

Historical Sites & Societies Enewsletter

February 2011

Welcome to the Historical Sites & Societies Enewsletter, compiled on a monthly basis. Please send your information to valerie@tlgv.org by March 15th to be included in the next edition.



Sturbridge Historical Society

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Bob Briere – 508-347-3788

"Know You Neighbors" is a series of meetings offered by the Sturbridge Historical Society to give an opportunity to learn about the towns adjacent to Sturbridge. Members of their local Historical Societies will be the guest speakers. Meetings are open to the public and held at the Publick House Inn on Sturbridge Common. Programs start at 7 p.m. (check meeting board for meeting room.)

Date:	Speaker /Subject:
3/24/11	Janine Upson (Union, CT)
4/28/11	Robert Wilder (Brookfield)
5/26/11	Bill Hultgren (Charlton)

Connecticut State Museum of Natural History

Connecticut Archaeology Center

University of Connecticut

2019 Hillside Road, Unit 1023

Storrs, CT 06269-1023

860.486.5690

<http://www.mnh.uconn.edu>/David C. Colberg

Public Information Coordinator

Scientific Illustration—Birds!

Virge Kask, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UConn

Saturday, March 12, 10 am to 12 noon

Museum of Natural History, UConn Storrs (map will be mailed to participants)

Advance registration required: \$25 (\$20 for Museum members)

Includes materials.

Adults and children ages 8 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

This year we will focus on the world of birds in our annual scientific

illustration workshop lead by EEB's Scientific Illustrator Virge Kask. Birds have been a subject for artists and illustrators throughout time due to their graceful forms, incredible variety of colors, ability to fly, and even their mythological significance. Join us as we look closely at bird skeletons, feathers, and mounted museum specimens as models for drawing. Using dissecting microscopes, light microscopes, and the naked eye, examine bird and feather anatomy in detail. Then, Ms. Kask will teach you the best techniques for conveying the essence of these captivating animals using pencil and paper, and give you tips for drawing from life as well as from mounts. You will receive a folder with information about scientific illustration and supplies for making your illustrations in the classroom.

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn. 860.486.4460 – www.mnh.uconn.edu

Saturday Afternoons at the Museum: Colonial Children's Games

Saturday, March 12, 1:30 to 3:30 pm
Museum of Natural History – FREE!

Did you ever wonder what sorts of games colonial children of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries played? Join the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center and learn how to play the games your great-great grandparents might have played, such as Nine Man's Morris, ring toss, and marbles.

Explore the Museum's *Natural History of Play* series by taking a closer look at traditional Colonial Children's Games! Drop in any time between 1:30 and 3:30 pm this Saturday afternoon at the Museum and explore your world through experimentation and observation. Recommended for students in grades 1 through 5, accompanied by an adult.

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

Ancient Technologies—Soapstone Carving

Cheri Collins, Museum Staff

Saturday, March 19, two sessions: 10 am to 12 noon or 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Museum of Natural History, UConn Storrs (map will be mailed to participants)

Advance registration required: \$25 (\$20 for Museum members)

Includes materials

Adults and children ages 10 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Because of its unique geological characteristics such as heat retention and ease of carving and polishing, soapstone has been used by people throughout the world to produce many different items of utility and beauty. Learn about the geology and the history of human use of this mineral. Examine samples of different types of soapstone from local quarries and around the world, as well as both ancient and modern soapstone cooking vessels and art objects. Then, using traditional implements, make a carving of your own design to take home!

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

Feasting with the Dead on the Eve of Agriculture: Ancient Animal Remains from a Burial Cave in Israel

Dr. Natalie Munro, Department of Anthropology, UConn

Sunday, March 20, 3 pm

Biology/Physics Building, Storrs campus, Room 130

No registration required—FREE

Adults and children ages 10 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Zooarchaeological evidence from a small burial cave in Israel reveals evidence that prehistoric funerary feasts and shamanism were practiced as early as 12,000 years ago, at the very beginning of human transition from hunter-gatherer to agriculturalist. The site of Hilazon Tachtit in Israel, where Dr. Munro has conducted her research for several years, contains a variety of unusual animal deposits associated with funerary practices.

Some of the animal remains are directly interred with humans' graves while other animal remains were likely produced as part of the activities associated with human funeral practices. In particular, the butchered remains of parts of at least three Aurochs (ancient wild cattle) provide early evidence for feasting at the site, as do the butchered remains of more than 70 tortoises that were later interred in the grave of one woman. This woman's grave also contains unusual purposely-deposited animal parts; these remains attest to the unique position of this woman within her community. The animal remains from Hilazon Tachtit have important implications for social life and ritual practice during the Mesolithic Natufian culture of the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Neolithic period that followed. These remains provide strong early evidence for communal activities in the Natufian period, one of agricultural transition.

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

Ancient Technologies—Quillwork on Birchbark

Cheri Collins, Museum Staff, UConn
Saturday, March 26, 10 am to 12 noon
Museum of Natural History, UConn Storrs (map will be mailed to participants)
Advance registration required: \$20 (\$15 for Museum members)
Includes materials
Adults and children ages 8 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Native American art of decorating birch bark boxes and other ornaments with porcupine quill “embroidery” is a beautiful traditional craft. The work of both skilled historic and modern quillwork artists is highly prized by collectors and museums. You will learn about the lore and natural history of the porcupine and the birch tree, and see examples of quilled birchbark in a slide presentation by Ms. Collins. Then, you will learn how to do this unusual art form using natural materials to create a piece to take home.

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

Brooklyn Historical Society

Contact person: Elaine Knowlton
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March Program – Elizabeth Keckly: From Slave to Abolitionist

When: Tuesday, March 29, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Federated Church Chapel, Route 6, Brooklyn (Google Map ref.: 15 Hartford Road)
Fee: None
www.historicalfirsts.org

Tammy Denease, accomplished storyteller, actor and historian, brings to life Elizabeth Keckly a former enslaved woman who purchased her and her son George’s freedom for \$1,200. She used her skills as a dressmaker—called a mantua maker in the 19th century—to dress the elite in the finest fashion. Among her clients was Mary Todd Lincoln. Lizzy Keckly’s role at the war-time White House expanded to become that of a confidante to the First Lady and an informal advisor to President Abraham Lincoln. She would also be instrumental in establishing the Contraband Relief Association established in Washington D.C. to help newly freed, wandering ex-slaves.

Leffingwell House Museum

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Beryl Fishbone, Volunteer Program Manager
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I am so excited! Please go to our website

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