



CoAS Newsletter

Council of Affiliated Societies, Society for American Archaeology

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Are you going to the **76th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SAA** in Sacramento? If so, don't miss the CoAS Booth (#305) in the Exhibit Hall! Please see the last page of this newsletter for a formal invitation.

We at CoAS would also like to congratulate the creators of the winning Archaeology Week/Month posters from last year's SAA meeting:

1st Place - Washington

2nd Place - Nevada

3rd Place - New Mexico

FROM THE CHAIR:

by Hester Davis, Arkansas Archeological Society

In this newsletter, I want to draw attention to the article that former chair, Marcel Kornfeld and I wrote for the *SAA Bulletin* in May 2007 (pp. 35-36), entitled *The Council of Affiliated Societies: Past Present, and Future*. The bulletin is available online at saa.org. In the article, Dr. Kornfeld and I describe the history of the development of CoAS, its current activities, and ideas for future activities.

FROM THE EDITOR:

The response to my semi-annual plea for newsletter submissions was greater than usual, and I suppose it has to do with the **CoAS poster symposium** last year organized by former chair, Marcel Kornfeld. The session, *Avocational Archaeology, Making a Difference: Who's Done it and Who's Doing It*, was well attended and probably brought a greater degree of visibility to our avocational-oriented society of societies.

As one contributor, Rosemary Lyon of the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C., told me, "we appreciate our affiliation with the SAA, and we want to share with fellow organizations some information about the kind of quality programs that can be put together by knowledgeable 'amateurs' in the field of archaeology. Membership in CoAS also gives us an opportunity to learn from the work of others."

FROM THE MEMBERS:

KANSAS ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

by Vita Tucker

The Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) held the **2010 Fall Fling** on October 23 and 24 near Salina, Kansas. Participants performed an extensive survey of the Winslow Site (14SA403), a Middle Ceramic hamlet. Harold Reed of Salina recorded the site and it was partially excavated by State Archeologist Tom Witty and a KAA crew in 1968.

The main focus of the Saturday survey was on an old Smoky Hill River meander left high and dry after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers channelized the stream following the 1951 flood. A railroad track runs alongside the property. Any chert found in this area of the field was very suspicious due to the railroad grade that included chert deposits. Prehistoric artifacts included a Smoky Hill jasper flake, about a dozen chert flakes, mussel shell fragments, and sandstone pieces, some with grooves believed to be machine damage.

On Sunday the focus was on the Debold property to the east of the Winslow farm. A sparse flake concentration was found next to a tree line on the old river channel. A thin biface that may have been part of a triangular arrowpoint was found. After reviewing maps, surveyors determined that this might be the location of the earthlodge that was excavated in 1968.

The conclusion of the survey participants was that the once abundant prehistoric cultural materials have been destroyed by years of farming. This constant farming allowed them to find a wide variety of historic items, including which included a small blue glass marble, porcelain doll parts, crockery, plain and decorated white-ware, yellow ware, several colors of bottle glass, amethyst glass, milk glass, window glass, porcelain doorknob fragment, insulators, square nail, copper wire, brick fragments, concrete, metal machinery parts, clay pigeon pieces, and clinkers. None of these artifacts were collected.

The first major KAA event for 2011 was the **Certification Seminar** held at Lindsborg, Kansas. The subjects of study were Lithic Identification and Report Writing. The following article was submitted by Byron Strom from Des Moines, Iowa, and is his first attempt at writing.

A two-day seminar was held February 19-20, 2011, at the Burnett Center on the campus of Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Between 30 and 40 archeology enthusiasts converged on this central Kansas town to enhance their knowledge in two areas: report writing and lithic identification. Virginia Wulfkuhle and Marsha King took turns explaining types of publications, writing styles, how to deal with reports from different time periods, and proper ways to organize a report. Some of the material was geared toward writing in general and some was specific to archeological reporting. Break times allowed for conversation, and there was a bounteous spread of tempting goodies provided by the participants.

