



**Special points of interest:**

- Volunteer Profile: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown
- Article: Archaeology and Ethics
- Article: Cave Hill: Noises in Moodus, Connecticut
- FOSA website: <http://www.fosa-ct.org>

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

# Member Newsletter



## President's Letter

FOSA Members:

What a crowd attended our fifteenth Annual Meeting! The glorious Chauvet Cave paintings were highlighted along with Zach Zorich's knowledgeable discussion of the cave's archaeology and his insight into its possible habitations. Sincere thanks to Paul Scannell, chairman, Jim Trocchi (programs) and Pat Reardon (volunteers), for their successful efforts. A big thank you also goes to the volunteers who handled the admission process.

Nick now has an assistant working on the Town files and GIS, work paid for with money donated by FOSA. The lab at Horsebarn Hill continues to be busy on Mondays with student help working with the OSA Library and another small group cataloging artifacts. We would love to have more volunteers for both of these efforts! Please contact Mandy Ranslow, [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com), for details.

Earlier in the year the archaic age of Nick's

printer was brought to the Board's attention, a situation that has now been corrected! The new color printer faxes, scans and copies—a vast improvement!

The April 28 ASC meeting will be held at the Simsbury Historical Society, with registration beginning at 9:30 am. The program is tentatively titled "The Periphery of Archaeology" and will feature papers on the sciences and technologies that support the field archaeologist such as forensics, micromorphology, Ground Penetrating Radar, Satellite Imagery, and DNA. This will be a fascinating meeting and I encourage you to take advantage the opportunity to attend.

We are looking forward to more digs this spring, summer and fall. If you are interested in participating, please let Mandy Ranslow know so that you can be put on the Dig list.

Best wishes for a satisfying spring and summer.

*Cynthia Redman, President*



## News from the Office of State Archaeology

This fall, vandals dug into an archaeological site at Fort Griswold State Park in Groton, Connecticut. While the suspects say they were digging to "clean up" the area, and did not realize it was an archaeological site associated with the Revolutionary War, below-ground damage was done to the area associated with one of the Fort's redoubts. (A redoubt is a smaller fort outside the main fort to confront the advance of enemy soldiers before they can attack the main garrison.)

As the American Revolution was coming to an end, Benedict Arnold, a native of Norwichtown, led British forces up the Thames River, set fire to the City of New London, and attacked the garrison at Fort Griswold. The attack became known as the Battle of Groton Heights (September 6, 1781).

Fort Griswold State Park, due to its significance in being one of only two battles actually fought on Connecticut's soil during the Revolutionary War

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## FOSA Assisting Dr. Nick

In the fall of 2011 FOSA's Board of Directors approved funding to provide Nick Bellantoni with assistance at the Office of State Archaeology. I have been working at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center one or two days a week since December 2011. My work includes updating the state site files in the database and on the GIS map (Geographic Information Systems is a program that allows the State Archaeologist and State Historic Preservation Office to track where

sites have been identified throughout the state and plot them on a state-wide map. When new projects are proposed the map can be reviewed for potential archaeological sensitivity). I also assist Dr. Nick with project reviews and provide information to researchers. I plan to continue this work through the spring. I would like to express my thanks to FOSA for this opportunity to help out Dr. Nick!

*Mandy Ranslow*

## Below Ground

Greetings from sunny Florida! Polly and I are vacationing on Marco Island until early April. Due to the warm winter weather in February, Nick and I took advantage of the opportunity to preview some interesting sites for this year's dig season. Day trips to the Barkley complex in Ashford, the Pitkin site in Manchester, the Hungerford Library site in Harwinton are just three examples from an extensive lineup.

Several GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) projects were also conducted by Debbie and her assistants. In particular, the Ellington Historical Society asked us to survey the lawn in hopes of putting together a program to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nellie McKnight Historic House.

Nick and I spent a day on Kelsey Island helping Ben Kelsey excavate near the beach area. He's doing a wonderful job and both historic and prehistoric complexes have been identified. We also met with Joan Hill at the Root Site in Columbia where she brought us up to date on her plans for the coming season.

The CSMNH Archaeology Field School will be held

again this year, but the site is TBD at this time. We think the Barkley Site in Ashford is a great venue, but other sites are also being considered.

Nick and I were invited to join a hiking tour of the Dividend site in Rocky Hill. It is an impressive complex and many may remember the work we completed at the Shear factory in 2002 under the direction of June Cooke. A dedication of the Dividend Preserve is being planned for July of this year, and the efforts of June will be recognized.

