



# 'ROUND ROBBINS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Robbins Museum /MAS

Fall 2007

## President's Greeting

Tonya Largy

The Robbins Museum staff warmly welcomes Louise (Laurie) Stundis, who joined the staff as Administrative Assistant on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Stevens, our Museum Coordinator for the last two years, is seeking opportunities in his chosen field as an archivist. We wish Jeff the best of luck and thank him for his service to the Museum and the Society.

I am pleased to report exciting new developments at the Robbins. Our Friends who also are M.A.S. members, have already read about some of these in our last newsletter. We continue to see an increase in the number of visitors to our Museum. I believe this is due to our efforts to raise the profile of the Robbins in the media and other venues. We participated in the Pratt Farm Festival in Middleborough on September 29<sup>th</sup>, the American Institute of Archaeology Fair held on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Boston Museum of Science, and the Sachem Rock Festival on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Our webmaster, Tom Largy, has worked ceaselessly to update and expand the new website originally designed by Liz Diaz ([www.massarchaeology.org](http://www.massarchaeology.org)). Do check it regularly for information about events at the Museum, especially those scheduled for Massachusetts Archaeology Month the month. The Robbins was also featured in an article written by Donna Laurent Caruso and published on August 15<sup>th</sup> in *Indian Country Today*, an online publication.

Our education programs continue to develop. A totally new educational effort is being undertaken, thanks to the efforts of Judith Scott, our Development

Coordinator. In concert with the Development Committee, Judith wrote a grant to A.D. Makepeace in Wareham asking for funds to initiate our *Native American Educational Outreach Project*, discussed in detail elsewhere in this newsletter. Makepeace awarded us \$4,000 towards this project, which requires \$8,200 to implement the total program. We are waiting to hear about a grant application which we submitted to another grant maker, and Judith is preparing several other proposals which we hope will help us find the remaining funds needed to make this program successful. The Makepeace grant enables the Robbins to open an additional day during the week, staffed by Mary Concannon, our new Museum education specialist. Beginning the first week in October, the Robbins will be open on Thursdays, from 10 am to 2 pm. Please call the Museum (508-947-9005) or check the website for any changes in this schedule.

The Museum Gift Shop has a new manager. Diane Pereira has accepted the volunteer position overseeing gift selections of jewelry made by local Native Americans and other archaeology related items such as one of a kind posters, MAS sweatshirts and T-shirts, and books published by our Society. We welcome Diane's new ideas.

The collections inventory is nearly complete, thanks to the assistance of volunteers, including our Native American friends working under the direction of Dr. Curtiss Hoffman. The task remains to enter these data into the computer. Finally, after many years, we

will have a complete inventory of our holdings. We will be able to answer research questions from professional archaeologists, our members, and the interested public.

Lastly, I thank you for your continued support of the Robbins Museum. Wonderful things are happening and I invite you to “come on down” and see how far we have come in the last year. Without our Friends and Members, we could not carry out our mission to protect these vestiges of the Native American past.

#### Volunteer Appreciation

I want to say a special thank-you to our regular Officers, Trustees, and volunteers who staff the Robbins every Wednesday without fail and those who help with special projects when needed. In addition to Wednesdays, Jean-Jacques Rivard staffs the Robbins every Saturday. The regulars have been joined by new Wednesday volunteers: Diane Parente and Martha Maynard who help Kathryn Fairbanks, our Librarian. Thanks to all for helping making the Robbins “hum” on Wednesdays!

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Docents - to lead school tours and answer visitor’s questions
- Publicity - prepare press releases for local media outlets
- Collections – enter data into the computer regarding our holdings
- Archives – help organize important papers and photographs
- Hospitality – help with receptions after public events
- Office help – prepare mailings, assist our Administrative Assistant.

#### Wish List

- Microscope for use in examining artifacts and other materials
- Donations of money and materials to expand the library
- A banner for use at festival exhibit booths

### **Laurie Stundis, Administrative Assistant at the Robbins Museum**

Frederica Dimmick



Friends of the Robbins Museum of Archaeology, current Society members, and visitors to the Museum will note a new, smiling face in the office this fall. She is Louise (Laurie) Stundis, who has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant at the Museum for one day a week. She weekly joins the volunteer Massachusetts Archaeological Society officers, board members and other MAS members who gather for work at the Museum on Wednesdays. Laurie has well-rounded knowledge and experience in running

an office, and, as well, has worked in a printing company.

