Kennewick Man was about 5 feet 9 inches tall, and had a robust, muscular build. At the time of his death, he was between 30 and 50 years of age and had survived a projectile point wound in his right hip. The area of Eastern Washington where he was found was cooler and wetter 9,000 years ago than today, with grasslands and scattered pine forests covering the land. Ancient large bison, elk, deer, fish, freshwater shellfish, and plants were important sources of food. In the 1960s and 1970s, other human remains dating to 10,000 years ago were found just north of Kennewick with knives, spear blades, drills, spear-thrower parts, and other tools, as well as shell jewelry.

regret, it was decided this will not become a new quarry for us. We are always on the lookout and remain hopeful.

The next couple of weeks were spent in the lab continuing with fossil preparation and at the museum building a new display. This new display is up and running now and well worth a visit to the museum. A corner of the gallery upstairs was converted to a small room in which two display cases house minerals that are fluorescent under a Blacklight. It’s pretty cool how some common looking rock samples under white light take on a rather colorful display when you switch over to a Blacklight. Drop in and take a look.

Later in April we got back outside for a day in the Swell, east of Clawson, following a dirt track that wandered through the Cedar Mountain and Morrison formations. Found some weathered bone scatters, but nothing of quarry caliber. We did enjoy some beautiful country, surveyed an area we had not looked at before and disturbed a flock of wild turkey who held the high ground on a rock promontory. This was the first time I have seen wild turkey in the high desert.

Early May saw the final UFOP meeting for the duration of the summer. The new Club Czar, Barbara Benson (B2) grabbed the reins with gusto and promised a busy year with lots of activities, adventures, newsletters and fossil material to collect and prep for the museum. Go, B2! On the 11, 12 and 13 we got out to our EO2 quarry. This quarry has been active for about 10 years and when we closed it down last fall the thinking was that EO2 was about done. I am pleased to report that after our first outing there this season a large number of high quality bone has appeared and it is looking like EO2 is active for at least one more season. Cool! Now we will have to haul out some stout 4X4 posts and shore up the growing, and threatening, overhang that has developed these last few seasons.

A short distance from EO2 is a site discovered last year that showed enough promise with the quality of the surface scatter that we went back this spring and poked around with added vigor. These efforts produced some fine fossil material, some Eolambia, something else of comparable size, some turtle and a croc. We call this site WS22 for Willow Springs and we will apply for a permit. With luck we will be back out there working a new quarry site.

In the first week of June John and I, with the company of Marvin Evans and Ramal Jones, piled into a museum vehicle and headed for Casper, WY. The Tate Museum, a part of Casper College, was hosting the second annual Preparators Symposium and Conference. If you are interested in preparing and excavating fossil material then you will find this gathering full of useful information. Sixty plus folks gathered for three days to attend workshops on silicone molding, carbowax backings for delicate bone preparation, new stuff on air abrasion methods and a host of short presentations on cool stuff like using wax to reshape distorted fossils, soft tissue preservation and recognizing insect traces on fossil bone. The long drive back...
through the wondrous spring greens of the high grassy plains of WY and CO was made all the more magical with a head full of exciting ideas shared during this symposium.

Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry has it’s summer batch of student interns again this year and several of these young folks have been coming into the bone lab to have a go at fossil prep. It’s nice to have the youthful energy bubbling around the lab. We made it out to the Suarez Sisters site in mid June and opened the quarry for what we hope will be a busy summer. As days off allow, we hope to get these interns out to the quarries. Its good for them to gain the experience and great for us to have some extra hands. The first couple of days we spent out there was very promising with the discovery of a new batch of high quality fossil material in a different part of the quarry. You may recall that the SS quarry has yielded two different dinos. The principal part of the collection has been made up of the small, birdlike therizinosaur, Falcarius utahensis and underneath this little guy we hope to find more of the massive, armored dino Nodosaur, yet to be named. This big boy will represent the fifth species of nodosaur this museum has excavated and, by far, the largest of the five. The armor plates that we have brought out thus far are amazingly thick, suggesting a very well protected critter.

