



Special Points of Interest:

Spring 2022

Note: This is Scott Brady's last issue serving as FOSA President and, it the first issue introducing Glenda Rose who will be succeeding Scott in that role.

Jerry Tolchin, FOSA Newsletter Editor.

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

# Member Newsletter



## President's Letter

*Greetings,*

Scott Brady, FOSA President

Since the close of the 2021 field season, FOSA volunteers have been hard at work in the lab on the UConn campus. FOSA has always had a strong group of volunteers committed to performing this off-season work but this year's volunteers have gone above and beyond in both the quality and quantity of the work that has been completed.

Thousands of artifacts from the 2021 season have been washed and sorted in preparation for entry into the artifact database. Over forty soil samples have been floated with the light and heavy fractions separated, packaged and ready for further analysis – hopefully revealing botanical evidence critical to understanding the sites where they were collected. Volunteers then took on the task of moving field equipment to the new OSA storage facility at Horsebarn Hill. Sifting screens have been repaired (with several talented volunteers proving carpentry skills in rebuilding some of the more “well used” screens) and new screen installed, other tools have been conditioned, sharpened or otherwise maintained and all the required supplies organized and accounted for. A *huge* thank you to those of you who were able to come out and support all these projects!

*Continued on page 2*



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As I write this, we are a week away from the start of the 2022 field season. Two days will be announced for additional excavations at the Two Wrasslin' Cats Coffee House (East Haddam – Paleo-Indian) for mid April and while still in the planning stages, it is likely we will revisit the Templeton site (Washington – Paleo-Indian), Hollister site (South Glastonbury – Historic), Cesar Peters Homestead (Hebron – Historic), Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses (Bridgeport – Historic) and the Thomas Lee House (East Lyme – Historic). All this before the inevitable rescue excavations that are a routine part of the yearly schedule. We'll continue to announce the field schedule via email as details are confirmed. I hope to see you all in the field this year.

Lastly, this will be my last column as FOSA President as my term has expired. I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and will also continue as the FOSA field supervisor working closely with Dr. Sportman. I would like to thank the Board for all the advice and assistance they have offered me over the last four years. I'm thankful to each and every FOSA member for your continued support, both financially via your membership dues and donations, and, more importantly, with the time and effort you have provided to support our mission of preserving Connecticut's archaeological heritage. I leave the office confident in your new President, Glenda Rose. Glenda and I were both introduced to FOSA during the 2012 Connecticut Museum of Natural History field school at the Barclay site in Ashford and have been active in this great organization since. I can already feel the positive vibes and new energy as Glenda takes office. I know you will all be as supportive of her as you were for me.

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## Introducing Glenda Rose:



Greetings, fellow FOSA members! I am excited to become your new President, taking over from Scott Brady who has done a fantastic job of leading the organization for the past four years. And, I am happy to say that he will continue to act as our Field Supervisor, which is an important job he has taken on and developed invaluable expertise over the years. It looks like we will have a very active season in the field this summer.

Since Scott has summarized our upcoming activities in his article above, I would just like to take the time to tell you a little about myself. I joined FOSA in 2012 after retiring from a career in I.T, specifically Disaster Recovery Management. I have had a lifelong interest in archaeology since, as an only child growing up in the Westford section of Ashford (CT), my Dad and I discovered a Westford Bottle Factory dump on our property and dug out several intact Westford beer bottles. Over the years, he also discovered old household dumps and we dug up inkwells, bitters bottles and numerous other vintage bottles. My mother found a beautiful quartz point and two Kaolin pipe bowls while planting our garden, as well as the rusted frame of a small pistol in a stone wall on our property. She was also very active in researching her family genealogy back to the mid-1700's. All of this spurred my interest in archaeology, genealogy and history.

I currently live in Glastonbury with my husband and two cats. We are avid hikers and belong to the Meshomasic Hiking Club, hiking 2-3 times a week in the many parks and preserves that we have in our beautiful state. Hiking is complemented by archaeology as many hiking trails contain interesting features such as foundations, quarries, chimneys, cemeteries and other "cool stuff"!

My first initiative as President will be to work on increasing the involvement of our volunteers. We have a lot of talent that we should be tapping into. To facilitate this, I am looking for someone to become our "Volunteer Coordinator" to manage a spreadsheet of names/talents and be a focal point for sending out requests for assistance and managing responses. If anyone is interested, please send me an e-mail at [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com). I also welcome ideas regarding tasks for volunteers. We have a great organization and we can make it more vibrant by increasing the involvement of our members. I will do my best to lead FOSA in meeting the goals of our mission statement (see the homepage or our website at [www.fosa-ct.org](http://www.fosa-ct.org)) and finding ways for our members to learn new things while having fun.

Lastly, 2022 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FOSA and I am hoping to come up with a celebratory event so stay tuned. Happy Anniversary to us!

*Glenda M. Rose*

## Field Paperwork Review

by Scott Brady

For most people, one of the least appealing aspects of participating in an archaeological excavation is the completion of paperwork. However, the documentation of the excavation process is actually one of the most critical aspects of the archaeological process. Archaeology, by its nature, is a destructive process. The artifacts, features and soils can never be restored to their original condition after our excavations. There is an adage that suggests “an archaeologist without proper documentation is just a well-intentioned looter.” While a little harsh, I do think it conveys the importance of properly documenting our excavations in order to provide a complete understanding and data set for current and future site analysis. While photography, soil sampling, profiling and numerous other techniques are used to collect important site information, none is more basic, yet more critical, than the excavation level form, which is what will be reviewed here.

