

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



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...the past, through the....

Colorado Archaeological Society - Denver Chapter

"...in the future, as in the past, the gathering of information will depend to a great extent on cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists." (H.M. Wormington, 1978)

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COZUMEL ISLAND: A MAYA TRADING SEAPORT AND PILGRIMAGE CENTER Jack C. Warner

The Maya were the civilization that most influenced Mesoamerica for most of 1,500 years. They used a decentralized city/state political structure. Their leading cities and areas change dramatically over time. They rose first in the highlands of what is now Guatemala. Their Classic Period 300-1000 AD was centered on the lowland areas of Guatemala's Peten rainforest and nearby areas of what are now Mexico, Belize, and Honduras. The last Maya era, before the coming of the Spanish in 1521 AD, is called the Post Classic and it is focused mainly on the northern Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Much of the Maya area is still unexplored archaeologically and major new findings are announced every year.

During the Post Classic period from 1000-1521 AD there was much turmoil and fighting among the Maya cities. This made inland trade routes more dangerous than usual. The Chontal-Putun branch of the Maya developed long distance sea canoe trade routes along the coast of the Caribbean Sea, from as far south as Panama, up and over the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, and along the Gulf of Mexico coast to the fine Maya seaport of Xicallanco on the southwest coast of the Yucatan Peninsula (see map). From there, goods were transferred to land caravans headed to inland Mexico, particularly the major civilizations of central Mexico, including the Aztecs. The island of Cozumel is located about 12 miles off the Yucatan mainland and about 35-40 miles by sea from the important Maya mainland ports of Xel Ha and Tulum. It offered a safe haven from mainland strife for ocean canoe traders. Archaeologists have uncovered warehouse sites on Cozumel and have

identified evidence of the following trade goods: salt, honey, cacao, obsidian, feathers, wax, sting-ray spines, copper, gold, jade, flint, shells, and slaves.

On Cozumel Island the major town we now call San Miguel and a major religious pilgrimage area we now call San Gervasio developed. Nearby mainland cities of Tulum and Coba also prospered during this time.

It is interesting to note that this part of the Yucatan was one of the last areas to be archaeologically explored and be developed by the modern world. As late as 1950 major parts of the Yucatan were still under control of Maya Cruzob group. In the last 30-40 years much has changed. The northeastern coastal area of the Yucatan Peninsula has been developed into the Cancun, Riviera Maya, and Cozumel world-class beach, diving, and ocean sport tropical resort destinations. The old Maya port at San Miguel is now one of the busiest cruise ship ports of call in the world.

There developed on Cozumel an important pilgrimage shrine to the Maya goddess Ixchel (sometimes spelled Ix Chel). Ixchel was the goddess of the moon, childbirth, motherhood, medicine, writing, and weaving. Maya women from all over were encouraged to make a pilgrimage at least once in their lives to the shrine of the goddess at what we now call the San Gervasio Maya Archaeological Park. In 1549 the Spanish Catholic Bishop de Landa wrote, "They (Maya) held Cozumel in the same veneration as we have for pilgrimages to Jerusalem and Rome, and so they used to go to visit and offer presents there, as we do to holy places..."



From: **Atlas of Ancient America Post Classic Mayan Civilization 1000 AD to the Spanish contact in 1521, featuring trading routes via sea canoes**

The San Gervasio Maya Archaeological park is located about 6 miles inland from Cozumel's main city, San Miguel. The archaeological site has six districts spread over several square miles and over 500 structures. Most of the structures have not been excavated and only a part of one district is open to public visit.



San Gervasio Maya Archaeological Park is a Quintana Roo State Park, Mexico

The walking tour includes 18 sites, which display Maya structures and explain their interpretation in Spanish, English and Maya (Maya is taught in the local school and over half of Cozumel's residents are Maya). A short walk from the entrance station reaches the main ruin group. The top parts of most structures are gone, but a very substantial amount of the lower parts of all buildings remain. One of the most interesting is called "The Palace" (pictured below). It is a colonnaded hall with a throne or altar in the middle. It is similar to main meeting halls of other Post Classic Maya cities, like Mayapan, during a period of council forms of government. It has 19 columns and had a flat roof made of wood.



