President's Message

Welcome to the fall and the season of celebrations! I am talking, of course, of Archaeology Month, and your Massachusetts Archaeological Society will have a number of excellent ways for you to get connected. First, consider joining us for a special book event on Saturday, October 7. Or, join us in Connecticut for the jointly hosted Eastern States Archaeological Federation meetings November 2-5. You can always find us ready to tell stories and talk science at the Museum of Science Archaeology Fair on Saturday, October 14. Details
are scattered through this newsletter and will be posted on our Society Facebook page to remind you.

Other good news to share, the MAS is the recipient of a new grant from the Middleborough Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for just over $15,000. This money will allow updates to the fire alert and prevention systems at the Robbins Museum – a must for the protection of the collections and the historic building. This is our second grant from the CPC and we are proud to say that “Community Preservation Works!”

Finally, I invite you to keep up with Archaeology Month through our channels and Society, and ask you to consider making a gift to our Annual Appeal this year. Your tax-deductible contribution will have a very direct impact on our ability to maintain the collections, create programs, and get you connected to the field of archaeology.

Thanks for your support, your membership, and your likes and shares!

Very best,
Suanna Selby Crowley, PhD, RPA
President

ESAF is Upon Us!
The 84th meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation is being co-hosted by the MAS and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut! The meeting will take place on November 2–5, 2017 in New London, CT. For more information, visit the ESAF conference website. Don't forget to follow the MAS on Facebook for more ESAF updates!
Collections Update
Starting in fall 2016, volunteers from the Robbins Museum and the NAGPRA committee have been actively working on creating a usable inventory of our identified NAGPRA collections. Part of the process included hiring a contractor, Dr. Jackie Veninger, to create the inventory.

Furthering the project, numerous MAS Trustees have been working alongside staff from the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, MA as well as tribal representatives to streamline a checklist process for the eventual transfer of objects. We are happy to report that these efforts are proving fruitful and anticipate completing the repatriation of the NAGPRA artifacts from the Mansion Inn collection by the end of 2017.

Have questions?
Email us at info@massarchaeology.org.

'Round Robbins
By David Demello

Maintenance of most of the artifacts on display at the Robbins is fairly simple. Most of them are stone, and stone is definitely low maintenance. I’m glad that I’m not the director of a glass museum!

However, there are some items that are quite sensitive and need special attention.

One of the premier exhibits at the Museum is the Doyle Doll Collection. These dolls are handcrafted and composed of natural materials. They’re subject to degradation from a variety of environmental issues, particularly light, temperature, humidity, and
The lights that shine directly on the dolls are incandescent. Florescent lights have an ultraviolet component that fades colors.

The dolls are kept in sealed cases in the only room in the building that has an air conditioner and a dehumidifier. We target a temperature below 70 °F and a humidity of 50%. This creates an environment that inhibits microbial growth, bacteria, and fungi, and slows down chemical interactions. It also deters insects. Dermestid beetle larva love to dine on natural materials and have caused issues with the dolls in the past.

This year, at the request of Tom Doyle, whose mother, Ruth Doyle, donated the collection, we improved our methods of monitoring the conditions in the doll displays and the storage case.

Each display unit is now equipped with a thermohygrometer, which measures temperature and humidity in the cases. One of them revealed that the dehumidifier’s exhaust fan was heating the side of a display case.
Inside the storage cabinet, we keep the humidity down by keeping open trays of desiccant in the case. Desiccants are substances that act as drying agents removing moisture from the air. Twice a year we need to heat the desiccant to remove the moisture that it has absorbed since the last baking. If you have visited the Robbins and wondered about the stove located near the restrooms, this is its purpose. This year we added indicators to the desiccant trays. They change color as they become more saturated with water, and that will tell us if we need to bake them more often.

Visit the Robbins and see the fruits of this maintenance program, the magnificent Doyle Native Doll Collection.

A Report on Atlatl Day
By David McKenna

The Gene Winter Northeast Chapter held its annual atlatl event at the
Rebecca Nurse Homestead on September 16 and 17 in collaboration with Nate Hamilton's archaeological dig as part of the Trails and Sails program.

Young and old had fun learning to throw darts with atlatls, hunting technology developed by ancient Americans. Small children also got to try an ATL-LITTLE; a smaller throwing stick, using 4-foot darts, developed by the Chapter for smaller hands.

We would also like to thank the Danvers Historical Society for partnering with us on the event and donating the Late GlenMairo's collection of atlatls and darts to the Chapter.

**Coming Attractions!**

**Upcoming lectures and events**

October is Archaeology Month in Massachusetts. Take a look at our upcoming events for Archaeology Month and mark your calendars!

**A Talk on Dighton Rock**
Douglas Hunter, Ph.D., presents on his newly published book from UNC Press, *A Place of Stone*. Claimed by many to be the most
frequently documented artifact in American archaeology, Dighton Rock is a forty-ton boulder in southern Massachusetts that's covered in petroglyphs. Historian Douglas Hunter uses Dighton Rock to reveal the long, complex history of colonization, American archaeology, and the conceptualization of indigenous people. Hunter argues that misinterpretations of the rock's markings share common motivations and have erased indigenous people not only from their own history but from the landscape. He argues that the debates over Dighton Rock have served to answer two questions: Who belongs in America, and to whom does America belong?

