



Special Points of Interest:

- See in this issue:
- Cooke Scholarship award
- The mystery of Asa Havens

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

Member Newsletter



Greetings, fellow FOSA members!

This summer was very productive as FOSA volunteers participated in field work at the Hollister site and an interesting mill site in Columbia. We were also at the Thomas Lee House in East Lyme to act as mentors at a public outreach program. In addition to field work, we spent time in the lab at UConn this summer where there is a lot of work to be done. Members, please consider volunteering some of your time to work in the lab this fall and winter; the work is always very interesting and educational.

So, summer flew by and the fall has been even busier! Connecticut archaeology has been in the forefront with the Archaeology Fair that occurred on October 5th, then the CNEHA (Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology) conference on October 17-20th and finally, ESAF (Eastern States Archaeological Federation) from November 7-10th. Happily, FOSA was able to supply some volunteers, and we are always looking for new ones going forward. Remember, you don't need any special training to be a FOSA volunteer; there is always someone available to help you and answer all your questions.

I am also proud to announce that we awarded the 2024 June and David Cooke Scholarship to Cassie Aimetti. Cassie is a double-major in Earth Sciences (Geoscience) and Anthropology at the University of Connecticut (UConn). To read more about Cassie and her research, see the article about her that follows in this newsletter on page 4.

Lastly, in early October, FOSA was announced as one of the recipients of a 2024 Award of Merit for "Digging Into History: On the Road With Rochambeau" from the Connecticut League of Museums. For a full description of the award, see the newsletter article that follows on page 7.

Respectfully,
Glenda M. Rose

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News from the Office of State Archaeology

Greetings FOSA members:



It's hard to believe that it's already winter – the summer and fall flew by! We had a great field season this year, with several weeks at the Hollister Site, a metal detector survey in Glastonbury that had unexpected results, and a big new salvage project in Avon, along with a few smaller projects this fall. We also helped the Historical Society of Glastonbury create an exhibit on the archaeology at the Hollister Site, and worked as part of the committee that brought the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meeting to Connecticut for the first time in over 40 years.

OSA and FOSA spent five weeks at the Hollister Site in May and June. This year we once again hosted UConn's archaeological field school, as well as the students from Southern Connecticut State University, the archaeological team from the Tolland office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Historical Society of

Glastonbury, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History adult field school and many other volunteers. The field season at Hollister focused on exposing more of the ca. 1675 palisade and the area around Cellar 5, a feature initially tested back in 2018. We now have a 20 meter long section of palisade wall, and a complex of large posts near the end of the wall feature that may be part of an entrance or defensive feature. Next year, we will continue to investigate the wall feature, and hopefully find a corner so that we can determine how large the palisade was and what part of the site it was designed to protect.

During the field school, we took a quick break to conduct a metal detector survey with Dr. Kevin McBride and his crew of skilled metal detectorists to search for the 17th-century Wangunk fort that is supposed to have been located at Red Hill in Glastonbury. While we did not find any traces of a 17th century site, we did make an intriguing find! In an area that was once an orchard, we found two historic weapons, buried side by side about a foot below the surface. One is a WWI-era German bayonet, complete with scabbard. There is still a visible maker's mark that identifies it as a WWI M98/05 bayonet, dated 1915 and made by Simons & Co in Suhl, Germany. These weapons were often referred to as the "Butcher Blade" because the shape of the blade resembles a butcher's knife. The other item is clearly an historic-period cavalry sword. It is harder to identify as its condition was not as good as the bayonet, and a similar form was used through the 19th century and into the 20th. It's possible that it is also from WWI though it could be earlier. Both of the weapons were found by detectorist Bill Bracco, who worked to identify and conserve them (see photos below). Both will be donated to the Glastonbury Historical Society. We have been unable to determine when and why they were buried and who they might have belonged to, but it's an interesting local mystery!

