

NAPA

Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

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NEWSLETTER

Fall, 1991

HUDSON-MENG REDUX 1991

Terri Leistmann reports by telephone that fieldwork at the Hudson-Meng buffalo kill site is once again actively underway. Dr. Larry Todd is working with Terri and her staff at the site with support of Earthwatch. A volunteer crew of 8 to 16 has worked at the site since June 16 and excavations will continue until at least August 30. The work has focused on re-exposing the bone bed Larry Agenbroad uncovered in the 1973/74 seasons. Additionally, a 7 square meter portion of the bone bed has been newly excavated and a variety of techniques have been used to define the limits of the site and the configuration of the bed rock that underlies the area of the site. Results so far have been very positive. The bone bed is very good condition and includes remains of literally hundreds on individuals. Plans call for work at the site to continue for as much as 4 or 5 more years and Terri hopes a permanent interpretive center can be built at the site. Since it is but a short 17 miles from Crawford, it could be a very popular attraction.

GOLDEN SPRING PETROGLYPHS

With support of the Papio-Missouri Natural Resource District, Terry Barton and Stan Parks from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, recorded the complex of petroglyphs above the Golden Spring, in Burt County in April and May. The petroglyphs are on a exposed sandstone outcrop immediately above the Spring which is being developed as a wayside area. Terry and Stan recorded the marks on the outcrop with drawings and photographs and used AutoCAD to finally present data on the site preserves a number of historically important inscriptions.

ELEPHANT BONES AND ?

With support from the Bureau of Reclamation, Steve Holen and a crew of seven spent three weeks in July opening a new section of the mammoth site he has been investigating near Harry Strunk Reservoir. Steve reports that excavations again yielded a large assemblage of clearly fractured bones. The work exposed no stone clearly associated with bone layer, but another elephant was discovered a short distance from the areas under study.

UNL ON THE RIO GRANDE

The 1991 UNL Field School journeyed to the far southern extension of the Plains into Texas where the Pecos River meets the Rio Grande. Led by Karl Reinhard and Alan Osborn, the crew of 13 students excavated and surveyed in quaint places such as Satan Canyon and the Devil's River. Sites tested or excavated were a quarry site, a heath field associated with what once was a swamp, a burned rock midden, a small cave used for agave roasting, and a small cave used for processing and grinding foods. Consideration of the open-air sites was new in the area and revealed new information on the prehistoric subsistence of the region.

SURVEYS ALONG THE ELKHORN

With support of the Historic Preservation Office of the Historical Society, Steven Holen and Terry Barton will be undertaking a survey of the upper Elkhorn River Valley later this fall. Dave May, of the University of Northern Iowa, has already completed a geomorphological reconnaissance of the area and has identified areas likely to preserve sites of various ages. Work with local collectors and on-the-ground surveying will be done after ground cover conditions are a bit better.

LOGAN CREEK SITE TO BE REINVESTIGATED

Gayle Carlson of the Nebraska State Historical Society and Rolfe Mandel of UNO will be conducting investigations at the Logan Creek site in August or September after the site has dried out enough to allow for some deep trenching. Logan Creek, which is 60 miles north of Omaha, is one of the key Early Archaic Sites in the eastern part of the state. Society excavations in the late 1950's and early 1960's revealed both an interesting artifact assemblage and good stratigraphy. This year's work will focus on the stratigraphy and consist of backhoe trenching to collect geomorphic data and up to 20 radiocarbon samples. The results of the work will be reported in a comprehensive report on Logan Creek which site and area that will be prepared in the coming years. Call Gayle at 471-4790 for information.

HIGHWAY ARCHEOLOGY

Nebraska Highway archeologists John Ludwickson and Rob Bozell will be excavating at the Hanna Larson site (25PT1) during this late summer and fall or next spring. The Larson site is a protohistoric Pawnee village near Genoa. For information call John or Rob at 471-4789. In addition to this work, the Highway Archeology Program has surveyed over 150 proposed road improvements so far this season.

