

NAPA Newsletter



Publication Update

CPA editors are in the process of preparing the next issue. It will feature a reprint of Dr. James Gundersen's 1991 article entitled "The Mineralogical Characterization of Catlinite from its Sole Provenance, Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota," as well as two new peer-reviewed manuscripts.

NAPA Business

New Board Members

NAPA welcomes four newly elected NAPA Board Members who began their terms on September 1, 2001. Ann Bauermeister, Bill Chada, Bill Hunt, and Trish Nelson have all agreed to serve on the board. Ann Bauermeister and Bill Hunt are archeologists with the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln. Bill Chada is the Area Archeologist for the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, in Grand Island. Trish Nelson is a Highway Archeologist for the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln.

2001 NAPA Membership Dues Reminder

It's not too late to pay 2001 dues!

Membership Categories-Due annually

Regular-\$15

Student-\$10

Subscribing-\$10 (non-voting member)

Affiliated-\$10 (non-voting member)

Institutional-\$15 (non-voting member)

If HIGHLIGHTED, our records indicate that you have NOT yet paid 2001 dues-THANKS!

Please remit payment to:

NAPA
c/o Stacy Stupka-Burda
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554

Early Nebraska Archeology CD coming Fall 2001

The Midwest Archeological Center has been working with the Nebraska State Historical Society and NAPA to preserve manuscripts at the Center that document the early archeology of Nebraska. As a part of this preservation process, the manuscripts are being scanned and stored as digital files and will be made available on CD. The project is a part of a Challenge Cost Share program through the National Park Service. The Midwest Archeological Center worked through a cooperative agreement with the University of Nebraska Anthropology Department to bring a student in for the summer to work with the manuscripts. Many of these manuscripts

are originals of which there may be only a few copies, or in some cases no other copies. Some of the manuscripts also have original maps or photographs which are in danger of being lost or damaged and need to be protected.

The Center has pulled these early manuscripts from their library shelf, made an archival copy for the Center and for the Historical Society, and has taken the originals to the Historical Society to be scanned. Once the scanning is complete, the original documents will be stored in archival, fire proof cabinets at the Midwest Archeological Center for safe keeping. The scanned documents will

then be made available on CD through NAPA. The CD should be available sometime this fall.

Members who are up to date on their dues will receive a copy of the CD free as a part of the membership benefits. Additional copies of the CD will be made available at a reasonable cost. For more information on this project contact Anne Vawser at the Midwest Archeological Center at anne_vawser@nps.gov or (402) 437-5392.

Look for flyers for the CD at the **Plains Conference** in October.

*Fieldwork / Research Activities***NSHS Investigates Sites from 7000 to 400 Years Old**

During the 2001 field season, the Archeology Division teamed up with outside consultants Rolfe Mandel and Bob Pepperl to conduct preliminary explorations of some of the oldest archeological sites in eastern Nebraska. The work was sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Historic Preservation Division and focused on deeply buried cultural deposits at two locations. The first is along Interstate – 80 near the Platte River between Lincoln and Omaha and the other is along the Elkhorn River in northeastern Douglas County. The sites were discovered through a

series of mechanical backhoe trenches excavated to depths of over 12 feet in river terraces and alluvial fans. The investigations found evidence of stratified Native American camps and villages dating between 7000 and 1500 years ago based on radiocarbon dating. The deposits appear to represent Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Woodland, and Central Plains tradition use of the lower Elkhorn and Platte River. These strata contain butchered animal bone, stone tools and debris, and fireplaces. Deposits dating to the past 2000 years also produced broken ceramic vessels.

More detailed hand dug test excavations were conducted within some of the shallower levels. A previously unknown Pawnee camp or village was also briefly investigated along Interstate –80 north of Lincoln. This site appears to be 300-400 years old. Analysis of materials over the coming winter will address research potential and may result in some sites be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

These investigations were conducted using volunteers, students from the University of Nebraska Archeological Fieldschool

and students from several Omaha area high schools.

