



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

January, 2012

SJBAS JANUARY MEETING

Our meeting will be held on **January 12** at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for SW Studies Lyceum, Fort Lewis College. Chapter President, Andrew Gulliford, will discuss **"The Mimbres People: Master Potters of the Southwest."** As the former Director of the Western New Mexico University Museum in Silver City, Dr. Gulliford curated the largest permanent exhibition of Mimbres pottery in the world. He will discuss the Mimbres people, their pottery and rock art, and show slides of modern potters who have learned to replicate Mimbres designs to try to reduce pothunting in Southwest NM.

Andy has a federal appointment to the Southwest Colorado Resources Advisory Council for the BLM. He is a professor of History and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College.

SJBAS Field Trips

Feb. 23-25, Moab Petroglyphs. (Trip Leaders (TLs): Bill Cagle, 385-4566 & Jim Shadell, 249-5597). A 3D/2N Motel Trip ("MT") to visit many petroglyph sites, most with auto access and very short hikes.

March 1-4, Cochise County Arizona. (TLs: Gail and Marlo Schulz, 946-5234). MT, meet Gail and Marlo near Tombstone, AZ on March 1. Great opportunity to learn about history of southern AZ while thawing out from the cold.

March 18-23, Agua Fria National Monument and Nearby Locations. (TL: Mary Ann Hiller, 259-5170). Limit 20, CC, HC/4WD. Roam Perry Mesa and its canyons to learn about the 500 sites and many petroglyph panels. Visiting some other sites will require individual registration. Sign up by Feb. 1.

April 14, Dinetah Pueblitos. (TL: Mary Ann Hiller, 259-5170). Limit 20. DT might require HC vehicles but HC/4WDs preferred. Several short (<1 mile), easy to moderate hikes to several ruins and petroglyph sites. Visit the area east of Bloomfield, NM, with NM Trust Land Archaeologist David Eck. For further trip information check out the web site sjbas.org.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please pay your dues by
January 31 to Mark Gebhardt.

What's Inside

Exhibits.....	2
Conferences.....	3
Volunteer Opportunities.....	3
Editor's Corner.....	4
Archeological News from the SW.....	4
Archeological News Outside the SW.....	6
PAAC Information.....	8
Archeological News From other Countries.....	9

Exhibits

Migration Exhibit, "Journey Stories," at Aztec Museum, showcasing stories of those who settled this area.

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of NM, through February 2012. New photography exhibit, "Chaco Uncovered: The Field Schools 1929 to Present"; www.unm.edu;

NM Historical Museum, The Threads of Memory: Spain and the United States;

Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM. Through March 10, 2013. "Folk Art of the Andes," religious and secular folk art;

Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Nov. 18, 2011 through May 1, 2014. "Woven Identities", 250 baskets from Western North America; Through Feb. 12, 2012, "Huichol Art and Culture: Balancing the World" explores ties between Huichol, Native American and Hispanic art and cultures.

Salmon Ruins Museum (Farmington) Exhibit "The Language of Rock Art: a Collaboration Honoring the Work of Dr. Hugh Chilton Rogers." Yearlong exhibit featuring Indian rock art of the Largo and Gobernador Canyons.

Aerial Photography Exhibit From Above Opens in Oro Valley, AZ. A collaboration among photographer Adriel Heisey, Center for Desert Archaeology, and Albuquerque Museum, features sixty large-format aerial photographs of historical landscapes across the SW, such as Chaco Canyon's Pueblo Bonito and Tucson's Tumamoc Hill, as well as other special places off the beaten path. www.cdarc.org.

Heard Museum (Phoenix, AZ.). "Native American Bolo Ties: Vintage and Contemporary." Through September 2012. Showcases native designers who have brought unique designs with traditional inspirations to the bolo.). "Beyond Geronimo: The Apache Experience" explores the famed Apache leader and the mythology that has grown around him. Provides insight into the history groups of Apaches and the leaders who were overshadowed by Geronimo's persona, both before and after his battle with the U.S. government and subsequent surrender. (602) 252-8840, www.heard.org. (Opens February 12).

