

PaleoCultural Research Group

Organization Report for 2004

HUDSON-MENG SITE, NEBRASKA

PHOTO BY MARK MITCHELL

2004 – 2005

JANUARY BRINGS the start of a new year and an opportunity for review and reflection. PaleoCultural Research Group conducted fewer projects in 2004 than in past years. I guessed this might lead to a briefer annual report and one produced closer to schedule, but I was wrong. Although members participated in fewer projects, we have much to say about them in the following pages. In addition, preparation for 2005 has moved to the fore. This year's projects are diverse in location and scope, as members will see in future communications and requests for assistance.

On the docket is an invitation for PCRG to participate in a new research program at the Hudson-Meng Bison Kill Site in western Nebraska. We will collaborate with the U. S. Forest Service and the University of Colorado – familiar partners from prior field studies at Willow Bunker, Colorado. A small program this summer will likely grow into a multi-year effort. Our greatest challenge may occur at the Beacon Island Agate Basin bison kill site in North Dakota. With assistance from many partners, we hope to begin salvage excavation this summer

at this highly significant location. Both projects are discussed below. Pending support from the State of North Dakota, PCRG also plans to return to Menoken Village this summer to conduct modest excavations to fill gaps in our knowledge about architecture and settlement plan. Among these projects, and possibly others, we expect many opportunities for member participation in 2005.

In the pages that follow we review highlights from the most recent field sea-

proaches have long been my passion, from the time I first spotted an Early Archaic dart point in a rain-washed cornfield, and when as a college student inspired by an article by John Witthoft I strained to see “use-wear” on an artifact through an ill-lit monocular microscope.

While fieldwork receives much attention, most of us know indoor analytic work is an essential part of the endeavor. PCRG processes large volumes of excavated materials in the Flagstaff lab, where

we also conduct detailed studies of pottery and stone artifacts. Several kinds of specialized studies also take place elsewhere. The productive collaboration continues with Kenneth Kvamme and his remote sensing team at the University of Arkansas. For every hour Ken works in the field, he spends four or five hours in the lab analyzing and interpreting the

remote sensing data. Graphic displays of remote sensing results prepared by Ken form a central element in many of PCRG's educational products.

Several other persons also collaborate on our projects. Herbert Haas of RC Consultants, Inc., of Las Vegas, Nevada continues to meet our radiocarbon dating needs by pretreating all samples



Fort Clark State Historic Site and the Nearby Missouri River Floodplain. Photo by Tommy Ike Hailey.

son at Double Ditch Village and from a laboratory workshop conducted as part of the Gault Clovis site investigation. Each summary is augmented with brief accounts from persons experiencing for the first time these contrastive kinds of research – discovery through excavation on the one hand, and discovery through the microscope on the other. Both ap-

and coordinating sample submittals to AMS labs. Herbert's input was essential when we recently decided to begin work with a new accelerator dating facility. Robert Nickel, based in Lincoln, Nebraska, continues to identify and interpret botanical remains from village sites. Research at Double Ditch will provide important data for a synthesis Bob is preparing on archaeobotanical information from Middle Missouri sites. Carl Falk continues to conduct much of the vertebrate faunal analysis for our large projects as well as for other researchers in the Great Plains. Carl's work in Cape May, New Jersey is highlighted in the current report. Marilyn Wyss, who works in Hemet, California, produces precision epoxy artifact casts. She recently made several accurate replicas of three Agate Basin points from Beacon Island for use in research and fundraising efforts.

PaleoCultural Research Group continues to operate from its main facility on South San Francisco Street in Flagstaff. Delia Moder joined our staff as Administrative Assistant in February 2004 and is providing excellent support for all of our work. Grant Shimer, laboratory technician, left the staff in May to return to home territory near Chicago. Stacey Madden, a student trainee last summer on the Double Ditch project and a recent anthropology graduate from Northern Arizona University, is

now leading Flagstaff lab efforts with focus and enthusiasm. Michael Ratcliffe, a graduate student in anthropology at NAU, is our new computer graphics specialist. Mike conducted layout and graphic work for the current report. The Northern Arizona University Office of Student Financial Aid has continued the agreement that allows PCRG to participate in the Federal Work-Study Program, providing much-needed wage support for students in our lab.

The mailing address for PCRG is P. O. Box EE, Flagstaff, Arizona 86002. Communications may be sent there, to pcrg@infomagic.net, or to the individual e-mail or mailing addresses of board members. Current board members and corporate officers are: Stanley A. Ahler (President and Treasurer), Carl R. Falk (Vice President), and Phil R. Geib (Secretary). Membership records, fiscal records, and other formal documents and records of the organization are on file in accordance with state and federal laws at the office in Flagstaff.

Stan Ahler
Research Director
February 7, 2005

Hudson-Meng Paleoindian Site Project

HUDSON-MENG IS AN ALBERTA CULTURE bison kill site in pine ridge country, western Nebraska. The property is owned and managed by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS). The principal feature at the site is a bone layer containing remains of 500-600 individuals classified as extinct *Bison antiquus*. Alberta type spear points and other stone tools occur in the bonebed. Investigators from nearby Chardon State Teacher's College excavated part of the site and bonebed in the 1970s, and a new team from Colorado State University excavated there in the 1990s with USFS support. In 1997, the USFS constructed a building enclosing part of the *in situ* bone layer and began a program of public visitation.

The USFS recently decided to turn management of the Hudson-Meng site over to a non-profit organization. This plan includes a continuing program for public visitation as well as new research and education programs. The USFS desires that excavation in and near the bone-bed continues as an important element in attracting the public to the site. The USFS has invited both PCRG and archaeologists at the University of Colorado-Boulder to discuss continuing research at the site and in the area, and the USFS is seeking an arrangement with another non-profit entity regarding overall management of the property, including any long-term research efforts.

At the invitation of the USFS, Stan Ahler, Larry Agenbroad (the original site investigator in the 1970s), USFS archaeologist Terri Liestman, and several other persons met at the site early in December to discuss long-term research possibilities. The field visit was highly informative. Ahler saw photographs of Alberta

spear points found underneath as well as imbedded into *Bison antiquus* bones. This seemed convincing evidence that Alberta people were responsible for the massive bison kill, and allows a sense of direction for new research (uncertainty has arisen regarding a natural vs. cultural cause for the mass death event). It appears likely that PCRG will be involved in a small research program at Hudson-Meng during 2005. Hudson-Meng is a spectacular site in a beautiful setting. We will inform members in a separate communication if there will be possibilities for fieldwork participation this summer.



Archaeologists Discuss the Bonebed at the Hudson-Meng Site.

Photo By Jerry Schumacher.

