



From the President

By Rosi Dennett

Another month, another excellent lecture. We were extremely fortunate to have Laurie Webster and Chuck LaRue share with us their ongoing work chronicling perishable materials in various museum collections across the United States. These collections are from excavations of Basketmaker and Pueblo-period archaeological sites in southeastern Utah, and these materials are providing fascinating insights into the lives of ancestral Puebloans.

Our new IPCAS tent has arrived! If you're in town over Memorial Day weekend, join us by signing up for a couple hours at our booth at the Boulder Spring Festival interacting with the public (passing out brochures, talking about IPCAS and the importance of protecting archaeological resources, etc.). Contact Allison Kerns at a.marcucci@rogers.com, if you're interested in participating.

At the recent CAS Quarterly Meeting, Kevin Black announced he will be retiring from the State at the end of June. Kevin's extraordinary work teaching PAAC classes over the years is legendary, and saying he will be missed is a gross understatement. IPCAS joins the rest of the CAS chapters and his many well wishers in giving a Kevin a BIG THANK YOU for all he's done to further archaeology efforts by turning lay people into useful avocational archaeologists. Congratulations, Kevin, and enjoy your well-deserved time off! For those of us who have not yet completed all of the PAAC courses, we promise to not scare off your replacement instructor!

And speaking of PAAC, congrats go out to Karen Kinnear and Anne Robinson for receiving their PAAC Scholar Certificates at the CAS meeting after successfully completing all of the PAAC classes. Great job!

IPCAS Lecture

Great Houses, Great Leaders, and Great Changes: Mesa Verde's Role in the Creation of the Chaco World

Date: Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 pm (Third Thursday)

Location: University of Colorado Museum (CU Museum), Dinosaur Room

Speaker: Richard Wilshusen, Research Archaeologist, Paleocultural Research Group

Over the last three decades we have made remarkable progress in chronicling Chaco Canyon's peak period and its demise; but there still is a great divide among researchers regarding the nature of the organization of Chacoan society and its origins. I (and several other colleagues) have proposed that the very first great houses are found *embedded* in particular ninth century villages of the Mesa Verde region of Colorado, at a time well before the ascendancy of Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. The abandonment of these villages and dramatic demographic decline north of the San Juan River by the early tenth century set the stage for developments to the south in Chaco. Although this scenario is accepted as realistic relative to the archaeological evidence we presently have, it makes little or no sense in terms of a social history. Our reconstructions of the social organization of these early Mesa Verde villages—even those that might be early great houses—suggests a society totally inadequate to explain the scale and scope of the Chaco network that emerges in the following two centuries. My presentation will focus on transformations in houses, leadership, communities, and social networks that fundamentally alter the course of the Pueblo world between AD 850 and 1125. In these changes we can begin to see the social organization of the modern pueblos and to better understand Mesa Verde's role as one of the heartlands of this deep Pueblo history.

Richard Wilshusen (Ph.D., University of Colorado, 1991) has 35 years of experience as a field archaeologist, professor, curator, and contractor. He has worked with universities, CRM firms, state and federal government, and tribes. Wilshusen is best known for his research on early Pueblo village formation, Southwestern migration pathways, early great house communities, the Neolithic demographic transition, and Navajo ethnogenesis. He is the senior editor of *Crucible of Pueblos: The Early Pueblo Period in the Northern Southwest* (2012), co-editor (with Mark Varien) of *Seeking the Center Place: Archaeology and Ancient Communities in the Mesa Verde Region* (2002), and author of more than 30 book chapters or journal articles. Wilshusen served as the State Archaeologist/Deputy SHPO of Colorado for five years. He has had the good fortune to work with cross-disciplinary teams on a wide range of fundamental issues and counts himself lucky to have found archaeology as a path through life.



Can you spot Richard Wilshusen in this photo in highland Guatemala? This photo was taken during archaeological investigations at one of the main lineage "capitals" of the ancient Quiche Maya Empire. The organization of the highland Maya in the 16th century offers a useful comparison for understanding Chaco at the height of its influence. (Photo courtesy of Mark Varien)

Volunteer Opportunities - Pojoaque Lab

By Gretchen Acharya

Volunteers are continuing our work with Dr. Scott Ortman on the collection from a 1952 University of New Mexico field school that involved excavations within the current Pueblo of Pojoaque. We will meet from 3-6 PM Mondays in Archaeology Lab in the Hale Science Building at CU until mid May when we will suspend our work until the fall semester.

News Highlights from the World of Archaeology

By Christopher J. Kerns



There is a lot of archaeological news to report on for the last month and I am unfortunately unable to get to some of them. Instead I will try to cover some of these stories in next month's edition. This month it has been requested that I report on the discovery of a potential new Norse settlement in Newfoundland, Canada. [National Geographic](#) covered the story online on March 31, 2016 ahead of the release of NOVA's [Vikings Unearthed](#) which aired on April 6, 2016 on PBS. If you missed

the NOVA special it can still be viewed online at www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/vikings-uncearthed.htm. The potential new “Viking”¹ site at Point Rosee is located near Cape Anguille, Newfoundland approximately 300 miles southeast of the only confirmed Norse site in North America at L’Anse Aux Meadows. The site was discovered by archaeologist Sarah Parcak using satellite imagery (Strauss 2016). Dr. Parcak is a remote sensing expert and has previously used near infra-red satellite imaging from both commercial and NASA satellites to locate archaeological sites in Egypt. In the summer of 2015, Dr. Parcak and her team visited the site, conducted a magnetometry survey, and dug test excavation units in an attempt to confirm whether the site was a Norse outpost. The result of the first season of testing at the site was reported by National Geographic and by NOVA in the last month leading to a revival of American interest in Norse explorations of North America.

