Passing the Trowel: Leadership Changes for Connecticut Archaeology

In the land of steady habits, the ASC and Connecticut’s archaeological community have benefitted from decades of remarkable leadership from ASC President Dan Cruson and State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni. This year has brought major changes: Dan Cruson has stepped down as our society’s president after nearly 20 years at the helm and Nick Bellantoni has retired after 27 years as State Archaeologist. Each has reshaped the organizations they lead in innumerable ways and have been persuasive and influential advocates for the study, preservation and documentation of Connecticut’s archaeological resources. To build on these achievements, Nick Bellantoni has been elected as the new president of ASC, and Brian Jones has been appointed as the new State Archaeologist. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge Dan and Nick’s contributions and with great enthusiasm that we welcome Nick and Brian to their new roles.
Dear Members,

As incoming President of the ASC, my first impulse is to introduce myself, but then again, after serving as the Connecticut State Archaeologist for almost thirty years, an introduction to the membership may not be necessary! With my recent retirement, we have assumed this position in an effort to assist Dan Cruson, who has served as President for almost twenty years. We are very fortunate that Dan has agreed to stay on as Vice-President, and I will try not to lean on him too much in the coming year. Since my personal schedule into retirement is unclear, I have agreed to serve as President for at least a year. My wife and I may be heading to California for a good part of the year to be with our grandkids. So, I will be working with the ASC board of directors to find a permanent replacement for the president’s position in the coming year. Meanwhile, I will do the best I can to serve the membership in all of its needs.

We have our Fall Meeting coming up on Saturday, October 18th at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Similar to last year, the meeting date is being coordinated with the Connecticut Archaeology Fair, which Dr. Sarah Croucher (Anthropology, Wesleyan University) has volunteered to coordinate. The event will carry for two days (Friday and Saturday) with the public invited to attend. There will be family programs and demonstrations on Friday, and the ASC meeting with our agenda of speakers and outreach programs on Saturday. The theme for this year’s Archaeology Fair is “Community Archaeology”, which hopes to bring awareness of the work Connecticut archaeologist’s do at the neighborhood and group levels. The ASC speaker’s program developed by the board’s Dawn Brown will be informative and interesting.

And, we can always use volunteers to assist in all the necessary roles to pull a major event like this off. So, please let Dawn, Sarah or me know if you are able to help on one or both of the days of the Archaeology Fair. The Fair is being supported by Wesleyan University, the City of Middletown, the State Historic Preservation Office, Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, and of course, the Archaeological Society of Connecticut. In addition, the newly appointed state archaeologist, Brian Jones will be on hand for you to meet and greet.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting and serving you in the coming year.

Nick Bellantoni
President

ASC Spring Meeting:
Quarries, a Rockshelter and a Hike

Our Spring Meeting at the Barkhamsted Historical Society on May 3 was a great success, with standing room only available for the four morning speakers who addressed “Quarrying in Connecticut”; In the afternoon, members were treated to a hike and tour of the Ragged Mountain Rockshelter and the Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry, led by Ken Feder who supervised the dig at the quarry and two of his researchers, Bonnie Plourde and Matthew Swieton.

To provide a more detailed look at the quarry and for those who missed the meeting, Bonnie Plourde has prepared the following article on her research there.

A Hike into the Past

The spring meeting of the ASC was held on May 3, 2014 at the Barkhamsted Historical Society. Four guest speakers, Bonnie Plourde, Matthew Swieton, Allison Guiness and Robert Stewart gave wonderful presentations on both historic and prehistoric topics. Matthew Swieton, a University of Exeter graduate student and Bonnie Plourde, who will be graduating from CCSU this coming May, discussed The Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry which dates to the Terminal Archaic through Woodland Periods of Connecticut. After a quick picnic lunch, Bonnie and Matthew, along with their professor, Dr. Kenneth Feder (Kenny) of CCSU, had the opportunity to take the ASC attendees to this one of a kind site. As the group walked the trails of People’s State Forest, anticipation mounted and after a 15 minute hike, the first destination was reached – the Ragged Mountain Rock Shelter.

