President’s Letter

FOSA has completed another extremely successful Annual Meeting with cooperation from the weather along with a very interesting speaker. Dr. Douglas Scott, a battlefield and forensic archaeologist, spoke on his innovative research in battlefield archaeology that began at the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument in Montana. Through the excavation around the markers where the members of the 7th Cavalry had fallen in battle along with the examination of artifacts, a project that began in 1983, Dr. Scott attempted to recreate what occurred on that fateful day in June of 1876. The presentation along with the period for questions and answers was well received by all of those in attendance.

The business portion of the meeting served to detail the activities of the previous year along with an accounting of our financial status (see page 5 for financial report for 2006). Two members – Mike Raber and Gary Nolf – were presented with the FOSA Achievement Award. Both Mike and Gary have served in the position as President of FOSA and have worked diligently to promote the work of the organization. Our hats go off to the committee that worked hard to put the annual meeting together along with the Museum of Natural History and the Connecticut Archaeology Center for co-sponsoring the event.

With the coming of spring there will also come the grand opening of the renovated Archaeology Center on the UCONN campus. The permanent exhibit space will include four story stations where visitors will meet – through “object theater” – a member of the University of Connecticut community (e.g. archaeologist, geologist, historian or biologist) who will serve as a guide and explore the relationship between nature and culture as seen through the lens of

(Continued on page 2)
Spotlight on Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeline of all organizations. Whether they are physically active or just dues-paying members their support is indispensable.

Bruce Greene has been diligently inventorying archaeological collections from Nick’s office and entering them into a computer program called Past Perfect. All artifacts in these collections are physically described and where possible provenance is provided. A total of 2700 objects have been entered so far.

John Spaulding, Nick’s on-site field photographer, spends countless hours at home editing and printing his many photographs which are placed in three ring binders arranged by site. He also prepares PowerPoint presentations with his photographs that are used by him and Nick at various speaking engagements. On February 5, 2007 John transferred 26 three ring binders to the Connecticut Archaeology Center at UConn. These 26 binders document FOSA field projects to the end of 2005.

Ken Beatrice, Paul Scannell and Cynthia Redman gather at Nick’s former office on Horsebarn Hill Road each Monday to catalog artifacts from FOSA's field projects. Occasionally, students and other FOSA members assist them. Anyone interested in this aspect of volunteer work can contact Nick’s office at nbell@uconnvm.uconn.edu.

June Cooke, Mae Johnson and Kris Keegan spend many hours twice a year to produce FOSA’s Spring and Fall Newsletters. Jim Trocchi has recently joined this committee and we are looking for others with new ideas to improve the publication. Contact June Cooke at junebug632@webtv.net or Mae Johnson at mpjohnson@snet.net with your suggestions.

Bonnie and Ken Beatrice spearhead the development of displays for FOSA’s outreach programs. Volunteers are always needed to attend the table setups and meeting with the public. We would like your suggestions for new venues to reach the public. They look forward to hearing from you at k.beat@worldnet.att.net.

Dave Cooke oversees the field work and alerts volunteers of upcoming projects that may occur anywhere in the state. All endangered archaeological sites that lack funding for a contract archaeologist usually become a task for FOSA volunteers.

Volunteering can be an exciting experience and FOSA has a varied list from which you may choose. There are people to meet, things to do and you will find that you will be both a student and a teacher. Don’t procrastinate; give it a shot—remember YOU can make a difference.

June Cooke

President’s Letter

(Continued from page 1)

their particular discipline. I have had an opportunity to visit the exhibit space and look forward to viewing the displays that will be provided through the story stations. FOSA members are invited to attend the grand opening event which is scheduled for April 29th.

With spring will come the warmer days and newly plowed fields that are such an invitation for those with an interest in Native American artifacts. It is also a busy time for archaeology digs and other related events. We hope that you will have the opportunity to join with us at one or more of these activities.

Roger Thompson
President

News from the OSA

(Continued from page 1)

by the region’s climate, geology, hydrology, nutrient and energy cycling systems, and plant and animal life. And, they are explored through the natural environment, history and archaeological sites. The exhibit will examine how the choices people make in response to their environment shapes our evolving culture using something called “object theater.” As an archaeology center and a museum of natural history, we want to use modern scientific research to explore the dynamic relationship between natural and cultural history.

Our goals are planning for the next phase of development which will include a state-of-the-art archaeology laboratory and collections space. We have already begun the fund raising process. This promises to be a most exciting and eventful year for us, and, it is made possible because of your continued support. And, as always, we will be forever grateful.

While you are at the Museum/Center, you must stop by my office on the first floor, which was turned into a mini-museum itself – dedicated to Connecticut archaeology and Frank Sinatra!

Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD
Connecticut State Archaeologist
Below Ground

The field work projects for 2007 are starting to materialize. We will resume work at the Town Farm in South Windsor that was started last fall when sections of an early house foundation were uncovered in late November. As soon as the ground is frost free we will continue with this project.

In Lisbon, Connecticut we may become involved in a large prehistoric site located on the Quinebaug River. A rare and unusual human face effigy made of soapstone has been found on the site and Nick has to finalize arrangements with the property owner before any work is begun.

In Branford we have been invited by Ben Kelsey to assist him in excavating some of the prehistoric sites on Kelsey Island. Ben is working on a dissertation for his college degree in archaeology and thought we might enjoy helping him out on the family-owned island. We have done some work there in the past and it is a most pleasant place on a hot summer day. A short boat ride takes you to the island.

In Mystic, Connecticut P.A.S.T. has been awarded a contract to relocate a cemetery consisting of approximately 50 burials and may need assistance from FOSA because of its large size. We will keep you tuned on this one.

On April 16th Jim Doolittle will be arriving from Philadelphia with his ground penetrating radar equipment. Nick is formulating a list of GPR projects at this time. Will keep you posted on what, when and where.

Dave Cooke

2006 FOSA Outreach Programs in Review

FOSA’s Outreach Program is designed to bring awareness to the public of the importance of archaeology and to help educate through means of exhibits, lectures and “hands on” activities.

Among the many events in 2006 at which FOSA’s Outreach Program participated in were the Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium held at the East Hartford Senior Center and Madison Heritage Day in Bauer Park, with a hands-on exhibit of artifacts along with photos of FOSA volunteers in action.

Throughout the year FOSA’s Outreach committee developed a traveling exhibit of the ancient spear throwing device known as an Atlatl. Included in the display were Atlatls from around the world as well as modern versions made by FOSA members. It was put on exhibit at the CPTV Family Science Expo held at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford and the 3rd Annual Archaeology Expo held at the UConn Campus in Storrs.

This past September FOSA volunteers, in conjunction with the new Connecticut Archaeology Center, presented “Atlatl and Knap In Day.” Along with other activities this event gave the public an opportunity to watch Atlatl demonstrations and to test their own skills at “bagging” a Woolly Mammoth, Saber Tooth Tiger or the “rare and elusive red balloons.” Fun was had by all.

Thank you to the volunteers who made participating in these events possible. And most of all, thank you, to all of you who attended!

Plans will begin soon for a new and exciting 2007 “traveling exhibit.”

There is a continuing need for creative ideas and volunteers. For those of you who may wish to participate at an event and/or may have a collection to possibly display, please contact Exhibit Coordinator Bonnie Beatrice at k. beat@worldnet.att.net or 860-434-5114.

Watch your newsletters and emails for upcoming events. Hope to see you there!

Bonnie Beatrice

Oops! Did you forget to renew your membership? Memberships are renewable annually in January. Single $25.00, Family $35.00. Make check payable to Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc., P.O. Box 380845, East Hartford, CT 06138-0845.

Thank You for Your Donations

FOSA General Fund: $720 Radiocarbon Dating Fund: $260
**Radiocarbon Dating**

**News**

Very shortly two charcoal samples will be sent to Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory in Florida for C-14 dating. One sample is from the Indian Rock Site in Somers, Connecticut and the other is from the Hellgate Rock Shelter in Durham, Connecticut. We will keep you informed of the results when received.

_Dave Cooke_

**Cautions And Limitations Associated With Radiocarbon Dating**

In an earlier article (“How Old Is It” Spring 2006 newsletter) there was a discussion of the development and use of radiocarbon dating. Using this technique, almost any sample of organic material can be directly dated. However, as with many techniques, there are certain cautions and limitations that must be taken into consideration. We begin by addressing some of the cautions:

- First, great care must be taken in collecting and packing gathered samples to avoid contamination. To avoid contamination, samples must be packed in air-tight and chemically neutral materials to avoid picking up more recent carbon-14 from the atmosphere or packaging.
- Naturally, the size of the sample is important. Samples of sufficient size are better because purification and distillation remove some matter. Although new techniques for working with very small samples have been developed, these are very expensive and still somewhat experimental.
- Finally, although radiocarbon dating is the most common and widely used chronometric technique in archaeology today, it is not infallible. In general, single dates should not be trusted. Whenever possible multiple samples should be collected and dated from associated strata. The trend of the samples provides a better estimate of the actual date of the material being dated.

