



The New Hampshire Archeological Society

Newsletter

Edited by Marika Labash

Jane Potter

1934 - 2014

The New Hampshire Archeological Society lost a valued member and a great many people lost a friend when Jane Potter passed away on December 29th. She was a Life Member of the Society.

In 1997 Jane received the Chester Price Award, the highest award the Society can bestow, for her outstanding contributions to archeological research. She became involved in archeology as part of the first NH SCRAP program in the early 1980s. Later she worked on a number of cultural resource management projects from 1985 to 1999. She received a degree in geology from the University of New Hampshire in 1988 but her interests also included soil science and ecology. Over the years she worked as a CRM crewmember, supervisor, project director, writer, and editor.

She wrote or co-wrote five articles in The New Hampshire Archeologist, but without a doubt made contributions to other articles on which her name does not appear. She served as a member of the Society's Executive Board and as an editor of the newsletter.

After retiring from CRM work she focused on archeological collections, first for Manchester Historic Association beginning in 1997 and then for the Society beginning in 2000. Much of the detailed documentation the Society has of its collections comes from Jane's work over the years. She was one of the curators of the Society's 2006 exhibit on New Hampshire's seacoast archeology hosted by the Phillips Exeter Academy library.

Jane's obituary noted that, in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the Archeological Society or to Manchester Historic Association. Over the next few months the Executive Board will be considering how best to use donations received in her name to further New Hampshire archeology and the particular areas that most interested her.

Everyone in the Society and many people in the broader realm of New Hampshire archeology will miss her greatly. We all offer our sincere condolences to her family.



Jane Potter at Phillips Exeter Academy in 2006

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Inside the Newsletter

Letter from the President

It is traditional in the initial President's letter to tell you a little bit about myself. I have been interested in archeology since I was a child. I suppose I was drawn in by the romantic side and even after many years of field work, I love it. I began to really get serious about archaeology in the early 90's. At the time, I was part owner of a family run hardware store in Keene. I decided to go back to school to pursue this interest and took one class a semester. In my first archeology class I met someone who volunteered in New York State at early military sites and for several years during my vacations from the store, I excavated at Rogers Island and Fort William Henry under the direction of Dr. David Starbuck. I loved the fieldwork and I was hooked!

In 1999, my advisor at Keene State College, Dr. Rosemary Gianno, arranged and directed an independent study for me on a Neanderthal dig in Murcia, Spain. It was an amazing experience and deepened my excitement for the field of archeology. The summer after I returned from Spain I wondered about archeology in New Hampshire and learned about the SCRAP program under Dr. Richard Boisvert. I signed up as a student and I have been volunteering for field excavations and lab work ever since.

With SCRAP I have also had the opportunity to work at the Gault site in Texas and Cliche-Rancourt site in Quebec. In 2004 I graduated from Keene State College with my Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Anthropology. In 2007 my family sold the hardware business allowing me more time to pursue my passion for archeology and gain experience working as a contract archeologist on sites around New Hampshire. Traveling and visiting archeological sites around the world is another interest. In December 2014, my travels took me on an 18 day 230 mile white water rafting trip on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Currently I hold the position of Office Manager for an expedition based wilderness skills camp for students ages 9 to 18.

It is with gratitude that I accept the position as President of the Society. I joined the Board in 2010, worked as chair of Archeology Month committee and served a term as Secretary before being elected President.

We are well on our way into 2015 and it looks like

it will be a great year. As we begin 2015, volunteers are tirelessly working behind the scenes. In 2014, we welcomed Marika Labash to the Board and are very excited to have her as Editor of the newsletter. Marika takes the position from Deb Duranceau who has been our newsletter editor for the past 7 years. All members of the Executive Board thank her for her work over that time doing layouts and drumming up a variety of articles, designing the color format, and shepherding each issue through printing. I am sure that all members of the Society join us in thanking her for her dedicated work and for continuing as webmaster.

On April 25, 2015, our spring meeting will be held in the southwestern part of the state at Keene State College. In addition, plans are well on their way with events being scheduled around the state in April for 2015 Archeology Month. Come and join us during Archeology Month and at meetings or events. There is a lot of exciting work being done. If you are currently a member, thank you. Thank you for being an important part of this work. If you are not a member, please join or if you have let your membership lapse, please renew. Together as a society, we can keep the vision alive. We look forward to seeing you there.

Linda Fuerderer,
President NHAS



NHAS Board Members: Back L-R: David Starbuck, Linda Fuerderer, Dick Boisvert, George Leduc, Karen Malburne, Bruce Rusch, Mark Greenly
Front L-R: Sheila Charles, Pat Hume, Karl Roenke, Edna Feighner, Mike Malburne. (Inset: Marika Labash)

SCRAP in the Field 2014

Investigations at Jefferson V, VI Sites and Mt. Jasper

-Richard Boisvert

The NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) mounted two major field projects in 2014, the annual summer field school and the fall Paleo investigations, well known as Octoberfest. The field school research was divided between work at Mt. Jasper and the Jefferson V and VI sites. Each of the two-week sessions devoted time to both areas so that participants could get a varied experience.