Finally, the annual Field Day with the Glastonbury Middle School children is planned for October. As soon as dates are scheduled, I will alert the membership so interested members can mark their calendars. Volunteers for this event, as in past years, would be greatly appreciated.

As in the past, I will be announcing future plans as early as I can via email. If you would like to be notified, I can be reached at BGreene316@aol.com. In addition, my phones are 860-721-0053 or 860-748-2749 [cell].

*Bruce Greene*

## News from the Office of State Archaeology

*(Continued from page 1)*

(the other being the Battle of Ridgefield), has been designated a State Archaeological Preserve by the State Historic Preservation Council and the State Historic Preservation Office, with consultation of the State Archaeologist. Penalties associated with unauthorized "digging" at this and other Preserve sites is punishable by fines (up to \$5,000), confiscation of materials, and imprisonment for up to five years. The case is currently before the State's Attorney's Office.

Fort Griswold has a special place in my heart because I "cut my archaeological teeth" at the site. Back in 1973, as an undergraduate at Central Connecticut State University, I worked under the direction of Dr. Frederic Warner (FOSA

member), excavating the interior of the fort to locate foundations to some of the structures. Now, almost 40 years later, we are working to avoid vandalism there.

As members of FOSA, you all work hard to support our office and preserve archaeological sites in the state. Each archaeological site is like an endangered species; lose it, and it is gone forever! We look forward to working with you in our preservation efforts. Please feel free to report any acts of vandalism you are aware of from archaeological sites in the state to us and we will pursue it.

*Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD  
State Archaeologist*

## Volunteer Profile: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown is the founder and executive director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network. Her interest in cemeteries started with work on her family cemetery in Maine when she became President of the Shapleigh Family Association. During the 1980s, she went to her first Association for the Gravestones Studies Conference and was impressed with all there was to learn. "It was combining my interest in art, history, and archaeology, and being a detective all in one," states Ruthie.

After meeting John Spaulding and his wife Betty at a workshop at the Center Cemetery in East Hartford, Ruthie acknowledges, "It was during that time that the idea of the Gravestone Network started to form. The Network would have the objective of being an organization to help connect people and work on educating the public about protecting our historical burying grounds.

"My first experience working with Dr. Bellantoni was the exhumation of Henry Obookiah in 1993. A group of his descendants arranged for the remains of Henry Obookiah to be returned to Hawaii. (See FOSA Newsletter, Fall 2007 at FOSA website <http://www.fosa-ct.org>). It was a great experience to see large green Ti leaves brought by his descendants from Hawaii and placed in each corner of the coffin in preparation for his journey back to Hawaii.

"I get people telling me all the time that I work in places that are 'evil' or 'scary.' Often I feel very peaceful when visiting most old burying grounds. I immediately feel I've entered an 'old' place that has untouched history all around me.

"One time I did have a most interesting experience. I had knelt down to read a stone when my friend called out to me. I turned to respond to her and rested my hand on a small low stone next to me. All at once I felt something yank at my ring on that hand that was resting just above the stone. My hand suddenly and very forcefully pulled down to the small stone. I instinctively pulled my hand away but when I turned, expecting to see a small animal nearby, I saw nothing. I put my hand once again over the same spot and quickly I sensed what felt like a strong magnetic type energy that once again pulled my hand, mainly my ring, quickly down to the stone. I pulled back and tried a third time. The happening was gone. It was very strange but I must say not for a moment did I ever feel negative about it. Nothing was there and for those that think it might have



"The Gravestone Lady," Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, conducting restoration of a headstone. Photo by Ken Beatrice.

been a magnetic fluke, my ring was a wide sterling silver band. A few minutes later, as I gathered up my things, my attention was drawn to a stone just a few feet away. It was for two children. I suddenly felt like I'd been the victim of some childish prank and found myself smiling as if I had almost met them."

Ruthie has contributed her knowledge as a consultant and is a member of several organizations and associations. Among the projects that Ruthie has been a consultant were the following: Construction of language and bill passage in New York City regarding the reparation of Historic Connecticut Gravestones, The National Registry listing of the Old South Burying Ground in Hartford, and works with Townships and Municipal leaders for cemetery boundary concerns when threatened by development.

The long list of organizations of which Ruthie is a member includes the Association for Gravestone Studies for which she served as a Board member and Conference Chairperson. She is also a member of the Connecticut League of Historical Organizations, the Ancient Burying Grounds Association, the Connecticut Professional Genealogists, and is an active member of FOSA.

