

CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY &  
CONNECTICUT ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER



2009 ANNUAL REPORT



University of Connecticut  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## OUR MISSION

The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center serve the University of Connecticut and the public by promoting an understanding and appreciation of our natural and cultural world, especially as related to New England.

Within the mission, the Museum's fundamental goals are to acquire and preserve collections and to use collections, exhibits, and programs:

- To cultivate an interest about natural history among the citizens of Connecticut.
- To communicate the significance and vulnerability of archaeological and natural resources.
- To enhance University learning, teaching, and research.
- To enrich elementary and secondary education.
- To acquire and present knowledge about the natural and cultural history of Connecticut and New England.
- To showcase the academic resources of the University of Connecticut and provide a public connection to them.

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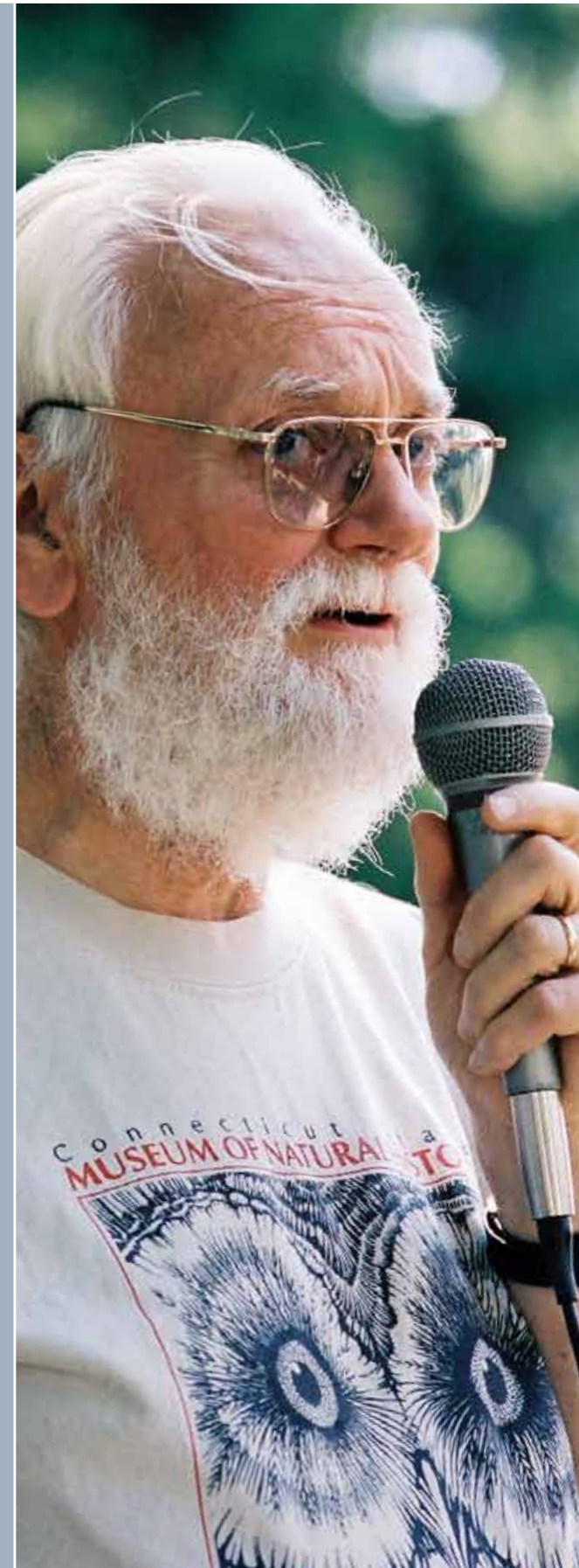
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Cover: fossil dinosaur footprint in Mudstone, Portland, CT.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Founding Director Carl W. Rettenmeyer, 1931 - 2009.  
Photo by Robert Rattner.

Dear Friends,

It is with a broad and appreciative perspective that we look back this year to reflect on the life and work of Dr. Carl Rettenmeyer, our Founding Director, who passed away on April 9, 2009.

Carl established the Museum in 1985, determined to give everyone in Connecticut opportunities to develop an appreciation and understanding of the natural world through collections and public education. For almost 25 years, thanks to Carl, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History has been able to provide people of all ages with experiences that fuel and inspire their own sense of wonder and curiosity—and for almost 25 years we have also been working to grow our facility and staff so that we can accomplish and build upon all that Carl envisioned.

It has not been easy, needless to say, but Carl's legacy of determination has served us well—and from our new permanent home in our own building we look to the next 25 years with strength and tenacity. Carl's tireless campaign to establish public support for a State Museum of Natural History is the foundation on which everything has been built, and this strong foundation has enabled us to share the wonders of the natural and cultural world with the citizens of Connecticut and beyond.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Museum and Archaeology Center, we extend our deepest thanks to the many members and friends whose generosity and shared vision helped establish and grow our Museum since Carl first gave it life.

