

CoAS

NEWSLETTER

Council of Affiliated Societies (SAA)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

Michelle Wickham (michelle@bisonhistorical.com,
Senior Project Archaeologist)

Metal Working Workshop

Saturday, April 21, 2007

Join the Archaeological Society of Alberta in a learning the arts of traditional metal working on Saturday, April 21st. In this one day workshop (9am-4pm), under the tutelage of local artist Cryse Harse, participants will be instructed in traditional metal working techniques and allow each participant to craft their own woven metal bowl. All materials and tools to undertake this workshop will be provided at the Simple Metal Studio in Englewood. As space at the studio is limited the number of participants is strictly limited to 10, signed up on a first come first serve basis. Cost is \$30.00 – and each participant must supply their own ear protection, which is absolutely mandatory.

Paskapoo Slopes Walking Tour

(John Wilkening, ASA director)



Brian Vivian, tour guide

Brian explained the geological formation of the Paskapoo Slopes and surrounding area. After crossing many streams created by the numerous springs, we were led to a very interesting erratic

situated along the path and Brian explained just how such an object would be deposited in this location. We then went to the actual dig site and it was amazing at how well the landscape was recovering from the scars that were inflicted upon it. Brian then went through the scenario that would have led to the kill site and to the butchering area.

After we had scrambled up the slope a short distance he explained how and why the camp would have been situated where it was.

We then took a leisurely stroll back to the parking area. One of the participants informed us that the path that we were walking on was called Moccasin Trail. Although the old roadway was abandoned from vehicle traffic it did contain two old car relics. The vehicles had been expertly redesigned with bullet holes from some sharp shooter of days gone by. This was definitely an informative and interesting tour.



Paskapoo dig site. (Continued on Page 2)

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John was particularly keen on the tour because he had gone to the web site www.paskapoo.com in order to obtain some pre-hike information. The site has a 15 minute video giving lots of information regarding the slopes and includes video of some of the archaeologists that had worked at the site.

Students on the Paskapoo Walking Tour.

Stone Tool Making Workshop 2007

On Saturday, March 4, 2007 a Stone Tool Making Workshop was held at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre with twenty participants. The art and skill of making stone tools was expertly taught to the participants by Don Hanna and his assistants, Alan Youell and Jeremy Leyden. The enthusiasm for creating a projectile point was very high and other than a break for lunch, work continued earnestly.

(continued on page 3)

Posters Online

We now have available on the "Archaeology for the Public" web site a Poster Archive for Archaeology Month Poster Contest winners. To view them, go to the Archaeology Month page:

<http://saa.org/public/resources/ArchMonthforpublic.html>

Then click on the blue link in the middle of the page, which will take you to the Poster Archive. You can view the winning posters by year, or if you click on a particular image, you can start a poster slide show.

understanding the past as well as the vibrancy of our societies. Without such dedication archaeology as we know it would cease to exist, or at least it would be much less fun!

I was also struck by the number of contributions that mentioned rock art and sadly most of these discussed destruction and vandalism associated with these sites. The problem is widespread from Arkansas to Nevada. Fortunately members of these and other societies are well aware of the problems and are developing various stewardship and partnership programs to preserve these precious images. I hope some of these may be good models for other societies. We can only hope that awareness of this problem will contribute to their solution.

Finally, most of the contributions mention or dwell on the many public programs engages in by their societies. In this issue we see banquet speakers, archaeology month events, monthly speakers, site tours, workshops, field schools, school programs for various ages, and other indoor and outdoor activities. All this is an indication to me that there is indeed a large audience and a wide public interest in prehistoric and historic archaeology. The societies that are members of CoAS are indeed serving not only their own members, but the public at large.

One last note, as usual there will be a Council of Affiliated Societies booth as the SAA meeting in Austin, TX, April 25th to 29th, 2007. Please bring you societies brochures and promotional material for display. The CoAS business meeting will be Thursday, April 26, from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Austin Hilton.

-The Editor

EDITOR'S CORNER

A great set of contributions were received from six of our member societies for this volume of the newsletter. I am particularly appreciative of the illustrations, all of which have been included. Even more important I am ecstatic that a number of the contributions included awards presented to society members for their past efforts on behalf of the various societies as well as awards to students of archaeology. Such awards show the dedication of many of our members to archeology and its role for

Students in the Stone Tool workshop

Unfortunately few arrow heads were constructed but people became very skillful at reducing a large stone into smaller fragments. The zeal of the students was reflected in the number of bandages that were consumed to stop the leakage of blood from small nicks that the razor-sharp flakes inflicted. Everyone had a tremendous time and increased their knowledge and skill level of flint knapping. Numerous requests were made to hold

future workshops.

