

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



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)

Volume 57, No 6

June, 2019

June General Meeting: Monday, June 10, 7:00
Metropolitan State University of Denver, 890
Auraria Parkway, Denver, Cherry Creek Building
(formerly South Classroom), Room 24.

Speaker: Erin Baxter, Denver Museum of Nature and
Science; teacher at CU Boulder.

Subject: This talk will explore unpublished diaries,
letters, photos, and maps that give tantalizing clues
to Aztec’s complex history.

Title: From the Ashes: The Lost History of Aztec
Ruins

Abstract: Tucked into the northwest corner of New
Mexico stands a little-known archaeological site with
World Heritage status. Aztec Ruins is a 900-year old
city-scape made up of exceptionally well-preserved
great stone structures, massive roads, small houses,
and enigmatic mounds. Thoroughly excavated by
CU’s own Earl Morris a century ago, Aztec
nevertheless still has tales to tell. Recent research
into Morris’ museum archive is radicalizing our views
of Aztec. We now know it as the once-capital of
Southwestern civilization which rose and fell in an
explosion of political upheaval, aberrant behavior,
violence and fire. This talk will explore unpublished
diaries, letters, photos, and maps that give tantalizing
clues to Aztec’s complex history and reveals the
emergence of social inequality, the role of violence
and conflict, and the development of larger scales of
political organization during one of the most
important chapters in Ancestral Pueblo history.

Speaker Bio: Erin Baxter specializes in the
architecture and archaeology of the ancient
Southwest US. Erin’s research interests include the
interpretation of architecture, artifact, and mortuary
data and how these analyses sheds light on the
development of social and political organization, with
a focus on reconstructing the deep history of Pueblo
Indian society. In addition, Erin seeks to develop new
methods for the study of museum collections in order
to tap the full research potential of these archived
materials. She teaches at the University of Colorado,
Boulder and is on staff at the Denver Museum of
Nature and Science.

CAS-Denver Chapter Board Meeting Minutes:The
CAS-Denver Chapter Board Meeting was held
Monday, May 6, 2019 at Metropolitan State
University of Denver, Cherry Creek Building South
Classroom 241. In attendance were Linda Sand,
Aubree Gabbard, Ken Andresen, Teresa Weedon,
Michelle Giometti, Jon Kent and Stacy Greenwood.

Speakers Report: Jon Kent indicated that general
meeting speakers are follows: May speaker will be
Craig Dengel, Base Archaeologist for the Piñon
Canyon Maneuver Site. The topic will be the
archaeological work history and current preservation
management practices at the site. June speaker will
be Erin Baxter, University of Colorado, Boulder and
DMNS. The topic will be social and political
organization at the Ancestral Pueblo site of Aztec
Ruins in northwestern New Mexico. No speaker
presentation will be held in July. The August
speaker is Dr. Charles M. Musiba, Dept of
Anthropology, University of Colorado, Denver. This
speaker presentation is the annual joint meeting of
DC-CAS and Egyptian Studies Society. The topic will

be on preservation work at Laetoli, Tanzania and African cultural heritage. Speakers for September and October are currently being firmed up. A speaker is being sought for November.

Briefing by Linda Sand, Acting Co-President:
CAS Quarterly Meeting – The April 2019 meeting was held in Canon City; July 2019 meeting to be held in Grand Junction on July 27th. October 2019 meeting will be held in Pueblo on Oct 11th-13th at the Pueblo Community College Ballroom. There will be field trips on Friday and Sunday. Registration information will be posted or linked later on the DC-CAS website. **Alice Hamilton Scholarship:** Nine applicants (4 Graduate/5 Undergraduate) received \$6,000 in scholarship awards. There are plans to have the Graduate recipients give a presentation and the Undergraduate recipients present posters at the CAS Annual Conference. **Education & Outreach:** A select statewide survey is planned on a quarterly basis to see how well the Committee is fulfilling its mission. Tami Coyle is collecting data on education and outreach activities from the Denver, Grand Junction, Hisatsinom (Cortez), Pikes Peak and Pueblo chapters. Linda Sand and Tami Coyle will generate a report. **LRP:** The Long-Range Planning Committee is working with other CAS committees to develop a five-year plan for the organization. The final charters from each committee will be presented to the Board at the July meeting to be held in Grand Junction on Saturday, July 27th. The annual meeting will be held at Pueblo Community College October 11- 13.