The excavation level form is a one page form (front and back) that is completed for each 1×1 meter unit at specific depths – most commonly every 10 cm. While it can be intimidating for beginners it is relatively straight forward. The following are the form fields:

Please Note: There is a fair amount of information in this document, covering things that need to be documented as you proceed with your excavation work. However, ***DON'T PANIC*** when reviewing this: There will always be a knowledgeable person from FOSA or the OSA to assist in getting the form filled out completely and accurately, and most of it will become second nature as your level of experience grows.

Front of Form

Back of Form

**Excavation Level Form**

Project 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Town 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3 of \_\_\_\_\_

Site 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Phase (circle) I II III 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Excavator(s) 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Crew Chief 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Stripping

Unit 8 \_\_\_\_\_ -10 cm sq.

**Depth**

Below Surface 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Above/Below Datum \_\_\_\_\_

Below Strat/Stripping \_\_\_\_\_

**Map Key**

10

Feature # 11 \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

① Shovel Shaved  Troweled  Other

② By Quad  Half-meter  Meter

③ 20 cm level  10 cm level  5 cm level  Natural

④ 1/4" mesh  1/8" mesh  Other \_\_\_\_\_

13

Bag #	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">14</span>								
Quad	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">15</span>								
Fea #/Soil Type	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">16</span>								
Depth Range	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">17</span>								
Quartz									
Quartzite									
Chert									
Argillite / Slate									
Rhyolite									
Basalt									
Jasper									
Other Lithics						<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">18</span>			
Other Prehistoric									
Bone/Cal. Bone									
Shell									
Botanical									
Whiteware									
Pearlware									
Cresmware									
Stoneware									
Red Earthenware									
Other Ceramic									
Kaolin									
Bottle Glass									
Window Glass									
Nails									
Other Metal									
Other Historic									
Soil Sample & Vol.									

☘ = Items pulled, see Temporary Artifact Inventory

## Front Side of Form

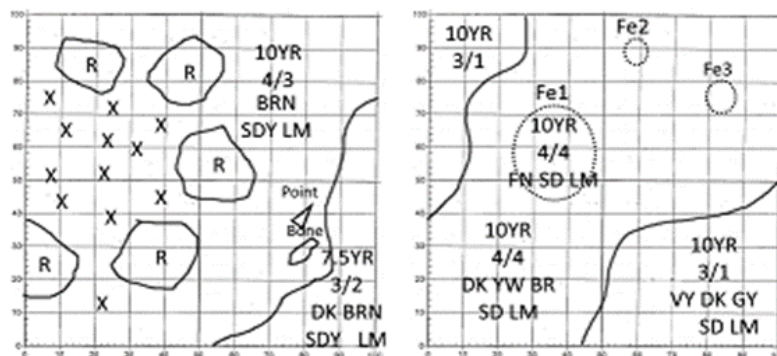
The excavation level form is a one page form (front and back) that is completed for each 1-meter x 1-meter unit at specific depths, most commonly every 10 cm. While it can be intimidating for beginners it is relatively straightforward. The following are the form fields:

- ① Project: The site name (i.e., Hollister, Templeton)
- ② Town
- ③ Page and Date
- ④ Site: The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) / Office of State Archaeology (OSA) assigned site number. Format ###-###. The first three digits represent the town where in which the site is located based on an alphabetical list of Connecticut's 169 municipalities. The second set of digits represents the number of the site within that municipality. It should be noted that many archaeological sites have not been registered in the SHPO/OSA inventory. The form and process for registering sites will be the subject of a future article.
- ⑤ Phase: Circle the appropriate choice. For most FOSA projects this will be Phase III.  
**Phase I** = Walkover/Surface Collection;  
**Phase II** = Test Pitting/Sampling;  
**Phase III** = Full excavation.
- ⑥ Excavator(s): Record the initials of the person(s) excavating the unit. It is best to include the initial for your middle name, if you have one, as you'd be surprised how many volunteers with the same first and last initials work on any given site.
- ⑦ Crew Chief: For most FOSA activities, we will be excavating under the direction the State Archaeologist Dr. Sarah Sportman, so "SS" will most often be entered here.
- ⑧ Unit: Enter the unit designation in the format (N or S)# (E or W)#. All units on the site are designated by their distance in meters from a randomly assigned datum along north-south and east-west axis with the datum point being assigned **N0E0**.
- ⑨ Depth: There are three options included in this section and all three may be used. Complete all as required.
  - Most commonly, the depth will be recorded on the "Below Surface" (**bs**) line as the range of the last completed level (i.e., 0-10, 10-20, etc.).
  - On some sites, especially those with significant elevation changes over the excavation area, a datum will be established and a laser level will be used to record the distance higher (above) or lower (below) than the datum location (e.g., **12-22 cm bd**, **6-16 cm ad** - note that it is important to use the appropriate above datum (**ad**) or below datum (**bd**) notation when recording this measurement).
  - Less commonly, on some sites the depth may also be measured below a specific soil strata or, if a specific depth of soil was stripped or removed mechanically prior to excavations, the depth below the stripped soil will be measured and recorded.

