



# Friends of the Office of State Archaeology

*Member Newsletter  
Fall 2001*

FOSA  
P. O. Box 380845  
East Hartford, CT 06138-0845  
<http://www.keegans.com/FOSA>

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As of this writing, short-term funding prospects for OSA remain at last year's status. Many of you know that the cultural heritage bill, which would have brought \$100,000 to OSA, died again in the legislature last spring. In the present economic and public funding climate, reviving such initiatives will be difficult. Thanks to the efforts of House Minority Leader Larry Cafero, UCONN has again provided OSA with \$15,000 for the current fiscal year. This amount, while very welcome, is a small percentage of what OSA needs to fulfill its various mandates. To secure adequate, permanent funding, FOSA is pursuing a possible link to building permits issued by the state's towns, as OSA devotes much time responding to threats to archaeological sites from new private development, and the permits have very limited ties to other state-funded programs. As our work on this effort evolves, we may call on members for assistance.

We try to combine education and entertainment at FOSA annual meetings, as those of you who attended the last one know. Thanks to quirks of fate, Nick Bellantoni, and our co-believers in the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, we hope to outdo ourselves next January 27, when the featured speaker at the annual meeting will be Jonathan Leader, the South Carolina State Archaeologist. Dr. Leader will tell us about current research on the recovery and study of the Confederate submarine *Hunley*, which has a link to Connecticut in the form of an identity tag from Union soldier Ezra Chamberlain found on one of the skeletons in the vessel. Nick has been involved in efforts to determine if the skeleton is Chamberlain, a native of Killingly. This will be an event sponsored jointly with the ASC, several of whose members have generously offered to cover travel and other expenses involved in bringing us this speaker. With topical hooks including the Civil War and dead people in submarines, we are expecting a large turnout at the Glastonbury High School auditorium. Details will be in the mail by early January, but mark your calendars now. See you there.

-- Mike Raber

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Friends of the Office of State Archaeology has a new postal address. All mail, including new memberships, renewals, donations and correspondence must now be sent to:

FOSA  
P. O. Box 380845  
East Hartford, CT 06138-0845

Be sure to let us know if you have moved or changed your phone or email address. Changes may be emailed to [mpjohnson@snet.net](mailto:mpjohnson@snet.net)

-- Mae Johnson, FOSA Secretary.

## THANK YOU, KATHIE

When people join a group like FOSA, they will sometimes question the contribution an individual volunteer can make. Well, Kathie Kelleher is the ultimate example of a volunteer who can make a major positive difference. She has been volunteering her time and energy (not to mention her expertise) at the OSA and in the field for over four years. When she saw how badly we needed volunteers, she left her job as school secretary in Winsted and started coming to our office.

Kathie's background in archaeology (we were both undergraduate students together at CCSU under Fred Warner, though I will not say how long ago!) and work experience allowed her to jump right in and help organize the cataloging of artifacts, updating the Connecticut Archaeology Library, and researching information requested by the public. She averaged 30 hours a week at the office and in the field! In addition, she served on the FOSA board of directors as recording secretary. To say she has made a huge difference would be an understatement.

Last year, Kathie and her husband, Dick, built a beautiful new house in Rhode Island. Although the drive was strenuous and long, Kathie continued to come to the office, especially through the summer when our students were unavailable. However, now that the students are back, she is establishing a life for herself in Rhode Island and will be spending the winter traveling and preparing for her daughter's wedding in the spring. As a result, to our great loss, she will be unable to continue her schedule at the OSA.

Kathie not only brought her skills and work ethic to the office, but also her wonderful sense of humor and spirited personality. She has made many friends here at UConn. The students always ask about her, and we already miss her presence greatly. She is a steadfast and loyal friend who has helped us through good and bad time -- a supreme volunteer who has made a difference that continues! Thank you, Kathie!

-- Nicholas Bellantoni

## NICK'S NEWS

Summer is over, and, the fall semester has begun at UConn. Fortunately, we have been given a break from our teaching responsibilities this year and will be able to catch up on the administrative duties of the OSA. Archaeological summer field investigations in which FOSA volunteers, under the direction of Dave Cooke, have participated include the Trueman's Meadow Site, Coventry; Cornwell Site, Portland; Owen Farm Site, Hebron; Two Rivers Site, New Milford; Underwater shipwreck, Connecticut River, and the Pitkin Glass Factory, Manchester. We appreciate

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