



ASC Announces

THE LYENT RUSSELL AWARD

Lyent Russell (1904 -1998)

Lyent joined the Archaeological Society of Connecticut just after it was founded and became one of its most dedicated members. In addition to serving as the Society's President in the 1940s, he organized digs at Grannis Island and other sites in southern Connecticut which served as a training ground for generations of local archaeologists. He was an indefatigable lecturer at local schools and in his home where he inspired so many to pursue archaeology even if it was just as an avocation or hobby. He was responsible for the shift in local archaeology from mere collecting of artifacts to their scientific study, and his constant experimenting with aboriginal crafts and processes added considerably to our knowledge of Indian lifeways. His respect for Connecticut's aboriginal population led him to be accepted by them as few others have and earned him his Indian name Saumpi-Cauguat (Straight Arrow). His collections of Indian artifacts and crafts were generously loaned and given to state and tribal institutions to enhance their displays and exhibits. In 1962, he generously endowed the Mr. and Mrs. Berne A. Russell Award in memory of his parents. This award is still bestowed by the ASC on those who have contributed materially to the Society and Connecticut Archaeology.

THE AWARD

Subsequent to Lyent's death in 1998, the Board of the Society felt that it would be fitting to set up an award that would supply some funding for archaeologists working in Connecticut. There are many who work without institutional affiliation, making it difficult for them to secure grants that are largely confined to the academic community. Thus, there is a special need for funds to hire specialists and utilize some of the technologies such as radiocarbon dating that are becoming essential to local archaeology but the costs of which make it almost prohibitive for the unaffiliated individual to utilize.

Accordingly, in 1999, the Society solicited contributions which would constitute an endowment from which such funds could be drawn and awarded. The response was gratifying and was a true tribute to Lyent's devotion and contributions to archaeology. It had been hoped that these donated funds could be left to grow to the point where the interest they generated would supply the awards without drawing down the endowment. The interest rates of the early 2000s made that growth slower than anticipated, but now, it has grown through further donations and interest to the point where the dream of a Russell Award has become a reality.

Beginning in March of each year, a committee of the Society will be accepting applications from Society members for an award of from \$500 to \$800 to be awarded at the fall meeting of the Society. It is expected that the funds will be utilized within a year of the award. Preference will be given to those practicing archaeology as an avocation and/or without institutional affiliation, although no one who applies will be rejected for not meeting these criteria. Selection will also be based upon immediacy of need; i.e. the degree that a site is threatened and the shortness of the time frame within which research must be finished. It is also expected that once the research is finished the results will be shared with the Society in the form of a Bulletin or newsletter article.



LYENT RUSSELL AWARD APPLICATION

Deadline October 15, 2011

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Institutional affiliation (if any):

Location where archaeological research will be conducted:

Dates when research will be conducted (including projected date of completion.):

Archaeological research for which you are applying: (A brief description in a couple hundred words – attach additional page if necessary.)

Who will be supplying labor for this research?

Association with other research that has already been done in Connecticut (if any):

For what do you specifically anticipate using the Russell funding?

As a condition of this award, I agree that the results of my research will be shared with the Archaeological Society of Connecticut in the form of a final contribution to the Bulletin and/or contributions to the newsletter as research proceeds.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail this completed application to: Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, Office of State Archaeology, 2019 Hillside Ave, U-1023; University of Connecticut; Storrs CT 06269-1023.