2013 Annual Report

PCRG

PaleoCultural Research Group

From the Research Director

I reported last year that PCRG was successfully weathering the reductions in state and federal science funding prompted by the 2008-2009 recession and I am pleased to be able to tell you that the organization remains healthy. I continue to believe that PCRG's long-term success is due to our unique approach to public archaeology.

The "PCRG model" combines two equally important ingredients. Our projects offer an authentic experience of archaeological research to volunteer participants whose circumstances and backgrounds vary widely. A PCRG field investigation affords a diverse mix of people opportunities to make real contributions to the study of past human communities, while at the same time connecting them to landscapes they value.

PCRG projects also offer federal and state heritage managers added capacity to achieve their preservation goals. PCRG's collaborative approach to project development allows agencies to target their limited resources. PCRG projects are built on inclusive, flexible partnerships, through which the resources of multiple organizations and individuals can be combined and maximized.

Few private organizations working in the Plains and Rocky Mountains successfully marry broad-based public participation with state and federal heritage management goals. PCRG's continuing success testifies to the value people put on citizen participation in heritage preservation.

To ensure PCRG's long-term sustainability, I am working with the board of directors, which includes President David Purcell, Vice-president Kimberly Spurr, and Secretary Carl Falk, to implement a suite of organizational changes. These include an increase in the size of the board from the current three members to a projected seven to nine members, and a shift in board member duties from primarily project oversight to organizational development. In the future, board meetings will generally be held quarterly, and the board's work will focus on recruiting new members and identifying and developing new projects. The board mostly meets by teleconference, though I am hopeful that there will be opportunities to meet in person, perhaps in conjunction with the Plains Anthropological Conference or the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology. If you are interested in joining the board, or would like additional information about board responsibilities, please contact me or David Purcell.

Best regards,

Mark D. Mitchell

Inside this Issue

On the Cover: Bark-peeled bristlecone pine T4-12 at the Windy Ridge site (5PA4714). This 350-year-old tree was peeled in 1874. Photo by Mark D. Mitchell.

New PCRG Publications

Mitchell, Mark D. (editor, with 8 contributing authors)
2014 *Archaeological and Geophysical Investigations During 2012 at Fort Clark State Historic Site, Mercer County, North Dakota*. Research Contribution 90. [182 pp.]

Mitchell, Mark D. (editor, with 7 contributing authors)
2013 *Archaeological, Geoarchaeological, and Geophysical Investigations During 2008 at Chief Looking's Village, Burleigh County, North Dakota*. Research Contribution 85. [234 pp.]

Recent Publications Still in Print

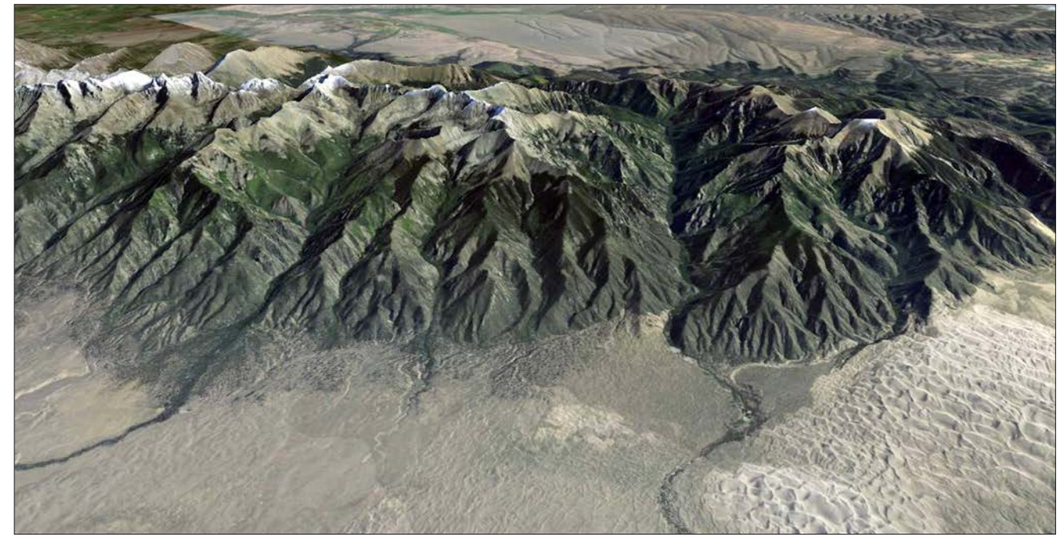
Mitchell, Mark D.
2012 *High-Altitude Archaeology in the Uncompahgre Wilderness: Archaeological Investigations During 2010 at the Uncompahgre Cirque Site, Hinsdale County, Colorado*. Research Contribution 87. [76 pp.]

Mitchell, Mark D. (editor, with 19 contributing authors)
2012 *Agate Basin Archaeology at Beacon Island, North Dakota*. Research Contribution 86. [278 pp.]

Mitchell, Mark D. (editor, with 4 contributing authors)
2008 *Archaeological and Geophysical Investigations During 2007 at Larson Village, Burleigh County, North Dakota*. Research Contribution 81. [104 pp.]

Mitchell, Mark D. (editor, with 9 contributing authors)
2007 *Geophysical Survey and Test Excavation During 2006 at Larson Village, Burleigh County, North Dakota*. Research Contribution 80. [230 pp.]

PCRG publications are distributed to members upon request and without charge.



Dispatches From the San Luis Valley

Public Archaeology in the Shadow of the Sangre de Cristo Range

The 13,000-acre Baca Mountain Tract (BMT) is a remarkable storehouse of San Luis Valley history and prehistory. Draped across the rugged western flank of the Sangre de Cristo Range, the BMT preserves an unparalleled record of the successive waves of human occupation in the region, from American Indian base camps and seed processing localities, to traces of the Old Spanish Trail, to late nineteenth-century mining settlements.

In 2012, PCRG received a major grant from History Colorado's State Historical Fund to study the BMT through intensive site mapping, pedestrian survey, targeted testing, and archival research. The project's first phase, carried out at the Old Spanish Trail-era Bunker site, is described in the 2012 PCRG annual report. In 2013, PCRG and its partners RMC Consultants, Inc., the Rio Grande National Forest, Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, Colorado State University, the National Park Service, and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, conducted intensive surveys and mapping projects at multiple locations throughout the BMT.

Top: The BMT encompasses the narrow woodland belt between the slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Range and the sand sheets and wetlands on the San Luis Valley floor; above: PCRG volunteer Jed Smith with an obsidian arrowpoint (photo by Marilyn Martorano).

To kick off the 2013 field season, PCRG continued its investigations of south-central Colorado's native stone architecture at a BMT site known locally as the "Indian Palisades." In early June, a crew of seven volunteers, along with PCRG and Rio Grande National Forest staff, mapped 11 stone enclosures located on Pinedale outwash adjacent to Pole Creek, a spring-fed permanent stream. Prior work carried out by RMC Consultants showed that these structures were occupied in the A.D. 1000s. The 2013 investigation demonstrates that the construction techniques used to build the Pole Creek enclosures differs fundamentally from those used to construct enclosures at the Upper Crossing site, located on Saguache Creek, 80 km to the northwest, which PCRG investigated in 2009 and 2010.

