

The Calumet Newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society November 2015

INDIAN PEAKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Presentation (lecture) meetings are held in the University of Colorado Museum (CU Museum), Dinosaur Room from September to May (except Dec), at 7:00 PM.

The public is always welcome at presentation meetings.

Web Site: WWW.INDIANPEAKSARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

- Nov 12** **IPCAS November 2015 Presentation** (Second Thursday)
Topic: ***La Consentida: The Origins of Village Life in Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico***
Speaker: Guy Hepp
7:00 pm. Dinosaur room, CU Museum of Natural History.
For directions and parking go to <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/visit/directions>
See page 2 & page 5 for details.
- Dec 10** **IPCAS Holiday Party**
IPCAS Members only- Details to come
Bring an appetizer to share. Wine & Beer will be available.
Enjoy field trip photos.
- Jan 14** **IPCAS January 2016 Presentation** (Second Thursday)
Topic: ***Missing the Boat: Ancient Dugout Canoes in the Mississippi and Missouri River Valleys***
Speaker: Peter Wood
7:00 pm. Dinosaur room, CU Museum of Natural History.
For directions and parking go to <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/visit/directions>
See page 3 for details.
- Feb 11** **IPCAS February 2016 Presentation** (Second Thursday)
Topic: TBD
Speaker: TBD
7:00 pm. Dinosaur room, CU Museum of Natural History.
For directions and parking go to <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/visit/directions>
- Mar 10** **IPCAS March 2016 Presentation** (Second Thursday)
Topic: TBD
Speaker: TBD
7:00 pm. Dinosaur room, CU Museum of Natural History.
For directions and parking go to <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/visit/directions>

IPCAS November 2015 Presentation



La Consentida: The Origins of Village Life in Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico

Speaker: Guy Hepp

Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 pm. Dinosaur room, CU Museum of Natural History.

The La Consentida archaeological site in coastal Oaxaca, Mexico was occupied during Mesoamerica's initial Early Formative period (2000–1500 BCE), a time of fundamental socioeconomic transitions to sedentism, agriculture, and social complexity. Several AMS radiocarbon dates from secure contexts demonstrate that pottery and mounded earthen architecture at La Consentida are among Mesoamerica's earliest known examples. In this talk I will discuss the implications of La Consentida's ceramics for the adoption of pottery in Mesoamerica, with particular reference to evidence for interaction with regions such as highland Oaxaca and West Mexico. I will argue that the newly identified Tlacuache phase assemblage complicates current models for the adoption of pottery in Mesoamerica. I will also discuss technological, bioarchaeological, and isotopic evidence for the establishment of sedentism and changes in culinary practices related to maize agriculture at the site. Together, multiple lines of evidence suggest that La Consentida was a community in transformation during a watershed moment in the history of the Americas.

Guy Hepp graduated with a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado in 2015. His dissertation research focused on the archaeology of the Mesoamerican Early Formative period (2000-850 BCE) in coastal Oaxaca, Mexico. Since 2008, Guy has directed field and laboratory research of the early village site of La Consentida. His interests include the establishment of agrarian villages and complex social networks in Mesoamerica and elsewhere. In related research, Hepp also studies ancient ceramic figurines and musical instruments as indicators of cosmology, ritual practice, and social organization. He has practiced archaeology in Mexico and the United States since 2000.

[See page 5 for background article on La Consentida.](#)

IPCAS JANUARY 2016 Presentation



"The manner of making their boates" by Theodor de Bry after a John White watercolor. European view of Indians making a dugout canoe, using fire and seashell scrapers (1590).

Missing the Boat: Ancient Dugout Canoes in the Mississippi and Missouri River Valleys

Speaker: Peter H. Wood, emeritus historian, Duke University

Thursday, January 14, 2016, at 7:00 pm. Dinosaur room, CU Museum of Natural History.

