

A.S.C. NEWS

Issue No. 262

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

April 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 16, 2023

Dear Members,

I hope that you are all enjoying this spring (and summer!) weather, it seems that winter is finally behind us. I am also very pleased to announce that our Spring Meeting is just around the corner. We will hold the meeting on May 6th, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, once again at the Wood Memorial Library and Museum in South Windsor. Admission to the meeting will be \$10 for non-ASC members, \$8 for ASC or FOSA members, and \$5 for students. This year we will have lectures on a range of subjects, including indigenous ceramic production in New York, botanical analyses of a Pilgrimage house in Massachusetts, ongoing excavations at the 17th century Hollister Site in Connecticut, an introduction to Archaeogaming, and botanical analyses from 19th century enslaved quarters in Virginia. Please look for the flyer appended to this newsletter with detailed information about the Spring Meeting, presenters, and abstracts. We hope to see you all there!

In other ASC news, the 2022 *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* has reached the printing stage. We will distribute copies at the annual Spring Meeting to all members, and if you can't join us, we will mail your copy in May. As in past years, we will also have extra copies of this issue and past issues of the *Bulletin* and other ASC publications available for purchase at the Spring meeting.

Finally, we are happy to announce that the ASC will once again host a week-long field school for members, supported in part by a generous grant from Connecticut Humanities. The field school will be held at the Lieutenant John Hollister Site in Glastonbury from June 19th to the 23rd. The field schools will be conducted free of charge to all up-to-date ASC members, so please make sure your dues are current if you wish to participate. People wishing to participate in the field school must agree to come for at least two days that week. Space is limited at each of these field schools, and we will have a sign-up sheet at the ASC Spring meeting on May 6th, with

spots available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If there are spots that are still available after the meeting, we will of course accept sign-ups via email.

ASC members who have been conducting archaeological research should consider submitting an article to the Editor of the *Bulletin*, Sarah Sportman, electronically at sarah.sportman@uconn.edu.

While the 2022 issue is out, now is a good time to be planning your 2023 submissions. Members should also consider submitting their active research proposals for the 2022 Brian D. Jones Research grant. Submissions for the grant are due September 1st, 2023.

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On behalf of the ASC Board of Directors, we hope that you enjoy this newsletter. We cannot wait to meet with you all on May 6th for our annual meeting!

*David Leslie
President*

ASC ON-LINE RESOURCES

ASC Bulletins at UConn Digital Archives

New! Bulletins #77-80 (2015-2018) added to archive this year Complete collection back to 1934 now available.

ASC Newsletters at UConn Digital Archives

Newsletters from 1939-1954, 1999-2018 currently available

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

Happy Spring! I hope you have been enjoying the beautiful weather!

We have a busy field season planned for 2023, starting with a couple of small survey projects this month in Wethersfield and Glastonbury before the official field season begins in May. This year, in an attempt to beat the heat, we'll be in the field at the Hollister Site from May 22-June 23. The ASC field school will be held at the Hollister Site the week of June 19-23. We'll also return to the Two Wrasslin' Cats Site in East Haddam for two days of fieldwork on May 30 and 31. In July, we'll be working with French and Connecticut high school students through the

Digging into History Program, to do some testing at a Revolutionary War-era Rochambeau camp site in Bolton. We also have plans to test a new site associated with the Peter Family in Hebron in the fall.

Before the field season ramps up, we hope to do some additional work in the collections, moving shelving and collections to consolidate the archaeological collections in one location, re-housing collections with deteriorated or damaged boxes, and floating old soil samples to conserve collections space. Processing the soil samples will not only save space, but also provide light and heavy fraction samples that are ready for analysis, if a researcher is interested in any of the sites.

We had a productive winter in the lab and collections. Our volunteers, most of whom work through FOSA, have made great progress washing and processing the materials from last summer. We've moved on to tagging some of the collections from 2017-2019 that were inventoried but never tagged and moved into collections storage. OSA's graduate research assistant, Stephanie Scialo, has been working to finish inventorying the Hollister materials from the summer and Dr. Kevin McBride and the students in his Lab Methods in Archaeology class are also working on artifacts and soil samples from the Hollister Site.

FOSA volunteers, led by Scott Brady, have completed construction of the 52 sets of new shelving to house our state collections. Once we get all of the collections moved, we'll tackle the OSA library, files, and

maps. We're excited to have the opportunity to look through all of the old collections and anticipate making some exciting "new" discoveries in our own collections! We expect this work to take several years, but it is well worth it to make the collections more organized and accessible.

As we head into the field season this year, particularly at the Hollister Site, I've been thinking a lot about the significance of the site and the directions for our continued research. Initially, the site was recognized for its incredible preservation and 17th-century context. As the field investigation, documentary research, and lab work has progressed over the last 7 years, we have made great strides in understanding the site and recognizing its importance not only as a piece of early Colonial-period Connecticut, but as a vehicle for learning more about the complex social, political, economic, and physical landscape here in the 17th-century. The site offers a window into the multicultural landscape of the period and sheds light on the complex array of interactions between English and Indigenous peoples, as well the connections between Connecticut and the greater transatlantic world. The fieldwork in 2021 and 2022 yielded artifacts that connect the Hollister Site to New Netherlands and the West Indies. This past season, the material culture we recovered through excavation and systematic metal detector survey, added a new dimension to the Indigenous materials recovered from the site in past years. We now have two brass arrow points (one triangular and the other rolled), numerous fragments of worked brass scrap,

three nearly identical brass pendants, and a lead pendant, as well as evidence of wampum production on site, and stone tools knapped from European flint. Looking back through the Indigenous pottery recovered in 2016, we found a lump of tempered clay, suggesting that Native people may have produced pottery at the site. Taken all together, these materials suggest a long-term, contemporary Indigenous presence at the Hollister Farm. The evidence of a shared landscape raises important questions about the relationships between the Native and English residents of the site, and offers the opportunity to explore the complex cultural entanglements of the early colonial period in Connecticut. I'll be speaking about the Hollister Site at the ASC meeting on May 6, so please join us to hear about these new developments at the site, as well as new data from radiocarbon dates from several of the features and our plans for the 2023 field season!

Finally, with the support of FOSA and iCRV Radio, Scott Brady, Glenda Rose, and I have continued to host our monthly radio show on the *Archaeology of Connecticut*. Our February 2023 episode featured Drs. Ken Feder and Bill Farley for a lively discussion of the Netflix show *Ancient Apocalypse*. Then, in March we spoke with Liz Glaviano and Carolyn Venne of Wood Memorial Library about their Nowashe Village programming. For the April show, we were joined by three UConn graduate students, who

talked about their research overseas in Armenia, Georgia, and Israel. 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.

Best,

Sarah Sportman
State Archaeologist



Greetings ASC members!

