



## Special points of interest:

FOSA'S 17th Annual Meeting

Ground Penetrating Radar in Deerfield

Excavations at Strong-Howard House

Archaeology of Sherwood Island

Fall 2013

## President's Letter

FOSA Members:



The summer has flown by and FOSA volunteers have been engaged in a variety of activities. A few members volunteered to learn the process, knowledge and tasks associated with being a Dig Supervisor since Bruce Greene has retired. This has opened up an entire new area for volunteering and it means that one person isn't bearing the responsibility of the position for every dig. The enthusiasm for digging has multiplied the number of FOSA members volunteering this summer. You've been a great group!

There are several events coming up that you will want to plan for. Details are on other pages in this Newsletter.

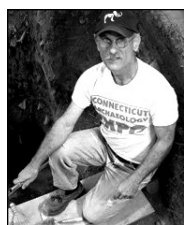
The Hammonasset Beach State Park, October 5th

and 6th celebrates nature and honors the Native American traditions toward the environment. Native music, dances, smudging and other events, including the World Atlatl competition will be yours to enjoy and FOSA will have an exhibit for you to visit.

Did you see the ad for the Connecticut Archaeology Fair in the latest issue of the "Connecticut Explore" magazine? This event is co-sponsored with ASC. We have extra copies of the magazine to hand out to members at the Fair – first come, first serve.

"An Evening With the Author," a presentation by Lucianne Lavin, Ph.D., will talk about her background and her reasons for writing her new book, "Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples: What Archaeology, History and Oral Traditions Tell Us About Their Communities and Cultures" at a book-signing event, Wednesday,

(Continued on page 2)



## News from the Office of State Archaeology

This summer along with some excavation projects, we had the continued opportunity to partner with our colleagues at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct ground-penetrating radar surveys around the state and even in Massachusetts (See the Todd Kmetz article in this newsletter). Our dear friends, Jim Doolittle and Debbie Surabian, provided technical assistance to our office on projects in Middletown, Manchester, Hartford, Clinton, Deerfield (MA), Litchfield, and Warren. Projects included five cemeteries,

a Colonial house, a mineshaft and a cold case investigation. Eight field surveys in four days! Jim and Debbie held up well, but I was exhausted! We can't thank NRCS enough for the professional expertise they bring to archaeology in Connecticut.

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of one of our extraordinary colleagues in Connecticut archaeology, Robert Cless. Bob was a graduate of UConn Anthropology Department with a Master of Arts degree, specializing in historic and maritime

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## FOSA's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

"Change, Continuity, and Collaboration: Studying Eastern Pequot History in Southeastern Connecticut" is the title of the presentation that Dr. Stephen Silliman will present at FOSA's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 25, at 2:00 p.m., at Smith Middle School, Addison Rd., Glastonbury.

His presentation will look at several questions: How archaeologists measure culture change and continuity in the past, What are the implications of these concepts and interpretations on pressing political and heritage issues today, and What role does community-based archaeology with descendant populations play in addressing some of these issues. The presentation will provide some answers, using as an example a long-term collaborative archaeological project between UMASS Boston and the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, a Native American community in southeastern Connecticut that has occupied its reservation lands since 1683.

## President's Letter

*(continued from page 1)*

October 9th, at 6:30pm, at the Wood Memorial Library and Museum. This is another collaborative effort.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting in January. Stephen Silliman, Ph.D., UMASS Boston, will present "Change, Continuity and Collaboration: Studying Eastern Pequot History in Southeastern Connecticut." The speaker is co-sponsored by ASC, CSMNH and FOSA.

All of these efforts, planned and executed by FOSA volunteers working with volunteers from other archaeological organizations have strengthened not only FOSA, but also the

## News from the Office of State Archaeology

*(continued from page 1)*

archaeology. Bob was the first archaeologist hired by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) for cultural resource review, and would become a supervisor for Mandy Ranslow, FOSA Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member when she began working at CTDOT. Bob Cless and I go back almost twenty years and he was a wonderful friend and colleague. He used to call me "The Captain," and I'd have him for a first mate anytime. He was a supporter of our office and actually developed electronic versions of the state archaeological site files and maps, and developing Geographic Information System (GIS) approaches to assist our office and the State Historic Preservation Office in management of the files and to bring them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is an on-going project that FOSA has supported in many

Dr. Silliman is a Professor of Anthropology at The University of Massachusetts Boston, where he has taught since 2001 after receiving his Ph. D. in Anthropology from The University of California,



Dr. Steven Silliman

Berkeley. His research interests include New England specifically and North America generally, historical archaeology, indigenous and collaborative archaeologies, studies of colonialism, and heritage studies. These interests are manifested in his ongoing community-based archaeology program with the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation of Southeastern Connecticut, a university field school that has been running since 2003.

archaeology community as a whole. We look to do more of this in the future.