LUANN WANDSNIDER -- THE NEW ARCHEOLOGIST AT UNL

The UNL Anthropology department is pleased to announce that Dr. LuAnn Wandsnider will be joining the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 1991. LuAnn got her B.S. in Geology and Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico in 1989. She has worked in southeastern Wyoming, New Mexico, and several other parts of the world. Most recently she has been doing ethnoarcheological research in India. LuAnn is interested in land use patterns, landscape analysis, and spatial studies. She has published several papers on these kinds of topics. Starting in late August LuAnn will be teaching a full load of classes on the Lincoln campus. LuAnn's telephone number is 472-8873.

NEBRASKA MIGHT GET A TASK FORCE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A bill establishing a Task Force on Historic Preservation is pending before the Nebraska State Legislature. It is LB 706, introduced by Senator Brad Ashford, from Legislative District 6 in Omaha. Having passed through committee it is on general file which means that its consideration will continue next session. The task force will consist of the Historical Society Director and 11 members to be appointed by the Governor. Appointees will be selected from the state's three legislative districts, but the Bill explicitly mentions archeological resources and requires that some task force members have archeological expertise. The task force will benefit both archeological resources and the profession. Give your Senator a call.

LB 706, Historic Preservation Task Force

Senator Ashford's address is 5709 Leavenworth
Omaha, Nebraska 68106 or the State Capital,
Lincoln NE 68509 phone number is 471-2714

NAPA IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Anne Wolley Vawser has successfully overseen the complicated process involved in getting NAPA turned into a "non-profit" institution. This gives us some flexibility and access to wider sources of support. Getting this status is a LOT of work and Anne deserves a real thanks. Being "non-profit" doesn't mean that we still don't need money. IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE, SEND THEM TO TERRY BARTON % of the UNL Anthro department.

CENTRAL PLAINS ARCHEOLOGY

The Lincoln Pottery Works report will be the next issue of our Journal, Central Plains Archeology. It is the proof reading stage and will be out this fall. Editor, John Ludwickson is ready to start work on the next issue. He welcomes high quality manuscripts. Send him anything you have ready to go.

NEW NAPA DIRECTORS

Anne Wolley Vawser reports the results of the recent election. Thirty-three ballots were cast meaning 60% of the Fellow Members voted. Our new directors are: Robert Blasing, Steve Holen, Bill Hunt and Tom Thiessen. Congratulations and thank-you.

TRAVELS TO JAPAN

Peter Bleed, UNL archeologist and your NAPA Newsletter editor, returned to Lincoln in June after spending half a year in Japan. The rate of excavation in Japan is incredible. In 1989 there were more than 25,000 excavations - in a country roughly twice the size of Nebraska! I was based at Tohoku University in Sendai but I traveled from Hokkaido to Kyushu. My research involved using operations research techniques to analyze production and use of late Paleolithic microcores. The method worked very well and I am hoping to be able to apply it to some local assemblages. I also surveyed recent developments in Japanese historic archeology, a very rapidly growing research topic. I also was pleased to see Akira Matsui who spent a couple of years at UNL. Akira hosted me to three weeks (!) at the Nara National Cultural Properties Research Center where he heads an active faunal analysis program.

