



**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER**

**October Meeting, Sat. October 5, 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: Peter Ivaska**

**8:00 Digging in the Field of Dreams: The Final Season at the
Middleborough Little League Site**

The Middleborough Little League Site (19-PL-520) is located on three post-glacial terraces overlooking the Nemasket River in Middleborough. Multiple radiocarbon and other dates show that it was occupied from ca 8000 – 800 B.P. Field excavations by Bridgewater State University students and volunteers under the presenter's supervision have been ongoing at the site most summers since 1996, but the 2019 field season, the 20th, marks the conclusion of the project. And a spectacular conclusion it was: over 6,000 lithic artifacts, many of them related to the persistent site theme of ceremonial deposits of red, black, and yellow paintstones, polished pebbles, quartz crystals, pendants, and stone rods, along with the more common tools related to subsistence activities. Much of the ceremonial material was deposited at the bottoms of deep pit features, some more than 1 meter deep, suggesting that these were deliberate offerings. This report will detail these findings from the Second Terrace and relate them to recoveries from the other two terraces, as well as within the larger context of sites within the region.

Dr. Curtiss Hoffman is professor emeritus of Anthropology at Bridgewater State University, where he taught courses in anthropology and archaeology full-time from 1978-2018. A long-time MAS member and Central Mass. Chapter officer, he has participated in numerous excavation projects throughout eastern and central Massachusetts, and has published numerous articles, site reports, and monographs on these subjects. Dr. Hoffman's undergraduate degree was from Brandeis University (1967) and his Ph.D. was from Yale University (1974).



The 2019 Middleborough Little League Site Field Crew

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, 10:00am-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: \$5.00

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