We will begin cataloging at Horsebarn Hill early this fall on Mondays. Volunteers are welcome. If you're interested, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Mandy Ranslow at [FOSA.CT@gmail.com](mailto:FOSA.CT@gmail.com).

Best wishes for an enjoyable fall season!

*Cynthia Redman*  
President, FOSA

ways, including the seeking of funding from the state and providing assets for part-time assistants to maintain these important files. It all started with Bob Cless! To say that Bob will be missed is an understatement. Memory of his strength and persistence through a long and difficult illness, his courage, humor and heartfelt friendship will stay with us forever. We miss him already!

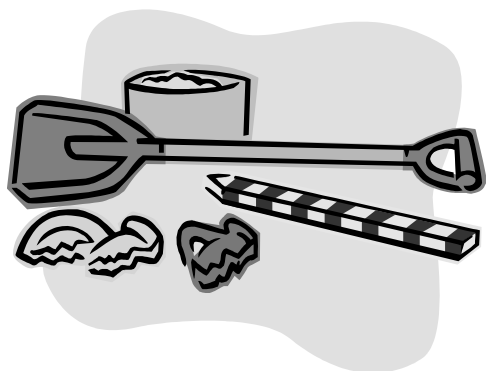
*Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD, State Archaeologist*

## Notice to FOSA Members

The Outreach and Volunteer Coordinators have noticed that when e-mails are sent to some of the members about event and volunteer opportunities some e-mail addresses do not accept the emails. This may be due to incorrect e-mail addresses or that the message is considered spam. When you renew your membership for 2014 please be sure to include an accurate e-mail if you wish to receive information on upcoming events and opportunities. And please add fosa.ct@gmail.com (FOSA's Volunteer Coordinator), FOSAO outreach@hotmail.com (FOSA's Outreach Coordinator & Lab. Manager), and fosa-ct@archaeologist.com (FOSA's President) to your address books so messages from those addresses are not considered spam.

## Say Hi to FOSA's Newest Board Member!

Scott Brady was elected by FOSA's Board of Directors at its September 8th meeting to be the 11th member of the Board. Scott retired last year after 25 years service with the Hartford Fire Department. He's been busy this past year with FOSA activities, pitching in whenever, and wherever needed. Scott will be a great addition to the Board. Welcome Scott!!



## Welcome New Members (since April 30, 2013)

Dr. Lindsey G. Friedman, South Windsor  
Jennifer Geyer, Farmington  
T. J. Kehoe, South Glastonbury  
Mila Limson, Wolcott  
Kelsey Tuller, Tolland  
Elizabeth Mathus, Westbrook.



## Donations since May 1, 2013

### FOSA General Fund:

Smith Middle School, Glastonbury

## FOSA Officers and Board Members

Cynthia Redman – President  
Mandy Ranslow – Vice President  
Dreda Hendsey – Treasurer  
Jim Trocchi – Secretary  
Scott Brady—New Board Member  
Mike Cahill – Board Member  
Dick Hughes – Board Member  
Jeremy Pilver – Board Member  
Mike Raber – Board Member  
Paul Scannell – Board Member  
Kathy Walburn – Board Member

## AN EVENING WITH THE AUTHOR

Dr. Lucianne Lavin, Director of Research and Collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut, will discuss her background in anthropology, archaeology and indigenous studies and her reasons for writing the book, *Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples: What Archaeology, History and Oral Traditions tell us about their Communities and Cultures*. During her PowerPoint presentation, she will also introduce the audience to the book's major tenets which will be followed by a general question and answer period.