In July and August, 12 PCRG volunteers helped RMC and Rio Grande National Forest staff inventory 850 acres of the BMT. The research team recorded 36 sites, ranging from extensive, repeatedly occupied seed or pine nut processing camps represented by diverse chipped and ground stone tool assemblages to late-nineteenth-century cabins and ore-processing facilities. The fact that more than three-quarters of the sites are recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places is a testament to their remarkable preservation.

A Late Prehistoric stone enclosure located on Pole Creek.

A third project held in September focused on mining-related sites, including the spectacularly well-preserved Duncan Townsite as well as several smaller sites on Pole Creek. Previous RMC work at Duncan identified the remains of more than 50 residential and public buildings. Mapping in 2013 focused on three feature clusters, including a domestic dugout occupied by the Clark family and what was probably the cobbler's shop. An unexpected and intriguing finding was the discovery of two features interpreted as community gardens, identified in part by the occurrence of numerous modified cans believed to have been used to start plants indoors. The possibility that community gardens existed in a mining camp at 8,100 feet in the parched San Luis Valley offers new insights on what life was like there. ■

The Myth of the "Mexican" Mill

Simple human- or animal-powered grinding mills known as *arrastras* were used in the San Luis Valley and elsewhere in North America during the nineteenth century to process gold and silver ores. Because this technology was first introduced to the Americas by Spaniards in the 1500s, many archaeologists assume that *arrastras* found in the Rocky Mountains are of Spanish or New Mexican origin. While this may be true in some cases, the rapid diffusion of this technology during the mining boom of the late 1800s suggests that this interpretation is too simple. BMT research team members Dr. Mary Van Buren, an associate professor of anthropology at Colorado State University, and CSU graduate student Kristy Griffin are studying the attributes and associations of *arrastras* found in the BMT and elsewhere in the mountain West to disentangle the implicit links between ethnicity, class, and the diffusion of these small-scale mills.

An arrastra *built on bedrock adjacent to Pole Creek.*

Max Canestorp (L) and Peter Schlegel documenting artifacts at the Duncan Townsite (photo by Marilyn Martorano).

Experience the Baca Mountain Tract

To teach people about the process of field archaeology and to help them experience the beauty of the Baca Mountain Tract, the research team partnered with Rig To Flip, a production company specializing in short documentaries that inspire stewardship of Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountains landscapes, to produce a 20-minute film on the project. The film describes the landscape, history, and archaeology of the Baca and follows members of the research team as they document the many uses people have made of the region. The video, entitled *A Cultural Crossroads: Discovering the Baca Mountain Tract*, can be seen online by visiting https://vimeo.com/84094797 or by searching for "Baca Mountain Tract" on Vimeo.com.

Boom and Bust in the Colorado Gold Fields

John Duncan began his search for gold in the San Luis Valley in 1874. At the age of just 23 he found what he was looking for on Milwaukee Hill, on the west slope of the Sangre de Cristo Range. Duncan founded his eponymous settlement in 1890, following the discovery of gold on Pole Creek several miles to the south.

The town quickly boomed. A post office opened in 1892 and by the middle of the decade the settlement boasted three grocery stores, two general merchandise stores, a lumber yard, two saloons, a barber, a shoemaker, a boarding house, a doctor, an attorney, an assayer's office, a publisher who doubled as a realtor, and one school—but no churches. Liggitt & Co sold drugs, fine soaps, and perfume; J.A. Hopkins Dry Goods & Hardware sold mining supplies; and the Thomas Miles Stage and Express Line ferried people and mail to and from the town.

The Clark family house at Duncan in the mid-1890s.

The inevitable bust was heralded not by played out mines but by a Supreme Court ruling. In the 1830s, the Mexican government had awarded land grants throughout what later would become the southwestern U.S. To honor the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War, the U.S. government in 1854 granted the Baca family a 100,000-acre parcel known as the Luis Maria Baca Grant No. 4, on which Duncan later would found his town. Prior to 1897, independent miners and prospectors erroneously believed that grantees held only the surface and grazing rights, not the subsurface mineral rights. In 1897, the Supreme Court disagreed and awarded both surface and subsurface rights to land grant owners. The residents of Duncan were evicted two years later and by 1900 were forced off the land. The grant holders paid each family $125 for their house, later offering to sell the houses back for $10 on the condition that they be moved off the Baca. Today, the only remaining standing structure is the one John Duncan built for himself.

Encounter at Timberline

PCRG Crew Documents Only Known Peeled Bristlecone Pines in North America

In 2009, Max Canestorp, a PCRG member and wildlife biologist, discovered a cluster of bark-peeled bristlecone pines at a site known as Windy Ridge on the shoulder of 14,178-ft. Mount Bross in central Colorado's Mosquito Range. American Indians used pine cambium or inner bark for alimentary and medicinal purposes and bark peels are found on ponderosa pine trees throughout the mountain West. However, the grove at Windy Ridge contains the only known examples of peeled bristlecones.

Accompanied by Marilyn Martorano, Cultural Resources Manager at RMC Consultants, Inc., Canestorp returned to the site in 2011 to document five peeled trees. That project, funded by the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, also identified at least 20 more peeled trees and so in 2013 Canestorp and Martorano, along with Forest Service and PCRG staff and volunteers, spent four days studying the grove. Funding for the 2013 investigation was again provided by Pike and San Isabel National Forests, as well as by the South Park National Heritage Area and History Colorado's State Historical Fund.

The research team ultimately located and documented 37 bark-peeled trees, along with 12 trees bearing historic blazes or other cultural modifications.

Dendrochronological analysis carried out by Dr. Peter Brown, Director of Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, shows that the trees were peeled between 1870 and 1878, primarily in the late summer or early fall. The single largest cambium harvest occurred in the late summer and fall of 1875.

Cut nails, tin cans, and fragments of glass containers and transfer-printed ceramics are scattered throughout the bristlecone grove. Diagnostic artifacts indicate that these items were brought to the site between about 1872 and the mid-1880s by prospectors or by men felling trees for house logs, railroad ties, or mine shoring. Prospectors first found gold in Buckskin Gulch, 3.5 km to the south, in 1860 but thousands of miners poured into the region after the discovery of silver ore on Mount Bross in the summer of 1871. The fact that American Indians and Anglo miners both used the bristlecone grove on Windy Ridge in the 1870s adds a new and unexpected dimension to the history of Colorado's high country. ■

Top: The field crew, with a peeled bristlecone: back row, L-R: Allison Reynolds, Mark Howard, Ian Ritchie, Bob Burns, Dan Jepson, Marilyn Martorano; front row, L-R: Max Canestorp, Mark Mitchell, Steve Snyder, Adrienne Anderson, Marcy Reiser; left: close-up of axe marks on peeled bristlecone pine T4-12, which also is shown on the cover.

