



**Special Points of Interest:**

- **Venture Smith Day 2017**
- **Hammonasset Festival 2017**

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

# Member Newsletter

## President's Letter



Greetings FOSA Members:

I know many of you have been busy in the field this summer helping Brian. Thanks! As we start looking toward fall please note that October is Archaeology Awareness Month here in Connecticut! There are several archaeology-related events throughout the month, and I encourage you to attend as many as possible. I am excited that the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center will host the Archaeology Expo this year on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The Archaeology Fair/Expo has become the premier archaeology event in October, and it's your chance to hear about the latest research, meet fellow professional and avocational archaeologists, and learn how to get more involved in preserving our state's rich archaeological heritage. Join us for the Expo and explore the outstanding exhibits at the Pequot Museum.

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## News from the Office of State Archaeology



UConn is back in session and there have been a number of very recent and exciting changes for the Office of State Archaeology. I have been assigned a new office in Beach Hall, and people can now find me in Beach 301 just down the hall from Kevin McBride's New World Archaeology lab and across from Dan Adler's Old World Paleolithic lab. It's nice to finally be back in familiar company and out of the Math Department. In addition to the office, I have at least temporary use of the adjacent lab in Beach 305. As I write this, I'm still waiting for final permission to set up shop, but the new lab space is a huge step forward for OSA. There are

six bench top areas and work stations, two sinks, a fume hood, and plenty of other table space and shelving. My goal is to get all of the summer's archaeological materials moved there and get to work on artifact washing and inventory work as soon as possible. The CT State Site files are already in my office, and soon I hope to get all of the CRM reports located there as well so that all of the records are finally joined in one location for those who need to do background research for projects. Anthropology has requested space for a map and records room and even a field equipment room in addition to the office and lab space for OSA. These additional spaces have not yet come into discussion, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed since there is plenty of new space available now that molecular and

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## President's Letter

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On the heels of Archaeology Month, the Eastern States Archaeological Federation will hold its annual meeting in New London November 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. This regional event brings together professional and avocational archaeologists from a dozen states. Jeremy Pilver (FOSA Vice President) and I are organizing a session highlighting avocational archaeologists' contributions to Connecticut archaeology. Our session will be on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Please attend and join in the conversation!

As always, I welcome your suggestions about how FOSA can do more to serve the interests of our volunteers. I can be reached at [fosa-ct@archaeologist.com](mailto:fosa-ct@archaeologist.com). Happy Digging!

*Mandy Ranslow, FOSA President*

## News from the Office of State Archaeology

*(continued from page 1)*

cell biology has moved to a new building. Once we are ready to start the move from Horsebarn Hill Building 5, I'll let folks know. There will be plenty of opportunity to help out soon!

This was also a busy summer for OSA and FOSA volunteers. We first helped Ingrid Wood, Columbia's Town Historian by exploring foundation ruins thought to be associated with the Little family, some of the town's earliest settlers. Ingrid organized a terrific public outreach dig focused on a sixth grade audience, as well as a number of local teachers. It was a pleasure to work with her and the kids, and a big thanks to all who were able to help out.

The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and OSA ran their second Archaeology Field School for Educators. This year the program grew and we had a great bunch of participants, some of whom would like to run archaeology programs of their own now that they have some experience. This year we followed up on Robert Gradie's 1990 and 1991 investigations of the Oliver Ellsworth National Historic Landmark homestead. We were successful at locating a large 17<sup>th</sup> Century cellar feature (with the help of Debbie Surabian's radar) and we have an excellent sample of artifacts to examine this winter. A number of FOSA members were able to act as mentors during the program, and special thanks go out to Lori Kessel, Mike Cahill, Scott Brady and Fiona Jones. Jim Trocchi, Lee West and Dick Hughes also helped during week two, our public drop-in week. The award for hardest working volunteer has to go to Dick, who single handedly completed most of the backfilling of our deep excavation areas on the final day – what a guy!

August was our chance to get back to the John Hollister site. This year's Connecticut State Museum of Natural History Adult Archaeology Field School filled up, so there was plenty of opportunity for FOSA volunteer mentoring. During the week of field school we looked for features that might help us to interpret the architecture of the site. In addition to some 20<sup>th</sup> Century tobacco shed footings, we did document about a dozen other large pit features that may be associated with framing timbers from an earthfast house at the site.

The second week at the John Hollister site was our third annual FOSA Field School, and we had a great turnout, including some new members from the earlier summer field schools. That week we focused on the new fifth cellar and one of the three possible wigwam features near it. Both features produced artifacts contemporary with the core residential area of the site. While it remains unclear if this is actually the occupation area of one or more Wangunk families that might have worked for the Hollisters, we did find two wampum beads and a very interesting, possibly French made pipe that probably had its origins at Fort Pentagoet about 350 miles to the northeast in Maine's Penobscot Bay. The French military outpost of Pentagoet has produced the largest number of these pipes and they do not yet appear to have been documented in southern New England or New York. Speculating how this King Philips War-era pipe got to Glastonbury is likely to keep us preoccupied for quite a while.

In sum, it was a busy summer and we have lots of lab work ahead of us. Keep your ears open regarding lab work opportunities in Beach Hall soon. It is hard to express how satisfied and grateful I am to have a clean, modern lab space made available. I think it is a sign of good things to come!

*Brian Jones, Ph.D., State Archaeologist*

## Calendar of Events

**September 21-24, 2017**, FOSA Outreach at [Durham Fair](#), Durham

**September 25, 2017**, "[The Search for Ezra Chamberlain and the CSS Hunley](#)," Bill Library, Ledyard

**September 30-October 1, 2017**, FOSA Outreach at [Hammonassett Festival](#), Guilford Fairgrounds, Guilford

**October 1-31, 2017**, CONNECTICUT ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH

**October 7, 2017**, Archaeology Field Workshop, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Storrs

**October 14, 2017**, [Archaeology Expo](#), Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket

**October 21, 2017**, [International Archaeology Day](#), Events World-Wide

**October 24, 2017**, "[Rams in Space: The Ambracian Gulf as a Landscape of Symbols](#)," Yale University, New Haven

**October 26, 2017**, "[Dionysos and Vesuvius in the Villa of Mysteries](#)," Trinity College, Hartford

**October 28, 2017**, [12<sup>th</sup> Annual Native-American-Archaeology Round Table](#), Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington

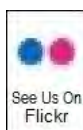
**November 2-5, 2017**, [Eastern States Archaeological Federation Meeting](#), New London

**November 10-12, 2017**, [Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference](#), Portsmouth, NH

**January 3-7, 2018**, [Society for Historical Archaeology Conference](#), New Orleans, LA

**April 11-15, 2018**, [Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC

### Other convenient links:



## Welcome New Members, Since March 15, 2017

Becky Aithal  
John Allegra  
Amy Branch  
Dan Burby  
Charlie Burby  
Timothy M. Clark  
Lillith Davies-Smith  
Thomas Elmore  
Kaarina Finegan-LaBelle  
Constance Fraser  
Regina Gatmaitan  
Jennifer Glaubius  
Matt Goldberg  
Paul and Kathy Hart  
Joan Hill  
Ryan Hollister  
Alan A. Huot  
April Kelley  
Richard Lee

Morgan Lloyd  
Mark Mangelinkx  
Adrian Manning  
Jacquelyn Mead  
Nia Mitchell  
Carolyn Murphy  
Adrian Natale  
Mark Pernerewski  
Amelia Z. Reilly  
Peggy Sawyer  
Kevin & Bonnie Scanlan  
Jessica Spearrin  
Megan Thomson  
& Cameron Dean  
Nicholas Westbrook  
Doug White

## FOSA Officers and Board

Mandy Ranslow - President

Jeremy Pilver - Vice President

Mike Cahill - Secretary

Dreda Hendsey - Treasurer

Scott Brady - Board Member  
Richard Hughes - Board Member  
Lori Kessel - Board Member  
Mike Raber - Board Member  
Cynthia Redman - Board Member  
Glenda Rose - Board Member  
Zachary Singer - Board Member  
Jim Trocchi - Board Member  
Kathy Walburn - Board Member

## Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni  
Dan Cruson (ASC)  
Leanne Kennedy Harty  
Dr. Brian D. Jones

## What's New on the FOSA Web Site?

**1. OSA WEBSITE LINK :** In late August I became aware that the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) had its own website, whose web address is <https://www.facebook.com/CTArchaeology/>. On checking it out I found it quite informative. As a result, I've added a link to it on the FOSA Home page, alongside our social media links. Among the things which I found are a series of videos, which I'm now referencing in our "Selected YouTube Videos" page.

**2. NEW VIDEOS:** Four new videos have been added to the "[Selected YouTube Videos](#)" page (which aren't all on YouTube)...

**a.** No.18 – an audio-only podcast by CT State Historian Walter Woodward, made on the last day of the dig at the John Hollister site in Wethersfield, in August, 2016. It provides a first hand account of what they're finding at this amazing site, and what it means for understanding our early history.

**b.** No.19 - FOSA member Dr. Don Rankin sits down with Jan Doyle on an episode of Branford Public Television's "Classroom Connections" show, to discuss Don's ancestor, Rev. John Rankin, the Underground Railroad, and Rev. Rankin's association with the anti-slavery movement.

**c.** No.20 - LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery of the wrecked Klondike steamboat *Evelyn*. The imagery includes both external and internal views of the steamboat, using LIDAR imagery set up outside and, later, inside the ghostly wreck.

**d.** No.21 – A link to the OSA website's Videos page.

### 3. SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER ACTIVATED

The Spring 2017 Newsletter has been incorporated into the web site. Per request from the Board, we're waiting three months from the time a Newsletter is published until it's added to the site for everyone to read.

### 4. FIELD WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Every month I solicit from Board members and others upcoming talks and presentations they'll be part of, for inclusion on the "[Upcoming Activities](#)" page. Of late, I've also been including upcoming Field Work activities, which can be immediately recognized as they're colored **maroon**. In keeping with privacy concerns, only Town and Date information is given; however, I also provide contact information in case you're interested in participating.

### 5. OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to Field Work opportunities, I'm also now showing Outreach Table opportunities, which can be immediately recognized as they're colored **blue**. Privacy concerns aren't an issue here, though contact information is given if you have any questions and/or would like to participate.

### 6. BACKUP NEEDED

We're still in need of a backup person to help in the maintenance of the web site and to take over in the event I'm no longer able to do it. Please check the "Help Wanted" section at the top of the "[Volunteer Opportunities](#)" page to see what's involved. Or just email me, at [jamesh52@comcast.net](mailto:jamesh52@comcast.net).

### 7. YOUR IDEAS WANTED

While the web site has many things on it, it's very possible that there are dozens of possible things that haven't crossed either my mind or that of the Board which might be included. This is where you come in: If you have ideas or suggestions on new features, or enhancements to existing ones, (or even some to drop), *please let me know about them*. As with most new pages I'll check with either Mandy or the Board and, presuming they see no potential issues, I'll keep you posted on their progress. Similarly, if there are things about the website which you frankly don't like at all, and have suggestions to improve them, again, *please let me know*. Without viewer feedback, I'm not going to know what's working and what isn't.

So, please: Don't keep it a secret. Let me know! You can email me at [jamesh52@comcast.net](mailto:jamesh52@comcast.net).

Thank you.

Jim Hall

*Below is a link to the FOSA Website for the **electronic version** of the FOSA Newsletter*



## Venture Smith Day 2017

Venture Smith Day is always a Wonderful Day. Held annually in East Haddam, CT in early September at the First Congregational Church Cemetery and celebrating one of America's true real life heroes. Venture came from slavery and worked hard to purchase his freedom and later, his wife Meg and two sons. His early journey and captivity brought him to Rhode Island where he was purchased for "4 gallons of rum and a piece of calico cloth." That was just the beginning of a very interesting life where he later became a respected merchant and landowner in Haddam Neck, Connecticut.

