

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Make friends with... ..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)

Volume 52, No.1

January 2014

CONFERENCE REPORT Part 1 of 2



Jack C. Warner
Linda Sand

A major international archaeology conference focused on early American studies was held in Santa Fe, NM October 16-19, 2013. The purpose of the conference as stated in the Web site was: "**Come explore the mystery and saga of the first people to colonize the Americas during the last Ice Age**". This was the most significant conference on this topic in the past 14 years. All references refer to the presenting speaker as listed in the conference agenda (<http://www.paleoamericanodyssey.com/agenda.html>).

The conference was structured into six main Oral Symposia, 14 Poster Sessions, and two evening sessions with concurrent Round Table discussions. In addition, there were artifact Exhibitions that were available throughout the conference. This article will focus on the six Oral Symposia sessions with a brief mention of some of the other activities.

The Oral Symposia invited presentations were divided into the following sessions, each consisting of 5 to 7 talks:

1. Greater Beringia
2. Routes and Process of Dispersal
3. Clovis
4. Clovis Contemporaries
5. Archaeology of Pre-Clovis I
6. Archaeology of Pre-Clovis II

1. GREATER BERINGIA

Kelly Graff: During the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) in Beringia, 24,000-21,000 ya*, Northeastern Siberia was not populated. In S Siberia and N Japan people lived in hunting camps. They used a microblade technology on spear tips to hunt primarily reindeer and mammoth. Microblade technology was used for thousands of years as far back as 35,000 ya. There is no evidence of microblades in sites in NE Siberia, but they are found in Alaska. It took people thousands of years to spread to far N Asia and Beringia.

Masami Izuhō: In Northern Japan, the LGM was of a different time length: 30,000-18,000 ya. Microblade technology is found at sites here.

Vladimir Pitulko: Ivory and stone tools have been found at the Yana river site in north central Siberia. It was occupied 32,000 ya.

*There was a great deal of inconsistency in the way dates were given at the conference, with CalYBP, RYBP, C14YBP, BC, BP, Kya, ya, and others used. Most of the genetic and biological experts seemed to use the simplest term “ya = years ago”, which is defined similar to the archaeologists’ “radio carbon calibrated years before present”. All the dates in our article will be using this “ya” terminology. All carbon dates presented have been converted using the “Online CalPal” program.

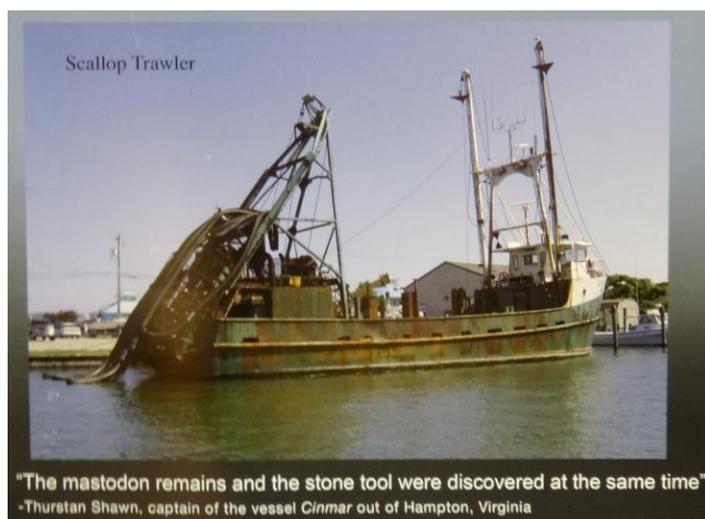
Ben Potter: Evidence of early people have been found in the interior of NW Alaska dating back to 13-12,000 ya using a point style that is older than Clovis. It is possible they migrated from the south of N America following bison herds.

2. ROUTES AND PROCESS OF DISPERSAL

John W. Ives: There is little evidence that the ice-free corridor had many people during the Clovis time period 12,770-12,950 ya (some quote Clovis to 13,400 ya). The points found are smaller than Clovis style, but similar. There are also Folsom points. The ice-free corridor looks like it was a migration route, but not necessarily the main one.