In July, OSA got involved with a new project in Avon, Connecticut, where a member of the public found a deeply buried archaeological site on town land. Their investigations disturbed the site, and with the assistance of FOSA, Heritage Consultants, and UConn graduate student Stephanie Scialo, OSA worked with the town to organize the salvage of the disturbed portions of the site and conducted limited additional excavations. The site is located on the Farmington River, and it contains at least 9,000 years of Indigenous history. Radiocarbon dates from soils and features at the site span $3,720 \pm 30$ BP (4,153 to 3,976 cal BP) to $10,999 \pm 35$ BP (13,071 to 12,827 cal BP) and, at least one feature with cultural materials is dated to approximately 10,000 years ago. It is an incredibly significant site and we hope to continue the work mitigating the disturbance to it in the coming spring, so stay tuned!

In September OSA and FOSA helped the Historical Society of Glastonbury put together materials for an exhibit on the Hollister Site focused on the material culture and trade connections at the site. It will be up at the Historical Society museum for the next couple of months. October was another busy month with the Connecticut Archaeology Fair at the Henry Whitfield Museum and the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology's annual conference in New Haven. The conference was a great success with a focus on the history and archaeology of New Haven. It was followed by a reception at the New Haven Museum, a dinner event at Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, and a number of excellent presentations about historical archaeology in Connecticut and the across the northeast.

Since last year, OSA has been involved with the search for a new Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) coordinator at UConn. We finally hired an excellent candidate and she will begin in the position in December. The NAGPRA Coordinator will continue the work with OSA, the Museum of Natural History, other UConn departments, and federally recognized Native American tribes to facilitate the inventory and repatriation of materials and collections that fall under federal NAGPRA legislation. These include the remains of Indigenous ancestors, funerary items, and artifacts of cultural patrimony. It is a huge job that will take several years. As part of that work, OSA, with the help of FOSA volunteers, will continue working to organize and inventory the archaeological collections at UConn. We hope to make a lot of progress on that front this winter!

Finally, we have had several new episodes of our iCRV Radio show, the Archaeology of Connecticut. In July we hosted Drs. Nick Bellantoni, Ken Feder, and Kevin McBride for a trip down memory lane and discussion of Connecticut Archaeology through the years. Then, in September, we were joined by David George and Dr. David Leslie of Heritage Consultants to learn about their recent work documenting and preserving the War of 1812 site of Fort Decatur. Finally, in November we discussed the history of the first Thanksgiving as a reflection of early colonial period Indigenous/colonist relationships. Our guests for that show were Drs. Bill Farley and Kevin McBride. Stay tuned for new episodes coming soon! If you missed a past show and want to catch up, they are all archived on the FOSA website at https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV_Slideshow_1.htm.

Wishing you all safe and happy holiday season!



The two weapons found in Glastonbury, before and after conservation. WWI-era German bayonet (L) and Calvary sword (R). Photographs by Bill Bracco.

Sarah Sportman

Sarah Sportman,
Connecticut State Archaeologist



The 2024 Connecticut State Museum of Natural History adult field school participants.

2024 June and David Cooke Scholarship Recipient Cassie Aimetti



The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) is pleased to award the June and David Cooke Scholarship to **Cassie Aimetti**. Cassie is a double-major in Earth Sciences (Geoscience) and Anthropology at the University of Connecticut (UConn). She is currently working as an Intern at Heritage Consultants and is an undergraduate at UConn. The focus of her work is Grannis Island, located on the east bank of the Quinnipiac River in New Haven about 1.5 miles upriver from the mouth of the Quinnipiac River, which empties into New Haven Harbor and ultimately Long Island Sound.

The following is an excerpt from Cassie's Formal Proposal. A copy may also be found on the FOSA website at www.fosa-ct.org, click on About Us à Cooke Scholarship à Cooke Scholarship Awardees .