Archaeological Institute of America: Power and Authority at the Edge of Empire in Ancient Persia, by Dr. Elspeth R.M. Dusinger. Jan 15, 2012, 2 P.M., Tattered Cover Bookstore, 1668 16th St. - 16th and Wynkoop, Denver. Achaemenid Persian empire from 550-330 BCE.

University of CO Museum of Natural History: Through artifacts, photographs, and a section highlighting the Olsen Chubbuck Paleo-Indian bison kill site, the museum's Anthropology Hall presents the exciting methods of archaeologist Earl Morris (1889-1956). Visitors see a variety of pottery and other artifacts excavated by Morris. A Discovery Cart with artifacts, books, and activities for children. (303) 492-6892, www.cumuseum.colorado.edu. (Long-term gallery)

Exhibit on Fate of Hohokam Opens at Anasazi Heritage Center; to Continue through October 2012. (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), November 26, 2011) "Pieces of the Puzzle, New Perspectives on the Hohokam" was produced by Tucson-based Center for Desert Archaeology ("CDARC") to highlight recent discoveries about this Native American group.

Boulder History Museum: Hollywood Colorado. Jan. 13 - Apr. 15, 1206 Euclid Ave., Boulder. Traveling exhibit featuring Colorado as the backdrop for over 500 movies since 1898. www.boulderhistory.org.

Natural History Museum of Utah, Opened Nov. 18, Rio Tinto Center of University of UT. Campus, Engages Senses, Allowing Visitors Inside Exhibits to Touch Artifacts, Get Whiff of Desert Plants and Hear Birds. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), December 4, 2011) People are even walking on top of exhibits, with glass-panel floors covering fossil dig sites. Over the years, they'll also be able to watch paleontologists separate fossils from rock in a glass-walled working laboratory. In the First People's Hall, visitors can build pottery from pot shards as if they were discovering an Anasazi kiva. There is a walk-in archaeological dig that has the grid projected onto it so people can study and map sites out as do archaeologists.



Don't Forget Your Dues

Don't forget to send in your membership dues for 2012 to Mark Gebhardt. You can access the membership application on our website:

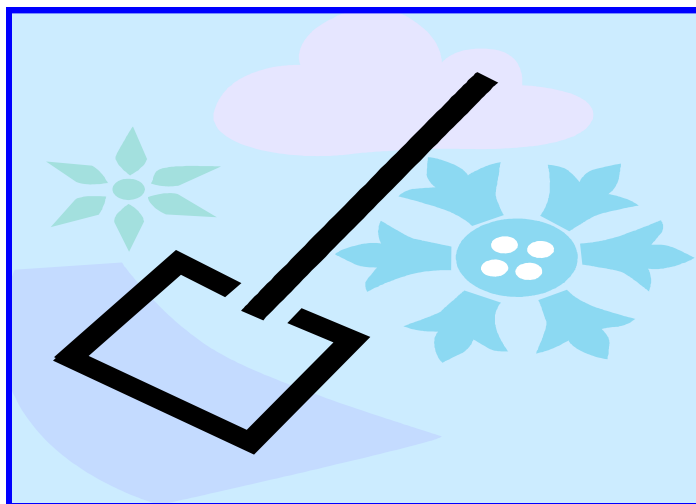
www.sjbas.org.



Society for Historical Archaeology, Jan. 4-8. Baltimore, MD, www.sha.org.

Thirteenth University of New Mexico SW Symposium, "Causation and Explanation: Demography, Movement, Historical Ecology," January 14-15, 2012: Seeking explanations of the long-term, potentially multiple, causes of change. Explore the intersections and tensions between them. www.unm.edu. Two sessions and post presentations will be held each day, starting with a roundtable discussion Saturday morning. Reception at Hibben Center on Saturday from 5 to 8 pm.

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists Annual Meeting, March 2-24. Durango, CO. www.coloradoarchaeologists.org.