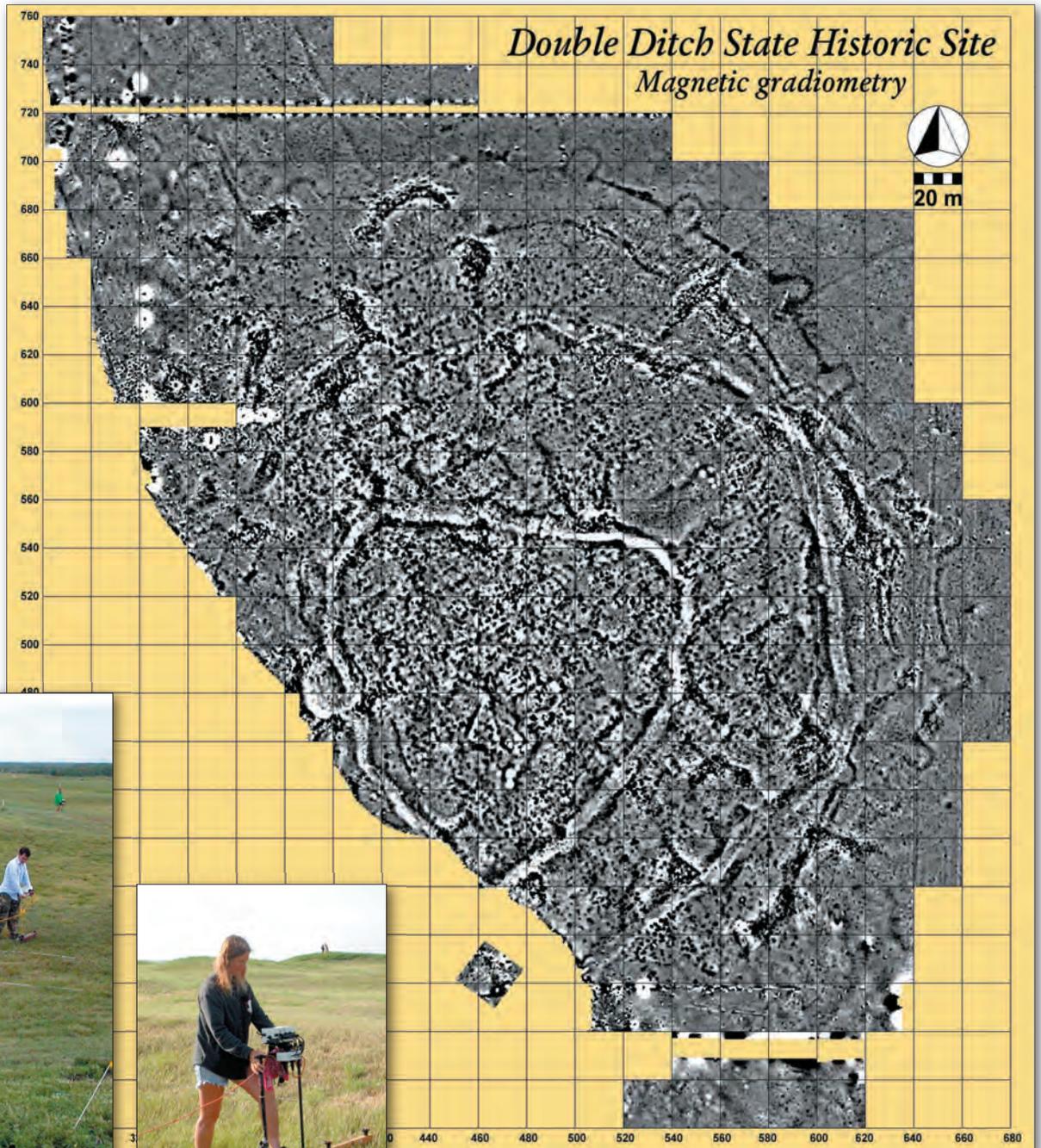
Double Ditch Village Project

SUMMER 2004 saw our fourth season of geophysical study and a third season of test excavation at spectacular Double Ditch Village on the Missouri River near Bismarck, North Dakota. Two previous annual reports highlighted this site and project, and work in 2004 completed planned field studies. The State of North Dakota sponsored this work through funding linked to the 2004-2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial celebration. Our research brings a tremendous amount of new information to the fore. As in past years, there were many interlocking facets in last summer's fieldwork and in the continuing analytic and interpretive efforts now underway.

Remote Sensing

Kenneth and Jo Ann Kvamme of the University of Arkansas expanded the scope and diversity of approaches in the remote sensing program. Ken and the Arkansas team were on-site for five weeks, nearly doubling the effort in previous seasons. Using upgraded and faster equipment, Ken completed magnetic coverage for the

entire village and surveyed areas north of the historic property and in the land slide area near the river in efforts to precisely determine village boundaries. In addition, Jo Ann and Elsa Heckman conducted electrical resistance survey over the remainder of the village and resurveyed areas first covered in 2001. The results are magnetic and resistance maps that cover the entire site – more than 22 acres – making it one of the largest and most comprehensive remote sensing projects conducted to date in North America. There were few major surprises in the final data set, such as discovery of a *fifth* fortification system, but all parts of the four extant ditch systems are now documented in their entirety as is the total village occupation area with its



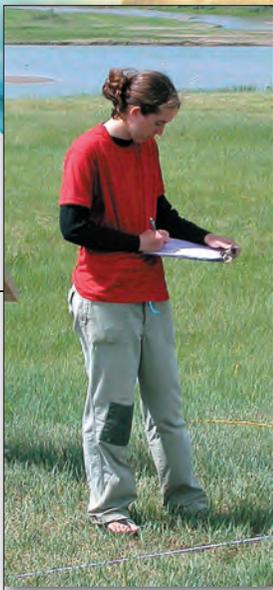
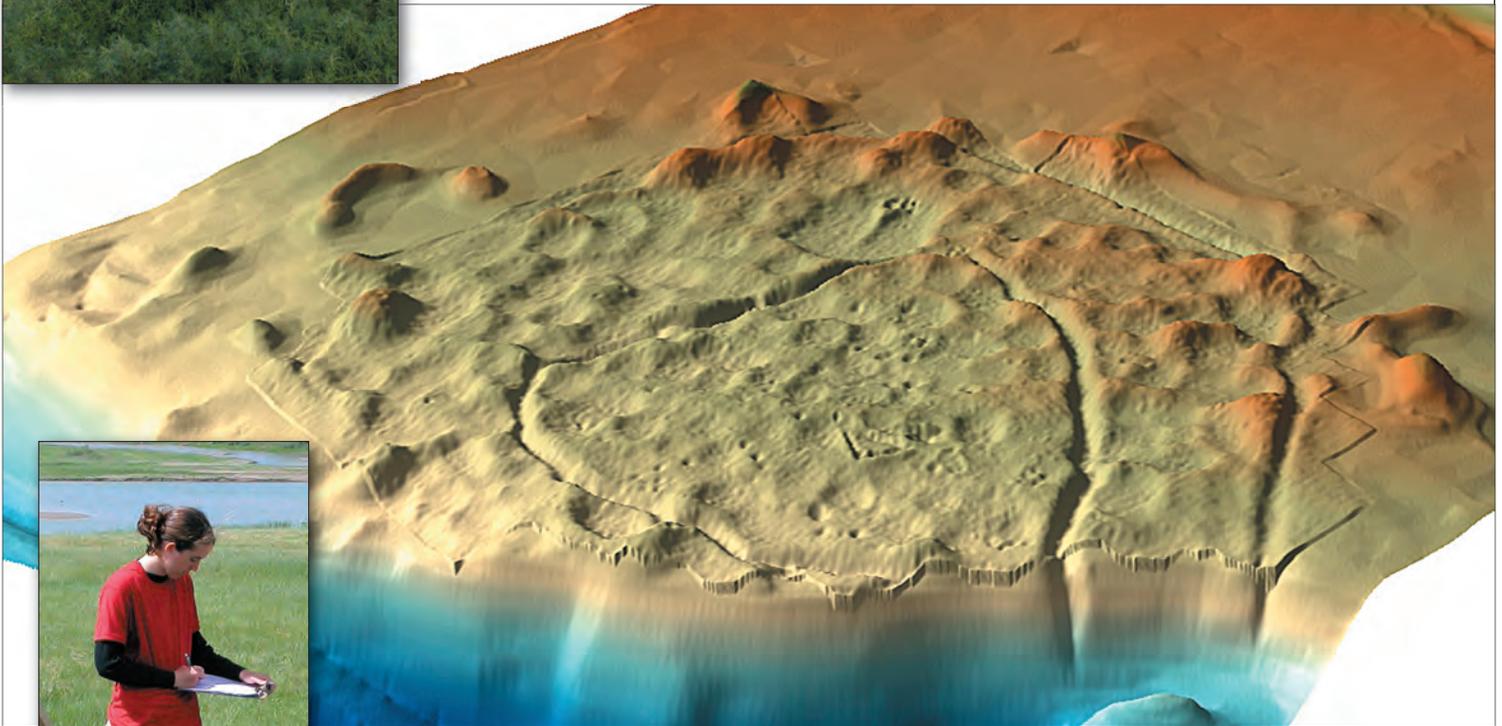
Ken and Jo Ann Kvamme Collecting Magnetic Gradiometry and Electrical Resistance Data at Double Ditch Village. Above, The Results of Four Years of Magnetic Survey (courtesy, Ken Kvamme).