Geological perspectives can drastically enhance the archaeological interpretation of a site, since the relationship between past humans and their occupied landscape is determined by environmental evolution over time. In the case of the indigenous archaeological site of Grannis Island, located in New Haven, CT, there is documented evidence of over 6000 years of human occupation adjacent to the Quinnipiac River Estuary. The site demonstrates the relationship that local indigenous populations have had with Long Island Sound for millennia; but despite its archaeological significance, the geologic evolution of the site is still poorly understood. Most critically, Grannis Island's geomorphology has been shaped by approximately 20-26 feet of sea level rise over the last 6,000 years (Leslie and Ouimet 2017; Figure 2). After initial excavations by Howard Sargent (1950), the site's stratigraphy was summarized as a developing marsh above older (i.e. Archaic) artifacts in the site's lowland; and younger (i.e. Woodland) portions of the site preserved in higher elevation areas of the landform. The proposed hypothesis is that the chronology of human occupation moved upland over time in tangent with rising sea level; indicating sea level rise as a driver of human decision making. This also includes how populations adapted to changes in the flora and fauna on site as the landscape changed over time from freshwater riverine, to saltwater estuarine. This work could help to document the timing of these geomorphic changes, as well as the shift in climate-influenced food procurement strategies in local indigenous populations.

Grannis Island will only become increasingly harder to study as continued sea level rise submerges this sensitive archaeological site, and therefore this project will focus on the collection and analysis of sediment vibracores at Grannis Island that will directly lead to a radiocarbon dated stratigraphic understanding of the site that will be crucial in determining how past cultures adapted to sea level rise. Sediment vibracores will allow for a comprehensive study of previously terrestrial, and now submerged, landforms. Once the cores are collected, they will be brought back to the University of Connecticut's Sediment Core Lab for analysis such as PXRf (Portable X-Ray Diffraction), XRD (X-Ray Diffraction), LOI (Loss-of-Ignition), and Radiocarbon Dating. Together, these analyses will build a paleoenvironmental chronology of the site, including refined regional sea level rise data.

The UConn Earth Sciences Department owns the technology needed for all analyses except for Radiocarbon Dating, which will require funding to send samples to an external lab. The role of an absolute dating method such as Radiocarbon Dating through funding is imperative to my research since it will quantify other chronology methods used that are only relative, and aid the interpreted relationship between the geomorphic evolution of Grannis Island and periods of human occupation.

This project will serve as a culmination of my undergrad experience at the University of Connecticut, and the beginning of my journey as a pursuant geoarchaeologist. Interdisciplinary studies such as this should be applied regularly by combining human occupation chronology with geochronology. In order to study a culture's history.

In Remembrance Paul Michael Scannell



Paul Scannell waving with Nick Bellantoni to the left.

Should you ever want to capture the words “dedication” and “commitment” within an image, the best representation would be a photograph of Paul Scannell. Paul became a FOSA member in the organization’s earliest years, integrating himself as a dependable field volunteer, laboratory assistant and historical researcher. When we think back on our many projects (sometimes referred to by us older members as “adventures”), Paul put his inimitable fingerprint on every one of them. In particular, the Eugene Bradley plane crash and the rediscovery of the Newgate Prison cemetery, but so many, many others.

Sadly, Paul passed away peacefully on September 2, 2024, at the age of 88, in St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, surrounded by his loving family.

Paul Scannell retired from his position as Director of Managed Care for Catholic Family Services in 2000 at the age of 64, while still possessing the vitality and energy to devote himself to community endeavors and allow investigation into his passion for history. He was an active member and officer of the East Granby Historical Society, which was the steppingstone toward his involvement with FOSA. Paul had heard about our work and contacted me over his concerns regarding one of East Granby’s most historic 18th-century buildings, the Bates Tavern, which had been purchased by John Oates of the singing duo of Hall & Oates with plans to dismantle the structure for reassembly at Oates’ property in upstate New York. Paul was concerned that historical artifacts would be lost in the demolition process, including rumors of hidden gold coins. He asked if we would assist. How could we not? (Though we never found the gold coins!).

This was the beginning of our fruitful partnership. So much so that it remains hard to think of an OSA project that Paul wasn't intricately involved with or significantly contributed toward during our tenure. Not only in the field, laboratory and archives, but Paul was an essential sounding board for ideas, especially to me and former FOSA presidents, Roger Thompson and Cynthia Redman, to whom he offered sage advice on various issues confronting the organization. We could all count on Paul's support and encouragement. He never failed us.

