



Friends of the Office of State Archaeology

Spring 1999 Newsletter

FOSA

FOSA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of FOSA will be 2/28/99 at 1:30 pm at the Office of State Archaeology. New directors will be elected. Nick Bellantoni will speak as well as Ellen Censky, the director of the Connecticut Museum of Natural History. (A storm date of March 14 has been set.)

Nick's News

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) has been completely moved into office and laboratory space at Horsebarn Hill Road on the UConn-Storrs Campus. Although the phone, fax, and email remain the same, there is a new mailing address:

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni
Office of State Archaeology
U-4214 University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-4214

The new space does not contain enough room to house our extensive Anthropological Collections, which include the Norris L. Bull Collection. All collections have been moved to the new Dodd Center for Historical Archives. Access to the artifact collections is restricted, though arrangements can be made for researchers by contacting OSA.

OSA and the Connecticut Historical Commission have recently received a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection's Long Island Sound License Plate Program to promote underwater archaeology along Long Island Sound. We will be producing a new Web page, traveling exhibit, brochures, and the 1999 Connecticut Archaeology Awareness Week poster, which will have an underwater theme. In addition, our offices have been working with sport divers around the state to create preservation partnerships protecting shipwrecks and other underwater cultural resources.

One of the top OSA priorities for the coming year will be to work closely with municipal officials that will seriously consider implementing planning and zoning regulations for the protection of archaeological sites. Therefore, we will be producing a cultural resource packet for town planners and planning & zoning commission members which should be ready by mid-March. This information packet will contain models for local preservation policies. We will be attending planning & zoning

meetings around the state and coordinating workshops. If you believe that your town would benefit from this program, please contact OSA for the packet and supportive information.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of OSA. Highlights of the decade include excavation of a cache of 94 stone points, the discovery of three complete ceramic vessels dated to 1,000 years ago, and the rescue of three historic cemeteries. OSA has worked in each of Connecticut's 169 towns.

OSA received a \$1,000 equipment award from the UConn Research Foundation for the upgrading of our computer systems. Special thanks to FOSA member Pam Silvestri for coordinating the grant application.

In July 1998, Nick received a Distinguished Service Award from the Eastern Connecticut and King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area for efforts to preserve cultural resources within the municipal planning process.

Barbara Ann Kipfer, who just earned a Ph.D. in Archaeology, is going to be the volunteer coordinator for office and fieldwork relating to the OSA. She will organize volunteers to go into the field for emergency digs and do other fieldwork for OSA.

OSA and Connecticut Historical Commission Efforts

There was an archaeological investigation of Camp Rowland in East Lyme that also included American Cultural Specialists. Native American and military material culture is being recovered prior to the construction of sanitary sewer facilities.

Some soil core research was conducted at Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford.

Eighty-five new archaeological sites were identified in Waterford in a review prepared by the Public Archaeology Survey Team (PAST). CHC and local officials are working on site protection strategies and further archaeological studies.

Several sites in the lower Connecticut River Valley were investigated along with the Regional Director for the Archaeological Conservancy, a national nonprofit conservation organization. Several sites require further

investigation as possible candidates for protection by the Conservancy.

Work is being done to identify General Rochambeau's Revolutionary War Trail (1781-1782) through Connecticut and to survey related sites. CHC awarded the first phase contract to Dr. Robert Selig who has researched Rochambeau's campaign. CHC awarded the archaeology contract to PAST in partnership with Keegan Associates to conduct archival research and Geographic Information System analysis to correlate historic cartographic data with the 20th-century landscape. PAST will investigate seven encampment areas used by Rochambeau.

Dr. David Poirier, Staff Archaeologist of CHC, received the Distinguished Service Award from Governor John Rowland. Poirier provided technical services to the Connecticut Environmental Review Team Program for the identification and management of archaeological resources as part of a community planning/decision-making process.

Other Archaeological News

The spring meeting of the Archaeology Society of Connecticut will be held at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center on April 24, 1998. The ASC president is Dan Cruson and he may be reached at cruson@erols.com or 203-426-6021. News and field opportunities may be submitted to the ASC newsletter editor, Lee West, at lcwest@prodigy.net.