Eileen Ernenwein & Andrew Gold.

ditches, mounds, and recent surface disturbances were recorded in great clarity. Christine Markussen, another member of Kvamme's team, has merged this micro-mapping data set with that from a contour map made from aerial photographs in 1994 to produce a digital elevation model that portrays the surface of the entire Historic Property.

A third element in remote sensing was low altitude aerial photography conducted from a powered parachute. Tommy Ike Hailey from Northwestern State University of Louisiana piloted the chute and took still and conventional video pictures while Jo Ann Kvamme recorded infrared video footage. Several overflights occurred under varying conditions during the two weeks that Tommy was on site. More limited aerial reconnaissance occurred over the nearby Sperry and Larson village sites and at Fort Clark State Historic Site. (See photo page 1.)



Christine Markussen and Digital Elevation Model of the Surface of Double Ditch That She Developed.

myriad subsurface features, borrows, mounds, and house areas.

A major innovation was experimental use of a robotic total station for collecting detailed surface mapping data for the village. Once master technician Eileen Ernenwein positioned and calibrated the laser transit, much of the work was automatic. Andrew Gold continuously moved the prism target across the site surface on a rod with wheels, while the robotic transit tracked the position of target, taking readings at one-second intervals. In only two weeks, this machine and two persons mapped in great detail the whole village surface from Ditch 2 inward. House depressions, collapsed cache pits, borrow pits,



Tommy Ike Hailey and Jo Ann Kvamme.

Excavation and Related Work

Excavation in 2004 focused on sampling pit features in different parts of the site and obtaining samples from within the outermost Ditch 4. We also wanted to learn what processes had made the older, outer part of the village impossible to see except with the aid of remote sensing. Possible agents included historic cultivation, intentional earthmoving by the villagers, and natural erosion. Excavations were conducted over five weeks by archaeologists from the State Historical Society, a small PCRG staff, one student trainee, and PCRG member volunteers – all critically important to the success of the project.

We conducted hand coring across Ditch 2 where it was well expressed and across nearby Ditch 3 where it was preserved beneath a shallow mound. We wished to compare these two ditch constructions. We found that vil-



Craig, Alicia, and Rachel Johnson Taking a Break.

lagers had excavated Ditch 3 into the dark native prairie soil, making it hard to define through coring. In contrast, they stripped away topsoil over a broad area before constructing Ditch 2. They built an earthen berm inside Ditch 2, making the crest of the interior berm and base of the palisade 10 ft higher than the floor of the ditch – a formidable barrier indeed!

A backhoe trench outside Ditch 2, as well as tests in the featureless zone well beyond Ditch 2 to the north, provided an explanation for the obliteration of the outer ditches, 3 and 4, and numerous houses that must have once existed outside

Ditch 2. We learned that activities of the villagers themselves, while they were still living in the inner parts of the settlement inside Ditches 2 and 1, must have led to the leveling and homogenization of the old ground surface and the



Paul Picha in Ditch 4 Under Mound V.

Most excavation focused on Ditch 4 and pit features. We obtained a good sample of Ditch 4 artifacts deep below Mound V that capped the ditch and in our trench across the ditch on the east side of the village. We used magnetic survey maps and hand coring to pinpoint and select pit features for excavation. We excavated the lower, unobliterated parts of eight large undercut pits in the northern “pit zone” between visible Ditch 2 and invisible, older Ditch 3. Here we obtained samples from what we hoped were some of the oldest features in the site, once as-



Section Through Ditch 4 in the Eastern Trench.



Julie Larkin and Dick Krause.

upper parts of all the outer features. We hypothesize that this was likely a devegetated wasteland for a period of time, subject to surface erosion, and that villagers may have grown gardens there late in the period of site occupation.

sociated with houses in that area.

Additional pit-testing occurred in the core residential area, inside Ditch 1 and in an area where house depressions were still clearly visible. We placed seven 1 x 2-m blocks in three different houses. Here, we hoped to obtain artifact samples from the terminal period of village occupation. The picture was much more complex than in the northern pit zone, with many intersecting features of all types, sizes, and ages occurring in the tests. We found house floors in each lodge ring; clear evidence that one of the houses burned; part of a hearth from an abandoned house; several postmolds; a rock-filled sweat feature; and numerous large intersecting, trash-filled storage pits. We succeeded in sampling the late part of the site occupation in at least two locations. We confirmed the significant fact that each of the houses was built on sterile soil, with all shallow traces of previous houses having been stripped away by intentional earth removal. This broad earthmoving activity remains one of the most enigmatic discoveries at Double Ditch Village.

A few other special studies punctuated the field program. Crystal Frey returned to com-

Photo By Stacey Madden.



Bob Gardner.

plete the deep coring field-work designed to quantify and map the extent of earthmoving across the village. Rinita Dalan from Minnesota State University Moorhead and two of her students ran several tests with a prototype down-hole magnetic susceptibility measuring system. A small magnetic probe is lowered down a vertical hole made with a hand corer, and magnetic measurements are recorded that can signal zones such as buried cul-



Randy Miles, Crystal Frey, and Ray Wood.



Rinita Dalan and MSUM Students Conducting Magnetic Susceptibility Tests.

tural features, burned house floors, or old A horizons. Rinita examined known features of all these types in her tests.

In addition to several conference papers, two new technical reports assembled by Kvamme and Ahler, respectively, documented project findings through May 2004. Attention is now turned to reporting the summer 2004 studies and synthesis of four years of investigations. A scholarly article focusing on remote sensing and a published monograph covering all aspects of Double Ditch site interpretation are planned.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

I was fortunate to spend two weeks working at the Double Ditch Village site this past summer with the crews from PCRG and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Since my usual work as an emergency nurse is not related to archaeology (except, of course, the broken bones), it was wonderful to be exposed to something new that sparked a sense of wonder. I think we all get a bit numbed by the work we do for years, but perhaps I can remind you of what it was like to see a dig with inexperienced eyes.