Hisatsinom Chapter: This chapter holds its meetings at the Cortez Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m. The speakers for the next month will be:

January 3, Shawn Collins;
February 7, Susan Ryan; and
March 6, Laurie Webster.

CAS Denver Chapter: On **Jan. 9**, 7:00 p.m. at the Ricketson Auditorium in the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Laine Vandal (RMC Consultants, Inc.) will summarize the various steps involved with excavations at the CO. Historical Society Museum Relocation site, located at 12th and Broadway, Denver. Enter the museum through the Leprino Atrium entrance on the west side. www.cas-denver.org;

On **Jan. 17**, 1 pm - 2 pm and 7 pm - 8 pm at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant Street, Denver, the Boulder water attorney Kevin Kinnear will speak on "Colorado's Historical Water Wars: Why Whiskey is for Drinkin' and Water is for Fightin'." For more information, call 303-866-4686; www.historycolorado.org



Cortez Cultural Center. Call Shawn K. Collins, Ph.D, Director, (970) 565-1151; scollins@cortezculturalcenter.org; (or visit www.cortezculturalcenter.org);

Chimney Rock Interpretive Assoc. Email Helen Richardson, 1218HL1944@century.net or go to www.chimneyrockco.org;

CO. Historical Society. Contact Kevin Black, Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us;

Center of SW Studies. Contact Julie Tapley-Booth at 247-7456;

Mesa Verde.

Visit www.mesaverdevolunteers.org.,

Aztec Ruins. Call Tracy Bodnar, 505-334-6174, ext. 232, or tracy_bodnar@nps.gov.

Anasazi Heritage Cntr, Call David Kill at 882-5621 or dkill@blm.gov.

THE EDITORS' CORNER

Osa and Martin: For the Love of Adventure by Kelly Enright, Lyons Press, 222 pages, hardcover, \$24.95,

This book brings forgotten travelers to life. Osa and Martin Johnson achieved global fame during the 1920s and 30s when the mystique of faraway lands were still just seldom-glimpsed images in the local Nickelodeon. When the explorers returned from places like the South Seas and innermost Africa, there were few contemporaries who could match their celebrity. Their story begs to be told. Vail historian Kelly Enright reintroduces the couple that time forgot. Enright's book does much more than summarize the journals and published works of the Johnsons, of which there are many. It's no easy task to condense three decades of travel over six continents.



Archeological News From the Southwest

Mesa Verde Opens Trails for Winter. (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), November 26, 2011)

Mesa Verde will groom four trail systems this winter, if snowfall permits, including the Cliff Palace Loop, Wetherill Road Trail, Prater Canyon and Morefield Campground Trails. The total distance of these trails will be 28.4 miles of which 20.4 miles are groomed. The ungroomed skiing is located on Wetherill Road, which is closed to vehicular traffic. Maps and detailed information on skiing and snowshoeing winter recreational opportunities can be acquired on the park website, at the park entrance gate, by calling park dispatch at 970-529-4622 or Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum at 970-529-4631.

Museum Cuts Averted. (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), November 22, 2011)

The Museum of Western Colorado, which closed its doors for most of the year to one of its venues, will lose \$25,000 in direct funding from Mesa County this year, but will get the benefit of \$25,000 in advice from a fundraising expert to help the museum sharpen its fundraising efforts. The Mesa County Commissioners voted to devote \$375,000 to the museum -- the same amount it received this year.

Quake May have Ended Mastodons at Snowmass. (Summary, [Durango Telegraph](#), November 17, 2011)

At the reservoir site at Snowmass Village, scientists and volunteers turned up 41 species, many now extinct, including a bison half-again as big as today's bison, and a ground sloth the size of a grizzly bear. The most impressive bones were those of mastodons, a now-extinct elephant-like creature that stood 11 feet at the shoulder and had teeth adapted for nibbling on tree branches. Bones of at least 30 individuals have scientists assembling the hypothesis that the mastodons were eating at an ancient lake when suddenly an earthquake hit. The shaking liquefied the sediments in which the mastodons were standing, trapping them in quicksand from which they were unable to escape. Slowly, the mastodons starved, and once dead, their bones disarticulated. More earthquakes further interred the bones deep into the lake sediments -- to be found more than 45,000 years later. Based on the quality and quantity of mastodon bones, plus the diversity of ages found in species, it's the highest elevation Ice Age site in the world.

