

NAPA Newsletter



NAPA Members Elect New Board

NAPA welcomes four newly elected NAPA Board members. These Board members officially began their duties on September 1, 2003.

Molly Boeka Cannon, Eric Kaldahl, Aimee Leithoff, and Jay Sturdevant have all agreed to serve on your NAPA Board.

Molly Boeka Cannon and **Jay Sturdevant** are both employed by the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln. Molly is a cartographic technician and Jay

is an archeologist.

Aimee Leithoff is an archeologist with the Bureau of Reclamation Nebraska Kansas Area Office in Grand Island.

Eric Kaldahl is a lecturer at the University of Nebraska.

Next time you see these individuals, please take a moment to thank them for agreeing to serve on the NAPA Board.

Your NAPA Membership Dues

Not sure when you last paid your NAPA membership dues? Contact Stacy Stupka-Burda stacysb@mail.state.ne.us

If you have questions regarding our new dual membership category, please contact Tom Thiessen Tom_Thiessen@nps.gov

Thanks!

Annual Meeting

NOTICE

NAPA Annual Meeting

April 16, 2004
1:00 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 connected to Olin Hall and is the next building east on the north side of the sidewalk.

Election Note

The proposed changes to the NAPA By-Laws that were presented to NAPA members by the July 2003 mail ballot were passed.

These changes included deleting language reserving one of the Board's at-large positions to members of the Nebraska Archeological Society; and adding another class of membership for persons who desire dual membership in NAPA.

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) lake-side habitation site in the north-central Nebraska Sandhills.

Publication is tentatively scheduled for 2004.

CPA—Call for Papers

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

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

NSHS—Archeology Division

The Division purchased a Flot-tech machine improving the quality of materials recovered from flotation samples processed at NSHS. The Flot-tech also reduces the time necessary to process flotation samples.

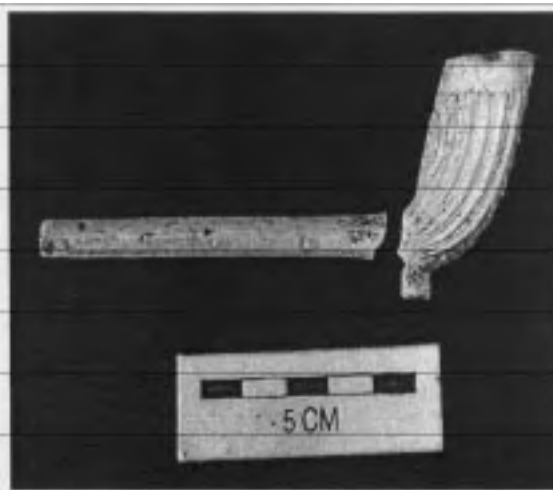
The Flot-tech will be available to process non-NSHS samples for a fee. Please contact us at (402)471-4766 or via email at rbotts@mail.state.ne.us if you are interested.

In August of 2003, NSHS Archeology Division staff excavated eight test units at 25SD158, an extensive lithic scatter near Ashland, Nebraska. This was a previously known site that was soon to be disturbed by borrow activity. Testing was prompted by flaking debris eroding out of an exposed cutbank, as well as by the landowner's collection which included the base of a possible Logan Creek point as well as the bases of 2 Late Archaic/Early Woodland points.

Test unit excavations at 25SD158 unearthed significant amounts of flaking debris, the majority of which was clustered within a 20 cm thick stratum. The stone was mainly, if not exclusively, Pennsylvanian Chert. There is reportedly a nearby outcropping. No diagnostic tools were recovered and no features were revealed.

After mapping the site, it became apparent that the test units were on the eastern slope of a prominent ridge, the bulk of which, including the crest, had been removed by previous borrow activity. It's entirely possible that the majority of the site had already been destroyed.

Dr. Jeremy Dillon from the University of Nebraska at Kearney visited the site to make a geomorphological assessment.



This clay pipe is one of many artifacts recovered from excavations at the Engineer Cantonment Site.

During 2004, the Division anticipates completion of the processing of artifacts and flotation samples recovered in 2003 at the Engineer Cantonment Site/25WN106.

