

SAA CoAS Newsletter

Council of Affiliated Societies, Society for American Archaeology
Our Mission: To benefit all societies in this field and advance the practice of archaeology

Available [on the SAA website](http://www.saa.org/coas) at www.saa.org/coas

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FROM THE CHAIR:

By Cathy Poetschat, Oregon Archaeological Society, poetschat@msn.com

The CoAS Booth at this year's SAA Meeting in Memphis had lots of visitors who took our members' brochures and asked questions. One of the questions came from a board member of one of our member societies. He wanted to know how his society could exclude a member who wasn't obeying laws that pertain to archaeological sites. I asked him if his society requires that members sign a code of ethics stating they will obey all laws that relate to archaeology. "No, they don't," was his reply. I showed him the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) brochure that has an application in it, with a code of ethics that a prospective member must read and agree to by signing it, in order to become a member. He said he would take this suggestion back to his board. We proceeded to look at a number of our other society members' applications at the booth, and didn't find any requiring the member to sign a code of ethics. I realize it's not easy to enforce laws or exclude a member, but it is something that could help a society with a problem like this.

Many years ago OAS had a member who didn't obey these laws, and was caught. OAS was able to provide the prosecutor with the member's signature on our code of ethics, helping to prove that he knew what he did was against the law. Please consider the possibility of adding a code of ethics to your society's application for membership.

CoAS had a good meeting at the 2012 SAA meeting in April. Please see the meeting notes at the end of this newsletter. If you can attend the 2013 SAA meeting in Honolulu, please come by our CoAS booth with your society's material to give away, and plan to attend the CoAS Meeting there!

Crabtree Award

Award Description: The SAA presents the Crabtree Award annually to an outstanding avocational archaeologist in remembrance of the singular contributions of Don Crabtree. Nominees should have made significant contributions to advance understandings of local, regional, or national archaeology through excavation, research, publication, site or collections preservation, collaboration with the professional community, and/or public outreach.

Who Is Eligible to Submit Nominations or Apply for the Award: Anyone may submit a nomination. The committee does not accept self-nominations. Awardees may be members or non-members of the SAA.

Nomination/Submission Materials Required: Nominators should submit a current curriculum vita, a letter of nomination, and letters of support. We prefer electronic submission.

Deadline: January 4, 2013

Committee Chair Contact Information: Patricia Gilman, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019; ph: (405) 323-1815; e-mail: pgilman@ou.edu

FROM THE EDITOR:

I would like to invite everyone to read an article in the May 2012 *SAA Archaeological Record* written by Cathy Poetschat, Marcel Kornfeld, and James D. Keyser entitled “Avocational Archaeology: A Half Century of Increasing Contributions” There, the history of avocational archaeology is presented and its contributions to the discipline of archaeology, with a spotlight on the Oregon Archaeology Society. (<http://onlinedigeditions.com/publication/?i=113770>).

FROM THE MEMBERS:

IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Dr. Mark Warner and Dr. Stacey Camp, excerpted from the IAS Artifacts! Newsletter

The Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga House Excavations, 2012

This past summer presented a unique opportunity for archaeologists to share what they do with the city of Boise as well as to venture into the ‘wilds’ of urban archaeology. The replacement of a porch at the Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga House in the heart of the city, led to the discovery of a well that had been filled in and left untouched for approximately 100 years. Patty Miller, (Executive Director, Basque Museum) contacted the Idaho Archaeological Society with the offer of excavating the well and the area beneath the porch.

The logistics of the well excavation were initially quite challenging. A portion of the well was actually under the foundation of the house, and our options were limited. We ultimately hit on a strategy of excavating the well using a split spoon, which is basically a 12-foot-long curved shovel (Thanks to Idaho Power Company for loaning us one of the shovels). Once we had the tools the excavation proceeded rather smoothly. We were able to excavate the well to sterile gravels at a depth of approximately 11 feet below surface. Out of the well came several thousand artifacts, many of them dating to the 1880s to 1890s.

One of the common questions we received from visitors to the site during our excavations was “why did people throw so much stuff in the well?” We think the well was filled in after the Jacobs family got piped-in city water. Sanborn maps indicate that water pipes were laid in the block some time between 1888 and 1893; a period that closely parallels the dates of many of the artifacts we recovered. Simply put, after they got piped in water from the city they had no more need for their well, so it became a convenient place to dispose of their trash.

