

# NEA CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Beth Bower

Museum of Afro-American History

Box 5 Dudley Station

Roxbury, Mass. 02119



Charles R Drew MD



Dena F. Dincuze  
Dept. of Anthropology  
UMASS-Amherst  
Amherst, MA 01003



1981 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Beth Bower  
Museum of Afro-American History  
Box 5 Dudley Station  
Roxbury, Mass. 02119  
(617) 445-7401

Bob Paynter  
Department of Anthropology  
Queens College  
Flushing, N.Y. 13367  
(212) 520-7045

Gail Gustafson  
Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit St.  
Providence, R.I. 02903  
(401) 277-2678

David Starbuck  
Department of Anthropology  
University of New Hampshire  
Durham, N.H. 03824  
(603) 862-1547

Frank McManamon  
National Park Service  
15 State St.  
Boston, Mass. 02109  
(617) 223-3778

Val Talmage  
Massachusetts Historical  
Commission  
294 Washington St.  
Boston, Mass. 02108  
(617) 727-8470

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Gail Gustafson

David Starbuck



CONFERENCE on  
NEW ENGLAND  
ARCHAEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 1 June 1981

SUMMARY of  
the 1981  
CONFERENCE

Eighty archeologists from a variety of subfields attended two days of large and small group meetings held on 14 and 15 February 1981 at the Science Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. The Conference theme, "Upland and Lowland New England Settlements," was presented and developed on the morning of the 14th in a large, general session moderated by Jim Bradley (Massachusetts Historical Commission).

CONTENTS

Summary of the 1981 Conference .....	1
Thoughts on the 1982 Conference .....	3
Current Research and Results .....	5
Bibliography .....	10

Perspectives from historical geography, historic period archeology, and prehistory were given by Arthur Krim (Clark University), Bob Paynter (CUNY), John Worrell (Old Sturbridge Village), and Peter Thomas (University of Vermont). Their variations on the theme provoked lively discussion among the participants and audience. The intended crossfertilization among subfields was achieved.

During the afternoon and on Sunday morning smaller groups met to discuss topics developed from the opening session, including prehistoric and historic settlement patterns, nineteenth century agricultural sites, prehistoric coastal sites, and cultural processes.

Business Meeting

Late Sunday morning the Conference held its business meeting, presided over by Russell Barber (Harvard). Three pieces of business were discussed: (1) an evaluation of the first Conference, (2) the organization of the Conference, and (3) the election of new members of the Steering Committee.

Following general comments and discussion, evaluation forms were distributed; the responses are summarized in the following chart.

Question	Answers						N
	Yes		Indifferent		No		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Should the Conference:							
1. be held in February	17	71%	5	21%	2	8%	24
2. last only 1 day	3	28%	5	29%	9	53%	17
3. last 2 days	18	82%	3	14%	1	5%	22
4. maintain the present format	7	32%	5	23%	10	45%	22
5. be more tightly organized	19	86%	2	9%	1	5%	22

There is strong support for continuing to hold the Conference in February, for a 2-day Conference, and for a more tightly organized Conference. The 1981 Steering Committee is proceeding to organize the 1982 Conference along these lines.

It was the consensus of the business meeting that the Conference organization should remain as simple and straightforward as possible. Legal incorporation and by-laws were recommended and are being investigated by the 1981 Steering Committee. Dues for 1981 were established at \$5.00 for two newsletters and membership in the Conference from 1 January - 31 December 1981. For 1981 the dues also covered registration at the Conference. In 1982 the dues will continue to be \$5.00 but a registration fee will be charged at the 1982 February Conference. The rules for election of the Steering Committee were discussed, approved by the present membership, and will be included in the by-laws, which will be printed in draft in the Fall 1981 Newsletter.

The Steering Committee will have six members. At each Conference four members will be elected. The two receiving the most votes will serve for two years. This will help the committee maintain some continuity from year to year since two members from one year will continue to serve the next year. The committee will be responsible for assembling and publishing the Newsletter and for organizing the February Conference. The responsibilities of Newsletter editor, treasurer, and secretary will be divided up among the Steering Committee members. Reported by: Francis P. McManamon.

# THOUGHTS on the 1982 CONFERENCE

Three issues must be resolved to organize the 1982 Conference: its structure, theme, and contents. Evaluations of the 1981 Conference, the Steering Committee members' ideas, and Conference members' responses to this statement will be used to determine the 1982 Conference organization.

