

Morag M. Kersel

During the summer of 2011 **Morag M. Kersel** directed the survey component of the Galilee Prehistory Project at the site of Marj Rabba (directed by Yorke Rowan; see separate report). The first component of the broader site survey methodology was the implementation of a highly intensive pedestrian surface survey. In the pedestrian survey two notable “hotspots” were identified in which high concentrations of artifacts were evident on the surface. In the northern hotspot there was a high concentration of all types of artifacts: lithics (including tools), ceramics (Roman-Byzantine, local and Golan Chalcolithic wares), and basalt (vessels). The southern hotspot has unusually high concentrations of worked and unworked basalt fragments (including vessels and grinding stones). Further investigation of these areas of interest will be undertaken in summer 2012.

In addition to the archaeological site survey, Thomas Urban of Oxford University performed a geophysical prospection in targeted areas of the site. Specifically, ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry were employed. These remote-sensing techniques attempted to identify subsurface archaeological remains (primarily architectural remains).

Preliminary results of the geophysical survey identified an area to the south of the current excavation area with prominent subsurface features only 70–80 cm below the surface. Analyses of the geophysical survey are still being conducted.

In spring 2012 Morag hosted a film series on Sunday afternoons in Breasted Hall in conjunction with the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. Additionally, in the spring Morag, Yorke Rowan, and Gil Stein conducted a series of preparatory workshops on archaeology, survey, faunal remains, and the Chalcolithic period with high-school students from the Rowe-Clarke Academy of Math and Science, who participated in the summer excavations at Marj Rabba.

With Yorke Rowan she presented the results of research at Marj Rabba at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in November 2012. They are currently working on a comprehensive interim report on the first three seasons of excavation and survey at Marj Rabba.

During the winter and spring quarters Morag also acted as the thesis advisor for Marjorie Betley (University of Chicago MAPSS student) on cultural heritage laws in Turkey.

During 2011–2012 Morag, with co-editor Matthew Rutz of Brown University, worked on the edited volume *Archaeologies of Text: Archaeology, Technology, and Ethics*. This volume, with

a keynote contribution by Matt Stolper of the Oriental Institute, is to be published in the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World Series by Equinox Press.
