We are heading south for the Project Archaeology Coordinator’s Conference this year. The conference will be held at the Horace Albright Training Center in Grand Canyon, AZ. http://www.nps.gov/training/hoal/. The Center is located within the Grand Canyon’s South Rim. The date of the conference is September 27–October 1, 2010. Joëlle Clark is our on-the-ground coordinator for this year’s conference, so it should be a good one!

At the Albright Training Center we will stay in single-occupancy studio apartments. Meals will be on your own this year since we will have kitchenettes in the rooms and a cafeteria near the Albright Center. We are planning a communal meal for Thursday night that will be included in the cost of registration. Project Archaeology is able to pay a large portion of the lodging this year, thanks to a generous grant from the Bureau of Land Management. You will need to pay a registration fee of $95, which covers your lodging and the Thursday evening meal. We are now equipped to take credit cards, so if you need to pay by credit card call Crystal Alegria at (406) 994-6925.

We have gone to a biannual conference schedule, so there won’t be another conference until 2012, so we hope to see you in the Grand Canyon! There are still spots available.

If you have any questions, would like to register, or need additional information please contact Kathy Francisco at (406) 994-6727 or email Kathy at: kfrancisco@montana.edu.

The Horace M. Albright Training Center

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Archaeoastronomy Unit  

By Ivy Merriot

Looking at the stars while digging in the earth...what could be better? Archaeoastronomy is the science of observing archaeological evidence in respect to the astronomical function it may hold. Stonehenge is a well known example of an archaeoastronomical site. Here, large stones create a horseshoe shape and align with particular motions of the sun, moon and stars. At Stonehenge research has often focused on the possibility of astronomy practiced there by ancient people.

Drs. Alice Kehoe, Jack Robinson and John Eddy discovered the astronomy of North American medicine wheels when the pattern of stones creating these wheels seemed to speak of a relationship with the sky. They found the dates from archaeological evidence matched the dates from astronomical evidence at medicine wheel sites. In November Project Archaeology will offer an online workshop for teachers interested in teaching archaeoastronomy in their 4-6th grade classrooms or in K-Adult informal educational settings. Astronomy at the “American Stonehenge” the Big Horn Medicine Wheel in Wyoming is the basis for these archaeoastronomy lessons. Teachers will learn how to help their students use a wheel of stones to observe, track, and predict celestial phenomena. In the classroom, students will create their own model of a medicine wheel and experiment with rays of light to determine alignments of sun, moon and stars with the stones of the medicine wheel.

The Medicine Wheel Special Topic Unit will be taught online starting November 8 and ending November 29, 2010 (three weeks in length). The cost is $125.00, materials are included. For more details or to register for the next online workshop, call Ivy Merriot at 406.920.1778 or email Merriot@imt.net.

PA Leadership Academy  

by Kathy J. Francisco

Project Archaeology conducted a leadership Academy (June 21-25, 2010) for social studies and science teachers from throughout the western United States to learn about cultural resources on public lands and the importance of protecting these lands for their scientific and heritage values. The Academy focused on the curriculum Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter, using the Poplar Forest Investigation due to its national application. The eighteen participants attending the Academy on the campus of Montana State University learned to use the curriculum and learned about archaeological inquiry.

Participants returned to their home states - twelve states were represented - with the intention of teaching the curriculum to their peers through workshops, online courses, institutes, or job-embedded mentoring. Deborah Stevenson, Curator of Education at Nevada’s State Museum, and Gail Omohundro, both Leadership Academy participants, are using Investigating Shelter for the Fall training for Museum volunteers. Other Academy participants are coordinating school district staff development workshops, a middle school after-school program, and a site specific stewardship program. Additionally, four of the participants completed the online training to become instructors of the online professional development course for teachers, Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter. The Leadership Academy was designed to establish a national network of master teachers to deliver Project Archaeology materials and professional development materials.

