Letter from the President

2015 was another eventful year for NAPA. We began the year by voting to merge our journal, Central Plains Archeology, with the Professional Archaeologists of Kansas' Current Archaeology in Kansas, creating one larger journal that will retain the name Central Plains Archaeology. Because of an unexpected event (see below), the transition has taken a little more time than expected, but I am pleased to say that the articles are currently in the layout process. Erin Dempsey and Phil Geib have kindly stepped in to assist with the journal as we smooth out the process. I'm looking forward to seeing the final product.

NAPA again participated in Nebraska Archaeology Month, with many NAPA members once again taking leading roles in organizing and directing many of the activities throughout the month of September. Events included speakers at numerous museums, libraries, and historical societies; a table the 11th Annual Artifact Show hosted by the Nebraska Archaeological Society; brown bag lectures; Archeology Happy Hour at Ploughshare Brewing in Lincoln; a volunteer dig and open house at Engineer Cantonment; and much more. We look forward to participating in the celebrations again in 2016. This year's chair of the Archaeology Month planning committee is Courtney Ziska. Courtney has also been busy updating the NAPA website, which includes
information regarding Nebraska Archaeology Month events. Please check it out at http://nebraskaarchaeology.org/.

The NAPA board voted unanimously in August to award Donna Roper the William Duncan Strong Award in honor of her outstanding contributions to the field of Nebraska Archeology. Jack Hofman and Mary Adair presented Donna with the award on Friday, August 14th, at the same time they presented her with the Plains Anthropological Society’s Distinguished Service Award. Donna passed away the following day. We will be forever thankful for all of the work Donna did for NAPA and for archeology in Nebraska.

We also lost another beloved NAPA member this year. Gayle Carlson, former archeologist at the Nebraska State Historical Society and recipient of the William Duncan Strong Award (2013) passed away on November 15th. Gayle made significant contributions to our body of knowledge of Nebraska archeology and was always willing to answer people’s questions, whether from his colleagues or members of the curious public. NAPA appreciates Gayle’s many contributions to the field.

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, April 8th, at the Nebraska State Historical Society Archeology Offices at 5050 N 32nd St. The exact time is TBD, but will be announced shortly. We are tentatively planning a happy hour at Heidelberg’s following the meeting. Topics for the Annual Meeting include an update on the journal, planning for NAPA’s participation in the 2016 Plains Conference, and the possibility of NAPA becoming an Affiliated Society of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), among other topics TBD. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Ashley Barnett

2015-2016 Board Members

President: Ashley Barnett (archeologist at MWAC/NPS); Vice-President: Laura Bender (archeologist); Secretary/Treasurer: Nolan Johnson (archeologist, Highway Archeology Program/NSHS); At-Large Members: Erin Dempsey (archeologist, NPS/MWAC), Amanda Renner (archeologist, NPS/WAC), Jay Sturdevant (archeologist, NPS/MWAC), and Courtney Ziska (archeologist, Highway Archeology Program/NSHS).
Annual Meeting
Friday, April 8
Time TBD
NSHS Archeology offices, 5050 N. 32nd St, Lincoln

possible happy hour at Heidelberg's following the meeting

Topics: journal update, planning for NAPA’s participation in the 2016 Plains Conference, the possibility of NAPA becoming an Affiliated Society of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), others TBD

At the annual meeting, we will put together a slate of candidates for the 2016 officer election (president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer). Please bring nominations to the meeting, including self nominations. According to our bylaws, the election must occur within 30 days of our annual meeting.

Agenda will follow at a later date.

Do you have any items you would like brought up at NAPA’s annual meeting? Please email them to NAPA or call 402-437-5392 x125.

NAPA's New Website
Thanks to the hard work of Courtney Ziska, NAPA board member, NAPA has a new website! Visit http://nebraskaarchaeology.org/napa/. If you have something to add, please email NAPA.

You can also visit http://nebraskaarchaeology.org/ for general Nebraska archeology information or http://nebraskaarchaeology.org/nebraska-archaeology-month/ for information about Nebraska Archaeology Month.

Call for Membership
Know someone who may be interested in joining NAPA? Email NAPA or go to the NAPA website for
a membership form. NAPA has a new membership category: Joint. With this membership, you can become a member of both NAPA and Professional Archaeologists in Kansas (PAK) for $40, but you receive one copy of the Central Plains Archaeology journal.

