January 16, 2019

Dear Members,

As we hunker down for the winter, wearily dreaming of the summer and archaeological digs, there are a few things we can anticipate and help us pass away the cold and dreary months. The Spring meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut is planned to include morning talks and an afternoon tour of Fort Wooster Park in New Haven Connecticut. It has become our tradition, during the spring, to give members an opportunity to tour important archeological sites in Connecticut and learn about them from experts who give talks and organize the day’s activities. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 11, details will be coming to you soon.

During the Revolutionary War brush and firewood was placed on top of Beacon Hill at this location so a signal fire could be lit to warn of an impending British invasion. This is exactly what occurred on July 5, 1779 and American Patriots bravely resisted the larger British attacking force in the area around Beacon Hill.

We can also look forward to the 2019 FOSA annual meeting on March 23 at the Farmington High School, where Dr. Daniel Adler, from the University of Connecticut, will discuss his research on Neanderthal sites in Armenia. Given recent information concerning genetic intermingling between at least some Neanderthal and Modern Human populations, as well as our currently more nuanced understanding of the more gradual emersion of cultural characteristics that define us as Modern Humans, this talk should be especially interesting to anyone interested in Paleolithic Archaeology. Hope to see you all there.

The ASC needs help! This is a call out to anyone with website experience. We need to form a committee team that can help us resolve some current issues that we are dealing with in our attempts to host our new web site. Anyone who has knowledge of how to set up and manage a website, as well as acquiring and securing web domains, is asked to step forward and give us a hand. If you have experience with web sites please contact either myself or State Archaeologist Brian Jones.

We all need to extend a great thanks to Lucianne Lavin, who served as the ASC bulleting editor for the last 30 years. Lucianne has stepped down from this position and the current 2018 bulletin is the last she will officially be editing. During Lucianne’s tenure as ASC editor she has made our bulletin the most qualified resource for archaeologists and enthusiasts interested in Connecticut’s past. Fortunately, Lucianne has agreed to stay on as a Director at Large, and it is with great thanks that we welcome the highly qualified Sarah Sportman to fill her shoes.
We continue to work on David Thompson’s monograph of the Binette Rockshelter. The discovery of additional material from the site has slowed the process down, but we are fortunate to have Ernie Wiegand undauntedly working to finalize the site’s massive database. As soon as possible, we will be going to the presses and make all the exciting new information available to members and the public who are interested.

Finally, let us all not despair because soon it will be summer, and our Newsletter editor Lee West will be filling us in about all the field schools and other activities we have to look forward to as Spring approaches.

Cosimo Sgarlata
President

NEWS FROM THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Why the 17th Century Archaeology of Connecticut Matters

2018 proved to be a banner year for 17th century archaeology in Connecticut. While important finds at the Hollister site, Webb-Dean-Stevens, and on the Pequot War battlefield sites continued to be made, the discovery of the year goes to the Norwalk Fort site identified by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. as part of their archaeological work conducted for CT DOT. The general location of this ca. 1615-1640 Native fortification has been known about for centuries, but no one actually expected remnants of it to have survived the heavy industrial development that has gone on at this location over the past 150 years. Sure enough, however, AHS’s careful survey work first identified intact buried sediments, and then located 17th century (and earlier) artifacts associated with them. Work on the site is ongoing but we should all be looking forward to the extraordinarily significant new data this site will provide.

Why is information from this period so important? To begin, until recently, very little archaeological research, professional or avocational, has been conducted in Connecticut on sites of this time period. In short, this means that everything we discover represents new information. Luckily for us, work on 17th century sites in the Chesapeake has been going on for over a century and those sites provide an important...
Here in New England, most communities were relatively centralized and focused around a concept of shared pasturage on the commons. While men outnumbered women in the society during the first couple of decades, a balance was achieved much earlier than in the Middle Atlantic region, largely because immigrants here often consisted of full family households. The economy quickly shifted from a speculative trade in pelttries to one of productive farming. The cattle husbandry focus of the early decades soon gave way to one of robust mixed husbandry and agriculture. Most planters in New England were more concerned about how many piglets and new calves they had in a given year than the highly erratic returns on a pound of tobacco. People were also healthier here in New England, and many lived long, productive lives and produced large families. Finally, as Separatists, religion remained central to community life throughout the century – despite some visceral arguments over subtle distinctions within the faithful Puritan community.