It has been a busy winter for FOSA volunteers! Perhaps the great weather contributed to members getting out to the lab. Work continues to assemble and place shelving to house the collections in our "new" building. Lab work has been fairly active and we've averaged 4-5 volunteers at each site. Sarah has great plans for field work this summer, so we are hoping for a good turnout of volunteers starting quite soon.

Under financial news, FOSA was asked to act as the pass-through for a donation to support testing and analysis of the Ridgefield skeletons Nick recovered in 2019. I'm happy to report that we have received a gift of \$3,550 from the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, which will cover 10% of those testing costs. A big thank-you goes out to Scott Brady for completing the application. In addition, the Albert Morgan Archaeological

Society, which has been inactive for some time, voted to distribute their remaining funds to FOSA in the amount of \$2,095.82 and I was given the check by Lee West (one of the 3 remaining members) at our Annual Meeting. What a wonderful surprise!

FOSA Vice President, Tom Ford, has developed a Lithics class that he started teaching via Zoom on March 8th. About 30 people signed up for the class and, after each class, the slides will be available on our website (www.FOSA-CT.org) for others who are interested. Hopefully, we will be able to offer more formal learning opportunities in the future.

Lastly, the FOSA Annual Meeting was held in-person on Saturday, March 25th. We had an exciting presentation from David Givens, Director of Archaeology at Jamestown, covering new discoveries and climate change initiatives at the site. Since it has been some time since we have given out Appreciation awards, we distributed two at the meeting. Congratulations to Joan Hill and Jim Trocchi! We thank them for their enthusiasm and support of FOSA. Check out our website for photos and a summary of the meeting.

Glenda Rose
President, FOSA

Unearthing History: The Discovery of a 12,500 year old Paleo-Indian Site Along the Farmington River in Avon, CT

7:00 pm EST via Zoom

Free to attend. Register at www.avonctlibrary.info

2023 series sponsored
by a grant from



MARCH 23

The LIDAR Revolution in Earth Surface Mapping, presented by Will Ouimet, Assoc. Professor, Departments of Geosciences and Geography, Univ. of Connecticut. He will explain the techniques used by LIDAR for locating historic human settlements and land use patterns. LIDAR = Light Detection and Ranging using lasers for 3D scanning.

APRIL 20

Hunting Techniques of the Paleoindian, presented by Richard Boisvert, retired New Hampshire state archeologist, who is very familiar with the discovery and analysis of the Brian D. Jones (BDJ) site and other Paleoindian sites in northern New England.

MAY 11

The Big Importance of Small Things: Microscopic and Blood Residue Analysis of Ancient Stone Tools, presented by Heather M. Rockwell, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Cultural and Historic Preservation, Noreen Stonor Drexel Cultural and Historic Preservation Program, Salve Regina University. This presentation will examine the process and limitations of blood residue and use-wear analysis, and how they have contributed to our understanding of ancient people.

SEPT. 21

Paleoindian Sites, Site Patterning and Travel Corridors along the Southern Arm of the Champlain Sea, presented by Jess Robinson, Vermont State Archaeologist, Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center, Barre, VT. He will compare and contrast Paleo sites in Vermont with the Brian D. Jones site in Avon.

OCT. 12

Update on the scientific analysis of the Brian D. Jones (BDJ) site in Avon, CT 2019, presented by Eric Heffter, Senior Prehistoric Archaeologist, Archaeological and Historical Services, Storrs, CT. His presentation will be 90 minutes with time after for Q&A. October is Archaeology Month in Connecticut!

Watch the webinars from the 2021 and 2022 series on the Avon Library's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/afplct

In partnership with



Webinar series created by : Avon Historical Society, Avon Free Public Library, Avon Senior Center

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. Be sure to contact the individual field school organizer before making any plans to attend.

See elsewhere in this newsletter:

- **ASC Members Field School, Hollister Site, June 19-23**

See flyers on following pages for:

- **Southern CT State University Field School, June 26-July 28**
- **Western CT State University Field School, May 15-June 17**, will be sponsored in collaboration with the Institute of American Indian Studies. ASC members Faline Schneidermann and Craig Nelson will be directing the lab and field components of the school, respectively.
- **UConn Field School in Contact Period Domestic & Battlefield Archaeology, May 22-June 16.**
- **SCRAP (NH) Archaeological Field School, June 19-July 14**



SCSU Archaeology Field School

ANT 305 Section 2
June 26th–July 28th
3 and 6 credit options available
contact Dr. Farley
farleyw1@southernct.edu



**WESTERN CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Archaeological Field School

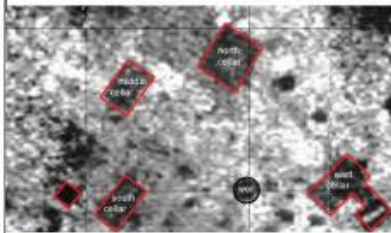
- Spend the summer session learning archaeological field methods at one of the most diverse, stratified, and exciting sites in Connecticut, Deer Run. Learn how to participate in excavation at a high level, using professional field methods at an active archaeological site.
- Learn archaeological laboratory methods at WCSU's archeology lab with materials from the Deer Run site.
- Be a part of ongoing research initiatives in conjunction with the Institute for American Indians Studies research center that will help to educate the public about the deep history of Indigenous people in Connecticut.



ANT 229 - Archaeological Field Methods (6 Credits)
May 15, - June 17, 2023
MTWR 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
For more information please contact
Dr. Christine Hegel-Cantarella
hegelcantarella@wcsu.edu

UConn Field School in Contact Period Domestic & Battlefield Archaeology

May 22 through June 16, 2023



Background: The University of Connecticut Department of Anthropology and the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology will offer a field school in Contact Period & Battlefield Archaeology focused on the John Hollister site in Glastonbury, CT. The Hollister site was occupied between 1651 – 1711 and consists of several English domestic structures that have yielded thousands of seventeenth-century Euro-American and Native artifacts and food remains.

The focus of field excavations during the summer of 2023 will be to investigate several of the English domestic structures, identify the military aspects of the site, and delineate the Native occupation.

- The 4-week, 4 credit intensive program in archaeological field methods and laboratory analysis will include:
 - Training in archaeological field survey and excavation
 - Artifact conservation, cataloguing, identification and analysis of 17th Century Euro-American and Indigenous material culture and analysis of primary sources
 - Battlefield archaeology research and methods training including use of military terrain models, metal detecting survey, and GPS/GIS applications
 - Working on a nationally significant collaborative research project
 - Participating in training workshops in laboratory and research methods
 - Metal detecting
 - Ground Penetrating Radar
 - Attending guest lectures by experts in the field
 - Opportunity to obtain employment with local Cultural Resource Management firms who will be seeking field technicians for an anticipated busy field season

Fees: Summer Session courses are paid on a per-credit basis at a rate of \$756 per credit hour. The four-week program will cost \$3,024. In addition, there is a \$75 lab fee, payable on the first day of class.