Annie Oakley Artifacts Given to WY Museum. (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), November 26, 2011)

The 1935 film starring Barbara Stanwyck and her role as Annie Oakley got Bill Self, Hollywood actor and producer, started as a collector of Western memorabilia. Self died last year at 89 and his family donated the Annie Oakley items to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, including a glass target ball and a pair of Oakley's spurs. There is an 1892 William Cashmore rifle with "AO" emblazoned on the stock and a reel of 16mm film.

After Largest Wildfire in NM History and Floods, Bandelier National Monument's Backcountry Trails Reopen to Hikers on Thanksgiving Day. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), November 25, 2011)

Visitors are welcome to explore the Park, but should be prepared for rough conditions. The visitor center and biggest concentration of prehistoric cultural sites survived the fire and a second threat -- post-fire flooding that sent ash, sediment and charred debris into the heart of the monument. www.thereporter.com.

(Continued on page 5)

Archeological News From the Southwest - Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

Feather Blanket and Prehistoric Women's Apron.

David A. Lacy, 55, pled guilty to three misdemeanor counts of trafficking stolen artifacts and Native American cultural items. www.deseretnews.com.

Congressional Republicans Seek Veto Authority over 1906 Antiquities Act.

Citing state sovereignty and economic hardship, Republican lawmakers want to give Congress authority to veto presidential national monument designations, a power used by nearly every executive since Teddy Roosevelt. The 1906 Act has led to the designations of 136 national monuments, including the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest and the Statue of Liberty. www.mcclatchydc.com.

Looted Artifacts Stashed in Tightly Secured Salt Lake Warehouse.

From showy pottery to the most utilitarian tool, the antiquities tell the story of Ancestral Puebloans, Apaches, Utes and Navajos who lived in the SW centuries ago. There are yucca fiber sandals, grinding stones, primitively painted ceramic bowls and mugs, baby carriers, buffalo shields and prayer sticks; arrowheads and spearheads; shell bracelets and bead necklaces. <http://ow.ly>.

BLM Awards \$5.5 Million Contract to PaleoWest Archaeology to mitigate the effects Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project construction will have on cultural resources in the area. PaleoWest, a Phoenix-based company, will open an office in Farmington. www.daily-times.com.

Blanding Residents Plead for Support for the Edge of the Cedars Museum State Park.

Blanding residents worry the heritage and rich culture of their area will be stolen twice: once by black-market American Indian-relic peddlers, and then by the state of UT. During Gov. Herbert's visit to Blanding, residents pleaded with him to keep open the Edge of the Cedars Museum State Park. www.sltrib.com.

National Parks Conservation Association ("Association") Issues Warning on State of Cultural Resources in National Parks.

The National Parks Service is charged with protecting not only the nation's natural wonders, but also its most important historic sites, including archaeological treasures like Mesa Verde. Protection of historic and cultural resources has often taken a back seat to natural resource management, according to the most recent state of the parks report from the Association. Overall, the condition of cultural resources was rated as generally "fair to poor," with no sites rated as excellent. www.summitcountyvoice.com.

University of AZ's Tree-ring Research Lab Presents Evidence for Multi-decade Drought in Second Century AD.

Almost 900 years ago, in the mid-12th century, the SW United States was in the middle of a multi-decade megadrought, the most recent extended period of severe drought known for this region, but not the first. The second century AD saw an extended dry period of more than 100 years characterized by a multi-decade drought lasting nearly 50 years. University of AZ. geoscientists conducted a study of the southern San Juan Mountains in south central CO. The region serves as a primary drainage site for the Rio Grande and San Juan Rivers. www.eurekalert.org.