Thank you.

Leanne Kennedy Harty  
Director

Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD  
State Archaeologist





Photo courtesy of the UConn Ecogarden Club.

# HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Museum of Natural History supports the University's most fundamental academic traditions—traditions built not only on passing knowledge to future generations, but also on applying this knowledge to solve problems and improve the quality of people's lives. Through the Museum and Archaeology Center's exhibits, campus programs, community involvement, and outreach activities, the Museum served more than 80,000 people this year.

The Museum presented 68 advertised public programs. Each program examined the intimate connection between natural history and human culture—and a unique new thematic series, *The Natural History of Food*, was a major vehicle for exploring this connection in 2009. Through lectures, field activities, and workshops, experts from the University of Connecticut and other institutions helped Museum visitors and public program participants examine how the physical and biological processes around us affect how and what we eat, and how what we eat shapes our world and our culture. This series was a tremendously successful multidisciplinary approach to engage the public.

In addition to presenters from the Museum's home departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Anthropology, Storrs campus collaborators this year included the Center for Land Use Education and Research, UConn Dining Services, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Department of Extension, the School of Fine Arts, William Benton Museum of Art, Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, the Physiology and Neurobiology Electron Microscope Lab, the Dodd Research Center, and the Physics Department. UConn branch campus collaborators included the Avery Point Campus Department of Anthropology and Connecticut Sea Grant, the UConn Law School, the Waterbury campus Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning, and "Project O" at Avery Point. Outside agency and institutional collaborators included the DEP Meigs Point Nature Center and Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, the Vintage Radio Museum, Gurdleville Grist Mill, the DNA EpiCenter, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, Mercyhurst College Archaeological Institute, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., Connecticut Valley Mycological Society, and Connecticut Landmarks. There was a marked increase in collaboration with Storrs campus student groups this year, highlighted by activities which involved the EcoHusky Gardeners, UConn Real Slow Food, and the UConn Forestry Club.

Two large-scale traveling exhibits created by the Museum were displayed off-site this year—one in East Hartford and the other in Barkhamsted, CT. Both exhibits helped the Museum maintain a presence beyond campus, providing a vehicle for the public to connect with the academic and scholarly work of the University in their own communities. The Museum's Biodiversity Exhibit, "In Your Own Backyard", with content provided by UConn's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology faculty, remains on display at Goodwin College, site of the 2009 Connecticut State BioBlitz. The second exhibit features the "Barkhamsted Lighthouse," one component of a larger exhibit highlighting Connecticut anthropology and archae-



Photos by Dollie Harvey.



Photo courtesy of MysteryQuest.



ology, and is displayed at the historic Squires Tavern at the Peoples Forest in Barkhamsted, CT.

Through awards made from dedicated named endowment funds, the Museum provided six UConn students with financial support for fieldwork and research projects this year. During this period, the Museum also participated in the Writing Internship Program in the Department of English. The program, designed for students in English and other Humanities disciplines, allows participants to demonstrate the cognitive and communication skills developed as a student and demonstrate their abilities beyond a typical academic environment.

The Office of State Archaeology remains an important hub for the Archaeological community—locally, regionally, and nationally. In addition to his legislated responsibilities, Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni served as President of the National Association of State Archaeologists this year, leading the association in the development of consensus views concerning the conservation of the Nation's cultural resources and providing guidance and direction regarding laws, procedures, current research, educational programs, and ethical standards related to the archaeology field.

As Connecticut's State Archaeologist, Dr. Bellantoni receives numerous requests to provide special lectures about his experiences investigating some of the State's most intriguing historical mysteries. Approximately 1,500 people attended public talks presented by Dr. Bellantoni across the state this year.

Beginning in August 2008 and replayed throughout the year, a popular episode of The History Channel's *MonsterQuest* series featured Dr. Bellantoni. "Vampires in America" focused on vampire folk beliefs in New England in the 1700s which existed for more than a century and significantly impacted communities in our region. Dr. Bellantoni led a team of experts to research and explain the basis for the panic. The success of Dr. Bellantoni's contribution to the *MonsterQuest* series has led to his involvement in a new History Channel series, *MysteryQuest*. The episode, investigating the death of Adolph Hitler, featured Dr. Bellantoni and Dr. Linda Strausbaugh and her team from UConn's Center for Applied Genetics and Technology showcasing the University and facilities. The *MysteryQuest* episode premiered during the 2009-2010 academic year.

