Dear NAPA Members,

As we transition from 2016 to 2017 NAPA must prepare itself for troubled times. Government funding for archeology is under threat on all fronts. We all must seek to do our work efficiently and expediently and show our critics that archeology has something to offer our state and the country. Whether that is fostering understanding and appreciation about our past by preserving and sharing knowledge of Nebraska archeology, providing jobs and tourism dollars or helping construction projects be completed timely and efficiently by avoiding late inadvertent discovery of archeological resources, archaeology is important and it is up to all of us to show that to the public and our elected officials.

2017 finds numerous legislative bills both in Nebraska and in Washington D.C. that if passed will have a detrimental effect to Nebraska archeology. On the state level, there are a slew of bills designed to limit or eliminate the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit. The bills numbers are LB475, LB467, LB126, LB272, and LB373. Here is a link highlighting the benefits of this program http://www.nebraskahistory.org/histpres/NHTC%20Impact%20Release%2010-13-16.pdf and http://journalstar.com/business/local/study-historic-tax-credits-had-million-impact-
While this does not directly affect archeological resources in Nebraska, it does help to preserve Nebraska’s cultural heritage and foster pride and appreciation of the past, which is beneficial to archeology in general.

Nebraska has also instituted a hiring freeze and is looking at across the board budget cuts to state agencies. These factors have and will continue to negatively affect the agencies involved with archeology in Nebraska.

On the national level, the current administration is pushing forward with plans to limit regulations of all varieties. It goes without saying that much of the archeology in Nebraska has been and continues to be in response to Section 106 of the NHPA since its creation. While I am not aware of any specific bills to strip this regulatory power, at this time, it is likely on the radar of the administration. There is one specific bill (S. 271) that is designed to allow state transportation departments to avoid federal regulations by essentially turning federal money into state money and there by side stepping federal regulations. The bill can be read here https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/271/text.

Also the administration has expressed plans to eliminate all funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. For the past two years, NAPA has received a grant from Humanities Nebraska, which in turn receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to help support Nebraska Archaeology Month. Federal funding in the form of grants is vital to archeological work in our state.

I encourage all NAPA members to contact their local State Senator and our Representatives in Washington D.C. and ask them to vote against these bills and to support archeology in our state.

There is good news amid the bad. Archaeology Month in 2016 was once again a success and the poster in particular was universally greeted with high praise, both are due in large part to the efforts of Courtney Ziska, Archaeology Month Committee Chairperson. The poster is entered in the 2017 poster competition at the Society for American Archaeology. Anyone attending the meeting in Vancouver March 29th to April 2nd should look for it. Events were held across the state and archeological joy brought to all. NAPA will seek to continue the momentum as we head towards Archaeology Month 2017 in September. NAPA also jointly published Central Plains Archaeology Volume 16 with Professional Archaeologists of Kansas in time for the 2016 Plains Anthropological Conference in Lincoln. NAPA remains in excellent financial shape and looks to continue to be in the future.

I extend an invitation to all NAPA members to attend the Annual Meeting on April 14th at 3pm. It will be at the Nebraska History Museum on ‘P’ Street and Centennial Mall. Members can bring any
issue they may have to the board.

Thank you all for being great advocates for Nebraska archeology.

Nolan Johnson

2016-2018 Board Members

President: Nolan Johnson (archeologist, Highway Archeology Program/NSHS); Vice-President: Ashley Barnett (archeologist at MWAC/NPS); Secretary/Treasurer: Stacy Stupka (Section 106 Specialist, NDOR); 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 13
3pm
Nebraska History Museum
Centennial Mall & P Streets
Lincoln

Meeting details and agenda will follow at a later date.

2017 Annual Meeting and Board Election

At the annual meeting, we will put together a slate of candidates for the 2017 at-large board member election. Please bring nominations to the meeting, including self nominations. According to our bylaws, the election must occur within 30 days of our annual meeting.

We will also discuss NAPA’s role in Archaeology Month happening in September.

Do you have any items you would like brought up at NAPA’s annual meeting? Please email them to NAPA or call 402-471-3230.
Call for Membership

Know someone who may be interested in joining NAPA? Email NAPA, call 402-471-4766 or go to the NAPA website & click on “Membership Application Form”.

Dues Reminder

Membership fees for 2017 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
Dr. Doug Bamforth, University of Colorado
Dr. Donald Blakeslee, Wichita State University
Richard Gould, Kansas Historical Society
Catherine G. Griffin, US Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
Rebecca Hawkins
Brantley Jackson, US Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
Dr. Richard A. Krause, Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research
Jamie Palmer, Bureau of Land Management
Dr. Gina Powell, Kansas Historical Society
Fiona Price
Dr. Heather Richards-Rissetto, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Dr. John Rissetto, Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office
Mary E. Seagrave, NewFields
Amos Sobotka, Midwest Archeological Center
Stacy Stupka, Nebraska Department of Roads

Membership Types
Regular (49)
Affiliated (2)
Dual (2)
Institutional (3)
Joint (45)
Student (5)
Subscribing (8)