The Division has received a Federal Highway Transportation Enhancement Grant (T21Grant) to support lab work and report preparation. Two part-time temporary archeological technicians will be hired mid-January using this grant funding. Excavations at the site will likely continue this coming field season.

Saturday, October 9th 2004, NSHS will be hosting a one-day conference on the Cantonment at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha. A visit to the site will take place during the afternoon of the conference.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Archeology Division Lab continues cataloging Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) archeological collections stored at the Nebraska State Historical Society. The current project is due to be completed by June 2004. Additional cataloging projects are pending approval by the BOR.

Analysis continues of the materials collected at Rockport townsite (1850's - 1870's) during 2002.

Currently, five temporary archeological technicians, one intern, two work-study students and five volunteers contribute to the efforts in the archeological lab and archives.

Nebraska National Forest

Passport in Time—Ogalala National Grassland

Warbonnet Battlefield, located in northwest Nebraska, will be the site of a Passport in Time Project led by Keri Hicks of the Nebraska National Forest.

Warbonnet Battlefield, the focus of this project, is the site of a minor skirmish in 1876 between troops of the Fifth Cavalry and a small group of Cheyenne warriors. The Cheyenne were moving north to join forces with other Northern Plains Indians who had recently defeated Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Accounts vary, but it is generally thought that army scout William F. Cody and a warrior named Yellowhair surprised one another in a small draw. This surprise encounter resulted in the death of Yellowhair.

The town of Montrose was later formed near the site of the battle.

Volunteers who participate in this project will have the opportunity to work out what really happened at Warbonnet in 1876. Numerous versions of the encounter exist. Although historic documents are a fertile source of information, the results of an intensive on-the-ground investigation will provide an integral piece to the puzzle. Volunteers will help complete an intensive pedestrian survey of the Warbonnet Battlefield and the historic Montrose townsite.

This project is scheduled for June 6-12, 2004 (including travel dates of June 6 and 12). Participants will camp at the Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center. For more information, please contact Keri Hicks 308-432-0333 or khicks@fs.fed.us

Forensic Archeology & Anthropology Offered at Nebraska Wesleyan University

The Nebraska Wesleyan University Forensic Science Program is now establishing a series of courses in Continuing Education. Graduate and undergraduate credits are available.

Of interest to Nebraska archeologists may be the 3-credit course in Forensic Archeology taught by Melissa Connor and Douglas Scott and the 1-credit course in Forensic Anthropology taught by Jeri Myers

and Melissa Connor.

Other courses, perhaps of less interest to archeologists, will include Forensic Photography, Interviewing, Risk Assessment, and Blood Spatter.

For more information, contact Melissa Connor, Coordinator Continuing Education, Forensic Science Program, NWU at 465-2179 or mconnor@nebrwesleyan.edu.

Opportunity Knocks!

Volunteers Wanted!

The University of Nebraska Press has presented the Nebraska archeological community with a very welcome opportunity by inviting NAPA to coordinate the development of a general book about the archeology of Nebraska. Dr. Gary Dunham, archeologist and Acquisitions Editor of the Press, has solicited NAPA interest in such a project. The idea was enthusiastically discussed at a workshop held during the Plains Anthropological Conference last October in Fayetteville. Several people have already volunteered to contribute to such a volume, and Dr. Eric Kaldahl has volunteered to coordinate the development of the book and edit the contributions to insure uniform format and general consistency.

The book will be aimed at a general readership. Writing the book will be a real challenge, but this represents an unparalleled opportunity to tell the story of Nebraska's archeological heritage to a wider audience than would be reached by a comprehensive, technical review. In addition, it is an opportunity to convey the important message of heritage preservation to our citizens.

Dr. Dunham requested several parameters to guide the effort: 1) the book should be written in a storytelling style that

emphasizes themes, and not simply be dry presentation of culture history; 2) the book should convey Native American points of view throughout, even if they differ from scientific viewpoints (both can be presented), and be based on collaboration with Native Americans for such information; 3) the repatriation issues experienced in Nebraska should be explored in collaboration with one or more Native American authors; 4) the manuscript, including all sections (text, captions, front matter, index, sidebars) should not exceed 400 pages in length, double-spaced and typed in Courier 12-point font.

