

NAPA

Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

Vol. 4 No. 3

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1989

NORTH DAKOTA-A CRY FOR HELP!

The following letter was received at the Plains Conference from representatives of the Professional Council for North Dakota Heritage during an appeal made at the NAPA meeting.

Professional Council for North Dakota Heritage
501 West Thayer Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502

The North Dakota State Historical Board is releasing for reinterment over 25,000 items without analysis. These items are currently housed in the North Dakota Heritage Center. Targeted collections include both artifacts and skeletal materials collected by the Smithsonian Institution River Basin Surveys along with other private, State, and Federal collections.

Interested persons in North Dakota have funded a lawsuit to assure that professional analysis is performed prior to release of these materials. As you know, court cases are expensive and \$6,200 are needed by November 1 to take this matter to the State Supreme Court; \$6,200 is a small sum when compared to the invaluable loss of data that would result from the Historical Board's actions.

Towards this end the Professional Council for North Dakota Heritage has voted to establish a fund to support an appeal of this lawsuit while offering direct financial assistance as well. The small professional community of North Dakota simply does not have sufficient funds of its own to face the resources of the State government.

The collections involved are extremely important to the understanding of North Dakota and northern plains prehistory. These materials deserve to be analyzed prior to deaccessioning. Many of the collections were gathered with taxpayers money. The public deserves a return from its investment. We of the archeological community must attempt to save the irreplaceable information which these collections could provide. if we don't, no one else will.

As a sister organization, with common goals, the Professional Council for North Dakota Heritage requests your assistance in seeing that the proper analyses are performed. We would appreciate assistance both in providing funding and a position statement from the organization at large. Please consider our request for assistance while there is still time to save this body of information. Please assist us in contacting your membership to enlist their support of our efforts.

President

The NAPA membership voted during the meeting to contribute \$100 from the NAPA treasury to the North Dakota cause. Another \$200 was collected from individual members in attendance. When the plea was repeated at the Plains Conference business meeting it was met with considerable confusion about the reburial issue. The need was somehow lost in the discussion that ensued.

There is a great need for solidarity on this important issue or anthropologists and archeologists are going to lose a critical resource. Great strides have recently been made in the area of skeletal biology and the insights these studies provide about behavior, health, and nutrition of prehistoric people. This includes information which could prove valuable to Native American people, including genetic linkages to skeletal remains and an understanding of early manifestations of the diseases which plague Native American people today.

NAPA MEETING AT THE 47TH ANNUAL PLAINS CONFERENCE

A NAPA business meeting was held on Friday afternoon, October 20, 1989 during the Plains Conference at the Ramkota Inn in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In the absence of president, Bob Hassler, the meeting was conducted by Vice President, Cathie Masters. A summary of committee activities was reported for the Editorial, Education, and Membership committees, as well as the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee and a treasurer's report.

The Editorial Committee reports that the journal is now in print. A big thank-you goes out to John Ludwickson, editor, and also to Melissa Connor, Curt Peacock, and the Nebraska State Historical Society for their personal efforts and use of their facilities that made the publication of the first issue of the Central Plains Archeology possible. Members present at the Plains Conference picked up their copy of the journal at the NAPA table. NAPA members unable to attend the conference will find theirs included with their NAPA Newsletter. Additional copies of the journal can be obtained by contacting John Ludwickson at the Nebraska State Historical Society. The cost of volume 1 of Central Plains Archeology is \$6.00 to members and \$9.00 to nonmembers.

Becky Otto, Chairman of the Education Committee, is continuing the work of putting together a Speaker's Bureau. If

you are still holding on to your questionnaire, please get it off to her. Melissa Conner announced the upcoming workshop in archeology scheduled for November 4 and titled, "Arrowheads, Scrapers, and Chips by Dr. Douglas Bamforth." The workshops are a welcome addition to NAPA activities and have been well attended.

Ten new NAPA members were added to our roles during the Plains Conference, bringing the total membership to 87. During 1989, \$525 was collected in dues and an additional \$100 in donations. Renewal forms for 1990 are included in the Newsletter. Please take a minute to mail these in.

Doug Bamforth gave a report on Ad Hoc Legislative business. Recent meetings with the Omaha tribal leaders have been very positive on reburial issues. The Omaha have expressed a desire that skeletal remains of their ancestors be studied before reburial. It is their feeling that the Omaha have not been adequately studied in the past. There are no other specifics from these meetings to report. Tribal leaders were not present at the last scheduled meeting.

Douglas Bamforth, Secretary/Treasurer reported a balance of \$1685.26. As of yet we have not received the final billing for the journal. The following monies have been received:

\$140.50	Plains Conference (sales of journals, Bob Hasslers book donated to NAPA, and new memberships)
\$330.00	NAPA Workshops (not including the last one)
\$ 36.00	Other
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\$506.50	Total
\$1178.76	Previous Balance
\$1685.26	New Balance

New business centered around the North Dakota representatives plea for help in their legislative battle and an ensuing discussion of reburial. As was stated before, the membership responded with a donation of \$300.00 in an attempt to help out in this desperate situation.

The possibility of developing a NAPA T-shirt for sale to the membership and the public was also discussed. A decision was made to submit designs for a NAPA T-shirt to John Ludwickson to be voted on at the annual spring NAPA meeting. This is a perfect opportunity to promote the importance of archeology, its preservation and conservation. Let's try to come up with a design as good as the South Dakota Archeological Society!

