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Steve Nash in kiva ventilator at Sunset House upper alcove.
President’s Message

The following are updates on projects we have written about in earlier Glyphs.

A reminder that there will be no December raffle. Money from the raffle had gone to graduate students to help in their scholarship and research. For the amount of money raised, the raffle has been a large commitment of time, particularly for the person who chairs the committee. We are taking this year to explore how we might improve the raffle if we were to bring it back, as well as to explore other options. One option is direct mail, so that in December, we would send a direct mail solicitation as an option as a permanent replacement for the raffle.

A big thank you to Todd Pitezel and the volunteers who conducted AAHS’s annual book sale. The sale, which was conducted over two weekends, brought in over $5,000! The money from the book sale goes to the Arizona State Museum’s library for the purchase of books. The museum’s annual budget for books from the University of Arizona is $2,500.

At last month’s AAHS general meeting, 35 members signed a sheet expressing their willingness to help the Arizona State Museum in bringing back to the Southwest Indian Arts Fair in 2011.

After many months, the people who AAHS had contacted with to develop a website informed us they could not complete the task. They returned our money, and we have contracted with another company we feel confident will complete the project.

Finally, work continues on our Friday, December 5, and Saturday, December 6, celebration of the 75th anniversary of Snaketown, and the Saturday picnic celebrating the 75th anniversary of KIVA.

The publications committee is soliciting articles for Glyphs. You can contact Sarah Herr at 520.621.7788 or <sherr@desert.com> for further information.

—Don Burgess, President

AAHS Lecture Series

All meetings are held at the University Medical Center, Duval Auditorium
Third Monday of the month, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Dec. 21, 2009: Stephen Nash, Fast Approaching Zero: Tree-Ring Dating at Mesa Verde
Jan. 18, 2010: John Kantner, Facts and Fictions of Ancient Puebloan Cannibalism
Mar. 15, 2010: Steve Lekson, Chimney Rock and Chaco Canyon, Pinnacle and Mesa Verde: Ancestral Pueblo Regional Dynamics
Apr. 19, 2010: Will Tsosi, Yádilla, Hádiilil, Perspectives from a Practicing Native American Archaeologist
May 17, 2010: Todd Pitezel, I Rented a Mule and Found Religion
June 21, 2010: Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Massacre at Camp Grant: Forgetting and Remembering Apache History

Scholarship and Grants Applications Available

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is pleased to announce its grant and scholarship applications for the year 2010. Scholarships and grants in amounts up to $1,000 will be awarded to current AAHS members for scholarship, research, and travel related to archaeology, anthropology, American Indian studies, ethnology, ethnohistory, and history of the American Southwest and Northwest Mexico. Note that all applicants must be members of AAHS. Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2010, to be eligible for consideration. Applications can be obtained on the AAHS webpage at <http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aahs/grants.shtml>.

AAHS Navajo Textile Study Group

The focus of the study group is more comprehensive and now covers more than just historic Navajo rugs. It was decided to expand the descriptive name to include all Navajo textiles. Our next meeting, Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m., will focus on Early Crystal rugs and saddle blankets as we continue our study and discussion of historic styles. For information and meeting location, contact Marie Lynn Hunken at <NavahoRugInfo @ gmail.com>.
**AAHS HAPPENINGS**

**TOPIC OF THE DECEMBER 21 GENERAL MEETING**

Fast Approaching Zero: Tree-ring Dating at Mesa Verde National Park
by Stephen E. Nash

By any reasonable estimation, Mesa Verde National Park is a remarkable archaeological resource. By any reasonable estimation, dendrochronology, the study of tree-rings, is a remarkable analytical tool that is (nearly) uniquely available to Southwestern archaeologists. The histories of Mesa Verde National Park and archaeological tree-ring dating are woven together like a tapestry that includes important personalities, discoveries, and milestones in the history of Southwestern archaeology.

From the collection of the first tree-ring specimens during the National Geographic Society’s First Beam Expedition in 1923, to the Wetherill Mesa Project’s pioneering studies of the 1950s and 1960s, to the publication of synthetic studies of Mesa Verde tree-ring dates in 1974 and again in the new millennium, Mesa Verde tree-ring dating continues to yield fascinating insights into the pre-Columbian history of the Southwest.