I spent some time doing graduate work in physical geography many years ago, so I already knew that dirt is really soil, and it occurs in layers. Starting at the surface, the environment at Double Ditch was striking, with expansive



Julie Falk.

views of the Missouri River and its flood plains. My personal skill level enabled me to contribute to the removal of sod almost immediately, and I soon progressed to hauling dirt. I learned that when loess is placed into buckets and barrows, it becomes dirt again. Once the methodology became clear to me, I was able to participate in some digging. When I found a tiny, perfect bone awl, the connection to antiquity seemed almost sacred. I suspect one loses this sense of awe with experience, but if everyone got to feel that once, preservation probably wouldn't be such a struggle. My days in geography probably made me the only person who really enjoyed mapping.

The camaraderie was another compelling aspect of field camp; people came from as near as Bismarck and as far as Mongolia. I performed

cookie delivery twice daily. Making rounds to the scattered test excavations broadened my knowledge of the site, and even revealed that ground squirrels may prefer Wheat Thins. I hope to test that hypothesis next summer.



Photo By Fern Swenson.

Carl Falk in the Unit That He and Julie Dug.

--Julie McMahon Falk

Full Circle

In the summer of 2004 I was actively searching and applying to field schools when Stan approached me and suggested that I join the PCRG crew at Double Ditch. So it was off to North Dakota. This was my first time participating in an excavation and I wasn't completely sure what to expect. The site was a bit larger than I pictured and set in the most picturesque spot I had seen in N.D. With the Missouri River flowing and the rolling hills surrounding the entire area it left little doubt that the Mandans must have loved and cherished this land.

It didn't take long to get past this airy idea of the site because soon we were off to work. Under the guidance of Fern Swenson, we began digging our first unit. I wasn't certain that I would be able to recognize all the subtle variations in the soil that everyone had been talking



Stacey Madden in Deep Pit.

about, but with Fern's help and a little trial and error, the subtleties became amazingly apparent. I am also an expert now at finding the many rodent runs that crisscross the site, usually with the front tire of my wheelbarrow. It was very eye opening to realize the amount of activity going on elsewhere at the site while I was a meter or so underground. The Kvamme's geophysics crew was working constantly, the waterscreening crew off-site, the powered parachute taking aerial shots, the tours and interpretations of the site. It seemed to run like a well-oiled machine.

Being able to participate in the 2004 excavation truly brought my experience of Double Ditch full circle. I realized I had only seen half of the picture from the previous year of sorting and processing artifacts in the PCRG lab. It took being at Double Ditch to complete

the story.

I had a memorable and educational experience over the five weeks spent at Double Ditch, thanks to all the other crewmembers and leaders. In addition, the weather was unseasonably cool and beautiful, barring a few rainy days, but nothing tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches couldn't cure! I enjoyed getting dirty, feeling exhausted, and being able to share all of this with such a great group of people. I'd be ready to do it all again in an instant.

--Stacey Madden



Powered Parachute Above the Village.

Beacon Island Project

THE DISCOVERY on Beacon Island, North Dakota, of a highly significant extinct bison (*Bison antiquus*) kill site dated to ca. 10,330 RCYBP was featured in the 2002 and 2003 annual reports. This Agate Basin site is presently exposed due to temporary drawdown of Lake Sakakawea, but will soon be submerged again and eventually destroyed. PCRG is in the midst of a major effort to conduct emergency excavations at the site, thereby allowing study and preservation of highly significant information still contained in this location. An overriding research question will be to understand the relationship between the Agate Basin culture and Folsom culture that partially overlaps Agate Basin in time. If study of stone tools and technological organization indicates that Agate Basin did not originate in the Folsom culture, this will imply a new order of complexity in the story of early peopling of the New World.

PCRG is working with others to develop a team approach to emergency archaeological work at Beacon Island. The envisioned program will involve Native Americans (particularly, the nearby Three Af-



Bison bones in Area A, Beacon Island.



Test Excavation, September 2002.

filiated Tribes based at New Town), the Omaha District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (the federal manager of the site), the State Historical Society of North Dakota, PCRG, and federal and private entities that will provide much of the funding. Fieldwork will occur in 2005 and 2006, and the whole project will take more than four years. It will culminate in museum exhibits at the Fort Berthold Reservation and the North Dakota Heritage Center. A nucleus of funding will come from the Corps, and we expect

additional federal funding from the Save America's Treasures grant program administered by the U. S. National Park Service (a proposal is under review). Substantial funding (up to one million dollars) must be raised from private sources including foundations and individuals. Volunteer and donated efforts from PCRG members will be a key element in the project. As this large and complex project develops early in 2005, we will send more detailed information to all members and will make specific requests for individual assistance and involvement. This will be one of the largest and most urgent projects that PCRG has undertaken, and help will be needed from many quarters.

Gault Site Microwear Workshop

IN THREE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, 2000-2002, groups of volunteers from PCRG took part in excavations at the Gault site near Austin, Texas. Gault is known for its unparalleled record of Clovis occupation that includes dwellings with cobble floors, extensive blade technology, incised cobbles, and uncounted lithic artifacts occurring over several acres. In 2004, Michael Collins of the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) invited PCRG members to participate in analysis of some Gault Clovis artifacts by means of systematic microscopic examination of the specimens. When viewed at a microscopic level, artifact surfaces can tell us about (1) manufacturing methods applied to the artifact, (2) how the artifact was used (traces of use-wear), (3) humanly induced post-manufacturing history (transport wear), and (4) natural post-depositional history (chemical or physical weathering) of the artifact. Taken together, this information adds great depth of understanding to any stone tool collection. This is particularly critical regarding Clovis technology and adaptations – topics that are under close scrutiny and much debate across the country.

The April workshop was organized by Mike Collins and Marilyn Shoberg, also of TARL. Marilyn is an expert in the use of ‘high-magnification’ light microscopic equipment and techniques (200X to 400X magnifications) and is examining a sample of Gault artifacts using that method. The PCRG group used ‘low-magnification’ stereoscopic microscope equipment (7X to 70X), complementing Marilyn’s high-mag approach and allowing scrutiny of many specimens during the one-week workshop. Pete Condon, Phil Geib, Don Owens, Mark Owens, Mike Sturgill, Zana Sturgill, and Stan Ahler took part in the workshop. Mike Collins and Marilyn selected samples of bifaces, blade cores, polyhedral blades, retouched and utilized flakes, and unmodified flakes for study, and the group

also examined all available choppers and discoidal cores. Each individual studied specimens in a single artifact class. Altogether, the group analyzed 118 artifacts.

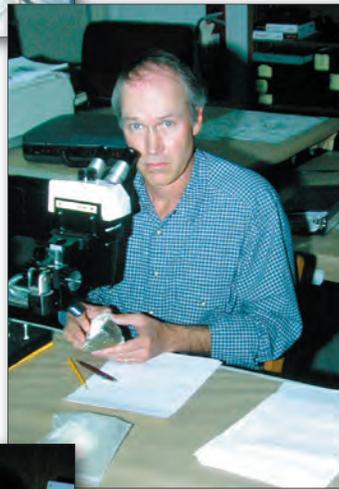
The workshop was tremendously informative. Marilyn gave us a tutorial in use of the sophisticated high-mag equipment and many of the important discoveries she had made with that approach. Grass-cutting blades and woodworking adzes had been documented – tools one does not usually associate with big game hunters. Interesting patterns and a few surprises were found among the artifacts we examined with low-mag methods (see Mike Sturgill’s account). Contrary to expectations, few blade cores had secondary uses in addition to blade production. We recorded several strong patterns of heavy use-wear and multiple functions among the blades. We noted very few examples of artifact transport, even among blade cores and discoidal cores. This indicated that most artifacts – even some with potentially long use-lives – were likely fabricated, used, and discarded on site.

