



Member Newsletter



Greetings, fellow FOSA members!

FOSA got through the winter with volunteers continuing to work organizing Building 1 at UCONN and managing artifacts in the lab. Great progress was made setting up Building 1 and we'll continue through the summer with focus on managing the collections under Dr. Sportman's direction. FOSA contributed about 600 hours of volunteer time at UCONN and we were presented with a certificate of appreciation for our work at UCONN assisting Sarah. Thanks to

Scott Brady for managing this work and to all the volunteers who participated, notably "regulars" Jim Trocchi, Lee West, Mark Packard and Joan Hill.

Now we are looking forward to fieldwork "season" and making more discoveries at the Hollister site this year in addition to any other sites where our help is needed. Last year, FOSA contributed about 2000 hours of work in the field. As always, a big shout out goes to Scott Brady for managing the field work in addition to the lab work!

Vice President Tom Ford helped us pass the time with a great program of continuing education titled "Material Culture Patterns and Backstories of Connecticut's American Revolution Period". In part, his goal was to generate ideas for a FOSA publication next year to celebrate "America 250". Participants generated some good discussions that hopefully sparked ideas that we'll be able to build upon. Now we need our members to volunteer to do research and write stories. Tom will be starting meetings in April, so PLEASE volunteer. Look for his announcement in this newsletter. This is something you will be able to do from home on your own schedule so whoever indicated "Reports" on their membership should be volunteering to write something!!

Lastly, we just held our annual meeting on March 29th along with a wonderful set of presentations on Burial Sites from The American Revolution. Dr. Sportman gave an update on the Ridgefield skeletons. Wade Catts and Jennifer Janofsky, professors at Rowan University in New Jersey presented on the discovery of Hessian soldier remains found at Red Bank Battlefield in Gloucester County, NJ. Lisa Anderson, Curator of Bioarchaeology at the New York State Museum, gave a talk on the discovery of Revolutionary soldier remains near the site of a smallpox hospital at Fort George, New York. Thanks go out to ASC for co-sponsoring the event!

Respectfully,
Glenda M. Rose, *FOSA President*

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News from the Office of State Archaeology

Greetings FOSA members:

Dear FOSA Members,

Happy Spring! I hope you are all as ready as I am to get outside and start enjoying the weather.

This past winter was incredibly productive, and we accomplished a great deal in the lab and in the collections. With our dedicated FOSA volunteers and several student interns, we made great strides in Building 1, where we house the collections and were able to consolidate the artifact collections, library, reports, maps, and all other materials are in one location. While the work to get everything organized will take some time, we hope to soon be in a position to begin going through all of the collections to assess their condition, determine what has and has not been processed and inventoried, and connect them to associated paperwork or reports. This is also important for determining which collections may have aspects that fall under NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). Meanwhile, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History has been working to digitize all of the photo slides, and are starting work on Nick Bellantoni's files. Speaking of digitization, the FOSA Board voted to purchase a high capacity document scanning system that will enable us to digitize collection files, maps, notes, paperwork, manuscripts, and research papers, as well as any archaeology reports not on file with the State Historic Preservation Office. While the overall effort is ongoing, and will likely take several years to complete, this work will make the collections more valuable and accessible to researchers.

In the lab, everything from last season and been washed and sorted and inventory work continues on several large projects, including the Hollister Site and the new site 4-16 in Avon. The last week of April we held a soil flotation workshop led by UConn graduate Student Kate Reinhart, for FOSA volunteers and student interns. We floated most of the remaining soils samples from last season and hope to finish the rest in the next couple of weeks.

We have a busy schedule for the late spring and early summer field season. We'll be returning to Hollister in late May and early June, working with FOSA, the UConn Archaeological Field School, and other volunteers. This summer we will continue work to expose sections of the palisade and expose the tops of one or two of the cellars, to get a better handle on construction techniques and relationships among structures. We'll also return to Avon, to continue work to mitigate the disturbance to newly-discovered site 4-16, which contains stratified deposits dating to the Paleoindian to Early Woodland periods. We'll also return to Hollister for a week in July for the Adult Archaeological Field School organized by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. We will keep you posted about upcoming projects as we solidify the schedule.

In April, I attended the annual meetings of the National Association of State Archaeologists (NASA) and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in Denver, CO. At the SAA meeting, I presented a paper on some of the new work at the Hollister Site, including a discussion of the scrap brass and other metal artifacts at the site, with a focus on Native metalworking practices reflected in the assemblage. I was also thrilled to see such robust representation of Connecticut Archaeology at our national conference, with presentations by Connecticut students, professionals, and academic researchers.

Finally, OSA continues to work with FOSA and iCRV Radio to host our radio show, the Archaeology of Connecticut. Our most recent show featured a discussion on "disaster archaeology" with archaeologists from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. If you missed any of our past shows, they are all archived on the FOSA website at https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV_Slideshow_1.html

Sarah Sportman,

Connecticut State Archaeologist

FOSA 2024 Annual Treasurers Report

01/01/24	Opening Balance	Expense	Income	\$65,301.63
	Annual Meeting Speaker Expenses	\$64.81		
	Cooke Scholarship-Cassis Ametti	\$2500.00		
	Corresponding Secretary Expenses	\$122.24		
	CT Secretary Of State filing for 2024	\$50.00		
	CT Humanities Grant for CNEHA in October	\$2000.00		
	Donation to Farmington High for Auditorium use	\$200.00		
	Digital Space for ATT Web Hosting	\$221.00		
	Edward Jones Money Market Investment	\$30000.00		
	Field expenses and Beach Hall Lab purchances	\$3349.03		
	FOSA P.O. Box for 2024	\$256.00		
	FOSA BOD approved Grant to CNEHA	\$1000.00		
	FOSA Insurance Policy, The Hartford	\$537.00		
	ICRV BOD approved donation	\$1000.00		
	Print Hub	\$571.41		
	Postage and supplies for the mass mailing of member renewals and Annual Meeting flyer	\$355.82		
	Spring Newsletter postage	\$141.72		
	OSA: cellphone assistance	\$750		
	Webster Bank check order	\$87.82		
	ZOOM subscription	\$170.05		
	Annual Meeting Gate		\$215.00	
	CT Humanities Grant for CNEHA		\$2000.01	
	Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury donate		\$200.00	
	FOSA Hat Sales		\$50.00	
	Honorarium from Society of the Descendants of The Founders of Hartford for Guest speaker Sara Sportman		\$200.00	
	Konstantin Family Foundation Grant		\$250.00	
	American Online Giving, Lee West		\$920.00	
	PayPal Giving		\$1.00	
	Donations in Memory of Dreda Hendsey		\$235.00	
	Membership fees and extra donations to Funds		\$7345.65	
Totals	Final 2024 Summary	\$43,376.90	\$11,416.66	\$33,341.39

FOSA Officers and Board

Glenda Rose - President
 Thomas Ford – Vice President
 Scott Brady - Recording Secretary
 Sandy DiStefano - Corresponding Secretary
 Jim Trocchi - Treasurer
 (*Assistant Treasurer - Open*)
 Dawn Brown - Board Member
 Mike Cahill - Board Member
 Richard Hughes - Board Member
 Patty Jubinska - 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)

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

Nominations: Deanna Rhodes

Outreach: Kathy Walburn (Chair), Bonnie Beatrice, Ken Beatrice

Volunteer Coordinator: TBD (Chair), Glenda Rose

Website: Jim Hall (Chair), Jen Glaubius, Lindsay Kiesewetter


MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEW FOSA MEMBERS SINCE 11/30/24

Arianna Annunziato	Frances Gudelski
Ellen C.Blake	Mark Larson
Gail Buller	Jacob Redekas
Pete Capodilupo	Robert Sanks
Heather Cohen	Elana Sedgwick
Dana Florenza	Kristen Terry
Elizabeth Glaviano	Guy Wanegar

We have had 14 new members from mid-November 2024 to May 1, 2025. Beginning in late March 2020, we 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 all but 2 of the new members and about 47% of those who renewed or joined since mid-November 2024. During this period, we have had 77 renewals -- just over a quarter of our current membership!

Mike Raber, Membership Chair



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The 2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting, held on March 29, 2025 at Farmington High School, 10 Montieth Drive, Farmington, CT, began with the business meeting (details are below), followed by a series of presentations on burials from the American Revolution in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York. State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman gave the first presentation **"Living Their Enemies; Dying Their Guests": Four Potential Revolutionary War Burials, Ridgefield, Connecticut**. The Red Bank Battlefield Park in Gloucester County, New Jersey was the topic of the second and third presentations by Wade P. Catts (**"Naked and Torn by Grape-shot" The Red Bank Battlefield Archaeology Project**) and Jennifer Janofsky (**Red Bank Battlefield Archaeology Project**). The final presentation of the afternoon was by Lisa Anderson on **The smallpox in our northern army carries with it much greater dread than our enemies: The Quebec Campaign and the Courtland Street Burying Ground, Lake George, NY**. A question and answer period followed the presentations.

Preceding the lecture was the business portion of the meeting.

Highlights from this part of the meeting include:

- > Treasurer Jim Trocchi presented the 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- > State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman presented the 2024 OSA activities report.
- > The Cooke Scholarship Report was given by President Glenda Rose.
- > Lee West spoke about the activities of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut in 2024.
- > Nominations Chair Deanna Rhodes presented this year's Nominations for the Board of Directors to the FOSA membership in the audience. All were approved.

Lee West and Kathy Walburn were recipients of this year's Certificate of Appreciation awards.



Lee West receiving his award, with Jim Trocchi and Glenda Rose



Kathy Walburn receiving her award, with Glenda Rose

Visit a Museum when you have the opportunity!

By Ken and Bonnie Beatrice

Among the countless facets of Archaeology that attracts many people to it is the fact that it encompasses a myriad of disciplines. Just to name a few; anthropology, paleontology, geology, the arts, and the list goes on.

Therefore, archaeology is not simply *digging in the ground* with the intention of finding artifacts. The real “treasure” is the knowledge that is gained through the various “ologies” in the world of science and the arts. Museums enhance our learning opportunities and appreciation of other cultures, along with our own history and what came before.

Having said that, we highly recommend visiting museums of all types where one can view examples of artifacts, ecofacts, and information, just depending on the theme or focus of the specific museum you choose.

This past Easter weekend we visited the newly renovated Peabody Museum in New Haven, CT. They have updated many of their original exhibits, added new areas to explore, while retaining some of the displays we fondly remembered from years ago.



Among those exhibits which I was fascinated with as a child is an example of what can happen when lightning strikes the ground. “This is the underground trail of a lightning bolt that struck northern Connecticut with temperatures over 3,100°F, melting and fusing the sand along its path, cementing the grains into a glass-lined tube called a fulgurite.” (Source: Peabody Museum at Yale)

Studying fossil remains can help an archaeologist, (or better said, an avocational archaeologist such as myself), identify items unearthed. Speaking from experience,

years ago I uncovered what I had thought for sure was a fishing weight. Dr. Nick Belantoni identified my “artifact” as a natural casting of a Sea Lilly (Crinoid). I was elated to see one on display as an excellent example of this type of fossil.



Another very interesting exhibit is the evolution of man, specifically focusing on “Lucy”.

I have read several articles about Lucy especially in 1974 when she was found in Ethiopia. Studying the casting of her skeleton was my “treasure” during our visit. Lucy walked during the Pliocene Epoch and died in the Awash Valley of East Africa some 3.2 million years ago, a female hominin species. She was found as a fully grown young adult, stood 3.6 feet tall, and weighed approximately 64 lbs. From the study of her skeleton, she walked on two feet, a major step in the human development. Researchers believe also



from the study of her existing bones that Lucy probably died after falling out of a tree.

It is impossible to include a complete description of the vast array of exhibits on display at the Peabody. We spent well over four hours perusing through the Peabody’s exhibit areas, learning something new in every room we entered.

Note: The Peabody Museum is comfortably handicap accessible and is currently admission free as is their parking.

Enjoy your day at the museum !!!

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, along with brief overviews of the subjects, into the website. These can be accessed at https://www.fosa-ct.org/ICRV_slideshow_1.html. At this writing 70 shows are listed. Note that the radio station has lost its contract for use of the studio; so the frequency of new discussions may not be as regular as it was in past years. However, even if new discussions are not forthcoming in the future, we WILL NEVERTHELESS retain the previous discussions' recordings in the website and available for use.

2. We activated the Fall 2024 Newsletter. Note that we've been asked to wait 2-3 months after a newsletter comes out before activating it in the website.

3a. As a result of problematic (and unexplained) issues with receiving some of the Join / Donate Membership Application pages, beginning in mid-June of last year, this past March we changed the process by which Join / Donate processing is done. Basically, we're now using a 3rd party process (from **Fillout**) for data capture, processing and forwarding of application information. We've retained our interface with PayPal, however. At this writing the new process has worked well, though some minor informational changes to the PayPal interface may still be done based on experiences of users.

3b. The primary informational changes we've made to the PayPal interface have involved alleviating confusion over PayPal's use of the term "Donation." A flashing message appearing immediately preceding entering the PayPal environment has thus far seemed to have alleviated it. The change can be seen by clicking https://www.fosa-ct.org/PayPal_Donations_Icon_A.gif.

4. Updated the "Annual Meetings" page, at https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_ann_meetings.html, to include the

2025 Annual Meeting Flyer, Program, and pictures of the participants and guest speakers.

5. Updated the Certificates of Appreciation pages (https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_CertifApp_Index.html and https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_CertifApp_RecipientsList.html#2025) to include the 2025 Certificate recipients, Lee West and Kathy Walburn. Our thanks and congratulations to both Lee and Kathy.

6. We've begun updating the website with **FOSA Research Project "AM250 Revolutionary Connecticut"** pages. These pages will follow the general display pattern used in FOSA Continuing Education classes, even though they're completely separate from those earlier activities. You can access the first page of this Research Project by clicking https://www.fosa-ct.org/FRP1/AM250_Meeting_1.html. Current expectation is that this will be an ongoing activity for quite a while to come.

7. **SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED:** To reiterate from above and from previous "What's New..." articles, we continually look for input from users about the web site: What things can be added? Removed? Revised? Please send us an email, at fosa.ct@gmail.com, with your suggestions. Use "FOSA website" in the subject line.

Thank you!

Jim Hall / Jen Glaubius

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.....\$_____ ☐

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- ☐ Lab Analysis, Cataloging, Curation
- ☐ Committies and Board of Directors
- ☐ Photography: Sites, Artifacts, Drones



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

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Newsletter Committee: Jerry Tolchin (chair), Jim Trocchi