Among his many contributions to our organization, Paul served for many years on the FOSA board and its various committees. He was noted for researching a question fully before casting a vote or offering an opinion. He was very respected by all his colleagues and was a pleasure to work with in the field and in the lab. Paul had a "quiet" sense of humor and an infectious soft laugh. His eyes twinkled at a new discovery, whether in the field or archive, and you could visualize the wheels turning in his brain to interpret what he had uncovered. Paul was always there for us: He was a favorite excavation partner, contributing to all aspects of field work. In the lab, he took on responsibilities of supervision for new FOSA members and UConn students. An avid reader, Paul also contributed to the organization and maintenance of the OSA Library.

While Paul worked tirelessly on all our projects, his heart remained devoted to East Granby's significant history. When our office was asked if archaeological methods might rediscover the location of the "lost" Newgate Prison cemetery, Paul eagerly vaulted to action. He interviewed local townspeople for their recollections, conducted land deed research with Roger Thompson and scoured town and state records for pertinent information. He loved Newgate Prison as one of Connecticut's premier historical sites and an East Granby treasure. It took us five years, but with Paul's dedication and the hard work of others, we did relocate and record the burying ground, about three quarters of a mile north of the existing prison ruins.

Another East Granby project came to us via the New England Air Museum and the CT Department of Transportation. Even though there were numerous military and local records of Lt. Eugene Bradley's 1941 airplane disaster, none of those extant sources contained information on the specific position of the crash site. Once again, could archival and archaeological methods assist in locating the spot? With his customary gusto, Paul threw himself into the task. He located and interviewed several people who were eyewitnesses at the air base or nearby tobacco fields on the morning of August 21, 1941, when the crash occurred. Paul chronicled their personal recollections and unexpectedly yielded previously unrecorded artifacts locals had taken from the plane crash scene, providing an important link in our ability to locate the site. Working in unison with Roger Thompson and others, the team provided extensive documentation by compiling numerous historical sources and informant interviews that became the basis of our field testing.

Born on January 12, 1936, Paul grew up in the city of Boston and would eventually graduate from Boston College. His passion for all things Boston, especially its sports teams was evident in his conversation and even his clothing where it seemed everything he wore consisted of maroon and gold, the colors of the Boston College Eagles! The stories of games he attended were often told with amusement during our field lunch breaks. I mean, the guy even worked at Fenway Park! When the Red Sox finally won the World Series in 2004, Paul was beyond ecstatic (and relieved!), and, of course, we had to hear every play-by-play for a year.

All his passions for history, archaeology and sports aside, Paul's true love was his wife Andrea, to whom he was devotedly married to for 55 years. They had four adored children and nine cherished grandchildren. If anything, Paul was a committed family man. He loved them all. They meant the world to him, and he often spoke of their accomplishments with abundant pride. Our sympathies are offered to his family.

Nick Bellantoni

CT State Archaeologist *Emeritus*

With thoughts and memories by Cynthia Redman and Roger Thompson

FOSA Honored

On October 22, I attended the Connecticut League of Museum's "Awards of Merit" ceremony at the New England Air Museum where FOSA was recognized as a co-recipient for "Digging Into History: On the Road With Rochambeau." Thank you to all the FOSA volunteers who worked on this project with the students and a very special thank-you to Scott Brady for prepping the site every day and going the extra mile during one of the wettest periods of the summer of 2023 by hauling containers of water so the students could screen the mud they were excavating!

Following is the text of the award from the Connecticut League of Museums "Awards of Merit" program:

Digging Into History: On The Road with Rochambeau

Awardees: Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library, Office of the State Archaeologist, Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Bolton Historical Society, and Bolton Heritage Farm Commission.

Working with State Archaeologist Dr. Sarah Sportman at Rochambeau French Camp No. 5 in Bolton, CT, this project involved 16 Connecticut students and 13 French students participating in an active archaeological dig, artifact preservation and research. This was hands-on history at its best, a project that created a special and memorable experience that allowed participants to have a tangible sense of the past as well as multiple ways of exploring that history, from archaeology to museum interpretation.