So we are a special case, and we can’t understand rural New England life through the lens of our southern neighbors, as rich as their archaeological record may be. We need to develop our own understanding of material culture patterns and interpret it in terms of the local and international markets that operated in our region. At the same time, we need to better document and understand Native American communities living at this time. How did the arrival of European traders and farmers affect their worldview, economy and political power struggles? What opportunities were some communities provided and how were these utilized? To what degree were these opportunities evenly distributed among native communities? Similarly, what challenges (such as disease) did Connecticut Native communities face, and how did these vary across time and space? How were they negotiated, and ultimately, what were the outcomes of those negotiations? To what degree did access to prestige trade items undermine traditional systems of authority? How did the actors within those traditional systems of authority insure that the distribution of prestige objects would remain in their control? Who were the winners and who were the losers during this period of significant cultural and economic pressure at the level of native confederacies, tribes, local communities and individuals? And how should we measure “winning” and “losing” during a time when survival and maintaining one’s identity were often the primary goals? Ultimately, how did identity among both Native and English communities change during this dynamic century?

The Hollister farm in Glastonbury has produced strong evidence that despite the robust animal husbandry documented in probate records, the archaeological food remains indicate a diverse diet much more similar to that of their Native neighbors, based on the harvest of maize, beans and hickory, the hunting of deer and small game, and fin and shell fishing. How did this creolization of the English diet and farming economy impact the psyche of the site’s inhabitants? At what point did they stop seeing themselves as English and start seeing themselves as citizens of the Colony of Connecticut? To what degree might such a shift in identity have affected the underlying political aspirations of these planters? How did such aspirations influence the fight for the 1662 Connecticut Charter, and to what degree did it begin to define the Yankee independence (some say stubbornness) we still value to this day?

Brian Jones
State Archaeologist

Connecticut Archaeology in the National News

Connecticut archaeology does not get much attention outside of Connecticut, or so most ASC members would agree. There are a few books which make it beyond our borders. Most issues of ASC News including this one describe new publications by Connecticut archaeologists or about archaeology in the state. And every few decades we have a major archaeological conference, such as the ESAF Conference that was held in 2017 in New London. But these efforts
stay mostly within the greater archaeological community if not within the state.

2018 was different. The Associated Press ran a story in late August 2018 “Archaeologists Dig Native American Fort Found in Connecticut” describing the Norwalk fort and in November AP reported “Dig resurrects a feud over which town is Connecticut’s oldest” on the 17th century discoveries at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield. These stories have been taken up by news outlets across the country and around the internet. A friend recently sent your editor clippings from a small weekly paper in Florida describing the Norwalk Fort site. Most of you have probably received similar messages or links.

Even Archaeology Magazine responded to the buzz and made note of the Norwalk Fort site. Most of you have probably received similar messages or links.

The traction these stories have gained in the popular press show that there is something about contact-period discoveries that fires the imagination of the general public more than equally important but less newsworthy archaeological knowledge of eras earlier or later. As archaeologists we want to answer questions like those posed by Brian Jones in the previous article. The public wants exciting discoveries with forts or better yet, buried treasure.

Nevertheless, the relative excitement raised by these stories is only a good thing, and an opportunity for all of us in the archaeological community to raise community interest and support for our work.

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

FOSA NEWS

Greetings ASC Friends,

With the start of the new year comes a number of exciting new addition to FOSA. First, after four annual meetings featuring exceptional speakers who focused on 16th and 17th century North American sites, we are going backwards. Backwards in time! We are excited to have UConn Associate Professor Daniel Adler, PhD. booked to present on his research on Paleolithic sites in the Caucasus at the meeting on March 23rd. More details will be forthcoming soon. Editor’s note – see back page of this newsletter for time, directions and other details currently available on the FOSA Annual Meeting.

This year’s meeting will also provide the platform for the official announcement FOSA’s Cooke Scholarship program, similar to the ASC’s own Russell grant program, with the goal of supporting post-graduate Connecticut archaeological research. Lastly, Dr. Jones is working on scheduling a number of 2019 excavation opportunities. Another exciting year is underway!

Scott Brady
President-FOSA

Archaeology Club of Norwalk Community College

Winter 2019 Meetings

Lectures will be in the Norwalk Community College Culinary Arts Dining Room, West Campus, W121
188 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854

Refreshments at 7:30pm, lecture at 8:00pm.


