

NAPA

Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

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NEWSLETTER

NAPA BUSINESS

Dues Reminder

Many membership dues for 2000 are as yet unpaid. Regular memberships are \$15 and student memberships are \$10. Please address your check to NAPA and send it to: NAPA

c/o Nebraska State Historical Society
Archeology Division
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554

New NAPA Officers

Three newly elected individuals will begin their terms as NAPA officers on September 1, 2000. Donna Roper will serve as president, Anne Vawser as vice-president, and Karin Roberts will be the secretary/treasurer for the organization. Current board members include Jeannette Blackmar, Dawn Bringelson, Tamie Sawaged, Stacy Stupka-Burda (membership chairperson), and John Swigart.

Publication Update

Manuscripts for the next issue of *Central Plains Archeology* are undergoing editing and formatting for layout. The issue, due for publication in late fall or early winter, features contributions on freshwater mussels from ecological and archeological perspectives.

NAPA Sponsors Volunteer Dig

Fort Robinson State Park was the location for the 2000 Avocational Archeological Dig sponsored by NAPA. Fourteen participants helped with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Field School excavation of an 1887 adobe barracks, June 24 and 25. The volunteers hailed from locations across the state including Omaha, Lincoln, Genoa, Kearney, Broken Bow, and from Lawrence, Kansas. Thanks to the participants for their hard work. Amy Koch would also like to acknowledge the people who were on hand to help supervise and keep things running

smoothly: Jeannette Blackmar, Trish Nelson, Tamie Sawaged, Karri Springer, Terry Steinacher, and John Swigart.

NAPA Review

NAPA will review an Assessment of Effect on a proposed reburial site at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. After three weeks of internal review, the project will be sent out to the public (including NAPA members) for a thirty-day review. The project will create a new sacred site and fosters a long-term relationship with seventeen tribes.

FIELDWORK/RESEARCH

Kansas State University

Donna Roper (Kansas State University) continues her work with Upper Republican sites in the Medicine Creek valley and reports progress on four fronts: 1) This year's work under a cooperative agreement between Kansas State University and the Bureau of Reclamation is focusing on analysis of collections from the long field seasons of the last two summers. That work was directed toward a portion of 25FT39. The investigated area is unusual in the valley in that while the majority of the lithic raw materials are the local Republican River jasper, Flattop Chalcedony and other materials from the High Plains and Piedmont of eastern Colorado also appear in high proportions. Anne Cobry, then of the University of Wyoming, subjected several sherds from the 1998 excavation to neutron activation analysis and found they did not match local clays. J. Eric Gilliland is undertaking a detailed study of the ceramics for an M.A. thesis at the University of Kansas. In addition to analysis, a brief period of fieldwork in 2000 will be devoted to completing the archeological inventory of Harry Strunk Lake lands. 2) Beyond the cooperative agreement, with financial assistance from the Nebraska State Historical Society Research Grant Program, Roper is reevaluating the materials from the 1948 excavations at 25FT30, 25FT22, and 25FT39. As of this writing, she has reworked only the

25FT22 materials, but already has found numerous surprises in the collections. She is eager to get into the other two sites to see what else lurks there. 3) A detailed analysis of deterioration processes in the Dancing Leaf Earth Lodge at Stockville was undertaken after the Kansas State University and Wichita State University field schools dismantled the lodge in July 1998. A manuscript describing that analysis is complete. It will be submitted for publication as soon as time permits addressing some reviewers' comments. 4) Finally, a volume of papers resulting from the 1997 Medicine Creek Conference is nearing completion and should be submitted to the University of Alabama Press before the equinox.

Nebraska Archeological Survey University of Nebraska State Museum

The Nebraska Archeological Survey conducted a survey of portions of the Pumpkin Creek drainage and portions of the Lower South Platte River drainages for the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office during the spring of 2000. In total, 122 new sites were identified, two previously recorded sites were revisited, and two recorded sites never previously surveyed were located and surveyed. One tested new site in the Lower South Platte River drainage has a good Paleoindian cultural component and is slated for additional testing in September. A bison kill site will also be tested and evaluated during that session of field work.

Nebraska State Historical Society Archeology Division Fieldwork

During 1999 and so far in 2000, Society highway archeologists have evaluated nearly 200 Nebraska Department of Roads Projects for potential impact to archeological properties. Over thirty new archeological sites were identified.

