

NAPA



Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

Vol. 13

Spring 1999

NEWSLETTER

NAPA BUSINESS

Dues Reminder!

It is once again time to renew your membership. Please submit your 1999 membership dues at the following rates: \$15 for Regular Members and \$10 for Student, Subscribing, and Institutional Members, as well as members affiliated with other regional or state archeological societies. Renewed memberships will receive all issues of *Central Plains Archeology* published during the current year. Checks should be made payable to NAPA and sent to:

Gayle F. Carlson
Nebraska State Historical Society
P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Agate Fossil Beds Prehistoric Archaeological Landscapes, 1994–1995*, edited by LuAnn Wandsnider and George MacDonell, University of Nebraska and the National Park Service
- “On Coalescent and Lower Loup Hunting Camp Sites in Nebraska,” by Donna C. Roper, *South Dakota Archaeology*, Vol. 21:33–41
- *The Fontenelle and Cabanné Trading Posts: The History and Archeology of Two Missouri River Sites, 1822–1838*, by Richard Jensen with appendices by Rob Bozell, Trisha Nelson, and Michael Pfeiffer, Nebraska State Historical Society Publications in Anthropology No. 11
- *Blue River Basin Archeology*, by Terry Steinacher and Rob Bozell, Explore Nebraska Archeology No. 1, Nebraska State Historical Society
- *Lower Platte Valley Native Americans A.D. 1000–1400*, by Rob Bozell and John Ludwickson, Explore Nebraska Archeology No. 2, Nebraska State Historical Society

- *Sand Hills Archeology*, by Amy Koch, Explore Nebraska Archeology No. 3, Nebraska State Historical Society
- The latest issue of *Central Plains Archeology* (Vol. 6, No.1) was published in 1998. The issue featured the following two articles: “*The Schudel Complex: Early Archaic Occupation in the North Loup River Valley*,” by Donna C. Roper and “*An Archeological Survey of the Lower Pony Creek Valley: Implications for Glenwood Locality Settlement Pattern*,” by Michael J. Perry. Tentatively scheduled for printing in 1999, the next issue will feature Don Blakeslee’s work at Glen Elder Reservoir.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professional Archeologists of Kansas (PAK)

The next PAK meeting will be held February 19, 1999, 1:00–3:00 p.m. at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka.

Kansas Archeology Week

Kansas Archeology Week is April 4–10 this year. Kansas State Historical Society is compiling a calendar of events featuring exhibits, lectures, and other activities that will take place during this spring. For more information contact the Kansas State Historical Society.

Flint Hills Conference

The 1999 Flint Hills Conference will be held April 10–11 on the University of Kansas campus. An early bird reception is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, April 9. The deadline for abstracts is Wednesday, March 17. Abstracts should be 100 words or less; organizers prefer electronic submissions. Please send electronic abstracts either to Mary Adair (madair@falcon.cc.ukans.edu) or Myra Giesen (mgiesen@do.usbr.gov). Hardcopy abstracts can be sent to Myra Giesen 3612 West Timber Court, Lawrence, Kansas 66049-2149. If you have special needs (lithic/ceramic exchange, posters, etc.), please let either Mary (785-864-2675) or Myra (785-843-0160) know the particulars by the March 17 date.

Society for American Archeology

The SAA meeting will be held in Chicago this year March 24–28. Once again, Melissa Connor will represent NAPA at a council meeting for state archeological associations. If all goes well, the council will formalize as an SAA interest group, which would give it the right to meet at SAA meetings, get SAA support, have newsletter space, and space on the server.

NAPA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of NAPA members will be held in the auditorium of the Nebraska State Historical Society Museum in Lincoln, at 1:30 p.m. on April 6, 1999.

FIELDWORK/RESEARCH

Bureau of Reclamation

Work is continuing on long term cooperative agreements with area universities to manage cultural resources on reclamation land. This spring, University of Nebraska–Lincoln will finish work on projects at Sherman Reservoir. Wichita State University will continue work at Trenton Reservoir, and Kansas State University will resume work on projects at Medicine Creek Reservoir. Field school students from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln may work on all of these projects this summer as part of an agreement between the university and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Work continues on the identification and inventory of collections from projects previously completed under reclamation sponsorship. A cooperative agreement with the University of Nebraska may help to further this work.

Current NAGPRA projects include a burial exposed at Palmer National Historic Landmark, and another at Red Willow Reservoir. Both burials were exposed by natural erosion. The burial at Palmer is planned to be repatriated to the Pawnee Tribe this spring. Much less is known about the Red Willow Reservoir burial. Consultation for repatriation will likely take place in the next couple of months, when more is learned about potential cultural affiliation of the remains.

