

NAPA Newsletter



Annual Meeting

NOTICE

NAPA Annual Meeting

April 22, 2005
Time p.m.

Smith Callen
Conference Center,
Nebraska Wesleyan
University
50th & St. Paul,
Lincoln, NE

This annual meeting will be held prior to the Anthropology Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences.

Driving Directions:

From N 48th St., turn east on St. Paul. Proceed 2 blocks to 50th & St. Paul (St. Paul ends at NWU). Olin Hall is straight ahead to the east on the north side of the sidewalk. Smith Callen is to Olin Hall and is the next building east on the north side of the sidewalk.

NAPA Members Elect New Board

NAPA welcomes three newly elected NAPA Board members. These Board members officially began their duties on Sept. 1, 2004. René Botts, Steve De Vore, and Kelli Bacon have all agreed to serve on your NAPA board. René Botts and Kelli Bacon are both employed by the Nebraska State Historical Society, Archeology Division in Lincoln. René is the archeological collections manager and Kelli is an archeological technician. Steve is an archaeologist with the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln.

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

NAPA Newsletter Submissions

If you or someone you know has a submission for the next NAPA newsletter, please contact Kelli Bacon at kbacon@nshs.state.ne.us. Submissions are always appreciated.

Dues Reminder

Membership fees for 2005 are now due!

Dues remain at \$15 for Regular, Institutional, and Dual members and \$10 for Student, Subscribing, and Affiliated members.

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

Kelli Bacon
1500 R St.
PO Box 82554
Lincoln NE 68501

Your NAPA Membership Dues

Not sure when you last paid your NAPA membership dues? Contact Kelli Bacon kbacon@nshs.state.ne.us.

CPA Publication Update

CPA editors are in the process of preparing the next issue. It will feature a descriptive treatment of the material culture and ecofactual 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 scheduled for early 2005.

Kansas State University (by Brad Logan)

For 15 days in September, I directed a NRHP evaluation project at three sites at Lovewell Reservoir, Jewell County, Kansas, all of which are inundated when it is at normal conservation pool. However, the lake had been kept at low level following release for irrigation in order for maintenance to be done on the dam. We took advantage of that opportunity to survey, map, and test the Montana Creek East (14JW46), Montana Creek West (14JW47), and Phil (14JW48) sites, all of which had been shown to us by Dick Eckles, who had known of them for many years. The project was supported by a continuing cooperative agreement between KSU and the Bureau of Reclamation. The fieldwork was subcontracted to Burns and McDonnell Engineers, whose field team was directed by Mark Latham.

The Montana Creek sites are littered extensively with hundreds of fragmented bison bones, evidence of marrow extraction, as well as some chipped stone and bone tools, and pottery. The cultural affiliation of this component, which proved to be very shallow, is as yet unclear but may be Protohistoric. A buried component was found at a depth of 80-90cm below that surface at Montana Creek East. One test unit on the edge of the terrace yielded, from that depth, two complete scrapers, a knife, a complete bison rib, two bones that may have been worked, and several pieces of debitage, burned and unburned bone, and charcoal. We are currently awaiting return of a radiocarbon date on a bulk humate sample of the buried soil horizon in which that material was found. No diagnostic artifacts were found in situ, but cordmarked and sand tempered sherds that appear to have eroded from the terrace edge a few meters from the test unit suggest this buried component is Central Plains tradition (CPt).

The Phil site is on the lakebed in what had apparently been a previously buried soil now exposed after years of wave erosion. Its surface was littered with pottery, chipped stone tools and debris, burned limestone, bone, and burned wood. Test excavations revealed the base of two burned posts and their postmolds, as well as a concentration of burned limestone in units that proved to be, following mitigation (see below), along the eastern and north-central portions of a CPt house.

Funds were quickly provided for mitigation of the Phil site, which was excavated during 11 days of work from November 15th to December 3rd. A block excavation revealed all of the floor and 49 peripheral and internal postmolds of a 7x8m structure with an eastward extending entryway. It had a central hearth and one cache pit (the lower half of the latter was below water table and required bailing in order to excavate and document). The floor contained an abundance of pottery, including several large vessel fragments, arrow points, scrapers, and other chipped stone tools, worked and unworked bone, daub, and burned wooden beams.

The September fieldwork included two days of survey, one of which was devoted to surface mapping of a second CPt house located about 400m west of the Phil site. Survey on the south side of the reservoir revealed two other sites and a few find spots. One of the sites contained a lithic tool cache consisting of 27 end scrapers, knives, and modified flakes sherds and bison bones. The cultural affiliation of the cache site is unclear but from its geomorphic context is likely either Late Prehistoric or Protohistoric in age.

