



A.S.C. NEWS

Issue No. 229 Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut April 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 1, 2012

Dear Members,

With our low-snow winter yielding to early spring flowers, you know that the time approaches for our annual spring meeting. A quick glance at the program at the end of this newsletter will show you that Dawn Brown has out-done herself putting together the roster of speakers and, given her past successes, to have again out-done herself is no minor feat.

Her mandate was to assemble a program on the "periphery of archaeology" here in the northeast. This, we hoped would be a good introduction to the disciplines that support archaeological research and which are usually only dealt with in short sections of archaeological texts. It was further hoped this would go beyond textbook descriptions of remote sensing and other testing to provide an understanding of how these areas function using actual examples of their use in sites primarily in Connecticut, and secondarily in the surrounding states. This was the vision that the board had when they came up with this April's theme. Dawn has gone very far beyond the board's expectations, providing examples of ground penetrating

radar, thermoluminescence, use of the electron microscope, well as the relatively new disciplines of zooarchaeology, archaeobotany, and forensic anthropology. If these areas are only of passing familiarity to you, here is the opportunity to understand them as they are actually being practiced in Connecticut.

I am especially hopeful that you will make the effort to join us in Simsbury even though it is some distance off of the interstate highways. (We know that true archaeologists are known to pride themselves on their adventurous natures.) The Simsbury Historical Society has a small complex of historic building which are well worth seeing in their own right. We thank the Society for their willingness to host this meeting.

Plans are still on track for a fall meeting at Groton, with a tour of Gungywamp after several morning papers on or related to the site. This continues what we hope will be an annual opportunity to visit Connecticut archaeological sites after some in-depth talks giving more background than is normally available to the casual visitor. We thank Kenny Feder for pioneering this type of program in Barkhamsted last fall and for his continuing efforts in Groton for this fall. Watch for further details in our next newsletter.

Please note the application for the Lyent Russell Grant which is enclosed with this issue of ASC News. Set up to honor our long time former member and supporter, this is an opportunity to secure funding for tests or that special tool which will make your research easier. Until now, this funding opportunity has been under utilized so seriously consider taking advantage of it this summer. Your competition is much less than it is for some of the other national grant programs.

As usual I appeal to you for help by volunteering for one of the Society's programs. We especially need help with the ASC web site. Jay McMahon who set up the web site has done a magnificent job, but needs help keeping it up to date and making modernizing improvements.

Continued p.2

IN THIS ISSUE	
<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Focus on Field Schools</i>	2
<i>Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA)</i>	2
<i>Connecticut Archaeology Center</i>	3
<i>Institute for American Indian Studies</i>	3
<i>Redding Archaeology</i>	5
<i>Request for Information</i>	6
<i>Recent Publications</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	6
<i>ASC Officers</i>	7
<i>Spring Meeting Program</i>	8
<i>Directions to Spring Meeting</i>	12

Continued from p.1

We also would like help understanding social media sites like Facebook and help us become involved with these, if they will help us get out the message that Archaeology in Connecticut is vibrant, alive, well, and especially exciting.

As always I solicit your suggestions, ideas, and constructive criticism. Please do not hesitate to approach me at the coming meeting or contact me through my e-mail address or telephone number included in the organization's directory below.

I look forward to seeing you in Simsbury on the 28th of April.

*Dan Cruson
President*

Focus On FIELD SCHOOLS

Some of the most important archaeological research being done in Connecticut and surrounding states today is in the form of summer field schools sponsored by several universities, Native American tribal governments and other organizations, while additionally training the next generation of archaeologists. In the following column, a feature in each April issue of ASC News, the field school directors describe their programs for the coming year.

UMass Amherst Summer Field School in Heritage Archaeology

**July 11- August 14, 2012
6 credit course open to all students**

A five-week summer field school program introducing the practice of heritage archaeology and the African American history of

Western Massachusetts. Heritage archaeology involves new methods of collaborating with museums and community groups as well as standard archaeological survey and field procedures. Students will be introduced to these while developing an appreciation of the African American history of Western Massachusetts.