### Sample Grid

- ⑩ The grid below is provided for the floor of the unit to be drawn.
  - Make sure to orient the grid to the north before drawing. Draw any artifacts, large stones or rocks, large roots, features and soil stains and record the location of artifacts.
  - Enter any symbols or abbreviations used in the "Map Key" section.
  - The pair of **maroon** lines at each corner of the grid at left are used to record starting and ending depths at the indicated corner. This is useful if a corner(s) of the unit are deeper than the level (perhaps due to the removal of a large rock that left a depression or just due to some overzealous excavation) or if some object (i.e., artifact, stone, bedrock outcropping) prevents excavation to the level depth.

Some examples are included below.



**Left:** A possible hearth with "R" designating rocks and "X" indicating charcoal flecks/concentrations. The solid line across the lower right side of the grid indicates a change in soil color and the Munsell soil designations for each soil color are included on the grid. If space is an issue, use a reference letter on the grid and record the Munsell soil designations in the "Map Key" section.

**Right:** A dotted line can be used to indicate possible boundaries of soil texture changes or slight color changes that do not differentiate in the Munsell system. In this example the dotted lines indicate possible features where the soil is the same color as the surrounding matrix but has a texturally finer sand component. This might be the case where posts were once placed.

**11** Feature: A feature is a non-portable human created/(caused) object like a hearth, wall or post. Features will be **assigned a number based on the site's feature list** and should be recorded on this line as Fe#. Features should be drawn on the grid and Munsell soil designations recorded on each level form.

**12** Several excavation parameters are recorded in this block...

- Line 1:** Check the appropriate box for the excavation **method** (Shovel Shaved, Troweled or Other) used on the completed level. If more than one method was used check all that are applicable.
- Line 2:** Check the appropriate box for any **sub-division being used within the excavation unit**.

**13** Notes: This is, unfortunately, the most underutilized portion of the excavation level form. The information provided in this section can be very important to teasing out details regarding the formation, occupation and utilization of the site. Note any observations that are not recorded elsewhere or any unusual conditions. Make a note if the unit was photographed at this level. Some examples of possible comments:

- Soil wetter this level.
- Nails concentrated in the eastern quadrants.
- Darker soil is more compacted than surrounding soils.
- Rocks and underlying soil slightly reddened - possible heat exposure.
- Nothing to draw.
- More charcoal flecking than previous level.
- Melted glass and heavy charcoal concentrations - possible evidence of fire.

### Back Side of Form

The back side of the excavation level form is used to maintain an inventory of artifacts and other material that is recovered from the unit during excavation of the level designated on the front of the form.

**14** Bag #: Each unit will start numbering bags of recovered artifacts with bag 1 and continue numerically. There will only be a single bag 1 for any unit. When completing the form for the next depth level, numbering will continue consecutively from the last number used on the previous form (i.e., last bag number on excavation level form for 0-10 cmbs is 4, first bag number on excavation level form for 10-20 cmbs will be 5). It can also be helpful to note either here or in the notes section if there were quadrants where no artifacts were recovered (i.e., SE Quad - No artifacts or SE and SW Quads - **NCM (no cultural material)**). Bag numbers will be assigned as follows:

- ◇ Each quadrant, half-block or meter will be assigned an individual bag number (i.e., if artifacts were found in all four quadrants there will be four bag numbers assigned, if artifacts were found in both half-blocks there will be two bag numbers assigned, if excavating by meter artifacts will be assigned one bag number).

**15** Quad: Enter the following on this line:

- If excavating by quadrant enter northeast (NE), southeast (SE), southwest (SW), or northwest (NW) as applicable.
- If excavating by half-block enter north (NE & NW), south (SE & SW), or east (NE & SE) or west (NW & SW) as applicable.
- If excavating by meter, enter All.
- If excavating by feature, enter all quadrants in which the feature is wholly or partially located.

- ◇ **16** Fea# / Soil Type: Enter the feature number if the artifacts were recovered in soil directly from that feature. Enter the soil type otherwise. The soil type is designated as follows:
- **A - Topsoil** is the surface soil including the organic layer(s) in which plants have most of their roots and which are turned over by plowing. Usually, very dark and with a high organic content. Effectively the entire state of Connecticut was at one time under plow or otherwise had the topsoil disturbed by human activities so, with few exceptions, all topsoil will be designated Ap (for soil layer A plow-zone).
  - ◇ • **B - Subsoil** includes any layer(s) below the topsoil which are composed of a lower percentage of organic material along with increased amounts of sand and silt. Usually, much lighter in color than topsoil due to the decreased organic content. The first subsoil layer will be designated **B<sup>1</sup>** with additional layers numbered consecutively (i.e., **B<sup>2</sup>**).
  - **C - Glacial till** includes any layer(s) below the subsoil that were deposited by the last glacial retreat approximately 15,000 YBP. Usually, composed of coarser sands with large cobbles and rocks and no organic content. The first glacial till layer will be designated **C<sup>1</sup>** with additional layers numbered consecutively (i.e., **C<sup>2</sup>**).
  - **ALV - Alluvial deposits** include layer(s) deposited along a river or stream by moving water, on a floodplain, shore or beach by flooding, waves or tidal action, or as an alluvial fan at the base of a mountain, hill, or a steep walled gorge or canyon by runoff. The first alluvial deposit layer will be designated **ALV<sup>1</sup>** with additional layers numbered consecutively (i.e., **ALV<sup>2</sup>**).
  - **Fill - Fill deposits** include layer(s) deposited in a cut feature or depression by human activity. Often as an intentional action to fill a depression or dispose of waste or unwanted material. The first fill deposit layer will be designated **Fill<sup>1</sup>** with additional layers numbered consecutively (i.e., **Fill<sup>2</sup>**).
- 17** **Depth Range:** Generally recorded as being the same depth range as in □ (i.e., 0-10, 10-20, etc.). If a unique artifact was recovered at specific depth, or depth range, record that information here.
- 18** **The remainder** of the form is used to record a quick field inventory of artifacts. As a general rule smaller assemblages of artifacts can be counted and the quantities recorded in the appropriate box. When large assemblages of artifacts are recovered it can be more expeditious to check off the appropriate artifact types after a quick review of the assemblage without compiling artifact counts.