The Rock Shelter has been a part of the Walt Landgraf trail for many years and is well known. The shelter site was first excavated in 1901 by Walter Manchester. Then in the late 1940s, Charles Lyons and Ray Irons, began another excavation of the Shelter. Soon after the team’s work began, they invited Yale University and William Fowler to take over and fully excavate the site. The Shelter site’s artifacts, features and ecofacts led Fowler and his team to deduce that two prehistoric groups lived at the Rock Shelter – one being a soapstone vessel producing group and the other, a group which used clay to make pots. Much of the...
ASC Members begin their hike

Kenny Feder describes rockshelter
Bonnie Plourde points out unharvested soapstone bowl

Matt Swieton shows source of quartzite tools
In 1995, Andrea Rand and Walt Landgraf, discovered two large, rounded pieces of soapstone sticking out of the ground 46 meters northwest of the Ragged Mountain Rock Shelter. Unable to move the soapstone from the ground, they wiped away the surrounding leaves and dirt and discovered that the protruding soapstone was actually still connected to a larger core of soapstone beneath the surface. The soapstone they had found turned out to be partially finished, unharvested soapstone bowls. Andrea and her husband Gary shared the discovery with Kenny in 2010. It took some time but in 2011, Kenny was finally able to bring a group of Archaeology students from CCSU out to the site to begin excavation. A 20x20 meter grid was set up with the unharvested bowls in the center of the grid. Six 2x2 meter units were excavated during a five week period to a depth of approximately 55 cm.

The 2011 excavation was much more productive than anyone could have imagined it would be. The six units yielded approximately 1000 artifacts each. Most of the artifacts collected were pieces of soapstone waste produced by the extraction of the soapstone blanks from the source. A large number of quarry tools were also found – picks and scrapers of various local materials (quartzite, schist and granite schist), as well as a knife, chisel and one broken tip of a projectile point. The team found exactly what is expected at a site thought to be a soapstone quarry. What was not found was any evidence that the people who quarried this soapstone lived at the quarry itself. At this time, it is believed that the group who lived in the Ragged Mountain Rock Shelter is the same group who worked at the Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry. Radiocarbon testing was performed by Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory on samples obtained during the 2011 excavation. The samples dated to 2870-2760 BP and 930-800 BP.

Kenny’s team returned to the site two years later during the summer of 2013. The hope for the 2013 excavation was to open up more of the 20x20 meter grid and focus on revealing more of the soapstone core with the unharvested bowls. The team accomplished this goal and by unveiling more of the site, found that certain functions of soapstone bowl production were performed at specific areas of the quarry. The number of artifacts found per unit was as high as it had been during the 2011 excavation. To date, there are over 10,000 artifacts being cataloged at CCSU’s lab.

A pedestrian survey was also performed at the beginning of the 2013 dig. Several large quartzite cobbles were found throughout the forest surrounding the Ragged Mountain Rock Shelter and Walt Landgraf Quarry. All of the cobbles found during the survey, revealed evidence of lithic reduction. It is hypothesized that these pieces of quartzite were used to make the quarry tools used during soapstone extraction and bowl production. Matthew Swieton has led the way in researching exactly how the quartzite was removed from each cobble and has even been able to refit one core back together from its broken pieces.

The presentations and hike were a huge success. Everyone in attendance enjoyed being able to not only hear about the exciting archaeological work being performed by Kenny and his team, but also see the Shelter, Quarry and quartzite cobbles and experience Matt and Bonnie’s excitement. Kenny hopes to be able to continue the excavation of the Quarry site during the summer of 2015.

Bonnie Plourde

Lyent Russell Grant Results

Each year, the Lyent Russell Grant is awarded by ASC to further archaeological research in Connecticut. One of the stipulations of the award is that the results are shared with ASC membership in the Bulletin or in ASC News. Last year’s recipient was Matthew Boulanger, and in the following article he explains his project and what the Russell funding has helped to achieve.

AMS Radiocarbon Date for the New Britain YWCA Mastodon (Mammut americanum)

Matthew T. Boulanger

Department of Anthropology, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Archaeometry Laboratory, University of Missouri Research Reactor

In September 1852 the remains of an American mastodon (Mammut americanum) were encountered during the excavation of a pond near the former intersection of School and College Streets, near the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), in New Britain, Connecticut. Most of the bones disintegrated shortly after excavation, but among those that survived were a femur, humerus, tibia, multiple ribs, and several teeth. After discovery, the remains were exhibited at the New Britain Normal School—now Central Connecticut State University. After approximately 30 years, the bones were transferred to the Vertebrate Paleontology collection at the Yale
Peabody Museum where it is assigned catalog no. VP 40002. Based on written accounts of the discovery and comparison with the Yale Peabody on-line catalog, it appears that VP 40002 also contains the remains of a second American mastodon found in New Britain. This second set of remains comprises a vertebra encountered in 1833 during the excavation of a canal at the corner of Elm and Church Streets, over 0.5 km distant from the YWCA finds.

