



## Special Points of Interest:

- **Welcome to our new FOSA president**
- **Don Rankin honored at FOSA Annual Meeting**

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

## Member Newsletter

## President's Letter



Thank you for your confidence in electing me at the annual meeting, as your next FOSA president. For those of you that do not know me, I am a retired employee of the City of Hartford. I live in Vernon with my wife of thirty-five years and have three grown children. I have been a FOSA member since 2012 and have served on the Board since 2014.

I hope to continue the great work initiated by outgoing President Many Ranslow. In an era where many organizations of this type are struggling to remain viable, FOSA counts over 275 individual, family and institutional members. Our financial position remains strong, due in no

small part to the efforts of Dreda Hendsey, our Treasurer of over twenty years. This puts us in a position to support the work of State Archaeologist, Dr. Brian Jones in preserving and researching Connecticut's archaeological resources.

I encourage you to peruse the tentative schedule in this issue, to get a feel for the exciting field work FOSA members will be assisting with this season. As you will see there are a wide variety of sites from paleoindian to historic and a number of great opportunities to support Dr. Jones' educational outreach programs by assisting with public excavations and field schools.

Hope to see you in the field!

*Scott Brady*  
President, FOSA

## News from the Office of State Archaeology



We have moved into our second semester in the new Beach Hall Room 305 lab and I am pleased to say that we have kept the lab active and that I am expecting a busy spring semester. Artifacts from the Oliver Ellsworth and Little Homestead sites have now been washed, dried and sorted and are ready for inventory. This semester I hope to get last summer's John Hollister site material prepped and inventoried as well, but we have a lot of work ahead of us yet. In the meantime, my grad Research Assistant, Brianna Rae, has transferred the original paper inventory of Robert Gradie's 1990 testing at the Oliver Ellsworth site to the inventory database and made significant progress on completing the inventory of the Mason-

Marshall site we excavated in Windsor in 2016. As much as I am anxious to get back to that extremely important site for follow-up work, it may need to wait another year until we have appropriately completed our lab work and I have drafted an interim report. In short, there is plenty to do for those interested in volunteering in the lab this spring!

Another important recent achievement was the successful presentation of a full two hour session on the John Hollister site at the 2018 Society for Historical Archaeology meeting in New Orleans. The talks given at the session included my own short introduction to our work to date, followed by a discussion of the geophysics and remote sensing work by Peter Leach, Maeve Herrick and Jasmine Saxon; a discussion of the preliminary analysis of faunal remains from the site by Sarah Sportman; a discussion of the

## Inside this issue:

News from the Office of State Archaeology	1-2
FOSA Excavation Policy	3
Fieldwork Opportunities & Events Calendar	4
Honoring Scott Brady	
Honoring Don Rankin	5
FOSA Website Updates	6
Welcome New Members	7
Officers and Board	7
2017 Financial Summary	
Membership Application	8

## News from the Office of State Archaeology

*(continued from page 1)*

archaeobotany of the site by William Farley; a report on the identification of plant phytoliths from soil samples by Krista Dotzel; a summary of clay pipe remains and the economy of tobacco by Jasmine Saxon; a discussion of English-Wangunk interactions by Maeve Herrick; and an examination of the material evidence of status and identity by Megan Willison. One of the overarching themes was the clear evidence of the Hollister Farm as a frontier setting where English and Native families interacted closely with one another. In sum, this was a big deal for Connecticut archaeology, and I am extremely proud of all of the presenters for their excellent work.

This spring's FOSA lecture entitled: "Recent Archaeological Finds at the Pilgrim's First Settlement" was presented by Dr. Christa Beranek. Dr. Beranek is a Research Scientist with the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Working together her colleague David Landon they used modern computerized mapping, remote sensing, and old-fashioned archival research to pin down areas within the Burial Hill Cemetery in downtown Plymouth to locate undisturbed ground. For the past two summers some of these locations have begun to yield interesting features associated with Plymouth's first period of English settlement and its prior Native American inhabitants. This is the first time the original Plymouth Plantation site has been located archaeologically.