Jon M. Erlandson: There is evidence of a pre-Clovis people off the shores of British Columbia and Washington State and river valleys with salmon runs on BC islands dating back to 14,000 ya. Advanced technology is being tried to detect underwater coastal sites.

Dennis Stanford: A deep sea scallop dredge 40+ miles off the Virginia coast, near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, came up with parts of a mastodon and a bipointed biface. This area is part of the coastal shelf that was above sea level during ice ages. The biface is called the Cinmar biface knife, and was on display at the conference. It is dated at 28,800 ya. The style is similar to Solutrean culture bifaces found in N Spain in the Bay of Biscay area. He also discussed similar style point finds in



The Scallop Trawler that dredged the Cinmar point and mastodon bones dated at 28,800 ya off VA coast

peat bogs and costal islands in the Chesapeake Bay area, with dates ranging from 17,200-28,800 ya. These finds are consistent with the Stanford and Bradley's theory of a migration of people from Europe to America via an Atlantic coastal route. See their book, Across Atlantic Ice for a more extensive discussion.



**Large Bipointed Bifaces from Chesapeake Bay Area
#1 is Cinmar Biface dated at 28,800 ya**

Experts see a strong similarity among these and European Solutrean and American Clovis technology

Quentin Mackie: Findings in Monte Verde, Chile, and California's Channel Islands point to Pacific coastal migration routes in about the 16,000-12,000 ya time frame. Barbed points of a similar style, useful to hunt sea mammals, are found in the Channel Islands and Japan.

Connie Mulligan: A study of mitochondrial DNA indicates that all the native people of both N&S America came from an ancestor population that migrated out of Asia sometime 13-25,000 ya. The ancestors originally migrated from E or central Asia (Mongolia). Her analysis points to either a land or seacoast migration about 16,000 ya of about 10,000 people. By 14,200 ya people had migrated to the southern tip of S America. There were other later migrations from Asia to far north N America. Some are ancestors to the native people there today, some died out.

Eske Willerslav: Native Americans and NW Europeans (Scandinavia, etc.) share common ancestors from Central Siberia.

3. CLOVIS

Vance T. Holiday: In the Clovis timeframe, the sea was much lower and many sites are now underwater. For example, off Florida there was dry land over 40 miles from today's coast. The Dent site in Colorado was the first site with Clovis linked to mammoth hunting.

Bruce Bradley: He presented what he called a "think piece". The theme was: maybe Clovis was not a people with a particular culture, but a ritual cult that spread among existing populations. In this view, the very skillfully made artifacts they produced had both spiritual as well as utilitarian functions. Bruce is an expert flintknapper. In his view, the complex skill needed to produce the fine Clovis points required training from a master craftsman to a student over a considerable training time. Perhaps the skill was part of cult training. He also said Folsom may also have been a cult based on a similar master/student system. He cited the example of the ghost dance cult that spread quickly among several western American tribes in the late 1800s.

Gary Haynes: A study of all Clovis sites indicates that they definitely had a preference for eating big animals. Mammoth and bison bones were the most frequently found, with deer and horse next. There have been very few plant remains or processing tools found.

David Kilby: There have been 25 Clovis caches found. They are found in only a part of the Clovis range. They are all between the Mississippi River and the E slope of the far western mountains. The cache items seem to have a special meaning. The items are not heavily worn. There are often very large bifaces, made of exotic material. Some have ochre on them or have unusually deep overshoot flaking.

James P. Kennett: During a period of a warming Earth after the LGM, data from Greenland ice sheet core studies show the Earth abruptly started to cool 12,900 ya. This is called the Younger-Dryas cooling event. The cooling lasted at least 20 years. The Arctic Sea currents changed direction and strength as a result. Data from several archaeological sites suggest that a

cosmic event dated at 12,915 ya may have occurred that led to exotic materials, like nanodiamonds, being deposited, forest fires, and animal extinction. This has led to the hypothesis that a large comet “air burst”—about 20 times the recent meteor “air burst” in Chelyabinsk, Russia, on 2/15/2013 (that air burst is estimated to have had the power of 40 Hiroshima atomic bombs). During the Q&A after this talk and a special evening discussion section there was much criticism of these studies. The main issue seems to be difficulty reproducing the data by people outside the core team.