On Sunday Janice McLean, archeologist with R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates in Lawrence, spoke about lithic identification. In the morning she gave an overview of the basics, talked about Kansas geology, and the participants got to observe and handle many examples of Kansas lithic materials. After lunch she focused on lithic materials found in Kansas whose origins were outside the state: Ozark and Southern Plains sources and Rockies and Northern Plains sources. The session ended with a report of a preliminary study of the Coffey site, 14PO1, done in the fall of 2009. There was a great deal of interest in this report, since the **2011 KATP Field School** event will be held there this coming June.

The weather was warm, and, as an added bonus to the weekend, the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery featured a special exhibition of Sandzén's Kansas landscape paintings within walking distance of the seminar.

Upcoming KAA events:

April 2, 2011 - **Discover Kansas Archaeology** family archeology event at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, partnering with KSHS, Shawnee Chapter KAA, and Professional Archaeologists of Kansas (PAK)

April 16, 2011 - **KAA Annual Meeting** at the Smoky Hill Museum in Salina, hosted by Mud Creek Chapter.

June 4-19, 2011 - **2011 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) Field School**. Detailed information and registration forms are available on the Kansas State Historical Society web site at www.kshs.org/p/kansas-archeology-training-program-field-school-2011/14622 or just Google "KATP Field School."

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2010 and undertook or sponsored numerous activities in honor of this milestone. The **MAS Annual Meeting** was held at Excelsior Springs in April.

It featured a series of eleven papers by professional, avocational, and student archaeologists. The Albert C. Koch banquet lecture was presented by Dr. David Anderson, Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Anderson entertained an audience of over 130 with a lecture titled *From Colonization to Complexity: First Peopling to Monumental Architecture in Eastern North America*. The 2011 **MAS Annual Meeting** will be held in April in Springfield at the University Plaza.

In April, the MAS had a booth at the annual SAA (also celebrating its 75th Anniversary) meeting in St. Louis. This event, attended by over 4,000 archaeologists from around the world, provided excellent exposure to MAS membership, publications, and activities.

In May, the MAS held the first of two sessions of the **Archaeological Survey Training and Site Recordation for Missouri: A Pilot Outreach Program**. This program, sponsored by the MAS, Missouri State Parks, and the City of Kansas City, was funded by a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Natural Resources. This free program has three goals: (1) the training of avocationalists regarding responsible artifact collecting and site recordation; (2) field surveys on public lands owned by the City of Kansas City (urban) and Missouri State Parks (rural); and (3) the certification of participants for program completion. The program is open to avocational archaeologists and other members of the interested public.

The first session was conducted at Minor, Santa Fe, and Smith parks in Kansas City. The second was held in July at Knob Noster State Park. Each session was well attended and included instructional classroom activities, field survey, laboratory analysis, and recordation of identified archaeological resources. Two additional sessions are planned for the summer of 2011. Pictures of the activities are archived at

<http://photobucket.com/>, search for “survey training program.”

In late July and early August, the MAS hosted its third annual educational booth at the Ozarks Empire Fair. The booth was in the Kidz Zone, which is typically visited by a quarter of a million fair attendees. In addition to a variety of educational displays, the booth featured face painting, artifacts, archaeology-themed coloring sheets, and a popular corn-grinding activity.

September was Missouri’s **14th Annual Archaeology Month**. The 2010 theme for the 2010 Archaeology Month poster was “Major Missouri Sites: 75 Years of Missouri Archaeology.” The Society distributed several thousand free posters to public schools, historical societies, state parks, and other public institutions throughout Missouri, as well as all Society members and elected state officials. The MAS sponsored over 50 activities around the state, including the Annual Fall Symposium in Arrow Rock, which featured presentations by leading archaeologists and an artifact identification session.

In September, the MAS published and distributed MAS Special Publication No. 9 entitled *Marginality and Continuity: The Archaeology of the Northern Ozarks* by Steven R. Ahler, Paul P. Kreisa, and Richard Edging. This book was published by the MAS through a grant from Colorado State University and was distributed to a host of Native American tribes and the MAS membership for free. For more information, go to <http://associations.missouristate.edu/mas/>.