Dues Reminder

Membership fees for 2016 are now due! Dues are $25 for Regular, Dual, and Institutional members. Dues are $10 for Student, Subscribing, and Affiliated members. A Joint membership with PAK is $40. Use PayPal or make checks payable to NAPA & mail to: NAPA, PO Box 82554, Lincoln NE 68501-2554.

Don’t remember if you’ve paid your dues? Email NAPA or call 402-471-4766.

Membership Statistics

New Members
Meredith C. Anderson, Terracon Consultants
Timothy Dodson, KLJ, Bismarck, ND
Brennan Dolan, Iowa DOT
Matthew E. Hill, University of Iowa
Dr. Robert Hoard, Kansas Historical Society
Rebecca Salem, UNL graduate student
Tricia Waggoner, Kansas Historical Society
Virginia Wulfkuhle, Kansas Historical Society
Andrew H. Zahn, UNL undergraduate student
David Zahn, retired

Membership Types
Regular (53)
Affiliated (2)
Dual (4)
Institutional (3)
Joint (27)
Student (6)
States with Members
Nebraska (46)     Arkansas (1)     Arizona (1)     California (1)     Colorado (4)     Iowa (6)
Illinois (2)     Indiana (1)     Kansas (8)     Michigan (1)     Minnesota (1)     Missouri (6)
North Dakota (5)     New Mexico (1)     Oklahoma (4)     Pennsylvania (1)     South Carolina (1)
South Dakota (7)     Texas (2)     Utah (1)     Wisconsin (1)     Wyoming (3)

Job Changes
Cynthia Wiley has relocated to La Junta, CO where she is the new Museum Curator and collateral-duty cultural resources manager for Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, and Capulin Volcano National Monument. Cynthia was formerly the Registrar and an archeologist at the National Park Service’s Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln.

Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

Society for American Archaeology
Apr. 6-10; Orlando, FL

Society for Industrial Archaeology
June 2-5; Kansas City, MO

American Cultural Resources Association
September 14-18; Palm Springs, CA

Plains Anthropological Conference
Oct. 12-15; Lincoln, NE

Midwest Archaeological Conference
October 6-8; Iowa City, IA

Society for Historical Archaeology
Jan. 4-8, 2017; Fort Worth, TX

2016 Plains Anthropological Conference in Lincoln
On October 12-15, 2016, the Plains Anthropological Conference will be in Lincoln. At one time, Lincoln held the conference every year, but they haven’t hosted it since 2001. There will be plenty of opportunities to help so mark those dates on your calendars! Look for announcements and opportunities from the conference organizers.

2016 Flint Hills Archaeological Conference
The Flint Hills Archaeological Conference will be held in Omaha March 25 and 26, 2016 at the Chalco Hills Natural Resources Center, 8901 S 154th St., Omaha, NE (just a few minutes off of Interstate-80). More information can be found at http://www.flinthillsarchconf.info/.

2016 Annual Meeting of the Missouri Archaeological Society
The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Missouri Archaeological Society will be April 1–3 in Springfield. It will begin with a Friday-evening welcome reception with food and drinks at the conference hotel. It will continue on Saturday with all-day presentations, a silent auction, exhibits, and an evening banquet and Koch Lecture. Activities will conclude on Sunday with a field trip to the Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site. The registration cost for the meeting is $15 per person.

The meeting will be at the elegantly renovated Ramada Oasis. Special room rates for a double deluxe or courtyard king room will be $82/night plus tax. This rate includes a free hot breakfast buffet. Hotel amenities include an indoor saltwater swimming pool, fitness room, and an onsite restaurant and ice bar. Room amenities include flat-screen TVs, cable, mini refrigerators, and wireless internet. Reservations may be made by calling 1-888-532-4338 and asking for the Society’s conference rate. A block of 53 rooms will be held for our attendees at the reduced rate. Book by March 4 to receive the reduced rate. The hotel has several concurrent events, so availability beyond that room block may be limited.

The Saturday banquet dinner options will consist of a plated choice of either marinated, seared chicken breast with romano and sundried tomato cream sauce or grilled bacon-wrapped pork filet with bourbon demi-glace for $22, or beef medallions in sweet plum sauce for $31. All dinners include salad, roll, starch, vegetable, dessert, and tea and coffee. Dinner prices include gratuity.

