Stone Structures near Lake Chaubunagungamaug

By Martin Dudek

Abstract: An archaeological survey identified three stone structures in bouldery uplands of southern Worcester County near Lake Chaubunagungamaug. Limited archaeological investigation was able to determine that at least two of the stone structures date from post-contact times, with one stone structure associated with Native American artifacts and a post-contact artifact dating from the colonial period to as late as the nineteenth century. Two stone structures consist of “U”-shaped stacks, while a third consists of a collapsed stone stack. All three stone structures are considered to be potentially related to the post-contact/historic Praying Village occupation of the Lake Chaubunagungamaug area by Native Americans.

Brief Bio: Marty Dudek is principal archaeologist for Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. in Littleton, MA and has been doing archaeology in the region for over 30 years. He has a graduate degree in Anthropology from Brandeis University and has worked on archaeological sites ranging from every time period in New England, from the Paleoindian Whipple site to 20th century industrial sites.

Alan F. Smith inspecting one of the three stone structures he discovered on the project.