



GLYPHS

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
An Affiliate of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
Founded in 1916



Vol. 62, No. 6

Tucson, Arizona

December 2011

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
<i>Upward Sun River (Xaasaa Na') Site: Climate Change, Geoarchaeology and Human Land Use in Ice Age Alaska</i> , Joshua A. Reuther and Ben A. Potter	5
The Cornerstone	9



2011 excavation at the Upward Sun River site, interior Alaska (photograph by Ben A. Potter).

Next General Meeting: December 19, 2011
7:30 p.m., Duval Auditorium, University Medical Center
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Illinois prairie is not the first place that comes to mind when you think of canoeing, but in the 12 years or so that I lived there, I did a lot of it. Most of the prairie became farmland long ago, which means most prairie rivers are flanked by fields, usually green with corn or soybeans during the canoeing season. Some stretches of a river will be lined by enough trees or brush or swamp to encourage the illusion that you're gliding through a wilderness, but the murky, dark brown water always reminds you of the proximity of plowed ground.

A surprising amount of wildlife still lives along the rivers in Illinois, and in the occasional quiet spot the plant community still has some semblance of its former minor glory, but I decided early on that the most interesting thing about traveling down a river in Illinois wasn't the nature that had managed to survive but the odd slice of recent history that it revealed. You'd never know until you canoed a river just how many remnant bridge abutments, collapsed corn cribs, ancient farm machines, decrepit cars, and long-forgotten trash piles there were at the backs of all those monotonous, neatly cultivated fields.

I find the miscellaneous discards of the recent, pre-plastic past interesting, not for any scientific or specifically historical reason but just visually, intrinsically interesting, sort

of in the way that a good thrift store is interesting, except that the unintentionality of how things were left behind or pushed aside along a river adds notably to their appeal.

I mostly gave up canoeing when I moved to southern Arizona, where nearly all the rivers dried up a century ago and none was ever suitable for canoeing in any case, but even here, a river is an interesting seam in the local historical fabric, a chance to see the haphazard selection of old junk and immovable objects that somehow defines a place for me. And here you can actually walk right in the river and not have to worry about getting a ride or battling the current to get back to your starting point.

My favorite river to walk is the Rillito, redundantly known as the Rillito River, which runs east to west along the foothills of the Catalina Mountains and the northern boundary of Tucson. I like to put in at Swan Road and head upstream, usually with my three boys and two or three dogs. The channel is wide and open there, with a soft, sandy bottom and intermittent thickets of desert broom along the sides. The dogs chase lizards, the boys chase the dogs, and I count my familiar, homely landmarks in the riverbed, keeping an eye out for anything newly exposed by a recent flow.

A walk up the river from Swan Road offers plenty of things of conventional interest to the archaeologist and historian, especially in the

vicinity of the Craycroft Road bridge, which is technically the upper end of the Rillito. That's where Tanque Verde Creek and Pantano Wash converge and become the Rillito, the former draining the northeast corner of the Tucson Basin and the latter ending the circuitous path it began, as Cienega Creek, somewhere south of Sonoita.

Before the water table dropped in the early twentieth century, the lower end of Tanque Verde Creek was a reliable spot to find water year-round, although it often required some digging in the sandy channel. Early Mexican farmers in the basin knew this, and the U.S. Army, looking for a suitable place to establish a post in 1873, also knew it, moving from downtown Tucson to just south of the confluence to build the new Fort Lowell, which was active until 1891. The same location was, of course, long favored by Native Americans: the remains of a large Hohokam village, the Hardy site, lie just below what is now Fort Lowell Park. Today, the park is well known for its restored adobe fort buildings and the walking path that takes you by the spots where Hohokam features have been excavated, but if you know where to look you can see still other parts of the history of the confluence as you walk up either tributary.

