



# Archaeological Society of Connecticut 2023 Spring Meeting



**Wood Memorial Library and Museum  
783 Main Street  
South Windsor, CT**

**Saturday, May 6<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*

**9:30 AM Registration begins (with coffee and doughnuts)**

**10:15 AM Welcome, announcements – David Leslie, President, ASC**

**10:30 – 11:00 AM The Micromorphology of Glacial Sediment in Early Pottery from New York State**

***Ammie Chittim***

This presentation is part of an ongoing research project that seeks to investigate the source of clay sediment used by ancient potters in the Northeast. The objective of this study is to use a non-typological approach to examine the technological style of early pottery, its origin, and diversity in the Northeast. In the place of descriptive techniques, this study uses geoarchaeology, petrography and optical mineralogy. These techniques offer a method of provenancing early ceramic material in the Northeast and will help us better understand Native American pottery technology. In April of 2022, 35 geologic samples were collected from 16 sites across New York State. These samples were collected from well-known glacial landforms, including lakebeds, fluvial terraces, moraine, aeolian, and kettle and kame. The sediment samples were produced into petrographic slides for analysis so that they could be compared with 90 thin section samples from 25 archaeological sites analyzed by the author in 2017. This presentation will provide a summary of work completed thus far.



Dr. Chittim graduated from Bridgewater State University in 2004 with a B.S degree in Anthropology and Mathematics. She has traveled across North America and the Middle East conducting cultural research on both ancient and modern societies. She earned her first M.A. from the University of Toronto in 2006 with a degree in Near and Middle Eastern Societies. From there, she joined the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo as a graduate student and professional archaeologist working with local Native American tribes. As a graduate student at SUNY at Buffalo, Dr. Chittim earned a second M.A. (2009), focused on Cultural Resource Management and Experimental Archaeology and Ph.D. (2017) in geoarchaeology. Dr. Chittim is a Reserve Officer in the Coast Guard and is an instructor at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. She teaches a variety of courses including Atmospheric and Marine Science, Climate Change and Natural Disasters, Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change, Mathematics, and Physics. She has an ongoing active research agenda and continues to own and operate her own small, part-time petrography lab, Northeastern Petrographic Services.

**11:00 – 11:30 AM                      Planting the “Yankee” Identity: An Analysis of the  
Macrobotanical Assemblage at the ca. 1638 Waterman House  
Site in Marshfield, Massachusetts**

***Katharine Reinhart***

In 2013, Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. conducted an extensive data recovery program in Marshfield, Massachusetts at the ca. 1638 Waterman House Site. Located in one of the earliest satellite communities established after the founding of Plymouth Colony, this site offers a detailed view into the daily life of a yeoman family during this critical and poorly understood first period of settlement. This presentation will detail the most recent results of the analysis conducted on the site’s extensive macrobotanical assemblage. The depth and diversity exhibited by the cultivated and wild fruit, nut, herb, vegetable, and grain remains recovered at the site, vividly illustrate European-Indigenous interactions on the colonial landscape. These interactions, and colonists’ application of contemporary English botanical knowledge created some of the earliest evidence of Puritan colonists transitioning into what would become the New England “Yankee” cultural identity of later generations.



Originally from southeastern Ohio, Ms. Reinhart has almost a decade of archaeological experience as a cultural resource management archaeologist in the New England region. Her training as an archaeobotanist began in 2012 when she accepted a fellowship through a collaboration between her undergraduate alma mater (Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee) and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center (Ledyard, Connecticut). This research has led her to conduct

analysis on a wide range of sites dating from the Paleoindian period and up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the northeast. She is currently finishing a Historical Archaeology Master's degree at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, while working full time at Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. in Storrs, Connecticut and as an archaeobotanical consultant.

**11:30 – 12:00 PM**

**Cultural Entanglements in Early Colonial Connecticut: The View from the Hollister Farm, South Glastonbury, CT**

*Sarah Sportman*

The Hollister Site is a 17<sup>th</sup>-century English farm complex (1640s-1715), located on the east side of the Connecticut River in South Glastonbury. Seven years of fieldwork at the site have revealed a large farm complex, with an incredibly well-preserved material assemblage and evidence of numerous structures, pits, posts, and other features. The diverse material record of the site provides a wealth of information about 17<sup>th</sup>-century English lifeways and sheds light on the complex social, economic, and political landscape of early Colonial Connecticut. The artifacts and documentary record reflect the connections between Connecticut and the greater Atlantic world, including New Netherland, the West Indies, and the Chesapeake.



The Hollister Site also provides material evidence of the complex relationships between English and Indigenous people in the early colonial period. The two English families who lived at the site, the Gilberts (1651-1663) and the Hollisters (1665-1715), regularly interacted with Native people in official capacities, as reflected in Connecticut Colony records. Recent discoveries at the site indicate that these interactions also occurred in more intimate and mundane settings. The diverse assemblage of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Indigenous artifacts recovered from the site suggests that the Hollister Farm was a shared landscape, where Native people lived and worked alongside the English residents. At present, there is no documentary evidence of Native people living at the site to shed on the question, but the historical context of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Connecticut provides several possibilities for exploration.

Dr. Sarah P. Sportman is Connecticut's State Archaeologist and an Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Sarah has over 20 years of experience working in academic and cultural resources management archaeology in New England New York. Her research interests include zooarchaeology, historical archaeology, and New England archaeology and ethnohistory.

