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(Neb.)-Knap-In And Atlatl Competition At Hudson Meng This Weekend

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 08/30/2013 07:16 PM

Photo: An Atlatl

(CRAWFORD)-The Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center will be hosting several exciting activities for Labor Day weekend, including the 25th annual Knap-In, the center's first World Atlatl Association (WAA) throwing competition and an Artifact Roadshow.

Also this weekend, visitors may also take the always available Hudson-Meng tour.

The Hudson-Meng staff has invited several flint-knappers, paleo-skills demonstrators and re-enactors to participate in the weekend of special programs. The professionals will showcase ancient Indian lifeways from around the country, including knapping to make stone tools or weapons. The event will feature Larry Waldron of Rushville and David Nixon of Crawford, the original Knap-In's founders and Luke Hittner, Hudson-Meng Forest Ranger.

Flint knapping comes from the term "knapping" which means to hit, or break stone in order to shape it into a useful tool. Archaeologists have found ancient knapped stones and flakes at Hudson-Meng related to ancient activities throughout the 10,000 year history of the bison bonebed. Flint knappers recreate making these stone tools to give an insight to how these skilled ancient hunters survived on the Great Plains.

In addition, Hudson-Meng will host the first annual World Atlatl Association (WAA) throwing competition on Saturday, August 31st, at 1:00 p.m. There will be two categories in which to compete: primitive, which uses an Atlatl or dart of materials prehistoric people could have used, or an open category for any type of Atlatl or dart. Some materials needed for the competition can be provided by staff. Contest results will be reported to the World Atlatl Association and posted on their website: <http://waa.basketmakeratlatl.com/>

Due to popular demand, another Artifact Roadshow will be held throughout the weekend. Members of the public are invited to bring their own artifact collections to be assessed by professional archaeologists and artifact identification experts who plan to assist with this event. Artifacts can be any item used by past human cultures and events for day-to-day life, such as pottery, arrow heads, spear points, and stone tools.

Throughout Labor Day weekend August 31 through September 2, everyone is invited to participate in all the special events. Hudson-Meng is located 19 miles north of Crawford on well-marked roads and will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fees are \$5 for adults; \$4.50 for seniors, \$3 for children ages 5-12, and age 4 and under

is free. No credit cards are accepted at the center, cash and checks are welcome. Under a special program of the Forest Service, 95% of fees collected at the site are used to develop more recreational and educational opportunities on the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands.

--U.S. Forest Service