

A.S.C. NEWS

Issue No. 253

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

April 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 27, 2020

Dear Members,

To say that these are trying times is an understatement. As we are in unprecedented waters, it is hard to know when this pandemic will subside and we can all get back to normal lives, though I suspect that some of the new behaviors we have taken on for preventive measures against the virus will be a part of our regular routines for quite a while. Of course, like all gatherings of ten or more people, our Annual Spring Meeting has been postponed until we can all regroup at a safer period and we certainly look forward to that time.

COVID-19 matters aside, this latest issue of the ASC Newsletter is chock full of positive, optimistic items for you to consider as we wait out the pandemic. First of all, it is the inaugural announcement that welcomes Sarah Sportman as our new state archaeologist (see her column in this issue). We are all excited and relieved to have Sarah onboard. As an existing board member and Bulletin

editor, Sarah is well versed in the challenges ahead for the ASC and other archaeological organizations around the state. If you have not previously met her, hopefully, you will have an opportunity when are spring meeting is able to reconvene.

Secondly, you will find in this issue a lot of valuable information on archaeological field schools scheduled in Connecticut this coming summer. After being restricted to our homes during the pandemic, we will all be chopping at the bit to get into the field this spring/summer and this issue will introduce you to archaeological field school opportunities you may wish to consider. We are all anxious to resume field research and hope you can join us. And, we look forward to seeing you at the next ASC meeting on the other side of this health crisis.

In the meanwhile, on behalf of the entire ASC board of directors, we wish you and your families the best of health as we all get through this pandemic together. As I now say to family and friends – Be Safe and Be Sane!

*Nick Bellantoni
Interim President*

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ASC Now Accepts Online Payments! Go to the website at www.ctarchaeology.org

Russell Grant Renamed in Honor of Brian Jones – see 2020 application distributed with this newsletter

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

Greetings ASC members:

I officially came on board as the new State Archaeologist on February 14, and Nick Bellantoni (though he's more than ready to re-retire!) has been kind enough to stay on board for a few weeks to show me the ropes. We've met with many of the people across the state who work with OSA to ensure the preservation of Connecticut's rich

archaeological heritage and Nick has shared invaluable advice and insights fostered by a long and successful career.

I am so excited to begin this new adventure working with the Connecticut archaeological community as State Archaeologist! In the 15 years I've lived and worked in Connecticut I have had the privilege to work with many of the dedicated people who volunteer their time and resources in support of Connecticut archaeology and I am in awe of the enthusiasm and devotion of our community!

There have been some exciting new developments at OSA this spring. I'm happy to announce that we will have Fiona Jones, an undergraduate student studying human osteology and anthropology at SUNY Buffalo, as a summer intern doing collections and NAGPRA work. Additionally, work is nearly complete on our new (and hopefully permanent!) lab and office space at UConn. The new space includes an OSA lab and office, and a separate lab space for Jackie Veninger-Robert, our NAGPRA coordinator. Nick played an important role in the acquisition of our new space along with Janine Caira, Interim Director of Connecticut Museum of Natural History and Natalie Munro from the UConn Anthropology Department. This is a major victory for OSA, as Brian Jones had to move his lab and office nearly every year he held the position. We have begun packing, but unfortunately, due to the coronavirus situation, UConn has asked employees to telecommute for the next several weeks, so the physical move is temporarily on hold.

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted lives across the globe and as we all hunker down and engage in social distancing, most of the events and programs planned for this spring and early summer have, unfortunately, been postponed or cancelled. OSA had planned to do a one-week field program at a Revolutionary War battlefield site for French students as part of the exchange program that Brian worked on last year, but the students will not be able to travel to the U.S. this summer, so their trip has been suspended until next year. As of right now (but depending on how the virus situation unfolds), we are still planning a one-day dig at the Lee House in Old Lyme in July and two weeks of field schools at the Hollister Site in Glastonbury in August. I hope that when all this settles down we can again begin to plan and schedule events and programs. Despite the current situation, I am excited to see what the future holds for Connecticut archaeology. I wish you all the best!

