



CNEA 2007-2008
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TERM EXPIRES 2009

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Conference on New England Archaeology

Volume 27, 2008

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28th Annual Conference on New England Archaeology

April 19, 2008, Franklin Pierce University

Abstracts

A Missing Link on a Marginal Landscape *Mary Lynne Rainey, Natural Resource Group, LLC*

In 1999, a data recovery carried out in Bellingham, Massachusetts resulted in the discovery of a feature dated to the Early Woodland Period and interpreted as a pottery firing facility, or kiln. A detailed technical report of the archaeological work and laboratory analyses was prepared for the Massachusetts SHPO in 2000, and a summary was published in the 2004 *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*. The argument for data recovery in this case resulted from intermittent and short-term activities at one location over an 8,000-year period that together produced a small but diversified cultural material assemblage – hinting at criterion D, new information potential. Pottery production was not in the research design of the data recovery program. This paper will review the justification for this rare feature type as an example of human behavior likely to occur in areas not necessarily conducive for long term habitation. This feature type represents craft specialization that by necessity would be situated away from the group or community center. Criteria that can be used in the future to identify landscapes that might contain similar features are provided.

Insights into Lithic Distribution, Feature Locations and Cultural Resource Testing from the Vergennes Substation Native American Site

Christopher Donta, UMass Archaeological Services

Employing a standard 10-m testing interval during a Phase I archaeological identification study conducted for the Vermont Electric Power Company in northern Vermont, a low density scatter of Native American lithics was encountered in a well-developed plowzone. Because of the low artifact density from a large number of test pits, and relatively poor drainage, a finding of no further survey seemed appropriate. However, because the Vergennes area is poorly represented archaeologically, additional survey was recommended by the reviewing archaeologist. The additional work ultimately led to intensive Phase II and subsequent Phase III surveys. More than 14,000 additional artifacts were collected, associated with multiple lithic and non-lithic activity areas, and several features. While intra-site testing generally focused on areas of high lithic density, alternative testing was conducted to seek additional features in non-lithic areas. The project provides insights into Woodland period habitation in the Otter Creek drainage, and challenges traditional assumptions of site significance, site structure and content in poorly drained soil.

Assumptions, Archaeology, and the Allusive: The Precontact Native American Village Question

Joseph Waller and Alan Leveillee, Public Archaeology Laboratory

More than two decades of discussion and debate over the existence and nature of the Northeast's indigenous peoples' "village" settlement have been characteristically assumptive due in large part to a paucity of empirical archaeological evidence. Recent excavations in Rhode Island's coastal zone are finally providing opportunity to address the issue from sets of evidentiary data. We present some of these data in hopes of contributing to ongoing discussions concerning the formation and structure of southern New England precontact Native American village life.

Predictive Modeling in Missing Person's Cases

Ann Marie Mires, Anna Maria College, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, MA

Current research on missing persons at the national and local level suggest that missing persons, from both intentional and accidental means, are often found within a one to one-half mile radius (National Search and Rescue Manual) or within a five mile radius (Massachusetts Data; Mires and Giordano 2004) of where they were last seen. Utilizing data of missing person behavior, models of predictive locational analysis recommend that a search area within a five mile radius of the site where the person was last seen should be systematically and thoroughly investigated in an attempt to locate the missing person or the death scene. Why haven't these types of models been employed in search and rescue situations or search and recovery attempts. At the very least, this type of systematic search would rule out the immediate five mile radius around the site last seen if nothing is found (Mires 2005, 2006). Current research on body deposition from the last twenty years in Massachusetts provides patterns in behavior for various manners of death (homicide, suicide, natural, accidental, and undetermined), as well as the mode of deposition, i.e. buried or surface deposit. Can this data be used to provide a predictive model(s) that would be implemented at the time the person goes missing in order to reduce the time between death and recovery, especially of fragile biological materials that could link the perpetrator to the victim? Additionally, can we use this type of modeling to revisit *unfound*, missing person cases in an attempt to locate these *unfound* after such a long period of time? Several case examples will be presented to highlight the use of this predictive model in search and recovery and in *unfound* missing persons' cases.

This Old Wetu:

Identifying Native Households at the Muttuck-Pauwating Site, Middleboro, Massachusetts

Craig S. Chartier, Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project

Ongoing excavations at the Muttuck-Pauwating site in Middleboro, Massachusetts, have identified portions of over 10 Middle to Late Woodland house forms adjacent to the Nemasket River. Along with the hundreds of postmolds that comprise the outlines of the oval house forms, several other types of features such as storage pits, cache pits hearths or fire-cracked rock dumps and burials have been identified within and around the houses. The site has a high degree of focus and excellent visibility once significant portions of topsoil have been stripped away. Unfortunately, shovel testing in a two-meter grid fashion prior to topsoil stripping had in many cases yielded little in the way of artifactual evidence. The distributions of what was found, sometimes as low as one or two pieces per test pit, would typically be interpreted as a "low density lithic scatter" and be written off without further testing. Because of significant findings from the previous phases of testing, a data recovery plan was developed whereby lots within the most sensitive portions of the project area that would see impact into the level of the subsoil (house building envelopes, septic impact areas, and pipeline locations primarily), would be subject to complete excavation. As a result, the testing program sought to first assess and sample the quantity and spatial distribution of artifacts within the plowzone and second to completely strip the areas to be impacted to search for significant resources and burials within the subsoil. In many cases low density distributions within the plowzone subsequently reflected what can be identified as the interior of the Native homes and the higher density areas are outside of the homes. Thus, the questions of where the Late Woodland Villages are in Southeastern Massachusetts and why haven't we found them may be more of a procedural one as opposed to a cultural one. It is possible that we have failed to identify them before now more because of our tendencies to focus on the high density areas to the neglect of those which show lower density. The findings from this project suggest a need for more open excavations even in lower density areas.

**Predictions Big and Small:
Searching for Illusive Maize Agriculture in Rhode Island**
Pierre Morenon, Rhode Island College and Tonya Largy, Independent Consultant

Historical observations by Verrazzano, Champlain, Williams and others provide details about Indigenous landscapes, houses and farming between 1524 and 1636. Why then have archaeological sites, big communities with maize dating just before European settlement, been so illusive in coastal Rhode Island? Did our predictive models from the 1980s and 1990s lead us astray? This paper compares past estimates from predictive modeling with a recent synopsis of all the maize kernels from archaeological sites in Rhode Island.

**Archaeological Sampling in the Soils of the Champlain Valley, Vermont:
Site Prediction in Problematic Soils**
Mitch Mulholland, UMass Archaeological Services

An archaeological survey sponsored by the Vermont Electric Power Company was conducted along the 27-mile route of a proposed electrical line, designed to bring more reliable electrical power to Northwest Vermont. A rigorous sampling design was employed that combined 10-m-interval systematic test pits in sensitive areas within the right-of-way, with more intensive 5-m interval sampling in immediate impact areas. Soil and drainage conditions, especially in Vergennes clays, provided challenges to the traditional predictive model, especially regarding assumptions about site location, soil associations, distance to water, slope and other environmental characteristics. The survey permits the comparison between different intensities of survey in similar terrain from a 5,000-test-pit sample. More than 50 archaeological sites and findspots were found, including the 1815-1840 Thorpe Brook Historic site constructed on poorly drained ground. The Vergennes Substation Native American site was found in soils that ranged from very wet to hardpan. Differences between expectations at the conclusion of one level of survey, and actual finds, are discussed.

**Hard Work, Informed Guesswork and Chance:
Seeing Cultural Landscapes and Sites**
John R. Cross, Bowdoin College

Over the past 30 years predictive models for site location have been both necessary and valuable for the practice of archaeology in North America, especially in providing a rationale for how resources of time, labor, and equipment could best be deployed in the field to yield maximum results. However such models often contain embedded assumptions about human behavior (patterned and normative, rather than historically contingent and variable) and the nature of the archaeological record itself. Drawing on examples from the Simpson Farm site near Merrymeeting Bay in Maine, I explore the ways in which site location and use deviate from the predictive models most commonly in use by archaeologists in the region.