For more information and application materials, visit <http://umassheritagearchaeology.wordpress.com> or <http://www.umass.edu/anthro/>

2012 SCRAP Archaeology Field School *Further Investigations at the Jefferson VI Paleoindian Site June 25 – August. 3, 2012 Jefferson, NH*

The 2012 NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program summer field school will continue research at the Jefferson VI Paleoindian site located in the northern NH town of Jefferson. The investigations will focus on small block excavations and additional shovel test pit survey on nearby landforms to survey for additional sites.

Participants will be taught detailed recovery and documentation techniques as well as Paleoindian artifact identification and field laboratory procedures. Hands-on instruction in the field will be supplemented by background readings, evening lectures by various affiliated scholars, and field trips to nearby Paleoindian sites.



The field school will take place in three two-week sessions, June 24 – July 6, July 8 - July 20, and July 22 – August 3, 2012. Fieldwork will take place from 8 AM to 4 PM weekdays. The field camp will be based in nearby Randolph, NH for participants 18 and older.

Participants may join as volunteers or obtain academic credit through Plymouth State University at either the undergraduate or graduate levels.

The field school is directed by State Archaeologist Dr. Richard A. Boisvert in cooperation with Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. Additional information on the 2012 field school and the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program can be obtained by calling 603-271-6433 or by visiting the SCRAP website at:

<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm>

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



FOSA NEWS

What a crowd attended FOSA's fifteenth Annual Meeting! The glorious Chauvet cave paintings were highlighted along with Zach Zorich's knowledgeable discussion of the cave's archaeology and his insight into its possible habitations. Sincere thanks to Paul Scannell, chairman, Jim Trocchi, programs and Pat Reardon, volunteers, for their successful efforts. A big thank you also goes to the volunteers who handled the admission process.

Nick now has an assistant working on the Town files and GIS, work paid for with money donated by

FOSA. The lab at Horsebarn Hill continues to be busy on Mondays with student help working with the OSA Library and another small group cataloging artifacts. We would love to have more volunteers for both of these efforts! Please contact Mandy Ranslow for details.

Earlier in the year the archaic age of Nick's printer was brought to the Board's attention, a situation that has now been corrected! The new color printer faxes, scans and copies – a vast improvement!

We are looking forward to more digs this spring, summer and fall. If you are interested in participating, please let Mandy Ranslow know, mmr03@yahoo.com, so that you can be put on the Dig list.

Best wishes for a satisfying spring and summer.

*Cynthia Redman
President-FOSA*

Connecticut Archaeology Center

Calendar of Activities

Archaeology Field School for Kids

K.A.S.T. - Kids Are Scientists Too!

Session 1: Monday, July 23 through Friday, July 27, 9 am to 12 noon

Session 2: Monday, July 30 through Friday, August 3, 9 am to 12 noon

UConn, Storrs Campus (directions will be sent to participants)
Advance registration required: \$185 (\$165 if registered before June 4)
Students entering grades 5 through 10

To register contact K.A.S.T. at (860) 486-0551, kast@uconn.edu, or visit www.kast.uconn.edu.

Do you like to solve mysteries by uncovering evidence? Do you like getting your hands dirty? Then, spend this week with UConn archaeologists exploring the world of field archaeology. You will learn

about the science, tools and methods used by genuine archaeologists. Then, you will be part of a real archaeological field crew, doing hands-on fieldwork and laboratory research at a real, ongoing archaeological dig. We have been opening new areas of our on campus dig site each year, and every session we uncover something new!

Adult Archaeology Field School

An archaeological field school for adults is tentatively planned for August, 2012, though the details were not available at press time. Please contact the Connecticut Archaeology Center at the phone or e-mail address below if you would like more information.

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

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

Artifact Identification Day

Sunday, April 1 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Did your spring cleaning uncover mystery items that you think might have been made by Native Americans? 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 Sponsored Field Trip To Gungywump *Sunday, April 22nd * 11:00 am*

The Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club is sponsoring a trip to the enigmatic Gungywump site in Groton, CT. **William J. Dopirak, Jr., an Associate Professor of Science at Three Rivers Community College** will lead the group in exploring this intriguing site. With many fascinating features, including a double circle of stones, standing stones and multiple stone chambers, Gungywump has been the focus of much archaeological controversy. At least one chamber is constructed so that during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, sunlight streams in through an opening in the wall and illuminates a “hidden” subchamber. Who do *you* think built Gungywump? We will meet at 11:00 am in the IAIS parking lot and caravan down to Groton.

