

COLORADO COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

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CCPA BUSINESS

Dear Colleagues,

In my last report I argued that the members of CCPA should carefully examine our commitments, and take conscious steps to focus our energy on the issues we consider most important. Although I may have been admonishing myself as much as anyone else, I think that we have done a good job of focusing on our core mission of promoting high standards of archaeological research, reporting, and management. With that in mind I'd like to update on our progress in several current projects.

Following on the excellent summary document prepared by Richard Wilshusen and his students at the University of Colorado, CCPA has begun an effort to highlight the magnitude and severity of the curation crisis in Colorado. We've been ably assisted in this effort by various media outlets, including the *Rocky Mountain News*, the *New York Times*, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and the Archaeological Conservancy's *American Archaeology* magazine. The issue was featured at the recent Plains Anthropological Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, and will be the subject of a symposium at Colorado

Preservation Inc's upcoming annual historic preservation meeting. Several museums around the region also have asked for copies of our report. In early August the Executive Board began a letter campaign to educate Colorado's congressional delegation on the subject. While the events of September 11 have overtaken this and many other issues, the Board will continue to discuss the long-term management of archaeological collections in the state with both local and national political leaders.

Thanks to the efforts of Anne McKibbin and the publications committee CCPA's river basin contexts are now available through the University of Utah Press. We were assisted in this effort by a generous loan provided by the Colorado Archaeological Society. At least two of the volumes sold out at the recent Plains Conference, even though most of the advertising to date has been word-of-mouth! More information about purchasing a fresh set (your original probably being dog-eared by now) can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

CCPA has also submitted a grant request to the State Historical Fund for preparation of a historical archaeology context for the state. The committee met throughout the year, working hard to address a variety of issues raised by previous reviewers and to produce

a comprehensive scope of work that will meet the needs of both historical and prehistoric archaeologists working in the state. While we have not yet received notification of a grant award, I am confident that our application will be successful.

Finally, CCPA has been involved in preparations for the Society for American Archaeology's annual meeting in Denver in 2002. CCPA will co-host a reception that will be held at the Colorado History Museum and Susan Chandler (along with a phalanx of dedicated volunteers) will present a poster on the making of the river basin contexts. CCPA's annual meeting will be held in Gunnison just prior to the SAA meeting, so mark your calendars for a week of all archaeology, all the time, as they say in the news business!

If you have questions about current CCPA projects, feel free to give me a call at (719) 384-2181, or drop me an e-mail message at mdmitchell@fs.fed.us. Happy Holidays!

Cheers,
Mark

Editors Note

Well, we gave you ample opportunity to step forward and take the onus of responsibility for producing the newsletter, but alas and alack, no one jumped. With this issue, Mona Charles, Kevin Black and Carole Graham honorably remove their names from the hat. The rest of you, discounting those that contributed last time, are still in the running. Better get those articles in, as this is two down and only one more to go.

Sandy Karhu and Mary Sullivan

Minutes from the CCPA Executive Committee Meeting

Location: First Street Cafe, Salida, CO
Date: July 21, 2001
Time: 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
Secretary: Keri Hicks
Participants: Mark Mitchell, Jeff Overturf, Jon Horn, Steve Kalasz, Sandy Karhu, Steve Lekson, Mark Stiger

President Mark Mitchell called the meeting of the CCPA Executive Committee to order. He followed an agenda he prepared previously consisting of topics addressed during the March CCPA Executive Committee meeting and new business.

Committee of Inquiry

Confidential discussion regarding an ongoing ethics inquiry.

SAA 2002 Annual Meeting Planning

The meeting is scheduled March 20-24 at the Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado. CCPA is hosting a reception at the Colorado History Museum in conjunction with the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS). Tammy Stone is the Local Arrangements Chair. Sandy Karhu is coordinating with her and others on the arrangements. Anyone who wants to help with the reception should contact Sandy (at karhus@mscd.edu or 303-433-3101).

Steve Kalasz suggested that CCPA sponsor a session on Colorado archaeology. It was decided that we would sponsor a poster session highlighting the contexts. The first poster will explain the process; grant application to State Historic Fund, commitment, milestones, money, deliverables, etc. A scope and sequence handout could be available for people to take. The second poster will feature *Ancient Colorado*. Five posters will highlight each context, explaining how they help to focus study in each area and how different projects have used the contexts. An eighth poster could describe what we are doing next. Mark Mitchell and Steve Kalasz will write the abstracts to submit the session. Jeff Overturf will help with printing them out. It will not be too time consuming for people who participate. We can set the session up near the Utah Press table to help with context sales.