Laurie feels that her job at the Robbins is a “wonderful opportunity to work with some very dedicated archaeologists to learn as much as possible about the field.” Her interest in archaeology is long held and her interest in Native American artwork is deep. Artistic herself, Laurie has “built several life-sized and model replica Native American shelters as well as making moccasins, beaded belts, and dresses.” Additionally she has created clay pots and wooden items. She enjoys reading about archaeological sites worldwide and is especially captivated by Easter Island. Much inspired by the work of Robert Ballard at WHOI, she has learned in her own studies much about Marine Archeology and the use of manned and un-manned vehicles at Woods Hole. Laurie has a B.A. with a concentration in Anthropology/Archaeology from the Union Institute and the University of Vermont and is continuing her studies in Environmental Technology. She also is certified in Coastal Zone Management through a joint program at Cape Cod Community College, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and Massachusetts Maritime Academy. It is no surprise that she sets as her long-term goal a career in the field of underwater archaeology.

In addition to her work in the Museum, Laurie also has a fulltime job as the Animal Rescue Officer in Plymouth. She has held this position for several years following certification and training by various animal rescue and shelter organizations. She aids a wide variety of domestic and wild animals in different ocean, woodland and pond environments. In what little spare time that may remain, Laurie enjoys gardening, boating, hiking, and visiting a different museum every month.

When asked what thoughts she might have about the future of the Robbins, Laurie comments that she “hopes that the Museum will someday be open all

week as many of the museums in the Boston area are.” She anticipates that this may happen as the population of the area grows.

A native New Englander with a strong interest in archaeology and the environment, and with much work experience in office management, Laurie Stundis appears to be the ideal person to meet our Museum visitors and to work with office issues. We wish her happiness and success in this endeavor.

### **Makepeace Neighborhood Fund Enables Robbins Museum to Launch Formal Educational Program**

“Growth” and “Expansion” are two words that have dominated both short and long-term planning at the Robbins Museum over the last several years. New exhibits highlight Native artifacts and lifeways; the web is attracting new visitors and enquiries; and outreach efforts by staff and volunteers have helped leverage our visibility with professionals and the general public alike. As Fall 2007 begins, the Museum is adding yet another ambitious effort to its repertoire: a formal educational program which will afford local students a more comprehensive look at Native lifeways through time and which takes advantage of the many exhibits and resources the Museum has to offer.

Thanks to a successful grant application written by Judith Scott, the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund (Wareham, MA) has provided financial support that will enable the Museum to begin the process of creating an educational component, *The Native American Educational Outreach Project*, which will complement its current services and outreach initiatives. To assist in planning and development, MAS has retained the services of Mary Concannon. Mary has over ten years of experience creating historical

programming for non-profit organizations and schools throughout the New England region; she is also an archaeologist who has worked on both prehistoric and historic sites regionally and on the West Coast. According to Mary, “Our educational ideas are exciting ones. We plan to create a comprehensive program that will not only serve children in three key targeted grades (3, 5, and 7), but that will also link to the Massachusetts Frameworks and satisfy MCAS requirements as well. The Makepeace Fund support offers us the chance to reach students and educators in seven local communities, while collaboration with our Native American partners, with Kevin Quackenbush, Craig Chartier, and the volunteers at the Robbins affords the Museum an exciting opportunity to craft materials that resonate with adults and children alike.”



Mary Concannon

In addition to lessons that tie in to state standards, Mary plans to produce materials such as *Bingo Games*, *Gallery Artifact Identification Challenges*, and *Introduction to The Robbins Museum* pieces that will serve as on-site activities as well as documents the Museum can use to promote its collections, attract

new visitors, and provide teachers with some essential information they may need in planning visits. Mary and Tom Largy, who manages the MAS web site, hope to upload some of these materials to leverage teacher access to information not only about educational opportunities, but also as a way to provide materials on Native American history. “Tom and I have big plans,” Mary acknowledges, “but creating an on-line *Teacher’s Corner* and a *Student Corner* will meet the goals of both the Makepeace grant and the Museum’s mission.”

