just being in his company. Gene always had a story that would have you rolling in the aisles (if the Museum had an aisle). One would have paid an admission fee to attend the Wednesday lunches at the Robbins when Gene, Jeff Boudreau and the others in attendance would discuss the many unresolved questions in New England archaeology. On what turned out to be his last visit to the Robbins Gene brought his guitar and serenaded the Wednesday crew.

Gene was one of those rare individuals who made the world a better place just by his existence. He will truly be missed.

-David DeMello
The Archaeological Conservancy continues to expand in the Northeast — Kelly Berliner

2014 marks the 34th year of The Archaeological Conservancy's efforts to permanently preserve the nation's most significant archaeological sites. As the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to this cause, the Conservancy has now protected over 465 sites in 41 states, including some considered to be America's most remarkable and famous. Without taking action many of these sites would have been destroyed and the information that they contain lost forever. Once sites are acquired, they are managed as permanent open-space, archaeological research preserves which are available to professional archaeologists for research; and descendant communities for passive use. Any excavations conducted must guarantee that part of the site will remain unexcavated and undisturbed in accordance with an ethic of conservation. In order to pursue diverse sites in all areas of the United States, the Conservancy operates through five regional offices. The Eastern Regional Office is located in Frederick, MD, and handles the area from North Carolina to Maine.

In its more than 10-year history in Frederick the Eastern Regional Office has doubled its holdings to over 50 sites dating from the Paleo through the 19th century. This includes sites at Lamoka Lake, NY; Thunderbird, VA; the Royal Blockhouse at Fort Edward, NY; the Pamplin Pipe Factory, VA; Ely Mound, VA; King's Quarry, PA; and Contentnea Creek, NC.

Recently, the Eastern Office has acquired the PE Soapstone Quarry, located in central Virginia. It is the largest and most intact soapstone quarry that has been found in the state thus far. Another recent acquisition is the well-known, 16th century Cayadutta Mohawk village near Johnstown, NY. The village site is featured in archaeologist Dean Snow's Mohawk Valley Project and it is where Snow conducted excavations in the early 1980s. In 2013, the Conservancy also acquired several other important Iroquois village sites across New York and made advances in the acquisition of several sites in Pennsylvania and Virginia. In Maryland, we have wrapped up our project with the Maryland Historic Trust to compile a database of all National Register eligible sites.

In addition to saving important sites, the Conservancy also publishes American Archaeology magazine and offers archaeological-based tours throughout the Americas. These tours are generally 1-week long bus trips that take visitors to important archaeological sites and museums in the area. The Eastern office offers tours focusing on themes of the Colonial Chesapeake, the French and Indian War, and Iroquoia, with plans to add a tour of the Archaeology of Canada. The eastern regional office's next tour will visit sites connected to the French and Indian War in September of 2014.

The Conservancy's eastern regional office is led by Andy Stout. Kelley Berliner is the region's new Field Representative. They can be reached at 301-682-6359 or tac_east@verizon.net. Nationally, the Conservancy has also expanded its staff and it is launching a new website and outreach initiative for 2014. For more information on the Conservancy and to join its nearly 25,000 members, see their Facebook page or visit them on the web at www.americanarchaeology.org.
The Science of Archaeology Part 2: Zooarchaeology

This is the second installment on our series of the science of archaeology. The goal of this series is to look at how the various sub-specialties within archaeology work to help us better understand the past. In our last newsletter we talked about archaeobotany. In this issue we are going to discuss the other side of ancient foodways: zooarchaeology. Zooarchaeology is the study of ancient animals and how they were utilized by people. The primary method used by zooarchaeologists is the identification of ancient animal bones both to species (where possible) and element (name of specific bone and the side of the body it came from). This information allows zooarchaeologists to calculate MINI (the minimum number of individuals present) and NISP (the number of identified specimens).

By identifying the number and types of animals present at archaeological sites, zooarchaeologists are able to provide insight on ancient subsistence practices, the procurement of animals for food, hunting and herding practices, animal domestication, and the role of animals in societies beyond serving as food items. To get at the social aspects of human-animal interactions, zooarchaeologists look to butchering patterns, the make-up of the overall animal assemblage (such as age and sex), and bone pathologies (to name a few).

Butchering practices, investigated via cut marks on bones, tell us about which parts of the animals were being used. The overall age and sex profile of the zooarchaeological assemblage provides insight on how the animals were being utilized. For example, a population raising domesticated cattle is going to have a pattern whereby most of the males and females are killed around 2 years of age, when they reach their maximum size. This allows farmers to get the most meat out of the animal without having to feed them longer than necessary. If a farmer was raising cattle for milk production, then we would expect the female cattle to be older when they are butchered while most of the male cattle will still be killed off around 2 years old. Bone pathologies also provide useful information. For example, studies have shown that cattle used to pull plows have distinctive wear patterns on some of their bones. If the same wear patterns are found on archaeological specimens, we can potentially infer what the animals may have been used for before they were butchered.

Both zooarchaeology and archaeobotany work best when they work together. An agricultural system necessarily involves both the plants and the animals. When a change is made in one, such as using cattle to pull plows, it necessitates a change in the other. By using these together in a multiple lines of evidence approach, we can gain a more holistic understand of ancient agricultural systems.