CCPA 2002 Annual Meeting Planning

Mark Stiger arrived at 11:30 to participate in this discussion. The meeting will be in Gunnison. Stiger has booked the Hurst Hall at Western State College from March 14-17. This schedules CCPA and SAA back to back. This could be a problem if people choose to go to one only, or it could mean that people who normally would not come to CCPA would come early in order to attend both meetings. Marriott will sponsor the meeting. Stiger will work on getting a price break from them and the Comfort Inn, and possibly reduced ski rates from Crested Butte. Before his arrival there was discussion about having the annual meeting in February, but Stiger explained that it would be very hard to use the campus facilities while school is in session. March 14-17 is the beginning of their Spring Break and no classes will be held. He would prefer

to host the meeting in Gunnison instead of Montrose or Crested Butte, in order to show off their new facilities, reciprocate the Gunnison City Council and to be near the site tours he wants to schedule. The theme of the meeting has not been decided. Stiger will handle the call for papers, etc. He will decide when the pre-registration deadline is. Last year Mitchell made it December and mailed the registration packet out 6 weeks before the meeting, in mid January. Stiger will determine the registration fee, based on the projected cost of the meeting: facilities, food, etc. There should be a student break. Mitchell and Overturf will give Stiger cost breakdowns from last years meeting. Dan Jepson organized the publishers last year. Stiger will continue the student competition. Mitchell will mail out the call for papers to different academic programs in August and will re-mail it later. There will be a cash incentive. The due date for the student abstract and paper will not be as early as last year. It was suggested that the CCPA should designate a mentor at each institution who would announce the competition in class, work with the students, read and critique abstract and paper drafts, etc. Steve Lekson and Doug Bamforth may be able to review the student papers 3-4 weeks before the meeting.

Sandy Karhu brought a motion forward to change the CCPA by-laws to allow the annual meeting to be held any time during the year, not just February or March. Steve Kalasz seconded. The goal is to be able to have the meeting in April in Estes Park. The bylaws could read, "meet annually in regular session or preferably in February or March," instead of, "meet annually in February or March." Mitchell will check that this does not conflict with corporate law. If so, it will be published in the fall newsletter. The vote may take place during the annual meeting. If the motion passes, it would not be effective until 2003.

Curation Issues

Background: Steve Lekson, curator at the University of Colorado Museum, and Rich Wilshusen, who just completed a two-year position there, decided to stop accepting new collections. The museum had been wrestling with this decision since 1988. This action and the fact that most other facilities in Colorado are near full or no longer accepting new collections is a crisis that affects federal, state and private archaeology realms.

Wilshusen and four students in his Public Archaeology seminar, Tina Nepstad-Thornberry, Curtis Nepstad-Thornberry, Melissa Stoltz and Karyn de Dufour, submitted a report to the Curation Committee, *Addressing the Curation Crisis in Colorado: An Assessment for the Executive Committee of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists*. They recommended that CCPA should write a grant to do a feasibility study. Kalasz pointed out that curation projects normally do not compete well. Wilshusen did meet with Mark Wolfe at the State Historic Fund (SHF), and Wolfe was very positive. If CCPA decided to write the grant, it is likely that they would be able to get the support and money for matching grants from many agencies and organizations.


Discussion: Mitchell made the point that we need to address the immediate issue, curation during the next 2-3 years. It may be best to have no short-term solution in order to jump-start a reaction. The study should have been done years ago. Now is the time for action. Mitchell recommended that we take advantage of the recent media coverage of the curation crisis in Colorado (Rocky Mountain News, 7/18/01, Curation Crisis Imperils Artifacts and other coverage) and ask for money from the state legislature. We will need active lobbyists to communicate with the legislature. Karhu pointed out that the State legislature will require a plan and is very conservative regarding how they spend money. We could ask Congressman Udall or someone else to commission a feasibility study and come up with a specific plan. Curation must become a pet issue for them. We could also emphasize that this is a national crisis and could be addressed at the federal level nationwide. We must impress upon them that eventually state permits will be denied to contractors if they do not have an available curation facility. The oil and gas business will be affected; it will be halted. Federal permits are less likely to be denied. Contractors can handle temporary storage if there is an end in sight. We need to ask the membership to project how much they will curate during the next five years, based on total cubic feet curated in the last five years.

CCPA needs to produce a document that lays out an action plan. It was decided that the most likely outcome would be a new curation facility funded by the state legislature and operated by a coalition of

federal and state agencies. Building set-up and staff cost would be the most expensive aspects of the venture. We need to estimate square footage and staff requirements. We should contact the successful repository in Alabama for direction.

Decision: CCPA will not sponsor an SHF grant for a feasibility study at this point and we cannot be responsible for coming up with an interim solution. We will act as lobbyists to the state legislature advocating a program for a state or regional repository for archaeological collections from public lands, both state and federal. We will draft a blanket letter and send it to the membership and all affected agencies and organizations. We will ask them in turn to send letters to the legislature, beginning a cascading carpet bomb of letters. We must present a unified front with a simple message; there is no facility in Colorado that is accepting new collections. Mitchell will draft a letter and send it to the board for review. Based on Wilshusen's report to the Curation Committee, a short fact sheet will be generated and distributed.