Also in September, ten MSU undergraduate and graduate students received free memberships to the Missouri Archaeological Society. The memberships were donated by an anonymous member of the local Ozarks Chapter.

[Kansas City Archaeological Society, MAS](#)
by Mary Conrad

John Peterson, the archaeologist in charge of excavations at Ft. Osage (northeast of Independence, Missouri), established five 1-x-1-m test units west of the reconstructed fort so science teachers taking the **Project Archaeology** workshop in July of 2010 could experience excavating. More on Project Archaeology can be found at www.projectarchaeology.org/.

Participants began excavating four of the five squares on July 22 and 23. Peterson and the other two workshop instructors, Kansas City Archaeological Society (KCAS) President Gail Lundeen and member Sally Bell, as well as Steve Wilson, the Ft. Osage site supervisor, dug alongside the teachers. KCAS member Jim Feagins also dug on the day he presented a talk to the teachers in the workshop.

Peterson had placed the units where artifacts could be seen in the backdirt of gopher holes. By the end of the second day of digging, Peterson observed that the western two units contained lots of structural materials, such as bricks and large pieces of limestone, while the two eastern units were rich in artifacts with little structural debris.

In one of the western units, there was an alignment of limestone and bricks, which was oriented in the same direction as the town lots of the antebellum Town of Sibley. Peterson hypothesizes the alignment is the remains of one of the Town of Sibley structures.

Most of the bricks uncovered are soft red ones, but three or four are bluish with gray glaze. Pieces of window glass, cut nails, and wire nails were plentiful. Some of the other types of items recovered included a bent spoon, a piece of metal that might have been part of a harmonica, bottle glass, wire fragments, a piece of lead, a couple of lead balls, a spent musket or rifle ball, bones, and a tooth that may have come from a pig. Fragments of dishware were numerous. These were found in a wide variety of colors, some yellow ware and some with gray salt-glazed exteriors with unglazed interiors.

Excavations in those squares continued as Peterson taught Boy Scouts who were working on an archaeology merit badge. Peterson and Wilson continued to dig the units as time allowed. On some Saturdays, KCAS volunteers, such as Gina Powell, Lundeen, Mary Conrad, and others also helped.

When analyzing artifacts, Peterson obviously will be considering not only the era of the fort (ca. 1809-1827), but also the succeeding generations of the Town of Sibley. During and after the fort's occupation, settlers began to build houses on and around the land of the fort. George Sibley, the factor of the fort, likely had a home in the area of the excavation units. The 1850 and 1860 census records list several businesses, six doctors, and a hotel, but those same records do not give the exact locations of the referenced buildings. The Town of Sibley continued to be a prosperous town for a time, until it was burned during the Civil War.

Over the decades, various archaeological projects have continued to add to the knowledge of where parts of the fort and of the town were located. Since the excavations conducted before the Education Center was constructed turned up few features of the fort, Peterson speculates that gardens and cropland may have been south of the fort, between the fort and the historic Sibley Cemetery.

The 2010 archaeology also will add to the prehistoric record. As the excavators continued to dig downward until they reached sterile soil in the four squares, they did encounter prehistoric artifacts, including ceramics.

Since funds are limited, Peterson must depend on many volunteers. When the analysis of the 2010 excavation is complete, he likely will be able to add a few more details to both the historic and prehistoric records of the Ft. Osage site.

**NEW YORK, SUFFOLK COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (SCAA)**

by Gaynell Stone

SCAA's film, *The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island* is finished in a 1 hour, 59 minutes version. The archaeology portion of the film was shown in an **Archaeology Film Symposium** at the January 2009 Society for Historical Archaeology conference to great interest. Special interest was expressed in the high-tech procedures and processes shown in the film, such as faunal analysis, paleoethnobotany, soil geomorphology, archaeophysics, UV soil analysis, dendrochronology dating, and soil block lift and analysis.