In 1837 the Danish scholar Carl Rafn published *American Antiquities* in which he argued that the Icelandic sagas detailing the journeys of Leif Eriksson and subsequent adventures supported the theory that Norse sailors visited and settled in North America around 1000 AD (Mancini 2002; Roylance 2007). The possibility of pre-Columbian Norse settlement in North America captured the imagination of Americans everywhere, but particularly those of Norse ancestry. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries there was a flood of supposed evidence verifying Norse settlement in North America recovered from the upper Mid-west and the Northeast. The purported discovery of a “Viking” grave in Massachusetts in the 1830s is even said to have even inspired the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s *Skeleton in Armor* (Mancini 2002: 873).

Unfortunately the potential of Norse settlement in North America quickly became associated with race and politics. In part, the public attention on “Vikings” in America was a diversion and response to the problematic conflicts taking place with Native Americans over land rights (Roylance 2007: 436). However, regional vanity as well as ethnic pride also further contributed to public enthusiasm. Consequently, a number of artefacts and sites were falsely attributed to Norse settlers. The Kensington rune stone in Minnesota and the Newport Tower in Connecticut were both part of the early narratives supporting Norse

¹ The term Viking has generally gone out of academic use. The term refers to a Scandinavian pirate or marauder. The term can be directly translated from Old Norse to mean “one from or who frequents the sea’s inlets.” The use of the term in Old Norse (and the sagas), however, generally refers to an action and means to go marauding or to take part in piracy. The term, therefore, is not the preferred term for referencing a diverse group of Scandinavians who were primarily farmers and traders and did not necessarily take part in marauding or piracy. The term Norse is used throughout this article instead and, when used, the term Viking is in quotes, often based on its use in a source text.

activities across the United States. The Kensington rune stone was purportedly discovered by a Minnesota farmer in 1898 and has been considered by most archaeologists to be a forgery since at least the 1940s

(Godfrey 1955: 41). The Newport Tower's supposed Norse association has also been shown to be false through archaeological investigations which took place as early as 1942. During excavation, colonial artefacts were found beneath the foundation of the tower within a secure context (Godfrey 1955: 38). Public enthusiasm for attributing the Kensington rune stone, the Newport Tower, and other unverified/debunked sites to the Norse continues to this day and the Minnesota Historical Society receives thousands of letters every year requesting that they recognize the supposed validity of the Kensington Rune Stone. There is a danger that the new discovery at Point Rosee will further fuel pseudo-archaeologies promoted by television shows like *America Unearthed*.



Foundations of a workshop dating from the Viking period at L'Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland, Canada
Photo by Torbenbrinker (available at: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26241977>)

It wasn't until the discovery and excavation of L'Anse Aux Meadows in Newfoundland between 1961 and 1968, that the Norse presence and settlement in North America was verified by archaeologists. In 1978 the site was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO signifying an acceptance by the majority of archaeologists that the Norse did indeed voyage to North America and that the Icelandic sagas genuinely describe, at least in part, real events which took place in North America.

North America, referred to in the sagas as Vinland, first appeared in a European written work by the German cleric Adam of Bremen dated to 1073 (Perkins 1974: 199). Subsequent historic documents include Ari Borgilsson's *Book of the Icelanders* dating to the 1120s, *The Greenlanders' saga* and *Eric the Red's saga*, both dating to the thirteenth or early fourteenth centuries (Perkins 1974: 200). The sagas suggested that three of Erik the Red's children – Leif, Thorvald and Freydis – visited North America and that there were at least three different voyages to Vinland (Perkins 1974: 203-205). The sagas also describe at least some conflict with Native Americans (referred to as Skraelings) during the Norse expeditions in North America. Overall, the sagas suggest a short period of Norse activity in North America and a brief, but failed, attempt at colonization. Therefore, based on the limited written record, it is unsurprising that very little verified evidence of the Norse presence in North America has been found by archaeologists. If Point Rosee is a Norse settlement, it has the potential to either reinforce or contradict what is known of the Norse in North America.

Since the discovery and excavation at L'Anse Aux Meadows, archaeologists have found sporadic and sometimes inconclusive evidence of Norse explores in North America. Eleventh century artefacts, including a copper coin were discovered in Maine (Strauss 2016). Possible Norse cordage was found by Canadian archaeologist Patricia Sutherland in 1999 during a re-examination of the Mary-Rousseliere's collections which came from the Nuvugvik site on Northern Baffin Island, however radiocarbon dating of the cordage suggests that it predates Norse settlement in both Iceland and Greenland (Park 2008: 192). In 2012, Southerland found ruins on Northern Baffin Island which she claims are the remains of a Norse Trading Post although the evidence still remains inconclusive (Strauss 2016). Consequently, if confirmed, Point Rosee would be the first new confirmed Norse site in North America since the discovery of L'Anse Aux Meadows over 55 years ago.

