

NAPA Newsletter



Annual Meeting

NOTICE

NAPA Annual Meeting
July 18, 2004
3:00 p.m.

Midwest
Archeological
Center (MWAC)
100 Centennial Mall N
MWAC Conference
Room 497

Publication Update

CPA editors are in the process of preparing the next issue. It will feature a descriptive treatment of the material culture and eco-factual remains from the McIntosh site (25BW15).

McIntosh is a late prehistoric (A.D. 1200-1400) lakeside habitation site in the north-central Nebraska Sandhills.

Publication is tentatively scheduled for late fall of 2003.

Proposed By-Law Changes

At the October 2002 meeting of the Board of Directors, two changes to the NAPA bylaws were proposed. First, it was suggested that language reserving one of the Board's at-large positions to members of the Nebraska Archeological Society be deleted because the Society no longer exists. Since this position was created to give the Society a voice in NAPA affairs, deleting this language would effectively eliminate one Board position, leaving the three officers and four at-large positions to comprise the Board.

Second, it was proposed to add another class of membership for spouses who both wish to belong to NAPA. Such dual members would be entitled to two votes, but would receive only one copy of newsletters and the journal. Dues would be set by the Board at an amount higher than a single regular membership but less than two regular memberships.

NAPA to Elect New Board

New at-large board members will be voted on by mail ballot within 30 days of the annual meeting scheduled on July 18.

The Board of Directors subsequently approved the following bylaws language changes for discussion at the 2003 annual meeting of NAPA members. The proposed changes are:

SECTION V. MEMBERSHIP

Proposed Change 1:

A. Categories:

6 [new section]. Spousal Members: Spousal memberships shall be open to any husband and wife who possess a demonstrated interest in enhancing Nebraska archeology and agree to the following stipulations:

- a. payment of annual dues; and
- b. adherence to the provisions of the Bylaws and Code of Ethics of this organization.

Spousal members shall have the right to individually vote on all corporation business,

attend and participate in meetings, and be eligible to serve individually as an officer/board member. Spousal members shall jointly receive one copy of corporation newsletters and communications.

Proposed Change 2:

SECTION VI. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

B. The corporation Board of Directors shall include the three officers listed above in addition to four (4) other voting members of the corporation and (1) N.A.P.A. member selected by the Nebraska Archeological Society from among its own membership. While on the Board this individual shall have full voting rights within the corporation. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for operation of the corporation.

These changes will be voted on by mail ballot within 30 days of the annual meeting.

CPA—Call for Papers

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

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

NSHS

The Discovery of Engineer's Cantonment: The 1819-1820 winter camp of the Long Expedition

Nebraska State Historical Society archeologists Gayle Carlson and Rob Bozell, along with independent consultant Bob Pepperl have located the site of Engineer's Cantonment along the Missouri River north of Omaha.

Historians and archeologists have speculated about the precise location of the site for nearly a century. It was widely held that either flooding or a local limestone quarry destroyed the site. The site was located using a variety of techniques including analysis of a painting by Long Expedition member Titian Peale, aerial photographs, ground-penetrating radar, and utility cable trenching.

The Long Expedition (1819-1820) consisted of a small group of engineers, artists, naturalists, and soldiers charged with exploring portions of the Missouri River and Platte River valleys. They reached the Rocky Mountains and Long's Peak in Colorado is named for expedition leader Major Stephan Long. While wintering at Engineer's Cantonment, the expedition, built several cabins, docu-

mented local flora and fauna, and improved American relations with local Native American tribes.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, archeological fieldschool tested small portions of the site in late May and early June of this year. The site was found to be very well preserved and has produced a variety of artifacts including: tableware, lead musket balls, charred animal bone and corn, trade goods, long-stemmed clay pipes, buttons, and nails. Fireplaces and limestone foundation remains have also been identified at the site.

Engineer's Cantonment is now the oldest "discovered" Euroamerican archeological site in Nebraska. Several earlier trading posts are known to have existed along the Missouri but none have been found to date. The site has obvious archeological research potential as well as national historic significance by virtue of its association with the Long Expedition.



UNL fieldschool students excavating at the Engineer's Cantonment: The 1819-1820 winter camp of the Long Expedition. Photo courtesy Bill Hunt.