Clovis points found in Colorado



Clovis points from the Fenn Cache, NE Utah

Nicole M. Waguespack: The American large animal extinction seems to have started about 13,000 ya and be mostly done by 12,000 ya. The leading theories are: environment change, disease, overkill by hunters, and comet impact. North America has by far the largest density of hunting sites in the world during this time, and the human population seems to be rapidly increasing. Nicole believes that “overkill” is the main reason for extinction.

This conference report will be continued in the February **APB**. It will include the 3 remaining Invited Oral Symposia on the topics of “Clovis Contemporaries” and two sessions on “Pre-Clovis:”

References:

Notes taken by the authors at the conference.

PALEOAMERICAN ODYSSEY, Edited by: Kelley E. Graf, Caroline V. Ketron, Michael R. Waters, Center for the Study of the First Americans, 2013, ISBN 978-0-615-82691-2

MAMMOTH TRUMPET, all issues, quarterly news magazine of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, <http://csfa.tamu.edu/MT-archives.php>

January General Meeting is January 13 at 7 PM in Ricketson auditorium at DMNS.

Speaker: Mark D. Mitchell: Research Director for the Paleocultural Research Group.

Title: "Before Lewis and Clark: The Rise and Fall of the Heart River Confederacy, A.D. 1400-1750"

Abstract: The villages and towns near the confluence of the Heart and Missouri rivers stood empty when the Corps of Discovery passed by in October 1804. Two hundred years earlier, though, the political and economic alliance uniting these communities had been the hub of a vast commercial network encompassing much of the Northern Plains. Heart River traders dealt in marine shell, copper, pottery, chipped stone raw materials, maize, tobacco, and bison hides and meat. Mobile hunter-gatherers living in a broad swath of interior North America travelled regularly to the settlements on the Missouri and Heart region émigrés took up residence in communities scattered across the region. These population movements, in combination with economic intensification, settlement aggregation, warfare, and other social processes occurring within the Heart River region, built the political-economic landscape that European traders encountered when they entered the Northern Plains in the 1700s. Archaeological methods and archaeological data are crucial for tracking the changing fortunes of the Heart River communities, and for understanding the long-term impact their history had on the course of colonial interaction the Northern Plains.

Bio: Mark D. Mitchell is the Research Director for Paleocultural Research Group, a member-supported nonprofit organization devoted to research and public education in the archaeology of the Great Plains and Southern Rocky Mountains. Dr. Mitchell's primary research focuses on the post-1400 archaeology of the Northern Great Plains, with a particular emphasis on the native farming communities of the Upper Missouri in North Dakota. His recent and on-going work includes studies of the indigenous political and economic organization; of warfare and settlement change; and of Northern Plains ceramic technology. Mitchell also studies geoarchaeology, high-altitude archaeology, the anthropology of technology, historic American Indian art, and the history of archaeology. His research has appeared in *Plains Anthropologist*, *Antiquity*, *American Antiquity*, *Southwestern Lore*, and in a number of books and book chapters.

Treasurer's Report: Preston Niesen

There is no Treasurer's Report this month because there was no activity during the month of November.

"Minutes" of the "Board Meeting", DC-CAS, December 3, 2013

The annual holiday get-together was held at Hacienda Colorado Restaurant. The only business discussed was the following:

Rosalie had written by e-mail on 12-2-13 that there are currently 183 members and 136 memberships paid.

Teresa announced the field trips for the year, as determined at the recent planning meeting.

The minutes of the November board meeting (prepared by Jack) were approved.

Blackfoot Cave analysis will begin in January, 2014.

A good time was had by all, good conversation, good food, good drinks!

**"Minutes" of the DC CAS General "Meeting",
December 9, 2013**

December is the annual "Members' Night" where members can give short presentations about their trips/vacations. The event was held at Sturm Hall on the DU campus. Many fine refreshments were enjoyed by 26 attendees.

