



# Archaeological Society of Connecticut 2022 Spring Meeting



**Wood Memorial Library and Museum  
783 Main Street  
South Windsor, CT  
Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Admission: Non-members (general public) - \$10, Members (ASC/FOSA) - \$8, Students - \$5**  
*Any questions regarding meeting please contact: David Leslie – David.leslie@uconn.edu*

- 9:00 AM**                      **Registration begins (with coffee and doughnuts)**
- 9:45 AM**                      **Welcome, announcements – David Leslie, President, ASC**
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM**      **Avery's Rest: Ancient DNA Insights into Kinship and Ancestry in 17th Century Delaware, *Raquel Fleskes***

Avery's Rest is a late 17th century archaeological site located near present day Lewes, Delaware. Excavations of the site were conducted by Dan Griffith and his team from the Archaeological Society of Delaware beginning in 2006. They revealed the presence of a colonial domestic site with 11 burials dating to the late 17th and early 18th century. Osteological analyses were conducted by the Smithsonian Institution, and indicated that the individuals were separated into two burial clusters by ancestry; with eight individuals of European descent in the southern burial cluster, and three individuals of African descent in the northern. Ancient DNA analyses were subsequently undertaken to understand the extent of relatedness between the burials and their ancestral origins. Results suggest that eight individuals were of Northwestern European ancestry, and the three individuals originated from diverse areas along the west and central African coast. In addition, extensive relatedness patterns were identified between the burials. This information helps to deepen our understanding of British settlement structures on the Delaware frontier, as well as the early patterns of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in North America.

Dr. Raquel Fleskes is a National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. She received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 2021 in Biological Anthropology, specializing in Anthropological Genetics. Her research uses ancient DNA to understand the population history of colonial period North America. Her current projects include work at the 1607 Burial Ground in Jamestown, VA, engagement at the First African Baptist Church in Williamsburg, VA, and the Anson Street African Burial Ground in Charleston, SC. These projects focus on interpreting genomic data with archaeological and other bio-molecular techniques to understand lived experience, ancestry, and relationships on the early colonial American frontier.

**10:30 – 11:00 AM**

**A Paleoindian Encampment at the Two Wrasslin' Cats Site, East Haddam, Connecticut, *David Leslie, Sarah Sportman, G. Logan Miller, and Mark Clymer***

The Two Wrasslin' Cats Site is located on the banks of the Succor Brook, a small first order tributary of the Connecticut River. The site was identified when Mark Clymer, who was drinking coffee in the backyard of the eponymous coffee shop, looked down and spotted a chert flake on the ground. Successive excavations, led by the Office of State Archaeology and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, uncovered evidence of the 18th century residents of the dwelling now housing the coffee shop, as well as potential evidence of Paleoindian occupation. A high percentage of the artifacts recovered to date are high-quality Hudson River Valley and Onondaga chert. A number of functional, if not typological graters have also been recovered, and confirmed through micro-wear analyses, along with endscrapers and one channel flake fragment. Here, we present initial evidence for Paleoindian occupations and future research goals for the site.

Dr. David Leslie is a Senior Archaeologist at Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. and current president of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut. His research interests include Pleistocene and Holocene adaptations through lithic technology, remote sensing applications to archaeological sites, and stable isotope ecology.

**11:00 – 11:30 AM**

**Digging into the Collections: A Fresh Look at the Grannis Island Site (93-9), New Haven, Connecticut, *Sarah Sportman and Brianna Rae Zoto***

The Grannis Island Site is a multi-component Indigenous site located on a small island in the Quinnipiac River. An initial investigation conducted in 1947 by Howard Sargent was followed by decades of intermittent excavations by the Greater New Haven Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (GHNAS). GHNAS began extensive analyses and reporting on the recovered materials, but the work was never completed. In 2021, the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology, which curates the artifact collection and site documentation, began actively cataloguing and reanalyzing the collection to produce a comprehensive synthesis of the site. Lithic materials from Grannis Island indicate occupations from the Middle Archaic through the Late Woodland periods, and an extensive, but shallow, shell midden at the site facilitated the rare preservation of a large and diverse faunal assemblage. Here, we present the preliminary results of the reanalysis, with a focus on the lithic and faunal assemblages and discuss future research directions for the site and collections.

Dr. Sarah Sportman is Connecticut's State Archaeologist. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut (2011) and has worked as an archaeologist for over 20 years, studying the archaeology and history of Euro-American and pre-colonial Indigenous groups in New England and New York.

Brianna Rae Zoto is a PhD student at the University of Connecticut, where she studies Terminal Archaic period lithic technology and the utility of museum archival collections. She has worked as an archaeologist in southern New England for the past 9 years.

