

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. Editors expect this publication to be out sometime in Fall 2002.

Due to brisk sales, a second run of Volume 8, *Freshwater Mussels in the Great Plains: Ecology and Prehistoric Utilization* was recently printed.

Call for papers

Submissions for Central Plains Archeology are always welcome. These submissions should be sent to:

**Gayle Carlson
1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554**

NAPA Business

NAPA to Elect New Officers

Contained within this newsletter are biographies of candidates for NAPA officers and a corresponding ballot.

Please take a moment to complete your ballot now.



**Don't forget to
send your 2002
NAPA Membership
Fee!**

Early Nebraska Archeology CD

As described in the last NAPA newsletter, 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 through

While the process has taken longer than originally planned, the CD is now ready for reproduction.

CD's will be distributed to NAPA members as soon as they are available.

For more information on this project contact Anne Vawser at the Midwest Archeological Center at anne_vawser@nps.gov or (402) 437-5392.

Nebraska Archeologists Contribute to Children's Archeology Magazine

"Dig" Magazine, a children's archeology magazine available by subscription or in bookstores, published articles by three Nebraska archeologists this summer. The magazine is published by the Archaeological Institute of America, which also publishes "Archaeology" magazine.

In the May/ June, 2002, issue Melissa Connor, of Forensic and Archaeological Services, wrote an article on forensic archeology. "I Say Artifact, You Say Evidence" is an overview of how archeologists aid police in homicide investigations and includes pictures of several University of Nebraska – Lincoln students enrolled in the Spring 2001 UNL "Forensic Archaeology" course.

Mark Lynott and Douglas Scott, both of the Midwest Archeological Center, reach out to children in *Dig's* June/ July issue. Lynott gives an overview of the Center's work at Hopewell Mounds in Ohio. Scott gives children "The Scoop on Poop", describing how archeologists learn from latrines. His article includes toy parts and other items found in latrines, showing how much STUFF really can be found in those features.

Not only does this help to put archeology being done by Nebraskans into the national view, it is an example of the type of public outreach that archeologists should occasionally take time to complete.

NSHS—Field School and More

The Archeology Division taught the University of Nebraska Archeological Field School for three weeks in late May and early June. The crew worked at the Territorial Period townsite of Rockport located along the Missouri River just north of Florence/North Omaha. The project was sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads in conjunction with improvement of a county road from near Ft. Calhoun south along the Missouri River Bluff line. The road im-

provement will adversely impact a small portion of the townsite which was occupied from the 1856 to the early 1870s. A Native American component related to either the Woodland tradition or the Central Plains tradition is also expressed at the site. The area of investigation is also the location of the Manuel Lisa's Post occupied in the very early 19th century. Lisa's Post has never been found and likely has been washed away by the shifting course of the Missouri.

This project however allows a concerted effort to identify this very important Euroamerican site.

The Archeology Division is also be conducting a 5000 acre sample survey of portions of Sarpy and Douglas counties. Investigations will likely focus on the Ponca Creek and Zwiebel Creek valleys and build upon previous systematic survey efforts we have completed during the past two years in the lower Elkhorn and lower Platte basins. These surveys are

designed to obtain a firmer grasp on the archeological resource base in areas surrounding Omaha that will certainly be threatened by future development.

Labwork and report writing is continuing on various Nebraska Department of Roads excavation projects in Boone, Brown, Furnas, Butler, Sarpy, and Valley counties. We also continue to slowly chip away on manuscripts of research at the Logan Creek and Eagle Ridge sites.

"Curation for Archeologists" - New Course Offering

Archeological Collections Program Manager Jan Dial-Jones, along with the assistance of Center Curator Karin Roberts and guest lecturers Beth Wilkins (Anthropology Division Collections Manager, University of Nebraska State Museum) and Carrie Herbel (Collections Manager and Preparator, Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology), organized and taught a seminar entitled "Curation for Archeolo-

gists" for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Anthropology and Geography during the spring 2002 semester. This five-week course was designed to introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the curatorial responsibilities of the professional archeologist in determining how archeological collections are made, managed, and preserved for future research. The course stressed making curation activities an

integral component of the archeological process during fieldwork, packing and transport of the collection, laboratory processing and analysis, preparation for long-term storage, and future research use.