Native American Scholarship



At the annual meeting in March 2001, there was concern that CCPA did not have enough money to afford this proposed new scholarship. Based on a review of the accounts, we currently have \$22,210. After we spend \$6500 on the contexts, we will have \$15,710. After \$8000 goes to the Ward Weekly Fund, we will have \$7710. We can afford the proposed \$800 a year for the scholarship. Lekson recommended that we limit the student pool to Colorado, but not make it exclusive. We should ask the student to write to the editor of *Indian Country News* in order to expose the program to the Native American community. We should also issue a press release to the student's local community. Overturf pointed out that for tax purposes, this program would be beneficial and show that CCPA is contributing to the public. If the vote passes, we need to commit for 2-3 years.

Decision: Carol Graham will write a proposal for the program to include in the fall newsletter. Her draft proposal was handed out to the board. The board will present the issue to the membership at the next annual meeting. Membership will vote on the issue at the meeting. If it passes, we will be able to select a student to start during the 2002 field season.

New Member Contacts

Overturf reported that during 2000 and 2001 we currently have 120 members. During and previous to 1999 we had 131 members. Some former members should be members now.

Decision: Mitchell will send out a spreadsheet with pre 1999 member names to the board. We will pick whom to contact and send that list back to Mark. They will receive phone calls and emails to renew their membership. Overturf and Hicks will send out a mail campaign to renew membership to past members from 1999 and 2000. The goal is to get 10-15 people to renew. The board will also target and recruit new members.

Fellow Nominations

Qualifications for a Fellow nomination-must be recognized as a senior scholar in archaeology and must have made extensive contributions to Colorado archaeology. The board will keep a running list to pass on to future executive boards.

Decision: We discussed deserving candidates but decided not to advance a nomination at this time.

Ancient Colorado

Everyone agrees that this needs to be reprinted. The author does not want this to be a free publication. Others believe it should be free; makes it easier to distribute to people who normally wouldn't be interested or in a position to see a copy. It was originally set up as a free publication and would be strange to suddenly start charging for it. We still have 1000 to distribute to libraries, 5000 have already been distributed. Horn wondered if we could distribute some for free and charge for others. We might be able to reach a different audience if it is sold in a bookstore. Overturf pointed out that for tax purposes as a non-profit organization, it is preferable to keep it free. Do we have the money to reprint them if there is no charge? What would it cost to reprint in gray tone instead of color? Goal is to reprint for a marginal cost. Currently it would cost \$2.60 for 5000, \$3.70 for 3000 or \$8.50 for 1000 to reprint in color. A full reprint of 5000 would cost \$13,000. We could try to get money from various sources; \$5000 from the interagency task force, \$4000 from CCPA and \$7000-8000 from SHF. Kalasz thinks it may be difficult to get grant money from SHF. Mitchell believes it should be feasible if we

agree that the publication will be free and if SHF understands that we will not be able to reprint unless we are awarded the grant.

Publications Committee

If we print 250 of the Southwest context and 150 of the other contexts, we will make \$4.50 on each sell. If we sell all the books, we will make \$3800 in profit. The contexts currently being printed should be shipped to the Utah Press on July 23rd and available for purchase. The Publications Committee will send a mass mailing to CCPA membership and will post availability on the website. The committee will get in touch with people who have asked Alpine for contexts. They want to thank CAS and ask if they want to supply their mailing list. CAS supplied \$6500 for reprints under a very reasonable repayment plan. The committee could also look into getting more reviews.

Priscilla Elwood wants her new manuscript to be reviewed. It is approximately 450 pages long. The committee must determine how it compliments existing occasional papers on ceramics. They do not want duplication. Mike Metcalf and Kevin Black were recommended as reviewers. Mitchell will also read it. Lekson has read a draft. It does not reference the Arkansas or Platte contexts-most of it written before the contexts were published. Do we want her to incorporate the contexts and the role of CCPA, or do we want to view it as a state of the art when she finished it? Is it appropriate for Colorado archaeology or CCPA occasional papers?

Colorado Archaeology

This would be a peer-reviewed journal that would supplant one volume per year of *Southwestern Lore*. It would be a different size, 8 1/2 x 11, and more interesting for academic writers to contribute to. CCPA has agreed to contribute \$3000 to *Colorado Archaeology* if it comes to fruition. The editors need articles, i.e. the results of a major project or a major review of some topic. Kevin Black also needs *Southwestern Lore* submissions.

Decision: The board will encourage Kevin Black and Mike Metcalf to write a letter to academic departments informing them that we are launching a new peer reviewed journal.

