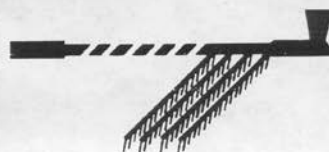


May 1995, Vol 3, No 5

CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 14 - 20 / Colorado Archaeological Preservation Week. IPCAS volunteers will take the Rock Creek interpretive trunks into Boulder County classrooms.

May 13,14 / Field trip to Spanish Diggings. Call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414.

May 16 / IPCAS Executive Board Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Boulder Police Bureau, 1805 33rd Street, Boulder.

May 23 / IPCAS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., The Meeting Place, Crossroads Mall, Boulder. **Speaker: Meg Van Ness, "Plant Remains in Archaeological Sites"**.

May 28 / Denver Museum of Natural History, Friends of Anthropology, field trip to front range sites: Magic Mountain, Crescent & Lamb Spring. Led by Jim Dixon & Steve Kalasz. \$40 F.O.A. member, \$60 non-member. Call Ann Beck, 370-8287.

May 23 / Pawnee Grassland Excavations w/ Bob Brunswig resumes. Through June 10. Call Tome Cree, 776-7004.

July 1-4 / CAS Annual Encampment, McPhee Reservoir, Cortez, Co

July 17-21 / Devil's Thumb Valley Excavation with Jean Kindig. Call Jean Kindig 443-1702.

July 31 - Aug 5 / Caribou Lake Excavation with Bonnie Pitblado begins. Also on 7/12. Call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414.

IPCAS GENERAL MEETING

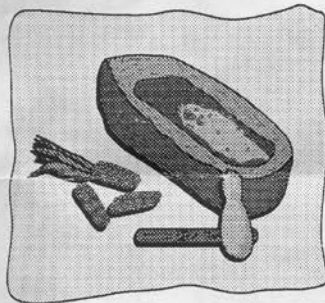
May 23, 1995, 7:30 pm, The Meeting Place.

"Edible Plants of Colorado: What to Eat When Safeway is Closed, by Margaret Van Ness.

With a little bit of knowledge and a good digging stick a resourceful person can find plenty to eat among the wild plants of Colorado. Whereas this virtual cornucopia of seeds, berries, and roots would never be mistaken for a Big Mac, it did provide a year around supply of nutrients and calories to sustain the various prehistoric populations for thousands of years. Some of these plants, such as wild plums and pinon nuts, require only a slight stretch of the modern imagination to be considered for tonight's dinner. Others, such as slime covered cattail roots, stinking gourds, nauseous rabbit brush, and the aptly named pincushion cactus take a little more thought. Thankfully, the collection and preparation of these plants is often described in ethnographic accounts from the late 1800s and early 1900s. These accounts provide great reading and valuable analogies for the interpretation of plant remains from archaeological contexts.

This hour presentation will include a slide show and hands on experience (not with the pincushion cactus!) with edible plants and plant remains from archaeological sites. The participants will gain a greater understanding of prehistoric subsistence in addition to some thoughts concerning ecology and environmental adaptation.

Margaret Van Ness is an archaeologist with the state of Colorado and has 20 years of experience with sites throughout central North America. She holds a Masters degree from the University of Northern Arizona and specializes in the analysis of plant remains from archaeological sites.



CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

BE HERE THEN

Let's recall that the prehistoric resources that we all enjoy studying are principally protected and made available to us by Federal regulation. The current anti-regulatory fervor in Washington could quickly reduce or suspend the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. The NHPA will be scrutinized, in June, by a US Senate subcommittee on Parks and Historic Preservation in June. Our own Senator, **Ben Nighthorse Campbell** is chairman of this committee. A Letter to Ben explaining the irreplaceable value of our nation's cultural resources would be helpful at this time. His address is **380 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510.**

Since the Calumet won't be published in June, this is the last chance to remind you about the **CAS Encampment** hosted by the San Juan and Hisatsinom CAS chapters on July 1-4 at the McPhee Reservoir, north of Cortez. This Anasazi country! You'll soon receive a newsletter from the State CAS with more specifics, but here are some highlights: Field trips to Hovenweep, the Pigg Site, Mesa Verde, Ute Mtn. Ute Park, Cannonball Ruin, Lost Canyon, Crow Canyon and the Anasazi Heritage Center and the Ute Mtn Ute Casino; skywatching; folk music, (that's you folk); talks by local archaeologists; a buffalo barbecue; and of course the **atlatl** contest!

It was snowing like heck in Boulder on the first day of field work at the Pawnee Grasslands. Undaunted, nearly a dozen IPCAS volunteers ventured east into that nasty sleet and emerged into clearing skies over the site. I missed (wimped) this first day, and when I arrived on day two - **Tom Cree, Michael Landem, Martha Patterson, Russell Smith, Ken Larson, Warren Bradshaw, Pam and Quintin Baker, Dave Pearson, Michael Braiburg, Mairead Nagle, Vanda Nathan and Chris Prillwitz** were at work under **Bob Brunswig's** supervision on several sites in the West Stoneham vicinity - an overlook, a quarry, a rock shelter, a large lithic scatter, and a stone circle concentration. There's a site type for every taste, and a beautiful view of the Pawnee Buttes and the surrounding plains for 15 miles in all directions. Work begins again on May 23rd. The West Stoneham Archaeological District will be officially dedicated on June 2nd at 10:00 A.M.