This event will be held at Wood Memorial Library and Museum on Wednesday, October 9, 6:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 7:00p.m. A book signing will follow the question and answer period.

This event is co-sponsored by the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, FOSA and Wood Memorial Library and Museum.

## Upcoming Events

**Native American Heritage Walk** September 22nd 2013, 2-3pm, Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, CT

**"Re-envisioning Native Cultures in Public" An open forum of the New England Studies Association Conference** September 28th 2013, 10:45am-12:15pm, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket, CT

**Hammonasset Festival** October 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2013, 10am-5pm, Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT

**Book Signing and Lecture by Lucianne Lavin, author "Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples"** October 9<sup>th</sup> 2013, 6:45pm, Wood Memorial Library & Museum, South Windsor, CT

**Archaeology Field Workshop** October 12<sup>th</sup> 2013, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Storrs, CT

**17<sup>th</sup> Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast** October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2013, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket, CT

**Archaeology Fair** October 19<sup>th</sup> 2013, 10am-3pm, Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, Wethersfield, CT

**Pequot Archaeology Sites Tour** October 26<sup>th</sup> 2013, 1-3pm, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket, CT

**Eastern States Archaeological Federation 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** October 31<sup>st</sup>-November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013, South Portland, ME

**Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Conference** November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2013, Newark, DE

**Archaeological Institute of American Annual Meeting** January 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 2014, Chicago, IL

**Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting** January 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2014, Quebec City, Canada

**FOSA Annual Meeting** January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Smith Middle School, Glastonbury, CT

## Archaeology Fair

FOSA Members,

Within this Newsletter you will find a flyer for the Archaeology Fair that FOSA and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut are sponsoring on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Wethersfield. We are asking you to help us advertise the event. Please share the information with your friends, family, co-workers, and anyone who may be interested in attending this FREE event. There will be talks and displays about local archaeological work. The public can find out about how to get involved in local archaeology. There will be activities for kids (and adults)! Please join us!

## CT Archaeology Awareness Month

October is Connecticut Archaeology Awareness Month. Follow this link for a detailed list of events: [www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_AAM\\_2013.htm](http://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_AAM_2013.htm). You should also check out the "CT Archaeology Awareness Month 2013" Facebook page for all the most updated information on what's going on around the state. Take some time to learn about the archaeological work that is going on, find out how to get involved, and even ask questions on the page. An archaeologist will respond to all your questions!



## Speakers for Connecticut Archaeology Fair, Wethersfield, CT, Saturday, October 19, 2013

**11:00 - New England Hebrew Farmers of Emanuel Society  
Site: UCONN Judaic Studies Summer Field School  
Nick Bellantoni and Stuart Miller, University of Connecticut (Nick Bellantoni, Presenter)**

**12:00 - Unexpected Pharmaceuticals: Archaeology at the Beman Triangle, Middletown  
Sarah Croucher, Wesleyan**

**1:00 - Western Connecticut State University's Investigations of the Middle Encampment Site in Redding, Connecticut: The State's Newest Revolutionary War Archaeological Preserve  
Laurie Weinstein and Cos Sgarlata, Western Connecticut State University (Cos Sgarlata, Presenter)**

**2:00 - The Ragged Mountain Soapstone Quarry, Barkhamsted  
Ken Feder, Central Connecticut State University**

Fort (May 26, 1637)" and the "Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort (Sept. 1636 – May 1637)", as well as a War of 1812 battlefield: "The British Raid on Essex (April 7-8, 1814)". In Old Saybrook, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center archaeologists and UConn fieldschool students recovered impacted and dropped musketballs and other battle-related objects such as gun parts from three discrete combat actions that took place at Saybrook Point during the siege and battle of Saybrook Point (September 1636-March 1637). Two actions were also identified associated with the British raid on Essex including an area along the Connecticut River where American militia fired upon grounded British boats and the British returned fire. Also recovered was the breach end of an exploded American cannon that fired on the British during their withdrawal down the Connecticut River. (For more information check out [www.pequotwar.org](http://www.pequotwar.org))

