Paleoethnobotany Field Class at Rimrock Draw Rockshelter

July 8th – July 26th, 2013

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Course Description:
This three-week field class is designed to introduce students to methods associated with macrobotanical investigations at archaeological sites. Students will gain hands-on experience with collecting, processing and identifying seeds, charcoal and other plant remains preserved in the site. The PEB field class will be conducted in conjunction with the UO Archaeology Field School at Rimrock Draw Rockshelter, providing a rare opportunity for archaeology and paleoethnobotany students to work collaboratively in the field.

Schedule:

**Week 1**
Day 1  Set up lab; visit site; Overview of paleoethnobotany
Day 2  Flotation demonstration / sorting samples / intro to seeds, roots, and bulbs
       Discussion: collecting samples, preservation issues
Day 3  Field trip – begin building a reference collection of modern plants
Day 4  Flotation / Sorting ... Intro to charcoal identification
Day 5  Flotation / Sorting ... Discussion: benefits of macrobotanical analysis – what can we learn?

**Week 2**
Processing of soil samples continue. Students will be using microscopes to identify seeds, charcoal and other plant remains in the samples. Modern wood collected in the field will be charred and used for reference.
Discussions during Week 2 will include climate fluctuations and their relation to shifting ecological zones.

**Week 3**
Day 1-3 Flotation, sorting, and identification continue.
Day 4  Complete sorting and IDs.
Day 5  Wrap up any loose ends, clean and pack up.
Discussions this week will focus on reflections: what have we learned about the site?
What questions do we still have? What recommendations do we have for future research?