Dear Members and Friends,

I invite you to explore the recently re-launched MAS website. After months of work, the newly re-designed hub has come together beautifully. As before, you can find all the latest society, museum and chapter information at www.MassArchaeology.org. Our thanks to Judith Randall of Daughters In Design (and Massasoit Chapter Corresponding Secretary) for her many hours of design help.

Among the information you will see on the new website is the announcement of the Spring Meeting set for Saturday, April 11, 2015. Mark your calendars for a program of talks that will cover topics from New England to Central Texas.

Finally, we ask you to spread the word about the MAS as we expand our programming and revitalize the Robbins Museum. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, email us at GoGreen@MassArchaeology.org. And, don’t forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, or Pinterest.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Graham
President
MAS Wins Important Federal Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Trustees of the MAS are proud to announce that the Society recently received a grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent federal agency that supports state and local organizations as they care for and interpret American heritage, culture and innovation. The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) Grant awarded in 2014 provided a comprehensive review of the MAS organization, facilities, and collections. This highly competitive grant recognized the Society’s recent efforts to revitalize itself and strengthen its education and preservation mission. A grant of $4,000 was made to provide expert consultation with a senior-level museum professional who could observe MAS operations and make detailed recommendations for improvement.

The MAP award was administered by the American Alliance of Museums, a national advocacy organization, which paired the MAS with Dr. Michael Hammond, Executive Director of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum of Palm Springs, California. Dr. Hammond completed his doctoral work at Columbia University in archaeology and had spent many years in both academic and cultural resource management settings before transitioning to museum administration. “We could not have imagined a better fit for our organization,” commented Robbins Museum Director David DeMello. Dr. Hammond’s background in both archaeology and museums created an immediate rapport with the trustees and volunteers who came together for this review.

Continued on page 4

Celebrating Our Donors

Our thanks to the individuals, families, and organizations that supported our Annual Appeal in 2014!

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Data Recovery at the Queset Site in Easton

Contributed by Brian D. Jones, AHS, Inc.

The Queset Site (19-BR-649) is located in Easton, Massachusetts. The site was first identified by the Public Archaeology Laboratory in 1999 and further assessed in 2008 and 2012. The site was considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places based on the identification of quartz and rhyolite debitage, bifaces and projectile points, as well as a pit feature dated to 4430+/−30 B.P. Five quartz Squibnocket Triangle points were closely associated with the dated feature, while a rhyolite Neville-like point was found ca. 20 meters away.

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) completed a Data Recovery Program of the Queset Site in the fall of 2013. Forty-eight additional square meters of the site were excavated. AHS recovered 7,228 artifacts, including over 4,500 lithics. Native American cultural material from the site is comprised almost entirely of quartz (61%) and rhyolite (38%). Artifacts from the combined excavations include twenty-three Squibnocket Triangles, three Snook Kill (Atlantic) points, a possible Otter Creek point, and the Neville-like point identified by PAL. Five locations of concentrated lithic material were identified. Three of these are defined by moderate to high concentrations of quartz knapping debris associated with Late Archaic Squibnocket Triangle points, all manufactured from quartz. Rhyolite is concentrated in one area and is associated with the three Terminal Archaic Snook Kill points (two rhyolite and one argillite). Another block contained a very dense concentration of quartz just south of the rhyolite possible Otter Creek point and the Neville-like point. These points may not be associated with the nearby quartz.

Thirty-six bifaces/fragments and six point fragments indicate that the production of projectile points was one of the main activities at the site. Unifacial tools and

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News from the Region
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utilized flakes numbered ten and indicate other types of cutting and scraping tasks were performed as well, while a small quartz awl-like tool suggests leather-working. A small number of additional features were identified during the latest excavation, but some of these appear to reflect historic-period activity at the site. AHS hopes to submit additional radiocarbon dates after soil samples have been processed. The Queset Site is important for helping to refine the chronology of the Late Archaic quartz tool tradition. Unlike most Late Archaic sites in the region, it contains not a single quartz small-stemmed point. Data from the site help to build an argument that the Squibnocket Triangle type dates to a relatively short period of time around 4,400 radiocarbon years ago (ca. 5,010 calBP). The finds support a similar hypothesis first proposed by Kevin McBride in 1984 based on data from the Lower Connecticut River Valley.