The evaluation results presented in this issue of the Newsletter indicate that the 1981 structure should be retained with a slightly tighter organization for the general session and smaller discussion groups. The general session will still aim to bring together archeologists working on different periods and in different areas by focusing

on a common framework for investigations. The discussion groups, however, will be designed to allow specialists to pursue specific periods, areas, or problems. The general session will include 4-6 more-or-less formal presentations with time for discussion of them. Discussion sessions can concentrate on discussion of topics raised in the general session or include presentations or discussions not related to the theme. Members should submit ideas for small discussion groups or presentation sessions. One or more small sessions for reports of research results unrelated to the Conference theme could be included if responses indicate a demand exists for them. Members wishing to have such sessions should send an abstract or short statement about their research to Beth Bower or Frank McManamon. The Conference will be held on a February weekend in the Boston area. It will run for two days. The general session will open the Conference on the first day. Small discussion or presentation groups will be held the afternoon of the first day and the morning of the second day. The Conference business meeting and elections will be held the afternoon of the second day. Members who wish to be considered for election to the Steering Committee must attend the business meeting.

#### Social Systems and Material Patterns

Comments from 1981 Conference participants indicate approval of a Conference theme to which papers and discussion groups can be linked. The theme must be general and common enough to interest those working on different areas and time periods. Last year's "Uplands-Lowlands" theme fitted the bill nicely.

The 1982 theme is "Social Systems and Material Patterns." The aim of the general session presentations will be to develop expected data configurations for different types of social systems or parts of social systems. The expectations will draw from theoretical and empirical studies, but the expected configurations of data will be designed for examination using New England archeological data. The session will include 2-3 presentations developing and describing the expected configurations and 2-3 presentations comparing existing data sets with the expected configurations.

The format and theme require substantial effort by the formal participants and coordination among them; therefore, members interested in making presentations should contact Beth Bower or Frank McManamon immediately. The Steering Committee members believe the general session and discussion groups could be a substantial advance for New England archeology. Francis McManamon for the Steering Committee.

## CURRENT RESEARCH and RESULTS

Readers are asked to submit notices of their own current research using the format below. Key words should highlight areas of interest, using all upper case for major areas, lower case for minor areas. Results from Phase I reconnaissance surveys should not be submitted unless the data relates directly to stated research interests. The next newsletter will provide a list of specific key words to be used.

Penobscot Bay; prehistoric site survey and excavation; Archaic through Early Contact; Bruce Bourque, Maine State Museum, Augusta, ME; (207) 289-2301; SHELL MIDDEN, COASTAL SETTLEMENT, ARCHAIC, CONTACT.

Cobbosseecontee Lake; excavations by Bates College at multi-component site with possible Middle Archaic component; Bruce Bourque, Maine State Museum, Augusta, ME; (207) 21-2301; MIDDLE ARCHAIC.

Penobscot River; survey on the West Branch; area threatened by dam construction; Steven Cox, Maine State Museum, Augusta, ME; (207) 289-2301; SURVEY, SALVAGE.

Turner Farm; shell midden; continuing artifact analysis, especially faunal analysis; Bruce Bourque, Arthur Spiess, Maine State Museum, Augusta, ME; (207) 201-2301; ARCHAIC, FAUNAL ANALYSIS.

Merrimack River Survey; Concord, NH; Woodland and 17th Century; historic fort of Passaconaway; David Starbuck, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824; (603) 862-1547; WOODLAND, CONTACT, SETTLEMENT PATTERNS.

Morrill's Point; Middle Archaic ceremonial complex, Essex County; James P. Whittall, Early Sites Research Society, Rowley; (617) 948-2410 Lithics, Ceramic, ecology, ceremony, archoastronomy.

Revolutionary War Privateer Defense; last field season off the coast of Maine; David Switzer and others, Plymouth State College, Kittery Museum, Maine Maritime Academy, Maine State Museum; (207) 439-3080; HISTORIC, 18TH CENTURY MARINE.

Indian Praying Village, South Natick, Mass. Richard Eli, Boston University, Boston, Mass. (617) 395-0859 and Elise Brenner, UMASS, Amherst (413) 545-2221. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, ACCULTURATION, ETHNOHISTORY.

The Phoenix Project. The Champlain Maritime Society conducted a week long underwater survey in August 1980 of the Steamship Phoenix. The Phoenix was built in 1814 and burned and sank in 1819. It is believed to be the oldest wreck of its kind in the United States. For more information contact the Champlain Maritime Society, P.O. Box 745, Burlington, VT 05401.