Treasurer

We have money. Accounting issues were discussed during the course of the meeting.

Lithic Comparative Collection

Kalasz and Van Ness had a meeting with the Colorado School of Mines. The head of Advanced Materials has money for sourcing studies. One graduate student did a study on the sourcing of petrified wood. They want the CCPA to supply technical assistance and archaeological samples to look at trade routes, etc. They are interested in going after SHF grants. The comparative collection could be a valuable resource. We need to ask Bridget Ambler and Kevin Gilmore whether people are submitting samples.

BLM report on Resource Advisory Committee

A report by Leslie Wildesen was handed out to the board.

Historic Context

Adrienne Anderson is going over the nomination. There will be a meeting in August. We do have plans to resubmit. The context is basically done. Do we have enough letters of support?

A Message From the Publications Committee

The summer has been a busy one for us and the big news is **the five Colorado Prehistoric Contexts have been reprinted and are now available from the University of Utah Press**. Please see the information elsewhere in this newsletter about how to order the contexts. As many of you may recall, at the Spring 2001 meeting in La Junta we decided to pursue an agreement with the University of Utah Press for distribution and marketing of the contexts. The CCPA Executive Board gave us direction on numbers of copies to reprint and asked us to establish pricing that would certainly cover costs, but also provide a small profit margin on the sales of each volume. Once that was figured out, the agreement with the Press was established. We approached the Colorado Archaeological Society for a loan to partially fund the reprinting since this entailed a significant cash outlay up front. They were most generous in helping us out, and we will be repaying them as we receive proceeds from the Press. We again extend our thanks to CAS for their help. We offered the context authors a chance to make minor corrections prior to the reprinting; authors for four of the five contexts took advantage of the opportunity. C&M Press handled the reprinting. With the agreement in place with

the Press, some anticipated return cash flow starting next spring, and the relative ease of having C&M Press run additional copies, the availability of the contexts should continue relatively unfettered for the foreseeable future.

We've had several inquiries from companies and organizations about putting announcements about the availability of the contexts on their own web sites or in their own newsletters. Getting the word out by this method will be one of our most effective marketing tools. If you'd like to do this, we are happy to provide an announcement in the appropriate format, just let us know. Or, if you'd prefer to put together your own, we ask only that you mention all five contexts, and that your announcement reflects CCPA's role in the contexts project. We strongly suggest you also make reference to the CCPA web page where one can find all the information needed to order the contexts (authors, titles, ISBN numbers, and pricing). If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact us.

Meanwhile, looking forward, the Publications Committee still has a pretty full plate; everything having been effectively on hold while we got the contexts reprinted and back "on the shelves." Top on the list is deciding where to go with *Ancient Colorado*. We still have copies of this available, but we're getting to a point where a reprint is in order. The reprint will be expensive, and there is some desire to continue to make the publication available free of charge, which obviously increases the financial commitment. The Spring 2002 meeting will probably be a forum for presenting some alternatives and making some decisions about our choices in this regard. In the meantime, all thoughts and ideas will be entertained.

Thank you,
Anne McKibbin
CCPA Publications Committee Chairperson

ALL WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS:

An open letter to Santa.

Dear S. Kalasz-
The University of Denver (DU) and CCPA are continuing their partnership to develop the Lithic Material Reference Collection (LMRC) at DU. We still desperately need lithic source materials. Santa baby, please, please, oh please leave some provenienced

rocks under the tree this Christmas. In case the elves don't know, forms and instructions for collecting and donating materials can be found on the CCPA web site at <http://www.coloradoarchaeologists.org>.

We are not sure if he's been naughty or nice, so you'd better check your list twice, but either way please send rocks and forms to:

Kevin P. Gilmore, Director
Archaeological Research Institute,
Department of Anthropology
Sturm Hall, Room 109S,
E. Asbury, Denver, CO 80208.
303/871-2959 303/871-2437:
kegilmor@du.edu

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

CCPA Annual Meeting

The CCPA Annual Meeting will be held March 14 -17 in Gunnison at Western State College. No symposium topic has been offered for the meeting, but if someone has a hot topic they think would be good give Jon Horn a call, (970) 249-6761, or e-mail him at alpine@alpinearchaeology.com. Jon is also going to put out a call for papers for the meeting in the near future, so if anyone already knows they would like to give a paper, contact him. A student paper contest is also being planned. Contact Mark Mitchell for more information on the student papers (719) 384-2181, or mdmitchell@fs.fed.us.



**USED BOOK SALE
TO BENEFIT
WARD F. WEAKLY
SCHOLARSHIP**

At last year's annual meeting, CCPA's membership voted to have a used book sale at its 2002 meeting. Proceeds will help support the Ward F. Weakly Memorial Fund scholarship. So, take a snowy afternoon to go through your bookshelf and pull those books that are duplicates, that are out of your area of research, and that you no longer use. Bring them to the Gunnison meeting!