Old Made New, (Summary, [Durango Herald](http://www.durangoherald.com), July 24, 2011)

For nine months, Russell Planning & Engineering, a Durango-based contractor for Mesa Verde's new visitor center, has been on time and under budget. On the other hand, Cliff Spencer, Park Supt., finds his job often confusing. Some want Spencer to bring about a sharp increase in the number of people visiting the park. Others consider the park's declining popularity a foregone conclusion of modern American travel habits, with the demise of two-week family vacations. Now, visitors drive miles into the park before reaching the visitor center and often have to wait in line. More unacceptable is the state of the park's research center. The building is vulnerable to fire and lacks security -- though it houses the park's priceless collection of artifacts. Spencer says the real difficulty will be in moving three million artifacts into the new archive space. Everything has to be planned ahead of time, down to what drawer -- what shelf -- a single artifact is to be moved to. Moving the collection will cost \$90,000 -- a bargain rate of 3 cents per artifact. The idea is to pack the objects so perfectly that they could fall off the back of a moving van and be fine. Museum management has prepared detailed packing recommendations, according to object type. It predicts that ceramics will require 2,641

(Continued on page 6)

Archeological News From the Southwest - Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

hours of packing; plant materials, 1,271 hours; and 22 hours to pack ancient specimens of dung and feces. The museum will rely heavily on staff, volunteers and students from FLC to help with the packing.

Billy the Kid's Only Surviving Authenticated Photo Sells for \$2 Million. (Summary, Denver Post, June 26, 2011)
The tintype auctioned at Brian Lebel's 22nd Annual Old West Show & Auction, which organizers had estimated would fetch between \$300,000 and \$400,000, sold for \$2 million. Earlier, Bob McCubbin, who has a collection of rare photographs of outlaws, Indians and lawmen, including Jesse James and Pat Garrett, predicated the tintype would fetch more than \$1 million. McCubbin said the tintype is not a very flattering photograph of the Kid, but that is part of its fascination.

New NPS Website Presents Strategies for Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Land. (Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter, September 2011)

These strategies are a guide to the variety of tools available for protecting archeological sites on private lands, with information on strategies that are being used throughout the country, contact information, and other useful information. www.nps.gov/history

Archeological News Outside the Southwest

Book Explaining Origins of Aztec Calendar to be Donated to Mexico's Institute of Anthropology. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, November 24, 2011)

A honeymoon treasure found in Mexico City four decades ago, for \$30, "Los Calendarios Mexicanos" by Mariano Fernandez de Echevarria Veytia, a celebrated Mexican historian and lawyer who lived from 1720 to 1778, is heading home. The binding had long since been removed, possibly for any gold that might have been used in the cover, and the pages were ripped. The eight illustrated pages, however, are still crisp, illustrating portions of the Aztec calendar. Only six copies of "Los Calendarios Mexicanos" survive in reasonable condition. The Elliotts said they needed to return it to Mexico, after meeting a Mexican official, Rosario Gomez, last year during a trip organized by the Museum of Western Colorado. Gomez will take it to the National Institute of Anthropology and History, where it will be studied, contributing to a better understanding of Mexican history by Mexicans themselves.

US Transportation Bill could Threaten Archaeological Research.

The Delaware Dept. of Transportation ("DDOT"), which received money from a special pot created by federal highway-building legislation, recovered more than 45,000 "world-class artifacts." That pot of money has pumped more than \$51 million into archaeology. Archaeologists are now watching as Congress debates whether to renew the enhancements program. Many lawmakers are calling for modifying the program, which has funneled funds to some 200 archaeology projects since 1992, and some want to kill it, calling it wasteful and unnecessary. www.news.sciencemag.org.

"Digital Archaeology" Enhancing Ways we can Document Places of the Past.

The Center for Digital Archaeology at UC Berkeley, is overseeing efforts to preserve a peek back into time in as sharp a detail as possible. Using a robotic system known as the GigaPan and other tools, UC Berkeley is capturing enormous panoramic views of the site, time lapse imagery of the renovation and ultra-high-resolution, 3-D photos of the walls, work technically impossible just a few years ago. Now it can be done with basic cameras on a device that costs less than \$900. www.sfgate.com.