Unfortunately, since 2000, five named fires have burned more than 50 percent of the park, thereby threatening, if not actively destroying, archaeological sites and tree-ring resources alike. In 2008, Dr. Stephen E. Nash of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science received a $57,021 grant from the Colorado Historical Society’s State Historical Fund for a combined collections- and field-based research project to continue applying tree-ring dating to archaeological problems.

**Fast Approaching Zero: Tree-ring Dating at Mesa Verde National Park**

offers a progress report on Nash’s efforts to date backcountry cliff sites, derive new dates for previously archived but unanalyzed specimens, and to systematically search for additional, if enigmatic, “culturally modified” Douglas fir and ponderosa pine trees within the park’s boundaries.

**Suggested Reading:**


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**CENTER FOR DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY’S ARCHAEOLOGY CAFÉ**

The Center for Desert Archaeology and Casa Vincente invite you to the Archaeology Café, a casual discussion forum dedicated to promoting community engagement with cultural and scientific research. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month from September to May, at 6:00 p.m.; presentations begin at 6:15 p.m. Casa Vincente is located at 375 S. Stone Avenue. The café is free and open to the community.

The 2009–2010 season includes the following presentations:

**Dec. 1:** Don Burgess, Romans in Tucson? The Story of an Archaeological Hoax

**Jan. 5:** Gene Caywood, Historic and Future Transportation in Downtown Tucson

**Feb. 2:** Tom Sheridan, The Collaborative Conservation Movement in Southern Arizona

**Mar. 16:** Steve Lekson, Where Did the Mimbres Go, and Where Did Casa Grande Come From?

**Apr. 6:** Ron Towner, Early Navajos, Tree-rings, and Warfare in the Dinéh Heartland

**May 4:** Suzanne Griset, Recent Research on Camp Navajo
Recent Excavations at the Site of Las Capas, an Early Agricultural Village

by Jim Vint
Desert Archaeology, Inc.

Between August 2008, and September 2009, Desert Archaeology, Inc., conducted intensive excavations at the site of Las Capas, located on the grounds of the Ina Road Wastewater Recovery Facility (IRWRF). This work was conducted in advance of a major construction project in which Pima County will nearly double the size of the IRWRF to accommodate population growth in the Tucson area.

Las Capas was first recognized in the mid-1970s, when deeply buried features were found during construction related to Interstate 10 (I-10). These features were dated to the San Pedro phase of the Late Archaic period, or some 2,700 to 2,900 years ago. Later excavations by Desert Archaeology in the vicinity of the eastbound Ina Road I-10 on-ramp, as well as by SWCA, Inc., on the IRWRF grounds in 1998 and 1999, provided significant information about complex alluvial stratigraphy, multiple canals, maize, and two principle eras of occupation, one from approximately 1200 to 950 B.C., and another from about 900 to 800 B.C.

During Phase 1 of fieldwork, 2.5 km (slightly more than 1.5 miles) of backhoe trenches were excavated over almost the entire 60 acres of building-free area at the IRWRF facility. Phase 2 excavations were limited to 5 acres of construction footprint for new facilities located in five areas, although the deeply stratified archaeological deposits were intensively explored. By the end of the project, more than 155,000 m$^3$ of sediments were excavated.

Our overarching research question for this project seems basic enough. What were the dynamics of the anthropogenic landscape during this Late Archaic period of developing agriculture and village life? To answer this question, we are considering more than the human-made impacts or modifications to the natural landscape, and more than the constraints of the natural environment on people. Rather, we are looking at both human and natural actions and the dynamic interactions between humans and their environment.

The relationship of early farmers to the Santa Cruz River and floodplain changed through time. Our goal is to understand how these early farmers successfully manipulated the floodplain in a local environment at risk for damaging floods and fluctuations in the hydrological and ecological conditions of the region as a whole.

Toward this goal, geomorphological data were collected that allow detailed reconstruction of floodplain history along the Santa Cruz River with the trained eyes of backhoe operator Dan Arnit, Fred Nials, field director Greg Whitney, Alan Denoyer, and several other experienced crew identified distinct features as they were uncovered. Clearly, at Las Capas, we can now look at early farming from the “production end,” as archaeologist Doug Craig calls it, not just by analyzing refuse and discarded food remains. The relationships between several kilometers of canals of various sizes and at least 640 field cells were developed in tune with the active floodplain. We can also see how irrigation enriched the native sediments with deposits of clays, silts, and organics from slow-moving irrigation water.

