



# THE UPAC NEWS

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## UPAC SUMMER MEETINGS HELD

UPAC's summer meetings were held on Thursday and Friday, July 18-19 at Anasazi State Park in Boulder, Utah. The Thursday afternoon session consisted of reports by those attending on their current or recent research interests and activities. Thanks to Larry Davis, Dee Hardy and others who made our meeting in Boulder a meaningful experience.

### PALEOENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM

The evening session began a new feature at our UPAC meetings--symposia centered on a particular subject. The topic this time was paleoenvironmental studies organized thanks to the efforts of Bruce Louthan. Palynologist Ken Peterson discussed dissertation research on southwest Colorado paleoclimate that continued into the Dolores Archaeological Project. Analysis from both pollen and "tree-ring" proxy records defined the limits for the exploitation of the rich, cultivable soil of the dry farming belt in the southwest Colorado area during Anasazi times. These data also suggest how these changes correlated with changes in settlement and population among the prehistoric Anasazi agriculturalists.

Dave Madsen's presentation entitled "Plague of Locusts: Let's Eat" described his attempts to explain some peculiar Lakeside Cave coprolites (all grasshopper and sand) in relationship to this year's windfall of grasshoppers or crickets along the west shores of the Great Salt Lake as a result of natural wind and tide patterns. Experimental collection trials on the enormous windrows of "sun-dried and presalted" hoppers along the lake yielded phenomenal harvests with even primitive (i.e., "ad hoc") methods. Given that hoppers minus their legs are analyzed to yield about 70% protein, this represents a major food source at least every 7 years or so when the hopper population peaks. Steve Manning also gave a short, unplanned presentation on unusual pictographs in the Richfield District.

The Friday morning session continued with the paleoenvironmental symposium with Larry Agenbroad discussing his search for late Pleistocene-early Holocene megafauna on the Colorado Plateau, most recently focused on Bechan Cave in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. He described dung boluses from there and recent reconfirmation of dung at Cowboy Cave, the only two occurrences of mammoth dung in North America. Possibly even more significant for archeologists are findings at Bechan Cave of blue spruce, presumably grazed on nearby, and dating to ca. 11,000 BP. This represents an approximately 4000 foot downward displacement from the current spruce belt in that area. Larry also discussed the alluvial chronology of the Bechan area and its confirmation of paleoclimatic events reflected in the cave. He is currently pursuing mammoths in the Moab area with Bruce Louthan along with numerous other projects.

To complete the scatological mind-feast, Julia Bettencourt then made a presentation on the use of packrat middens as a means of reconstructing paleoenvironmental conditions using the materials in the middens for both dating and determination of the flora in the immediate vicinity of the midden location. Since rats gather nest material from only a 100 meter radius of their "houses," the vegetation shown in ancient nests reflects the immediately local vegetation of the site or locale. Bettencourt's recent work has focused in Allen and Butler Canyons in southeast Utah where he was able to compare differences between sites having similar soils. Again, the great displacement in vegetation seen at Bechan Cave is

reflected in the plant parts used in the nests. A sequence of C-14 dated rat middens (hardened by rat urine) show dramatic biota shifts from ca. 12,000 BP. Obviously this is an avenue of research needing more study for all periods of time, not merely for the Paleo-Indian period.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The afternoon session was dedicated to the UPAC business meeting. Joel Janetski read a letter from Don Fowler, SAA president, summarizing the results of a conference held on the issue of reburial of archeologically recovered human remains (see abstract below). An update on the task force on vandalism was given by Dave Madsen. Dave reported that Governor Bangeter is not negative about the report of the task force and that the response of Lt. Governor Oveson was positive. The political leaders wish to emphasize the need for public participation in reducing vandalism in the state. Brian O'Neil of the Colorado Archaeological Society reported that Gov. Bangeter had written to CAS about their program for avocational certification in Colorado. After he described how the CAS program works, the possibility of doing something similar in Utah was discussed. It was pointed out that, unlike in Colorado, the State funding system was not set up to do this kind of thing. A lobbying effort by both amateurs and professionals would be needed to get such a program. It was decided that UPAC should endorse such a program, but that the amateurs would have to be the main force behind pushing it. It was proposed that representatives of UPAC meet with the leaders of the main amateur groups to organize such a proposal, but no decision was reached on this issue. However, UPAC members were encouraged to join the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society (see below). It was decided that UPAC would write a letter to the Governor supporting the above concerns and encouraging the use of SHPO money to administer public education programs and teach public classes.