*Sarah Sportman
State Archaeologist*

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



FOSA NEWS

Greeting ASC Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and happily hunkered down while following appropriate recommendations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html> to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Unfortunately, the disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak is causing some disruption to the activities that FOSA normally undertakes at this time of year. The Board has recently voted to postpone our annual meeting and the "Mummy Adventures Since the Road Show" presentation by Dr. Ronald Beckett and Dr. Gerald Conlogue. We hope to re-schedule at some point in the future.

Additionally, lab work on the UConn campus has been canceled and site investigation and preparation for the 2020 field season is on hold.

While these cancellations and delays are of course disappointing, in the grand scheme of things they pale in our responsibility to protect each other during this outbreak.

I can promise that as the COVID-19 outbreak is resolved FOSA volunteers will be ready to assist in the preservation of Connecticut's archeological resources.

*Scott Brady
President-FOSA*



**American
Institute of
Archaeology**

[In response to the coronavirus, all of the AIA Spring lectures have been cancelled.](#)

Next Meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut



The 1895 iron bridge at Lover's Leap, New Milford, photo by Timothy Stobierski

Date: to be announced. While our meeting has been postponed, the speakers and site are ready to go when we can set a new date. Here's what we have in store for you:

Place: New Milford Historical Society

The next meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut will focus on the Archaeology of the New Milford area. We will have a morning of lectures. There will then be a short membership business meeting followed by lunch on your own. There are food options nearby. The afternoon will consist of a tour of the Lover's Leap Site in New Milford.

Tentative lectures are (subject to change based on reschedule date):

- **John Kelly and Dan Forest** – “Between the Shores and the Hills: Pre-Contact Boundaries and Behavior along the Housatonic River in Southwestern Connecticut”
- **Paul Wegner** – “The Lover's Leap Myth”
- **Michael Raber** – “Rocky River Powerhouse, New Milford”
- **Laurie Weinstein** – “The Lover's Leap Site”

The Lover's Leap afternoon tour: Dr. Laurie Weinstein

On the tour: There have been numerous summer field schools at Lover's Leap and adjacent areas, from 1996 through 2004. We worked closely with Northeast Utilities, Office of State Archaeology, and the office of the SHPO. They asked us to create site sensitivity maps of Lover's Leap because of the extensive potting that had been going on there for years. Indeed, when we started to survey and test the broad terraces adjacent to the bridge, we found a "moon landing" where pits and back dirt piles marred the landscape.

This talking tour of the site will cover some of the archaeological history of this area, going back to Ed Swigart, John Pawlowksi and Russ Handsman and their findings, to our work to help preserve the legacy of this hallowed ground.



University of Edinburgh Announces Masters in Archaeology Online

The University of Edinburgh is now accepting applications for admission to our new MSc in Ancient Worlds. This unique online MSc provides the opportunity to explore the human past from early prehistory to late antiquity, taking advantage of Edinburgh's wide range of expertise in archaeology and classics.

The programme will help you to develop your own specialised interests as you work with our experienced academics. You will benefit from the thematic breadth that the programme offers. You will also cover a range of complementary methods and perspectives in the study of ancient cultures and civilisations.

The degree has been specifically designed for students wishing to study archaeology and classics at a pace that suits them and can be completed in a period between two and four years. For more information see the following URL: www.shca.ed.ac.uk/msc-online-ancient-worlds

If you are interested in pursuing such an opportunity, inquiries can be sent to gradschool.hca@ed.ac.uk. Deadline for applications is 20th July 2020.

Focus on FIELD SCHOOLS

Some of the most important archaeological research being done in Connecticut and surrounding states today is in the form of summer field schools sponsored by the State Archaeologist, several universities, Native American tribal governments and other organizations, while additionally training the next generation of archaeologists. In the following column, a feature in each April issue of ASC News, the field school directors describe their programs for the coming year.

Note: These field school schedules were current as of press time. With the cancellations and postponements due to the COVID-19 outbreak, be sure to contact the individual field school organizer before making any plans to attend.

