

UTAH COUNTY CHAPTER

President:

Troy & Karyn Gustafson
291 W Peppermint Court
Saratoga Springs
UT 84045

Co-Vice-Presidents:

Vacancy
Your Help Is Needed
Utah Couty Chapter
USAS Contact
Karyn, Troy, Toni, or Ren

Advisor:

Dr. James Allison
Allen Hall
BYU Provo, Ut
84602

Utah Statewide Archaeological Society
Utah County Chapter
March Regular Meeting

March 15, 2012 7:00 PM

Provo City Library Rm. 308 or 309
550 North University Ave, Provo, Utah

Treasurer:

Toni Wall
2105 Powerhouse Road
Spanish Fork Utah 84660
801-798-2085

Secretary:

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Karyn, Troy, Toni, or Ren

Newsletter Editor

Ren Thomas
449 South 100 E.
Nephi, Ut 84648
thomas2014_1@msn.com

Find us at:

<http://www.utaharchaeology.org/> -And- <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/USAS-group/>

MARCH 2012

March Regular Meeting Thursday March 15th, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Provo City Library Rm 308 or 309, 550 North University Ave, Provo, Utah

Our speaker next week will be Deb Harris from the Office of Public Archaeology at BYU. This presentation will give the group a taste of what has been happening at the site of the original Provo Tabernacle, and remind everyone to hurry and visit the excavation before it ends at the end of March!

Presenter: Deb Harris, Office of Public Archaeology, BYU

The Original Provo Tabernacle was dedicated in August 1867 and served as an important church meeting house in Provo for many years, until it was razed in 1919. Following the announcement that the current Provo Tabernacle building would be restored to become an LDS temple, the BYU Office of Public Archaeology was asked to conduct archaeological excavations of the original tabernacle. These have focused on exposure of foundation walls, structural features, architectural details and artifacts within the building. The presentation will provide an overview of the archaeological investigation to date.

Meetings held: Third Thursday of the month

While visiting the Tabernacle grounds, make a day of it and visit the Museum of Peoples and Cultures at 700 North and 100 East just off University Avenue. The Utah Valley exhibit is ending this month.

Beneath Your Feet: Discovering the Archaeology of Utah Valley

From the MPC's online newsletter

After two years of bringing Utah Valley history to life, *Beneath Your Feet: Uncovering the Archaeology of Utah Valley* will be coming down after March 30th. This exhibition has played a large role in many of the MPC's educational programs, which led to it receiving the "Leadership in History" award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

People have lived in Utah Valley for thousands of years. Hunter-gatherers, known as the Archaic culture (6000 BC - AD 400), existed until the introduction of farming around AD 400. A culture reliant on farming, labeled as Fremont (AD 400 - 1300), lasted until drought and societal change pushed them from the Valley. Hunting-gathering groups, such as the later Ute, moved in making hunting-gathering the local lifestyle until Mormon settlers came in 1849.

This exhibition focuses on the Fremont, those who lived and farmed here over one thousand years ago. Thriving off the abundant resources of the area, their communities surrounded Utah Lake in the same areas we have built our own towns. Through archaeology, the remains of the Fremont culture are providing an interesting, yet elusive, look into the history of Utah Valley.

Modern development continues to obscure their homes, so we invite you to discover the history literally beneath our homes, streets, sidewalks, and gardens before their remains disappear forever.

Statewide News

**UTAH STATEWIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING PRESIDENTS MEETING
Manti-LaSal Forest Service Building
599 Price River Drive, Price, Utah
March 10, 2012 10:00 am**

2010 Utah Archaeology Journal

The 2010 issue of *Utah Archaeology* is available for distribution! It will be delivered to the Chapter Presidents at the Spring Meeting in Price. The 2009 "Student" issue is still in progress and it's hoped that it will be available soon. We would like to express our appreciation to David Yoder and Chris Watkins, Co-Editors of *Utah Archaeology*, for their hard work in publishing the journal.

Upcoming USAS/UPAC Conventions

The 2012 USAS/UPAC Convention is planned for June, 7-10, 2012. To be held in Blanding, Utah, and hosted by the Trail of the Ancients Chapter of USAS.

The 2013 Convention is to be hosted by us, the Utah County Chapter in June of 2013.

February Regular Meeting Thursday February 16th, 2012, 7:00 pm Lehi's Hutchings Museum, 55 North Center Street in Lehi, Utah

Our Guest speaker was Tom Flanigan with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests. He presented a report on his project "Decisions in the Desert: Behavioral Implications of Obsidian Procurement in Utah's West Desert". This is an ongoing research project that is studying the transport distance of obsidian found in archaeological sites in the Vernon Unit and the Stansbury Mountains. The study is investigating whether transport distance, or the quality of toolstone, is the driving variable for the bulk of culturally transported obsidian found in these two study areas.

He also discussed the Heritage Stewardship volunteer program that offers the public a chance to volunteer for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest's Heritage Program in a number of ways. Volunteer opportunities range from office based administrative assistance to monitoring archaeological sites in the field.