Anyone who has studied Archaeology has heard, or read, or otherwise know it is basically dumpster diving. We study the materials people discard believing we will be able to understand ancient civilizations. The methods of discarding materials can give us a few glimpses into how these past societies were organized. With those two thoughts I didn’t think too much about the ancient concepts of recycling or repurposing but a few weeks ago I got to experience this. In August 2014 I found myself on a trip of a lifetime. Accompanied by my mother and a close family friend we toured the British Isles, among the highlights were the Orkney Islands.

The Orkney Islands are fascinating. Currently the location is not a very forgiving environment. Glaciers receded from here about 10,000 years ago. Since then the terrain of the islands has changed dramatically. The islands are mostly made up of sandstone. As land rose the hills and coasts were beaten down by storms coming from the Atlantic Ocean in the west and North Sea to the east. The only trees seen there are those planted by landowners in the recent century.

It is known that people traveled and lived on these islands as far back as 9,000 years ago. We also know the resilience of some cultures and know as humans we can and do adapt to extreme conditions. Orcadians are no different and 5,000 years ago the people who lived on the Orkney Islands found another unique way to adapt to these weather extremes, by living in and repurposing their own trash.

A well-documented storm hit the islands in 1850. Over 100 lives were lost and numerous structures were demolished. Following the storm a resident of the Skaill House was walking around assessing property damage when he noticed a gaping hole in a mound that was known as Skerrabra.

Upon examination it was concluded that the force of the storm had ripped off a part of the mound that was covering stone buildings of unknown origin. The resident conducted several excavations to determine the
origins of these buried ruins. The resident knew this discovery was significant. It is now known as Skara Brae.

Skara Brae is located on the west side of the main island, Orkney, along the of Bay of Skail. The aspects that make this site unique and fascinating are numerous: first, this site encompasses a unique method of construction. This site was built into a midden. The midden materials themselves were repurposed to provide the protection of the development from the elements. Skara Brae is also known as Scotland’s Pompei. After the site was abandoned it was buried for several millennia, and seemingly untouched until 1850 when it was exposed by the storm.

The site itself holds remains of at least ten known structures, all but one connected by paths. Using radiocarbon dating it is widely agreed this site was first built about 5,000 years ago or 3100 BCE. In perspective that is 500 years before Stonehenge was built and more than 300 years before any known stone pyramids of Egypt were built.

Construction of this settlement came in at least two time periods, the first about 3100 BC when a midden was built or adapted and buried by local turf materials, then by digging into the midden to construct the ‘houses’ with fitted stone slabs and digging tunnels to connect them. The tunnels were then reinforced by stone slabs or flagstone of local origin.

The site is a well-planned and executed development. The first construction stage shows the houses were rounder. Today only a few foundations stones exist. Either the materials making up the initial houses were removed or buried or repurposed into the newer development. Today eight structures remain. Some sources claim there were at least two more buildings that have since eroded into Skail Bay and others also point out there are two other 'mounds' in the vicinity that could have similar characteristics to Skerrabra.

The reason most agree the development was well-planned is because of the apartment-like style: Each ‘house’ is a single room about the same size, has the same features such as box beds, a 'dresser', storage box or tank lined with clay and central hearth. These houses were meticulously built with form-fitted stone slabs. The midden material surrounding their village provided decent insulation, even the paths constructed were built and reinforced with stone slabs to keep the entire location underground. There is evidence of a drainage system possibly indicating a sort of plumbing system.
Today the site is mostly uncovered but it was completely covered except for a hole above the hearth in each room during occupation. No roofing materials have been found but it is widely accepted perishable materials such as kelp or whale bone or possibly driftwood may have provided the structural support. The turf kept the entire site covered, tunnels and all, making it possible the residents did not have to step outside when leaving their rooms.

Around 2500 BC evidence points to a shift in climate that may have led to Skara Brae being abandoned and the residents moving to other areas of the island. The Bay of Skail has battered the environment and as some attest at least two structures have been claimed by the water. It seems likely the residents simply moved on and the site was eventually buried by sand. Some who have studied the site speculate the village was abandoned during a single event- possibly another sandstorm buried the village. Regardless of why the village was abandoned the site lay buried in a sandy dune until 1850 when a storm exposed part of the site. Those who call Skara Brae Scotland’s Pompei are not necessarily referring to an apocalyptic event (modern thinking anyway) that forced residents to flee but rather for the excellent state of preservation of the site. Because the site was buried Skara Brae is one of the most complete and largely unspoiled Neolithic settlement sites. Because of Skara Brae we have the opportunity to see how a small population lived in Neolithic times in Orkney. This site attests to the resilience of those living in Neolithic times in Orkney and their ability to adapt to the unforgiving environment by repurposing the discarded materials. We seek to study and understand them. This time the dumpster dove on us.

