

N A P A

Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

VOLUME 6, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 1991

1991 WILL BE A BUSY YEAR!

NEBRASKA ARCHEOLOGY WEEK SEPTEMBER 21-29, 1991

Plans for the 1st Annual Nebraska Archeology Week are well along. It will take place throughout the state during the week of September 21-29, 1991. **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?** The purpose of archeology week is to make the public aware of archeology. The success of the week will depend on the participation of the professional community. YOU are the best judge of how you can participate: Can you give public lectures? Site Tours? Demonstrations? Let Melissa Connor (402-437-5392; 1920 B St.) know how you can participate as soon as possible. September, 1991 sounds like it is in the distant future, but to get events organized and advertised, they'll need to be set up well in advance.

JOINT WYOMING-NEBRASKA MEETINGS?

The Wyoming Professional Archeologists have contacted us about possibly holding joint meetings in the fall of 1991. It is possible this could be done as a kick-off for Archeology Week. We've talked about holding meetings in either Scottsbluff or Fort Robinson. The usual Wyoming fall meetings consist of a day of papers and some site tours. Many of the classic Plains sites are in the immediate vicinity, as well as areas of recent fieldwork, so there are a lot of good possibilities.

If you would be interested in attending such a meeting, let me know (Melissa Connor, 402-437-5392, 1920 B St., Lincoln). If no one responds, the idea will die from lack of interest.

1991 FLINT HILLS CONFERENCE at UNL

The 13th Annual Flint Hills Archeological Conference will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on March 29 and 30, 1991. This year the meeting will be hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Anthropology Department, the Nebraska State Historical Society, and the University of Nebraska State Museum. The sessions on both days will take place in Room 117-118 of Bessey Hall

Additional conference information and a call for papers will be mailed in mid-January. Questions regarding the conference and paper titles should be directed to:

James Winfrey, Conference Chair
5243 Walker
Lincoln, NE 68504
(402)464-5929 (hm)
(402)437-5392 (wk)

There will be no registration fee for this conference.

NeSHPO ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The Historic Preservation Archaeologist was called out to investigate a reported burial under the now one year old Unmarked Human Burial Sites law. The burial was reported to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office by a local resident. Severe gully erosion near a butte located below the Pine Ridge escarpment had exposed the burial. Most of the skeletal remains of a single individual, without accompanying burial goods, were recovered by the Sheriff's Office. Subsequent examination of the burial area indicated the presence of a prehistoric occupation site. Lithic chipping debris concentrations, roasting pits, and a fireplace were exposed in eroding gully sides around the burial. Preliminary analysis suggests a site related to the Late Archaic or Plains woodland periods. The skeletal remains are being sent to Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution for physical examination. Provisions for reburial will be finalized after receipt of Dr. Owsley's findings and analysis of the material recovered from the site.

The archaeological consulting firm of Bear Creek Archeology, David Stanley president, is currently completing an archaeological survey in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. This survey was funded by the Historic preservation office matching grants program for cultural resource survey activities. continued heavy development of the Omaha urban area is rapidly impacting sites and the area has had very little systematic survey information available for preservation planning activity. Upon completion, May of 1991, some 2500 acres of Papillion Creek and Missouri Bluff lands will have been systematically surveyed.

A STATE ARCHEOLOGIST FOR NEBRASKA?

One of the lessons learned from the recent controversy over LB 340 is that archeology needs a legally-mandated spokesperson to advocate the interests of the profession and the preservation of archeological resources in Nebraska. Many states have state archeologists who perform a wide range of functions in managing their state's archeological database, handling compliance affairs, arbitrating or otherwise participating in reburial/repatriation claims, advocating preservation legislation, and generally serving as their state's official voice in archeological matters.

NAPA's legislative committee has been charged with studying the need for and the feasibility of establishing a state-funded state archeologist's position for Nebraska. The first step toward this has been to contact the state archeologists in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, to survey the range of functions performed by their offices and to solicit recommendations regarding the establishment of such a program in Nebraska. The responses will be reported at the next meeting of the NAPA Executive Board. If you have suggestions or comments to offer on this matter, please contact Tom Thiessen at the Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 (telephone: 402-437-5392).

SEARCH FOR THE NEW ARCHEOLOGIST AT UNL

Search for an archeologist to replace Doug Bamforth at the UNL Anthropology department is moving ahead well. When the position closed on January 2, 1991 more than 70 applications had been received. There are a great many well qualified candidates. A decision will be made later this spring.