Treasurer's Report: Michele Giometti presented the April 2019 financial report. After review, Linda Sand moved to accept the April financial report. Teresa Weedon and Aubree Gabbard seconded.

DC-CAS Website Report: Aubree Gabbard brought up several items for discussion: **GoDaddy Hosting** – Aubree recommended not to transfer the account to different names (with every change of person in position). She recommended that the account should be registered as DC-CAS and to apply for the non-profit discount. To receive the non-profit discount, an IRS tax-exempt letter may be required. This would require a Federal tax-exempt form to be filled out. Also, the account requires a credit/debit card to be registered for payment. Michele Giometti will check with the bank to see if they can issue a debit card in DC-CAS's name. Also needed is to determine if there is a State CAS tax ID number. Also discussed were upcoming payments related to running the DC-

CAS website – 1) Domain renewal for 2 years - \$41.98 due June 1, 2019, 2) Hosting for 2 years - \$240.00 Paid November 2018 and up for renewal November 2020, and 3) Web Security renewal - \$90.00 due March 2030. **Mail Chimp** – Aubree was not sure who was paying for this service. Jon Kent noted that it was probably the best way to communicate with membership so should be continued. Aubree will check into the account information. **Changes to DC-CAS Website:** Aubree has made changes to the website which had been discussed during the March CAS Board Meeting. Regarding the template problems, Aubree could not see how to resolve the issue and that it may be permanent. Linda Sand and Michele Giometti both indicated that the problems have only appeared in the last few months. Aubree stated that she will check again to see if it can be repaired. **Surveyor:** Aubree wanted to know if she should provide a link to the CAS State website, upload the Surveyor to the Denver Chapter website, or email the Surveyor out to the Denver Chapter membership. It was decided to check with the State CAS to see how best to deal with the matter. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Surveyor could be attached to the APB. **Email List:** As the email list has not been updated since the move from 365 to Mail Chimp, Aubree will do the update to Mail Chimp. She also suggested that the newsletter continue to be sent to those who have not renewed their membership as a reminder to do so.

Old Business: Regarding insurance renewal, it was decided to research from whom insurance was purchased before and what the maximum coverage would be needed.

New Business: Jon Kent provided update information regarding lab space at History Colorado which could be made available to CAS for monthly meetings. The lab space will not be ready for use until September 2019 nor will the space be much different or possibly smaller than what is currently available at Room 241, Cherry Creek Building, Auraria Campus. Linda Sand noted that tables will be foldable and additional seating could be available in the new lab. When the History Colorado lab space is completed, a visit to the space would be helpful to see if it would be useful.

Aubree Gabbard asked if Denver Chapter was going to provide a statement in regard to the incident at the recent SAA meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Linda Sand noted that the Boulder Chapter President was putting a statement together to be sent out to the

State Chapters. When the statement is received, it will be put on the Denver Chapter website.

Jon Kent moved to adjourn. Michele Giometti, Aubree Gabbard and Linda Sand seconded.

The next Denver-CAS Board Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 3, 2019** at Metropolitan State University of Denver, Cherry Creek Building South Classroom 241. All members are welcome!

Minutes of DC-CAS General Meeting, May 13, 2019 The General Meeting was held at 7:00 pm in Room 241, Cherry Creek Building, Metropolitan State University, Auraria Campus. The meeting began with an announcement by Jon Kent regarding a CAS volunteer opportunity to participate in the Metropolitan State University Archaeological Field School (June 3-21) at Cherokee Ranch. Contact information was available on the DC-CAS website. Linda Sand followed with an announcement about the Education & Outreach Committee survey currently underway. She provided a visual of the types of information to be gathered by participating CAS chapters such as meeting attendance, education opportunities, field trips and engagement with the wider community. Linda Sand also announced the need for a permanent volunteer to run the DC-CAS website. The State CAS website also needs a webmaster.