You have three opportunities to attend this free lecture:

- Saturday, October 7, 2017, 1 PM at the Robbins Museum in Middleborough, MA
- Sunday, October 8, 2017, at 1 PM at the Dighton Rock Museum in Berkley, MA
- Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 11:30 AM at the Massachusetts Dept of Conservation and Recreation and the Diversity and Inclusion Council, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA

Digging in the Field of Dreams: the Second Terrace at the Middleborough Little League Site
The Central Massachusetts Chapter is hosting a talk by Dr. Curtiss Hoffman on October 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester, MA. We hope you can join us!

A Day in Lakeville: What’s in Your Backyard?
Celebrate International Archaeology Day and learn about the First People in this place we now call Lakeville--how they lived, what they made, what they ate, what they believed, and where they are today. There will be an introductory lecture at 1 PM followed by activities for all ages. This lecture is free.
Saturday, October 21, 2017, 1 PM to 4 PM at the Lakeville Library, Gallery Room, 4 Precinct St., Lakeville, MA

I Found Jesus in the Privy: Irish Tenement Life in 19th Century Roxbury
DCR archaeologist Ellen Berkland will discuss recent excavations by UMA’s Arc Services that revealed exciting new data on 19-century tenement life in the city of Boston. The artifact collection represents a short period of site use, at most 67 years, and includes items related to personal grooming, the household, cooking, children’s play, schooling, religion, construction, and international politics. The collections provide important insight into the lives of immigrants, the increase in factories and manufacturing in Roxbury, politics, and Roxbury history. This lecture is free.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7 PM to 9 PM at the Haley House Café, 12 Dade St., Roxbury, MA

The Norse Discovery of America
Independent researcher Gregory M. Lott will revisit the work done by Norwegian explorer and author Helge Ingstad and his archaeologist wife, Anne Stine Ingstad. Their efforts would help prove that Europeans visited North America nearly 500 years before Columbus. Icelandic sagas describe the colonization of Greenland by Eric the Red and the subsequent discovery of the lands further to the west by his son Leif Erickson. He would name this land “Vinland the Good.”

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7 PM at the Robbins Museum in Middleborough, MA

Plymouth Colony During King Philip’s War
Independent researcher Gregory M. Lott will discuss the early friendship between Massasoit, Chief Sachem of the Wampanoag Nation, and Plymouth Colony leaders William Bradford and Edward Winslow. Greg’s talk will revisit the brutal war of 1675–1676 between
the local natives and the Plymouth Colony settlers and follow the path of the precursors that would lead to a battle for control by the sons of these individuals.

Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7 PM at the Duxbury Free Library, 77 Alden St., Duxbury, MA

**Stone Prayers: Native American Stone Constructions of the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. and Canada**

On Saturday, October 28, Dr. Curtiss Hoffman will give a talk about stone structures. Join us at the Acton Memorial Library, off Route 27 in Acton, MA, from 1–3 p.m. The talk is sponsored by the Friends of Pine Hawk.

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**Results from the 2017 Summer Institute on the Maritime Archaeology of the North Shore**

By Vic Mastone

The Seafaring Education and Maritime Archaeological Heritage Programs (SEAMAHP) and the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (MBUAR), through Salem State University, held their 3rd maritime archaeology field school in Massachusetts. This intensive one-week course was taught by SEAMAHP’s Dr. Calvin Mires and Captain Laurel Seaborn and MBUAR’s chief archaeologist Victor Mastone. In addition to 3 college credit hours, students earned internationally recognized certification through the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS). This introductory course exposed students to archaeological research and recording of shipwreck sites in the high-energy zone of a foreshore marine environment.
Field investigation centered on a site located at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, operated by The Trustees of the Reservations (TTOR), the nation’s first land and historic properties conservation organization. The wreck is on the foreshore at Steep Hill Beach area and, at low tides, the top of the skeletal frame, along with the bow and stern, are exposed. Students partially excavated portions of this shipwreck and learned the basics of maritime archaeology fieldwork. This ship is believed to be the 2-masted schooner *Ada K. Damon* built in 1875 at the Burnham Shipyard in neighboring Essex. Work will continue on the site as beach conditions allow. A site plan and interpretive materials are being developed to assist TTOR with the management of this site.

**Member Submitted Book Review!**

By Scott F. Kostiw  
Book: The Saltwater Frontier

In the introduction, the author states that he offers a new way of thinking and understanding the history of the region and a novel explanation of how the English would eventually dominate the area. These statements seem grandiose, however, the author is in fact, far too modest. This book is not a mere synthesis of historical records and documents as others have done before. The author brings the reader closer to understanding the contact period and the seventeenth century in this region as no author has ever done before.

Coastal New England, Long Island, New York City, the Hudson Valley, and northeastern New Jersey are treated as a single unit. This is the correct approach as the Natives, Dutch, and English were clearly in contact and contending with one another.

He successfully shows the relatedness of the Pequot and Kieft's war. These were not isolated events but interconnected through a complex series of provocations.
The author regularly shows the Native American point of view and their reaction to various challenges. The occurrence of gruesome and bloody events are placed into proper perspective. Throughout, he uses the correct tone and disposition. He successfully argues that the seacoast played a major role in shaping the events that occurred in this region.