THE INDIAN EARTH LODGE SOCIETY

Many NAPA members may already have heard of the Indian Earth Lodge Society which has been formed in Glenwood, Iowa to preserve and appreciate the prehistoric remains of that locality. Certainly, this is a very worthwhile undertaking. The Society wishes to institute an advisory council that can both support and guide its activities. This council would include archeologists, other kinds of environmental scholars, and others. NAPA members who are interested in this project or who wish to know about the group should contact:

Barbara L. Cochran
225 West Florence
Glenwood, IA 51534

or

Gail Geo. Holmes
10 N. Walnut
Glenwood, IA 51534

ARCHEOLOGY IN NEBRASKA CLASSROOMS

Since October of 1990 Cathie Masters has been working with Dick Spencer of the Nebraska State Historical Society Education Department on a project that will bring archeology to the public schools of the State. With support of an Institute for Museum Services grant, Cathie is preparing a series of "trunks" that will present historic issues and artifacts to 4th to 6th grade students. The first two trunks will deal with "The Fur Trade" and "Archeology". Future trunks are planned on "The Pioneers", "Nebraska Tribes", and "The Czechs". Each trunk includes both interesting artifacts and a series of lesson plans that suggest how teachers can incorporate them into classroom activities. The initial trunks will be sent out through Educational Service Units of the state which will assure that they will reach schools throughout Nebraska. They are intended to remain in a classroom for two weeks before moving on to another school. After some initial visits, the trunks will be refined, and plans call for 5 copies of each trunk to be made for circulation by the Historical Society. Clearly, this is a great opportunity for presenting archaeology to Nebraska and getting students to think about artifacts and the approaches archeologists take to the study of the past. If you have comments or want more information call Cathie at 471-4757.

THE 1992 PLAINS CONFERENCE TO BE IN LINCOLN

After a hiatus of several years, the Plains Conference will be returning to the center of the Good Life. The event is scheduled for the weekend of November 11 - 15, 1992. The local arrangements committee consists of Cal Calabrese, Rob Bozell, and Peter Bleed and they have reserved space at the Hilton. You'll be hearing more about this!

SOME GLITCHES IN THE MEMBERSHIP LIST

Terry Barton, membership secretary, reports that there are a series of problems, errors, and questions with the membership list. These might be as simple as overdue dues(!), but for whatever reason, if your name appears on the following list, please contact Terry at 126 Bessey Hall, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68588-0368 or call him at 437-5397.

Jeff Beuchler
F.A. Calabrese
Muriel Carlson
Bill Chada
Don Clark
Donna Cochran
John Cordell
Steve Dominguez
Lila Garner
Kay Gerelick
Roger Grange
Sara Hastings

Harold Hayes
Mark Hill
Terri Liestman
Robert Linderholm
Bridget McGinn
Charles Mousel
Thomas Myers
Alan Osborn
John Russell
Alan Smith
Charles Wheeler
Jim Winfrey

It's time to renew Nebraska Archeological Society. If you have not already done so, send \$5.00 to:

Todd Rivers
6822 Platte Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68507

by our Old Spout of the Nebraska State Historical Soc
the public schools of the State. With support of an institu
that will present historic events and a focus to all as the
of Archeology. Future events are planned on the lines
interesting visitors and a series of lesson plans for



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHEOLOGISTS APPRECIATION AWARDS

NAPA has begun issuing Certificates of Appreciation for people who have done something to significantly, and positively, impact Nebraska Archeology. Our first recipient is **CATHIE MASTERS** for her gigantuan effort in organizing the first NAPA State Fair Booth. She presented the idea at a meeting in July with the Game and Parks Commission, who offered us space in their area. This left very little lead time to organize demonstrations, exhibits, and staff. But with weekly meetings and constant effort, Cathie pulled it off. Kudos to Cathie!!!!

NAPA has instituted two awards. **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION** will be awarded for a single act positively affecting Nebraska Archeology. The recipient need not be a professional archeologist. It may be a legislator who works for pro-archeology legislation, a landowner who saves a site from destruction, or an educator who works hard to bring archeology to the classroom. Nominations can be made verbally to the board at a board meeting or sent in writing to the President (Melissa Connor, 1920 B Street, Lincoln, NE). An informal letter stating why the person should be considered for the award is sufficient.

The second award is **THE NAPA HALL OF FAME**, presented for lasting impact on Nebraska Archeology. A nomination committee, headed by Tom Theissen, is presently considering possible inductees. They need not be professional archeologists and they need not be living still. If you have ideas on possible inductees, let Tom know (402-437-5392).