Our Koch Lecturer will be internationally famous Dr. Douglas W. Owsley from the Smithsonian Institution. His work has included the excavation and study of the H. L. Hunley Confederate submarine in Charleston Harbor; excavation of the historic Jamestown Colony; analysis and identification of victims of the siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas; and analysis and identification of individuals buried in seventeenth-century iron coffins discovered in the Chesapeake Bay area of Maryland. He is also known for his research on the controversial Kennewick skeleton.

Dr. Owsley will also present a different lecture at Missouri State University the preceding Friday evening. MAS
meeting attendees may attend this lecture at no charge.

Registration materials will be posted to the Society's website at http://associations.missouristate.edu/mas/annualmeeting.html by the end of January. Those interested in attending may contact the Society office at mas@missouristate.edu or 417-836-3773 for more information. The 2016 meeting promises to be better than ever, so please join us.

**Kansas Anthropological Association Annual Meeting**
KAA Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 9, 2016
Central Kansas Flywheels Yesteryear Museum
1100 W. Diamond Dr., Salina

Margie Reed and her family will host the 2016 Kansas Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Salina to launch *The Archaeology of Central Kansas: Based on the Reed Collections from Archaeological Sites in Saline and Ottawa Counties* by Donna C. Roper. The production of this KAA Bulletin No. 3 was underwritten by the Harold and Margie Reed Publications Fund. The afternoon session will be a Middle Ceramic Period symposium that will honor Dr. Roper and the Reeds for their achievements in this research area. The business meeting will be held in the morning; a detailed schedule will appear in the January-March issue of the *KAA Newsletter*. Complements of the Reed family, the entire day will be free and open to the public.
Workshops and Training Opportunities
2016 Lithic Materials Workshop

The Archeology Laboratory, Augustana University will be hosting the 2016 Lithic Materials Workshop. The workshop will be held on-campus at the Edith Mortenson Center, Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It is scheduled for Friday, February 19th and Saturday, February 20th (Specific times to follow). The event represents the fourth in a series of biannual workshops intended to be an informal gathering of professionals and avocationals with an interest in all things lithic (or archeology in general). It is free and open to all. We hope to have a small number of papers and/or poster presentations focusing on lithics and related research, as well as cast and replica displays, a lithic materials exchange, and a flintknapping area with demonstrations.

Following the workshop, on Sunday the 21st, Augustana Professor KC Carlson will be presenting the Third Sunday Archeology Lecture entitled: *Folsom Adaptations to Bison Hunting: A Comparison of Northern and Southern Plains Arroyo Trap Kills.*

We still need paper and poster presenters for the event! If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in presenting, please notify Austin Buhta at: austin.buhta@augie.edu. Please also let Austin know if you will need table space for displays or for the rock exchange. General questions may be addressed to Austin. Thanks. Hope to see you there!
COME JOIN US FOR THE 4th BIENNIAL

2016 LITHIC MATERIALS WORKSHOP

AS IT VENTURES OUT WEST ONTO THE GREAT PLAINS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19th & SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20th
EDITH MORTENSON CENTER THEATER,
AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS,
SIoux Falls, South Dakota

HOSTED BY THE ARCHEOLOGY LABORATORY, AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY &
THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Paper/Poster Presentations
- Lithic Exchange
- Flintknapping Area and Demonstrations
- Cast and Replica Displays
- Reception

This two-day event is an informal gathering of professionals and avocationals with an interest in all things lithic (or archeology in general). The setting is very informal and intended to allow for plenty of discussion time. The event is, as always, free and open to all.

STAY SUNDAY THE 21st FOR THE
THIRD SUNDAY ARCHEOLOGY LECTURE FEATURING
AUGUSTANA PROFESSOR K.C. CARLSON’S PRESENTATION
FOLSOM ADAPTATIONS TO BISON HUNTING:
A COMPARISON OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PLAINS ARROYO TRAP KILLS
2:00 PM, EDITH MORTENSON CENTER, AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

See tentative schedule and campus map, below.
Final programs with presentation abstracts to follow.
Hope to see you there!
2016 Lithic Materials Workshop Tentative Schedule

Friday, February 19
1:00 pm
▪ Doors open for set-up and conversations—Edith Mortenson Center (No. 5 on map)