Jack opened the meeting part of the evening by thanking Linda Trzyzna and Kay Miller, both board members who will not be continuing into next year. The minutes of the November general meeting were moved and seconded for approval. Teresa announced a sign up sheet for a field trip to the CU Museum to be led by Steve Lexson. Bone labs will be held December 28 and January 4, 2014 and analysis on January 14, 15, 28, 29 (Tuesdays/Wednesdays) at Neil's home. Curation will begin January 11. There will be a report on the Blackfoot Cave project by the end of winter. Linda S. provided names of upcoming speakers, including Mark Mitchell who will speak in January.

Three members presented at the member's meeting, Jack Warner being the first, speaking on his visit to the Museo Popol Vuh, which is located on a university campus in Guatemala City. Because the museum contains artifacts and art from private collections, it has displays and artifacts that are in better condition than other museums in that country. The museum contains artifacts relating to the Mayan people, from 1500 BC to the Spanish Colonial Period (around 1821). Jack showed photos of interesting artifacts such as various lithics, a "cat man" mask (he explained that there are many such masks showing both human and animal characteristics), a covered jar with a story representation on it, an incense censer (in the figure of a bird), and a cocoa goddess. From the period 600-900, he showed photos of a cocoa cup showing a coca tree and maize god motif, a model of the pyramids of Tikal (showing the murals which were on the tops of these), and a bat god statue. The Late Classic period produced polychromatic ceramics with complex scenes, such as a vessel showing a self-sacrifice (which was not uncommon at that time). From 900 AD on, burial in urns was common, and Jack showed photos from a gallery of urns. The jaguar motif was used often by the Mayans. Finally, Jack showed a replica of the Dresden codex (a Mayan book with themes of kings and astronomy, among others). Jack stated that he will be writing a future article about Tikal for the APB.

The second presentation was by Betty McCutcheon, on one of her more recent visits to Cahokia (in Illinois, near St. Louis). This was a sophisticated area for its time, with large mounds (the largest one probably being the palace of a ruler/chief), boulevards, and an agricultural food base--with nearby creek as a water source, what may have been a ball court, and a stockade wall (unknown use, maybe to wall in the elite?). By 1150-1200 AD, at the peak of the civilization, the area was 6 square miles holding up to 20,000 people. Use of the many mounds (portions of some of which can still be seen today) is unknown. Earth filled baskets were carried from borrow pits to build these mounds. By 1400 AD the area was completely abandoned, perhaps due to warfare, soil exhaustion, or climate change. A "sun calendar" is exactly in line with Monks Mound (the largest mound, still present on the site and which can be walked up). The first organized excavation in Cahokia was in 1925. UNESCO designated it as a World Heritage Site in 1982. Betty showed many photos of the area as it looks today, including some from the displays inside the visitors center.

The third presentation was by Craig Banister, whose subject was the recent (September 2013) CAS field trip to the Montrose area, led by Neil Hauser. The group visited the Eagle Rock Shelter, a fairly large rock shelter that overlooks the Gunnison River. Habitation at this site, as evidenced by artifacts and petroglyphs, has spanned the range of human occupation in North America. The 2nd tour was to Flint Cave, a hard rock mine quarry for tool manufacturing material, which is a gray fine-grained silicified sandstone. The last tour was to the Shavano Valley Petroglyphs. Carol Patterson led a two hour trip, explaining the mythic themes behind many of the rock art panels along the cliff.

Following the presentations, there was time for sampling the various holiday goodies brought by members, socializing, and catching up with old and new members.

***Minutes submitted by Linda Trzyna,
DC CAS Secretary***

BLACKFOOT CAVE

Curation (Repository in Castle Rock)

January 11, 25 (9:00am–3:00pm)

Analysis (5379 South Flanders Way)

January 14, 15 (6:30pm–9:00pm)

January 28, 29 (6:30pm-9:00pm)

Contact: Neil Hauser hauserndigger@gmail.com

LECTURES & COURSES

"Color-oddities: Strangest Things About the Highest State", by Dr. Tom Noel, Sunday, January 19, 11 am, LoDo Tattered Cover Bookstore, 1628-16th St., Sponsored by the Tesoro Foundation

"Mexican Colonial Crowned Nun Portraits", by James Cordova, Sunday, January 19, 2:30 pm, Schlessman Hall (North Building), Denver Art Museum, 100 West 14th Avenue Pkwy, Meeting of Alianza de las Artes Americanas