*rain date Sunday, April 29th

Jared Ramsdell Photography
Fee: \$10; LHAC Members Free

Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club *It's Dig Season!*

LHAC will begin its annual excavation this month, weather dependent. Club members will receive an email notifying them of the start date and time.

If you are interested in joining the club and participating in the dig (and attending club lectures and field trips during the rest of the year) please call or email **Dr. Lucianne Lavin** at 860-868-0518 or llavin@iaismuseum.org

Pick up an application or download one at lhac.iaismuseum.org



The Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, CT, 860-868-0518 www.iaismuseum.org



Redding Archaeology; Open Spaces and University Excavations

Over the last few years, Redding's open space and planning policies have led to the preservation and study of important archaeological sites. Several college and university archaeological field schools have brought hundreds of students from around the world to unearth Redding's illustrious

past. You are invited to attend a lecture series describing Yale University's excavations in the 1800s industrial community of Poverty Hollow, Western Connecticut State University's work at the 1778-79 Revolutionary War Middle Encampment, and Norwalk Community College's research of 4,000 years of Native American occupations at Gallows Hill. **Lectures will be presented on Saturday afternoons at the Redding Community Center.**

On March 24, 2012 at 3:00 pm, Dr. Roderick McIntosh and students from Yale University will speak about 2011 excavations of worker's houses associated with comb and button factories along the Aspetuck River in Poverty Hollow. The Yale field school was at sites on the land of David and Jo-an Brooks, and resulted from an earlier study of the Poverty Hollow community sponsored by local property owners.

On April 14, 2012 at 3:00 pm, Drs. Laurie Weinstein, Bethany Morrison and Cosimo Sgarlata of Western Connecticut State University will describe remains of winter encampments of the 1st Connecticut Brigade along Limekiln Road, made famous in the journal of Joseph Plumb Martin. The site was preserved through cooperative purchase by the Town of Redding and The Nature Conservancy, and will be protected as a Connecticut Archaeological Preserve.

On May 19, 2012 at Noon, Professor Ernest Wiegand of Norwalk Community College will describe results from more than a decade of excavations at Native American sites along Gallows Hill Road. Extensive Late Archaic sites are overlain by historic artifacts possibly associated with the Warrups family. The site was preserved from residential development through open space purchase by the Town of Redding and The Nature Conservancy.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am looking for a collection of a lot of lithic Native American artifacts (arrow heads, projectile points, hammerstones, hatchets, celts, fish net weights, and a variety of other items). The collection was once vast and probably had thousands of pieces, I'm guessing.

The materials went to "The Connecticut State Museum of Archaeology at West Hartford." I've checked with the State Archaeologist, Dr. Nick Bellantoni about this, but he looked and he does not have this collection. Several names that might be associated with this collection include:

George Hambidge
Walter Fanton

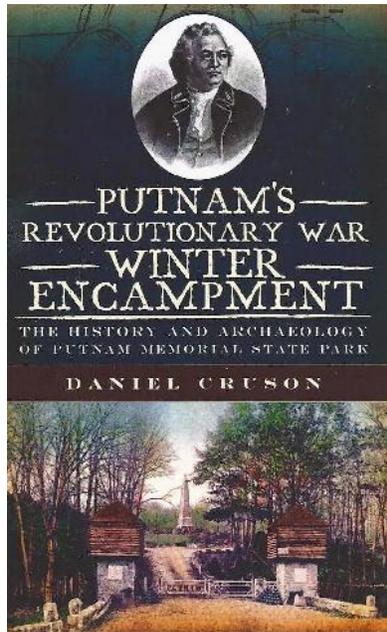
These men collected and "dug" in western Connecticut, in and around Danbury. You might see the names Lake Kenoshia or Town of Mill Plaine or Joe's Hill Road associated with these materials as well. I've looked thru' Fanton's notebook and he always mentions that the stuff went to a museum in West Hartford. I've also called the Ct. Historical Society, The Children's Museum of West Hartford, and I've also left a message at the Noah Webster House about these materials.