**States with Members**

Nebraska (49)  Alabama (1)  Arkansas (3)  Arizona (1)  California (1)  Colorado (5)  Georgia (1)  Iowa (6)  Illinois (2)  Indiana (1)  Kansas (12)  Michigan (1)  Minnesota (1)  Missouri (6)  North Dakota (3)  New Mexico (1)  Oklahoma (5)  Pennsylvania (1)  South Dakota (6)  Texas (3)  Utah (2)  Wisconsin (1)  Wyoming (3)

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**Upcoming Conferences**

- **Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists**
  March 9-12; Grand Junction, CO

- **Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology**
  March 14-16; Atlanta, GA

- **Society for American Archaeology**
  March 29-April 2; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

- **Central States Anthropological Society**
  April 6-8; Lincoln, NE

- **Society for Industrial Archaeology**
  May 18-21; Houston, TX

- **American Cultural Resources Association**
  September 7-10; Philadelphia, PA

- **Plains Anthropological Society**
  October 4-7; Bismarck, ND

- **Midwest Archaeological Conference**
  October 19-21; Indianapolis, IN

- **Society for Historical Archaeology**
  Jan. 4-8, 2018; New Orleans, LA

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**Workshops and Training Opportunities**

**National Park Service's 2017 Archaeological Prospection Workshop**

The National Park Service's 2017 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled *Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-destructive Investigations of the Pea Ridge Civil War Battlefield* will be held May 15–19, 2017, at the Pea Ridge National Military Park in
Benton County, Arkansas. Lodging will be in Roger, Arkansas, at a motel to be determined. The lectures will be at a meeting room in Rogers, Arkansas, at a place to be determined. The field exercises will take place at the Pea Ridge National Military Park. The park commemorates the March 7-8, 1862 Civil War battle between Federal and Confederate troops in northwestern Arkansas. The resulting Federal victory keep the State of Missouri in the Union. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service’s Midwest Archeological Center, Pea Ridge National Military Park, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, as well as the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. This will be the twenty-seventh 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 will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of $475.00. Application forms are available at the Midwest Archeological Center’s web page. Payment may be made by credit card through the Friends of NCPTT for non-government employees. Federal employees may pay through a training form (SF-182) sent to the Midwest Archeological Center or by credit card through the Friends of NCPTT (NCPTT webpage announcement). 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.

Douglas Bamforth Lecture at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD
Making New Societies in Northeastern Nebraska in the 13th and 14th Centuries
(Douglas Bamforth, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, University of Colorado-Boulder)

The modern world is full of examples of human beings moving in difficult times and forging new communities in new places, but this is not new in human history. This talk is a preliminary look at archaeological sites along Ponca Creek, in northeastern Nebraska, where work by the University of Nebraska in the mid-20th century (and by Augustana in the early 21st) suggests a similar process of change. The mid- to late 13th century saw drought and disruption over much of North America, and it seems increasingly clear that new people moved into the Central Plains from the Midwest at the same time that indigenous people abandoned parts of their traditional territory and moved east. These groups may have met and intermingled along Ponca Creek, ultimately forming new societies.

March 19, 2017. 2 pm. Room 113A/B, Froiland Science Complex (formerly GSC100). Augustana
Announcements

NAPA Members Elect New Officers

NAPA welcomes four newly elected officers: Nolan Johnson, Ashley Barnett, and Stacy Stupka. They began their duties on September 1, 2016, and will serve until August 31, 2018.

Johnson is an archaeologist in the Highway Archeology Program at the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln. Barnett is an archaeologist at the Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service in Lincoln. Stupka works at the Nebraska Department of Roads as a Section 106 Specialist and liaison to the Highway Archeology Program at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Thank you to outgoing board member Laura Bender who served as vice-president from September 2014 through August 2016.

Nebraska Archaeology Month

September 2016 marked our third annual Nebraska Archaeology Month (NAM), with it proving to be another successful year! This year was especially busy for local archeologists, with many involved in efforts celebrating the National Park Service Centennial, hosting the 2016 Plains Anthropological Conference in Lincoln, and making plans for the 2017 Nebraska Sesquicentennial. Despite having planned fewer events as a result, participation numbers were similar to years prior, with 2000-3000 Nebraskans of all ages attending one or more events across the state. A special thanks to everyone who donated their time in ensuring this year’s success, as well as to Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment for helping to fund this year’s Archaeology Month!

NAM 2016 featured a new poster design highlighting the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act with a focus on Signal Butte, one of ten National Historic Landmarks in Nebraska that were officially added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. This poster became an opportune starting point for archeological advocacy efforts during this year’s celebration. During the Proclamation Ceremony, we presented Governor Pete Ricketts with a poster and introductory information on archeology in Nebraska, followed by a visit to the office of each state senator in the Capitol Building. Posters were also sent to our national representatives in Washington. This outreach effort appeared to be well received, with representatives like Congressman Fortenberry noting they were pleased to be included. Our poster distribution efforts also presented the opportunity to have Lt. Governor Mike Foley attend an archeological open house hosted by the
NSHS. In recognition of the mounting pressures to decrease funding for the humanities and limit environmental regulations at all levels, we feel like this year’s efforts were a good start in more actively engaging with our state and federal elected officials – efforts that are certainly likely to become more and more important in the months and years ahead.