The throne and columns in the Palace building

There are 6 areas of ruins along the walking tour, and most are connected by trails that follow ancient Maya roads called "sacbe". A particularly scenic one has a fine reconstructed corbel arch (see photo below) that once was entrance to the main town plaza area, and the route to the Temple of Ixchel, from the seacoast. The use of the arch was a symbol to the Maya denoting the entrance to a sacred space.



A Maya symbolic arch marked the paved road, called "sacbe" from the seacoast to the main town plaza and the route to the Temple of Ixchel

San Gervasio is located in the rainforest and wildlife and interesting plants are a common sight.



Iguanas are a most common local visitor to the ruins

The Temple of Ixchel stands alone after a walk of over 500 yards through dense rainforest. Since it is a solid stone structure, most of it remains to be admired today. It is about 3 stories high with a pyramidal shape. It has exterior benches with an altar on top. Archaeologists have determined that the Temple was originally stuccoed and painted red, ochre, blue, green, and black. It is dated as a Post Classic era construction. Some people still worship there and offerings can be seen.



The Temple to the goddess Ixchel



A stairway to the upper altar of the Ixchel Temple

Unlike many other well known archaeological parks my wife, Mary, and I have visited, we found San Gervasio uncrowded and very well presented. The walkways and interpretive signs were very well done. In fact, for part of our visit we were the only people at the Ixchel Temple. I found the concept, that Maya women were expected to travel 30 miles or more by canoe over the open waters of the Caribbean Sea to visit the Ixchel Temple, very impressive.



Ixchel is still with us outside a Cozumel artist's studio gallery

Photos

All photos were taken by Mary or Jack Warner, November 2015

References

[The Yellow Guide to the Mayan Ruins of San Gervasio Cozumel](#), Ric Hajovsky, CZM, S. de R.L. de C.V., Cozumel Mexico, 2012

[Atlas of Ancient America](#), Coe, Snow, Benson, Facts on File, NY, NY 1986

[Maya to Aztec: Ancient Mesoamerica Revealed](#), Edwin Barnhart, A CD course by The Teaching Company, 2015

April General Meeting: Monday, April 10, at DMNS in Ricketson Auditorium at 7 PM.

Speaker: Christopher T. Fisher, PhD, Archaeologist, Professor, Colorado State University

Title: The Application of LiDAR Scanning for the Documentation of Ancient Cities and Regions

Abstract: The application of airborne LiDAR for the detection and documentation of archaeological sites in arid and semi-arid regions of the Americas has initiated a 'paradigm shift' for Mesoamerican archaeology. Here I discuss results from two archaeological projects in disparate areas of Mesoamerica that have utilized LiDAR to both examine intra-site and extra-site patterning. The first, centered at the site of Angamuco in the Lake Pátzcuaro Basin, Michoacán, used LiDAR as a tool to examine the spatial patterning of individual units of architecture. The second used LiDAR to document the complete settlement pattern of an unexplored valley within the Mosquitia tropical wilderness of Honduras. Both of these studies confirm that value and promise of LiDAR technology.

Speaker Bio: Chris Fisher is a professor of anthropology at Colorado State University. He received his doctorate and MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University. His work appears in edited volumes, including a co-edited book on intensification, *Seeking a Richer Harvest: An Introduction to the Archaeology of Subsistence Intensification, Innovation, and Change* published by Plenum, *The Archaeology of Environmental Change: Socionatural Legacies of Degradation and Resilience*, and journals such as the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and the *American Anthropologist*. He has conducted fieldwork in several areas of the United States, Mexico, Portugal, and Albania. His work is supported by the National Science Foundation, National Geographic, the Heinz Foundation, and other agencies. In 2007 Fisher received the Gordon R. Willey Award from the American Anthropological Association.

May General Meeting

Speaker: Catherine M. Cameron

Title: Captives: Stolen People in the Ancient World

Minutes of the DC-CAS Board Meeting March 7, 2016

The DC-CAS Board Meeting was held at the South Classroom Building/Cherry Creek Building Room 241 at Metro State University Denver Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Attending were Linda Sand, Jon Kent, Cashel McGloin, Jack Warner, Preston Niesen, Teresa Weedin, Betsy Weitkamp, Ken Andresen, Reid Farmer, Alex Rossa, Bob Rushforth and Sharon. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Linda Sand

Vice President/Speakers (Jon Kent) Chris Pink is the March speaker and will be speaking about her work in the Andes, the April speaker will be Chris Fisher Scientific (Reid Farmer) Reid is getting the schedule together for fieldwork. He also announced his talk at Cherokee Ranch about the finds so far, which will be on April 11.

Membership (Cashel McGloin) Cashel announced that there are 91 memberships for a total of 124 members, 6 of which are new members. Roughly 1/3 of the members have renewed and she will be reaching out to the rest.

Treasurer (Michele Giometti) Michele was ill and unable to attend, but did send the financial information.

PAAC (Preston Niesen) Preston announced surveys in the San Luis Valley outside Antinito from July 7-15, and July 21-29. Chris is currently working on adding a Site Stewardship class and is working on updating the others.

APB/e-APB Newsletter (Cashel McGloin and Ken Andresen) The APB was out early and I up on the webse.

CO-CAS (Teresa Weedin) Teresa had nothing new to report.

Trips/Events (Teresa Weedin) Teresa announced a field trip opportunity to the Ute Mountain Tribal Park April 25-27 just before the next quarterly CAS meeting. Anyone interested in attending should contact Teresa for more information

DC-CAS Website (Cashel McGloin) Cashel reported the website updates are being made and all is working well. Linda added that state CAS needs suggestions for an online membership form

Old Business

February Board minutes were approved

New Business

Preston raised the possibility that PAAC classes could be a weekend seminar, rather than 7 weeks, thus allowing more out of town members to attend. It was agreed that it might be worth a try and people could give feedback which they preferred.

Sharon was approached by History Colorado for CAS help. They are having an archaeology day on May 1st for 3rd and 4th graders and need volunteers. It was unclear if they wanted simply people to help out or people to create a whole program/activities. Sharon agreed to reach out for more information.

Bob reported that he met with Steve Nash at DMNS to clear up the issues with the room for lectures so that no further problems would arise.

Plans for the upcoming CAS Annual Meeting are underway and will be announced as details are finalized

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM by Linda S. The next DC-CAS Board Meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2017 7PM at Cherry Creek Building Room 241 at Metro State

Field Trips

Tuesday, April 25: Work day at Casa Colorado, Casa Blanca, and Inaccessible House Trail Work

Wednesday, April 26: Work day at Porcupine House (work on cleaning out and repairing concrete diversion dam above ruins); and, if time, remove fallen trip across trail in North Lion Canyon between Tree House and Lion House

Thursday, April 27: Exploring rock art sites in the Park including Atl-atl Point, Kiva Point, Chief Jack House Hogan site, the Train Site (if Mancos River isn't too high to cross), and others.

NOTE that there are TWO work days. The Tribal Park is offering a tour to Casa Colorado, etc. on their Open House day May 27. There is NO trail there and lots of scrub oak! We are to make it somewhat easier, if possible, to access those sites.

If you want to know more about the Tribal Park, here's their website: www.UTEMOUNTAINTRIBALPARK.INFO. For their info on the Open House, go to the Printable Flyers link on the left.

I am rating this trip as moderately strenuous due to amount of walking carrying tools (Casa Colorado), elevation (~8,000), and terrain (rocky, scrub oak).

Other Lectures

Thursday, April 13, 2017 – 7:00 p.m Dr. Kevin Gilmore (Archeology Program Manager in HDR's Englewood Office) will lecture on "Franktown Cave, CO (5DA272): New Analysis of Data and Its Relation to Apachean Migrations" at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History. Lecture sponsored by the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. Free. CU Museum (Henderson Building)/Paleontology Hall 1030 Broadway, Boulder, CO

Saturday, April 15, 2017, 2:00 pm.: Minette Church will lecture on " 'The line is a line drawn upon a map, and the Country is a wilderness': British Colonial Memory and the San Pedro Maya of Western Belize". Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Denver Society. Auraria Campus, North Classroom, Room 1511. Free.