If you have information, please email me at weinsteinl@wcsu.edu

Thank you.

Laurie Weinstein, Ph.D.
Professor, Anthropology
Western Connecticut State
University
Danbury, CT. 06810

Visit us on the web at
www.connarchaeology.org



Putnam's Revolutionary War Winter Encampment: The History and Archaeology of Putnam Memorial State Park

Daniel Cruson

The Winter encampment in Redding, was General Israel Putnam's last command. During the winter of 1778-79 he led about three thousand troops of the Continental Army into three separate valleys of northern Redding where they built temporary huts for protection against the winter cold. Here they lived for five to six months before marching out to engage the British for the next fighting season. This is the story of that winter sojourn in the wilds of western Connecticut, and the dramatic effect that this fourfold increase in population had on Redding.

For the past 12 years we have been engaged in archaeological excavations in the eastern most of these three encampments. During the course of our work we have been actively searching out any and all documentation about the men of the park and the style of life they led during those months. What we have

found is startling and new having application to not only our winter camp but also that at Valley Forge, which was the year before, and at Morristown, the year after. This camp was a true transition as the Revolutionary army continued to turn itself into a professional army proficient enough to finally defeat the British Army at Yorktown.

During that winter there were skirmishes with lawless elements along the border, a near mutiny of a company of restive troops, two executions, and stories of heroism such as Putnam's perilous ride down the 100 steps that separate the two sections of the Village of Greenwich. This was also the winter and location in which the Masons reestablished themselves in Redding as a society force in the Continental army. Central to all of this, however, is the daily life of the underfed, underclothed, and underpaid soldier who endured the monotonous daily activities of the off-season. Between the things that they left behind and the documents they generated the most complete picture of a Revolutionary War soldier's daily life that has yet been created, is presented here.

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.

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 27-29, 2012, New York
Archaeological Council meeting,
Poughkeepsie, NY

April 28, 2012, ASC Spring
Meeting, Simsbury, CT

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

ASC OFFICERS

Dan Cruson – *President*
174 Hanover Road
Newtown, CT 06470
Home: 203-426-6021
E-Mail: dcruson@charter.net

Robyn Swan Filippone – *Secretary*
985 Bronson Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824
Work: 203-259-0346
Cell: 203-566-7740
E-Mail: rlsf99@optonline.net

Cosimo Sgarlata - *Treasurer &
Membership*
1 Roscoe St.
Norwalk, CT 06851
Home: 203-847-5882
Cell: 203-515-1567
E-Mail: csgarlata@gmail.com

Lucianne Lavin - *Bulletin Editor*
755 Riverside Avenue
Torrington, CT 06790
Home: 860-626-8210
E-Mail: llavin@iaismuseum.org

Ernie Wiegand II - *E.S.A.F. Rep.*
152 Silver Spring Road
Wilton, CT 06897
Home: 203-762-1972
Work: 203-857-7377
E-Mail: EWiegand@ncc.commnet.edu

Nick Bellantoni - *State
Archaeologist*
Office of State Archaeology
2019 Hillside Ave, U-1023
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269-1023
Work: 860-486-5248
E-Mail: nicholas.bellantoni@uconn.edu

Dawn Brown – *Director at Large*
1714 Capitol Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Home: 203-335-8745
E-Mail: dawn.brown733@gmail.com

Rob Wallace - *Director at Large*
33 Frank St.
Trumbull, CT 06611
Home: 203-452-1948
E-Mail: trowel4fun@aol.com

Cynthia Redman – *FOSA ex officio*
26 Devin Way
Windsor, CT
Home: 860-285-8157
E-Mail: c.redman26@comcast.net

Andrea Rand - *Litchfield Hills
Archaeology Club Representative*
221 Bahre Corner Road
Canton, CT 06019
E-Mail: claylady221@gmail.com

Diana Messer – *Director at Large*
376 Newtown Tpk
Redding, CT 06896
Cell: 203-470-9395
E-Mail: dianamesser@gmail.com

Ken Feder – *Director at Large*
Dept. of Anthropology
Central Conn. State University
New Britain, CT 06050
Work: 860-832-2615
E-Mail: feder@ccsu.edu