Ceramic Workshop

On Saturday September 16th and 23rd, 2006 the Ceramic Workshop was held at the home and studio of Jack Robertson with 10 participants.

Jack Robertson and Brian Beaulieu taught the Ceramic Workshop.

On September 16th, the participants were given an opportunity to let their creative juices flow as they took lumps of clay and turn them into works of art. A week later, September 23rd was a day for firing their ceramic creations into surprisingly beautiful objects using the Raku technique. The art of Raku firing was expertly taught to the participants by Jack Robertson and Brian Beaulieu.

Raku firing in the Ceramic Workshop

Special Events:

Wes Johnston Prize in Archaeology

Katiana Zacharias grew up in Northern B.C, and was really inspired by archaeological finds that she read about in National Geographic magazines. She had her first major encounter with archaeology when her parents agreed to take her to the Yucatan as a teenager. Ever since then she has been fascinated by the past and knew that she wanted to be an archaeologist.

She is currently in her 3rd year at the University of Calgary, pursuing a double major in Primatology and Archaeology, with a physical anthropology concentration. This coming spring she will be attending the primatology field school in Ghana. She also hopes to attend the archaeology field school in Antigua this coming summer. She plans to graduate Spring 2008.

Sheila Johnston, right, presents this year's award of the Wes Johnston Prize to Katiana Zacharias.

ASA 2006-2007 Speaker Series

September 20th, 2006 - Jack Brink, Royal Alberta Museum: *Laser Scanning Rock Art at Writing-On-*

Stone: Towards a New Frontier in Image Recording and Conservation Studies.

While three-dimensional laser scanning of objects has been around for some time, recent advances in the technology has enabled field application in remote locations. Portable laser scanners are capable of recording detail of objects and surfaces (such as a rock face) with astonishing precision. Tests being done world wide on rock art have clearly indicated that use of 3D scanners yields the most accurate record of rock carvings ever made.

In the summer of 2005 I contracted a 3D imaging company to come to Writing-on-Stone Park to try a test project of scanning rock art. While funds only permitted a brief effort, several major panels were scanned. In addition, the scanner was employed to record replica panels where conservation studies are in progress. These studies are designed to test the effectiveness of a chemical rock hardener that is being studied for possible use on deteriorating rock art images.

October 18th, 2006 - Diane Lyons, University of Calgary: *Sticks and Stones: an Ethnoarcheological study of architecture and power in eastern Tigray, Highland Ethiopia.*

Archaeologists generally recognize the importance of domestic dwellings as political locales. But very few studies integrate vernacular architecture as part of the broader political aesthetic of the state. Instead elite aesthetics, including architecture, are presented as ideologically separate from those of the peasantry. This perspective neglects the fact that authoritative places are made meaningful by drawing upon architectural practices that are constructed with material meanings that are understood by all members of a society. Presented here is an ethnoarchaeological study of vernacular architecture in highland Ethiopia. The study explores elements that have been used to construct places of authority in highland Ethiopia from peasant farmer to regional elite during the last century of Ethiopia's monarchy. The ethnographic architectural aesthetic may provide some social context for the architecture of the Aksumite kingdom that dominated the region during the first millennium AD.

November 15th, 2006 - Mitchell Goodjohn: *Medicine Wheels and Family Trees: Incorporating Traditional Knowledge into Research Projects*

“Traditional Knowledge” can be described as the experiential knowledge that First Nations have acquired over long periods of contact with the environment. Using two case studies – the Majorville Medicine Wheel and the First Nations Population Study in Northeastern BC, the presentation will explore the roles and dynamics that traditional knowledge can play in research projects.

January 17th 2007 - Birgitta Wallace, Senior Archaeologist (emerita) Parks Canada, Atlantic Service Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia: *“Leif Eriksson Slept Here:” Situating L’Anse aux Meadows in the Vinland Sagas.*

The presence of the medieval Norse in North America has been hotly debated for more than 160 years. Work at L’Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland by Anne Stine Ingstad in the 1960s furnished the first physical evidence of a Norse presence there about AD 1000. Parks Canada added substantially to the evidence during excavations in the 1970s. Together with research in Iceland and Greenland the archaeology makes it possible to understand L’Anse aux Meadows within the context of the Vinland sagas. L’Anse aux Meadows is Leif Eriksson’s base in Vinland and the Straumfjord of Erik the Red’s Saga. The Norse presence in North America was confined to exploration and exploitation of resources. Vinland lay around the coastal regions of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, stretching from L’Anse aux Meadows and the Strait of Belle Isle and in the north to New Brunswick in the south.