SAA Annual Meeting

UC-D Anthropology, CAS, and CCPA are sponsoring a reception for the SAA meetings that will be held Friday evening, March 22, 7 - 9 pm at the Colorado Historical Society. We're also seeking contributions from other agencies and companies to help defray the cost of the reception.

We're expecting a good turnout (the limit will be 400 people based on the limit allowed at the Colorado Historical Society building). We need volunteers to work at the reception, helping with set up, steering people into areas that will be open to the public (and out of those that won't be), serving, clean up, and take down. For security and liability purposes there will be janitorial staff, guards and bartenders on hand, but additional volunteer help is required to keep our costs down.

If you would like to volunteer or are interested in contributing, please contact Sandy Karhu at karhus@mscd.edu or 303-433-3101.

FIELDWORK

Tomahawk State Wildlife Area Survey By Kevin Black



Hafted biface collection

Inventory of a 1600 acre tract in central South Park, Park County, Colorado--which began in June 2000--continued in the summer of 2001 at Tomahawk State Wildlife Area (TSWA). The survey is being conducted as a training opportunity for volunteers in the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC), sponsored by the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. Seventeen people participated on this summer's survey, under the supervision of Kevin Black. The survey occurred in a mix of open grassland and conifer woodland environments bordering the Middle Fork of the South Platte River, at an elevation range of 8980-9440 feet. As of August 2001, just over 800

acres has been covered in the north half of the parcel, resulting in the recording of 38 sites and ten isolated finds. Open camps and lithic scatters are the most commonly encountered sites, and a sizable majority of datable remains post-date 3500 BP. One quartzite quarry in the Morrison formation also has been documented. Historic period resources include log cabin ruins and other structural remnants of uncertain function, artifact scatters and dumps possibly related to logging activity, and three culturally peeled Ponderosa pine trees. Preliminary analyses have examined trends in lithic material use, chronology, and settlement comparisons east and west of the river. More information about the project, including the text of a recent conference paper, can be found on the PAAC web site at <http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/paac/summersurvey.htm> The third and final season of inventory at TSWA will begin in June 2002.

Archaeology at the Darkmold Site, 5LP4991 By Mona Charles

This summer Fort Lewis Colleges (FLC) Archaeological Field School completed its third season at the Darkmold Site, 5LP4991, near Durango, Colorado. FLC has been excavating at this site since 1998 when human remains were discovered by the landowner while digging foundation trenches for his proposed house. Students and staff at FLC are working closely with the Colorado Historical Society (CHS), Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHp) and the landowner to excavate portions of the site that have been exposed and are in danger from erosion and future construction. What follows is a summary of the archaeological and geoarchaeological work conducted at the site, the history of FLC's involvement and a brief summary of the results of investigations.

History

During the fall of 1998, eleven human burials were excavated from trackhoe trenches where they had been exposed. Diagnostic artifacts and radiocarbon dates placed the occupation of the site from the Middle Archaic to the Late Basketmaker III-Transitional Pueblo I periods. The primary occupation, however, is during the Basketmaker II period. A series of radiocarbon dates, some of them AMS dates on corn, place this occupation between 300 BC and AD 450. The radiocarbon dates, the artifacts and the features are consistent with

those from Talus Village and the Falls Creek Shelters also near Durango.

FLC conducted its first field school in the summer of 1999. The primary research goals which guided the field school investigations were fourfold: 1) to evaluate the site to determine its potential significance in yielding information important to the prehistory of the area, and thus its eligibility for listing on the State Register of Historic Places, 2) record the stratigraphy exposed in the trench profiles to garner additional information on site geoaerchaeology, 3) excavate features exposed in the trenches that were in imminent danger of eroding and 4) conduct excavations in grid units with good stratigraphic control in order to isolate stratigraphic sequences at the site. An additional 13 trench faces were recorded. Ten extramural features, two human burials and 73 square meters of grid units were excavated during the 1999 field school investigations. From the 1999 results, we concluded that the site was eligible for nomination to the State Register of Historic Places. We completed a nomination form for the site, and in March of 2000 it was placed on the State Register of Historic Places. Also in March of 2000, FLC received a grant from the State Historical Fund (SHF) to conduct a geoaerchaeological study of the site.

As a result of the 2000 field season an additional four profile trenches were completed and 11 new features (five of these included human burials) were identified and most were excavated. Two previously identified features were excavated and excavations began on removing the fill from the BM II pit structure. A use-surface was exposed through grid excavations and a total of 48m² of grid excavations were completed over the field season. A magnetometer survey was conducted of a 50m² in the middle of the site. The magnetometer survey was largely unsuccessful due to the interference from the large areas of mechanical excavations. Work toward the SHF grant included collection of radiocarbon and pollen samples and on-site consultations with a geomorphologist.