This summer, the Society hosted the eight-week University of Nebraska Archeological Field School. Seventeen students were enrolled. The field school was taught by NSHS staff with the help of UNL Teaching Assistants Karri Springer and Tamie Sawaged of the Anthropology Department.

The first three weeks were spent in Furnas County conducting excavations sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads in conjunction with their highway improvement project, Beaver City East and West. The work, under the overall direction of Trish Nelson and John Swigart, consisted of extensive testing at two lithic reduction locations, both of which are located within half a mile of a Republican River jasper outcrop along Beaver Creek. A combined total of about 100 square meters was excavated. Artifacts recovered include abundant chipped stone flaking debris as well as a few tools—some of which are made of exotic stone. Following testing, the topsoil in areas within the proposed limits of construction was removed with heavy equipment although no cultural fea-

tures were discovered. A deep backhoe trench was excavated and examined by geomorphologist, Rolfe Mandel. Several paleosols were identified but none contained significant archeological material. Processing and analysis of the collection will begin this fall.

During the month of June 2000, the Nebraska State Historical Society contracted with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to conduct archeological investigations on the remains of an 1887 enlisted men's adobe barracks at Fort Robinson State Park. The fieldwork was carried out with a crew of University of Nebraska-Lincoln field school students, under the overall direction of Gayle Carlson.

The one-story adobe barracks was built in the shape of the letter "L," the longer (east-west) portion reportedly measuring 169 by 30 feet, with a south extension on the west end that measured 70 by 30 feet. A ten-foot-wide porch ran along the front of the building. One of a row of similar structures situated along the south side of the new parade ground, the barracks housed cavalry troops (including those of the Ninth Cavalry), as well as other units during its existence. It was demolished in 1923.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission intends to reconstruct this barracks for use as an interpretive center, group lodge, and meeting room. Although insufficient funding was available for a full-scale archeological excavation, a limited testing project was agreed upon. In anticipation, an electric resistivity survey of the location was conducted in 1999 by Terry Steinacher, historic preservation archeologist. This helped delineate probable stone foundation lines and various other related anomalies and allowed the formulation of research goals that were pursued during the 2000 fieldwork. They included the location of the six building corners; both wall lines of the two portions of the building; and various related features, including a latrine, two cellars, and a probable water-drain pit associated with the bathroom and lavatory. In addition, a subfloor feature in the south end of the kitchen was identified and excavated. This feature was apparently constructed for access to plumbing fixtures. Architectural artifacts, useful in reconstruction, were not especially abundant (probably because building materials were reportedly salvaged during the demolition process). However, some other artifact types were well represented, such as whiskey and beer bottles, ceramics, ammunition and other military items, and personal possessions, all of which shed some light on the occupational history of the barracks. Processing of the recovered materials and writing of a descriptive report will occupy the next several months.

Prior to the field school, NSHS staff conducted a sample survey of the lower Platte/Elkhorn valley in western Douglas and Sarpy counties. The project was under the supervision of independent consultant Bob Pepperl, assisted by Rob Bozell. This project is a joint Archeology

Division/Historic Preservation Office undertaking and was developed in response to growing concern over the accelerated growth of the Omaha metropolitan area. Over 3,000 acres were surveyed with tracts encompassing floodplain, alluvial fan, terrace, and high bluff environmental units. Over 100 new sites were identified and several appear to be National Register eligible.

Nebraska GIS Archeological Site Project

John Swigart continues work on the development of a GIS (Geographic Information System) layer of Nebraska cultural resources. A progress overview was presented to project sponsors, the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Federal Highway Administration. The response to the progress overview was overwhelmingly positive. In addition to examining existing archeological site files, newly discovered sites are being entered into the system using GPS and EDM technology. Previously surveyed areas will also be incorporated. Currently, 3,500 sites of the 6,774 recorded sites (50 percent) have been placed in the system. Upon completion, the Nebraska GIS Archeological Site Project will offer great benefits for research and cultural resource management.

