



Arrowheadlines

The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society

JANUARY MEETING

Date:	Next Meeting is Jan. 2, 2018. Business meeting starts at 7:15 p.m.
Place:	Rialto Theater Center, 222 E. 4th Street in Loveland, Colorado
Program:	Steve Campbell talk on the Whispering Feather Ruins Site in Arizona as well as how he began his arrowhead hunting career
Refreshments:	The Club furnishes cookies and drinks



From the Editor

Happy 2018 to all Club members and their families! Hopefully this will be a year filled with good health and great finds. Before you know it our Spring Into Archaeology show will be upon us again. Along with the Stone Age Fair, our March 24th Spring show is the Club's premier event. This year it will be held again at The Ranch's McKee Building in conjunction with the Fort Collins Rockhounds' Gem and Mineral show and the Fort Collins Coin Club show. There's something for everyone. As this is a LAS members-only show, your participation is encouraged, whether your collection consists of 2 frames or 2 table's worth of frames. We need exhibitors as well as public greeters and members to help set up and break down. More details in the upcoming months. Remember to mark the date.

It's also time for Annual Club dues for 2018 if not already paid. Dues are \$10.00 for an individual membership, \$20.00 for a family membership. Please pay at any meeting *prior* to the Stone Age Fair, or send your payment to:
Jean Steinhoff
PO Box 226
Berthoud, CO. 80513

If you currently receive a mailed hard copy of this Newsletter and have an e-mail that we can send it to instead, let me know. My e-mail is linge1915@gmail.com. It would help the Club save on postage. Thank you.

Remember to sign up for Monthly programs for the 2018 meetings. The sign-up sheet is always at the meetings. If you can't make a meeting, please contact one of the Club Officers or this Editor with the details of the Program and the Month you'd like to present it. This also applies to the Refreshments sign-up sheet.



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Voting for the Election of Club Officers will take place at the January meeting. The current slate of officers has decided to continue in their respective roles. These are Andy Coca, President; Carrie Graves, Vice President; Mark Boswell, Treasurer; Jean Steinhoff (Secretary, lifetime position). We are also in need of a Stone Age Fair Chairperson and volunteer Committee members as well. Your ideas and suggestions for improving the Stone Age Fair, as well as the LAS (meetings, organization, outreach, etc.), are always welcome. Contact Andy or any Club Officer with your feedback.

As noted in the Minutes, there was lengthy discussion at the meeting on several topics of great interest to all members regarding the future direction and sustainability of the LAS, including membership in the Central States Archaeological Society, improving the 2018 Stone Age Fair and increasing attendance, and growing the LAS membership. President Andy Coca will have more information on some of these topics at the January meeting. Andy would also like to schedule a Saturday coffee planning meeting to explore members' ideas and suggestions on these and other issues going forward. Your participation would be very welcome; date and location TBD. Even if you can't make this meeting, there will be others in planning the 2018 SAF etc. You are always encouraged to e-mail Andy or any Club Officer anytime with your thoughts.

Other areas where members' help is needed are committees for Programs and Membership, specifically related to proactively finding speakers and programs for our monthly meetings and ideas for increasing Club membership and active involvement at the Spring and SAF shows in promoting the Club.

The following are some specifics about the LAS becoming a member of the Central States Archaeological Society, which was initially discussed at the December meeting. This is a major decision for the Club, and your feedback to Andy on this decision is critical moving forward one way or another. This is taken from an e-mail sent to Andy from Steven R. Cooper, (Editor):

“According to the bylaws of the central States Archaeological Societies, Inc., in order for a society to join the following must be done: Make application in writing to the treasurer, Phyllis Goodrum. In the application there must a statement that the membership of the applicant society will abide by the rules and the purposes and objectives of the Central States, as set forth in Article II of the Bylaws.
(link: http://www.csasi.org/csasi_bylaws.pdf).