Now that we are officially in Nebraska’s Sesquicentennial year, planning for Nebraska Archaeology Month 2017 has begun, with a proposed focus on our state’s 150th Birthday. 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 2017 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.

Nebraska Archeological Society Artifact Show

The 13th 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, August 13, from 9am to 5pm. 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.

Articles

A Multidisciplinary Exploratory Study of Alpine Cairns, Baranof Island, Southeast Alaska

Bill Hunt

In the fall of 2016, researchers completed a project whose overall goal was to develop an historical-ecological context for Tlingit cultural activities, migrations, and ethnogeography in alpine settings. The project focused on artificial cairns in alpine settings above the tree line in central Southeast Alaska. More specifically, the research team of experts in the disciplines of archeology, botany/lichenology, and oral history sought to identify cairn topographical settings, form, function,
In 2011, prior to conducting this investigation, Principal Investigators met and consulted with the tribal governments of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Angoon Community Association (Kootznoowoo Tlingit). Both tribes were consulted because the study location was proposed to take place at or near their customary tribal boundary. Fieldwork was initiated in July 2013, by Oxford University cultural anthropologist and oral historian, Dr. Thomas F. Thornton. He was able to draw upon twenty years of ethnographic research in numerous Tlingit communities to conduct interviews with tribal elders. The purpose of this effort was to develop an historical-ecological context for Tlingit cultural activities, migrations, and ethnogeography in alpine settings. Dr. Thornton’s portion of the report provides an extensive narrative of project background, research objectives, methodology, descriptive data, and research conclusions.

Archeological and lichenological fieldwork took place in 2013 and in 2014 in northeast Baranof Island and on Chichagof Island along east and west coasts of Hoonah Sound. This work was directed by Drs. Ralph Hartley and William Hunt, adjunct professors in the Anthropology Dept., University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lichen and lichenometric inventory was undertaken by Dr. Bruce McCune, Professor Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology, Oregon State University. Lichenometric study was conducted in 2013 on Baranof Island, collecting data of interest to the lichenology research community and to apply traditional and innovative methods of dating alpine cairns based on the lichen and moss growth on their surfaces.

The archeological investigation initially focused on mountain slopes and crests with primary goal of identifying all cairns and other site types of sites in the targeted locality. As a result, the team recorded 50 cairns within 5 sites on Baranof Island. Archeological data collected during this inventory includes cairn dimensions, GPS positions, still photographic images, and video documentation. Topographic mapping of the research locale and clustered features was undertaken by UNAVCO using ground-based Lidar. With inventory and mapping completed, four alpine cairns were selected for excavation/dismantlement based on their morphology and lichen growth. As each feature was disassembled, archeologists sought artifacts, faunal and floral materials, and carbon samples from inside and/or immediately under the cairn. All dismantled cairns were subsequently rebuilt within its marked footprint and within its approximate original morphology with lichen-bearing surfaces facing outward to the extent possible. No artifacts occurred within, under, or the excavated cairns. In September 2014, after retrieving a time-lapse camera left to overwinter at Cross Peak, a helicopter survey was conducted over mountains along the lower reaches of Hoonah Sound. This survey identified 39 cairns at 29 sites demonstrating that alpine cairns occur in abundance on Baranof and Chichagof Islands.

Radiocarbon (AMS) analysis of collected organic materials and lichenometrics indicate that alpine cairns on Cross Peak are prehistoric and built within the last two millennia. Physical, historical, and oral history points to construction of the cairns by ancestors of the Tlingit and, more specifically, by
ancestors of Sitka and Kootznoowoo tribes.

This innovative project provided hard data for the first time on what may be the most ubiquitous prehistoric cultural feature in Southeast Alaska. The potential for coastal environments to be altered by dramatic change in climatic dynamics and regional tectonic activity influences local decision-making about resource use in various coastal landscapes throughout the world. This project contributes to the existing knowledge base of prehistoric and historic land-use in southeast Alaska, a means by which to ascertain how indigenous groups responded to the dynamics of a changing environment. The information collected about human activities on the Baranof, Chichagof, and the broader Alexander Archipelago broadens understanding of past human adaptation to this overall coastal environment. It has the potential to permit an assessment as to how this adaptation may or may not have varied from that of the land use practices of other coastal social systems in the world. In addition, data collected in this case study may be especially useful in understanding human adaptation in relation to rapid climate change due to the 1) rapid and dynamic climate and geomorphological changes in the landscape and 2) long-term habitation by peoples with strong oral tradition and ethnogeographic consciousness and adaptive capacity and resilience, etc.

Copies of the report may be downloaded for no cost at
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/anthropologyfacpub/129/.
In June 2016 Kansas State University conducted the Kansas Archaeological Field School (KAFS) in the Wildcat Creek watershed near Manhattan, Kansas. This educational and research endeavor continues our long-term project to investigate the prehistoric human landscape of this region. We have been documenting and evaluating archaeological resources in the Manhattan area over the past eight years with the overall goal of understanding the variety of past human experiences in this part of the Central Plains.