Monday, April 17, 2017 - 7:00 pm David Pepper lecturing on "The Evolution of Karnak Temple". Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Sponsored by the Egyptian Studies Society. Free to members, \$3.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 7:00 pm. Elspeth Dusinger will speak on "*Death and Value in the Land of King Midas of the Golden Touch*". University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, 1030 Broadway, Boulder. Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of American, Boulder Society. Free.

PAAC Activities

The PAAC summer training survey is slated for July 2017. This summer we are partnering with Paleocultural Research Group (PCRG) to do an intensive survey, testing and rock art recording project in the San Luis Valley. Participants will have the opportunity to get experience conducting survey and testing, recording and documenting sites, and working with volunteers and professionals from across the state. The Valley has a rich archaeological past, spanning from Clovis to Hispanic settlement and farming and ranching; we are very excited about this partnership and look forward to you joining us. A field camp location is being explored in or near Antonito and details will become available soon. Participants will be provided tent camping accommodations during each project session and all meals will be provided. There will be two sessions: one from July 8-15 (arrive the afternoon of the 7th), and one from July 20-27 (arrive afternoon of the

19th). More details will be announced soon but if you know you are already interested please contact Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist, (chris.johnston@state.co.us).

Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve Talks and Tours

The Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve is offering talks and tours of this important Paleo-Indian archaeological preserve just south of Chatfield State Park (Littleton address) monthly from May, 2017 through October. Remains of extinct species of Columbian mammoths, camel, horse, and buffalo have been excavated from this prehistoric hunting site. Butchered mammoth remains have been dated older than 15,000 years ago (calibrated C14 years). Cody Paleo-Indian culture artifacts have been dated to about 10,000 years ago. For more information and to make a reservation see lambspring.org.

Colorado Archaeology Society Denver Chapter

Prepared by Michelle Giometti, Treasurer

Balance Sheet

February 28, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Key Bank Checking	1,933.72
1st Bank CD 182 day 7/5/17 .05%	5,699.50
1st Bank CD 182 day 4/18/17 .05	4,810.57
1st Bank CD 1 Yr 2/20/18 .10%	5,002.50

Total Checking/Savings 17,446.29

TOTAL ASSETS 17,446.29

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

State CAS Dues Payable 0.00

Total Checking/Savings 0.00

Temp. Restricted Net Assets

Scientific Applications Fund	3,827.16
Swallow Report Project Fund	2,780.81
D Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund	1,747.10
Blackfoot Cave Fund	0.00
Education Fund	52.40
Field Trips / Social Fund	483.01
Student Membership Fund	57.50
Speakers Meal Fund	528.02

Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets	9,476.00
General Fund	7,352.24
General Fund Net Income	618.05
Total Equity	<u>17,446.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>17,446.29</u>

Income Statement February 1-28, 2017

General Fund	MTD	YTD
Income		
Membership Dues	1,067.00	1,067.00
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	0.62	3.30
Donations Received	115.00	115.00
Total Income	1,182.62	1,185.30
Expenses		
Bank Service Charges	5.00	10.00
Dues Paid to State	482.00	482.00
Supplies	-	-
Insurance	-	-
PO Box Rental	-	-
Website	-	-
Transfer to Scientific Applications	75.25	75.25
DMNS Annual Membership	-	-
	<u>562.25</u>	<u>567.25</u>
Net Income	620.37	618.05
Scientific Applications		
Income		
Transfer from General Fund	75.25	75.25
Donations Received	-	-
Total Income	75.25	75.25
Net Income	75.25	75.25
Speakers' Meals		
Expenses		
Speakers' Meals	32.26	32.26
Total Expenses	32.26	32.26
Net Income (Expense)	(32.26)	(32.26)
Swallow Report Project		
Income		
Donations Received	55.00	55.00
Total Income	55.00	55.00
Net Income	55.00	55.00

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