All workshop participants departed with advancement in their knowledge about lithic microwear analysis. Novices learned a great deal about basic methods and pathways for interpretations, and even the most experienced analysts gained knowledge about new approaches and interpretive pitfalls. Best of all, our ability to understand the activities of the Gault site occupants was greatly advanced in this single week of effort. Much more is to be learned from continuing microwear analysis of Gault artifacts.

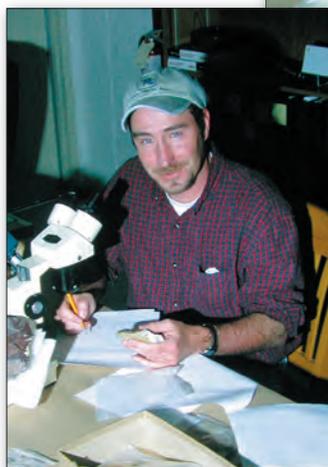
The Gault site is beginning to receive national recognition that it deserves. It was recently featured in *Alan Alda in Scientific American Frontiers XIV: Coming into America*, a fascinating one-hour program available for purchase from pbs.org. Mike Collins is continuing his efforts to permanently preserve the site and extant collections, now in private ownership, and develop a long-term research program around the excavated artifacts. If he is successful, many more opportunities for research and education will be available to PCRG members.



Zana Sturgill.



Phil Geib.



Peter Condon.



Mark and Don Owens.

Scrubbers and Polish

When Stan Ahler and Phil Geib requested that I write something for this Annual Report my immediate reaction was yes. I felt that way because I was so happy to have a chance to share my thanks to the good people of PCRG. My sons, wife, and I have appreciated the chance to participate with PCRG members at the Gault site over the past four years. We have enjoyed camping, eating, working, and especially learning from all of you.

The morning of the first day we met with Mike Collins who gave us an overview of the job at hand. The first day or two was spent getting a handle on the process and the scientific coding method and meanings. It was truly fascinating (yet daunting) to peer into a medium powered microscope and examine the edges of artifacts to distinguish between patterns that reflected a rounded, faceted, stepped, concave, or step/faceted edge. But in a satisfying way, I began to understand the science of it and with the help

of Stan and Phil I began to see the logic that allowed me to go from these coded observations to a prediction of tool usage.

One major example of the importance of this group learning process started early in the week when many artifacts seemed to show a polished wear type. As the group compared notes and as a more detailed analysis on a few selected artifacts was conducted, the group determined that a clear water-soluble residue had likely permeated the site post-deposition. The group was able to recommend a general cleaning process that would allow a more precise coding for this wear type.

Each individual found some interesting aspect of the artifact category they in-

vestigated. As an example, my wife Zana noticed a small margin on one chopper that likely was also used as a tool to dull core edges and biface edges. She continually referred to it as a "scrubber" and eventually the group adopted this name for this interesting attribute.

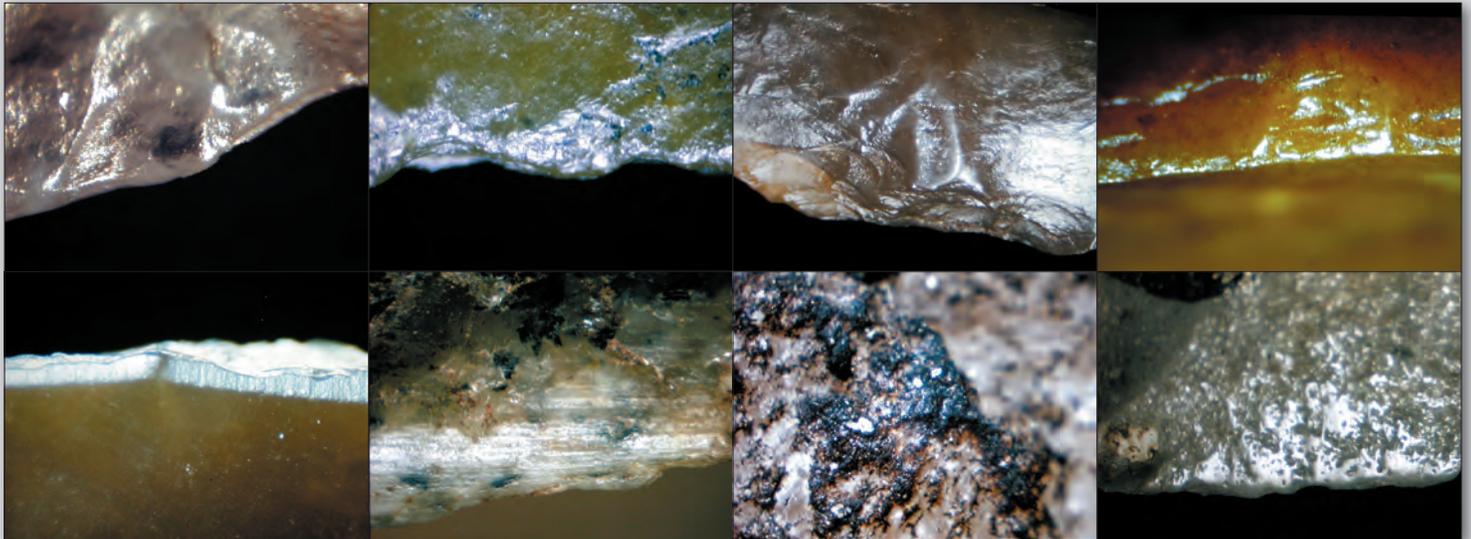
Many PCRG participants made individual summary observations. These observations help to shed light on the Gault collection. The artifact count and person hours logged during this week are small in comparison to the scope of the full job. However, I am sure that all PCRG participants would agree that it was both a productive and an important beginning in this significant work.



Mike Sturgill Examining a Gault Clovis Blade.

--Mike Sturgill

Photos By Stan Ahler.



Views of Stone Tool Edge Wear and Residues Through Low-Power Microscopy, 10x - 50x. Tools Are Late Prehistoric in Age.

Scattered Village Exhibit and Video

INCOLOR EXHIBITS, INC., a firm based in Vancouver, Washington, is developing a set of museum exhibits and videos about the Scattered Village archaeological project. Street construction led to discovery of the site within the City of Mandan, North Dakota, and PCRG and Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. excavated there in 1998. Ancestors of either the Mandans or Hidatsas occupied the village during the seventeenth century AD. Several previous PCRG annual reports have featured the project.

InColor Exhibits normally specializes in production of lightweight aluminum alloy display panels for international trade fairs, so this venture into Native American archaeology has proven challenging for their staff. InColor will install ten museum exhibit units in the newly renovated City of Mandan



*Richard A. Krause Making Pottery.
Photos for the Scattered Village Exhibit.*

Library, not far from the excavation site itself. InColor is developing DVD videos targeted for public school use at two grade levels. PCRG has helped select artifacts for the exhibits and has assisted in videotaping and editing for the dual productions. The North Dakota Department of Transportation is administering the project through a grant to the City of Mandan.