February 21th, 2007 - Nancy Saxberg, Lifeways of Canada Limited: *Going through Garbage at Mountain Park.*

An archaeological examination of domestic refuse at Mountain Park, Alberta, in 2005 revealed interesting insights into the lives of people on the Coal Branch in the first half of the twentieth century. As part of mitigative investigations for the Cheviot Project, the Mountain Park excavations demonstrated that voluminous trash remains on the town site, where all the buildings were removed. The Lifeways crew was challenged at first to develop a field methodology for dealing with sampling the vast numbers of artifacts at the site.

Our use of onsite sorting, digital photography, and good old-fashioned rooting through garbage was effective at collecting a sample of the household products that the Coal Branch residents used and discarded. As one Mountain Park resident told us confidentially: “They were big drinkers”...

March 21th, 2007 - Richard Harington: *Ice Age Mammals of the Yukon*

Yukon Pleistocene faunas not only contain a vast array of excellent vertebrate fossils covering nearly the full span of the Pleistocene (2 Ma – 10,000 BP), but also several carcasses representing arctic ground squirrel, black-footed ferret, Yukon horse, and steppe bison. Furthermore, Bluefish Caves, containing evidence for humans as early as 25,000 BP, is one of the most important cave faunas in North America. Other evidence for early humans in the Dawson area consists of: (1) a steppe-bison radio-ulna radiocarbon dated to about 30,810 BP showing a clear impact mark and spiral fracture presumably made to obtain marrow; and (2) a bullet-shaped caribou antler punch radiocarbon dated to about 11,350 BP used for shaping stone tools that probably represents the Nenana complex.

April 18th, 2007 - Cheryl Forner: *A Model for the Examination of Gender within Domestic Spaces on the Northern Plains*

The prehistory of the North American Plains is an exciting and dynamic area of research within the discipline of archaeology. However, for the most part, the descriptions that archaeologists have assigned to the people who created the archaeological record in this region are either gender neutral or gendered male by default. In recent years Plains archaeologists have begun to explore how, where, and why gender representation can be found on the Plains.

I will present portions of my research, which seeks to further Plains gender research. Specifically, task differentiation by gender for the Blackfoot will be examined and combined with data on how the Blackfoot conceptually structured the interior space of a tipi. The information will be used to establish a model for the gendered distribution of space within a tipi. The results of a spatial analysis conducted against data recovered from ten completely excavated stone circles will be presented to illustrate that the model can be used to

examine gender within completely excavated stone circles in southern Alberta.

Make sure you take time to visit the ASA Webpage: www.debitage.ca See feature articles, events, updates and general information about The Archaeological Society of Alberta.

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Hester A. Davis (hadavis@uark.edu)
AAS Newsletter Editor

I don't think I have mentioned in previous reports, that one of our members, from Illinois actually, died unexpectedly a little over a year ago, and bequeathed to the Society \$50,000 and his library. As you can imagine, this rather blew us away. We have invested the money, and the interest will be used on public archeology activities, particularly the expenses for Archeology Month. We have yet to receive the library.

The Society and Arkansas Archeological Survey's 44th Annual Training Program will be held at a site about half way between Hot Springs and the little town of Malvern in west central Arkansas. The dates are June 9-24. The main occupation is late Archaic, with a little Woodland and Caddo overlay. This is in the Ouachita Mountains, in an area of many novaculite quarries (workable chert, that from historic times has been quarried for use/sale as the FAMOUS Arkansas wetstone). The Jones Mill site seems to be where the quarried stone was worked into usable tools. The Society's Dig Committee has arranged for us to be able to camp at Lake Catherine State Park, a beautiful setting, with swimming available for the first time in several years. We will also be able to use an historic (on the National Register) CCC-built building for our lab. Seminars and evening programs will be held in the classrooms of the Ouachita Technical College nearby.

To participate in the program, you must be a member of the Society; there is a graduated registration fee depending upon how long you can stay, with a maximum of about \$50 for the whole 16 days, and a small camping fee (motels are a few miles away). Registration materials are in the Mar/Apr issue of the Society's newsletter, *Field Notes*, which will be distributed by the middle of March. Registration must be received by May 9, or

there is a late fee. Go to the Society's web site for further details: www.arkarch.org.

