



Special points of interest:

- FOSA's Outreach Program
- New Discovery about the *Hunley*
- Hicock-Benson-Palmer Site
- FOSA website: <http://www.fosa-ct.org>



President's Letter

Dear FOSA members,
 The FOSA organization began the year on a sad note with the passing of Dave Cooke, one of FOSA's founders and our field supervisor on digs. We will miss his humor and his extensive knowledge, not to mention his generous donations of time to the organization.

Even though we experienced an old-fashioned New England winter, the day of our Annual Meeting was clear, and a crowd of close to 200 people was kept enthralled by Dr. James Adovasio's presentation, "Early Human Populations in the New World." There were many questions both from the floor and from people speaking personally with Jim after the meeting.

Nick Bellantoni and Bruce Greene, a FOSA member, conducted a training session in processing artifacts on the last Saturday in January at the Museum. Seventeen FOSA members ac-

tively participated in Processing 101. We will be having other sessions in the future and strongly encourage those of you who are interested to attend. Holding Saturday sessions means that those of you who work during the week can still help the OSA. Another group of FOSA volunteers is working with the library at Horsebarn Hill. Processing artifacts and working in the library will keep members busy until spring, when we hope that we will have more digging than we had last year.

As I write this, the State of Connecticut is struggling with a huge budget deficit. How this will affect the OSA is unclear, but FOSA stands ready to support the office. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various activities that will be happening during the year.

*Cynthia Redman
 President*



News from the Office of State Archaeology

As we enter the new calendar year, the economic recession/depression is the big story. Similarly to all other state government agencies, OSA and the Museum of Natural History/CT Archaeology Center will be affected by the outcome of state budget cuts. In this context, we appreciate more than ever the volunteerism and support the members of FOSA have given us and how important your organization will be to us in the coming year.

The sad news over the holiday season was the passing of

Dave Cooke, and we miss him a great deal. While Dave can never be replaced as FOSA Dig Director, we are grateful that Bruce Greene has volunteered to step forward to direct our field operations. Bruce has recently retired as an engineer from Pratt & Whitney. He has worked with and learned from Dave Cooke for over 25 years beginning with excavations at the Morgan Site in Rocky Hill, CT. Bruce brings an engineer's eye for detail to record keeping and site organization. Many of you have worked with

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

New Web Site	2
New Members	2
Officers & Board Members	2
Spotlight on Volunteers	3
Mashantucket Libraries	3
Outreach Programs	4
New Discovery on <i>Hunley</i>	4
Annual Financial Report	5
Update from Mashantucket	6
Donations	6
Boiling Water with Rocks	7
Corduroy Roads	7
Hicock-Benson-Palmer Site	9
Membership Application	12

FOSA's New Web Site: www.fosa-ct.org

As Cynthia Redman announced at the 2009 Annual Meeting, FOSA has a new web site.

The purpose of the web site is to inform people who are unfamiliar with FOSA about our organization, basically giving them an appreciation of who we are and what we do.

Since many people associate archaeology with field work, there are two sections on "digs" as well as pages on volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, past newsletters, newspaper articles where the OSA is highlighted, and related web sites. Information and application forms are also available for people who would like to join.

While the web site currently provides this basic information about FOSA, it is not static. Rather, we're looking to expand its content to include items such as research resources, information on non-dig tasks where FOSA assists

the OSA in cataloging and processing its books and artifacts, and similar items.

The site was developed, and is being maintained, solely by volunteer effort, with the only expense being that for the annual registration of the site name and for the site storage itself.

We strongly encourage all members to visit the web site, not only to see what's out there but—more importantly—to provide your ideas on what additional items might be included. And, of course, we welcome your criticism and suggestions for improvement.

Please email your comments and suggestions to web-master Jim Hall, at jlhall2@peoplepc.com.

Jim Hall

Welcome New Members

Louis Ando, South Glastonbury
Serena Jean Beck, Woodbury
Michael Cahill, Suffield
Holly Cuzzone, Norwalk
Carol Davidge and Garry Clifford,
Eastford
Tonya Goodell, Waterford

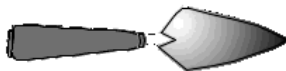
D. Rae Gould, Quaker Hill
Mary-Ellen Hebert, Southington
Georgia Howarth, Granby
Richard L. Hughes III, West Hartford
Catherine Iaccarino, West Haven
Chris Malis and Debbie Dumin, Vernon
Eileen M. Nagel, Preston

Ethel Scully,
Stamford
David Stilwell,
Hamden
Ingrid Wood, Columbia
Walter W. Woodward, Manchester