**Editor's Note:**

Scott Brady's "Field Paperwork Review" may also be referenced on the FOSEA website at the link below:

[https://www.fosa-ct.org/FieldManual/Field\\_Paperwork.htm](https://www.fosa-ct.org/FieldManual/Field_Paperwork.htm)

If you are reading this on a print copy of the newsletter, simply copy this link and type it into the address bar of your browser.



## News from the Office of State Archaeology

### Greetings FOSA members:

Happy Spring!

We had a busy year in the field in 2021, with projects at the Hollister Site in Glastonbury, the Cesar and Sim Peters Home Site in Hebron, the Mary and Eliza Freeman Houses in Bridgeport, and the Two-Wrasslin' Cats Site in East Haddam, among others. This past winter, with the help of FOSA volunteers we got all of that material washed and processed in the lab, and much of it has been inventoried. With the onset of some nicer weather in late March and early April, we were able to catch up on our back log of soil samples, and completed floating all of the samples from 2021, as well as the ones from 2020 and 2019 projects.

This spring we have also been working on moving out of one of the OSA storage buildings on UCONN's campus. By the end of the summer, we hope to have all of the state's collections, associated documentation, maps, OSA library, and field equipment centralized in one building on Horsebarn Hill on campus. This will be a big improvement over the current situation, where our materials are spread out across multiple buildings. With the help of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History (CSMNH), we are also purchasing new shelving, new boxes, and artifact bags, so we can reorganize and re-package some of the older collections. The total effort will take some time, but it marks a big step towards improving the state of the collections, getting a better inventory of the OSA/CSMNH holdings, and making the archaeological materials and documentation more accessible to researchers in the future.

In March, FOSA volunteers set up a new equipment room and organized and repaired our field equipment for what is shaping up to be a busy field season. Our fieldwork is already underway! In April we conducted a new GPR survey of the front and rear yards of the Freeman Houses in Bridgeport. The last survey was carried out almost 10 years ago and we hope that improvements in the technology and equipment will provide a clearer picture of the soils and features in the yards to better guide the archaeology as the Freeman Center starts its renovations. We also spent two days at the Two Wrasslin' Cats Site in East Haddam to expand our past excavations. We had two days of lovely spring weather and managed to complete five additional one-meter units in the areas of artifact concentrations that we identified in 2021.

Looking forward to the rest of the spring and the summer, our schedule is already full! In June, we'll continue our work at the Cesar and Sim Peters House Site and OSA and FOSA will participate in the Juneteenth celebration in Hebron, with a public event at the site. At the end of June, we plan to be at the Templeton Paleoindian Site in Washington for a week to help out with one of the ASC summer field schools, and in late July and early August, we'll be back at the Hollister Site with volunteers, as well as another ASC field school. We also hope to run a field school for K-12 educators this summer at the Hollister Site through CSMNH. Prior to the fieldwork at Hollister, we will return to the site to do more remote sensing work, collaborating with specialists from Dartmouth and the University of Denver, to experiment with a newly developed autonomous ground-penetrating radar and magnetometer unit.

Last year, with funding from FOSA and CSMNH, OSA was able to support UCONN graduate student Brianna Rae to re-organize, inventory, and analyze the lithic assemblage from the Grannis Island Site. The site was excavated and partially analyzed first by Howard Sargent, then David Thompson and other members of the Greater New Haven Archaeological Society (GNHAS) between the 1940s and the 1980s. Brianna completed her work on the lithic material this winter, and I have been working on the animal bones from the site.

This spring we presented the preliminary results of our work at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Chicago, and we'll give a longer version of that presentation at the ASC meeting on May 7 at the Wood Memorial Library. Going forward, we plan to pull together all of the old and new work at the site, with new radiocarbon dates, pottery analysis, and data from soil cores, to get the information from this significant site published and out to the archaeological community sometime in the next couple of years.

This past winter, with the support of FOSA and iCRV Radio, Scott Brady and I have continued to host our monthly radio show on the *Archaeology of Connecticut*, which is now in its third year. Our recent episodes covered a range of topics including public archaeology at the Hollister Site, Ancient DNA research in archaeology, and the archaeology of the original Plymouth Colony. I hope you will join us for the May show, when we'll be discussing the Revolutionary War burials from Ridgefield that were found and excavated in 2019. Then in June, State Historian Walt Woodward will be talking about 17<sup>th</sup>-century Connecticut. If you missed a past show and want to catch up they are all archived on the FOSA website at [https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV\\_Slideshow\\_1.htm](https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV_Slideshow_1.htm).

I hope everyone is safe and well and enjoying the spring. I hope to see you in person in the field this summer!