The Academy was rich with discussions, field trips, guest speakers, hands-on activities, and demonstrations. Project Archaeology has received funding to do the Leadership Academy again next June, so if you know of any teachers who may be interested, please contact Kathy Francisco at kfrancisco@montana.edu.
In April, the Annual Project Archaeology Coordinator’s meeting at the Society for American Archaeology conference in St. Louis drew 17 enthusiastic archaeology educators. We reviewed the new Project Archaeology Strategic Marketing Plan and started putting some of it into action. Joelle Clark, our Arizona coordinator, led 12 new coordinators and Bureau of Land Management archaeologists through an introduction to our new curriculum, Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter.

Summers at Project Archaeology are always busy and this year we’ve been busier than ever. We started off with a bang in May when five nationally recognized experts in informal science education came to Bozeman to continue our work on Archaeological Science for All (ASFA) project. The goal of ASFA, funded by the National Science Foundation planning grant, is to plan an archaeology education program for visitors to museums and science centers nationwide. John Falk, Oregon State University; Elaine Franklin, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center; Shirley Key, University of Memphis; Maureen Malloy, Society for American Archaeology; and Sara Wille, The Field Museum; spent three days helping us distill the results of the national Delphi Survey we conducted over the winter. With their assistance, we mapped out a course for future projects to bring archaeological science education to youth and family audiences throughout the nation.

We look forward to seeing you at the Biennial Coordinator’s Conference in September. We have sessions on site stewardship programs, indigenous perspectives in archaeology education, our new online courses, marketing our programs and materials, and much more.

Best regards,
Jeanne Moe

Absaroka Agency Collaborative Project
By Crystal Alegria

The Absaroka Agency Collaborative Archaeology Education Project (AACAEP) is a collaborative project involving Crow tribal members, archaeologists, and educators. In 2008, the Montana Department of Transportation completed test excavations at the former site of the Crow Indian Agency (1876 to 1883) in preparation to widen the road. After testing, it became apparent that much of the old Agency still existed under the ground, and it would be necessary to do a full scale excavation prior to the widening of the road which will occur in the summer of 2011.

Project Archaeology and the Montana Department of Transportation saw this as an exciting opportunity to join forces and develop culturally relevant education materials that focus on the archaeology of the Crow Indian Agency. The goals of this project are to (1.) Work collaboratively with the Crow tribe to develop and implement education materials for science and social studies and (2.) Encourage Crow students and community members to become involved in the excavations in 2011.

To accomplish these goals, Crystal Alegria, Montana Project Archaeology Coordinator, Steve Platt, MDT archaeologist, Steve Aaberg, Aaberg Cultural Resource Consulting, and Shane Doyle, Crow Tribal member and Curriculum Writer, traveled to the Crow reservation for two community meetings. At

Shane Doyle piloting the materials in a Crow Agency classroom.
Project Archaeology is an educational organization dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation’s rich cultural resources. We are a national network of archaeologists, educators, and concerned citizens working to make archaeology education accessible to students and teachers nationwide through high-quality educational materials and professional development. Project Archaeology is a joint program of Montana State University and the Bureau of Land Management.

these meetings all community members were invited to attend and comment on what they would like to see in the educational materials, and what research questions they had for the future excavations. The community meetings produced four enduring understandings (EUs). The first focuses on food. The Crow are interested in what people ate at this transitional time in their history. They would like to use the data to help their children eat better today. The second enduring understanding involves beadwork. The Crow are interested in the beads and other artwork excavated from the test units in 2008. The third EU includes the oral history of the Absaroka Agency, and the fourth EU involves the economy of trade goods. With this information, Shane Doyle is developing the educational materials based on these enduring understandings. Shane has piloted one of the lessons in a Crow Agency classroom, and will be piloting the remaining lessons in many more classrooms this fall. Next, we hope to include Crow students and community members in the excavations next summer, and further develop the curriculum based on the data recovered during the final phase of the excavation.

Steve Aaberg (Aaberg Cultural Resources), giving a power point presentation on the Absaroka Agency at the first community meeting in Crow Agency, MT.