*Zachary Singer and Laurie Pasteryak Lamarre*

## Updates: Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center and The UConn 2013 Field School

The 2013 UConn Pre-Contact fieldschool continued excavations aimed at documenting the Paleoindian component of the Ohomowauke site located on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation. Previous excavations at Ohomowauke uncovered multiple Paleoindian activity areas. Two areas are associated with the production of fluted points based on the presence of channel flakes and broken point preforms that were likely snapped during fluting. A separate area contains evidence of Paleoindian scraper use based on the recovery of scraping tools and scraper resharpening flakes. The 2013 UConn Pre-Contact Fieldschool students and Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center archaeologists located and recovered an additional area of Paleoindian stone tools dominated by scraping implements. The new locus of scrapers provides further evidence that the Paleoindians organized their activity areas at Ohomowauke with separate spaces designated for either fluted point production or scraping tasks.

Students in the 2013 Battlefield Fieldschool conducted metal detector surveys and archaeological testing and excavation at two Pequot War battlefields; the "Retreat from Mistick

## FOSA Website Update

1. We have updated the "Upcoming Events" and "Newspaper Articles" pages as appropriate, as well as continued updating of the "Upcoming Events" page of activities where Nick and our Outreach table will be that are open to the public.
2. The latest Newsletter has been incorporated into the web site, along with reprints of selected articles.
3. Bonnie Beatrice made us aware of an article in the July, 2013 edition of INK Magazine about FOSA. It was an excellent article, detailing not only the activities of the excavation but also profiling several FOSA members and how FOSA helps Nick do his job, and other activities we participate in. (The website is even mentioned!) I've added a link to the online version of the article to the "About Us" page of the website.

While the article was excellent its presentation in the online version was not. Several people wrote me about difficulty in navigating and reading the article, which I concurred with. We are hoping to get permission from the INK Magazine editors to reformat the article for our online readers. To date we have not heard back and will probably not know prior to the publication of the upcoming newsletter. Our guess is that it will be approved so check back at the FOSA website for a further update.

*James Hall*

## UConn Mentor Connection Program

Each year during their summer vacation, high school students are given the opportunity to become members of the "UConn Mentor Connection." Dr. Nick and the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) has been part of this program for several years and the participants are truly exceptional young adults. This year was NO exception. The three week course gives high school students the opportunity of working first hand in the area of their interest. And ..... If you are a "Mentor Student" and your wish is to be an Archaeologist.... then working with Dr. Nick is where you want to be.

The two students this year were, Jacqueline Napolitano and Kaliana Tom. They visited several archaeological sites with both Native American and Historical artifacts. In the town of Westbrook, several days were spent on-site and both experienced finding some very old and unusual pieces. They learned how to lay out and excavate a site and prepare artifacts for cataloging. The students even experienced a bit of cemetery work, just to keep it all interesting.

Jacqueline attends Westfield High School in Westfield, New Jersey. "My interest in archaeology is from my dad. He takes my sisters and me to historical places in New Jersey and because of this I have become interested in discovering the past. We always have lots of fun."

Kaliana Tom is from Connecticut and attends Maloney High School in Meriden. When asked, "Has any of your field work influenced you about archaeology?" Kali replied "Dr. Nick's stories. The stories he tells while we are driving to a site are most fascinating. He talks about some of his unusual finds and how they tell us about their importance and how they reflect upon our history."

Both Jackie and Kali have positive directions in their interest, from mathematics and the sciences to zoology.

Jackie and Kali, we hope you had as much fun with us as we had with you.

From ALL your FOSA dig buddies, We wish you both well in your college education and in whatever careers you may pursue.

*Ken Beatrice*



Mentor Students Jackie and Kali screening at the Westbrook Site.  
*Photograph by Ken Beatrice*

## CSMNH Adult Archaeology Field School Barclay Site 2013

This year's adult field school was conducted at the Barclay Site in Ashford, Connecticut. The Site is an historical site located just off the original wooded and stonewalled carriage and wagon road dating back to the early 19th Century. The farm was owned by the Armitage family, where several existing foundations remain. Several of the artifacts excavated are carriage and wagon materials or components. There is also evidence that some blacksmithing possibly took place at the site. A study of the artifacts this fall, we hope will answer some of our questions.

FOSA would like to thank those who assisted this year's field school and Jack and Fran Barclay owners of the property.