Nebraska Archaeology Week
1991

Date	Location/Time	Activity
Aug. 30 - Sept. 3	State Fair Grounds, Lincoln, 9 A.M to 8 P.M.	Information booth with displays, scheduled demonstrations and artifact identification.
Sept. 15	Stuhr Museum, McCook, 2 P.M.	Want to volunteer for an archeological dig? Melissa Connor of the National Park Service will tell you how.
Sept. 19	Nebraska State Historical Society Museum, Lincoln, 12 noon	A photo history of Nebraska Archaeology by Cathie Masters (Brown Bag Series). Great photographs!
Sept. 20	North Platte Valley Historical Association, Gering, evening	Lecture on the archaeology of Agate Fossil Beds and Scotts Bluff National Monuments by Caven Clark.
Sept. 21	Hastings Museum, Hastings, from 2 to 4 P.M.	Flintknapping demonstration by Dave Filbert. See how stone tools used by early American Indians were made.
	Fort Hartsuff Barracks, from 6 to 8 P.M.	A look at the artifacts from Fort Hartsuff and historic and prehistoric artifact identification by Royce Lindsay and Jerry Schmitt. Bring your collections.
Sept. 22	Neihardt Center, Bancroft 2 P.M.	Lecture on "Trading Furs with the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians" by Tom Theissen.
	Hastings Museum, Hastings, 1:30 P.M.	Lecture on Highway Archaeology by John R. Bozell. What do highways have to with archaeology?
	Fort Robinson State Park 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	A Fort or Hudson-Meng site tour will begin at 9:30 A.M. A picnic sponsored by the local Nebraska Archaeological Society Chapter follows at noon. Afternoon lectures include: Terry Steinacher on local culture history at 1:30, Jim Winfrey on the Wallace Site at 2:30, Terry Liestman on recent excavations at Hudson-Meng at 3:30, and Bill Hunt on the Fur Trade at 4:30.
Sept. 25	Western Heritage Center, Omaha, 12 noon	Lecture on Industrial Archaeology by Peter Bleed. What can we learn about early industry from archaeology?
	Mahoney State Park, 2 P.M.	Lecture on the Nebraska Phase by John R. Bozell. Also see the archeological display at the park's visitors center.
	Platte River State Park 7:30 P.M.	Lecture on Flint Quarries by Terry Barton. Where did prehistoric Indians get the stone to make their tools?
	Fort Atkinson, 7:00 P.M.	Lecture on the Archaeology of Fort Atkinson by Gayle Carlson. Learn about the archaeology of this early fort.
	Buffalo Bill Ranch State Park, 7:00 P.M.	Lecture on the Archaeology of the Oregon Trail by John Ludwickson.
Sept. 26	Robert Henri Museum, Cozad, 7:30 P.M.	Lecture on the Wallace Site, a Nebraska Paleo-Indian site, by James Winfrey.
	Beatrice Public Library, Beatrice, 7 to 8 P.M.	Lecture on archaeology of the Midwest by Jeff Richner of the National Park Service.
Sept. 27-29 Oct. 4-6	Omaha	Nebraska State Historical Society/Nebraska Archeological Society Field School will be held on these dates near Omaha. Please contact Rob Bozell at 471-4789 or Todd Rivers at 467-1314 for details.
Call for date and time	High Plains Museum, McCook	Lecture on the archaeology of the Medicine Creek Site by Steve Holen
Call for date and time	Fort Kearny, Kearny	A presentation on Military Archaeology by Doug Scott. Learn what archaeology can tell us about early military.

Major funding for Nebraska Archaeology Week was provided by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities,
a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS
STATE FAIR INFORMATION BOOTH
1991

Once again N.A.P.A. will be participating in public outreach at the Nebraska State Fair. N.A.P.A. members will be staffing the White Gazebo in the Nebraska State Game and Parks area from opening day on Friday, August 30, through Tuesday, September 3.

Activities for our run at the Fair include: excavation exhibit, artifact display, morning artifact identification, the popular light board for matching prehistoric tools with modern counterparts, handouts, brochures, posters featuring our first celebration of "Nebraska Archeology Week," and demonstrations of prehistoric pottery techniques, and flintknapping.

Schedule of Activities at the N.A.P.A. booth

Friday Aug. 30	John Ludwickson will I.D. artifacts in the morning
Saturday Aug. 31	Rob Borell will I.D. artifacts in the morning Dave Filbert will demonstrate flintknapping beginning about 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Sept. 1	Peter Bleed will I.D. artifacts in the morning
Monday Sept. 2	Luan Wandsnider will I.D. artifacts in the morning Nancy Fairbanks-Grim will demonstrate prehistoric pottery making methods from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Tuesday Sept. 3	Alan Osborn will I.D. artifacts in the morning Dave Filbert will demonstrate flintknapping beginning about 10:00 a.m.

September Historical Society Brown Bag

In conjunction with "Nebraska Archeology Week," the September 19th Brown Bag Session at the Nebraska State Historical Society will be a slide presentation by Cathie Masters entitled, "Pioneers in Prehistory." The program will include some choice vintage photos of the early pioneers in Nebraska archeology, a few tales of their exploits, and some insights into the changing role of the archeology in the state.

N A P A

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