When archaeologists discuss the great Mississippian site at Cahokia near East St. Louis, a crucial piece of the puzzle still seems to be missing. They know much about the great mound-building center, and about the trade goods and tribute that flowed to it. But they rarely talk about *how* those objects moved great distances. So far, we have never recovered a huge and ancient wooden canoe in the Mississippi Valley. (Indeed, we can't even imagine the immense trees from which such dugouts were made a thousand years ago!) But indirect evidence from other places and disciplines strongly points to the existence and importance of such vessels. This slide talk by a Duke University historian of early America, explores how long such boats were in use, and why they disappeared.

Speaker Biography - Peter H. Wood grew up in St. Louis, giving him a life-long interest in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. He studied history at Harvard and at Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar in 1964. He taught early American history at Duke University from 1976 to 2008, and in 2011 he received the Asher Distinguished Teaching Award of the American Historical Association. He is the co-author, with UNL's Tim Borstelmann and others, of an important U.S. History survey, *Created Equal*, now in its fifth edition.

Wood is the author of several widely used books on early American slavery, *Black Majority* and *Strange New Land*. A wide-ranging scholar, Wood has written about Native American demography and African American slave labor camps, as well as "Television as Dream" and Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon. Intrigued by early French exploration, he published an article on LaSalle in the *American Historical Review* (April, 1984), and this fall his essay on Baron Lahontan will appear in the *Journal of the Iowa Archaeology Society*. An interest in material culture has sparked Wood's research on Native American dipper gourds, Sea Island rice fanning baskets, and, most recently, ancient Mississippian dugout canoes.

In addition, Dr. Wood is the author of three books on the images of black Americans created by the great artist Winslow Homer. His most recent study, entitled *Near Andersonville: Winslow Homer's Civil War*, is based on the 2009 Huggins Lectures at Harvard University. He is currently working on a profile of John Anthony Copeland, a black North Carolinian who accompanied John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Dr. Wood lives in Longmont, Colorado, with his wife, Pulitzer-Prize-winning historian Elizabeth Fenn, who chairs the History Department at CU-Boulder.

Unearthed: Ancient Life in the Boulder Valley **Exhibit at CU Museum of Natural History**



This new exhibit features a collection of 80+ stone tools known as The Mahaffy Cache that was found in a Boulder backyard in 2007. The artifacts were studied by CU Boulder Professor of Archaeology Doug Bamforth, Ph.D. He dates the tools to 13,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age.

The discovery of stone tools from the late Pleistocene within the city limits of Boulder is a rare event in archaeology. This is the first time the tools will be on display for the public. The exhibit includes interactive elements and video, as well as replicas of the tools that visitors can pick up and hold. For more information go to <https://cumuseum.colorado.edu/current-exhibits>.

A Brief Overview of La Consentida

By Guy David Hepp

La Consentida is an initial Early Formative period (1650–1400 BCE) Mesoamerican archaeological site located on the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, Mexico (Figure 1). The site was first discovered by archaeologists and excavated with a single test unit during a regional reconnaissance project in the 1980s (A. A. Joyce 2005). It has been the focus of intensive investigation with the La Consentida Archaeological Project (LCAP) since 2008. The LCAP has been carried out with financial assistance from the National Science Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, the Colorado Archaeological Society, and other sources (Hepp 2015).



Figure 1: Just before sunrise on the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, Mexico

La Consentida is found in the lower Río Verde Valley, approximately 6.5 km from Oaxaca's modern coastline (Figure 2). During the Early Formative period (1650–850 BCE), the site was probably positioned within 4 km of an open bay (Goman, Joyce, and Mueller 2005, 2013). Although sediment cores indicate maize cultivation and human-induced land clearance in the region by the late Archaic (7000–1650 BCE), previous research has suggested that the valley had only sparse human settlement until the Middle Formative period (850–400 BCE) (Goman, Joyce, and Mueller 2005; A. A. Joyce 1991; A. A. Joyce and Goman 2012). La Consentida covers 4.5 hectares and is dominated by Platform 1, an earthen construction measuring 300 x 100 x 5 meters (Figure 3). Though a few nearby sites contain redeposited Early Formative remains and perhaps buried primary deposits, excavations at La Consentida remain the only study of primary Early Formative contexts in the region and in much of Pacific coastal Mexico.

