



# Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc.

A Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

## Arrowheadlines



The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society



July 2019



### Club Minutes

The July meeting of the Loveland Archaeological Society was held Tuesday, July 9th in the McKee Building at the Ranch. Andy called the meeting to order about 7:15 PM. There were 21 members and guests present. Jacquelyn Vealy brought up that she went to the Harris Ranch for the 4th of July. She was asked by the ranch owner who she was as it was determined that we had not asked for permission for the LAS to hunt for artifacts during this holiday. He gave her permission to search but asked that the LAS give advance notice if we are planning on coming to his ranch for Memorial weekend, July 4th and Labor Day weekend. We realized that Jean Steinhoff had always notified the ranch owner of our plans previously and we missed it this time. Andy volunteered to notify the Harris Ranch owner going forward. Kevin Zeeck prepared this year's Stone Age Fair flyer and exhibitor invitations, and Andy is going to mail these this coming week. All members are invited to display at this year's 85<sup>th</sup> Stone Age Fair on *Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>* at The Ranch. Let Andy know your table space requests in advance via phone (303-903-0587) or email: [arrowhead@what-wire.com](mailto:arrowhead@what-wire.com). For Club members, the **Registration Form** is attached to this Newsletter. Our August meeting, which is our annual picnic will be held Tuesday, August 6th at Dwayne Webster Park same as last year. It is a potluck event and runs from 6 to 9 PM. Bring artifacts for show & tell. Mike Pearce presented some artifacts recently found by him on a Western Slope site which incidentally was also being surveyed by Dr. Bonnie Pitblado and her crew of students from the University of Oklahoma. Of special note were projectile points Bonnie is calling Stemmed Notched

Base Paleo. These encompass Bajada, Escobas, Rio Grande and Jay points which are found in our region and date to 8,000 to 9,000 years old. Our program for July was presented by Diane Neifeld who came from Lincoln, Nebraska for our meeting. She presented many examples of Lakota Sioux bead work on saddle bags, moccasins, pipe bags, cradle board holder and a horse blanket. These were all of museum quality and had been given to her grandparents in trade at the Standing Rock Reservation Trading Post (located in North and South Dakota) which was operated by her family. Her mother was born on the reservation. She had photos of Native Americans, buildings and infrastructure from the Historic Reservation. She also had examples of books that were in both English and Native American dialect.





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LAS member Barry Bosley has known Diane since they were children in Nebraska and gave her a hand with the presentation. The program was well received as museum quality examples of bead work are seldom presented for our close viewing. We then held our Find of the Month contest which was won by Steve Campbell with a grouping of Anasazi pottery and shell bracelets found by Steve on his property in Arizona. Great refreshments were provided by several Club members including Shellene, Barry, Rich, and Andy. The door prize drawing followed, and the meeting was adjourned by 9 PM.

## Drawing Results

Donor	Item	Winner
Ed Wells	A Box of Honey Bunches of Oats cereal with 30% more Almonds (the 'larger than many small countries' size box)	Steve Campbell
Rich Savino	2 Bags of Artifacts	Ed Wells, Barry Bosley
The LAS Club	2 Central States Archaeological Journals	Rhonda Evensiosky
Ed Wells	Book: Presidential Inaugural Addresses	Emma Evensiosky
Barry Bosley	Book: Amateur Archaeologist, Ohio	Mitch Fink
Andy Coca	2 Colorado Harahey knives	Barry Bosley
Andy Coca	Book: The Plains Rifle	Barry Bosley
Andy Coca	Book: The Archaeology of Colorado	Rhonda Evensiosky
Andy Coca	Book: Great Images of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Steve Campbell

## UPCOMING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date:	Next mtg. is August 6, 2019
Place:	Dwayne Webster Park (Shelter #2) 401 W. 13 <sup>th</sup> St. Loveland (corner Grant and W. Eisenhower across from south shore Lake Loveland. Same location as last year)
Program:	Annual Club Picnic
Refreshments:	Please bring a dish/drinks to share

## Follow Up

I received an e-mail from longtime LAS member Garry Weinmeister on my Roberts Ranch Buffalo Jump story in last month's Newsletter. I always find personal anecdotes fascinating and enjoy sharing them. Here's Garry's: *"When I first started attending the SAF, Ray Barker had an exhibit there of his (and the others) excavation [of the Buffalo Jump]. Also, George Stewart took me there in the late 1960's. We viewed the jump from above, from the property of Josephine Lamb, who also technically owned the jump. She was a little peeved that it was referred to as the Roberts Jump. Also, we found the stone cairns that formed the drive lanes. I still remember being impressed that you could not see the cliff (jump) from above until you were right on it."*

The following note was sent to the Club by Laurey Patten with a link to an article about her late husband Bob Patten. Bob was a great friend of the Club and premier flintknapper at many of our Stone Age Fairs.