Application and Registration: All students must fill out an application in order to be considered for the field school and receive a permission number so that they can register. Contact Dr. Kevin McBride (kevin.mcbride@uconn.edu) via e-mail for an application and more information on the field school. For information on the registration process, go to www.summersession.uconn.edu.

Housing: University housing and meal plans are available, as well as some other options. Contact Res Life at 860-486-2926 for a summer housing application or go to this website to learn more: <http://www.reslife.uconn.edu/>

SCRAP Archaeological Field School

June 19- July 14, 2023



The 2023 *NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP)* archaeology field school is structured in two sessions, each two weeks long (June 19 – June 30 and July 3 – July 14). Fieldwork will take place daily on weekdays from 8 AM to 4 PM, with exception to July 4, which we will be taking off for the Holiday.

Session 1 will take place at Mollidgewock State Park in the town of Errol, NH. Field school participants will engage in excavation on a terrace of the Androscoggin River containing pre-contact Native American deposits focusing on an intact feature and an artifact concentration identified during previous field investigations. Students will document specific activity areas that are associated with the site. Data recovery techniques, artifact identification, and excavation documentation skills will be taught. Primitive camping (i.e., no showers or flush toilets) is available at the Mollidgewock State Park campground; however, participants must make their own arrangements by visiting the state park's facility reservation website <https://newhampshirstateparks.reserveamerica.com/>.

Session 2 will take place at Bear Brook State Park, along the Suncook River, in the town of Allenstown, NH. Field school participants will



*Archaeological Excavation of the North Block
at Bear Brook State Park, 2022*

engage in the survey of several areas exhibiting the potential to contain pre-contact Native American deposits. Work will focus on a terrace of the Suncook River within the park. Archaeological survey and excavation techniques including artifact identification and excavation documentation will be taught. Camping is available at the Bear Brook State Park campground; however, participants must make their own arrangements by visiting the state park's facility reservation website <https://newhampshirstateparks.reserveamerica.com/>.



*Archaeological Excavation of the South Block
at Bear Brook State Park, 2022*

Fieldwork and instruction will be directed by Mark Doperski, an archaeologist with the NH Division of Historical Resources. The field school will conform to standards for archaeology set by the National Park Service.

For more information, contact the NH Division of Historical Resources at 603-271-6433.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Joint CTDOT and City of Waterbury Research / Preservation Effort at Platts Mills Park

C. Scott Speal

National Register Specialist, Archaeology
Connecticut Department of Transportation

The City of Waterbury, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration and technical guidance from the CTDOT Office of Environmental Planning, recently implemented a rather creative combination of archaeological data recovery research / historic preservation and commemoration effort within the newly constructed ‘Platts Mill Park’ in the southern part of town near the boundary line with Naugatuck. This work was associated with a construction project extending the Naugatuck River Greenway multi-use trail along South Main Street from Eagle Street south to Platts Mill Road. Placement of this new pedestrian feature came to entail design of a new passive-use park with recreational facilities at the intersection of South Main Street and Platts Mill Road. Through a series of phased investigations incurred through compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act given use of Federal funds, it became evident that a pre-European Contact archaeological resource existed within the footprint of this proposed park and would be affected by the undertaking as proposed.

The initial phase of survey for the project transpired in 2015 and was conducted by the RBA Group out of New Jersey—led by Leonard Bianchi and Jean Howson. The RBA crew identified a well-defined circumscribed site situated on a relatively level slightly elevated terrace on a rocky promontory extending into the Naugatuck just at the point where the river begins a large bend (Photo 1). Artifact recovery at the site consisted of a substantial number of lithics—primarily quartz and quartzite—and a few pottery sherds suggesting a Woodland Period occupation. Recovery of primary flakes with rounded cobble cortex implied on-site testing of fluvially deposited stones for tool manufacture. At the time, it was also postulated that the site may have served as a short-term fishing camp based upon the recovery of a rough piece of notched sandstone thought to possibly represent a net weight. As a result, it was determined that the Platts Mill Park Site could potentially be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D—its ability to provide important information regarding past indigenous riverine resource procurement patterns.

As it became increasingly clear that there was no way to construct a foot trail loop through entire park while avoiding this newly discovered archaeological resource—now given the designation State Site Number 151-7—and further site testing revealed intact stratified deposits beneath a considerable overburden of past alluvial flood sediments, an adverse effect determination for the project was made under Section 106 and a Memorandum of Agreement executed with CT SHPO. This agreement provided for a limited data recovery excavation covering the affected portion of the site, placement of a stone monument to commemorate indigenous occupation of the area, and long-term protection of the landform to preserve the natural setting in perpetuity. In exchange, the foot trail was permitted to traverse the site as was construction of a stone-reading circle directly atop the excavations to allow park visitors to comfortably linger and contemplate the setting and its historic significance.

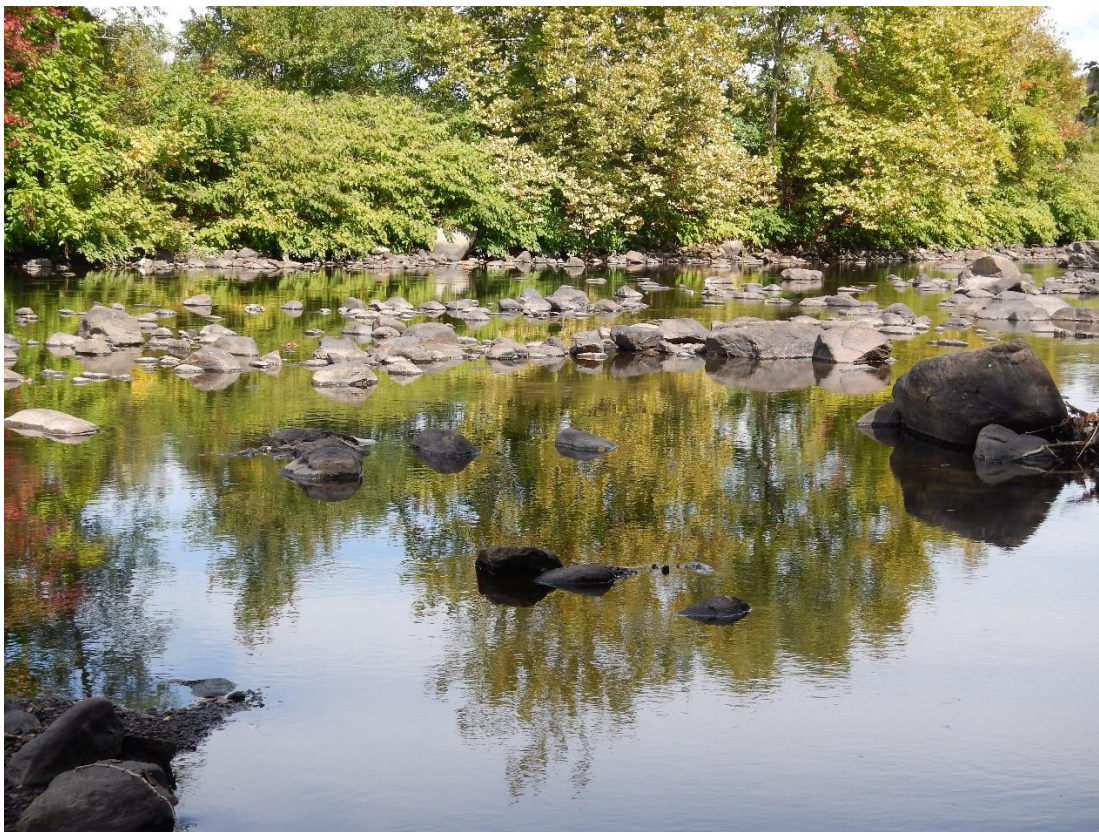
The subsequent data recovery operations were conducted by WSP, Inc. based out of Troy, New York in August of 2021. The effort succeeded in demonstrating that the Platts Mills Park site served at least partially as a riverine lithic procurement focus, just as hypothesized in the research design. Led by Dr. Jessica Vavrsek, the excavations resulted in discovery of both a concentration of tested stream-rolled cobbles (Photo 3) and a set of early stage bifacial preforms—mostly quartzite—(Photo 4) rather conclusively establishing raw lithic material procurement from the rocky riverbed and initial on-site reduction activity. This finding supports other researchers’ previous assertions that limited local quarrying options forced indigenous peoples of the Lower Housatonic watershed to rely upon fishing fluvial stone cobbles out of river drainages for their tool-making needs. The competing hypothesis that the site was predominantly a fishing station found no material support from the excavations—no further evidence of fishing net weights, hooks, or fish remains were recovered. Discovery of a hearth feature also suggests that the site served as an encampment area, not simply a brief daytime collection station. Also corroborating this inference was the unexpected find of a good size and well-rounded postmold feature below the intact C Horizon (Photo 5), which further indicates that site occupation was not of overly short duration. Time and energy were invested in placing at least one fairly substantial structure.