Nick Bellantoni will speak on the stories behind his recently published book, as described in the September 2018 issue of ASC News.
Dr. April M. Beisaw is an associate professor of anthropology at Vassar College in New York. There she teaches courses on Native American culture, repatriation, forensic anthropology, and archaeology. April’s most recent book is *Identifying and Interpreting Animal Bones: A Manual*, published by Texas A&M University Press. That bone identification expertise has led to partnerships with local law enforcement, who often get called out to retrieve bones found in the woods or by homeowners digging in their yards. When isolated or fragmentary bones may not be human, April gets called in to provide an identification. April is also a consulting archaeologist for the National Park Service in Hyde Park and her introduction to archaeology class conducts excavations there at the Park’s request. Her own research is currently focused on the cultural costs of urban water supplies, especially the towns that have been impacted to create and maintain New York City’s water supply.

Crime scenes are archaeological sites—they contain the remains of past human activity to be deciphered from disturbed environments, objects left behind, and bodies of those who perished there. This lecture will cover the basics of how anthropologists identify people from their skeletons and how archaeologists read crime scene photographs. Be prepared for images of real human bones and black & white crime scene photos.

March 14, 2019, Dr. April Beisaw, Reconstructing Life and Death: Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology

Dissemination or synoecism? Archaeological perspectives on the socio-cultural transformation of Etruria from 900-580 BC
AIA National Lecture by Paul M. Miller

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 5:00pm
Altars of Zeus, Games for the Gods: Mt. Lykaion and Olympia in Early Greek Religion
AIA National Lecture by David Gilman Romano

New Haven Society Contact:
Carolyn M. Laferrière
carolyn.laferriere@yale.edu

Website:
http://www.yale.edu/aia

Society Events

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 - 5:30pm
Barge of Heaven: Cleopatra the Goddess
AIA National Lecture by Alison Futrell

American Institute of Archaeology

Hartford Society Contact:
Prof. Martha Risser
martha.risser@trincoll.edu

The Hartford Society of AIA will host the following lectures at the Boyer Auditorium, Liffe Science Center:

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 - 5:00pm
will take place at the Fort Casimir Site. The fort was a Dutch Colonial Fort established under Peter Stuyvesant in 1651. It was captured by the Swedes in 1654 and renamed Fort Trefaldighet. The Dutch recaptured it in 1655 and renamed it Fort New Amstel. In 1664, the English forced the Dutch to relinquish control of the New Netherlands colony. The British abandoned the deteriorated fort in the 1680s.

Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service’s Midwest Archeological Center, Northeast Regional Office, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, as well as the Delaware State Parks and the New Castle Historical Society. This will be the twenty-ninth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this Nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of $475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center’s web page at https://www.nps.gov/mwac. Payment will be made by credit card through the Friends of NCPTT at https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/training-conference-events. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873: tel: (402) 437-5392; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: steve_de_vore@nps.gov.

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology – Frances Dorrance Chapter

Many ASC Members know Ted Baird, who has traveled up from Pennsylvania to participate in various Connecticut excavations over the years. Ted sends us this announcement of this upcoming meeting at his home chapter of the SPA in eastern Pennsylvania.

Russ Cramer to Present “Stone Age in the Poconos”

Our January meeting will feature a talk and displays by Russ Cramer. The talk will utilize authentic Native American artifacts to trace the evolution of stone tool and weapons used by tribes living in the Pocono region. It will tell of the arrival of Clovis era tribes during the post Ice Age period over 10,000 years ago at the Shawnee/Minisink site. He will then explain how environmental and ecological changes resulted in the native population altering their tool technology to match their changing needs. Each period discussed will be illustrated by posters showing what life was like during these times. Artifacts representing their tools and weapon systems will be available for examination. Where originals are not available, expertly produced replicas will fill in. This promises to be a great opportunity for a unique hands-on experience. Mr. Cramer will cover the Paleo, Archaic and Woodland periods which encompasses the time from about 9000 BC up to the arrival of Europeans in the Americas.

Our January meeting will be held at the Duryea Municipal Building at 315 Main St., in Duryea from 7:00 PM to about 9:00 PM on January 29th. The meeting is open to the public and the presentation is free of charge.

