



# A.S.C. NEWS

*Issue No. 228 Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut January 2012*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 2, 2012

Dear Members,

I hope that this finds you having enjoyed a very pleasant holiday season and that you are facing a bright new year. At this time last year I was writing this letter with seven foot snow drifts outside my window. So far this winter has been kinder and gentler and that kindness is predicted to last into the next couple of weeks.

If our luck holds, the weather should be fine for our first program of the year, the FOSA annual meeting and speaker. This year the speaker will be Zach Zorich, a senior editor of *Archaeology Magazine* who will be speaking about Paleolithic Painting, focusing on the most recent discoveries at Chauvet cave in Southern France, which were first discovered in 1994. These paintings, which date to over 30,000 YBP, are among the oldest artistic works by man yet discovered. They were the center piece of the Werner Herzog award winning documentary, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*, on which our speaker will comment. This program to be held on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> is jointly sponsored by the ASC and FOSA. See the last page of this newsletter for further details.

The ASC spring program has been tentatively set for April 28<sup>th</sup>, and we are presently looking for a location near the center of the state. We will be returning to our usual format of morning and afternoon speakers, who this spring will concentrate on the Periphery of Archaeology, the areas that are so important to archaeology but which are rarely featured in talks and papers. This will include the many ways that archaeological data is extracted and interpreted using today's rapidly changing technology, including some of the latest techniques in genetics, DNA analysis and forensic science, geological analysis including micromorphology and ceramic thin sectioning, residue analysis, and paleobotany. See the next newsletter for further specifics and details.

This coming fall we hope to return to a format that proved so successful in Barkhamsted last fall, which combined a morning program of background lectures and then a tour of the Light House site. This fall we hope to focus on the controversial Gungywamp site in Groton. It is hoped that again we can hold a series of background talks in the morning with a site tour in the afternoon. As always we solicit your comments regarding our programs and suggestions on how they can be improved. This includes suggestions on future sites

that you would like to tour and learn more about.

With all of the good news coming from the archaeological scene, I must burden you with some depressing events that took place after our fall meeting. We all were excited by the new interpretive signage at the Light House site. The week after Halloween, some delinquents defaced the main sign and the 1929 bronze plaque with racist and sexually explicit depictions that cannot be classed as art under any circumstances. Ken Feder has written account of what happened along with a brief treatment of the DEEP's (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) attempts

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to clean up the mess, and that appears elsewhere in this newsletter. If anyone has any information that might help in apprehending those responsible for this obscene outrage, please contact Kenny, the DEEP, and/or myself. It would be nice to report that they were apprehended in the next newsletter.

On a more pleasant note, the Lyent Russell grant has been awarded to Andrea Rand so that she can secure dates for the Late Archaic - Middle Woodland site in Warren, CT (the Deer Run Site) that is currently under excavation. Dating for this site would establish a date for Cord Wrapped Stick type pottery for which, according to Luci Lavin, there are no previous dates. We congratulate Andrea on the award and eagerly look forward to her results.

It is now time to let you get on with the archaeological news of the state. As always I look forward to hearing from you with suggestions and comments. We are also still looking for volunteers to help us with the technological and social media needs of the society.

I look forward to seeing you in Glastonbury on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.

*Dan Cruson  
President*

## **Barkhamsted Lighthouse Vandalism**

*By Ken Feder*

As you likely know, six informational signs were unveiled at the Barkhamsted Lighthouse Connecticut State Archaeological Preserve on September 10, 2011. Many of you saw and, I believe, greatly appreciated those signs on our hike through the site during the October 15, 2011 fall meeting of the ASC. The signs were the result of

the hard work of a large group of dedicated people including the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (they funded the signage), the Barkhamsted Historical Society (especially Linne Landgraf who designed the signs), the DEEP, my archaeology students (especially Jenn Davis who drew the illustrations), and the descendants of the founding couple of the village, James and Molly Chaugham.

For reasons I cannot fathom, sometime during the week following our Halloween snowstorm, vandals attacked the main sign and a nearby 1929 plaque with spray paint, leaving racist and sexually explicit messages and "art." Ironically, though a number of large trees came down at the site during the storm, not one of the five small signs along the trail was damaged. While those signs escaped nature's wrath, the main sign and the plaque could not escape human stupidity.

But there is some good news. DEEP has been able to remove the paint from the main sign; it looks fine now. Unfortunately, the surfaces of the 1929 plaque and the boulder in which it was set are far more porous and have absorbed some of the paint. The DEEP is still working on a fix. There currently is no information concerning those guilty of this nonsense.



*A near miss for one of the new signs*

## **NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**



### **FOSA NEWS**

FOSA Board members have been busy preparing for their Annual Meeting on January 28. Please look for further meeting details at the end of this newsletter.