The 2016 KAFS focused on survey, mapping, and testing of six sites. Two weeks were spent at the Allen sites (14RY430 and 14RY661), which are adjacent to one another on a terrace above Wildcat Creek. This portion of the project was supported in part by a Historic Preservation Fund grant from the National Park Service awarded to KSU by the Kansas Historical Society. The primary goal of the project was to evaluate eligibility of these sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Allen West (14RY430) had been recorded in 1977 by Prof. Patricia J. O’Brien of
KSU, who recovered a small sample of cultural material including debitage, the tip of a small projectile point, cord-roughened pottery, a few pieces of daub, and an historic bullet. Allen East (14RY661) was recorded during the Manhattan Archaeological Survey (MAS) by Ritterbush in 2009 at which time a Munkers Creek axe indicative of Middle Archaic activity was recovered along a terrace slope. Survey by the 12 students of the KAFS-2016 and the authors indicated the surface scatters associated with these sites are separated by about 35m of sterile ground with relatively sparse surface material at both despite recent tilling and excellent visibility. Test units totaling 4m² were dug at Allen East and 8m² at Allen West. These yielded a modest lithic assemblage at both as well as a small sample of pottery at the latter. Diagnostic arrow points, an alternately beveled knife, and several sherds of Riley Cord Roughened ware confirmed the Central Plains tradition (Smoky Hill phase) affiliation of Allen West. No evidence of a lodge or other features were found at either site. The only diagnostic artifacts recovered at Allen East, both surface finds, include the Munkers Creek axe noted above and a complete contracting stemmed dart point indicative of Woodland activity. It seems likely that both were short-term encampments along Wildcat Creek at different times during prehistory. While serving as an excellent initial training ground for basic archaeological field methods, the findings of our excavations indicate these sites contain relatively shallow (25-30cm) cultural horizons that lack integrity, having been disturbed for many years by cultivation and subjected to many years of non-professional artifact collecting.

The remaining sites investigated during the KAFS-2016 are located along or atop upland bluffs immediately above Wildcat Creek valley. These four sites were originally recorded by Ritterbush (2009) during the MAS completed for the City of Manhattan. The landowners’ plan to develop the property prompted our most recent investigations. The first of these sites is an extensive chert-collection station (14RY656) located along the upper slope of an elongated ridge associated with the chert-bearing Three Mile member of the Permian-age Wreford formation. Students employed GPS units to record provenience of some of the abundant debitage (flakes and a few bifacial blanks) scattered across this site. Three others sites are associated with a nearby isolated bluff referred to as 'the Knob.' 14RY654 is a lithic scatter on the east slope, while 14RY652 and 14RY653 are low stone mounds previously assumed to be burial features, the former more centrally situated on the Knob than the latter at its northern edge. The mounds are among many in similar settings of the northern Flint Hills. Nearly all of these mounds have been impacted by earlier non-professional excavations (looting), with few the subject of modern professional investigations.

Nearly eight days were devoted to systematic survey and topographic mapping of the Knob and its associated sites, detailed surface photography and drawing of exposed rocks capping 14RY652, and test excavations at 14RY652. The goals of the latter were to confirm the cultural origin of this feature, determine if it served as a burial site, evaluate the condition of the site (a central depression suggested possible looting), and to gather additional data pertaining to the construction, age, and other information pertaining to its function and place in the cultural landscape of this region. Given our initial interpretation based on comparative data for site location and surface manifestation that this is a prehistoric burial site, permission to investigate the low
mound feature was obtained from the State of Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites (UBS) Review Board. This was gained through the Secretary of that Board, Dr. Robert J. Hoard of the Kansas Historical Society.

With UBS Board and landowner permission we conducted limited test excavations designed to address our research questions and to minimize our impact to the site. A series of five 1x1m units aligned in checkerboard fashion north-south across the center of the mound confirmed prior vandalism, but showed that this disturbance was limited to a relatively small portion of the center of the mound. Most of the units probed previously undisturbed deposits, mostly unmodified limestone blocks within a matrix of sediments (origin unknown – natural or cultural). All units yielded debitage and one dug in an undisturbed part of the mound yielded seven closely associated fragments of a human bone at a depth of ~30cm and smaller pieces of unidentifiable burned bone. Five of the former were identified (see below) as parts of a human tibia: two anterior pieces above mid-shaft, an anterior crest mid-shaft or below, two other anterior mid-shaft right tibia fragments identified as "very likely human". Another associated bone fragment not removed from the unit was identified as "likely human". These bones were not located at the base of the mound, rather among the limestone blocks less than a meter from the disturbed central depression. They support our hypothesized functional interpretation of this features as a burial mound.

A unit excavated near the southern edge of the mound contained two tapering-stemmed projectile point/knives, one complete and one lacking its distal end, and a larger lanceolate, unstemmed biface. The two complete bifaces, which show no readily apparent signs of use, were found immediately adjacent to and aligned with one another between layers of rock (rather than at the base of the mound) and with rocks near their proximal ends, suggesting they had not been hafted to a shaft when placed in the stone matrix of this burial feature. The incomplete point/knife base was found about 26cm to their east. The contiguity of these artifacts supports interpretation of them as a purposeful deposit in the southern portion of the mound presumably as mortuary items. The complete bifaces, currently being 3D scanned, and other artifacts will be reburied in the mound at a later date. These artifacts are not clearly diagnostic but do not conflict with a Woodland (Schultz phase) affiliation.