Changing Houses

Fort Clark Project Unearths Upper Missouri Architectural Transition

The single goal of PCRG's 2012 field investigation at Fort Clark State Historic Site was to determine whether a subsurface structure at the site that was first revealed by multiple geophysical surveys represents the location of Fort Clark I, a trading house established by the Columbia Fur Company in the winter of 1824-1825 and operated by them and by the American Fur Company until spring 1831. Definitive stratigraphic, chronological, and other data show clearly that it does not.

Instead, the data indicate that the feature was a log cabin occupied by a native household in the 1850s. Prince Maximilian of Wied observed a rectangular cabin under construction at the nearby Deapolis Village in June 1833, but stacked-log residential architecture was all-but-absent from the Upper Missouri's native settlements until the mid-1850s. In 1860, William

William Jacob Hays's 1860 illustration of log houses mingled with earthlodges in the native town adjacent to Fort Clark. (Collection of the Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta, 59.16.10).

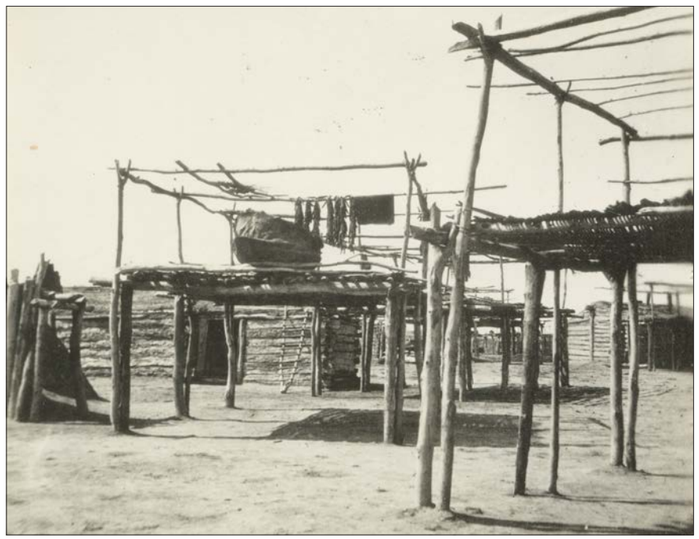
Jacob Hays sketched a group of log houses in the town adjacent to Fort Clark. Geophysical data collected by University of Arkansas doctoral student Adam Wiewel point to the presence of at least 19 cabins at the site, most of which probably were built in the decade prior to the settlement's abandonment in 1861. By the early- to mid-1860s, log structures were a minor but regular component of the region's housing stock. Their popularity increased steadily through the 1860s and by the early 1870s cabins made up roughly half of the houses at Like-a-Fishhook Village, a multi-ethnic community that was the last aggregated farming community in the Northern Plains. By the mid-1880s, cabins were the dominant house form throughout the region. Thus, just 50 years passed between the introduction of the cabin and its dominance in residential construction.

A wide variety of domestic items are associated with the cabin investigated at Fort Clark in 2012. These include metal utensils and metal, earthenware, and whiteware containers for cooking, storing, and serving food; bone, iron, and brass buttons for clothing and iron nails for shoes; decorative glass and shell beads, iron cone tinklers, and brass buttons and rings; iron tools for sewing; stone tools for processing food or other materials and for maintaining metal tools; and clay smoking pipes. The artifact assemblage also includes several rather prosaic, but potentially revealing, shaped-clay objects. These consist of appendages originally attached to a fired clay animal figurine. Similar figurines were produced by young boys at Like-A-Fishhook Village in the 1870s.

Also associated with the cabin is an array of comestible remains. Alimentary animal taxa present in the archaeofauna include bison or other large artiodactyls, small artiodactyls, waterfowl, leporids, fish, and other animals. Botanical specimens include maize, squash, and a diversity of wild fruits. While a number of factors apart from dietary preference likely have affected the makeup of the comestible assemblage, these materials do testify to the on-going importance of both agriculture and extensive hunting and gathering. They also point to the importance of nearby riverine resources.

Together, the artifacts and other materials associated with the cabin indicate that it was the residential locus of a multi-generational household that incorporated men, women, and children, who participated in a wide variety of economic activities. Arikara people made up the majority of the settlement's population in the 1850s, and

so it is perhaps simplest to identify the cabin's residents as an Arikara household, though by that time most of the region's native towns were polyglot communities, owing to intermarriage, adoption, and other social processes. Nevertheless, archaeological data obtained in 2012 point to continuities between the occupation of the cabin and earlier occupations. The cabin was constructed directly on top of a pre-existing earthlodge, probably immediately after the earthlodge had been dismantled. No particularly consequential differences exist between the artifact assemblages, or between the faunal and botanical assemblages, associated with the earthlodge and the cabin. Thus, the people who built and lived in the cabin in the 1850s may well have lived previously in the underlying earthlodge and therefore were long-term members of the community. ■



Upper right: Detail of Orlando S. Goff's stereograph of clay figurines made by boys at Like-A-Fishhook Village (SHSND 88-31); lower right: Stanley J. Morrow's 1870 photograph of a section of Like-A-Fishhook Village showing log cabins and drying racks (SHSND A-3736); below: Morrow's panorama of Like-A-Fishhook Village (SHSND CO248).

In Renaud's Footsteps

PCRG Retraces E.B. Renaud's Upper Cucharas River Surveys

More than 70 years ago, iconic Colorado archaeologist and University of Denver anthropologist Etienne B. Renaud began investigating sites in the Cucharas River drainage, west and north of the Spanish Peaks in south-central Colorado. Renaud briefly visited many different sites, including large rock shelters, extensive lithic scatters, stone enclosures, and a nineteenth-century crevice burial. Only very limited work occurred on the Cucharas during the decades following Renaud's initial and unsystematic surveys and so in 2013 PCRG carried out a project designed to learn more about the archaeology along Indian Creek, a tributary of the Cucharas River. Funding for the project was provided by the San Isabel National Forest, which manages the area.

In early July, just as the summer thunderstorm season began in earnest, 15 PCRG and Forest Service staff and volunteers defied damp tents and dense oak brush to inventory 180 acres of the upper Indian Creek valley, in the process documenting six sites and 25 isolated finds. Though the team was not able to re-locate sites Renaud had recorded, the project's results do shed new light on a little-known corner of the state. The most unexpected finding is abundant evidence for Late Archaic use of the region, coupled with only very limited evidence for native occupation dating to the Late Prehistoric. ■

Mark Howard (L) and Ian Ritchie identify artifacts during the Indian Creek survey.

Forest Service National Curation Study

An essential element of federal cultural resource management is the care of artifact collections removed from public lands, along with the maintenance of records that document their original context. Effective management and long-term preservation of agency-owned collections depends on an understanding of their scope and of the conditions under which they are stored.