1998 Kansas Archeological Field School

The 1998 Kansas Archeological Field School was directed by Donna Roper and was held at Harry Strunk Lake in Frontier County, Nebraska. This work was supported by Kansas State University and the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Reclamation. Excavation was undertaken at 25FT39, one of the many Upper Republican sites in the Medicine Creek valley. The feature investigated was originally recorded and tested by Roper in 1989 and appeared at that time to represent an Upper Republican house. Excavations dispelled that thought, while leaving the matter of site function open. Two outstanding characteristics of the site were the huge quantity of pottery recovered and the mixture of lithic raw materials represented.

Nebraska State Historical Society Archeology Division

The Historical Society, the Nebraska Department of Roads, and the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma cooperated in sponsoring internships in Nebraska archeology for three Pawnee students. The program grew out of a series of lectures NSHS archeologist Rob Bozell presented in Pawnee, Oklahoma, last winter. Participants included Kay Tefertiller, Ed Echo-Hawk, and J. P. LaVenture. Kay and Ed are students at Northern Oklahoma College and Oklahoma State University respectively, and J. P. is a high school student in the St. Louis, Missouri, area.

The program was designed to give the students broad exposure to archeological sites and research in Nebraska and was particularly relevant to the Pawnee because Nebraska is their ancestral homeland. Fieldwork included assisting with excavations at an early 1700s Native American village near Papillion and an 800-year-old village near Gretna. The students were involved with excavation and soil processing. They were also trained in artifact cleaning, cataloging, and analysis. The visit included a one-day field trip to the Genoa area to see a series of Pawnee village sites dating between 1600 and 1870. Pawnee historian Roger Echo-Hawk visited with the students and discussed oral tradition and archeological approaches to the past.

During the 1998 field season, the NSHS Archeology Division was involved in emergency salvage excavations at the Eagle Ridge site (25SY116) in Sarpy County. The site, located on a high bank of Papillion Creek, about two miles east of the town of Papillion, was discovered during grading associated with a housing development.

The type of material recovered and the site location strongly suggest an Oto occupation of the site sometime during the first half of the eighteenth century. The information obtained from the investigation of this site will be the focus of an ongoing research project during the upcoming two to three years.

The Archeology Division, in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office, was recently awarded \$56,000 from the Nebraska Department of Roads for development of a Nebraska cultural resources Geographic Information System (GIS) layer. The award is part of the Federal Highway Administration ISTEA program, which provides funding for transportation enhancement projects involving the natural, cultural, and scenic environment.

The project will create a computerized map layer of known archeological, historic, and cultural sites in Nebraska. The layer will serve as a powerful research, resource preservation, and management tool—particularly when used in conjunction with other layers such as vegetation, distance from water, and soil type. The GIS will, for example, enable government agencies, land use planners, archeologists, and historians to make informed decisions and predictions regarding development in certain

environmental zones. The potential for research is also exciting. Through GIS-generated data, historians and archeologists can much more effectively understand the intricate relationship between humans and their environment over ten thousand years of Nebraska's past.

Archaeological Conservancy Purchases the Red Smoke Site

The Archaeological Conservancy is a national non-profit organization that identifies, acquires, and preserves significant archeological sites in the United States. The conservancy has recently purchased the Red Smoke site, an important Paleoindian component in Frontier County. The forty acre site is on the bank of Medicine Creek Reservoir. Only about 10–15 percent of the site has been disturbed by previous excavations. The majority of the site is intact and deeply buried, but threatened by erosion and development around the lake. The conservancy used \$40,000 from its quick-action preservation fund to purchase the site and plans to establish an archeological and educational preserve. An additional \$17,000 is needed for fencing and long term management of the site. Contributions to this worthwhile effort would be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Send them to:

Archeological Conservancy
Attn: Red Smoke
5301 Central Avenue, NE
Suite 1218
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108-1517

University of Nebraska Anthropology Department

In late summer, the UNL Anthropology Department received an award from the Lincoln City Planning office to test and assess archeological remains of "Negro Shanties" shown on early Sanborn maps. References to the shanties were discovered by Kathy Colwell, who has been working as an intern with Ed Zimmer for the past year in the planning department. Kathy has assembled a large number of references that indicate a fairly substantial African American community lived in the area around sixth and J Streets from the 1870s through at least the turn of the century. Several of these families lived in "shanties," but the appearance of these structures is not at all clear. Thus to determine if some trace of them might survive in the archeological record, Dr. Zimmer went to the NSHS Historic Preservation Office to obtain NPS HP funds earmarked for "Certified Local Governments". These were passed to the department to support the testing.