FOSA Officers and Board Members

Cynthia Redman – President
Jim Trocchi – Vice President
Dreda Hendsey – Treasurer
Paul Scannell – Secretary
Bonnie Beatrice – Board Member



Kenneth Beatrice – Board Member
Jim Hall – **(New)** Board Member
Robert Martinchek – Board Member
Gary Nolf – Board Member
Mike Raber – Board Member

News from the Office of State Archaeology

(Continued from page 1)

Bruce in the past and we all agree that he is the best person to keep the field operation going for FOSA volunteers. We are grateful to Bruce for stepping up and look forward to many exciting projects in the future.

Finally, I wish to thank the Annual Meeting Committee for a wonderful program and well-organized session. Dr. James Adovasio, who presented an informative talk on the concept of "Pre-Clovis" and the Meadowcroft Rockshelter Site, wrote to me to express his appreciation for the hard

work that made his trip to Connecticut a marvelous experience. The FOSA annual meeting has become a premier archaeology event in the state and you should all be proud of your roles in the organization. Dr. Adovasio and other speakers FOSA brings in go back to their respective states and talk about your organization. You are gaining a national reputation, and we are grateful to you for it!

*Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD
State Archaeologist*

Spotlight on Volunteers

Mandy Ranslow is one of our newest FOSA volunteers in the cataloging of recently received collections at the Office of State Archaeology. Last fall she joined FOSA's new Website Committee as well as our Newsletter Committee. She wrote two articles for this issue. Read Mandy's "Update from Mashantucket" about the latest field season, and "The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Library" which provides information about how the general public can use the Research Center.

Mandy received her Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from Boston University in archaeology and has recently completed her Masters Degree at the University of Connecticut. Her thesis was titled "An Analysis of Phase I Surveys in New England." Her advisors while completing her work at the

University of Connecticut were Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni and Dr. Kevin McBride.

Mandy had found history very interesting while attending high school and has been a FOSA member for several years. She remembers her first dig at the Bethany Bog Site with archaeologist Dave Thompson of the Greater New Haven Archaeological Society. She conducted field school work in 2002 and is employed full-time at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center with Dr. Kevin McBride.

FOSA would like to thank Mandy for her volunteer work along with the many other volunteers that make FOSA so successful. "Thank you all."

Kenneth Beatrice



Volunteer Mandy Ranslow assisting in the cataloging of the Andrew Kowalsky Collection.



Surrounded by both "seasoned volunteers" and "new recruits," Dr. Nick Bellantoni and Bruce Greene instructed FOSA members in the fine art of cataloging artifacts. Thanks, Nick, for the Pizza!

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Library: A Valuable Resource to the Public

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center has two libraries, a Research Library and Archive and a Children's Library. Both are open Wednesday through Saturday 10am-4pm. It is not necessary to purchase a museum admission ticket to visit the library, and entry is through the group entrance. The library is a non-lending library, but photocopying is available for a fee.

The Research Library collection is comprised of over 40,000 documents related to Mashantucket Pequot history, Native American history in general, and local history focused on Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Long Island. There is also an extensive serials collection of over 800 subscriptions to tribal newsletters and newspapers, academic journals, and microfilm. The Archives and Special Collections is the location of primary documents including the

Tribal Archives and a Cartographic collection that includes many maps from the 17th and 18th centuries. Algonquian and Iroquoian language material are also preserved in the Archives.

If you want to visit the Archives & Special Collections an appointment is recommended. More information is on the Museum website: www.pequotmuseum.org/home/librariesarchives. A catalog can be searched online at: www.mpmrc.com. If you have specific questions please contact the appropriate department: Reference: 860-396-6897/reference@mptn-nsn.gov and Archives: 860-396-7020/archive@mptn-nsn.gov.

Mandy Ranslow

FOSA's Outreach Program

With Spring on the horizon, FOSA's Outreach Program is looking forward to many interesting and exciting events.

2008 was a busy year as FOSA was invited to participate in several new activities throughout Connecticut.

Among these events were the New England Atlatl Day Competition at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, the Audubon Family Field Day in Windsor, and the Native American Culture Festival in New Haven, where FOSA presented "hands on" exhibits depicting different aspects of Native American archaeology. This same diorama was loaned to and exhibited at the Old Newgate Prison Museum in East Granby.

While "manning" the FOSA table, volunteers shared their experiences and enjoyed the lectures presented at the CT Gravestone Network annual symposium in East Hartford and the Bauer Lecture Series in Madison.