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*"Please find a link below to the peer-reviewed scientific journal article, "Robert J. Patten (1944–2017): Life, Legacy, and Contributions to Archaeology, Lithic Technology, and Flintknapping."*

*The article is open access, so anyone can download the PDF. We encourage you to pass this link to your friends, colleagues, and anyone who you think would benefit from reading it! We would also please ask that you post this article to internet message boards like PaleoPlanet, or to other archaeology and flintknapping social media groups who may find it interesting. We would also like to thank the many people that made this article possible, and to those of you that contributed memories of Bob for the article."*

*All Best Wishes, Metin & Laurey*

ARTICLE LINK: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01977261.2019.1598624>



### 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 July 2019 was made by Steve Campbell as judged by all members present.

**Type:** Anasazi Bowl and Pitcher; 2 shell bracelets



**Material:** Clay, Shell

**Where Found:** Outside St. John's, Arizona on Steve's property; Kiva excavations





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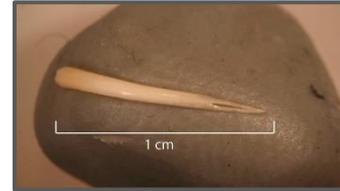
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ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS SAY WHAT?

### Fossilized Human Poop Shows Ancient Forager Ate an Entire Rattlesnake-Fang Included

A 1,500-year-old chunk of fossilized human poop found at a former rock shelter in Texas contains evidence of an ancient hunter-gatherer who consumed an entire rattlesnake—including a fang. Archaeologists have never seen anything quite like it. Back in the late 1960s, archaeologists collected over 1,000 samples of human-produced coprolites, or dried-out poop, at the Conejo Shelter site in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of southwest Texas. A team led by archaeologist Elanor Sonderman from Texas A&M University recently took a new look at this old poop, leading to a rather remarkable discovery. One of the recovered poop samples contained various traces of vegetation, and even a whole small rodent that was seemingly eaten without cooking. For hunter-gatherers of the Lower Pecos, that's actually nothing out of the ordinary. But the same coprolite sample also contained traces of an entire rattlesnake, including bits of bones, scales, and even a fang. The authors of the new study believe it to be the first evidence of whole-snake consumption in the fossil record. As the researchers point out in the new study, published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, this unique-and potentially life-threatening-ingestive act was likely done for ceremonial or ritualistic reasons, and not for the nutrition. The Lower Pecos region of Texas was first inhabited by humans about 12,000 to 14,000 years ago. The Conejo Shelter is located near the junction of the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers, and it served as a safe space for indigenous hunter-gatherers during the region's Archaic period. Archaeologists conducted excavations at this site from 1967 to 1968, pulling out over 1,000 human coprolites, among other artifacts and fossils. The quantity of coprolites found at a specific area of the rock shelter suggests the space was designated as a latrine. Fossilized poop samples may sound off-putting, but they allow scientists to reconstruct the diets of ancient peoples. A second coprolite found within the same stratigraphic layer as the one with the snake fang was carbon dated to between 1,529 to 1,597 years ago, so roughly 1,000 years before the arrival of Europeans to the New World. According to the researchers, the pre-Columbian hunter-gatherers who lived in the Lower Pecos region had to deal with relatively harsh desert conditions, foraging on small animals such as rodents (including rabbits), fish, reptiles, and anything else they could find. Large prey, such as deer, were relatively rare. Vegetation played an important role in the lives of the Lower Pecos peoples, which they used for food, medicine, and to produce items such as sandals, baskets, and mats. This culture is also known for its elaborate and extensive rock art, which frequently depicted snakes. The coprolite sample containing evidence of whole-snake consumption was placed in storage back in the late 1970s. Sonderman, along with colleagues Crystal Dozier from Wichita State University and Morgan Smith from Texas A&M University, have been re-analyzing the various items excavated during the prior digs at Conejo Shelter. For the most part, this particular poop sample was much like other human coprolites found at the site. This particular individual consumed a wide variety of plants having both nutritional and medicinal value. Sonderman's team found traces of *Agave lechuguilla* and *Liliaceae*, of which the flowers were typically eaten. The fossilized poop also contained evidence of *Dasyilirion* fibers, related to the asparagus family, and *Opuntia*, a cactus more commonly known as the prickly pear. These plants were likely eaten in the spring or early summer. The remains of a small rodent were also found in the poop sample, "evidently eaten whole, with no indication of preparation or cooking," wrote the authors in the new study. This is not unusual, as bits of fur and bones are often found in Lower Pecos human coprolites dating back to this time period. As for the whole snake, however, that came as a surprise.