Public Outreach Activities

Public outreach and education activities carried out by the NSHS Archeology Division include:

- Presented lectures to twelve public or school groups.
- Conducted a testing project at Fort Atkinson with students from Benson High School in Omaha
- Presented field service workshops on Nebraska Archeology to groups in Seward, Ord, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, and Champion.
- Provided lectures to the Nebraska Institute for Teachers.
- Prepared two National Register of Historic Places nominations. One is for the Ashland site complex in Cass and Saunders counties and the other is for the Wind Springs Historic and Archeological District in Sioux County.
- Published an installment of *Explore Nebraska Archeology*

National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center

Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center

To assist planning for the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center that will be built near Nebraska City in Otoe County, Jennifer Galindo inventoried a sixty-five-acre tract of land in 1998. Two previously recorded sites, 25OT45 and 25OT46, were

relocated. The inventory was generally conducted by means of visual examination, but the area proposed for the visitor center structure and parking lot was magnetically surveyed and six excavation units totaling fourteen square meters were excavated. Despite a scatter of prehistoric artifacts on the surface of much of the tract, few temporally or culturally diagnostic artifacts and no intact subsurface archeological deposits were found. An additional 13.5 acres of largely timbered land was included with the tract. Visual examination and shovel testing were conducted in March and April of 2000, under the direction of Karin Roberts. No temporally or culturally diagnostic prehistoric artifacts were found during this investigation. Historical information was compiled relating to a nineteenth century farmstead that belonged to William McLennan, a prominent early citizen of Nebraska City who was active in territorial and state politics in the 1850s and 1860s. The site of the farmstead is outside the National Park Service owned land. These investigations are reported by Galindo (1998) and Roberts (2000).

Loess Hills Special Resource Study

In response to legislation, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is conducting a Special Resource Study of the Loess Hills regional landform in western Iowa. The objective of the study is to assess the Loess Hills as a potential addition to the National Park System. Cultural resources are included within the scope of the study. As part of the study team, Tom Thiessen is preparing a summary of the archeological resources present in the Loess Hills. The Office of the Iowa State Archeologist and the State Historical Society of Iowa have furnished information for the summary, including extensive GIS data for the seven counties in which the Loess Hills occur (Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattomie, Mills, and Fremont). The Special Resources Report Study is in progress and is expected to be concluded early in 2001.

University of Nebraska Archeological Research Lab

The UNL Archeological Research Lab completed National Register testing of five archeological sites in the proposed Lake Wanahoo area located north of Wahoo, Nebraska. Subsurface features and associated artifacts were identified at two sites, leading researchers to believe the sites probably represent Plains Village Period occupations.

Fieldwork has resumed on the Antelope Valley Study Project and researchers are conducting test excavations on the Capital Mills site, the first grist mill in the Lancaster County area, which was in operation from 1860–92. In addition, a limited amount of test excavation will be conducted in an area believed to be the University Place dump.

Consultation continues on the South and East Beltway Project. Most recent contributions include boundary definition of rural National Register-eligible historic properties located within the project area.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Archeological Inventory at the Proposed Location of the Lewis and Clark Trail Center Visitor Contact Station Near Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska, by Jennifer Galindo, Midwest Archeological Center Technical Report No. 59, Lincoln, Nebraska

Archeological Investigations at National Park Service Parcel 102-02, Proposed Location of the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Near Nebraska City, Nebraska, by Karin M. Roberts, report on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation for Select Archeological Properties in Sioux, Box Butte, and Banner Counties, Nebraska, by John R. Bozell, Amy Koch, Jeannette Blackmar, and Rolfe Mandel, report prepared for the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, Nebraska

"High Plains Archeology," by Amy Koch, *Explore Nebraska Archeology* No. 5, Nebraska State Historical Society

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Professional Archeologists of Kansas (PAK) has recently published a mini-journal called *Current Archaeology in Kansas*. The first issue features thirteen short articles describing a variety of research projects in Kansas, from Paleoindian to Euroamerican historic. Additional copies are available for new PAK members. Contact Donna Roper at 1924 Bluehills Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 or droper@ksu.edu.

This year's Plains Anthropological Conference will be held jointly with the Midwest Archeological Conference, November 9–12, in St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information contact Mark Dudzik, State Archaeologist, Office of the State Archaeologist, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111; mark.dudzik@state.mn.us; 612-725-2411.

NAPA Newsletter

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