Current Research

MASSACHUSETTS

Charles View Precontact Site, Bellingham

Martin Dudek, John Milner Associates

A site examination for the Charles View Site (19-NF-584) in Bellingham recovered over 1200 Native American chipped, lithic artifacts as well as fire-affected or fire-cracked rocks. Recovered tools include a quartz triangular point, biface and uniface fragments and utilized flakes. A feature with dense quartz debitage and charcoal flecks was AMS dated to 1570 ± 15 BP (conventional radiocarbon date, PRI-08-30-1) and calibrated at two sigma to 1540 to 1410 BP indicating a Middle Woodland occupation. The site is interpreted as consisting of activity areas from multiple occupations, with tool production, modification and use of quartz, quartzite, Attleboro Red Felsite and other lithics.

Pipeline Project Discovers Nine Precontact Sites, Essex & Middlesex Counties

Martin Dudek, John Milner Associates

The Littleton Massachusetts branch of John Milner Associate (JMA) recently completed Phase II site examinations at 15 precontact Native American sites in an on-going natural gas pipeline project in Essex and Middlesex counties. The eight-mile corridor runs through outcrops of the Lynn Volcanics and crosses the Saugus River several times. Sites span from the Middle Archaic to the Late Woodland and include diagnostic point types from the Middle and Late Archaic and Early and Middle Woodland, as well as two features AMS dated to 530 ± 40 BP (Beta 237908) and 3240 ± 40 BP (Beta 237907) (Conventional Radiocarbon Age). Several sites exhibit evidence of habitation while nine sites include activity areas focused on tool production primarily involving rhyolite.

Site Examination at Tall Timber Estates, Kingston

Barbara Donohue, co-Principal Investigator

Massachusetts Archaeological Professionals under the direction of Craig Chartier (co-principal

investigator) is synthesizing the results of a field investigation with historic research of the Samuel Fuller site dating from circa 1830–1891.

Research conducted for the intensive survey revealed that Samuel Fuller supported his family variously as a shoe maker, a shoe fitter, a farmer and a laborer. Samuel's residence was located along an interior roadway whose two other residents included his brothers Smith and Daniel. It was expected that the Fuller site had the potential to provide information about the economic practices of a family located in a marginal area of Kingston during much of the Industrial Revolution and Massachusetts' early and late Industrial periods.

Surprisingly, preliminary historic research conducted for the site examination suggests that Samuel, Smith and Daniel Fuller were not only poor, marginally located members of the town, but appear to be marginal members of their own family, who not only lived in a more populated section of Kingston, but also were wealthier. This begs the question: What role does/should family dynamics play in site interpretation?

A Return to the Field of Dreams, Middleborough

Curtiss Hoffman, Bridgewater State College

In 2006 and 2007, under renewed threat of construction of baseball playing fields, students from Bridgewater State College and Massachusetts Archaeological Society volunteers returned to the productive Middleborough Little League Site (19-PL-520) for further excavation at the Site Examination level, under the author's supervision. Recoveries included 3,119 lithic artifacts, 19 potsherds, 9,165 pieces of lithic debitage and 37 features. The latter included two burnt-rock platforms that provided radiocarbon dates of 2220 ± 100 BP (GX-32751) and 1130 ± 100 BP (GX-32947), as well as pit features dating to 8040 ± 200 BP (GX-32948), 3850 ± 140 BP (GX-32949), 3240 ± 140 BP (GX-32750), and 2870 ± 270 BP (GX-32946) (all uncalibrated). This has substantially expanded the known range of the site's occupation, by 2000 radiocarbon years forward and backward.

The site was the locus for the production and storage of materials used in ceremonies at places like

Wapanucket, three km upstream from the site. These include large quantities of quartz crystals, paintstones of graphite, hematite, and limonite and polished pebbles, all of which occur in burials at Wapanucket. In addition, the site is adjacent to the sole local outcrop of the arkose slabs which line some of the Wapanucket burial pits.

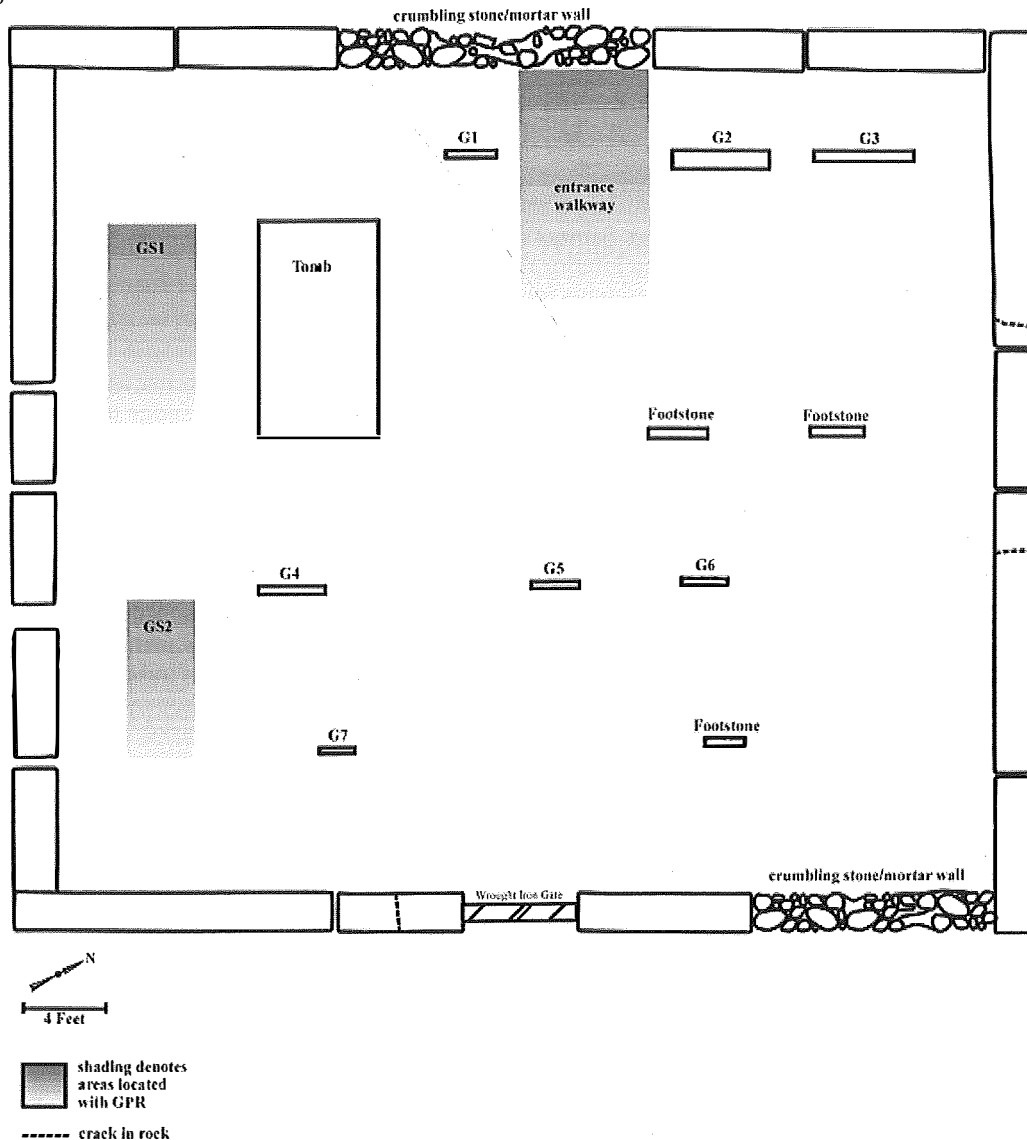
Much work remains to be done to analyze the results of the 2007 field season. Susan Jacobucci is engaged in pollen analysis of soil from the rock platforms, as well as use-wear analysis of the edge tools and paleobotanical analysis of organic materials from undated features. Tonya Largy analyzed the paleobotanical and paleozoological materials from the dated features. Martin McHugh Mullane and Kyle Cramsey are working on soil chemistry to establish the presence or absence of heavy metals in feature soils, which might indicate the processing of anadromous fish from the nearby Nemasket River. Rebecca Burlingame is examining the lithic reduction sequences from features at the site. This work has been partially funded by a generous grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We intend to return to the site for one more season, starting in late May of 2008.