2:00–5:00 pm
▪ Poster Presentations
▪ Displays
▪ Flintknapping
▪ Lithic Exchange
▪ Material Type Identification

5:00 pm
▪ Doors close for the evening

6:00–9:00 pm
▪ Reception—Fellows’ Presidential Residence (No. 34 on map)

Saturday, February 20
9:00 am
▪ Doors open for set-up and conversations—Edith Mortenson Center (No. 5 on Map)

10:00 am–12:00 pm
▪ Poster Presentations
▪ Displays
▪ Flintknapping
▪ Lithic Exchange
▪ Material Type Identification

12:00–1:00 pm
▪ Lunch break

1:00–3:00 pm
▪ Paper Presentations

3:00–5:00 pm
▪ Poster Presentations
▪ Displays
▪ Flintknapping
▪ Lithic Exchange
▪ Material Type Identification

5:00 pm
▪ Doors close for the evening
2016 KATP Field School Announced
The 2016 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school will be held at the Last Chance Store in Council Grove, Kansas, June 2-17, 2016. The simple stone cabin was the last place where freighters and travelers on the Santa Fe Trail could obtain supplies between Council Grove and
Santa Fe, New Mexico. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and is the newest state historic site, having been donated to the Kansas Historical Society in 2015.

All three departments of the KSHS Cultural Resources Division (Archeology, Historic Preservation, and Historic Sites) will be integrated in the investigation. Bob Blasing will be the principal investigator for the project. The primary goal of the excavations will be to reveal more information about the brief mercantile period of property during the Santa Fe Trail period. In conjunction with the KATP field school excavation at the Last Chance Store, several other opportunities will be offered.

- A metal detection survey and testing effort will take place on a few days at Kaw Methodist Mission (14MO368), a state historic site (http://www.kshs.org/11859#history) and National Register property since 1971.
- KSHS Archives staff will conduct a Scan and Share event on Thursday, June 9, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM in the meeting room of the Morris County Courthouse. Historical photographs and documents brought in by the public will be copied and originals returned to their owners. Scanned copies will be added to the State Archives and shared with the Morris County Historical Society.
- SHPO staff members will involve the public in surveying historic properties with the results being entered into our Kansas Historic Resources Inventory online database.
- Four classes will be offered for college credit through Emporia State University, for KAA certification credit, or simply for the information: Archeological Fieldwork, Mapping, Between Discovery and Excavation: Testing Archeological Sites, and Architectural Buildings Survey.

Council Grove Junior-Senior High School will be the project headquarters, including the artifact processing lab, most classes, some evening programs, and indoor and outdoor camping. Further details of the KATP field school will be included in the registration packet, which will be posted around March 1 at http://www.kshs.org/14622. The packet will contain forms for Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) and/or Kansas Historical Foundation (KHF) membership; registration, and scheduling forms; options for lodging, camping, and food; a map of pertinent project locations; a list of recommended equipment; instructions for enrollment in formal classes; details about the KAA certification program; and a schedule of accompanying activities.

Registration forms submitted/postmarked by May 2 qualify for a participation fee of $20 for KAA and KHF members and $80 for nonmembers. After May 2, the participation fee increases to $30 for
members and $90 for nonmembers.

Although field and laboratory activities continue without stopping for the 16-day period, volunteers may participate for a single day or the entire time. Participants must be at least 10 years of age, and those younger than 14 must plan to work with a parent or other sponsoring adult at all times. A legally responsible adult must accompany participants between 14 and 18 years of age. The KSHS and the KAA do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of their programs. The KSHS requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with disabilities or special needs. To make special arrangements, contact Virginia Wulfkuhle at 785-272-8681, extension 266.

KAA Certification Seminar
The Kansas Anthropological Association’s annual certification seminar will take place on February 27-28, 2016, at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka. “Kansas Archaeology” will be taught by Robert J. Hoard, State Archeologist of Kansas. The class presents evidence from Kansas and related regions, incorporating geological, geographical, and ecological factors that affect social and technological change. Topics to be discussed include the origins of people in Kansas, the various ways of making a living (hunters and farmers, settled groups and mobile groups), how those lifeways are expressed in Kansas’ archeological record, how climatic variations have affected how people lived, and the corresponding technological features of various ways of living. Additional topics are burial practices, artistic expression, trade, and sources of clay and stone used for tools. The discussion will touch on the changes that took place when people from Europe and Africa came to the Americas and on the archeological traces of these people. Finally, the class will include descriptions of the kinds of evidence that are collected to reach these conclusions and how archeologists acquire that evidence.