This will certainly be a writing and editorial challenge, but the benefits to the people of Nebraska can be immense. This is a fantastic opportunity to educate and proselytize at the same time! The next step is to develop a detailed précis that identifies the themes, format, and contributors for the volume, as well as other anticipated features such as sidebars. Your participation is warmly encouraged and welcomed. If you would like to contribute to this effort in some way or have questions about this undertaking, please contact Eric Kaldahl at telephone 402-472-3925 or e-mail ekaldahl2@unl.edu.

University of Nebraska State Museum

Two Central Plains Houses Excavated at Sherman Reservoir During the summer 2003, the Nebraska Archaeological Resources—Survey and Research Program at the University of Nebraska State Museum completed a 10-week excavation project on a small prehistoric hamlet on Sherman Reservoir near Loup City, Nebraska.



25SM20—View of House 6.

This hamlet or the Felis Concolor Site (25SM20) was situated along a low terrace along the eastern edge of Oak Creek. The site consists of at least eight small house pits, as well as a number of associated features. Project personnel included Dr. Alan Osborn (Project Director), Dan Watson (Field Supervisor), as well as Nancy Carlson, Jason Kruse, Megan Young, Bill Rainey, and Chad Gerhold (also cook). Additional assistance was provided by Dr. Beth Ritter and students (Drew Bronson, Holly Conneally, Sarah Lawrence, and Amy Reznik, and Ellen Ritter) from the University of Nebraska- Omaha.

The excavations focused upon two relatively shallow house pits at the southwestern edge of the site, as well as and a large two meter-deep storage pit. Two block excavations totaling 80.5 m² were superimposed upon House 3 and House 6.

House 6 had been constructed within an oval pit roughly 40-50 centimeters in depth with a floor area of approximately 16 m². A shallow entryway trench extended approximately 4 meters toward the west. The house pit contained more than forty features including a central hearth, an associated "mortar" post hole, a bell-shaped storage pit, four center post holes, and a number of wall posts and "auxiliary" post holes. After the plow zone had been stripped from the five by ten meter block surrounding this feature, all house pit and feature fill was water screened through sixteenth-inch mesh screen.

More than 300 artifacts were piece plotted within House 6 and potsherds comprised about 50 percent of the total. There appear to be a number of lines of evidence that suggest that this site was occupied during a period of resource stress. Faunal remains are scarce and those elements that are

present seem to indicate that prehistoric peoples were exploiting relatively low ranked parts of animals such as the skull, distal limbs, and feet.

House 3 exhibited a shallow basin-shaped floor approximately four meters in diameter. There was no clearly defined central hearth, center or wall posts, or entryway. Relatively large concentrations of potsherds, limestone rock fragments, animal remains, several chipped stone tools, and some debitage covered portions of the central floor area. A majority of the 557 artifacts and ecofacts that were piece-plotted in House 3 were scattered upon the floor.

All earth fill was dry-screened through one-quarter inch mesh screens. Soil samples were taken from the surface of the houses floor(s) within each 50 cm x 50 cm quadrant of the excavations units. Soil pH and phosphate content of these samples will be

used to map more subtle variations in human activity within each house.

Artifacts (e.g., chipped stone tools, flaking debris, ground stone implements, bone tools, and ceramic vessel fragments) were relatively scarce. The stone tools that we recovered indicate that they had been re-sharpened repeatedly and in many cases were not useable. Tubular bone beads were also found in both houses including several "articulated" beads from a possible necklace in House 3. Ecofacts (e.g., charcoal, plant remains, and animal bone) were also limited. There was no evidence for midden or garbage accumulation(s) either outside house walls or within "cache" or storage pits.

Interestingly, there appears to be a wide range of animal resources that were exploited including bison, deer, rodents, small fish, and mollusks.

It also appears that many, if not most, of the animal remains reflect "marginal utility" parts (e.g., maxilla, teeth, vertebrae, and distal limb and foot bones).

These parts are associated with low muscle mass portions of these animals. Bones are also fairly heavily fragmented, perhaps reflecting marrow extraction and intensive processing.

continued...

