

Archaeotext

*The Newsletter of the Norwalk Community College
Archaeology Club and
The Archaeology As An Avocation Program*



Club Meetings – Fall Academic Semester

First Fall Meeting - September 8th

Save These Dates! -

Sept 8 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Steatite (Soapstone) Use by
Prehistoric Native Americans**

October 13 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**The Coastal Settlements of
Southwestern Madagascar**

Nov 10 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Coastal and Highland
Occupations in the
Lurin Valley of Peru**



**September 8 - Thursday - 8:00
GenRe Forum - East Campus
Steatite (Soapstone) Use
by Prehistoric Native Americans**

**Andrea Rand
Litchfield Archaeology Club**



**October 13 - Thursday - 8:00 pm
GenRe Forum – East Campus
“Coastal Settlements of
Southwestern Madagascar—
An Archaeological Renaissance”
Kristina Guild
Yale University**

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Cover Photo - The Spotted Horses of Peche-Merle Cave near Dordogne, France 16,000 ybp, the Magdalenian Period

Over the many years that Ms. Rand has been involved in Connecticut archaeology, her special interests include Prehistoric New England Native American ceramic technology in which she replicates the hand built coil technique of ceramic vessel manufacture and also the soapstone (steatite) industry of the Terminal Archaic Period of Connecticut.



Ms. Rand will lead a discussion on the prehistoric use of steatite by the Native Americans that will include her undergraduate research which was done in the late 1990's pertaining to the geology of the quarry sites of Connecticut, the technology of steatite bowl manufacture, the types of tools used for the

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My research is centered on the southwestern coast of Madagascar. The Republic of Madagascar (called Repoblikan'i Madagasikara in Malagasy) is an island country off the coast of southeastern Africa in the Indian Ocean (located about 500 km or 300 miles east of Mozambique). Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. It covers an area of 587,040 sq km (about 227,800 sq miles; smaller than the US state of Texas but bigger than California).

My dissertation project focuses on early coastal settlements, questions of culture transfer/discontinuity, and the use and transformation of marine and coastal environments. Initially settled sometime in the first

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September - Steatite Use by Early Native Americans in New England



Soapstone bowl

quarrying process and the status of steatite collections that are in existence throughout the state including museums, private collections,

and local historical societies.

Currently she is digging with Central Connecticut State University's 2011 Archaeology Field School under the direction of Dr. Kenny Feder, Professor of Anthropology. They are excavating the Ragged Mountain site in Peoples's State Forest in Barkhamsted, Connecticut which had been previously excavated in the late 1940's by William S. Fowler. She will discuss the dig and how it relates to the Prehistoric steatite industry of Southern New England.

Andrea Rand graduated summa cum laude from Central Connecticut State University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology and a minor in Archaeology. She also has post graduate education from the University of Connecticut in Anthropology. Ms. Rand held the office of President of the Albert Morgan Archaeological Society in the early 90's and is currently the President of the Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club of the Institute of American Indian Studies. She is also a board member of the Archaeology Society of Connecticut. Ms. Rand has participated in digs that include the Morgan Site of



Rocky Hill, Connecticut; Red Hill Site in Glastonbury Connecticut; McClean Game Refuge, Granby, Ct., and is, currently digging a multi-component site in Warren Ct. with the Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club.

Please join us Thursday, September 8th.

Refreshments at 7:30 pm and lecture at 8:00.



Soapstone bowls in situ



Rock shelter excavated by William S. Fowler in the late 1940's



Quartzite hand axe recovered in association with a soapstone bowl

The Great Migration - The NCC Archaeology Program Gets a New Home !

During the spring semester, the "A" wing of the West Campus building was the focus of much activity, as the Archaeology Program, along with the Science Department and the Culinary Arts Program, moved all of their classrooms and offices out of the wing, which is now being renovated. For the Archaeology Program, the move started in March with the relocation of some of the artifact collections from storage to the basement of the IT Center. April and May saw additional moves of the office and classroom materials to the basement, which will be the temporary classroom and office for the archaeology and geology courses until the "A" wing renovations are completed.



The move brought together, for the first time, virtually all materials of the Archaeology Program and Archaeology Club into one room. Thanks to volunteers

Art Demattio, Anna May Jerusavage, Bree Longcore, Candace Meader and Rob Wallace, most of the collections were moved



and organized in a short time with a minimum of difficulty.

As the summer progresses, the immense amount of records, photographs and other materials are being re-organized. Classroom, lab furniture and equipment will be moved so that fall classes in archaeology and geology can proceed without a hitch. The Archaeology Club Thursday night lab sessions also will be held in the room once all is in place. These will be held from 5:30-9:00 p.m. on each Thursday during the fall.