In addition to those cautionary considerations, certain limitations are also associated with radiocarbon dating:

- Because the decay rate of carbon-14 is logarithmic, radiocarbon dating has a significant upper limit in terms of age. The precision for dating depends in most part on the half-life of the radioactive isotope involved. After an organism has been dead for 60,000 years, so little carbon-14 is left that accurate dating becomes impossible. At the same time, radiocarbon dating is not very accurate for fairly recent deposits because so little decay has occurred.
- Also, the ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12 in the atmosphere has not been constant. Radiocarbon samples taken and cross-dated using other techniques have shown that the ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12 has varied significantly during the history of the Earth. This variation is due to changes in the intensity of the cosmic radiation bombardment. For example, due to the recent depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere, it is expected that there is more carbon-14 in the atmosphere today than there was 30-40 years ago. To compensate for this variation, dates obtained from radiocarbon laboratories need to be corrected using standard calibration tables. Thus, when reading archaeological reports it is important to ensure that radiocarbon-14 dates have been properly calibrated.

No technique is perfect and radiocarbon dating is no exception. Although radiocarbon dating is accurate in principle, the precision is very dependent on the care with which the samples have been obtained and handled. Even with its various limitations, radiocarbon dating remains a significant scientific discovery and has been used to date some of the most important archaeological finds, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Iceman, and the controversial Shroud of Turin.

_Roger Thompson_

**Welcome New Members**

Frank Burnes, Manchester  
Bob DiScipio, Glastonbury  
Alex Hasychak, Wethersfield  
Michael Hyman, Columbia  
Kelly Johnson, Waterbury  
Melissa Jones, Chaplin  
John Pepe, Danbury  
Anthony Polednak, Bristol  
Kisha Tracy, Willimantic
# FOSA ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

**Calendar Year 2006**

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# DR. DOUGLAS JORDAN RADIOCARBON FUND

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Condolences to the family of Dr. Harold Juli who passed away on February 10, 2007 after a year-long battle with cancer. Dr. Juli was a professor at Connecticut College and a member of FOSA.

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# FOSA Officers and Board Members

Roger Thompson – President
Cynthia Redman – Vice President
Dreda Hendsey - Treasurer
Paul Scannell – Secretary
Frank Pearson – Board Member

Bonnie Beatrice – Board Member
Ken Beatrice – Board Member
Gary Nolf – Board Member
Mike Raber – Board Member
Jim Trocchi – Board Member
Volunteer Profile: Roy Manstan Helps Resurrect the Past

During the Revolutionary War, David Bushnell, a patriot of Westbrook, Connecticut, built a submarine torpedo vessel to attack the British ships that were blockading New York City. This submarine torpedo boat was called the “American Turtle.”

The American Turtle was operated by a single person using a combination of both hand and foot power. A small vertically mounted propeller is turned by hand to maneuver the vessel up or down while a foot treadle attached to a stern rudder controlled the direction. Surface air is supplied through a standpipe mounted on the top of the hatch. The hatch also contained six portholes for viewing the surrounding water surface. Once the American Turtle was in position under its target, a wood screw would be driven into the target’s hull. Attached to the wood screw was a halyard that was in turn attached to a torpedo.

The first attempted attack of the American Turtle was on the H.M.S. Eagle, a British warship anchored off Manhattan, New York. Unfortunately, the wood screw could not be attached to the warship possibly because of the coppering of the target’s hull (copper sheathing was attached to the wooden hulls to keep marine growth from occurring). On its second attempt the American Turtle lost its position due to a change of tide and an increase of water currents.

After more than 225 years another Westbrook native, FOSA member Roy Manstan, is assisting in the research and the building of a working replica of the American Turtle. This full scale replica is being constructed by students at the Old Saybrook High School under the direction of Fred Fres’è, the high school Technical Arts instructor. Mr. Fres’è has constructed several replicas that are on display at the Connecticut River Museum in Essex and at the Submarine Base Museum in Groton.

Roy Manstan is a mechanical engineer, recently retired from the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and has already devoted three years to this project. Since no mechanical drawings of this craft exist, the main source for details of the mechanisms mounted internally in the American Turtle is through letters written several years after the event. David Bushnell was an engineer who graduated from Yale University in 1775 and Roy has actually studied from some of the textbooks that were utilized by engineering students attending Yale at that time.

Among the many assemblies that Roy researched and designed were the two propeller systems, one for the main propulsion of the vessel and the second to maneuver the vessel up or down. The term propeller had not yet been conceived and in the letters describing the propeller the word “oar” was used…”It had two oars of about 12 inches in length and 4 or 5 inches in width shaped like the arms of a windmill….”