Lee West - *Newsletter Editor*
366 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Home: 860-721-1185
E-Mail: lfwest@sbcglobal.net

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: _____

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

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

Electronic Delivery of ASC News Brings Benefits

ASC News is now 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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT SPRING MEETING

Simsbury Historical Society
Ellsworth Visitors Center – 800 Hopmeadow St.
Simsbury, CT

Saturday, April 28, 2012

The Periphery of Archaeology: Focuses on Specialty Analysis

- 9:00-9:25** **Registration** begins (with coffee and doughnuts) non-members (general public) \$10, members (ASC, FOSA and SHS) - \$8, students - \$5
- 9:25-9:30** **Welcome**, announcements - Dan Cruson, President, Archaeological Society of Connecticut
- 9:30-10:00** **Gerald Sawyer, Central Connecticut State University**
“A 2006 Field School Investigation: Archaeological Investigation of the Phelps Tavern”

In the summer of 2006, Central Connecticut State University led a field investigation into the archaeology of the Phelps Tavern in Simsbury, Connecticut. This presentation is a brief report on that field work and its relation to other investigations into the African Diaspora that have been conducted by the Archaeology Laboratory of African Diaspora Studies (ALAADS) at CCSU. It includes an “in-depth” mention of a particular (or peculiar) look into the bottom of the well.

Archaeologist Gerald F. Sawyer is an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University as well as at Sacred Heart University, specializing in African Diaspora Archaeology. He has researched in New England, New York, the West Indies, and conducted other archaeological research in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Greece.

- 10:00-10:30** **Zachary Singer, University of Connecticut**
“Paleoindian Mobility in New England: Radiation-Induced Thermoluminescence Used to Source Archaeological Cherts”

Studying the mobility patterns of Paleoindians requires the proper sourcing of their lithic raw materials. Radiation-induced thermoluminescence is an excellent method of determining the source of the stone used, and thus to trace mobility patterns. Radiation-induced thermoluminescence glow curves were created for cherts collected from prehistoric quarries in the Northeastern United States, and chert flakes recovered from an archaeological context at the Hidden Creek Late Paleoindian site (10,000-9,500 B.P.) on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation. The source provenience of Hidden Creek’s cherts created a mobility pattern which will be compared to the current interpretation of Paleoindian mobility patterns in New England. This research may have great implications for the overall interpretation of the size of the Late Paleoindian interaction spheres.

Zachary Singer is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut. His research interests include Paleoindian archaeology in northeastern North America, lithic technology, prehistoric mobility patterns, and integrating thermoluminescence techniques into archaeological research. This summer Zach will be leading his second UConn archaeological field school, facilitating student excavation of previously located lithic scatters in order to determine their cultural affinity.

10:30-11:00 **Thomas Hart, University of Connecticut**
“Sandy Hill Plant Microfossil Project: Starch Grains and Potential Early Archaic Plant Residues at the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation”

This project is part of a larger pilot study to see if botanical remains in the form of phytoliths and starch grains survived on stone tools excavated from the Early Archaic site of Sandy Hill at the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut. In the first phase of the project, four stone artifacts were sampled for starch grain residues in an attempt to discover if starch grains survived on these artifacts, and if so, what they can say about subsistence practices at this settlement. Starch grains are microscopic starch bodies that can be diagnostic to a plant family, genus, and species level and are becoming increasingly popular as an archaeological tool for context in which other forms of plant remains, such as charred seeds, wood, pollen, and phytoliths are not preserved or present. The results of the project indicate that starch grains do preserve on stone tools from this time period and that at least two of the stone tools can be linked to plant use practices such as root grubbing and leaf and/or stem tissue processing at Sandy Hill.

Thomas Hart received his bachelor’s degree in sociology and anthropology from St. Mary’s College of Maryland. He completed an undergraduate thesis in which he analyzed historically important tree species for comparative phytoliths. He received his training as an anthropologist, archaeologist and plant microfossil specialist at Dr. Deborah Pearsall’s lab at the University of Missouri where he received his master’s degree in anthropology. His master’s thesis involved analyzing ceramic sherds from medieval England for contamination; the results of which were recently published in the Journal of Archaeological Science. Currently, Thomas is working on his dissertation at the University of Connecticut where he is reconstructing plant use practices at a 6,000 year old Ubaid period site in Syria using phytolith and starch grain analysis. Throughout his educational career, he has excavated numerous sites from many time periods ranging from a late 19th century abandoned mining town in upstate New York to Middle Palaeolithic sites in Armenia. In addition, he has worked on plant microfossil samples from around the world including North and South America, the Caribbean, England, Serbia, Croatia, Kenya, and Syria.

