



Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc.
A Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

Arrowheadlines



The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society



October 2019



Club Minutes

The October meeting of the Loveland Archaeological Society was held on October 1st in the McKee Bldg. at The Ranch. Andy called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and started off by thanking everyone for their participation and volunteer work at the previous weekend's 85th Annual Stone Age Fair. This year's Fair was very successful in terms of attendance, exhibitors, programs and our Cornish display honoring the First Stone Age Fair held in 1934. The Brown family, descendants of the original Stone Age Fair founder and exhibitor Oscar Shirk, brought in three of Oscar's frames and carved stone sculptures which were displayed at the first Stone Age Fair. They also brought in a scrapbook with tickets, awards and photos all from the first Fair. In the exhibit were four artifact frames from the first Fair from founders George and Frieda Bowman, and a 1934 school desk, all of which were loaned to this year's Fair by the Loveland Museum. Our Fair exhibitors this year included the premium collections of the Westfall's, Rick Miller, Jim Cox, Tom Amble, Robert Walter, Tom Steele, Joe Mosier, the Mountain's and Tony Stoddard to name a few. Our programs by Dr. Michelle Bebber and Dr. Metin Eren were well received and our surprise visit by 101 year old Jim Sievers of Briggsdale, Colorado, an attendee of the First Stone Age Fair and many more over the years was indeed heartwarming.

The evening's program was by CSU PhD candidate Ray Sumner on The Battle of Julesburg, Colorado, which was basically in retaliation of The Sand Creek Massacre. This was an *EXCELLENT* presentation and Ray showed great insight from his research and his explanations were easily understood. He realizes the value of avocational archaeologists and will make a fine PhD.

The find of the month was an incredible Hell Gap projectile point found by Robin Guthrie on the South Platte River in Weld County. It is roughly three inches in length and made of Smoky Hills Chert.

The door prize drawing was then held with the following results:

Donor	Item	Winner
Ed Wells 	Large box of Honey Bunches of Oats	Andy Coca
Andy Coca	2 Arrowheads	Shellene Stewart-Karst
Tom Dubois	A box of National Geographic magazines	Not selected this month



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Our November meeting will be our annual Native American foods potluck. All members are asked to please bring in a dish to share with an American Indian theme. If you aren't into cooking, don't worry-we need eaters too! We will also have a show & tell night for any artifacts, finds or anything of interest.

UPCOMING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date:	Next mtg. is November 5, 2019
Place:	McKee 4H Building at The Ranch, Loveland
Program:	Native American Pot Latch (Potluck)
Refreshments:	Share a Dish or just show up



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 October 2019 was made by Robin Guthrie as judged by all members present.

Type: Hell Gap projectile point

Material: Smokey Hills Chert

Where Found: South Platte River, Weld County



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS



Ruins unearthed near Durango during construction preparations halt construction

Durango, Colo. - Archaeological ruins have been unearthed in Colorado in the path of a proposed highway construction project. The Durango Herald reported Friday that well-preserved Native American ruins were discovered while surveying the Florida Mesa for realignment of the U.S. Highway 550 interchange. Researchers say ruins found south of Durango

included human and animal bones and shells from the Baja region. The Colorado Department of Transportation says archaeologists have a few months before they plan to begin the \$100 million construction project in spring 2020. Archaeologists say digs have turned up indigenous ceremonial sites, large pit houses and living quarters for the first time in hundreds of years. Officials say the new interchange is expected to prepare the state for increased traffic from an expected population increase.



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MELTING YUKON ICE REVEALS 1,000-YEAR OLD COPPER HUNTING ARROWHEAD

Archeologists claim that it was pure luck that led them to find one of the earliest examples of copper metallurgy ever discovered in the Yukon. The point and attached arrow shaft found in melting ice are nearly 1,000-years old, making it one of the earliest examples of bow and arrow technology in the Yukon, Canada, and North American history.

Archeologist Christian Thomas and his team were flying in two helicopters with a documentary film crew near Carcross, Yukon. They were showing the film crew areas where they had been finding ancient hunting artifacts over the last couple of decades.

The team saw some caribou on the mountainside and decided to film them. The archeologists landed their helicopter in order to get it out of a film shot by the documentary crew. Upon landing, Thomas quickly spotted the barbed antler arrow shaft sticking out of the ice.



Government of Yukon Fellow archeologist Greg Hare recounted the discovery: "It was found near the top of a snow-capped mountain in South West Yukon. It was an incredible discovery; we really didn't intend to be on that ice patch on that day."

"It was so fortuitous that those caribou were on that patch, that the television crew wanted to film that, that we landed at this little scruffy patch," said Hare. "We would never have stopped there any other time because that ice patch melted right away."

"While we were there, we thought we would look around and within five minutes Chris found this massive barbed antler point sticking out of the ice patch."