Excavations at the Platts Mill Park Site further confirmed the chronology of the site as predominantly Woodland Period based upon recovery of additional pottery (Photo 6) and a radiocarbon date from the hearth feature yielding a date of 470 ± 25 rcbp (ca. cal AD 1440). A complete chert projectile point was recovered as well, allowing attribution of lithic material culture tradition to some degree—though the typological assignment of the artifact is somewhat ambiguous (Photo 7). The excavators originally classified the point as Otter Creek, but the overall small size, thin profile and narrow side notches are not generally typical of that type and are in some ways more characteristic of Meadowood—which would also be more consistent with the Woodland Period chronological evidence found at the site.

The commemorative monument to indigenous occupation has at this point been successfully placed within the new park as well (Photos 8 & 9). The natural stone marker itself was designed to be consistent with Native American spiritual aesthetics. A plaque on the face of the marker presents a brief synopsis of what was learned about the Native American presence at the site from the archaeological excavations. The general consensus seems to be that the design came out quite well and fits in with the other features of the park. People can now linger around the stone “reading circle”, contemplate the river, and consider the people who used the same location many hundreds of years ago.

Not only was significant information gained about the pre-Colonial human past of southern New England from this mitigation effort, but most of the site remains intact for future archaeologists to conduct follow up excavations should they choose to do so, and commemorative signage is in place to convey the significance of the resource to the general public as well. The new park itself looks great, provides a welcome recreational benefit to the residents of southern Waterbury and northern Naugatuck, and the whole cultural mitigation aspect of the job cost under \$200k (very inexpensive for a Section 106 resolution effort involving archaeological impacts). Congratulations are due to the City of Waterbury on what seems to be an all-around historic preservation success story.

(Photos by CTDOT OEP unless otherwise noted)



1. Bank of Naugatuck River along site margins at time of discovery



2. Site soil profile from Phase II excavations



3. Concentration of river cobbles, some tested for raw material consistency (Photo courtesy of WSP, Inc.)



4. Early stage bifacial quartzite preforms recovered from Platts Mill Park Site (Photo courtesy of WSP, Inc.)



5. Deeply seated remnant postmold encountered below C horizon (Photo courtesy of WSP, Inc.)



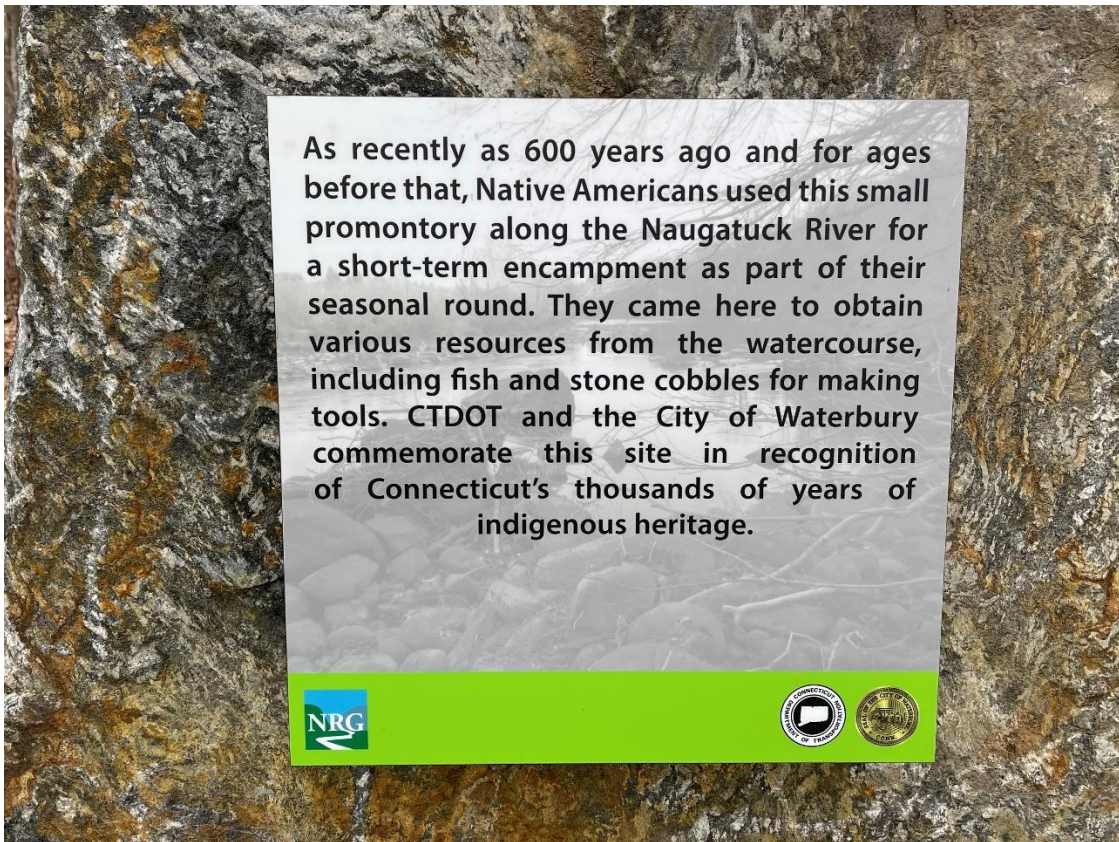
6. Pottery fragments, one with mend hole, recovered from Site (Photo courtesy of WSP, Inc.)