The research goals and objectives for the 2001 archaeological field school included the following: clear the construction debris from the center portion of the site between the pit structures and trenches where

magnetometer survey was conducted and attempt to identify any possible subsurface features, continue the northern and southern most trenches extending toward the backwall and conduct systematic augering across the site along grid locations to reveal the nature of the underlying stratigraphy including the depth of deposits and bedrock, excavate the newly discovered and remaining features exposed in the construction trenches, continue the excavation of the pit structure that is exposed in the backwall of the site, begin excavations on a second pit structure, and complete sample collection and data recording for the SHF grant. At the end of the 2001 field season, we had removed the fill from above one of the pit structures to the roof fall layer. This pit structure most definitely dates to the Basketmaker II period. We also started excavations above the second pit structure to define its perimeter. We found a cobble lining around one side of this pit structure similar to the cobble-ring features in Navajo Reservoir. This pit structure dates later than Basketmaker II, but we do not have any chronometric dates on the pit structure at this point. We continued excavation of the use-surface identified in 2000 and excavated two features (one included a human burial) and began excavations on a third feature that originated with the use-surface. We completed three remaining stratigraphic profiles, and we excavated three features exposed in the trench profiles. Two of these contained human burials

Results from Geoarchaeological Grant

The Darkmold site is situated on an inset of Pleistocene-age benches on the west slopes and about 50 m above the Animas River Valley. The benches were formed through the processes of differential weathering of the underlying sandstone and fluvio-glacial outwash at the end of the last glaciation (circa 15,000 years ago), which created a small glacial kame terrace where the site is located. During the last glaciation, known as the late Wisconsin or Pinedale glaciation, ice from the lower part of the Animas glacier covered the site to a depth of at least 200 m. The glacial deposits are covered with slope-wash sediments or colluvium.

On most of the bench, gravelly alluvium rests directly on the sandstone. This alluvium consists mainly of rounded pebbles and cobbles in a sandy matrix, but at least two very large boulders project upward into the overlying units. These boulders possess

striations and further support a glacial or fluvioglacial origin for the alluvium. The deposits are clast-supported and moderately to well bedded. Many of the pebbles and cobbles are composed of rock types from the San Juan Mountains. The composition, location and small size of this deposit indicate that it was laid down during glacial retreat by a meltwater stream that flowed between the valley side and remaining, thinner ice. Poorly exposed, silty deposits between the gravel and sandstone in the lower face of the bench may be remnants of glacial till. Overlying sediments are composed of colluvium and sheetwash alluvium that were derived from the valley side above and west of the site. These material form a wedge that thins eastward across the bench

Pedologic soils are consistent with sediment ages from late Pleistocene to late Holocene. At the eastern edge of the bench, where alluvium locally reaches the surface, the soil profile contains an argillic horizon (Bt) and a weak calcic horizon (Bk, stage II). These features suggest a very late Pleistocene age. Younger soils on the colluvium and sheetwash locally have cambic horizons (Bw) and very weak carbonate horizons (Bk, stage I). Mixing by burrowing animals, insects, and roots has blurred the contacts between sediment layers and the archaeological feature in some places.

Radiocarbon and pollen samples from strata at the site produced dates and associated pollen spectra that help to reconstruct the paleoenvironment of the Animas Valley. Two radiocarbon samples were collected from charcoal-enriched lenses near the bottom of the Bt soil horizon. The conventional radiocarbon ages of the two samples are $9,980 \pm 60$ BP (Beta-157046) and $9,410 \pm 60$ BP (Beta-158692). These samples provide the oldest Holocene dates from the Animas River Valley. Another sample from a stratum higher in the profile provided a conventional radiocarbon age of $6,560 \pm 50$ BP (Beta-157047). We interpret these charcoal-enriched lenses to be the result of forest fires. The fires probably denuded the vegetation, which increased slope wash along the ridge slope. The finer sediments and organic material such as the charcoal collected in low places along the slope. In some parts of the stratigraphic profile, these charcoal-enriched lenses are sandwiched between pebble and cobble lenses. The pebbles and cobbles represent increased

slope wash velocity, which likely occur after a forest fire.

The pollen from the two oldest lenses shows a substantial increase in pine and pinyon-type pollen from that of today. Based on the pollen counts, there is some evidence from the profile that the late-glacial Animas Valley was a pine forest, circa 13,000 years ago. The high juniper value from the lowest stratum might reflect the dwarf juniper species, which is a wetter/colder species than the Utah and single seed junipers of the pinyon-juniper woodland. Pollen from the upper strata in the profile at the Darkmold site, which is the Basketmaker II component, indicates an increase in weedy vegetation, a decrease in pine pollen and the presence of maize. All of these are consistent with an anthropogenic sediment layer.