To meet these baseline objectives, in 2012 the U.S. Forest Service entered into a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with PCRG to conduct a nationwide study of agency-owned archaeological collections curated by museums, universities, and state historical societies as well as those currently stored in Forest Service offices.

PCRG staff contacted 171 curation facilities and 106 Forest Service offices to gather metric and nominal data on storage conditions, collections management policies, and collections volume. Ninety-seven percent of the repositories and 99 percent of the Forest Service offices responded to PCRG's questionnaire surveys. PCRG currently is analyzing the data and preparing a report describing the findings. The Forest Service will use these findings to develop a long-term agency curation strategy.

Aaron Barth

In 2013, I organized the first global Punk Archaeology un-conference and the University of California Press published an article I wrote entitled, "Imagining a Battlefield at a Civil War Mistake: The Public History of Whitestone Hill, 1863 to 2013," in *The Public Historian*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 72-97. As the title suggests, I looked at the material culture and historical record of how and why Whitestone Hill has been remembered since 1863. It was a particularly heinous time in Great Plains history, when General Alfred Sully's military column opened up on an encampment of Native men, women and children in early September of 1863. My on-going dissertation broadens out on this theme by considering how and why the public has remembered the U.S.-Dakota Wars (1862-1864) in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota for the last 150 years. I also presented a segment of this paper at the New Zealand Historical Association's biennial conference at the University of Otago, Dunedin, in November 2013. A goal of this was to invite British-Maori scholars to suggest parallels in how the nineteenth-century Imperial Anglosphere interfaced with indigenes throughout the world, both in New Zealand and on the Northern Great Plains. You can read a review of my article by Bill Caraher at: www.mediterraneanworld.wordpress.com/2013/10/14/imagined-battlefields-on-the-dakota-prairie/.

As for the Punk Archaeology un-conference, in February 2013, myself and Caraher brought together a global cross-section of European and North American archaeologists, historians, and art historians who considered ways in which their backgrounds and interests in punk influenced the way they approached the archaeological and historical record. The event was sponsored by the NEH-funded North Dakota Humanities Council, Laughing Sun Brewing (Bismarck), North Dakota State University's (NDSU) Center for Heritage Renewal, and the University of North Dakota's (UND) Working Group in Digital and New Media. To eschew the traditional formalities of academic conferences, the un-conference was held at Sidestreet Tavern in downtown Fargo. Local punk bands were invited to play before and after the scholars discussed the concepts of Punk Archaeology, and all presenters were introduced with a bullhorn. Scholar presenters included Punk Archaeology founders Bill Caraher (Professor of Ancient History, University of North Dakota) and Kostis Kourelis (Professor of Art History, Franklin and Marshall College), as well as Kris Groberg (Professor of Art History, NDSU), Andrew Reinhard (Director of Publications at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Princeton, New Jersey), Richard

Kostis Kourelis presenting at the Punk Archaeology un-conference.

Rothaus (Trefoil Cultural and Environmental), Joshua Samuels (Professor of Archaeology, NDSU), Peter Schultz (Professor of Archaeology and Art History, Concordia College) and myself. The Working Group in Digital and New Media (UND) will publish the complete Punk Archaeology reader in 2014, both in print-on-demand format and online. Anyone interested (or not interested) in Punk Archaeology should also check out the official Punk Archaeology Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/PunkArchaeology. The Munsell Company posted an online article about the Punk Archaeology event on their Web site at: munsell.com/color-blog/punk-soil-color-archaeology-andrew-reinhard/.

As a Ph.D. candidate in history, I continue researching and writing dissertation chapters and lecturing at NDSU in Fargo. I do historic preservation consultation on the side, am the vice chair and board member of the North Dakota Humanities Council, the Assistant Director of NDSU's Center for Heritage Renewal (heritagerenewal.org), regularly blog at www.theedgeofthevillage.com, and on Thursday evenings I play drums with the local Fargo-based punk band Les Dirty Frenchmen.

Rob Bozell

In addition to routine Nebraska Highway Archeology Program survey projects, I was involved in several testing and mapping projects completed on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Federal Highway Administration. The most notable was work at the ruins of the Cowles Mill near Nebraska City. Cowles dates to the 1850s and is one of the earliest water-powered mills in Nebraska. Replacement of a nearby bridge may require more extensive fieldwork in 2014.

I have also been working on several faunal projects including assemblages from the Akata Site, a stratified Woodland and Plains Village site in the James River valley of North Dakota; the Kansas Monument Site, a major 1820s Kitkehahki Pawnee earthlodge village overlooking the Republican River; and Fool Chief's Village, an 1830s Kansa village in the Kansas River valley near Topeka. The two Kansas sites compliment other on-going analyses of various Omaha, Oto, and Pawnee samples from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. I also presented the results of an analysis of fauna from the Woodland (Keith Phase) Forrest site in a manuscript co-authored with Kansas State Archeologist Bob Hoard, which has been submitted to the journal Central Plains Archeology.


I guess we're not in Nebraska anymore! Chichen Itza, June 2013.


Limestone foundations of the Cowles Mill eroding from a cutbank near Nebraska City.

I had the gratifying opportunity to testify at a cold case murder trial involving the skeletal remains of a woman that colleague John Ludwickson and I assisted in recovering in 1992. Nebraska law enforcement and prosecutors were finally able to make an arrest and get a conviction in the case.

I continue to slowly chip away at various backlog projects—principally editing reports on the results of the Stephen Long Expedition (1819-1820) Winter Camp (Engineer Cantonment) excavations. It seems like a year ago I reported this would be finished in 2013!

Finally, I am getting around to seeing some archaeological places that have been on the bucket list; last summer it was a few sites in Mexico. Spectacular!

John Craig

Having found three intriguing artifacts in the fall of 2012, our crew led by Dr. Mark Tveskov of Southern Oregon University, returned last July to the rugged coastal mountain range of southwest Oregon for a more intense metal detecting survey of the area we believed to be the long-lost site of the Battle of Hungry Hill.

This engagement, between the Rogue Indians and the U.S. Dragoons and Oregon Militia was a military defeat and therefore not much has survived in the form of official reports, maps and oral historical records; most probably it was not an event the U.S. Army wanted to highlight. But lives were lost on both sides and learning what we could about what happened and especially where would be an important factual addition to the recorded history of the Rogue Indian War and the history of the nineteenth-century Pacific Northwest.

During a strenuous two-week metal detecting survey

Above: John screening at the Hungry Hill Battlefield; right: with the sandstone arch at Amisfield.

numerous artifacts were recovered, including buttons, buckles, musket balls, horseshoes, and gunpowder tin lids; all offer conclusive evidence of the battle site. Four distinct positions of the battle were identified: the original Indian camp that the Army was initially searching for, the Dragoon and Militia fighting position, the Indian fighting position, and, lastly and most difficult to locate, Bloody Springs, where the Army and Militia retreated after the initial engagement.

There are at least two more significant Rogue War battlefields which Dr. Tveskov plans to investigate and I hope to participate in those as well.