In the late nineteenth century, after Fort Lowell was abandoned, Mexican and Anglo-American farmers began farming in earnest along the Rillito, gathering water from the lower end of Tanque Verde Creek by

burying long redwood boxes in the channel, then directing the water that percolated into them into shallow ditches along the south bank of the Rillito. Abandoned segments of ditch are preserved in what are now primarily residential areas along the south bank of the Rillito, as is the occasional concrete feature that once linked a buried redwood head box to a ditch, or a ditch to a buried redwood flume that carried water below the bed of the river to another ditch on the opposite bank. One such flume was uncovered by archaeologists about 15 years ago just downstream from the Craycroft Road bridge, and stray pieces of redwood lumber along lower Tanque Verde Creek attest to others that have probably been destroyed by flooding.

All of which is interesting enough, but somehow I find more interesting still the remnants of an old sewer line that was once buried below the bed of Tanque Verde Creek and the Rillito. I don't know much about it except that it was built in the 1950s, when residential development on the east side of Tucson had just begun, in the general vicinity of the Tucson Country Club. The line has been abandoned for years and was evidently destroyed in large part by periodic downcutting of the channel.

As you walk up the Rillito from Swan Road, you see pieces of thick-walled, 18-inch-diameter red clay pipe lying here and there, sometimes

(continued from page 3)

just small sherds easily mistaken for a piece of brick (except for a slight curvature to the sides), sometimes as massive, almost complete sections with the distinctive flange of clay pipe on one end.

If you keep heading up Tanque Verde Creek from Craycroft Road, you're treated to the odd sight of large, bell-shaped manhole structures, spaced at long intervals, seemingly built to stand on the modern bed of the creek but actually built below the former bed and now fully exposed by downcutting. These look like pre-cast concrete structures, which they would be today, but if you look inside (you'll need a boost) and the sun is right, you'll see they are beautifully and sturdily crafted from

hand-laid red brick and the concrete exterior is just a protective veneer.

It is hard to understand how something so substantial, so carefully made as this sewer line, with its hefty clay pipe and its seemingly indestructible manholes, was so quickly outgrown, so quickly obsolete, or at least so unworthy of repair when it was damaged. No doubt some other system, still more impressive, is now operating in its place, taking on a much larger burden and itself on the verge of obsolescence. I doubt the old sewer line is distinctive enough, or enough of it survives, to justify official protection as a historic property, but I hope it is preserved, if only by neglect. Come to think of it, maybe that's the best way.

—Scott O'Mack, 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. 19, 2011: Joshua Reuther and Ben Potter, *Upward Sun River Site: Climate Change, Geoarchaeology, and Human Land Use in Ice Age Alaska*
- Jan. 16, 2012: David Yetman, *The Ópatas: Who They Were and What Became of Them*
- Feb. 20, 2012: Evelyn Billo, Robert Mark, and Donald E. Weaver, Jr., *Sears Point Rock Art and Beyond, Synopsis of the 2008–2012 Recording Project*
- Mar. 19, 2012: William Lipe, *Before Lake Powell: Memories of Glen Canyon Archaeology*

AAHS HAPPENINGS

TOPIC OF THE DECEMBER 19 GENERAL MEETING

Upward Sun River (Xaasaa Na') Site: Climate Change, Geoarchaeology and Human Land Use in Ice Age Alaska

by Joshua D. Reuther and Ben A. Potter

The Tanana River Valley region in interior Alaska has one of the longest archaeological records in North America, dating back 14,000 calendar years ago, to the end of the Ice Age. Several multicomponent sites, including Upward Sun River, Gerstle River, Mead, Broken Mammoth, Swan Point, and the Bachner Site, have provided well-preserved fauna, organic implements, lithic assemblages, and cultural features in secure stratified contexts. These and other sites are situated in windblown silts (loess) on bedrock bluffs, alluvial terraces, and sand dune deposits, providing avenues for exploring changes in human-environment interactions in the Subarctic. This presentation will focus primarily on the results of recent excavations and archaeological and geological research conducted at Upward Sun River.

