

# Historical Sites & Societies Enewsletter

October 2010

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

## 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

## Museum's Permanent Exhibit:

"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 2010: Natural History of Health

This fall, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History is excited to continue its 2010's focus: *The Natural History of Health*. Through lectures, programs, and workshops, the series 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 influence our physical well being and shape our perceptions of what it means to be healthy. The goal of *The Natural History of Health* series is to take a closer look at the intimate connections between natural



history and cultural history, and become healthier while doing it!

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center, both part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn. 860.486.4460 -

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

### **The Center for Applied Genetics and Technology**

Dr. Linda Strausbaugh, Director

Saturday, October 23, 10 am to 12 noon

UConn Storrs location

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

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

Have you ever seen the inside of a real forensic DNA laboratory? Join Dr. Linda Strausbaugh, internationally renowned geneticist and Director of the Center for Applied Genetics and Technology (CAGT) at UConn, for the rare opportunity to learn about the equipment and procedures UConn scientists use when exploring the secrets our genes can reveal. Dr. Strausbaugh will begin by discussing several noteworthy projects that she has worked on with fellow scientists including Connecticut State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni. Dr. Strausbaugh will then lead a tour of the CAGT facilities, which include a molecular genetics research and training laboratory, a DNA typing research and training laboratory, a non-traditional DNA typing laboratory, and a bioinformatics-oriented data analysis center. While the field of bioinformatics clearly has practical medical applications that could be very promising, Dr. Strausbaugh and her team are also aware of ethical concerns involved in this emerging field. As a culmination of your experience at CAGT, Dr. Strausbaugh will mediate a discussion about the ethics of bioinformatics.

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Center for Applied Genetics and Technology, both part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn.

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### **Saturday Afternoons at the Museum: Your Beautiful Smile**

Saturday, October 23, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Museum of Natural History – FREE!

Sink your teeth into this! What exactly is a tooth and why do we have a mouth full of them? What are the parts of a tooth? How can the tooth of an animal tell you what it eats? How can teeth be an important clue to the history of a species, including our own? And, how can you keep your own teeth strong and healthy? Let's chew into this topic using actual teeth from many different species!

Explore the Natural History of Health by taking a closer look at the human body and how it works! Drop in any time between 1:30 and 3:30 pm this Saturday afternoon to join in a fun hands-on activity and explore your world through experimentation and observation. Recommended for students in grades 1 through 5, accompanied by an adult. It's free!

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center, both part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn. 860.486.4460 - <http://www.mnh.uconn.edu/>

### **Stone Age Atlantis**

David Robinson, Adjunct Professor, Maritime Studies, UConn-Avery Point

Sunday, October 24, 3 pm

Biology/Physics Building, Room 130

No registration required—FREE

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

Maritime Archaeology is an exciting branch of archaeology that involves the underwater investigation of archaeological sites. Recent work has revealed a submerged landscape known as the Doggerlands in the southern part of the North Sea between present day Great Britain and Europe. The inhabitants of this area developed a rich and advanced culture 8,500 years ago that was submerged by rising seas and lost to history. Today, maritime archaeological work off the coast of Denmark near the town of Skaelskor is uncovering the remains of a submerged settlement researchers have named Tudsehage. UConn archaeologist David Robinson is one of the team members recovering the remarkable

finds of Tudsehage, including many organic artifacts preserved by the anaerobic underwater environment. The National Geographic Channel produced a television show about the investigation of this very real civilization that disappeared beneath the waves just like the mythical Atlantis. This exciting and informative National Geographic episode will be shown, along with some original slides of the work done by Robinson last summer, followed by a question and answer session.

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Maritime Studies Program, both 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: Gourd Art**

Jeanne “Morningstar” Kent, Interpreter at the Institute for American Indian Studies and gourd artist

Saturday, November 6, 10 am to 12 noon

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

Advance registration required: \$55 (\$45 for Museum members); includes materials fee

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

Jeanne Kent, also known as Morningstar, is descended from Abenaki, Nipissing, Montagnais, and Algonquin peoples, as well as Europeans. She is a nationally-acclaimed gourd artist who earned her Master of Art Education from the University of Hartford. In this workshop you will learn about the archaeology and history of the indigenous use of gourd containers in Eastern North America, as well as the modern cultivation of gourd plants and how to safely prepare them for use as containers. Then, Morningstar will provide the materials and instructions for completing your own gourd container to take home - decorated with Eastern Woodland motifs or designs of your own. Enjoy this unique opportunity to learn an unusual art form, and its fascinating history, right here at UConn!