The team at Point Rosee began their on the ground investigation with a magnetometer survey which was then compared with the near infra-red satellite images to target areas of interest on the ground.

Magnetometer survey is very good at finding hearths as well as other archaeological features and is more commonly used in Europe than in North America. Excavation of one area of interest at the site revealed what appeared to be turf walls and an iron-working hearth (Strauss 2016). The archaeologists recovered charcoal and bog iron from the feature identified through the magnetometer survey which suggested the feature was used for roasting iron ore. It has been argued that bog iron is a prerequisite for Norse expansion and settlement as it is essential for producing metal objects such as nails necessary to build and repair ships (Bowles et al. 2011). The evidence for roasting bog iron and turf built walls at the site has lead the archaeological team to theorize that Point Rosee was primarily an iron-working camp which supported exploration and exploitation of resources within the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Strauss 2016). However, there remains insufficient evidence to confirm that the site is Norse in origin. Native Americans and later Basque fisherman are also known from the area, but both are unlikely to have been using an iron-smelting technique common to the medieval Norse.

The significance of this discovery does not necessarily come from the possibility of an additional Norse settlement in North America, rather the methods and technology used to find the site have greater archaeological importance. The use of near infra-red satellite imagery and non-invasive geophysical survey to identify possible archaeological sites has the potential to change the practice of archaeology in dramatic fashion. Dr. Parcak recently received a TED grant that will fund a project using satellite imagery to both find new sites as well as to monitor and manage known archaeological resources. The project hopes to engage the public in examining satellite imagery and participating in the archaeological process.

If you have any news stories you want reported on here, please contact Chris Kerns at cjkerns@hotmail.com. Additional news from the world of archaeology can be found at the following websites:

http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/fossils_ruins/archaeology/

<http://archaeology.org/news>

<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/rss/TACfeed.xml>

<http://westerndigs.org/>

<http://www.heritagedaily.com> (New this month!)

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Highlights

Site Steward Program

By Marty Anderson

Sue Struthers, an archaeologist with the US Forestry Service in Fort Collins, recently provided a list of 34 archaeological candidate sites for the stewardship program. All sites are located in the Arapaho National Forest and the Pawnee National Grasslands. This spring, a good deal of effort was spent on describing site accessibility for our volunteers so they could make informed decisions about which sites they would be able to reach. Such was provided for each site: distance from the Boulder area, elevation, type of vehicle required, and the level of physical effort required to reach the site. We are now considering the information and will soon select sites. If all continues to proceed as planned, we will be looking forward to a successful site stewardship season.

2016 Alice Hamilton Scholarship Awards

The 2016 Colorado Archaeological Society Alice Hamilton Scholarship Award Committee awarded \$3,600 this spring to a field of six Scholars consisting of five Masters Candidates and one PhD Candidate.

All of this year's applicants were well qualified and were supported with Letters of Recommendation from top archaeological educators and researchers around Colorado. The Scholars were from two institutions in Colorado, and projects involved research from Paleolithic through Modern periods.

The Scholarship requirement is that students be enrolled with at least half-time load at a Colorado institution of higher education in archaeology or related field. Awards are made on the quality of the application and worthiness of the project as it pertains to the enrichment of the field of archaeology, with an emphasis on Colorado, Southwestern or Rocky Mountain archaeology.

The Scholarship fund monies are generated by donation and through fund-raising activities at the State and local Chapter levels. \$750 is the maximum award allowed to any one student. Since Scholarship inception in 1987, CAS has awarded \$89,225 to 246 Scholars.

Alonzo Allen Interpretive Display

By Kris Holein

The public is invited to stop by and see an interpretive display of artifacts from the Alonzo Allen Cabin dig during Historic Preservation Month at Boulder's Carnegie Library for Local History. The small exhibit runs from May 2 through June 18 at the library, 1125 Pine Street in Boulder, and is open from 10 to 5, Monday through Friday, and from 10 to 3 on Saturday, closed Sunday.

With the help of IPCAS volunteers and Bob Brunswig of UNC, the little village of Allenspark dug into its past—specifically, the 1864 fireplace that their namesake, Alonzo Allen, built in 1864 for his cabin east of town. The cabin was rumored to have burned to the ground in 1894, the year of his death. Did it really burn? Was the year a coincidence? How big was the cabin and what did it look like? The resulting site survey unearthed fascinating answers, a few new questions, and some amazing artifacts. This is your chance to see what had been buried for 150 years!



Karol Stoker excavating the fireplace. Photo courtesy of Gretchen Acharya.

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Members are encouraged to send ideas or material for The Calumet. All content is subject to review and approval by the IPCAS Board.

The submission deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

Send to joan.prebish@yahoo.com

