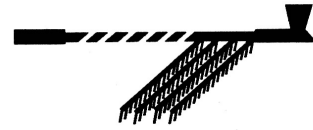


CALUMET



Newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society
November, 2007

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General (lecture) meetings are held in the University of Colorado Museum, Dinosaur Room on the Second Thursday of most Months, at 7:00 PM. The public is always welcome.

Web Site: WWW.INDIANPEAKSARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

- November 1** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium
November 7 PAAC Course, session 5
November 8 **Presentation Meeting**, Robin M. Roberts
Topic: Historic Homesteads on the Pawnee National Grassland. See Page 2
November 14 PAAC Course, session 6
November 28 PAAC Course, session 7
- December 6** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium
December 13 **Christmas Party**
- January 3** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium
January 10 **Presentation Meeting**, Kevin Black, Topic: Open
- February 7** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium
February 14 **Presentation Meeting**, Sheila Goff, Topic: Mantle's Cave Site
- March 6** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium
March 13 **Presentation Meeting**, Dr. Nicole Branton, Topic: Tie-Hacking Camps
- April 3** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium
April 10 **Presentation Meeting**, Dr. Frederic Sellet / Dr. Bob Brunswig,
Topic: UNC's North Park Cultural Landscapes Project

Membership Information

New Members:

Judith Cooper

Renewing Members:

Patricia Adler, Bill Benjamin, Mike Landem, Ken Larson,
Sara Michl, Isadore Million, and Clay & Lynda Volkmann

Glad you are with IPCAS.

For expiring memberships, please check your mailing label.

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Doing Historic Archaeology on the Pawnee National Grassland

Robin M. Roberts
Colorado State University

This presentation will outline preliminary results of an ongoing thesis research project, which focuses on locating and recording homesteads on the Pawnee National Grassland in northeastern Colorado. The results discussed during this presentation were collected during the summer of 2005 and the summer of 2006 and include the use of historical documents; archaeological evidence and oral histories.

The importance of looking at all available resources equally when “doing” historical archaeology will be emphasized during this presentation and the results of this project will support this argument. In addition to the archaeological evidence recorded during this project, a brief history of homesteading on the Plains will also be discussed to help highlight the importance of this research project.

Lastly, this presentation will briefly discuss land use choices by homesteaders in the project area and the usefulness of GIS technology in site recording and in analyzing data.

Robin M. Roberts is a candidate for a master's degree in anthropology at Colorado State University. Her focus is on archaeology and she is currently doing research on homesteads on the Pawnee National Grassland.

Robin just recently completed her requirements for a master's certificate in geospatial science and will graduate with both degrees in the fall of 2008. Robin is a past recipient of the Greenacre Scholarship and the Alice Hamilton Scholarship and she is currently the VP of the NCC CAS chapter.

Copper Study

After having dug to a depth of 50 feet, Mexican scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Mexicans, in the weeks that followed, Texan scientists dug to a depth of 75 feet, and shortly after, headlines in the Houston newspapers read:

"Texas archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Mexicans."

One week later, Navajo Nation Council in Window Rock, Navajo Times newsletter reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 90 feet in wash beds near Kayenta, Elmer Chee, a self-taught archeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Chee has therefore concluded that 300+ years ago Navajos had already gone wireless."

1,400-year-old manioc field discovered in El Salvador



Graduate student Monica Guerra holds a plaster cast of a manioc cutting (top) that was placed horizontally in the planting bed by the ancient farmers just hours before the eruption. She is also holding fresh manioc root.

BOULDER, Colorado -- A University of Colorado at Boulder team excavating an ancient Maya village in El Salvador buried by a volcanic eruption 1,400 years ago has discovered an ancient field of manioc, the earliest known evidence for cultivation of the calorie-rich tuber in the New World.