"The Engineer's Cantonment is now the oldest "discovered" Euroamerican archeological site in Nebraska"



UNL Teaching Assistant Damita Hiemstra displays an artifact recovered from the Engineer's Cantonment. Photo Courtesy Bill Hunt.

NSHS

NSHS LAB

The Archeology Division Lab is busy with cataloging Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) archeological collections stored at the Nebraska State Historical Society. Three temporary archeological technicians, Ben Koziol, Tony Schommer, and Karen Steinauer, as well as two interns are working on the BOR project. The interns are Amy Blier and Kara Harms.

This phase of the project is due to be completed by June 2004. Additionally, on June 3, NSHS received nearly 500 boxes of BOR artifacts and archives from the UNL Nebraska State Museum Anthropology Division.

One temporary archeological technician, Nick Hark-

en is finishing up flotation sample sorting and cataloging from soil samples taken at Woodcliff Site, 25SD31.

Nick will also begin processing materials collected at 25WN106, the probable site of the Engineers Cantonment from Stephen Long's Expedition, also called the Yellowstone Expedition. The Cantonment was the 1819-1820 winter camp. The UNL Archeological Field School excavated for three weeks at the site this summer.

Five excellent volunteers, Dave Anderson, Polly Mohatt, Pat McLaughlin, Punky Schneider, and Lori Einspahr, devote countless hours on widely varied tasks at the Division.

Sidney to Black Hills Trail Study

Data recovery at three historic trail sites in southern Dawes County, Nebraska has ended. The sites are segments of the Sidney to Black Hills Trail (1877-1881) that will be affected by a Nebraska Department of Roads project, "Marsland North".

NSHS staff members documented the trail ruts with photography and EDM mapping. Hand dug trenches and a systematic metal

detector survey were also completed.

Amy Koch led the project. Division staff members John Swigart, Trish Nelson, and Rob Bozell, Historic Preservation archeologist Terry Steinauer, and historian Jim Potter assisted with the work.

The final report will be available in June of 2004.

Archeology Division Archives

This summer, the Archeology Division of the Nebraska State Historical Society has begun a bibliographic database project.

This project entails recording report, photographic material, oversized document, and collection information for all of the archeological sites in Nebraska.

Currently, efforts are being concentrated on the report portion of the database and compiling information regarding archeological reports and their corresponding sites. This includes CRM reports, journal articles, books, etc. This initial phase of the project should be completed by the end of the summer, while other portions of the database will probably be completed in the fall.

"Archeologists working in Nebraska will have one database to look at to determine whether there is any additional information about a site that may not be contained in the site file"

This database will be available for archeologists to use at the NSHS. Current plans are to link it to the GIS and the collection location databases at the NSHS.

At the end of this project, archeologists working in Nebraska will have one database to look at to determine whether there is any additional information about a site that may not be contained in the site file.

NeSHPO Survey Updates

The Elkhorn-Platte River Confluence survey (Pepperl 2002) has been completed.

This survey located in western Douglas and Sarpy Counties surveyed 3,040 acres and identified 112 new archaeological sites.

Geomorphology of the area was studied by Dr. Rolfe Mandel and helped define early dating con-

texts.

It is anticipated that an approximately 3,000 acre survey will be put out for bids as soon as the State and Federal budgets are finalized.

This survey will be in the area of the Bow Valley, in Cedar County. It will include new survey area and the reexamination of several older identified sites.

Nebraska National Forest

The Heritage Program of the Nebraska National Forest is currently involved in enhancing the management of three significant cultural resources in Nebraska: the Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed, Warbonnet Battlefield, and the Historic Bessey Nursery. Hudson-Meng and Warbonnet are located on the Oglala National Grassland. Hudson-Meng and Bessey are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1997, an enclosure was constructed over a portion of the Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed, where an estimated 600 *Bison antiquus* died over 10,000 years ago. The Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center opened to the public in 1998. On May 15, the Center began its 6th season of operation. Guided tours and other on-site activities are available through the beginning of September. Interpreters at the site also offer a youth dig program for children aged 7 to 12 called Archeologist for a Day (see photo).

Numerous researchers from Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and around the world have worked at the site since studies began there in the late 1960s. An effort to recruit investigators in all fields of paleoecology to study the site and the surrounding grassland is underway. Facilities available to researchers include a camp, cook tent, restrooms showers, computer lab, and wet lab.