11:00-11:30 **Maria Parr, Trinity College**
“Focusing on Connecticut’s Past: Analyzing Local Artifacts with an Electron Microscope”

This presentation is based on the results from an interdisciplinary project designed to introduce non-science majors, first year students and chemistry majors to archaeometry. As part of this course, a scanning electron microscope equipped with an X-ray energy dispersive spectrometer (SEM-EDS) was utilized to explore the surface characteristics and elemental composition of a variety of metal objects. Locally excavated artifacts on loan from the Office of the State Archaeologist, including a set of copper beads, a trade spear and a spoon, and World War II era metal fragments, were analyzed. Students learned about sample preparation techniques for SEM-EDS analysis, studied the morphological characteristics of each sample, and also collected elemental composition data.

Maria Parr, Ph.D., is an associate professor of chemistry at Trinity College with research interests in oxo, hydrido and carbonyl complexes of rhenium and molybdenum. She teaches introductory chemistry and inorganic chemistry courses and has also developed an archaeological chemistry course which focuses on the analysis of archaeological materials by SEM-EDS and other instrumental techniques.

11:30-12:00 Deborah A. Surabian, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
“Ground-Penetrating Radar and Archaeological Investigations”

Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) is a non-invasive geophysical method that uses radar pulses to produce an image or record of subsurface features. On radar records, the depth, shape, size, and location of subsurface features are used as clues to infer buried cultural features. Interpreting these radar records requires a skilled GPR operator with field experience to accurately determine the findings and pick out anomalies. With a skilled user, GPR has the ability to detect differences between excavated and unexcavated soil zones as well as detect burial sites and artifacts below ground. This talk will discuss how GPR works and show multiple GPR investigations completed at the request of the Connecticut State Archaeologist.

Deborah A. Surabian, CPSS, is an MLRA Soil Survey 12-6 Office Leader with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) serving Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. She is experienced with ground-penetrating radar and identifying soil characteristics of natural and disturbed soils.

12:00-1:15 Lunch (On your own – you can brown-bag it; restaurant suggestions will be provided)

1:15-1:30 ASC Business Meeting

1:30-2:00 Tonya Largy, Consultant in Zooarchaeology & Archaeobotany
“Beyond Stones and Pots: Analyzing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites”

Archaeologists rely on specialists to help them understand the various types of materials recovered from excavations. These materials often include animal bones. This presentation is about how modern reference collections of animal skeletons are obtained, prepared and maintained in the Zooarchaeology Laboratory of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. These collections are used by Zooarchaeologists in the identification of bones from archaeological sites. Discussed will be the method of skeletal preparation, the types of information are gained from the analysis of archaeological bones, and how this information assists the archaeologist in interpreting their sites.

Tonya Largy received her master’s in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is an archaeological consultant specializing in the analysis of plant and animal remains from archaeological sites. She is also on the staff of the Zooarchaeology Laboratory, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Tonya also has field experience in the broader northeast and as far away as Pakistan. She is Past President of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society.

2:00-2:30 Diana L. Messer, Mercyhurst University
“Forensic Anthropology and the Application of Archaeology to Forensic Contexts”

Forensic anthropology was once considered merely an application of physical anthropology to forensic contexts. However, it is becoming increasingly evident that the role of a forensic anthropologist also includes the recovery and documentation of human remains, which can best be accomplished using archaeological methods and techniques. A recent forensic recovery will be presented as an example of the application of archaeological methods.

Diana L. Messer is a former student of Daniel Cruson and former employee of Ernest Wiegand. She is currently a graduate student at Mercyhurst University (formerly Mercyhurst College) studying forensic anthropology. Her research interests include Andean bioarchaeology, forensic taphonomy, skeletal trauma analysis, human rights, paleopathology, and, of course, forensic archaeology.