"Middle Kingdom Egyptian and Cretan Artifacts", by Jane and Robert Bigelow, Tuesday, January 21, 7 pm, Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Meeting of Egyptian Study Society

"Water and Power: The political Dynamics of the Moche of Ancient Peru", by Dr. Michele Koons, Sunday, January 19, 2 pm, LoDo Tattered Cover Bookstore, 1628-16th St., Meeting of Denver Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

CAS QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

The CAS quarterly board meeting will be held at the History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver, on Saturday, January 18, from 9:00am-3:00pm, with a tour of the new "Living West" exhibit from 3:00pm-4:30pm.

PEOPLE, POTTERY, AND PLACE TOUR

A tour of an ancient southwest exhibit at the University of Colorado Museum, 1030 Broadway, Boulder, CO., will be held Saturday, January 25, 2014, at 10 AM. This tour for the Denver Chapter will be led by Dr. Steve Lekson. Participation is limited to 20; a signup sheet will be at the January 13 General Meeting.

ARE YOU MOVING OR DO YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS CHANGE??? Please update your address for the APB with our Membership Chairperson.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL Denver Chapter/Colorado Archaeological Society

Please check the address label on your APB to determine when your membership expires.

___Application or ___Renewal

Membership Type

___ Individual \$30.00 ___ Individual w/o SW Lore \$22.00

___ Family \$45.00 ___ Family w/o SW Lore \$35.00

___ Student (include copy of ID) \$16.00

___ Current State CAS Life member or Full member of another chapter \$14.00. Primary chap. _____

Contributions to these funds:

\$ ___ General \$ ___ Swallow Site

\$ ___ Scholarship fund \$ ___ Contribution Total

TOTAL of membership and contributions \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

___ Exclude my/our contact information from printed roster

Note: Payment of dues for renewal is considered reaffirmation of your consent to the CAS Code of Ethics.

Make checks payable to: **Denver Chapter/CAS**

Mail to: **Denver Chapter/CAS, P.O. Box 100190**

Denver, CO 80250-0190

Denver Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 100190
Denver, CO 80250-0190

The All Points Bulletin is published monthly by the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and is governed by the bylaws of the Denver Chapter. Articles appearing in the All Points Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the Denver Chapter.

CIRCULATION: Rosalie Hewins; **EDITORS:** Kathy Barzen/Bob Rushforth
Denver Chap. CAS, P.O. Box 100190, Denver, CO 80250-0190

Websites: Denver Chapter: www.cas-denver.org Colorado Archaeological Society: www.coloradoarchaeology.org

DENVER CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Jack Warner
11042 Main Range Trail
Littleton, CO 80127-3625
303-973-5145 303-918-1236
jackeagle@aol.com

VPRES Linda Sand
11341 Quivas Way
Westminster, CO 80234
llsand@comcast.net

SECRETARY Kendra Elrod
6742 S. Holland Way
Littleton, CO 80128
303-948-4229
elrod@snet.net

TREASURER Preston Niesen
13263 W. Utah Circle
Lakewood, CO 80228
303-985-4689, 720-259-1534
preston.niesen@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Rosalie Hewins
20350 Brookmont Rd.
Morrison, CO 80465
303-697-1894
rosaliehewins@comcast.net

CAS REP.

Teresa Weedin Thru 12/2012
1189 Norfolk St.
Aurora, CO 80011-7513
303-366-7843C
weedin@comcast.net

PAAC REP

Anne Winslow
annewinslow52@comcast.net

Editor

Kathy Barzen
303-795-1812
barzenk@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Jon Kent
Campus Box 28, Metro State
Denver, CO 80217
(W)303-556-2933, (H)303-504-4463
kentj@msudenver.edu

Craig Banister
303-759-5015
craig.banister@comcast.net

Jack Hewins
20350 Brookmont Rd.
Morrison, CO 80465
jackhewins@comcast.net

Neil Hauser
5379 S. Flanders Way
Centennial, CO 80015
hauserndigger@gmail.com

revised 1-09-2014