Glenda M. Rose, FOSA President



FOSA CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Material Culture of the American Revolution Period

FOSA is offering a five-week program, consisting of one evening zoom class per week. Through readings, lecture and class discussion, we will consider if a distinctive American / Connecticut Revolutionary Period (1768-1784) pattern of archaeological material culture is definable.

Classes will begin the first week of February:
 dates
 and time to be announced.
 Please Email Tom Ford at
Fordtb72@gmail.com to express interest
 and register.

October 22, 2024 Award presentation for recipients of the Connecticut League of Museums 2024 Awards of Merit.

Left to Right:

Jennifer Matos, Administrator *Museum of Connecticut History*, Christine Pittsley, *Special Projects Curator, Museum of Connecticut History*, John Toomey, President, *Bolton Historical Society*, Glenda M. Rose, President *Friends of the Office of State Archaeology*, Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D., Executive Director, *Connecticut League of Museums*

Photo Credit: Jack D. Morris

The Mystery of Asa Havens

The North Plains Cemetery in East Haddam CT has within it what came to be known as the Mystery of Asa H. Havens. Was he ever actually buried at the North Plains Cemetery or was he given to the sea?

His gravestone was first found by the Cemetery Troopers VFW Post 3336 during a walkover in search of military headstones that needed repair or cleaning. Asa's headstone reads: "MATE OF BARQUE GLEN *was murdered by mutineers* SEPT 17, 1850, AGE 37" with a footstone marked with his initials A.H.H. something that normally indicates a body is present. (See photo to the left)



According to newspaper reports at the time, Asa Havens was second mate on the barque Glen (a square rigged sailing vessel) and the captain was Charles Small. The ship had been carrying a cargo of copper ore from Valparaiso, Chile to New York but a few days into the voyage some of the crew members attempted to violently seize control of the ship. Several of the ship's crew were seriously injured along with Asa Havens who had been shot in the abdomen and had suffered a blow to his neck with an ax. He died a few hours later from his injuries.

Was Asa Havens "buried at sea" as some newspapers claimed or possibly brought home in a barrel of Navy Rum? (or to use the expression of the day *in Spirit of Wine*).

To solve our mystery we had to determine if remains or evidence of a burial was present as Asa's footstone indicated. Nick Bellantoni, CT State Archaeologist *Emeritus* was contacted to help in answering the question of the whereabouts of Asa Havens. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) can determine if an area of interest has signs of soil disturbance (which shows up in different reflection patterns) compared with neighboring areas. Contact was made with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which specializes in and has the GPR equipment and expertise for just such a task. A time schedule was arranged for all interested parties to meet at the North Plains Cemetery. A grid (4 by 10 meters) was created in an area adjacent to the Havens family headstones. The grid was laid out with two parallel survey lines with survey flags inserted into the ground at a spacing of fifty centimeters apart. The results of the GPR survey showed an area of soil disturbance at a depth appropriate for burials. That may indicate multiple burials; however, it was difficult to differentiate between individual burials associated with each headstone. This result is often found in old burying grounds where burial shafts and their headstones are commonly closer together. To verify the results of the GPR survey two small samples of the soil in question were obtained and studied. The natural soil profile behind Asa Havens' headstone had a dark brown colored surface and a lighter brown colored subsoil below. This verified that Asa Havens was not buried behind his headstone because the soil in that location had never



been disturbed. This finding roughly corresponded with the GPR record. The Asa Havens mystery had been solved. Apparently, Asa had not been brought home to his family and interred at the North Plains Cemetery. Instead, Asa was most likely given to the depths of the sea. May Asa's soul rest in peace.