In addition to the questions of pragmatic matters, we also answered bigger-issue questions. First, we will have several interesting stories about life in nineteenth-century Boise that may surprise people. People typically think of the West as a rough and tumble place with a premium placed on self-reliance. Yet our archaeological findings tell us that the Jacobs family was clearly tied into the global economies of the time and that they likely had an unexpectedly genteel household. We recovered goods from many locales throughout the United States and indeed the world. Among the products recovered was a bottle from Ireland, ceramics and a toothpaste jar from England (Figure 1), and shaving cream from France, and at least three matching coffee cups and saucers (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Toothpaste jar from England. Photo by Ana Overgaard.

Another question we will be exploring as our analysis proceeds is the lives of children. There were a plethora of toys recovered, including at

least a dozen marbles, fragments of multiple dolls, and a child's jack. It is these small items that help us understand the daily lives of a group that are commonly overlooked in histories of a region.



Figure 2. Coffee cup. Photo by Ana Overgaard.

Beyond the stories that the artifacts tell this project was also revealing about the level of interest people have in archaeology. We knew going into the project that an urban archaeology excavation attracts an audience. Rather than viewing visitors as a problem we determined prior to the excavation that welcoming visitors was as important to the project as any of our archaeological findings. To accomplish this we placed a variety of signs on site that identified what we were doing and welcomed people to the site. We also had Tracy Schwartz, a cultural anthropologist, with us on the site. Her job was to introduce people to the project as they entered the project area and start them on a semi-structured tour of the excavations. She was also charged with gathering responses from visitors on their reactions to the project. Those data are not yet evaluated but the responses were overwhelmingly positive. Out of our two-week project we had 1,053 visitors to our site and ran a successful children's program. The public reaction to our excavation is an important lesson to take away from this project. Urban historical archaeology is something that is of considerable interest to the public. The response to this project reinforces our opinion that whenever there are projects in urban settings archaeologists should strive whenever possible to build a structured public program into the project—the payoffs are considerable.

Finally, we want to say thank you to many people. The program was a collaboration between the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Idaho Archaeological Society, and the University of Idaho, with essential additional support provided by Boise National Forest and Idaho Power Company. Most importantly, the project happened because many people donated time and volunteered to excavate on this site. Together, they volunteered almost 1000 hours. Without them this project would not have happened.

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Lisa Haney, MAS secretary

In July and August 2012, the MAS completed two more sessions of the Archaeological Survey Training Program. The sessions were held at Knob Noster State Park and in and around the City of Excelsior Springs. This program provides the opportunity for participants to gain hands-on experience in archaeology, with an emphasis on preserving archaeological resources or at least the information they may contain. The survey training program seeks to instruct individuals in the importance of locating and preserving Missouri's archaeological resources, to discourage unsupervised looting and weekend digs, and to encourage responsible and ethical collecting. Forty members of the public ranging in age from 18 to 64 participated. The program is funded for 2012 and 2013 by a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The 2012 Fall Symposium was held in De Soto, Missouri on September 15. Over 50 attendees (both current Society members and members of the public) enjoyed presentations on the theme of Missouri Rock Art. After lunch, attendees and some presenters visited Washington State Park and viewed two sets of petroglyph panels.

We were also fortunate to be joined by a family from nearby Hillsboro, Missouri who invited us to help them relocate some glyphs in their town.

These glyphs originally included numerous motifs carved in both the vertical and horizontal rock surfaces.

Sadly, all of the glyphs that were located in the horizontal bedrock surface had been recently paved over. Fortunately, the rock art site had been previously recorded. Attendees were able to relocate a few glyphs still remaining on a vertical rock surface and the MAS office will provide an update to the site recordation form indicating this destruction. This serves as a sad reminder of the necessity of site recordation.

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Originally published in the Oregon Archaeological Society newsletter, *Screenings*, October 2012, vol. 61, no. 10. Dennis Torresdal, a long time member of the OAS, is a regular volunteer in the blacksmith shop at Fort Vancouver, a National Historic Site located in Vancouver, Washington. He is also an expert flintknapper and a past president of the OAS.

Hjort's Hole, by Dennis Torresdal

National Park Service archaeologist Louis Caywood started his archaeological search for the stockade site of Fort Vancouver [in use 1825-1860] in September of 1947. His NPS directive was to locate the original stockade site, and he called it a "game of hide and seek." Once the location was found, establishing the perimeters of the Hudson's Bay Company influence was more difficult. In the 1947 excavations Caywood recovered 3,555 pieces of iron from the blacksmith's shop, some 2,000 trade beads, clay pipe stems, English earthenware, china, and glass. None of this array was surprising since the Fort was the headquarters for the Hudson Bay Company's western fur trade business.