The Society and the Nebraska Department of Roads also sponsored a one-week internship for three members of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma who participated in the field investigations. They were also taken on a tour of various Pawnee village sites in Nance County. The Pawnee tribal members were Katherine LeRoy and Alice Alexander of Pawnee, Oklahoma and John Stonerod of Oklahoma City.

Kansas State University

Donna Roper took a field school from Kansas State University to Medicine Creek during June and July. The students and staff completed the cultural resources inventory of government lands at Harry Strunk Lake. They also continued excavation on n of 25FT39. This particular part of the site is of considerable interest because, although it clearly is Upper Republican, its assemblage, lithic raw material utilization pattern, and ceramic design combinations are somewhat anomalous compared to many other Upper Republican sites in the valley.

Two master's theses will detail these differences. Eric Gilliland at the University of Missouri-Columbia is completing his study of the ceramics and Jennifer Macy at the University of Kansas is analyzing some of the lithics. Both studies should be finished and defended during the current semester.

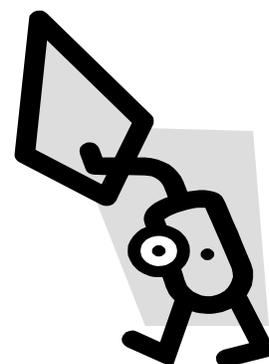
Analysis also is proceeding with other materials from this site and with materials from the 1995-1999 excavations at 25FT22, 25FT30, and 25FT167.

A book entitled "Medicine Creek: Seventy Years of Archaeology", edited by

Donna C. Roper has been accepted for publication by the University of Alabama Press and currently is in production. This volume grew out of the two symposia presented at the 1997 Medicine Creek Conference celebrating 50 years of federal archaeology in the valley. Papers review the history of archaeology and some of the current work with Paleoindian and related sites, and with the Upper Republican period. Authors include Donna Roper, Bob Blasing, W.D. Frankforter, the late E. Mott Davis, David May, Steve Holen,

Doug Bamforth, Ruthann Knudson, Don Blakeslee, Curtis Nepstad-Thornberry,

Linda Scott Cummings, and Kathy Puseman. The book should be released in late spring/early summer 2002.



Nebraska-Kansas Area Office—Bureau of Reclamation

The Nebraska-Kansas Area Office (NKAO) of the Bureau of Reclamation has a job opening for an "Archeological Technician", a one-year term appointment at the GS-7 level (salary at \$29,273). We are looking for someone to do a lot of small survey projects, generally on private agricultural lands. If you know of someone who might be interested, the job announcement is on USA-Job's web page at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/wfjic/jobs/IW8032.HTM> or they can call Bill Chada directly. The announcement closes on December 5, 2001.

The site inventory at Medicine Creek Reservoir is one step closer to completion. Donna Roper and Kansas State University completed the archeological survey this past summer. National Register

evaluations will follow at a later date.

In October, the University of Nebraska State Museum completed salvage excavations at another mammoth site at Medicine Creek Reservoir. This is the Hamburger Mammoth Site, which appears to be younger in age than the nearby La Sena Site previously excavated.

NKAO is completing archeological mitigation in preparation for our planned Middle Loup Project title transfer. This project consists of the transfer of title out of federal ownership for all lands and facilities for this project. Consultation with the Nebraska SHPO and the Advisory Council resulted in the requirement for the National Register of Historic Places nominations of one archeological site and one archeological

district. These nominations were presented and approved at the September meeting of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Board.

NKAO completed a NAGPRA repatriation of an individual to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. This inadvertent discovery was made at a Reclamation reservoir in Kansas. Due to budget constraints, it now appears that NKAO's Section 110 work for fiscal year 2002 will be put on hold. Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that Federal agencies identify, evaluate and nominate to the National Register all historic properties on federal lands. NKAO has ongoing Section 110 projects at nearly all of our reservoirs in Nebraska.

New Location!

The offices of the NSHS **Archeology Division** and the **NeSHPO** have moved to 1424 P St (3rd floor of the Lincoln Children's Museum).

Postal information and telephone numbers have not changed.