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## **Shamans, Medicine Men and Ethnobotany in Nicaragua**

Dr. Felix Coe, EEB, UConn Greater Hartford

Sunday, November 7, 3 pm

Biology/Physics Building, Room 130

No registration required—FREE

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

No look at the natural history of health would be complete without examining the topic of ethnobotanical medicine.

Ethnobotany is the study of the use of plants by indigenous peoples, and indigenous medicine has traditionally been the realm of shamans and medicine men. Dr. Felix Coe, a native of Nicaragua, has been investigating plants and plant use by indigenous people in Central America since 1972.

Dr. Coe has had extensive contact with the Rama and Miskitu people of southeastern Nicaragua, and has conducted a systematic study of their ethnobotany. Of the 249 plant species documented as medicinal, food, fiber, or tools by the Rama and Miskitu people, 171 were used by both groups. These results have important implications for understanding ethnobotany as they demonstrate that unrelated indigenous groups sharing the same ecosystem, though separated by physical distance, can have similar ethnobotanical lore. Join Dr. Coe for this engaging talk and find out why plant uses are similar for these two peoples.

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, both part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn.

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## **How to Grow Fresh Air!**

Dr. Cynthia Jones, Associate Professor, EEB, UConn  
Clinton Morse, Plant Facilities Growth Manager, EEB  
Greenhouses, UConn

Saturday, November 13, 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.

We know that plants produce oxygen, the molecule that has made life on Earth (at least on top of Earth!) possible. Plants also remove carbon dioxide and many pollutants from the air; in fact, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) demonstrated that some plants can even remove toxins such as formaldehyde! Horticultural therapy research and psychological studies have shown that plants in the indoor environment help improve emotional well-being, lower blood pressure, boost the immune system, and can increase productivity in work-related settings. You can benefit from these “local ecosystem” services in your home and office too. Clinton Morse, Dr. Cynthia Jones, and EEB Greenhouses staff will present the scientific evidence for the healthful benefits of plants in the home and office. You will also be introduced to exciting and novel ways of incorporating plants into living spaces. Then, you will have a guided tour of the world-class EEB Greenhouses’ collections with a special emphasis on the species you can grow in your home or office that will offer you the maximum benefits, and how to best care for them. A very green idea!

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, both part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn.

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### **Saturday Afternoons at the Museum: Get Moving! Animal Superpowers and You**

Saturday, November 20, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Museum of Natural History – FREE!

Can you jump as far as a cricket? Could you catch a flying insect as fast as a bat can? Can you lift weights as well as an ant can? Try to match these animals’ athletic abilities and learn why movement is important for your own health!

Explore the Natural History of Health by taking a closer look at the human body and how it works! Drop in any time between 1:30 and 3:30 pm this Saturday afternoon to join in a fun hands-on activity and explore your world through experimentation and observation. Recommended for students in grades 1 through 5, accompanied by an adult. It’s free!

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**Roseland Cottage**

556 Route 169

Woodstock, CT 06281

p 860-928-4074

f 860-963-2208

Lisa Centola

Roseland Cottage Site Manager

**The Bowen's 1887 Christmas Celebration**

*When:* Sunday, December 6, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

*Admission:* Free

This annual Christmas program highlights decorations based upon the Bowens' 1887 written account of their Christmas celebration in New York. Enjoy first floor tours of the house, holiday music, and readings from Dickens's A Christmas Carol. Appointments can also be made for special group tours through January 10, for a fee of \$5 per person.

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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:
10/28/10	Alice Hoy Hunt (Holland)
12/2/10	Larry & Kitty Lowenthal (Brimfield)
1/27/11	David Worth (Wales)

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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### **Dr. Ashbel Woodward Museum**

387 Rte. 32  
Franklin, CT 06254  
Phone: 860-642-1988

### **November Events at the Dr. Ashbel Woodward Museum.**

The Woodward Museum presents museum director Rick Spencer presenting his historic music program “The Greatest Hits of the Civil War: America’s First Professional Songwriters.” The program features songs written by Daniel Emmett, Stephen Foster, Henry Clay Work and George F. Root. Theirs were among the most popular songs of the period of the War Between the States. The presentation includes a discussion of the impact, both positive and negative, of the minstrel shows on American culture. The program will be at 2:00pm on Saturday November 6, 2010. Admission is free. Donations will be graciously accepted. For more information please call 860.642.1988.