At present we are working toward integrating the paleoenvironmental data from the Darkmold site with data from other studies such as Navajo Reservoir and the Dolores Archaeological Project to try and explain the population movements in the Animas Valley between about 500 B.C. and A.D. 850. These data suggest that the prehistoric populations of the valley may have moved across the landscape partially as a result of climatic perturbations and that these perturbations are reflected in residential and subsistence patterns. Our thesis, simply stated, is that the periods of elevated populations in the Animas Valley in the vicinity of Durango were in response to periods of warm temperatures. As warmer temperatures dominated and lower elevations became drier, this mountainous valley served as a refugium of sorts to prehistoric populations practicing corn agriculture. Conversely, during periods of cooler temperatures, the effects of the cold-air drainages would have been too unpredictable for the early agriculturalists.

PROFILE

Portrait of a Colorado Archaeologist

Name: Carole Graham

Current Position: Research Database Manager, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez

Hometown: Various places in Illinois -- I was born in Carlinville, but spent my formative years in Springfield and Elizabeth.

Degrees/Institutions:

1986 -- B.A., Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois

1995 -- M.A., Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

How I Became an Archaeologist: I think my maternal grandmother and my dad were the most influential, being very interested in the artifacts they found in the fields and rural areas of Illinois. My family has always been appreciative of antiques and old books, so I think I grew up feeling a bit reverent about the past. When I was in the 6th grade, I had a wonderful teacher who took us on field trips to archaeological sites and showed filmstrips and movies about archaeology. I think the notion that I could be an archaeologist began to take hold at that time. It wasn't until after my sophomore year in college, when I spent the summer as a Student Conservation Association volunteer working with the archaeologist at the BLM in Grand Junction, that I knew for sure that archaeology would be my chosen career. I volunteered at the Grand Junction BLM again right after I graduated and then moved on to my first contract job, with Nickens and Associates stabilization crew in Canyonlands National Park. I began working full time for Alpine Archaeological Consultants in 1989 and since then, I have been either in graduate school or working full-time as an archaeologist. I'm still kind of amazed by my life!

Current Projects of Interest: At present, I'm teamleader for a project that will make Crow Canyons research database available to other archaeologists via our web site. Data about structures, tree-ring dates, artifact analyses, etc. will be available for other archaeologists to use. I'm really excited about the prospect of other researchers making use of the data -- watch for it this fall. I'm also working on an analysis of the projectile points recovered from Shields Pueblo, a PII/PIII site that Crow Canyon worked on for a couple of years.

Most Recent Good Book I Have Read: I'm right in the middle of reading Bill Bryson's *In a Sunburned Country*, a great, irreverent, and funny travel book about Australia. I also recommend Bryson's book about England, *Notes from a Small Island*, and his book about the Appalachian Trail, *A Walk in the Woods*. I read *Notes from a Small Island* on the plane home from England and burst out

laughing constantly and quite unconsciously. I was a bit embarrassed until I noticed other passengers reading Bryson books and figured I wasn't alone.

Most Important Archaeological Lesson:

There are two. One is actually something pretty simple, but crucial, the importance of understanding the stratigraphic context(s) of each site. Gaining a better understanding of site formation processes has dramatically changed the way I look at sites and the landscapes on which they are located. The other is also pretty crucial to remember, whenever possible, to take Native history and knowledge into account when interpreting prehistoric aboriginal sites.

Most Challenging Archaeological

Experience: I've thought long and hard about this, and have come up with many challenging experiences in the field and in the lab -- the trouble is, I can't decide which is MOST challenging. It seems to me that archaeology is ALWAYS challenging -- and that this is a major part of the allure, for me, at least. Deciding where to put in the grid, figuring out how to excavate a fragile artifact, dealing with hostile landowners, typing a projectile point or a piece of pottery, getting the crew back to the truck before they are hit by lightning, solving provenience mix-ups, tackling new software, crunching numbers, interpreting results, writing reports and papers, changing truck tires, educating one more person about the difference between archaeology and paleontology - every day its something new and different.

Most Dangerous Archaeological Moment:

In the early 1990s, I did a survey in Summit County for a landfill expansion on Forest Service land. One day, as my crew and I were returning to our vehicle after several hours of transects, we heard whizzing noises right around our heads (along with distant explosions). Correctly concluding that they were bullets, we crouched down, got the vehicle unlocked, and pounded on the horn. When the firing stopped, we drove down from the ridge to a distant meadow where some fellows were shooting at cardboard boxes with no backstop, of course! It was a relief to know they weren't actually aiming at us. Talk about Land of Many Uses.....

