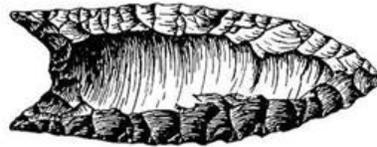




Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc.

A Colorado Non-Profit Corporation



2017 Loveland Stone Age Fair

Volunteers Needed for 2017 Loveland Stone Age Fair:

With our big event fast approaching we are looking for volunteers to help with the 2017 Loveland Stone Age Fair. Here are the areas we need help with:

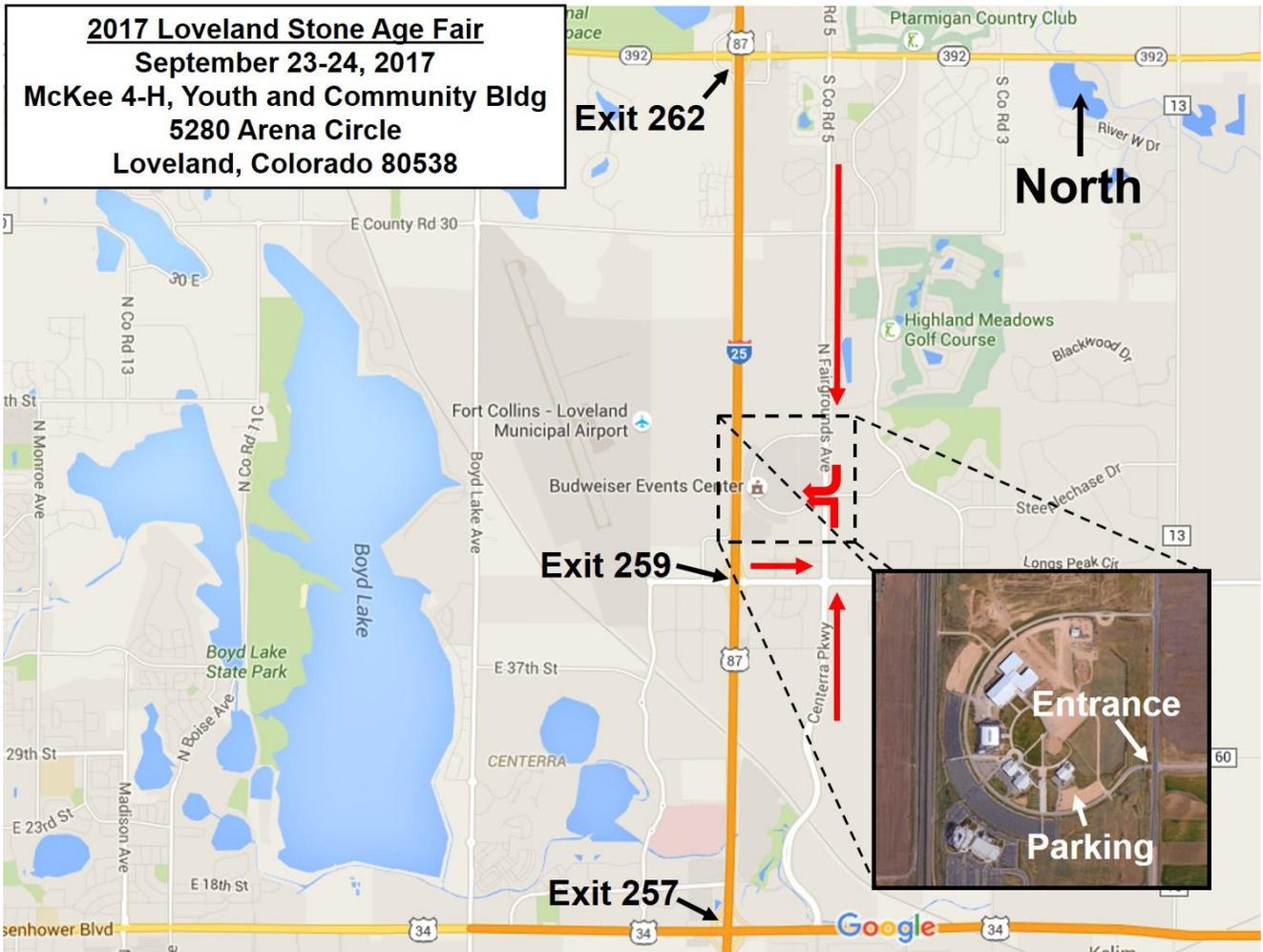
1. Exhibitors. This year's Fair is being held at the McKee 4-H, Youth and Community Bldg at The Ranch, so we have more space and more tables available. If you ever wanted to display in the past but couldn't get table space, this is your lucky year! Please call or email and let me know how many tables you would like and we'll set you up.
2. We need volunteers to help set up the exhibit hall and help exhibitors unload their collections on Friday afternoon / evening, September 22, 2017. Historically, Andy Coca has been available between noon and 1:00 p.m. on Friday to make sure the exhibit hall is set up, and to prep for the arrival of our first exhibitors. However, if you can't come until after you get off work we'd still love to see you!
3. Friday night dinner for our out of town exhibitors and LAS members helping with set up. We will have pulled pork and pulled chicken provided by the LAS, but we need members to bring side dishes. If you can, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please call me if you need more information. (See phone number below.)
4. LAS internal security. We do have professional security, but we'd like to have a volunteer to honcho our own internal security. If you can assist please let me know. Security is one of our top concerns.
5. Photographers. We'd like two dedicated photographers if we can get them. You need to have your own camera. Also, we encourage members to take photos with their cell phones. We can arrange to get copies after the show.
6. Door Prizes. We need members to donate items for door prizes. If you have something you'd like to donate please bring it to the Fair on Friday night or Saturday morning. See Rich Savino - he will be in charge of organizing the door prizes and ticket table. Thanks Rich!
7. Artifact Identification Table. We're looking for a few folks who have a good working knowledge of point types and lithic materials. This will be both Saturday and Sunday.
8. Additional LAS members to display their collections on Sunday. Historically we have exhibitors leave as early as Saturday evening or Sunday morning to travel home. When this happens we end up with open/empty tables. If you don't want to exhibit both days, but can bring your collection on Sunday to fill in please let me know. I'll have exhibitor forms and table tags set up for you.