7. Side-notch projectile point recovered from Site (Photo courtesy of WSP, Inc.)



8. Stone 'reading circle' within park containing commemorative monument



9. Commemorative plaque upon stone monument

The Henry Whitfield House, Guilford, Connecticut

William A. Farley
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
Southern Connecticut State University

Author's Note: This update was previously published in the Northeast Historical Archaeology Newsletter. It is printed here with permission.

The Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) archaeology field school has now completed four seasons at the Henry Whitfield House site in Guilford, Connecticut. Working together with the CT SHPO and the state museum's curatorial staff, students have expanded upon excavations at one of the state's most important historic sites.

The Henry Whitfield House is the oldest standing settler-colonial structure in the state of Connecticut and one of the oldest in North America (Figure 1). Built in 1639 as both a minister's house and a defensive structure for the British Guilford colony, the Henry Whitfield House is an unusual construction – more akin to a small Scottish castle than an English 17th-century wooden colonial house. It was originally built to serve as a place of refuge should the colony, which later became a part of the New Haven colony and eventually the state of Connecticut, should the settlement ever be attacked (Figure 2). Historical records note no such attack, so instead it served as a grand home for the colony's first minister, then later as the home of tenant farmers and owner-occupants until the late 19th century. In around the year 1900 the property and the house were purchased by the state of Connecticut at the request of the colonial dames. The state took on the house's debt, which was considerable, and endeavored to “preserve” it. Eventually the state hired architect J. Frederick Kelly to conduct renovations (Kelly 1939). Kelly effectively stripped the house of the previous three centuries of history and reimagined it as what he suspected it looked like in the mid-17th century. The house has changed little since the 1930s (Farley et al. 2020a).

The SCSU excavations carried on from over a half century of on-and-off archaeology at the Henry Whitfield State Museum (Figure 3). The earliest archaeological work was conducted in the 1960s, though the majority has occurred since the 1990s, being led in turn by Harold Juli at Connecticut College, then a series of PIs from Yale University between 2000 and 2007, and finally with SCSU since 2018 (Correia 2018).

The 2018 SCSU excavations have already been reported and published in the *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* (see Farley et al. 2020b). To summarize very briefly, we explored evidence of the 1930s Kelly renovations and used that as a bridge to discuss the history of that type of historical preservation and its links to anti-immigrant, religious, economic, and racial anxieties in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The 2019, 2021, 2022, and eventual 2023 excavations have instead centered around the North yard of the house. Our goal was to link together the Yale and Connecticut College explorations of previous decades so as to better understand the ways families living on the property have utilized this heavily trafficked outdoor area of the home. Those families most certainly did use that space, and heavily. Artifactual evidence suggests the North yard was used in turn as an eating area, cooking space, a space for butchering livestock, repairing, and perhaps producing clothing, and possibly even for glass blowing. It appears the North yard may have acted as a natural extension of the internal parts of the house, with family members taking advantage of the seasonal weather to get outside of the smoky, enclosed home. Most of the Whitfield House's elements of comfort, such as windows, extra doors, and decent ventilation, were additions of Kelly. Recall that the house was built for defense and likely had as few openings as possible, at least until the mid-19th century.

The North yard has a well-established stratigraphy, with a 30 to 50cm thick “historic fill” layer densely packed with artifacts dating from the mid-17th century to the late-19th century. Whether this fill is stratified or mixed is still unknown. Beneath this is an “ejecta” layer, likely deposited during the house's construction, that lenses out until it dissipates at around 5M from the house's foundation. Beneath that is a buried “natural” stratigraphy, with intact A, B, and glacial till horizons.

The site has many intact features, some of which can be chronologically established (for instance, a previously unknown buried cistern likely built in the 1860s). Others will hopefully be elucidated as spatial analyses are completed in the coming year (for example, a number of post molds, pits, basins, and historic shell middens).

Most notably though are a series of likely pre-colonial features located at the interface of the buried A and B horizons. A series of post molds and a very large and dense shell-midden likely dating to the Middle or Late Woodland period (roughly 2,000–400BP). These features have been tentatively dated based on the presence of period-specific Indigenous-made ceramics, though radiocarbon dating will be conducted on the shell midden soon. While pre-colonial artifacts had been found at the site previously, they numbered only a few dozen and were never associated with intact features. The precolonial features and associated artifacts provide an opportunity to learn about the deeper Indigenous history of this landscape, particularly of the Quinnipiac, on whose traditional homelands the house currently stands (Menta 2003).

A complete report on the North yard excavations is planned for late 2023, with published journal articles to follow.

Correia, Elizabeth

2017 *A Summary of Archaeological Investigations at Connecticut's Four State Museums*. Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

Farley, William A., Michael McBride, Kevin Chesler, Jonathon Godfrey, and Devin Pascale

2020a *The Henry Whitfield State Museum 2018 Archaeological Field and Laboratory Report*. Southern Connecticut State University Laboratory Report #1, Southern Connecticut State University.

Farley, William A., Michael McBride, Kevin Chesler, Jonathon Godfrey, and Devin Pascale

2020b An Archaeological Perspective on Neocolonialism, Heritage-Making, and Historical Preservation at the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford, Connecticut, in *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 82:128–152.

Kelly, J. Frederick

1939 *The Henry Whitfield House 1639: The Journal of Restoration of the Old Stone House, Guilford*. The Prospect Press, Hartford, Connecticut.

Menta, John

2003 *The Quinnipiac: Cultural Conflict in Southern New England*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut



Figure 1. North yard excavations from 2021 with the Henry Whitfield House in the background