This is not to say that MAS doesn’t already have educational programming. Due to the endeavors of intrepid members Kevin Quackenbush and Craig Chartier, the Museum has been offering students classes in local history and prehistory for several years. Kevin is well-known and recognized for his in-school archaeology program for fourth through sixth graders. Combining hands-on activities with a chance to handle artifacts has proven to be a winning combination: Kevin recently held an Archaeology Poster Contest; over 200 youth submitted entries, a testament to the excitement youth feel for this type of programming. (To view the winning poster, please visit <http://www.massarchaeology.org/essay2007.htm> or stop by the Robbins Museum, where the poster is prominently displayed in the Gallery!).

On the third Saturday of each month, Craig Chartier is leading on-site programming at the Museum for youth in the 6-12 year old group. Students not only investigate archaeology and pre-history, they also have the chance to study *Bones, Bones, Bones*; discover how much a *Grecian “urns,”* and take a fresh look at the Pilgrims “living” at Plimoth Plantation. To find out more about *these* exciting programs, visit our web site, and point your cursor to the education link (<http://www.massarchaeology.org/foreducators.htm>).

Finally, the Makepeace funding meets a second critical goal: that of supporting staffing that enables the Museum to open a second day during the week. Thus, **beginning in October**, visitors will find us “open for business” both Wednesdays **and** Thursdays! The hope is that having additional hours of operation during the year will enable more school groups - as well the general public - to visit.

So: if you have any ideas for educational programs or projects; if you want to experience the Museum in a whole new way; or if you are interested in volunteering to give tours or assist with creating materials and activities, please let Mary know. “I welcome the input and assistance of MAS members,” notes Mary; “there is a strong tradition of educational outreach I must meet! I look forward to being a part of the team, and thank all of the MAS members who have so graciously welcomed and encouraged me.”

## **Shoreline Archaeology**

Victor Mastone

**SHIPS**, the Shoreline Heritage Identification Partnerships Strategy, is a collaborative effort of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources with local historical societies and local museums, such as the Newburyport Maritime Society. The purpose is to document the historical environment along our shoreline to ensure that our historical and archaeological properties are not lost through neglect or inadvertently destroyed. Archaeological remains are often fragile and can be damaged by apparently harmless activities.

It has been estimated that more than 3,000 vessels have wrecked off the Massachusetts coast over the past centuries. If they get buried in sediments, remains of these vessels can be very well preserved.

However, natural movements and man-made alterations to the sea floor can uncover and disturb these sites causing ancient timbers and other artifacts to then be washed ashore.

### **Why are they important?**

Timbers and other materials found on the beach can be important because:

- They can give a clue to the location of shipwrecks off shore
- They can give clues as to the type of vessels which were operating off our coast, and help identify areas which were particularly dangerous to sailors.
- Individual timbers can provide information about the construction of older vessels.

### **Why should I report any timber or other remains I find?**

Archaeological remains are often fragile and can be damaged by apparently harmless activities. Wood, for example, at first sight seems firm and solid. The timber is waterlogged, with the water providing much of the wood’s strength. As soon as the wood starts to dry it can split and begin to disintegrate. Once the process has started, it cannot be reversed. For this reason, it is important to document the find as soon as possible after its discovery.

### **What should I do if I think I have found a ship’s timber or other archaeological objects?**

If possible, leave the object where it is. Only move it if it seems likely to be washed away by the tide. If it is partially buried, do not attempt to dig it up. Please report your find to either a partner organization or directly to the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources. You will be asked for a brief description of the object, its location, and your contact information so that you can be kept informed.

## **What will happen to the timber or other archaeological objects?**

The object will be examined by Coast Watcher volunteers and/or the staff of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources. The information will be placed in the inventory database where it will be available for future research. If you believe you found an old ship's timbers or other archaeological remains, please report your find to either a partner organization or directly to the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources.