The Mann Family Burying Ground Preservation Project, North Attleborough

Barbara Donohue, Project Consultant

The Mann Family Burying Ground is fairly typical of small family burying grounds that are found in out of the way locations and have been victims of neglect and vandalism if not for decades, then for hundreds of years, long after family descendants have gone. Luckily for this family burying ground, a descendant of the Mann Family living in Michigan funded a preservation plan that is presently being implemented.

The Mann Family Burying Ground consists of two slate gravestones in good condition that date to 1778 and 1808, eight slate markers that are broken at their base and a concrete pad that has been laid over the majority of the earthen surface—all of which is enclosed within a 25 x 23-foot, crumbling 20th-century stone wall with an iron gated entrance leading into the back of the burying ground. The 1778 stone of Dr. Herbert Mann relates the tragic story of his death aboard a ship lost in a storm in



Plan of Mann Family Burial Ground, North Attleborough, MA showing the known grave shafts and features found by ground penetrating radar .

Plymouth Harbor on Christmas Day in 1778. A conserved marble ledger that was once in the burying ground is presently stored offsite. Even in its present condition, the burying ground remains a surviving vestige of the Old Town section of Attleboro, providing tribute to the life and times of those who lived in this area over 200 years ago.

The project consisted of three components: documentary research, a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey, and a conditions assessment. Documentary research revealed additional detail to the story of the Mann family and the community in which they lived that can be used for a variety of interpretive themes. The GPR survey revealed information that has been used to develop a cost estimate for

removing the concrete pad and has identified two unmarked grave shafts where there were no visible markers on the concrete. Finally the conditions assessment provided important information regarding the landscape, access, parking, safety and security issues, procedures and costs for removing the concrete pad, procedures and cost for moving and resetting the ledger, repair/removal of the stone wall, and guidance on site interpretation. The results of each component of the project will provide a strong foundation for preservation efforts.

Public outreach will be most important to generate interest in preservation efforts. Thus far the North Attleborough Historical Commission has been instrumental in generating

interest for the burying ground through volunteer efforts to clean it up, search for missing stones and provide information to the press and local cable company about happenings at the burying ground. Public presentations at the burying ground, such as one given during Archaeology Month last October, and elsewhere should be an ongoing process to protect and to promote support of preservation efforts of this important resource for future generations.

The results of this project underscore the potential that exists for interpretation and appreciation of what appear to be marginalized historic sites in today's world.

Archaeological Intensive (Locational) Survey of the Greenways Conservation Area, Wayland

Tonya Largy, Paul Gardescu & Royce Kahler

Between September 6 and October 4, 2001, the Wayland Archaeology Group (WARG), an arm of the Wayland Historical Commission, with Tonya B. Largy, Principal Investigator, undertook an Archaeological Intensive (Locational) Survey at the Greenways Conservation Area in Wayland (198-MD-845). Excavators recovered both pre-colonial and historical artifacts from the late-19th to the early-20th centuries from a historic trash pit that cannot at this time be related to a known structure. Pre-colonial artifacts include diagnostic stone tools and ceramic sherds indicating occupation during three major time periods, Early Archaic, Transitional Late Archaic and Late Woodland. Radiocarbon assays support both the Late Archaic date (4150 ± 60 BP ^{13}C corrected; 1 sigma cal. 4827–4534 BP) and Late Woodland date (460 ± 40 BP ^{13}C corrected; 1 sigma cal. 526–501 B.P.; AD 1424–1449).

Analysis of calcined bone fragments recovered from 1/8-inch screens and by flotation, resulted in the identification of at least four taxonomic classes, mammal, turtle, snake and fish. Bird bones may be present as well. Charred botanical data include wood, a limited quantity of nutshell and one cultigen. The presence of a single maize kernel raises the question of whether pre-colonial horticulture may have been practiced in the arable fields adjoining the site, where agriculture has been practiced for at least one century and perhaps longer. These limited data for both animal and plant remains in dated contexts suggests a spring through fall habitation, or some part of this warm weather season. Ceramics and small animal remains also suggest collecting activities of women and children carried out close to camp. The site is currently protected.

MAINE

Recent Research at Two Newly Identified Paleoindian Sites, Auburn

Robert N. Bartone & Ellen R Cowie,
University of Maine at Farmington
Archaeology Research Center.

Archaeological research related to pending and future improvements to the

Lewiston-Auburn Municipal Airport in Auburn has resulted in the identification of two newly identified Paleoindian sites—the Taxiway site and the Beacon Hill site. A data recovery effort of over 200 sq m was completed at the Taxiway site, while partial data recovery and phase II level testing has been completed at the Beacon Hill site, totaling about 50 sq m.

The Taxiway site is located on a sandy terrace adjacent to a small stream and associated wetland that flows through the airport. Over 1500 lithic flakes and 67 tools were recovered from seven clusters representing distinct activity areas. A range of raw material types is represented among the lithics, including material originating from the Munsungan Lake region of northern ME, and Mount Jasper, NH, both important lithic sources during the Paleoindian period in the far northeast. Tools include side scrapers, graters, cores, wedges, a variety of end scrapers and single ground stone artifact that we believe may be a toggle, or bead. Channel flakes and a complete, fluted projectile point clearly establish the site to be of early Paleoindian origin, ca. 9000–8000 BC.

The Beacon Hill site is located less than 1 km from the Taxiway Site at the

crest of a small hill that rises above the airport and surrounding area, forming a prominent feature in the landscape. Artifacts were recovered from two loci, each on a distinctive sandy landform, separated by approximately 2 to 3 m in elevation and about 40 m distance. The majority of the work thus far has taken place at Locus 1 on the higher landform. A total of 143 flakes and 23 tools have been recovered, which is an intriguingly high flake to tool ratio and hints at some specialized activity occurring there. Raw materials include Munsungan Chert, Mount Jasper rhyolite, among others. Tools include a single fluted point, a variety of scrapers and utilized flakes, as well as a couple of bifacially worked tools. Work at Locus 2, on the lower landform is so far limited to the excavation of test pits, however, the relative density and distribution, as compared to Locus 1 and the Taxiway Site indicates a high potential for this Locus to yield important information as well.

Interestingly, these sites are located within 2 to 3 km of six other currently known Paleoindian sites. They occupy a range of diverse settings, within which what is becoming increasingly recognized as a fascinating nexus of Paleoindian activity.



Farmington Archaeology Research Center excavations at Lewiston-Auburn Municipal Airport, ME.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

International Paper Box Machine Company Site Excavations, Nashua Martin Dudek, John Milner Associates

John Milner Associates (JMA) and UMASS Archaeological Services (UMAS) conducted Phase II and III archeological investigations for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) at the International Paper Box Machine Company Site (27-HB-369), along the north and south sides of Salmon Brook in the City of Nashua. The project area is the location of the proposed Rotary Common Park and includes industrial mill sites spanning from 1803 to 1973. Former structures include early-19th century saw and grist mills, a blacksmith shop and trip hammer, a linen (later satinette ca. 1833) mill and dye house and a machine shop where secondary historic sources say Elias Howe, Jr. refined his concept and submitted a circa 1846 patent for the sewing machine, and where Ammi George built the first railroad spike machine. Structures associated with the circa 1854–1868 Harbor Manufacturing Company and the circa 1868–1903 Vale (cotton) Mill were located on both sides of Salmon Brook and activities included textile manufacture and weaving. Following the 1883 loss of the wood dam at Salmon Brook, a granite block dam, still extant, was constructed in 1884.