Three areas were investigated at the foot of Mt. Jasper. An area that appeared to have been the focus of unauthorized digging was investigated with a series of shovel test pits placed near probable looter pits. It appears that major deposits were not disturbed, as only a few flakes were recovered. Another area at the foot of the mountain a few hundred meters away was also investigated but only a few flakes were found in the shallow and rocky soil.

Looter probing at a third location did reveal that a site was present. Flakes were exposed on the surface but the diggers evidently did not find them attractive and only one small area was disturbed. Systematic shovel testing discovered a substantial lithic workshop in which tool manufacture was unevenly dispersed in small hotspots across an area consisting of at least 30 by 60 meters, suggesting short term episodes of only a few or even single tool makers. Second, these stone workers were taking advantage of naturally occurring rhyolite clasts in the deposits on the hill slope. We need to thank Mike



Mt. Jasper Rhyolite Core



Excavations at Octoberfest

Eastman, Berlin resident and longtime friend of SCRAP, who brought to our attention the unauthorized digging at this National Register listed site.

Mt. Jasper is well known as the site of a prehistoric mine situated high on the mountainside overlooking the Dead River. Archaeological research since the 1970s has focused on the mine and associated dikes as the source of the high quality rhyolite, which was used continuously for at least 12,000 years. This summer's shovel test pits and surface finds documented the presence of well-worn cobbles of rhyolite, some of which had been minimally flaked and abandoned as unusable for tool production. It is evident that visitors to this site were also taking advantage of free-floating pieces of rhyolite which had tumbled down the face of the mountain. This harvesting of material from the soil reveals a new dimension of toolstone extraction at Mt. Jasper and demonstrates that collecting, as well as mining, was an important means of raw material acquisition.

The other targets for the field school were the Jefferson V and VI sites. One of the excavation blocks at Jefferson VI, investigated in the 2011 and 2012 SCRAP field schools, centered on a probable family encampment but the extent of the concentration was not entirely recovered. The eastern edge of it was found this year.

Previous investigations on the Jefferson V site, directly across the road from Jefferson VI, had identified debitage concentrations suggestive of a workshop that exploited the nearby availability of the Jefferson rhyolite. With the help of Kurt Masters, who had surveyed the original grid in 2000, we recaptured the site grid and excavated a small area around an STP that had produced over 120

flakes. Four square meters were completed. The results showed the presence of a tool making area and prompted a return to this location over the Columbus Day weekend.

The Octoberfest excavation significantly expanded the field school's work, producing a substantial amount of lithic tool production debris, a small rock concentration feature, and a few tools including a crystal quartz biface and the tip of a fluted point.

The rock feature closely resembles features interpreted as stone boiling disposal areas. Boiling bones to extract fats by using rocks heated in open fires can be very effective and at least one has been identified at the Tenant Swamp Paleoindian site in Keene, NH.

The fluted point tip is distinctive in that there is clear evidence that it was broken in the manufacturing process. The tip of the point is not acute, rather it is squared. Such blunt tips represent a specific method of fluting where the point tip is placed firmly on an anvil of some sort while the channel flake is struck from the base. If this is executed imperfectly the tip will fracture leaving the blunted end and possibly remnants of an earlier successful fluting flake removal. The Jefferson V specimen is such an example.



Fluted Point Tip

The Octoberfest excavations were quite successful due to unusually cooperative weather and to significant assistance from a contingent of students from the University of Montreal as well as core SCRAP volunteers. The winter will be spent on analyzing the finds from all the Berlin and Jefferson sites; we are optimistic that additional data will be forthcoming.

AIA-MOS Archaeology Fair



NHAS Volunteer Diane Malburne

For the Eighth year, the Archaeological Institute of America teamed up with The Museum of Science, Boston to host their annual archaeology fair. Avocational, professional and archaeology educators engaged in a variety of hands on activities, presentations and demonstrations. The New Hampshire Archeological Society hosted a booth jointly with representatives of the New Hampshire DOT and Project Archaeology. Sheila Charles, Tanya Krajcik, Linda Fuerderer, Karen Malburne, NHAS President Mike Malburne and Diane Malburne assisted in the "mystery of the sands of time" trays. George Leduc displayed his flint knapping skills and exhibited some of his handiwork. For the second year, Sheila Charles of NH DOT and Curator for the NHAS joined the panel of Ask the Archaeologist fielding questions from the audience. Also presenting from New Hampshire, students from the Franklin Pierce University Anthropology Club atlatl team demonstrated the art and science of throwing a spear.