Countless honors and accolades have been awarded to Ruthie. Included among the many are Connecticut General Assembly Citation, Community Service from the Faith Trumbull Award of the DAR Chapter Norwich, the Connecticut Culture and Tourism Commission Distinguished Advocates Award, National Society Daughters of Colonial War Service Award.

Ruthie has been a tremendous asset to Connecticut's Office of State Archaeology and to Connecticut's many Townships. Her valuable knowledge and experience cannot be measured but is eagerly and enthusiastically shared. Each year the Connecticut Gravestone Network presents a symposium open to the public. This event is devoted to all that encompasses caring for and protecting our historic burying places. The program consists of informative lectures and displays from various historic groups, including an exhibit presented by FOSA.

Sincere thanks to you, Ruthie, for your dedication and all that you do for our State.

*Ken Beatrice*

## FOSA's Outreach Program

2011 offered FOSA's Outreach Program exciting opportunities to enhance public awareness of the importance of the Office of State Archaeology and preserving Connecticut's rich past through the science of archaeology. Outreach volunteers enjoy sharing with the public their experiences, stories and, most importantly, their enthusiasm for archaeology. As individuals, they enjoy visiting and participating in FOSA's exhibits and displays.

Among the events in which FOSA participated was the Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium in East Hartford. FOSA's display outlined the genealogy of 18<sup>th</sup> century freed slave and businessman Venture Smith along with the archaeological work performed in 2006 at the Venture Smith family plot in East Haddam.\* This past October FOSA also presented an exhibit during the Native American Festival at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. For this event, the display focused on the 35,000-year-old Cave Paintings at

Chauvet Cave in France. Several thousand people attended this festival, enjoying the Atlatl competitions, knapping demonstrations, Native American dance, music, food and the many other exhibits within the park.

**Volunteers are needed!** Watch your email for notices of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

For more information about FOSA's Outreach Program, contact Bonnie Beatrice at [FOSAoutreach@hotmail.com](mailto:FOSAoutreach@hotmail.com) or Volunteer Coordinator Mandy Ranslow at [FOSA.CT@gmail.com](mailto:FOSA.CT@gmail.com).

**Sincere thanks go out to all the dedicated volunteers that make these events possible.**

\*For more information on the Venture Smith project, visit FOSA's website [www.fosa-ct.org](http://www.fosa-ct.org), "Newsletters" Fall 2006.

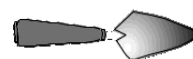
*Bonnie Beatrice*



FOSA volunteers at CGN Symposium. *Photo by Ken Beatrice.*



Native American Festival. *Photo by Bonnie Beatrice.*



## Thank You for Your Donations (since October 1, 2011)

### FOSA General Fund:

Sharon Clapp, Wolcott  
George Kinsella, Old Saybrook  
Arthur Lundeberg, Manchester  
Barbara Manstan, Westbrook  
Bob and Doris Martinchek, Newington  
Christopher and Carole Noble, New Britain  
Jeremy and Kristen Pilver, Avon  
Allen Polhemus, Uncasville  
Don Rankin, Madison

Deborah Turner Smith, Coventry  
Ernest Wiegand, Wilton  
Philip and Marilyn Wilsey, Newington  
Bruce and Janet Wallace, Wethersfield

### Radiocarbon Dating Fund:

Betsy and John Corrigan, Washington  
Patricia Reardon, Windsor  
Lee and Carol West, Wethersfield



## FOSA Officers and Board Members

Cynthia Redman – President  
 Paul Scannell – Vice President  
 Dreda Hendsey – Treasurer  
 Jim Trocchi – Secretary  
 Peter Bortolan – Board Member

Mike Cahill – **New** Board Member  
 Dick Hughes – Board Member  
 Jeremy Pilver – **New** Board Member  
 Mike Raber – Board Member  
 Mandy Ranslow – Board Member

## FOSA Annual Financial Report

### Calendar Year 2011

Beginning Balance 1/1/2011 ..... \$11,140.66  
 Income ..... \$9,955.80  
 Expenses ..... \$7,335.21  
 Ending Balance 12/31/2011 ..... \$13,761.25

### Dr. Douglas Jordan Radiocarbon Fund

Beginning Balance 1/1/2011 ..... \$3,432.80  
 Income ..... \$120.00  
 Expenses ..... \$0.00  
 Ending Balance 12/31/2011 ..... \$3,552.80



Zach Zorich and Nick Bellantoni at the January 2012 Annual Meeting. *Photo by Bonnie Beatrice.*

