

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 9th
See details on page 3

Save These Dates! -

Sept 9 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Recent Discoveries
by NCC Archaeologists**

October 14 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**The Old Leather Man
Man and Legend**

Nov 11 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Early Fishermen in the
Central Andes of Peru**



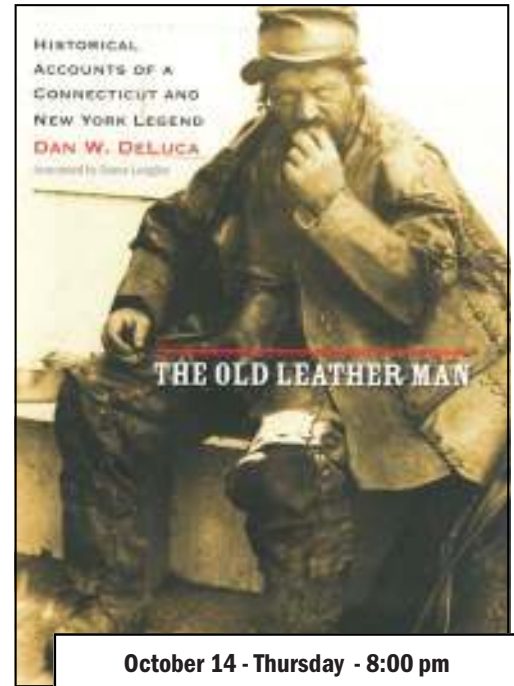
November 11 - Thursday 8:00 pm
GenRe Forum – East Campus

**"The Social Dynamic of Early
Fishermen in the Central Andes"**
Gabriel Prieto

The Peruvian coast is one of the richest marine food resource areas in the world. Many archaeological coastal sites show evidence of a robust fishing industry as well as deep-sea fishing industry early in Peru's prehistory.

Pampas Gramalote is an Initial Period site (2000/1800-500 BC) located in the Moche valley, on the North Coast of Peru. The Initial Period in Peru began with the introduction of pottery and the change from twined to woven textile production and a relocation of peoples into the interior with the beginning of

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October 14 - Thursday - 8:00 pm
GenRe Forum – East Campus
"The Old Leather Man"

Dan DeLuca

Our October 14th meeting will be a very special event featuring Dan DeLuca, who will speak about the research he conducted for his recent book "The Old Leather Man". At press time, the meeting room has not been confirmed and club members should contact the Archaeology Office (203-857-7377) at the beginning of October to find out where we will meet. Refreshments will start at 7:30 pm, with the meeting following at 8:00 pm.

In 1883, wearing a sixty-pound suit sewn from leather boot-tops, a wanderer known only as the Leather Man began to walk a 365-mile loop between the Connecticut and Hudson Rivers that he would complete every thirty-four days for almost six years. Carrying a large leather bag, he walked a circuitous route through western Connecticut and eastern

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November - Early Andean Fishermen

irrigation agriculture. Within the Moche Valley, it was the time when a more complex settlement pattern first appeared in the valley interior.

Pampas Gramalote was a fishing village and my project is focused on understanding the social dynamic and the importance of early fishermen in the Central Andes. At the same time I am very interested in fishing technology and fish production.



Fig 1: View of Unit 1, part of a quadrangular room for ceremonial activities at the site

Gabriel Prieto is an Associate Investigator of the San José de Moro (SJM) Archaeological Program. Prieto obtained his degree at the National University of Trujillo and is currently a doctoral student at Yale University. For four years he has been in charge of excavations of Area 35 of San Jose Moro, a hillock associated with the later periods of the site. Gabriel has worked in Peruvian archaeology for a decade and his research investigations center on the characterization of materials and on the political organization of the Lambayeque and Chimú states at San Jose Moro and in the Jequetepeque

Valley. His work has been published and presented in various reviews and congresses. Please join us Thursday, November 11th for his lecture. Refreshments at 7:30 pm and lecture at 8:00.



Fig 04 : Burial T-101, a old male, located in flexed position



Fig. 3: Fish bones found in a feature of domestic architecture. The fish was dried or salted and bartered for inland products.



Fig. 2: Domestic architecture at the site of Gramalote

RESEARCH NEWS - FROM THE FIELD

Over the summer, Archaeology Club laboratory sessions have focused on the study of the **Merritt Site**, a major investigation conducted in the late 1990's in the Glenville section of Greenwich. The site of one of the oldest houses in Greenwich, a saltbox house dating to perhaps as early as 1730, the land was subdivided and developed after extensive cultural resource studies were made. Archaeology Club members and NCC students continued the investigations, chiefly of a major late 18th/early 19th century midden that was located in the front yard. Later in its history it was the site of a feldspar mill, a speakeasy during Prohibition and a restaurant before returning to residential use in the 1950's. In addition, the site was occupied by a number of Native Americans during the late Paleoindian, Late Archaic and Terminal Archaic periods.

So far, most of the prehistoric materials and faunal remains have been inventoried and studied. The historic period artifacts, which probably number over 10,000 specimens, continue to be studied and cataloged.

Fieldwork at the **Gallows Hill Site** in Redding is planned for the latter portion of the summer and will continue through most of the fall when students in the Introduction to Archaeology course will join club members on the weekend dig sessions. With the completion of the excavation of the 18th century structure, the focus of the dig now will move to other portions of the site which were only tested in the past. Additional testing and the excavation of some 1x1 meter units will help to more clearly define the site's boundaries and to examine other activities conducted there.