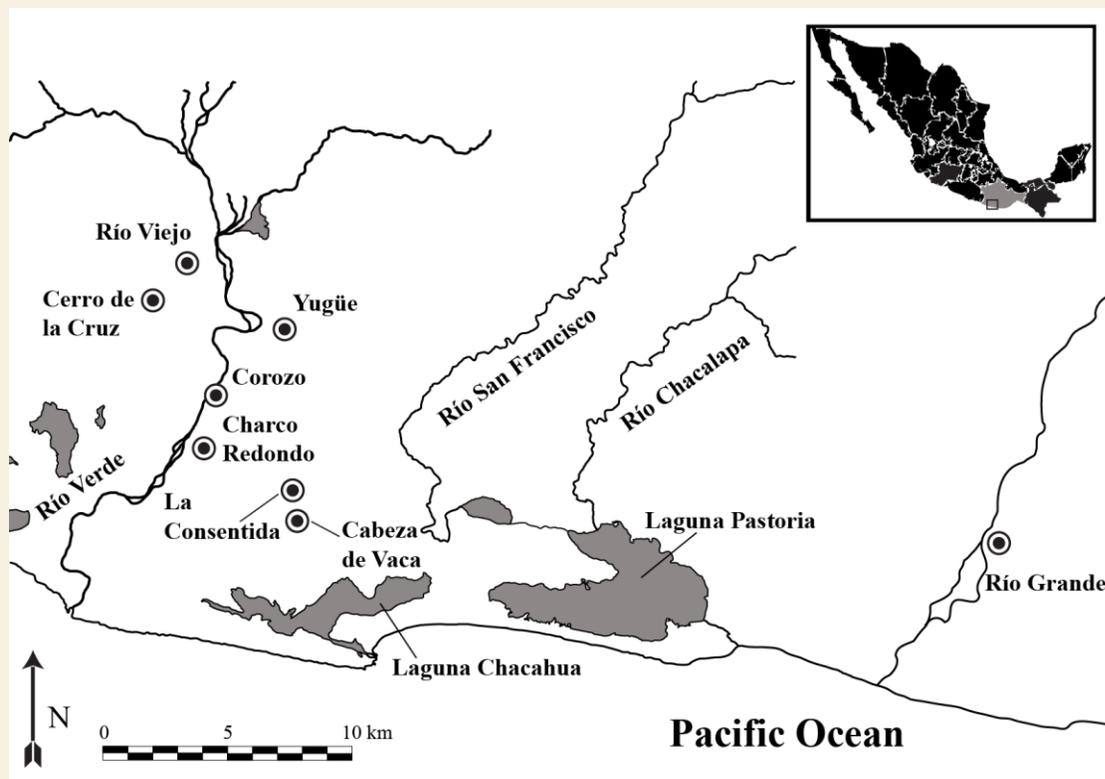


Figure 2: A map of the lower Río Verde Valley with key Formative period sites

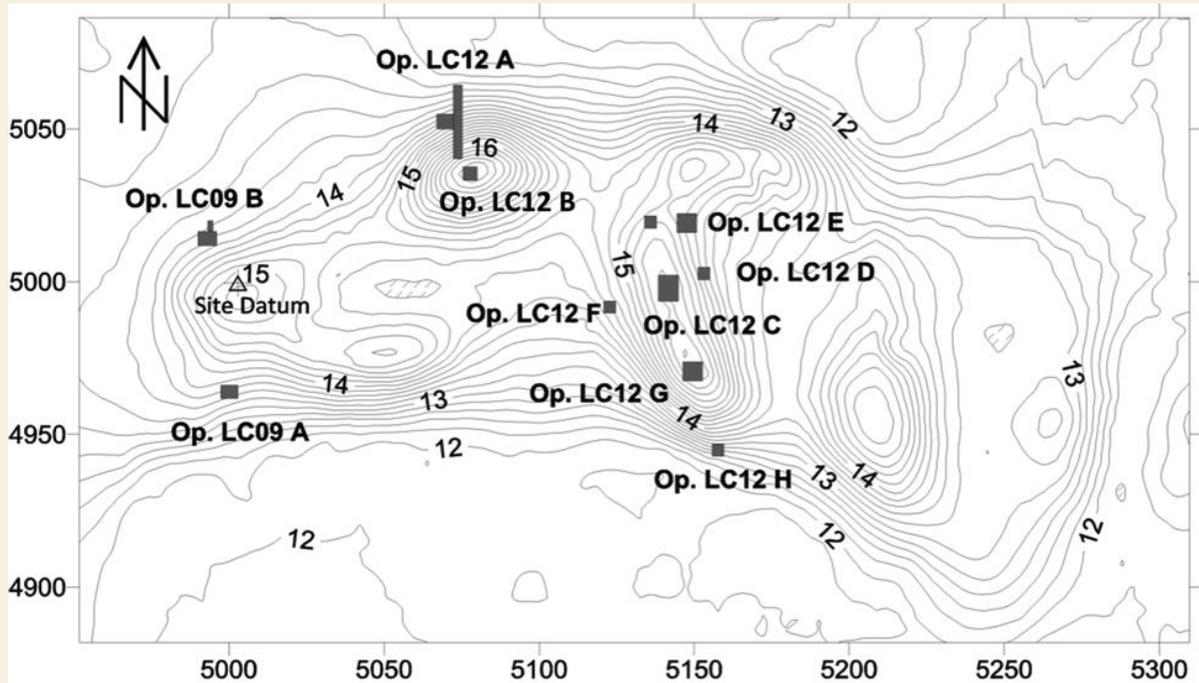


Figure 3: A topographic map of La Consentida showing locations of 2009 and 2012 excavations. Scale of excavations slightly exaggerated for clarity. Contour intervals: 20 cm

Six AMS radiocarbon samples from secure contexts at La Consentida (1947–1530 cal B.C.) date the site’s occupation to the very beginning of the Early Formative period. Deposits that produced these dated samples include hearths sealed between layers of platform fill and burned food adhering to a ceramic jar fragment from a refuse midden. These dates, associated with the newly identified “Tlacuache phase” ceramic assemblage (Figure 4), are older than those for other early Oaxacan phases and indicate that the site coincided chronologically with coastal sites in Chiapas and Guatemala that have produced Mesoamerica’s earliest widely-accepted pottery (Clark and Blake 1994). In other words, pottery from La Consentida complicates current models for the advent of ceramic technologies in Mesoamerica.



Figure 4: A reconstruction of the Tlacuache ceramic assemblage

Based on the aforementioned radiocarbon dates, La Consentida is one of the oldest known village sites in Pacific coastal Mexico. These findings suggest that La Consentida has produced some of Mesoamerica's earliest known pottery and mounded earthen architecture. A semi-mobile group likely founded the site as one of several resource collection locales in the region. Subsequently, the community became more permanently settled, modified its culinary practices with regard to maize, and developed complex social roles presaging the formal hierarchies of later pre-Hispanic history. The Early Formative period was a key time of social transformation from the mobile foraging and horticulture of the Archaic period to the village agriculture and complex social hierarchies of later pre-Columbian history. La Consentida was occupied during major transitions in mobility, subsistence, and social organization, and thus provides a snapshot of a community experiencing significant socioeconomic changes. Despite consensus in Mesoamericanist studies regarding basic aspects of these transformations, the exact timing of and possible connections between them are debated (e.g., Arnold 2009; Clark 2004b, 2004a; Flannery

1972; R. A. Joyce 2004; Killion 2013; Lesure and Blake 2002; Lohse 2010; Love 2007). Worldwide, the establishment of village life presents paramount archaeological research problems, but no consensus exists as to its causes.

