

NAPA



Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

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NEWSLETTER

NAPA BUSINESS

Dues Reminder!

Membership dues for 1998 are now due! Rates are \$15 for Regular Members and \$10 for Student, Subscribing, and Institutional members, as well as members affiliated with other regional or state archeological societies. Renew now to receive the two forthcoming issues of *Central Plains Archeology*. Checks should be made payable to NAPA and sent to:

Ms. Dawn Bringelson
800 South 31st Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

New Directors

As a result of the election held last Spring, the NAPA Board of Directors has four new members: Dr. Peter Bleed, Dr. Myra Giesen, Corey Cashmere, and Stan Parks. Congratulations to the electees!

Forthcoming NAPA Publications

Two NAPA publications are scheduled for printing in 1998. The first will be Volume 5, No. 1 of *Central Plains Archeology*. It will feature papers from a recent Plains Anthropological Conference symposium on the topic of marine shell ornaments on the Plains:

- *Introduction to the Symposium*, by Kerry Lippincott
- *Faces of Shell: Two Marine Shell Mask Gorgets from South Dakota*, by Michael Fosha
- *Marine Shell Gorgets in Montana*, by Stanley Jaynes
- *Mussels, Mussel Shell Tools and Mussel and Marine Shell Ornaments from the Missouri River Trench in South Dakota*, by Kerry Lippincott
- *The Marine Shell Artifacts of Kansas*, by Donald J. Blakeslee
- *A Preliminary Survey of Marine Shell Artifacts from Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Nebraska*, by Gayle F. Carlson

- *Whorls and Valves: Marine Shell Artifacts from North Dakota*, by Paul R. Picha and Fern E. Swenson
- *Shell from the Plains: A Southeastern Perspective*, by Marvin T. Smith

Volume 5, No. 2 will follow and contain these works:

- *The Schudel Site Complex: Early Archaic Occupation in the North Loup River Valley* by Donna C. Roper
- *An Archeological Survey of the Lower Pony Creek Valley Implications for Glenwood Locality Settlement Pattern* by Michael Perry

Other Recent Publications:

- *1997 Archeological Surveying, Testing, and Remote Sensing at Ft. Atkinson* by Gayle F. Carlson. Published for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Two new volumes in the Central and Northern Plains Archeological Survey Research Series:

- *Archeology and Paleocology of the Central Great Plains* edited by Jack L. Hofman and *Bioarcheology of the North Central United States* edited by Douglas W. Owsley and Jerome C. Rose. Published for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Archeology Bill Advances

By unanimous vote, last Spring, the Nebraska Archeological Resources Preservation Act (LB778) advanced from the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee to the general file of the Nebraska Legislature. This means that the bill can be voted upon by the entire Legislature when it reconvenes in early January. The entire legislative process requires that it pass three separate votes and be signed into law by the Governor before it can become a law.

The bill will establish a State Archeology Office within the Nebraska State Historical Society. The State Archeologist will not only promote preservation of and research about our state's archeological resources, but will encourage and develop public educational programs about Nebraska's archeological heritage. If passed, the law

would also require greater coordination between the State Archeologist and state agencies, so that the effects of state undertakings on highly significant archeological properties listed or eligible for the *National Register of Historic Places* are taken into account during agency planning. It would establish a program of voluntary conservation easements for the protection of archeological sites on private land, but would not infringe on the rights of private landowners. It would create misdemeanor penalties for persons who excavate, appropriate, or damage archeological artifacts on public and conservation easement lands, and persons who excavate, appropriate, or damage archeological resources on private property without landowner permission.

NAPA supported the bill at the Committee hearing. We encourage you to contact your state senator by letter, telephone call, or in person, and urge him or her to support the bill also. The text of LB778 can be found in the last issue of the NAPA Newsletter, or can be obtained by writing or calling the Clerk of the Legislature at the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509 (telephone 402-471-2271).

FIELDWORK/RESEARCH

Nebraska State Historical Society

Gayle Carlson supervised a parkwide survey of Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park north of Omaha. Ft. Atkinson was the first U.S. military post established west of the Missouri and has been the focus of intermittent NSHS archeological research since the 1950s. A pedestrian survey was conducted following a burn-off of vegetation within the park. Carlson's team identified over 50 previously unknown fort features based on surface artifact concentrations. These features are mostly building locations but also include root cellars, trash deposits, and trails. Several features were surveyed with remote sensing equipment. Limited test excavations were also conducted. All the newly discovered features are outside the barracks quadrangle.