*Ken Beatrice*



2013 Adult Archaeology Field School in Ashford, CT

*Photo by: Scott Brady*



## Ground Penetrating Radar in Historic Deerfield Cemetery

This past winter the Western Chapter of The Massachusetts Archaeological Society, , invited Nick Bellantoni to give a talk in Deerfield Mass. about the homecoming of Albert A. Hawk. For those who may be unfamiliar with the story, Alfred was a Sioux Indian who in 1899 became ill and died while traveling in Danbury with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Nick was instrumental in locating Alfred's remains and in returning them to the Oglala Sioux Reservation in Pine Ridge South Dakota (See discussion in the Fall, 2012 FOSA Newsletter) .

The talk went very well. Those who attended were captivated by the subject. After many questions Nick finished up and we began talking about the area and the history here in Deerfield. As many of you may know Deerfield is known for the February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1704 Raid during Queen Anne's war. The town was sacked; 50 people were killed and another 112 were taken captive and carried to Canada (New France). The attacking force was led by a coalition of French and Native allies of over 250 men. We drove over to the historic Albany-Road cemetery (circa 1697) where we talked about the attack and the supposed mass burial site, which has a monument placed atop by the Daughters of the American Revolution, circa 1910. The mound has always been at the center of a controversy as to whether or not anyone was actually buried beneath. One thing led to another and our discussion was soon focused around a possible ground penetrating radar survey of the cemetery. Our Chapter Chair Dr. Aaron Miller and I soon had the planning stages of the survey underway even though Nick had not given us the official nod. That came a few weeks later when he and his team from the Natural Resources and Conservation Center (NRCC) added us to their five cemetery survey project.

I was so excited about the project I contacted the newspaper and they decided to cover the day when it finally arrived on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We developed a project design plan and mapped out survey locations for the team.



GPR Survey Team in Historic Deerfield Cemetery.

*Photo By Todd Kmetz*

The team showed up on the 19<sup>th</sup> and started gridding off the selected areas and started collecting data. They spent the whole day with us and surveyed eight areas of interest staked out by our research plans. We were hoping to answer questions about unmarked grave locations, were there any below ground stone markers, does the 1704 mound contain a mass grave? These and many other questions were asked. As we finished up the surveys it was becoming clear that only a few possible graves were located. The mass grave was truly only a marker to the dead of 1704. We never really believed the mass grave had 50 persons buried there, but it was great to finally know. Those persons are somewhere in the burying ground, but where is anyone's guess. Hopefully technology will improve in the future and maybe researchers will return



Nick With Historic Deerfield Fellows .

*Photo by Todd Kmetz*

to continue the search.

A month or so later the NRCS sent us their report which was concise and included over twenty pages on the Albany Road Cemetery. Soil conditions, the age of the graves and not having enough time to survey the entire cemetery may have contributed to not finding more. The project and getting to use the equipment and the expertise of the team was the best experience we could ask for. The Greenfield Recorder has just done a follow-up story to help close the project.

I welcome anyone interested in the project, Old Deerfield or the Massachusetts Archaeological Society to give me a call or e-mail me for more information. Todd Kmetz 413-397-3484 or [tkmetz01@snet.net](mailto:tkmetz01@snet.net)

I want to thank Nick's office and the folks from NRCS for coming to Deerfield and helping us better understand our history.

*Todd Kmetz*

## Nick Digs with Volunteers in Westbrook

Westbrook: July 2013

In July we enjoyed our first dig with Dr. Nick and FOSA members at the Westbrook site. Our adventure began with torrential rains, which finally passed and allowed us to go have fun in the mud. We learned how to put together the screen. As new diggers, we also were taught the proper way to use the trowel. Archaeology takes patience, perseverance, and a joy of getting dirty. Our square had mortar, shells, a nickel, many large roots, and at the lower level we found fire cracked rock and some quartz flakes. Meanwhile, next to us our fellow diggers found many exciting artifacts. We did not despair; instead we were inspired to come back again the next week. The second day we had no rain, but instead we had scorching, humid weather. We finally had a big find; a quartz birdpoint. We also found a flake of a different, less common material, perhaps jasper. The three of us (granddaughter, mother, grandfather) were hooked. We came back for more digging fun. On our third day, we found a biface point, some quartz flakes, an old pipe piece, lots of shells, and a pig skull. We look forward to more fun and adventure in the dirt with Dr. Nick and FOSA members.