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

Materials from the Gallows Hill sites will be processed and studied during our fall lab sessions. These will be held in room W-131 in the West Campus from 5:30-9:00 p.m. on Thursdays during the fall.

September 9 - Thursday - 8:00 pm
GenRe Forum - East Campus
Recent Discoveries by NCC Archaeologists

Our September meeting will feature some of the discoveries made by members of last spring's Advanced Techniques in Archaeology class. We will meet at the GenRe Forum in the East Campus and as always, there will be refreshments at 7:30 pm, and the lecture at 8:00 pm.

Two Sites in Wilton

Club President Art De-mattio will report on the March and April 2010 dig when a team of students from the Advanced Archaeology class made a number of forays into wooded areas of northwestern and southwestern Connecticut in search of previously undiscovered prehistoric sites. The team was comprised of Emma Crisci, Matt DeMattio, and Art DeMattio, all class students. While finding a site with sparse artifactual composition in Kent, the distance from home made a large scale dig unfeasible. While exploring a promising area in Wilton, what appeared to be a fallen rockshelter overhang was observed. This area proved to be better than we could have hoped for.



In a geographic area of around six acres, located in northern Wilton, Ct. our team located not just one, but two sites within 500 feet of one another. Both sites are found proximal to a slow moving stream, likely a tributary of the Norwalk River. In the more prolific site, the one presumed to be within the boundary of the former rock overhang, the team recovered a number of pieces of quartz and chert debitage, some utilized flakes, charred wood, and two points.

One point, a Bare Island type, was found in good shape, but the point of greater interest is believed to be a Nottoway River bifurcate, easily dating to over 7,000 years B.P. Our second site, overlooking the tributary and elevated around 30 feet, seems to be a good ambush hunting site. This location yielded a number of pieces of chert debitage, utilized flakes, charred wood, and a great stage IV bi-face, made of chert. We continue to excavate both sites and will provide an update if significant finds arise.

Stone Tools from the Norwalk Historical Society's Collection

Mohan and David Tracy will present their study of over 60 lithic artifacts belonging to the Norwalk Historical Society, which included the investigation of the collection's provenience and typology, as a part of the Society's ongoing Collection Inventory Project.

Wilbur F. Smith, contributor of the
NHS Stone Tool collection



From internal investigations, the NHS concluded that a large part of the collection may have come from an area naturalist, Wilbur F. Smith, who donated his collection to the South Norwalk Library before his death in 1964. The Library later transferred the collection to the Norwalk Historical Society.

The collection's projectile points include a variety of types which were assigned to periods ranging from the Early Archaic through the Middle Woodland. Other artifacts included some interesting specimens, among them a plummet and a double-faced anvil stone. Some of the objects were judged unlikely to have been collected in the southern New England area.



Many objects have traces of inscriptions or labels apparently associated with previous curation or cataloguing efforts. The lack of reliable provenience details made the study especially challenging, but it

is hoped that information acquired in this study can eventually form a basis for a more complete understanding of the collection.

Gallows Hill Site - Redding

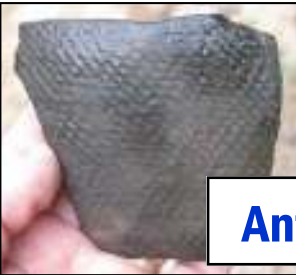
Professor Ernie Wiegand will present an update on the ongoing investigations at the Gallows Hill site, including this summer's excavations that, at press time, have just begun (see **Research News** on page two).

Please join us Thursday, September 9th.

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



Acheulean Hand Axes, Musee de Picardy, Amiens, France.
 Near the St. Acheul neighborhood that gives the tool
 typology its name



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. They are described at the right, and you can get registration information by calling the Records Office at 203-857-7035 or the Archaeology Office at 203-857-7377.

Register Now!

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The Old Leather Man - Thursday, October 14

New York, covering the 365 mile trek each month before repeating it, over and over, for many years. Throughout his travels, he slept in caves and communicated only in grunts and gestures to those he met. For over a century, the Leather Man has been one of the region's most famous and colorful legends. Long-time club members will recall that we conducted excavations at one of the Leather Man's caves in Stamford in the 1980s and found a pit feature that may well have been created by him.

His circuit took him through at least forty-one towns in southwestern Connecticut and southeastern New York, sleeping in caves, accepting food from townspeople and speaking only in grunts and gestures along the way. This history tracks the footsteps of the leather Man and unravels the myths surrounding the man who made Connecticut's caves his home.

Who was this mysterious figure and why did he choose to live the way he did? Mr. DeLuca will share his knowledge, gleaned from newspaper accounts, rare photographs, drawings and maps. Any Club members that may have information about the Leather Man are encouraged to bring this along to the meeting to share with Mr. DeLuca, who is continuing his research into this fascinating and mysterious figure.

As a special treat, Mr. DeLuca will sign copies of "The Old Leather Man", which will be available for sale at the meeting.

Dan DeLuca is genealogist, a Meriden Connecticut historian and a retired high school teacher. He has been researching the Leather Man for twenty years and is the leading expert on the subject.

Please join us Thursday, October 14th in the GenRe Forum, East Campus. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m., Lecture at 8:00 p.m.



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.

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 10:00-11:20 AM 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.