The summer, which is just starting, is packed full of dig dates. I encourage you to take advantage of this fine weather we are having and come on out with us. We have all the digging tools and supplies, and we even have some left over tents from past groups. We have the cook stove, tables, chairs, tarps and water containers. What we need is you. I remind you that you do not need prior experience to work at our quarries. We will spend some time with you to get you started and then pair you up with a crusty veteran. We are all crowded into the same hole in the ground, so help is never far away. There is a wonderful sense of discovery working in a quarry and it is a valuable contribution to our museum. Give us a call and check on some of the dates and we can take a little time to answer your questions and twist your arm just a little bit.

Have a great summer, Bill

FYI

One of the grand discoveries at the Casper conference was the fact that Legos can be used to create dams for casting. The Legos help keep your goop in a group and can be custom built to fit the need for each cast. Also they are reusable! The museum is looking for donations of Leggo blocks for the Paleo Lab. Please drop off your donations at the museum 155 East Main Street. We appreciate your support.
EDUCATION AND EXHIBITS
By Lloyd E. Logan

It has been a busy spring in the museum with tours given to 743 school children in May alone (and over 1100 since the first of January). This may not seem like a lot, but when you consider that each of these children has at least one question during a tour, the words per tour increase dramatically. Several schools from the Wasatch front visited the museum, a trend we hope continues. As a direct result of the wet June we have been experiencing, we have also had frequent groups of campers, that have been rained out of outdoor activities, visiting the museum.

Prehistory Week activities paralleled CEU spring training this year. The museum sponsored a fossil-collecting trip to the San Rafael Swell led by Robert DeGroff and myself. All 17 participants found a few cephalopod fossils and had a great time on a beautiful spring day. A brief stop on the way home allowed participants to collect septarian nodules, many with very nice calcite crystal centers. The spring wildflowers were beginning to bloom, a nice bonus to cap off the day. Red and yellow Indian paintbrush, brilliant scarlet claret cup cactus, and a few spectacular bright yellow prince’s plumes blooming where no other plant could live on the barren shale slopes. The prickly pear cacti, with their pink or yellow blossoms, were just beginning to open with a promise of future splendor.

Just in case you haven’t visited the museum in the last couple of months, we now have a new exhibit featuring fluorescent minerals. This exhibit has two sections, one featuring minerals from Utah and one with minerals from outside the state. A timer on a push-button controls the room lights and the ultraviolet lights that cause the minerals to “light up”. It has been responsible for a number of “Way Cool” comments heard in the gallery and entered in the guest book. If you haven’t seen a fluorescent mineral display, you owe it to yourself to stop by and check this one out. Hope to see you soon.

The Kennewick Man traveling exhibit will be installed and open by the time you receive this newsletter. It is an interesting exhibit featuring an archaic human skeleton found in the Columbia River near Kennewick, Oregon. This skeleton is one of the earliest human skeletons ever found in North America and bears little resemblance to current Native American tribes. The Prehistoric Museum will have an accompanying temporary exhibit on the importance of archaic human skeletons to science. Be sure to stop by and check out these new exhibits.

Feeding time for the critters remains at 4:00 PM on Fridays.

The average number of visitors has dropped a little since school has let out for the summer, but we still have 15 to 40+ visitors for each feeding. Even if you have seen it once, you need to stop by again. The animals now expect to be fed on Fridays and are ready and waiting for their mice. All the animals are aggressive feeders, with the soft-shelled turtle possibly the most aggressive. She not only chases down her swimming own mice, she regularly attempts to take kills away from the alligator. The water monitor has been known to leap from one branch in his cage to another, grab a mouse while his body is in mid-air, and hang by one front foot while he killed the mouse. Things like this don’t happen each week, but they happen often enough to make it exciting for visitors. Stop by and see for yourself – kids love it and mothers watch it reluctantly, but very few people turn their backs on the feedings. Several family groups have made it a regular Friday excursion.