Faunal Work for PCRG in New Jersey

AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, Carl Falk – a founding member of PCRG and currently Vice President of the organization – and his wife, Julie moved from eastern Tennessee to Cape May, New Jersey in August 2003. After several weeks of cleaning, carpentry, and painting, Carl opened a new office shortly after the first of the year. The facility is on the grounds of the Cape May Regional Airport, a local aviation and business center. The physical area is more than adequate with nearly 1,500 ft² available for office, library, comparative faunal study specimens, layout space, collection storage, and indoor parking when needed. During the year, Carl contributed to the planning and development of many PCRG projects and worked with non-human vertebrate materials from a number of Northern and Central Plains sites.

In January, Carl began investigation of bone remains from Double Ditch Village, work initiated by PCRG member Jennie Borresen Lee who worked with the 2002 collection (see PCRG Contribution 56). Carl's efforts focused on a sample from the 2003 test program and resulted in basic taxonomic and element identifications for over 13,000 specimens. Descriptive work was completed in April and, in collaboration with Stan Ahler, preliminary analysis of these materials was included in the report for the 2004 field season (PCRG Contribution 60).

Analysis of the 2004 Double Ditch bone sample began this past fall. An additional 3,200 specimens from four excavation blocks have been examined to date. Of special interest are materials from Feature 604, a large undercut trash-filled pit in the village core that was used during the latest part of site occupancy. In addition to the anticipated remains of bison, pronghorn, large canids, and swift fox, pit fill contained large numbers of bird and fish bone. Sharp-tailed grouse and various aquatic birds dominate the sample. Also, the lower

levels of the feature yielded a concentration of cranial and postcranial elements representing many individual ground squirrels (cf. Richardson's). These specimens will be of interest in future taphonomic studies. Analysis of the 2004 Double Ditch sample will continue in 2005.

In cooperation with Dale R. Henning, Carl completed analysis of faunal materials from features salvaged during 1985 and 1986 at the Blood Run Oneota village site, a National Historic Landmark site in northwest Iowa. The assemblage revealed a subsistence pattern focused on bison with evidence that domestic dogs were also an important food source. The overall strategy was strikingly similar to that at the Dixon site in the Little Sioux River valley to the southeast. Results of this research (PCRG Contribution 61) are included in the edited volume *Central Siouans*

in the Northeastern Plains: Oneota Archaeology and the Blood Run Site (Plains Anthropologist Memoir 36, Part 2, 2004).

In addition to continuing work with materials from Jones Village in north-central South Dakota and Fort Clark State Historic Site in North Dakota, 2004 projects included examination of a small sample of fish bone submitted by Anne McKibbin

of Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., from the Fort Buford State Historic Site (32WI25) in Williams County, North Dakota. The Fort Buford materials contained both native and marine (Atlantic mackerel) species from excavations near the 1870s infantry barracks and kitchen/mess hall. This past year Carl also collaborated with PCRG member Rob Bozell in identification of bone remains from the Eagle Ridge site. The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation supported

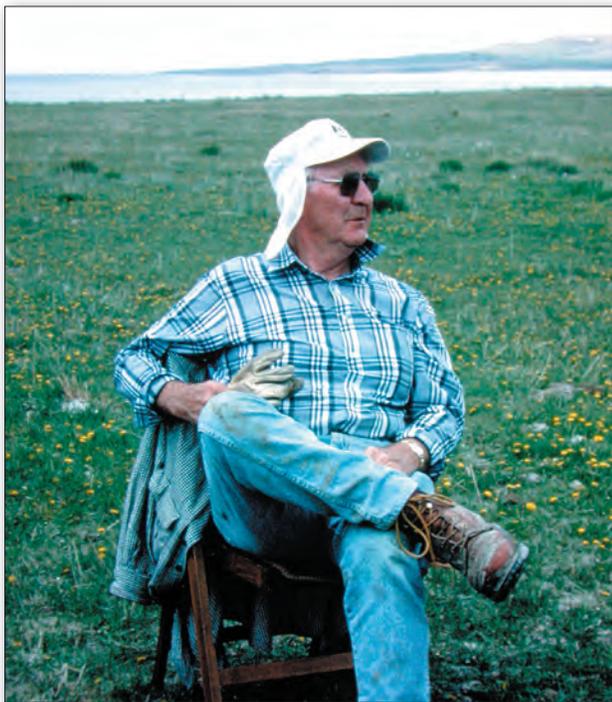
this work. Eagle Ridge, near Papillion, Nebraska, is a protohistoric Oto or Ioway occupation thought to date ca. AD 1730s. Faunal materials were examined from 44 pits exposed during construction of a housing development and golf course. Carl and Rob will prepare a final report on these materials during 2005.



Carl Falk Examining in His New Jersey Lab.



Bird Bones from Level 10 in Feature 604, Double Ditch Village.



Marion Travis at Jones Village, 1997.

Marion Travis 1927-2005

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we chronicle the tragic death of Marion E. Travis and his wife Dorothy G. Travis. On January 25, 2005 their car collided with a tractor on Highway 1806 about eight miles south of Mandan, North Dakota. They lived in Mobridge, South Dakota, where for many years Marion pursued his deep interests in archaeology along the Missouri Valley in the Dakotas. He intensively collected at many recorded villages and previously unrecorded earlier sites along the shoreline of the Oahe Reservoir, and he kept meticulous records on his collections and survey work. He brought ongoing destruction of many sites to the attention of professional archaeologists, and freely made the collections available for study.

Stan Ahler first met Marion in 1975 in response to a letter Marion had written to archaeologist Donald Lehmer calling attention to an eroding Paleoindian site he had discovered two years earlier. Dorothy served coffee and homemade



Angostura Points Collected by Marion Travis from the Travis 2 Site.



Artifacts Collected by Marion Travis from Jake White Bull Village.

cookies while Marion showed Stan the cataloged discoveries he was making along the nearby lake shoreline. A year later Marion assisted a team from the University of North Dakota in test excavations at the Travis 2 site near Mobridge and at Jake White Bull Village on the west bank of Lake Oahe. Travis 2 proved to be a very significant Paleoindian site with a major Angostura component. Travis 2 and Jake White Bull are but two of many sites now destroyed by reservoir erosion, for which Marion's beach collections still provide the best record of their content.

In the years since 1975, Marion was instrumental in study of many other sites and in shoreline surveys on the Oahe Reservoir. He participated in Craig Johnson's salvage excavations in 1997 and 1998 at the important Jones Village site, north of Mobridge. Marion was an active participant for many years in the South Dakota Archaeological Society and was a long-time member of the North Dakota Archaeological Association and member of PCRG since 1998. Marion recently assisted Stan in preparation of an article about artifacts at Menoken Village and Jones Village. In the passing of Marion and Dorothy, the world has lost two very generous people who gave much of themselves to those around them.

Member Plans and Activities

Owing to PCRG member's dispersal across the landscape, activities during the past year have been quite far-flung. In the interest of enhancing communication and promoting travel to new places, we include below communications from several persons about past adventures and future plans.

Ann Johnson, a familiar face at Double Ditch Village in previous years, missed the 2004 activities there while attending

to matters at Yellowstone Park where she is Park Archaeologist. Ann reports:

Data recovery was carried out at site 24YE353, a stratified prehistoric campsite on the Yellowstone River. Seven separate components were identified between A.D. 600 and 7600 B.C., including Avonlea, Pelican Lake, McKean, Haskett, two lanceolate point components, and the lowest is assigned to the Cody Complex. The preservation is excellent and we will learn much about how different groups used the

park at different times.