Happy Digging!

*Kara and Dana Heilemann, and Richard Dumas*



Kara and Dana Heilemann Digging in Westbrook

*Photo by Richard Dumas*

## Strong-Howard House Archaeology

FOSA's first dig of the season occurred this spring on May 14 and 15 on the grounds of the Windsor Historical Society (WHS). The Society's campus consists of 3 connected buildings, with the Strong-Howard House the oldest. This house dates back to 1758 and the other two buildings were added on in 1961 and 1989 respectively. The grounds are within what was once the Windsor Palisade, a stockade enclosure built in the late 1630s to protect the colonists from the threat of an attack during the Pequot War (For more info on this Palisade see FOSA Newsletter, Spring 2007).

The WHS was founded in 1921 and purchased the Strong-Howard House in 1925. They saved it from being torn down to erect a gas station. It is a wood structure with a gambrel roof and clapboard siding. A structure like this is a rarity because so few have survived to the present. In the years since 1925, it has been used as the Society's meeting place and museum until the 2 newer buildings were added to the complex. Today its rooms are furnished in styles that range from mid 18<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> century periods and is 1 of 2 houses the Society offers for tours.

The Strong-Howard House is currently under renovation and is nearing completion of phase I. This phase consisted of electrical rewiring, moisture abatement in the cellar, sill and clapboard replacement and a facelift of two of the house's rooms; the parlor and store.

This house was built by John Strong but he and his family lived there for only a short time. Captain Nathaniel Howard, his wife Ann, children and descendants occupied or owned the house from 1772 to 1837. Of all the owners of the house, they seem to be the most colorful and interesting inhabitants. The Captain was a successful merchant sea captain who sailed the Atlantic carrying on trade with England and the West Indies. He traded local goods, such as produce and livestock, for manufactured goods from abroad. His overseas trade brought in luxury goods from abroad that his wife Ann would sell in a store setup in the house.

Ann's store was the focus of this season's dig. It is a 9 by 12 foot room that was added on to the original house in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This room was at the front of the house at the time as the main road passed there during the 18th century. In the process of the phase I renovations, the carpenters removed the floor boards over the crawl space beneath this room to replace the footings and floor joists. Therefore, we had 2 days to complete a study to see if it could reveal any information about this section of the house and provide a more accurate estimate of when it was constructed.



## Strong-Howard House Archaeology

(continued from page 8)

Windsor Historical Societies' Executive Director Christine Ermenc and its Curator and Educator Christina Vida invited FOSA to perform this archaeological survey. Prior to this dig I dug three 2'x2' shovel test pits outside the foundation of this room with the main goal of finding how deep the foundation went for structural purposes as part of phase I, and in the process many interesting artifacts were found and cataloged. One surprise artifact is what we believe is a complete 7 inch long whale's tooth. With this and many other interesting finds we hoped the opportunity to dig beneath the store's floor would be even more exciting.

We had an excellent turnout with 28 FOSA members over the two days. Everyone had something to do. Indeed it is unusual to be digging inside of a house and I originally thought it would be a treat but soon found out the close quarters were somewhat cramped and having to wear a breathing mask made one's eye glasses soon fog up.

Under Nick's direction, we divided the 9' x 12' crawl space into six 1 meter squares.. This encompassed nearly all the space under the floor. The entire operation went very smoothly with 3 or 4 persons excavating, then the excavated soil handed out the window to be screened for artifacts and then bagged and labeled.

Near the surface, pieces of newspapers were found but all were vintage 1960 and 1970. Perhaps they were used to prevent drafts in the winter. But soon we were recovering a variety of typical historic artifacts such as: food, poultry and rodent bones, marine and nut shell, wrought and wire iron nails, pieces of brick, clay pipe stems, and numerous glass wares and shards. A surprise find was a 1/2" diameter musket ball.

Compared with past experience on this site there were an unusually small number of pottery shards to be found.