Former IPCAS President and First Lady, **Rick and Sue Lippincott**, two of our most dynamic members in years past, have moved to Greeley, and are changing their membership affiliation to the Fort Collins Chapter of CAS. Rick and Sue helped our chapter through the delicate transition from its former incarnation as the Lyons Chapter, and Rick was the main force behind soliciting the SHF grant for the Rock Creek Project. We'll miss their inspiration and energy, and hope to see them at future CAS events.

Jeannie Hamilton has been IPCAS's Treasurer and Membership Secretary since 1988. She has informed the Executive Board that she'll have to resign her post in June due to the demands of her new independent business enterprise. Jeannie, we'll miss your tireless and exacting accounting and organizing. Thanks for all your great work over the years. Hope you'll have more time now for CAS field trips. When I wondered how the chapter would fill the void left by Jeannie, **Dick Owens** rides up on his white horse and volunteered to take the Treasurer's position. **Thanks, Dick.**

I'm packed for the Spanish Diggings field trip. Can't wait to get up into Paleo country. Don't forget the general meeting on May 23, which will be our last until September.

Try to get into the field this summer! Absorb the past like tomorrow counted on it, (doesn't it?). See you then.

Steve Montgomery, IPCAS President

AN INVITATION

This June 2, at 10:00 A.M., the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland and the University of Northern Colorado will be dedicating the West Stoneham Archaeological District's listing to the National Register of Historic Places. This District is a series of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites that the Forest Service and the University of Northern Colorado have cooperatively been investigating for the past several years.

After the short dedication ceremony there will be tours of the district given, including a look at some of the active "pits" that are being excavated. Dress casually, and come prepared for a few hours on the prairie; sunscreen, hats, sturdy shoes or boots, and water are essentials.

Your presence at this dedication ceremony is cordially requested. If you are able to attend, please call Matt Custer at (970) 498-1148.

To reach the site of the dedication, travel east from I-25 on Highway 14 to the town of New Raymer. We'll meet in the parking lot of the "Pawnee Station" restaurant. It is on the south side of the highway. We'll meet at 9:45 A.M. and travel from there to the actual site, another short drive away. The town of New Raymer is approximately 1 hour from Greeley and 1.5 hours from Fort Collins.

M. M. Underwood, Jr.

Forest Supervisor,

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

Pawnee National Grassland

United States Department of Agriculture

PAAC SUMMER TRAINING w/ Kevin Black

Kevin Black has announced that the 1995 PAAC Training Survey will be in Anasazi country just east of Cortez on state land adjacent to the Montezuma County fairgrounds. No doubt it will be hot, but the good news is that there are trees on the property. The dates of the survey have been set for July 11 - 20 with a second session possible in August if the survey is not completed.

The selection of volunteers will be handled the same as before. All one needs to do is send Kevin a short note expressing your desire to participate. He also needs to know which dates within the survey period you are definitely available. Note that in addition to week days, the July 11 - 20 includes a single weekend. One can volunteer for as little as one day or as much as all days of the survey, but if the demand is overwhelming Kevin may not be able to accommodate all choices.

The survey experience offered can apply toward two different certificates; 1) site recording experience toward the "four recorded sites" requirement of the Provisional Surveyor certificate, and/or 2) supervised survey work toward the "15 day of survey" requirement of the Certified Surveyor I certificate. Assuming that more people request to participate in the 1995 survey than can be accommodated, preference will be given to those PAAC participants who have: 1) submitted a signed PAAC application form, 2) have successfully completed the Basic Site Surveying Techniques course, and 3) are close to achieving one of the above two certificates.

As in previous summers, accommodations at the project area will be on your own: volunteers will be responsible for providing their own food and shelter, but the Historical Society will provide basic surveying tools. Camping and hotel facilities are readily available in the project vicinity; details will be supplied to those volunteers who will be participating in the survey. Applicants can send Kevin a postcard indicating the specific dates they will be available along with their name, address and phone number. Kevin can also be reached by phone, (303) 866-4671, if you have questions or comments about PAAC.

Tool-making tests tell tale of time

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - Last summer Drs Kathy Schick and Nicholas Toth drove out to Oregon, bought 2,000 pounds of obsidian, quartzite and basalt from three quarries, hauled it back to their Bloomington home in a

rental truck and dumped it in their backyard.

For Toth and Schick, a husband-and-wife team of archaeologists at Indiana University, the load of rocks is a vehicle in interpreting human evolution.

Over the next few years they, their students, volunteers and a pygmy chimpanzee named Kanzi, well-known in the anthropology community for his participation in language experiments, will flake the stones into tools, just as humans' hominid ancestors did beginning 2.5 million years ago. The lithic experiments are part of their project to investigate human origins and evolution through technology.