## Welcome New Members (since October 1, 2011)

Debjani Das, Avon  
 Thomas M. Foley, Jr., Taftville  
 Richard Galgano, Clinton  
 Robert L. Huntington, Jr., Hebron  
 Neal Konstantin, Norwalk  
 Russell Lundeberg, West Hartford  
 Geary Maher, Berlin



Candace Meader, Fairfield  
 Bill Morlock, Ridgefield  
 Ryan Olah, Southbury  
 John Strillacci & family, Southington  
 George S. Taterosian, Fairfield  
 Betsy Wacker, Westport

### Call for Volunteers

Are you a FOSA member who would like to be more involved? FOSA members participate in fieldwork with Dr. Nick, lab work at UConn, and public outreach. The Annual Meeting and Public Outreach Committees are always looking for new members. A new Committee for Archaeology Awareness Month will soon be starting and will also need volunteers. Do you have a talent to share or an idea of a way to contribute to FOSA? Contact Mandy Ranslow, Volunteer Coordinator, at [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com) for more information about the Committees, to be added to the FOSA diggers or lab workers e-mail lists, or with any of your ideas.

## Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

### ***2012 Summer Archaeology Field Schools***

This coming summer two University of Connecticut Archaeology Field Schools, Battlefield and Prehistoric, will be hosted at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center from late May to early July.

The 2012 Prehistoric field school will take place on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation and focus on excavating a potential Paleoindian site (ca. 12,000BP-10,000BP) and continuing to survey glacial kame terraces around the Great Cedar Swamp. The Battlefield Archaeology Field School will research and excavate at Pequot War (1636-1637) and King Philip's War (1675-1676) battlefield sites. Please contact Kevin McBride at [kevin.mcbride@uconn.edu](mailto:kevin.mcbride@uconn.edu) for more information on the University of Connecticut 2012 Field Schools.

### ***Battlefields of the Pequot War Project News***

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center continues its endeavors in the *Battlefields of the Pequot War* project, with assistance from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program.

Education and preservation initiatives underway are curriculum and exhibit components to educate the public about new research on the Pequot War and the Battle of Mystic Fort – including recent results from a report submitted to the NPS in late 2011. One prototype display is currently on view at the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

The field crew is continuing to survey the “Retreat from Mystic Fort,” which began last fall. Excavations and metal detection have been incredibly successful, yielding battle-related artifacts. The “Retreat from Mystic Fort” project plans to identify the retreat route that the English and Native Allied Force took to the Thames River Harbor following the battle at Mystic Fort. Primary sources document eight significant actions of Pequot counterattacks on the combined English and Native force during their retreat through enemy country. Excavations and metal detecting are continuing this spring and into the summer.

Currently, the staff is wrapping up research documenting Saybrook Fort, once located in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. During the Pequot War, Saybrook Fort was besieged by Pequot forces during the winter of 1636-1637. Meetings with landholders in the Saybrook Point area will continue this spring and summer to request permissions for field work in the projected area of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century era fort.

Once again, many thanks to the Yankee Territory Coinshooters metal detecting club. Without their help, the *Battlefields of the Pequot War* excavations would not have been successful.

(Learn more about the *Battlefields of the Pequot War* project by visiting [www.pequotwar.org](http://www.pequotwar.org). Visit the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program by clicking: “National Battlefield Projects” to read more about the program and other interesting national battlefield projects that are underway.)

*Laurie Pasteryak*

## Archaeology and Ethics

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “ethics” as a “theory or system of moral values” and a “guiding philosophy.” Professional archaeology societies (e.g. Register of Professional Archaeologists, Society for American Archaeology, and Society for Historical Archaeology) have detailed codes of ethics, which include preservation of archaeological sites, public reporting and publication, protection of artifacts, and acknowledgement of the importance of cultural heritage ([www.rpanet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=3](http://www.rpanet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=3), [www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/PrinciplesofArchaeologicalEthics/tabid/203/Default.aspx](http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/PrinciplesofArchaeologicalEthics/tabid/203/Default.aspx), [www.sha.org/about/ethics.cfm](http://www.sha.org/about/ethics.cfm)). Archaeology is a profession, and this philosophy guides how archaeologists carry out their work.

Ethics in regard to archaeology are an important issue to discuss in light of two new reality TV shows, “Diggers” on

the National Geographic Channel and “American Diggers” on Spike TV. These shows follow collectors (one of whom is a former wrestler turned relic-hunter) who dig up artifacts in hopes of selling them. These are unsystematic excavations carried out by people who are not archaeologists. Artifacts are extracted from the ground with no respect or understanding of archaeological methods or preservation. The use of heavy duty excavation equipment is seriously detrimental to an archaeological site. By digging up artifacts in this way the context is lost. While an object may tell us some things about the past, it can tell us much more if we know where it came from spatially within a site and what other artifacts were associated with it. Artifacts with no provenience lose their ability to help us understand the past in a meaningful way.