In August of 2013, after missing the 2012 season due to lack of funding, our Scotland crew returned to Amisfield Tower to continue work on the ditched feature near the exterior of the tower. In 2011 we opened a 1 x 4-meter unit and excavated through the centuries to an approximate depth of 2 meters. Glazed ceramic sherds found at this depth indicated we were back to mid-medieval times, but as often happens we ran out of time so we laid plastic in the unit and backfilled. This year we returned and opened our 2011 unit and expanded it to a 1 x 7-meter trench. We excavated the entire unit to an approximate depth of 2.5 meters and again found many artifacts dating as far back as the mid-medieval period.

The Charteris family, who came from Normandy in 1066 with William the Conqueror, were the original landowners and builders of Amisfield Tower. One of our primary goals of the project has been to find evidence of a dwelling that would predate the Tower, which was built between 1520 and 1600. Near the end of our two week project last August, at a depth of nearly 2.5 meters, we recovered one half of a red sandstone window arch. There are no arched windows in the Tower and due to its depth and positioning amongst medieval artifacts we believe this piece may have come from a structure that predates the tower, which probably stood on the same footprint as the Tower and possibly dates to the twelfth or thirteenth century.

Soon after the recovery of the sandstone arch segment, the walls of our trench became very unstable and we were forced to once again backfill without reaching the bottom. We felt as if the Tower had relinquished a tiny clue to us but that would be all for our efforts that year. We again are seeking funding that will enable us to return in 2015 and hopefully open up an ambitious 7 x 7-meter block, work that will involve a backhoe. We are determined to learn the depth and breadth of this ditch and hopefully discover more evidence of a much earlier structure.

Carl R. Falk

Over the past year I completed two chapters for a report detailing PCRG's work at Chief Looking's (Ward) Village in 2008 and, with Holmes A. Semken, Jr., a third chapter reporting vertebrate fauna from the 2012 investigation of Fort Clark State Historic Site. Holmes and I also completed a detailed analysis of micromammals recovered from two protohistoric/historic Mandan villages, On-A-Slant and Scattered; this paper is currently out for review and will likely be published during 2014. In the fall, Paul Picha (State Historical Society of North Dakota) and I prepared a poster for presentation at the 71st Plains Anthropological Conference held in Loveland, Colorado. The paper, "'Toss of the Dice': Gaming Pieces in Middle Missouri Archaeology" was included in a symposium on current Middle Missouri research organized by PCRG members Kacy Hollenback and Fern Swenson. An expanded version, again centered on the importance of gambling in nineteenth-century Plains Village exchange systems, is planned for the 2014 SAA meeting in Austin. Also in the fall, working with PCRG member Amy Koch, I completed a descriptive treatment of fetal/neonatal bison remains from the King site located in Dawes County, Nebraska. Amy will be using this information as part of a full treatment of the vertebrate fauna recovered from the site scheduled for completion in early 2014. Additional professional efforts during the past year included a continued commitment to PCRG as a member of the Board of Directors, and work on several on-going—and, optimistically, nearly complete—projects including Engineer Cantonment (with Rob Bozell, Amy Koch, and Tom Labedz), Menoken Village (with Fern Swenson), Beals site (with Dale Henning and Paul Picha), Jones Village (with Craig Johnson).

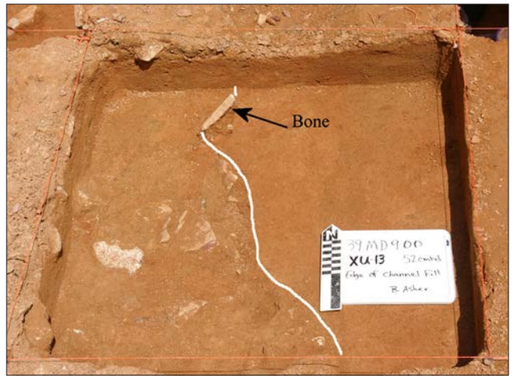
In addition to these activities, 2013 saw a moderate amount of family travel with excursions to Washington State, the mid-south, a week in the Berkshires, and an extended trip to London and Stockholm. The latter venture was a wonderful experience and, along with the usual tourist haunts, was dominated by visits to numerous museums. The British Museum and the Museum of Medieval Stockholm were particular favorites. While the former is recognized world-wide, the comparatively small Medieval Museum, partially developed around archaeological excavations completed in the late 1970s, is less well known. Focusing on the period between about 1250 and the early 1500s, the installation is surprisingly located under an island park and bridge connecting central Stockholm with Gamla stan ("the old town"). During the Stockholm phase of the trip we were held in a renovated cell within the former Långholmen Central Prison, in use until 1975.

Michael Fosha

The outreach/research of the South Dakota State Historical Society Archaeological Research Center investigated a number of sites in 2013. Two of these investigations were conducted with the Center for American Paleolithic Research (CAPR). The first of these was the continued excavations on the Debbie Schulz mammoth site in Sturgis, South Dakota. (Initial work on the site was reported in the 2012 PCRG Annual Report.) To recap the 2012 investigations, we opened an area large enough to excavate a small 2 x 3-meter block. Two types of formation processes were identified. One of these is a low energy, slow accumulation of fine grain sediments accumulating over time from upslope. The other is composed of cobbles confined to gullies that cut through the low-energy deposits during episodic periods of high precipitation draining from the nearby Black Hills. Both of these deposits contained mammoth bone from which CAPR funded two high-precision radiocarbon dates from different labs that place its death between 39,000 and 37,000 years ago. From the low energy sediment a mammoth distal femur fragment, two additional very small bone fragments and one stone flake of possible cultural origin were recovered. Mammoth mandible, ribs, and spinal processes were also recovered from silt between two high energy pulses represented by the gravel-filled gullies. Our hopes were centered on finding human association with the faunal remains and that this evidence would be identified in the fine silt deposits.

This year's investigations were undertaken by the South Dakota State Historical Society, the Center for American Paleolithic Research (CAPR), and South Dakota Archaeological Society volunteers. Excavators included Steve and Kathie Holen (CAPR), Michael Fosha (SDSHS-ARC), Rose Fosha (FEMA), Brendon Asher (Ph.D. candidate, University of Kansas), Chris Yates (undergraduate, California), Don Ericson, Laura Mounce, Ernie Miller (SDAS volunteers), and Heidi Edison (volunteer).

Despite rain every day at the site, we managed to excavate 11 1 x 1-meter units. We recovered a number of mammoth bones near the margins of a relict gully or stream channel which appear oriented with channel flow. A few bones were recovered in fine silt deposits separate from the stream channels. The mammoth bone consisted of elements from the shoulder forward, including ribs, vertebrate, scapula, and molar fragments as well as a couple of non-mammoth elements. No limb bone fragments were found indicating that they may have been exhumed during the installation of the septic tank and lateral field constructed in the mid-1970s. It is also possible that the elements uncovered to this point were



Above: Photograph of the channel margin (white line) and the location of a bone fragment at the Debbie Schulz site; below: photograph of bone pieces in fine-grained sediment.

size-sorted by alluvial process, suggesting denser limb bone may be upslope from this location. Lastly, no cultural material was found to be associated with the Pleistocene fauna. With regards to the flake obtained last year in the mammoth level, it should be noted that a quarry site containing the similar material, is located upslope approximately three kilometers which casts doubt on this artifact having a cultural origin. It is likely that this may be a geofact created when upslope lithic material collided during high energy events and deposited with other sediments near the time of the mammoth's death.