2:30-3:15

Gary P. Aronsen, Department of Anthropology, Yale Univ. and Nicholas F. Bellantoni, CT Office of State Archaeology
“Preliminary Analysis of Human Skeletal Remains Recovered from a Mid-nineteenth Century Cemetery in Downtown New Haven, Connecticut”

In July 2011, construction at Connecticut’s Yale-New Haven Hospital was interrupted by the discovery of human skeletons. These remains were exposed via trench excavation, and lay under a large concrete foundation slab poured in the 1970s. Review of historical records and maps indicate that these remains are associated with New Haven’s first Roman Catholic Church, from a cemetery dating between 1834 and 1853.

Four adult human skeletons were recovered, with few associated artifacts. Many of the skeletal elements have postmortem damage, but the remains are remarkably well-preserved overall. Two of the skeletons are female, one aged 25-35 years, and the other possibly 60-70 years of age. The other two are male, one also 25-35, and the other over 60 years of age. Both younger individuals have remarkably complete and unworn dentition, while both older individuals show antemortem tooth loss and extreme dental wear. The younger male shows marked calculus accretion and periodontal disease, and the older male exhibits multiple healed fractures to the cervical vertebrae and ribs, suggesting significant (but ultimately survivable) trauma. All individuals show indications of manual labor such as compressed vertebrae, robust muscle markings (especially on the males), and arthritic changes to many joints.

Here, we present data on stature, ethnicity, and health. We also describe ongoing collaborative work to identify and elucidate the context of these individuals within New Haven’s history and society. This work was supported by the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology and the Yale University Department of Anthropology.

Gary P. Aronsen, Ph.D., is Laboratory Manager of the Biological Anthropology Laboratories at Yale University. Gary’s research interests include Biological Anthropology, Primate Ecology and Behavior, Evolutionary Anatomy & Osteology and have included projects in Uganda and Panama.

Nicholas F. Bellantoni serves as the State Archaeologist with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Archaeology Center at the University of Connecticut. He received his doctorate in anthropology from UConn in 1987 and was shortly thereafter appointed state archaeologist. His duties are many, but primarily include the preservation of archaeological sites in the state. His research background is the analysis of skeletal remains from eastern North America. He has been excavating in Connecticut for over 30 years.

3:15-4:00

Reception (wine and cheese)

Directions to the ASC Spring Meeting

The Simsbury Historical Society is located in the center of Simsbury at 800 Hopmeadow Street (route US-202/CT-10), approximately 5 miles north of route US-44 and 2 miles south of route CT-315. GPS coordinates are N **41° 52.553 W 072° 48.035**; UTM are **18T E 682508 N 4638334**.

- **From New York City:** North on I 95 or the Merritt Parkway to Bridgeport; north on Route 8 to Waterbury; east on I 84 to Exit 39 (Route 4) in Farmington. Follow Route 4 West; turn right onto Route 10 (Waterville Road) North through Avon to Simsbury. Phelps Homestead is on right in center of town. Turn right onto Phelps Lane and left at first stop sign into our parking lot.
- **From New Haven or Hartford:** I 91 North to Exit 36 (Route 178); west on Route 178 through Bloomfield to the junction with Route 185 (Simsbury Road); turn right onto 185 and continue until it intersects with Route 10 (Hopmeadow Street); turn right onto Route 10 (Hopmeadow Street) North to center of Simsbury. Turn right on Phelps Lane and left at first stop sign into our parking lot.
- **From Boston:** I 90 West (Massachusetts Turnpike) to Exit 6 (I 291) in West Springfield; follow I 291 West to I 91 South; take Exit 40 (Bradley International Airport/Route 20). Follow Route 20 West to the center of Granby; turn left onto Route 10 South for 5.5 miles; Phelps Homestead is on left. Turn left on Phelps Lane to first stop sign and left into our parking lot.
- **From Western Connecticut:** East on I 84 to Exit 39 (Route 4) in Farmington. Follow Route 4 West; turn right onto Route 10 (Waterville Road) North through Avon to Simsbury. Phelps Homestead is on right. Turn right on Phelps Lane and left into our parking lot.