The Museum's ability to feature UConn teaching, research, and expertise continues to be a valuable component of the University's public outreach efforts. To cap this academic year, the tenth Connecticut State BioBlitz was held in Hartford's Keney Park and on the Goodwin College River Campus June 12 and 13. The site of the first state BioBlitz in 1999, Keney Park provided an opportunity to bring the event full-cycle, utilizing data gathered in 1999 to compare and assess the differences occurring over a decade. Over 100 scientists from UConn and other institutions completed the survey, and 26 middle school students from across the state joined them as participants in the event's unique 24-hour "Junior Scientist" program. This year's BioBlitz received an \$11,000 grant from the Dorr Foundation to fully support the Junior Scientist program, which represents the largest single grant to the program in its 10-year history.

# EDUCATION

**Education, Outreach & Public Engagement** Showcasing the teaching, research, and resources of the University of Connecticut by providing opportunities for the public to interact with and learn from leading scholars in a meaningful and engaging way establishes the Museum and Archaeology Center as an indispensable component of the University's education and outreach responsibilities. Additionally, collaborations with diverse communities and organizations throughout the state make vital connections between the University and people of Connecticut, establishing important and enduring relationships between UConn and the citizens it serves. Through the Museum's permanent exhibit, *Human's Nature*, campus programs, community involvement, and outreach activities, the Museum served more than 80,000 people this year. Program highlights and an accounting of participation follows.

**Public Programming** The educational approach developed for our permanent exhibit, with a focus of developing our audience's understandings of natural and cultural history and humankind's intimate role in it, is at the core of a new and broader educational strategy for the Museum. This year, charged with reevaluating and updating our five-year Strategic Plan, we worked to incorporate key concepts of this new approach into the Museum's educational endeavors. In all, the Museum offered nineteen field-learning workshops, nine family activity programs, three ancient technologies workshops, nine children's drop-in activities, three day-trips, and eight Museum lectures.

The Museum's new thematic series, *The Natural History of Food*, played a prominent role in exploring the intimate connection between natural history and human culture. Through lectures, field activities, and workshops, experts from the University of Connecticut and beyond helped Museum participants examine how the physical and biological processes around us affect how and what we eat, and how what we eat shapes our world and our culture. Dr. Margaret Bruchac, from UConn's Anthropology Department and Coordinator of the Native American Studies Program at the Avery Point campus, talked about the wide-ranging impact the foods of the Americas have had since European explorers and Native American communities first interacted in *Algonkian Indian Influences on Yankee Foodways*. Dr. Alexia Smith, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, discussed the beginnings of agriculture in the Middle East in her lecture *Seeds, Glorious Seeds! Examining Food Use in Antiquity*. The University of Connecticut's Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Plant Growth Greenhouses offered *Sugar and Spice and Chocolate*, a special guided tour to see many foods, spices, and medicines in their pre-harvested and unprocessed forms. Dr. Cameron Faustman, Associate Dean with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, shared and answered many of the meat related questions his students have asked over the years in his lecture *Why is There a Bag in My Turkey? -- Meat 101*. Rebecca Canfield, from the Department of Dining Services and coordinator the University's *Local Routes* program, offered *What You Eat Can Make a Difference*, a talk exploring the effects food purchases have on the economy, environment, and the people and animals

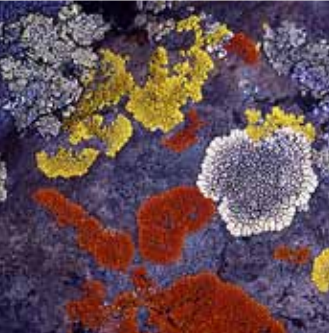
involved in food production. UConn's Forestry and Wildlife Club offered a hands-on visit to their sugarhouse. Kevin McBride, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UConn and Director of Research for the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, discussed how Native Americans from the New England area changed from gathering and hunting food to sophisticated agriculture practices in his lecture *The Maize Agricultural Revolution: Myth or Reality?* Meg Harper, Director of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., discussed the seasonal acquisition, preparations, rituals, and consumption of food by Native Americans in her workshop *Life Without a Supermarket -- Native American Foodways*. Russell Schimmer, a PhD candidate in UConn's Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering and UConn Law School student, discussed impacts of human behavior, such as war and genocide, on the environment and the availability of resources, such as food, by using remote sensing techniques and satellite imaging in his lecture *Genocide, Environment, and Agricultural Sustainability*. Cheryl Rautio, Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program Coordinator with the UConn Cooperative Extension System, and antique canning jar expert Cameron Boum explored the cultural and environmental impact of canning: past, present, and future in their program *Preserving Our Harvests*. The UConn EcoGarden offered a program exploring how the way food is grown could affect your health and the health of your community. Sea Grant Extension Educator Tessa Getchis and Jim Markow, Director of the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative, explored the history of Connecticut's shellfishing roots, today's aquaculture industry, and offered a tour of the shellfish hatchery and processing facilities in the program *Farming the Sound*. Elizabeth MacAlister and Mark Gillman, farmers and artisanal cheese makers, invited participants to explore their dairy farm, where they raise 40 pastured Jersey cows and produce award-winning cheeses. Amy Gronus, from UConn's Dining Services, gave a presentation about the beekeeping and honey production program at UConn, along with a visit to the hives.