Finally, I am just getting my summer schedule of field schools and outreach programs sorted out. I plan to continue the Educator's Field School during the week of July 16<sup>th</sup> and hope to create a new Vet's dig the following week. The main opportunity for FOSA members to consider is taking part in the FOSA Field School scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. I plan to be back at the Hollister site that week to further explore the possible wigwam structures identified by Maeve Herrick in her recent master's thesis. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, I will be looking for FOSA members to support a family dig day in East Lyme, and there will be a similar need for mentors during the Historical Society of Glastonbury digs scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. I also hope to continue and expand the Promise Zone dig program for Hartford kids, but that has yet to be scheduled. In short, there will be plenty of opportunities for FOSA members to do some excavation this summer and to act as mentors for program participants. Pay attention to the OSA and FOSA Facebook pages for updates as we get closer to summer.

I will close with a note that OSA now has its own web site. The site contains information about public programming opportunities, information for municipalities and the general public regarding historic preservation, as well as pages devoted to some of OSA's recent projects, including the John Hollister site, the Mason-Marshall site, the Stiles-Ellsworth site, the Dug Road site, the David Humphreys site and the Long Society Meeting House site. I'll continue to update these pages with more information, so be sure to check out [osa.uconn.edu](http://osa.uconn.edu) for the latest information. I hope to see you in the lab or field soon!

*Brian Jones, PhD, State Archaeologist*



**Lee West (foreground) and Richard Hughes hard at work in the lab.**

*Photo courtesy of Brian Jones*

## Greetings FOSA Members,

I hope you had a safe and warm winter. FOSA's laboratory team has been hard at work at UConn, and now that our temperatures are warming we're starting to think about the upcoming excavation season. Brian has a lot planned so stay tuned to your e-mails for notifications.

As you know I stepped down as President at our recent Annual Meeting. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication, support, and enthusiasm. It has truly been an honor to serve as FOSA President! Over the last four years it has been a thrill to champion the annual Archaeology Fair, participate in Outreach programs, and watch our membership steadily grow. FOSA is in excellent hands going forward with FOSA President Scott Brady and Vice President Jeremy Pilver.

*Mandy Ranslow*

## FOSA Excavation Policy

At the FOSA Board Meeting held on December 3, 2017, the Board adopted an Excavation Policy, which you can read below in its entirety. This policy aims to define the types of work FOSA Volunteers will participate in (or not), while representing FOSA. This policy was developed in consultation with the current and former State Archaeologists and the former FOSA President and current Vice President. Our goal is to protect FOSA and its volunteers and clarify the distinction between salvage archaeology and mandated cultural resource management work. If any members have questions about this policy please e-mail me at [mmr03@yahoo.com](mailto:mmr03@yahoo.com).

*Mandy Ranslow, past FOSA President*

***Members and volunteers of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) assist the State Archaeologist in certain archaeological excavations related to education, research, and salvage. FOSA members will participate in excavations under the direction of the State Archaeologist on projects providing research and educational opportunities to the public. FOSA members may also participate in certain archaeological surveys and excavations on public and private lands when no federal, state, and/or municipal regulations, laws, and/or policies require the consideration of archaeological resources prior to a particular project's funding and/or approval. As a non-profit organization comprised primarily of avocational archaeologists, FOSA will not participate in any type of archaeological survey or excavation that is required by federal, state, and/or municipal regulations.***



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*For qualified purchases, a portion of your purchase (.5%) will be donated to the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, CT. You may register for this program at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) Registration is free and you will pay the same purchase price for your items.*

## Tentative FOSA Field Work Opportunities

Previous experience is not required. There are experienced excavators on hand as teachers/mentors. We can find work to fit all levels of physical ability so do not hesitate to inquire about volunteering on a project that interests you.

The most up to date information regarding field work opportunities is distributed via email to all members who have selected field work as an interest on the membership application/renewal form. If you received emails regarding field work in the past you will continue to be informed at the email address we have on file for you. If you would like to be added to the field work notification list please email us at [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com)

**May 7** Ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey on the UConn Storrs Campus to locate a site for the Kids are Scientists & Engineers Too (KASET) childrens' summer field school.

**May 8** GPR surveys at two sites in Fairfield.

**May 7-29** Salvage excavations at a potential prehistoric site in Rocky Hill.

**May 8** GPR surveys at two sites in Fairfield.

**May-June** Continuing excavations at Connecticut's oldest paleoindian site in Washington Depot under the direction of doctors Zachary Singer and Cosimo Sgarlata during the Western Connecticut State University Field School.