Figure 2. Field School students enjoying their discoveries

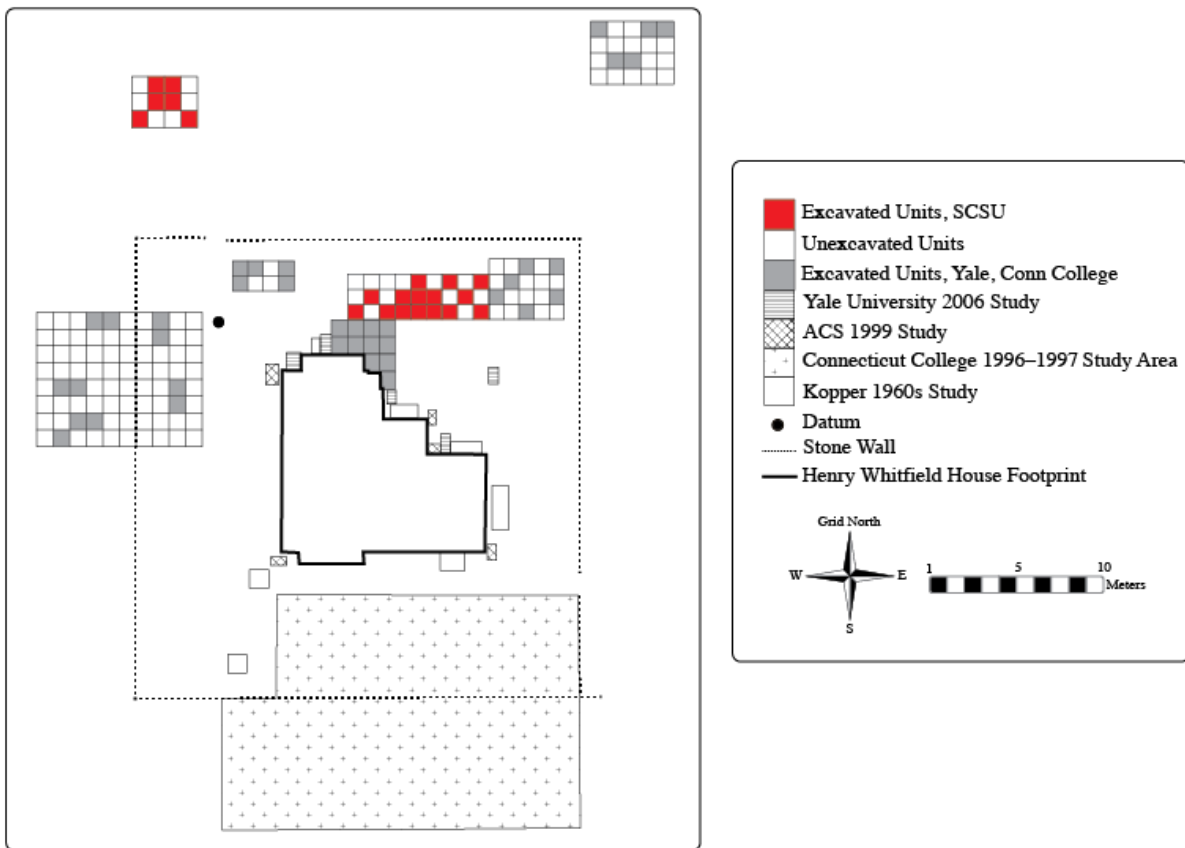


Figure 3. Excavation map for the Henry Whitfield House. This map does not cover the entire property, and other excavations have occurred since the 1960s outside this map’s boundaries.



Figure 4. A Middle to Late Woodland shell midden, largely composed of oyster and quahog, and containing dentate-stamped Indigenous-made ceramics.



Figure 5. The buried cistern feature, likely built in the 1860s.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

STORIES FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S NOTEBOOK

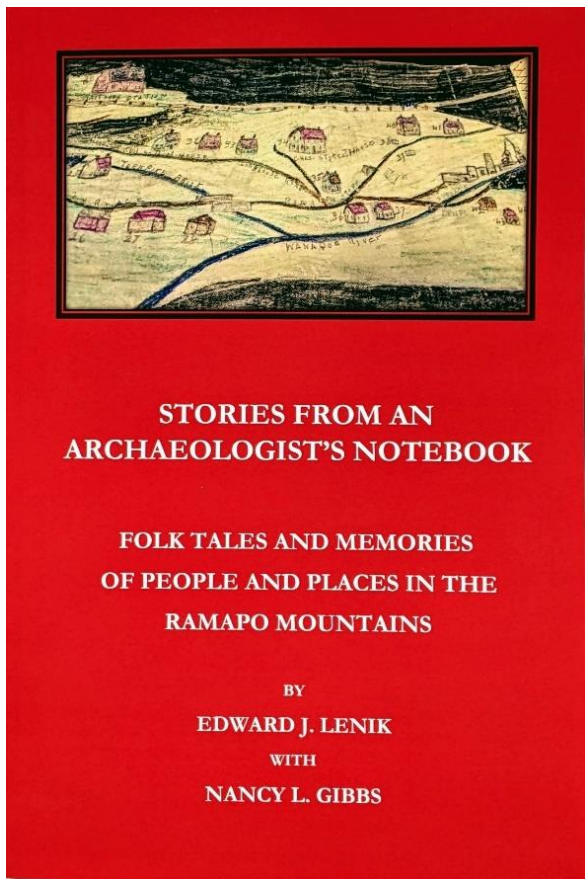
**FOLK TALES AND MEMORIES OF PEOPLE AND
PLACES IN THE RAMAPO MOUNTAINS
A NEW BOOK BY EDWARD J. LENIK WITH
NANCY L. GIBBS**

Ed Lenik introduced many to the art of archaeology, teaching in local community colleges and directing volunteers at the Wayne Archaeology Lab in Wayne, NJ. He himself got his start in archaeology volunteering with the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society in the mid-20th century when the Society ran several digs at iron making related sites in Northern New Jersey. Ed earned a master's degree in Anthropology/Archaeology at New York University and founded his own firm, Sheffield Archaeological Consultants.

He reminded enthusiasts eager to pick up spade, trowel, or shovel that archaeology is a destructive science. Once you dig, you have destroyed a site. *Dig into the Records before you dig into the Dirt! Talk to the Locals!* Learn everything you can, before you dig.

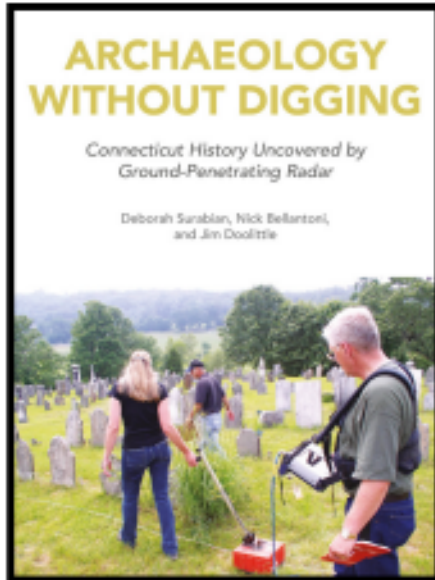
Ed followed his own rules and amassed a collection of stories and information that he shares here, stories from the records and from the people who knew the histories and old gossip of the places he dug in the environs of the Ramapo Mountains. Some of these stories are indigenous and some historic. Among other things, he tells us about what lies under the Monksville Reservoir, treasure hunters in Harriman State Park, the origins of Indian Rock near Claudius Smith's Den, and why you should pay attention to the Woolly Bear Caterpillar.

THE NORTH JERSEY HIGHLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY is pleased to announce the publication of **STORIES FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S NOTEBOOK. FOLK TALES AND MEMORIES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES IN THE RAMAPO MOUNTAINS**. The book, priced at \$20, tax included, is available at the NJHHS Gift Shop in Ringwood Manor State Park in Ringwood, NJ or at Long Pond Ironworks Visitor's Center at Long Pond Ironworks State Park in Hewitt, NJ. This book can also be ordered by mailing a check for \$23 for each book and shipping to NJHHS, P.O. Box 248, Ringwood, NJ 07456.