### **CONTACTS**

Victor Mastone, Director, Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources

- CZM, Suite 800, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114
- Telephone: 617-626-1141
- Fax: 617-626-1240
- E-mail: Victor.Mastone@State.MA.US

### **Museum Inventory Project**

Dr. Curtiss Hoffman

Over the past 12 months we have made substantial progress on the Museum inventory. This is part of our requirements under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The Trustees have agreed that we are indeed subject to this Federal law, due to the fact that we accepted funds from the Middleborough Arts Council, which are provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which in turn are partially derived from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Thanks to the volunteer work of Melissa Plasse, Diane Pereira, and several volunteers from the Wampanoag Indian Program at Plimoth Plantation (Hartman Deetz, Melanie Deetz, Elizabeth Perry, Geoffrey M. Peters, Carol Wynne, Phillip Wynne, Erin Weeden, and Kerry Helme), all of the artifacts in our downstairs repository have been inventoried, as well as the artifacts in file drawers in our storage closet. Special thanks to John Peters, Jr., Director of the Commission on Indian Affairs, Jeff Peters, and Ken Alves, Assonet Repatriation Officer, for organizing and directing this important effort. The only remaining artifacts to be inventoried are the ones on display in the cases.

In addition, we have made progress on transferring these paper records to our computer data base. About 1/3 of the sheets remain to be entered into the computer. Once this work is completed, first of all we will know how many artifacts we actually have in the Museum. In addition, we can then submit the inventory of potentially NAGPRA-sensitive objects to the NAGPRA office for dissemination to the appropriate Native tribal groups. We have already filed a NAGPRA summary with this office, as required by law.

Once the inventory has been published to the tribes, the next step will be for any tribes who feel that our holdings fall into NAGPRA categories (human skeletal materials, associated grave goods, unassociated grave goods, sacred objects, and cultural patrimony) to make claims. If any claims are filed, this will trigger a negotiation process which will be adjudicated by the NAGPRA office. While we do not yet have good numbers, it is our impression that probably no more than 5% of our collections are potentially subject to NAGPRA claims. Of these, most likely only a portion will actually be claimed, and a smaller number yet will wind up being repatriated after adjudication.

The advantage of going through this process is that, once it is completed, we will not be subject to further claims under NAGPRA for our collections. As well, the process itself has had the effect of building good will between us and our Native advisors.

## **Summary of Development Committee**

### **Activities**

Judith Scott

Since I first volunteered to do some development work for MAS in January 2006, I have pursued many research and writing activities.

I researched hundreds of grant makers on the internet, including private foundations, corporate charitable funds, community foundations, and government agencies. Government grant makers are a special category that presents unique challenges. Among the government sources I have investigated are the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, Institute for Museum and Library Services, NAGPRA Grants to Tribes and Museums, and Save America's Treasures.

Research involves printing and reading often lengthy guidelines and sometimes doing telephone follow up for clarification and advice. At my request, MAS funded my use of a subscription service, the *Foundation Center Directory Online*, which allowed me to research many grant makers in their listings. I printed out profiles of 77 grant makers from this source. The profiles are a valuable resource, which is also available to others in MAS. The Lexington Library provided the only nearby access to the *Associated Grant Makers Directory*. I reviewed the organizations listed and researched many grant makers uncovered from this source. I have also researched many potential grant makers suggested by other MAS members including approximately 30 on Trustee Janet Bessette's list.

It is always a judgment call as to which grant maker to approach next. Each proposal takes quite a bit of time in addition to the task of writing it. First, I have to acquire the grant maker's guidelines, often online and sometimes through old-fashioned correspondence. A careful reading is required to determine MAS's eligibility and the specific (often stringent) requirements. Sometimes I have to find demographic and statistical information. Each grant maker requires attachments, so I have to pull together budgets, financial statements, resumes, 501(c)3 letters, 990 forms, lists of trustees, and so on, depending the grant maker's requirements. Some require documents that MAS does not have, such as long range plans and annual reports. Grant maker interests, eligibility requirements, and guidelines often preclude MAS from applying. Government grants usually require matching funds and many of them require that an organization have at least one full-time staff member (paid or unpaid).

Writing the grant proposal itself is a different kind of consideration. Grant makers expect an organization to make a *compelling* case. They receive hundreds of requests for money, so I strive to catch their attention with clever writing or overwhelming evidence of the need, a challenging goal indeed!

## **Friends Donations**

Curtiss Hoffman, Membership Secretary

The ongoing operations of the Robbins Museum depends greatly upon the donations of its loyal Friends. We are always appreciative of the continued support we receive from our loyal Friends.

The following have made recent generous donations to the Friends of the Robbins Museum:

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## GIFT SHOP NEWS

In the upcoming months, visitors to the Robbins Museum will notice on-going efforts to 'liven-up' the Museum gift shop. We have asked Diane Pereira to dedicate some time to manage the store. Diane is currently a public archaeology student under the direction of Dr. Curtiss Hoffman at Bridgewater State College. She will have earned her Bachelor's degree in December.

