



Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc.

A Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

Arrowheadlines



The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society of Colorado

March 2019



Club Minutes

The March meeting of the LAS was held on Tuesday, March 5th at the McKee building at The Ranch in Loveland, Colorado. President Andy Coca called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. There were 29 members and guests in attendance. The food sign-up sheet was passed around the room. We still need volunteers for July and September. Andy thanked the members who have renewed their dues and/or signed up for the Central States Archaeological Journal. Once again, we have several members that need to send in their dues. Hopefully we can get this resolved this month.

We discussed our *Spring Into Archaeology* show on Saturday, March 23rd at the McKee Building at The Ranch. We would like all our members to display their collections of Native American artifacts and fill the room with exhibits. We can start setting up at 7 AM and the show starts at 9 AM and ends at 6 PM. The Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Club and the Front Range Coin Club will also be sharing the building and their respective shows with us as they have the past several years. Should be a great time.

We finally got word that the remodeling of the Pulliam Community building is starting. The City of Loveland has asked us to remove our library, archives, signs, displays etc., basically everything in the storage room which will probably be part of an elevator in the new configuration. Steve Campbell, Hank Miller, Rich Savino, Mitch Fink and Andy volunteered to move everything out into storage in the next week. If you want to volunteer, we will meet at the Pulliam Building at noon, March 11th.

Sadly, Andy informed the club of the passing of longtime member Gene Nelson recently. Gene was very active as an avocational archaeologist and collected on the High Plains and Foothills while he and his wife lived in the Denver Lakewood area. He was Stone Age Fair Chairman in 1969 and displayed at the Stone Age Fair regularly. He was involved in several excavations and wrote articles which were published in the Colorado Archaeological Society Journal, "Southwestern Lore." In his article of the excavation of the George W. Lindsay ranch site just north of Golden Colorado, he tentatively proposed "The Hogback Phase" for the artifacts discovered at the site. Somewhere after that the name Hogback Point came to be put into general use to describe the small corner notched arrowheads which had been found in Front Range Woodland components dating from around A.D. 600 to 1000. Gene also presented the Paleo Point Project which was an annual survey that listed the location of Paleo points found yearly that the Denver Chapter was aware of. Another article of note was on the Chambers Cave excavation which is southwest of Pueblo Colorado. Both were published in the "Southwestern Lore" journal. After retirement, Gene and his wife Norma moved to Grand Junction. In that time period he and Ed Gregory along with others leased a site in southwestern Colorado that had Anasazi ruins and they both collected artifacts from the site.



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Our program for the evening was by Dr. Linda Scott Cummings, President and CEO of the Paleo Research Institute in Golden, Colorado. Her presentation was on "Climate Modeling" and gave us an overview of what Colorado's climate was like from the Paleo era of 13,000 years ago through today and highlighted the dramatic changes in weather patterns and precipitation and how they affected the flora, fauna and humans living in Colorado. The program was well received.

The *Find of the Month* winner was a serrated arrowhead found Hank Miller. We then held our door prize drawing. Our program for the Tuesday April 2nd meeting will be a film presentation entitled "The Original Coloradans" which traces the history of Colorado's original inhabitants, the Utes. The program traces their origins from pre-colonial days and their early interactions with trappers, explorers and the escalating friction with new settlers and gold seekers. Future programs will feature our scholarship winners from CSU and the University of Wyoming.



Dr. Linda Scott Cummings

The Door Prize drawing brought in \$38.00 with the following results:

| Donors | Items | Winners |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Rich Savino | Book: Strange But True Colorado | Hank Miller |
| Rich Savino | Repro Slate Banner stone | Jaclynn Vealey |
| Rich Savino | Grey Ghost Eccentric Knife | Ed Wells |
| Rich Savino | Repro Clovis Point | Hank Miller |
| Hank Miller | Several Paperback Books | Chad Sommerville |
| Mark Boswell | Hawaiian Traditions T-Shirt | Steve Campbell |
| Ed (The Cereal King) Wells | Box of Cereal | Mitch Fink |

UPCOMING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Date: | Next mtg. is April 2, 2019 |
| Place: | McKee 4H Building at The Ranch, Loveland |
| Program: | A film presentation entitled "The Original Coloradans" |
| Refreshments: | Hank Miller; Donated money will contribute as well |

Did You Know?