The LCAP has taken place during six field and laboratory seasons totaling over twenty months of research (Hepp 2011, 2015; Hepp and Joyce 2013; Hepp, Barber, and Joyce 2014). The project has included collaboration with a diverse group of scholars, volunteers, and excavation crew from Oaxaca (Figure 5). Remains of houses at La Consentida suggest domestic practices at the site (Figure 6). Excavations have also revealed evidence for the diet, ritual life, mortuary practices, and artistic and musical traditions of the ancient community who lived there (Figures 7–9). Ongoing studies of the artifacts and samples collected from La Consentida are continuing to shed light on the origins of agriculture and social complexity in ancient coastal Oaxaca.



Figure 5: Part of the 2012 LCAP excavation crew



Figure 6: The remains of a house floor found at La Consentida



Figure 7: Part of an anthropomorphic effigy vessel from a domestic context at La Consentida

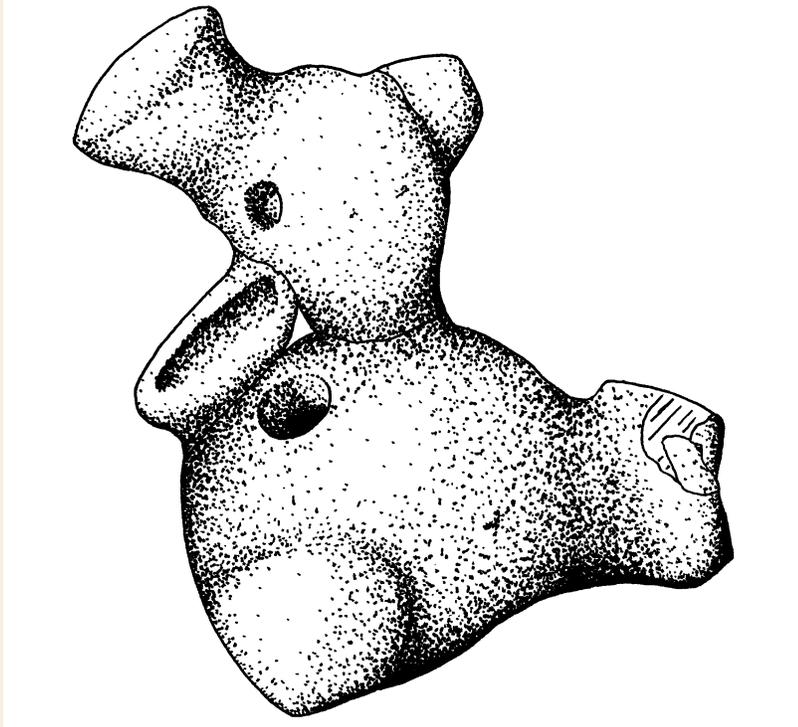


Figure 8: A bird-shaped musical instrument from a ritual cache near human burials at La Consentida

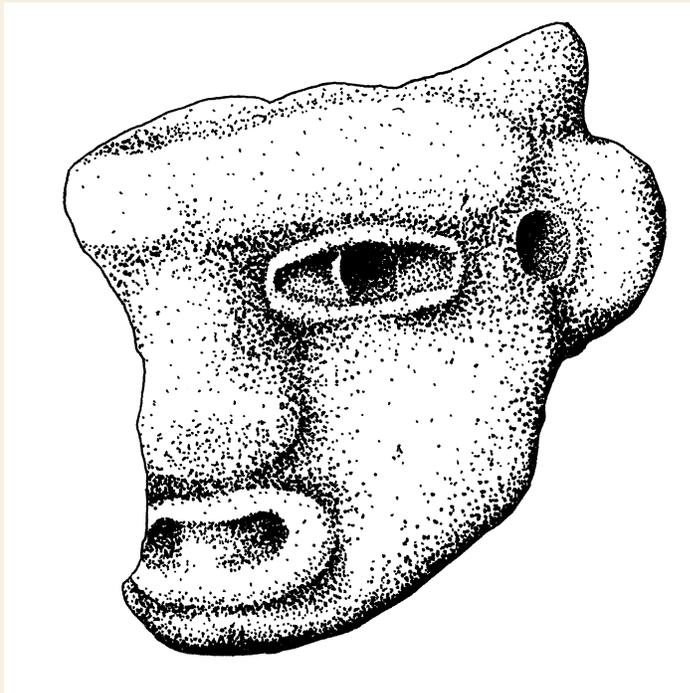


Figure 9: A figurine fragment from a human burial at La Consentida

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New IPCAS Website!