Peter Picone, wildlife biologist with the Department of Environmental Protection showed techniques used for managing land to produce natural and renewable foods. While cooking a traditional New England Native American clambake, participants learned about the surprising history of favorite New England dishes from artist, educator, gourmet cook and food writer Dale Carson of



Photo courtesy of Project O.





U.S. Forest Service photograph.

the Abenaki Nation. The *Natural History of Food* series came to a close with a special behind the scenes tour at one of Connecticut's internationally award-winning wineries, Priam Vineyards.

The Museum and Archaeology Center continued the successful Kids Are Scientists Too (KAST) archaeology summer science modules in 2008, and added a new module, Campus Biodiversity. In this exciting new adventure, participants looked at the biodiversity on campus in unexpected places. Participants explored biodiversity on and in the human body, the Dining Services Food Court and kitchens, and around the pond by the Chemistry building. The archaeology modules continued with one introductory and one advanced sessions in 2008. The site, selected in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the State Historic Preservation Office in 2004, has been an ongoing archaeological investigation under the supervision of UConn archaeologists and the Office of State Archaeology. All artifacts recovered in the excavations, as well as the field notes written by each student, become a part of the State of Connecticut's Archaeological collections, and contribute to our understanding of Connecticut's past. A selection of the artifacts recovered by the participants has been exhibited in the Museum of Natural History, and subsequent excavations will update that portable display.

Atlatl Day and Knap-in moved to Hammonasset State Park in 2008, and was a resounding success. Over 350 people attended this event, sponsored by the Friends of Hammonasset State Park, Friends of State Archaeology, and the World Atlatl Association in collaboration with the Museum. There was a World Atlatl Association sanctioned contest held in conjunction with this event.

The Museum's continuing series of programs with Connecticut Landmarks and The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism took place with a tour of the Phelps Hatheway Homestead in Suffield, a presentation on the life of Prudence Crandall and a tour of the Crandall home in Canterbury, and an archaeological presentation and tour at the Henry Whitfield State Museum.

The Museum collaborated with The Last Green Valley to offer two "Walktober" events in Mansfield and in Griswold, partnered with the DNA Epicenter in New London to offer a new workshop on forensic analysis at their Henry Lee mock crime scene, presented a planetarium visit and night sky workshop through UConn's Physics Department, and gave participants an opportunity to see UConn's Scanning Electron Microscope in operation with the Physiology and Neurobiology Department. Patrons also had the opportunity to learn about *Drawing Under the Microscope* from Virge Kask, the Scientific Illustrator for the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Cheri Collins, the Museum's Program and Collection

Manager, offered the ancient technology program *Soapstone Carving* as well as *Bats Alive*, which explored bat biology and behavior.

The Museum co-sponsored the Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series, which brings leading scholars and scientists to the University of Connecticut to present public lectures on nature and the environment.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA), and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Dr. James Adovasio of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute presented *Early Human Populations in the New World: A Biased Perspective*. His talk, featured as part of the FOSA Annual Meeting, shared his excavation findings of the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, the earliest well-dated archaeological site providing evidence of human populations in the Western Hemisphere at least 16,000 years ago.

The Museum was a sponsor and also served on the planning committee of Connecticut Environmental Action Day (CEAD) with the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Department of Extension, Center for Academic Programs, Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities, Office of Early College Programs, and the Department of Student Activities Office of Community Outreach. CEAD is a one-day conference at the University of Connecticut, which seeks to inspire high school students to take an active role in addressing environmental and natural resource issues. A total of 130 teens took part in CEAD this year, which included students from the Center for Academic Program's Upward Bound/ConnCap, GEARUP, and Educational Talent Search programs.

2009 marked the 10th anniversary of the Connecticut State BioBlitz and included a return to Keney Park, site of the state's first BioBlitz in 1999. Goodwin College's Riverside Drive Campus in East Hartford served as the "base camp" and the hub of public activity. Over the course of one day the scientists were able to identify 1,715 different plants and animals from Hartford's Keney Park, and the areas surrounding Goodwin College, including adjacent reaches of the Connecticut River. Also participating were 26 middle school and high school students from across Connecticut that were selected as Jr. Scientists to work alongside notable scientists and some of the region's top naturalists. The students had guided mini-safaris, collected their own specimens, and offered presentations to the public.

**Outreach Activities** The Museum participated as an exhibitor at a number of large-scale community events to create awareness of the Museum and Archaeology Center with special emphasis on educational opportunities for the general public. These events included the Mansfield Know Your Towns Fair with 1,000 visitors, the 2009 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show with 30,000 visitors and the 5th Annual Big Y Kids Fair with 8,000 visitors. The Museum also provided adult learners at the Redding Garden Club with a program on the archaeology and biology of fiber plants throughout the world.