In 1903 French Canadian immigrant Elie Labombarde purchased the property and established the International Paper Box Machine Company. His highly successful international operation (1903–1973) led to the expansion and rebuilding of his plant in 1923, which spanned Salmon Brook and included wings on both the north and south sides of Salmon Brook. Documentary research by Sheila Charles and Phase I, II and III archeological investigations by JMA, UMAS and URS confirmed the locations of several 19th-century structures, in addition to documenting the remains of half a dozen structures either built or still in use in the 20th century prior to their demolition in 1973. The site offers a rare opportunity to interpret Nashua's early settlement and industrial heritage. In addition, its accessibility and central location near several schools contributes to the significant educational and interpretive value inherent in the archeological resources

2007 Field School Results, Peterborough and Walpole Robert Goodby, Franklin Pierce University

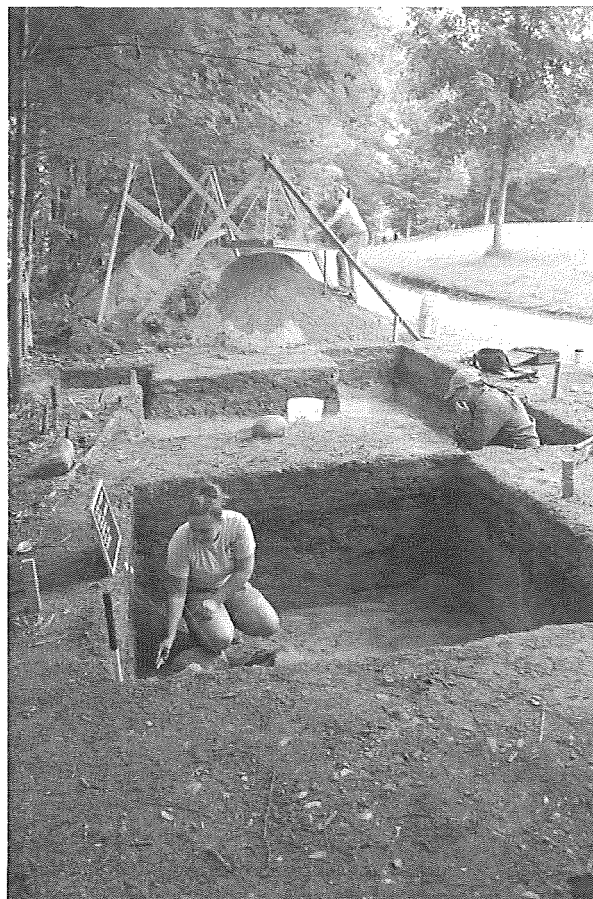
The Franklin Pierce University 2007 Summer Archaeological Field School focused on the excavation of two precontact Native American sites in southwestern NH. At the Prentiss Site (27CH152), situated on a high outwash terrace near a natural spring in Walpole, students recovered artifacts including quartz, quartzite, chert and rhyolite debitage, core fragments, non-diagnostic biface fragments and undecorated ceramic sherds, from a deep, well developed plowzone that also contained a variety of 19th and 20th-century artifacts.

The Raft Bridge Site (27HB299) is situated on a ridge of outwash soils between the Nubanusit River and an area of wetlands in Peterborough. Quartzite, quartz, chert and rhyolite debitage, a single ceramic sherd, and numerous fragments of calcined bone (many tentatively identified as reptile) were recovered from a subsoil stratum underling an intact (unplowed) A horizon. Diagnostic bifaces from the site include Otter Creek, Brewerton, Squibnocket Triangle and Meadowood types. Excavators identified a single feature, a basin-shaped area of charcoal-stained soil associated with a concentration of quartz shatter and cobble fragments. Charcoal from this feature returned a radiocarbon date of 5270 ± 90 (Beta 233765). Analysis of faunal remains and artifacts from the site is ongoing.

Archaeological Testing, Tilton, Belknap County

Richard P. Corey and Ellen R. Cowie,
University of Maine at Farmington
Archaeology Research Center

Archaeological survey, phase II level testing, and phase III data recovery work was recently completed as part of a sewage system improvement project in the town of Tilton. This work led to the



*Farmington Archaeology Research Center
excavations at Tilton, NH.*

sampling of three previously recorded sites located in the Lochmere Archaeological District (LAD), and the identification of a single newly identified site, the Phillips' Cabin site.

The project area is located along the Winnepesaukee River between the outlet of Winnisquam Lake and the inlet to Silver Lake. The LAD is a National Register district that includes 13 Native American sites and 18 Euroamerican sites within an area that preserves one of the highest densities of Native American sites in New Hampshire.

The Phillips' Cabin site overlooks the outlet of Lake Winnisquam, just outside of the bounds of the LAD, and produced two diagnostic artifacts, a Middle Archaic period Stark projectile point (ca. 5,500 BC) and a Late Archaic period Squibnocket triangular point (ca. 2,500–1,800 BC). Over 1,000 lithic flakes were recovered, the majority of which are rhyolite originating from the Ossipee Mountain area. A charcoal-rich fire hearth feature was uncovered in close proximity to the points and will be

radiocarbon dated and analyzed for paleobotanical remains as part of the project.

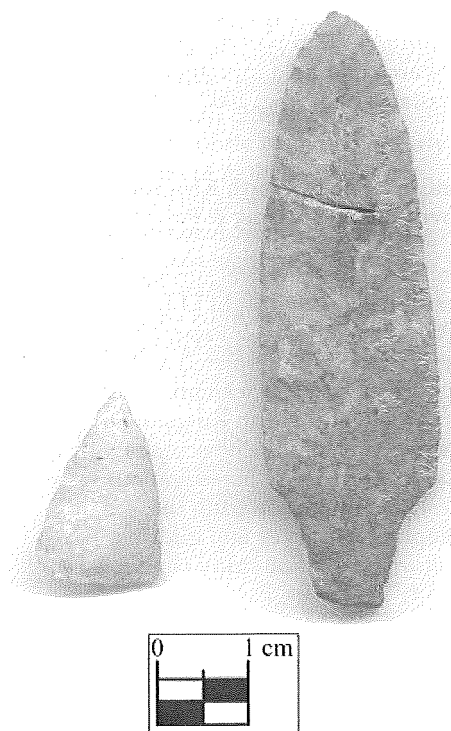
Site 27BK47 is located within the LAD, at the outlet of Lake Winnisquam and the headwaters of the Winnepesaukee River. The site was initially identified during Howard Sargent's lakes survey in the 1970s. Artifacts identified during this earlier work included tools from the Middle Archaic to the Woodland periods. Recent excavations within the path of the sewer line resulted in the recovery of a range of Native American artifacts including stone tool fragments, flakes, fire-cracked rocks and one piece of undecorated Native American pottery. Paleobotanical analysis of the floral sample from the feature identified blueberry and strawberry plant remains.

The recent archaeology conducted in Tilton confirms that the area was a focal point of Native American activity for thousands of years and confirms the archaeological significance of this area.

Native American Occupation at Bellows Falls, Walpole, NH & Rockingham, VT

Robert Goodby, Franklin Pierce University

As part of the Monadnock Archaeological Project, sponsored by the Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture at Franklin Pierce University, archival and archaeological data on the Native American occupation of Bellows Falls is being compiled under the direction of Gail Golec to document its long and complex history and to guide efforts at site protection and future archaeological research. Several geographic and cultural features converge within a 1.5-mile stretch of the Connecticut River, between the towns of Walpole, New Hampshire and Rockingham, Vermont. These include Bellows Falls, the floodplain terrace directly east of the falls in North Walpole, New Hampshire that continues south along the river encompassing Fall Mountain, Native American petroglyphs on the Vermont side of Bellows Falls, the confluences of the Saxton and Cold Rivers, and two kame terraces in Walpole, New Hampshire which contain a natural mineral spring known as "Abenaki Springs." This cluster of features indicates a high probability that Native sites will be present, further supported by a rich documentary record



Artifacts from Phillips' Cabin Site, Tilton, NH.

of Native presence and site discovery in the area.