Photo 1 displays one of the incomplete wine bottles with its detached neck shard. The bottom is composed of 7 separate shards that I cemented together. Interestingly the shards were found in 4 different excavated squares. Notice the cen-



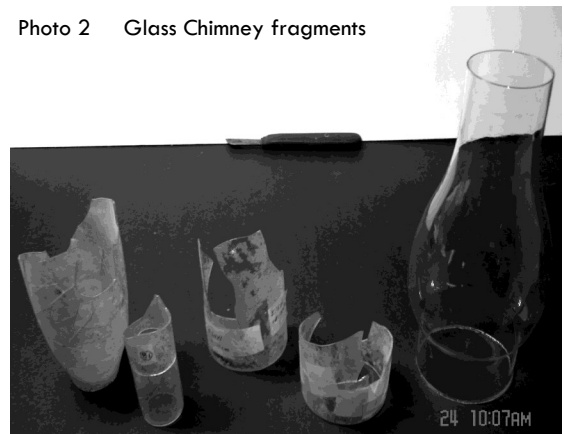
Photo 1 Stem and Base of Wine Bottle, Strong-Howard House

ter of its base rises into the bottles interior, this is known as a "conical basal kick" (Hume, 1969:71). Not shown in the photo is the pontil mark located on the exterior and opposite to the conical basal kick. This type of bottle is of a style that may date back to 1714, (Hume, 1969: 64). In that case, it dates before the house was built. But because it is a black glass it may have been made in America as late as 1820 (Hume, 1969:71). If the earlier date of 1714 proves correct, this bottle doesn't relate to the time period of this house but to one of an earlier period. This area of Ancient Windsor dates back to the late 1630's and was getting well populated even at that time. Hence, even though the house dates back to 1758, the property had many other owners before that time.

Interesting are some of the glass window shards. Some were long and straight narrow strips with scribe marks indicating where the glass was marked to be cut or snapped off by the window cutter and glazier. These long slender pieces were the scraps from a large piece that was sized for a window pane. This leads me to believe the glazier was possibly on site at sometime, installing and replacing windows. Because of its clear and smooth appearance, unlike broad or crown glass, it suggests more late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century manufacture (Hume, 1969: 233-234).

A surprising number of glass lantern chimney shards were recovered. I found it unusual to find so many in this one spot. In the past I have dug outside of this house and the surrounding grounds and can't recall finding any. Photo 2 displays several incomplete chimneys where I was able to

Photo 2 Glass Chimney fragments



match some of the shards. The chimney on the far right is from my home and is used here as a comparison. The chimney to the far left is composed of 5 matched shards.

Photo 3 displays two complete pharmaceutical medicine bottles that were recovered. They both have mold seams going down the center of their body. The one on the left has a smooth body, while the one on the right has a 12 facet body. The bottle lips appear to have been applied

(continued from page 9)

separately in manufacture unlike 17th century English versions where the neck was tooled out at the top to form a lip (Hume, 1969:74). These bottles probably date to the time period of the house.



Photo 3 Two Medicine Bottles



Photo 4 Hand Blown Pharmaceutical Bottle

Photo 4 is a hand blown bottle that looks to be in the pharmaceutical class. All of its pieces were found in one location and I was able to mend 3 shards that compose the shoulder and neck. The bottom half is complete and has a pontil mark but the mid section is broken up into several unmatchable shards. It is clear glass, about 5 inches in length and was manufactured in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (Hume, 1969:72). This dates to the early years of our house.

Some other unusual artifacts that are worth mentioning are several brass tacks that remind me of those used for furniture upholstery, a very small scallop shell with a hole in its center that may have been used for decoration, a very small finial that looks like a toy bedpost and a slate pencil.

All the artifacts are in the care of the WHS and plans are to integrate them into the visitors experience of the House. The restorations are nearly completed and on October 5th, the public is invited to see the new look. With the store and parlor changes, visitors will see what

the very talented staff at WHS has created. As Christine Ermenc, WHS Executive Director said, "This summer we will furnish the parlor and store areas with reproductions of items the Howard family would have used and sold in 1810, changing the standard *'look, don't touch'* guided tour into an experience where visitors are invited inside to touch, smell, explore, and relive what life was like two hundred years ago."

We hope that our efforts have contributed useful information to the ongoing archeological and historic record for this period.

*James Trocchi*

Bibliography: Hume, Ivor Noel 1969 *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* Vintage Books A Division of Random House, Inc, New York.