Participants need not be enrolled in the KAA Certification Program to take the class, but membership in the KAA is required; non-members are welcome to join when they arrive in Topeka. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday, and a $10 registration fee will be collected at check-in. The class will run from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM on both days with people on their own for lunch. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided in the classroom, and members are encouraged to bring goodies to share at breaks. KAA and PAK merchandise will be available for purchase, as will books from Donna Roper’s personal library.
The Kansas Historical Society is located at 6425 SW 6\textsuperscript{th} Avenue in Topeka. Participants should park in the east lot and enter through the main entrance of the Kansas Museum of History. Guides will direct people to the classroom.

Preregistration is not required, but it would be helpful to know how many people plan to attend. Please RSVP by e-mail to v.wulfkuhle@kshs.org or telephone 785-272-8681 ext. 266 by February 22. In case of inclement weather, call Virginia Wulfkuhle at the number above for the verdict on cancellation.

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**Announcements**

**NAPA Members Donna Roper and Gayle Carlson Pass Away**

NAPA was saddened to hear of the deaths of Donna Roper on August 15, 2015, and Gayle Carlson on November 15, 2015. Each contributed greatly to NAPA by serving on the board and editing *Central Plains Archeology*. Each worked prolifically in Nebraska archeology, and their contributions were wide and deep. NAPA acknowledged their contributions by awarding each of them the William Duncan Strong Memorial Award. Longer tributes to each will appear in the next volume of the journal.

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**NAPA Members Elect New Officers**

NAPA welcomes four newly elected board members: Erin Dempsey, Amanda Renner, Jay Sturdevant, and Courtney Ziska. They began their duties on September 1, 2015, and will serve until August 31, 2017.

Dempsey, Renner, and Sturdevant are archeologists at the Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service in Lincoln. Ziska is an archeologist in the Highway Archeology Program at the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln. Dempsey, Sturdevant, and Ziska are starting their second terms as at-large board members. This is Renner's first term as an at-large board member.
Thank you to outgoing board member Dennis Kuhnel who served from September 2013 through August 2015.

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**Donna Roper Awarded William Duncan Strong Memorial Award**

In August 2015, NAPA presented the William Duncan Strong Memorial Award to Dr. Donna Roper in a special ceremony in Kansas. Donna was archeologist at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, and worked extensively in Great Plains archeology.

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**Celebrate Nebraska Archaeology Month**

September 2015 was another successful year for Nebraska Archaeology Month (NAM)! Nearly 30 events were held across the state, with 2000-3000 Nebraskans of all ages participating. A special thanks to everyone who donated their time in ensuring this year’s success, as well as to Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation for helping to fund this year’s Archaeology Month!

In 2015, we made it a point to distribute Audience Reaction Forms at the various events in order to identify areas we may improve and to gauge the public’s interest in Nebraska Archeology. Based on the responses received, audience members show marked interest in archeology (98% indicated that they were at least somewhat interested in archeology, with 52% having considerable interest), but few are familiar with Nebraska Archeology itself (56% indicated they know little to nothing about the archeology of our state). While these numbers show that we certainly have work to do, our efforts to date are making a difference, with 98% of respondents having learned something new about archeology at a NAM event this year!

Planning for Nebraska Archaeology Month 2016 is now beginning! If you are interested in becoming a member of the planning committee, or if you or your organization would like to help host or sponsor an event, please contact Courtney Ziska at courtney.ziska@nebraska.gov.

Finally, be sure to visit our webpage at nebraskaarchaeology.org/nebraska-archaeology-month or like us on Facebook in order to stay up-to-date as plans for NAM 2016 are made!
"Like" NAPA on Facebook
NAPA has a Facebook page. Right now, we use it to post meeting announcements, job opportunities, & archeology related articles. “Like” us to get information not included in our newsletter or in emails. We hope to get more participation from our membership & friends as our group grows. If you would like to submit something to the page, email NAPA.