The word "barbecue" is from the Arawakan Indian language meaning "framework of sticks."



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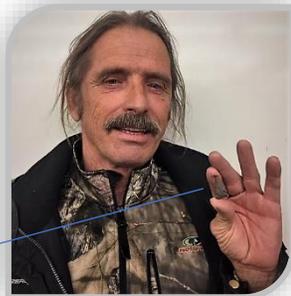
LAS Find of the Month

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 March 2019 was made by Hank Miller (see insert) as judged by all members present.

Type: Serrated side notched point



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS - Local Focal Point

Lindenmeier Revisited

In 1935, 28-year-old Loren Eisely was a member of the excavation crew at an archaeological dig in a remote area on the high Colorado prairie. He was a poet and a philosopher but had a keen interest in anthropology. At the time, scientists believed and rigorously defended the theory that ancient humans arose in Asia and Africa and had been in the new world for only a few thousand years. Brushing away bits of dirt, Eisely exposed a piece of a bone, probably from an Ice Age bison. He continued brushing when his keen eye saw something else: a piece of stone embedded in the bone. Looking closer, he realized it was a fluted point made by Folsom man and it had broken off in an Ice Age animal. He knew immediately this was significant: it proved that humans had inhabited this land at least 11,000 years ago. The discovery made worldwide headlines and turned the scientific community on its head. This proved without a doubt that man had lived and hunted here during the Ice Age. Woolly mammoths, giant sloths, camels, pronghorn, jackrabbits, turtles, and, of course, *Bison antiquus* were all on the menu.



The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department now owns this globally significant cultural resource: the famed Lindenmeier Archaeological Site (LAS). Encompassing only about three acres, the LAS is part of the 22,000-acre Soapstone Prairie Natural Area.



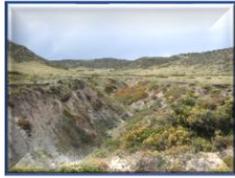
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It is designated a National Historic Landmark and is the largest Folsom culture site in the Western Hemisphere in regard to the number of artifacts it contains. A plethora of needles, beads, and stone tools were found by the Smithsonian Institute in the 1930s; but it was the discovery by Loren Eisely described above of an ancient projectile point lodged in the vertebrae of an Ice Age bison that forever changed the world's perception of early man in North American.

When the Smithsonian closed their operations at the site in 1940, they carefully re-buried it to preserve its remaining artifacts.

When the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department purchased this land in 2004 there was immediate interest from amateur and professional archaeologists around the world. Under private ownership the site had no public access. Now publicly owned, people demanded information and access.



Staff fielded a range of questions: *How will you protect and preserve this area? When can we get up there and start digging?* Preview field trips for the public were conducted twice a week in the summers and falls of 2006-2008. Small groups of people, strapped into a Suburban, bounced slowly over ranch roads enjoying the massive views and learning about the ecology of the steppe ecosystem. During the three years of preview trips, nearly every visitor appreciated the amazing beauty and

landscape of the high steppe and most were extremely interested in visiting the LAS. People's perception of the LAS quickly changed when they became aware that it was not an open dig site as depicted in documentaries and museums. Instead it is an arroyo with artifacts appearing as if by magic as wind and water cut into the land. In fact, that was how it was discovered by amateur archaeologists Claude and Lynn Coffin and C.K. Collins in 1924. It became clear that the Natural Areas Department needed to provide a viewing place that protected the site from amateur collectors and curious tourists yet satisfied their strong desire to experience this place. Working closely with the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, Colorado State University's Center for Public Archaeology, and Native American Indian groups, the Natural Areas Department's education team carefully crafted a two-day mandatory training in 2009 for all staff and those volunteer educators who wanted to deliver programs at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area.