**June 25-27** Support the Kids are Scientists & Engineers Too (KASET) childrens' summer field school.

**July 2** Support the Stonington Point Lighthouse public excavation.

**July 6** Support the archaeological excavation portion of Ebony Horsewomen Childrens' program Hartford's Keney Park.

**July 12** Support the Farmington Land Trust public excavation.

**July 13** Prepare the Captain John Mason site in Windsor for the upcoming Teachers' field school.

**July 16-20** Support the Teachers' field school at the Captain John Mason site in Windsor.

**July 23-27** Support a pilot program providing Veteran's an opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation.

**July 30-Aug 3** Support the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History field school at the John Hollister site in Glastonbury.

**Aug 6-10** FOSA excavations at the John Hollister site in Glastonbury.

**Aug 13-14** Support the Glastonbury Historical Society public excavation.

**Aug 17** Support the East Lyme public excavation.

## Calendar of Events

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

**April 23, 2018, "The Frome Hoard and the Breakaway British Empire (AD 286-96)" AIA Lecture**, Trinity College, Hartford, CT

**April 28 & 29, 2018, 12:00-3:00pm, [Flintknapping Workshop with Jeff Kalin](#)**, Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington

**May 5, 2018, Archaeological Society of Connecticut Spring Conference**, Old New-Gate Prison, East Granby

**May 12, 2018, 8:00am-6:00pm, [Conference on New England Archaeology Annual Meeting](#)**, UConn, Storrs

**May 16, 2018, [State Historic Preservation Office Statewide Conference](#)**, Rocky Hill, CT

**May 19, 2018, 1:00pm, [Ancient Technologies Workshop: Flint Knapping](#)**, UConn, Storrs

**June 4, 2018, [Connecticut League of History Organizations Annual Conference](#)**, CCSU, New Britain, CT

**June 9, 2018, [Connecticut Open House Day](#)**, Statewide

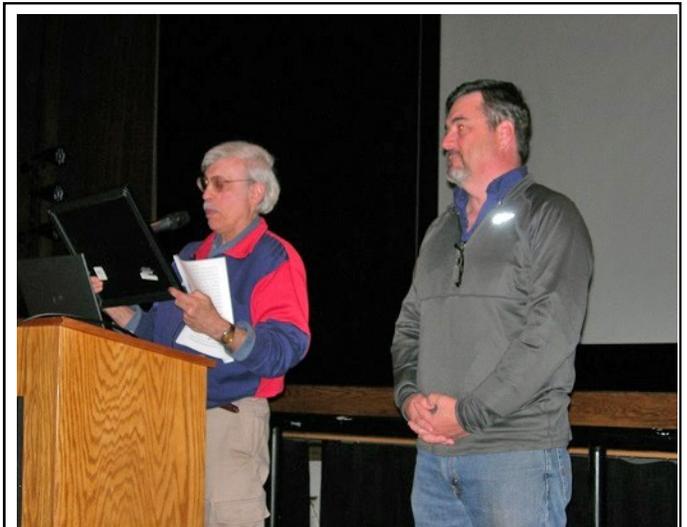
**September 29-30, 2018, [Hammonasset Festival](#)**, Guilford Fair Grounds, Guilford, CT

**October 2018, Connecticut Archaeology Awareness Month**

**October 19-12, 2018, [Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference](#)**, Halifax, Nova Scotia

**October 20, 2018, [International Archaeology Day](#)**

**November 1-4, 2018, [Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting](#)**, Watertown, NY



**Board member Mike Raber presents Scott Brady with this year's Certificate of Appreciation award at the FOSA Annual Meeting.**

*Photo by Jim Hall*

## Honoring Don Rankin

Don Rankin was honored at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology on March 24, 2018. Below is a copy of the text:

*The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. honors DONALD RANKIN for his long-time dedication of time, effort, and funding in support of Connecticut archaeology. He is a founder of the annual Hammonasset Festival that celebrates Native American heritage and the regional environment. Sharing his extensive knowledge of the creation of the universe and its connection to Native American beliefs, he has demonstrated his genuine respect for others. Based on this knowledge and his extensive experience at Native American archaeological sites, he has informed the public about Connecticut archaeology through his lectures, appearances on radio and television, articles in print media, and leadership in numerous Archaeology Road Shows throughout southeastern Connecticut. Don is a member and a generous supporter of The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc., the E.C. Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, and the Meigs Point Nature Center at Hammonasset Beach State Park through his work with The Friends of Hammonasset. His work is an outstanding example of Connecticut avocational archaeology.*



**Gary Nolf, first President of FOSA with Christine Koster, President of the Friends of Hammonasset presenting Don Rankin with his award.**

*Photo by Jerry Tolchin*

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

**1. FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER ACTIVATED:** The Fall 2017 Newsletter has been incorporated into the web site's [Newsletters](#) page. 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.

