

A.S.C. NEWS

Issue No. 264

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

February 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 19, 2024

Dear Members,

I hope you all have been enjoying snowy vistas provided by the recent snowstorms! It has been great finally to have snow, instead of those January rainstorms. As February gives way to the Spring season, I want to remind our members that the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology's (FOSA) Annual Meeting will be held on April 14th. This year, the FOSA guest speaker will be Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, a man who needs no introduction when it comes to Connecticut Archaeology, and Barbara Ann Kipfer. Nick and Barbara will be speaking about their new book, *Hiking Archaeological Ruins of Southern New England*. We have included a flyer for the event, so be sure to mark your calendars for April 14th!

Speaking of archaeology events, be sure to keep an eye out for the April ASC newsletter, where we will announce our Spring Meeting date and guest speakers.

The Executive Board is working hard to plan an exciting Spring meeting and we will have more details posted on our website soon. Please also join me in welcoming a new member to the Executive Board, Dr. Amanda Leiss, who is replacing Jeff Zaino as our Website Manager; Amanda has also agreed to fill our newly created position of Social Media Coordinator. Please also join me in thanking Jeff Zaino for his many years of service to the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, I personally can't imagine where we would be without his work on our website and making sure we share content with our members as soon as possible.

The Board also made the difficult decision to increase membership dues this year. After a thorough review of our expenses, it was clear that our current income does not cover costs of printing and mailing the bulletin, no less other expenses. Annual dues for all membership categories have been increased; Individual rising from \$25 to \$30, Student \$10 to \$15, Institution \$40 to \$50 and Life \$300 to \$350. This is the first increase since 2002.

Members should look in this newsletter for the 2024 Unearthing History flyer, as their excellent web series about Paleoindian research within the region continues for another season. The organizers for this series continue to provide incredibly interesting lectures relevant to Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological research within southern New England.

As always, 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 or to our Newsletter Editor, Lee West at lfwest@sbcglobal.net. Any members that are interested should apply for the Brian D.

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Jones Grant. We've included grant requirements and information in this newsletter.

On behalf of the ASC Board of Directors, we hope that you enjoy this newsletter, and we hope to see you all in person at the FOSA annual meeting!

David Leslie
President

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

Dear ASC Members,

After capping off a busy summer field season, OSA had an eventful autumn. We had two small field projects in September. First, we returned to the Cesar and Sim Peters Site in Hebron to dig test pits in the location of a proposed new sidewalk along Wall Street. We were able to determine the extent of archaeological deposits related to the Peters site to help inform the sidewalk design. We also did a small salvage archaeology project in Wethersfield, at the site of the 18th century Addams House on Middletown Avenue. The house, which was in a state of severe disrepair, was taken down this summer. Although we found some interesting artifacts, we learned that the yard area had been heavily disturbed by past construction and landscaping activities and had little potential for intact archaeological features or deposits.

In October, OSA and FOSA participated in the Bolton Living History Weekend at Bolton Heritage Farm (formerly Rose Farm). The event included a reenacted encampment and training exercises by Le

Régiment Bourbonnais 13^{ème}, along with exhibits, and activities for children. We prepared an exhibit table with materials from the summer excavations at the site, conducted as part of the Digging into History Program. The next week, OSA participated in the Connecticut Archaeology Fair at the Henry Whitfield Museum in Guilford. We spent the last two weeks of October attending two archaeology conferences. At the Conference for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) in Montreal, I presented about the Gilbert, Hollister, and Wangunk women who lived at the Hollister Site in the 17th century, and joined Nick Bellantoni, Gary Aronsen (Yale), Scott Brady (FOSA) to present an update on the ongoing analyses of the Ridgefield burials. At the Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland, I presented on the collaborative work Brianna Rae Zoto and I have been doing on the collections from the Indigenous Grannis Island shell midden site in New Haven. It was exciting to see a strong showing of Connecticut archaeologists and local research at both events!

FOSA has provided tremendous support for the collections-based project on the Grannis Island Site, with funding for radiocarbon dates, as well as earlier funding for Brianna's work to organize, analyze, and re-package the collection in modern curatorial materials. This fall, they funded four additional dates. We now know that the bulk of the shell midden was deposited in the Middle, rather than Late Woodland period. This new information makes the extensive evidence of hunting,

butchering, and foodways from the site even more important, as we have few well-preserved animal bone assemblages from this period.