The Upward Sun River site, or *Xaasaa Na'* in Upper Tanana Athabaskan, is situated on a stabilized sand dune that is capped with more than 2 meters of loess. Since 2007, we have identified four occupations in stratified contexts dating between 13,200 and 10,000 calendar years ago. The rapid deposition of sediments

aided in the exceptional preservation of organic remains and the integrity of the archaeological record. Most spectacular is the discovery of a young child, *Xaasaa Cheege' Ts'eniin'* (Upward Sun River Mouth Child), who was cremated within a residential structure. This represents the oldest Arctic/Subarctic human remains and residential structure, and one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere.

We report on our analyses of animal and floral remains from the site, and explore the nature of human land use patterns in the Tanana Basin. We integrate these results in the context of regional geoarchaeological investigations on the evolution of the middle Tanana River landscape, terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene environments (20,000–6,000 years ago) and climate change, and prehistoric hunter-gatherer/environment interactions in the region.

Suggested Reading:

Hoffecker, J. F., and S. A. Elias
2007 *Human Ecology of Beringia*. Columbia University Press, New York.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

Potter, B. A.

2008 Radiocarbon Chronology of Central Alaska: Technological Continuity and Change. *Radiocarbon* 50:181-204.

Potter, Ben A., Joel D. Irish, Joshua D. Reuther, Carol Gelvin-Reymiller, and Vance T. Holliday

2011 A Paleoindian Child Cremation and Residential Structure from Eastern Beringia. *Science* 311:1058-1062.

Speaker Josh Reuther is a Ph.D. student in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, as well as a Senior Archaeologist and Lab Manager at Northern Land Use Research, a cultural resources management firm in Fairbanks, Alaska. Josh received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and has conducted archaeological and geological research in the arctic and subarctic regions of Alaska since 1997. His dissertation research is focused on understanding the terrestrial environment and hunter-gatherer land use during the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene in the Middle Tanana River Valley in Alaska.

Speaker Ben A. Potter is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Potter's research interests include intersite variability, site structure, and organization, with a research program focusing broadly on the relationships among organizational properties, settlement, economy, and technology among high latitude prehistoric hunter-gatherers. He has published on these and other topics in *Science*, *Arctic Journal of Archaeological Science*, *American Antiquity*, *Arctic Anthropology*, *Radiocarbon*, and other journals.

UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

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

Three Tumacácori Missions [with Jeremy Moss] December 10, 2011

Tumacácori National Historic Park protects three Spanish Colonial mission ruins in southern Arizona: Tumacácori, Guevavi, and Calabasas. The adobe structures are on three sites, with a visitor center at Tumacácori. These missions are among more than 20 established in the Pimería Alta by Father Kino and other Jesuits, and later expanded upon by Franciscan missionaries. The name "Tumacácori" may have been derived from two O'odham words, *chu-uma* and *kakul*, having reference to a flat, rocky place. Father Kino established it as a mission in January 1691, one day before Guevavi, making it the oldest mission site in Arizona.

This trip can accommodate 15 participants, and we must all fit into four high-clearance vehicles (with room for our guide). As you reserve a place, please let me know if you have a high-clearance vehicle and how many it can hold. We will rendezvous at a location near I-19 and Irvington at 8:00

a.m. Bring a packed lunch to eat at either Guevavi or Calabasas. We expect to be back at the rendezvous point by 3:00 p.m. To register, contact Lynn Ratener at lynnratener@cox.net.

Ft. Huachuca Archaeology [with Martyn Tagg] January 21, 2012

The third Saturday of the new year will find us visiting archaeological sites in the vicinity of Ft. Huachuca, led by archaeologist Martyn Tagg. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. from the northwest corner of the Houghton Road exit and I-10 East to carpool. We will be visiting sites such as the Garden Canyon prehistoric village, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, pictographs associated with the village, and possibly a bedrock mortar site and historic trash dump, depending on time.

High clearance vehicles are recommended up Garden Canyon as the road is not maintained and is very rocky. To get on base, you'll need a picture ID, specifically a driver's license or retired military ID, and for your vehicle, proof of insurance and car registration. Non-U.S. citizens are prohibited from entering the base without clearance; let me know if Marty needs to check into it for you.