March is Archeology Month, with the theme this year being "Arkansas Rock Art." There is a great deal of rock art in the state, both pictographs and petroglyphs, largely located in the Ozark Mountains and Ouachita Mountains. The Survey has recently published a small book about this: *Rock Art In Arkansas*, by George Sabo III and Deborah Sabo (go to the Survey's website: www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo).

Thanks to our supporters:

Marshalltown Trowel Company, Fayetteville, AR
Eastern States Rock Art Research Association
Arkansas Tech University Museum of Prehistory and History

About Arkansas Rock Art...



What is rock art and what can it tell us about the past?

The term rock art refers to images rendered on natural rock surfaces, such as bluff faces, cave walls, and large boulders. Painted images are called pictographs. Pecked, carved, or incised (scratched) images are known as petroglyphs. Rock art is one of the oldest material forms of human expression, and is found throughout the world. Arkansas possesses some of the best-preserved and most interesting examples of prehistoric American Indian rock art in eastern North America. We can also include historic period inscriptions in the definition of rock art. Unfortunately, both ancient and historic rock art sites suffer irreparable harm when modern people add new layers of carving, spray paint, or ink. When archeologists use the term rock art, we mean the prehistoric and historic period images, not recent graffiti. By studying Arkansas rock art we can learn a great deal about the lives of past people. For example, regional or local styles of rock art might help define ancient cultural boundaries. The relationship between rock art sites and the surrounding landscape provides clues about how ancient American Indians perceived their environment. Many of the design motifs we find in rock art are also portrayed in other artistic media, such as decorated pottery, engraved shell, or

embossed copper. These similarities suggest that shared traditions and themes were being expressed. American Indians probably made rock art for a variety of reasons—to mark important locations, routes and boundaries, or to commemorate ceremonies, myths and significant events. The distribution of rock art sites helps us to understand how these and other places marked out a meaningful landscape for people of the past.

Who made it and how old is it?

In our present age of computerized and automated mass production, people are often curious about how things were made in the past. An element of awe and respect is added when we understand that images produced by American Indians with only simple tools and techniques have endured for centuries and maybe even millennia. Traces such as brush or finger marks preserved in painted pictographs provide clues about how some rock art was made. Archeologists excavating at one rock art site in Arkansas discovered tools used to make the painted petroglyphs—stone abraders for smoothing the rock surface and hematite pebbles that had been ground for red pigment. The age of rock art in Arkansas is difficult to determine. Few methods exist for direct dating of pictographs and petroglyphs. Sometimes we can place individual images at a site in relative order, for example, when images are superimposed or show different degrees of weathering. Sometimes the subject matter of the art suggests a general time period. Illustrations of extinct mastodons, for example, must be at least 10,000 years old. On the other hand, pictures of horses or firearms (both introduced to North America with European contact) must date to the last few centuries. Stylistic comparison is another method of dating the art. If we find similar motifs and styles in rock art and, for example, decorated pottery of a known age, we can extend that age range to the rock art. Direct dating of pictographs is sometimes possible using specialized radiocarbon techniques, but this method is destructive (samples of the pigment must be scraped off the rock surface) and very expensive, so it is rarely used.

Preserving our rock art heritage

Though rock art is durable, it is not indestructible. Archeologists are painfully aware that this precious cultural resource is increasingly threatened by the ravages of erosion, modern land development, and vandalism. The time to study and preserve rock art

is now. Current rock art recording projects aim to thoroughly document and analyze rock art images with minimal interference to the sites. We measure the images and map their exact location, photograph them, and in some cases make a one-to-one scale tracing of the image using nondestructive materials that do not harm the rock surface. Images from across Arkansas are entered into a database for comparative analysis. In the past, many archeologists assumed that rock art was “too mysterious” to understand with scientific methods. By placing rock art in a context with other categories of archeological remains, we now realize there is much to learn. Here’s what to do if you encounter a rock art site:

- Don’t embellish the rock art by scratching, painting or applying chalk. This could permanently damage or destroy images that are hundreds or thousands of years old.
- Do try to count the number and different types of images that you see. Make notes and take photographs.
- Unless you are certain it is a known rock art site, do record the site location on a map.
- Do contact the Arkansas Archeological Survey. If you are on State Park or Forest Service land, you may also contact park administrators or rangers. It is against the law to disturb archeological sites on state or federal land. Do not dig or remove any materials from the site.

SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

*Candace Ehringer (Candace.Ehringer@edaw.com)
Society for American Archaeology Liaison*

In a settlement between California Public Utilities Commission and Qwest Communications, Society for California Archaeology's (SCA) Native American Programs Committee was given \$10,000 to continue their efforts to preserve California Native American heritage in collaboration with cultural resource management professionals. NAPC will use part of the money to fund the 2007 California Indian Sponsorships program, which awards selected California Indians an \$800 grant to defray the costs of attending the SCA's annual meeting.

The SCA held their Southern Data Sharing meeting in Ensenada, Mexico this year. The meeting was held November 11 and 12, 2006. Ensenada was chosen, in part, because of the region's importance to researchers in both Baja and Alta California. The first day was full of presentations by both California and Baja archaeologists. Although the apparent highlight of the day was a visit by Paipai, Kilwa, and Kumiai artisans, who offered traditionally-made pots, baskets, jewelry, and clothing for sale. The second day brought a full-day bus tour of local archaeological and historical sites. Of most interest to SCA members was the last stop – the Ignacio Zaragoza archaeological site. Recent research has uncovered a rich San Dieguito complex deposit. Further excavations at this site may inform work at related sites in southern California.

Tour of local archeological sites in Ensenada.

Dan Foster has been presented with a Resolution by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) in recognition of his 25 years of service as the Archaeology Program Manager for California. During his tenure as the program's manager, Dan developed an archaeological site identification training program for foresters, which has led to the identification and protection of over 10,000 sites.

Stacy Camp, a doctoral candidate at Stanford University, continued work at Mount Lowe, a late 19th-century to early 20th-century resort and railway located in the Angeles National Forest above Altadena, California. The 2006 field season focused on excavating the section house located during the 2005 season. The section houses were built to house railway workers and their families. Immigrant families were taught English, housekeeping skills, “proper hygiene,” and trade-oriented work (sewing, typing, auto repair) in an attempt to “Americanize” them. Several public outreach programs were included in the 2006 field season, including two “Archaeology Career Days” for the Girl and Boy Scouts and a “Public Lab Day” during which 20 local volunteers were taught how to clean, catalog and curate glass and ceramic artifacts. Segments on the dig were featured on HDTV and in the Pasadena Star News. Lab work is on-going and a 2007 field season is being planned.

Students next to the house's cesspool and pigpen.

For updates and further information on Mount Lowe excavations, visit www.stanford.edu/~scamp/mountlowe

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Earl Lubensky (lubenskye@missouri.edu)

The Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) Board of Directors met October 15, 2006 and decided to approve the move of the MAS offices from Columbia (University of Missouri) to Springfield (Missouri State University) as soon as possible. It approved a draft memorandum of understanding of the relationship between MAS and Missouri State University. It named Neal Lopinot (Missouri State University) as interim secretary and nominated him as the MAS secretary subject to revision of MAS bylaws (which provide that secretary shall be an archaeologist from University of Missouri-Columbia) and approval by membership at next annual meeting in 2007. Ray Wood had agreed to continue as editor of the Missouri Archaeologist and temporarily as editor of the MAS Quarterly. Resolutions were approved recognizing 25 years of contribution to MAS by Michael O'Brien and 14 years by Melody Galen as office manager and assistant editor of the Missouri Archaeological Society Quarterly. It was agreed that MAS collections now curated by the University of Missouri-Columbia would remain under that curation arrangement and that the current joint MAS-UMC library would remain as is but emphasizing that MAS members would have continuing access to the library. Future annual meetings would be held every third year at Springfield and elsewhere in Missouri the other two years. The relationship with SAA and the Council of Affiliated Societies would continue as in the past.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be in Columbia and future Board meetings at a central location in Missouri to accommodate members who would be coming from far and wide in Missouri, even one from Arkansas.

Our annual meeting is now scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2007 at the Resort at Port Arrowhead on

the Lake of the Ozarks. There will be an election of officers at this meeting. Dr. Patricia O'Brien, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Kansas State University will give the annual Koch lecture for the banquet, with her topic "*Asa:tatkityaruc, Horse Chips on the Hill, A Lost Pawnee Animal Lodge.*" There are 11 other exciting scheduled talks.

NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

Alanah Woody (awoody@nevadarockart.org)

The NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION (NRAF) had a busy fall and shows no signs of slowing down this spring. A large and somewhat unique project was completed in November where NRAF archaeologists and volunteers documented five rock art sites on privately owned property in southern Nevada on the west side of Las Vegas Valley. As with all rock art sites, besides the rock art, each site has a number of interesting features, including habitation debris like grinding slicks, shelters and rock rings. Numerous historic features such as check dams constructed by the CCC in the 1930s are also found in the area. One of the fabulous things about southern Nevada (besides the weather) is the spectacular landscape and wildlife that is still present in spite of the behemoth (Las Vegas) only a stones throw away. A small herd of bighorn sheep lives in the vicinity of our project and sat on the rocks and watched while we worked ... it's hard to say who was more interested in watching who – us or the sheep! The rock art ranges from historic (such as a horse with a Spanish packsaddle) through representational motifs (anthropomorphs and big horn sheep) to the more typical Basin and Range Tradition found throughout the western United States. Pictographs are also found and again they run the gambit from historic charcoal drawings of wagons to more ambiguous ocher images, which unfortunately have been used for target practice by paint ball enthusiasts. Paint ball damage is found in increasing density throughout the area, and one site in particular stands out as a cautionary tale for preservationists. In spite of the fabulous rock art, this is one of the most badly vandalized sites anyone has ever seen. Over the years, it has become a favorite for locals to “come and party.” In the process, trash and spray painted graffiti is everywhere and large bonfires have been built

inside rock shelters to the point that a heavy layer of soot now covers once beautiful, deeply engraved petroglyphs and paint ball spatters now cover unique pictographs.

In an effort to stem the growing tide of destruction, NRAF has teamed up with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and the property owners to develop a Site Stewardship program to curtail these illegal and destructive behaviors. This unique program teams concerned local citizens with property owners, SHPO, and in this case NRAF, together to protect cultural resources on private land – a truly unique situation in Nevada where a very large percentage of the land is managed by the federal government.

The ongoing work of the NRAF in northern Nevada also continued in the fall with our two primary northern projects – in Storey County at one of the largest concentrations of rock art in the state and in Washoe County where more than 100 rock art sites are found within an eight square mile area. Both are threatened by rapid urban growth and work will continue in both areas starting in the spring. Also ongoing in the north is the NRAF Lecture Series which brought rock art documentation specialist Jane Kolber, who organized and ran the AAS rock art field school for many years, and who discussed her years of work at Chaco Canyon. The lecture series also brings in those who approach rock art from another angle like artist Janet Lever-Wood who discussed the inspiration she gets from the rock art and environment in Baja. The NRAF also hosted three rock art scholars from China in October and nearly 100 NRAF volunteers and members of the general public were treated to a presentation on the rock art of China. The rock art is beautiful and very diverse as you would expect in such a large country, and in many ways looks familiar to us in the Great Basin. Some of the rock art is very ancient but also shows clearly the influence of Buddhism and Islam in some of the more recent sites.

2007 marks the fifth anniversary of the NRAF and along with our ongoing documentation work throughout the state, we have a number of exciting events planned including presentations Dr. Karen Nissen in June and Dr. Paul Bahn in October, a celebration barbeque at Lagomarsino and a special

“find the logo” field trip where we’ll find out once and for all if the NRAF logo actually is at the site suggested by Heizer and Baumhoff in spite of it being so out of character for that region of the state. Since its Nevada – bets are being taken ... if you want in on the action go to www.nevadarockart.org!

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Poetschat, (poetschat@msn.com)

Fall and Winter have been very active for the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS). With only 300 members its amazing we are able to have so many activities.

Publications

The OAS Press has been very actively reporting on their rock art projects and in 2007 has printed a second edition of a book that had been out of print. It is called “Columbia Plateau Rock Art”. This report covers three sites that contain some of the most spectacular rock art in the Columbia Plateau with more than 400 images that include several spirit figures and the westernmost Biographic rock art yet discovered. One of the sites, Owl Cave, contains one of the deepest dark zone (cave with no natural light) rock art in western North America. For those interested in this or other OAS rock art publications, ordering information can be found on the OAS website, oregonarchaeological.org. Another book about Columbia Gorge rock art will be published this summer by the OAS Press.

OAS actively markets its publications at its monthly meetings, conferences, local book stores and historical societies, and some Oregon and Wyoming museums.