NSHS Archeology Division Moves
This fall the Nebraska State Historical Society Archeology Division relocated to a new facility at 5050 N. 32nd St. in Lincoln. The structure was built to suit the needs of the Division and includes office and archives space, a good sized lab, and two collections storage rooms; one for the archeological collections and one for government records. Spacesaver compact shelving has been installed in both collections storage areas. NSHS intends to lease this new building for decades to come.

Nebraska Archeological Society Artifact Show
The 12th Annual Nebraska Artifact Show hosted by the Nebraska Archeological Society will be held in Harvest Hall at the Seward County Fairgrounds in Seward, NE, on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 am to 5 pm. Along with artifact displays, there will be several speakers & activities. Admission for adults is $3. Children 12 and under are free.

For more information, email Kevin Hammond, NAS president, or visit their website.

Nebraska Archeological Society Scholarship
The Nebraska Archaeological Society is offering two $250 scholarships to an undergraduate or graduate student studying archeology. The eligibility requirements are:

- Be a full-time graduate or undergraduate student enrolled in a post-secondary institution of
higher learning and majoring in archaeology with a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) and have completed at least 12 credit hours of archaeology related course work.

- Be a graduate of a Nebraska high school and be enrolled in a post-secondary institution of higher learning during the semester for which the scholarship is awarded or, if not a graduate of a Nebraska high school, be enrolled in a Nebraska domiciled post-secondary institution of higher learning during the semester for which the scholarship is awarded.

Applications are due on July 15. For more information and an application, visit Nebraska Archaeological Society or mail your application to NAS Scholarship Chairman, 47081 N 400 Ave, Genoa NE 68640.

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The Nebraska State Historical Society, Archeology Division

by Rob Bozell

The NSHS Archeology Division has re-located our offices, site files, library, collections and laboratory to a brand spanking new building at 5050 South 32nd Street in north Lincoln. The facility is newly constructed and under lease to the State of Nebraska. We are particularly excited to finally have our collections in a dry, well-lit, climate controlled room equipped with space-saver storage. The collections had previously been stored at a location with chronic water problems. Staff on-site at the new facility include: Rob Bozell, John Ludwickson, Karen Steinauer, Courtney Ziska, Katie Paitz, Nolan Johnson, Nic Fogerty, Megan Hilger, and Diane Laffin. Archeology Collections Curator Trisha Nelson is also housed at the facility. We are eagerly looking forward to Amy Koch joining us soon at the new facility as she continues to recuperate from a serious car accident this past fall. All emails and phone numbers of our staff remain the same. We look forward to NAPA members and other friends visiting our new facility.

Various staff attended professional conferences, and resource management training opportunities in Lincoln, Omaha, Iowa City IA, Portland OR, White Cloud KS, and Lyons KS. In addition to attending the 2015 Plains and Flint Hills Conferences, Archeology Division staff members are directly involved in planning these two conferences for 2016 to be held in Lincoln and Omaha. Our staff has also been involved in various aspects for planning of exhibits and reopening of the Nebraska History Museum in 2016.
Over the past year, our Highway Archeology Program completed Section 106 investigations and prepared compliance documents on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) for about 270 proposed transportation projects statewide. The investigations resulted in the identification of dozens of standing structures and archeological sites. Most projects were small scale re-surfacing jobs, borrow pits, and bike/pedestrian trails but several larger viaducts, bridges and expressway segments were also examined. Several sites became the focus of test excavations, mapping, and monitoring in Dixon, Dawson, Nance, and Lancaster counties but no large scale excavations were required. Staff also conducted non-transportation cultural resource surveys near Sidney, Niobrara, and Blair for other agencies and consulting firms. The Nebraska Department of Roads, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office signed a programmatic agreement for select transportation projects which has resulted in process streamlining and a welcome reduction of paperwork for our staff. Highway Archeology staff are also working on a Department of Roads funded research project with the University of Kansas Geological Survey to develop a GIS-based tool to better address where deeply buried archeological sites are likely to occur. Staff worked with NSHS Foundation volunteers and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Archeology Field School in the summer and fall of 2015 to complete some limited excavation, mapping, and restoration of the Engineer Cantonment site (1819-1820 Long Expedition Camp) in response to damage during Missouri River flooding.