Note: In December 1999 Skara Brae and several other Neolithic sites in Orkney were grouped and named the Heart of Neolithic Orkney and was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.
**November General Meeting:** Monday, November 10th at DMNS in Ricketson Auditorium at 7 PM. Enter through the Security entrance. The West entrance is closed.

Nathan D. Boyless

President and General Manager
Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. – Golden, Colorado

Executive Certificate in Leadership and Management, University of Notre Dame, 2010
M.B.A., Eller College of Management, University of Arizona, Tucson, 2008
B.A., Anthropology, with honors, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, 2003

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Metcalf) is cultural resource management (CRM) firm started by Michael and Sally Metcalf in 1980 with offices in three western states. Headquartered in Golden, CO, Metcalf provides comprehensive CRM services to regional clients and has done so for more than three decades. As a 100% employee-owned firm, the company employs a unique team of highly motivated and experienced archaeologists, historians and administrative professionals. I began working for Metcalf in 2008 as the company’s Business Manager, at that time administering all of the company’s internal support services (e.g. contracts, insurance and benefits). In 2009, I became the company’s Vice President and General Manager assuming responsibility for all day-to-day operations. In my current role as President, I continue to lead the company’s operations, both with respect to our service offerings as well as overseeing all of the administrative functions of a growing business. Moreover, I am fully engaged in and responsible for the strategic planning and management of the organization in concert with the company’s Board of Directors.

In addition to my role at Metcalf, I am President and Chairman of the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve (LSAP), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization headquartered in Littleton, Colorado. LSAP is the steward of a 35 acre site owned by The Archaeological Conservancy and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our mission is to promote, develop and protect the Preserve while continually advancing towards the goal of constructing and operating an on-site museum facility. Since 2011, I have worked with the Board to generate public and private support in pursuit of our mission.

So you’re interested in archaeology, you enrolled in the best graduate program you could find, and you earned your Master of Arts in Anthropology – now what? After months of job searching, you land an interview with Metcalf Archaeological Consultants and are hired as an entry-level Archaeological Technician. Despite two degrees in Anthropology and three field schools, you find yourself starting over in a foreign world of big industry, tight budgets and long hours contributing to technical reports. This is not what you thought archaeologists do but it’s what many of us do for a living – Cultural Resource Management (CRM). From the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 to the present day, CRM professionals have filled an essential niche in the world of historic preservation and a pivotal role in the realm of contracting and development. This presentation explores the CRM industry – why it started, what CRM firms actually do and how archaeologists became consultants. Welcome to your first field season as a CRM professional – it’s not just archaeology anymore!

**Board Meeting Minutes**

The DC-CAS Board Meeting was held at Metro State University in Denver, October 7, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Linda Sand

Attending were Linda Sand, Teresa Weedin, Anne Winslow, Craig Banister, Kathy Barzen, Bob Rushforth, Ken Andresen, Jon Kent, Reid Farmer and Kendra Elrod

Speakers (Linda Sand) announced speakers are lined up for the next few months’ speakers. The presentation scheduled for October 14 will be given by Reid Farmer. Linda requested if anyone wishes to speak at the December Members Night event contact her directly.

Scientific (Linda Sand for Neil Hauser) reported Blackfoot Cave analysis is underway. An email with appropriate details has been sent to everyone who is on the list. Anyone who wishes to be included in the email notice can contact Neil to be added to the list. Neil requested a total of $546.21 to be reimbursed to him to cover the costs associated with Blackfoot analysis, repository and report work.

Motion was made and approved to reimburse Neil for a total of $546.21 for the work described in his request. The amount is to come from the Scientific Applications fund.

Membership (Linda Sand for Rosalie Hewins): There were three members added bringing a total of 161 members and 130 memberships.

**CO-CAS (Teresa Weedin)** Teresa reported the Annual Meeting went well. The meeting had good speakers. The Sunday field trip to the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs Campus was a good experience. Anne Winslow,
Southwest Lore: Plans to digitize the last 10 years of Southwest Lore are underway. When complete the digital versions will be available for purchase.

PAAC (Anne Winslow) Anne announced the upcoming PAAC course being taught in Denver is the Perishable Materials course and begins Thursday, October 16 at History Colorado. The class currently has a few open seats, anyone interested in attending may contact Anne directly at Anne.Winslow@state.co.us. Anne also reported the Lab dates in December have been posted online in the History Colorado PAAC page.

Treasurer (Linda Sand for Preston Niesen): The financial statements have been emailed to all board members by Preston.

Trips/Events (Teresa Weedin): The field trip scheduled with Larry Evans to 9 Mile has been cancelled. Teresa also announced the 2015 field trip planning session will be held in November.

Library (Teresa Weedin) nothing new to report at this time.