Excavations at Sylvester Manor (in New York) reveal how the Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans lived together on the Manor grounds, producing provisions for Constant Sylvester's plantations on Barbados. Sylvester Manor was one of six manors in Suffolk County, New York, the most in one area of the New World.

Editors note: For more information on Shelter Island, go to <http://shelterislandhistory.org/>, the website of the Shelter Island Historical Society.

Dr. Steve Mrozowski, staff, and students of the Anthropology Department, U-Mass-Boston excavated at Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island for eight years, beginning in 1999. Alice Fiske, resident of the Manor, funded the Andrew Fiske Memorial Archaeological Foundation at U-Mass to support the extensive excavations and the Sylvester/Fiske family story.

Family documents and stratigraphy from the excavation reveal that the first labor on the Manor plantation was hired Native labor, the first such proof in the country. The Manor, later using enslaved labor, was the provisioning plantation for the Sylvester family's sugar plantations on Barbados. Dr. Mrozowski recently began testing of the Constant Plantation site on Barbados to ascertain that end of the story.



Figure 1. Sylvester Manor. Photo by Gaynell Stone.

Over forty scholars contributed their expertise in Dutch world history, slavery, sugar production, and the role of Jews and others in the vital international sugar trade. The documentary shows how much Dutch world history affected the development of Long Island and the role the Island played in the development of globalization—which is not noted in regional accounts.

The Sugar Connection... shows the Dutch principles of toleration and freedom of conscience; Holland was the only country in the 17th-century world to have it. It also illustrates the role of the Quakers, from England to New England to Shelter Island, in fighting for freedom of conscience. These beliefs affected the world and have shaped American history.

The information in this film supports the view of Editor-at-Large of the Long Island History Journal, Wolf Schaefer, that “an integrated study of local, national, and global history is not only possible but preferable.”

The film is available on DVD for \$50, plus \$6.00 sales tax and shipping, from SCAA (for information, please contact Gaynell Stone, gaystone@optonline.net). A version for teachers with a menu to locate the strands of world history, slavery, sugar production, religious toler-

ance, etc. for classroom use, is also available at the same price.

ARCHAEO-NEVADA SOCIETY

Field School at Valley of Fire
by Dr. Kevin Rafferty

A new survey field school will be taking place at Valley of Fire State Park, with fieldwork from mid-March to the end of May. Dr. Rafferty and his students will be concentrating on a square mile area abutting and just north of Atlatl Rock; it will probably cut across the north edge of the outcrop, necessitating a re-recording of some of the rock art sites there. Dr. Rafferty may be calling on Archaeo-Nevada Society (ANS) members to assist in some of the recording if my crew gets bogged down in the details.

Students will be performing the following procedures. The survey area will be subjected to a pedestrian survey, with crew members spaced no more than 10 m apart, which exceeds BLM minimum standards. The crew will examine potential shelters and alcoves for the presence of cultural resources. Both patinated and unpatinated sandstone outcrops will be examined for the presence of petroglyphs, pictographs, or other evidences of human presence or alteration.

When artifacts or features are encountered the entire crew will halt, mark their locations, and converge on the artifact. The principal investigator will then help identify the artifact and then radial transects will be run around the artifact to determine if it is an isolated occurrence or part of a site complex. If the artifact is part of a larger site complex the boundaries of the site will be determined and marked, concentrations of artifacts will be noted and flagged, and the entire site will be mapped in the field. Each site will also be probed for subsurface deposits. Specific artifacts or features, as well as the probes, will be mapped and photographed, and overview photographs of each site will be executed.

At each site, students will utilize these procedures:

1. Rock Art Recording- Each panel of rock art will be individually recorded. Individual and associated motifs/panels will be drawn to scale and each panel will be photographed. Motifs and panels will be identified as to style and age.
2. Rockshelters- The shelter interior will be mapped and photographed. The artifacts on the surface will be identified as to type and cultural affiliation, if any. The shelter will be probed to determine if it contains any depth of deposit, as per BLM standards. The deposits removed will be screened, any artifacts recorded, and then returned to the deposit.
3. Open Sites-These will be mapped and photographed. The artifacts on the surface will be identified as to type and cultural affiliation. The area will be probed to determine if it contains any depth of deposit, as per BLM standards.
4. Site Context- All sites will be mapped in the field, with panels mapped and photographed in relationship to one another and the rockshelter.