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**Winter Events**

**Winter Survival in the Eastern Woodlands**

Saturday, January 26, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Would you have what it takes to thrive during the New England winters without twenty-first century technology? Perhaps you’ve wondered how Native Americans were able start a fire in the snow, find food, or make shelter. Join IAIS Museum Educator Griffin Kalin, employee of Primitive Technologies and Creative Director of Wigwam Escape, for a fun and informative program appropriate for all ages. **Dress warmly, as part of the program will be outdoors.** Included in the price of admission: $10 Adults; $8 seniors; $6 Children; IAIS Members Free

The Native American Courting Flute with Allan Madahbee
Saturday, February 16, 1:30 – 3:30pm
The hauntingly beautiful voice of these mystical instruments has intrigued music lovers and musicians for centuries. But why does the flute hold such importance in Native American culture? Allan Madahbee, Ojibwe artist and musician, will demonstrate and discuss the significance of this instrument. Allan will explain the legend of the courting flute, showcase a variety of flutes, and describe their construction. A limited selection of handmade flutes will be available for purchase. Already have a flute? Feel free to bring it along!
Space is limited - Reservations Required. Call (860)868-0518 or email general@iaismuseum.org to reserve your spot. Included in the price of admission: $10 adults; $8 seniors; $6 children; IAIS Members free.

Artifact Identification Day with Dr Lucianne Lavin
Sunday, February 24, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Join the conversation as Director of Research and Collections, Lucianne Lavin, Ph. D, identifies and provides interesting commentary about your local stone objects and Northeastern Native American cultural items. While we can’t appraise or speculate about the value of an object, we can certainly talk about the who, what, when, where, and how of your mystery items! Please limit 12 artifacts per person.
Included in the price of admission: $10 adults; $8 seniors; $6 children; IAIS Members free.

Moccasin Workshop with Darlene Kascak
Saturday, March 2, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Traditional Native American clothing varied widely from tribe to tribe, but one nearly universal element was the moccasin. The word moccasin comes from the Algonkian word meaning shoe or footwear. This sturdy slipper-shaped type of shoe was sewn from tanned animal hides. Join Darlene Kascak, Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, for a fun and informative workshop making your very own classic puckertoe-style moccasin. Learn the same techniques used by moccasin makers for hundreds of years!
Space is limited; please call (860) 868-0518 or email general@iaismuseum.org by February 22 to register.

Price: $55 for Non-members, $45 for IAIS Members

Maple Sugaring Festival
Saturday, March 9, 11:00am – 3:00pm
Looking for a sweet end to the winter months? As the days get warmer but the nights are still cold, it’s just the right conditions for maple sugaring! Join IAIS Staff along with primitive technologists Jeff and Judy Kalin for an afternoon celebrating the gift of Maple Sugar. The Kalins will demonstrate the technique of collecting sap and boiling it down into syrup as they discuss its importance to Native American culture. Enjoy pancakes made by the IAIS staff, local maple syrup, coffee and orange juice and learn how local Native Americans traditionally made maple syrup.

Price: $15 Adults; $13 Seniors; $10 Children; $5 IAIS Members.

LHAC Lecture Series: Archaeology of Lover’s Leap with Dr Laurie Weinstein
March 10, 3:00 pm
In our continuing lecture series, the Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club (LHAC) welcomes Dr Laurie Weinstein, professor emeritus of anthropology at Western Connecticut State University. Join Dr Weinstein, who directed WSCU’s archaeological field school at Lover’s Leap State Park in New Milford, as she discusses the significance of the research that she and her students uncovered at this very significant Native American site. From this research and her analyses of land records, she was able to piece together the history of the Weantinock, the tribe whose homelands included the important fishing place of Metichewon, more commonly known as Lover’s Leap. Dr Weinstein is the
Wigwam Escape

The Institute for American Indian Studies has opened an escape room, Wigwam Escape. Traditionally, in an escape room, a Game Master locks a group of people inside of a room and it’s the task of the group inside to find a way out by finding clues and solving puzzles. Wigwam Escape, a new type of escape room, prompts players to think critically and creatively by simulating an environment that Native people lived in 500 years ago.

Answer the question “Can you thrive for a day in 1518?” in an immersive indoor forest and village setting. Wigwam Escape’s thematic puzzles challenge game players to hunt, find water and prepare food similar to how Native people did for thousands of years prior to European contact.