"Archeologist for a Day" at the Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center. Photo courtesy Keri Hicks.

Warbonnet, located ten miles northwest of Hudson-Meng, is the site of a minor skirmish in 1876 between troops of the Fifth Cavalry and a group of Cheyenne. The Cheyenne were heading north to join forces with other Northern Plains Indians who had defeated Custer at the Little Bighorn less than a month before. The encounter resulted in one casualty; Yellow Hair, a Cheyenne warrior. He was shot by a soon-to-be-famous army scout, William F. Cody, aka "Buffalo Bill".

The town of Montrose formed on the site several years later. Fearing the ghost dance movement of the Sioux and Cheyenne, the people of Montrose built a fort on the edge of town in 1890, in order to protect themselves from a perceived Lakota threat. The Heritage Program is seeking an individual willing to conduct the research necessary to nominate this significant site to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Historic Bessey Nursery, located near Halsey, Nebraska, was placed in

the National Register in 1978. The nursery has been in operation since 1903. In addition to the nursery, over 30,000 acres of trees were planted in this area of the Sandhills as a reserve forest to offset a predicted national timber shortage. The CCC provided much of the labor for this incredible feat. Over 10,000 acres of the forest was destroyed by a catastrophic fire in 1965. The Heritage Program is interested in expanding the boundary of the existing National Register District to include the hand planted forest.

The Nebraska National Forest manages over 350,000 acres of land in Nebraska. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act comprises a majority of the workload for the Heritage Program. Our goal, however, is to protect, enhance and share important cultural resources, such as those mentioned above, with the visiting public. Please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska/> or call Keri Hicks at 308-432-0333 for information.

John Cotter Award to Nebraska Archaeologist

In April, 2003, the John Cotter Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archeology was presented to Bill Hunt, Archeologist at the National Park Service-Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln, and Annalies Corbin, PAST Foundation Director by the Director of the National Park Service, Fran Mainella. The presentation was made in San Diego at the annual George Wright Society Conference.

The Cotter Award recognizes Hunt and Corbin's "exemplary interdisciplinary research partnership, which included archeologists, curators, thermal geologists, and volunteers from Yellowstone national Park; the PAST Foundation; the NPS Midwest Archeological Center; East Carolina University, the Lincoln, Nebraska, Public Schools Science Focus Program; and the public".

The award also recognizes another of the project goals-- the education of students through advanced classroom instruction, multi-component field instruction, post-project student research and a project website.

Finally, Drs. Corbin and Hunt are recognized for the project's broad outreach effort involving public and professional presentations on the beginnings of public visitation in the national

UNL—Department of Anthropology and Geography News

Two exciting developments have occurred in the UNL Department of Anthropology and Geography over this last year. First, in response to student demand, the archaeology faculty designed and sought authorization from UNL Graduate Studies to offer a Specialization in Professional Archaeology at the MA level. This proposal was just approved and J Ryan Duddleson is the first student who has graduated with this specialization, with three more to follow in short order.

This 39-credit specialization builds upon the traditional Anthropology/ Archaeology masters degree in that, in addition to method, theory and tech-

nique, knowledge of regional sequences, and a thesis, it emphasizes practical aspects of working in heritage or cultural resource management. For example, the student's program includes courses in North American Archaeology, Introduction to Conservation Archaeology, 6 credits of work in an area such as Geography, Geosciences, Regional Planning, or Anthropology, and a 6-credit internship with a firm or agency of the student's choice. The internship exposes students to all aspects of cultural resource management, from understanding how the compliance process works, to working with various constituencies, to preparing budgets, and so forth.

Our hope is that this program will outfit students with both the theoretical and methodological knowledge as well as the pragmatic skills to be successful in the dynamic world of cultural resource archaeology.

A second development involves work at the Phd level in the Geography program (the Anthropology program is not authorized to offer a Phd degree). We have interest from many students who seek to complete Phd work that marries Archaeology and tools and concepts from Geography. We currently lack the faculty to offer a bonafide emphasis in some aspect of archaeo-

logical geography. Instead, we encourage students who wish to pursue this route to build a strong program in geographic techniques and then design a minor in Archaeology augmented by other disciplines such as Geosciences, Landscape Ecology, and so forth. Currently, several students are completing degree work in this program.