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## Cave Hill: Noises in Moodus, Connecticut

The village of Moodus, in the town of East Haddam, gets its name from the Indian word, “Machimoodus” which means “place of noises” (Roberts 1906:86). In the area of Cave Hill and Mt. Tom in Machimoodus State Park, there are reports that go back centuries of these legendary noises.

It is said that the Native Americans believed the noises were the work of Hobomocko or Satan, and held powwows. *“From the earliest of inhabitants of this region, the people of the Pequot, Mohegan and Narragansett tribes, the thundering and quaking around Mount Tom were evidence of the living presence of the god Hobomocko, who sat below on a sapphire throne and decreed all human calamity”* (Philips 1992:201). Further, *“Connecticut Indians de-*

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Entrance to Moodus Cave. Photo by Jim Trocchi.

## Archaeology and Ethics

*(Continued from page 6)*

Further, these shows encourage the general public to dig up their own yards in hopes of finding “treasure.” Artifacts become commodities that are bought and sold only to be hidden away in someone’s house, out of sight, and with no access for the general public or researcher. Profit is the primary motivation for excavation. (It is also unclear what happens to artifacts not deemed “valuable.”) This kind of practice robs us all of knowledge of our collective past. While it may not be illegal to dig up your own back yard, it doesn’t make it ethical. This illicit digging may also lead to the looting of sites on public land, which is illegal.

I encourage you all to carefully consider the impact these types of activities have on the community at large. The American Association of Museums has its own code of ethics ([www.aam-us.org/museumresources/ethics/coe.cfm](http://www.aam-us.org/museumresources/ethics/coe.cfm)) which includes the preservation of artifacts and discourages illicit trade and individual financial gain. Even if the artifacts are ultimately donated to a museum (that is willing to accept them at all), the context of the artifacts is missing, and little might be understood about the site from which it was excavated. If we do not preserve our history now and ensure artifacts are available for future analysis, we deprive posterity of the knowledge that may be gained. Selling our history today only does our future a disservice.

The archaeology community has spoken out strongly against these TV shows. The Society for American Archaeology has released statements, ([saa.org/Portals/0/SAA/Press/Diggers.pdf](http://saa.org/Portals/0/SAA/Press/Diggers.pdf), [www.saa.org/Portals/0/SAA/new/American%20Digger%20Letter%20-%20Spike%20TV.pdf](http://www.saa.org/Portals/0/SAA/new/American%20Digger%20Letter%20-%20Spike%20TV.pdf)) and petitions are also being circulated ([www.change.org/petitions/stop-spike-tv-from-looting-our-collective-past](http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-spike-tv-from-looting-our-collective-past), [www.change.org/petitions/national-geographic-society-wwwnationalgeographiccom-stop-airing-the-television-show-diggers](http://www.change.org/petitions/national-geographic-society-wwwnationalgeographiccom-stop-airing-the-television-show-diggers)). I encourage you to spread the word about

the detrimental effects of this show. Please speak out. These shows misrepresent archaeological research. This type of misrepresentation is especially dangerous on the National Geographic Channel in light of National Geographic’s scholarly respect and history of sponsoring archaeological research.

Archaeologists realize that excavation is inherently destructive, that is why they make sure to dig systematically while recording a site thoroughly with notes and photographs. There must be a research question that needs to be answered in order to justify excavation. Recovered artifacts, notes, and reports are stored in a facility such as a museum or university where they are accessible to others. The research archaeologists do is for the public’s benefit.

Organizations such as FOSA provide wonderful opportunities for individuals interested in archaeology to participate in archaeological research under the supervision of a professional archaeologist. It is important we set the example and act in accordance with archaeological standards. While “academic” archaeology may appear “snobbish” to some, it is clear that FOSA, along with many other community archaeology programs across the country, provides a way for everyone to participate in researching the past through material culture.

I know I am preaching to the choir since your membership in FOSA demonstrates how you value archaeology, but I want to prompt discussion and awareness. I welcome feedback, responses, and questions about this issue of archaeological ethics (send to [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com)). These comments will be published in FOSA’s Fall Newsletter. If you would like more information about community archaeology programs please e-mail [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com).