If you don’t have a family membership yet, a $30 family membership will get you and your immediate family unlimited visits to the museum as well as free admission to special activities sponsored by the museum, and a discount at the museum gift shop.
A heavy-bodied mammal with unusual horns and five hooved toes on each foot, the Uintatherium was the size of a large modern rhinoceros. It browsed on soft-leaved plants with its long, strong canine teeth. This animal lived in western North America about 50 million years ago.
Our first week excavating “Little Village” in Range Creek was extremely productive, in spite of unpredictable weather and adjustments to field conditions. We flagged artifacts and mapped with a GPS and a total station, set grid stakes, took notes, assessed sediments, excavated, screened, bagged and FS’d many artifacts, and toured rock art and granaries. Celia Jean found a complete, beautiful side-notched point, and the 2-meter crew found a partial bowl associated with a possible second occupation about a meter and a half into the structure.

The SciGirls chosen for this episode are Gates and Jazzy. Gates and Jazzy, their Moms Kristen and Carol, a little brother, and the Twin Cities Public TV film crew were with us Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and then spent the morning on Saturday wrapping up the episode filming in the museum. In Range Creek we worked with them recording rock art, excavating a Fremont site and rappelling into a granary, and had lots of fun. The film crew provided s’mores, guitar music by the SciGirls and great company and conversation around the campfire.

The girls worked on their own hypotheses about life in Range Creek 1000 years ago. Very impressive! Gates has promised to come volunteer at the museum and help label and process artifacts-- we look forward to working with her and hope she will be a future CEU student and archaeology intern at the museum. Jazzy said she has decided to change her career plans, and will be a professional archaeologist!

The SciGirls Crew included producer Angela Ewald, associate producer Marissa Blahnick, director of photography Mike Phillips, audio recordist/mixer Brian Pederson, professional climber Greg Child and production assistant Bart.

SciGirl Jazzy

The third week we uncovered a beautiful paved hearth with ash originating on the first, bright-orange floor, with oxidized and charred areas along the edges, and found a whole, perfect two-hand mano just above the floor (hopefully this will match up with the trough metate found last week). We also uncovered part of the rim and shoulder of a large decorated grayware applique jar in a small subfloor pit not far from the hearth and mano, in addition to a complete Bear River side-notch projectile point, charred animal bone, ceramics and lithic debitage in the levels above the floor. The crew has been taking sediments for analyses from all levels, and we have found lots of charcoal for radiocarbon dates. Artifacts sitting on the floor are remarkably sparse, but do include the large jar fragment found near the hearth by the SciGirls last week and dozens of tiny micro-debitage flakes in one corner of floor-- It looks like we may have a layer of roof fall along with rocks from the back wall of the structure overlying the floor and associated occupation level in the central portion of the structure.

SciGirl Gates

Read about week four by visiting The Dirt on Archaeology blog at http://thedirtonarchaeology.blogspot.com/
The River Knows Everything
Desolation Canyon and the Green
James M. Aton
photography by Dan Miller

In a word, The River Knows Everything is invaluable. Jim Aton has revealed the stories, the characters, and the long-forgotten history of the area. There are no books that even come close to the level of detail on the subject and depth of research that this one reveals. Dan Miller’s beautiful color photographs make the book doubly attractive for river runners and everyone else.
—Roy Webb, author of Riverman: The Story of Bus Hatch

Voices of Desolation Canyon

Watch four experts with long tenures in Desolation Canyon tell riveting stories about life along the Green River.

Souvenirs and Keepsakes
We now have porcelain, silver and gold thimbles with the museum logo!

Please remember that your purchases at the Gift Shop are a great way to support the museum. Besides having a unique item for yourself or your event, you can have the peace of mind in knowing that your purchases go towards supporting a great facility!

Remember also, that the museum lobby, gift shop and information center are free to the public. We happen to have a fabulous fountain of information located in the museum lobby. The Castle Country Regional Information Center (CCRIC) has a plethora of literature including maps, state and national park information, tourist destination information, directions, dining and hotel accommodation information complete with an information specialist to assist you with all of your information and literature needs and best of all, it is a FREE service!
CEU Prehistoric Museum
451 East 400 North
Price, Utah 84501
Located at 155 East Main Street
Visit us on the web at
http://museum.ceu.edu

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED