

# MYAP NEWSLETTER

MONTANA YELLOWSTONE ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK & THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

## CINNABAR FOUND!!!

Friday, August 24, 2007—The Montana-Yellowstone Archeological Project—MYAP—successfully achieved its major field objective: identifying the location of the lost train depot of Cinnabar. Cinnabar was the official Northern Pacific train stop for Yellowstone National Park tourists between 1883-1903. After 1903, the Northern Pacific extended the rail line to Gardiner—3 miles southeast—near the famous North entrance stone arch. After 1903, Cinnabar was largely abandoned and its location became the stuff of local lore—until this summer. Yellowstone National Park Archeologist Ann Johnson pointed the MYAP crew to several depressions along the Old Yellowstone Road approximately 1 mile southeast of the far northern park boundary. MYAP archeologists focused their test excavations on an apparent line of rocks along one of the depressions. This line of river cobbles turned into a 5-ft.-deep mortared river cobble foundation (see below), presumably to the Cinnabar Hotel or a similarly large building. The MYAP archeological team also excavated the corner of the foundation, as well as the entry way to another building further south. Artifacts pulled from the Cinnabar excavations included a Northern Pacific rail sign, revolver bullets, newspaper fragments, and the sole to a cowboy boot.

MYAP Archeologists identified this 5-ft.-deep mortared river cobble foundation that may be the basement of the Old Cinnabar Hotel.



### VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

#### In this issue:

Cinnabar Found!!	1
MYAP Excavates 5 Prehistoric hearths	1
MYAP team loves field trips	2
Thanks for your hard work!	2

### AUGUST 24, 2007

#### Special points of interest:

Cinnabar was occupied between 1883-1903

Rocky Mountain CESU funded the MYAP ...Thanks Christine Whitacre!

The MYAP team identified 14 archeological sites during their survey of the Boundary Lands.

## MYAP EXCAVATES 5 PREHISTORIC HEARTHES

The MYAP team salvaged five prehistoric fire pits that were eroding out of the banks of the Yellowstone River, downstream of Cinnabar. The remains likely were used by the 2000-year-old Pelican Lake culture that lived along the Yellowstone River during the Late Archaic period.



## MONTANA YELLOWSTONE ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT

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The MYAP field camp was frequently visited by the locals



Sunrise over Indian Creek Field Camp



MYAPPers enjoying free time at camp



The MYAP team recovered nearly 50 projectile points during survey and excavation in the Boundary Land study area

## MYAP TEAM LOVES FIELD TRIPS

The 2007 MYAP field team enjoyed several field trips, including visits to Obsidian Cliff, the Yellowstone River, Gallatin National Forest, Yellowstone Lake, and Beartooth Pass.

Yellowstone Archeologist Elaine Hale led the trips to Obsidian Cliff, Yellowstone Lake and Gallatin National Forest. Elaine went out of her way to make the MYAP students have a wonderful experience in Yellowstone. At Obsidian Cliff, the MYAP team trudged through down fall and young pines to find obsidian quarry pits. Sheep hunting blinds were the pits of interest shown to MYAPPers by Gallatin National Forest archeologist Walt Allen. The entire MYAP team also floated the Yellowstone River on July 4, a great way to end the first 10-day session. The team also traveled to the Yellowstone Northeast entrance and had pizza and beer in Cooke City prior to visiting Beartooth Pass. Finally, Elaine took us all to Yellowstone Lake where we enjoyed a refreshing swim and a lecture on archeology around the lake.



CJ Truesdale holds a large Obsidian biface at Obsidian Cliff National Historic Landmark



Brenda Covington and Lester Maas at the Sheep Hunting Blinds in Gallatin National Forest

## MYAP FIELD CREW: THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