The second site investigated with CAPR is the Rice Cutbank site, 39BT39, located in Bennett County, South Dakota on the Little White River. The cut bank is over 10 meters in height. The cutbank is composed of alluvium and aeolian silts with at least five buried paleosols and numerous mammal bones consisting largely of bison. This is capped by a sand dune about 2 meters in height assumed to be associated with the Altithermal. Until proven otherwise by soil or bone dates, we are working under the assumption (and hope) that the upper buried soil is equivalent to the Leonard Paleosol which has inception dates over 11,000 years in age in the region. Presently, we have identified five cultural components with lithics and bone in the lower buried soils with the possibility of more. We currently have sent soil out for total bulk carbon dates that should elucidate the chronology of the cut bank and allow for more specific investigations. Excavators included Steve Holen and Brendon Asher (Center for American Paleolithic Research), James Donohue and Michael Fosha (SDSHS-ARC), and Laura Mounce and Alan Johnson (SDAS volunteers). Our 2014 investigations will focus on a complete pedon description and obtaining data on the sites oldest components.

Additional 2014 projects are a survey of portions of the Little Missouri River in the northwest and excavation of a trading post in the northeast corner of the state.

Pete Gleichman and Katherine McComb

Pete (Native Cultural Services) has been analyzing macrobotanical material from flotation samples from the Cerro de la Olla rockshelter. The rockshelter, located northwest of Taos, New Mexico, was excavated by Jonathan Kent and PCRG member Maxine McBrinn. The samples are loaded with botanical elements,

Photograph of the Rice Cutbank site.

both carbonized and uncarbonized, but the shelter has extensive rodent disturbance, which complicates interpretation.

Pete and Katherine together have begun examining the effects of the September flooding in Colorado on drainages in Boulder County. Known archaeological sites along Rock Creek have been inspected, and the new cut banks along the creek are being checked for any exposure of new cultural material. An image of Rock Creek was shown on the national news repeatedly, where the flood washed out a bridge and three cars ended up in the creek. As expected, there is both surface erosion and some mass wasting of the creek banks at the known sites, exposing new cultural material and washing away some material. New cuts along the creek banks have also exposed some remains—principally large mammal bone—in places not previously documented as sites. It remains to be determined if the exposed bone is related to cultural activity. The investigation is in pause mode for the winter, and will resume when whether permits.

Katherine participated in History Colorado's PAAC (Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification) survey at Pawnee Buttes as well as the PAAC lab in December, performing data entry and analysis. Pete and Katherine also assisted Mark Mitchell on the PCRG survey near La Veta.

Dale Henning

Reviewing 2013, it sometimes seems that this has been the year that nothing professional was completed, but on serious reflection, this is not entirely the case. But, it has been a year of "working on things," some of which have seen real progress but are not finished.

I was asked to make a presentation at the 75th anniversary celebration at Pipestone National Monument this past summer and offered "Minnesota Pipestone: Out of the Quarries and Into the World." The paper focused on the trade in red pipestone, most of which is presumably catlinite from those quarries, and its importance to the occupants of the Blood Run site. Blood Run was an important trade center in the Late Prehistoric/early Contact period and was occupied by the Omaha and Iowa tribes when they were first contacted by Europeans. One important commodity of exchange was red stone objects, many of which were presumably fashioned on Blood Run. That paper was not only fun to prepare, but fun to deliver to an interested and enthusiastic audience.

Another paper titled "'Go East, Young Man': The Initial Middle Missouri Tradition and Red Wing's Silvernale Phase," jointly authored with Ron Shirmer from the University of Minnesota, Mankato, was presented at the symposium titled "Middle Missouri Archaeology: Updates on Current and Ongoing Research Projects in the Dakotas" at the 71st Plains Anthropological Conference, in Loveland, Colorado. The session was organized by PCRG members Kacy Hollenback and Fern Swenson. This one was also good fun to prepare and present. It was interesting to integrate data from two seemingly disparate regions and I learned a good deal about Red Wing archaeology in the bargain.

A great deal of my time has been spent promoting more land acquisition and protective development of the Blood Run site that parallels both sides of the Big Sioux River near Sioux Falls. The State of Iowa owns one important piece of the site and the State of South Dakota now owns over 500 acres of site and surroundings, which has recently been designated as Good Earth State Park. The development of adjoining state parks has been discussed very positively by the respective state governors; thus, there is hope for more positive developments on the Iowa side. In the course of this promotional work, a popularized account of what could have happened at Blood Run titled "Blood Run: The 'Silent City'" by myself and Gerald Schnepf has been prepared. All that is needed now is some dollars to print up hundreds of copies for broad distribution.

In matters relating to Blood Run, I have consulted on efforts toward preparation of the Ponca Tribal Cultural Place (TCP) statement for Good Earth, with the South Dakota State Parks System and the engineering firm tasked with planning the visitor's center for Good Earth State Park. This is all interesting work. We now know many ways to drive to Sioux Falls.

And, while none are finished, effort continues and variable progress is being made on research: on mound building by Oneota groups with Colin Betts; on the Beals site (Woodland and Great Oasis components) in northwest Iowa with Carl Falk, Paul Picha, Jason Titcomb and Curt Thornberry; and thus far on my own with work on (tentative titles) "Initial Oneota Settlements in Western Iowa" and "Great Oasis Settlements on the Lower Big Sioux River." Perhaps in 2014, at least one publishable manuscript will emerge from these thrashings. But life is not all potsherds, chipped stone tools, and travel to archaeological meetings.

We have moved, hopefully for the last time for many years. In preparing for eventual old age, we decided to move to a retirement facility and after much Internet search and some travel decided upon a rather new facility— Edgewater—in West Des Moines, Iowa. This place offers more than one (at least this one) could ever imagine. Three restaurants, one of which is a bar (very popular), a swimming pool, exercise facilities, and full services. So, here we are in a duplex (one of 14) that is within easy walking distance from the main facility: very

Dale and Barbara at a gate at the Bucharest outdoor museum.

fancy and very nice. We have made many new friends and enjoy their company. This has been a good move.

One major trip this year was a cruise on the Danube from Budapest to Bucharest, with many interesting stops along the way. We spent three days in Vienna before departing on the cruise, seeing great museums—always a great pleasure to visit. Eastern Europe is really interesting: much remains of the Russian occupations in most of the countries we visited and the architecture is most interesting but grey, drab, utilitarian, characterized by sameness and, in many instances, crumbling. Our guides were not kind to the departed Russians. We did go through two very modern, Russian-built lock and dams on the Danube that are much more recent than those on our Mississippi River and much more sophisticated. Those seem to have built to last! For both of us, perhaps the most interesting place was the outdoor museum in Bucharest featuring houses and churches from nearby that were brought in and restored. This was the last tour we had before departing and the time we had there was far too short!