In the Heart of Jamestown, VA could be the Nation's Oldest Remains of a Protestant Church. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, November 14, 2011)

The discovery has unearthed a long-hidden dimension of religious life in the first permanent colony. In addition, the church would have been the site of America's first celebrity wedding, where Pocahontas was baptized and married to the settler John Rolfe in 1614. Visible is the altar where Pocahontas would have stood.

(Continued on page 7)

Archeological News Outside the Southwest - Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

The pulpit would have been to the left and a baptismal font behind, with a door opening toward the river. The building was for worship and conversion of Native Americans in their Virginia Company encampment. Britain's earlier "lost colony" in North Carolina may have had a church, and remnants of 16th century Catholic churches and missions have been identified.

Remnants of Hurricane Irene Scattered Dozens of Human Remains in Rochester, VT Cemetery Down River: Many May never be Identified or Found. (Summary, *Durango Herald*, October 16, 2011)

Some of the 50 sets of remains from Woodlawn Cemetery were left mostly intact in caskets that floodwaters ripped from the ground; others were old bones strewn around the cemetery or downstream. But some were more recently deceased, putting relatives in the position of describing facial features, clothing or jewelry to investigators so they can be identified and returned to the earth. It is going to be a long, hard process, and when the spring floods come, it's going to change some of the creek beds again and more bodies may be found downstream. Remains will probably turn up in the river for some time -- and each case will have to be treated as if it's a newly deceased body, to make sure no new crimes slip through the cracks.

Unearthing Texas' Past: Gault Site. (Summary, *Austin American-Statesman*, February 17, 2008)

At the Gault site near Florence, nearly 1.5 million artifacts have been uncovered since 1998. The roughly 35-acre site in a springs area was first excavated in 1929, when J.E. Pearce, founder of the University of Texas (UT) archaeology department, dug there. Projectile points of all sizes, stone tools and bits of chert are the most common finds, but mammoth bones and other ancient fossils have turned up. Archaeologist Michael Collins, a research associate of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at UT, purchased the land with his own money and donated it to the Archaeological Conservancy, which will preserve the site and regulate research there. The pasture was named for the Gault family who once farmed the land. Today, it's considered the most prolific site of its kind. Gault has generated more than half of the excavated artifacts from the Clovis people. Until recently, most archaeologists believed the Clovis came from Asia across the Bering Strait land bridge at the end of the last ice age about 13,500 years ago, walked down the ice-free corridor of Western Canada and slowly spread across the Americas. Collins and others believe people arrived in the Americas much earlier, probably by boat along the North Atlantic and North Pacific shores. And they believe this site will help prove it.

WWII Shipwrecks off N. Carolina and Civil War Shipwrecks in Virginia being Analyzed with Sonar Technology so Public can One Day View near Photographic Images in Detail even Better than Diving can Provide. (Summary, *Durango Herald*, June 29, 2011)

Federal researchers are using sonars to gather data that will result in vivid, three-dimensional images of the shipwrecks that will likely end up online, in museums and as part of other programs designed to promote American maritime heritage. Shipwrecks are often popular dive sites, but detailed images of the ships would allow the public to view them without risk of damaging them and help scientists determine the condition the ships are in as they try to develop better ways to preserve them. The technology also allows the public to view shipwrecks in murky waters. Researchers have begun creating images of ships sunk in 1942 during the Battle of Atlantic. On July 14, 1942, a merchant convoy of 19 ships and five military escorts left Hampton Roads, Virginia en route to Key West, FL, to deliver cargo to aid the war effort. A German submarine attacked Convoy KS-520 the next day off Cape Hatteras, and the U-boat was sunk by depth charges dropped by U.S. Navy aircraft. Yes, there were U-boats off the coast of North Carolina during WWII. Researchers have already identified potential shipwrecks from that battle, and the 3-D mapping will help determine exactly what is there. There's 400 years of ships sunk off the coast. Eventually, researchers hope to develop 3-D video of individual Battle of the Atlantic shipwrecks. NOAA researchers used the sonar to map the Civil War shipwrecks USS Cumberland and CSS Florida in the murky waters of the James River near Newport News.