Awards

At our March meeting we distributed our annual awards. Several members received recognition for the work they do for OAS. A new award, the Helen Hiczun Volunteer Award, is for being the best OAS volunteer of the year. It is named after an avid volunteer, Helen Hiczun, who passed away in January. This award was given to Mike Taylor, a past OAS president, OAS rock art book editor, and organizer of our first ever auction. The Presidents Award went to David Easley, a local developer who

has made substantial financial donations to OAS for rock art projects, and to enable school children to attend field trips to special exhibits at the Portland Art Museum. All award recipients were given stone petroglyph replicas from sites we have worked on, made by Dr. James Keyser, our current president.

OAS Auction

Indiana Jones (auctioneer Mike Wendling) encourages bidding at the OAS Auction in February 2007

In February we had our very first OAS Auction to benefit our scholarships and educational programs. “Indiana Jones” was the auctioneer (see photo), and there was a silent auction and raffle also. Members donated over 200 items, including books, jewelry, crafts, artifact reproductions, tours, photos, art and curiosities. The committee worked very hard on this labor intensive project, publicized it, invited our friends, and a good time was had by all. We were amazed that we raised over \$5,000!



Auction Chairman Mike Taylor (left) and OAS board member Denise Cramer display photograph to bidders at OAS Auction

Meetings

The Society’s monthly meetings are open to the public. Some recent presentation subjects include Re-recording Oregon Rock Art; OAS/BLM Field Projects Update; Ft Vancouver Household Wares; The Maya in Belize; Gifford Pinchot National Forest Archaeology; and Lewis and Clark’s Station Camp, Fort Clatsop, and Ft. Vancouver Updates.

“Archaeology for the Curious” Classes

OAS Training Program Survey

In February and March our OAS Training Program presented our six Saturday course called “Archaeology for the Curious.” The first two Saturdays included exhibits and many archaeologists presenting an introduction to all aspects of archaeology. The last four classes are hands-on-practicums in survey, mapping, excavation and laboratory work (see photos).

We have offered these classes to the public and members every year since 1992. We gain advocates for archaeology, and many new enthusiastic members from the class.

Faux Excavation at OAS Training Program.

This year we had 79 people attend the first two classes and 40 came to the last four classes (a limited number due to the hands on format). Over forty of these students have become new members, ready to take part in other OAS activities.

Learning at “Archaeology for the Curious”

Future Activities

Many more activities are happening at OAS. Our stewardship program has steadily added stewards, and there is a training class for them this spring. We continue to have field trips to sites and museums, led by various members. There are several rock art projects that members are working on in the local area, and a large field project this June in Montana. Rock art laboratory work is done most Saturdays, processing the information gathered in the field.

On June 2nd there is a special “Metal Detecting in Archaeology” workshop, and a lecture, “Finding Geronimo’s Hideout”, both by Chris Adams, a specialist from the Forest Service who works on historic sites, followed by a reception for him.

In May we are offering a class about “Archaeological Drawing”. Our annual Memorial Day Project Campout will assist the Forest Service in survey and testing in the Mt. Hood National Forest. And we will relax and have fun at our annual “Cornfest” in August!

I will be representing OAS at the Council for Affiliated Societies Annual Meeting at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference on April 26 in Austin, Texas. I will also be at the CoAS booth in the vendors room at the SAAs, sharing OAS information and Oregon Archaeology Celebration (Month) Posters.

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sand Draw Dump Site (48FR3123) *Danny Walker*
(dnwalker@uwyo.edu, PhD, RPA, Assistant State Archaeologist)

The Wyoming State Archaeologist Office, in partnership with the University of Wyoming Department of Anthropology, Fremont County (Wyoming) Solid Waste Disposal District and the Wyoming Archaeological Society, completed excavations at the Sand Draw Dump site (48FR3123) slated to be destroyed by landfill expansion.

Members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society played a vital role in the amount of excavations conducted at the site over the 1997, 2000, and 2006 seasons, with several thousand hours of volunteer time.

Over 1900 square meters were either hand excavated or mechanically scraped during excavations in 1997, 2000, and 2006, resulting in the identification and recording of fifteen semi-subterranean occupation/living structures, twelve of which occur in a 20 by 35 meter area in a formal spatial arrangement. The arrangement of these structures is highly suggestive of a planned formal “village” site with a single band group occupying it and not a haphazard placement of the structures from a series of unrelated or repeated occupations. The site has been radiocarbon dated between 1000 and 1200 years B.P.