After announcements were completed, Jon Kent introduced the evening's guest speaker, Craig Dengel, Base Archaeologist for the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site in southeastern Colorado. The title of his presentation was "*Thirty-Five Years of Archaeological Investigations at The Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site: A Retrospective.*" The Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) is located approximately 150 miles south of the Fort Carson Military Base (Colorado Springs) and northeast of the town of Trinidad. It was acquired by the Department of Defense in 1983 for military exercises which occur on a regular basis every 12 to 18 months. The area consists of 236,000 acres of which 92% has been archaeologically surveyed. Of the 6,251 sites identified in the PCMS area, 1,200 sites have protected status and 592 sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A mix of Native American and Non-Native American sites have been identified including three Traditional Cultural Properties, five sacred sites, and twelve ranching/homestead complexes.

After providing a history of archaeological work at PCMS, Craig Dengel turned his attention to his role as PCMS base archaeologist. He described his work as more based in compliance archaeology than research archaeology. This requires finding a balance between the needs of the military and the need to protect identified sites from damage during military maneuvers. As required by 36 CFR Part 800, Dengel must identify, evaluate and determine the effects of the military's activities on the terrain. He also needs to establish a historic preservation program and to locate, inventory and nominate properties under his control (per the National Historic Act of 1966, Section 110).

Those sites close to or inside the quebradas of the canyon and along the 8-mile hogback are relatively well protected from damage from military maneuvers. Sites located out in the open terrain present a more difficult challenge to prevent damage from general tank/heavy equipment traffic and damaging tank pivot maneuvers. Several steps are taken to protect vulnerable sites and to ensure compliance by members of the military. First, those participating in maneuvers are given a detailed briefing as to what they will encounter, the cultural importance of the sites, and that intentional damage will result in punishment. Second, Unit commanders are also reminded of their responsibility to be in compliance and that their unit will be held responsible for any damage that occurs. Finally, various physical barriers and signs are erected as visual indicators of areas to be avoided by military equipment. The discussion then turned to some of the more significant cultural resources present at PCMS. Along the hogback, where the five sacred sites are located, there are numerous rock art panels displayed on basalt dikes. It is estimated that no more than half of the panels have been surveyed. Stone circles are also present on the hogback. Dengel noted that the hogback is a volcanic erosion remnant, not a tilted sandstone as occurs west of Denver on the Front Range. While some of the circles may be teepee rings, others may be dance circles or associated with ceremonial functions. Additional items found in this area include stone tool caches containing Alibates chert and jasper (see Owens 2015, *Southwestern Lore*), stacked stone slabs which may have been used for shelters, and Barnes Red-Slipped ware. Also of significance are historical ranching sites such as the Brown's Sheep Camp and a number of homesteading structures. With respect to the homesteading structures, Dengel noted that a number of these structures were arranged around small plazas. This is similar to

Spanish placitas investigated at the site of La Placita by Dr. B Clark and Dr. M Church. The presence of placita homesteading structures suggested to Dengel that locals may have been hired to build some of the structures to satisfy homestead requirements for out-of-town patent holders.

Submitted by Stacy Greenwood, Secretary

In conclusion, Craig Dengel spoke about what work he'd like to undertake in the future. Past investigations reveal a Late Prehistoric presence in the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Area. Paleo Indian materials are rare. A Gap Study conducted in 2018 determined that an effort to identify Paleo Indian sites is needed. Dengel would also like to have a greater understanding of the area's transportation networks and associated networks as well as reservoir and irrigation ditch systems. He also felt it would be beneficial to use a GIS-based landscape approach with ethnographic information such as plants, sacred landscapes, and astronomical sites. Work will also continue in site data gathering to formulate a mitigation plan for the open areas used for military maneuvers. Dengel then took questions from the audience.



At the conclusion of the talk, Jon Kent thanked Craig Dengel and presented him with the Denver Chapter coin. Jon Kent then announced the next general meeting will be held June 10th and the speaker will be Erin Baxter (University of Colorado, Boulder and DMNS). The topic will be on social and political organization at the Ancestral Pueblo site of Aztec Ruins in New Mexico. The general meeting then adjourned.

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