Please help us make the 2017 Loveland Stone Age Fair another great success. Call or email me if you'd like to volunteer:

Kevin Zeeck
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LAS September 2017 Headlines:

WYOMING WILDFIRE REVEALS ‘MASSIVE’ SHOSHONE CAMP, THOUSANDS OF ARTIFACTS

Western Digs - By: Blake de Pastino April 9, 2017



Tens of thousands of acres of the Washakie Wilderness in the Shoshone National Forest burned throughout the summer of 2011. Photo courtesy L. Scheiber.

A wildfire high in the alpine forests of northwestern Wyoming has revealed a vast, centuries-old Shoshone campsite, replete with cooking hearths, ceramics, and stone tools and flakes numbering in the hundreds of thousands.

The site, found along Caldwell Creek in the Absaroka Range, had likely been used intermittently for as much as 2,500 years, archaeologists say.

But most of the artifacts point to a prolonged and impactful presence by the Mountain Shoshone some 300 to 400 years ago.

“This time period is significant,” said Dr. Laura Scheiber, archaeologist at Indiana University, who reported the find, “because a massive campsite of this age is extremely rare in the mountains, without evidence of historic trade goods, but with a wide variety of activities implied by the range of materials.”

“We have documented small arrow points, pottery sherds, bone tools, distinctive bifacial knives, grooved mauls, and hundreds of thousands of tiny chipped stone flakes,” she said.

The camp was first discovered after the Norton Point fire, which burned 23,000 acres in the Washakie Wilderness in the Shoshone National Forest throughout the summer of 2011.

When the trails in the area were re-opened that fall, archaeologist Larry Todd went to survey the burned ground and found “many newly-exposed sites radiating out from an extremely-popular modern trailhead and campground,” Scheiber said.

“This is how the Caldwell site was first discovered — during a half-hour stop during a blitzkrieg trip to record the locations of as many sites as possible.”



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In time, Scheiber, who has spent more than a decade studying alpine sites in the Absaroka range, was called in to help study the site in depth.

Reaching it required a four-mile hike from base camp with pack mules and horses at an altitude of 8,300 feet, but the scene that awaited Scheiber and her team was worth it, she said.

"It was obvious that we were camping on top of an archaeological site," said Scheiber, who described the ground where the burn had been most intense as a "carpet" of stone artifacts.

"On the black ground were thousands of exploded red and orange and yellow pieces of chipped stone artifacts.