The speaker, Zach Zorich, is Senior Editor with Archaeology Magazine. He has written about the Chauvet Cave and interviewed Werner Herzog on the filming of *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. Zorich's talk will explore what archaeology tells us about the human race when the Chauvet Cave paintings were created, who and what lived in Chauvet Cave, the cave painting techniques used by the ancient artists, the dangers facing cave art sites, and what the ongoing research and viewpoints from other scholars reveal about Chauvet Cave. He will also discuss Herzog's view on cave art, the inadequacy of modern imagery, and how people viewing art construct their own parallel narratives.

Zorich's presentation promises to be fascinating!

FOSA is currently paying a UCONN student to assist with the work at the lab and is also paying for an archaeology graduate to assist Nick.

Although the digging season is over, we continue to have opportunities for volunteers at Horsebarn Hill on Mondays. For further information, please contact Mandy Ranslow, [mnr03@yahoo.com](mailto:mnr03@yahoo.com).

*Cynthia Redman  
President-FOSA*

**CLUB MEETINGS**

**February Meeting**

The first meeting of 2012 is our traditional movie night. Our feature presentation will be “Secrets of the Bog People”. No – it is not about the famous “Bog People” of northern Europe, but details the discovery, excavation and analysis of a truly remarkable site in south Florida, the Windover Bog site.



*Windover Site Excavation (from Windover Archaeological Research Project by Joseph L. Richardson)*

Located near Cape Canaveral, the site was discovered in 1982 when construction worker Steve Van der Jagy unearthed an ancient skull. A team of archaeologists working under the directorship of Dr. Glen Doran of Florida State University devoted several years to the excavation of the site, which was found to be an Archaic period cemetery dating to over 7000 years ago. Containing well over 150 individuals interred over a period of 1300 years, the site’s remarkable preservation contributed to a number of major archaeological discoveries, including bone and shell artifacts, textiles and even preserved brain tissue allowing for the DNA study of the site’s ancient people.

The findings at Windover challenged many of the ideas regarding life during the Archaic

period in Florida. Far from living a highly nomadic way of life at a bare subsistence level, the Windover people led a settled way of life well-adapted to their environment. The study of their remains, and those of their accompanying artifacts, offer much information about their culture, social organization, economy, technology and religion.



*Dr. Glen Doran (rt) and crew removing ancient textiles from the site for preservation (Photo courtesy of Glen Doran from NOVA web site)*

Come join us for this exciting presentation! The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9 at 8 pm., with refreshments at 7:30 pm, in the GenRe Forum in the West Campus.

**Research news from the field: Gallows Hill Closes for 2011**

The fall semester dig at Gallows Hill came to an end in late November after dealing with record-breaking snowfall and record-breaking new depths to the site.

Work at the excavation block “G” in the northeastern corner of the site has continued to contain larger than average amounts of lithic debitage and, at a depth of about 50 cm. below surface, a small concentration of charred wood fragments that may be the remains of a surface hearth. As no diagnostic artifacts have been recovered from this level, the age and cultural affiliations of its occupants remain unknown. As the upper levels have contained narrow stemmed points of the Late Archaic, it may be that an earlier component exists at the site. Alternative

scenarios include the possibility that the area containing the deeper deposits may be a portion of a larger feature that extends beyond the small area excavated to date. The 2012 field season will expand our work in this area to explore these possibilities.



*Chelsea Dean holding the first Burwell point found at the Gallows Hill site (photo credit: Anna May Jerusavage)*

True to archaeological tradition, the last day of the Introduction to Archaeology class at the site saw the discovery of a new point type at the site. Chelsea Dean, a Fairfield-Ludlowe High School senior taking the course to explore her career interests, uncovered the first Burwell point at the site. This type, defined by Dr. Lucianne Lavin on the basis of her work with Lyent Russell at the Burwell-Karako site near New Haven, dates to the Late Archaic period and has been found associated with other point types of the “Narrow Point” tradition in the state.

Back in the laboratory, work on cataloging and analysis of the Gallows Hill artifacts continues. To date, all 166 stone tools have been cataloged, as have all faunal materials from the site. While most of these consist of small calcined bone fragments and hard clam shell fragments, a pig molar and a sheep

molar have been identified. Most of the bone and shell remains have been found within or close to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century cellar hole in the northwestern portion of the site, as have been the vast majority of the historic period artifacts.