Most Rewarding Archaeological

Experience: This past spring I was fortunate enough to spend a week working on a project with Sally Cole at Mesa Verde

National Park. I made drawings of rock art and of paintings on plastered surfaces at Cliff Palace, Balcony House, Step House, and Square Tower House. Our team was allowed almost unlimited access to these ruins and it was a wonderful to experience them much as the original inhabitants would have. I saw and drew lots of fantastic Puebloan art. Sitting in a deep kiva or perched high in a tower, I had some of the most exhilarating experiences of my career.

The Most Exciting Thing in Archaeology

Right Now: The contributions of biological and medical sciences to our understanding of the past. DNA studies, the identification of human proteins, X-rays, and CAT scans are all taking our knowledge and understanding of the past to ever deeper levels.

What Colorado Archaeology Needs Right

Now: More public understanding and awareness of the field of archaeology in Colorado, what archaeology contributes, what the laws are concerning archaeological work and archaeological sites on public and private land, and who archaeologists are. It'd be great for an organization like CCPA to develop relationships with legislators at the state and national levels.

Things I'd Really Like to Do Before I Die:

Visit Egypt, work on an Iron Age site in the British Isles, write a book, finish remodeling my house, and teach my dog, Ze, to heel.

Next Person to be Profiled: Kelly Pool

Rebuttal from Minnette

In the interest of clearing my name, I did spend an evening my first week in Belize composing my profile, and sent it off via Richard Leventhal's (one of the other project directors) account, before the deadline. While it clearly didn't make it to you, it didn't bounce back either, so I had assumed that it had gone through. Lost in cyberspace. I have returned to find out that several e-mails that I sent didn't make it. Vagueries of third world technology I suppose. Sure didn't make arranging details of the PCMS project from there any easier.

Hats off for creativity though...

Cheers from Graceland (yeah, I wish),
M.

PS - anyone who has seen the general state of my hair, in or out of the field, would know that any school of cosmetology claiming me as a graduate would almost certainly have their license revoked by that widely esteemed organization, the Colorado Counsel of Professional Cosmetologists.

Job Opportunities

**Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
Seeks a Project Archaeologist**

Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine) is a small business that engages solely in contracted cultural resource studies throughout the Rocky Mountain West, Great Basin, and Southwestern states for federal and state agencies and private clients. Alpine offers a wide range of cultural resource services, including preparation of cultural resource portions of Environmental Impact Statements, cultural resource overviews, research designs, treatment plans, National Register nominations, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) packages, management plans, and historic research. Much of Alpines work involves field investigations; these commonly consist of cultural resource inventories, ruins stabilization and assessment, testing, monitoring, and controlled archaeological excavations. Alpines staff has ample experience analyzing artifacts, preparing collections for curation, and writing reports that meet agency requirements. Since Alpines inception in 1987, the firm has conducted over 250 cultural resource projects.

Alpine seeks highly motivated individuals for a project-level position with experience in Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin states for ongoing projects. Work would start as soon as feasible. The project archaeologist would work full-time and on contract for six months, with the possibility of converting to a regular, full-time position. Starting annual salary will be appropriate to a junior or mid-level, about \$28,000 to \$30,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include holidays, sick leave, vacation, professional development, and health and disability insurance. After one year, regular employees are eligible for a profit-sharing retirement plan. Responsibilities include conducting background research, survey and excavation fieldwork, and laboratory

analysis; writing short reports or portions of large reports; and coordinating with other Alpine staff members. Work tasks may involve determinations of National Register eligibility, evaluation of impacts, and design of mitigation measures. This work can include all types of cultural resources, not just prehistoric archaeological sites. A historical archaeology background is desirable. Skills include working independently, on teams, and being able to serve as a field crew supervisor. Periodic travel, especially for fieldwork, will be required. Field sessions often involve 10 consecutive work days separated by 4 days off.

Preferred qualifications include a Masters degree in archaeology and sufficient experience in CRM, preferably involving Section 106 compliance projects, to meet federal and state agency permitting requirements as a Field Director in Colorado, Utah, and/or Wyoming. Applicants must demonstrate ability and experience in research, survey, excavation, analysis, and writing; have good interpersonal and communication skills; and be willing to travel often. Familiarity with software such as MS Word, Access, and Excel is essential, and experience with ArcView is a plus. Other skills that will be given serious consideration include material culture analysis, statistical/spatial analysis, and floral or faunal analysis.

Please send a current vita, an example of recent CRM technical writing (not to be returned), and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three references in the CRM field. Include a cover letter stating how we may contact you and the dates you will be available. We will accept applications via e-mail.

Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
PO Box 2075, Montrose, CO 81402-2075
970-249-6761, ask for Debby Chamberlain
or Susan Chandler
e-mail: alpine@AlpineArchaeology.com

Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.