Special thanks go out to our many active members who regularly help out during these functions and to our new Outreach volunteers Pete Bortolan and Bob Martinchek.

Already dates are being set for 2009 activities that FOSA's Outreach Program will be involved in. As information about these upcoming events becomes available, Bob Martinchek, FOSA's volunteer coordinator, will be emailing

those of you who indicated an interest in being contacted. Also, members may reach me, Bonnie Beatrice, directly at bkbeatrice@att.net.

Volunteers are always welcome and *truly* appreciated. See you there!

Bonnie Beatrice



Bonnie Beatrice and Pete Bortolan at the Native American Culture Festival in New Haven. Photo taken by Ken Beatrice.

New Discovery Sheds Light on Hunley's Fate

New evidence from the *Hunley*, the world's first successful combat submarine, suggests that her eight-man crew may have died from asphyxiation rather than drowning, as was previously thought. A preliminary study of the submarine's pump system conducted by researchers at Clemson University's Warren Lasch Conservation Center shows that it was not set to bilge water out of the crew compartment that night, which could indicate that the chamber did not flood.

On the evening of February 17th, 1864, the *H. L. Hunley* sank the *USS Housatonic*. Then, after signaling to shore that the mission had been accomplished, the *Hunley* and her crew mysteriously vanished. Many have speculated that the submarine was damaged by the explosion,

causing the vessel to take on water. When the *Hunley* was lifted from the ocean floor off the South Carolina coast in 2000, the pump system was in place holding the same settings it had the night she was lost. Earlier this year, the pumps were carefully removed, giving scientists the first opportunity to learn what steps, if any, the crew may have taken to save their lives.

Archaeologist Maria Jacobsen, who directs the excavation of the *Hunley*, called the new discovery "intriguing," but cautioned that they are only beginning to understand how the complex nine-valve pump system worked and what it can reveal about what happened that night. Discovering the purpose and position of each valve will provide critical information. "If water was rushing into the submarine at dangerous levels the night it disappeared, it is very possible the crew would have used both pumps (forward and aft) rather than rely on the bilge system alone," Jacobsen said.

Previously uncovered forensic evidence provides other clues that the crew may not have drowned. There was very little intermingling of the crew's bones, suggesting a general calmness at the time of death or a sudden event. Each man apparently died at his assigned station, and one of the two hatches was found tightly locked. If water had rushed in, it's likely that there would have been evidence of panic and the men would have rushed to the hatches, which offered the only means of escape.

Paula Neely, reprinted from *American Archaeology*

Evidence suggests crew may have been asphyxiated.

FOSA Annual Financial Report

Calendar Year 2008*

Beginning Balance 1/22/2008		\$3,663.03
Income		
Memberships & Donations	\$3,445.61	
The Connecticut Humanities Council Grant	\$1,289.64	
Total Income 12/31/2008	\$4,735.25	
Expenses		
Office Expense-Newsletter	\$987.41	
Office Expense-Treasurer	\$74.91	
U.S. Postmaster	\$93.00	
Conn. Secretary of State	\$25.00	
Speaker Annual Meeting	\$672.92	
The Hartford Insurance	\$500.00	
Sprint-Dr. Bellantoni Cell Phone	\$602.64	
Conn. Archaeology Center	\$432.46	
Special Supplies	\$301.57	
Transfer to C-14 Account	\$25.00	
Total Expenses 12/31/2008	\$3,714.91	
Ending Balance 12/31/2008		<u>\$4,683.37</u>

*Change to Year-end Calendar per Board resolution.

DR. DOUGLAS JORDAN RADIOCARBON FUND

Beginning Balance 1/22/2008		\$2,662.80
Income		
Donations	\$25.00	
Expenses		
Beta Analytic	\$595.00	
Ending Balance 12/31/2008		<u>\$2,092.80</u>

*Change to Year-end Calendar per Board resolution.

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.

An Update from Mashantucket

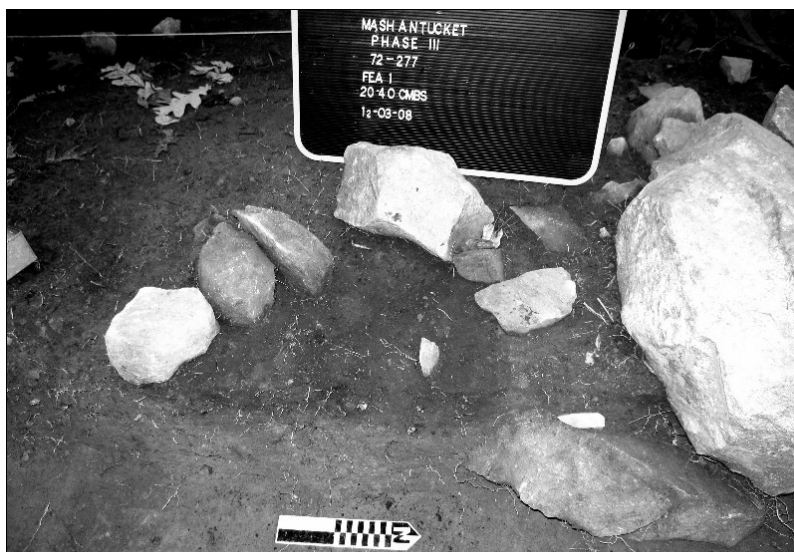
The Mashantucket Pequot Reservation Archaeological District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993, in recognition of the national significance of the cultural resources on the Reservation that reflect 11,000 years of continuous occupation by the Pequots and their ancestors.

Pursuant to the legal, regulatory, and trust responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation ensures that archaeological surveys are conducted before any undertaking on the Reservation.

The latest field season was dedicated to surveying a property that was owned originally by John Winthrop, Jr. and his descendants from 1640-1750. Site 72-277, a Middle to Terminal Archaic Campsite, was identified in a Phase I survey in November 2007. One chert flake find led to a Phase II survey in July 2008. Forty-seven test pits were excavated and 17 more chert flakes were recovered along with four quartzite and three quartz flakes.

A Phase III excavation immediately followed in August 2008. The site is about 30 x 30 meters. Two diagnostics were found: a rhyolite Orient Fishtail and a Stark projectile point. Six features were identified and excavated. Excavation at the site was halted for the winter and will resume in spring 2009.

Mandy Ranslow



Site 72-277 Feature 1.



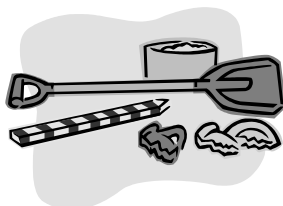
Field Crew member Ralph Sebastian at Site 72-277

Condolences to the family of William Ewald Jr., who passed away in January. He loved archaeology and was a member of FOSA and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and a former member of the Albert Morgan Society.

Thank You for Your Donations (Since October 1, 2008)

FOSA General Fund

Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD, Newington
(donation made in honor of Dave Cooke)
David Bingham, MD, Salem
Henry Coppes, MD, Westbrook
Bruce Greene, Wethersfield
Art Lundeborg, Manchester



Philip & Marilyn Wilsey, Newington

Radiocarbon Dating Fund

John & Betsy Corrigan, Washington
Mark Falade, Hebron
Chris & Carole Noble, New Britain
Gary & Linda Nolf, Westbrook

Boiling Water with Rocks

Many times we jokingly refer to someone who isn't adept at cooking, as someone who can't boil water without burning it. But to Native Americans, boiling water was a basic and essential skill. Boiling water wasn't simply filling a metal pot with water and heating it over a fire, because these prehistoric cultures didn't have metal.

At the time of initial European contact in northeastern North America, Native American container technology had only advanced to clay pottery. This technology was one of the hallmarks of the transition from the archaic to the woodland period. These clay pots couldn't handle direct fire and instead had to handle heat indirectly. Therefore, by filling a clay pot with water and gently adding externally heated rocks, water could be brought to a boiling temperature for cooking without destroying the clay pot.

I watched a video of this process take place. Except for not using an actual clay pot, it was an excellent archaeological experiment. The demo used instead a plastic bucket filled with water, a hearth fire filled with heated rocks, and tongs of wood or antler to handle the hot rocks.

The process goes like this. The heated rocks are transferred from the hearth and added to the bucket filled with water, raising its temperature. Depending on the amount of

water in the container, these initial rocks may not get the water hot enough to boil and were removed with tongs once the sizzling sound of temperature change in the water stopped.

With the initial rocks removed, more hot rocks from the hearth are added to the pot of water to further increase its temperature. The process of removing the spent rocks with tongs and adding hot ones off the hearth continues until the water reaches boiling. Raw edibles can now be added for cooking. To keep the water boiling while the pottage is cooking, additional rock removal and replacement continues. The above demo can be viewed at www.formontana.net/#102 and paging down to the item #102, entitled "Native Americans Preferred Quartzite for Boiling Stones." Page further through the text for the video demo.

These rocks, whether used to boil water as above or used to line a hearth, are found at many prehistoric archaeological sites. They are referred in the archaeological record as fire cracked rock (FCR) or in England they are appropriately called potboilers. These artifacts can reveal much about a site and perhaps should be held in as much reverence as projectile points. Quartzite, granite or basalt would

(Continued on page 8)

Corduroy Roads

How did man, horse and wagon traverse the mud, muck, and marshes that so often surrounded our earliest coastal towns and river settlements? Without the modern benefits of steel and concrete that create reliable bridges, how did the 18th century road builder span those wet and muddy stretches?

A corduroy road is a type of road made by placing whole logs perpendicular to the direction of the road over a low or swampy area. Sand is used to form a base for the logs and to cover them once they are in place. There were various methods used to keep the logs from slipping under the impact of hooves and wheels. The result is an improvement over impassable mud or dirt roads, yet it provides a decidedly bumpy ride in the best of conditions and a hazard to horses due to loose logs that can roll and shift. This type of road was already constructed in Roman times. It is known to have been used as early as 4,000 BC with examples found in bogs in England and still constructed in the 20th century in Alaska.

The corduroy road was essential for establishing networks between communities and critical resources during the 18th century in New England. Town minutes and ar-

chaeological reports document the use of corduroy roads during this period. Records are clear that Washington's troops built corduroy roads in order to create shortcuts over marshy areas, moving vast numbers of troops and supplies quickly.

There are at least two known surviving examples of 18th century corduroy roads in Connecticut. One is the Chittenden Beach corduroy road that rests beneath salt marsh peat in Guilford. This road is pictured in Robert Gordon's *History of Sea Level Changes along the Connecticut Shore* (1983).

The second, the Ash Creek corduroy road in Fairfield, appears to be the oldest remaining example of a preserved wooden road in the state. Today, a relatively intact 53-foot section of this road is visible during low tide in Long Island Sound. The log road, composed of local species (oak, maple, black birch, etc.), rests between 30 to 36 inches below grade, which is dominated by a thick mat of cord grass. It survives as a remnant of a colonial road system that was crucial to the early development of Fairfield.

In ca. 1750, local resident Peter Penfield constructed a tidal grist mill and a dam at the mouth of the Ash Creek. At

(Continued on page 8)

Boiling Water With Rocks

(Continued from page 7)

be the preferred stone to use as compared to sedimentary stone that tend to add grit to the pottage.

The following is a very thorough definition description of FCR:

In archaeology, fire-cracked rock, or FCR, is rock of any type that has been altered and split by deliberate heating. It is a feature of many archaeological sites, particularly in the south-central United States. In many cases, fire-cracked rock results when stones were used to line hearths or were heated to provide a longer-lasting heat-source (similar to a modern hot water bottle).

In other cases, fire-cracked rock results from stone being used to heat or boil water; the stones were heated and dropped directly into water held in containers made of skin or pottery (retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire-cracked_rock).

The definition above also mentions that skins could be used as water containers. Before the Woodland Period and the advent of clay pottery, a container for holding water

could be made by digging a crater in the soil and lining it with animal skins to make it impervious to liquids. Containers made in this fashion are said to be found at large game kill sites out West.

Thus, of the many artifacts that we encounter at a pre-historic archaeological site, projectile points seem to be the most exciting and prized to the average researcher. Granted, in association with other artifacts and features, they can tell us a lot about a site. But evidence of FCR can enhance a site's interpretation and may tell us a lot more about it. I think we sometimes don't give FCR as much attention and analysis as it deserves. It can suggest such things as the long term and sedentary lifestyle of its occupants. Projectile points alone may not be as revealing. Sometimes we may be romancing the wrong stones. Therefore, be careful not to overlook or dismiss lithic artifacts and features that appear unnaturally brittle, cracked or red tinted.

Jim Trocchi

Corduoy Roads

(Continued from page 7)

approximately the same time, a corduroy road was constructed along the edge of the Ash Creek salt marsh that connected with a bridge over the narrowest section of the Creek. The road and bridge linked an old Fairfield town road, the Penfield mill, and the community of Black Rock, a section of what is now Bridgeport. This access way not only allowed for the transport of raw materials and products to and from the mills, it provided a much needed short cut across the Ash Creek from the colonial Fairfield town center to Black Rock Harbor.

This archaeological resource was brought to the attention of the state initially by Kruger Frank, an archaeologist from the Fairfield area that used to walk his dog along the Ash Creek shoreline. Through the cooperation of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, the Town of Fairfield, and the Aspetuck Land Trust, the Ash Creek Corduroy Road has been listed on the State Register of Historic Places and is now designated as a State Archaeological Preserve.

We are collecting additional data on corduroy roads and their prevalence in the state. Do you have any evidence of a corduroy road in your sec-

tion of Connecticut? If so, please share the information with us.

*Cece Saunders, Historical Perspectives, Inc.
hpix2@aol.com, 203-226-7654*



Ash Creek Corduroy Road

The Hicock-Benson-Palmer Site: A Significant Late Woodland Living Site in South Britain

Reprinted with permission from "The Birdstone Newsletter," Spring/Summer 2008.

The HBP site (6NH109) was excavated in 1973-74 by the Shepaug Valley Archaeological Society under the direction of Ned Swigart. The site had been discovered during land clearing activities for house construction near Transylvania Brook. The salvage archaeology was an effort to recover as much information as possible before the site was destroyed. SVAS members excavated over 100 five-foot squares totaling 2625 square feet. They recovered thousands of artifacts and many cultural features representing Indian cooking hearths and trash pits with the remains of ancient meals and other interesting items.

Dr. Swigart went on to found the Institute for American Indian Studies with Sydney Hessel, becoming its first director and incorporating the SVAS dig finds into our collections. While perusing his notes and other documents, I began to realize how important the site was to the history of western Connecticut. Except for a small Terminal Archaic Broad Spear component (1750-750 BC)

and an even more ephemeral Middle Woodland component (ca. AD 1-500), the site represents a 14th century Late Woodland multi-seasonal camp/hamlet. Furthermore, the Late Woodland occupations were concentrated within a thick black, charcoal-laden living floor and virtually all of the cultural features extended from the black lens into the orange subsoil. HBP site has the most extensive assemblage of primarily unmixed Late Woodland cultural remains in interior western Connecticut of which I am aware.

This single component context is important because we can associate the cultural features and other, non-diagnostic items within it with the Late Woodland people who made and used the ca. 375 diagnostic triangular Levanna arrow points recovered from the site.² Those items included knives, choppers and clay cooking pot fragments that indicate food preparation activities; drills, scrapers, and a possible adz that indicate woodworking; a possible sinew stone that may suggest the processing of deer tendon, strands of which make a tough fiber for stringing bows, hafting stone

artifacts to wooden or bone or antler handles, or using in any way one would employ string or cordage.³ Stone cores, hammer stones used to knap them, anvil stones on which the cores were placed for knapping, unfinished tools in various stages of manufacture, and thousands of stone flakes and shatter (called debitage) demonstrate that tool manufacture and maintenance was a major activity at the HBP. The near absence of cobble cortex suggests occupants were quarrying the ledge quartz located on the hillside above the site. The site also contained pieces of red ochre, whose red iron oxides were mixed with animal fats or plant oils to make pigment for painting items or possibly even as body paint (17th century Europeans reported that local Indians painted and tattooed their bodies to enhance their beauty, to acknowledge clan membership, and to impart symbolic meaning during times of war, mourning, and various social festivities).

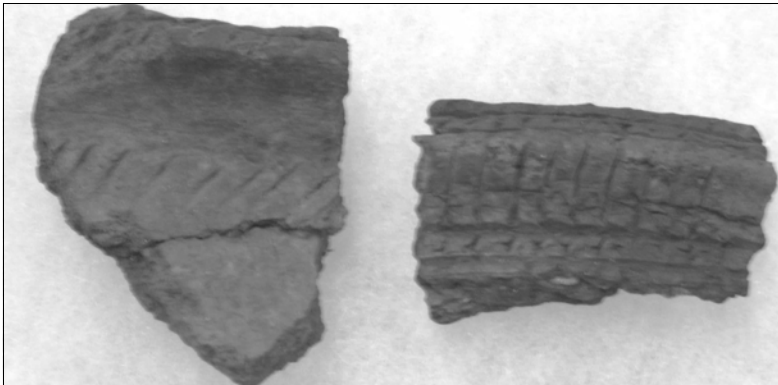
Dr. Swigart reported nut shell fragments, seeds of *polygonum* sp⁴ (which can be ground into meal) and sumac (used as a tea and a medicinal tonic), a cherry pit, a berry seed, and faunal remains (mainly white-tailed deer but also elk or moose, bear, turkey, squirrel,

hawk/eagle, clam shell and one fish vertebra), which also demonstrate food prep and consumption. A canine tooth may indicate the presence of dogs onsite.