(See Sherman Reservoir Excavations on p. 5)

**26th Annual
Flint Hills Archaeological Conference**

Conference Announcement

Hosted by the
St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri
(in cooperation with the Pony Express Museum and the St. Joseph Archaeological Society)

March 26 and 27, 2004

Friday's Conference at: The Historic Christian Science Church, 12th and Felix St.
Friday evening's reception at: The St. Joseph Museum, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th and Charles St.
Saturday's Conference at: The Pony Express Museum, 914 Penn Street

The Flint Hills Archaeological Conference focuses on the archaeology of the eastern Central Plains and adjacent areas. A symposium—*Sourcing Cherts: Looking East from the Flint Hills*—will be included in the conference. There are no registration or parking fees. Since there are also NCAA games in St. Joseph this weekend, conference participants are strongly encouraged to make arrangements for their motels well in advance. Depending on the response for papers, it is anticipated that the conference will involve two full days.

Conference papers of 20 minutes, or less, are invited. **Deadline for abstracts is March 17, 2004.** They are to be no more than 250 words. Send title, abstracts, address, e-mail & phone nos. and AV needs to:

Jim D. Feagins, Co-Conference Chair
800 Sunset Lane
Belton, Missouri 64012-4922

Phone: 816-318-4488
E-mail: jimfeagins@sbcglobal.net

For those intending to use Powerpoint also send a copy of your disk or CD to Lewin (see address below) by March 19th. For information on AV equipment or other physical needs or arrangements at the conference contact:

Jackie Lewin, Co-Conference Chair
St. Joseph Museum P. O. Box 1281100 Charles St.
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128

Phone: 816-232-8471
E-mail: sjm@stjosephmuseum.org
Web site: www.stjosephmuseum.org

Sherman Reservoir Excavations—continued

(continued from p.4)

Several carbonized corn cob fragments, as well as a number of kernels were recovered from both houses.

Wood charcoal samples from the central hearth, as well as an adjacent pit/post feature produced two radiometric dates.

These dates were Cal AD 1300 (Cal BP 650; 1 Sigma Cal AD 1280-1320) for the central hearth and Cal AD 1280 (Cal BP 670; 1 Sigma Cal AD 1260-1300) for an adjacent feature.

Given these dates, it is possible that the inhabi-



25SM20—View of House 6 excavation

tants of this small prehistoric community were experiencing drought-related stress. Interestingly, based upon Weakly's dendrochronology from Ash Hollow, it

would appear that they were riding out a "mega-drought" that lasted 38 years between AD 1276-1313.

...it would appear that they were riding out a 'mega-drought...'

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

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

Project Archeology In Nebraska

For those of you who haven't heard of it, *Project Archeology (PA)* is national program of heritage education developed by the BLM for grades 4-8.

Each state's archeological and educational communities implement *Project Archeology*. There are PA programs either fully developed or in the development stages in about one-half of all U.S. states.

To begin the process of state implementation, the archeological community writes a state supplement. The state supplement includes a reader about local archeology for students and a heritage education resource list for their teachers.

In the development process, archeologists form collaborative relationships with educators. From edu-

cators and curriculum specialists, classroom testing and other kinds of feedback will help refine the state supplement.

Once the state supplement is prepared, the national PA staff helps with the final manuscript editing and formatting. Then the national project archeology lessons and the state supplement are bundled together for dissemination through educator workshops.

The end goal is to put useful heritage education materials in our classrooms.

At the Plains Conference and via the internet, a group of NAPA volunteers has begun to collaborate on a Nebraska state supplement to Project Archeology.

The volunteers include Peter Bleed, Rob Bozell,

Dawn Bringelson, Molly Cannon, Bill Chada, Eric Kaldahl, Katie Gotschall, Ruthann Knudson, Amy Koch, Aimee Leithoff, Ron Martin, Cathie Masters, Jay Sturdevant, Tom Thiessen, and Chris Widga.

The Plains Conference workshop benefited from the participation of Lynn Alex, Shirley Shermer, and Virginia Wulfkuhle.

The Nebraska supplement will consist of 8 readings for young people with associated classroom lessons. The first topic will be an archeological overview of Nebraska cultural history. Following this, the authors will select several themes which they will illustrate with examples drawn from many times and places.