Archaeology Awareness Week was held from October 10-18, 1998. FOSA director and member Dave Cooke presented a talk on the "Importance of Documenting Artifacts" in the Town of Rocky Hill.

Museum Archaeology Day was held on Nov. 1st at the University of Connecticut. Sponsored by the Museum of Natural History, the event included archaeology related displays and educational activities from many organizations, including FOSA. Nick Bellantoni presented a lecture on "Vampirism" in the 19th Century as evidenced in recent archaeological excavations. Several FOSA members volunteered to be present at our display area where information on various FOSA activities was provided to the public. One of our display tables included information on developing an archaeology curriculum for public schools. Another table showed a series of photos of a group of 7th grade students from Glastonbury's Gideon Welles School who participated in an excavation in Tolland, Connecticut. There was also information on the Boy Scout Archaeology Merit Badge. Our third table included a sampling of artifacts from the Bull Collection which is now a major component of the State's archaeological collection. The public was invited to bring artifacts to the FOSA area for identification by David Cooke and Nick Bellantoni. Wall posters depicting FOSA activities and volunteers were generously provided by Keegan Associates.

FOSA is working on a program to provide schools with a series of K-12 Connecticut-specific lesson plans on understanding, studying, and preserving Connecticut's archaeological past. The lesson plans will be based on the core concepts of:

- ◆ introducing people, on personal and shared cultural levels, to basic concepts of the nature, importance, and fragility of the past;
- ◆ exploring the dilemmas inherent in deciding what parts of both the conceptual and the material past should be preserved;
- ◆ revering and preserving the past as essential future behavior for all of us.

Charles E. Blanchard, FOSA Educational Coordinator, has successfully developed similar state- or town-specific lesson plans now used in many parts of the United States. For each of these applications, an integrated series of six or twelve lesson plans has been developed. Each lesson typically includes:

- ◆ a comprehensive background information packet for teachers on each lesson subject;
- ◆ a student-friendly information section;
- ◆ identification of necessary activity materials;
- ◆ an appropriate vocabulary;
- ◆ a series of activities designed to maximize student involvement, with suggested extension activities appropriate for different grade levels;
- ◆ suggested readings;
- ◆ suggested places to visit.

Blanchard and FOSA vice president Michael Raber have created a flyer announcing the program, and have mailed it to about 50 educators in Connecticut towns. Implementation will begin by identifying a small number of core schools with teachers willing to help select and test-pilot the most-needed lessons as lessons are generated. Blanchard and Raber have also written a proposal for the lesson plan, to be used in a series of grant applications FOSA will submit to a number of foundations. FOSA will seek funds to create detailed, Connecticut-specific lessons. For more information, contact Blanchard at 399 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238, 860/742-5013.

Public Archaeology Survey Team (PAST) and Yankee Territory Coinshooters recently joined forces to investigate some of General Rochambeau's French Army camp sites in Connecticut. These sites were where the French army bivouacked in their marches across Connecticut to help George Washington and the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The expeditions took place in the summer of 1781 and the fall of 1782. Because of a minimal amount of funding provided for this large project, Meg Harper, director of PAST, needed to diverse from standard archaeological procedure for testing (i.e., digging and screening test pits at specific grid intervals), and introduce an alternative method that would be less expensive yet not detract from the end results. Thus she teamed up with Mark Sutcliffe and other members of the Yankee

Territory Coinshooters whose expertise in metal detecting led to many exciting and interesting finds relating to the French camps. Another plus for this method was that a very large area at each camp site could be covered in a relatively short period of time. The conventional archaeological procedure would take much longer and involve a much larger crew.

On January 8th, channel 24 Connecticut Public Television aired the program Connecticut Chronicle, a segment of which featured Nick Bellantoni, the state archaeologist, searching for some remnant of the Windsor Palisade constructed in 1637 as a defense against marauding Indians. Assisting in his efforts were Kathie Kelleher, Pam Silvestri, Dick LaRose and others whose labor in the dirt allowed Nick to keep a clean shirt for the taping.