In this time of budget reductions, the faculty at UNL is nevertheless committed to ensuring that student needs are met and we look forward to working with undergraduate and graduate students to place them in successful and challenging archaeological careers.

Iowa State University—Archeology Field School at Clary Ranch

Iowa State University held their six-week summer Archeological Field School at the Clary Ranch site, near Lewellen, NE, May 20 – June 26, 2003.

This site is a well preserved Late Paleoindian (9,000-8,500 BP) bison kill- butchery bone bed. Matthew G. Hill is in charge of this field school.

Clary Ranch also subject of the following report. *Paleoindian subsistence behaviour at the Clary Ranch site, Nebraska, USA.* By Matthew Glenn

Hill, Matthew E. Hill, David W. May, Thomas P. Myers, David J. Rapson, Frederic Sellet, James L. Theler and Lawrence C. Todd.

The archeological information emerging from the Clary Ranch site challenges the monolithic descriptive outline of early Holocene Paleoindian hunter-gatherers.

This asks us to rethink fundamental ideas about Paleoindian adaptations to the region.

Other articles about man's early presence in Nebraska are in *Current Research in*

the Pleistocene Volume 18, 2001. [Central Plains Folsom Mobility: Clues from the Nolan Site in Southwestern Nebraska](#) by Jack L. Hofman and [The Fuller Biface: A Probable Clovis Bifacial Flake Core from the Central Great Plains](#) by Steven R. Holen.

"...information emerging from the Clary Ranch site...asks us to rethink fundamental ideas about Paleoindian adaptations to the re-

Abstracts for back issues of CPA are available on our website at

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/archeol/napa/cpaback.htm>

Budget Cuts Affect the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

In the face of a serious tax revenue shortfall for the state of Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators have announced budget reductions that will have a major impact on at least two UNL programs of concern to NAPA members--the University of Nebraska State Museum and the Museum Studies Program. The Museum Studies Program will be eliminated entirely and UNSM research and collections staff will be reduced and important collections--among them the anthropology holdings--will be transferred elsewhere. Although

not all collections dispersal decisions have been made as of the time of this writing, arrangements are underway to transfer certain archeological collections to the Nebraska State Historical Society, the South Dakota State Archeological Research Center in Rapid City, and the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. The disposition of the ethnographic and remaining archeological collections has not yet been decided. Among the staff reductions, Curator of Anthropology Thomas P. Myers will take a phased-in early retirement, and Anthropology Collection

Manager Beth M. Wilkins will leave UNL employment.

These regrettable changes elicited much concern among the anthropological community when they were first proposed. Before the decisions on these matters were made final, your president wrote letters in support of these programs to Chancellor Harvey Perlman, Regent Charles Wilson, John Benson on the Academic Planning Committee, Governor Mike Johanns, Speaker of the Legislature Curt Bromm, and legislator

Elaine Stuhr, urging that alternatives to the proposed budget cuts be more fully considered. Replies were received from Wilson, Benson, and Stuhr, in addition to a letter from Michael J. Zeleny, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research; all lamented the necessity for such drastic changes but evinced no willingness to reconsider the proposed cuts.

We express gratitude to Tom Myers for graciously providing background information.

NAPA Education Committee

A casual education committee meeting was held at the 2002 Plains Conference in Oklahoma City.

Lots of brainstorming took place. Ideas were generated for development of web based simple curriculum activities.

We also discussed the possibility of developing a NAPA poster in 11" x17" format for

web delivery.

Any suggestions or input on the curriculum activities or poster design, theme, etc. . . are welcomed.

NAPA members interested in education activities please contact René Botts by email rbotts@mail.state.ne.us or by phone (402) 471-4766.

NAPA Dues Reminder

Membership fees for 2003 are now due!

Dues remain at \$15.00 for Regular and Institutional members and \$10 for Student, Subscribing and Affiliated members.

Renew now and receive the next issue of Central Plains Archeology!

Checks should be made payable to **NAPA** and should be sent to:

**Ann Bauermeister, MWAC
Federal Building, Rm 474
100 Centennial Mall N
Lincoln, NE 68508-3873**

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