A single long-bone fragment was selected from VP 40002 for accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dating at the Center for Applied Isotope Studies, University of Georgia. Because no long bones were reportedly recovered from the Elm and Church Street mastodon, it is assumed that the dated material derived from the YWCA mastodon. Funding for the AMS date were provided through the Lyent Russell Award of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut. No collagen was preserved in the bone fragment; thus, the resulting date was obtained on the bioapatite fraction of the bone. The resulting date was 11,160 ± 30 \(^{14}\)C YBP (UGAMS-17668; \(\delta^{13}\)C = -12.7‰). Calibrating this date using the most recent terrestrial calibration curve (IntCal13) returns a date of 13,100 – 12,984 BP (11,151 – 11,035 BCE) at two standard deviations (Fig. 1).

To the best of my knowledge this is the first attempt to obtain a radiocarbon date on mastodon remains found in Connecticut. Yet, there are numerous other mastodon specimens reported from the state, including the second specimen from New Britain, one from Sharon, one at Bristol, one near Cheshire, and one on the grounds of A. A. Pope’s Hill-Stead estate in Farmington. Obtaining AMS dates on these additional specimens would help to establish a timeline for—and ultimately an explanation of—the underlying causes for extinction of these animals, both within the state and within the larger region.

FOSA NEWS

Hello ASC Friends,

This summer has been a time of transition as Nick Bellantoni retired from the Office of State Archaeology and Brian Jones became our new State Archaeologist. We look forward to supporting Dr. Brian, who has some exciting new ideas related to public archaeology. We also look forward to working with Dr. Nick through our partnership with ASC.

Our field season will be coming to an end, but there will be plenty of activities, especially during Archaeology Awareness Month in October. Event information can be found on our website: http://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_SpecNotices.htm.

FOSA will also continue to offer workshops. Our next workshop is September 27th and will cover aspects of historic research. I look forward to seeing you all at the Archaeology Fair on October 18th! As always, please contact me at fosa-ct@archaeologist.com if you have any FOSA related questions.

Mandy Ranslow
President-FOSA

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

FOSA NEWS

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Mandy Ranslow
President-FOSA

Events

September 22, 2014 “Trade and Civilization in Medieval East Africa” AIA Hartford Lecture; Trinity College, Hartford, CT

September 27, 2014 FOSA Historic Research Workshop 10-11:30am, South End Senior Center, East Hartford

October 4-5, 2014 Hammonasset Festival; Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT

October 4, 2014 Lantern Hill Hike, sponsored by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum; Mashantucket, CT
October 11, 2014  Monhantic Fort Tour, sponsored by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum; Mashantucket, CT

October 12-14, 2014  Bus Tour to Meadowcroft Rockshelter; Avella, PA

October 18, 2014  Archaeology Fair & Archaeological Society of Connecticut Fall Meeting; Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

October 25, 2014  Archaeology Field Workshop, sponsored by CT State Museum of Natural History; Storrs, CT

November 8, 2014  Native American and Archaeologist Roundtable; Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, CT

January 24, 2015  FOSA Annual Meeting; Farmington High School, Farmington, CT

April 13, 2015  “Cultural Heritage and Global Climate Change: What Can the Past Tell Us About the Future?” AIA Hartford Lecture; Trinity College, Hartford, CT

**Archaeology Club of Norwalk Community College**

**September 11, 2014**  
Local Excavation Update  
Prof. Ernie Wiegand  
Norwalk Community College

Our opening meeting of the fall semester will feature updates on the investigations at two sites conducted over the summer by the Archaeology Club.

Our first dig was in the basement of the Daniel and Esther Bartlett house. The house, which serves as the headquarters of the Redding Historical Society, was built in the 1780s for Daniel and Esther Bartlett. Flooding of the cellar, which has a dirt floor, prompted the Redding Historical Society to raise funds for the installation of a concrete floor. Mr. Leon Korvelis, a board member of the society and one of Redding’s selectmen, was concerned that important archaeological materials might be present in the dirt floor and would be impacted by the new floor.

He inquired if the NCC Archaeology Club would be interested in conducting a dig prior to the floor’s construction, and we accepted the invitation. Weekend dig sessions were conducted throughout June, resulting in the recovery of a wide variety of artifacts related to virtually all periods of the house’s history. Ernie Wiegand will present the results of the dig.

The second dig took place at the AM site in Wilton. First discovered in 1981, the site was the focus of both surface collection and excavation of a large block during the 1980s. This multicomponent site is best known for its Paleoindian component and was, at the time of its discovery, one of the few Paleoindian sites known in the state. While the limited formal excavation of the site produced evidence of a Late Archaic period occupation, it more importantly demonstrated that intact cultural features existed below the plowzone.