*Mandy Ranslow*



## The Moodus Noises

*(Continued from page 7)*

*pended upon the local Machimoodus tribe to interpret the many voices of the evil deity” (Philips 1992:199).*

Just as the Native Americans feared these noises, they also spooked the first Europeans. Even into the 18<sup>th</sup> century, some people believed that the cave at Cave Hill gave direct access to the realm of Hobomocko (Philips 1992:201).

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a scientific point of view was taken as to the cause of these noises. It was thought that maybe these noises were seismic disturbances. Finally in 1981, scientists studied the area. They “used a series of special underground sensors to monitor for seismic conditions; otherwise, the earthquakes are too small to detect” (Hartford Courant 15 Aug 2007: B.2.). They detected over 500 micro-earthquakes over a 3-month period (Hartford Courant 15 Aug 2007: B.2.). These small quakes produce audible sounds, and hence the strange Moodus noises that have been reported near the confluence of the Moodus and Salmon Rivers in the Cave Hill and Mt. Tom area.



Looking down into the depths of Moodus Cave. *Photo by Jim Trocchi.*

In May of 1791 a quake occurred in this area with its epicenter in Moodus. It created heavy damage, knocking down chimneys, toppling walls and leaving fissures in the ground. Scientists estimate that the quake would have registered a 4.3 on the Richter scale (Hartford Courant 25 Mar. 2011: B.1.).

There have been smaller quakes since then, measuring around 1.3 on the Richter scale. Noises being emitted have been described as “cannon fire,” “a heavy log rolling,” “a clap of thunder” and “the passing of a heavy truck” (Hartford Courant 15 Aug 2007: B.2.). In March 2011 there was an incident of explosive sounds that shook houses and sent out emergency personnel, the cause of which was verified as a small tremor or quake (Hartford Courant 25 Mar. 2011: B.1.).

A day trip to both Machimoodus State Park and Cave Hill is a day well spent. This State Park offers hiking, horse-



Looking out of Moodus Cave. *Photo by Jim Trocchi.*

back trails and cross-country skiing in season. You can enjoy all this natural beauty while you’re thinking about the myths and legends that go with this area.

I found the cave at nearby Cave Hill a unique feature. My visit made me realize that this isn’t some exaggerated nook or cranny; it is a narrow but deep cave. As can be seen in Photo 1, the cave has a sizable entrance that you can easily enter without having to crawl; just little stooping required. Once inside the cave, Photo 2 shows its depth; it appears to enter into the abyss. It reminds me of what a doctor sees when he’s examining your throat. It would be interesting to see how deep it goes, but I found no reference to anyone ever probing the cave’s depth. Photo 3 gives you a perspective from inside the cave looking out and again the size of the entrance.

Interestingly, in the same rock formation of the cave there are also two rock-shelters, one very large in size (see Photo 4). In this rock overhang, all that is needed is something such as wood to cover the front to make this natural formation a living space. I remember an archaeology instructor lecturing many times that if you come across a rock-

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Rock shelter at Cave Hill. *Photo by Jim Trocchi.*



## Archaeology Books

### ***A History of the World in 100 Objects***

By Neil MacGregor, *Director of the British Museum*  
Viking Press, 2011

This book was just released in October 2011 and, I think, is a “must read” for anyone interested in archaeology and history. It is a macroscopic and parallel view of human history across the globe. It uniquely tells history through objects or artifacts instead of depending solely on written text. All 100 objects that the author has chosen are from a huge collection housed in the British Museum, which was founded in 1753. The 100 chosen objects cover a time range beginning 2 million years ago with the Olduvai Stone Chopping Tool to 2010 AD with the Solar Powered Lamp and Charger. MacGregor and associates used three criteria in choosing the 100 objects to tell the history of the world: 1) they had to equally encompass the whole world as much as possible, 2) address as many aspects of humanity as possible, and 3) tell us about all classes of human societies, not just the powerful and the wealthy.

The book is neatly divided into twenty parts in chronological order, with five chapters per part. Each chapter covers a specific object and meets the three criteria as mentioned above.

The author and his associates take a deep look into objects such as the Olduvai Stone Chopping Tool, which has no written text to go along with it. Some objects have written text but that text may be biased by the invader or conqueror and may not reflect the culture that actually made them.

Here is a sample of what to expect. In Part 10, chapters 46 through 50, you will see a demonstration of parallel events happening around the globe at the same time. The

specific object in each chapter is from a time period dating 400-800 AD in Syria, England, Peru, Korea and China. They encompass a wide expanse of the globe and demonstrate how advanced all these civilizations were around the same time.