Best,

Sarah Sportman  
Connecticut State Archaeologist

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Members

(*Since 10/28/2021*)

Matthew Bruns  
Dale Calkins  
Elizabeth Correia  
Katie Gaspar  
Tania Grgurich  
Steven Lamotte  
Lori Logan  
Ray Michno  
Jack Nork  
Gayle Presley  
Carly Regalado  
Chris Rogers  
Andrea Stannard  
Bruce Williams  
Jane Williams  
Jill Williams

## FOSA Membership Update

Beginning in late March 2020, we have introduced and fine-tuned electronic membership services on the FOSA website. This allows new and renewing members to enter their membership information and volunteer activity preferences, and to pay via PayPal if desired. An increasing number of members are using this service, including over 60% of those who renewed or joined since mid-June 2021. We have had an excellent membership renewal response, thanks in part to the on-line talks co-sponsored with the ASC, and to the revival of summer fieldwork. Since early December 2021, over 75 members have renewed. For a current map of where our members live, you can find it on our website: [https://www.fosa-ct.org/Photos/FOSA\\_Members\\_20210527\\_Pict.jpg](https://www.fosa-ct.org/Photos/FOSA_Members_20210527_Pict.jpg)

*Mike Raber, Membership Chair*



## What's New on the FOSA Website?

1. We've continued to record the "Archaeology of Connecticut" interviews given at iCRV radio, and to incorporate them on the website with brief overviews of the subjects, at [http://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV\\_Slideshow\\_1.htm](http://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV_Slideshow_1.htm). At this writing (mid April), 36 shows have been identified thru April, 2022 (38 dates are shown, but one show had to be rescheduled due to power failures associated with Tropical Storm Isaias and the other is a repeat of the September, 2021 interview).

2. The Fall 2021 Newsletter is now available online, in the Newsletters page, at [https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_Newsletters.htm](https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_Newsletters.htm). (We've been asked to wait 3 or so months after publication before moving them onto the website where non-members can access them.)

3 Early last year, Nick Bellantoni's latest book, "And So the Tomb Remained", was published. One picture in that book showed a large QR code associated with Center Cemetery in East Hartford ... which didn't work (the Library was updating their QR codes, a process beginning after the photo was taken.) Since then work on their web site has been completed. So a new page link has been added to the Skeletal Diagrams at <https://www.fosa-ct.org/tombs.htm>, which is also accessible under "Research Aids".

Moreover, the full contents of the Cemetery's podcasts have been moved to the East Hartford Historical Society website, available by clicking [Center Cemetery Podcasts](#). Their new page is much easier to visually navigate than their previous one.

4. Changes have been made to how you navigate image groups where you select 1 image from a group to go to the presentation page. (For example, the 2017 Plimoth Plantation Trip, at [https://www.fosa-ct.org/SpecialFeatures/FOSA\\_Plimoth2017\\_Slideshow\\_0.htm](https://www.fosa-ct.org/SpecialFeatures/FOSA_Plimoth2017_Slideshow_0.htm).

Previously, if you clicked, say, the 11<sup>th</sup> image (4<sup>th</sup> in the second line, of Bonnie Beatrice at a Plantation period oven), you would go to the display page but would be at the first image, and not the 11<sup>th</sup>. That is now changed, so you'll be brought to the 11<sup>th</sup> image. Navigation from that point is unchanged. While this is of minimal benefit to a small set of images, if you look at the images for Nick Bellantoni's Retirement Picnic you'll see there are 3 groups of images, with 18, 18 and 16 images in each. And for any group, regardless of which you chose, you'd always go to the first image of that group. Now, you'll go directly to the image you chose, in the group of which it's a part.

5. I've incorporated Scott Brady's "Field Paperwork Review" paper, which should be in this newsletter, into the website, as the last item in the drop-down list under "Site Work." It's been reformatted so that you can see the Front and Back images of the "Excavation Level Form" on the left side of the screen, and the instructions on the right side, with each side able to be individually scrolled.

6. Added Dr. Douglas F. Jordan entries into both the "Remembrances" and "About Us" pages. Dr. Jordan was the first CT State Archaeologist. Also added Bruce Greene to the "Remembrances" page, copying the article by Nick Bellantoni in this Newsletter.

7. SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED: To reiterate from above and from previous "What's New..." articles: While the web site has many things on it, it's very possible that there are dozens of other 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, please let me know! You can email me at [jamesh52@comcast.net](mailto:jamesh52@comcast.net) with your suggestions.

*Jim Hall*

## In Remembrance:

**Bruce Greene**

**1946 - 2022**

It was in the mid-1980s, before I became the Connecticut State Archaeologist, and while I was assisting the Albert Morgan Archaeological Society in the excavation of the Morgan Site, probably the largest Native American village in the state 1,000 years ago on the floodplain of the Connecticut River in Rocky Hill, when I met Bruce Greene. The site's co-field director, Dave Cooke, a longtime friend of Bruce's, showed me field notes documenting the excavations being conducted, including a detailed drawing of a large storage feature with recovered artifacts precisely measured and mapped. I was very impressed with the documentation and congratulated Dave on the detail of the figures. He shook his head, "I didn't do this," and then pointed to a fellow sitting on an upside down 5-gallon plastic bucket, writing on a wooden clipboard, said, "He did. He's an engineer at Pratt." So, I suppose we can say that I was very much impressed with Bruce Greene's field-work before I ever formally met him!

Bruce was a founding member of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc., (FOSA) which was conceived by his dear friend, June Cooke in the late 1990s. He was one of a small group of avocational and professional archaeologists that spearheaded the development of the FOSA organization; serving on the non-profit's initial board of directors and volunteering in the field when his work at Pratt Whitney allowed.

