

# Historical Sites & Societies Enewsletter

January 2011

Welcome to the Historical Sites & Societies Enewsletter, compiled on a monthly basis. Please send your information to [valerie@tlgv.org](mailto:valerie@tlgv.org) by February 15<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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:
2/24/11	Steve Brady & John Moore (Southbridge)
3/24/11	Janine Upson (Union, CT )
4/28/11	Robert Wilder (Brookfield)
5/26/11	Bill Hultgren (Charlton)

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## 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

## "Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment."

Experience the Museum's permanent exhibit "Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships Between People and the Environment." The exhibit explores how the natural history of Southern New England has shaped, and continues to shape, the lives of the people who live here- and, in turn, how people have shaped the environment.

**Special Series for 2011: Natural History of Play**

Over the next year, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History is excited to invite you to join us for a special series on *The Natural History of Play*. Through lectures, programs, and workshops we will bring together experts from the University of Connecticut and beyond who will help us understand how the physical and biological processes occurring around us have shaped play behavior in animals. We will also explore what human expressions of play reveal about our changing relationship to the environment. Our goal is to take a closer look at the intimate connection between our natural history and our cultural history, and have fun doing it!

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](http://www.mnh.uconn.edu)

### **Winter-Spring Programs**

#### **Saturday Afternoons at the Museum: Native American Children's Games**

Saturday, January 22, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
Museum of Natural History – FREE!

Many traditional Native American children's games were games of skill and chance. Join the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center and learn how to play Native American games such as the deer toe bone game, ball and triangle, and bowl and dice (using reproductions) and test your own abilities.

Explore the Museum's *Natural History of Play* series by taking a closer look at traditional Native American 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.

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#### **Andersonville and Fort Pulaski: Archaeology at Two American Civil War Prisoner-of-War Sites in Georgia**

John H. Jameson, National Park Service  
Saturday, January 29, 2 pm (Snow date: Sunday, January 30)  
Smith Middle School, 216 Addison Road, Glastonbury, CT  
Adults and children ages 10 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
Admission: \$12, \$5 for students with ID.

The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA), The Archaeology Society of Connecticut (ASC), and the Connecticut State

Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center, part of CLAS at UConn, are co-sponsoring this special lecture in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War. The FOSA annual meeting begins before the lecture at 1 pm and is open to the public.

The Civil War may be best known for the battles at Fort Sumter, Antietam, and Gettysburg. An equally horrific aspect of this bloody conflict was the prisoner-of-war experience: an estimated 56,000 men perished in these prisons, a casualty rate higher than on the battlefields. Archaeologist John Jameson's talk will focus on two Georgia prison sites, managed by the U.S. National Park Service, in which archaeology has played an important role: Andersonville National Historic Site and Fort Pulaski National Monument.

John Jameson is a senior archeologist with the US National Park Service. His 25-plus years of public service have encompassed a broad range of projects in cultural heritage preservation and cultural resource management throughout the United States and overseas. A recognized national leader in public archaeology programs, he is a key player in the organization, development, and evaluation of training courses for park rangers and cultural resource specialists in the effective interpretation of archaeological and cultural heritage resources. 860.486.4460 – [www.mnh.uconn.edu](http://www.mnh.uconn.edu)

### **Change and Continuity in the Play History of American Children**

Dr. Howard Chudacoff, Brown University

Sunday, February 6, 3 pm

Biology/Physics Building, Storrs campus, Room 130

No registration required—FREE

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

Children at play. This phrase evokes memories from all of our childhoods, and often prompts us to make comparisons between our own childhoods and what we see children doing today. How did children play in America's past? Visions of hardworking farm and factory child laborers may come to mind, or conversely, of an idyllic freedom to wander the fields and forests with other children, engaging in imaginary pursuits.

Dr. Howard Chudacoff, George L. Littlefield Professor of American History and Professor of Urban Studies at Brown University has extensively researched and documented children's play throughout the history of the United States. What follows from his research, *Children at Play: An American History*, is a fascinating look at the continual conflict between parents' and society's insistence that play be structured and supervised to teach morals and models of behavior, and children's desire to be free of supervision in the natural world, devising their own games and imaginary play. Book signing to

follow lecture.

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### **Play Your Way to Fitness!**

Colleen A. Thompson, MS, RD, Director, Hawley Armory Fitness & Wellness Programs, and Hawley staff

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Allied Health Sciences

Tuesday evenings, 5 pm, February 8 through April 19 (except March 8), 10 weeks total

Hawley Armory Fitness and Wellness Center, UConn Storrs (map will be mailed to participants)

Advance registration required: \$75 for the series (\$60 for Museum members).

Adults ages 18 and above

Children naturally exhibit many forms of body play, including climbing on playground equipment, impromptu races and ball games, and other unorganized activities. As adults, with adult responsibilities, we tend to relegate body play to the back burner and our health can suffer as a consequence. This semester, the Museum and Archaeology Center is partnering with the Hawley Fitness and Wellness Center, part of UConn's Department of Allied Health Sciences, to offer this opportunity to try modern forms of body play and movement such as Zumba, Nia, and Pilates as well as the ancient practices of Yoga and Tai Chi, and others. Put fun back on your schedule and play your way to fitness!

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### **Native American Gaming Through History**

Saturday, February 19, 10 am to 12 noon

Stephen Cook, Curator, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Ledyard, CT (map will be mailed to participants)

Advance registration required: \$30 (\$25 for Museum members)

Includes admission to the Museum

Adults and older teens, ages 16 and above.

The subject of Indian gaming may evoke images of large and successful gambling casinos here in Connecticut and elsewhere in the United States and Canada. However, Native American gaming has a rich and long tradition stretching back into pre-history. Some of these games were for children, but many were for the entire family and even the whole community. Anthropologist and curator at the

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Steve Cook will tell you about these ancient traditions, showing you selected items from the research collections not currently on display. Afterwards, enjoy the Museum's exhibits detailing Native American history in New England as well as contemporary works by artists and craftspeople from all over the Americas.

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### **Blue Slope Country Museum**

138 Blue Hill Rd.  
Franklin, CT 06254  
[www.blueslope.com](http://www.blueslope.com)

Enjoy a horse drawn sleigh ride through the pristine trails at Blue Slope! Our sleigh accommodates up to 12 people. We also offer winter wagon rides when there is no snow. Our wagon accommodates 15 to 20 people.

*Book your winter outing with us! Fun for families, church groups, and friends!*

[Advanced reservations are required.](#)

Call for sleigh or wagon ride rates:

**[860-642-6413](tel:860-642-6413)**

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### **Leffingwell House Museum**

348 Washington St.  
Norwich, CT 06360  
Beryl Fishbone, Volunteer Program Manager  
[berylfishbone@yahoo.com](mailto:berylfishbone@yahoo.com)

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is only a month away! On Presidents Day weekend, February 18 –21 we hope you can spare 15 minutes to count the birds in our community. Last year, Norwich was the number 1 reporting city in Connecticut! Please contact Valerie at [valerie@tlgv.org](mailto:valerie@tlgv.org) for the attachments that accompanied this email.

The GBBC is an international event that is FUN, FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, educational, inside or outside, at home or away, healthy (because watching birds for 15 minutes is a proven stress reliever) activity suitable for all ages, economic and physical circumstances. You can even share the moments with your pet. (My cat watches the birds all the time and he is very relaxed.)

If you are not in Norwich please visit the [Birdcount.org](http://Birdcount.org) website for the

list of birds in your area.

Thank you for participating and thank you for sharing!

Happy Counting!

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