Mead, Drink of Vikings, Making Comeback. (Summary, *Durango Herald*, January 2, 2011)

In the last decade, the number of "meaderies" in the U.S. has tripled to about 150, with new meaderies at least every couple of weeks. A lot of those are wineries that have decided to add mead to their mainstream product lines. Traditional mead is made with three ingredients: honey, water and yeast. Depending on how

(Continued on page 8)

Archeological News Outside the Southwest - Cont.

(Continued from page 7)

it's made, just like wine mead can be dry or sweet. There are fruit-flavored meads, called melomels; there are methyglyns made with herbs and spices; and there are weirdomel, which is mead made with lots of other things, even veggie meads. Because it requires no human intervention, many believe mead is the world's oldest alcoholic beverage. Traces of a mead-like substance were found in a 9,000-year-old Chinese burial chamber. Until about 1500, mead was the alcoholic beverage of choice. Because cultivated grapes were only for the rich, the poor folks couldn't get wine.

Florida Mounds and Calusa Indians, by Rosalie Hewins. (Summary, CAS All Points Bulletin, July 2011)

Florida once had thousands of mounds and other earthworks constructed by American Indians, some going back thousands of years. Many have been destroyed since the mid-19th century for road material. Most of the mounds were built of earth, sometimes mixed with shell, mostly oysters and whelks, or marl (clay). Many of the mounds were built with a platform top, where temples were built, or sometimes charnel houses which contained the remains of deceased relatives. Tombs were often located inside the mounds, containing sacred items such as ceramic vessels which contained sacred medicines. The mounds were often part of a planned city with plazas, elite residences and religious temples as well as other ceremonial buildings, not unlike the Mayan civilization. The earliest Florida mounds are 6000-7000 years old, some of the oldest in North America. Originally, they were believed to be middens from village settlements, mainly composed of shellfish shells. Later research showed they were earthen burial mounds. There were expanded alliances between communities, as objects from Mississippi and Georgia were found buried as grave goods in the mounds. Burial mounds were linear, but later the shell mounds changed to U-shaped, circular, or semi-circular rings. By 1000 BC, the Florida Indians were building a greater variety and number of mounds than their ancestors. By 1400 years ago, large flat topped, trapezoid-shaped mounds with ramps to the top were being built. These platform or "temple" mounds were part of elaborate ceremonial centers and often housed leaders. Over time, the mounds were rebuilt and enlarged before being abandoned. They are evidence of the social connections that covered thousands of years of culture and spanned thousands of miles. The shell mounds are now known to be intentional monuments and not just shell middens with remains of food and other refuse. There are over 100 mounds along the coasts of Florida, many of which are open to the public.

PAAC INFORMATION

The latest PAAC information can be found at <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>. Kevin Black is considering holding a PAAC Class at FLC, April 20-22, 2012. He suggested either: *Field and Lab Photograph*, a 15-hour course, or *Perishable Materials*, the full 20-hour course (last time held, 2002). One of the following four courses might be offered if there is demand: Rock Art Studies, Basic Site Surveying Techniques, Colorado Archaeology, or Prehistoric Ceramics Description and Analysis -- although these were held fairly recently in our area.

Please let Eliane Viner know your ideas by calling her at 382-2594.



Archeological News From Other Countries

Archaeologists Discover Remains of Viking Chief Buried with His Boat, Ax, Sword and Spear on Remote Scottish Peninsula -- One of Most Significant Norse Finds Uncovered in Britain. (Summary, Durango Herald, October 23, 2011)

The 16-foot-long grave is the first intact site of its kind to have been discovered on mainland Britain and is believed to be more than 1,000 years old. Much of the wooden boat and the Viking bones have rotted away, but scraps of wood and hundreds of metal rivets that held the vessel together remain. A Viking boat burial is an incredible discovery, but in addition to that, the artifacts and preservation make this one of the most important Norse graves ever excavated in Britain.