The Woodward Museum’s first Hearth and Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5pm. The event will feature historic crafts demonstrations, music and a number of special activities. Admission is free. Donations will be graciously accepted. For more information please call 860.642.1988

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The [Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation](#) is now accepting pre-applications for the

# 2011 Barns Grant!

Pre-applications due January 1, 2011

Full applications due March 1, 2011

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**What is the Barns Grant:** an historic preservation technical assistance and granting program of the Connecticut Trust for

Historic Preservation, with funding from the Connecticut General Assembly.

**The purpose of the Barns Grant:** to support efforts to preserve the iconic historic barns of Connecticut. The Barns Grant is offered to non-profit (501c3) organizations and municipalities and to private owners of significant barns.

**Grant Awards:** 2011 Barns Grants are for conditions assessments, feasibility studies and minor stabilization projects.

· **Conditions Assessment:** the Trust will pay 75% of costs up to **\$1,500.00**; the owner is responsible for the rest in cash.

In-kind match is not allowable.

· **Feasibility Study:** the Trust will pay 75% of costs up to **\$1,500.00**; the owner is responsible for the rest in cash. In-kind match is not allowable.

· **Stabilization:** the Trust will pay 50% of costs up to **\$5,000.00**; the owner is responsible for the rest in cash.

· All grants require a cash match. In-kind match is not allowable.

**Priority Considerations:**

· Exemplary examples of barn type or era

· Projects that fill a demonstrated need and provide a clear benefit to the community.

· Projects that involve properties eligible for or listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmarks.

· Location of barn in a public view-shed

· Use in agriculture

· Projects that serve as a catalyst for further investment.

**Eligibility requirements:**

· Be a member of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

· Demonstrated partnerships with community or municipality encouraged

· All applicants must have the ability to administer the grant, both fiscal and project management

· All buildings need to have a conditions assessment of the building performed

· Preservation/restoration/engineering/other consulting professionals must be part of any grant request

**Criteria- MUST include at least 3 of the following:**

\*Barns over 75 years old.

- \*Located in a prominent public view-shed
- \*Demonstration of Public benefit.
- \*Outstanding example of type or era.
- \*In active agricultural use
- \*Listed in the local historic survey, State Register of Historic Places  
and/or National Register of Historic Places.
- \*Barn with Scribe Rule framing, evidence of pre-1830 existence.
- \*Support from local historical organization and municipality. Can also  
have support from local agricultural group.

### **How to Apply:**

We are now accepting pre-applications for the 2011 BARNS GRANT. Pre-applications will be reviewed the first Monday of each month.

The Trust will notify those applicants who will be asked to go forward with a full application by January 1, 2011.

The grants will be awarded late spring/early summer of 2011.  
**All applicants MUST work with a member of the CT Trust staff in preparing the full application. The Trust will not accept full applications without CT Trust staff assistance. Applicants MUST be members of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.**

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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)

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> we'll be bedding down the museum for the winter or so we thought. We have been selected by the editors of USATODAY Weekend Magazine and Newman's Own to receive breakfast cereal for our "Make A Difference Day" volunteers. So for two hours of yard or indoor labor you can

enjoy Newman's Own cereal, milk or yogurt, coffee or hot cocoa in a genuine colonial setting.

We need volunteers to bring ladders and equipment to clean the gutters and down spots, clear the brush from the highway drain that runs down to the river, pull out the weeds and clear the gardens. Each room needs to have its walls and floors washed, the wood furnishings cleaned and polished. Plastic goes up on the windows and new fireplace blocks will be built and installed to help us save on heat.

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YES! It is official and the two small cases of Newman's Own cereal have been delivered to the museum. Anyone interested in sponsoring the milk, yogurt, plastic spoons, dish soap, coffee, tea bags, cocoa, sugar or some fresh fruit for about 20 people is asked to e-mail or call me at 860.887.9000.

We are also seeking sponsors for the fireplace blocks which will total between \$150 - \$200 to do all (8) of the fireplaces. Thank you to the people that sent information on the chimney pillow blocks and welding blankets but their cost was \$75 - \$200 each and that is just more than we can financially handle at this time.

If you know a group, organization or have a few friends that would like to take a short break to hear a story or two from the 17 and 1800's from 5 pm - 7 pm on the evening of your choosing, enjoy a cup of cocoa and a cookie or two before speeding off to holiday madness . Please leave a message at 860.887.9000.



The Last Green Valley  
P.O. Box 29  
111 Main St.  
Danielson, Connecticut 06239

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