Excavations in this southern-most unit and a similar unit at the north end of our trench extended the full depth of the mound in its outer portions to uncover a brown B horizon that had formed in Peoria loess. The mound apparently was built atop this material after the A horizon had been removed through either natural or cultural processes. (This latter interpretation was graciously provided by soil scientist Dr. Michel 'Mickey' Ransom of K-State’s Department of Agronomy.)

Our work on the Knob provided students with a unique learning experience including implementation of procedures dictated by the Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act (K.S.A. 75-2741 through 75-2754) of 1989. Throughout the excavation of 14RY652 we were joined by Dr. Hoard, Kansas State Archeologist and Secretary of the UBS Review Board. When the
bones were found, we were fortunate to have the immediate service of Prof. Michael Finnegan, retired KSU Professor of Anthropology, forensic anthropologist, and member of the UBS Review Board, who identified them at the site the same day. Upon confirmation as human, they were replaced in their position of discovery and covered with landscaping fabric, stones, and earth. Plans to preserve the Knob and sites associated with it are currently underway.

We are grateful to the landowners and tenant farmer who kindly permitted access to their property and permission to investigate these sites and other specialists who contributed their time and expertise in interpreting the sites and educating students of the KAFS-2016. The former include Jan Allen, David and Sherrie Russell, and Rod Harms and Stephanie Rolley. Geomorphologist, Prof. William C. Johnson, of the Department of Geography at the University of Kansas and his graduate students Dakota Burt and Nate Schlagel provided field discussion and demonstration of geoarchaeological methods, including extraction of an OLS sample from a buried soil horizon at Allen West.

We all camp in the same places: New Investigations at the White Cat Village Site (25HN37), Harlan County Reservoir, Nebraska
Sarah Trabert¹ and Matthew E. Hill, Jr.²

¹ Department of Anthropology, 455 West Lindsey, Dale Hall Tower 521, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 73019
² Department of Anthropology, 114 Macbride Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, 52242

In July of 2016, a small crew of graduate students and faculty from the University of Oklahoma and University of Iowa conducted test excavations at the White Cat Village site (25HN37). White Cat Village was occupied by Dismal River (ancestral Apache) peoples, either between AD 1444 – AD 1699 or AD 1721 – AD 1817 (Adair and Brown 1987: Table 97), and is one of the largest, and most intensively, occupied sites for this archaeological complex. Our long-term goals at this site are to determine how much of the site is still preserved after 70 years of shoreline erosion and use of the site as a modern camping area, and if this site has more to tell us about the Dismal River occupation of the High Plains.

White Cat Village was first identified by a Smithsonian Institution Missouri River Basin Survey crew in 1946 because of proposed construction of the Harlan County Dam which was scheduled to impact the site. The University of Nebraska field school conducted “salvage” excavation at the site between 1948 and 1952 (Champe 1949; Gunnerson 1960). Nebraska ended their work in 1952 because the dam structure was completed and the site was scheduled to be inundated as water levels rose in the lake. This work yielded the remains of at least eight houses, hundreds of storage
and cooking features, and more than 10,500 artifacts. As it turned out, the site was never fully inundated but wave action from the lake did impact the southern edge of the site. The site was revisited in the 1970s (Falk and Thiessen 1972) and 1980s (Adair and Brown 1987; Roetzel et al. 1982) by archaeologists evaluating the condition of cultural properties along the edge of the reservoir. Work at the site in the 1970s and 1980s focused mostly on areas west of Champe’s earlier excavations. It was clear from this work that much of southern portion of the site was being lost due to wave action (approx. 70 meters lost between 1952 and 1985). So prior to our recent work at the site, it was not entirely clear how much, or if any, of the site still existed.

As part of a larger research program focused on better understanding the Dismal River occupation of the High Plains, Trabert and Hill led a pedestrian survey of White Cat village in 2015 to see if anything remained at the site after subsequent erosion. We found several thermal features eroding from the bank immediately below the site, and chipped stone and bison bone exposed along several hundred meters of shoreline. We returned to the site in 2016 to conduct salvage excavations of the thermal features identified the year before. We established two permanent mapping datums at the site and opened six 1x1 units along the shoreline in the southwestern portion of the site. These features and associated artifacts are about 150 m west of the Champe and Gunnerson’s excavations and more in lines with the areas visited in the 1970s and 1980s.

Our excavations, like prior work at the site, indicate that the site is shallowly buried (top 20 cm below ground surface) although some units produced artifacts to a depth of 40 cm bgs. We recovered 1,099 objects, excavated a total of five thermal features, and uncovered in situ animal bone in tight clusters in two units.

We found that recent peoples really liked camping on this particular section of Harlan Reservoir. Approximately 27% of the artifacts we encountered were just barely historic (dating to the 1960s or perhaps 1970s) or recent and pointed to popular lake-side activities like sitting around a campfire, fishing, hunting, cooking, and drinking. In fact, all five thermal features were likely constructed by modern campers, rather than Dismal River groups, as recent metal and plastic objects were found in the hearth fill alongside prehistoric chipped stone and ceramics. It was clear that modern campers disturbed the Dismal River deposits during their activities and as fun as it was to find beer cans, plastic tent spikes, and possible drug paraphernalia, we were interested if anything was left intact from the much earlier occupation of the site.

