

FOSA's 2020 Annual Meeting

Recording Secretary's Report

Good afternoon everyone. I'm Mike Cahill, FOSA's recording secretary. I'm here to give a report on FOSA's many activities since our last Annual Meeting.

FOSA's Annual Meeting was held March 23, 2019, at Farmington High School. During the business meeting, the following Board members were reelected to an additional 2- year term: Dreda Hendsey, Dick Hughes, Cynthia Redman, Glenda Rose, Zac Singer, and Jim Trocchi. Two FOSA members, Tom Burns and Dave Colberg were elected to their first 2-year term on the Board. The slate of officers stayed the same, with Scott Brady as President, Jeremy Pilver as Vice-President, Dreda Hendsey as Treasurer, Mike Cahill as Recording Secretary, and Glenda Rose as Corresponding Secretary. Mandy Ranslow was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of service and leadership. The keynote speaker after the meeting was Doctor Daniel Adler, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, at UConn. His talk was titled: 25 Years of Middle and Upper Paleolithic Research in the Southern Caucasus.

The Outreach Committee, with Kathy Walburn as chairperson and assisted by many volunteers, set up displays at many venues throughout the state. These displays explained FOSA's mission and archaeology in Connecticut. The events included our Annual Meeting and the Gravestone Network Symposium in March, the Friends of Hammonasset Earth Day Celebration in April, the State Historical Preservation Office Conference in May, the Public Archaeology Day in Hebron in September, and the Hammonasset Festival in Guilford and State Archaeology Day held at UConn in October. They also traveled to Boston in January for the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference.

FOSA members took part in many archaeological excavations throughout Connecticut in 2019. The Hill House in East Hartford was in April, and the Ebony Horsewomen dig at Keeney Park in Hartford was in June. In July we were saddened by the passing of our State Archaeologist Brian Jones. Brian was not only a great teacher and leader, but a friend to all of us that knew him. He will be sorely missed. Fortunately, former State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni came out of retirement, and continued the excavations and the responsibilities of the Office of State Archaeology as Brian wanted, until our new State Archaeologist, Sarah Sportman took over the duties. August was a busy month, with the combination veterans and teachers dig at the Hollister site in South Glastonbury, followed by the FOSA members dig at the same site. This was followed by the Historical Society of Glastonbury dig at Black Ledge Falls, and the Lee House in East Lyme. These were just some of the digs FOSA members were taking part in.

The Annual Archaeology Fair took place in October at Oak Hall at UConn. The fair included displays by many different archaeology organizations and historical societies. There were also interesting talks, including one by Scott about the Hollister site.

During the colder months, when there are no digs going on, several members of FOSA assisted in the archaeology lab at UConn. They inspected, cleaned, sorted, cataloged, and stored artifacts recovered from previous excavations.

There are 2 major sources of information pertaining to FOSA, the Newsletter, and the website. Jerry Tolchin chairs the Newsletter Committee. They produce an issue in the spring and fall full of interesting articles and information about FOSA. Jim Hall chairs the Website Committee. He posts events, copies of the Newsletter, media reports, and many other items of interest to members and non-members. Also on the website is a link to iCRV. Internet Connecticut River Valley has a monthly series of shows begun by Brian, dealing with different topics of Connecticut archaeology. These shows are continuing with various hosts and participants, including Scott, Dan Forrest, and Sarah Sportman.

FOSA members volunteered 1000s of hours of lab work, field work, media, and Outreach throughout the year.

In closing, the Board of Directors would like to thank its members for their contributions of their time, expertise, and energy this past year to continue our mission of supporting the Office of State Archaeology here in Connecticut.

Thank you.