As of this date the hull, made of white oak, has been completed. The hatch and oars have been cast of brass by a local foundry in Mystic. The machining process for the placement of portholes, standpipes and other fittings is well underway.

Roy Manstan developed his interest in history and archaeology at an early age. His grandfather Ty Manstan, an avocational archaeologist, would invite Roy to excavations at Native American sites in Westbrook and neighboring towns. Roy and his family are highly involved today with the Office of State Archaeology and he is a founding member of FOSA.

A footnote for all marine warfare historians: A second American Turtle was built during the War of 1812 by a Norwich patriot. With several British warships controlling Long Island Sound, the H.M.S. Ramilles blockaded the entrance of the Thames River in New London. American Turtle II made an attack on this vessel, but failed because of strong tidal currents.

Fair winds and calm seas to the new Turtle Project and all those involved.

Kenneth Beatrice
Windsor's Palisade

A palisade is a barrier or fortification made of strong timbers set in the ground and built in a stockade fashion. Plymouth Plantation and sketches of the Jamestown settlement are examples of these stockade structures built to protect an enclosed village. It could be said that these were probably the most architecturally significant structures of mid 17th century New England. In Connecticut we have reports of palisades built in strategic locations of early settlements. Along the Connecticut River, for example, the English built palisades in Saybrook and Middletown, and the Dutch built one in Hartford. Their purpose was for protection from the Native Americans who clearly outnumbered the colonists at the time.

Further up the Connecticut River in Windsor was a palisade that is very significant because, unlike the many palisades that have oral tradition and maybe archaeological evidence, this palisade has a primary written source describing it. The reason we have this valuable record today is because the General Court in September 1639 enacted that every town in the colony should choose a town clerk or register and by the next April record every man's house and land already granted and measured out to him (Stiles 1891:133). Windsor's town register was Mathew Grant, who is a direct ancestor of General and President U. S. Grant. A copy of Grant's extract of the Palisade can be seen in either of the publications in the bibliography below. The map in Figure 1, entitled “Plan of the Ancient Palisado” is what Grant was recording in 1654.

The site of the palisade is north of Windsor center, immediately as one crosses the Route 159 Farmington River bridge. Its area was rhombus in shape covering a perimeter of approximately 4300 feet. It is strategically located one mile up from the Farmington River's confluence with the Connecticut River. At this mile point the river meadows first give way to a high prominence of land. Even before the colonists came, the Native Americans must have valued the advantages of this location.

The soil stains remains or evidence of palisades have been found in the 20th century archaeological record in places, such as the Jamestown area, but none that I know of have a primary historical record to accompany them. To the contrary, the Windsor Palisade has this marvelous written record but no archaeological evidence to go with it. The only possible archaeological evidence we have of the Windsor Palisade was mentioned by Henry Stiles in his 1891 edition of The History of Ancient Windsor:

“This south line was 60 rods long; and along the south side of the passage leading from the meeting-house to the burying-ground are now [1891] to be seen the remains of a ditch, believed to have been a part of the south line of the fortification” (Stiles 1891:136).

Point A on the map in Figure 2, entitled “Walk the 1637 Pallizado,” is the approximate area to which Stiles is referring. Because of the expansion of the cemetery and additions to the First Church in the palisade’s southwest corner, the remains Stiles observed probably have been destroyed.

In the last twenty years, I personally know of several attempts to find archaeological evidence of the palisade’s remains. The first was in 1986 when the Route 159 bridge was to be replaced and a state-mandated archaeological study was required. Test pits were dug on the Farmington River’s north bank end of the bridge right of way (Figure 2, point E). This area of study has been severely excavated over the last two centuries because of bridge replacements and road improvements. Hence, evidence of the palisade was not found.

In the fall of 1994, with permission of the property owner, a trench was dug on the southeast corner (Figure 2, point B) of the palisade, with no positive results. Except for some lithic flakes, no artifacts relating to the palisade time period was found.

Later, in the fall of 1998, I got permission from another landowner, whose property borders the riverbank just to the right of the Farmington River bridge when heading north on Route 159. During this event, two one-foot wide trenches were dug starting at the crest of the riverbank, (Figure 2, point C), and into the bank for a depth of 38 inches and a length of 12 feet for trench 1, and 5 feet for trench 2. Again, no archaeological trace was found.

(Continued on page 8)
Windsor’s Palisade

(Continued from page 7)

The FOSA crew came by in the late 1990s and dug in the northwest corner of the palisade. They cut a long trench in this area (Figure 2, point D) with no results.

Evidence of the Palisade’s remains would be a wonderful accomplishment, no matter how small a feature that is found. Hopefully, we will get other permissions from other private landowners on the palisade’s boundaries. It would be a treasure for not only Connecticut’s oldest settlement to behold but also for all Connecticut and New England.