The Museum's second floor program and meeting space has increasingly become a popular special event and conference location for the entire University, hosting an array of VIP receptions, alumni and student programs, educational activities, and department meetings. This year's events included numerous CLAS activi-

ties, Alumni Association and Foundation gatherings, and a variety of diverse departmental gatherings and special events. The Museum does not charge campus departments and units for use of the space, and appreciates the opportunity to support University activities in this way. The diverse events and programs bring individuals and groups to the Museum who might not otherwise visit. The Museum's popular exhibit is the primary reason for the popularity of the Museum as a campus venue, and we are pleased to have the opportunity expand visitorship and visibility of the Museum and Archaeology Center in this manner.

The Museum piloted curriculum and resource materials for the KAST Archaeology Field School. Through a graduate project with the NEAG School of Education, the Archaeology Field School Curriculum was transformed into usable lesson plans and resource materials for outreach. With its successful use by the Museum, the Mohegan Tribe was provided the curriculum for the development of their public archaeology program.

The Museum has long been on the forefront of outreach programming within the University community, this year we were asked to participate in a university-wide initiative related to Outreach and Public Engagement. Our task was to help conceptualize an online searchable database of all University outreach programming in order to make the research and academic work done at all of UConn's campuses more useable to the people of Connecticut. Toward this end we organized a site map that laid out how such a website could be structured, constructed a mockup of the site to demonstrate what the end-users experience might be, and defined a task list and project timeline to document the resource that would be needed to build such a product.

**Exhibits** Since opening in the spring of 2007 the Museum's permanent exhibit *Human's Nature* has consistently drawn a diverse mix of faculty, staff, students, and the general public from around Connecticut and beyond. Paired with the multi-use programming space located next to the exhibit, our unique venue has also helped attract new professional and academic audiences to campus for meeting and seminars.

A multitude of school, camp, enrichment, and other organizations statewide arranged group visits to the museum over the year, incorporating the content provided by the permanent exhibit into their own lessons, programming, or interest areas. These visits often included supplemental interpretation and activities by museum staff. The summer saw groups of visitors from the Sweeney School, University of Hartford's Summer Place, CREC, Breakthrough New Haven, the Community School for the Arts, the Mystic Nature Center, UConn's Alumni Center, and Girls Inc. of Hartford. In the fall, visitors included students and teachers from Teacher's Memorial Middle School in Norwich, Vernon Center Middle School, Killingly Schools, and Burnell High School. The Museum was a destination for UConn classes as well, which included all of the First Year Experience classes and all sections of Anthropology 106. Winter and spring included students and teachers from EastConn, CREC's American Studies classes led

by Dr. Walter Woodward, a group from UConn's Center for Learning In Retirement, Achievement First Hartford Academy, and the Lifelong Learning Institute.

To date, maintenance costs for *Human's Nature*, both in financial and human capital, have been well below the projected budget, amounting, literally, to no more than changing the occasional light bulb. The design, installation and reliability of the multi-media components of the exhibit have been a success beyond our best expectations.

By special request, two traveling exhibits were brought out of retirement and underwent extensive refits to bring them back into service. The first was a component of the exhibit *Surrounded by the Past*, which was originally produced in 1992, and explores the archaeology of the Lighthouse Site in Barkhamstead, CT. It is now on an open-ended loan to the Barkhamstead Historical Society. The second is the Biodiversity exhibit, originally produced in 2000, and brought back to life for installation at Goodwin College in East Hartford. It was on display between April and June as a lead-up and compliment to the 2009 BioBlitz.

The collections displays in UConn's Biology/Physics Building were developed and designed with the Museum, and for 5 years have been featured in the lobby area of the building. In January, the UConn Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology contacted the Museum to request assistance on a special display/mounting problem they had encountered in their collections display in the Biology/Physics Building. The Museum successfully developed and fabricated a solution that met their needs.

**Multimedia Communication** The Museum and Archeology Center produce a number of different information sources. Three program brochures were produced to correspond with the University's academic calendar: Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Museum's program brochures, and corresponding online current calendar of events, highlight the lectures, field activities, workshops, trips, and special events being offered each season. Two Museum newsletters were produced, with Biodiversity and then the Natural History of Food as featured topics. Both showcased the work of the Museum and University by highlighting special programs, faculty research, natural history and cultural history information, and more. Additionally, the annual report highlighted all of the Museum's endeavors.

Photo courtesy of Project O.