**11:30 – 12:00 PM**

**Recent Research at Gungywamp (Congungewamphset)**

***Kevin McBride***

Gungywamp is a complex cultural landscape consisting of an extensive array of stone features and structures including, but not limited to, foundations, enclosures, cairns/piles, stone chambers/root cellars, stone wall alignments/field systems, stone circles and associated and non-associated Colonial and Native American artifacts dating from the Paleo-Indian through Colonial Periods. The origin, function, date, and cultural affiliation of these features may be disputed, but their potential historical and cultural significance is not. The Connecticut Historical Commission provided funding to conduct a mapping and historical research project on the Gungywamp landscape as well as to incorporate various Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives on the significance and interpretation of Gungywamp.

Dr. Kevin McBride is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. His research interests include Native American archaeology, contact period and battlefield archaeology, public archaeology, and New England ethnohistory and archaeology.

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

**Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

**Tour of the Museum, Collections, and Nowashe Village (led by Director of Museum Education, Liz Glaviano)**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM**

**Reception (Wine and cheese)**

## Directions

Nowashe Village is located at 787 Main Street in South Windsor, at the intersection of Main Street and Pleasant Valley Road, conveniently located just off of Route 5 and minutes away from I-291, I-84 and I-91.

### From I-91 / I-291 East

Exit 35-A and continue on I-291 over the Connecticut River (Bissell Bridge). Take exit 4 and turn left (north) onto Route 5. At Dunkin' Donuts, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow until the end of the road.

### From I-291 West

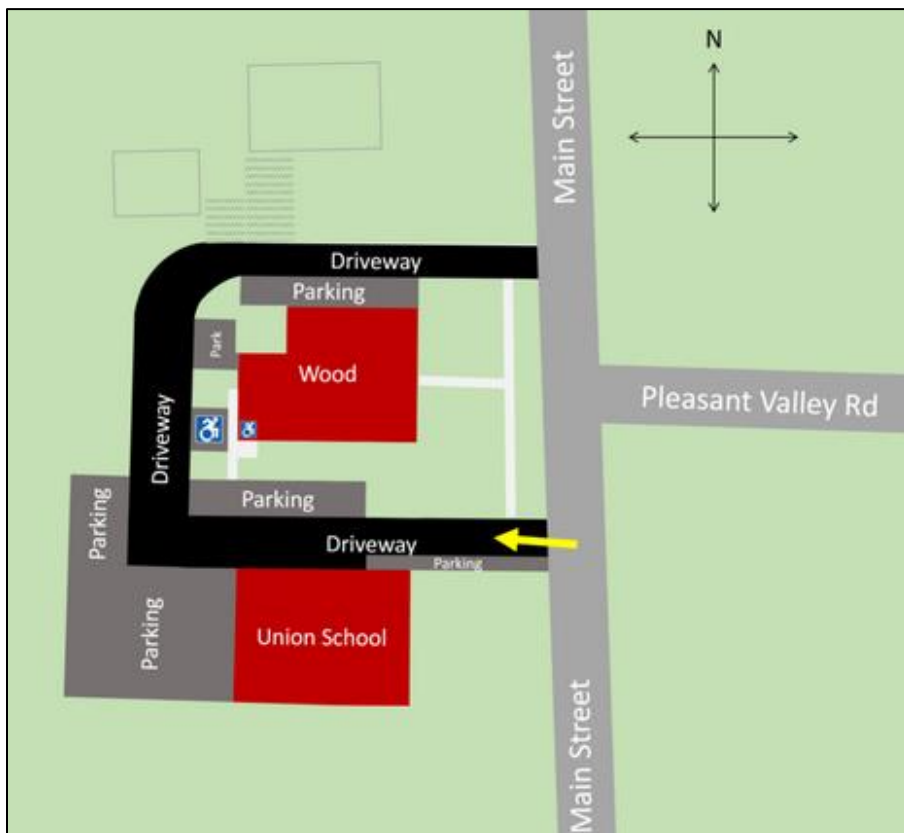
Exit 4 and turn left (north) onto Route 5. At Dunkin' Donuts, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow until the end of the road.

### From I-84 East

Exit 62 and turn left onto Buckland Street. At Mobil gas station, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow 3.7 miles to end of the road, through several stoplights and stop signs.

### From I-84 West

Exit 62 and turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow 3.5 miles to end of the road, through several stoplights and stop signs.



### Parking Information

Please do not block driveways or the private parking areas for the two neighbors who share the driveway. Parking is located next door at Union School and along Main Street. Please enter the south driveway for Union School.

Handicap accessible parking is located in the rear of the building, near the back entrance that leads to the elevator. Nowashe Village is a fully ADA accessible building.