The town histories of Rockingham, Vermont (which includes Bellows Falls) and Walpole, New Hampshire give several detailed accounts of Native American occupation in these particular areas. Based on primary sources, these records describe interactions with the Native population, violent conflicts during the 18th century, and the continuing presence of Native people, reflected by the arrival in 1856 of a native man known as the "Old Chief" who, together with his family, camped in North Walpole, reportedly so that he could die and be buried in the land of his ancestors.

Town histories also reference large precontact Native villages in North Walpole adjacent to the falls, and in Walpole, in the area just south of Fall Mountain and the Cold River, where Native artifacts, including projectile points and many ground-stone tools, have been discovered. The earliest Euroamerican roads in these areas most likely followed Native trails. Town histories also mention the presence of more petroglyphs on the New Hampshire side of the river that are now covered by bridge abutments, and the frequent unearthing of human remains from what were referred to as "burial grounds."

RHODE ISLAND

Early 19th-Century Rum Distillery Site, Bristol

Suzanne Cherau, PAL Inc.

Suzanne Cherau and Jennifer Banister of PAL Inc. recently identified the archaeological remains of an early 19th-century rum distillery on Thames Street in Bristol. The distillery was one of five that operated in Bristol during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Together with over 30 rum distilleries in Newport, the state of RI produced up to 90 percent of the rum consumed in the eastern United States and shipped to Africa as part of the Triangle Trade. The largest and most infamous rum distillery in Bristol was run by the renowned D'Wolf Family, many of whom became infamous privateers in the 19th-century Triangle Trade. The remains of their distillery were found about five years ago during construction of the hotel and shops along the Thames Street waterfront. Rick Greenwood, formerly of RIHPHC, did a quick salvage of the site, and noted the remains of about 18 large (6-ft) diameter wooden vats. Other rum distillery sites to have survived and been studied archaeologically consist of the Henley Distillery in Charlestown, MA (excavated by PAL as part of the Central Artery Project) and the Quackenbush Distillery in Albany, NY (excavated by Hartgen Associates). Of all the rum distilleries that once operated in the northeastern United States from Staten Island to Boston as part of the colonial Triangle Trade, the Bristol, RI site is only the fourth one to date to have been identified in the archaeological record.

Deed research has confirmed both the function and age of the recently discovered rum distillery. We know that by the 1820s it was owned and operated by a partnership of Bristol merchants, Jarvis Pierce being the actual distiller. The same merchants also owned a wharf and store across Thames Street on the harbor, where the raw molasses and finished rum products from their distillery were likely sold and shipped to and from regional and foreign ports. The archaeological remains consist of 22 wooden vats (square, round, rectangular) where molasses was fermented in a mixture of water and yeast for several weeks at a time. The fermented molasses was then siphoned into a copper pot (still) where the mixture would be heated and vaporized and the liquor steam collected into

round vats or barrels and either sold for local consumption or shipped back to Africa and traded for slaves. The archaeological investigations identified what is believed to be the remains of the circular (7-ft diameter) brick still base. A privy possibly associated with the distillery occupation was also discovered at the site. The distillery building footprint, although no longer visible at the site because of later occupations, appears to have measured about 80-ft long by about 30-ft wide. The site was determined significant and eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Data recovery excavations were conducted and PAL is in the process of studying and synthesizing the recovered data, which will include specialized soil analyses of residues collected inside a number of the excavated vats.

Geophysical Survey of Newport Tower, Touro Park, Newport

Joyce Clements, Gray & Pape Inc.

Gray & Pape Inc (Gray & Pape), Northeast and Caribbean, have completed the second and final season of field investigations in support of geophysical surveys around the Newport Tower, Touro Park, Newport. Archaeological investigations followed geophysical surveys by Daniel Lynch, Soil Sight LLC, (Providence) in areas selected by the project sponsors (Chronognostic Research Foundation, Tempe, Arizona). Soil Sight LLC identified 22 geophysical anomalies warranting archaeological ground truthing. Archaeological investigations consisted of 1 m x 1 m excavation units and 1 m x 2 m trenches, which produced subtle evidence of early agricultural activity as well as the remains of pathways and fill deposits associated with landscaping from the mid-19th through the 20th centuries. These investigations produced over 13,000 artifacts, including ceramics, metals, glass, kaolin pipes, coins, nails and bricks, as well as shell, bone, coal and clinker, and small finds, such as toys, eyeglasses, coins and lighting materials. Archaeologists also found small quantities of Native American artifacts (quartz flakes, a quartzite end scraper, and a shale-like hammer stone), albeit from disturbed contexts derived from landscape fill. Except for the Native American material, all the artifacts date from the 17th through the 21st centuries

and are associated with Euro-American culture. A full report of historical research and field investigations will be available in Spring, 2008.

Smith's Castle, North Kingstown

Joyce Clements, Gray & Pape Inc.

Following geophysical surveys conducted by Soil Sight LLL (Providence), Gray & Pape, Northeast and Caribbean, completed a Phase I/II survey of subsurface anomalies at Smith's Castle, North Kingstown, managed by the Cocumscussoc Association. These investigations were designed to ground truth the geophysical survey and inform a cultural landscape study conducted by Cindy Brockway, Past Designs, Kennebunk, Maine. The project was part of a transportation enhancement project awarded to the Cocumscussoc Association by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and subject to Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Field investigations consisted of 17, 50 x 50 cm shovel test pits, 9, 1 m x 1 m excavation units, and 2, 1 m x 2 m trenches where geophysical surveys identified subsurface anomalies. Archaeological testing produced over 600 artifacts and 5 historical features, including a cobbled pathway, a concrete slab foundation, a kitchen midden and landscaping features associated with a former porch. Archaeologists also relocated a fieldstone drain close to the front of the dwelling house and first identified by Professor Patricia Rubertone and archaeologists from Brown University in the early 1990s. Based on the current study, the areas around the dwelling house present the greatest potential for intact historical features and Gray & Pape have advised the Cocumscussoc Association to conduct additional archaeological investigations prior to any restoration or stabilization work in these areas.

Stone Piles and a Late Archaic Date from Site SK 155, South Kingston

Alan Leveillee, PAL Inc.

In 2006 PAL discovered the SK 155 Site during a cultural resource management survey. The SK 155 Site is a concentrated deposit of low to medium-density lithics generally focused in proximity to two spatially-related features. The total lithic

assemblage for the site was 234 pieces of chipping debris (argillite, quartz and rhyolite) and eight tools including two argillite blanks, one preform and one biface; one quartzite preform; one granite abrader; one quartz biface fragment; and one Attleboro Red Felsite Neville point. One of the features is a hearth set between a large boulder, which is visible above the ground surface and extends to a depth of approximately 1 m, and an associated line of several stones below the surface. An AMS date of charcoal fragment from this feature yielded an age of 4340 ± 40 BP (Beta-233667). The second feature is a ring of stones placed on the top of the large boulder, beside which the Late Archaic hearth had been built.

Feature 1 and Feature 2 are related spatially (horizontally if not stratigraphically); they are not likely related chronologically. The vertical separation between the dated hearth in intact subsoils, and the undated ring of stones atop the glacial boulder within and surrounded by plowzone topsoil raises serious doubts about shared temporality. While one might argue that the two features could hypothetically have been constructed during the same site occupation, the disparity in their verticality, especially on a site with evidence for multiple temporal components, argues otherwise.

Even so, the identified features on the site are of concern to the Narragansett Indian DTHPO, who has indicated that the features may reflect ceremonial activity marking a relationship between the swamp ecosystem and the direction (to the southwest) where tribal oral tradition places Cautantowwit's House. The importance of the archaeological deposits and boulder-related features has been acknowledged and project proponents redesigned construction to avoid the site. PAL archaeologists and Narragansett tribal representatives monitored subsequent construction and the area was preserved. Any future improvements in proximity to the glacial boulder will take into consideration the continuing interests of the Narragansett Indian tribe.