This year's keynote speaker, Russell Shorto presented "Venture Smith and American Freedom." Russell has written several books on the subject and has received numerous awards for his writings. East Haddam Municipal Historian Dr. Karl Stofko presented "Charles Holt, Forgotten Publisher of Venture Smith's Narrative." Dr. Karl has been the Venture Smith family genealogist since 1970 and was the family coordinator for the excavation in 2006, conducted in cooperation with several organizations including OSA Dr. Nick Bellantoni, Dr. Warren Perry, FOSA members and UCONN graduate students. The primary purpose of the excavation was to obtain a DNA sample to determine family members such as those individuals from Dukandarra, Guinea, Venture Smith's birth place.

While working with Dr. Nick, I have had many experiences but the three that I remember the most; 1. Albert Afraid-of-Hawk, 2. The Huntington Crypt, 3. The Venture Smith Site. As most of the volunteers working the site, I had never heard of Venture Smith. Explaining this to Dr. Karl he said, "you should read his Narrative, he had a very interesting life." I did what he suggested and it was the first of many times that I would read Venture's words.

Of the many remembrances Venture left behind, even though he could not read or write, was his autobiography: "A Narrative of the Life & Adventure of Venture, A Native of Africa, but Resident above Sixty Years in the United States, related by himself." Venture dictated his autobiography to a white school teacher and was published in 1798. Very interesting to read as it discusses life in Africa and surviving being a captive during the Colonial era.

As part of the "Freedom Trail" I would like to invite you to next year's Venture Smith Day celebration, and the Venture Smith Family grave site. While you are in town, also plan to visit Gillette's Castle State Park and our impressive and informative East Haddam Historical Society Museum where you can purchase a copy of Venture's Narrative.



**Keynote Speaker Russell Shorto**

*Photo by Ken Beatrice*



**Venture Smith Family Gravesite**

*Photo by Ken Beatrice*



**Dr. Karl Stofco**

*Photo by Ken Beatrice*

Note: The an electronic version of: A Narrative of the Life & Adventure of Venture..... can be found at:  
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/venture/venture.html>

## Hammonasset Festival 2017: Now a Bigger Annual Event

The **Hammonasset Festival** comes to the **Guilford Fairgrounds** this fall for two days of celebration, education and entertainment. Honoring nature and Native America, the 7th Annual Festival will take place on **Saturday, September 30, from 10 AM to 7 PM and Sunday, October 1, from 10 AM to 5 PM.**

Each day will begin with a Native American blessing and smudging ceremony, led by Allan Saunders (Mohegan), followed with music, dance, art and craft vendors, exhibits and demonstrations, activities for the whole family, storytelling and a variety of food choices.

“Word of the Festival has spread, and we have been approached with dozens of exciting ideas and opportunities. To accommodate that interest, this year’s event offers more attractions and extended hours,” says Barbara Hanson, Co-Chair of the Hammonasset Festival. She adds, “The event has traditionally taken place at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, but ongoing construction at the park prompted us to take the event to the nearby Guilford Fairgrounds.” It is Barbara’s feeling that “the Festival isn’t about Place, but that the heart of the event is the gathering together of many peoples to share and celebrate and honor and learn. We hope to raise community awareness of the cultures and time-honored traditions of the Indigenous Peoples, as well as issues they face today. We hope to raise awareness of how we can work together to repair the balance between people and nature, and preserve the beauty and abundance of Mother Earth for those who live with the land and the seven generations that are coming. “

### Featured performers:

--The popular Native Nations Dance Troupe, led by Erin Meeches (Schaghticoke), will return with multiple performances each day. The Dance Troupe is made up of Native American performers who travel nationally and come together for specific events. They will gather in the Dance Circle to share their dances and interpretations, dressed in traditional regalia and accompanied by live singing and drumming of a Native Drum group.

--Kalpulli Huehuetlahtolli will present Aztec Dance. Each dance is a prayer, a way of life utilized to communicate with each other and the world. There will be two presentations daily.