This summer NCC archaeologists began a test survey in areas adjacent to those that had produced artifacts in the past. The purpose of the survey was to establish the size of the site and its future research potential. Ernie Wiegand will present a summary of previous investigations and the interim results of our survey, which has already produced prehistoric artifacts. Please join us. The meeting will be held at the East Campus GenRe Forum at 8 pm, with refreshments at 7:30 pm in the Atrium.

**Research News from the Field**

This fall, excavations will continue at the Gallows Hill site in Redding. During the spring semester, the excavations at Block G were completed and a new area, Block H, was started.

Block G was an area with more deeply buried artifacts and debitage than other areas investigated at the site. While it was hoped that this might be the location of a shelter, it now appears that the most likely explanation is that a tree-fall was responsible for the deeper distribution of materials.

Block H is centered on a small glacial erratic that rises about 50 cm. above the ground surface. The distribution of lithic debitage is greatest on one side, and it is likely that the flintknapper was using the erratic as “site furniture”. Several tools have been found, including a possible Stark type projectile point. If it indeed is a Stark point, it would be indicative of a Middle Archaic occupation of the site. This fall’s work at the site will expand Block H to determine if more evidence dating to the Middle Archaic is present.
Connecticut Archaeology Center

Calendar of Activities

Meigs Point Festival
Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5, 10 am to 5 pm, rain or shine, Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT
No registration required – FREE
All ages are welcome. Atlatl activity is limited to adults and children ages 8 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Join the Museum and Archaeology Center and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) at the Meigs Point Festival — celebrating nature, native skills, and music at Hammonasset State Park! Explore Connecticut’s vibrant natural and cultural history. Come try your hand at using the atlatl, an ancient spear-throwing tool that predates the bow and arrow. There will be ongoing amateur atlatl contests and the New England Atlatl Championship. Additional activities will include Native American drumming and dancing, State Troubadours Tom Callinan and John Campbell with the Kerry Boys, nature programs, Meigs Point Nature Center activities, archaeology and geology exhibits, antique cars, fire trucks, farming exhibits, and farm animals.

Special Trip: Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, Jewett City, CT (map will be mailed to participants)
Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12
Advance registration required: $325 (double room) or $420 (single room)
Adults and children ages 12 and above. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

The 16,000-year-old Meadowcroft Rockshelter is the earliest known site of continuous human habitation in North America! Property owner and museum founder, Albert Miller, discovered the first prehistoric artifacts found at Meadowcroft in 1955. In 1973, the first professional excavation of the rock shelter was conducted by the Cultural Resource Management Program of the University of Pittsburgh and directed by Dr. James M. Adovasio. Today, ongoing research and excavation continues under the direction of Dr. Adovasio through the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute (MAI). The excavation protocols used at Meadowcroft are considered state-of-the-art and Meadowcroft is widely regarded as one of the most carefully excavated archaeological sites. Don’t miss this special opportunity to explore this National Historic Landmark and Meadowcroft Village, which recreates an Upper Ohio Valley village from the mid-19th century.

The fee includes round trip bus transportation (gratuity included), two nights’ accommodations at Hilton Garden Inn, two upgraded full breakfast buffets, entrance to the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, boxed lunches during the Meadowcroft Rockshelter visit, and a tour led by Dr. Adovasio.

This trip is sponsored by the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center at UConn. Advance registration with full payment to FOSA is required prior to trip. To request a Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village trip registration form, please contact David Colberg at david.colberg@uconn.edu or 860.486.5690.

Connecticut Archaeology Fair
Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 am to 4 pm Exley Science Center, Wesleyan University, 265 Church Street, Middletown, CT
No registration required: Free with a suggested $5 donation for 18 and over.

Explore and learn about many of the archaeological investigations going on around the state. Local archaeological societies, historical societies, and universities will have displays highlighting past and current excavations and research. View and touch real artifacts! Have questions about archaeology? There will be archaeologists there to provide answers. Whether you just have a passing interest in archaeology or you want to find out how to become more involved, there will be something for everyone. Stop by and visit the Museum and Archaeology Center’s booth!
Parking is to the rear of the Exley Science Center, with access from Lawn Ave. Visitors can also park on Lawn Avenue and other surrounding streets.