Heretofore, archaeological sites at Lovewell Reservoir have provided significant insight to the movement of Oneota populations during the Late Prehistoric period. That locality appears to have been a major center of occupation during the White Rock phase (AD 1300-1450), which reflects what may have been the westernmost migration of Oneota groups that were drawn by bison. A critical problem facing those of us who have researched the White Rock phase is whether the Oneota migrants encountered and interacted with Central Plains tradition groups. The lakebed CPt sites at Lovewell may provide the information needed to resolve this problem. A summary article on the Lovewell projects of 2004 has been submitted to *Current Archaeology in Kansas*, the research journal of the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Kansas.

Dissertation Work by Dan Pugh

During the summer 2004 work began at a newly documented site in Platte County, just east of Genoa. This is the Swantek Site, 25PT111. The site has been collected by the landowner's family for decades and was brought to my attention by Nancy Carlson when I told her that I was looking for a dissertation site. From the site's location and the landowner's collection, we expected to find an early Lower Loup site, possibly a village. We worked through June

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and July with the great help of Nancy and Jerry Carlson, Phil and Sandra Swantek, and a number of students from the University of Michigan and Albion College. NAS member Ron Kriley also volunteered some of his valuable time and helped with the excavation.

Limited magnetic survey identified several areas with possible features and targeted excavations of some of these uncovered an activity area. This included several features such as a large bell-shaped storage pit, a shallow straight-sided pit, a very large trash-filled pit, several postholes of various sizes, and at least one circular feature of extremely compact soil without any artifacts. This last feature appeared to be a mound of backdirt from the hearth feature that was allowed to set-up and solidify in place. The artifact assemblage was dominated by lithics, mostly scrapers and hide-working tools, and quite a bit of large mammal bone. The ceramic assemblage was characterized by an unusually large quantity of shell-tempered sherds, mostly undecorated, some with trailed lines on shoulders and impressed lip decoration.

This ceramic assemblage was quite a surprise and appears to reflect an Oneota occupation of the site. Two radiocarbon dates, from the bell-shaped pit and the trash-filled pit, also support an Oneota occupation. These dates are both about 1290-1400 AD (calibrated). The deep pits and postholes suggest a considerable occupation length, but the postholes show no pattern and there are no other indicators of architecture. Also, the hearth does not appear to have been burned very much and the mound of backdirt suggests a rather expedient construction and use.

Now we are operating under the working hypothesis that the summer 2004 Swantek excavations represent an Oneota butchering/processing area. Provided that we get more funding, more work will be done in summer 2005 to determine occupation length, spatial extent of the site, and the range of activities carried out there.

Augustana College Archeology Laboratory (by Edward Lueck)

The Archeology Laboratory is conducting an archaeological survey of the Ponca Agency Area and Wild Horse Draw for the Nebraska State Historical Society (NE-04-022). The work in the Ponca Agency area requires a NRHP nomination of 25BD76, the Ponca Indian Agency in Boyd County, and a reinvestigation of 13 sites located generally between Ponca and Harry Miller Creeks in Knox County. Several of these sites have been involved in repatriation activities with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. Site 25BD76 and the area containing a number of the sites in Knox County were examined in November-December of 2004. The investigation of Glenn Johnson/Wild Horse Draw in Cheyenne County will be conducted in the spring of 2005. Nine previously recorded sites are located in the latter area.

Investigations at 25BD76 recorded artifact scatters associated with the agency building, school and cemetery areas. Foundation remains in the farm yard appear to include remains of the stockade. Remains of the agency on the Niobrara floodplain are more tenuous.

Examination of lands around the mouth of Ponca Creek yielded identification of 25KX1 (Ponca Fort), 25KX2 (Minaric III), 25KX3 (Ponca Point) and 25KX9 (Minaric II). Remains of 25KX23, the location of later (but perhaps not all) agency activities have been tentatively identified. Another lead may yield more information. Six new sites were also recorded. One of these, a Bijou Hills Quartzite quarry, may have been a source for this material at 25BD76.

National Park Service's 2005 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2005 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled *Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century* will be held May 16-20, 2005, at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. Lodging will be in the Comfort Inn in Chillicothe, Ohio. This will be the fifteenth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this Nation. The workshop this year will focus on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, interpretation, and on-hands use of the equipment in the field. Special topic for this year is the introduction of geophysical techniques in archaeological excavations. In addition to the workshop, there will be an equipment fair on Friday (May 20th) with the major geophysical equipment manufacturers attending. There is a tuition charge of \$475.00.

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Workshop - continued

Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/>>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: <steve_de_vore@nps.gov>.