The end result of the project will be the preparation and submission of a report detailing the project. For pictures of the park, please visit the Valley of Fire State Park website, <http://parks.nv.gov/vf.htm>.

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Month at the Riddle Ranch That Will Forever Be Remembered, by Bob Schetter

As the sun rises over Steens Mountain, you can expect another day of adventure and knowledge from times past. My wife Sharon and I are just starting our third year as caretakers at the Riddle Ranch. Not a day goes by that we do not learn something new in relation to the activity of the Riddle Brothers Ranch. Every Oregonian should visit this historic ranch, which is managed by the BLM, as it represents the last frontier of Oregon history.

In the late 1800s when the youngest Riddle brother Ben was 16 years old, he convinced his two older brothers, Walt and Fred, to purchase land in the Steens Mountain area. Ben built a stone house along the Little Blitzen River, Walt built a log cabin at the mouth of the Little Blitzen Gorge, and Fred bought a one-room log cabin from Scott Catterman, an earlier settler. Fred then added the kitchen, the upstairs and a screened-in porch that runs the length of the front of the house.

They harvested 150 tons of hay each year in the valley that runs along the Little Blitzen River; all of the irrigation ditches were dug by hand and with a large shovel pulled by horses. We think it is interesting that during the Riddle ownership, there were many other families that occupied homesteads in the area.

As caretakers of the ranch, our day would start in our cabin by building a fire in the woodstove to take off the chill. The morning temperature is usually in the 30s even though it reaches 90 to 100 during the day in the month of August. The smell of fresh-perked coffee and smoked bacon fills the air, whetting our appetites.

One of the outback wranglers comes early to saddle up and prepare for another day in the wilderness. This year we met Chas, a fine young man who is well versed in mule and horse care and training. We exchange "good mornings" and Chas greets us with a big smile.

We open the gate at 9 a.m. Thursday through Sunday, and secure the gate at 5 p.m. Visitors are able to walk, ride horses, or bike down to the ranch when the gate is closed.

After enjoying a western-style breakfast, Sharon goes up to Fred Riddle's ranch house and the bunk house (also called the Honeymoon cottage) to sweep the floors and make sure the rooms are clean. I split firewood and kindling as I like to replace what I use each morning. We also clear brush, mow the yards, and do other necessary chores. All of the ranch buildings are

accessible to visitors and we get positive feedback on how the buildings are maintained.

Visitors start arriving around 10 a. m. and most stay longer than they anticipated. Many bring lunches and enjoy the picnic table next to the Little Blitzen River that runs behind the caretaker's cabin. In the heat of the day the river is a good place to cool off. We also learn insightful information from the visitors who have worked on the ranch in the past.

One day, our friends Dan Braden, Dianne Ness, Mike and Joyce Green, and Kelly Edmondson came for a visit bringing a fine lunch that we all enjoyed. Good archaeological conservation took place after lunch; we were sorry to see them leave. That weekend, Ethan, Emily, and Etta Epstein came to visit, bringing a grill and fixing another great lunch and more wonderful conservation. The following Monday, Scott Thomas, BLM Archeologist, drove down with some well appreciated apricot jam and veggies from his garden. We discussed the ranch and had him inspect the work we had done.

Native Americans have lived in the valley for approximately 1,500 to 2,000 years BP, and the history is plentiful. There were many villages in the Little Blitzen valley; the culture is everywhere.

We have Mondays and Tuesdays off each week and we go into Burns for supplies, rock hound in the Narrows area, explore other historical sites in Harney County, and spend time exploring the area around us at the ranch.

As we get closer to September and the temperatures get cooler during the day, we have the feeling of how the Riddle brothers might have experienced it as winter approached. We surmise that it was a good life for the Riddles and that the work was hard but rewarding. If they needed equipment it would be made at the ranch if possible, and anything that was broken or needed repairing was fixed with items on the

ranch. They would also have had to prepare for winter by having plenty of firewood available.