We will meet Marty at about 10:00 a.m. to begin the formal tour, which will take the rest of the morning. We can return to the post for lunch or after lunch (bring sack lunch and water) to give people time to view the Old Post (which has all the original 1880s buildings) and perhaps one of the museums on your own. We expect to return to the rendezvous point by mid-afternoon.

The tour is limited to 20 participants. Please let me know if you can drive. To register, contact Chris Lange at clange3@msn.com or 520.792.1303. Inclement weather will cancel the trip.

Sears Point Rock Art [with Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark] February 18-19, 2012

Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark have been leading a multi-year effort to document the extensive rock art along the Gila River between Gila Bend and Yuma. President's Weekend, 2012, they will lead a trip for AAHS to see some of the sites. We will meet in Gila Bend at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, and proceed to the Howard Wells site, which is about an hour beyond Gila Bend. On Sunday, we will go to the Sears Point site. We plan to leave Sears Point around 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, so should be home by 6:00 p.m. We will have two or three leaders so we can split into groups based on walking ability and desire. There is a great deal to see that involves hiking.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

We plan to spend the night in Gila Bend, although primitive camping may be available at the Howard Wells site. Camping is no longer allowed at Sears Point. High-clearance vehicles are required, so we will carpool from Gila Bend.

To register for the trip, contact kcerino@gmail.com and indicate if you have a high-clearance vehicle.

Upcoming Adventures – More AAHS Field Trips:

March 24, 2012: Tumamoc Hill [Gayle Hartmann and Paul & Suzanne Fish]

April 28–29, 2012 (date tentative): Visit the Museum of Northern Arizona vaults, Homol’ovi, and Rock Art Ranch [includes an overnight in Winslow]

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 Vicente is located at 375 S. Stone Avenue. The café is free and open to the community.

The remainder of the 2011–2012 season includes the following presentations:

- Dec. 6: Jenny Adams, *Leaving No Stone Unturned: What Stone Tools Reveal About People*
- Jan. 3: Panel discussion led by Bill Doelle, *Preserving the Places of Our Shared Past: The History and Future of Preservation Archaeology*
- Feb. 7: Henry Wallace, *New Directions and Old Obstructions in Southern Arizona Rock Art Research*
- Mar. 6: Lydia Otero, *La Calle: Spatial Conflicts and Urban Renewal in a Southwest City*
- Apr. 3: Jeff Reid, *Prehistory, Personality, and Place: Emil W. Haury and the Mogollon Community*
- May 1: Natalia Martínez Tagüeña and Vance Holliday, *El Fin del Mundo, Sonora, Mexico: Clovis Archaeology at the End of the World*

THE CORNERSTONE

Community Collaborations Enrich Museum’s Public Programs

In light of staggering statistics on obesity, diabetes, and associated health complications, Arizona State Museum (ASM) has partnered with university and community organizations to bring to Tucson an exhibit with a healthy message. *Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living*, curated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention’s Global Healthy Odyssey Museum, is a family-friendly exhibit inspired by a children’s book series of the same name.

“The exhibit and related events are made possible only through dynamic campus and community partnerships,” said Lisa Falk, ASM director of education and curator of the exhibit’s many facets and organizer of the public programs celebrating it. “Collaborations greatly enhance the visitor experience. Our partners offer a wider array of perspectives and expertise, and allow us to appeal to more diverse audiences than we might be able to on our own.”

Planning for *Through the Eyes of the Eagle* began three years ago through a series of community-wide meetings that included university representatives, Native and non-Native educators, public health workers, Tohono O’odham community members, museum specialists, and others. All came together to discuss

the importance of addressing a critical community need – healthier living – through the traveling, culturally based exhibit, and to brainstorm about potential accompanying programs. The ideas shared formed the basis of planning and fundraising for what Arizona State Museum is now offering.

“Collaborations are rich, messy, slow, and wonderful,” said Falk. “They are built on relationships which take time to develop and nourish. They require trust, respect, and flexibility. I am delighted to be working with such great partners on this project.”