Archaeology Field Workshop – Learning The Basics
Mandy Ranslow, Registered Professional Archaeologist, Friends of the Office of State Archaeology
Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 am to 11:30 am UConn, Storrs Campus (directions will be sent to participants)
Advance registration required: $20 ($15 for Museum members)
Adults and children ages 10 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

What happens at an archaeological dig? Learn about the science, field techniques, tools, and cultural aspects of archaeology from professional archaeologist Mandy Ranslow. Participants will be part of a real archaeological field crew, doing hands-on fieldwork at a genuine, ongoing historic house excavation at UConn. Findings at the site will add important information to our understanding of Connecticut’s rich historic past. If you like to solve historic mysteries and don’t mind getting your hands dirty, then this is the activity for you!

Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor’s “Walktober”
Vampire Folk Belief in Historic New England
Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, Office of State Archaeology
Saturday, November 1, 10 am to 12 noon, rain or shine
Jewett City, CT (map will be mailed to participants)
Advance registration required; this walk is limited to no more than 70 people.
FREE for adults and children ages 12 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by mail or call the Museum to reserve your space!

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni will lead a walk through an area of Connecticut’s Quiet Corner steeped in history and folklore. In 1990 a couple of very surprised young boys discovered two skulls at the site of a new gravel quarry in eastern Connecticut. Dr. Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut’s State Archaeologist at the time, and others were called in to investigate what turned out to be a forgotten colonial family cemetery. One grave in particular caught their eye. Someone had arranged the burial in an unusual way. This led to further investigation involving archaeology, forensics, genealogy, and folklore that produced the theory that the cause for the oddity in the burial was the belief that its occupant was a vampire. Vampire folklore was rampant in New England from 1780 to the 1890s, and a combination of disciplines helps archaeologists today discover more about peoples’ attitudes towards health and healing during this period. As was learned, a real public health issue was to blame. Presented by the Griswold Bicentennial Committee and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center. 860.486.4460 - www.mnh.uconn.edu

New Series: Exploring Connecticut’s Towns–Portland!
Susan Fiedler, Brownstone Quorum Bob McDougall, Portland Historical Society
Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 am to 12 noon Portland, CT (directions will be sent to participants)
Advance registration required: $15 ($10 for Museum members)
Adults and children ages 8 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

In each of Connecticut’s 169 towns, the relationship between the State’s natural and cultural history plays out in unique ways. From the indigenous peoples arriving after the glaciers receded and the European explorers and settlers establishing colonies in the New World, to the innovators of the industrial revolution leading to the present day, Connecticut is steeped in history. Join us as we explore Connecticut’s towns and learn about the people and environments that have shaped and continue to shape the Constitution State.

The third town in the series is Portland, a small community with a huge history. The brownstone industry began in colonial times and reached its peak in the mid 1800s. Many buildings, monuments and landscapes feature its distinctive dark sandstone. This tour will include the National Historic Landmark Brownstone Quarries, local examples of brownstone architecture and gravestones, and a unique historic landscape. The removal of 1 billion cubic yards of stone created sheer cliffs and dramatic topography, which bring the stories of immigration, the industrial revolution, and even the Works Progress Administration to life.

Despite its prolific use and fame, half of the stone excavated from the three pits never left town. Portland has the most Connecticut River frontage in the State and was continuously transformed over hundreds of years as unsalable stone, or ‘slag’, was used to fill in the flood plain, shifting the shoreline 200 feet towards Middletown. Later, the area was covered by wharves, cranes, and a factory that prepared ornate facades to be re-assembled in New York, Boston, and other cities. To the north, the need to ‘dump’ resulted in the Riverfront Park, a remarkable “40 acre sculpture.” As it looks to the future, the community is looking to capitalize on the significance of these resources, and expand their impact.

Susan Fiedler of the Brownstone Quorum will describe changes to these historic vernacular landscapes over time, and aspects of preservation planning. Bob McDougall will describe what life was like for the thousands of men working the quarries and their families, and how this heritage influenced the development of the Town. A 1.5 mile walk will loop from the Park, on to Brownstone Avenue, up Silver Street, along Main Street, and down Middlesex Avenue. This includes a vertical grade change of about 300 feet. There will be an optional hike around the Park trails, which are narrow with short steep inclines.

"Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment."

Experience the Museum's permanent exhibit "Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships Between People and the Environment." The exhibit explores how the natural history of Southern New England has shaped, and continues to shape, the lives of the people who live here and, in turn, how people have shaped the environment. Monday – Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.