OXBOW | books



COMING SOON

Archaeology Without Digging

Connecticut History Uncovered by Ground-Penetrating Radar

*By Deborah Surabian, Nick Bellantoni
and James Doolittle*

**A presentation of the results of GPR
application at sites of historical import
in Connecticut**

This book narrates the stories of GPR studies at 10 historical sites in Connecticut, spanning the 17th to the 20th centuries. Each chapter investigates and highlights a 'history mystery' and differing aspects of our research, including the 'lost' grave of an African-American Revolutionary War veteran, the verification of French Revolutionary War military personnel in a mass grave, the detection of a below-ground hidden 19th-century family burial tomb, the discovery of hurriedly dug, unmarked burials associated with the 1918 influenza pandemic and the detection of the unknown location of a 1941 military plane crash site, among others. Professionally, the authors have over 40 years of experience in GPR, soil science and archaeology. They bring their collective expertise to the reader in a scientific approach with a personal, story-telling touch. Each chapter delves into the history of the sites and the nature of the geophysical search (i.e., how the equipment was used) and the interpretation of the data in regard to solving a historical problem.

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CALENDAR

To help members plan their calendars, we post the dates of meetings of local and national interest

May 6, 2023, ASC Spring Meeting, South Windsor, CT

October 19-22, 2023, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

October 26-29, 2023, Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) 90th Annual Meeting, Ocean City, MD

January 3-6, 2024, Society for Historical Archaeology 2024 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Oakland, CA.

March 7-10, 2024, Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) Annual conference, Ocean City, MD.

April 17-21, 2024, Society for American Archaeology 89th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

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

Membership Form

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)

- Individual* \$25.00
- Student** \$10.00
- Institutional* \$40.00
- Life* \$300.00
- I would like to add a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$_____.*

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](#)



Archaeological Society of Connecticut 2022 Spring Meeting



**Wood Memorial Library and Museum
783 Main Street
South Windsor, CT**

Saturday, May 6th

Admission: Non-members (general public) - \$10, Members (ASC/FOSA) - \$8, Students - \$5
Any questions regarding meeting please contact: David Leslie – David.leslie@uconn.edu

9:30 AM Registration begins (with coffee and doughnuts)

10:15 AM Welcome, announcements – David Leslie, President, ASC

10:30 – 11:00 AM The Micromorphology of Glacial Sediment in Early Pottery from New York State

Ammie Chittim

This presentation is part of an ongoing research project that seeks to investigate the source of clay sediment used by ancient potters in the Northeast. The objective of this study is to use a non-typological approach to examine the technological style of early pottery, its origin, and diversity in the Northeast. In the place of descriptive techniques, this study uses geoarchaeology, petrography and optical mineralogy. These techniques offer a method of provenancing early ceramic material in the Northeast and will help us better understand Native American pottery technology. In April of 2022, 35 geologic samples were collected from 16 sites across New York State. These samples were collected from well-known glacial landforms, including lakebeds, fluvial terraces, moraine, aeolian, and kettle and kame. The sediment samples were produced into petrographic slides for analysis so that they could be compared with 90 thin section samples from 25 archaeological sites analyzed by the author in 2017. This presentation will provide a summary of work completed thus far.



Dr. Chittim graduated from Bridgewater State University in 2004 with a B.S degree in Anthropology and Mathematics. She has traveled across North America and the Middle East conducting cultural research on both ancient and modern societies. She earned her first M.A. from the University of Toronto in 2006 with a degree in Near and Middle Eastern Societies. From there, she joined the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo as a graduate student and professional archaeologist working with local Native American tribes. As a graduate student at SUNY at Buffalo, Dr. Chittim earned a second M.A. (2009), focused on Cultural Resource Management and Experimental Archaeology and Ph.D. (2017) in geoarchaeology. Dr. Chittim is a Reserve Officer in the Coast Guard and is an instructor at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. She teaches a variety of courses including Atmospheric and Marine Science, Climate Change and Natural Disasters, Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change, Mathematics, and Physics. She has an ongoing active research agenda and continues to own and operate her own small, part-time petrography lab, Northeastern Petrographic Services.

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Planting the “Yankee” Identity: An Analysis of the Macrobotanical Assemblage at the ca. 1638 Waterman House Site in Marshfield, Massachusetts

Katharine Reinhart

In 2013, Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. conducted an extensive data recovery program in Marshfield, Massachusetts at the ca. 1638 Waterman House Site. Located in one of the earliest satellite communities established after the founding of Plymouth Colony, this site offers a detailed view into the daily life of a yeoman family during this critical and poorly understood first period of settlement. This presentation will detail the most recent results of the analysis conducted on the site’s extensive macrobotanical assemblage. The depth and diversity exhibited by the cultivated and wild fruit, nut, herb, vegetable, and grain remains recovered at the site, vividly illustrate European-Indigenous interactions on the colonial landscape. These interactions, and colonists’ application of contemporary English botanical knowledge created some of the earliest evidence of Puritan colonists transitioning into what would become the New England “Yankee” cultural identity of later generations.



Originally from southeastern Ohio, Ms. Reinhart has almost a decade of archaeological experience as a cultural resource management archaeologist in the New England region. Her training as an archaeobotanist began in 2012 when she accepted a fellowship through a collaboration between her undergraduate alma mater (Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee) and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center (Ledyard, Connecticut). This research has led her to conduct

analysis on a wide range of sites dating from the Paleoindian period and up to the 18th century in the northeast. She is currently finishing a Historical Archaeology Master's degree at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, while working full time at Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. in Storrs, Connecticut and as an archaeobotanical consultant.

11:30 – 12:00 PM

Cultural Entanglements in Early Colonial Connecticut: The View from the Hollister Farm, South Glastonbury, CT

Sarah Sportman

The Hollister Site is a 17th-century English farm complex (1640s-1715), located on the east side of the Connecticut River in South Glastonbury. Seven years of fieldwork at the site have revealed a large farm complex, with an incredibly well-preserved material assemblage and evidence of numerous structures, pits, posts, and other features. The diverse material record of the site provides a wealth of information about 17th-century English lifeways and sheds light on the complex social, economic, and political landscape of early Colonial Connecticut. The artifacts and documentary record reflect the connections between Connecticut and the greater Atlantic world, including New Netherland, the West Indies, and the Chesapeake.



The Hollister Site also provides material evidence of the complex relationships between English and Indigenous people in the early colonial period. The two English families who lived at the site, the Gilberts (1651-1663) and the Hollisters (1665-1715), regularly interacted with Native people in official capacities, as reflected in Connecticut Colony records. Recent discoveries at the site indicate that these interactions also occurred in more intimate and mundane settings. The diverse assemblage of 17th-century Indigenous artifacts recovered from the site suggests that the Hollister Farm was a shared landscape, where Native people lived and worked alongside the English residents. At present, there is no documentary evidence of Native people living at the site to shed on the question, but the historical context of 17th-century Connecticut provides several possibilities for exploration.