Jim Trocchi

Bibliography

Figure 2. Walk the 1637 Palizzado.
Connecticut Archaeology Center News

Open House Celebration April 29, 2007

Please join us at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center on Sunday, April 29, to celebrate the completion of the building’s 2nd floor renovations. These renovations add classrooms and new exhibit areas to the upper level.

The unique new exhibits will feature presentations by Nick Bellantoni, Robert Thorson, Walter Woodward, Gladys & Melissa Tantaquidgeon, and David Wagner. These exhibits will explore the dynamic relationships through time between people and the environment in our region. The exhibits are made possible with help from a grant secured by FOSA, forming a strong partnership with that organization and the Museum.

The Open House will be held from noon-4 pm on Sunday April 29th. For more information, or directions, please call Sue Broneill at 860-486-4460.

Docents Needed for the New Archaeology Center

Are you interested in playing an active role in the new Archaeology Center? Please consider joining the Museum’s new team of volunteer docents!

Docents will not provide scripted or “guided tours” per se, but will assist visitors in the exhibit by answering questions and providing helpful background information. You do not need a formal background in archaeology or history to become involved, but we do hope you will have a strong personal interest and desire to learn, and believe in the importance of educating the public about preservation and the cultural history of southern New England.

The time commitment is very flexible, depending on your schedule. Ideally, individuals will be available at least once or twice a month for at least 2 hrs. The exhibit will be open from 10am-4:30pm Tuesday-Saturday beginning in May. Saturdays will be a particular need. Come fall, Sunday afternoon hours may be added.

Docents will receive free parking in the University parking lot and a free Museum membership each year. Other benefits include a discount coupon for the UConn Co-op and, of course, the opportunity to attend special behind the scenes training sessions with everyone’s favorite archaeologist, Nick Bellantoni.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a docent at the Archaeology Center, please contact David Colberg at 860-486-5690 or david.colberg@uconn.edu. Thank you!

Leanne Harty

Job Opportunity

Robin Nagle, New York University, is coordinating the search for archaeological field workers to screen debris from the World Trade Center at the disposal site in Brooklyn, NY. Personnel will be selected by the NYC Medical Examiner’s Office. Salaries range from $18 to $20 per hour, and a BA and/or field experience is required. They currently have 22 active screens, but, need screeners to go through debris for human remains and personal items. There is flexibility in work schedules and they are planning on conducting the screening six days a week throughout the summer to maintain schedules.

Anyone interested in working at Brooklyn, feel free to send Robin Nagle a resume and letter of interest or contact her at robin.nagle@nyu.edu or call 212-998-8065 should you have any questions.

Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD

Meetings and Announcements

Saturday, March 31, 2007 – 9 am to 4 pm: Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium 2007. South Senior Center, 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, CT. Displays and exhibits from various historic groups. Vendors with books, t-shirts, mourning jewelry and other cemetery novelties. We will even have a stone carver working on site if you’d like to try your hand at it. Lecture Topics: 9:30 am - Welcome for First Time Visitors - “Introduction to Old Burial Ground Basics” – Ruth Shapleigh-Brown. 10:45 am - “Sorting Out the Sikeses” – Bob Drinkwater. 1:15 pm - “West Springfield area Cemeteries and Carvers” – Rusty Clark. 2:30 pm - “Slide Tour and History of Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven” – Pat Illingworth. Lunch-snacks & beverages will be available. Admission: $10 to public, $5 for CGN members, payable at the door. For details contact Ruth Brown at 860-643-5652. CGN web site www.ctgravestones.com.

Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.
P.O. Box 380845
Hartford, CT 06138-0485

Annual meeting awards ceremony. From right to left: Michael Raber, Ken Beatrice, Gary Nolf, Bonnie Beatrice. Photo by John Spaulding.

Newsletter Committee: June Cooke, Mae Johnson, Kristen Keegan, and Jim Trocchi.

FOSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Phone (W): _________________________________________________
Phone (H): _________________________________________________
E-mail address: _____________________________________________

Please make your check payable to:
Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.
P.O. Box 380845
East Hartford, CT 06138-0845

FOSA has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Dues & donations are fully tax deductible.

INTEREST INVENTORY

Please check areas of interest for volunteering:

□ Work with OSA
□ Art Work
□ Committee & Board of Directors Work
□ Computers
□ Education
□ Exhibit Planning
□ Fund Raising
□ Grant Writing
□ Newsletter
□ Office Work
□ Field Work
□ Photography
□ Typing/Word Processing
□ Writing