In November, OSA carried out our final field project of the 2023 season. We excavated several shovel test pits at another site in Hebron that is also associated with Cesar Peters. This site was the home of Mary and John Peters, and Cesar lived there from the time he was purchased by Mary Peters at age 9. We conducted a GPR survey of the site in the spring and located the buried cellar hole, as well as other features. However, the shovel testing was disappointing. We found few artifacts and evidence of pervasive disturbance. We are hoping to return to the site and dig additional test pits this year.

Since finishing up in the field, our work has focused on laboratory processing of the materials collected during the field season and continued work on the collections. Thanks to FOSA, we now have abundant shelving in our collections storage building and this spring we will begin the work of reorganizing the collections and creating a detailed inventory of collections and their locations. After that, we'll begin the work of re-packaging collections with damaged boxes or inappropriate containers. This has been a long term project to improve the state of our collections and although progress has been slow, we have made some great strides on this front.

We didn't do new Archaeology of Connecticut shows on iCRV in December and January, but we're back with great topics planned

for February and March. Our February episode focuses on the Quinnipiac River Valley Cultural Heritage Project and in March we'll discuss the ongoing work at Grannis Island. Remember, 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.

We're looking forward to an interesting spring and summer, with several field projects planned. This spring we'll work with geophysical specialists to do a magnetometry survey at Bolton Heritage Farm, to try and clarify some of the features we identified last year with ground-penetrating radar. We'll be at the Hollister Site in May and June, and we also hope to do a small survey project at Putnam State Park in Redding and get back to the Templeton Site in Washington sometime this summer.

I hope we get to see many of you in at the ASC and FOSA annual meetings this spring or perhaps in the field!

Best,

Sarah Sportman
State Archaeologist



Greetings, fellow ASC members!

After a busy summer, we have settled into our winter routine. So far, it has been a busy winter for Scott Brady and our FOSA volunteers. Work continues in Building #1 to complete the installation of shelving in the new OSA storage facility.

Freestanding shelving has been completed and Scott is currently coordinating the building of wall-mounted shelving. Once completed, this will be the first time that the OSA collections - except for some material currently archived at the Dodd Center - will be stored at one location. It's been a long time coming and is important to create availability of the state's archaeological collections for continuing study and research. Lab work, cleaning and cataloging artifacts from the 2023 field work season, has also been active since late October. We are getting 2-4 volunteers a day but can always use more.

Last year's Cooke Scholarship was awarded to Brianna Rae Zoto, a Ph. D candidate at the University of Connecticut. Her research focuses on Grannis Island, which was excavated by the ASC from 1947-1974, producing over 6,000 artifacts. Although an important site, it has been largely forgotten for over 30 years. She is using the scholarship to fund eight AMS radiocarbon dates from charcoal and bone samples to better interpret the site and illuminate the still poorly understood Orient Phase of the Terminal Archaic period. Her project also demonstrates the utility of using legacy collections for modern archaeological research, which ties in with FOSA's work to house all the OSA collections in one location. We look forward to hearing about her results! Also note that we are looking for candidates for our 2024 scholarship.

FOSA Vice President, Tom Ford, has developed a new educational offering which will be presented as a four-week Zoom Class

tentatively scheduled for Feb 2024: "Pre-Clovis - A Critical Review". The Guest Speaker will be Stuart Fiedel. This is a great opportunity for the membership to develop their research skills. We are always looking for additional formal learning opportunities in the future so, as always, let me know if you have any ideas and/or if you would be willing to teach a class.

Lastly, the FOSA Annual Meeting will be held this year in-person at Farmington High School on Sunday, April 14th. We will have a fun and informative presentation by our own Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist Emeritus, and Barbara Ann Kipfer, Lexicographer and Retired Archaeologist. They will be speaking about their new book, "Hiking Archaeological Ruins in Southern New England", scheduled for release in early April. Check out our website at www.fosa-ct.org for a formal announcement and description of the meeting. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

Glenda Rose
President, FOSA

CT Scientists Featured at Jamestown

In the December newsletter of *Jamestown Rediscovery*, read more about the work of CT scientists Dr. Raquel Fleskes and Dr. Deborah Bolnick who are extracting and analyzing DNA from the remains of three Jamestown colonists, and of Dr. David Leslie, who is analyzing the vibracore samples he took from Jamestown Island in 2022.

