

# Historical Sites & Societies Enewsletter

March 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 April 15<sup>th</sup> to be included in the next edition.



**The Governor Samuel Huntington Trust**  
**The Lebanon Historical Society**  
**The Jonathan Trumbull House**  
**The Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**The Sons of the American Revolution**

Dear Friends,

As the owners of historic sites and museums here in eastern Connecticut, we have an important story to tell. That story is the significant roll the people of this area played in the founding of the New Republic. The area produced the revolutionary spirit that fueled the struggle for independence - the soldiers, sailors and marines who fought so gallantly for the sake of liberty, as well as the crucial suppliers of food, clothing, weapons and ammunition. Given the present economy and limited resources, it is difficult to see how we can effectively communicate our story alone. Collectively we stand a better chance of accomplishing that goal. Partnership are more apt to be awarded grants than individual applicants. To this end, several museums and patriotic organizations have begun discussions about coming together to plan an area-wide visitor experience, an experience that would lead the visitor on "A Trail to Independence."

You are invited to attend a workshop to discuss and assist in the planning of such a project on Saturday, April 2, from 9:00-12:00. Charlene Cutler from The last Green Valley, Inc. has agreed to facilitate the process and The Lebanon Historical Society has graciously offered to host the workshop. It is our sincere hope that your organization will participate in this exciting effort. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

A Planning Workshop for Historic Sites in Eastern Connecticut

***Revolutionizing Our Story of the Revolution***

Saturday, April 2, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Lebanon Historical Society Museum, 856 Trumbull Hwy., Rte. 87,  
Lebanon, CT

**Why?** There are notable sites in Lebanon and Scotland dealing with the American Revolution and the birth of the Republic. There are many more in The Last Green Valley that offer parts of the story. How can we collaborate to develop a compelling and entertaining experience for visitors? How can we package and market that experience creatively and efficiently? How can we build capacity for all the sites collectively?

**Who should attend?** Representatives from all historic sites in The Last Green Valley that are associated with the Revolution and the new nation, whether or not the site is open to the public or has a collection to exhibit. **Please RSVP to Lebanon Historical Society for planning purposes – 860-642-6579.**

**What should attendees bring?** One or two brief statements about the role their site plays in this regional story. Authority to make decisions regarding collaborative efforts.

**Agenda:**

9:00 Gather

9:15 Welcome – Donna Baron, Lebanon Historical Society

- Reiteration of purpose
- Introductions – everyone intro. themselves, their organization, their relevance to this discussion
- Overview of the workshop's process

9:30 Why this work matters? Charlene Cutler, The Last Green Valley, Inc.

- TLGV Tourism Survey results
- How to interpret without open sites or access

10:00 New Opportunities With Social Media - Cindy Sebrell, Item Creative

10:30 The Brain Storm – facilitator Charlene

- Categorize statements regarding each site's role
- Plot each site on map
- Provide large sheets of paper for attendees to list needs, etc.

11:00 Next Steps

- Categorize brain storm results into definable efforts
- Prioritize
- Choose action steps

11:30 Set date of next meeting and adjourn

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**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:  
4/28/11                Robert Wilder (Brookfield)  
5/26/11                Bill Hultgren (Charlton)

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### **Connecticut Gravestone Network**

Ruthie S. Brown  
860-643-5652

### **Connecticut Gravestone Network Annual Spring Symposium**

Cosponsored this year by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists And Friends of Center Cemetery Inc., East Hartford  
On Saturday March 19th 2011, 9am to 4pm  
Admission is \$10 a person: \$5 for CGN & FCC & CSG members  
At the South Senior Center in East Hartford  
70 Canterbury St, East Hartford

This program is well attended by area historians and all those interested in cemetery history, stories from the past, cemetery symbols and gravestone art or archaeology... WE have it ALL. Lectures, 20 plus vendors with displays and items to sell from Coffee cups and T-shirts with gravestone iconography, to one of a kind creative pieces, history and genealogy books and much more. Come and try your hand at carving like the old time stone cutters would have. Coffee Snacks & Lunch on site for a donation.

Directions and more info at [www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com) events page or call Ruthie Brown at 860-643-5652.

### **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

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

### **Kids Only Workshop: A Look at Children’s Games Through History**

Cheri Collins, Museum Staff

Saturday, April 2, 10 am to 12 noon

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

Advance registration required: \$20 (\$15 for Museum members)

Students ages 6 and above.

Throughout history and prehistory, children have played games. Using reproductions of pre-historic board games from ancient Mesopotamia, Native American children’s gaming pieces, colonial children’s board games, and actual board games from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, you will play your way through history. If the weather permits, we will also go outside to play some Native American and colonial outdoor games. See how these games compare to video games that you may play at home today!

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)

### **Horseplay!**

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Animal Sciences Department and Equine Extension Specialist, UConn

Sunday, April 3, 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.