Southern Connecticut State University Field School, July 1-31, 2020 (see flyer on following page)

The 2020 SCSU field school will split their time this year between two exciting sites in Connecticut. We will be continuing our third year of full excavations at the state's oldest standing building, the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford. In addition, we will begin exploring New Haven for sites from the 17th-century Quinnipiac reservation. Our main goal in this project will be locating the location of a Quinnipiac village discussed in historical documents. In this field school you will learn the basics of archaeological mapping, surveying, remote sensing, excavation, and recording in the field as well as have the opportunity to work in a professionally equipped archaeological laboratory at SCSU. Reach out to Dr. William Farley at farleyw1@southernct.edu or (203)392-5676 for more information!

SUMMER 2020

Archaeology Field School

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

JULY 1ST - JULY 31ST, 2020

ANT 305 SECTION 02

field & lab techniques
historic & prehistoric sites
artifact identification

Email Prof. William Farley at farleyw1@southernct.edu for more details.



MOHEGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

June 28 through July 29, 2020



Study colonial-era sites on the Mohegan Reservation in an innovative and collaborative manner while learning about archaeological theory and field research.

Receive college credits Scholarship opportunities available for Mohegan Tribal members.

Visit ifrglobal.org for more information
Or contact Archaeological Manager and THPO, James Quinn 860-862-6893

MOHEGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL, June 28 –July 29, 2020 Connecticut College FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Dr. Craig N. Cipolla, Royal Ontario Museum & University of Toronto, Canada (craigc@rom.on.ca)

In 2019, the MAFS began excavation on another Mohegan homestead (the “Stone Wall Site”) dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. We have many questions left to answer about the site, regarding the nature of the architecture, overall site organization, and more.

In 2020, the MAFS will run its 23rd season. The 2020 field school will begin survey in a completely new (i.e., not previously excavated) area of the reservation. As outlined below, we will spend most of the first week of the field school on a pedestrian and shovel test pit survey. For the remainder of the field school, we will continue excavation in and around the Stone Wall Site mentioned above.

ASC ON-LINE RESOURCES

ASC Website

<https://www.ctarchaeology.org/>

ASC Bulletins & Newsletters

CT Digital Archive, UConn

<https://collections.ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/20002%3AArchSocCT>

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2020 DUES NOW PAYABLE

It's time to renew your membership for 2020. Check your mailing label if you are unsure if you are current. (The label may not reflect payments received in the last month.) If it reads 19 or earlier, please fill out the form and mail it back with your check or complete and pay online. Thanks!

I want to apply/renew membership in the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (ASC) to promote archaeological research, conservation and service. Enclosed are my dues for the membership category: (circle one)

<i>Individual</i>	\$25.00
<i>Student*</i>	\$10.00
<i>Institutional</i>	\$40.00
<i>Life</i>	\$300.00

Today's Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Affiliation: _____

(for students)

The newsletter will be sent to you electronically unless you indicate otherwise below:

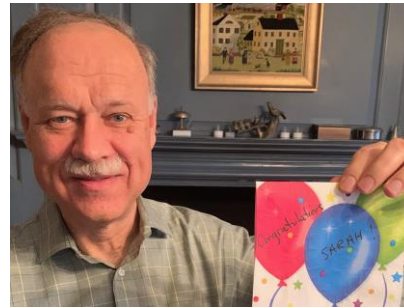
I wish to receive ASC News by mail instead of electronic delivery

*Student Membership includes electronic newsletters, hard copy bulletins, and for each new member one back issue of the bulletin of your choice subject to availability.

Send payment to Lee West, ASC Membership Chair, 366 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109 or online at [ASC website](#)
Starting in 2020, membership cards will no longer be issued.



Ernie Wiegand and Bill Farley



Lee West – Celebrating Sarah



Paul Wegner, Scott Brady, and Nick Bellantoni



Jeff Zaino, Lucy Lavin, Dawn Brown



*Sarah Sportman, our new
CT State Archaeologist
ASC Board Meeting – Feb. 12, 2020*



David Leslie and Sarah