Faunal analysis from prehistoric and historic sites in Connecticut; Identification, interpretation, and bone fracturing experimentation; Nick Bellantoni, UCONN, Storrs, CT.; (203) 486-4264; FAUNA.

Poland Hill Shaker Settlement Plan; Poland, ME.; foundation traces of building complex mapped prior to proposed housing development; Alaric Faulkner, University of Maine, Orono, ME.; (207) 581-2109; SHAKER AGRICULTURE AND VITICULTURE: SHAKER SETTLEMENT PATTERNS.

Study of prehistoric Transitional site (3000 years old) buried within a Holocene river terrace, Housatonic River, Gaylordsville, CT.; American Indian Archaeological Institute, Washington, CT.; (203) 868-0518; TRANSITIONAL, SETTLEMENT PATTERN, PATTERNS OF FLOODING, OCCUPATION FLOOR.

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is in the process of finalizing a preservation manual/guide-book for divers regarding protection of underwater historic properties. The purpose of the Guide is to explain in detail the procedures that must be followed under the provisions of the Vermont Historic Preservation Act of 1975 as well as to provide a background on the benefits of preservation to divers. Information on underwater archaeology in general and underwater archaeology in Vermont will also be included. For more information contact Giovanna Neudorfer, Division for Historic Preservation, Agency of Development and Community Affairs, Pavilion Office Building, Montpelier, Vermont.

North Haven Mall, Conn. Project. Phase II investigations of 6 sites indicate that three of the sites may meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register. The sites range from Late Archaic to Woodland, and most likely represent temporary seasonal or special purpose camps of base camps and/or villages located on the coast, approximately three miles away. Two of the sites may be very close in age, and may represent occupations by the same group of people. Kevin McBride, P.A.S.T., UCONN, Storrs, Conn. (203) 486-4264.

Marshall/Toogood Sites; urban pottery and brickyard, 1694-1749, Portsmouth, N.H. Steven Pendery, Dept. of Anthropology, Harvard University (617) 354-3380. URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY, CERAMICS.

Bostonian Hotel Site; mid-17th and early 18th century site. James Bradley, Massachusetts Historical Comm., Boston, Mass. (617) 727-8470.

Carr-Watson Farm, Jamestown, R.I., ca. 1796. SPNEA owned property. Testing and salvage excavation under former ell. Recovered intact deposit of domestic refuse, ca. 1825, of farm tenant family. Myron Stachiw, 562 Pleasant St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860.

Cape Cod National Seashore Archaeological Survey. Historic and prehistoric settlement pattern; probability sampling and site frequency estimation. Frank McManamon, National Park Service, 15 State St., Boston, Mass.

Bunker Hill Monument; Monitoring of foundation work on Monument lead to the discovery of four large retaining walls surrounding the Monument foundation. The retaining walls foot on the outermost course of the Monument's stepped foundation. Tom Mahlstedt, Dept. of Anthropology, Boston University.

Narragansett Bay Geomorphology; effect of sea level rise on sampling and view of prehistoric settlement patterns; Jordan Kerber, Anthropology Department, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912; (401) 3-3252; COASTAL ADAPTATIONS.

Fish Scales in Historic Sites Archaeology; David A. Singer, UMASS, Boston, MA; (617) 491-2539; FISH SCALES, SUBSISTENCE, RESOURCE UTILIZATION, PREDICTIVE MODELING.

17th-century New England assemblages; comparative analysis of early New England w/early Chesapeake; analysis of documentary materials (i.e., probate records, etc.); culture contact; frontier models; colonialism. Mary Beaudry, Archaeological Studies Program, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215; (617) 353-3426; HISTORICAL ARCH: MATERIAL CULTURE.

Stanley Site, Exeter, N.H.; lithic workshop, seasonal campsite on Exeter River; Donald W. Foster, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.; (603) 722-3411, Ext. 214. LITHIC, SUBSISTENCE, SETTLEMENT, WORKSHOP.

Senecal Site; underground lithic structure in the Berkshires; James P. Whittall Early Sites Research Society, Rowley; (617) 948-2410, LITHICS, ARCHITECTURE.



Merrimack River Valley, NH and MA; Woodland adaptations; pre-historic pottery technology and "ceramic ecology;" Victoria Kenyon, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215; (603)679-8578; POTTERY, PREHISTORY.

White Mountain National Forest; historic site verification; Martha Brummer, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824; (603) 862-2769; HISTORIC, SETTLEMENT PATTERNS.