Visit the brand new IPCAS website

Features of the new site:

Up to date information

on

Lectures, Field Trips, PAAC Classes, Volunteer Opportunities,
CAS Annual Meeting and more.

Go to IndianPeaksArchaeology.org

IPCAS Members win 2015 Alice Hamilton Raffle Prize.



Ann and Dave Phillips with their flute

IPCAS members Ann and Dave Phillips were the winners of the 2015 Colorado Archaeological Society raffle drawing for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship fund. The drawing was held at the Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting on October 10. The prize was a Native American Flute which was hand-carved, signed and numbered by Colorado artist-musician David Nigteagle.

The Alice Hamilton Scholarship fund awards scholarships to students who are majoring in Anthropology or related field at an accredited Colorado college or university. For details, see the Colorado Archaeological Society website.



David Nigteagle Flute won by Ann and Dave Phillips

Denver Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society November Lecture

Lessons Learned at Chaco: Contract Archaeology, Culture History, and Heritage Management (1969-2015)

Date & Time: Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Location: Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO. Enter the Auditorium using the Security Entrance (north side). The auditorium opens at 6:30 p.m. for evening lectures and events.

Speaker: Dr. Richard Wilshusen

The Chaco Project (1969-1985) was one of the largest archaeological projects undertaken by the National Park Service. Before 1970 the Park Service was the foremost funder and practitioner of American archaeology, yet with the Chaco Project the agency encountered inherent fiscal and administrative limitations that would ultimately deny it a role in the "big archaeology" of the following decades. The "young Turks" of the project thereafter played key roles in offering a more historical view of the past, and this fundamentally changed the picture of Chaco presented to the public. Chaco Canyon is no longer seen as just a locale with big sites, but as the center of a much larger cultural phenomenon. The fact that we increasingly consider Chaco within the context of a larger cultural landscape has profound consequences for how we manage this heritage resource in the midst of an oil and gas boom.

Richard Wilshusen 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, demography, and migration pathways. His more recent work focuses on the earliest great house communities of the Chaco region, Navajo ethnogenesis in the Dinéyah region, and current issues in public archaeology. Wilshusen is the senior editor of *Crucible of Pueblos* (2012), co-editor (with Mark Varien) of *Seeking the Center Place* (2002), and author or co-author of more than 30 book chapters or juried journal articles. He served as the State Archaeologist/Deputy SHPO of Colorado for five years. Throughout his career Wilshusen has had the good fortune to work with a number of cross-disciplinary teams on a wide range of fundamental archaeological issues. He counts his lucky stars that he has made a living doing archaeology.



Chief Niwot Exhibit – scheduled to close on December 31.

The popular Chief Niwot Exhibit has been at the Boulder History Museum for the several years and is due to close at the end of December. If you have been wanting to see this exhibit, it's time to make your plans now!

Chief Niwot was an Araphahoe Indian who spent much of his life in the Boulder area.

Boulder History Museum Presents
CHIEF NIWOT
Legend and Legacy

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

RAVE REVIEWS:

"An excellent, informative, intelligent exhibit."

"I'm glad to see that these stories are being told! Well done!"

"I've learned so much today. Great exhibit - sad story!"

"Absolutely stirring and beautiful."