Submitted by: Ken Beatrice (Cemetery Trooper) & Bonnie Beatrice

We wish to thank the many contributors and volunteers:

Debbie Surabian – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and GPR Operator Dr. Krista Dotzel, NRCS Archaeologist, Dr. Nick Bellantoni – Emeritus Connecticut State Archaeologist, Dr. Sarah Sportman – Connecticut State Archaeologist, Dr. Karl Stofko – East Haddam Town Historian and Town Cemetery Committee, Don Henson – Cemetery Troopers, VFW Post 3336, Irma Carper-Miller, Cemetery Troopers Research and Documents field work, and the Cemetery Troopers volunteers.

A Special Note: Since this writing, Asa Haven's headstone has been repaired and reset by the Cemetery Troopers of East Haddam, CT.

The Connecticut Archaeology Fair was held this year at the Henry Whitfield State Museum in Guilford, CT on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024.

It was a beautiful day for this outdoor event, mostly held under two large tents. Along with the Museum being open to the public, there were lectures held throughout the day under one of the two tents. Located within and around the perimeter of the exhibitor tent were a dozen or more organizations, among which was FOSA's Outreach table. Also located near our area was an ongoing knapping demonstration and Mandy Ranslow's ever popular Mini-Golf area.

The FOSA table was flanked on one side by Lee West's ASC table with his volunteer and on the other side by Alison Guinness, Dr Karl Stofko and their volunteers whose focus was on the local brownstone, historic headstones, and even a dinosaur footprint.

Because these three organizations often work hand-in-hand, it was the perfect situation as we were all able to refer people to each others' exhibits.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to meet new people with an interest in archaeology.

I would like to thank the FOSA volunteers for helping me one way or the other with the FOSA Outreach Table. Among those were; Scott Brady who set up the exhibit tables and helped unload my car into the exhibit area, Jerry Tolchin who manned the FOSA table during the entire event, and Vance Tiede who set up his tripod display with a framed timeline of projectile points.

It was a good day all around!

Bonnie Beatrice

Outreach "Volunteer"



Mandy Ranslow and Jerry Tolchin at the FOSA table.
Photo by Bonnie Beatrice



Kim Kuprewicz and Elizabeth Barbeau at the CT Museum of Natural History (CSMNH) table.
Photo by Jim Hall



The tent where a class / talk is being given.
Photo by Bonnie Beatrice



Michael Bradshaw demonstrating his knapping skills.
Photo by Jim Hall



Krista Dotzel and Ashley Geissler at the U.S. D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service table.
Photo by Jim Hall

FOSA Officers and Board

- Glenda Rose - President
- Thomas Ford – Vice President
- Scott Brady - Recording Secretary
- Sandy DiStefano - Corresponding Secretary
- Jim Trocchi - Treasurer
- (Assistant Treasurer - Open)
- Dawn Brown - Board Member
- Mike Cahill - Board Member
- Richard Hughes - Board Member
- Patty Jubinska - Board Member
- Lori Kessel - Board Member
- Cindy McWeeney - Board Member
- Jeremy Pilver - Board Member
- Mike Raber - Board Member
- Deanna Rhodes - Board Member
- Kathy Walburn - Board Member

Ex Officio Members:

- Dr. Sarah Sportman, CT State
Archaeologist (OSA)
- Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, *Emeritus*
CT State Archaeologist
- Dr. Janine Caira, Director, CSMNH
- Lee West (ASC)


FOSA Committees and Committee Members

- Archaeology Awareness Month:** TBD (Chair), Jim Hall, Dick Hughes, Elliot Schawm, Kathy Walburn
- Cooke Scholarship Committee:** Jeremy Pilver (Chair), Scott Brady, Cindy McWeeney
- Excavation Committee:** Jeremy Pilver (Chair), Scott Brady, Mike Cahill, Marlo Del Chiaro, Dick Hughes, Elizabeth Mark, Frederick Rivard, Jim Trocchi, Kathy Walburn, Scott Brady (Field Supervisor)
- Membership:** Mike Raber (Chair), Glenda Rose, Sandy DiStefano (Corresponding Secretary)
- Newsletter:** Jerry Tolchin (Chair), Jim Trocchi
- Nominations:** Deanna Rhodes
- Outreach:** Kathy Walburn (Chair), Bonnie Beatrice, Ken Beatrice
- Volunteer Coordinator:** TBD (Chair), Glenda Rose
- Website:** Jim Hall (Chair), Jen Glaubius, Lindsay Kiesewetter