*Two of the redware milk pan rim assemblages from the Gallows Hill site (photo credit: Dawn Brown)*

A major effort to refit the hundreds of redware sherds from the site has begun and will continue throughout the spring semester. Laboratory volunteer Bob Steele has put together enough pieces to reveal that at least two different milk pans are represented, as well as several hollow ware pieces that may be from bottles, jars or other storage containers. Ultimately, we hope to determine the minimum number of vessels from the site as well as their functions. Along with the rest of the historic period artifacts, such data will aid in the interpretation of the structure that stood at the site over 200 years ago.

We encourage club members to help in these efforts. The Archaeology Club Laboratory sessions will be held each Thursday evening (except for Club meeting nights) from 4:30 to 9:00 pm. in our new room, W015,

located below the Atrium of the IT Center of the West Campus.

## Connecticut Archaeology Center

### *Calendar of Activities*

#### **Seeds of Discovery: Archaeobotany & Ancient Mesopotamia**

Dr. Alexia Smith and Dr. Philip Graham, Anthropology Dept., UConn

Saturday, March 24, 1 pm to 3 pm UConn, Storrs Campus (directions will be sent to participants)

Advance registration required: \$25 (\$20 for Museum members)

Adults and children ages 8 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Ancient Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilization, witnessed the growth of the world's earliest cities, empires, and written language. The rich culture of the Mesopotamians cultivated advancements in literature, philosophy, science and technology, shaping the very beginnings of human civilization. Yet, over time, the fledgling empires of Mesopotamia collapsed, shifting the centers of power and culture elsewhere.

Join Dr. Alexia Smith and Dr. Philip Graham from UConn's Department of Anthropology to discover the complicated circumstances that led to the sudden collapse of the Mesopotamian empires. Then, in UConn's

Archaeobotany Laboratory, learn the techniques used by archaeobotanists to uncover how plants, agriculture, and the climate shaped the histories of ancient societies. Activities will include floating seeds from the sediment of an ancient archaeological site and examining them under a microscope to

discover what they tell us about ancient societies, the environment, and the everyday lives of people from Mesopotamia.

#### **Abandoned Ghost Town: Connecticut's Gay City State Park**

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, State Archaeologist, CSMNH UConn  
Saturday, April 28, 10 am to 12 noon, rain or shine

Hebron, CT (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.

Join State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni for this walk steeped in Connecticut history and folklore. Amongst Gay City State Park's outdoor recreational facilities lie the ruins of a 19th century town that offers a unique glimpse into Connecticut's past. Stone foundations, the remnants of an abandoned mill, and old tombstones contain a story that stretches back from the village's settlement in 1796, through its development as a small industrial community, to its eventual abandonment and return to nature. The area was ultimately purchased and used as a summer retreat before being sold to the State of Connecticut and becoming Gay City State Park. This hike may be challenging and moderately difficult for some, and will include hilly areas.

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](http://www.mnh.uconn.edu)

The Institute for  
American Indian Studies  
*museum & research center*

## Announcing New Website for IAIS

Washington, CT – The Institute for American Indian Studies (IAIS) has just re-launched their website at [www.iaismuseum.org](http://www.iaismuseum.org) as a hub of information pertaining to Native American history and life ways. Developed in close cooperation with the IAIS Education Department as well as the Research & Collections Department, this website offers insight into Native American cultures across the continent, but its real focus is on Connecticut's local Indigenous Peoples. Drawing heavily on themes throughout the museum's displays and also from their extensive collections of artifacts, IAIS has effectively created a virtual gallery of online exhibits including not only extensive information about the museum itself and Native American history, but also instructional videos, supplementary materials for classroom use and archival presentations of collections and past publications.

“Connecticut has a fascinating *and continuing* Native American story,” said IAIS Education Director, Ruth Barr, “yet outside of archaeological circles, very little of that narrative has found its way into published materials.” This new website goes a long way toward filling in the gaps in available material regarding the state's Native American history.

“This website is for everyone,” said IAIS educator and webmaster, Matthew B. Barr. “Teachers, students of all ages and fields, archaeological professionals, primitive skills enthusiasts and even simply the general public with a passing interest will find something of value on the new site.” Barr also says that the website's material will be continually updated and new materials added as time goes on, describing it as an “ever-growing, never-ending project.”

This ambitious project was funded in part through a grant from the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut. Visit [www.iaismuseum.org](http://www.iaismuseum.org) to learn more.

## Artifact Identification Day

*Sunday, January 22nd 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

Still wondering about that artifact you found or inherited? If you would like to learn more about local stone artifacts and Native American cultural items, bring them to IAIS for identification by renowned archaeologist and **IAIS Director of Research and Collections, Dr. Lucianne Lavin**, a specialist in Eastern Woodland material culture. Limit 12 items per person please.