The setting sun glows on the ranch house as it slips behind the landscape. Darkness comes fast in the valley and we light the oil lamps that glow from inside the cabin. As time grows near to leave this paradise for home, we savor every minute to remember when we are far away from the ranch. We bid farewell and look forward to our time next year.

For additional information, please see <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/heritage/>.

TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by María de la Luz Martínez, Texas Archeology Month Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission

Thousands Flock to Texas Archeology Month Events

More than 47,000 people in 70 cities and 60 counties across Texas participated in **Texas Archeology Month (TAM)** events and related activities during this year's celebration in October. The attendance number (47,253) was reported by TAM hosts who responded to a survey administered in November by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Despite a few last-minute cancellations due to unforeseen problems and postponements, the 2010 attendance figure is much higher than numbers reported in 2009 (24,487) and 2008 (31,842).

Rolando Garza, who serves as the integrated resource manager at the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Brownsville, wrote, "This event (the Fourth Annual International Rio Grande Delta Archeology Fair) is cosponsored by the Historic Brownsville Museum and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. We have up to a dozen archeologists, museums, and other entities from South Texas and northeastern Mexico that participate in the event by providing displays and demonstrations designed to enlighten the visitor about the science of ar-

cheology, regional archeological resources, and the need for resource preservation."

THC Archeology Division (AD) Director Jim Bruseth and former THC Development Officer Toni Turner, who retired recently, were among the presenters at this year's International Rio Grande Delta Archeology Fair. Bruseth and Turner organized a display on the archeological investigations of the Belle shipwreck [\[www.texasbeyondhistory.net/belle/\]](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/belle/). Other THC staff members, AD archeologists, and members of the THC Texas Archeological Stewardship Network also participated in this year's TAM observance by organizing events, giving presentations, consulting with event hosts, and providing hands-on assistance on the day of the event.

TAM 2010 included diverse events in a number of categories such as lectures, speakers, presentations, or workshops; archeology fairs, festivals, or thematic events; special TAM-related displays; special activities such as mock digs; daylong or weeklong archeology celebrations; permanent exhibits; open-house events; and conferences or annual meetings. The event diversity in the TAM 2010 Calendar provided irresistible choices for some families and individuals—the Houston Museum of Natural Science, for instance, reported a San Antonio-to-Houston trek by attendees interested in an evening lecture on Blackbeard's flagship.

The majority of the respondents indicated they would sponsor a TAM event next year. "Having a statewide archeology month (celebration) is a wonderful idea," said one respondent. "We know we can visit other counties, hear and see wonderful speakers, and attend great events. If only we had time to attend them all!"

TAM is coordinated by the THC in association with the Texas Archeological Society, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and numerous groups and organizations across the state. For more information, go to www.txarch.org/.

WASHINGTON, DC – THE PRE-COLUMBIAN SOCIETY (PCSWDC)

by Rosemary D. Lyon

The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC (www.pcswdc.org/) held its **17th Annual Symposium** entitled “Under Cover of Darkness: The Meaning of Night in Ancient Mesoamerica” on September 25, 2010. One hundred and sixteen participants who attended this successful symposium heard a panel of scholars in archaeology, art history, and cultural anthropology examine the meaning of darkness and night in Olmec, Maya, and Aztec societies.

F. Kent Reilly, Ph.D. of Texas State University at San Marcos, moderated the daylong program and gave the opening presentation, which focused on the “liminal space” between night and day, as perceived by the Olmec. Linda Brown, Ph.D. of The George Washington University, looked at contemporary Tz’utujil Maya ritual specialists in highland Guatemala, and who use for their rituals objects that transform into spirits between the day and the night. Keith Prufer, Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, shed light on the use of caves by Maya elites to reify their power and authority. John Pohl, Ph.D. from UCLA, examined the significance of the representation of night and darkness in the ancient Mexican codices, while Cecelia Klein, of UCLA, continued this emphasis on the meaning of the night and deities of the night in Aztec written manuscripts. The final presentation was by Marc Zender, Ph.D., of the Peabody Museum of Anthropology, Harvard University, who focused on the ways that the ancient Maya showed darkness and the night in their writing and art.