It has been a long time since someone has been fully dedicated to the gift shop's success. Diane has welcomed this opportunity with open arms and has already hinted at some ideas she believes will make the museum store thrive more than it has in the past. Some of these ideas include a gradual increase in the variety of items sold in the shop as well as a section devoted to children. Any suggestions for the improvement of the Robbins Museum gift shop are welcome. Please help us welcome Diane in her new position. Thank you for your continued support.

*From The Enterprise - Upper Cape Cod News and Information*

### ***Lucky Find At Mill Creek***

Posted in: [Sandwich News](#)

By Mary Stanley

July 20, 2007 - 8:41:32 AM

Late last month, 9-year-old Ryan M. Morgera stumbled upon something small — and old — very old, in Sandwich.

On a visit to Town Beach with his grandmother, Carolyn J. Sanderson, who lives in Sagamore, Ryan and his older brother Andrew, 12, were fishing for crabs by dangling chicken legs tied to a string into the water from the Board-walk. "The crabs crawl onto the chicken legs," Ryan explained. While his brother waited patiently for the crabs to show up,

Ryan decided to walk along the beach. While walking along the bend of Mill Creek, not looking for anything in particular, he picked up what he thought was a stone about the size of a robin's egg sitting on top of a bed of rocks. He was ready to throw it into the water when he noticed something strange: the rock—or what he thought was a rock—had a small hole in its side. At the very least, he thought it would be something to add to his rock collection, and decided to keep it rather than throw it into the water.

He put the small item in a bucket full of other small beach finds and brought it back to his grandmother's house. But, then, while washing the built-up muck and mud from the rock, he made a startling discovery.

The item in his hand had man-made etchings along its side; it seemed that Ryan might have stumbled upon an artifact. Ms. Sanderson, who happens to be a member of the Bourne Historical Society, began making some calls. Her first call was to Barbara L. Gill, Sandwich's archivist who was very excited about the find and she referred her to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society in Middleboro. Ms. Sanderson made the trip to the Robbins Museum, which houses the archeological society. Once there, she spoke with technical expert Jeffrey Boudreau who informed her that the item, which was made of a banded sandstone, was a small smoking bowl used by Native Americans. The hole is where a small reed or stem would have been placed to draw in the smoke. According to Tonya Largy, president of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, the item dates back between 400 and 1,000 years. "I thought it might be from Colonial times, but not that rare," said Ryan.

Since learning a little bit about the history of the artifact, Ryan and his grandmother have been poring through historical reference books and visiting websites, looking for any items that might match what was discovered in Mill Creek. But, so far, they

have only found items that look similar to it, but none exactly the same. “Everybody who saw it thought it was somewhat unusual,” Ms. Largy commented. Ryan, who will be a fourth grader at Floral Street School in Shrewsbury, said he enjoys searching for items along the beach, although to date, most of what he has found has come in the form of uniquely shaped rocks, sand dollars, mermaid purses, and other beach items. Typically, those finds go into a treasure chest that his grandmother has at her house, which is filled with sand for the items to be placed on. But, this item, he said, has been stored in something a little bit more secure and appropriate for something of such historical significance. “Until recently, we kept it in a black film container. But a friend of mine gave me a display box like the ones used in museums to hold artifacts,” said Ms. Sanderson.

She went on to say that Ryan is learning a little bit about the difference between monetary value and historical value. She said the item may not be worth a lot of money, but in terms of historical significance, its value may be priceless. Ryan said although he would like to bring the item into school when he returns in September, he is a bit afraid of losing his precious find.

Ryan, who lives in Shrewsbury with his parents, Lisa and Michael Morgera and two brothers, Andrew and



5-year-old T.J., said he enjoys visiting his grandmother on the Cape and searching for hidden treasure. Last Christmas, he even asked his grandmother for a metal detector. “I found change and an earring in the driveway,” he remarked. But like most 9-year-old boys, Ryan said he enjoys sports as well. “I like playing baseball, soccer, and basket-ball,” he said. Ms. Sorenson said she and Ryan will continue to research the artifact that he found at the beginning of the summer. “Our next stop is to the Aptucxet Trading Post Museum,” Ms. Sanderson said.

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