Before dropping by, please phone ahead and staff will be happy to arrange your visit.

UNL Archeological Research Lab

The UNL Archeological Research Lab has been involved in a number of surveys at several State Recreation areas. These projects were conducted for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission prior to Lake rehabilitation projects. The future continues to look relatively busy for the lab with several upcoming NRD dam surveys. The lab will also take part in the 2001 NSHS drainage survey which was

awarded jointly to the University of Nebraska Anthropology Department and the State Museum Archeological Survey.

The UNL Archeological Research Lab has been again retained for the next 2 year phase of the Antelope Valley flood control and roadway project in Lincoln. In addition, work continues on Lincoln's South and East Beltway project.

Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office has awarded a matching-grant archaeological survey contract. The University of Nebraska Anthropology Department and the State Museum

Archaeological Survey were the successful bidders for a 5,000 acre survey in the Upper North Loup Drainage of Nebraska.

**Know someone interested in joining NAPA?
Our membership form is available at**

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/archeo/napa/index.htm>

Cleaned Closet Makes National News

In a minimal nod to their responsibilities to cultural resources, UNL has added historic assessment as a step in most of their construction projects. Unfortunately, funds are not made available to mitigate negative impacts so when construction began on the Ross Film Theater project at the corner of 13th and Q, I got a call informing me that I could "come over" and monitor the earthmoving. Since the construction area could have preserved a relatively early part of residential Lincoln and privies that might predate the city's water and sewer system, it certainly deserved monitoring.

Earthmoving revealed a fair amount of uncontained old litter as well as features that were either impossibly large or heavily disturbed. One a hot afternoon in late

June we did isolate a wood-lined privy that Dan Watson and I excavated. It contained machine made bottles and other materials that suggest it was filled in the early 20th century. Hardly what I'd been hoping for.

Continued earthmoving exposed another privy late on Friday July 7. Rather than make it a weekend project, I arranged to meet Dan and Doug Scott on Monday morning and hoped for cooler weather. When we arrived at the site, we found that the privy had been looted! It was a real hatchet job with the rejected bottles laid out at the side of the hole. The three of us gathered the rejects and cleaned up the excavation to find a good deal of potentially interesting materials that the looter has missed.

The campus police were called and the media informed. The story that appeared in the Lincoln paper got picked up by AP and the University's PR department. With a bit of pitching, it resulted in a piece on National Public Radio Morning Edition, and The Todd Mundt Show. Virgil Noble lined up a number of other similar examples looting of urban sites so that when a reporter from the New York Times picked the story up, she was able to produce a good article on the problem of privy digging.

In Lincoln, the case was resolved when campus police contacted the author of a webpage on "bottle collecting" http://h.p._lau.tripod.com/timsbottle.htm who confessed to the crime, surrendered 17 bottles, and went

thru a pre-trial diversion program.

To most Americans, this incident was the source of great glee and generated the same set of really irritating puns and scatological jibes. The destroyed feature appears to have been a very late one that would have revealed little about the history of our community. Perhaps the only good that came out of the incident was an opportunity to educate the public to the fragility of the archaeological record and the importance of even relatively recent and mundane materials. There is also an attempt to put in place a Lincoln city antiquities ordinance.

Submitted by
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Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Steve Holen accepted the position of Curator of Archaeology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (formerly the Denver Museum of Natural History) and began work August 1.

He will continue his Paleoindian research in eastern Colorado and western Nebraska. He will also be involved in exhibit research and development and public archaeology.

Steve completed his doctoral dissertation at the

University of Kansas this spring. The dissertation title is: Clovis Lithic Procurement and Mobility on the Central Great Plains of North America. This research documents very long distance movements of lithic material by Clovis populations.

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Nebraska Archaeological Survey/UNSM will conduct salvage excavations at the Hamburger Mammoth site at Medicine

Creek Reservoir from October 2-8. The mammoth is about 14,000-18,000 and is situated in Peorian loess. Fracture patterns on the limb bones suggest humans may have been the cause of the bone modification.

Steve's new address is:

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