Hopefully, students will leave the course with an understanding of the importance of archeological curation and will be inspired to promote protection for archeological collections in their future work.

Kudos to Dean Bleed

Many of us recognize the name Peter Bleed as a standard name in discussing professional archeologists in Nebraska. But who is Dean Bleed? Well, Professor Peter Bleed has been given the assignment of Associate Dean for Arts and Letters, giving him the current title of Dean Bleed.

Unfortunately, this three-year assignment takes the popular University of Nebraska professor away from most of his teaching duties and interaction with many of the Anthropology students in the department. The tradeoff is that Anthropology and Archeology have a voice in the University administration that we have not had before. Overall, Nebraska archeology is sure to benefit.

Battlefields Investigated

The Midwest Archeological Center sent a team into Arkansas and Missouri this spring to work at the Civil War battlefield sites at Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. The NPS team was led by Douglas D. Scott. Harold Roeker and Scott Stadler

provided field and GIS support and Bill Volf provided geophysical expertise.

The remainder of the crew were volunteers, logging almost 2500 hours of volunteer time for the three-week project.

Over 1,000 battle-related artifacts were recovered during the project. At both battlefields, new skirmish lines were found. As the artifacts and their patterning are analyzed, this is sure to change the current interpretations of events at both battlefields.

Kansas State University

Donna C. Roper (Kansas State University) continues work on the Upper Republican sites in the Medicine Creek valley. Work at the present is concentrating on analysis of materials from the past field seasons' excavations. Site reports are in preparation.

Meanwhile, in January 2002, Jennifer Macy (now at University of New Mexico) completed and defended a University of Kansas master's thesis entitled An Upper Republican Lithic Assemblage from 25FT39:

A Study in Variability. This thesis dealt with the lithic assemblage structure and lithic raw material utilization from the portion of 25FT39 excavated in 1998 and 1999.

J. Eric Gilliland at University of Missouri-Columbia is working on a master's thesis dealing with the ceramics from the same excavation, comparing them with the ceramics from 25FT22, House 4 and 25FT35 (Mowry Bluff), House 1.

Anne M. Cobry (now at Southern Illinois University)

and Roper completed and submitted a book chapter "From Loess Plains to High Plains: The Movement of Upper Republican Pots" based on the results of Cobry's University of Wyoming master's thesis dealing with neutron activation analysis of pottery from two Upper Republican sites in Wyoming, one in Colorado, and two Medicine Creek sites (25FT39 and 25FT30), along with source clay samples from each locality. This chapter was submitted for the book *Geochemical Evidence for Long-Distance Exchange*,

edited by Michael D. Glascock.

Roper, in addition to working with the recently-excavated materials, continues with a reanalysis of previous collections from 25FT22, 30, and 39. Finally, the book *Medicine Creek: Seventy Years of Archaeological Investigations*, edited by Donna C. Roper, is in the final stage of production at University of Alabama Press. It was scheduled for release in late June or early July 2002.

"Death Scene Archaeology" course integrated into Wesleyan curriculum

Nebraska Wesleyan University initiated a master's program in Forensic Science this year. Students can choose three tracks to specialize in: General Investigation, Psychology, and Biochemistry. "Death Scene Archaeology is offered in the General Investigation track in the spring of each year. This spring quarter was the first time Wesleyan offered the course, taught by Melissa Connor and Douglas D. Scott.

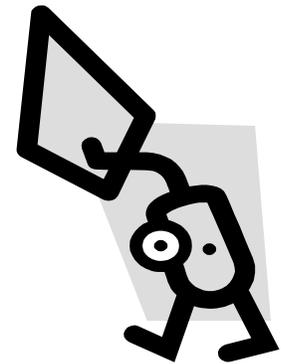
Students heard guest lectures by Peter Bleed on archeological theory and concepts and a lecture by Rob Bozell on the unmarked burial law and distinguishing human versus non-human bone.