Another interesting sample is in chapter 88 where the object is a North American Buckskin Map. It is discussed and compared to an English map of the same time period. They explain how differences in distances, spatial relationships and geographic notation on these two maps clearly explain the ethos distinction between the two cultures in how they viewed the land. Contrary to the English, the Native Americans thought of land just like the air we breathe, it had no ownership or price. It is analysis like this throughout the book that teaches us how to think like archaeologists. This is what I think you will enjoy most about the book.

This is a great read and reference for archaeologists, cultural anthropologists and historians of any level. It is 658 pages with over 100 of these pages being beautiful pictures. It is a very popular book on the shelves of the local libraries, and you may have to get on a waiting list. I was fortunate to find available copies at nearby libraries, the two in Windsor and the one in Windsor Locks.

*Jim Trocchi*

### ***Putnam's Revolutionary War Winter Encampment: The History and Archaeology of Putnam Memorial State Park***

By Daniel Cruson, *History Press, 2011*

The winter encampment in Redding was General Israel

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## The Moodus Noises

*(Continued from page 8)*

shelter you have an archaeological site. Native Americans and early European settlers used rock-shelters as living quarters.

Jim Trocchi

### References:

Clark, Marlene. What's That Strange Sound? Just The Earth Shaking. *Hartford Courant*, Aug. 15, 2007: B.2.

Hasselburg, Erik. Small Quake Leaves Town Shaken All Over: “Moodus Noises.” *Hartford Courant*, March 25, 2011: B.1.

Philips, David E. *Legendary Connecticut*. Curbstone Press, Willimantic, CT, 1992.

Roberts, George S. *Historic Towns of the Connecticut River Valley*. Robson and Adee Publishers, Schenectady, NY, 1906

## Meetings and Announcements

**Thursday, April 12 - 7:30: The Search for Ezra Chamberlin & the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley** - Dr. Nick Bellantoni will give a talk at the South Windsor Public Library. For more details: <http://southwindsorlibrary.org/sw/>.

**Saturday, April 14 - Conference for New England Archaeology 2012 Meeting** - "Emerging Trends in Paleo Indian Interpretation" Portsmouth, NH, for more details: [www.cnea-web.org](http://www.cnea-web.org).

**Saturday, April 14 - 3:00: Redding Archaeology: Open Spaces and University Excavations** - Drs. Laurie Weinstein, Bethany Morrison, and Cosimo Sgarlata of Western Connecticut State University will describe remains of winter encampments of the 1<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Brigade along Limekiln Road, made famous in the journal of Joseph Plumb Martin. The site was preserved through cooperative purchase by the Town of Redding and The Nature Conservancy, and will be protected as a Connecticut Archaeological Preserve. Lecture will be held at the Redding Community Center.

**Saturday, April 21 - 10 to 2: Old South Clean Up** - Old South Burying Ground, Maple Street, Hartford, CT. Contact Ruthie Brown at 860-643-5652 or [shapbrown@cox.net](mailto:shapbrown@cox.net) if you would like to join us. In coordination with Global Youth Service Day. Work that day will include gathering branches, planting bulbs, uprighting downed stones and cleaning stones.

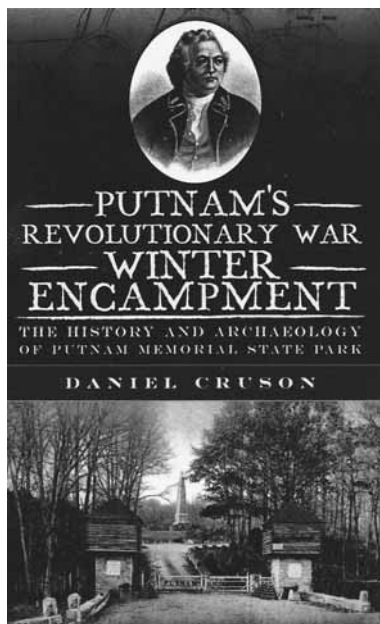
**Sunday, April 22 - 11:00 am: LHAC Sponsored Field Trip to Gungywump.** The Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club is sponsoring a trip to the enigmatic Gungywump site in Groton, CT. William J. Dopirak, Jr., an Associate Professor of Science at Three Rivers Community College will lead the group in exploring this intriguing site. With many fascinating features, including a double circle of stones, standing stones and multiple stone chambers, Gungywump has been the focus of much archaeological controversy. At least one chamber is constructed so that during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, sunlight streams in through an opening in the wall and illuminates a "hidden" subchamber. Who do *you* think built Gungywump? Meet at 11:00 am in the parking lot of The Institute for American

## Archaeology Books

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Putnam's last command. During the winter of 1778-79 he led about three thousand troops of the Continental Army into three separate valleys of northern Redding where they built temporary huts for protection against the winter cold. Here they lived for five to six months before marching out to engage the British for the next fighting season. This is the story of that winter sojourn in the wilds of western Connecticut, and the dramatic effect that this fourfold increase in population had on Redding.