Despite recent disturbance to the area in the southwest portion of the site, the in situ bison bone clusters were located 5-10 cm below the modern trash layer and we recovered lithics and ceramics in the datum pits we dug to the north of the excavation block. No modern debris was encountered on the same depth as the bison bone nor in the datum pits, indicating the presence of intact (likely) Dismal River deposits, some as far as 30 meters from the shoreline. In addition, our surface survey identified artifacts eroding out of the bank far to the east of our excavation. As this is generally in the area of Champe’s excavation, it is also possible that this part of the site still may contain buried
artifacts and features. We believe that White Cat Village still has the potential to yield significant insight into the Apache occupation of the region during the complex Protohistoric Period and have plans to continue work at the site. For now, nesting bald eagles watch over and protect the site from campers, other sites in the Harlan Reservoir and beyond in so many other popular recreational areas are not so fortunate.

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Roetzel, K.A., R.A. Strachan, P.M. Emerson, and W.A. Watson
A mix of recent and prehistoric objects found at the same level.
The past three field seasons were spent screening the talus below the slope where the mine is located. Talus extends for 90m along the base of the slope and screening operations salvaged over 50 Clovis points and over 50 Clovis bifaces along with hundreds of other artifacts that had eroded from intact deposits located roughly 10 above. A few but not many Goshen, Midland, Folsom, Agate Basin and Hell Gap projectile points were also recovered. Just why so many projectile points were brought to and left in the mine is problematic. This phase of the project was completed last season and from the collection salvaged from the talus and the scree numerous intriguing questions relevant to procurement and processing of red ochre have emerged. One problem is that since no other Paleoindian red ochre mines are known there is no other data available for comparative purposes.

There is a large terrace located across the valley from the site. The iron mining camp or town of Sunrise was built on the terrace along with mining facilities such as roads, railroads and various buildings. The valley floor was leveled to facilitate the mining operation by filling it in with tailings from the iron mine along with mining and railroad trash. Several test excavations were conducted on the terrace in search of a prehistoric camp. The slope where the ochre mine is located is too steep for a camp and no evidence for a camp such as charcoal, fire heated rocks etc. were present in the talus or scree. Two initial small tests on the terrace were very productive in that after penetrating 1m or so of historic fill intact soils were encountered that contain over 2m of stratified cultural remains. Two other tests located a tool stone quarry that contains a variety of chert and quartzite that differs significantly from other well known Hartville Uplift materials from limestone formations. Associated with the quarry are blades and blade cores commonly associated with Clovis lithic technology. The quarry adds a whole new dimension to what is known about Hartville Uplift tool stone. The tool stone is encased in a soft, crumbly rusty colored matrix that also contains limonite (yellow ochre).

Located on the hill above the red ochre mine are several stone circles. At least two of the circles measure up to 15m in diameter - they are obviously not tipi rings. Associated circles are more tipi size but contain numerous very large rocks, rocks much larger than are found in common tipi rings. Nothing culturally diagnostic has been found in the circles yet but many flakes are present throughout the area along with small pieces of speclorite iron which is the main source of red ochre. And many of the flakes are of the same chert and quartzite present in the quarry on the terrace in the valley below. Test excavation will be necessary to determine if and how these unique
circles are related to the red ochre mine and tool stone quarry.

What started out to be a red ochre quarry site is now also a yellow ochre quarry, a tool stone quarry, contains mysterious stone circles and has deeply stratified cultural deposits. Very little of the total site area has been tested and at this point it is not possible to estimate its temporal and spatial limits but it encompasses a huge area. And consider that the historic iron mine and town of Sunrise is listed on the National Register. In view of the above, the 2017 field season is awaited with great anticipation.

Site investigations are funded by a consortium of collectors and avocational archeologists and other private parties concerned about the site and have a desire to make a significant contribution to the study of Archeology.

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**Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Activities**

**John Rissetto**

In 2016, the Archeology Section of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (Arc-SHPO), a division of the Nebraska State Historical Society, continued its pursuit to examine the State’s archeological past. This section is headed by the Preservation Archeologist who is in charge of both federal Section 106 compliance reviews and investigating Nebraska’s cultural resources by managing archeological survey and excavation projects across the state.

The Arc-SHPO received over 500 Section 106 compliance letters for review. Each letter represents a proposed federally funded, permitted, or licensed project that needs to be evaluated to ensure it will not impact historic or prehistoric cultural resources inside the project’s boundary. A total of 111 of these projects required an archeological survey to investigate for the possible presence of cultural materials. These surveys resulted in the intensive investigation of more than 9,300 acres and the identification of 39 new archeological sites.

