

JANUARY
2017

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

50
CALGARY
CENTRE
years

JANUARY LECTURE

Wednesday, January 18th, 2017

University of Calgary

Tom Oliver Room, ES 162, 7:30pm

Medicine Wheels and Ceremonial Landscapes: Building on Richard G. Forbis's Pioneering Contributions

Dr. Brian Reeves (Lifeways of Canada Limited) &
Dr. Margaret Kennedy (University of Saskatchewan)

ABSTRACT - The contributions to the archaeology of the Northwestern Plains by Dick Forbis, Alberta's first archaeologist, were many, particularly in his ten years with the Glenbow Foundation (ca. 1955-1965). Among these were the recording, mapping and excavations of Alberta medicine wheels such as Rumsey, British Block, Grassy Lake and Manyberries. However, Dick, as well as others in more recent years such as Jim Calder who worked at the Majorville Medicine Wheel, focused on the medicine wheels themselves not the archaeological landscapes in which they sit. The study and interpretation of these landscapes and the ceremonial stone feature sites contained therein are, in our opinion, critical to understanding why medicine wheels are where they are.



We illustrate this significance through a review of our past four years of study at the Bull's Forehead and Minor Medicine Wheel Complexes at and above the Forks of the Red Deer and South Saskatchewan rivers. These large-scale ceremonial complexes, each extending over 10 km along and 1-5 km behind the valley edges and containing 1000s of ceremonial stone features, are situated and constructed to be where significant focal river valley landscape features are visible.

They were places of pilgrimage, constructed over a period of 1000-2000 years by ancestral Gros Ventre prior to their decimation by European diseases in the 1500s. They continued to be venerated and visited by Blackfoot peoples who shared this landscape and continued to construct their own memorial style medicine wheels along these rivers.

These complexes and archaeological river valley and prairie edge landscapes in which they lie are certainly among the largest and best preserved of their kind in Canada and deserve recognition, designation, interpretation and protection by our provincial and federal governments.



Dr. Brian Reeves (Barney) obtained a BA in Philosophy from the U of Calgary (1963) and took the first courses offered in archaeology from Dick Forbis. He carried on and completed his MA (1967) and PhD (1972) in Archaeology from U of Calgary, carrying out the first large scale excavations at the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in the 60's and directing the first archaeological inventories of Waterton, Banff, and Jasper National Parks between 1967-1972. Barney founded Lifeways of Canada Limited with three partners in 1972, the first Archaeological consulting company in AB. Currently he is working as an independent researcher on fun field archaeological projects, principally the Forks Project.



Dr. Margaret Kennedy is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Sask. and has taught there since 1993. Before taking up that position she taught at the University of Lethbridge for six years during and after her completion of her Ph.D at U of C and before that she was employed at Lifeways of Canada after obtaining her MA in 1979 at the U of C. All of her work and research since arriving in Calgary from Ontario in 1976 has taken place in the northwestern plains in both pre-contact and historical archaeology. Most recently, Margaret has been working on the Cabri Lakes and Forks Projects. The interconnected landscape aspects of both of these projects is what really interests her.

NOVEMBER LECTURE REVIEW

Before the Khans: The Archaeology of the Xiongnu Empire in Mongolia

Dr. Erik Johannesson

The November talk, “Before the Khans: The Archaeology of the Xiongnu Empire in Mongolia”, presented by Dr. Erik Johannesson, showcases how political changes in the Xiongnu of Mongolia resulted in changing funerary traditions, and more importantly, how we can observe these changes in the Archaeological record. Dr. Johannesson covers the historical rise of the Xiongnu as reported in Chinese Texts, before transitioning to the various styles of Xiongnu and Pre-Xiongnu tombs found in Mongolia, through his field work conducted at Baga Gazaryn Chuluu and Shom-buuzin Belchir. The dramatic changes in tomb style and their positioning on the landscape forms the basis of Dr. Johannesson’s argument that these changes are intentional, and serve to enforce a Xiongnu identity and conversely discourage association with Pre-Xiongnu identities. Dr. Johannesson further argues this point by showing evidence of violent trauma to the interred remains. Dr. Johannesson combines this all together with the idea of scalar memory, suggesting that the dramatic change in funerary tradition is an intentional action to disrupt individual and local memories in favor of strengthening a collective Xiongnu identity. Dr. Johannesson’s thorough analysis of political history, mortuary archaeology and landscape archaeology were combined into brilliant presentation that challenges our understanding of the ways that nomadic societies create and maintain their polities.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA - CALGARY CENTRE STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to our student awards winners! The awards were presented at our November 2016 lecture.