Looking back on 2013, it has been great, but we both look forward to 2014 and whatever it might bring.

Craig Johnson

This was another productive year involving my research projects. In the spring, I gave a presentation at the annual South Dakota Historical Society meeting in Rapid City, which gave me an opportunity to present a number of scanned color slides documenting my adventures. It was titled "From Pots to Rocks: 40 Years of Plains Archaeology" and outlined my career in archaeology beginning with a field school in 1971 in Murray County, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Dale Henning, then with the University of Nebraska. We excavated several sites in with Great Oasis and Woodland components. It was a full field experience focusing on excavation techniques supplemented by site survey, mapping, and visits to a number of sites including Jeffers Petroglyphs, Blood Run, and the Brandon site, a Plains Village community in southeastern South Dakota. A number of speakers also stopped by our field camp on the Murray County Fairgrounds in Slayton, Minnesota, including David Baerreis and Guy Gibbon. I also greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of my fellow students. Other career highlights included the 1972 University of Nebraska excavations at the King Hill Oneota site in St. Joseph, Missouri; the University of Nebraska excavations at the Schmidt site (a Central Plains tradition village in Nebraska); various Plains Conferences; the 1997-1998 salvage excavations at Jones Village (39CA3) along the Oahe Reservoir in north-central South Dakota; and PCRG excavations at the Double Ditch, Boley, Larson, Beacon Island, and Chief Looking's Village sites in North Dakota.

My presentation also chronicled my evolving Middle Missouri subarea research interests, beginning with my M.A. work in the 1970s with the ceramic assemblage from the Medicine Crow (39BF2) site. This project and others dealing with the artifacts from the Plains Village Larson (39WW2), H.P. Thomas (39ST12), and Sommers (39ST56) sites were designed to complete the site reports of excavations conducted by the Interagency Salvage Archeological Program, Missouri Basin Project in the 1960s. I also recorded data on the ceramic assemblages from the Walth Bay (39WW203) and Lower Grand (39CO14) sites in 1974-1975, two Plains Village

Craig screening at the Big Slough site, 1971.

Above: Craig waterscreening at the King Hill site, 1972; below: excavating at Jones Village, 1998.

communities then recently excavated by field crews from the University of Missouri and the Midwest Archeological Center. My immersion into, and on-going, Plains Village research was greatly influenced by Carl Falk and Stan Ahler, who were deeply involved in these projects.

My research focus has recently shifted from ceramics to chipped stone tools and flaking debris. Beginning as early as the mid-1970s, I began to collaborate with Stan and cultivated an interest in how various raw materials were used in the manufacture of stone tools as part of my work on the Medicine Crow, Larson, H.P. Thomas, and Sommers sites. In the intervening years, I took every opportunity to collect information on various Plains Village chipped stone assemblages, most having been unexamined since shortly after they were excavated many years earlier. Beginning in 2010, I began to synthesize data for a book, based largely on frequencies of material types in four technological classes: small thin bifaces, large bifaces, patterned unifaces, and retouched/utilized flakes. Sites excavated more recently contain systematically collected flaking debris, providing an additional perspective on how various materials were reduced into tools.

Realizing that I would need a large data base in order to simultaneously control for the effects of site location and time of occupation, I expanded data collection to chipped stone assemblages curated at a number of locations including the South Dakota State Archeological Research Center, State Historical Society of North Dakota, University of Kansas, University of Wisconsin, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Last fall I initiated an effort to collect data from all remaining sites at the Smithsonian. Although my planned six week effort was cut short by the federal government shutdown, I was able to record data from many sites, much of it from large multi-component villages. The latter sites required an examination of the ceramic assemblages in order to assign the stone tools to their respective components. I found that component mixing resulted in eliminating 10 to 50 percent of the stone tools from the four largest collections. A follow-up trip to the Smithsonian is planned for 2014.

I have also been involved in a research project through the Augustana College Archaeology Laboratory to analyze the Woodland ceramics from a number of sites in west-central Minnesota. Funded through the Minnesota Historical Society, I examined a number of assemblages from professional excavations and amateur surface collections from central and southwestern Minnesota. I concluded that the pottery from west-central Minnesota is most similar to the ceramics found in eastern Minnesota.

Ruthann Knudson

Quite a year in retrospect! I had seven Humanities Montana speaking gigs on Paleoindians in Montana or Montana Indians, and the Missoula 4th graders were the most fun. During the summer we reburied seven sets of unaffiliated Native American remains at First Peoples Buffalo Jump north of Ulm; the Burial Preservation Board may run out of tasks at the rate we're resolving issues!

This fall, I finally got to the Avon valley in western Montana to see the Paleoindian landscapes there, and have been collecting now-historic records of the last half-century of archaeology there to determine where someone can go from current knowledge. I've been looking for information on Avon since the late 1960s, so it's great to finally have an understanding of what is and isn't known about the place. Its Paleoindian material is as strongly influenced from the Plateau and Great Basin as it is from the Plains, despite the labels put on the stone points from the area.

My River Basin Survey (RBS) women paper will be out in April and we're having an RBS symposium at the SAA meetings in Austin, so I may see you there. That was one of the most difficult papers I've ever written, because most of the women were only mentioned as footnotes in the boys' RBS reports or else I knew about them from their conversations. They probably did 75 percent of the work on those projects, from site survey to publication—thank goodness there have been some changes.

I'm still committed to papers on Plainview, Paleoindian Oblique, the Stillwater site, and Northern Plains Paleoindian. I gave a presentation titled "When the West Winds Encouraged the People" at the Plains Conference in Loveland in October, which fits into the Northern Plains volume. I'm still working with Don Wyckoff on publication of E. Mott Davis's dissertation and Medicine Creek field reports. And then there are the Red Smoke National Historic Landmark nomination, a lithics chapter on Les Davis' Barton Gulch volume, and finishing up Bonnichsen's report on Everson Creek.

My classes went well this past year, with some 100 students learning about Montana Indians at Great Falls College Montana State University. I love the online opportunity to provide students with reference materials, such as treaties and agreements—some students even read them!

Onward to 2014!

Mark Mitchell

2013 was overstuffed with work. I was in the field for a month—and loved every minute of it—but Cindy and I didn't manage to take a trip together. We remedied that early in 2014 with a visit to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Nothing treats an acute case of flagging enthusiasm better than a trip to the tropics. We spent six spectacular days snorkeling in crystalline Caribbean water, hiking in the forest, and eating just-caught seafood. Cindy even indulged my interest in visiting the ruins of a Dutch sugar plantation as well as St. John's primier rock art site—unsurprisingly located deep in the island's interior, next to one of the few spring-fed pools.