One full Saturday was spent discussing methods for locating features, such as graves. Half the day the course was held outside with the assistance of cadaver dog handler John Beck and his cadaver dogs, Jacob and Iva. Bob Nickel demonstrated the use of his GPR unit and discussed appropriate scenarios for the use of GPR. Steve DeVore brought magnetometer equipment loaned from the National Park Service and showed how that was operated.

The students' favorite day was the day they divided into teams and conducted homicide investigations on mock buried-body sites. Connor and Scott currently have six buried body scenarios on their property,

four homicides, one historic and one prehistoric scenario. The students were required to locate the graves, set up excavation units over the features, excavate the units using skim shovel methods, trowels and screens, pedestal all material encountered, and document the findings meeting both archaeological and medico-legal standards.

Plans are to offer the course again next spring. The course instructors hope that this sensitivity to archaeological techniques, buried human remains, and the unmarked burial law will positively impact the next generation of Nebraska's forensic scientists.



Lincoln Public Schools' Zoo School Goes to Yellowstone

The PAST Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) brought a field crew of terrestrial and underwater archaeologists along with two teachers and ten high school students from Lincoln Public Schools' Science Focus Program (Zoo School) to Yellowstone to participate in an unusual archeological investigation. Principal Investigators of the project are PAST Foundation's Executive Director Dr. Annalies Corbin and NPS' Midwest Archeological Center Archeologist Dr. William Hunt. Yellowstone National Park Archeologist Dr. Ann Johnson was the park coordinator. Participating Zoo School teachers were science teacher Sara Toren and English teacher Beth Briney. Ten

Zoo School student participants accompanied their teachers (see photo below).

The week-long expedition took place in August 2001 at the site of the 1884-1892 Marshall/Firehole Hotel, one of the first tourist lodging complexes Yellowstone National Park. It was built at the confluence of the Firehole River and Nez Perce Creek, near the Lower Geyser Basin by George Marshall. Marshall came to Yellowstone in 1880 as a mail carrier and quickly saw the need for tourist lodgings.

Today, artifacts and features associated with hotel buildings remain scattered across the landscape. Large numbers of artifacts also occur in the Firehole

River which hotel occupants used as one of their garbage dump areas. This stream created by thermal springs and geysers in the Upper and Middle Geyser Basins. Although the land-based portion of the site is well preserved, the riverine component has been impacted by collectors. With the passing of each year, however, fewer artifacts remain as tourists and fisherman are slowly removing material from the site.

The immediate goal of the fieldwork was to conduct an underwater survey of the Firehole River component to document its extent and contents for Yellowstone's managers. Another important goal of the project was to provide an educational field archeology experience for students

and teachers. Over the next year, a series of presentations will be made informing the general public and archeological communities about the site. In addition to a formal archeological report, articles will be prepared for journals with general and/or professional archeological audiences. For more information about this and other PAST-sponsored projects, visit the PAST website at <<http://www.pastfoundation.org>> or write to the PAST Foundation's Executive Director Dr. Annalies Corbin at PAST Foundation, 4326 Lyon Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43220. You may also send an email inquiry to her at past@columbus.rr.com. Accompanying photos are courtesy Bill Hunt.



2001 Marshall/Firehole Hotel crew. Standing, l. to r.: Kevin, Lisa, Wyatt, Dr. Annalies Corbin, John, Beth Briney, Kyle, David Hunt, Dr. Bill Hunt, Hailey, and Hiruth. Sitting: Janelle, Sarah Leroy-Toren, Becky, London, M. J. and Willa.

Zoo School Photos



The Marshall/Firehole Hotel as it appeared in 1885.

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Surveying in the Firehole River, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

Abstracts for back issues of CPA are now available on our website at
<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/archo/napa/cpaback.htm>