Coastal Zone of NH; prehistoric site survey and evaluation; ongoing research through 1987; W. Dennis Chesley and Martha Brummer, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824; (603) 862-1547, 2769; COASTAL ADAPTATIONS, SETTLEMENT PATTERNS.

Intensive Survey of Damariscove Island, ME.; fishing stage heads; farmstead; granite quarries; Coast Guard complex; Alaric Faulkner, University of Maine, Orono, ME.; (207) 581-2109; MIXED FISHING AND FARMING ECONOMY, 1622-1922, ISLAND SETTLEMENT IN HISTORIC PERIODS.

Fort Pentagoet, Castine, ME.; emergency evaluation and testing; major French fortified settlement ca. 1635-1744 threatened by coastal erosion; Alaric Faulkner, University of Maine, Orono, ME.; (207) 581-2109; ACADIAN SETTLEMENT IN MAINE, STABILIZATION VS. SALVAGE.

Jamestown Bridge Site, RI 711. Phase II site examination recovered information on Late Archaic, Early to Middle Woodland and Late Woodland occupations bordering on a small freshwater stream flowing into Narragansett Bay. Covering an area of approximately 1.4 acres, the site location is typical of other sites on the Island. Site activities include tool manufacturing (cores, decortification flakes, and unmodified flakes), materials processing (expediently used flakes), cooking and/or storage (grit-tempered pottery and charcoal), and perhaps shellfish use. Because of its typical location and broad temporal representations, it is expected that further investigations will yield information on how, when and why the Island was used by prehistoric populations. Copies of the report giving a full discussion of lithic analysis, densities, and distribution are available for cost. Paul Robinson, R.I. Historical Preservation Comm., 150 Benefit St., Providence, R.I.

The Indian Neck Ossuary, Wellfleet, Mass. At least 25 individuals were interred in the 1/2 - 1/3 of the ossuary excavated. Two burial layers were discovered --a compact cremation overlain by disarticulated unburned bone. The ossuary seems likely to date to the late woodland. Jim Bradley, Mass. Historical Commission, Frank McManamon, NPS-Boston, Tom Mahlstedt, Dept of Anthropology, Boston University.

Major Culture History Exhibit; "Culture History Mystery", and Paleo-Indian through the Indian Excavation Strategy Game. For wars; planning grant from NEH; more information contact the Bruce Bourque, Maine State Division for Historic Preservation, Museum, Augusta, ME; (207) 289-2301; EXHIBITION, PRE-HISTORIC, CONTACT. Community Affairs, Pavilion Office Building, Montpelier, VT.

Preliminary report, faunal analysis, Waldo-Hennessy shell midden, Branford, Conn. Excavations at this site recovered a shell refuse over 30 cm. deep containing the remains of over 300 bone and tooth fragments. The analysis of the skeletal materials currently being conducted includes 1) species identification, 2) bone weight calculations to estimate animal body weight, 3) estimates of minimum numbers of individuals per species, 4) age and sex determinations, 5) cultural and natural modifications of the bone, and 6) ecological and seasonality patterns. Preliminary research has shown that the bone is predominately white-tailed deer, with striped skunk and porcupine the remaining mammals. Avian identification includes a mallard duck and an egret.

The analysis of the carrying capacity for the shellfish in the midden and the methodology is forthcoming. Two sets of calculations were recorded to provide estimates of the number of persons able to live on oysters and soft-shelled clams based on caloric and protein requirements for a single day. The total section of the excavated site thus far analyzed would have supported 18.96 persons for one day based on caloric intake, and 101.33 persons based on the necessary protein requirements consuming oysters and soft-shelled clams alone. Sources of animal protein other than shellfish remain to be calculated so that overall estimates of biomass, human prehistoric demography, and the extent of site occupancy can be more reliably demonstrated.

The faunal debris of the site demonstrates a heterogeneous pattern of environmental exploitation. Seasonality of the food resources indicates that the shell midden was occupied during the fall months and the site distribution shows that the inhabitants returned to the area periodically. The physical evidence of the utilization of terrestrial game animals, waterfowl, and shellfish collecting permits a unique test setting to analyze prehistoric subsistence patterns along the Southern New England coast. P.A.S.T. UCONN, Storrs, Conn. (203) 486-4264.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Beginning with the next newsletter, we will add a section called AMAZING DISCOVERIES. Please send us your entries or a contact person for an out-of-the-ordinary discovery.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Readers are asked to submit bibliographic entries of hard-to-find works with research interest. It is anticipated that most entries will be unpublished or published in limited quantities. Please follow American Antiquity style. Please indicate manuscript location and cost.