The large number of artifacts and the variety of human activities they represent, the relatively large number of hearth features, and the various styles of pottery suggest a multi-family hamlet type of settlement that was repeatedly occupied over a number of years. Two hearths from the site and one from a nearby rock shelter provided the following radiocarbon dates: AD 1320 +/- 150 years; AD 1380 +/- 100 years for the open air camp and AD 1410 +/- 110 years from the Hicock-Hensel Cave.

The floral remains suggest the site was inhabited in the summer and early fall. Wild cherries are available in late June-July, hickory and butternut/walnut ripen in September-November, sumac berries and seeds from the various species of *polygonum* are available in late summer-early fall. The toe bone of a fawn in the assemblage supports this assumption.

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Incised and notched pottery with extruded rims, reminiscent of Otstungo Notched, a New York pottery type.

Hicock-Benson-Palmer Site

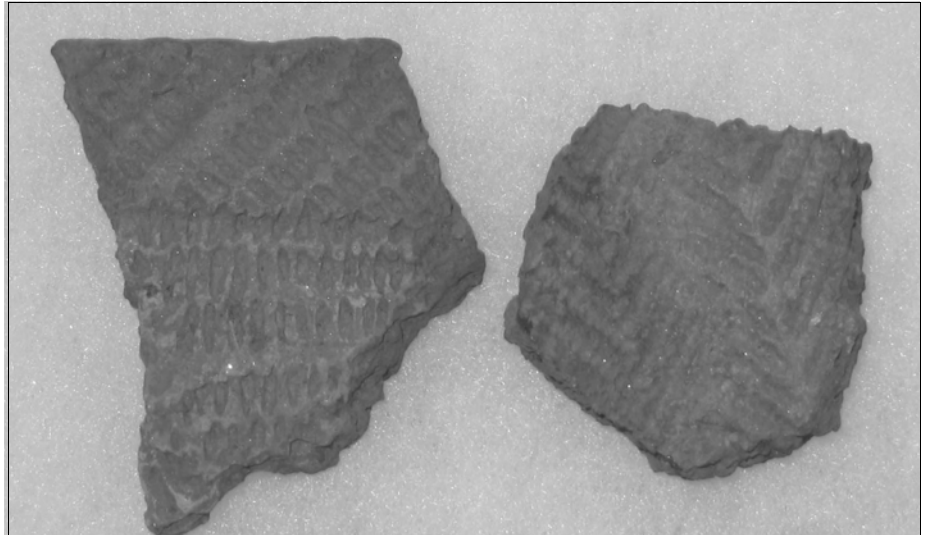
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tion; since deer give birth April-June the fawn must have been procured during the late summer or autumn.

Only one post mold⁵ was discovered on site. However, much of the area had been bulldozed prior to excavation—including adjacent areas and the ridge above the site. It is possible that house structures had been located in one or more of those areas, or that the occupants slept in a structure built over the rock shelter, which was later excavated by SVAS members and found to contain artifacts similar to those recovered from the open air site.

During my direction of phase 3 excavations in the northwest portion of the new New Milford High School, we found an extensive site with several Archaic period occupations whose pole frame houses were located at the base of the hill forming the western boundary of the school property. The hearths and majority of the artifacts were concentrated east of the dwellings, suggesting a separation of sleeping quarters from daily economic activities. This may have been true for the HPB community as well, with the hill to its west protecting the houses and their occupants from the wind on cold autumn nights.

One of the most fascinating finds is the pottery. Some exhibit charred food remains on their interiors, indicating their use as cooking pots. But their main allure is the interesting mixture of styles they represent. Rims decorated with scallop or ark shell impressions or brushing (supposedly with one of those shells) signify coastal con-



Owasco Corded Horizontal & Owasco Herringbone pottery sherds.

nections, particularly with the Windsor ceramic tradition of south-central Connecticut. Others are decorated with the impressions of a cord-wrapped stick or paddle edge. This decorative technique was commonly used by contemporary Hudson Valley Indian communities west and southwest of the site, as well as those living in southwestern Connecticut. Incised and punctuated pottery is similar to some found on Hudson and Mohawk Valley sites.⁶ Some of the pottery is decorated with a trailed/combed technique that suggests the Hudson Valley type Black Rock Trailed.