Special exhibits of interest that are still running are: Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed in the Nichols Gallery, Mystery of the Maya in the Mugar Omni Theater and Tales of the Maya Skies in the Charles Haden Planetarium.



Karen Malburne, Mike Malburne and Linda Fuerderer solving the mysteries of the sands of time

NHAS Goes to Hollis Upper Elementary School

-George Leduc

On Nov. 24, 2014, Mark Greenly and George Leduc gave an archeology presentation to the sixth grade classes at Hollis Upper Elementary School. This was the 11th year that Mark has given his Introduction to NH Archeology presentation and it was George's second year assisting.

The program opened with a Power Point slide show that Mark put together. It introduced the students to the fundamental principles of archeology, with an emphasis on what is being done right here in New Hampshire. The slide show included maps showing where sites are distributed around the state and how we go about digging, record keeping, and making sense of what we find.

In addition to the slide show, Mark displayed a collection of artifacts that the students could look at and handle. We also displayed some of the tools we use in the field to measure and excavate.

At the end of the presentation, there is a short show and tell by George about the practice of flint knapping. The students get to look at the various types of stone that were used by the Native Americans here in New Hampshire to make projectile points and stone tools that they needed for everyday subsistence.

The students showed a great deal of enthusiasm with our presentation and came up with a lot of good questions.



George Leduc speaks to Hollis students
Photo Credit: Robert Pooler

Summer 2014 Field School at Strawberry Banke

-Alix Martin



The 2014 Archaeology Field School at Strawberry Banke Museum uncovered an early 20th century mikveh, or Jewish ritual bath, within the foundation of a former house on the museum grounds. The house was purchased in 1912 by the Hebrew Ladies' Society and later owned by Temple Israel, the Portsmouth synagogue founded in the early 20th century by Jewish immigrants living in the Puddle Dock neighborhood. The house was later leveled during Urban Renewal and the existence of the mikveh left undocumented. Knowledge of the mikveh was maintained in oral histories and in the memories of former residents of the house. Peter Sablock at Salem State University performed electro-magnetometry (EM) to help us locate the mikveh. Minerals in the clay used to make the mikveh bricks had different magnetic signatures than the surrounding soil, making the probable mikveh location evident in the EM readout. Using technology along with oral histories, we were able to predict the mikveh's location before beginning excavation. This successful combination of memory and technology illustrates the potential for utilizing both in archaeological research. After just a few days on site, we found white glazed bricks in course and expanded our excavation to reveal the floor of the mikveh. A maker's mark indicated that the bricks were made by Sayre & Fisher Co., in Sayreville, New Jersey. During excavation we managed to uncover the whole floor of the mikveh, which was 5'6" long by 4' wide. The mikveh would have been accessed through the first floor of the house, meaning its depth and overall dimensions would have been more than deep enough to contain the necessary 40 se'ah of living water. In our excavation on the other side of the house foundation, we uncovered contexts associated with a late 19th century barn, and below that, a midden that seems to date to the turn of the 18th/19th century. The site has now been backfilled to preserve the mikveh and educational panels are being prepared to be displayed at Temple Israel.



Field school student Christina Errico
(Dickinson College '15) answers
questions from museum visitors

Report on the Northern Pass Project

-Karl Roenke

The NH Archeological Society (NHAS) has been asked to be and has become a Consulting Party in the U.S. Dept. of Energy's (DOE) Section 106 Review of the proposed \$ 1.4 billion Northern Pass Transmission Project from Canada into New Hampshire. I attended the first Section 106 meeting on June 20th representing the NHAS. Others present included reps from the AMC, The Society for the Protection of NH Forests, the NH Preservation Alliance, the White Mtn. National Forest, the NH Div. of Historical Resources, and some local Historical Societies. Two Archeological Contracts are already underway and will continue as the project unfolds. The contractors are using survey techniques approved by the NHDHR and are utilizing the state archeological and architectural databases. We have the opportunity to have input into the process and make known any sites that are not currently on the state databases or discovered during survey. To date, the Archeological Contractors have identified 33 new sites and 240 sensitive areas in a 180-mile long and two mile wide corridor. More information on the project can be found at www.northernpasseis.us. As the project unfolds we will provide updates in the NHAS Newsletter and encourage input from society members and others regarding archeological concerns.

NHAS Annual Meeting Fall 2014

The Society held its 2014 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 25th, at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, NH. The program had a mainly historical orientation. Dr. Meghan C. L. Howey, Associate Professor and Chair, Dept. of Anthropology, UN, spoke on The Lost Campus: The Archaeology of UNH. Martha Pinello, Principal Investigator, Monadnock Archaeological Consulting, LLC, spoke on the Wyman Tavern Archaeology Project, Keene NH. Craig Brown, Director, Oyster River Environs Archaeology Project, spoke on The End of the Beginning (or Simply the End?): Field-Bickford Site 2009-2011. Ellen Marlatt, Principal, Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC, spoke on Salvage Archaeology of Portsmouth Privies. On the Native American side, Dick Boisvert, NH State Archaeologist, spoke on 2014 SCRAP Field School and Octoberfest in Jefferson NH.

