



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

Arrowheadlines



The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society



January 2020



Club Minutes

The January meeting of the Loveland Archaeological Society was held on Tuesday Jan.7th in the McKee building at The Ranch. Andy called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. The first order of business discussed was that The Ranch did not have a meeting room available for our June meeting. They offered us a room either on the Monday before our normal Tuesday meeting or the second Tuesday of the month. After a short discussion and a vote, the club decided to **NOT have a meeting in June** rather than divert from our normal scheduling. We will mention this scheduling change in our upcoming newsletters. We next discussed our Spring Into Archaeology show which will be held on *Saturday, March 14th* at The Ranch. The Ranch can only provide us with half of our normal exhibit space this year, so we are asking our exhibitors to bring in half of what they normally would display. This will still fill the room with exhibits to accommodate the large public turnout that we get by having our show in conjunction with the Fort Collins Gem and Mineral show and the large coin show held on the same day.

Andy thanked everyone that contributed to the Jan Irons NCIPA holiday drive to help Native American families living here in Northern Colorado. **We collected more than \$1,200 in cash, checks and gift card donations!** Special mention goes out to member Todd Davis who generously contributed \$500 to Jan's cause and also contributed \$530 to the LAS to help with Stone Age Fair and Club expenses. A big LAS **THANK YOU to Todd!**

Some sad news. Jim Sievers, who came into our 85th Annual Stone Age Fair this past September, passed away recently. Jim, from Briggsdale, Colorado, had attended the first Stone Age Fair held in Cornish, Colorado in 1934! He attended many fairs over the years and addressed the group assembled for our Archaeologist's presentations. In a very heart felt moment he let us know how much the Stone Age Fair and arrowhead collecting meant to him in his life. He was 101 years old.

Our program was a film presentation of 'The Pueblo People of Chaco Canyon'. This was an in-depth discussion of the history of the great Pueblo construction in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico and several adjacent structures. Member Steve Campbell then presented and discussed several frames of incredible artifacts historically related to the Chaco Canyon people. Steve collected these artifacts from a rock shelter on private property approximately forty miles west of Chaco Canyon and included woven sandals, stone and bone artifacts, a woven hair bag, several pouches of colored pigments, and hair ornaments made of very colorful macaw feathers which must have been traded into the region from Mexico or further south.



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Our Find of the Month winner was member Chad Sommerville with a Midland Point found on the Ackerman Ranch in Larimer County CO. It appears to be made of quartzite and is slightly under 2 inches in length. Another rare Paleo find.

Donor's Name	Donated Gift	Winner/Recipient
Andy Coca	Bag of Colorado points	JacLynn Vealy
Andy Coca	Bag of Colorado points	Emma Evensiosky
Club	2019 CSAS journals 1 – 4	Levi Evensiosky
Shellene Karst	American Archaeology mags	Jan Vallentine
JacLynn Vealy	Robins chocolate	JacLynn Vealy (is this correct?)
Elaine Owens	Owl wall decoration	Emma Evensiosky
Elaine Owens	Three books, Aztec/Maya/Inca	Emma Evensiosky
Elaine Owens	Necklace and earrings set	Robin Guthrie
Ed Wells	Honey Bunches and Bunches of Oats oh my!	Hank Miller
Ed Wells	Horehound candy	Hank Miller
Ed Wells	Vet dog treats	Andy Coca
Ed Wells	2020 Trump bill	Name withheld by request!

Our February meeting will be held on Tuesday February 4th in the McKee building at The Ranch in the LaPorte and Timnath meeting rooms. Our program will be presented by the 2019 Dorothy Mountain Memorial Scholarship winner, Paul Buckner from Colorado State University. His program will be from his thesis work on multi-cultural prehistoric landscape usage in the Medicine Bow Mountains in Wyoming.

Thanks to everyone who have renewed their dues and CSAS subscriptions. If you haven't yet, please do asap. Renewal form is attached to this Newsletter and can be sent to Andy Coca, P.O. Box 302, Keenesburg, CO. 80643.



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 January 2020 was made by Chad Sommerville as judged by all members present.

Type: Midland Point

Material: Quartzite

Where Found: Larimer County, CO.



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Midland Paleo Point



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

16,000-Year-Old Stone Artifacts Unearthed in Idaho



The Cooper's Ferry site is located within a terrace at the confluence of Rock Creek and the lower Salmon River of western Idaho. The Nez Perce Tribe refers to this place as an ancient village site named *Nipéhe*. "This site is located along the Salmon River, which is a tributary of the larger Columbia River basin," said Oregon State University's Professor Loren Davis. "Early peoples moving south along the Pacific coast would have encountered the Columbia River as the first place below the glaciers where they could easily walk and paddle into North America."

The Cooper's Ferry dig site is located on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office. Stone tools and other artifacts found at the site date back more than 16,000 years ago and offer new information on how and when the first people came to the Americas. Coeur d'Alene District Archaeologist David Sisson (photo left) worked closely with the study lead and Oregon State



Professor Loren Davis. Sisson said what was discovered at the excavation site was completely unexpected to him. "The site is kind of nice, it's almost like a layer cake," Sisson said. In that layer cake, Sisson said artifacts and tools indicate human activity occurred in the area much earlier than previously thought. "Through the last winter, we continued to send in samples for radiocarbon dating that was below the dates of 14,000," Sisson said. "Those dates started roll in through the winter and they started to roll in close to 15,000, and we were in shock. We'd like to say this is what we expected but we didn't."

Archaeologists have unearthed 189 stone artifacts, including 27 stone tools (projectile points, biface fragments, blades, and flake tools). They also discovered charcoal, a fire-cracked rock, and 86 bone fragments likely from medium- to large-bodied animals. They also found evidence of a fire hearth, a food processing station and other pits created as part of domestic activities at the site. The discovery suggests that humans lived in the area 16,000 years ago, more than a thousand years earlier than scientists previously thought. They therefore arrived in the Americas before an inland ice-free corridor had opened.



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The projectile points from the site closely resemble those found in Japan, supporting the hypothesis of a Pacific coastal route. “Basically, folks we’re hunting at a time when we had mammoths, and short-faced bears, larger bisons, and there were horses, foxes, everything you would associate with an Arctic environment.” Sisson said. “Here was our first firm proof that people we’re out here hunting these creatures.”

Near the bottom of the site, Sisson said they didn’t have any datable material, but they still had artifacts below the 15,000 year old dates. “When I first saw that the lower archaeological layer contained radiocarbon ages older than 14,000 years, I was stunned but skeptical and needed to see those numbers repeated over and over just to be sure they’re right. So, we ran more radiocarbon dates, and the lower layer consistently dated between 14,000-16,000 years old.”



The Cooper’s Ferry site located in Idaho’s lower Salmon River canyon. White arrow points to the site.

“Loren had been working with Oxford radiocarbon lab who do some of the best dating in the world,” Sisson said. “They did a statistical projection for the bottom part 15,200 to 16,500 range. Once again not expected.” With radiocarbon dating Sisson said the site at Cooper’s Ferry is the oldest in North and South America, and that the material discovered at the very lowest levels of the sites is similar to material excavated in Japan. “Those dates there range are 13,000 to 16,000, which is the same date range we have for the lower part of Cooper’s Ferry,” he said. “Again, it was exciting because they were of very good match for that.”

The discoveries at Cooper’s Ferry fly in the face of a more traditional “*Clovis-first*” hypothesis of the people who first entered the Americas. The theory contends the Clovis culture to be the first to settle the Americas, and that the Clovis culture crossed into North America on foot by traveling across a land bridge that connected Siberia to Alaska close to 14,000 years ago when the ice sheets melted enough to allow land.

The results at Cooper’s Ferry date back before that, indicating people were already here and support a counter hypothesis of initial human migration into the Americas that occurred through a Pacific coastal route. It’s a theory that Sisson said has caused some controversy among the archaeological community before. Jim Woods, an archaeologist and former professor at the College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls said the “Clovis-First” theory is what he learned in school but that he finds the evidence discovered at Cooper’s Ferry convincing. “In my mind, and I’m very conservative archaeologist when it comes to dating this stuff,” Wood said. “In my mind. this site at Cooper’s Ferry is one of the first that’s really convincing that pre-dates the Clovis.”

“More of an intriguing thought than the date and everything, is the first people to come here from Asia, the first people from Asia to get here is through a coastal route,” Woods said. “The coast of glacier is no coast, it’s just ice and water and so the only way to get here is by boat and that’s what’s these researchers are proposing.”



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Artifacts taken from Mesa Verde are coming home

Shortly after being discovered in the 1870s, the ruins and artifacts around what is now Mesa Verde National Park were subject to looting. This photo of Cliff Palace was taken in 1891 by Gustaf Nordenskiöld, a Swedish researcher who sent hundreds of items to Europe. After more than 100 years in a museum in Finland, the ancestral remains of Native American tribes that once called the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park home are coming back to Southwest Colorado. This week, it was announced human remains and funeral objects from the ancestral Puebloan people, which were unearthed by a Swedish researcher in the 1890s and sent off to Europe, would be returned as part of an agreement between the United States and Finland. The news has been lauded by Native American tribes, who can finally put to rest their ancestors who were disturbed all those years ago. And, it sends a message of hope that other remains out there, scattered across the globe, can one day return. Bernadette Cuthair, director of planning and development for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, said news of her ancestors coming home hits hard. For years, people have been looting and grave robbing her ancestors' homes, an act she said her people refer to as a "spiritual violation." But finally, it feels like there's a push to put right mistakes in the past. "It's like an awakening," she said. "Any human remains are very sacred to us. And we have to make it right again." The vast cliff dwellings and ruins at what is now Mesa Verde National Park were first discovered by the Western world in the 1870s by the Hayden Survey, one of the first and most extensive expeditions into the American West. Almost immediately, artifacts from the ancestral Puebloan people, who inhabited the region from about 900 to 1250, were exploited and pillaged.