Fred Nials, a preeminent geomorphologist and scholar of traditional irrigation, directed this portion of the research. His work began with the backhoe trenches across the site, which revealed abundant new information on the floodplain. However, much more information came to light during extensive horizontal striping with a broad-bladed backhoe bucket.

Much to our surprise, we found even more than expected, with lateral canals, field distribution canals, and individual bordered fields, essentially the irrigation system from tip to tail. The ideal combination of distinctively colored strata and substrata, ancient fields outlined in paint surround a modern re-creation, planted with O’odham maize. Photograph by Henry Wallace.
UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

AAHS membership is required to participate in field trips. Prospective members may attend one AAHS field trip prior to joining.

December 5, 2009

**A Walking Tour of Tucson’s Downtown Heritage**

Join archaeologist Gayle Hartmann, former president of the Tucson Presidio Trust for Historic Preservation, at the presidio, and learn about Tucson as an outpost of the Spanish empire. Then we’ll walk the perimeter of the presidio and take a look at some historic buildings on the Turquoise Trail. Later, we’ll have lunch at Old Town Artisans or El Charro.

We plan to meet at the entrance to the presidio at the southwest corner of Church and Washington streets at 9:00 a.m. There should be plenty of free parking on the street during the weekend. Contact David McLean at <mcleand43@gmail.com> if you wish to register for this outing.

January 23, 2010

**Ft. Bowie National Monument: The Apache Wars and Butterfield Trail**

Ranger-led tour of historic Fort Bowie and an introduction to the Butterfield Stage route. Three-mile round trip, moderate hike, with interpretive stops along the way. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch and water. Carpool from the northwest corner of Houghton Road at Interstate 10, at 8:00 a.m. Limit 20. To reserve a space, contact Ken Fleshman at <kfleshman@juno.com> or 520.648.5473.

11TH BIENNIAL SOUTHWEST SYMPOSIUM

The 11th biennial Southwest Symposium will be held in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, January 8–9, 2010. The Centro INAH Sonora will host the meeting at the University of Sonora campus and at the Centro INAH Sonora. In the tradition of past meetings, the 11th Southwest Symposium will provide a forum for archaeologists and other scholars to discuss innovative ideas and to develop networks for anthropological research in the U.S. Southwest and the Mexican Northwest. The symposium has been organized to explore topics in substantial depth and to provide ample time for discussion among all who attend. The 11th Southwest Symposium will further discussions of how to transform these national archaeologies into transnational archaeologies.

Transnational archaeologies reach beyond or transcend national boundaries and they do so in numerous ways. They imply a broad vision of historical and cultural processes in the Southwest/Northwest that is not artificially limited by political, cultural, or linguistic borders. They necessarily entail a multi-sited archaeology where researchers work in different “nations.” They stand strong when their foundations rest on collaborations across cultural groups. They require archaeologists to re-examine the contributions that archaeology can make to society. They expand the archaeology of the Southwest/Northwest linguistically, culturally, and regionally.

Presented sessions include: **West and North Mexico**, organized by José Luis Punzo and Michael Ohnersorgen; **A.D. 1450 to A.D. 1540: The Lost Century**, organized by John Carpenter and Anna Neuzil; **Collaborating Across Cultures**, organized by Andrew Darling and Davina Two Bears; and **Archaeology and Society**, organized by Elizabeth Bagwell and César Villalobos.

Poster sessions include: **Violence in the Southwest/Northwest**, organized by James Watson; **Coastal Archaeology**, organized by Cristina García and Jonathan Mabry; **Relations between the Southwest/Northwest and Mesoamerica**, organized by Rafael Crus and Christine Van Pool; **Cliff Dwellings**, organized by Júpiter Martinez and Dona Glowacki; and **Contract Archaeology**, organized by Adrián López-Dávila and Christine Ward.

For more program, registration, transportation, and hotel information, go to our webpage at <http://sw-symposium.binghamton.edu/>.
THE CORNERSTONE

2010 – The Year of Mexico

by Michael Brescia, Arizona State Museum

Despite all the much ballyhooed preoccupation with Mayan prophecies and the impending doom slated for all humanity in 2012, we are much closer to a year that carries considerable “historical street cred” among historians and anthropologists. Next year, 2010, Mexico commemorates the bicentennial of its independence from Spain and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, the first social revolution of the twentieth century. What a stroke of chronological genius to have two key moments in the Mexican past converge in 2010!