Fieldwork extended over two weeks from late July to early August. Peter Bleed directed the crew of four students for the first week until Erin Richardson, a new UNL graduate student could take over. Digging was undertaken in the yard of the Valley Ice Company and at a couple of other locations generally in the area of Sixth and J Streets.

Field results were mixed. As work began, it was discovered that the industrious local bottle diggers had already dug several privies in the area, including one that was probably associated with the home of the Pastor of the African Episcopal Church that stood at Eighth and J. There truly seems to be very few early contexts in Lincoln that have survived their efforts. We also discovered that, in addition to a great deal of construction, there has been considerable filling in the areas where the shanties stood. This makes potentially interesting contexts hard to approach.

The early surface on which the shanties stood was identified and some squared limestone blocks that might be part of their construction were found. The cultural assemblage recovered from the potentially early contexts was small and comprised overwhelmingly of highly fragmented objects that are hard to interpret as domestic debris. Analysis of the results is underway.

University of Nebraska State Museum

This past year was very busy for the Nebraska Archeological Survey. Three major field projects were conducted during the year including: test excavations at eight sites at the Arcadia Diversion Dam on the Middle Loup River in Custer County, a survey of Enders Reservoir in Chase County, and salvage excavations at the La Sena Mammoth site in Frontier County.

Test excavations at the Arcadia Diversion Dam area sites yielded information concerning the human occupation of the area from the Euroamerican settlement period in the 1870s and 1880s back to prehistoric occupation 8,500 years ago. One site has a minimum of six Native American occupation levels, including an early Archaic Logan Creek component and a Paleoindian component. Nearby, another Archaic component with small pit features was radiocarbon dated at 7,700 years ago.

The survey at the Bureau of Reclamation's Enders Reservoir recorded 69 new sites and revisited several other previously recorded sites. The sites range in age from the historic period to an early Archaic site. Most Native American sites appear to be late prehistoric in age.

Salvage excavations at the 18,000-year-old La Sena site were conducted in September. Several additional highly fractured mammoth bones were collected. We also excavated a small sample of faunal elements from an American lion situated about one meter below the mammoth bone.

Several draft and final reports were produced during the year. A final report on survey and testing of several sites at Sherman Reservoir, and a draft report on the Enders survey was completed. A preliminary report on the test excavations at the Arcadia Diversion Dam was submitted. A draft report on the Eckles Clovis site was also submitted.

LB208

In January Senator Jerry Schmitt of Ord introduced to the 1999 session of the Nebraska Legislature a bill entitled the

Nebraska Archeological Resources Protection Act (LB208). This bill (formerly LB778) was introduced during the 1998 legislative session, advanced to the general file after a committee hearing, but did not come up for a vote before the legislature. This year we are hoping to see LB208 through the entire process.

If enacted into law, the Nebraska Archeological Resources Preservation Act would accomplish several important goals that will help to preserve Nebraska's past for its citizens. It will establish a State Archeology Office within the Nebraska State Historical Society. The State Archeologist not only will promote preservation of research about our state's archeological resources, but will encourage and develop public educational programs about Nebraska's archeological heritage. 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 on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are taken into account during agency planning. It would also create misdemeanor penalties for persons who excavate, appropriate, or damage archeological artifacts on public lands, and persons who excavate, appropriate, or damage archeological resources on private property without permission of the landowner.

Archeology Division
Museum of Nebraska History
131 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

The bill will be heard before the Government, Military, and Veterans' Affairs Committee in early February. We ask that you contact members of this committee, as well as your own legislative representatives, and urge their support of LB208. Committee members are:

Senator DiAnna Schimek, Chair, District 27; 471-2632
Senator Jim Cudaback, District 36; 471-2642
Senator Ray Janssen, District 15; 471-2625
Senator Bob Kremer, District 34; 471-2630
Senator Mark Quandahl, District 31; 471-2327
Senator Jerry Schmitt, District 41; 471-2631
Senator Adrian Smith, District 48; 471-2802
Senator Floyd Vrtiska, District 1; 471-2733

These senators or their staff can be contacted through the above telephone numbers or by writing to them at the State Capitol Building, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509. Please include their district number in the address.

NAPA Newsletter

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