The Arc-SHPO further contributed to the archeological inventory of Nebraska through the coordination of several field survey and site excavation projects across the state. One project involved the archeological field survey of areas along the Republican River in Franklin, Harlan, and Webster Counties. These surveys covered approximately 10,000 acres and identified 71 new
archaeological sites. Four of these sites were selected for exploratory excavations to further examine their archeological potential. Another project managed by this section includes the field survey of roughly 5,000 acres along the Niobrara River Eagle Creek Basin in northern Nebraska. This project represents the largest archeological survey of its kind in this region of Nebraska. Results from both excavation and survey projects will be ready by the summer of 2017.

The Arc-SHPO also collaborated with the Nebraska State Historical Society Archeology Program and the University of Nebraska, Department of Anthropology on an archeological survey in the Nebraska Sandhills. This project has begun to examine the often unknown life-ways of prehistoric and historic groups who called this area home. Exploratory excavations of significant sites identified during the survey may take place over the summer of 2017. It is possible these excavations will require volunteers from across Nebraska. Please submit your name to the Arc-SHPO, Preservation Archeologist, to be added to the list of potential volunteers (John.Rissetto@nebraska.gov).

In addition to generating archeological information in the field, the Arc-SHPO works hard to share this knowledge across Nebraska. Two of the most prominent opportunities to do so have been the Artifact Road Show, held annually in Seward, NE and the various presentations, exhibits, and events held during Archaeology Month in September. Through the continued investigation of Nebraska’s archeological record, the Arc-SHPO and the Nebraska State Historical Society hope to further educate, inform, and inspire Nebraskans for the future.

**Quality Services, Inc. Activity**

**Tara Otto**

In August of 2016, Quality Services, Inc. (QSI) began to prepare and catalogue artifacts for curation that were discovered during the 2010 construction of the Deadwood Recreation Center located at 105 Sherman Street Deadwood, SD. QSI is working to curate half of the collection from the excavation and transfer it to the Deadwood Historic Preservation Office for future research and display.

QSI catalogued the artifacts using the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center’s Hierarchical Artifact Catalog System and prepared the collection in accordance to Deadwood Historic Preservation Department specifications.

Some of the artifacts catalogued include:
Frozen Charlotte doll fragments – Top left. These dolls were very popular in the late 19th and early 20th century. They were inspired by a poem entitled, “A Corpse Going to a Ball,” which was a cautionary tale (later made into a popular folk song) about a young lady who refused to bundle up in the winter and froze to death.

Object with “Jenny” - Top right. This object is a graphite insert from an arc lamp. James Jenny had perfected the “arc light” design around the same time Thomas Edison developed the incandescent light bulb. In Jenny’s design, light was achieved by an arc of electricity jumping between two carbon poles inside of a glass globe.

Leicestershire sauce bottle – Bottom left. These bottles contained Halford’s Table Sauce, advertised in 1880 as “The Most Perfect Relish of the Day. An absolute remedy for Dyspepsia. Invaluable for all Good Cooks. A Nutritious Combination for Children. Invaluable for Soups, Hashes, Cold Meats, and Entrees.” The bottles express features that support a manufacturing date around 1865-1885.

Corroded metal toy train – Bottom right. This train has similar features of the late 19th and early 20th century cast iron locomotives. After discovering and cataloging, it was likely that the cast toy train was previously thrown out or lost. As an exciting side-note, this train will be featured on an episode of the Travel Channel’s Mysteries of the Museum this spring!

For the last two years QSI has been working on cultural resources compliance for Positive Train Control (PTC) safety systems for four railroads – Amtrak, Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, Union Pacific, and Kansas City Southern, in over 30 states. Section 106 review for these projects is handled under a
“Program Comment” in the Federal Communications Commission’s National Programmatic Agreement. The Rail Safety Improvement Act requires this system to be implemented, meaning that no build is not an option – mitigation will occur when historic properties cannot be avoided. This has led to interesting studies on multiple cultural resource sites including immigrant trails associated with the Donner Party, burial mounds, village sites, railroad structures, and others.

In 2016 Mark Carpenter, QSI’s military expert worked on several National Guard projects, including ICRMP. The Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) for the South Dakota Army National Guard provides management guidance for cultural resources throughout the state for the next five years. This will result in multiple inventories, archeological and historic site evaluations, and protection measures being implemented. QSI is currently working on additional training area inventories across South Dakota.

Inventory of a proposed chalet development in Deadwood recorded multiple mining, industrial and residential features, some of which will require mitigation as the project moves toward construction. In addition, we are monitoring construction for several casino and hotel projects, and prepared to conduct mitigative excavations, in Deadwood, which are expected to recover large quantities of artifacts related to the growth and development of the City from about 1877 to 1950s. One of the artifacts recovered is found below:
Pharmacy bottle – with raised writing “JULIUS DEETKEN// REGISTD PHARMACIST// DEADWOOD SOUTH DAKOTA”. Julius Deetken opened Deadwood’s first exclusive drugstore in a log cabin on Main Street in 1876.

The Nebraska State Historical Society, Archeology Division (State Archeology Office)

Rob Bozell

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 over 200 proposed transportation projects statewide. The investigations resulted in the identification of dozens of standing structures and archeological sites. Several sites were tested and intensive mapping and photography was completed of portions of the archeological ruins of the Cowles Mill near Nebraska City.