The Chankas of Peru will present the “Scissors Dance”, a cultural expression of the Andean of Peru. There will be one presentation each day.



*Aztec Dancers*

*Photo courtesy of Erin Meeches*

### Native Voices at Hammonasset Festival 2017

#### **Gary O'Neil, Wangunk**

Will be sharing his family's native history and unique experiences in Connecticut Saturday, September 30th

#### **Winona Kasto, Cheyenne River Sioux**

Winona is Minicouju, granddaughter of Crazy Horse and niece of Arvol Looking Horse, 19th generation keeper of the sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe.

Winona lived at Oceti Oyate, the “big camp” of Water Protectors at Standing Rock, during one of the greatest movements of our time, protecting our water and cooking traditional meals for the people. She will share stories and reflections from the camp as well as stories from Winona's Cook Shack which fed thousands of people from all over the world.

Saturday, September 30th and Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **The Ramapough Lenape**

Reporting on encroachment issues facing their tribal lands and reservation Saturday, September 30th

**Hawk Storm**

*Barbara Hanson*

## FOSA Outreach has been invited to exhibit at the Durham Fair

The fair is located at the junctions of Routes 68, 17 and 77 in Durham, CT. The 98th Annual Durham Fair will take place from September 21 – 24, 2017.

In 1916 the Durham Fair began a tradition. That tradition continues today during the last full weekend in September when the fairgrounds come alive and magically transform into Connecticut's largest agricultural fair. Come visit the Durham Fair and you'll see what a real fair is all about. Live entertainment, rides and games on the Midway, first-class animal competitions and discovery events on the Corn Stalk Stage. Along with a trove of crafts, exhibits, shopping and fun food.

The Durham Fair is owned and operated by the Durham Agricultural Fair Association, Inc., and is a private, not-for-profit corporation. The Durham Fair is one of the largest fairs in North America managed entirely by unpaid volunteers.

Volunteers are being requested to cover the FOSA Outreach table during the fair in the Discovery Center, a valued educational area of the Fair that serves up topical seminars on foods, farming, home and garden care and more. There are also interactive displays and demonstrations by experienced, knowledgeable experts in their respective fields of service. The Discovery Center is located in the south end of the Llama Barn. Volunteer dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, 9/21 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
Friday, 9/22 9:00 am to 10:00 pm  
Saturday, 9/23 9:00 am to 11:00 pm  
Sunday, 9/24 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Free entry and parking passes are available to all who volunteer at this event. Please email me at [FOSAoutreach@hotmail.com](mailto:FOSAoutreach@hotmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering during the Durham Fair. This is a new location for FOSA to exhibit, so please consider giving your time and educate the public on the Office of State Archaeology.

Thank you,  
*Kathy Walburn*  
*FOSA Outreach Chair*



# FOSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



- Individual..... \$25        Corporate/Institution..... \$100
- Family..... \$35        Patron Benefactor ..... \$150
- Student..... \$5        Douglas Jordan Testing, Dating and  
    Conservation Fund Donation..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Classroom..... \$50        General Fund Donation..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- OSA Library Donation..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Choice (Select One): **Digital..... or Print Edition.....**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

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**

## Interest Inventory

Please check areas of interest for volunteering:

- Archaeological Field Work
- Artifact Curation
- Education and Outreach
- Historical Research and Report Writing
- Fund Raising
- Newsletter
- OSA Library
- Web Site and Social Media
- Laboratory Analysis/Cataloging
- Board of Directors & Committees
- Exhibit Planning/Art Work
- Grant Writing
- Photography
- Writing Site Forms & Reports
- CT Archaeology Center/Museum



**We would like to hear from YOU!** *Please send your comments and ideas related to FOSA or the FOSA Newsletter to the Editor: Jerry Tolchin, at [jerrytolchin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrytolchin@sbcglobal.net)*

### **Friends Of the Office Of State Archaeology, Inc.**

P.O. Box 380845, East Hartford, CT 06138-0845

<http://www.fosa-ct.org>

Newsletter Committee: Jerry Tolchin (chair), Jim Trocchi, Zachary Singer & Heather Alexson