I support the listing of SK 155 as a historic property in the National Register of Historic Places because of its importance to the Narragansett Indian Tribe as a perceived ceremonial site, and for its potential to contribute as part of a multi-component archaeological element to the consideration of the larger Great

Swamp as a Narragansett Indian Traditional Cultural Property. I would however caution against using SK 155 data as precedent for ceremonial stone piles extending back into the Late Archaic.

VERMONT

Early Euroamerican Settlement in the Champlain Valley: Recent Archaeological Testing in the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) State Park, Addison

Rosemary Cyr & Ellen R. Cowie,
University of Maine at Farmington
Archaeology Research Center

An archaeological study was recently undertaken in the central Champlain Valley of Vermont as part of a broader project, *Lake Champlain Voyages of Discovery: Bringing History Home*, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the VT Division for Historic Preservation, Chimney Point State Historic Site, Vermont Public Television and the Bixby Library. Archaeological aspects of the project included field work at the D.A.R. State Park in Addison, as well as laboratory work and a walkover survey. The overall

project and the archaeology are a collaborative effort between community members, teachers, historians, archaeologists and others to explore the important, yet poorly recognized, early French settlement in the region. This project is a regional and international commemoration of Samuel de Champlain's first sighting of Lake Champlain in 1609.

One of the primary research goals of the fieldwork was to test the hypothesis that two cellar holes in the D.A.R. State Park were former dwelling sites occupied by the French, circa 1740s–1759. A total of 27 sq m were excavated in that effort as well as test pits in the immediate surrounding areas. The research results indicate that the cellar holes are of early English origin, and may have been built as early as the 1760s, with no conclusive evidence of an earlier French habitation.

Although the results of the fieldwork were not what we expected, they are nonetheless exciting and informative, and indicate great potential for ongoing future research. A wealth of material remains were recovered, reflecting every day life on the colonial frontier. Of note, a remarkable assemblage of faunal remains, reflecting both domestic and wild/native animals was also recovered from the site.

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton

Joyce Clements, Gray & Pape Inc.

Gray & Pape, Northeast and Caribbean, completed a Phase I Archaeological Identification Survey for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton. The project area lies within the Champlain lowland physiographic plain, in close proximity to the Missisquoi River and within the Lake Champlain watershed. Field investigations consisted of 45, 50 cm x 50 cm shovel test pits excavated in an 8 m grid within the area of potential effect. Archaeologists collected more than 500 artifacts and confirmed the presence of a Woodland Period site deemed to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and previously identified during surveys conducted by archaeologists from the University of Maine. Archaeologists also identified subsurface remains of a small farm outbuilding associated with the 19th through 20th-century Tabor Farm. At this time there is insufficient evidence to determine whether the Tabor Farm site is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is modifying the area of potential effect to avoid impacts to these sites.

Conferences, Field Schools, Announcements

GENERAL NEWS

Massachusetts Archaeology Month Call for Events.

Ann-Eliza Lewis, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

October is Archaeology Month in Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Historical Commission is currently soliciting events for the 2008 calendar. Especially popular events include walks, hikes and canoe trips through archaeological areas. Exhibits, lectures and family programs are also well attended. MHC's calendar and poster will be available later this summer. The deadline for inclusion in the print calendar is **April 15, 2008**; late planners can be included in the on-line version of the calendar. For more information please contact Ann-Eliza Lewis at the MHC (ann-eliza.lewis@sec.state.ma.us; 617-727-8470) or download the event form at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcarc/ArchMonthintro.htm>.

MAS/Robbins Museum Annual Report

Tonya Largy, Massachusetts
Archaeological Society

There is excitement at the Robbins Museum on several fronts. We recently received a long sought publicity boost from an article published in the Plymouth Chapter edition of the AAA *Horizons* newsletter, which was mailed to 164,000 households. The result is a steady stream of visitors who read that article, all of whom tell us they hadn't known before of the Robbins Museum's existence. This kind of publicity lets the world know about the Robbins and what we have to offer. Also contributing to this goal is our website (<http://www.massarchaeology.org>), which publicizes our Museum and Society activities and educational offerings to our members, the general public and the schools in our area.

Despite increased publicity and visitation, funding continues to be an issue, as it is with many non-profit

organizations in today's fiscal climate. While we depend on our members to assist us in the work of the Society and the Robbins Museum, we continue to search for other sources of funds through grants and donations. We recently made the difficult decision to begin charging admission to the Robbins as one way to increase income. We are also soliciting donations from members, CRM firms and foundations to sponsor publication of the MAS *Bulletin*. Jim Bradley is presently editing the forthcoming *Bulletin* to be issued in Spring, 2008 as a double issue commemorating the anniversary of Ross Moffat's work on Cape Cod. Donors will be acknowledged in the *Bulletin*.

Our new Education Liaison, Mary Concannon, is developing programs and partnerships with schools and local Scout troops. She has developed new curriculum tied to Massachusetts education standards that are attracting the interest and praise of local teachers. Also, Massachusetts Archaeology

Professionals (Craig Chartier) has partnered with the Robbins to offer a popular monthly archaeology class to children.

Finally we are preparing for the Spring, 2008 meeting of the Society, to be held on May 3rd in conjunction with the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (see conference announcements in this issue). It will be held at the new Archaeology Center at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

Mystery Artifact from Littleton, MA

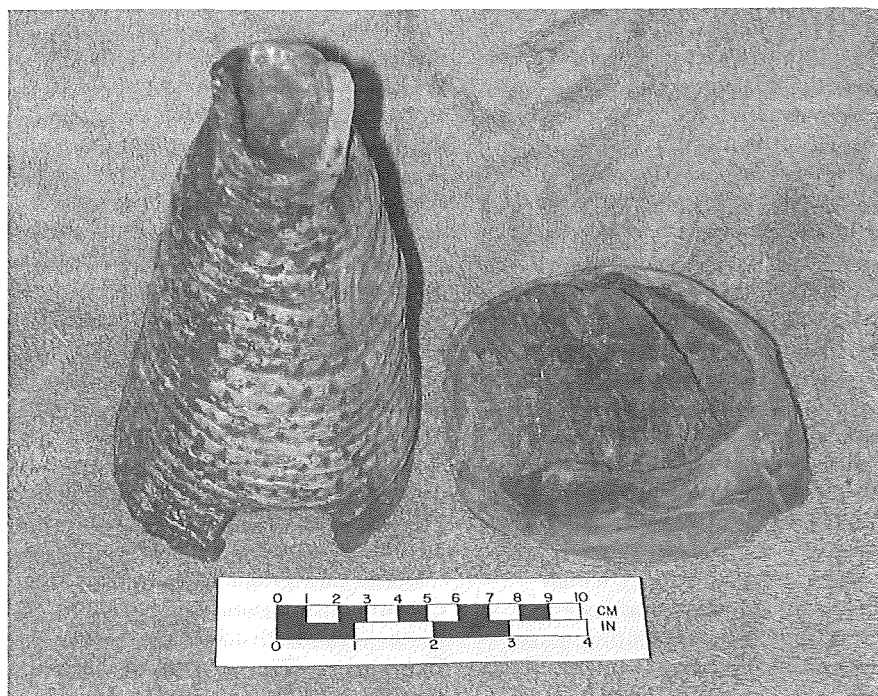
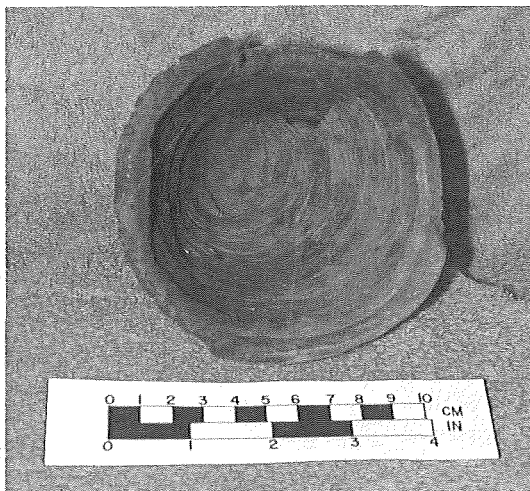
Martin G. Dudek, John Milner Associates

The artifacts pictured here were found during a recent draw down of Forge Pond/ Lake Matawanakee. The landowner was raking trash out of the muck when he unearthed a ceramic pot and asked for help identifying its use and date of manufacture. One current suggestion is that it is an historic beehive, since Forge Pond was called Honey Brook Pond in the 1700s. A worked wood burl was also found in the muck with an evenly cut back and much of the interior hollowed out around the wood knot. The burl is slightly wider that the pot and may or may not be associated with it. Anyone with comments or suggestions should contact Marty Dudek at mdudek@johnmilnerassociates.com.