Through community input, the exhibit itself was expanded beyond presenting just the traveling children’s books from the CDC. Overwhelmingly, the number one interest was to include a more local perspective, local Native voices, and local objects and organizations. A comic book idea was born out of the expressed desire for a book that looked more like southern Arizona and that would appeal to teens (the Eagle books being more for younger children). Ideas further expanded the comic book to a digital format with versions in Spanish and O’odham.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Then, came the idea for a health fair. On November 12, Arizona State Museum hosted an expansive "healthy celebration" which was packed with a multitude of experiences the museum's partners, and many other groups, had to offer.

Among Arizona State Museum's partners for this project are:

- ♦ College of Education's World of Words Library
- ♦ Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
- ♦ American Diabetes Association, Tucson Chapter
- ♦ University of Arizona College of Agriculture
- ♦ University of Arizona Foundation Center
- ♦ Native Education Alliance
- ♦ Pima County Health Department
- ♦ Tucson Indian Center
- ♦ University of Arizona Hanson Film Institute

- ♦ Tohono O'odham Community Action
- ♦ Ha:san Preparatory and Leadership School
- ♦ Amphitheater School American Indian Club
- ♦ Pima County Public Library
- ♦ Objective Coders
- ♦ Raytheon Missile Systems

Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living runs through January 7 at Arizona State Museum. More information on the exhibit can be found at http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/exhibits/eyes_of_the_eagle/index.shtml.

The Cornerstone is presented by:
 Darlene F. Lizarraga, Marketing Coordinator
 Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
 P.O. Box 210026, Tucson, AZ 85721-0026
 Phone: 520.626.8381, FAX: 520.621.2976
www.statemuseum.arizona.edu
dfl@email.arizona.edu

SOUTHWEST SYMPOSIUM

The 13th biennial Southwest Symposium will be held at the University of New Mexico, January 14-15, 2012. Four sessions will focus around the conference theme, "Causation and Explanation: Demography, Movement, Historical Ecology." The conference is hosted by the University of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management. For more information and to register, please visit www.unm.edu/~swsympos/.

Follow AAHS on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society

AAHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to all persons who are interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Each membership runs for a **full year beginning July 1 and continuing through June 30**, and covers all individuals living in the same household.

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership. Members may also purchase an annual JSTOR subscription to *Kiva* back issues for \$20 through the AAHS website.

Membership Categories

- \$50 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- \$40 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$75 **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$120 **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$1,000 **Lifetime members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits

For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20.

For institutional membership, contact AltaMira Press at <www.altamirapress.com> or 800.273.2223.

You can join online at www.az-arch-and-hist.org, or by completing the form below and mailing it to:

Michael Diehl, VP Membership
 Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
 Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona
 Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations

Officers

President: Scott O'Mack | scottomack@gmail.com | 520.319.5549
 Vice President for Activities: Katherine Cerino | kcerino@gmail.com | 520.907.0884
 Vice President for Membership: Michael Diehl | mdiehl@desert.com | 520.881.2244
 Recording Secretary: Judith Billings | cronejudith@gmail.com
 Communications Officer: Jon Boyd | jonrboyd@aol.com
 Treasurer: George Harding | actuary110@yahoo.com

Directors

Jesse Ballenger	Chance Copperstone	William Gillespie	Matt Pailles (Student Rep)	Donna Yoder
Michael Boley	John Douglass	Janine Hembrode	Todd Pitezal	Michael Riley (ASM Liaison)

Editors of Society Publications

Kiva: James Snead, Acquisitions Editor | james.snead@csun.edu | 818.677.3322
Glyphs: Emilee Mead | emilee@desert.com | 520.881.2244

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012



Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0026
USA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage
PAID

Tucson, Arizona
Permit No. 1161

The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society are to encourage scholarly pursuits in areas of history and anthropology of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico; to encourage the preservation of archaeological and historical sites; to encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; to publish the results of archaeological, historical, and ethnographic investigations; to aid in the functions and programs of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona; and to provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities. See inside back cover for information about the Society's programs and membership and subscription requirements.