At least one of these pots exhibits zoned decoration typical of incised pottery styles found in the Hudson Valley, southwestern Connecticut, western Long Island, and northern New Jersey. Some researchers, including myself, believe that the incised zoned ware signified a population movement of Munsee-speaking peoples from the Mid-Atlantic into those areas ca. AD 1000-1300. Indeed some linguists believe that the early contact tribal peoples of western Connecticut spoke a type of eastern Munsee. These connections are reminiscent of those of the Schaghticoke tribal peoples documents by missionaries at the Moravian mission located at the village of Schaghticoke in present Kent, CT ca. 1742-1770. They describe frequent visits to kith, kin, and political allies up and down the Housatonic drainage to Stockbridge, Long Island Sound, into eastern New York and as far away as Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Moravian records show Schaghticoke occupants sometimes mar-



Five Levanna style points made from quartz & chert. Far right: Chert Snook kill point (a Terminal Archaic Broad Spear).

(Continued on page 11)

Hicock-Benson-Palmer Site

(Continued from page 10)

ried outside their group, such as with Pootatuck and Mahican.⁷

To summarize, Ned Swigart's notes and my cursory perusal of the cultural remains suggest this is a very important site because it

- Is the first excavated multi-seasonal Late Woodland hamlet from the region.
- Demonstrates community relationships with Indian peoples to the west and southwest in the Hudson Valley, southwestern Connecticut, and coastal south-central Connecticut. The chert items and pottery styles suggest these relations likely involved trade, bride exchange, and kin visits/social gatherings.
- Supports previous findings by Dr. Daniel Cassidy and myself⁸ that stone tools and clay pots from the middle Housatonic Valley of Connecticut (Newtown/Brookfield area) indicated strong cultural associations with Hudson Valley Point Peninsula/Owasco cultural groups, while those from the lower Valley (Milford) showed strong affiliations with the Windsor tradition of south-central Connecticut and Long Island.
- Is seemingly different from contemporary 14th century Late Woodland sites in the Connecticut River Valley as well, in that there was no evidence for the relatively extensive use of cultigens (maize, beans, sunflower) and wild plants found at the latter sites. The pottery styles at those sites also appear very different. These cultural and economic distinctions may be the root of the socio-political/tribal distinctions evident in the post-contact period.

Of course, these preliminary findings remain theories until we have studied the site much more intensely, which we fully intend to do in the near future.

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Thumbnail scrapers, chert and quartz. Far right: spokeshave scraper used for scraping cylindrical objects.

¹ This is the site number given by the Office of State Archaeology under the old trinomial system; 6=Connecticut, the sixth state in the union, NH= New Haven County, and 109= it was the 109th reported archaeology site in that county.

² A diagnostic artifact is one whose style was produced during a specific time period and/or by a specific culture. An example is the Levanna projectile point style, which was manufactured by southern New England peoples from about AD 900 till European settlement, ca. AD 1650-1750.

³ One primitive technologist informed me that he believed the true function of a "sinew stone" was stone tool manufacture; rubbing the preform in the "sinew" groove strengthened its striking platform and allowed the knapper to remove flakes to form the tool.

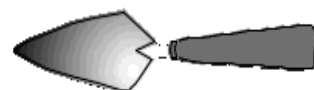
⁴ The specimen was unidentified as to species. Polygonum is a genus of the buckwheat family; knotweed, knotgrass and smartweed are examples.

⁵ A post mold is a dark circle in the ground produced by the rotting of a wooden post. A pattern of post molds often identifies the location of an Indian dwelling known as a wigwam or weetoo, domed houses of pole frame constructions.

⁶ For example, see Robert Funk's 1976 *Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory* (NYS Museum Memoir 20, Albany) and Donald Lenig's 1965 *The Oak Hill Horizon and its relation to the Development of Five Nations Iroquois Culture* (NYS Archaeological Association, Buffalo).

⁷ The Moravian Archives are located in Bethlehem, PA. They are on microfilm and available in many university libraries, including UCONN, Yale, and WESTCONN.

⁸ For example, see Cassidy and Lavin's 2007 *Prehistoric Interaction between Eastern New York and Southern New England* (Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of CT, volume 69).



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Meetings and Announcements

Saturday, April 25, 2009 – 1:30pm – 5pm : Archaeology Field Trip to Ancient Native American Soapstone Quarries. Join anthropologist & Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club president Andrea Rand in a Spring walk through the beautiful Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted to visit the 3,500 year old soapstone quarries. If time permits, we will also visit the Lighthouse Site, the remains of what was once a thriving early historic Native American community made famous by archaeologist Dr. Ken Feder in his book *A Village of Outcasts*. Meet at The Institute for American Indian Studies, 38 Curtis Road , Washington , CT 06793 at 12:30pm and we will carpool/caravan to Peoples State Forest . Fee: Free to LHAC members/\$10 General Public.

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