The XIII Reunion of Historians of Mexico, United States, and Canada is scheduled to convene next October... where scholars will debate...fine-tune... and share... –Michael Brescia
Arizona State Museum

In addition to our on-going research activities, some new exhibits, and public programs, ASM will sponsor a learning expedition to Sonora in March 2010, and another to Mexico City in June. Both tours will demonstrate changes and continuities in our archaeological and historical understandings of Mexico and the Greater Southwest. From Cananea and La Playa to Teotihuacan and Puebla, ASM scholars will share their insights and original research into a wide array of subject matter.

For a complete list of ASM’s learning expeditions, log on to <http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/public/tours.shtml> or contact Darlene Lizarraga at 520.626.8381 or <dfl@email.arizona.edu>.

UPDATE ON THE REDTAIL SITE

We have had a great response to last month’s article asking for volunteers to work on artifacts from the Redtail site. We now have a group in place and ready to go early in the new year. The rationale for this new AAHS project visiting the Redtail collection is to curate the artifacts using current techniques. This includes rebagging and labeling using acid-free materials and compiling an inventory in digital format to facilitate data management and analyses. The original project done in the 1980s conformed to the procedures and techniques then current, but much has changed since that time. In addition, we anticipate doing additional analyses taking advantage of advances in analytical technique. This is particularly interesting (and important) in light of recent work done at the same site by several Tucson-based archaeological firms.
Old Pueblo Archaeology
TUSD Ajo Service Center, 2201 W. 44th Street, Tucson, AZ 520.798.1201, <info@oldpueblo.org>

White Tank Mountains Petroglyphs of Waterfall Canyon and Mesquite Canyon
December 5, 2009; 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Guided tour with Shelley Rasmussen and Allen Dart, starting at White Tank Mountain Regional Park Visitor Center, 13025 N. White Tank Mountain Rd. in Waddell. See hundreds of ancient petroglyphs in the 30,000-acre White Tank Mountain Regional Park west of Phoenix. Tour includes a 3-hour walk along the 2.5-mile round-trip, fairly flat Black Rock Loop Trail to see and photograph dozens of Archaic and Hohokam petroglyphs; lunch at ramadas with picnic facilities; afternoon visits to three petroglyph sites with Archaic and Hohokam rock art in a 3-hour, 2.5-mile round-trip hike along the Mesquite Canyon trail, which includes some bushwhacking and boulder hopping. Bring your own picnic lunch and water; wear comfortable hiking shoes. [$30; $24 for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary members; reservations required]

Cultural Resources Survey Techniques
December 12, 2009; 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Archaeological field school session on cultural resources survey techniques led by archaeologist Allen Dart, starting at the Picture Rocks Redemptorist Renewal Center, 7101 W. Picture Rocks Rd., Tucson. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center is offering training in archaeological survey methods as part of a research project to identify and record archaeological sites that may be present near the Picture Rocks petroglyphs site northwest of Tucson. Training will be provided in archaeological site identification, recording, and interpretation; use of degree-reading compass and global positioning systems equipment; interpretation of aerial photographs and topographic maps; photography; other archaeological methods. [$20; reservations needed; only available to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members at “Individual” or higher level]

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR GLYPHS: If you have research or a field project that would be interesting to Glyphs readers, please consider contributing an article. Requirements are a maximum of 1,000 words, or 750 words and one illustration, or 500 words and two illustrations. Please send electronic submissions to <jadams@desert.com>, or by mail to Jenny Adams, Desert Archaeology, Inc., 3975 N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85716.

AAHS MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION
(A membership subscription makes a great gift for your loved ones!)
All members receive discounts on Society workshops and classes. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday of each month except August, and are free and open to the public. Participation in field trips requires membership.

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Memberships and subscriptions run for one year beginning on July 1 and ending June 30. Membership provides one volume (four issues) of Kiva, the Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History, and 12 issues of the monthly newsletter Glyphs. Membership applications should be sent to:
Donna Yoder, VP Membership
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona Tucson, AZ 85721-0026 USA
<donnayoder@cox.net>

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