The above programs are presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn. 860-486-4460 - www.mnh.uconn.edu

American Institute of Archaeology

Hartford Society Contact:
Prof. Martha Risser
martha.risser@trincoll.edu
### The Hartford Society of AIA Lectures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lecture Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 22, 2014</td>
<td>8PM</td>
<td>Trade and Civilization in Medieval East Africa</td>
<td>AIA National Lecture by Chapurukha Kusimba</td>
<td>McCook Auditorium, Trinity College, 300 Summit St., Hartford, CT</td>
<td>Wendi Delaney at <a href="mailto:Wendi.Delaney@trincoll.edu">Wendi.Delaney@trincoll.edu</a></td>
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<td>April 13, 2015</td>
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<td>Cultural Heritage and Global Climate Change: What Can the Past Tell Us About the Future?</td>
<td>AIA National Lecture by Kathryn Lafrenz Samuels</td>
<td>McCook Auditorium, Trinity College, 300 Summit St., Hartford, CT</td>
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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Request for Letters of Interest**

**Task Order Historic/Archaeological Support Services**

**CSO Solicitation No. 2234**

The [Connecticut Department of Transportation](http://www.ct.gov/dot/business/) (Department) is seeking to engage two (2) consulting firms for historic and archaeological resource services on a task-order basis. The services to be performed by the selected firms shall include archaeological investigations and historic documentation studies for transportation projects in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

Please be advised that the selected firms will be required to have archaeological laboratory capabilities in-house.

The contracts will be limited to three years, with the stipulation that any assignments initiated during the term of the contract will be allowed to continue through completion. No new tasks will be assigned after three years from the start of the contract. Up to 100 assignments is anticipated with an expected commencement date of January 2015.

Consultant firms having a desire to provide such services may get the full solicitation that includes the required format for submittals from the Department’s internet website: [www.ct.gov/dot/business/consultant/selection](http://www.ct.gov/dot/business/consultant/selection) via the Consultant Solicitations link or by contacting the Consultant Selection Office at (860) 594-3498.

**Deadline for submittals is Friday, October 24, 2014.**

Connecticut Department of Transportation - An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

*9th Annual Native American-Archaeology Roundtable*

*“Stone cultural features and ceremonial landscapes”*

**Saturday, November 8, 2014 9:00AM - 5:00 pm**

Please join us at The Institute for American Indian Studies, 38 Curtis Road, Washington, Connecticut for another rousing Native American-Archaeology Round Table with outstanding presentations and panel discussions by New England professional archaeologists and Native American leadership.

This year’s Roundtable will explore stone cultural features and ceremonial sites/landscapes. Our diverse group of speakers will share their experiences and knowledge about this expansive category of cultural features. Until recently, stone cultural features have gone largely undocumented by cultural resource professionals while working in the field. The explicit goal is to
introduce new information and elicit suggestions for how professional archaeologists can consider and record this variety of cultural resource in future investigations.

Scheduled speakers and panelists include CT State Archaeologist Dr. Brian Jones; Rhode Island State Archaeologist Dr. Timothy Ives; CT State Historic Preservation Officer Daniel Forrest; Schaghticoke elder Trudie Richmond; Mohegan Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Elaine Thomas; Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Kathy Knowles; Mohegan elder Faith Davison; Eastern Pequot Vice-Chair Brenda Geer; authors and stone structure researchers James Gage and Mary Gage; Mohawk-Abenaki engineering consultant Donald Aubrey; archaeologists Dr. Greg Walwer and Dr. Curtiss Hoffman; and geographer Dr. William Ouimet.

**Institute for American Indian Studies Names New Executive Director**

August 18, 2014 – After an 8-month nationwide search, and by unanimous decision, the Board of Trustees of the Institute for American Indian Studies (IAIS) announces Ms. Laurie P. Lamarre as their new Executive Director.

Ms. Lamarre comes from her current position as a project consultant at Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center. Prior to consulting for the Mashantucket, she was Education Coordinator for the Lebanon Historical Society, Director of Education at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, and has served in various capacities since 2007 at the USS Constitution Museum in Charlestown, MA, in addition to writing and publishing. Her schooling includes undergraduate degrees in history and anthropology from the UConn-Storrs, and a certificate and Master’s degree in Museum Studies and Museum Education from Tufts University.

Ms. Lamarre commented:

"I am beyond thrilled to join such a dedicated team at the Institute for American Indian Studies Museum and Research Center. This organization has the entire package; unique collections, knowledgeable staff, exceptional exhibits, and beautiful grounds. I am looking forward to meeting and engaging with the Institute’s constituents, while helping to preserve Native American history and traditions, share knowledge, and engage with contemporary Native American cultures."

"My previous work brought me to the Institute for collections research, and since then I am still intrigued and awed by their collection’s depth. Although one artifact struck me in particular: a 17th Century button mold found at a Connecticut Native American archaeological site. This one artifact speaks to a historic period of change for local Native communities, but it speaks volumes about the culture, technology, fashion, and art of the period. The Institute’s collections are filled with art and artifacts just like this mold; they provide avenues for all cultures to discuss, learn, and engage together."