The manioc field was discovered under roughly 10 feet of ash, said CU-Boulder anthropology professor Payson Sheets, who has been directing the excavation of the ancient village of Ceren since its discovery in 1978. Considered the best-preserved ancient village in Latin America, Ceren's buildings, artifacts and landscape were frozen in time by the sudden eruption of the nearby Loma Caldera volcano about 600 AD, providing a unique window on the everyday lives of prehistoric Mayan farmers.

The discovery marks the first time manioc cultivation has been discovered at an archaeological site anywhere in the Americas, said Sheets. The National Geographic Society funded the 2007 CU-Boulder research effort at Ceren, the most recent of five research grants made by NGS to the ongoing excavations by Sheets and his students.

"We have long wondered what else the prehistoric Mayan people were growing and eating besides corn and beans, so finding this field was a jackpot of sorts for us," he said. "Manioc's extraordinary productivity may help explain how the Classic Maya at huge sites like Tikal in Guatemala and Copan in Honduras supported such dense populations."

In June, the researchers used ground-penetrating radar, drill cores and test pits to pinpoint and uncover several large, parallel planting beds separated by walkways, said Sheets. Ash hollows in the planting beds left by decomposed plant material were cast with dental plaster to preserve their shapes and subsequently were identified as manioc tubers, an important, high-carbohydrate food source for Latin Americans today, said Sheets.

Evidence indicated the manioc bushes had just been cut down, most of the tubers harvested and the beds replanted with manioc stalks placed horizontally in the soil to regenerate bushes for the next cycle of growth, he said. The presence of volcanic ash just underneath hand-shaped dirt overhangs in the beds indicates the stalks were planted "just hours before the eruption," he said.

"What we essentially found was a freshly planted manioc field that was 1,400 years old," said Sheets. "Once again, we felt like we were right on the heels of these ancient people because of the exquisite preservation provided by the volcanic ash."

Each hand-shaped planting bed was about three feet wide and two feet high - about 10 times larger than traditional planting beds for corn - although the lengths of the rows are still unknown, he said. Each manioc stalk, or cutting, had been carefully placed in the ground with a growth "node" pointing toward the surface to generate a new bush and several nodes pointing down to generate the edible tubers and regular roots, he said.

Archaeologists had suspected ancient Mayans had cultivated and consumed manioc for its high-energy value, he said. Also known as cassava, manioc provides one of the highest yields of food energy per acre per day of any cultivated crop in the world.

The CU-Boulder team is working with scientists at the Smithsonian Institution to develop new soil-analysis techniques to detect starch grains like those from manioc that will work at a wide range of archaeological sites, said Sheets. "We don't want to find out that Ceren was unique in manioc cultivation," said Sheets. "We hope archaeologists eventually find evidence for this kind of activity at sites throughout the region. From an archaeological standpoint, there are few things as important as discovering the sources of day-to-day subsistence for ancient cultures."

Sheets and his colleagues previously determined the eruption at Ceren occurred on an early August evening because of the height of corn stalks and the fact that the farming implements had been brought inside but the sleeping mats had not yet been rolled out.

Thus far 12 buildings at Ceren - believed to have been home to several hundred people - have been excavated, including living quarters, storehouses, workshops, kitchens, religious buildings and a community sauna. Several dozen other structures located with ground-penetrating radar remain buried under up to 17 feet of ash, said Sheets.

Although the absence of human remains at Ceren initially puzzled scientists, the 1993 discovery that an earthquake rocked the site just prior to the eruption indicated the villagers might have had just enough warning to flee. "They did not even have time to remove their most valued belongings," said Sheets.

Preservation of organic materials at Ceren - including thatched roofs, house beams, woven baskets, cloth and grain caches - has been deemed superior to the organic preservation at the Italian site of Pompeii, by archaeologists and vulcanologists who have visited the Salvadoran site from around the world.