RESEARCH NEWS - FROM THE FIELD

Gallows Hill Site - Redding

During the spring semester, Archaeology Club members and Introduction to Archaeology students continued to work on small block excavations in the northeastern section of the site. One of these produced a number of historic artifacts dating to the late 18th century and associated with the occupation or use of the small structure that was the focus of our work over the last few years. Among the artifacts were a number of pieces of delft, a tin-glazed earthenware that is extremely fragile – some of the finds were merely small pieces of glaze that had exfoliated from the soft paste of the sherds. A rim of a Staffordshire plate or dish was also found, adding another ceramic type to the historic artifact inventory, which has been dominated by sherds of redware.



Anna May Jerusavage discovers a quartz point from Excavation Block #6
Photo by Ernie Wiegand

Another block excavation has concentrated on an area that was found to contain a large amount of quartz lithic debitage, the by-product of stone tool manufacture. First discovered during test pit excavation last summer, the two one-meter units that comprise



Rocks, rocks and more Rocks
Photo by Anna May Jerusavage

the block have yielded biface fragments and a narrow stemmed point as well as hundreds of pieces of debitage. This concentration of material occurs at a slightly deeper level than is normal for the site, and may be the result of soil deposition from erosion of the slope above the block during farming days in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Both of these block excavations will be expanded during the fall dig season, which will run from late September through mid-November, and will be the focus of the students in the Introduction to

Archaeology class. Club members interested in participating in the dig should contact Ernie Wiegand at the Archaeology Office (203-857-7377) for further information.



Mohan Tracy recovers a 4000 year old stemmed point in Excavation Block #5
Photo by Anna May Jerusavage



Trumbull Flats Collection
Photo by Candace Meader

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Coastal Settlements of Southwestern Madagascar—Thursday, October 13

millennium AD, it is believed that people first traveled to Madagascar in boats from continental Africa. The people of Madagascar today are a mixture of Asian (Austronesian) and Africans, with some people from the Middle East. Madagascar is one of the most recently settled large landmasses in the world, but our understanding of the island's earliest settlement is vague. In particular, there has been scarce archaeological research on the southwestern coast of Madagascar. Yet, the investigation of coastal areas is critical to understanding early settlement and to building a reliable chronological baseline. I am especially interested in the southern and central west coast, and in tracing the earliest spheres of interaction between the African mainland and Madagascar.



The Summer 2011 field season is a reconnaissance of coastal sites in southwestern Madagascar. The main objective of the reconnaissance is to locate and map archaeological sites between the localities of Morondava and Toliara. I will also begin an ethnoarchaeological study of Vezo fishermen villages. The Vezo people are the predominant occupants of the southwestern coast of the island and have a long history in the region. This project is the first archaeological investigation of coastal settlements along this portion of the southwestern coast. - Kristina Guild

Kristina M. A. Guild is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at Yale University. Her dissertation project is an archaeological and ethnological study of coastal settlements of southwestern Madagascar through time. In addition to her work in Madagascar, she has worked on archaeological projects in Senegal, South Africa, Peru and Pennsylvania. Her primary interests are in landscape archaeology, social complexity, migration and exchange. She earned her BA in Classical Archaeology from Dartmouth College in 2007 and completed the Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 2009.



Neolithic Core and Blades,
Musee de Picardy, Amiens, France



Anthropology and Archaeology Courses this Fall at NCC

This Fall semester at NCC offers three classes, including a course in specific archaeological skills. Courses can be applied towards the “Archaeology as an Avocation” certificate program. Courses are described at the right, and registration information is available from the Records Office at 203-857-7035 or the Archaeology Office, 203-857-7377.

Register Now!

Introduction to Archaeology (ANT 121), will be held on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from **5:30-6:50 pm**. This course, taught by Ernie Wiegand, provides an introduction to prehistoric archaeology and Northeastern prehistory, and will include weekend “dig” sessions at a prehistoric Native American site dating to over 4,000 years ago. Recovered artifacts will be studied at class lab sessions, with students interpreting their finds in a written site report.

Local Historical Archaeology (ANT 209) will be taught on **Tuesday** evenings from **5:30-8:25 pm** by Ernie Wiegand. Not a field course, the class presents the methods used by archaeologists to study historical period sites in studying the kinds of questions that historical archaeology is uniquely qualified to answer. Using artifacts from local sites, students will become familiar with the material culture of the region’s historic past. Each student will also undertake an independent research project focusing on a structure or site in his/her own community.

Physical Geology (GLG 121), will be taught by Ernie Wiegand on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from **9:00-11:50 am**. The course offers an introduction to physical geology, and examines the composition of the earth, and the forces, both external (glaciers, rivers, oceans, wind and gravity) and internal (plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes), that shape our world.

Cultural Anthropology (ANT 105). This is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Two sections of the course are offered, both on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Section 1 is from **11:30 am -12:50 pm** and section 2 is from **1:00-2:20 pm**. Taught by Mary Frances Carmell, the course illuminates social systems and patterns of behavior the world over. From tribal societies to enclave communities in our current times, under examination will be those beliefs, values, customs, rituals, laws and material culture - all those social structures that provide identity and that inform and explain a people’s world view.