Other major field investigations conducted by our office included surveys of Rock Creek Station State Historical Park and a 5000-acre sample survey and testing program in the Sand Hills near Mullen. The Rock Creek work included pre- and post-controlled burn surveys which discovered additional features related to the Oregon Trail as well as previously unknown Native American
sites. The NSHS partnered with the UNL-Archeology Field School on the Mullen area project which was sponsored by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Over 70 new sites were recorded. The earliest site was late Paleoindian (Angostura) and many other properties related to the Dismal River complex (Plains Apache) or historic period cattle ranching. The work also included testing several Dismal River aspect sites and geomorphic investigations with Rolfe Mandel. We are also working with the SHPO on survey of remaining Nebraska sod houses.

Office staff continued work with Rolfe Mandel and Tony Layzell (University of Kansas) on the Nebraska Department of Roads funded research project to develop a GIS-based tool to better address where deeply buried archeological sites are likely to occur in Nebraska stream valleys. The project is intended to assist archeologists and planners to be better informed about the location and avoidance of sites not normally identified with traditional surface survey and shallow shovel testing.

In 2016, the Society re-started our NAGPRA compliance program focusing on over 500 sets of human remains and funerary objects not affiliated with a tribe(s). We have begun re-inventorizing those remains and started new tribal consultation efforts. Most of our affiliated remains were repatriated in the 1990s. The NSHS is also continuing work under contract for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to re-house archeological collections we hold for them. Work in 2016 has focused on the Leary Site collection.

Much of the mid-summer through fall 2016 was passed helping with organizing the Plains Anthropological Society Conference that was held in Lincoln this year. The NSHS was a co-sponsor along with the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Anthropology. Our role revolved around putting together the program booklet, organizing a tour of sites north of Omaha, and hosting a reception at the Nebraska History Museum. Our office also co-organized (with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) the 2016 Flint Hills Conference which was held in Omaha in March.
Augustana University Investigations at 25FR173
Jason Kruse

Augustana University has been working in the Republican River valley between Alma and Red Cloud, Nebraska for the past three field seasons. In the 2014 and 2015 seasons, Augustana surveyed roughly 21,000 acres and documented more than 200 new sites. This past fall, 2016, we began the evaluation of several sites that were initially recorded during the 2014 and 2015 surveys. One of the sites that is currently under evaluation and has significant historic research potential is site 25FR173. This site is comprised of a small residential “clamp” kiln that was first recorded during the 2015 field survey (Kruse et al. 2016). One of the most interesting aspects of the kiln is the fact that the wall of the kiln is baked clay that had been constructed on top of a limestone bedrock shelf.

Site 25FR173 represents an early American residential “clamp” kiln, of which few examples have been documented in Nebraska. In early American history, residential “clamp” kiln features such as the one at site 25FR173 would have been common for
the small scale production of lime, brick, and ceramics and possibly as a cottage industry for the immediate surrounding area. Only three other similar examples of residential “clamp” kilns have been documented in Nebraska; site 25WT24, ca. 22 miles northeast of site 25FR173; site 25WN18 near Hummel park in Omaha, Nebraska; and site 25SY113, a suspected lime kiln adjacent to Schramm park near Louisville, Nebraska. All four of these kilns appear to have been constructed in a similar manner, consisting of a dome-shaped feature that stood approximately 7 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter. The similarities in kiln construction are best displayed by sites 25WT64 and 25FR173. sites 25WT64 and 25SY113 are still in existence and both are recommended as potentially eligible under criterion D due to the rarity of the feature and “specifically early technologies, building construction, industry and/or farm crafts” and “to supplement our knowledge of history for a property type and time period that does not have adequate historical documentation available” (Steinauer 2015, Bozell 2015). Site 25WN18 was destroyed in 1970 due to highway expansion projects.

The kiln at site 25FR173 is situated in a moderately safe and stable setting, which in turn helps preserve the features integrity. The subsequent excavations at the site have determined that more than 50 percent of the feature remains intact with only the south side subject to disturbance. Efforts were made post-excavation to add additional protection and stabilization to strengthen the area around the feature. A fence, provided by the landowner, has also been constructed around the feature to prevent any further damage from livestock. Site 25FR173 presents a unique and rare feature for which there is little historic documentation as to the process and use during the mid to late 1800s. The information that is currently available on clamp kilns from this time period in Nebraska has been gathered through similar archeological evaluations. No systematic full scale studies have been conducted at any of the historic clamp kilns documented in Nebraska. Most of what we know about kilns is the result of excavations of large scale ceramic and brick manufacturers. Therefore, the actual use and operation of these residential kilns is little understood. The construction method is also not well documented. Extensive research into residential kiln construction has not yielded a significant amount of information to adequately describe the method in which these kilns were built.

Augustana is scheduled to return to the site in just a few weeks to complete the
evaluation. Additionally, we are utilizing the kilns here at Augustana to conduct experiments with some of the material recovered from 25FR173. Our intent is to establish a temperature range at which the kiln at site 25FR173 most likely operated. We may find that it operated at a wide range of temperatures and was used to produce everything from pottery/ceramics to bricks. The full report will be finished in May 2017 (Kruse 2017). Hopefully, by the end of our field work and experimentation, we will be able to provide a framework on the use of the kiln feature.