Petroglyphs on the Reef Bay trail, Virgin Islands National Park.

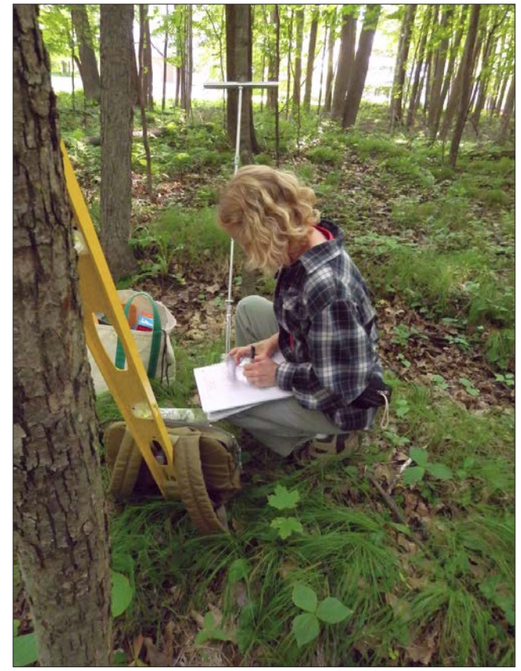
Laurinda (Rin) Porter

I was fortunate to take part in June in the first of the summer series of explorations at the Indian Palisades site in south central Colorado directed by Mark Mitchell. We mapped portions of a group of stone structures, hiked through an old mining town, and visited a high-altitude mining site. It was exciting to be part of the first study group in probably 120 years to observe these sites.

Rin posing with a corner fireplace at a nineteenth-century mining settlement in the Baca Mountain Tract.

Mike and Wendy Scullin (Midwest Ethnohorticulture)

After a trip to Iowa's northwest to take soil samples from one of two known raised-bed gardens in Iowa for maize phytoliths in a previous season, we headed for Wisconsin which has the greatest number of surviving raised-bed garden sites. We took soil cores from publicly owned sites and, with the generous assistance of David Overstreet who is the Historic Preservation Officer for the Menominee Tribe, we also had the opportunity to take cores from sites on the reservation. Wendy is analyzing samples and is hoping to acquire more this spring to answer questions about how many maize phytoliths and what sample sizes are required to identify maize gardens using small soil samples.



Above: Wendy keeping records at White Potato Lake, a Nature Conservancy site; below: a series of raised beds.

The reason gardens were ridged is still a matter of debate. Nearly all the soils themselves are fertile, low-lying, and good for agriculture, though sandy and highly reflective. Several have varied impediments to drainage which may have been both an asset and a liability in different years. The net effect is that maize plants are provided with a greater depth of organic-enriched soil in which to grow and when maize grows in good soil with good moisture, the plants are visibly more vigorous and productive.

Mike's book (or rather Gilbert Wilson and Mike's book) will be published this spring and on sale in July. The book is a collection of material from fieldnotes by Wilson and reports he wrote for the American Museum of Natural History between 1906 and 1918. His principal sources were Buffalobird-woman, her brother Wolf Chief, and her son Goodbird who did all the translating and most of the drawings. The title is *Uses of Plants by the Hidatsa of the Northern Plains*. The book differs from other ethnobotanical monographs in presenting the perceptions of the Hidatsa rather than those of an ethnobotanist. Wilson, a Presbyterian minister with a Ph.D. in anthropology, knew essentially no botany so figuring out what was collected and described left a few mystery plants. Wilson actually did some intensive plant collecting in 1916 for a never-completed project with a professor of botany. The fact that the plants he collected (two apparently identical collections—one for the Minnesota Historical Society and one for the American Museum of Natural History) have disappeared further complicated matters.

Kim Spurr and David Purcell

In early 2013, David joined WestLand Resources, a Tucson-based engineering and environmental consulting company, which had just opened a Flagstaff office. In addition to several small survey projects and relearning some work skills—like commuting and dressing in something other than sweats—he ran one large survey project in western Arizona in the summer. In some places he walked transects adjacent to ones from a project he ran in 1995! The saguaro blooms were beautiful, but one day in July was 122 degrees, and on another cool, overcast day the crew observed 10 rattlesnakes in just an hour and a

Kim and David in Seattle. What, no coffee?

half! After that excitement, he's been back in the office for several months but is looking forward to the next project.

Kim has been involved for the last three years in a project to document and repatriate human burials from national forest lands surrounding Flagstaff to local Native American tribes, a satisfying effort. She was able to work on two excavations in northern Arizona in early summer, a nice break from the office. Late in 2013, she took over duties as head of the archaeology division at the Museum of Northern Arizona, more a change in title than position. Kim continues to lead periodic educational tours, with recent trips hiking to backcountry archaeology sites in Canyon de Chelly, the Glen Canyon area, and east of Flagstaff.

One project that involved large amounts of time from both Kim and David in 2013 was organizing the annual Pecos Conference again. In 2011, David was lead organizer for the conference in northwest Arizona. This year Kim took on the task for the event held just outside Flagstaff. After months of preparation the conference in early August was deemed a success and we can now rest on our laurels for another five years until it comes to Flagstaff again. Whew!

Ray Wood

It's been a satisfying and productive year for many reasons, but perhaps the most satisfying event was the release in June of *Karl Bodmer's America Revisited: Landscape Views Across Time*, which I co-authored with Robert M. Lindholm, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Bob and I began this project 25 years ago, and we'd begun to feel it would never appear until Charles Regier at OU Press decided it would be a nice companion volume to the three volumes of Prince Maximilian's North American journals they had just published. It contains photographs of each of Bodmer's landscapes that are still identifiable, from Boston Harbor to Fort McKenzie in Montana.

I also completed a brief biography of Joseph Garreau and his family, all of who were important fur traders throughout the history of that trade on the Upper Missouri; it appeared in the summer issue of South Dakota History. I was also delighted that a military publishing house, Casemate UK, decided to print a second edition of the book I wrote about my brother, *Or Go Down in Flame*. Work continues—and will for some time—on the Letter Books of Fort Tecumseh and Fort Pierre Chouteau, a project in collaboration with Michael M. Casler, a fur trade historian who lives in Williston, North Dakota. We're also investigating the murky beginnings of the Columbia Fur Company (1822-1827).

In mid June, I visited friends and colleagues in museums and national monuments throughout North and South Dakota and Nebraska with my bird-watching son, Eric. We always enjoy stopping at the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron, Nebraska.

The Plains Conference in Loveland was enjoyable, especially since I could enjoy the talks without having to give one myself, nor was I a discussant for any session. Our return trip back East was in excellent weather, unlike my unfortunate colleagues whose homes were in blizzard conditions to the north. Carolee and I returned from the Plains Conference in time to join my three kids (and their mother) on a cruise to St. Thomas and St. Maarten in the eastern Caribbean.

Ray at Winnavegas Casino, northeastern Nebraska, posing with Elvis, the Prairie Hound-dog.