The game is set for 3 to 7 players and the cost is $25 per person, or $20 for our museum members. More than just a game, Wigwam Escape is built to teach through experience and foster dialogue about the ways Native peoples lived 500 years ago in a game that’s dynamic, challenging and entertaining.

Visit IAIS this fall for this must-do teambuilding experience for friends, families and co-workers. For more information or to book your adventure today, today visit www.wigwamescape.com
Among the 40 sites reviewed is Gungywamp! To order, go to rowman.com or call (800) – 462-6420, ext. 3024 and be sure to use code RLFANDF30 for your discount.
To help members plan their calendars, we post the dates of meetings of interest in Connecticut and neighboring states, not mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Please contact the editor with any meetings you are aware of which you feel would be of interest to the membership.

**January 9-12, 2019**  
Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology  
St. Charles, MO

**March 21-24, 2019,** Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference, (MAAC), Ocean City, MD

**March 23, 2019,** FOSA Annual Meeting, Farmington, CT

**April 10 - 14, 2019,** Society for American Archaeology (SAA)  
84th Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM

**April 26-28, 2019,** New York State Archaeological Association 103rd Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Johnstown, NY

**May 11, 2019,** ASC Annual Meeting, location to be announced

**October 31-November 3, 2019,**  
86th Annual Meeting, Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF), Langhorne, PA

**November 7-10, 2019,** Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Annual Meeting, Lake George, New York

**January 8-11, 2020**  
Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA)  
Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Boston, MA

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Note – the ASC website is currently down for repairs, after the passing of our webmaster Robyn Filippone. We hope to have the replacement site up and running soon.

ASC BULLETINS AVAILABLE ONLINE

This is a reminder that back issues of the ASC Bulletin from 1934 through 2014 have been scanned and made available online to the public without charge at the Dodd Library at UConn. The bulletins are available at this link: http://archives.lib.uconn.edu/islandora/object/20002:ASCBulletin

Back issues of this newsletter are not yet available online, but this is in the works. Stay tuned!

2019 DUES NOW PAYABLE

It’s time to renew your membership for 2019. A separate renewal form is also included with this mailing. Check your mailing label if you are unsure if you are current. (The label may not reflect payments received in the last month.) If it reads 18 or earlier, please fill out the form and mail it back with your check. Note the new address. Thanks!

I want to apply/renew membership in the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (ASC) to promote archaeological research, conservation and service. Enclosed are my dues for the membership category: (circle one)

- Individual $25.00
- Student* $10.00
- Institutional $40.00
- Life $300.00

Name: ______________________
Address: ____________________
__________________________
Phone: (___)
E-Mail: ______________________
Affiliation: _________________
(for students)
The newsletter will be sent to you electronically unless you indicate otherwise below:
☐ I wish to receive ASC News by mail instead of electronic delivery

*Student Membership includes electronic newsletters, hard copy bulletins, and for each new member one back issue of the bulletin of your choice subject to availability.

Send payment to Lee West, ASC Membership Chair, 366 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109.
Starting in 2018, membership cards will no longer be issued except upon request.
25 years (almost) of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic Research in the Southern Caucasus

Presented by: Friends of the Office of State Archaeology

Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 3:00pm
(Snow Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019)
2:00 pm FOSA Annual Meeting

Farmington High School Auditorium
10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Daniel Adler
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Connecticut - Storrs

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Directions to Farmington High School
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From I-84 East or West:
1) Take Exit 39, proceed west on Route 4/Farmington Avenue for 3.9 miles, crossing Route 10 at about 1.5 miles.
2) Approximately 2.4 miles past Route 10, turn right on Monteith Drive.
3) Drive past Town Hall at right, to Farmington High School at top of hill. Follow signs to parking and auditorium.
From Route 4 East
Drive 1.25 miles east of Route 177, turn left on Monteith Drive.
Follow step 3 directions above.
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General Admission - $10.00
Non-Farmington Students with ID - $5.00
FOSA, ASC, CSMNH, Farmington students & faculty admitted free with ID

Co-Sponsored by:
CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center and Archaeological Society of CT

In the event of inclement weather, FOSA will post a notice on WTIC (AM 1080) by 10:30 AM
For more information visit: http://www.fosa-ct.org/