[December 2023 | Historic
Jamestowne](#)

Check the April Issue of ASC News or CNEHA on the web at <http://www.cneha.org/> or Facebook for more information on the upcoming conference



CNEHA 2024
New Haven, Connecticut
October 17-20



Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology

1.9K likes • 2.1K followers

Available in April 2024



DREAM IT *Hiking Ruins of Southern New England* features 40 hikes to fascinating archaeological sites in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

PLAN IT This guide provides the latest information to plan a customized trip:

- ▶ Common and lesser-known
- ▶ Full-color photos and maps, detailed trail descriptions, and trailhead GPS
- ▶ Hike overviews and details on distance, difficulty, canine compatibility, and more

DO IT These ruins capture the history of New England and offer a fascinating glimpse into the past. Each hike leads to sites with a story to tell, right along the trail.

- ▶ Find hikes suited to every ability.
- ▶ Explore the rich history of the sites and detailed information about them.
- ▶ Discover incredible ruins, spectacular views, and more.

MEET YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS Nick Bellantoni is emeritus Connecticut State Archaeologist and an associate research professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. Barbara Ann Kipfer is a lexicographer and a part-time archaeologist, and the author of *14,000 Things to Be Happy About* and *Hiking Is Fundamental* (FalconGuides), among others.

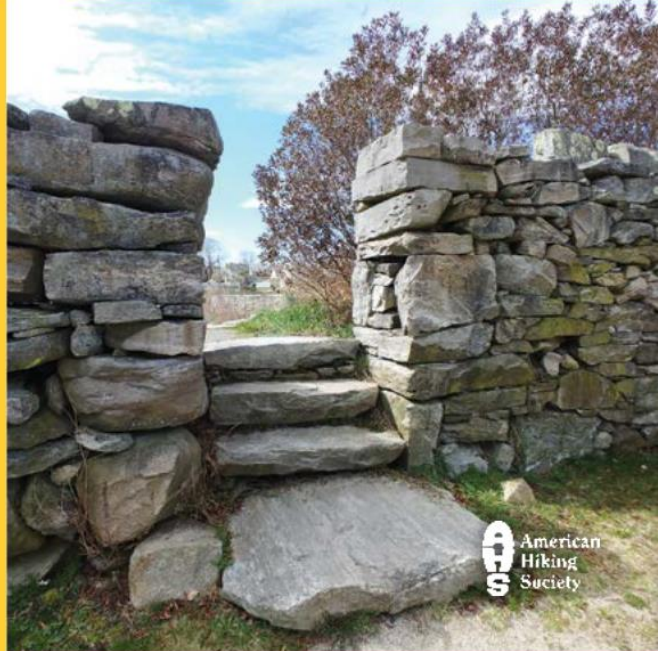
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Front and back cover images courtesy of Bruce Grubbs

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HIKING
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RUINS SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND



NICK BELLANTONI AND BARBARA ANN KIPFER

HIKING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RUINS IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Presented by: Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.



Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. FOSA Annual Meeting

Farmington High School Auditorium
10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

Guest Speakers:

Nicholas Bellantoni

Connecticut State Archaeologist *Emeritus*
Associate Research Professor,
Dept. of Anthropology, University of Connecticut



Barbara Ann Kipfer

Lexicographer
Registered Professional Archaeologist

*All archaeological ruins in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have a cultural tale to tell, though most sites are on private lands not available to the public. However, the ruins in this presentation are associated with well-known hiking trails - and their origin or purpose is explained in the new book *Hiking Ruins of Southern New England (FalconGuides, 2024)* written by Bellantoni and Kipfer. This presentation offers an insider's look at places archaeologists have identified as part of the region's cultural development and are available for trail hikers to visit. The authors also emphasize etiquette at archaeological sites, and protective state and federal laws. Trails with ruins to be highlighted include the Lighthouse Village Site, Barkhamsted, CT; Dividend Brook and Archaeological District, Rocky Hill, CT; Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Avon/Farmington, CT; Gay City State Park, Hebron, CT; Beckett Quarry, Beckett, MA; Keystone Arches Bridges Trails, Chester, MA; and Canonchet/Hoxie Preserve Trails, RI.*

Directions to Farmington High School

From I-84 East or West:

- 1) Take Exit 39, proceed west on Route 4/Farmington Avenue for 3.9 miles, crossing Route 10 at about 1.5 miles.
- 2) Approximately 2.4 miles past Route 10, turn right on Monteith Drive.
- 3) Drive past Town Hall at right, to Farmington High School at top of hill. Follow signs to parking and auditorium.