The arrow fragment, including the barbed antler shaft and copper hunting arrow point, is around eleven inches long. Hare indicated that it is one of the earliest examples of bow and arrow technology ever found in the Yukon. Radiocarbon dating puts the arrow at 936 years old.



"The advantage of the ice patch project is that most of what we're finding has an organic element that lets us radiocarbon date it," Hare said. "We will never find things like this in a lowland setting. The arrow is only preserved because it has been locked in the ice for basically 1,000 years."

The mountain area was a prime hunting spot for early hunters, as the caribou would climb to higher altitudes to escape the swarms of insects in the lowlands. Hunters would stalk these high patches and ambush the animals. Archeologists have found around 250 different artifacts from First Nations hunters in the Southern Yukon region, including atlatl or throwing darts. "The significant part of the story is that the arrowhead is so old, and it is such a beautiful expression of copper metallurgy," Hare said. "Copper only first shows up in the Yukon about a thousand years ago and this is almost at the beginning of that technology."

"Most people when they think of First Nation hunters, they associate with bow and arrow hunting. But in fact, for almost 8,000 years First Nation hunters in the Yukon were using the throwing darts, the Atlatli."

"Then all of a sudden there was quite a sharp change in the technology, for whatever reason. People stopped using the throwing dart and they started using bow and arrow." Archeologists believe that it would have taken a hunter around two weeks to craft the copper arrowhead, so its loss would have been keenly felt by its owner. "... my question at the time we found it was, how long did that person spend looking for it, after they lost it," reflected Hare. "I think they would have looked for two weeks."



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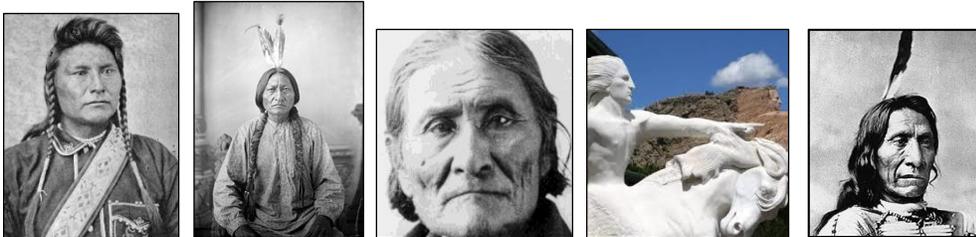
ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

The Answer To Last Month's Trivia Question: What is now considered the first true North American city?

- a. Acoma Pueblo, N.M.
- b. St. Augustine, Florida
- c. Oraibi, Arizona
- d. Roanoke Colony, N.C.
- e. Cahokia, Illinois
- f. Keenesburg, CO.

Most archaeologists consider (e.) Cahokia, Illinois to be the first true North American city with a population estimated at 20,000 at its peak - A.D. 1050-1200, which was larger than most European cities at the time including London! Sorry Andy-it was *not* Keenesburg, but good guess!

This Month's Trivia Question:



Match each famous Native American with their picture:

- A. Sitting Bull
- B. Red Cloud
- C. Chief Joseph
- D. Crazy Horse
- E. Geronimo

Bonus Question: Where is Crazy Horse buried?

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

What were the original jack o' lanterns made from?

Turnips (also mangel wurzels and possibly rutabagas)

Jack o' lantern refers to a light that is sometimes seen in bogs or marshes. It was explained in Irish folklore as being Stingy Jack who avoided hell by tricking the devil but was denied entry into heaven due to his sins. He now has to wander the earth and lights his way with an ember from hell held within a turnip or rutabaga.

What country holds the title for the World's heaviest pumpkin?

Switzerland

In 2014 Beni Meier of Switzerland grew a pumpkin that weighed a whopping 2,378 pounds. That record still stands at the time of this article (September 2016).

In what American state is it illegal to dress up like a priest or a nun?

Alabama



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Andy wants to remind everyone that it's getting that time of year for paying membership dues for 2020...especially if you'd like to also subscribe to the excellent Central States Archaeological Journal, of which the LAS is the representative to the CSA Societies for Colorado. Complete Form and mail to Andy Coca or bring to next month's meeting.

Membership Application/Renewal - Loveland Archaeological Society of Colorado
(check all that apply)

_____ **Individual \$20/yr** _____ **Family \$40/yr** _____ **Lifetime \$200**
_____ **Additional: CSAS (Journal) \$24/yr** **Total Amount Remitted: \$** _____

Date: _____ **Email:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Mail this form to Andy Coca with a check or money order made payable to **Loveland Archaeological Society of Colorado** or bring same to monthly meeting. Thank you!

Andy Coca
P. O. Box 302
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Sponsor of the Annual Loveland Stone Age Fair- www.stoneagefair.com