Wes Johnston Student Award in Archaeology – University of Calgary



Julien Favereau and Shelia Johnston

Humphreys Student Award in Archaeology - Mount Royal University



Carissa Nakesch

INTRODUCTION TO FLINTKNAPPING AND STONE TOOLS WORKSHOP 2017

Back for the seventh consecutive year, we are offering our workshop over two days at the *Museum of the Highwood in High River*.

On **Saturday March 25th, 2017** we will be offering an Introduction to Flintknapping. This course will be beneficial to those new to making stone tools, as well as those just looking for a little extra practice and a few pointers. A basic introduction to techniques involved in the production of chipped stone tools will include: platform preparation, hard hammer and soft hammer percussion and pressure flaking. **The course runs 9 am to 3 pm, at the Museum of the Highwood in High River.**

On **Sunday March 26th, 2017**, we will be holding a full day Knap-In. This course is aimed at those with a strong desire to improve their existing flintknapping and prehistoric technology skills. The workshop will take the form of instructor led discussion and demonstration on platform preparation and thinning, followed by the numerous techniques utilized in the hafting of arrowheads and spear points to tool shafts (notching, raw hide, sinew, hide glue etc..) As in previous Knap-Ins, we encourage participants to bring their own projects to share experience, skills, and techniques with others. Projects in the past have included slate knives, multi component tools, fluting and the fletching of arrows. **The course runs 9 am to 3 pm at the Museum of the Highwood in High River.** Please note, that in order to take the second day, you must have taken the first day or an equivalent course (experience with flintknapping is required).

\$35.00 for one day / \$50.00 for both days

***Special one day discount rate for students (\$30.00)**

Includes instructions, all materials and lunch.

Space is limited!

Priority will be given to Archaeological Society Members.

Please contact **Brent Murphy** for more information or to register at brent@lifewaysofcanada.com

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster at the Archaeological Society of Alberta joint meeting with the Saskatchewan Archaeological Association, April 27-30, 2017 please contact our Provincial Coordinator at arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com with your name and abstract

GLENBOW PROJECT BLOG POST

Learn about how the holidays were spent at the Glenbow Townsite-

Christmases Past: Holiday Photos from Glenbow
www.peyerl.ca/quill

UPCOMING EVENTS, LECTURES, and CONFERENCES

Alberta Palaeontological Society

Mammals and climate change in the Eocene of North America

Dr. Alexander Dutchak, University of Calgary

Friday, January 20th, 2017, 7:30pm

Mount Royal University, Room B108



Fossil characterisation through destructive morphological modelling.

Dr. Christopher Boyd, Geoscientist at Shell

Friday, February 24th, 2017, 7:30pm

Mount Royal University, Room B108

please check their website for further information <http://www.albertapaleo.org/>

Chinook Country Historical Society

By Word of Mouth: Annie McDougall and the Writing of *Latch String Out*

George Colpitts, Professor of History University of Calgary

Tuesday January 24th 2017, 7:30pm

Fort Calgary, Officers Mess, 750 9th Ave SE

Elder in the Making

Chris Hsiung, Producer and Director

Tuesday, February 28th 2017, 7:30pm

Location TBA

<http://elderinthemaking.com/>

The Cluny Site is visited as part of this documentary!

please check their website for further information <http://www.chinookcountry.org/>

Archaeological Society of Alberta - Strathcona Centre (Edmonton)

Historic Burial Near Viking Alberta: A Story of Excavation, Ceremony and Community

Carolyn Hudecek-Cuffe, Aaron Wilson (Alberta Culture and Tourism),

Ron Laneman (Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, and Pam Mayne-Correia (U of A)

Thursday, January 19th, 2017, 7:00pm

Grant MacEwan University, Downtown Campus, Room 7-333 (archaeology lab)

SAVE the DATES

Annual General Meeting & Conference of the Archaeological Society of Alberta joint with the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

April 27-30, 2017, Cypress Hills, SK.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN THE NEW YEAR!

Canadian Archaeological Association

May 10-13 2017, Ottawa Ontario

www.canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting

Society for American Archaeology

March 29-April 2 2017, Vancouver, BC

<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/AnnualMeeting/tabid/138/Default.aspx>