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center opened in Mashantucket, CT. The phone number is 860-396-6800.

FOSA Wishes to Thank...

- ◆ Those who helped with a telephone follow-up survey on "Archaeology Awareness Week." The information gathered will be helpful in planning next year's event.
- ◆ Barbara Ann Kipfer and Leslie Starr for their work organizing and publishing our newsletter.
- ◆ Becky Koladis for her help in researching grants to publish our educational material.
- ◆ Pam Silvestri for her help on the grants writing committee and for her help in Nick's office and field work, and for coordinating the volunteers for the office move.
- ◆ The FOSA volunteers who helped with the OSA move to Horsebarn Hill Road.
- ◆ Chuck Blanchard for his many hours spent in developing educational material K through 12, and contacting area teachers.
- ◆ Keegan Associates for the wonderful posters about FOSA for Museum Archaeology Day at UConn.
- ◆ Dave Cooke for taking the photos of projects in the field and FOSA members on the job for the display for Museum Archaeology Day at UConn.
- ◆ Robert Karalas for creating FOSA's logo.
- ◆ Yankee Territory Coinshooters for your involvement with OSA and FOSA.
- ◆ Kathleen Kelleher for typing for Nick.
- ◆ June Cooke for having the vision and determination to create FOSA.

FOSA also Appreciates These Gifts And Donations from...

- ◆ Barbara Ann Kipfer for donating a new fax machine to Nick's office. (Extension 51 will activate fax.)
- ◆ Keegan Associates for donating a new computer to Nick's office.
- ◆ Mike Raber for donating a dot matrix printer to Nick's office.

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their additional monetary donations.

Nick Bellantoni
Bruce and Elizabeth Greene
Dreda Hendsey
Anne Keegan
Bill and Kris Keegan
Kathleen Kelleher
Francis Korn
PAST, Inc.
Putnam Board of Education
Lyent Russell
Harry and Deb Townshend
Jim Trocchi
Westbrook Historical Society
Yankee Territory Coinshooters
Kathy Zwirko

Lyent Russell (1904 - 1998)

We are sorry to note the loss of FOSA member Lyent Russell, who passed away at the age of 94. He was a founding member of the Institute for American Indian Studies and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut.

Volunteer Opportunities: Field & Lab

Volunteer opportunities: Through the spring, OSA will be processing artifacts and other materials from archaeological excavations conducted in 1998. Anyone wishing to work on these materials may contact the OSA for scheduling. In addition, there are laboratory opportunities available to assess the conservation needs of the Anthropological Collections. OSA anticipates field opportunities once the spring arrives, so please contact Barbara Ann Kipfer at 860.767.1551 if you would like to do fieldwork. Volunteer assistance is also needed in the office, processing review requests for archaeological sensitivity and with the organization of the OSA Library.

OSA Wish List

- ◆ Office equipment - a copier is most needed now because OSA is far removed from campus copiers.
- ◆ Setting up of presentations to Planning & Zoning Commissions by contacting town officials to create interest in establishing policies for surveys of building sites for OSA.
- ◆ General fund-raising for staff and Archaeology Awareness Week

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FOSA Web Page:

http://www.Keegans.com/FOSA
Members may send articles for the Web page to P.O.
Box 230351, Hartford CT 06123-0351.

FOSA Dues Reminder

Please send your 1999 dues to:
Post Office Box 230351
Hartford, Connecticut 06123-0351

Join FOSA!

Yes — I/we would like to become Friends of the Office of State Archaeology.

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- Individual \$ 25
- Family \$ 35
- Student \$ 15
- Affiliated nonprofit \$ 100
- Patron benefactor \$ 150
- Corporate \$ 1000
- Donation \$ _____

Interests * _____

** Please indicate if you have an interest in: art work, committee work, computers, education, exhibit planning, fund raising, grant writing, newsletter, office or field work, photography, typing or word processing, and/or writing.*

Mail this form with your payment to:

Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc., Post Office Box 230351, Hartford, Connecticut 06123-0351

For additional information: call (860) 529-7139 or e-mail to: dhendsey@brfg.com

Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.