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES		
NEW FOSA MEMBERS SINCE 4/15/24		
Gita Carter	Glen Gleissner	Keith and Kelley
Connecticut State	Nina Gregory	Peck
Museum of Natural History	Laura Hamlin	Michelle Szabo
Nicole Crane	Deborah Howard	Landon Whitney
Ray Duffy	Julie Hulten	
Cassandra Fortunato	Jared Karp	
Jessica Garlock	Patricia Ludwig	
	Mediaka Ntungu	
	Jeremy Pearson	

We have had 18 new members from early April to mid-November 2024. Beginning in late March 2020, we introduced and fine-tuned electronic membership services on the FOSA website. This allows new and renewing members to enter their membership information, to volunteer activity preferences, and to pay via PayPal if desired. An increasing number of members are using this service, including about 46% of those who renewed or joined since early November 2023. During this period, we have had 130 renewals -- just shy of half our current membership!

Mike Raber, Membership Chair



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What's New on the FOSA Website?

1. We've continued to record the "Archaeology of Connecticut" interviews given at iCRV radio, and to incorporate them, along with brief overviews of the subjects, into the website. These can be accessed at: https://www.fosa-ct.org/ICRV_slideshow_1.html. At this writing 67 shows are listed.
2. We activated the Spring 2024 Newsletter. Note that we've been asked to wait 2-3 months after a newsletter comes out before activating it in the website.
3. Added Cassie Aimetti to the list of Cooke Scholarship awardees, for 2024. Information on Cassie and her work can be found on the website at https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_CookeScholarships_2024.html.
4. Added an article from the Glastonbury Citizen about the Hollister site work, to the Selected Newspaper Articles page. You can access the page at https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_newspapers.html; click the June 27, 2024 date.
5. Nick Bellantoni's "Remembrance" article for Paul Scannell has been incorporated into our "Remembrances" section under the "About Us" dropdown. To access the list of Remembered personnel, please click: https://www.fosa-ct.org/SpecialFeatures/FOSA_Remembrances_Index.html#Index.
6. Updated the "Annual Meetings" page, at https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_ann_meetings.html, to include the 2024 Archaeology Fair Flyer and pictures of the participants and guest speakers at the meeting.
7. Click https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_AAM_Home.html to access pictures taken at the Archaeology Fair.
8. Nick Bellantoni's book "And So the Tomb Remained" has a Glossary of terms used in the book. This glossary has been added to the website, to be alongside Glossaries from other publications. This Glossary can be accessed from the **Resources -> Special Features** drop-down on all pages; or directly by clicking https://www.fosa-ct.org/Tombs_Glossary.pdf
9. While incorporating the above Glossary, we noted difficulties in accessing the 30 short biographies which were originally available from the East Hartford Center Cemetery website, but which are now available from the East Hartford Public Library. Click https://www.fosa-ct.org/EHCC_Bios_List_2.html to direct access these recordings. (Note that when the transfer to the library occurred, the QR codes which had been referenced on our website no longer worked, which led us to create this new page.
10. Updated the Avon Free Public Library's "Unearthing History" section in the Upcoming Events page to now include the 2024 visuals. Click https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_SpecNotices.html#Webinars to access it.
11. Temporarily added a yellow notification on the Home page to notify readers of a traveling exhibit being hosted by the Avon Free Public Library, titled "Exploring Human Origins, which will run from December 1 thru January 15, after which it will be removed. To see the details of the exhibit, please click <https://www.avonctlibrary.info/2024/11/exploring-human-origins/>.
12. SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED: To reiterate from above and from previous "What's New..." articles, we continually look for input from users about the web site: What things can be added? Removed? Revised? Please send us an email, at fosa.ct@gmail.com, with your suggestions. Use "FOSA website" in the subject line.

Thank you!

Jim Hall / Jen Glaubius