Our office is also the clearinghouse for the inadvertent discovery of human remains and funerary objects. We consulted with about ten law enforcement and county attorney offices and small museums. Five new cases are presently under study in collaboration with physical anthropologists and consultation with tribes and the Nebraska Indian Commission is on-going. Staff also assisted Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma brothers Walter, Lance and Roger Echo-Hawk on a week-long research tour of Pawnee villages, cemeteries, hunting camps, and sacred sites across Nebraska. Walter is working on an historical novel about their family’s past in Nebraska. The NSHS is also working under contract for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to re-house archeological collections we hold for them. Work in 2015 has focused on parts of the Leary Site collection and some collections from Thurston County on the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations. Over 2000 objects have been cataloged and re-packaged.

Finally, NSHS Archeology staff was regularly involved in various NAPA activities including board membership and Central Plains Archeology article editing and revision. Our staff was very engaged in Nebraska Archeology Month 2015 including planning, outreach, and giving public presentations.
Staff made presentations in association with Archeology Month and other outreach efforts in Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, South Sioux City, Chadron, Alliance, Ralston, Seward, Emerson, and Ashfall State Park. Some staff has also been involved with the formation of the UNL Anthropology Department Alumni and Friends Advisory Board. The group created a fund managed by the NU Foundation.

NSHS Board member emeritus Peter Bleed and Archeology Division archeologist Courtney Ziska (both kneeling, lower left) and a group of eager volunteers at the Engineer Cantonment fall dig sponsored by the NSHS Foundation.

Curator of Archeological Collections Trisha Nelson in our new collections facility.
Nolan Johnson and Rob Bozell shovel testing at a Lower Loup/Pawnee hunting camp along Interstate 80 for a Nebraska Department of Roads project.

On April 23, 2015, the Friends and Alumni of the University of Nebraska Department of Anthropology organized itself. Its mission is to "...enhance the visibility and stature of the Department of Anthropology amongst relevant external entities while assisting departmental leadership in their efforts to improve student, faculty, and alumni experiences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln." It hopes to accomplish this by inspiring students, facilitating outreach, fundraising, advocating for the department, and recognizing alumni and friends' accomplishments.
They hope to host a kick-off event at the 2016 Plains Conference in Lincoln.

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**Possible Legislation in Wisconsin**

There are two legislative bills currently in the Wisconsin Legislature. The first, LRB – 2890/1, "Removes protections from effigy mounds in response to a private landowner seeking to destroy the remnants of the Ward Mound Group in order to extract construction aggregate and concrete material" (from change.org). The second, SB455, "Would leave historic districts and privately owned landmarks largely unprotected" (from us6.campaign-archive2.com).

There has been a lively campaign against both bills. Check the news for further updates.

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**Articles**

**Continued Investigations at the Powars II Paleoindian Red Ochre Mine in Southeastern Wyoming**

by George M. Zeimens & George C. Frison

The ochre mine is located on the side of a steep slope in the Hartville Uplift. Investigations at this point in time have been limited to salvaging artifacts that have eroded from above and rest in the talus at the foot of the slope. Clovis dominates the projectile points in the collection but Goshen, Folsom, Plainview, Agate Basin and Hell Gap examples are also represented. Literally hundreds of unique stone tools have also been recovered and just how they functioned in relation to ochre mining or other cultural activities that may have taken place is problematical.

A test excavation across from the site revealed over 2m of rich, stratified cultural deposits that date from Late Prehistoric through Paleoindian times. Another test in the same terrace uncovered a large chert and quartzite quarry, the same materials that most of the artifacts from the ochre quarry are made of. Numerous cortex trimming flakes, cores, blade cores and flakes were recovered from the test in that area. Some of the chert nodules are over 1m in diameter. The geologic context and
mineralogical makeup of the chert remains undetermined. However, it is of a distinctive material that differs considerably in attributes currently used to identify Hartville Uplift chert which occurs in the Guernsey Formation. The quartzite is also distinctive and differs from other local sources such as Spanish Diggings.

The precise spatial and temporal boundaries of Powars II remains to be determined. Much of the ochre quarry lies buried beneath tons of tailings from historic iron mining activities. The terrace across from the ochre quarry includes over 40 acres and although the upper portion of the terrace has been affected by the historic mine camp and numerous mine related facilities, it appears that several meters of stratified deposits remain intact below the modern surface. Efforts are underway to secure the site for the future. There is no doubt that Powars II affords the opportunity for many years of research along numerous lines of investigation.