



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
JUNE NEWSLETTER

June Meeting, Sat. June 1, 2019, Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester MA
Remember to enter the Whitmarsh Street side of the church

AGENDA

7:30 PM Business Meeting

7:45 Refreshments: Bring your favorite dessert and share

8:00 **Excavations at the Pope Paleoindian site in Avon, CT
By David Leslie, PhD and Sarah Sportman, PhD**

The Pope Paleoindian site was recently identified through compliance archaeology, as part of a bridge replacement project in Avon, Connecticut. The site was discovered after initial shovel test pits encountered deeply buried alluvial sediments, suggesting the potential for buried archaeological deposits outside the reach of traditional testing methods. Prior to development five feet of alluvial overburden was removed from the ground surface to allow for a second shovel test pit survey, initially at 5- and then 2.5-meter intervals. An Early to Middle Paleoindian site (calibrated 12,500 years ago) was discovered, and subsequently 210 1x1-meter excavation units were excavated, completely removing the site within the area of planned development. Over 15,000 artifacts have been recovered from the site, as well as 40 cultural features. Excavations were completed in April (2019), and analyses of the cultural materials are ongoing. This talk will focus on the sampling strategy that revealed the site, the geology and site formation processes of the occupied landform, modelling possible locations for other deeply buried Paleoindian sites, and some initial thoughts on the raw materials, tools, cultural features, and site patterns of the Pope Paleoindian site.



David Leslie is a Senior Archaeologist at Archaeological and Historical Services Inc. He has over ten years of archaeological and environmental archaeological experience, collaborating on CRM and academic projects in the New England, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe. Sarah Sportman is a Senior Archaeologist at Archaeological and Historical Services Inc. She has twenty years of experience studying the history and archaeology of Euro-American and pre-colonial Native American cultures in New England and New York.



Pope Site and Artifacts

THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc

ROBBINS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY – P.O. BOX 700
Middleborough, MA 02346-0700
508-947-9005

Web site address: www.massarchaeology.org; email address: info@massarchaeology.org

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING (at Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Ave.

Worcester) From I-290, merge onto I-190 North via exit #19 towards Rt.12/Holden/Fitchburg. Take Rt.12/Gold Star Blvd. Exit #1 towards W. Boylston St. and bear right onto Gold Star Blvd. (Rt. 12) Follow Route 12 and travel 0.7 miles up a hill, over a bridge. Follow Route 12 which curves to the left and continue through two stoplights. Take the right onto Whitmarsh Ave., right after Greendale Pizza and go up the hill for 1 block. The Zion Lutheran Church will be on your left at the end of the block. The parking lot is on the right.

Archaeology Exhibits

LOCATION: Robbins Museum, 17 Jackson St. Middleboro, MA 02346

DATE & TIME: Every Wednesday, 9:00am-4:00pm; Saturday, 10:00am–2:00pm; and by contacting, education@massarchaeology.org; our Education Department Staff offers a flexible schedule for tours that meet your organizational and classroom needs!

INFORMATION: 508-947-9005, info@massarchaeology.org

SPONSOR: Massachusetts Archaeological Society

ADMISSION: \$2.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult

The Robbins Museum is handicapped accessible. Come visit one the oldest archaeological societies in the country. Enjoy our exhibits on the Massachusetts past. Learn about archaeology from our dedicated staff, volunteers, and archaeologists. Fun for the whole family. The Robbins Museum and the Massachusetts Archaeological Society offer education programs for all ages. Lectures for adults and hands-on programs for schools, scouts, and libraries. Have a real archaeologist visit your group and teach you about the fascinating history of New England as discovered through the science of archaeology.

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY Officers for 2018-2019

Janet Bessette, 508-752-1453, Chapter Chairperson
Curtiss Hoffman, 508-881-1124, Program Committee
Mary Aronson, 978-534-0032, Recording Secretary
Alan Smith, 508-853-5245, Corresponding Secretary
Thirza Joost, 508-757-7960, Treasurer