APB/APB Newsletter (Kathy Barzen, Bob Rushforth & Ken Andresen) Kathy and Bob announced they will be retiring their positions as editors of the APB. Finding replacements for both of them was discussed. Kathy and Bob recommend there are two individuals working on APB with Ken Andresen to help with the load. It was decided the board will solicit the members for replacements and those on the board will help with the transition as needed.

DC-CAS WWW (Craig Banister) noted the APB was posted online and the alert to subscribers were sent today along with the announcement for the upcoming October General Meeting.

Old Business
Past minutes will be voted on during the November Board meeting.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee Jon Kent announced the current nominated lineup for 2015 DC-CAS Officers as follows:
President – Linda Sand
Vice President – Catherine Griffin
Secretary – Kendra Elrod
Treasurer – Preston Niesen
Membership – ?
CO-CAS Representative – Teresa Weedin
PAAC Representative – Anne Winslow
Directors – only two current director seats are up for election, Reid Farmer has been nominated to take one of the open director seats

Craig Banister
someone to replace Neil Hauser
someone to replace Jack Hewins
Jonathan Kent

New Business
Contract to renew the General Meeting location at Denver Museum of Nature and Science is available. It was agreed the contract will be scanned and made available online for members to look over and vote on. The 2015 CCPA meeting is scheduled March 12-15 and will be held in Estes Park. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Kathy Barzen was contacted by an individual who is soliciting our assistance in confirming/identifying a stone tool found on their family’s property in New Mexico. It was suggested we refer this individual to the museum or state archaeological office for this type of assistance.

Teresa Weedin raised opinion on a proposed Encampment event to take place in June, 2015. A Rock Art Annual Symposium in the San Luis Valley in June, 2015 was proposed however there is another conference scheduled in the same area in the same month. An option to merge the meetings so events will not detract from one another has been proposed. Discussion on this possibility will be explored in the coming weeks.

Rosalie Hewins and Jack suggest outreach for the education community to work with regarding Project Archaeology. Linda recommended Betsy Weltkamp be invited to future DC-CAS Board Meetings to provide education insight.

A thank you was extended to Reid Farmer for stepping up to be speaker in the October General Meeting

Notice: the Denver Museum of Nature and Science where our monthly General Meetings are held will be keeping the doors at the West Entrance locked therefore, anyone attending the General Meetings will need to enter the museum through the Volunteer’s door and proceed to the auditorium through security and the Space exhibit. This arrangement will start January, 2015. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM by Linda Sand.

The DC-CAS General Meeting is October 13, 2014 at the Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

General Meeting Minutes
The DC-CAS General Meeting was held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Ricketson Auditorium
Monday, October 13, 2014

Approximately 30 people attended.
Jack Warner called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and opened with a briefing of the evening lineup.

Reminder from here on everyone attending these meetings must enter through the north entrance of the museum through the Volunteer door and navigate through the Space exhibit to get to the auditorium.

Special Announcement: Bill Hammond was awarded the Hagar Award for his outstanding work in the scientific fields. His work at the Swallow Site, the offices he held within CAS, his mentoring approach to keeping the interest in archaeology spreading to everyone as well as the publications he has worked on over the years was highlighted. Jack also noted Bill did much of this while holding a full time job in pathology. Thank you Bill!

Speaker (Linda Sand) before Linda introduced the speaker she reminded everyone the PAAC course Perishable Materials to be held at History Colorado in Denver begins this Thursday, October 16, 2014 and there are a few open seats left for anyone interested. Contact Anne Winslow to reserve your seat. For anyone interested in attending the Winter Lab Workshop the dates have been posted on the History Colorado website, contact Kevin Black directly if interested.

Linda continued and introduced tonight’s speaker, Reid Farmer. Reid began his presentation on the O’Hare Site (5WL6465).

Main points:
- Contracted by Tetra Tech in the Spring of 2010 for the Cedar Creek II Wind Project
- Reid noted Tetra Tech was not required to bring in archaeologists to survey prior to site preparation
- Location near Pawnee Buttes, Northeast Weld Co
- Multi-component site, sites ranged from small lithic scatter to stone circles and hearths
- Two distinct camps identified in project area, first at O’Hare, the other on top of mineral deposits
- Important landmarks nearby include a natural spring and a sandstone outcrop that was likely used as a quarry
- Features and artifacts identified on the surface include stone circles, bone (butchered and tools), hearth, fire cracked rock, bifacial and unifacial flaked tools, debitage, and a cairn
- Materials: sandstone, quartzite, limestone
- Reid’s team introduced the local land owner, Mr O’Hare, to the site. Mr. O’Hare seemed excited with what was shown to him. He approved the team to continue data recovery
- Test excavations were set up and showed limited deposits
- Artifacts analyzed included cord marked ceramics, bison bone (mandible and fragment of leg bone, debitage of various stages, a side-notched point (Ceramic/Woodland) and scrapers
- A test pit placed on what was thought to be a mano placed on top of a metate turned out to be two metates with fire built on top
- Macrofloral samples yielded Asteraceae (snakeweed) charcoal
- C14 dates found to support dating methods from artifacts, Early Ceramic
- Bonus information presented included discovery of alabates, which are sourced in North Texas, and what archaeologists identified as a bone from a Titanotherium
- Reid concluded with a note that, due to proximity of the project site to a military installation, their presence was of interest to Black Helicopter reconnaissance missions