We completed a report on investigations of a Cody Complex campsite (Osprey Beach) on Yellowstone Lake. This site has more obsidian tools and more sandstone abraders than any other Cody Complex site in North America. Utilizing obsidian sourcing, a seasonal round was developed. Blood residue analysis was also utilized as no bone was preserved. Blood residue analyses indicated that Cody Complex around Yellowstone Lake hunted a variety of big and medium-sized game (deer, sheep, mountain bison and bear) and trapped and/or snared small-sized animals (lagomorphs, felids, and canids) for furs and sinews. This subsistence strategy reflects the diversity of game and furbearers on the Yellowstone Plateau and their utilization by the summer-resident Cody Complex occupants of Osprey Beach rather than a "subsistence dichotomy" between the foothills-mountains and open plains. In all likelihood, some of those summer residential bands on the Yellowstone Plateau probably wintered in the foothills and hunted bison. This pattern is seasonal subsistence variation, not part of a "subsistence dichotomy," and the Osprey Beach site should add to the discussion of Paleoindian adaptations and ecological boundaries (Frisson and Bonnicksen).

Cherie Freeman, who lives in Tucson, has not yet ventured to a PCRG project north of Colorado. Nonetheless, she is an enthusiastic volunteer on projects closer to home. Maybe she can come to Hudson-Meng to refresh her skills in Paleoindian age soil. About her activities in Arizona, Cherie reports on two projects she took part in:

The first: *An emergency removal of 2 murder victims. The murders occurred AD 1550-1750, committed by San Pedro Sobaipuri. (We recovered one bone that is thought to be con, and, if so, then the date is closer to AD 1692) Each man was shot with 75-80 poisoned projectile points; stabbed with large spears; beaten with clubs as evidenced by the many broken bones; skull showed signs of scalping; one had his right hand cut off. Both men had been dumped in a bog and large rocks thrown on them. Removal was exacting and tedious. It took 2 of us 9 days in the Arizona heat to effect the removal. What an experience though!*

The second: *A Sobaipuri dig with a PhD candidate as part of his research. We dug 7 Sobaipuri houses and have a lot of info for his dissertation. Lab work continues!*

This is a far cry from Paleo work I have done in the past but since so darn little is known about this time frame in Southern Arizona I think it much like the exacting Paleo work!

I continue as an Arizona Site Steward and monitor for Pima County Preserve with 78 sites; Forest Service 3 sites in one area and 35 in another. So life is busy!

Elaine Smith, who has been a regular at Gault and helped at Double Ditch in 2003, reports from distant New York State:

As you know, my real contribution from here is limited. I do continue to look for any "captive audience" that I can share experiences and information with. I did give a presentation about Double Ditch to a local historical association here in Onondaga County last April; spoke with kids when teaching middle grade classrooms. Kids always love to hear about archaeology, and I have a friend who was named the New York Social Studies Teacher of the year in 2002. Tom has real interest in arch – I've shared PCRG annual reports with him and he recently used the November Smithsonian article in his Liverpool High School classroom. And so, that's what I do...with enthusiasm!

I finished out 2004 with flashes of the High Plains on my "mind's eye"...I think that means that I should resolve to get across the Mississippi in 2005...Did you ever visit a certain area/landscape and feel like you belonged there? I often feel my feet are planted in this New York suburban community, but my thoughts are of wide uninterrupted expanses in the gentle relief of the west.

John Vicha, who has been a steady volunteer at Double Ditch and was with us again this summer, is putting his Double Ditch experience to good use:



John Vicha at Double Ditch.

Not much new at the Field Museum [where John leads tours]. We did reopen the Pawnee Earth Lodge in September and it is drawing like gangbusters. The grade school kids and Europeans love it. I gave the background training on Plains Village Culture to the docents, which you should find truly frightening. It was well received and vetted by an archaeologist who is currently redesigning our Hall of the Americas. ... I did a power point using some shots from Double Ditch and Slant. One area we have a tough time explaining is the dimensions of the Cache Pit, as we can't dig five to ten feet down in the floor. I used a picture of Dick Krause digging out the pit this summer

to give them an idea of how deep they went. He is now a rock star on the north shore.

Member **Steve DeVore**, an archaeologist with the U. S. National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, is organizing the NPS's 15th annual workshop on archaeological prospection techniques that will be held in May at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. We have included in this mailing package a flyer from Steve that provides more details about the workshop.



Clovis-like Point from Utah.

Founding board member **Eric Feiler**, who now lives in remote Boulder, Utah, has been working to generate PCRG projects in that area since his move from Flagstaff (see the 2003 report). Eric has been tracking Clovis sightings near Boulder since his arrival, and reports a recent find of a Clovis-like fluted point. He has obtained photos – the stone resembles Alibates agatized dolomite – and is learning more. We received another report from Eric, confirming that he is not one to sit still, best expressed in this Christmas message from wife Mary:

Eric taught 4 weeks of BOSS (Boulder Outdoor Survival School) Primitive Skills courses this year, and apprenticed on the difficult 2-week course "Hunter/Gatherer." He is now a well-respected instructor in this group of people who are real outdoor survivalists. The Hunter/Gatherer course consisted of 4 days of preparation in a base camp and 9 days of subsisting on the wilderness with very limited gear: handmade leather sandals, primitive handmade tool kit, shorts, shirt, one warm shirt, one hat, and a knife. No blankets, sleeping bags, tents, sun block, etc. The only food taken was a small portion of pinole, a mix of nuts and cornmeal. All other food was harvested from land and stream (most students lose 15-20 lbs). Eric, a passionate angler, learned to catch fish with only his hands. He loved it and hopes to instruct the course next year. Check it out at www.boss-inc.com.

Denny Carley, an avid artifact collector, keeps excellent records on the materials he finds. He has accumulated a large collection from the Carley-Archer site in northwest Texas, which is a camp by a playa with Clovis, Midland, and Archaic artifacts. Denny is seeking communications from anyone interested in using this collection for purposes of research at some future time.

Peter Leach, another veteran of Double Ditch, has found time for lots of archaeology among his projects as a professional writer:

Photo By Fern Swenson.



Peter Leach at Double Ditch.

The first three weeks in July I was a volunteer at Beth Scott's Illinois State/Southeast Missouri State dig at the Bequette-Ribeau house historical dig in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. That was a new system to me with five-foot squares and measurements in tenths of feet. We found post molds for a probable posts-in-the-ground outbuilding, a lot of ceramics including some 18th Century, and in one unit a lot of medicine bottles and syringes probably from the 1920s and 1930s when one of the Ribeau brothers who lived in the house then had an unlicensed veterinary practice. This was the most interesting development for me personally because it relates to the fiction project I am working on now about the ethnic cleansing of the town after the murder of two white men in 1930. In the course of it vigilantes came one night to the house where we were digging, and I was able to find an account of this on microfilm of the local newspaper, the Fair Play and distribute photocopies to the crew. The Ribeau brothers were African-American, and two of Beth's students were African-American and particularly interested in this convergence of documented history and artifacts.