Since then, mandatory training for new staff and volunteers has been held annually (now condensed into one day) for interpreters who want to deliver programs at this location. They have access to extensive background information, replicas of artifacts, and can even invite their audiences to try throwing an atlatl, an ancient hunting device. They are also trained in the correct protocol if artifacts are found on their field trips. All artifacts are strictly protected, and enforcement efforts remain very high. Soapstone Prairie is only 26 miles from downtown Fort Collins, however it feels very remote. Today, visitors make their way up the short accessible trail to the Lindenmeier Overlook. On the way, they can step on woolly mammoth tracks stamped in the concrete. The overlook building fits in with the landscape and is large enough to comfortably accommodate a group of 20-30 people, as well as several smaller groups at the same time. There are places to sit and relax and take in the landscape. There are creative interpretive panels depicting scenes from 11,000-13,000 years ago including both humans and wildlife. Interpreters bring real and replicated artifacts, photos of Ice Age animals and the Smithsonian dig, and weave together the many stories of this special place. The Lindenmeier Overlook is now a destination for many people and attendance at cultural history programs is high. Additionally, Dr. Jason LaBelle, Director of the Center for Public Archaeology, has conducted field research on the LAS and the surrounding natural area. He and his graduate students have accommodated interested citizens who volunteer for a few days or a week, working and camping on the site. He has also presented several well-attended community programs in Fort Collins, as well as a LAS monthly Club meeting and the Stone Age Fair, about his research and discoveries.



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The Navajo Night Chant Ceremony

This is the most sacred of all Navajo ceremonies. It is also the most technically difficult and demanding to learn. This is because it involves memorizing literally hundreds of songs, dozens of prayers and several very complicated and intricate sand paintings. In spite of this, the demand for Night Chants remains great.



As many as 50 ceremonies might be held during one season, usually in late Fall or early Winter, and lasts 18-20 weeks. Sand paintings are important in the Navajo healing rituals. There are 12 different sand paintings that are appropriate for the Night Chant ceremony, of which half are usually chosen (4 large, 2 small). The patient (and family members) usually have input into which sand paintings are used. Each sand painting is associated with a particular story and is accompanied by specific songs,

prayers and ceremonial procedures. Standard designs for the Night Chant are: First Dancers, Whirling Logs, Water Sprinkles, Fringed Mouth Gods, Black Gods and Corn people. The medicine man rarely is the one who makes the sand paintings. But, he is the one responsible for overseeing their preparation. It's the assistants who do the actual painting by dribbling small amounts of colored sand through their fingers onto a smooth surface. Remember, these must be PERFECT!!! There can be no deviations from the design set down by the gods. Every detail in each sand painting has a meaning. For example:

If the plumes on the heads of the figures are on the same side as the rattle, it means that rain is desired. But, if they are on the opposite side from the hand holding the rattle, it means that the growth of corn is the desired outcome. The whole purpose of these sand paintings is to allow the patient to absorb the powers depicted in them. The patient does this by sitting or sleeping on it. The medicine man will apply items from his *jish* (sacred bundle) to the gods that are depicted in the sand painting. Then he'll do it to the corresponding part of the patient's body. It is considered wrong- if not dangerous- to reproduce these sand paintings in any way, because they might attract the attention of the gods to a situation where no real healing is intended! So, sketching and photographing them is prohibited! Sometimes, however, this prohibition can be avoided by removing the prayer-plumes that are set around the sand painting; or, by just omitting some other detail so that the painting isn't really "finished."



ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

The Answer To Last Month's Trivia Question: Jasper, Chalcedony, Agate, and Novaculite are all varieties of what type rock?

Answer: Chert

This Month's Trivia Question: The original Dent Site Folsom Points reside where:

- The Smithsonian
- Denver Museum of Science and Technology
- The Frison Institute
- The University of Colorado Archaeology Department
- Andy's House

Answer in Next Month's *Arrowheadlines Newsletter*.



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Remember: As our old friend Gene Autry always says, “If it’s Springtime in the Rockies it’s [Spring Into Archaeology](#) time in Loveland”!