A motion was made to strongly encourage the hiring of a staff archeologist by UDOT to coordinate and review archeological consultant work.

There was also a discussion of the standards used by government agencies for issuing permits to archeologists. It was argued by

some that consistency in standards and definition of geographic areas between the federal agencies and the state were needed. Rich Fike summarized the current attempts between the State and BLM to streamline and coordinate permitting. The Forest Service was perceived by some members as uncooperative in this regard. It was argued that UPAC should strongly encourage such coordination. There was a discussion of the weaknesses in the flow of information between agencies, especially the Forest districts and the State. It was decided that Joel Janetski would write a letter to Jerry Wylie asking for information on how the information flow is supposed to work.

A motion to send a UPAC letter to all agencies indicating that deposition of all archeological reports with the State is crucial, and that use of agreed upon information procedures must be required consistently of all private and public agencies in the state was passed by majority vote.

The issue of UPAC addressing the problems of proper management of the state Heritage Parks was raised. It was decided to hold off on making an official decision on the matter until after meetings to be held in October 1985.

A proposal to grant, at the discretion of the UPAC president, a \$50.00 honorarium to all out-of-state symposium speakers was passed.

Finally, Bruce Louthan, vice-president for research, requested, and again requests, that the draft paper by Dr. David Madsen entitled "A Culture History Manifesto" not be quoted or cited without direct permission from the author. Through a misunderstanding it was sent to all members as part of the draft statewide "Regional Research Reference" without the author's permission. Bruce apologizes for this error and asks all members to respect Dr. Madsen's right to change or even withdraw his article before its planned publication in a major journal.

### **SOPA-SAA CONFERENCE ON REBURIAL ISSUES**

Don Fowler has forwarded to UPAC a summary report on the Conference on reburial issues sponsored by SOPA and SAA on June 14-15, 1985 in Chicago:

The conference was planned as an opportunity for advocates of

many different positions to meet and present their several points of view in a non-confrontational manner.... Discussions developed around an agenda with five major topics: (1) reasons for insisting upon reburial, (2) reasons for objecting to reburial, (3) reasons for scientific study of human skeletal populations, (4) exploration of possible resolutions, and (5) the next step....

Consideration of the first two topics--the cases for and against reburial--revealed the major issues between Indian peoples and archeologists. There is far less feeling between Indian people and physical anthropologists or museum people, probably because of less direct familiarity on both sides. There was near-unanimity among the Indians in favor of reburial; the only differences were the degrees of willingness to consider exceptions for special cases.... It was clear that archeologists and physical anthropologists have failed to communicate their research goals well. Few benefits from such research are perceived by the subjects themselves. There is, moreover, a strong suspicion in some quarters that the research is undertaken for motives of personal advancement of the researcher, without the intent to benefit the subjects. Exceptions to this general situation indicate that where efforts are routinely made, contacts established over long periods, and trust developed, Indians and archeologists can communicate and cooperate in research. There also emerged troubling evidence that archeologists, as a group, are relatively ignorant of the goals, methods, and information potential of modern bio-anthropology, and tend to devalue such research.

At least two apparently irreconcilable, value systems were in evidence during the discussion. The anthropologists presented their scientific values, and their commitments to professional responsibility and to knowledge for the sake of the human species. The Indians...presented aspects of traditional spirituality, as those relate to feelings for the earth, the role of humans in nature, and the desire that human remains be allowed to return to and nourish the earth....

...Studies valued by anthropologists for their contributions to the understanding of the human species... were frequently rejected as uninteresting to tribal people, who define their past through tradition. Those people are, however, appreciative when such research helps in identifying and protecting cultural resources, or

is publicized so that it increases understanding and respect for Indians in the larger society.... If traditional people realize no benefit from relations with anthropologists, especially from studies supported by long-term curation of human remains, the case for such curation cannot be compelling to them.