"Rarely would archaeologists have the opportunity to witness a site in its full aerial scope like this."

Some of the artifacts were projectile points fashioned in a style that's at least 2,500 years old, Scheiber said.

But the bulk of what remained were stone tools and ceramics made and used by the Mountain Shoshone, likely a few centuries before contact with Europeans.

Taken whole, the scene provides a deep view into the history of the Tukudika people, once known as the Lemhi or Mountain Sheepeaters, whose modern descendants include members of the Shoshone-Bannock and Eastern Shoshone tribes.

"The site did indeed prove to be a late period Mountain Shoshone campsite, with triangular arrow points, beveled knives, sherds from at least three different ceramic vessels, large grooved mauls, ground stone, and dozens of bifaces in different stages of production and use," Scheiber said.

Thousands of years of use have made the site a palimpsest of artifacts, which makes it difficult to discern one period of occupation from another, she noted, but a few areas of the campsite stand out in bold relief.

"For instance," she said, "on the other side of camp is another incredibly complex site, where people left behind thousands of pieces of chipped stone in a primary reduction area, reducing locally-available chert cobbles into manageable pieces.

"In the middle of one of the large clusters of thousands of flakes was a perfectly preserved complete Mountain Shoshone tri-notched arrow point."

Upstream from there, she added, a series of hearths was found, along with a Shoshone knife and what appears to be a grinding rock.

Perhaps most striking, the site also included hundreds of fragments of Intermountain Ware, the thick, flat-bottomed pottery that's distinctive of pre-contact Shoshone culture.

"The recovery of more than 1,000 ceramic sherds is especially exciting," Scheiber said, "since this robust dataset effectively triples the number of high-altitude ceramics in the region and will allow us to explore a number of fine-grained temporal and spatial questions about late pre-contact Shoshone life in the mountains."

In addition to big-picture issues about the history and movement of the Mountain Shoshone, the campsite at



A small exposed section of the campsite reveals the distribution of artifacts. (Photo courtesy L. Scheiber)



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Caldwell Creek also offers glimpses into their day-to-day lives hundreds of years ago, Scheiber noted.

“Excavations at the Caldwell Creek site have revealed a tremendous variety of artifact types and hence, of people’s activities,” she added.

“People were cooking and hunting and re-sharpening tools and making tools.”

In all, the site uncovered by the Norton Point wildfire is a microcosm of pre-contact Mountain Shoshone life, Scheiber said.

Since her study was first conducted, the forest has reclaimed the surface of the site, she noted, recovering it with new grass, wildflowers, and brush. (She added that it is illegal to collect artifacts on federally protected lands without a permit).

But its lessons are manifold, from the new insights it provides into the migrations and lifeways of the Mountain Shoshone, to the need it demonstrates for more study of high-altitude sites like it.

“Mountains are often identified as the ultimate wilderness,” Scheiber said.

“They are seen as pristine natural worlds that reflect things as they used to be. “[But] the mountains are not unmodified by humans. People had, and have, entrenched and persistent connections to those places.”

“The Shoshone world in particular in the Central Rockies is broader than previously imagined,” she said.

“It extends farther across space, and farther back in time.”

<http://westerndigs.org/wyoming-wildfire-reveals-massive-pre-contact-shoshone-camp-thousands-of-artifacts/>

LAS Find of the Month, September 2017:

Members can bring an artifact to be entered into the competition at the monthly meeting, which will be judged based on the following rules:

1. Must be a member of LAS in good standing.
2. The artifact must be a personal find.
3. It must have been found within the specified time frame, i.e., within the month prior to the meeting.
4. The artifact doesn’t have to be a Colorado find—all that matters is that it was found in the last month.

The Find of the Month for September 2017 was made by Neal Brenner.

Type: Hanna Blade, 2” in length
Material: Oolitic chert
Location: Wyoming (County Unknown)



LAS News and Upcoming Events:

September 23 & 24, 2017 Loveland Stone Age Fair. More information will be provided in the coming months. Put the dates on your calendar, and plan now to attend!

October 3, 2017 October meeting. Program: Summer 2017 Show and Tell night. Did you go on a dig or take a trip to an archaeological site? Did you find any great artifacts? Bring your photos and finds and share the excitement!

- Sponsor of the Annual Loveland Stone Age Fair -
www.stoneagefair.com