South Dakota State Archeological Research Center (by Mike Fosha)

Outreach/Research

The State Archaeological Research Center (SARC) outreach/research program conducted investigations at a possible mammoth kill (39BK100, Rock Chalk Site) a fortified northeastern Plains Village site (39RO5 Hartford Beach Village) and a Later Archaic bison kill and processing site (39HN931). The possible mammoth kill was excavated with assistance from the University of Kansas, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Siouland Heritage Museums and volunteers from the South Dakota Archaeological Society (SDAS). To date a small amount of mammoth bone and numerous flakes have been recovered from the base of a paleosol from a terrace of the Big Sioux River. This cultural horizon at the Rock Chalk site has two 14C determinations of 10,910±40 and 10,860±40 BP. An upper component within the paleosol has numerous flakes, bison bone and appears to be an Agate Basin component based upon one broken preform and its position in the profile. The SARC and members of the SDAS will be returning to the site to continue investigations this summer.

The Hartford Beach village (39RO5) is located in the extreme northeast corner of the state. The SARC and members of the SDAS returned to this site to finish up investigations which have been ongoing for the past 10 years. The focus of this years investigations were to finish work on some features identified in past years and to gain a better understanding of the construction sequences at the site.

Testing began at a Late Archaic Bison kill and processing site (39HN931) in the extreme northwest corner of the state in Harding County. The SARC and SDAS volunteers are attempting to gain a better understanding of the cultural components of the region and identify sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in a very poorly understood region of the state.

Upcoming research/volunteer projects for 2005 include testing a Dalton site in conjunction with the Nebraska National Forest, geophysics and archaeological investigations at Fort Sully I (and possibly II), testing and evaluation of a fur trade post, and continued survey and testing of sites in the northwest corner of the state.

Contracting

During the up-coming field season, the SD State Historical Society will be conducting approximately 60 or more surveys for the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) as well as several National Register evaluations of sites located within the APE of various SDDOT proposed projects. The highlight of the up-coming field season wills archaeological data recovery investigations at the Sewright Site (39FA1603) near Hot Springs, SD. This site appears to have multiple Paleoindian occupations, as well as later components. In addition to the highway related survey work, the re-survey of literally hundreds of sites located along the Missouri River for the Omaha District of the US Army Corps of Engineers will continue. Additional work on the Missouri River will include the investigation of 12000 ac of Recreation Area lands being transferred to South Dakota.

Archaeological investigations of the Chinatown district of Deadwood began in 2001 and have continued through the 2004 field season. Much has been recovered and learned about the daily lives of the Chinese in Deadwood and much is yet to be discovered. During the 2004 field season excavations have been conducted within the early Chinatown district on Main Street, on Sherman Street, and again on Main Street next to the Nelson Garage/Celebrity Hotel. Each of these site areas exhibited great material culture and significant historical data regarding the life and environment in early Deadwood. It is anticipated that excavations will continue during the 2005 field season in the site area on Sherman Street where once stood a Chinese laundry and boarding houses, as well as the Treber Beer Depot. Additionally, it is anticipated that testing excavations will begin on the site area surrounding the only remaining buildings from the Chinatown district once known as the Wing Tsue buildings. Visitors and volunteers are

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welcome anytime the site areas are open for excavations.

James Donohue is the Director of Contracts at the SARC and can be reached at jim.donohue@state.sd.us. Rose Fosha is the Principle Investigator for the China Town excavations and can be reached at rose.fosha@state.sd.us. Michael Fosha is Director of the Outreach/Research and Volunteer program and can be reached at mike.fosha@state.sd.us. All of the above can be reached at 605-394-1936.

Nebraska State Historical Society (by Rob Bozell)

During the 2003-04 field seasons, the Nebraska State Historical Society, Archeology Division discovered "Engineer Cantonment", the long sought after winter quarters of the 1819-1820 Long Scientific Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains. Located at the base of the Missouri River bluffs a few miles north of Omaha, the site was discovered using a painting of the quarters by expedition member Titian R. Peale combined with ground penetrating radar and magnetometer surveys and utility line trenching.

Excavations have produced a wide variety of fur trade/early American-period artifacts, and food remains in the buried ruins of log cabins built by members of this scientific expedition. The site is in pristine condition and to date is the oldest Euroamerican site discovered in Nebraska.

Engineer Cantonment possesses National historic significance and substantial interpretive and archeological research potential. Preliminary work has shown the site to contain abundant information relating to subsistence, material culture, technology, science, architecture and trade during the early exploration period. The site is situated squarely within a rapidly developing environmental, historic, scenic, and recreational Missouri River corridor. A preliminary report titled "The Search for Engineer Cantonment" is available through the NSHS Archeology Division. To obtain a copy of the report please contact the Archeology Division at Nebraska State Historical Society 1500 R St. PO Box 82554 Lincoln NE 68501-2554 or call (402)471-4760 or email mfurby@mail.state.ne.us.

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Published as a service to members of the Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists. Submissions or comments concerning the newsletter should be sent to:

NAPA, c/o Kelli Bacon, 1500 R St., PO Box 82554, Lincoln NE 68501; email: kbacon@nshs.state.ne.us.