Accompanying graphic
Continued on page 5

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

MAS Wins Federal Grant
Continued from page 2

During a two day visit in July, Dr. Hammond reviewed operations polices, toured the facilities, and interviewed a number of museum volunteers and trustees, gathering as much information about the Society’s mission and vision as possible. These observations were gathered into a final report to which suggested a series of concrete steps for the MAS Trustees to consider. Among these were updates to the mission statement and a comprehensive review of operations policies. Dr. Hammond’s report also highlighted mechanisms for expanding public outreach and updating the Robbins facilities.

“We thoroughly enjoyed working with Michael over those two days and welcomed his insight into the Society,” said Trustee Suanna Crowley. “And he has continued to make himself available in the months after his visit. It has been an extraordinary opportunity.”

The MAS Trustees are currently working through the final MAP report and have begun a new strategic planning effort in 2015. To support that work, the IMLS has once again invited the MAS to host Dr. Hammond and is offering a supplemental grant to facilitate a second visit to Middleborough this spring. The Trustees are currently working out the details for this meeting.

To learn more about how the trustees, members and friends of the Society are working to revitalize the organization for our visitors and our collections, visit our website at www.MassArchaeology.org to see how you can be a part of the effort. Thank you for your continued support.

$75 for the 75th
Support the MAS!
Membership Secretary’s Report by Curtiss Hoffman

As of January 21, the Society’s membership was 479, including all categories of membership. The following members have joined or renewed their MAS membership at higher levels of contribution:

**Patrons:**
- Ted Ballard
- Ashton Bradshaw
- Marilyn Crary
- Suanna Crowley
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- Donna Frehill
- Diane Gilbert
- Donald Gourley
- Lloyd Keyes
- Mark Lyons
- Gerald Macomber
- William Moody
- William Napolitano
- Brona Simon

There have been 48 new members who joined or rejoined MAS since April 2014:
- David Brule
- John Campbell
- Mia Charbonneau
- Zoe Charbonneau
- Howard Clark
- Matthew Costa
- Dot DeBassio
- Steve DiMarzo
- Penelope Drooker
- Gloria Dupre
- Joel Fowler
- David Graci
- Richard Michael Gramly
- Joseph Graveline
- Regina Greene
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- Sarah Schoff
- Nathan Scholl
- Ann Sharpe
- Jillian Smith
- Kimberly Smith
- Joshua Toney
- Jane Trigere
- Alan Vautrinot
- Meg Wilkes

**CHAPTER MEETING DATES**

**NE/Gene Winter Chapter**
7pm Meetings
R.S. Peabody Museum
175 Main St., Andover, MA
- February 17, 2015
- March 17, 2015
- April 21, 2015
- May 19, 2015

**Central Chapter**
7pm Meetings
Zion Lutheran Church
43 Whitmarsh Ave., Worcester, MA
- April 4, 2015
- June 13, 2015

**Massasoit Chapter**
6:30pm Meetings
Adams Heritage Center
33 Summer Street, Kingston, MA
- February 19, 2015

More information on programs and directions available at www.MassArchaeology.org

Stemmed points from Locus 1 - top: rhyolite projectile point tip, possible Middle Archaic. Bottom row, left to right: argillite Neville variant point and refit flake; rhyolite Neville stemmed point; hornfels-like Atlantic point base and refit tip.
Scheduled speakers include:

**Brianna Rae**, “The Marshfield Airport Site.”


**Zachary Singer**, “Revisiting the Neponset Site: A Reanalysis of Formative Middle Paleoindian (Michaud-Neponset Phase) Site in the New England and Canadian Maritimes Region.”

**Grace Bello**, “A Walk Through Time with the Boats Archaeological Site of Dighton, Massachusetts.”

**Ammie Mitchell**, “Redefining Early Pottery in New York State.”

**Bruce Rusch**, ‘Clovis/Pre-Clovis at the Gault Site in Central Texas.”

**Susan Jacobucci**, “Beech, Purple-Leaved: An Examination of a Historic,