**2. A NEW SPECIAL FEATURE:** One thing I noticed is that, while we acknowledge activities of members with our Certificates of Achievement, which are available in the [Special Features](#) page of the website, there's nothing there to record eulogies or remembrance articles of members who have passed on. So, I've added another icon there titled "**Remembrances**," in which I'm reprinting such documents which were in the Newsletters. At this writing, Dave Cooke, John Spaulding, June Cooke, Fred Warner, Henri Coppes and George Kinsella are represented there, in the order they appeared in the Newsletters.

**3. ANOTHER NEW SPECIAL FEATURE:** I've been working with FOSA member Don Rankin to convert presentations he's been giving last year and this titled "Slavery in America and the Underground Railroad." In it I've taken his PowerPoint presentation and incorporated it into a standard webpage format, now including text and links to external sources. There are also two recordings you can listen to, one of the presentation itself (about 1½ hours long) and the other a radio interview he gave (about 1 hour long) in February. It's all about what Don discovered concerning his ancestor, the Rev. John Rankin of Ripley, Ohio, and the significant part he played in these events. His discussions will also get into race relations today, something he's sensitive to since he's part of a bi-racial family.

**4. NEW VIDEO:** One new video has been added to the [Selected YouTube Videos](#) page, #22 A TEDx talk by Brian Jones concerning the use of Ground Penetrating Radar in unearthing 17th century artifacts in recent excavation work at the Mason and Hollister sites. (The talk lasts about 13 minutes.)

**5. VENTURE SMITH BIOGRAPHY:** An online version of Venture Smith's biography has been added to the [Reference Books](#) page of the website.

**6. MULTISPECTRAL IMAGING:** Added a link to an article on "Multispectral Imaging" to the "Introduction to Archaeology" page, item #32 ("[Videos and Television Specials](#)").

**7. 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. If you have questions you can call me at 860-531-9023, or email me at the address below.

**8. SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED:** To reiterate from previous "What's New..." articles: While the web site has many things on it, it's very possible that there are dozens of possible things which haven't crossed either my mind or that of the Board which might be included. So, if you have ideas or suggestions for layout changes, or new features, or changes to existing ones, or things we should drop, or even an article we should add, please let me know! You can email me at [jamesh52@comcast.net](mailto:jamesh52@comcast.net) with your suggestions.

*James Hall*

### Passing the Gavel

**Congratulations to Scott Brady on being elected as the new FOSA President!**



**Newly elected Board President Scott Brady together with former Board President Mandy Ranslow at the FOSA 2018 Annual Meeting**

*Photo by Jerry Tolchin*

### FOSA Officers and Board

Scott Brady - President

Jeremy Pilver - Vice President

Mike Cahill - Secretary

Dreda Hendsey - Treasurer

Richard Hughes - Board Member

Lori Kessel - Board Member

Mike Raber - Board Member

Mandy Ranslow—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

### Welcome New Members

(Since September 10, 2017)

- Gary Brownbill
- John A. Dueben
- Margaret Faber
- Sharon Geil
- Alan and Kristy Head
- Jane E. Kelly
- Daniel Lester
- Adrian Nichols
- Jordan Tabolt
- Vonne Whittleton

### FOSA Annual Financial Report

#### Calendar Year 2017

Beginning Balance 1/1/17		25,706.12
Income	10,978.82	
Expenses	7,575.77	
Ending Balance 12/31/17		29,109.17

\*\*\*\*\*

Douglas Jordan Testing,  
Dating and Conservation Fund

Beginning Balance 1/1/17		1,792.27
Donations	6,160.00	
Expenses (Library)	367.64	
Ending Balance		7584.63

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