

Archaeological Society of Alberta Annual Meeting 2010

Saturday May 1, 2010 afternoon presentations

Session Chair: **Jack Ives**

12:30 – 12:50 Jason Roe

Loafing Cores: An Epiphany about the Mundane

12:55 – 1:15 Michelle Wickham

A discussion of wedge shaped microblade cores from two sites in Northern Alberta

1:20 – 1:40 Robin Woywitka, Laura Roskowski, and Kate Peach

Man and Machine: Effectively incorporating Eugene Gryba's site finding methods into a GIS-based predictive model

1:45 – 2:05 Gary Wowchuk

The Late Early Precontact Period in West Central Manitoba

2:10 – 2:30 COFFEE BREAK

2:30 – 2:50 Leo Pettipas and Morgan Tamplin

An Agate Basin Recovery in the Western Lake Agassiz Basin of Manitoba

2:55 – 3:15 Ruthann Knudson

Montana Paleoindians from A 2010 Perspective

3:20 – 3:40 John W. (Jack) Ives

Living in the Moment—Northern Alberta Assemblages Reflecting Instants in Time

3:45 – 4:05 Alison Landals

Late Pleistocene Human Use of the Canadian Rockies

Discussant: **Alice Kehoe**

4:30 35th Annual ASA General Meeting

Alberta Archaeological Society - 2010 AGM Abstracts

Contributed Papers on Paleoindian / Lithic Utilization Studies
(In recognition of the contributions of Eugene Gryba)

Session Chair: Jack Ives, University of Alberta

Participant:

Jason Roe
Lifeways of Canada Limited

Title:

Loafing Cores: An Epiphany about the Mundane.

Abstract:

What is a loafing core? To best answer this question I will look at four elements of loafing cores that I believe should provide some preliminary answers to this question. I will provide a definition and description of loafing technology. I will talk about how these cores fit in the Precontact Period both temporally and spatially. I will endeavor to answer the question 'why were Precontact peoples using this type of spalling technology?' Lastly, and most importantly, I will answer the question 'can this technology be replicated?' This presentation has a two-fold objective one is to showcase a little known stone tool technological phenomenon with exciting insights into the technological behaviors of Precontact people in Alberta and the second is to open up dialogue that will allow for a better understanding of loafing core technology.

Participant:

Michelle Wickham
Senior Project Archaeologist, Bison Historical Services Ltd.

Title:

A discussion of wedge shaped microblade cores from two sites in Northern Alberta

Abstract:

This presentation will look at two case studies from the boreal forest near Fort McMurray, AB. In an area dominated by Beaver River Sandstone, two chert microblade cores stand out, and will be the focus of this discussion. Although age and cultural association is difficult to derive given the context from which these artifacts were recovered. Manufacturing techniques and the results of blood residue analysis provide interesting distributional and chronological implications.

Participant:

Robin Woywitka, Laura Roskowski and Kate Peach
ACCS, Stantec

Title:

Man and Machine: Effectively incorporating Eugene Gryba's site finding methods into a GIS-based predictive model

Abstract:

In the boreal forest of Alberta, impact assessments conducted by Eugene Gryba have yielded a significantly high number of archaeological sites relative to the areas tested. In general, Eugene focuses shovel testing on landforms in locations considered to have high resource diversity. Interestingly, these sites are often in areas ranked as low to moderate archaeological potential in GIS-based predictive models. We identify some of Eugene's key site indicators and combine them with landform characteristics derived from LiDAR and other data in an effort to create a Gryba-esque map of archaeological potential for a select drainage basin in the oil sands region.

Participant:

Gary Wowchuk
Western Heritage Services

Title:

The Late Early Precontact Period in West Central Manitoba

Abstract:

The Swan River Valley in West Central Manitoba has received a great deal of attention by both avocational and professional archaeologists over the last fifty years. Starting in the 1960's with the Glacial Lake Agassiz Survey a number of researchers including Leo Pettipas and Eugene Gryba have documented a number of surface collected Paleo-Indian diagnostics. These include specimens sharing traits consistent with a number of recognized point styles including fluted/basely thinned, Goshen, Cody complex and Agate Basin Like. This large sample of artefacts along with time sensitive geographic boundaries in the way of the fossil beaches of glacial Lake Agassiz provides us with a unique opportunity to study distribution patterns. Based on these distributions we are able to compare differences in assemblages from above and below the Campbell strandlines. Some of these differences seem to suggest the possibility that two distinct complexes containing Agate Basin like points separated by time may exist.

Participant:

Leo Pettipas and Morgan Tamplin
Manitoba Archaeological Society

Title:

An Agate Basin Recovery in the Western Lake Agassiz Basin of Manitoba

Abstract:

In 2008 a complete Agate Basin point was brought to light northeast of Morden, Manitoba during pipeline construction. The geographical location of the find, the current Lake Agassiz chronology, and the antiquity of the Agate Basin point type together suggest that the artefact was deposited around 10,000 radiocarbon years ago on the temporarily drained floor of Lake Agassiz during its Moorhead low-water phase. The recovery lends support to the long-standing hypothesis that people occupied the temporarily drained lake basin during the Moorhead lowstand, and suggests that Agate Basin was probably one of the complexes so involved.

Participant:

Ruthann Knudson
Knudson Associates, Montana State University, California Academy of Sciences; Great Falls, MT

Title:

Montana PaleoIndians from a 2010 Perspective

Abstract:

Montana has been occupied during the past 13,500 years. Excavated sites include Anzick (Clovis), Mill Iron (Goshen), MacHaffie (Folsom and Scottsbluff), Indian Creek (Folsom/Bitterroot/Agate Basin), Barton Gulch (Alder), Myers-Hindman (Alder/Bitterroot), Black Bear Coulee (Bitterroot), and Mammoth Meadow/Everson Creek (Cody). There are many surface-collected sites whose collections include Clovis points, crescents, and Plains Plano and Plateau/Great Basin Windust, Haskett, and Bitterroot points. Clearly Montana, with its easy passes into the Snake River Plain and Plateau as well as access to the Plains from the 57th to below the 41st latitude, reflects a variety of Paleoindian cultural and technological patterns.

Participant:

John W. (Jack) Ives

Executive Director, Institute of Prairie Archaeology/Department of Anthropology,
University of Alberta

Title:

Living in the Moment—Northern Alberta Assemblages Reflecting Instants in Time

Abstract:

Although the archaeological record for Alberta's Boreal Forest is challenging because of frequent palimpsest accumulations in poorly stratified sites, the vast scale of Subarctic socioeconomic arrangements resulted in some assemblages that reflect the thinnest slices of time. One cache of large flakes in the Oil Sands region is likely associated with the Paleoindian interval (Cody Complex or earlier materials). A second example comes from very late in the prehistoric record of the nearby Birch Mountains, in a concentration of 400 tools and flakes abandoned after transport. The two instances speak to distinctly different modes of technological organization.

Participant:

Alison Landals

FMA Heritage Inc.

Title:

Late Pleistocene Human Use of the Canadian Rockies

Abstract:

It has been nearly 30 years since Gryba (1983) reported on the first excavated fluted point component in Alberta, at the Sibbald Creek site. Since then, continued research by a number of individuals has revealed a handful of well stratified sites with radiometrically dated Late Pleistocene components along the eastern slopes of the Rockies. Together with Gryba's fluted point inventory, these sites provide key data for understanding the earliest cultural adaptations in the region. These data are often overlooked in broad based regional syntheses for this time period.

Discussant

Alice Kehoe

Contributing Discussion