Caywood continued his excavations in 1948, 1950, and 1952. He and his teams uncovered and identified many of the building sites within the stockade. Over 40,000 artifacts were recovered from privies and trash pits. One of his last projects was to excavate the well, located in the Northeast corner of the stockade area. Superin-

tendent Frank Hjort planned to expose the well opening and make the rockwork visible to visitors.

No further archaeology was done until 1966, when plans to rebuild the north stockade wall were funded. During the north wall project two more trash pits were uncovered. By 1969 an Archaeological Research Management Plan was developed and through legislative efforts by Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen funding was appropriated. Park Service archaeologist Jake Hoffman and lab director Lester Ross began work in the summer of 1970. Thousands of artifacts were recovered during this time, just as tens of thousands of items had been recovered by Caywood in his four years of excavation work. The problem was that not all of the Caywood material was curated or even stored. By 1965 it was reported that some artifacts from the dig of 1947 had been lost, strayed, or stolen.

There were many historic dump sites or trash pits as mentioned earlier, but on the records there was indication that a "modern" version had been created in a misguided effort to dispose of some of the tens of thousands of Caywood excavation materials, including metal objects, glass, ceramics, U.S. Army period objects, and other items. A group of materials was apparently culled from the Caywood excavations, mostly metal objects, packed into cardboard boxes and put into this pit. Archaeologist Bryn Thomas named the feature "Hjort's Hole" after the Superintendent during the time the pit was created. He speculated that Hjort might have reburied the artifacts deliberately to preserve the items, as there was no funding for preservation, curation, or storage.

Why all this information? Trash pits are certainly a source of archaeological information, although they may not always have the ideal stratigraphy that we would all like to see. A recycled trash pit can be very interesting too. As part of my blacksmithing at Fort Vancouver, along with an interest in archaeology, I was asked to lead a team to review all of the iron objects that have been preserved and stored in

the Fort Vancouver curation facility. The team consisted of OAS member Ike Bay, a fellow volunteer blacksmith of many years, David Stearns, and myself. We know that “Hjort’s Hole” was created before 1966 during Superintendent Hjort’s term; we know how it got there and how it was named. But what kind of iron objects were in it? What items were culled from the Caywood assemblage? Were they actually selected, or were there just several boxes of randomly selected artifacts that were put into the pit?

Artifacts from the Trash Deposit included ceramic ware fragments, ceramic personal items, glass fragments, metal items, construction material, worked stone, leather fragments, rubber items, and fiber fragments, adding up to a total of 14,756 items. Most of the items are not easily separated by time period. There is Hudson’s Bay Company and USA material intermixed. The items that could be actually dated ranged from 1872 to WWI, and were mostly U.S. Army related items. Items definitely not from a U.S. Army context, but Hudson’s Bay Company included metal trap parts, a marked brick, and assorted hand-forged wrought iron building hardware, gate hooks, pintles (the pin inside a door hinge), blacksmith tools, and wrought nails.

There was one iron object (Figure 1) that caught my attention, as it was whole and unbroken, hand forged, beautifully made, and I immediately wanted to try to replicate it. In the archaeological report under metal objects, there is a count of three of these listed under the title of “Coat-and-Hat Hooks”. In all of the collection and all of my looking at iron objects, both contemporary and historic, I had not seen one quite like this. We found another fragment of a hook of a very similar form, but larger. This item has three holes punched into the pan for mounting with three nails instead of just two holes like the first hook. Since it is larger, three makes sense.



Figure 1. Unidentified iron object found in “Hjort’s Hole.” Photo by Dennis Torresdal.

The second hook part was excavated from the area within the bounds of the Chief Factor’s House, so I was very excited about the location. The first hook of course had lost its provenance. After doing a little research on architectural ironwork it became evident that the larger cusp fragment was part of a Suffolk Latch. A Suffolk Latch is a type of door latch and traditionally always had three holes punched into the cusp and our artifact fits into the size range of that type of latch. It was not a coat hook. Our real coat hook however would have matched the style of the latch nicely.

As volunteer blacksmiths at Fort Vancouver our primary responsibility is to interpret the shop and its functions to the public. As part of that role we try to slip into the character and dress of an 1845 blacksmith, and the projects we work on are to be from that time period also. Therefore I immediately set about replicating the little “acorn” coat and hat hook (Figure 2). It took a few tries to get the size and proportions to match. The original is made of wrought iron and has hand punched holes, whereas my replications are made of mild steel but all other production steps are executed by the methods of 1845.