The six thematic topics include: People and Landscape; People and Plants; People and Animals; People and Families; People and Communities; and People, Trade & Transport. The final topical reading and lesson will address Development and Preservation.

If you would like to contribute to this project, or if you are an educator who would like to collaborate on lessons, readings, or classroom testing, please contact Eric Kaldahl. He may be reached at UNL at 402-472-3925 or via email at ekaldahl2@unl.edu.

Thanks to all of you who are helping to bring this new heritage education tool to Nebraska's teachers and students!

NAPA Dues Reminder

Membership fees for 2004 are now due!

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

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

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



NAPA Newsletter Submissions

If you or some you know has a submission for the next NAPA newsletter, please contact Nancy Carlson at nfcarls@hotmail.com. Submissions are always appreciated.

NAPA Newsletter

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 Stacy Stupka-Burda, PO Box 82554, Lincoln, NE 68501-2554, email: stacysb@mail.state.ne.us

Professional Meeting Opportunities in Iowa

Iowa Archeological Society

The annual spring meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2004 in Cherokee, Iowa.

Hosted by the Northwest Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society, the meeting will begin at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee by 9 AM on May 1 with presentations on recent Iowa discoveries.

In the afternoon the group will travel to Sioux City to visit locations related to the Lewis and Clark Commemoration.

That evening, Gerard Baker, Superintendent of the National Lewis and Clark Trail, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Society banquet back in Cherokee.

For more information, please contact Linda Burkhart at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee, Iowa (712-225-3922 or sanford@cherokee.k12.ia.us)

The fall 2004 meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society will be held at Effigy Mounds National Monument near Harpers Ferry.

The meeting date and program are yet to be announced, however, the Zebulon Pike anniversary will form the theme for the meeting.

Hosts include the Orr Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society and the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, WI.

For more information contact Joe Thompson 563-547-4545 or jthompson@salamander.com

Association of Iowa Archeologists

The Association of Iowa Archeologists holds its annual meeting in late spring to early summer. The 2004 meeting date and location have not been announced.

For further details contact Susan Butler, AIA Secretary, 319-373-3043 or sbutler@louisberger.com

Investigations in Western Iowa and Eastern Nebraska

Tallgrass Historians L.C. recently completed Phase I archaeological and architectural history surveys for three possible alignments concerning a new bridge crossing on the Missouri River for U.S. 34.

The three alignments examined were just south of the Offutt Airforce Base in Nebraska and over to I-29 in Iowa, a new alignment heading west from the Glenwood exit on I-29 to the river, and one just south of the current bridge crossing to Plattsmouth. All three studies included corridors in Mills County, Iowa.

A total of 12 new archaeological sites were recorded including three sites consisting of faunal remains in a buried context

(one is a historic period horse burial), seven sites representing historic refuse scatters, outbuilding sites, and farmstead location, and two sites representing remains of the former townsites of St. Mary and Sharpsburg.

In addition, Tallgrass Historians L.C. is in the process of completing a National Historic Landmark nomination for the George B. Hitchcock House in Cass County, Iowa, in association with the NPS Underground Railroad project.

The Park Service, in association with this NHL nomination, conducted some limited archaeological and geophysical testing around the Hitchcock House and the suspected location of Hitchcock's original log

cabin. These sites will be further examined with the help of local volunteers in the spring.

We also completed this year a statewide National Register survey and evaluation project concerning the history of team sports in the state of Iowa and the recordation and evaluation of architectural and archaeological sites associated with football, baseball, basketball, swimming, wrestling and track and field. This included a number of properties in western Iowa including high school gyms in Council Bluffs, Diagonal, and Audubon and baseball parks in Pisgah, Portsmouth, and Panama, Iowa.

A total of 60 properties were recorded across the

state, with the majority identified as potentially eligible under the team sports context.

Finally, we documented the profile of Lincolnway in Woodbine, Iowa, a nine-block long stretch of original brick and concrete pavement from the Lincoln Highway.

The documentation of the roadway was part of an enhancement project to restore this historic roadway.

If anyone needs additional information, contact Leah Rogers at Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2460 S. Riverside Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52246.