Bruce Reinholdt, an Independent Museum Consultant, former Curator of the Gunn Museum in Washington, CT and a 43-year veteran of historical museum management and teaching, is an IAIS Trustee and headed the Search Committee. Reinholdt, who will continue as Chairman of the Transition Committee at the Museum, said: “The applicants for the position of Executive Director at the Museum were all exceptional. Laurie was instantly attractive as our leader because of the depth of her knowledge in the field and her local background. Laurie’s understanding of Native American prehistory, history, and archeology is vast and rooted in well-researched academics. Her leadership ability has been cultivated through several institutions, particularly and most recently, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. Laurie has natural management skills, is diligent, detail-oriented and well organized. Under her leadership, along with the continued dedicated work of Assistant ED, Lisa Piastuch, Dr. Lucianne Lavin, our resident archeologist, the rest of the staff and the dynamic and committed Board of Trustees, we know the future of IAIS to be assured.”

Recently, the Museum received recognition on a national scale, as it qualified at the ‘Gold’, the highest level, in 3 of 6 museum operations areas: ‘Collections’, ‘Audience’ and ‘Interpretation’, in the StEPS-CT program. StEPS, a standards of excellence program for small museums and historical organizations, was developed by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and sponsored in Connecticut, by the Connecticut Humanities (CTH) and Connecticut League for History Organizations (CHLO).

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in upcoming 2015, the Institute for American Indian Studies was incorporated in 1975 (then the American Indian Archaeological Institute) as an outgrowth of local efforts to recover New England’s then-largely-unknown indigenous history. IAIS is a 501(c)3 museum and research center founded by Edmund "Ned" Swigart and Sidney Hessel. In the early 1970s, volunteers of all ages joined Ned, instructor at the Gunnery School and head of the Wappinger Chapter of the Connecticut Archaeological Society, to dig in and around Washington. A multitude of discoveries pointed to extensive Native settlements and soon the back room of the Gunn Historical Museum overflowed with artifacts and field notes in need of analysis. Volunteer archaeologists joined forces with volunteer fundraisers and the American Indian Archaeological Institute opened on July 1, 1975. Since then, IAIS has surveyed or excavated over 500 sites, including the remarkable discovery of a
10,000-year-old camp site, the earliest known archaeological site in Connecticut. Through archaeology, new understandings are built; this knowledge echoes throughout time and cultures to inform us in the present. With full awareness of the importance of keeping this knowledge alive, the focus of the Institute has always been stewardship and preservation and education.

Today, IAIS consists of a museum and research center nestled on 15 acres of woodlands and trails. The grounds contain a simulated archaeological site, Three Sisters and Healing Plants Gardens, as well as a replicated 16th Century Algonkian Village. Inside the museum, the exhibits share information on the lives and cultures of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary Native Americans. IAIS’ Education Department is dedicated to developing and providing in-depth, exciting programs for students of all ages. The Institute hosts a multitude of special events, including films, workshops, roundtables, and lectures, as well as school and outreach educational programming in order to fulfill its Mission to preserve, promote, and share the Spirit of the Northeast’s First Peoples.

IAIS is open seven days a week, year-round.

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**CALENDAR**

To help members plan their calendars, we post the dates of meetings of interest in Connecticut and neighboring states. Please contact the editor with any meetings you are aware of which you feel would be of interest to the membership.

**September 27, 2014.** Algonquian Peoples Conference, Albany, NY

**October 4, 2014.** Vermont Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, Ferrisburgh, VT

**October 11, 2014.** Massachusetts Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, Middleborough, MA

**October 18, 2014.** ASC Fall Meeting, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

**October 30-November 2, 2014.** Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) Annual Meeting, Solomons, MD

**November 6-9, 2014.** Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Annual Conference, Long Branch, NJ

**January 6-11, 2015.** Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

**January 8-11, 2015.** Archaeological Institute of America & Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA

**March 12-15, 2015.** Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC), Ocean City, MD

**April 10-12, 2015.** Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology Annual Meeting, Fogelsville, PA

**April 15-19, 2015.** Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA

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JOIN ASC!

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)

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<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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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 Cosimo Sgarlata, ASC Treasurer, 1 Roscoe St., Norwalk, CT 06851
**Visit the Fair!** Explore and learn about many of the archaeological investigations going on around the state. Local archaeological societies, historical societies, and universities will have displays highlighting past and current excavations and research. View and touch real artifacts! Have questions about archaeology? There will be archaeologists there to provide answers. Whether you just have a passing interest in archaeology or you want to find out how to become more involved, there will be something for everyone. Parking is to the rear of the Exley Science Center, with access from Lawn Ave., or on Lawn Ave. and other surrounding streets.