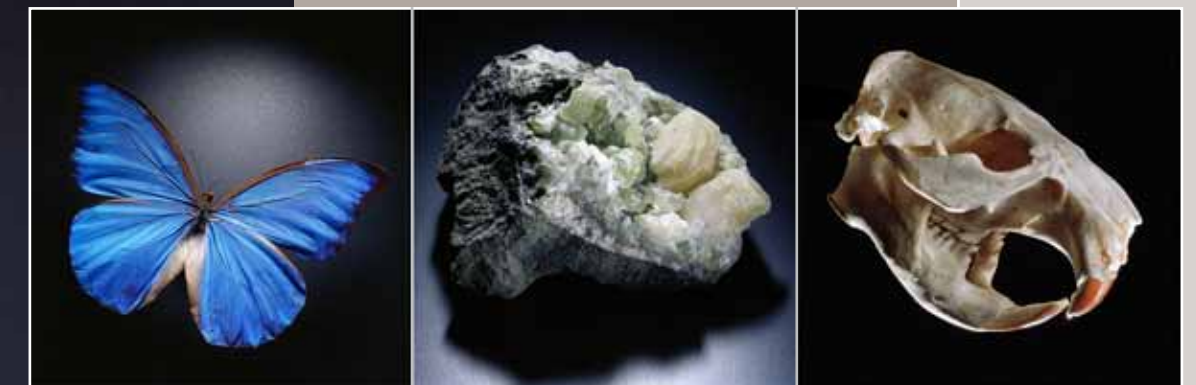
# COLLECTIONS & LOANS

The Museum began an inventory and database of all collection materials, tallied all appraisal values that were recorded, and is continuing to determine the locations of all of these items and collections. This project is continuing with the help of graduate student Michael Kennerty and FOSA member Bruce Greene.

The Ballard Puppetry Museum borrowed 12 boxes of Central and South American masks from the Jakuba Collection. A number of these pieces were featured in their new exhibit *Titeres y Máscaras*.

Specimens from the Museum and Archaeology Center are on exhibit in other locations within the university as well, such as the Biology/Physics Building, Torrey Life Sciences Building and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences lobby, and are often featured in changing exhibits at the Babbidge Library and Dodd Research Center.

The Museum's Natural History collection materials are also exhibited at other organizations in Connecticut. Trowbridge Nature Center has featured mounted bird and mammal specimens for their changing seasonal exhibits for several years. The Mashantucket Museum and Research Center has 70 objects from the anthropological collections at UConn on permanent loan, and these are featured in exhibits throughout the facility with appropriate acknowledgements. The artifacts were selected for exhibit prior to the opening of the Museum and Research Center in 1998, and many hundreds of thousands of visitors have had their learning experience enhanced as a result of this loan. Other items are on loan to and being exhibited by the Sherman Historical Society and the New Hartford Historical Society.



The Museum and Archaeology Center receive many questions from the public about natural history, artifacts, or specimens they have found, as well as potential archaeology sites. The Museum staff, if unable to answer the query directly, will act as a reference for connecting the public to the excellent academic resources of the university in order to provide accurate information.



The way the Museum manages the design, production and distribution of its ongoing print pieces is quickly evolving. With increasingly serious University-wide budget restrictions the Museum has adopted alternative electronic production and distribution methods for several of its traditionally printed pieces, where appropriate. This year, for the first time, the Annual Report and Holiday card were distributed exclusively via email and the internet. While this technique allows us to continue to produce pieces with high quality content and professional design, it has saved us thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs.

We continued to provide our newsletters and program fliers as traditional print pieces, with supplemental versions available on our website. As an organization that depends on revenue generated through membership fees and program participation for our survival, it is clear that a significant portion of the audience we serve still prefers the option of access to a printed product. Members still want something tangible for the price of their membership. For the time being, the cost of printing and distribution these pieces are still outweighed by revenue they generate for us. We are keeping an eye on this, for as our audience evolves and electronic media continues to become more ubiquitous, this balance may change.

Today almost every piece we traditionally print is paired with an electronic version available via the web. Each year more and more of our graphics communication strategy is focused on the ongoing development, updating and maintenance of the Museum's four websites: the Museum of Natural History website, the Connecticut Archaeology Center website, the BioBlitz website, and Connecticut Underwater Archaeology website. Today we have more than 100 active pages of information available to the public that together received more than 45,000 hits in 2009. The internet

has become one of the most direct and fluid ways we have to communicate with both the general public, and academic, governmental and professional constituents served by the Office of State Archaeology. Overall, the internet has become a valuable way to archive the work we do here, while encouraging a high degree of transparency in our organization.

Beyond the website, the Museum's use of technology to communicate with various audiences is ever expanding. E-mail addresses, collected over the past few years, have been organized and are used for targeted communications, including an e-mail list that provides information exclusively to members, and another that provides information and programming updates to over 500 people who provide the Museum with their e-mail addresses.

PowerPoint presentations have not only been used in the Museum's educational programs but have also been used as an outlet to promote programming and events to the public in venues such as the Student Union Theater and as background slideshows prior to lectures. Also new this year is the Museum's entrance into the online social networking platforms, specifically Facebook. This has allowed the Museum to share information and communicate with a new and growing audience in an interactive way, presenting new and unforeseen opportunities to connect with people across the campus and across the nation.