Only one society is allowed per state. I suggest you utilize a name for your society that incorporates the name of the state in the name. Usually, there is already an “Archaeological Society of “your state” so choose a name that uses something else, such as **The Loveland Archaeological Society of Colorado**. Lastly, the bylaws say that once you are admitted, your formal admittance occurs on January 1st of the next year. However, that can be overridden in the annual meeting by a vote. Thus, you would need to get all of your paperwork etc. in prior to our annual meeting in March at the Collinsville Show. I would be more than happy to represent you, and work towards getting your organization on track immediately. Membership dues are \$24/year per member. \$16 goes to Central States, and your organization keeps \$8. Each member receives the Society Journal. You can make your dues more if you desire, as well as send out your own newsletter in addition to the Journal. Payments are made to the CSAS treasurer, and your secretary sends in the membership quarterly to the business manager so members can be added to the mailing list. Dues are for one year, and if one joins in June for instance, the society will provide the new member with the first two Journals of the year, and Central States mails the additional Journals to them, along with a renewal card in the October issue. Journals to cover these shortfalls are shipped quarterly to the member societies. It is also



suggested you create a “logo” for your society for inclusion on the back of the Journal. Your society officers will be printed in the Journal in the “officers” section. Officers include President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Central States is a non-profit organization”.



Take 5

Each Newsletter we would like to Spotlight a member of the LAS by asking them 5 questions; hence Take 5. It's a way to get to know our members and each other a little better. This month we're spotlighting long time Club member and author Gary Yeager. We caught up with Gary and asked:

1. How many years have you been a member of the LAS?

Gary: I have been a member since 1983, 35 years.

2. What do you see as the biggest change in the club between then and now?

Gary: When I first joined the Club, virtually every member was an “arrowhead hunter”, including both men and women, and many husband and wife teams. As I recall, there were very few members who only collected artifacts as opposed to those who hunted in the field. I recall very little conversation regarding buying and selling of stone artifacts or what they might be worth. Also, back then there were more younger members than what we seem to have nowadays.

3. How many books have you written and how did you get into writing?

Gary: I was told by a school teacher in junior high school that I was a ‘good’ writer. Now, over 60 years later, I have written 4 books myself and helped to produce one other book. My first book, (Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts), was published by the second publishing company I contacted and is now in its 3rd edition over 32 years.

4. How has hunting changed for you over the last 25 years?

Gary: The primary change I've experienced in artifact hunting over the last 25 years has been the aging factor. I simply can't cover the ground I once did. Also, the ‘old time’ farmers and ranchers I once knew are all now about gone.

5. What's your best find, and which has eluded you?

Gary: I simply cannot single out the best find I ever made. Likewise, I can't say much about a particular find that has eluded us (Ed. Note: his wife Sue and himself), except to say that we have over a hundred pieces of Paleo points, but not that one beautiful point with some size to it.



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LAS Find of the Month, December 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 December 2017 was made by Steve Campbell. Ray Lambert was the judge.



Type: Anasazi Pitcher ca. 900 AD

Material: Clay

Location: St. Johns area, Arizona

Behind the Find: Steve found this pitcher while excavating ruins on his land in Arizona. It was discovered about 3 feet below the surface, almost completely intact. Steve named the site Whispering Feather Ruins, “inspired by a feather that floated down while I was digging”.



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

'Unexpected' 3,000-Year-Old Bison Hunting Site Discovered in Southern Arizona



A surprising find on a ranch in southeastern Arizona has some archaeologists re-thinking a vital period of history in this corner of the Southwest. In the desert upland just a few miles from both Mexico and New Mexico, researchers have uncovered a 3,000-year-old bison kill site, featuring hundreds of bones and bone fragments, along with dozens of cobbles and flaked and ground stone tools. Adding to the surprise is the fact that this location, known as Cave Creek Midden, near the town of Portal, is already well-known to archaeologists.

When it was first investigated in 1936, the site revealed stone tools and other artifacts that came to typify a critical phase in Southwestern history: the period from about 4000 and 500 BCE, when humans first started to re-settle the desert Southwest and develop methods for farming corn. The discovery of a large bison kill here adds a whole new chapter to the story of the site, and a new understanding of the hunter-gatherers who lived here. Excavations revealed bison bones, cobbles, and manos in a layer dated to around 1300 BCE.

"We found a bunch of bison where we hoped to find corn," said Dr. Jesse Ballenger, of the University of Arizona, who co-led the new study with Dr. Jonathan Mabry. "The presence of bison at the Cave Creek Midden site opens interesting avenues of research," added Francois Lanoe, an Arizona doctoral student who also took part in the study. "If bison were a major component of people's diet, well, it is unexpected in that region of the Southwest. "If they were not, it is equally interesting: Why would people bypass such a highly-ranked resource?" Very little has been found — and therefore little is known — from this phase of Southwestern history, known as the Middle Archaic or Chiricahua stage of the Cochise tradition, which is thought to be ancestral to the Mogollon culture.