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion in which the presenters responded to questions from the audience. Summaries of symposium presentations will be published in future issues of the PCSWDC’s monthly newsletter, “The Smoking Mirror.”

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (WAS)

by Marcel Kornfeld

The WAS chapters have been active in hosting speakers over the winter and looking toward the spring thaw so they can get back out into the field for visits, volunteering, and join various field programs.

The Wyoming State archaeologist, Mark Miller, compiles a list of potential speaker and topics for chapters to use if they wish. The list includes archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians from the survey division of the office of the state archeologist, SHPO, University of Wyoming (UW) faculty, state museum, and Game and Fish departments. A broad variety of topics is available from historic and prehistoric archaeology to bioanthropology as well as others.

Examples of the speakers hosted by the Sheridan chapter are Colin Ferriman and Judy Slack. While Ferriman spoke about ceramic assemblages in southeastern New Mexico, Slack spoke about the historical records and archives at the library and their use. The former worked in eastern New Mexico before joining Cultural Resource Analysts’ Sheridan Office, and Slack is a Sheridan County librarian. Among the speakers of the June Frison Chapter in Laramie were Jason Toohey, Marty Rogers, and Danny Walker, all adjuncts of the UW anthropology department. They covered topics as diverse as Andean middle range societies, UW repository and its history, and the Czech Republic respectively.

The **WAS Spring Meeting** will be held in Sheridan Wyoming from April 15 to 17, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. The usual schedule includes a Friday Social, followed Saturday with a business meeting, with papers starting in mid morning and continuing through the afternoon. Saturday evening’s banquet speaker will be Jason Labelle of Colorado State University. He will be presenting the results of

his recent research at and around the Lindenmeier Folsom site. There will be a silent auction and presentation of scholarships and awards supported by the WAS, Wyoming Archaeological Foundation (WAF), and the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists.

The summer meeting of the WAS is proposed for the Hell Gap Site on June 17-19. The Hell Gap Site, owned by the sister organization the WAF, serves as a permanent location for the biennial University of **Wyoming's Advanced Archaeological Field School** and excavations by the Paleoindian Research Laboratory (PiRL). The events are still in the planning stages, but in the past included amateur atlatl throw, flint knapping demonstration and workshop, as well as volunteering and site tours. This year we are coordinating with the Wyoming Atlatl Association to have a joint WAS meeting and Atlatl throw, along with the other activities. Camping on site is available and rooms can be booked (well in advance because of the local National Guard activities) at motels in nearby Guernsey and a little farther in Wheatland or Torrington.

INVITATION TO THE 76TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY MEETING IN SACRAMENTO, CA, MARCH 30-APRIL 3, 2011

Are you going to the **SAA Meeting** in Sacramento? If so, don't miss the CoAS Booth (#305) in the Exhibit Hall! CoAS was formed by the SAA to mutually benefit all societies in this field and to advance the practice of archaeology.*

At the CoAS Booth, you can:

- 1) See what state archaeology societies are doing and get ideas for your local society.
- 2) Share your society's information with exhibit hall browsers. This includes newsletters, membership applications, publication lists, event flyers, posters, etc., to be displayed and/or distributed.

3) Volunteer at the booth, representing your society. Stop by or contact me for more information.

You can also attend the CoAS annual meeting. It will be held during the SAA meeting on Thursday, March 31 at 4 pm. You are encouraged to send a representative from your society to this meeting in the ROYAL Room at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento.*

Please call or e-mail Cathy Poetschat for more information re: mailing or bringing material to the booth and about the CoAS meeting.

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*For more about CoAS, and to see if your society is a member yet, go to www.saa.org, click on "About the Society", then click on "Council of Affiliated Societies".

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