Graduate student Christine Dixon is seen in an ancient manioc planting bed that was buried and preserved under ten feet of ash following a volcanic eruption at the ancient village of Ceren in El Salvador.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2007-08/uoca-ctd082007.php

High Country News - Western Roundup
October 15, 2007
Eryn Gable

People in southeastern Colorado are mad at the military. But the resisters aren't long-haired peaceniks, they are mostly ranchers whose land happens to lie in the path of a proposed half-million-acre expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. Ranchers fight a military proposal to expand training ground in southeastern Colorado. Antelope peer out from behind a cluster of wild sunflowers growing along the dusty dirt roads of southeastern Colorado, a place where you can still find wagon ruts left over from travelers on the Old Santa Fe Trail. On the walls of redrock canyons there are centuries-old petroglyphs.

If the military has its way, a half-million acres of this land may become a training ground for combat in the Middle East. The Army has set its sights on expanding its 235,000-acre Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site by more than 400,000 acres, a move it says is necessary to "accurately simulate anticipated, actual, combat conditions." Although Army officials have said they want to purchase the additional land from "willing sellers," ranchers in the area believe the military will use eminent domain to take their land. The Army has done it before, when the training facility was first established in the 1980s.

Expansion opponents have won some significant victories so far, with both the U.S. House and Senate adopting amendments to their military funding bills that would prohibit funding for the expansion and related studies next year. But no one knows whether that provision will remain intact in the final spending bill, especially since it was opposed in the Senate by Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard, R, who will sit on the conference committee responsible for writing the final legislation. Even if the amendment survives, it is likely to prove just a skirmish in what promises to be a long battle.

Executive Board Meeting - Thursday, August 2, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM at The Atrium in Boulder.

Attendees: Damon, Gleichman, Hofmaier, Holien, McComb, Pitre, Turner.

Secretary's Report: See Minutes from May 2007. Approved as written.

Treasurer's Report (McComb): Account Balance is \$3,155.70.

Presidents' Report (Damon): No updates on possible classes, Whoop-Up Canyon tour, etc.

Presidents' Report (Holie): Completed follow-up report to Colorado Historical Society regarding grant funding expenditures for the May program, and returned \$9. No communication from Paul Alford regarding USFS site stewardship. Have arranged for Site stewardship visit to Lava Cliffs site in RMNP with Bill Butler for August 19. Updates from CAS Quarterly Meeting in Gunnison on July 28:

7 IPCAS members participated in the PAAC Summer Survey with Kevin Black at Hermit Permit in early July. Only 2 flakes were found during the entire survey. CAS Membership Chair (Lora Van Renselaar) needs updated email addresses from members in order for them to receive notifications about CAS Survey newsletter.

The CAS Annual Meeting will be held in Aurora, hosted by the Denver Chapter, September 28-30. The Denver Chapter has produced a calendar for 2008, which will be for sale at the meeting. Raffle tickets are now on sale for a Zuni Squash Blossom necklace and earrings set. Suitable items are requested for the Silent Auction, an annual fund-raising event for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund.

Old Business: Speaker list for 2007 is complete. Several possible speakers were discussed for 2008. Gleichman will set up a field trip to Rabbit Mountain and Indian Mountain for this fall (update: trip is scheduled for Saturday, October 6.).

New Business: Time to start looking ahead to the 2008 IPCAS Officers and Board election. Holien announced she would not be a candidate for Co-President next year. After discussion, the Board decided to make a \$50 donation to the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund in memoriam of IPCAS members who passed away this year.

Open Floor: none.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. Kris Holien, IPCAS Co-President, Secretary Pro Tem

2007 IPCAS Officers, Board Members, and major functions

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Web Site: WWW.INDIANPEAKSARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER	
___ Individual \$28.50 / Year	___ New _____ Date
___ Family \$33 / Year	___ Renewal
___ Student \$14.25 / Year, with Calumet delivery by e-mail	
Tax-Exempt Donation __ \$10, __ \$25, __ \$50, Other _____	
NAME _____	TELEPHONE (____) _____
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Mail to: _____ PO Box 18301	
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When you join/renew you receive the <i>Calumet</i> and <i>Southwestern Lore</i> , the quarterly publication of the Colorado Archaeological Society.	

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