Scientists Crack Genetic Code of Black Death, One of History's Worst Plagues: Find its Modern Bacterial Descendants haven't Changed much Over 600 Years. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, October 13, 2011)

The evolution of society and medicine -- and our own bodies -- has far outpaced the evolution of that deadly bacterium, scientists said. The 14th century bug *Yersinia pestis* is nearly identical to the modern day version of the same germ. There are only a few dozen changes among the more than four million building blocks of DNA, according to a study published online in the journal *Nature*. What that shows is that the Black Death, or plague, was deadly for reasons beyond its DNA. It had to do with the circumstances of the world back then.

New Fossils May Redraw Human Ancestry. (Summary, NY Times, September 9, 2011)

An apelike creature with human features, whose fossil bones were discovered recently in a South African cave, is being greeted by paleoanthropologists as a likely watershed in the understanding of human evolution. The new species, *Australopithecus sediba*, is the most plausible known ancestor of archaic and modern humans. Several other paleoanthropologists, while disagreeing with that interpretation, say the fossils are of great importance anyway, because they elucidate the mix-and-match process by which human evolution was shaped.

Workers Digging New Roadbed in Chinese City of Taizhou Uncover Burial from Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). (Summary, National Geographic, September 2011)

The deceased was a five-foot-three-inch-tall woman whose skin, hair, eyebrows, and more than 20 items of cotton clothing were fully preserved. Three thick layers of plaster sealed the wooden coffin, keeping out oxygen and bacteria. When found, she lay in a mysterious fluid, which may have served to further prevent decay. Once the mummy is stabilized and studied, the city's museum plans to make her a star attraction of a new exhibit.

DNA Analysis of Clay-bound Pills from Roman Shipwreck Confirms Traces of Dried Plants, Including Carrot, Radish, Cabbage, Celery, Wild Onion, and Parsley, Described in Ancient Greek Medical Texts.

(Summary, National Geographic, September 2011)

A boxwood vial, used by a physician around 140 to 120 B.C., was among the medical artifacts found 22 years ago on a Roman shipwreck off Italy's coast. The brownish, coin-size pills, preserved in tin boxes for two millennia, are the proof that the writings were actually applied. Such knowledge could inform today's research. The second-century physician Galen referred to broccoli, a relative of cabbage, as an intestinal cancer treatment. Studies today confirm the plant's anticancer properties.

New Museum in Cusco. (Summary, WWE Newsletter, September 2011)

Inca expert, Prof. George Miller, U of CA, is using Machu Picchu "mini lectures" that Ken Wright recorded several years ago for a Yale traveling exhibit. The dozen videos are each about two minutes long on special places at Machu Picchu. They were recorded in front of a green screen and the scenery was added later. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science was instrumental in the process. The videos will be part of an exhibit at a new museum in Cusco that will house artifacts collected in 1912 by Machu Picchu re-discoverer Hiram Bingham of Yale. The museum is part of the settlement between the government of Peru and Yale over these relics.

Don't Forget To Pay Your Dues

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

107 St. Andrews Circle

Durango, Colorado 81301

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

If you're not a member of our group and would like to receive our newsletter, attend our monthly meetings, join us on our outings, and participate in our many other activities and those of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), call our President Andy Gulliford (970-375-9417) and ask for information about our organization. Annual dues, including those for membership in the Colorado Archaeological Society, are listed below and are payable by checks made out to SJBAS and mailed to our Treasurer Mark Gebhardt, 107 Saint Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Dues cover membership for the calendar year. With SWL means that the membership includes a subscription to CAS's quarterly journal "Southwestern Lore" (SWL). No SWL means that the journal is not included with your membership, hence the difference in the dues.

Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore") SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00

Individual (no SWL)

SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$ 8.00 = \$23.00