Figure 4. Replica of the unknown iron object identified as a “coat and hat hook” made by Dennis Torresdal. Photo by Dennis Torresdal.

It is amazing how much we can learn about history when attempting to replicate an artifact and then investigating the background surrounding that object!

References

Hoffman J.J., and Lester Ross. June 1972. *Fort Vancouver Excavations II*. Report for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver, WA.

Merritt, Jane T. 1993. *The Administrative History of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site*. Chapter Eight: Cultural Resource Management. http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/fova/adhi/index.htm

TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Summer Field School at Devils River State Natural Area

During the second week of June, 263 Texas Archeological Society (TAS) members (220 adults and 43 youth) participated in the society’s annual field school, held near Del Rio, at the Devils

River State Natural Area, a newly acquired property of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The park will be open to the public in 2013.

TAS members assisted the TPWD in surveying 6,250 acres, testing four known sites, backfilling potholes in a vandalized rockshelter, and recording rock art. Participants ranged from 6 to 92 years of age and contributed 7,450 hours to the effort. The National Park Service and the Texas Historical Commission supported the Field School. Sixty-two new archeological sites were recorded, including 15 rockshelters and 10 burned rock middens. The Youth Group tested a large midden, opening up 18 1-x-1 meter units. Midway through the week, the group visited Seminole Canyon State Park and toured Fate Bell Rockshelter. Crews were onsite at 7 a.m. and worked until 1 p.m.

In the afternoons, many took rock art tours or cooled down in the Devils River. Others visited Del Rio museums, toured the Val Verde Vineyard, or took a short trip to the Judge Roy Bean Saloon & Museum Visitor's Center in Lantry. The majority of the TAS members camped at the Lake Amistad National Recreation Area and enjoyed the 100+ temperatures of south Texas.

Fall Annual Meeting at the University of Texas at Tyler

The TAS Annual Meeting will be held from October 25-28 on the campus of the University of Texas at Tyler. On Friday night, the Public Forum will be open to the public at no charge and is funded in part by Humanities Texas. The speaker will be Dr. Kent Reilly, the Director of the Center for the Study of Arts and Symbolism of Ancient America and Professor of Anthropology at Texas State University. In 2011, Dr. Reilly was chosen as the Field Anthropologist Consultant for the Muscogee Nation of Florida. He will speak on the topic of cosmology and symbolism of southeastern Indian groups. A ‘Careers in Archeology Social’ and ‘Artifact Identification’ will follow the forum. Archeological firms and agencies will set up displays to

encourage questions about archeological work in Texas and about pursuing careers in archeology.

Saturday activities begin at 8 a.m., with several concurrent sessions offering papers, posters, and table discussions. The Saturday night banquet featured speaker will be Dr. Tim Pauketat of the University of Illinois. His talk, "New Evidence of Ancient Religion at Cahokia and its Colonies" will include findings of astronomical alignments, elite neighborhoods, great wooden posts, human sacrifices, stone carvings, and distant mission settlements.

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Marcel Kornfeld (anpro1@uwyo.edu)

Judy Wolf and John Laughlin, professional archaeologists working with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office have been recognized by their agency for the work they have done in cooperation with the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS). Judy is the driving force behind as well as on-the-ground producer of the Wyoming Archaeology Month posters, which consistently win the SAA State Poster Competitions. Last spring at the Memphis meeting the Wyoming poster won its eleventh first prize (see *SAA Archaeological Record* 12:4). John Laughlin was recognized by the WAS with its Golden Trowel Award (along with Dan Bach of High Plains Macrobotanical Services) for developing and maintaining the WAS web page. All three have contributed immensely to Wyoming archaeology and the national visibility of the WAS.

The WAS chapters continue to host speakers throughout the year and engage in various field projects. The Sweetwater chapter of WAS held their typical monthly meetings generally accompanied by lectures from January through May, but included one "hands on" meeting where members learned to flint knap, make rock art replicas and engaged in other "crafts." In June the chapter recorded a new Fremont-style rock art site south of Rock Springs, Wyoming (Figure 3). In July the club visited very impres-

sive rock art sites on private ranches in Browns Park, while during August, along with James Keyser they recorded more rock art sites. Several other visits to rock art sites were to panels on private ranches in the Vernal, UT and a September trip to Legend Rock and Tory Lake sites in central Wyoming.