Nebraska Highway Archeology program staff, Rob Bozell, Amy Koch, John Ludwickson, and Trisha Nelson, evaluated over 100 proposed road improvements in 1997 resulting in the identification of over 50 archeological sites. The surveys included two large expressway projects: Bellevue to Nebraska City and Ceresco to Fremont. These two projects have resulted in the identification of *National Register* eligible sites that may require further mitigation. Steve Holen and Dave May have been consulting with program staff to devise methods of better identifying deeply buried sites.

Test excavations and limited salvage work was completed on highway projects in Cass, Saunders, Valley, and Keith counties. The Valley County work resulted in the excavation of several well-preserved Central Plains tradition storage/refuse pits. Material from this work is presently undergoing analysis in Lincoln.

This winter, the Society is planning to repatriate over 40 sets of human remains and associated funerary objects to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. The remains are from Oneota contexts in southeast Nebraska. The repatriation is a joint effort between the Society and the Iowa, Otoe-Missouri, and Kaw Tribes.

The annual volunteer dig occurred in mid-October at the Aldrich site near Auburn in Nemaha County. Benton Aldrich was a prominent 19th century Nemaha County citizen who was actively involved in helping former slaves re-settle in Nebraska-including his family farm. The excavations focused on features believed to represent cellars or foundations associated with some of these early Nebraska African-American pioneers.

Bureau of Reclamation

The Nebraska-Kansas Area Office (NKAO) of the Bureau of Reclamation, along with the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) and the Great Plains Regional Office of the Reclamation, sponsored a reunion of archeologists and other "friends" of the Medicine Creek area (Harry Strunk Lake). More than ninety individuals and their family members participated in the celebrations held in Cambridge, Nebraska, that included professional papers, reminiscences of "old timers", tours to well-known archeological sites, mixed media presentations, and traditional Native American foodstuffs. The response has been positive to the activities that celebrated the fifty productive years of federal archeology in the loess plains around Medicine Creek Dam.

The NKAO will repatriate under NAGPRA (the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) prehistoric human remains, attributable to northern Caddoan-speaking tribes, stolen from federal property at Red Willow (Hugh Butler) Reservoir near McCook, Nebraska. Because the perpetrator, a looter who collected for his own possession and not the artifacts trade, claimed he stole these remains before the passage of ARPA (the Archeological Resources Protection Act), he was prosecuted on federal charges applying solely to the theft of government property. For this, he was fined one thousand dollars. He served time in prison, however, for conviction on unrelated charges for other crimes he committed in the county.

The year 1997 also saw the completion of the restoration of a rare sod (or rammed earth) house situated on federal land at Norton Reservoir (Sebelius Lake) in Kansas. The house, still in its original location, was in danger of collapsing, and the NKAO successfully partnered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDW&P) and the local chamber of commerce to save the structure. The house will be managed by the KDW&P and the local chamber of commerce as an interpretive public exhibit.

Toward fulfilling its Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) responsibilities, the NKAO established cooperative agreements with Nebraska and

Kansas universities with the express purpose to survey completely all federal land at its reservoirs. Although the cooperative agreements have been in place for a few years, this is the first year that the overall effort of these 100 percent-coverage surveys shows definitive mass. At the end of the 1997 field season, Wichita State University's archeological field school crew, under the guidance of Don Blakeslee, has nearly completed its investigations of Bonny Reservoir in northeastern Colorado (perhaps two sections remain unsurveyed). Brad Logan's University of Kansas Museum of Anthropology crews completed their investigations of all federal lands at Lovewell Reservoir in north-central Kansas. While Bonny has so far revealed few archeological resources, to the chagrin of the field school students (but negative evidence is nonetheless important), Lovewell has delivered a rich package of collected artifacts and archeological data to advance the understanding of prehistory in that region.

University of Nebraska, State Museum

The Nebraska Archaeological Survey completed a survey of 6,000 acres of land on Ponca Creek and the Keya Paha River in June. One hundred and fifty three new sites were recorded and fourteen previously recorded sites were re-surveyed. The project report, entitled *An Archaeological Survey of Ponca Creek and the Keya Paha River Drainages, Boyd and Keya Paha Counties, Nebraska*, was presented to the Nebraska State Historical Society Historic Preservation Office in September. The oldest *in situ* site was Middle Archaic. It was found in a cutbank and radiocarbon dated to 4,010 ± 60 years BP. Most sites found during the survey were late prehistoric, including villages and temporary campsites.

In September, the Nebraska Archaeological Survey spent two weeks conducting salvage excavations at the La Sena Mammoth site at Medicine Creek Reservoir. Most recent excavations were made available for public viewing during the Medicine Creek Archaeology Symposium. Steve Holen presented a paper at the symposium entitled: *The La Sena and Shaffert Mammoth Sites: Evidence for Mid-Wisconsinan Human Populations on the Great Plains*. Minor salvage excavations were conducted at the Shaffert Mammoth site near Curtis during this period.