-Philip Graham
Membership Secretary’s Report

As of March 1, 2014, the Society’s membership was 529, including all categories. The following members have joined or renewed their MAS membership at higher levels of contribution:

**Patrons:**
- Shirley Blancke
- Ashton Bradshaw
- Marilyn Crary
- Suanna Selby Crowley
- Frederica Dimmick
- Elinor “Fuzzy” Downs
- Timothy Fohl
- Philip Graham
- Elizabeth Greene
- Curtiss Hoffman
- Royce Kahler
- Timothy Largy
- Chuck & Peg Luedtke
- Sheila Lynch-Benttinen
- Jeffrey Moore, Jr.
- Ed Moreland
- Steven Pendergast
- Diane Pereira
- Dorothy Robinson
- Daniel Rourke
- Laurie Stundis
- Catherine Taylor
- Frederic Topor
- Walter van Roggen
- Eugene Winter

**Supporting:**
- Anthony Capozzi
- Michael Cavanagh
- Tirza Joost
- Frederick Martin
- Victor Mastone
- Darrell Pinckney
- Robert Scheer
- Christopher Soliz
- William Taylor
- John Thompson

**Sustaining:**
- Harry Anderson
- John Ausevich
- Ruth Carol Barnes
- Esther Braun
- Peter Burns
- Bernard Cooper
- Andrew Cormier
- Stuart Eldridge
- Linda Engelmann
- Donna Frehill
- Diane Gilbert
- Donald Gourley
- Henry Hammond
- Susan Jacobucci
- Berj Kallian
- Lloyd Keyes
- Kenneth Leonard
- Mark Lyons
- Gerald Maconber

- William Moody
- Douglas Sharpe
- Brona Simon

There have been 45 new members who joined MAS since March of 2013:
- Richard Aimone
- Estelle Anderson
- Peter Anick
- Donald Beal
- Melissa Beaulac
- Grace Bello
- Marilyn Brennan
- Bruce Brockway
- Cheryl Carter
- Frank Carvino
- Sandra Cofran
- Wilfred Colson
- Charles Deknudt
- Christine Dilks
- Thomas Doyle
- Richard Dragone
- Fred Dunford
- Robert Dwyer
- Bernard Ether
- Chris Farley
- Suzanne Goehringer
- Beverley Gourley
- Donald Gourley
- Spencer Graham
- Dan Hamilton
- Raymond Hebert
- Christine Houtzanger
- Rick Korns
- Craig Kirkler
- Trevor Lamb
- Allison Malloy
- Colin Masson
- John Mathews
- James Munger
- Mark Nelson
- Cheryl Reimels
- Robert Reimels
- Naomi Riddiford
- Brian Robinson
- David Robinson
- Katherine Roderick
- Robert Smith
- Martha Sulya
- Walter van Roggen
- Brianna Rae Zoto

Since the call went out in early November 2013, the Society’s Annual Appeal has succeeded in raising $6,500. Thanks to our generous donors whose names are listed below, we will be able to implement many of our planned 2014 programs.

**Clovis Contributor ($1000 and up):**
- David DeMello

**Eden Enabler ($750):**
- Royal House of Pokanoket

**Bifurcate Benefactors ($500):**
- Curtiss Hoffman
- Charles and Peg Luedtke

**Brewerton Backer ($250):**
- Shirley Blancke
- Fred Robinson

**Vosburg Volunteers ($100 and up):**
- Ted Ballard
- Suanna Selby Crowley
- Freddie and David Dimmick
- Timothy Fohl
- Don Gammons
- Philip Graham
- Berj Kallian
- Timothy Largy
- Thomas and Tonya Largy
- Wayne Legge
- Dan Lorraine
- David McKenna
- John Rempeleakis
- Gladys Robinson
- Laurie Stundis
- Frederic Topor
- Bob Trotta

**Squibnocket Supporters ($75):**
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- Public Archaeology Laboratory

**Other Contributors:**
- Harry Anderson
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- Spencer Graham
- Francis Hopton
- Alex Hootzager
- Leslie Masson
- Alan Prybylo
- Bruce & Karen Rusch
- Douglas & Ann Sharpe
- Jeff Stevens
- Douglas Wicher

We welcome additional contributions to the Annual Appeal, so as to support the Robbins Museum and its programs. You can do this on-line through our website (www.massarchaeology.org) or by sending a check or money order made out to MAS, P.O. Box 700, Middleborough MA 02346.
Spring 2014 Meeting
of the
Massachusetts Archaeological Society
and the
New Hampshire Archaeological Society

Join the MAS and the NHAS for the
2014 Spring Meeting
Saturday, April 5, 2014  9am to 3:30pm
Hosted by the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology
at the Kemper Auditorium on the campus of Phillips Academy
Main Street (Route 28) Andover, MA 01810

Free Parking

$6 tickets
for lunch at
Phillips' Paresky
Dining Hall

Celebrate New Hampshire Archaeology Month
and the 75th Anniversary of the MAS!

Special Display of Alaskan Artifacts with Pat Hume in Kemper Lobby

Speakers include:
Martin Dudek, Martin Schmidheiny, Alan Leveillee, Erin Flynn, Dianna Doucette
Carol Weed, Robert Goodby, Steve Scharoun, Jessica Fish & Kathleen McCourt

Admission: $10 members and students, $12 nonmembers

For more information:
www.massarchaeology.org
www.nhas.org
ATTENTION!

This is the LAST printed newsletter that will be sent to you. A new and improved newsletter will be sent MONTHLY to your email address on file. To register an email with the Massachusetts Archaeology Society, read the President's letter on Page 1 of this edition.

If you would like to continue to receive a printed version of the Newsletter, which will only be mailed twice a year (March and September), you MUST send in this form to:

Robbins Museum
17 Jackson St
Middleboro, MA

I would like to continue to receive a printed version of the MAS Newsletter, twice yearly, to the following address:


The Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc.
Robbins Museum of Archaeology
P.O. Box 700
Middleborough, MA 02346-0700

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