The presence of prehistoric living or other occupation structures in the region, both along the Beaver Creek floodplain and the divide (48FR3123) suggests the prehistoric occupation in the region was not transitory, but part of a region wide

occupation throughout the Wyoming Basin, centered on a broad spectrum hunting and gathering orientation. Locally, within the central part of the Wind River Basin, it appears an intensive human occupation was occurring around A.D. 1000. Radiocarbon data from regional sites show during this time period a widespread occupation over the area that would, historically, become Fremont County. These sites range from the central basin, to the foothills, and into the Wind River Mountains, adding further documentation on the seasonal and yearly round of these prehistoric peoples. We are just beginning to learn the basics of how they were subsisting and interacting culturally.

The Role of Avocational Archaeologists

Danny Walker (dnwalker@uwyo.edu, PhD, RPA, Assistant State Archaeologist)

The role of the avocational archaeologist cannot be underplayed in development of our present knowledge of Wyoming Archaeology. Avocationalists have located and reported to professional archaeologists many of the major archaeological sites in Wyoming. They have also been very instrumental in assisting University of Wyoming faculty and the Wyoming State Archaeologist’s Office in excavation projects over the past 20 years. An example of the value these avocations have provided can be seen in the accompanying table, showing number of volunteer hours and miles, with corresponding monetary values based on federal guidelines for volunteers.



Tom Young, avocational archeologist and frequent volunteer for many projects throughout Wyoming.

This is for projects of just one researcher in the Wyoming State Archaeologist’s Office. The overall value on all projects would be much higher if also calculated. These projects could not have been

completed without the avocational archaeologists from the Wyoming Archaeological Society.

Year	Hours	Cost	Miles	Milage	Total
1997	760	\$10,640	-----	-----	\$10,640
1998	1,783	\$24,962	15,086	\$4,526	\$29,488
1999	1,480	\$20,720	-----	-----	\$20,720
2000	1,602	\$22,652	-----	-----	\$22,652
2001	4,716	\$66,024	55,096	\$17,080	\$83,104
2002	1,358	\$17,222	8,958	\$2,777	\$19,999
2003	3,248	\$36,238	40,861	\$12,550	\$48,788
2004	2,008	\$29,280	26,156	\$9,996	\$39,276
2005	960	\$14,888	14,976	\$5,660	\$20,548
2006	2,632	\$49,800	26,412	\$9,180	\$58,980
Total	20,547	\$292,426	187,545	\$61,769	\$354,195

WAS Volunteer Hours 1997-2006

Ord Ranch Project *John Laughlin (Wyoming SHPO)*

During the spring of 2002 the George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology began a project on the Ord Ranch in southeastern Wyoming. This short, ten-day project was successful because of a number of WAS members and other volunteers and resulted in the identification of a number of stone circle sites, historic sites, and what appears to be a multi-component prehistoric/historic site that most likely represents thousands of years of seasonal Native American occupation of one portion of the Ord Ranch, and then subsequent use during historic times (Silver Spring Stage Station). There likely are many more sites like those described above that are yet to be identified. While historical record search is continuing by Dewey and Janice Baars, continuation of field studies has been hampered by a lack of funding and time, although there is still considerable interest in learning more about how the ranch area was utilized during both prehistoric and historic times.

Recently, a cooperative agreement between the Frison Institute and John Laughlin of Wyoming SHPO was made to continue investigations of the ranch. The goal of the co-operative effort dovetails the original project goal to perform a complete survey of the 7,000+ acres of the ranch over the course of the next ten years. Work on the ranch would consist of one ten-day session each summer, with a field crew of volunteers from the Wyoming Archaeological Society (most likely 4 to 5 people). Once the survey is completed, we would like to begin a limited testing program to identify which

sites may provide the most information regarding Wyoming prehistory. Any work performed on the ranch will be in conjunction with the George C. Frison Institute. Results of the project will be presented at professional meetings, as well as in publications, thereby contributing to local and regional history and prehistory. The field project during the survey will include a very limited collection policy consisting of only chronologically diagnostic items. The Ord Ranch provides a unique opportunity to explore Wyoming prehistory in an area that is well known around the world for defining the Northern Plains cultural chronology, especially of the Paleoindian period.

COAS OFFICERS

President:

Susan Edwards

Susan.Edwards@dri.edu

Vice President:

Cathy Poetschat

Poetschat@msn.com

Secretary:

Hester Davis

hadavis@uark.edu

Editor:

Marcel Kornfeld

George C. Frison Institute

Department 3431

1000 East University Avenue

Laramie, WY 82071

307-766-3548

anpro1@uwyo.edu

Assistant Editor:

Cathy Poetschat

Poetschat@msn.com