## Summer Digs at Sherwood Island

In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Connecticut State Park system, the Friends of Sherwood Island State Park received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development to conduct an archaeological survey of some of the historic sites known to have existed on Sherwood Island. Norwalk Community College (NCC) professor Ernest Wiegand was hired to conduct the survey. NCC's Archaeology as an Avocation Program alumnus and Yale archaeology graduate Dawn Brown assisted in the fieldwork and historic background research.

The goal of the survey was to locate and investigate two of the early historic Sherwood family houses that existed on the island as well as to discover any evidence of prehistoric Native American occupancy. The findings from the survey would form the basis for a proposed historic trail system, providing educational and personal enrichment for park visitors. The trail would include signage informing the visitor about the historic importance of each of the sites and/or structures identified. It was also proposed that recovered artifacts might be used in public presentations and exhibits at the Sherwood Island State Park Nature Center .

The first explored site was the Arthur Sherwood home- stead, which was built at some time between 1868-1879. Arthur was the grandson of Daniel Sherwood, who was the first of the Sherwood family to settle on the island. Daniel Sherwood built a house there in 1787 after receiving two

## Summer Digs at Sherwood Island

*(continued from page 10)*

acres of land as a wedding present when he married Catherine Burr. Mr. Joseph Elwood Betts, a longtime resident who is related to the Sherwood family, remembered summers spent as a young boy visiting relatives at the Arthur Sherwood house and was able to pinpoint the site's location north of the Pavilion. Here, exposed on the surface, were several fieldstones that were part of the house foundation. Mr. Betts has also authored a booklet, *The Sherwood-Elwood Connection*, which provided an excellent introduction to the history of the Island. State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni and Debbie Surabian of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducted a ground-penetrating radar survey of the house site and the immediately surrounding area to detect anomalies that may have been buried structural remains and/or features.

Excavations included a shovel test pit survey in the area surrounding the house foundation. While some 18<sup>th</sup> century artifacts were recovered, the majority of the recovered materials were related to Arthur Sherwood and his family's tenure and, later, to the use of the area as a picnic ground. Several of the test pits revealed that the land around the house, which was demolished in the late 1930s, had been subject to disturbance. The discovery of a crushed shell roadway was the most significant feature discovered during the survey. A larger excavation block was opened up at the approximate center of the back wing of the house and revealed the upper portion of the foundation as well as a possible door step. Most of the artifacts from this area were nails and window glass from the house, and were probably deposited in part during the demolition of the house. The recovery of two Native American potsherds and several pieces of quartz lithic debitage attests to the occupation of the site by Native Americans at some point during the Woodland period.

A second historic site was the Folly Farm site, located at the northern end of the Island. Originally the house of Silas B. Sherwood, it later was occupied by Moses Sherwood and still later by non-Sherwood family owners until its removal in the 1960s. Maps, photographs and documentary evidence indicated that not only was a house present, but support structures including a barn, a large shed, a corn crib, and a windmill. Remains of the corn crib and the shed were exposed on the surface of the site, and our work included uncovering several large fieldstone slabs associated with the shed. Construction and domestic artifacts were found throughout the site.

The third site was the Sherwood Point site, located between the Pavilion and West Beach. It was on this beach that NCC Archaeology Club member Barbara Tyburski found a fragmentary semi-lunar knife (or ulu) on the beach over twenty years ago. As the artifact was not abraded by wave

action, it was felt that it had only recently been eroded from the land above the beach. Therefore, it was thought that there may be additional evidence of Native American occupation during the Late Archaic period (c. 2500-3000 BC) in the area landward from the beach. Although only a few possible pieces of quartz debitage were recovered, the survey showed that intact soil layers exist in this portion of the park, approximately 20-30 centimeters below grade. The buried topsoil layer in one portion of the site also contained historic materials from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

As of this writing, the field investigations are complete and a report detailing the study will be presented to the Friends of Sherwood Island State Park this fall.

*Ernie Wiegand, and  
Cece Saunders*



Sharon Giese (l) and Isabel Bullen excavating the foundation of the Arthur Sherwood house at Sherwood Island State Park

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*The Friends of Sherwood Island State Park received support for the archaeological testing from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development with funds from the Community Investment Act of CT.*

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