Then three weekends in August and September I worked with Margaret Brown, the former site superintendent at Fort de Chartres and Cabokia Mounds, and Bill Iseminger, the current Cabokia Mounds superintendent, and Glen Wright and Floyd Mansburger and Annie Rieken and other pros and volunteers far more seasoned than I on a salvage dig in Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois, where the Catholic cemetery is expanding into the original site of the town dating to 1714. Here again we found post molds for post-in-the-ground structures and abundant ceramics, some of it 18th century.

Ruthann Knudson, who hails from the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument and Harrison, Nebraska, shares the following:

This past fall I had a Frison Senior Fellowship to document the James Allen site (48AB4) collection at the University of Wyoming. George Frison took me and Marcel Kornfeld out to the site so we were able to document its exact location and assure ourselves that the only materials left there are small bone fragments. I was able to document 30 flaked lithic artifacts; five pieces (including one illustrated in *Wormington 1957* [Fig. 47 center]) are missing. The points are all of a local fine-grained quartzite and are very thin. The documented artifacts came from Bill Mulloy's original collection and included other items that Frison has picked up at the site over the years. Jim Duguid also collected the site in the early 1960s when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming, and he has loaned me his collection of 24 artifacts from the site to complete my analysis. I am planning to give a paper on the collection at the Plains Conference in Edmonton this coming fall, and submit a paper to the Plains Anthropologist. Note that Mulloy and Frison identify the site as James Allen, not Jimmy Allen, out of respect for the original site discoverer.



James Allen Point from Jake White Bull Village.
Marion Travis Collection.

I just published a brief biography of Marie Wormington, and people can get a copy from me.

Wormington, Hannah Marie, September 5, 1914-May 31, 1994. Archaeologist. In Notable American Women, A Biographical Dictionary Completing the Twentieth Century, edited by Susan Ware, pp. 701-703. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge.

I retire to Great Falls, MT, June 25th--will have a spare room for visitors.

Dennis Peebles, who assisted us for three weeks during 2003 excavations at Double Ditch, has retired and since early summer of last year has been staying at Sky Ranch, a 5-acre spread that was built in the 1930s just off Townsend-Winona Road near

Flagstaff. Dennis will be managing the ranch through 2005, during which time the owners will be in Argentina studying tango on a grant! (Really, Dennis swears this is true!) Dennis says the "Sky" offers nice, quite living with lots of wild critters and no domestic ones around.

Marlene Conklin, a Member who lives in Sedona near Flagstaff, is quite active in archaeological projects in Arizona. She reports:

I'm part of a group of Verde Valley Archaeology Society members (a Chapter of the Az. Arch. Soc.) who volunteer on a regular basis in the collections areas at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. We have helped with cataloging, inventories, and the rebousing of collection items in Geology, Anthropology, Natural History, Archives, and the MNA Library in addition to assisting staff and researchers wherever there are needs.

Several of us are also assisting MNA senior research archaeologist Dr. David Wilcox in various field study and research areas associated with his Verde Valley and Perry Mesa projects on the Agua Fria National Monument. We have done ceramic and lithic analysis and mapping associated with these sites. I am also collecting data for Dr. Wilcox for another study, with occasional trips to the Laboratory for Anthropology in Santa Fe. This all has been a wonderful learning opportunity to be part of, and to share in the renewed spirit of the MNA family.

Tim Weston, with the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, reports a big undertaking in the works. In June, the KSHS will again be sponsoring the Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) in cooperation with the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA). This year, work will occur at the Kanorado Locality in northwestern Kansas, near the Colorado border. The project will be investigating three early stratified sites in cooperation with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the Kansas Geological Survey, and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas. Five formal classes will be offered as part of the project, and we have included a flyer provided by Tim in this mailing that offers much more detail about the project, the courses, and where to obtain more information.

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PCRG Contributions and Related Reports and Publications

PCRG CONTINUES TO NUMBER and list contributions in the area of research and education that are produced by its members. We do this to provide a record of substantive products generated through the organization. The list is presented to enhance the dissemination of information deriving from PCRG projects. A list of PCRG Research Contributions that have been finalized since the last annual report follows. Gaps in the sequence indicate numbered contributions previously listed in annual reports or not yet available in final form. Copies of specific contributions are available for distribution upon request, either free of charge or for a nominal fee for duplication. The complete contribution list is available upon request.

57. In Ray Wood's Footsteps: A Chronometric Sojourn at Huff Village. Paper presented in the symposium *Honoring W. Raymond Wood's Legacy: Quaternary Ecology, Archaeology, and Ethnohistory of North American's Heartland* at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 31-April 4, 2004, Montreal. Stanley A. Ahler and Fern E. Swenson
59. *Use-Wear and Functional Analysis of Additional Stone Artifacts from the Chance Gulch Archaeological Site, Colorado*. Submitted to Bonnie Pitblado, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. 32 pp. [2004] Stanley A. Ahler
60. *Archaeological Investigations During 2003 at Double Ditch State Historic Site, North Dakota*. Submitted to the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck. 330 pp. [2003] Stanley A. Ahler, editor, with 8 contributing authors
61. Animal Remains from the 1985-1986 Investigations. In *Central Siouans in the Northeastern Plains: Oneota Archaeology and the Blood Run Site*, edited by D. R. Henning and T. D. Thiessen, pp. 543-558. *Plains Anthropologist* Memoir 36, Part II. [2004] Carl R. Falk
62. Settlement Change at Double Ditch Village, AD 1450-1785. Paper presented at the 62nd Plains Anthropological Conference, October 13-16, 2004, Billings, Montana. Stanley A. Ahler, Kenneth L. Kvamme, Phil R. Geib, and W. Raymond Wood
63. Radiocarbon-Dated Agate Basin Archaeology within the Leonard Soil at Beacon Island, Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota. *American Quaternary Association Program and Abstracts of the 18th Biennial Meeting*, pp. 121-122. June 26-28, 2004. Lawrence, Kansas. Stanley A. Ahler, Jennie Borresen Lee, and Michael E. Timpson

During 2004, other researchers presented, reported, or published information through their home institutions that deals directly with PCRG projects. Readers may wish to directly contact the respective authors for copies of these documents or related information.

Wood's Landscape Perspective and New Geophysical Results in the Northern Plains. Paper presented in the symposium *Honoring W. Raymond Wood's Legacy: Quaternary Ecology, Archaeology, and Ethnohistory of North American's Heartland* at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 31-April 4, 2004, Montreal. Kenneth L. Kvamme

Geophysical Findings at Double Ditch State Historic Site (32BL8) North Dakota, 2003. ArcheoImaging Lab, Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Report submitted to PaleoCultural Research Group, Flagstaff, AZ. [2003] Kenneth L. Kvamme.

Aerial Archaeology at Double Ditch State Historic site, North Dakota. Paper presented at the 62nd Plains Anthropological Conference, October 13-16, 2004, Billings, Montana. Jo Ann Christein Kvamme, Tommy Ike Hailey, Kenneth L. Kvamme

Mapping Microtopography at Double Ditch State Historic Site, North Dakota. Paper presented at the 62nd Plains Anthropological Conference, October 13-16, 2004, Billings, Montana. Christine Markussen, Eileen Ernenwein, Kenneth L. Kvamme

Four Years of Geophysical Prospecting at Double Ditch State Historic Site, North Dakota. Paper presented at the 62nd Plains Anthropological Conference, October 13-16, 2004, Billings, Montana. Kenneth L. Kvamme, Jo Ann Christein Kvamme, Eileen G. Ernenwein, Christine Markussen.