**Speakers:**

**11:00 A Snook Kill Phase Site in Marshfield, Massachusetts**

*Brian D. Jones, Connecticut State Archaeologist, and Brianna Rae*

Archaeological and Historical Services Inc. recently excavated a rich Snook Kill phase site in Marshfield, Massachusetts. Dated features and diagnostic tools from the site indicate an age of 3500 years ago. Artifacts were recovered beneath a horizon of peat that had formed over the past 1500 years in this near-coastal setting. The strikingly pristine site documents a complete artifact production, use and discard sequence, from the reduction of rhyolite cobbles into carefully prepared cores, and large flake blanks into tools. Bifacial implements include numerous Snook Kill points, asymmetrical knives, and over a dozen awls. Refitting between tool fragments indicates two contemporaneous areas of activity. The organization of the site and spent tool kit suggest that a very focused episode of construction occurred here, possibly related to bark canoe manufacture.

Brian Jones became Connecticut’s State Archaeologist this July. Brian has worked as an archaeologist since 1992 for AHS/PAST Inc, The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, and Archaeological Services at UMass Amherst. He received his Ph.D. in Anthropology at UConn in 1998. Brian has a broad background in New England archaeology that spans the Paleoindian period through the industrial era.

Brianna Rae works as a professional archaeologist with Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. She served as a crew member during the 2013 excavation of the Snook Kill phase site in Marshfield, MA. Since then, she has completed the inventory of the site and assisted with artifact refitting and mapping. Ms. Rae plans to incorporate further analysis of the Marshfield site into future graduate studies.
12:00 Above-ground Archaeology at Mt. Lebanon Shaker Village
Ernest Wiegand, Norwalk Community College

The Shakers at Mt. Lebanon, in New Lebanon, N.Y., lived in a group of villages where they practiced the tenets of their faith: celibacy, communal living and the confession of sins. This talk will focus on the study of the North Family Brethren’s Workshop. Here, detailed documentation of the structure and the recovery of artifacts within the building prior to its stabilization and repair revealed many aspects of Shaker history and lifeways: their social and economic organization, their ingenuity in both agriculture and industry and the growth of the Shaker movement and its gradual decline as the membership decreased in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

Ernie Wiegand has taught at Norwalk Community College since 1975 and has been coordinator of the Archaeology as an Avocation certificate program since 1990. In addition to teaching, he has worked in CRM projects for over 30 years.

1:00 The Battle of Mistick Fort: June 25-26, 1637
Kevin McBride, University of Connecticut
Director of Research, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Conflict archaeology can offer a unique perspective into the nature and evolution of warfare in Native American and Euro-American societies in colonial contexts and how these societies shaped warfare and were in turn shaped by them. The “Battlefields of the Pequot War” project, funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, seeks to move beyond documentation of the battle-related objects associated with Pequot War battlefields and place the conflict in a broader cultural and historical context. The archaeology associated with the Battle of Mistick Fort provides a useful framework for understanding the nature and evolution of Pequot military, political, and social institutions in the early seventeenth century. The day-long battle between the Pequot and Connecticut colonists and their Mohegan, Wangunk, and Narragansett allies was the most intensive battle of the Pequot War and effectively ended Pequot resistance.

Kevin McBride is Director of Research for the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center and an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut.

2:00 Warren Perry, Central Connecticut State University
Title to be Announced

Dr. Warren R. Perry is a Professor at CCSU and the director of the University’s Archaeology Laboratory for African & African Diaspora Studies (ALAADS)
DIRECTIONS TO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDDLETOWN, CT

From Hartford and points north

Take I-91 south to Exit 22 for Route 9 southbound. At exit 15, turn right onto Route 66 West (Washington Street), turn left onto High Street, then see “To Exley Science Center” below.

From New Haven, New York and points south

Take I-95 North to I-91 North. At exit 18, take Route 691/66 East. Route 66 becomes Washington Street in Middletown. Take right onto High Street, then see “To Exley Science Center” below.

Or, take I-95 north to the Merritt/Wilbur Cross Parkway (Route 15 North) to Route 66 Eastbound. Take right onto High Street, then see “To Exley Science Center” below.

From Waterbury and points west

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To Exley Science Center

Continue south on High St. for five blocks to Lawn Ave. on right. Turn right on Lawn Ave and on first block see rear of Exley Science Center and parking on your right or use street parking in this area.