Beaudry, Mary C.

in "Glossary". In Plymouth Colony Probate Records, ed. by Anne Yentsch, James Deetz, and Joelle Stein. Plimoth Plantation and Brown University. Arno Press, New York.

Bellantoni, Nicholas F.

1980 Prehistoric Biologic and Archaeologic Relationships in Eastern North America. Unpublished M. A. thesis, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Bower, Beth Anne

1977 Excavations at the Selleck Cabin Site, Hubbardton Battlefield, East Hubbardton, Vermont VT-RU-39, Fall 1977. For the Division of Historic Preservation, State of Vermont, Giovanna Nuedorfer, State Archaeologist.

Curtin, Edward

1979 Predictive Modeling and Survey in the Uplands of Central New York. The Town of Catharine Survey and Planning Completion Report. Unpublished ms. on file at Department of Anthropology, State University of

Dickerson, W. H., and B. E. Dethies

1970 Drought Frequency in the Northeastern United States. Northeastern Regional Research Publication. West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 595. Morgantown, WV.

Dincauze, Dena, H. Martin Wobst, Robert Hasenstab and David M. Lacy.

1980 Retrospective Assessment of Archaeological Survey Contracts in Massachusetts, 1970-79. Ms. prepared under provisions of S&P grant-in-aid for the Mass. Hist. Commission.

Goya, Randal A.

1980 Subsistence Models for the Narragansett Basin and an Evaluation of the Shellfish Resources at the Greenwich Cove Site. Unpublished honors thesis, Department of Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, RI.

Keller, Jana, Kathleen Quinn, and Stephanie Rodeffer

1979 A Bibliography of Archaeological Reports Relating to the Eastern United States. On file at Interagency Archeological Services Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Lee, Virginia

1980 An Elusive Compromise: Rhode Island Coastal Ponds and Their People. Coastal Resources Center, University of R.I. Marine Technical Report 73.

Mahlstedt, Thomas E.

1980 Archeological Monitoring: Bunker Hill Monument Stabilization, 1980. On file NPS-Boston.

Mahlstedt, Thomas F.

1980 An Interpretation of the Mortuary Ceremonialism at the Indian Neck Ossuary, Cape Cod, Mass. Paper presented at 1980 Annual Meeting NEAA.

McManamon, Francis P.

1975 Prehistoric Hunter-Fisher-Gatherers: Implications from Ethnohistory. Unpublished M.A. theses. Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, Binghamton, NY.

Moran, Geoffrey P.

- 1977 Archaeological Excavations at the Narbone House, completion report, Denver Service Center (NPS), with Zimmer and Yentsch.

Niering, William A.

- 1978 Our Wetland Heritage: Historic, Artistic, and Future Perspectives. From Wetland Functions and Values: The State of Our Understanding; Proceedings of the National Symposium on Wetlands. Contact Botany Department, Connecticut College.

Pendery, Steven

- 1975 Settlement Archaeology of the Mott Farm, Portsmouth, R.I. B.A. Honor Thesis, Anthropology Dept., Brown University.

Perlman, Stephen M.

- 1976 Optimum Diet Models and Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers: A Test on Martha's Vineyard. Unpublished Ph.D. thesis UMASS, Amherst, MA.

Riznik, Barnes

- 1965 New England Sawmills. Report prepared by the Department of Research, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass.

Singer, David A.

- 1980 Model Formation and Hypotheses Generation from Documentary Reconstruction of Historic Fishing Activities: 17th Century Cambridge. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Albany, NY.

Thomas, Peter A. and Lauren A. Kelley

An Archaeological View of Vermont's Past. Published as an Educational Service by the Division for Historic Preservation Agency of Development and Community Affairs, State of Vermont, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 1981

To apply for annual membership to the CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY, please fill out the following form. The \$5.00 membership for the remainder of 1981 includes 2 issues of the Newsletter.

Make checks payable to: CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Send to: Beth Bower  
Treasurer-CNEA  
Museum of Afro-American History  
Box 5 Dudley Station  
Roxbury, Mass. 02119

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest:

Editor's Note: You, the members, are the ones that will keep this organization alive! Please keep sending us your Current Research and Results and hard-to-find Bibliographic entries.

Next deadline: October 1, 1981

Send to: Gail Gustafson  
R.I. Historical Preservation Comm.  
150 Benefit St.  
Providence, R.I. 02903