**Students, Interns & Volunteers** The Museum began the fall semester with eight Freshman Match Work/Study students. Two of the students were assigned to Dr. Bellantoni to work on the entry of site file data into the database at the OSA lab. Six students worked in the Museum's main office, providing a variety of essential support services in reception, program assistance, and day-to-day office tasks.

Through awards made from dedicated named endowment funds, the Museum provided six students with financial support for fieldwork and research projects this year. This year's graduate student awardees were: Susan Herrick, Jessica Budke, Kellie Kuhn, Chris Owen, and Amanda Wendt.

This year the biology honors committee chose undergraduate LeRoy Robinson for the Connecticut Museum of Natural History Award. Mr. Robinson's presentation at the Biology Undergraduate Research Colloquium "Speciation and Gene Flow in the Batrachoseps" was particularly appropriate for the Museum Award.

Two student interns also contributed to Museum operations this year. One student intern worked with the geology collections and completed much-needed organization and curation tasks at the Horsebarn Hill storage facility. The Museum also partnered with UConn's Writing Internship Program in the Department of English for the first time this year. The program, designed for students in English and other Humanities disciplines, allows participants to demonstrate the cognitive and communication skills they have developed at UConn. These internships allow students to apply their skills and knowledge beyond a typical academic environment, and also provide real supplemental staff support to the Museum. Cheri Collins and David Colberg supervised these interns, who received UConn credit for their work.

Bruce Green, a FOSA volunteer, has continued entering many of the smaller archaeological collections into the Past Perfect database. The Museum has been able to use this database for collections work and as a mode for answering queries about specimens entered into it. Graduate student Michael Kennerty continued to assist with the collections assessment project this year as well as assist in the Membership Office.

## 2009 ATTENDANCE

### PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Workshops & Trips .....	1,025
Lectures .....	1,230
Meetings & Events .....	3,600
Total .....	5,855

### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Small Group .....	1,385
Community Events .....	39,100
Total .....	40,485

### EXHIBITS

In-House Exhibits .....	4,591
Collections on Display .....	30,000*
Total .....	34,591
Total Attendance .....	80,931

\* Approximate--Does not include the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center.



## RESEARCH & ACADEMICS

**The Office of State Archaeology** State legislation has established numerous areas of responsibility for the Office of Archaeology (OSA). Each year, the work associated with each of these duties brings the State Archaeologist to nearly every Connecticut municipality, and yields new information and insights about our state's material culture and cultural heritage:

- Oversight of in situ preservation, archaeological excavation, or reburial of Native American human remains uncovered by any ground disturbance
- Curatorial oversight of over 600,000 artifacts repositied at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History
- Oversight of an inventory of Native American cemeteries, and preservation of other human remains and cemeteries
- Acting on recommendations made by the Native American Heritage Advisory Council
- Providing recommendations on proposed State Archaeological Preserves, and serving on the River Protection Advisory Committee
- Archaeological salvage of properties threatened with destruction
- Public and private research of "the highest possible standards in archaeological investigations"
- Publication and dissemination of information about in the ethnohistory of the region, and answering inquiries about the state's archaeological resources
- Maintaining comprehensive site files and maps (more than 5,000 records)
- Membership on the Historic Preservation Council, which advises the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism

Within the realm of responsibilities of the OSA, a number of activities, some new and some ongoing, arouse the curiosity of the general public as well as those within the professional anthropology community. Often, these provided new understandings of our collective history as well as build upon our contemporary archeological understandings. Some of the activities during the 2008-2009 academic year included the search for Native American artifacts in Madison and revolutionary war artifacts in Ridgefield. Additional stories with OSA connections included the ongoing homicide case in Fairfield county, Pine Island "a microcosm of maritime history" joining the State Register of Historic Places, and a rash of cemetery thefts across the country becoming national news. Also notable, the search for the crash site of Lt. Eugene M. Bradley, a U.S. Army pilot who crashed his P-40 aircraft while conducting training exercises on August 21, 1941, continued during the 2008-2009 academic year. With maintenance scheduled to take place on Bradley International Airport's runway 33, now believed to be the location of the crash site, a team was allowed to conduct an archaeological survey using ground-penetrating radar and soil samples. The survey ultimately provided evidence indicating the likely location of the crash site. Additionally, the History's Channel *MonsterQuest* series featured Dr. Bellantoni in the episode "Vampires in America" The episode explored a New England vampire belief and rituals in the 1700s as well as modern vampire myth. The success of the episode led to the History Channel



asking Dr. Bellantoni to take part in its new series *MysteryQuest*, which concerned the final moments of Hitler.