Figure 5. Rock art recorded by WAS Sweetwater chapter. Photograph by Bill Current.

Laramie's June Frison chapter of the WAS continued spring speakers through April of 2012 and restarted with monthly meetings in September with Brigid Grund's presentation "Soil Microbes and Archaeology: Exploring the Potential at Hell Gap, Wyoming." Grund spoke of a pioneering study that attempts to use preserved ancient microbes to reconstruct paleoclimatic records of the region. Speakers at the chapter will continue throughout the year. The chapter is preparing to host the Spring meeting of the state society in Laramie from April 26-28, 2013. More news on this event will be forthcoming.

MINUTES OF THE COAS MEETING

in Association with the SAA Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN, April 19, 2012

Attendees: Cathy Poetschat-OAS, Teddy Stickley-TAS, Suzanne Fish-SAA Liaison, Alice Berkson-IAAA, Marcel Kornfeld-WAS, Karen Hartgen-SAA Liaison (Outgoing), Gina Powell-MAS, Marc Munch-IAS.

•Call to Order: CoAS annual meeting began at 4 PM on April 19, 2012 in the Jackson Room at Memphis Marriott Downtown Hotel. Welcome from CoAS Chair Cathy Poetschat (CP). Introductions from each member of the group.

CP distributed literature about CoAS (Most recent CoAS newsletter, list of current members, 2011 meeting notes, 2012 meeting agenda).

•Announcements and Approval of 2011 Meeting Notes: CP made a motion to accept minutes from 2011 meeting in Sacramento. Teddy Stickley (TS) made a motion to accept the minutes. Marc Munch (MM) 2nd the motion. Unanimous vote to approve.

•Officer Reports: CP discussed that renewing members have had some issues. Societies do not know when they need to renew their membership and often times do not know where their renewal notice is sent. Some societies do not think they are sent a renewal notice.

CP discussed the need to encourage new members/societies to join. Vermont AS hopes to be approved. The Idaho Archaeological Society (IAS) and Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) have just recently been approved as members.

No Officer reports from the Vice Chair (not yet at the meeting but did attend later) or the secretary (not in attendance).

CP discussed that last year Wyoming, Oregon, and California won last year's poster contest. It was detailed that CoAS puts up posters, counts votes, and takes down posters after the event.

•**Old Business:** Communication with CoAS & SAA liaisons is still an issue.

•**New Business:** Poster Contest is up and running. The CoAS booth is open from 9 AM until 5 PM. Marcel Kornfeld (MK), CP, & Gina Powell (GP) are all scheduled to volunteer at the booth sometime during this year's SAA meetings. CP and MK bring material to install at the

booth and MK again produced and provided the banner for the booth.

Membership Drive

MM and the IAS will send an email solicitation to other societies and groups encouraging them to join CoAS and to pass along info to other organizations. This will be done by early June 2012. MM will try and contact Smoke Pfifer (ex-FS archaeologist) to see if he still has nationwide organization list.

Discussion of CoAS Facebook Page proposal – GP discussed the potential CoAS Facebook page and suggested that CoAS could benefit from it. Photo usage is a problem and there are limitations just like the CoAS newsletter. GP will look into this and will prepare a plan of action. Overall CP and the CoAS officers agree that it should be looked into more. In the interim, the newsletter should still be published.

The SAA Avocational Award - discussion was tabled and will be addressed at the next CoAS meeting. Karen Hartgen (KH) suggested that if we want an award presented through SAA that Suzanne Fish (SF) should address this with the SAA Board and we should look into it starting now.

2013 CoAS Meeting in Hawaii–The 2013 CoAS meeting was briefly discussed and it is clear that most of the officers will probably not attend the meeting in Hawaii.

End of New Business.

•**Election of Officers:** Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary.

Chair communicates with the board, works on CoAS membership, works with both new and existing members, and organizes the booth.

Vice-Chair assists the Chair

Secretary takes notes and presents at following year's meeting & in newsletter.

CP was nominated this year for Chair

CP nominated TS for Vice Chair

MK nominated MM for Secretary

MK moved to accept the slate of candidates; Alice Berkson (AB) seconded the motion. All positions voted on and unanimously approved.

No brief Society Reports.

•Adjourn: CP called meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

•**Action items:**

›By early June, MM to send out email on behalf of IAS to other interested/potential CoAS groups.

›SF to address potential award with the SAA Board.

›GP to address Facebook issues.

›CP to address making it easier for reminders to current members so they can pay dues.

•Next CoAS meeting scheduled at SAA Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2013

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