He was a decades long member of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and contributed articles to the Society's annual Bulletin. He was a longtime supporter of the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington Depot, Connecticut, where he donated his grandfather's Indian artifact assemblage - the George O. Murphy Collection is now housed and utilized by researchers studying New England prehistory.

Bruce was born in Westerly, RI, and came of age in Stonington, CT, where he excelled as a star track and football player in high school. So good was he as an athlete that he received numerous scholarships to play football from many Ivy League schools, including Cornell, Wesleyan, Trinity, Princeton, and Dartmouth Colleges among others. He chose to play football and matriculate at Trinity College in Hartford as an engineering student. He graduated with a BA in 1968 and found employment with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corporation as an aeronautical engineer working there for 35 years. Later in life, following his passion for history, Bruce Greene returned to Trinity for two Master's Degrees in American Studies with a specialization in archaeological resources. His second master's thesis at Trinity was on the Patchaug Hoax Site in eastern Connecticut.

After the death of Dave Cooke and his own retirement from Pratt & Whitney, Bruce assisted me as the Office of State Archaeology's field director. He supervised University of Connecticut students and FOSA volunteers in archaeological field methods; was responsible for our office record cataloguing and laboratory management; and, he did this as a volunteer, devoting countless hours and his expertise to our office and preservation efforts. His work was meticulous, detailed, accurate, and, I am sure, the overall product of his engineering training that he ably adapted to the science of archaeology. We are forever indebted.

Through all this, Bruce developed an expertise in the material culture of Native and Colonial Americans. He aided the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the Connecticut Historical Society in identifying artifacts from their Indian and historical collections. He also assisted in cataloguing and developing computer databases for their museum records and promoted his skills as an archaeological consultant offering services to other institutions with archaeological collections. This was no small achievement.

*Continued on page 11*

That is simply a description of his many roles in Connecticut archaeology and the skills Bruce brought to his work. It does not reference the personal attributes he endeared while doing so. Students and FOSA volunteers remember him as a very caring, patient and intelligent man, who taught them archaeological techniques and methods they are employing in today's excavations.

While Bruce could be very serious in the field about doing things correctly, he tempered that determination with humor and enthusiasm. He never lost the "thrill of discovery," the importance of recording and the significance of cultural interpretation that is essential to the archaeological process. He was able to communicate his passion with a dedicated group of men and women who shared a strong love of history and archaeology that cemented longstanding friendships.

And, I think that is what I will remember and cherish the most about Bruce: our friendship! We had a lot of adventures and laughs together. Long days filled with hard fieldwork, excitement and animated discussions while eating lunches sitting on the ground, backs leaning against large tree trunks. Drives through the Connecticut countryside going to and coming from an archaeological site filled with stories of discovery, family, friends and the relevance of our work together. Bonds strengthened by mutual appreciation and respect, developing into friendships that have persisted for decades. We will miss him dearly.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his beloved wife, Polly and their son, Matthew and his daughter-in-law, Seana. Bruce loved them dearly and was totally devoted to his three grandchildren, Maggie, Aidan and Roman.

*Nick Bellantoni,  
Connecticut State Archaeologist Emeritus*

## Book Review

**Memento Mori** (Remember Death) – Author: Kate Linsley Rogers

How many of you, like me, have wandered through an old cemetery, looking at the inscriptions on the grave-stones and wondering what life was like for the person interred there? This interesting book contains vignettes of 23 people buried in the Old Farmington Cemetery, which I found to be fascinating. Many of the cemeteries "residents" were important figures in Farmington and Connecticut history. Others were significant in different ways (no spoiler alerts!). There is also a mystery or two that will intrigue you.

The physical book is of high quality. It is a paperback but the paper is thick and has a nice feel when turning the pages (for those who still enjoy reading an actual book). Lots of nice photographs accompany each story and there is a map of the cemetery inside the front and back covers. The vignettes range from 2 pages to 10 pages in length, with an average of 6 pages, so you can pick it up and read one of the stories in a short time.

Contributors to the book were Betty Coykendall, Sherra Palmer and Paul A. Kramer. Many other people were consulted, among them FOSA member Ruth Shapleigh-Brown of the Connecticut Gravestone Network.

So, if you are interested in history, cemeteries and/or genealogy, I think you will enjoy reading "Memento Mori". It is produced (copyright) by the Stanley-Whitman House in Farmington and is available through their website at <https://s-wh.org/museum-publications>. The cost is \$31.90 if you can pick it up otherwise, with shipping included, it is \$35.00. It can also be purchased directly at the Stanley-Whitman House Museum or at Farmington's Main Library.

*Submitted by Glenda M. Rose*

*Editor's Note: This is the second of four articles submitted by **Thomas Ford** that summarize his visits to important archaeological sites. His first, on Blackwater Draw, appeared in 2020.*

## Road Trip Observations:

### Poverty Point National Monument, UNESCO World Heritage Site & Louisiana State Park, located in Pioneer, Louisiana.



Back in the day – the early 70s - I read about the Poverty Point site / culture from my Intro to Archaeology studies. At that time, I thought this late Archaic site exhibited earthworks and community organization suggestive of Meso-American connections. A stop at Millsaps University in Jackson, Mississippi afforded me an opportunity to take some time and drive the 75 miles west across the Mississippi River, into Louisiana, to visit and hike the Poverty Point State Park, National Historic Monument and UNESCO World Heritage site. Well worth the effort to get there! I was able to dismiss any old thoughts of Meso-American connections. A Late Archaic hunting and foraging way of life that supported an organized community with evidence of widespread trade economy is fascinating.