NAPA WORKSHOPS IN ARCHEOLOGY

The most exciting education news was the recent successful completion of a series of workshops in archeology sponsored by NAPA. The workshops were the brain child of Melissa Connor and will hopefully prove to be an ongoing activity for the organization. Not only do they provide needed revenue to the organization, and allow students and professionals an additional source of information, they also promote a positive image and understanding of the discipline to the public. Participants included a range of people from junior high students and interested amateurs to professional archeologists. Group numbers averaged about 20 per workshop. Registration fees are very reasonable at \$10.00 and \$5.00 for students. The following titles were the workshops offered this fall:

Bottles, Cans, and Glass: An Introduction to Historical Archeology by Dr. Douglas Scott 9/23/89

Nebraska Before the White Man: A Brief Overview of Nebraska Prehistory by William Hunt 10/14/89

Arrowheads, Scrapers, and Chips: Basic Stone Tool Analysis by Dr. Douglas Bamforth 11/4/89

The Bare Bones of Prehistoric Subsistence: Basic Archeological Faunal Analysis by Dr. Nancy Hamblin 11/18/89

Future topics being considered include:

Prehistoric Rock Art

Dietary Resonstruction (including coprolite analysis and skeletal biology).

A special series of workshops is also being considered for junior high and high school teachers because of the response the workshops received from an Omaha junior high instructor and some of his students. Since archeology is taught in the Nebraska junior high schools, it is hoped that NAPA can provide teachers with workshops which will enhance their presentations to students.

Possibilities for workshops are varied and can be tailored to different groups and needs. One special workshop presently being considered is one on "Finding and Applying for Jobs in Archeology", designed primarily for UNL students. If you have ideas for topics or any other suggestions for workshops, please contact Melissa Connor at 402-437-5392.

TWO WEEK AMATEUR FIELD SCHOOL

This summer interested amateurs will have an opportunity to participate in a two week field school during the regular UNL field school. Plans have not yet been finalized, but the field school will take place at Harry Strunk Lake near Cambridge, in southwest Nebraska. A variety of testing will take place which will include testing of some Paleo-Indian sites, an Upper Republican house, and a Woodland site. Contact Doug Bamforth (472-2471) at UNL if you are interested in attending.

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Since the last NAPA Newsletter, John Ludwickson and Rob Bozell have conducted two Nebraska Highway Archeology Program excavations.

The first was at the Little Pawnee Creek site in Cass County near Ashland. The site was discovered in the spring of 1989 within the proposed right of way for a new I-80 interchange just west of the Platte River which will provide access to Ashland, South Bend and Mahoney State Parks. Excavations were conducted during July and August of 1989 and focused on a single Nebraska Phase (A.D. 1000-1450) lodge ruin situated on a low terrace remnant immediately adjacent to Little Pawnee Creek, a minor tributary of the Platte. The study represents the first systematic investigation of a Nebraska Phase homestead situated in a lowland alluvial setting and is expected to add to our understanding of late prehistoric settlement patterns in eastern Nebraska. In conjunction with the project, Dr. Rolfe Mandal, from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, is presently completing a geomorphological study of the Little Pawnee Creek Valley.

Brief National Register testing was also completed in August at the Soucek site in Knox County near Verdigre. Initial survey was conducted in 1987 in response to a proposed bridge replacement and suggested the site may contain a buried Middle Archaic component. Controlled testing this summer, however, indicated the site was badly deflated containing a deposit of mixed Archaic and Late Prehistoric material. No further work will be recommended in conjunction with construction of the project.

Gail Potter, Curator of Collections at the NSHS, is overseeing the LB340 project. The project includes the inventory and descriptive analysis of all material culture to be transferred to the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma by September 1990, under the requirements of the bill. Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution is directing analysis of the skeletal material to be transferred to the Pawnee.

Dr. Rolfe Mandel, formerly of the University of Kansas, is now teaching in the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Dr. Mandel is very active in geomorphological studies associated with archeological

investigations in the Central Plains.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A new publication (scheduled for release in November, 1989) in the Reprints in Anthropology Series (Volume 41)

Apishapa Canyon Archeology: Excavations at the Cramer, Snake Blakeslee, and Nearby Sites by James H. Gunnerson
(Appendices IA through IE by Nancy L. Hamblin - Analysis of the Cramer Site Fauna; The Snake Blakeslee Site Fauna; the Juan Baca Site Fauna; the Canterbury Site Fauna; and the Munsell Site Fauna)

<u>Central Plains Archeology</u> Volume 1	\$6.00 members \$9.00 nonmembers
<u>Nebraska Anthropologist</u> Volume 8	\$5.00

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The first issue of Central Plains Archeology (CPA) is included with this newsletter, if you haven't already received your copy. Hopefully, the second issue will be out early in 1990. Articles in the second issue will include:

'Window Glass on the Plains: An Analysis of Ten Flat Glass Samples from 19th Century Historic Sites' by Christopher M. Schoen

'The Nebraska Phase' by Donald Blakeslee

The CPA is a peer reviewed journal focused on both theoretical and descriptive papers dealing with the Central Plains area. For information on submission of papers see the inside front cover. The most important factor in the success of the journal will be the quality and quantity of the submissions it receives. So NAPA members, dust off those site reports! Shorten those theses! Send them in!

For success any day,
Publications lead the way.
In Nebraska, look to CPA!

2ND CALL

Papers are also needed for the Nebraska Academy of Science meeting next April. Contact Jim Winfrey (Grand Island 308-381-5527) or Karl Reinhard (402-472-2411). The date for abstracts has not yet been announced. Just be thinking about it!

3RD CALL

Papers are needed for Volume 9 of the Nebraska Anthropologist. Editor, Stan Parks (402-472-2411 at UNL) would like to have abstracts by the first of January 1990.

Please send news for the NAPA Newsletter or comments to:

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100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508