Archeological surveying and testing on Bureau of Reclamation lands at Sherman County Reservoir and the Arcadia Diversion Dam were conducted from September to December. Several new prehistoric sites and two historic dugouts were surveyed. Testing discovered several houses and exterior features on one Central Plains tradition site. A large site on a third terrace has been partially tested and at least three components are indicated. The lowest component is Logan Creek (Early Archaic) and appears to be a campsite where bison processing took place. A nearby site contains an intact Middle or Late Archaic component. Several other sites have late prehistoric components. Of these, some appear to be Pawnee bison hunt-

ing camps. Nomination to the *National Register of Historic Places* of several of these sites is anticipated.

University of Nebraska-Department of Anthropology

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Anthropology spent much of last summer investigating archeological resources in the Antelope Valley area of central Lincoln. The Antelope Valley Archeology Project was co-directed by Peter Bleed, Stacy Stupka-Burda and Stan Parks and involved a field crew of employees and the 22 students enrolled in the 1997 UNL Archeological Field School.

The Antelope Creek Project was undertaken because the City, the University and the local NRD are planning major construction on the east side of the UNL campus. This will involve both road changes and modifications in the course of Antelope Creek. The goal of the 1997 research was to determine the kinds of archeological resources present within the project area to assist with project planning. Areas of potentially worthwhile buried cultural remains were tested from Muney Park area south of O Street to the confluence of Dead Man's Run and Salt Creek.

Although a great deal of material was discovered, the research generally indicated that demolition and bottle collectors have heavily impacted historic materials in most of the project area. Indeed, it appears that the great majority of the privies in the area have been disturbed. Remains of a significant 1860s period water mill and the original University Place dump appear to have survived in researchable condition. It also appears that construction will expose large portions of deeply buried surfaces that well may contain prehistoric materials.

In addition to completing the work done during the summer of 1997, plans are being made for continued testing and mitigation in the project area.

South Dakota State Archaeological Research Center

The State Archeological Research Center (SARC) conducted several large projects during the 1997 field season. James Donohue, director of Department of Transportation projects, oversaw several contractor-related projects as well as continuing his research into the Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene transition in South Dakota. Contract investigations include: the excavations of the Cascade Townsite (39FA1294), Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Rural Water District, and write up of several SDDOT related mitigative projects. Excavations at the Cascade Townsite were directed by Dan Byrne, which centered on data recovery from an 1889 Sanitarium/Bath House. Rose Fosha began a three-year project involving cultural resources investigations for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe rural water district.

Ned Hanenberger has been writing up the investigations at 39ZB31, the Brams site, a multicomponent Late Prehistoric-Middle Archaic occupation in west central South Dakota. Augustana Archeology Laboratory completed the write up of Buster Hill site (39MD145), a multicomponent Late Prehistoric-Late Paleoindian occupation of the Black Hills. Kerry Lippincott completed a report started by the late Thomas Haberman on excavations at 39HK10, a Late to Middle Archaic occupation in central South Dakota.

Outreach and research projects under the direction of Michael Fosha include the Licking Bison site and Fort Pierre Chouteau. The Licking Bison site (39HN570) is a 2,000-year-old bison kill site in northwestern South Dakota. Investigations focused on salvaging portions of the bone bed subject to erosion and identification of one segment of the corral built to enclose the bison. Investigations at Fort Pierre Chouteau, a fortified fur trade fort operated from 1832–1857, centered on combining geophysics with excavations to determine the exact position of the fort and identify ancillary features outside the fortification walls.

One of our larger outreach projects consisted of excavations at the Hartford Beach site directed under James Haug, State Archeologist and Michael Fosha. The Hartford Beach site (39RO5) is a small 900-year-old fortification situated on the bluffs above Big Stone Lake in northeast South Dakota. Investigations focused on the excavation of a structure identified and partially recovered in

1994 and 1995. The economy of the village consisted of gardening and lake-shore exploitation.

Supported in part by a grant from the National Park Service, SARC, under the direction of Renee Boen, completed its inventory of eighty-five sets of human remains and 119 funerary objects this past year. Thirty-five sets of these remains are believed to be culturally affiliated with the Mandan or Arkara, who are now part of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota. Repatriation is expected to take place this winter. Besides the Three Affiliated Tribes, SARC's NAGPRA committee consulted with the Ponca, Northern Cheyenne, and the Lower Brule, Standing Rock, Rosebud, and Ogalala Sioux Tribes in 1997.

The SARC is also partners with the "Journey", Rapid City's most recent museum. Other partners in this museum include School of Mines and Technology Paleontology Department, the Pioneer Museum, and the Sioux Indian Museum.

NAPA Newsletter

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