Poverty Point was occupied between 3,730 – 2,700 B.P. The site is situated on Macon Ridge within the Mississippi River floodplain. Also, the Arkansas River is a number of miles northwest. From this ridge, the land falls off east to Bayou Bacon and is bounded by bottom lands with lesser streams and swamps to the north, west and south. The site is notable for the six concentric (semi-circular) earthworks encompassing a central plaza area. Each ring was originally 6-8 feet in height, upwards of 80 feet in width, and average 1.7 miles in length. It is estimated that the rings reflect over a half million cubic yards of hand placed soils. Roads radiate out and transect the concentric earthworks. Six earthen mounds are also located here: the largest one is associated with the Poverty Point complex while several smaller mounds may date to later occupations (Top center of picture). Archaeological investigations revealed post molds, house patterns, domestic debris and living areas on top of the concentric rings. These rings served as platforms for houses. As a planned community, it may be that the raised rings were a logical solution to the torrential rains and ponded runoffs typical of the Gulf Coast and Mississippi Valley. The Poverty Point site is the largest of the Poverty Point Culture defined by sites throughout the lower Mississippi River region. A tremendous quantity of lithics has been excavated: remarkable in that the area is alluvial sediments and stone had to be carried here from locations miles, even hundreds of miles away. Distinctive Poverty Point material culture includes clay balls, an elaborate microlithic industry, stone owl motifs, clay figurines, and baked clay vessels.

I found much of the site to be open mowed grass fields, with wooded perimeter. From the visitor center, a paved road and paths enable wandering, observation of the ground undulations (remaining evidence of the concentric earthworks), ascent of two of the earth mounds. The two-mile walk was pleasant although the sun, heat, humidity and insects each pose a challenge. On foot, I gained a perspective of the scale of the site and of the setting relative to the nearby water resources (you must venture through the woods to view the Bayou).

Some researchers argue that Poverty Point does not reflect a heightened socio-political organization but simply a regional technological and economic pattern. However, by visiting this site I gained an appreciation of the social organization necessary to give rise to this site. It is in stark contrast to my perception of Archaic Indians living in small kinship-based groups pursuing a relatively dispersed, foraging lifeway. Some form of socio-political organization had to be present for the Poverty Point site to attain its apparently unique scale, organization and level of attainment. The population and community organization evident: the harnessing of labor to construct the earthworks, and the expansive trade connections evident by artifacts all suggest leadership and ceremonial attainment above (unique from?) that typically seen for Archaic peoples. Even so, many of the cultural traits remain typically "Late Archaic". The basic hunting and foraging economy supported by the rich fish, fowl and plant resources (and probably incipient agriculture) of the Bayou is no different (other than scale) than that of other Archaic manifestations. Also, beside the community organization indicative of some form of leadership here, there is little clear evidence of social stratification. And while the earthwork construction here is extensive and unique in form, earthworks are found at other Archaic sites.

Check one off my bucket list. I came away with numerous questions and the desire to read more on what current Poverty Point research is revealing.

To get there: From Monroe LA, take I-20 east for thirty miles and then go north on Rte 17 for approximately 12 miles, to Epps LA.

Further recommended reading:

Jon L. Gibson, "Poverty Point, *A Terminal Archaic Culture of the Lower Mississippi Valley*" (Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, *Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission*, Baton Rouge, LA, Second Edition May 1996)

Tristram R. Kidder, "Transforming Hunter-Gatherer History at Poverty Point." In *Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology as Historical Process*, edited by K. E. Sassaman and D. H. Holley, Jr., pp. 95-119. (University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 2011)

Jenny Ellerbe and D Anna M Greenlee, "*Poverty Point: Revealing the Forgotten City*" (Louisiana State University Press, 2015)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Some Upcoming Event of Note:

#### **Nick Bellantoni Speaking Engagement: "And So The Tomb Remained"**

**When:** Wednesday, May 11, time 1:00 PM.

**Where:** Meriden Mall, Lewis Avenue, Meriden, CT (2nd level, in space adjacent to Boscov's Dept Store and next to Champs).

**Note:** Open to Castle Craig Adult Learning Center members and people using the library if there's room.

#### **Scott Brady Speaking Engagement: "Connecticut's Past as Revealed Through Archaeology"**

**When:** Friday, May 13, 7:00PM

**Where:** Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, West Columbia, CT

The talk will be preceded by a 6:00 PM pot-luck appetizer/dessert social hour and a short Columbia Historical Society business meeting.

**Note:** Free and open to the public.

#### **Gary Nolf Atlatl Demonstration and Discussion**

**When:** Saturday, May 14, 2022 TIME: starts 1:00 PM

**Where:** Westbrook Historical Society on the Town Green, Westbrook, CT

## Announcement: Spring Meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

For a list of other upcoming events please visit: <https://www.fosa-ct.org/ASCNews259.pdf#page=12>.

### Sarah Sportman Speaking Engagement: "A Paleoindian Encampment at the Two Wrasslin' Cats Site, East Haddam, Connecticut"



**When:** Saturday, May 7, 10:30 - 11:00 AM

**Where:** ASC SPRING MEETING, Wood Memorial Library and Museum, 783 Main Street, South Windsor, CT

**What:** The Two Wrasslin' Cats Site is located on the banks of the Succor Brook, a small first order tributary of the Connecticut River. The site was identified when Mark Clymer, who was drinking coffee in the backyard of the eponymous coffee shop, looked down and spotted a chert flake on the ground. Successive excavations, led by the Office of State Archaeology and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, uncovered evidence of the 18th century residents of the dwelling now housing the coffee shop, as well as potential evidence of Paleoindian occupation.

It's been way too long since we could get together and enjoy a day of fellowship focused around our shared interest in Connecticut archaeology. Well, that's about to change!

FOSA is pleased to report that as part of our longstanding partnership with the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (ASC), FOSA members can attend the ASC Spring meeting for the reduced price of \$8.

**This year's meeting will be held on May 7th at the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor.** Come for:

- Coffee and doughnuts
- Four varied and interesting presentations
- The fantastic native artifact collections on display - most from the South Windsor river terrace
- A tour of the onsite Nowashe Village - a recreation of a native pre contact village
- 
- Table displays from several organizations with a special exhibit by experimental archaeologist Jim Dina
- 

The afternoon wine and cheese reception

Check the attached flyer for further details and directions.

Lunch is on your own and the staff recommendations include:

- Villa of Lebanon 575 John Fitch Blvd, South Windsor - Awesome Lebanese food (They also serve pizza.)
- Jem's Garden and Dairy Barn (Vegan) 1062 Pleasant Valley Road, South Windsor - Smoothies, smoothie bowls, DF, GF options.

Lena's Restaurant & Banquet 655 John Fitch Blvd, South Windsor - Pizza, Italian-American

Come and see old friends (finally!) and make some new ones!

## FOSA Officers and Board

Glenda Rose - President  
 (Open) - Vice President  
 Scott Brady - Recording Secretary  
 Sandy DiStefano - Corresponding Secretary  
 Jim Trocchi - Treasurer  
 (Assistant Treasurer - Open)  
 Mike Cahill - Board Member  
 Dave Colberg - Board Member  
 Dreda Hendsey - Board Member  
 Richard Hughes - Board Member  
 Lori Kessel - Board Member  
 Cindy McWeeney - Board Member  
 Jeremy Pilver - Board Member  
 Mike Raber - Board Member  
 Deanna Rhodes - Board Member  
 Kathy Walburn - Board Member

### Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Sarah Sportman, CT State Archaeologist (OSA)  
 Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, *Emeritus* CT State Archaeologist  
 Dr. Janine Caira, Director, CSMNH  
 Lee West (ASC)



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## FOSA Committees and Committee Members

**Archaeology Awareness Month:** TBD (Chair), Jim Hall, Dick Hughes, Elliot Schawm, Kathy Walburn  
**Cooke Scholarship Committee:** Jeremy Pilver (Chair), Scott Brady, Cindy McWeeney  
**Excavation Committee:** Jeremy Pilver (Chair), Scott Brady, Mike Cahill, Marlo Del Chiaro, Dick Hughes, Elizabeth Mark, Frederick Rivard, Jim Trocchi, Kathy Walburn, Scott Brady (Field Supervisor)  
**Membership:** Mike Raber (Chair), Glenda Rose, Sandy DiStefano (Corresponding Secretary)  
**Newsletter:** Jerry Tolchin (Chair), Jim Trocchi, Zackary Singer  
**Nominations:** Deanna Rhodes  
**Outreach:** Kathy Walburn (Chair), Bonnie Beatrice, Ken Beatrice  
**Volunteer Coordinator:** TBD (Chair), Glenda Rose  
**Website:** Jim Hall (Chair), Lindsay Kieseewetter

FOSA ANNUAL TREASURER REPORT 2021				
Date	Description	Expense	Income	Balance
01/01/21	Beginning Balance			\$45,152.96
	Krista Dotzel-Grant Award	\$2500.00		
	Sarah Sportman Cellphone	\$600.00		
	Testing Fund Donations, Transfers from Checking	\$281.00		
	ATT Web Hosting	\$211.75		
	FOSA East Hartford PO Box	\$204.00		
	CT Humanities Grant Refund	\$3993.60		
	Corresponding Secretary Supplies	\$149.82		
	Business cards and postage	\$51.15		
	OSA Collection Grant to Brianna Rae	\$2000.00		
	Newsletter Postage	\$122.40		
	The Print Hub, Newsletter	\$167.39		
	ICRV Advertising	\$2000.00		
	Witness Stones Project	\$3450.00		
	Hartford Fire Insurance	\$524.00		
	Zoom Subscription	\$159.42		
	Schwab Charitable-David&Pippa Bell Adler		\$50.00	
	Amazon Smile		\$28.48	
	Avon Historical Soc. for Scott Brady Presentation		\$250.00	
	Nancy Rankin donation in honor of Gary Nolf		\$5,000.00	
	Hartford Foundation for Public Giving(Peter's)		\$4400.00	
	Konstantin Family Foundation		\$250.00	
	PayPal Giving Fund		\$1.00	
	Membership and Member Donations		\$6990.27	
12/31/21	Totals and Balance	\$16,414.53	\$16,969.75	\$45,708.18

FOSA ANNUAL TREASURER REPORT for TESTING ACCOUNT 2021				
Date	Description	Expense	Income	Balance
01/01/21	Beginning Balance			\$4,457.43
	Total Donations		\$300.00	
12/31/21	Totals and Balance		\$300.00	\$4757.43