**Fee: Included in regular museum admission. \$5 Adults; \$4.50 Seniors; \$3 Kids; IAIS Members Free**





## LHAC Lecture Presents The Deer Run Site: An Analysis of the Ceramics recovered from a Western Connecticut Upland Site and its Association to the Hudson River Valley Sunday, March 11th 3:00 pm

Deer Run is an ancient Native American site located in Warren, Connecticut. Artifact styles and radiocarbon dates show that it was repeatedly occupied from at least 4,500 years ago. Preliminary analysis of the 300+ clay pottery sherds recovered indicate strong social interactions between native communities of the Hudson and Housatonic River Valleys.

**Andrea Rand, a ceramic technologist** with a B.A. and post-graduate work in anthropology, will briefly discuss the Deer Run site and the technological and cultural character of the ceramics excavated from the site during the 2009-2010 dig season of the Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club.

**Fee: \$5; Free to LHAC Members**

The Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, CT, 860-868-0518 [www.iaismuseum.org](http://www.iaismuseum.org)

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The New York State Museum Record, volume 2, **Current Research in New York State Archaeology: A.D. 700-1300**. Rieth, Christina B., and John P. Hart, editors, 2011 has just been published. This volume includes a series of articles covering the Middle and Late Woodland periods and it is an important reference for all Northeastern researchers. The volume is available as a free download at:

[http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/publications/record/vol\\_02/pdfs/vol\\_02-FULL.pdf](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/publications/record/vol_02/pdfs/vol_02-FULL.pdf)

### 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.

**March 22-25, 2012**, Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC), Virginia Beach, VA

**March 31, 2012**, New Hampshire Archaeological Society Meeting, location TBD

**April 13-15, 2012**, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology Annual Meeting, Clarion, PA

**April 14, 2012**, Conference for New England Archaeology Annual Meeting, Portsmouth, NH

**April 28, 2012**, ASC Spring Meeting, CT location TBD

**April 29, 2012**, Maine Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, Augusta, ME

**October 4-7, 2012**, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Conference, St. John, Newfoundland

**October 25-28, 2012**, Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) Annual Meeting, Perrysburg, OH

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## 2012 DUES NOW PAYABLE

It's time to renew your membership for 2012. Check your mailing label if you are unsure if you are current. (The label may not reflect payments received in the last month.) If it reads 11 or earlier, please fill out the form and mail it back with your check. Thanks!

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)

<i>Individual</i>	\$25.00
<i>Institutional</i>	\$40.00
<i>Life</i>	\$300.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective April 2011 the newsletter is sent to you electronically unless you indicate otherwise below:

I wish to receive ASC News by mail instead of electronic delivery

Send payment to Cosimo Sgarlata,  
ASC Treasurer, 1 Roscoe St.,  
Norwalk, CT 06851

Editor's Note: ASC News is published three times a year, in September, January and March. Please address inquiries and contributions to future issues to *ASC News*, Lee West - Editor, 366 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109  
E-Mail: [lfwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lfwest@sbcglobal.net)

## Electronic Delivery of ASC News Brings Benefits

Effective April 2011, ASC News is being delivered electronically to members who provide their e-mail addresses and who did not opt out. There are advantages both to readers and ASC for going electronic. The electronic version is delivered faster, is electronically searchable, and has working internet links and color photographs. For the Society, this has the potential to greatly reduce costs. Printing and postage are by far the greatest expenses we incur.

If you wish to begin electronic delivery of ASC News (For the present, the Bulletin will be continue to be published only in hard copy) please contact Lee West at [lfwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lfwest@sbcglobal.net)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.connarchaeology.org](http://www.connarchaeology.org)

# “Inside Chauvet Cave”

Paleolithic Paintings: The Art and Science

January 28, 2012 at 2.00 P.M.

Zach Zorich, Senior Editor of Archaeology Magazine will present the chronicle of the hidden treasures of the Chauvet Cave of France. The cave exhibits the Art and Science of Paleolithic Paintings created by man, dating back as early as 35,000 years ago. Images of Horses, Reindeer, Lions, Bears and Rhinos are among the artistry of the ancient cave walls. Zorich will also comment on Film director Werner Herzog's "Cave of Forgotten Dreams", a movie dedicated to the Art of the Chauvet Cave.

This talk is presented by Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut at Smith Middle School Auditorium, 216 Addison Road, Glastonbury.

FOSA membership meeting 1:00 P.M. ~ all are welcome to attend

**\$10.00** general admission charge, **\$5.00** for non-Glastonbury Students with I.D.

**No Charge** for FOSA, ASC & CSMNH members. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> will serve as a weather date (CBS, CH 3 by 10 A.M.)

For more information and directions visit [www.fosa-ct.org](http://www.fosa-ct.org)

Come and enjoy the day!