From Route 4 East

Drive 1.25 miles east of Route 177, turn left on Monteith Drive.
Follow step 3 directions above.

General Admission - \$10.00

Non-Farmington Students with ID - \$5.00

FOSA, ASC, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Farmington students & faculty admitted free with ID

Co-Sponsored by: *Archaeological Society of Connecticut*

EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE

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

Photo provided by Archaeological and Historical Services, Storrs CT



2024 series sponsored by a grant from



7:00 pm EST via Zoom
Free to attend.

Register at www.avonctlibrary.info

MARCH 7

The History of Native American Archaeology in Connecticut, presented by Nicholas Bellantoni, emeritus state archaeologist with the UCONN State Museum of Natural History and adjunct associate research professor in the Department of Anthropology. He will take the audience through the history of archaeology in CT bringing it up to present day with new discoveries and the process during the work at the Brian D. Jones Site.

APRIL 11

Bioarchaeology in North America: Ethics, Issues and Where the Field Stands in 2024, presented by Alex Garcia-Putnam, PhD, University of New Hampshire. He will talk about the field, basics of bioarchaeology, the lack of skeletal remains found in the United States and some of the reasons for, and implications of, that lack of data.

MAY 9

Foraging in the Paleoindian Period: A Macrobotanical Analysis at the Brian D. Jones Site in Avon, CT (tentative title), presented by Katharine Reinhart, Project Archaeologist/Botanical Analyst, Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc, Storrs, CT. She will focus on the analysis of plant evidence from the site to learn what they ate and where they found it.

SEPT. (tbd)

Microscopic Evidence for the Manufacture and Use of Stone Artifacts at the Brian D. Jones Site, presented by G. Logan Miller, Assoc. Prof. Anthropology, Illinois State University.

Watch the webinars from the 2021-2023 series on the Avon Library's YouTube Channel:
www.youtube.com/user/afplct

OCT. (tbd)

Update on the Brian D. Jones site in Avon, CT since discovery in 2019 presented by the team at Archaeological and Historical Services, Storrs, CT. October is Archaeology Month in Connecticut, so this presentation will be 90 minutes with time after for Q&A.

In partnership with



CALENDAR

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

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

April 12-14, 2024, New York State Archaeological Association 105th Annual Conference, Oswego, NY

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

October 19-22, 2024, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Annual Meeting, New Haven, CT

November 7-10, 2024, Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) 91st Annual Meeting, Newport, RI

January 8-11, 2025, Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

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ASC ON-LINE RESOURCES

ASC Bulletins at UConn Digital Archives

Bulletins #77-80 (2015-2018) recently added to archive. Complete collection back to 1934 now available.

ASC Newsletters at UConn Digital Archives

Newsletters from 1939-1954, 1999-2018 currently available. For more recent newsletters, see the ASC website

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). . Note the increase in dues from last year which was necessary because of higher printing and postage costs – this is the first increase since 2002.

- Individual* \$30.00
 *Student** \$15.00
 Institutional \$50.00
 Life \$350.00
 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

ASC Website

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

Editor's Note: ASC News is published three times a year, in September, January/February and March/April. Please address inquiries and contributions to future issues to *ASC News*, Lee West - Editor, E-Mail: lfwest@sbcglobal.net



At the Board meeting on February 21, we welcomed our newest member, Amanda Leiss. Front row: (l-r) Lucianne Lavin, Sarah Sportman, Scott Brady. Back row: Lee West, Amanda Leiss, Dawn Brown, Glenda Rose, Ernie Wiegand, Mandy Ranslow. Not pictured: Dave Leslie, Paul Wegner, Bill Farley, Nick Bellantoni.