Society Officers and several members of the Executive Board were elected at the afternoon business meeting: Linda Fuerderer as President, George Leduc as First VP, Mike Malburne as Second VP, Dick Boisvert as Secretary, Mark Greenly as Treasurer, David Starbuck as Editor, and Sheila Charles as Curator, were all elected for two-year terms. Karen Malburne and Karl Roenke were elected to the Executive Board for terms of 2014 to 2017. Marika Labash was elected to the Executive Board for the last year of a term vacated in 2013 by Jon Edsall.

Mark Greenly presented the Treasurer's Report for the last twelve months. Total cash assets were \$21,963.49; Obligated funds were \$8802.06; Unobligated funds were \$13,161.43. Income for the year was \$7554.81 and expenses were \$7150.85, leaving a positive



Fall 2014 NHAS Meeting at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth

cash flow of \$403.96. Past President Sheila Charles presented outgoing President Mike Malburne with a gift from the Executive Board for his service as President.

The Society would like to thank all who attended, members as well and non-members; to thank the Division of Forests and Lands in the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development for the use of the Urban Forestry Center's conference facility at no cost; and to thank Dunkin Donuts for their generous donation of refreshments for the morning.

Spring Meeting 2015

The spring meeting of the society will be Saturday, April 25th at Keene State College, hosted by the College's Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology. More details will be announced as the date gets closer.

2015 SCRAP Archaeology Field School

June 22nd – July 31st,
Holderness, NH

by background readings, evening lectures by various affiliated scholars, and field trips to nearby sites. The field school will take place in three two-week sessions, June 22 – July 3, July 6 - July 17, and July 20 - 31, 2015.

Fieldwork will take place from 8 AM to 4 PM weekdays. The field headquarters will be based in Plymouth approximately 5 miles from the site. Housing will be available in a privately owned apartment building. Participants may join as volunteers or obtain academic credit through Plymouth State University at either the undergraduate or graduate levels.

State Archaeologist Richard A. Boisvert directs the field school in cooperation with Plymouth State University. Additional information on the 2015 field school and the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program can be obtained by calling 603-271-6433 or by visiting the SCRAP website at:

<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm>

The 2015 the SCRAP summer field school will initiate investigations at the Neilsen Site in Holderness, NH. The investigations will focus on small block excavations at a site with Middle Archaic and possibly other components. Additionally we will shovel test pit survey on nearby properties to identify additional sites.

Participants will be taught detailed recovery and documentation techniques as well as artifact identification and field laboratory procedures. Hands-on instruction in the field will be supplemented



Pecked and polished stone gouge from the Neilsen family collection

Plymouth State University Archaeological Field School at Enfield Shaker Village

May 25th – June 19th

This spring, Plymouth State University will conduct an archaeological field school at Enfield Shaker Village (Enfield, NH), the first year of what should become a several-year project. Under the direction of David Starbuck (Professor of Anthropology at PSU), this four-week field school will be open to both credit students and volunteers, and participation for a minimum of two weeks is required. While Canterbury Shaker Village witnessed over 30 years of archaeological mapping and excavation with teams led by Starbuck, Enfield has never experienced systematic archaeological research, and this should prove to be a most exciting first season! Archaeological sites to be studied in 2015 are currently being selected, and a very close collaboration is anticipated between archaeologists and the staff and volunteers at Enfield Shaker Village.

Plymouth State's field school offers 3 credits for two weeks, or 6 credits for four weeks, through PSU's Division of Online and Continuing Studies, whereas those interested in non-credit options may contact Starbuck directly at:

dstarbuck@plymouth.edu

This project is sure to be popular, so please sign up early!



Abbie Young, SCRAP Field
Supervisor



New Hampshire Archeological Society
 PO Box 406
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To apply, please fill out this form and mail it with a check made out to the New Hampshire Archeological Society or NHAS for the amount (USD) indicated for the desired type of membership:

- _____ Individual \$25
- _____ Institution \$35
- _____ Senior (65+) \$18
- _____ Student \$18 (photocopy of valid student ID required)

Mail to: New Hampshire Archeological Society
 Attn: Treasurer
 P.O. Box 406
 Concord, NH 03302-0406

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 Pat Hume (term ends in 2016)
 Karen Malburne (term ends in 2017)
 Karl Roenke (term ends in 2017)

Please send all items for the newsletter to:
 NHAS, P.O. Box 406, Concord, NH
 03302-0406
 Attn.: Marika Labash
 marikalabash@gmail.com
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