Gustaf Nordenskiöld [insert left], a Swedish researcher, arrived in Southwest Colorado in 1891 and conducted the first scientific study of what is now Mesa Verde National Park. However, he left behind a complicated legacy. In 1891, a Swedish researcher, Gustaf Nordenskiöld, who was staying in Denver, caught wind of a lost civilization of cliff dwellings in Southwest Colorado and took the train down to Durango to see for himself. Awed by what he found, Nordenskiöld set out to meticulously document and record his findings. "He thought this was a civilization that ought to be documented, that it was a story that ought to be told," said Judith Reynolds, a Durango resident who wrote a biography about Nordenskiöld in 2006 with her husband, David. Nordenskiöld was concerned about all the looting and black market sales, and fearing for the ruin's preservation, he started collecting artifacts himself. Through a series of shipments, the young scientist in his early 20s sent hundreds of tools, pottery and even human remains in crates to Europe. But Reynolds said word started going around Southwest Colorado that a foreigner was stealing artifacts and cutting into the black market trade. While Nordenskiöld was taking his last shipment to the train depot for transport, the situation had reached a fever pitch, and he was arrested. "It became an international story," said Reynolds, a longtime contributor to *The Durango Herald*. The case against Nordenskiöld was ultimately dropped – there were no laws at the time that criminalized taking Native American relics. "So, it just disappeared," Reynolds said. Nordenskiöld went back to Europe, and two years later, published the first scientific study about the ruins at Mesa Verde, a piece of work still considered the foundation to any contemporary research at the park. But Nordenskiöld's legacy, if anything, is a conflicted one. This piece of pottery was taken from what is now Mesa Verde National Park by Gustaf Nordenskiöld in 1891. It was announced this week Finland will send back to the U.S. human remains and funeral objects taken during that time. His actions, oddly enough, in part sparked a sentiment that protections needed to be in place for Native American sites, culminating in the Antiquities Act of 1906, the first law that prohibited the looting of archaeological remains, and the establishment of



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Mesa Verde National Park the same year. But still, Nordenskiöld is demonized by some for sending more than 600 artifacts to a far-off land, where they have remained at the Museum of Culture in Helsinki, Finland, since the early 1900s. “For me, he’s the good guy because I understand the scientific approach he was about,” Reynolds said. “He was the first person to do a scientific study that recognized the importance of the history there.” On Wednesday, President Donald Trump and Finnish President Sauli Niinistö announced human remains and funeral objects collected by Nordenskiöld will be sent back to descendant tribes of the ancestral Puebloan people. Reports indicate efforts to return the Mesa Verde artifacts started in 2016, when tribes associated with the park began working with Finland. Clark Tenakhongva, vice chairman of the Hopi Tribe, told The Associated Press the items should be received early next year. “I know we’ll work together as the various tribes that have interest in them,” Tenakhongva told AP. “And how we process them will be the most carefully thought out plan so that we don’t do any more harm than what’s already been done.” Human remains and funeral objects will ultimately be reburied near the grounds where they were unearthed. “They need to be returned there so they can (safely) return to the spirit world, in the next world,” he said. “Hopi always believe, like most cultures and people, when you pass on, you’re going to return to God or Jesus. And we return back to the hands of the creator who brought us here.” In Native American culture, when the human remains of their ancestors are unearthed and sent off to a museum or lab, that person’s spirit becomes trapped on this earth, unable to take the next step into the afterlife. “There’s an uneasiness,” said Ernest House Jr., a Ute Mountain Ute member who previously served as director for the Colorado Commission for Indian Affairs. “There’s a step not completed or fulfilled when those remains are kept outside tribal communities in storage boxes.” “That’s why we want them returned and buried.” In an emailed statement, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe commended news of the repatriation and the “honorable, humanitarian efforts” of associated tribes. And Cristy Brown, spokeswoman for Mesa Verde, said staff will work with tribes on reburials and ceremonies to take place in the park. House said the announcement this week highlights the importance of repatriation issues on a national level and provides an example to other countries that may have Native American archaeological items – a problem, he said, that is widespread. Native American remains have been more exploited than any other culture, House said. Years ago, for example, Mesa Verde National Park had a mummified ancestral Puebloan person on display. While there may be an educational aspect, House said, exploiting the remains of the people who once lived on these lands can be hurtful and culturally insensitive to descendant tribes. “And we’re tired of that,” he said. “We just want these remains to be respectfully returned to the tribes and put back in place.”



ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

The Answer To Last Month’s Trivia Question: *In keeping with our winter-like theme, What does the word ‘Eskimo’ translate as?*

Answer: Originally thought to mean ‘eater of raw flesh’, hence why some consider the term derogatory. The more modern interpretation of the term is from the French word ‘*esquimaux*’ meaning someone who ‘nets snowshoes or snowshoe netter’, a reference to the footwear used by these people for trudging through the snow.

This Month’s Trivia Question: *Why do people yell “Geronimo” when they parachute/jump from airplanes?*

Answer in Next Month’s *Arrowheadlines Newsletter*



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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