So, Ballenger and his colleagues sought to re-investigate Cave Creek Midden and search for new clues about the region's earliest corn farmers. "[This site] is a huge deal, because it defined about 40 years of how people conceptualized that vague moment in prehistory," noted Ballenger, who is also president of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, which sponsored the research.



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A corner-notched stone point (just right of center) was found among the stones and bones. When the team began investigating Cave Creek Midden in the fall of 2014, they uncovered something that previous excavations had either missed or dismissed: a deep layer of dark soil about 45 centimeters (18 inches) thick, rich with cobbles, bison bones, and a few stone artifacts. The dark soil marked the boundaries of what had been a spring-fed wetland, known regionally as a cienega. The researchers were able to date this layer thanks to a small pit they found within it, containing ground stone tools, a bison bone that had been broken radially — as if with a hammerstone — and a bit of charcoal, which was radiocarbon dated to about 1,300 BCE.

“They may go a bit older,” Ballenger said of the bison bones, “but we don’t know.” Some aspects of this artifact assemblage may be easier to understand than others, he said. The cobbles, for example, may have been used for bludgeoning animals or breaking bones, or perhaps just as stepping stones across the marsh. Shaped hand tools, called manos, were also present in large numbers. But in addition to what they found, the researchers also took note of what seemed to be absent — namely, the butchering and cooking tools that are usually associated with bison kills. “Those places are typically filled with the tools needed to kill and dismember the animals, such as projectile points, choppers, knives, pounders,” Ballenger said. “It’s a fairly predictable assemblage. “But once that meat, bone, and hide makes its way to the processing area, where boiling vessels would be handy, then ceramics are expected.” And yet, all of these artifacts are either missing from the site, or are in short supply. At the same time, an analysis of the bison bones themselves suggests that the animals were killed at the site. “When we examine what skeletal parts are present at the Cave Creek Midden site, it’s clear that basically whole animals are present,” said Meredith Wismer, a doctoral candidate at the University of Iowa who took part in the study. If the bison had been killed elsewhere and brought to Cave Creek Midden to be butchered, she said, only the processed parts of the animals would be found there. “Since bison are such large animals, we expect that hunters would be selective in what carcass parts they would bring to a processing site, taking the most nutritionally valuable portions, for instance,” she said. But even then, evidence that the animals were butchered at all has been, so far, hard to come by.

Out of the 83 bison-bones that contained marrow — a precious, calorie-rich resource usually extracted by hunters — only two were found to have been broken open, Wismer said.

“And any butchery marks that may be present on the bones are obscured due to the poor preservation of the bone surface,” she added. So, Wismer speculated, it could be that at least some of the bison found in the ancient bone bed weren’t killed by hunters, but instead simply got stuck in the muck. “This may have been an area on the landscape that bison frequented, and it is possible that at sometimes in the site’s history they were hunted and used by people, but at other times bison may have gotten trapped in the cienega, died of natural causes, and were not used by people,” she said.



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The excavations were sponsored by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, and funded with help from the residents of nearby Portal, Arizona. Nonetheless, the fact that bison have been found here at all is an enlightening surprise, Wismer said. “Most sites in this region only have a handful of specimens of bison, and our site has over 200 specimens, coming from a minimum of 6 individuals,” she said. “The presence of bison — that were clearly not traded from other areas — can tell us about the environmental context of the local landscape.” The researchers will continue to untangle the rather confusing clues they’ve uncovered at Cave Creek Midden. But for now, Ballenger said, it’s clear that the history of the area is even richer and deeper than the historic excavations of the 1930s would suggest. With the new data from Cave Creek, the picture of ancient life in these southern reaches of the Southwest may come into clearer focus.

“This re-investigation of a site that played a pivotal role in the development of concepts of the Archaic period in the Southwest borderlands is providing unexpected new information that is expanding our understanding of Middle Archaic adaptations,” said Mabry. Ballenger agreed, adding, “We collected a lot of good information about the hydrology, vegetation, ecology, and archaeology of the Chiricahua Stage type site. “As for what happened there, that’s a story that we are trying to piece together.” The team reported its findings this week at the 39th Annual Conference of the Society for Ethnobiology in Tucson, Arizona.



ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

The Answer To Last Month’s Trivia Question: How many Federally recognized Indian tribes are there in the US? Answer: 565

This Month’s Trivia Question: What was America’s first National Park created to protect human history? Answer in Next Month’s *Arrowheadlines Newsletter*.