AWARD WINNING:

Recipient of the Mountain-Plains Museums Association
2012 Leadership & Innovation Award

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Elections for 2106- Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society

Nominations for 2016:

The nomination committee submitted the following list of nominations for 2016 board positions:

Chapter officers:

President: Rosi Dennett

Vice President: Rich Wilshusen

Secretary: Debbie Smith

Treasurer: Hal Landem

At-Large Board Members:

Kris Holien

Cheryl Damon,

Joanne Turner

Appointed Positions:

Website: Anne Robinson

Newsletter Editor/Media/Rep: Heidi Short/Joan Prebish

PAAC Coordinator: Delane Mechling

CAS Rep: Karen Kinnear

Public Outreach/Education: Allison Kerns

Special Liaison to CU: Gretchen Acharya

Site Stewardship (exploratory committee): Martin Anderson

Nominating Committee members:

Kris Holien

Karen Kinnear

Delane Mechling

The election of chapter officers will be held at the November monthly meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 pm. Each individual chapter member over the age of 14 is eligible to vote. The term of office is January 1 to December 31, 2016.



Research Design and Report Writing PAAC Class– Fall 2015

Sign up for one of the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) courses being offered around the state this fall. PAAC courses are a great way to expand your knowledge of archaeology.

What is PAAC?

A joint program of the Colorado Archaeological Society and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. The Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) is a mutually beneficial educational program for avocational and professional archaeologists. Established in 1978 by the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado (OSAC), it allows CAS members and other citizens to obtain formally recognized levels of expertise outside of an academic degree program. It also facilitates avocational public service and assistance in education, governmental management of cultural resources, research, and the protection of archaeological resources in Colorado. PAAC complements, but does not replace, existing university and governmental training programs. Click here for more information on PAAC.

Requirements of PAAC:

- All participants in the PAAC program must: Be 15 years of age or older
- Agree to the PAAC Code of Ethics
- Pay a non-refundable, nominal materials fee per course

Research Design and Report Writing

Dates: November 21-22

Format: Weekend all day- contact coordinator for times

Location: Fountain

To Sign up or ask questions contact

Jerry Rhodes at 719-332-9723 or rhodespottery@aol.com

Class Descriptions:

Importance of archaeological research designs and reports, essential elements of research design, and guidelines for archaeological reports.



2015 IPCAS Officers, Board Members, and major functions

President	Karen Kinnear	kkinnear@hollandhart.com
President	Anne Robinson	annerco@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Gretchen Acharya	gacharyafinearts@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbie Smith	debbiesmithcmc@gmail.com
Treasurer	Hal Landem	hal963landem@gmail.com
Professional Advisor	Dr. Robert Brunswig	robert.brunswig@unco.edu
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Board Member	Rosi Dennett	rosidennett@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER

Quarterly new member enrollment	Individual	Family	Student
January-March	\$28.50	\$33.00	\$14.25
April-June	\$21.50	\$24.75	\$10.75
July-September	\$14.25	\$16.50	\$7.25
October-December	\$7.25	\$8.25	\$3.75

___ **New** ___ **Renewal** **Tax-Exempt Donation** ___ **\$10,** ___ **\$25,** ___ **\$50, Other** ___

NAME _____ TELEPHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

****Important Note**** IPCAS information is sent to members via email. To receive communications, please provide an email.

Please make check payable to:

Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS. Mail to: PO Box 18301, Boulder, Colorado 80308-1301

I(We) give CAS permission to :

Yes ___ No ___ disclose phone numbers to other CAS members

Yes ___ No ___ publish name/contact information in chapter directory

Yes ___ No ___ publish name in newsletter (which may be sent to other chapters, published on the internet, etc.)

CODE OF ETHICS

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge: To uphold state and federal antiquities laws. To support policies and educational programs designed to protect our cultural heritage and our state's antiquities. To encourage protection and discourage exploitation of archaeological resources. To encourage the study and recording of Colorado's archaeology and cultural history. To take an active part by participating in field and laboratory work for the purpose of developing new and significant information about the past. To respect the property rights of landowners. To assist whenever possible in locating, mapping and recording archaeological sites within Colorado, using State Site Survey forms. To respect the dignity of peoples whose cultural histories and spiritual practices are the subject of any investigation. To support only scientifically conducted activities and never participate in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentation about archaeological matters. To report vandalism. To remember that cultural resources are non-renewable and do not belong to you or me, but are ours to respect, to study and to enjoy.

Signature: _____ Signature _____