For the past twelve years, we have been engaged in archaeological excavations in the eastern most of these three encampments. During the course of our work, we have been actively searching out any and all documentation about the men of the park and the style of life they led during those months. What we have found is startling and new, having application to not only our winter camp but also that at Valley Forge, which was the year before, and at Morristown, the year after. This camp was a true transition as the Revolutionary Army continued to turn itself into a professional army proficient



enough to finally defeat the British Army at Yorktown.

During that winter there were skirmishes with lawless elements along the border, a near mutiny of a company of restive troops, two executions, and stories of heroism such as Putnam's perilous ride down the 100 steps that separate the two sections of the Village of Greenwich. This was also the winter and location in which the Masons reestablished themselves in Redding as a social force in the Continental Army. Central to all of this, however, is the daily life of the underfed, underclothed, and underpaid soldier who endured the monotonous daily activities of the off-season. Between the things that they left behind and the documents they generated, the most complete picture of a Revolutionary War soldier's daily life that has yet been created is presented here.

This book is available for \$20.00 at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, The Newtown Historical Society and, of course, at the visitor center of Putnam Memorial State Park.

*Daniel Cruson*

## Meetings and Announcements

*(Continued from page 10)*

Indian Studies Museum & Research Center, 38 Curtis Road, Washington, CT. We will caravan down to Groton. Fee: \$10.00; LHAC Members Free.

**Saturday, April 28 - 9:30am: Archaeological Society of Connecticut Meeting** - "The Periphery of Archaeology" Simsbury Historical Society.

**Saturday, May 19 - 10 to 3: Activity Day Workshop at Center Cemetery, East Hartford.** Friends of Center Cemetery. Workshop: "cleaning and resetting stones." Come prepared to work: bring your own gloves, bucket and scrub brush if you have it. Bring a bag lunch; friends will supply water and beverages. There are a few local restaurants nearby for a lunch break. Come for the day or a few hours. RSVP [centercemetery@gmail.com](mailto:centercemetery@gmail.com) if you are planning on coming or have any questions.

**Saturday, May 19 - noon: Redding Archaeology: Open Spaces and University Excavations** - Professor Ernest Wiegand of Norwalk Community College will describe results from more than a decade of excavations at Native American sites along Gallows Hill Road. Extensive Late Archaic sites are overlain by historic artifacts

possibly associated with the Warrups family. The site was preserved from residential development through open space purchase by the Town of Redding and The Nature Conservancy. Lecture will be held at the Redding Community Center.

**Danbury workshops: Friends of Danbury Cemeteries.** For scheduled workdays contact Ed Siergiej at 203-241-3740 or email [esiergiej@aol.com](mailto:esiergiej@aol.com) or look for them on Facebook.

**Saturday, July 14 - Ellington Historical Society will host a public archaeology dig for children ages 12-16** (and adults if space permits). The excavation will take place at the Nellie McKnight House, a 200 year-old house managed by the EHS. Details will be forthcoming on their website: [www.ellingtonhistsoc.org](http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org).

**July 23-27 & July 30-August 3, 2012 - Kids Are Scientists Too: Archaeology Field School for Kids** will be held at the University of Connecticut for children entering grades 5-10. The excavation will take place on the Farwell House property, once the site of an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. More information can be found at: [www.kast.uconn.edu](http://www.kast.uconn.edu).



Cynthia Redman presents Jim Hall with a Certificate of Appreciation for creating and maintaining the FOSA website.

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## INTEREST INVENTORY

Please check areas of interest for volunteering:

- Field Work
- Artifact Curation
- Public Events
- Fund Raising
- Newsletter
- OSA Library
- Web Site
- Laboratory Analysis/Cataloging
- Board of Directors & Committees
- Exhibit Planning/Art Work
- Grant Writing
- Photography
- Writing Site Forms & Reports
- CT Archaeology Center/Museum



**We would like to hear from YOU!** Please send your comments and ideas related to FOSA or the FOSA Newsletter to Mae Johnson at [mpjohnson@snet.net](mailto:mpjohnson@snet.net).

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Newsletter Committee: Mae Johnson, Kristen Keegan, Mandy Ranslow, Mimi Stevenson, and Jim Trocchi.