Charged with reviewing all proposals for construction and modification of land where archaeological sites may be located in Connecticut, the State Archaeologist conducted over 100 field reviews and site meetings in communities this year. In addition, the OSA evaluated numerous project proposals for state municipalities during that period using site files and other reference materials. Over 20,000 miles were logged in OSA travel this year.

The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. (FOSA) is the volunteer organization that assists the State Archaeologist in field work and routine laboratory activities. The organization has approximately 100 dues-paying members, and contributed over 3,000 hours of their time in support activities.

The Museum and Archaeology Center's unique weeklong Field School for Adults was held again during the summer of 2008. Led by Dr. Bellantoni, nine registered participants spent the week in the outdoor classroom, lab, and the archaeological dig site during this intensive class. Participants came from varied backgrounds, from high school and college students to members of historical societies and teachers. The participants were unanimously enthusiastic about this class.

The Office of State Archaeology provides a wide variety of public education services. This year Dr. Bellantoni made over 50 public and academic presentations as well as professional training programs. Requests to the OSA for public presentations and professional training continue to increase, and the Museum has formalized a new system to route such requests. Using a Speaker's Bureau format, many requests are now prioritized and scheduled through the Museum's Public Information office, freeing the state archaeologist of time-consuming scheduling duties and helping to ensure that high priority requests are fulfilled.



Photo by John Spaulding



Photo courtesy of MysteryQuest.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Membership** The Museum's members continue to be a strong asset to the organization, both in generating revenue and building community relations. Many members have supported the museum for decades. In addition to their financial support, many members regularly participate in lectures, programs, and workshops both on campus and across the state. Many Museum members are also involved in several community organizations or historical societies, strengthening the ties between the Museum and the communities it serves.

In addition to regular monthly renewal mailings, the Membership Office performed specialized mailings targeting lapsed members and program participants who were not members. These targeted mailings resulted in much-needed additional donations.

Most notably, in November the Membership Office organized an end-of-year mailing that generated over \$6,000 in donations, above normal renewal receipts. The exceptional generosity of the Museum's supporters should never surprise us, but it always does!

In July, the Membership Office organized a Members Only field trip to the Durham Fair, Connecticut's largest agricultural fair. A modest crowd enjoyed learning about show animals at the 4H presentation Every Animal Has A Story,

and then spent the rest of the day riding rides, eating delicious fair food, and visiting the various merchants and vendors. Moving forward, by offering more events of this type and other members-only programs and special offers, the Membership Office hopes to enhance the membership experience by fostering the sense of community among the Museum's members and give more value to becoming a member.



**Public Information & Marketing** The role of public information and marketing at the Museum and Archaeology Center is multifaceted—intertwined within the unique goals and objectives of each museum unit. The overarching purpose of public information and marketing is effectively communicating and supporting the Museum's mission. From promoting an individual event through various media platforms, scheduling a public appearance of the State Archaeologist, or addressing the needs of constituents and the public, every venture is made to support and enhance the Museum's administration, education, collection, membership, and research endeavors.

Spreading awareness of Museum and Archaeology Center activities remains an essential component of the Museum's public information and marketing strategy. Over twelve online calendars are utilized, sharing Museum programming with the public through diverse platforms maintained by news media, and cultural and tourism outlets. Some of these include: the UConn Events calendar, H-Net History, Connecticut Cultural & Heritage calendars, Mystic Country, CT Home School Network, Local Harvest, the Last Green Valley, and CT Academy for Education. Prominent media calendars include WNPR, WFSB, NBC30, CT Post, and Parent Planner. Also new this years was the Hartford Courant's iTown platform, which allowed for the posting of events and news articles, many of which were picked up for regular distribution in the paper's education or entertainment sections.

Along with its internal e-mail distribution list, which serves members and other interested parties, the Museum also utilizes the University's listserv system, reaching over 49,000 students and 3,100 faculty and staff with program information. The Museum also utilized the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (COEAA) listserv system, reaching 250 organizations throughout the state, sharing information with classroom educators, naturalists, environmental educators, youth leaders, administrators, professors, and students interested in environmental education in Connecticut.

Media coverage can include a program showcased in a newspaper's entertainment section, commentary in the blogosphere, and full editorials or features in a local or international media outlet – often initiated through the use of press releases or interacting with media personnel. The work of the Museum, Archaeology Center, and Office of State Archaeology were reported on throughout the year. Some of the stories highlighted Nicholas Bellantoni and the Office of State Archaeology celebrating 20 years of service to the State of Connecticut. The Museum's new series, *The Natural History of Food*, also generated a great deal of interest. There were minimally 125 unique Museum and Archeology Center stories reported by various media outlets during the 2008-2009 academic year. Additionally, numerous event calendars, both online and in printed publications, included information on Museum programs.



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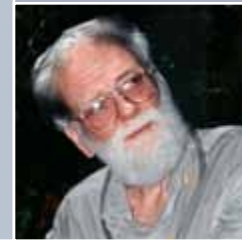


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