"If anything defines the human condition, it's tools and technology," said Toth, who, with Schick, founded the university's Center for Research into the Anthropological Foundations of Technology in 1986, when they were junior members of the anthropology faculty. As hominids started using tools and becoming carnivores, they began to "produce simulated biological organs - slashing, crushing organs," Toth said.

"You see a reduction in the size of the teeth and jaws because we're replacing biology through technology," he continued.

In recent years their varied research has included investigating the tool-making ability of a pygmy chimpanzee, again using Kanzi, and reinterpreting the uses of the earliest recognized stone implements, those first identified at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and known as Oldowan tools.

Next year, working with a radioneurologist, they plan to make tools out of stone themselves while their brains are being imaged by positron emission tomography. The experiment may show whether there is a correlation between tool making and other cognitive skills, such as language.

Toth and Schick began collaborating in 1976, when they met on a dig in their home state, Ohio. They married a year later, when they were graduate students at the University of California at Berkeley, and spent half of each of the next three years living in a two-person tent at an early hominid site in the badlands of Koobi Fora in Kenya.

The most important aspect of their research, and one they have carried further than other researchers, is **experimental archaeology**. As a graduate student, Toth, 42, realized that to find out who was making the stone tools, he needed to understand how they were made.

Building on the work of a few other lithic tool-makers, he began flaking stones and testing out the products. Schick soon joined in these efforts, which included butchering

various animals, including a few elephants. (All had died of natural causes.)

From the experiments Toth developed an important hypothesis about Oldowan tools, the simple flaked stone implements that first appeared 2.5 million years ago and were named by Dr. Mary Leakey and Dr. Louis Leakey.

"The easy but now erroneous inference was that because of their different shapes, the cores were the tools," Schick said of these implements.

But in their experimental butcheries, Toth and Schick found that the small flakes struck from a core were much more effective in cutting than the core itself.

With an obsidian flake they could slice through the one-inch-thick hide of an elephant. When the blade dulled, after about five minutes of work, they simply hammered on the core with a large stone to get another flake.

"When people think of stone they think 'primitive, not functional,' but you can't get anything sharper than a flake," Toth said.

By Brenda Fowler. The New York Times.

Reprinted from The Denver Post, 4/30/95.

OAXACA, MEXICO

Monte Alban. Monte Alban was occupied from ca. 500 B.C. until the sixteenth century, reaching its zenith in the Early Classic period (ca. A.D. 150-600) when it was the capital of the Zapotec civilization.

The site has a Main Plaza, more than 260 feet long, surrounded by pyramids and platforms. Two of the most interesting structures date to the early occupation of the site in the Late Preclassic period (ca. 400 B.C. - A.D. 150): the Temple of the Danzantes, decorated with numerous relief panels of dancers, and Building J, an astronomical observatory aligned with the star Capella. About

170 tombs have been found, including one (Tomb 104) whose walls are elaborately carved and frescoed. Excavation dates for 1995 have not yet been determined. **Getting there:** Monte Alban is located about 20 minutes west of the city of Oaxaca, and can be reached by car or bus. The site is open daily 8:00-5:00; entrance fee Monday - Saturday, free Sunday. A museum, bookstore, and restaurant are located at the site. There are many hotels, campsites, and restaurants in Oaxaca. **Contact:** Director, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Pino Suarez 715, Oaxaca, (tel) 52-951-50400.

Reprinted: ARCHAEOLOGY, May/June, 1995.



Researchers uncover skeletons of early mammals in Gobi Desert

In a finding that could shed light on the early evolution of mammals scientists have uncovered exquisitely preserved skeletons of previously unknown, shrewlike creatures that lived during the age of the dinosaurs.

Even tiny ear bones are present in the 80-million-year-old fossils, found in Mongolia's Gobi Desert, said researcher Michael Novacek.

Five skeletons were found together in a nest, Novacek said. No such complete specimens of this kind of mammal had been found before from that time period, he said.

The creatures, about 6 inches long from nose to the tip of the tail, represent a previously unknown species, Novacek said.

"These five individuals give us so much exquisite detail on skeletal features that they're very important in sorting out early mammalian evolution," he said. "This is a very important window into the roots of the history of the modern mammal groups."

The find is "a tremendous discovery," commented William Clemens, curator of mammals at the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California at Berkeley. The fossils were unearthed last summer.

A summary of findings so far at the site is presented in today's issue of the journal *Nature* by scientists including Novacek, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Researchers last summer also found the first known skull of a turkey-size flightless bird called *Mononykus*, and eight skeletons of two-legged dinosaurs called oviraptors, including one unusually big one measuring about 10 feet from its head to the tip of its whiplike tail, Novacek said.

In all, the site so far has produced complete or partial skeletons of more than 100 dinosaurs and skulls of more than 400 mammals and lizards, many with skeletons attached.

"It probably gives us a better slice of a community from the age of the dinosaurs than just about any site," Novacek said.

Last summer's digging also provided new evidence that the fossils were so well-preserved because blowing sand quickly covered the animals after they died. Some of the creatures may have been killed by sandstorms, he said.

By Malcolm Ritter, AP - Reprinted from DC, 3/30/1995

The copy of this Calumet issue was incomplete.