Jack W thanked Reid for his enthusiasm to share this experience with the group.

Old Business
Minutes from September were approved.
Jon Kent announced the current nominations for the DC-CAS officers and welcomed anyone else who would be interested in holding a position to contact him.
Current nomination lineup:
President: Linda Sand
V.P.: Catherine Griffin
Secretary: Kendra Elrod
Treasurer: Preston Niesen
Director: T. Reid Farmer
Director: To be nominated/elected at the November General Meeting
CAS Rep: Teresa Weedin
Membership Secretary: Rosalie Hewins
PAAC Coordinator: Anne Winslow

New Business
Jack announced Bob Rushforth and Kathy Barzen’s retirement from the APB duties and solicited for anyone interested in taking over either position. It was suggested a writeup of these open positions would be made available for anyone interested to read what the job(s) entail, plans to make this information available is underway.
Linda Tryzna announced the possible Encampment opportunity in San Luis Valley in June 2015. There is interest in resurrecting a Rock Art Conference down there, however, there is one other conference set for June in the same location. There is talk of merging the two events. More information will be posted as this develops.
Bill Hammond announced artifact analysis of materials from the Swallow Site is still ongoing. Anyone who is interested in assisting with analyzing these artifacts may contact Bill directly for more details.
Linda Sand announced anyone interested in giving a 15 minute presentation at the Member Night for the December meeting should contact her directly.
Linda also announced November’s speaker is Nathan Boyless. See speaker info for November. Gordy Tucker was not able to give the talk in November.
Jack W adjourned the DC-CAS General Meeting at 8:09 PM.

Kendra Elrod, Secretary

November, 2014
BLACKFOOT CAVE ANALYSIS
Analysis: November 11, 12, 18, 19 (5379 South Flanders Way)
Curation: November 1, 15 (Castle Rock repository)
Contact: Neil Hauser (hauserndigger@gmail.com)

LECTURES

“Not All of Our Ancestors Were Cavemen”, Annual DMNS Marie Wormington Lecture, by Margaret Conkey, Thursday, November 6, 7 pm, Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Cost: $8 DMNS Member, $10 nonmember

“The Queen Who Would Be King: Excavation of the Temple of Tausret”, by Richard Harwood, Monday, November 17, 7 pm, Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Meeting of Egyptian Study Society

“Konovalenko Gem Carvings with Anna Konovalenko Tour”, Monday, November 17, 5:30 pm or 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Cost: $20 DMNS Member, $25 nonmember

“Stories in Stone: An Evening with Anna Konovalenko”, Tuesday, November 18, 7 pm, Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Cost: $8 DMNS member, $10 nonmember

DC/CAS
September, 2014 Financial Report
Prepared by Preston Niesen, Treasurer

Assets
Key Bank checking $ 2,867.19 $ 3,527.77
TD 182 day to 07/03/14 @0.15% $ 5,686.67 $ 5,686.67
TD 182 day to 10/23/13 @0.15% $ 4,802.17 $ 4,802.17
TD 1 year to 5/14/14 @ 0.15% $ 4,986.29 $ 4,986.29
Total checking/savings $ 18,342.32 $19,002.90
Total Assets $ 18,342.32 $19,002.90

Liabilities & Equity
Current Liabilities
AH Scholarship Fund payable $       180.00
State CAS Dues payable $       180.00

Funds
Scientific Applications $ 5,115.32 $ 5,143.32
Swallow Report Project $ 2,571.81 $ 2,581.81
D Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund $ 1,747.10 $ 1,747.10
Blackfoot Cave $ 180.00 $ 190.00
Library $ 302.45 $ 302.45
Education $ 182.00 $ 182.00
Field Trips/Social $ 483.01 $ 483.01
Student Membership $ 47.50 $ 47.50
Speakers Meal Fund $ 744.37 $ 772.37

Total Liabilities & Funds $ 11,373.56 $ 11,439.56
General Fund $ 6,968.76 $ 7,553.34
Total L E F’s $ 18,342.32 $ 19,002.90

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 _____Senior Individual w/o SW Lore $22.00
_____Family $45.00 _____Senior 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

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