

# OSFS Statement

March 2021, Issue 504, Volume 46, Number 3



*Paleoartist Gabriela Amorós Seller*

A Neanderthal man and child lounge among ancient Iberian plants and animals near Bolomor Cave (about halfway up the hill on the left) in this painting depicting life in south-eastern Spain around a couple hundred thousand years ago.

Bolomor Cave Neanderthals probably ate fruit, nuts and seeds of plants that once grew in the area, says coauthor José Carrión, an evolutionary biologist and botanist at the University of Murcia. Those plants included hazel shrubs, one of which appears just behind the Neanderthal male, who is munching on a hazelnut. Strawberry trees, Mediterranean hackberry, myrtle shrubs, carob trees and chestnut trees — all shown in the drawings — were also available, he says.

The animal remains inform other parts of the drawings, such as the Neanderthal child watching a tortoise inch its way forward. Tortoises were cooked and eaten at Bolomor Cave, along with frequent prey such as hares, rabbits, birds and deer. People also occasionally consumed large animals such as horses and hippos.

**Event Coordinator** – There will be another OSFS dinner someday. We have this monthly OSFS newsletter called The Statement. If you would like to be on the e-mail list contact the [editor@ottawasfs.ca](mailto:editor@ottawasfs.ca)

**Editor's Blather:** – Those old SF magazines mentioned last month have gone to Joe at Carlingview Manor. He called them a “lifesaver”. Pretty dull existence under this lockdown so any entertainment is welcome.

**Obituary:** Sylvain St-Pierre, a fixture of Montreal fandom, and his mother, Eva, have both passed away from Covid.

**LOC:**

Dear OSFen:

Thank you all for issue 503 of the Statement, and it's early time for some comments on the contents. Let me pry this .pdf open to see what spills out...

Ah, Betelgeuse. (Do not say this three times, or Michael Keaton may appear.) I had seen an article by other scientists, saying that it is expected the dimming of this star is just a massive dust cloud anywhere between here and there, but who truly knows? If it was to go nova soon, it would certainly offer a massive show each evening. That might increase the popularity of astronomy. (I see on page 3 the theory of a plasma ejection from the star itself that caused a cloud of heavy gases...as good as any, I guess.)

I believe the remains of the Arecibo dish are being broken up and taken away, without any talk of reviving it or building a new dish with new tech. I think the best dish now is in China, but I have also seen the idea of

building a dish on the far side of the moon.

My past loc...it has now been one year since our Third Monday group was able to sit in our restaurant of choice (Orwell's Pub, near Bloor and Islington in the west end), although we will order take-out to get the pub food we enjoy, and support our pubnite location. I have finished up all my editorial and voicework commitments, and I am looking for more of both. The ordered earring hooks have not yet shown up, but as soon as they do...

Time to go, and thank you all...the time will come when we can all gather together, hopefully soon. Take care, see you with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

**Of Some Interest:** There is active discussion about what actually ended the Neanderthals; did the ice age freeze them or did the following warm spell cook them? Was there a hundred thousand year “war” that they lost?

[warm-weather+neanderthal](#)  
[they were physically outcompeted by modern humans](#)  
[economically eclipsed by us.](#)  
[Neanderthals couldn't adapt to climate change.](#)

Too many questions; too few answers but, just for laughs,  
[Scientists Debate Who Would Really Win Godzilla vs. King Kong](#)

<30>