Dr. Sarah P. Sportman is Connecticut's State Archaeologist and an Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Sarah has over 20 years of experience working in academic and cultural resources management archaeology in New England New York. Her research interests include zooarchaeology, historical archaeology, and New England archaeology and ethnohistory.

12:00 – 1:45 PM

Lunch (on your own)

1:45 – 2:15 PM

And Now for Something Completely Different: an Introduction to Archaeogaming

Bill Farley

The study of the recent past is not a new topic in archaeology. For decades archaeologists have been interested in the material lives of people living in the 20th century, or even in the leavings found in modern landfills. More recently, archaeologists have begun to explore the importance of the digital world in what I call the “archaeology of the now.” How separated are we really from our virtual selves? How important are our experiences on social media, the internet, in our phones, or in the games we play? Archaeogaming is an arm of archaeology that explores the way the science is represented in and shaped by video games. We’ll explore the basics of what Archaeogaming is, and why it is an important addition to how we think about the material world.



Dr. Bill Farley is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Southern Connecticut State University who specializes in the study of Southern New England in the colonial period.

His research focuses on the early colonial interactions of Native Americans and Euroamerican settlers in Connecticut. Dr. Farley received his MA in Historical Archaeology from UMASS Boston in 2012 and a PhD in Anthropology from UCONN in 2017. In addition to historical archaeology, Dr. Farley’s research interests include archaeobotany, museum and heritage studies, archaeology and popular culture, and science communication. He currently serves as Vice President for the Archaeological Society of Connecticut.

2:15 – 2:45 PM

**“Provisioned, Produced, Procured”, and Purchased?: A
Macrobotanical Study of Enslaved African American Economic
Involvement in the Shenandoah Valley**

Linda Seminario

In 2017, archaeologists excavated two features at the Belle Grove enslaved quarters in Middletown, Virginia— a root cellar and borrow pit that was filled in when a log cabin burned down. By using comparative collections, the preservation of the macrobotanicals has allowed for an in-depth analysis of the foods that enslaved individuals consumed and the relationship between food choice, resistance, and enslaved people’s regional economic involvement at a 19th century plantation in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. These data sets have also allowed for an analysis of the impact that enslaved individuals had on local economies as consumers and producers through various methods of food procurement strategies, providing evidence of ways that enslaved individuals navigated the power structures of the plantation system in the American South.



Linda Seminario graduated summa cum laude from Boston University in 2019 with a B.S. in Archaeology and Anthropology, and a minor in Classical Studies. Although her thesis work is based in Virginia, she has been working in the northeast region for the past five years. Her work as an archaeobotanist has led her to work on site assemblages throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions ranging from the Paleoindian period to the 17th-century. She is currently a full-time Project Archaeologist at Heritage Consultants and a master’s student in the Historical Archaeology program at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Additionally, she is student-chair of the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference’s (MAAC) Student Committee and involved in the planning of the MAAC 2024.

2:45 – 4:00 PM

**Self-Guided Tour of the Museum, Collections, and Nowashe
Village**

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Reception (Wine and cheese)

Directions to the ASC Spring Meeting

Wood Memorial Library is located at 787 Main Street in South Windsor, at the intersection of Main Street and Pleasant Valley Road, conveniently located just off of Route 5 and minutes away from I-291, I-84 and I-91.

From I-91 / I-291 East

Exit 35-A and continue on I-291 over the Connecticut River (Bissell Bridge). Take exit 4 and turn left (north) onto Route 5. At Dunkin' Donuts, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow until the end of the road.

From I-291 West

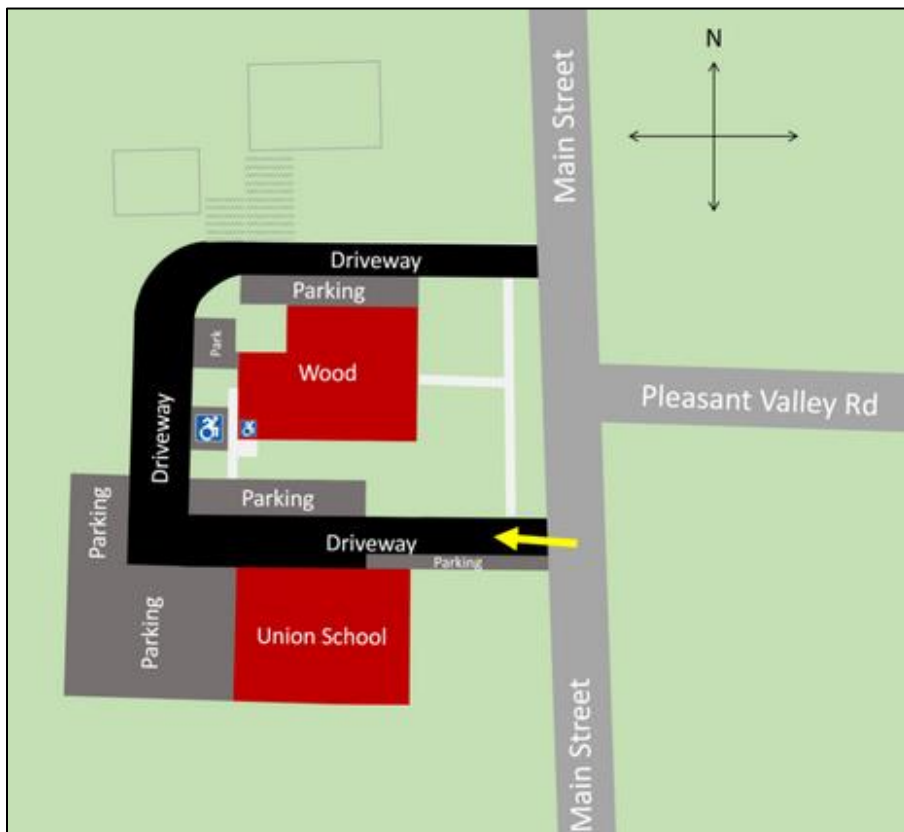
Exit 4 and turn left (north) onto Route 5. At Dunkin' Donuts, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow until the end of the road.

From I-84 East

Exit 62 and turn left onto Buckland Street. At Mobil gas station, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow 3.7 miles to end of the road, through several stoplights and stop signs.

From I-84 West

Exit 62 and turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow 3.5 miles to end of the road, through several stoplights and stop signs.



Parking Information

Please do not block driveways or the private parking areas for the two neighbors who share the driveway. Parking is located next door at Union School and along Main Street. Please enter the south driveway for Union School.

Handicap accessible parking is located in the rear of the building, near the back entrance that leads to the elevator.