**Rattlesnake Fang**



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The researchers said it was a viperous, venomous snake, either a western diamondback rattlesnake or copperhead, the latter of which was deemed less likely owing to the size of the fang. To be clear, evidence of snake consumption is common in the archaeological record, as the authors of the new study pointed out. The Tepehuan people of Northeastern Mexico, for example, ate rattlesnakes for food, but only after removing the head, rattle, and skin (including scales) prior to cooking. Same for the Ute people of modern-day Utah and Colorado, who skinned and roasted snakes over coals. The presence of scales, bones, a one-centimeter-long fang, and the venomous head in the coprolite sample is exceptionally unusual, said the authors, suggesting something other than sustenance, perhaps some sort of ritual, was the reason for the meal. What's more, given the other food items in the poop, it's not immediately obvious that this individual was starving or otherwise desperate for food. Moreover, and as the authors wrote in the new study, snakes held important symbolic status for people living in this region. Snakes were "considered to hold power to act upon certain elements of the earth," the authors wrote, and because "of their power and role in various mythologies, many cultures around the world include snakes as a feature of ceremonies and rituals." The final paragraph of the new paper summarizes their interpretation of the findings quite nicely: The recovery of Viper skeleton remains from a human coprolite is remarkable, not only because of the rarity of such an occurrence but also because this find provides a glimpse of the ritualistic behaviors of small-scale societies. We propose that the ingestion of an entire venomous snake is not typical behavior for the occupants of the Lower Pecos or Conejo Shelter. It is also clear from [comparative cultural analyses] and rock art from this region that snakes hold ritual significance to the indigenous populations of the Lower Pecos. We propose that a likely explanation for the ingestion of an entire snake is that the individual did so for a distinctly ceremonial or ritualistic purpose. A potential concern with this coprolite analysis is that the owner of the poop never actually consumed the mouse or snake, and that this individual's fecal matter became intermixed with surrounding material, such as fur and bones. We asked Sonderman about this possibility, but she said it's highly unlikely. "When food matter is digested and waste is produced the waste is made up of broken down digesta and indigestible materials," explained Sonderman in an email to Gizmodo. "The indigestible materials include some fibrous portions of plants, fur, bones, and the like. The indigestible materials in the coprolite were coated in fecal matter. Based on the archaeological context it is possible that large portions of plant materials might have adhered to the coprolite soon after deposition, but these exterior materials were removed from the coprolite before analysis. The fang was inside the coprolite. Not hanging around on it." That the coprolite was a mixture of multiple defecations from more than one person was also ruled out. "The coprolite was clearly defined and relatively easily separated from those in the vicinity," said Sonderman. "Since this was from a latrine context, we assume it would be uncommon for two individuals to defecate in the same hole at the same time." With these issues addressed, however, a major and rather obvious limitation of this study is the lone sample. It's possible that the snake was eaten by a particularly eccentric or curious individual, and that it never happened again. Further evidence of whole-snake consumption among the Lower Pecos people would add further evidence to the claim that this was something done regularly, or at least on special occasions.



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### Did You Know...

- ❖ Nine of the signers of the Declaration died before the American Revolution ended in 1783.
- ❖ The Continental Congress approved the final draft of the Declaration on July 4<sup>th</sup>, but the official signing ceremony wasn't until Aug. 2, 1776. Several didn't sign until even later than that.
- ❖ Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, both signers and former Presidents, died on the same date-July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1826, *exactly* 50 years after July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776.



### ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

**The Answer To Last Month's Trivia Question: What do the namesake origins of Ft. Collins and Casper, Wyoming have in common?**

**Answer:** Lt. Col. William O. Collins commanded the 11th Ohio Cavalry at Fort Laramie. They were dispatched in June 1864 to present-day LaPorte to protect the Overland Trail. A post was located a short distance southwest of the town and named Camp Collins after Colonel Collins. After flooding, a more permanent settlement was built closer to the present city in Oct. 1864 and renamed **Fort Collins**.

Caspar Collins was a 20-year-old U.S. Army second lieutenant and the *son* of Lt. Col. William O. Collins. On the morning of July 26, 1865 Caspar Collins led 25 soldiers out of Platte Bridge Station (now part of Casper, WY.) to protect an incoming supply wagon train. The soldiers were ambushed by overwhelming numbers of Cheyenne, Lakota and Arapaho and Collins was among the 20 soldiers killed in the attack, known as the Battle of Platte Bridge. The fort where he died, and the city of **Casper** were named in his honor. It was, however, misspelled as **Casper**, not **Caspar**.

**This Month's Trivia Question:** Which animal was named the "national mammal of the United States" on May 9, 2016

Answer in Next Month's *Arrowheadlines Newsletter*.



### ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS - Local Focal Point

#### Paint Mines Interpretive Park - Calhan, Colorado



*Fantastical sandstone hoodoos and other weird geological formations made of sand and colorful clay brought ancient Native Americans to this spot as far back as 9,000 years ago to collect clay for colorful pottery. Today, the Paint Mines Interpretive Park remains a geological wonder hidden on the eastern plains in El Paso County.*

Artifacts found represent the Apishapa culture, Cody complex and Duncan complex. The clay was used in prehistoric and historic times to create and paint pottery and as paint for ceremonial purposes. The selenite clay was used for arrowheads. The "channels" were used to herd buffalo into a gulch where they could be easily hunted with bows and arrows. In the 1800s Euro-American people settled in the park property.



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The Calhan Paint Mines Archaeological District was designated by the National Park Service. The land is protected by the El Paso County Parks Department, with funding by the State Historical Fund for master planning and an archaeological survey. The park has a diverse ecological system, with a combination of prairie, badlands and wetlands that attracts coyote, mule deer, song birds, horned toads, falcons, rabbits, and hawks. The park has 4 miles of trails that rise over 500 feet in elevation. It covers 750 acres, containing grassland and geological formations of hoodoos, colored clay and sandstone-capped spires. The site is protected by law because of the fragile environment, as well as the geological and archaeological significance of the artifacts, rocks, animals and plants. The weird stone shapes formed by water, wind, and erosion seem to shift size, position, and “expression” with the shifting light. The spires come in shades from creamy white to orange, purple, gray, rust, and chocolate brown. The area is a protected site since the beautiful formations are fragile, as is the natural animal ecosystem that lives there. To preserve this delicate natural balance, dogs and other domesticated animals are not permitted on the land, nor are motorized vehicles, and no camping is allowed. Nothing in the park is to be disturbed, removed, or defaced. The park also asks visitors to stay off the sandstone formations, and stick strictly to the trail, which winds in and around the park in a three-mile loop.

### Know Before You Go

The Calhan Paint Mines is an archeological district park located a mile south of the town of Calhan, in El Paso County, Colorado. There are no visitor centers or shops (however there are bathrooms).

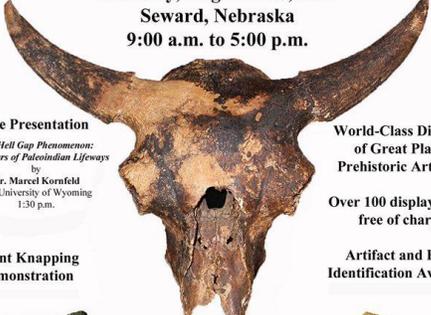
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Our friends at the Nebraska Archaeological Society have their annual **Nebraska Artifact Show** coming up Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>. See Flyer insert below:

**15th Annual  
Nebraska Artifact Show**  
Seward County Fairgrounds - Harvest Hall  
Saturday, August 17th, 2019  
Seward, Nebraska  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Free Presentation**  
*The Hell Gap Phenomenon:  
4000 Years of Paleoindian Lifeways*  
by  
Dr. Marcel Kornfeld  
The University of Wyoming  
1:30 p.m.

**Flint Knapping  
Demonstration**



**World-Class Displays  
of Great Plains  
Prehistoric Artifacts**

**Over 100 display tables  
free of charge**

**Artifact and Bone  
Identification Available**



The Nebraska Artifact Show  
Is a non-commercial show sponsored by  
The Nebraska Archaeological Society  
No buying or selling of antiquities is permitted

Adults \$5  
Children 12 & under free

Bring the Family  
Concessions Available



This event is for the  
Exhibition of authentic  
Native American artifacts  
and related items.  
No unlawful items allowed.

For more information: 402-225-2525 or 402-326-9061



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***2019 STONE AGE FAIR REGISTRATION LETTER***

Andy Coca  
P. O. Box 302  
Keenesburg, CO  
80643

To assist us in determining space requirements for displays, please return this sheet to the above address on or before September 1, 2019. If you have any questions, you may phone Andy Coca at 303-286-7711 after 5:30 PM, MDT (arrowhead@what-wire.com). We encourage and appreciate early registration. However, registrations will be accepted after September 1<sup>st</sup> as long as space is available.

**Please Note:** All exhibitors are required to sign in at the front desk when they arrive at the Fair, *and also to sign out* when they remove their exhibits at the conclusion of the Fair.

**The 2019 SAF Dates are September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>  
McKee 4H Bldg. The Ranch Events Complex Loveland, CO.**

**\_\_ YES, I PLAN TO EXHIBIT AT THE 2019 LOVELAND STONE AGE FAIR:**

I will need \_\_\_\_\_ tables (8 ft. each), or \_\_\_\_\_ feet of display area.

I hereby release the Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc., of all liability associated with displaying my artifact collection at the Loveland Stone Age Fair.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I understand the non-commercial policy of the Fair, i.e. no buying, selling, or trading of authentic artifacts, and no soliciting to buy, sell, or trade. I also understand that I'll be asked to leave the Fair for violating this policy.

**Contact Information**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_