**12:00 – 1:45 PM**

**Lunch (on your own)**

**1:45 – 2:15 PM**

**And Now for Something Completely Different: an Introduction to Archaeogaming**

***Bill Farley***

The study of the recent past is not a new topic in archaeology. For decades archaeologists have been interested in the material lives of people living in the 20th century, or even in the leavings found in modern landfills. More recently, archaeologists have begun to explore the importance of the digital world in what I call the “archaeology of the now.” How separated are we really from our virtual selves? How important are our experiences on social media, the internet, in our phones, or in the games we play? Archaeogaming is an arm of archaeology that explores the way the science is represented in and shaped by video games. We’ll explore the basics of what Archaeogaming is, and why it is an important addition to how we think about the material world.



Dr. Bill Farley is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Southern Connecticut State University who specializes in the study of Southern New England in the colonial period.

His research focuses on the early colonial interactions of Native Americans and Euroamerican settlers in Connecticut. Dr. Farley received his MA in Historical Archaeology from UMASS Boston in 2012 and a PhD in Anthropology from UCONN in 2017. In addition to historical archaeology, Dr. Farley’s research interests include archaeobotany, museum and heritage studies, archaeology and popular culture, and science communication. He currently serves as Vice President for the Archaeological Society of Connecticut.

**2:15 – 2:45 PM**

**“Provisioned, Produced, Procured”, and Purchased?: A  
Macrobotanical Study of Enslaved African American Economic  
Involvement in the Shenandoah Valley**

***Linda Seminario***

In 2017, archaeologists excavated two features at the Belle Grove enslaved quarters in Middletown, Virginia— a root cellar and borrow pit that was filled in when a log cabin burned down. By using comparative collections, the preservation of the macrobotanicals has allowed for an in-depth analysis of the foods that enslaved individuals consumed and the relationship between food choice, resistance, and enslaved people’s regional economic involvement at a 19th century plantation in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. These data sets have also allowed for an analysis of the impact that enslaved individuals had on local economies as consumers and producers through various methods of food procurement strategies, providing evidence of ways that enslaved individuals navigated the power structures of the plantation system in the American South.



Linda Seminario graduated summa cum laude from Boston University in 2019 with a B.S. in Archaeology and Anthropology, and a minor in Classical Studies. Although her thesis work is based in Virginia, she has been working in the northeast region for the past five years. Her work as an archaeobotanist has led her to work on site assemblages throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions ranging from the Paleoindian period to the 17th-century. She is currently a full-time Project Archaeologist at Heritage Consultants and a master’s student in the Historical Archaeology program at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Additionally, she is student-chair of the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference’s (MAAC) Student Committee and involved in the planning of the MAAC 2024.

**2:45 – 4:00 PM**

**Self-Guided Tour of the Museum, Collections, and Nowashe  
Village**

**3:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Reception (Wine and cheese)**

## Directions to the ASC Spring Meeting

Wood Memorial Library 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

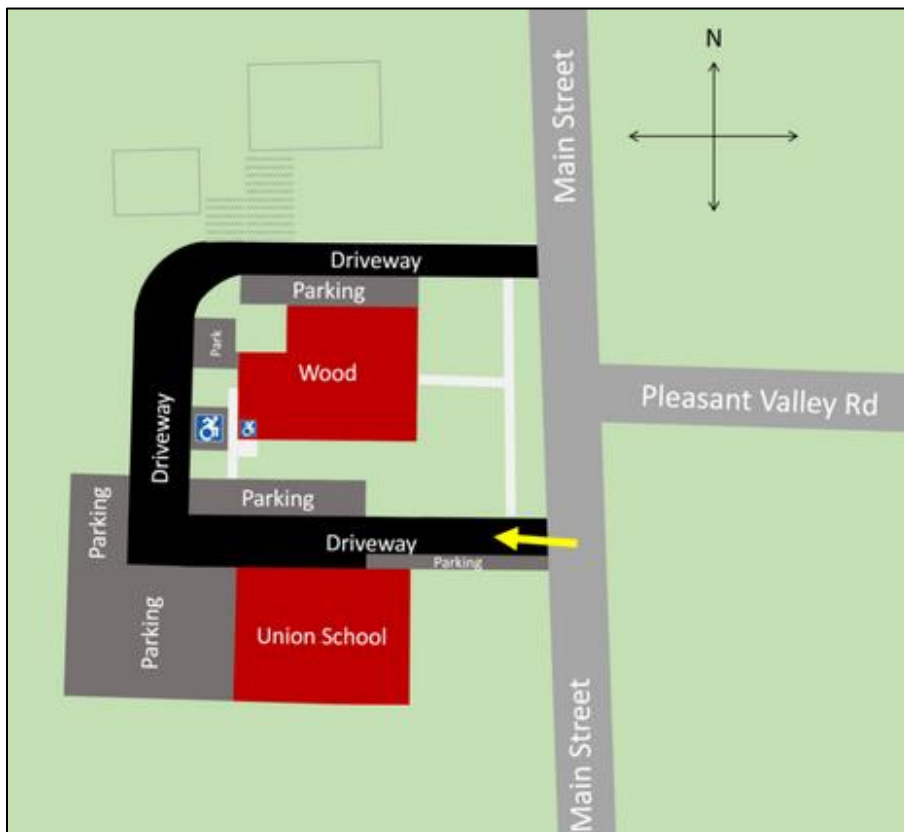
Exit 4 and turn left (north) onto Route 5. At Dunkin' Donuts, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Follow until the end of the road.

### 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.