Additional Information

The dimensions of the pot are:
Height: 20.5 cm
Diameter at base: 10.5 cm
Top: 4 cm x 5 cm
Diameter of two holes: 0.7 to 0.8 cm

The pot has white angular temper, more like crushed shell-temper than quartz, evident in the broken top coil. The inside is unglazed; There is some possible glaze on the outside, but it may be the result of firing scorch and not intentional. Other than coiling and visible temper, it seems very different from Native American pottery. The tip of cone has two ears with holes for passing cord or a stick through for suspension.



Above. Mystery ceramic and worked wood burl from Littleton, MA.
Above and to right. Inside view of ceramic.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACS/MAS Spring Meeting

The Archaeological Society of Connecticut is hosting a combined meeting with the Massachusetts Archaeological Society on Saturday, **May 3, 2008** at the Connecticut Archaeology Center (2019 Hillside Road) at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. This year's themes are Amateur Collectors and Current Research and Current Research in Defining the Domestic Life of Past Peoples. Registration begins at 9:30 and costs \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. The program and directions are

available at the MAS website at <http://www.massarchaeology.org/ACSMAS%20Spring%202008%20Mtg.html>

Rhode Island Preservation Conference

Charlotte Taylor, RIHPHC

The annual Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference will be held Saturday, **April 12, 2008** in Providence, RI, and will include the following session of interest to archaeologists

Archaeology in Narragansett Country, 1982-2008

John Brown, Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Paul Robinson, Principal Archaeologist, RIHPHC

In 1982, a large earth-moving machine struck a 17th-century Narragansett Indian cemetery. When efforts to preserve the site in-place were unsuccessful, a joint project to excavate and study the site began the next year. Panelists will discuss how this particular project represented a turning point in the working relationship between the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the State Historic Preservation Office. They will consider activities prior and subsequent to RI-1000, including new legislation to protect cemeteries and the study and protection of ancient villages and burial grounds within the state.

For more information, please visit the RI Historical Preservation Commission website at <http://www.rihphc.state.ri.us/conference/>.

FIELD SCHOOL, VOLUNTEER and INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
2008 SCRAP Field Schools to Explore Paleoindian Sites in New Hampshire

OBJECTIVES The 2008 SCRAP field school will explore new areas of known Paleoindian sites and to survey and record newly discovered sites. This will entail expanding systematic investigations in order to evaluate site boundaries, content and significance. Preliminary finds strongly suggest the presence of a quarry and associated workshop in close context with other Paleoindian sites. This area will be recorded and potential research parameters will be defined and evaluated. In addition, previously unexplored areas will be selected for systematic survey to test predictions for the location of additional Paleoindian sites.

INSTRUCTION Participants in the field school will be instructed in the fundamentals of archaeological survey excavation techniques. The principal field methodology will entail excavation of 50 cm shovel test pits and excavation of one meter square test pits, with the objective of obtaining stratigraphic as well as horizontal contextual data. The students will be taught artifact recognition skills, field data recording techniques and basic laboratory methods. Completion of the field school will provide a solid introduction to field methodology equivalent to that employed in cultural resource management evaluation projects. Fieldwork will be supplemented with lectures by specialists in related fields.

SPONSORS The field school is co-sponsored by the NH Division of Historical Resources under the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) and Plymouth State University. All fieldwork and instruction will be directed by Dr. Richard Boisvert, NH State Archaeologist, and conforms to the standards for archaeology set by the National Park Service.

SCHEDULE The field school will take place from June 23 through July 18 and will be conducted in two sessions, each two weeks long, beginning June 23, and July 7. Investigations will be conducted Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4

PM, with occasional evening lectures and workshops.

MEALS & HOUSING The field school will be based at the Jones Cottage in Randolph, NH. Participants will have space for tent camping with access to shower and sanitary facilities. The field laboratory and kitchen/dining area will be housed in the historic cabin. A fully equipped kitchen will be available for communal meals. Cost for lodging is \$50 per week and costs for meals is estimated at \$35 per week.

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Individuals may participate as SCRAP volunteers. There is no fee for participation as a volunteer, however we request a \$35 donation to defray costs of supplies and instructional materials. Volunteers will receive the same instruction as credit students. Successful completion of the fieldwork will earn SCRAP certification for Survey Technician.

ACADEMIC CREDIT Participants may obtain academic credit through Plymouth State University at either the undergraduate or graduate levels. Each week of participation is equivalent to one credit, and students may register for two to four credits. Credit students will be evaluated on their participation in field and laboratory work, plus completion of a research project. Costs for the field school credit students include a \$50 equipment and supplies fee, plus tuition and registration fees. These are: Undergraduate In-State \$255/credit, Out-of-State \$284/credit plus a \$31 registration fee; Graduate In-State \$394/credit, Out-of-State \$428/credit plus

a \$25 registration fee. PSU registration forms can be obtained by contacting:

Undergraduate Credit

Tamara Cocchiarella
 Office of Continuing Ed.
 17 High St., MSC-10
 Plymouth, NH 03264
 603-535-2228
 tcocchiarella@plymouth.edu

Graduate Credit

Lisa Dalzell
 College of Graduate Studies
 17 High St., MSC-11
 Plymouth, NH 03264
 603-535-3097
 lmdalzell@plymouth.edu

REGISTRATION Both volunteers and credit student participants must complete registration a form and a brief statement indicating why they wish to join the field school. The registration form can be obtained from the above address of online at <http://www.nhscrap.org>. The form and statement should be sent to:

2008 SCRAP Field School

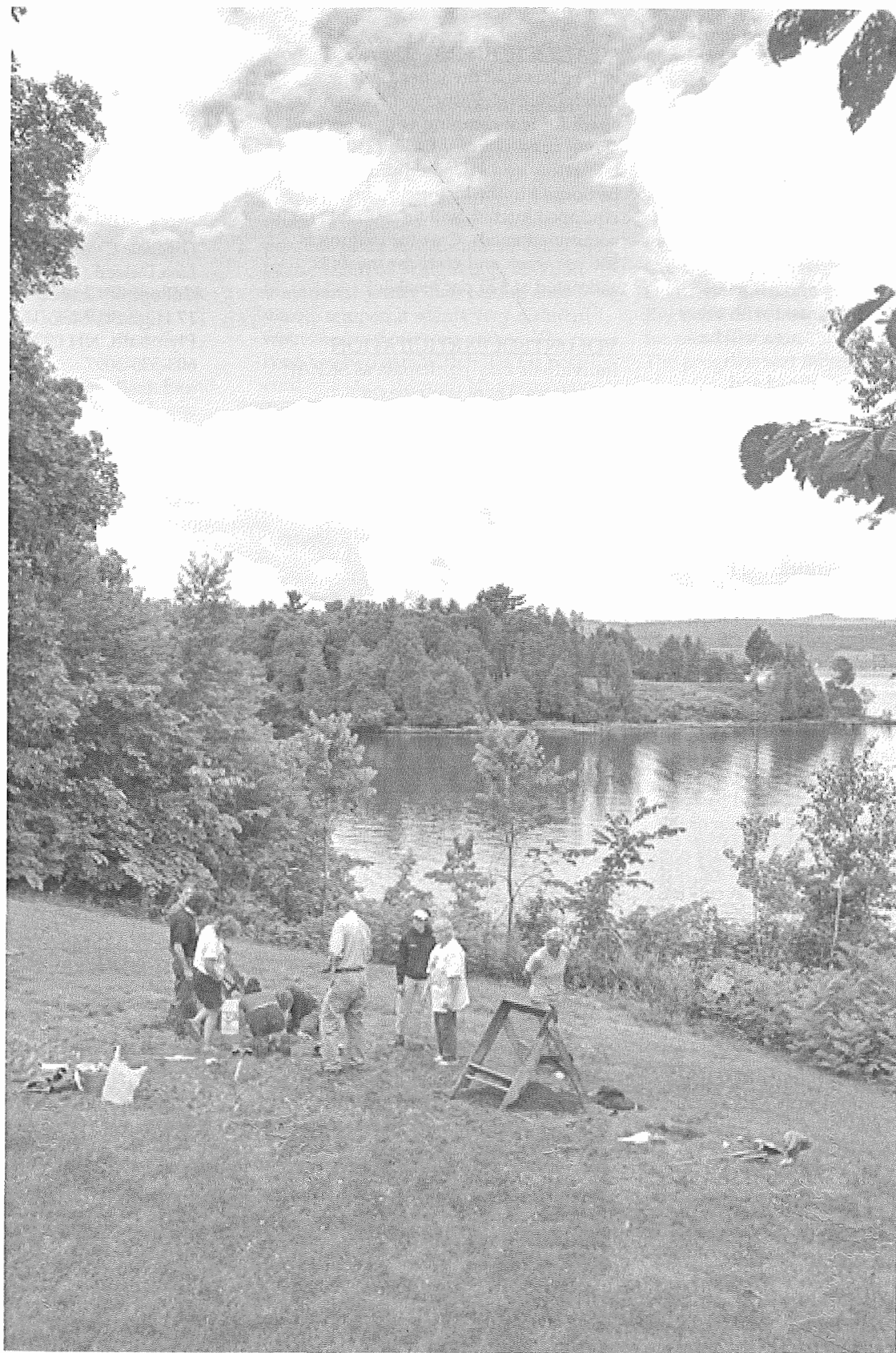
NH Division of Historical Resources
 19 Pillsbury St, 2nd Floor
 Concord, NH 03301-3570
 or Fax it to: 603-271-3433

Undergraduate and graduate credit students must also register with Plymouth State University.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Richard Boisvert at the Division of Historical Resources at 603-271-6433 or by email at richard.a.boisvert@dcn.nh.gov.



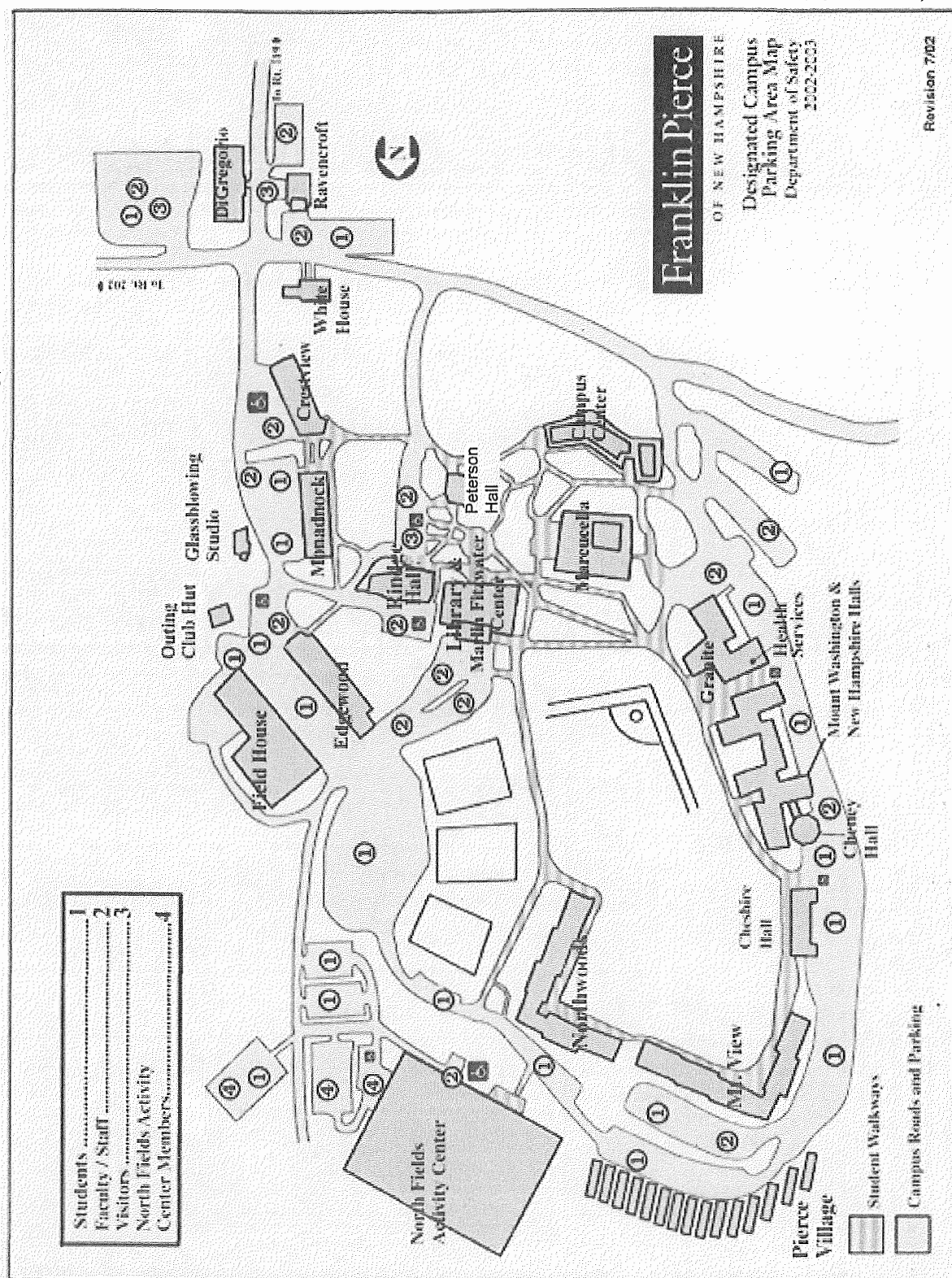
A Parting Shot



Archaeologists from Farmington Archaeological Research Center excavate at Daughters of the American Revolution State Park, Addison, VT. See Current Research for more information (page 11).

Special CNEA Thanks Goes to:

- ♦ Franklin Pierce University for providing meeting space and equipment for the Conference on New England Archaeology.
- ♦ Outgoing members of the Steering Committee for their time and energy. With special thanks to Robert Goodby for arranging our host venue.



Conference Direction & Details

Franklin Pierce University is located just off Route 119 in West Rindge, New Hampshire. From I-91, exit at Burlington, VT (Exit 3) and come by way of Route 9 East, 12 South, and 119 East to the College. From Route 495, exit at Littleton, Massachusetts Common and use Route 119 West to the College. For more detailed directions, visit the University web site at <http://www.franklinpierce.edu/pages/Admission/directions.html>.

The conference will be held at Pierce Hall in the Campus Center. Follow posted signs to CNEA registration.



Conference on New England Archaeology

28th Annual Meeting

Saturday April 19, 2008

Pierce Hall, Franklin Pierce College

9:30–3:30; registration begins at 9:00

*Challenging Assumptions:
Creating and Revising Ideas About Site Location*

C N E A

The Conference on New England Archaeology was formed in 1979 to strengthen communication and facilitate a continuous interchange of information among archaeologists who work in New England. CNEA publishes an annual newsletter highlighting relevant current research and sponsors an annual conference on a current topic in New England archaeology. Member benefits include the newsletter and conference admission.

\$17 in advance
\$20 at the door

Send checks payable to CNEA to:
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