SOPA issues of professional performance standards and of ethics in fieldwork and in relations with native peoples were raised several times. The social anthropologists in the group were particularly insistent about the need for more effective training in ethics and interpersonal relations for archeologists, and for sensitizing both archeologists and bioanthropologists to other people's feelings, beliefs, and needs.

#### CONSENSUS OF THE REBURIAL CONFERENCE

1. Human physical remains should always be treated with the utmost respect.
2. It is imperative for anthropologists and Native Americans to work together to resolve issues of common concern, particularly reburial and the investigation of mortuary sites.
3. Physical anthropologists, social anthropologists, and archeologists should think of the reburial issue in the broader context of anthropology.
4. Anthropologists and Native Americans should make joint presentations and appearances in dealing with agencies and the public whenever possible. Special emphasis should be given to public education.
5. Anthropologists and Native Americans should work together to solve problems of vandalism, looting, and desecration.
6. Procedures should be developed for cooperation between anthropologists and Native Americans.
7. The subcommittee shall prepare (for internal consideration) draft materials including the following: a statement on the ethics pertaining to excavation and reburial; possible changes to ARPA, NHPA, and other appropriate federal laws and regulations; model state-level legislation (non-prescriptive); and it shall address the matter of deaccession.
8. The subcommittee shall make recommendations for future interaction of interested and relevant parties on the local regional, and national levels.

### **UPDATE ON THE TASK FORCE ON VANDALISM**

The task force submitted a report to Governor Bangert in July on the issues of vandalism in the state. The governor then requested specific recommendations for alleviating the problem from the task force. A list of such recommendations has now been compiled, primarily by David Madsen, but have not yet been reviewed by the whole task force. The task force will meet in the near future to review these recommendations and to decide which are to be conveyed to the governor for his action.

### **UPAC WINTER MEETINGS**

The winter UPAC meetings will be held on December 6-7, 1985 in Salt Lake City. The exact location has not yet been determined. DON'T FORGET: UPAC dues are due at the winter meetings.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD AT THE WINTER UPAC MEETINGS**

#### **"FRONTIERS IN CULTURE HISTORY"**

With the success of the symposium on paleoenvironments at the summer UPAC meetings, we are planning another for the winter meetings in Salt Lake. The symposium will explore topics in the culture history of the Intermountain region that have benefited from new perspectives and from developments in archeological methods and theory over the past decade or two. The symposium will be held at the general meeting on Friday evening, December 6. The symposium is being chaired by Dr. Steven Sims of Weber State College -- he will have details ready for the next newsletter.

### **THANKS TO GEORGIA BETH THOMPSON AND JIM DYKMAN**

We extend our thanks to Georgia Beth Thompson for serving as the editor of UPAC since its inception. We appreciate the effort she has made in helping to keep UPAC members informed of our activities. We also thank Jim Dykman for serving as secretary of UPAC.

## **COMING ELECTIONS**

Elections will be held at the December 1985 business for the following offices: **PRESIDENT**

**VP FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ETHICS**

**TREASURER**

## **UTAH STATEWIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

UPAC members are encouraged to join and participate in the activities of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society (USAS), the largest group of amateur archeologists in the state.

## **CURRENT RESEARCH REPORTS**

**Research near Blanding by Weber State College  
by Steven R. Simms**

The Weber State College archeological field school completed six weeks of survey and test excavation near Blanding, Utah to help assess the vandalism problem in southeastern Utah. The project involved survey and recording of Anasazi sites on BLM/USFS lands in the vicinity of Allen and Chippean Canyons and Butler Wash. Also, selected sites originally recorded in 1972 by Brigham Young University were rerecorded to observe changes in site condition. Two test excavations at storage sites on the Manti-LaSal National Forest were also completed. Over 95% of the sites recorded were vandalized, with most alcove sites extensively vandalized. Rerecording of sites visited by BYU showed considerable damage since 1972. Open sites frequently exhibited the most recent vandalism supporting the common sense expectation that the open sites will be destroyed next. Weber State College will produce a management report on the findings, a video tape (made with assistance from the US Forest Service Regional Office and the USC