We tell children to “quit horsing around”, or describe exuberant play in children as “horseplay”. What is the basis for these commonly used phrases? Horses are social group-living animals

just like humans, and like humans, play is an integral part of their maturation and their social communication. Play has been well documented and described in wild horses as well as in domesticated horses. We will explore the types of play behavior we see in horses and examine the similarities and differences in play between horses of different ages and different social situations. Some of the questions we will look at will include whether play objects designed for horses really stimulate play and whether horses develop “vices” due to play or lack of play. Discover the answers to these questions and more by joining Equine Extension Specialist Dr. Jenifer Nadeau for an intimate look into the mind of one of man’s most cherished domestic animals, the horse!

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

### **Worlds of Wonder: Nature in the Playground**

Frederick Martin, Director, Environment Design, Milford, CT

Saturday, April 9, 10 am to 12 noon

Stamford Museum & Nature Center, Stamford, CT (map will be mailed to participants)

Advance registration required: \$20 (\$15 for Museum members)

Adults and children ages 6 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to be the size of an insect and wander along a spider’s web? Or what it would be like to be a baby bird in a nest? How about dashing through a hollow log like a chipmunk? Thanks to the ingenious designs of Fred Martin, playscape designer and founder of Environment Design, you can do all of these and more! Mr. Martin, with degrees in Art and Urban Studies, set out to create a new field of design for playscapes, melding the concepts of safety in playground equipment with imaginative play, kinesthetic learning, and the natural environment. He will tell you how he developed this field, and introduce some of his designs scaled to let children (and adults!) feel like they are the size of various animals in their natural forest habitats. Stamford Museum & Nature Center has one of his company’s playscapes available for you to play on! After the activity, spend a lovely afternoon visiting the Stamford Museum and Nature Center’s interactive exhibits.

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)

### **The Promises and Pitfalls of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing**

Dr. Linda Strausbaugh, Center for Applied Genetics and Technology, UConn

Sunday, April 10, 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.

Genetic testing that is currently commercially available promises the individual information on everything from past ancestry to future susceptibility to disease. This lecture will introduce you to the basic science and innovative technologies that enable this new revolution in genetic testing. The ethical, legal, and social implications of direct-to-consumer genetic testing will also be explored.

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)

### **Bringing the Ancient World to Life Through Video Gaming**

Dr. Roger Travis, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, UConn

Saturday, April 16, 10 am to 12 noon

UConn Storrs location (map will be mailed to participants)

Advance registration required: \$20 (\$15 for Museum members)

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

Video games are a popular pastime, especially among college students. Some academics have begun to adapt video gaming to the teaching of traditional subject matter, bringing a fresh perspective and a new excitement to learning in the institutional setting. In this workshop, we will engage in a Greek classics micro-course, using the game-based format that Dr. Travis has developed to teach his classics courses. With the other participants in the workshop, you will play the beginning of what Travis calls a “practomimetic course,” becoming a member of a team tasked by the all-powerful Demiurge with saving civilization by learning to read Greek and to appreciate the achievements of the ancient Athenians. This workshop will allow you to play with the ancient classics in video-game format, a dramatically new and unique approach.

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)

### **Saturday Afternoons at the Museum: Twentieth Century Children’s Games**

Saturday, April 16, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Museum of Natural History – FREE!

Have you ever played some of the games your parents and grandparents loved, such as checkers, Scrabble, and Parcheesi? Join the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center and learn how to play some of

the games made popular during the Twentieth Century.

Explore the Museum's *Natural History of Play* series by taking a closer look at traditional Twentieth Century 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](http://www.mnh.uconn.edu)

### **Ancient Technologies—Making Flint Tools**

Heather Cruz, Anthropology, UConn

Dr. Cara Roure-Johnson, Anthropology, UConn

Saturday, April 30, 10 am to 12 noon

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

Advance registration required: \$20 (\$15 for Museum member)

Includes materials

Adults and children ages 12 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

You may have seen “arrowheads” and other ancient stone tools on exhibit in museums—this is your chance to make and use them! In this workshop, you will learn about the history and art of flint knapping: producing stone tools with sharp edges by percussion and pressure. This type of tool use predates modern humans by at least 1.5 million years, as discovered by UConn scientist Dr. Cara Roure-Johnson. Learn how archaeologists identify and date these tools, what properties make materials appropriate for use in this type of tool manufacture, and discover the many different types of sharp-edged stone tools used by our ancestors.

Through experimentation, and observation of the people who still manufacture and use these tools, we now have a good understanding of this ancient technology. Today, there are many individuals and organizations devoted to knapping. Learn how to use some of these tools for woodworking and food preparation. Then, you will flint-knap to create tools yourself! Try your hand at this type of stone tool manufacture under the guidance of UConn archaeologist and “knapper” Heather Cruz in this exciting workshop.

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)

### **Brooklyn Historical Society**

Contact person: Elaine Knowlton

Telephone: 860-774-7728

E-mail: [eknowlton@charter.net](mailto:eknowlton@charter.net)

## **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](http://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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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)

I am so excited! Please go to our website

[www.Leffingwellhousemuseum.org](http://www.Leffingwellhousemuseum.org) click newsletters, click Beryl's Bulletins, click From the Vault and see the magic of Joyce Thomas, Webmaster extraordinaire present the hard work of Beverly Muldoon. It may take a bit of time to get everything up and the way we want it so visit the site often and tell your friends.



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