Highlights of This Issue

President's Message .................................................................................................... 2
Then and Now: Lessons from Mimbres, Margaret C. Nelson ................................. 4
The Cornerstone ........................................................................................................... 7

Next General Meeting: May 16, 2011
7:30 p.m., Duval Auditorium, University Medical Center
www.az-arch-and-hist.org
President’s Message

It has been a challenge for the nominating committee to find Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society members who are willing to serve in leadership positions on our board for the coming year, beginning July 1.

This all-volunteer organization has been able to exist since 1916 because members have been willing to volunteer or to serve when asked as board members or officers of your society. I urge you to help your organization in the future by being willing to serve as a board member or as an officer of AAHS.

Without your help, we could not:
- publish Kiva, Glyphs, and reports like the Whiptail Project;
- be of support to the Arizona State Museum;
- provide scholarships and research grants to students; and,
- provide educational opportunities through lectures and field trips.

I hope that we can count on your support so AAHS can continue to prosper for years to come.

—Don Burgess, President

Redtail Site: Stage One Completed!

For the past two years, a group of AAHS volunteers have been working with Arthur Vokes and graduate student Katie McFarland to rebag, count, and data entry the approximately 100 boxes of artifacts collected from the Redtail site during an AAHS excavation, 1984–1987. The Redtail site is part of a large Hohokam settlement complex known as the Los Morteros Community. It contained the largest collection of turquoise found, to date, in the Tucson Basin.

We are ready to begin the next step of data analysis and eventual write-up about the site. A planning meeting to scope and define the project will be held soon. We are looking for local archaeologists and students who would be interested in participating in this project. There will, of course, be a role for those avocational archaeologists who have spent so many hours counting, bagging, and typing in this next stage.

If you are interested in learning more about this project as it develops and contributing your talents, contact Katherine Cerino at kcerino@gmail.com.

Chaco Rock Art Tour

The Friends of Chaco Rock Art tour is scheduled for May 5–8, 2011. The park archaeologist will lead an introductory tour of architectural structures. The majority of rock art sites to be visited are closed to the public.

Camping will be provided in the park, with limited showers and hot water. Participants must provide their own camping gear. Meals will be provided.

Cost of the tour is $750, much of which is tax deductible. For detailed information, contact either Jane Kolber at 520.432.3402 or jkolber@theriver.com or Donna Yoder at 520.882.4281 or donnayoder@cox.net.

Glyphs: Information and articles to be included in Glyphs must be received by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the next month’s issue. Contact me, Emilee Mead, at emilee@desert.com or 520.881.2244 (phone), 520.909.3662 (cell), 520.881.0325 (FAX).

AAHS Website: Glyphs is posted each month and can be found on the AAHS website at: www.az-arch-and-hist.org.
Then and Now: Lessons from Mimbres
by Margaret C. Nelson

Archaeological research is inherently interesting, but does it help us think about the present and the future? We argue that archaeological sites are a valuable heritage resource and that archaeological research delves into and improves our understanding of past lives—ways of being and doing. This is true. But can the experiences of the past inform current thinking and decision-making about social and ecological issues? I explore this question by assessing the role of social diversity in the resilience of human societies. Recent calls for homogenization of culture emphasize the value of inquiring into the consequences of reductions in social diversity.

I will examine the Mimbres Mogollon sequence from the late 900s CE to the 1300s CE, a period in which people changed their ritual practices, their village forms, and much of their material culture. These four centuries are marked by a major reorganization of social life and settlement and a substantial emigration. I will explore the role that social diversity, as expressed in ceramic wares, played in the social changes that occurred. I will then expand this view to consider other cases in the U.S. Southwest and take a look across the Southwest more broadly. This research is directed toward considering whether understandings derived from long-term sequences of change can inform our current thinking about the impacts of declining social diversity.

Suggested Reading:

Nelson, M. C., and M Hegmon (editors) 2010 Mimbres Lives and Landscapes. School of Advanced Research, Santa Fe. [A popular book offering insights from decades of research by archaeologists in the Mimbres region.]


2011 Pecos Conference Registration is Open!

The 2011 Pecos Conference of Southwestern Archaeology will be held in the Kaibab National Forest on the “Arizona Strip,” north and west of the Colorado River, August 11–14. Early registration and vendor registration is now open. Registration forms, souvenir order forms, and other information about the conference are available online at www.swanet.org/2011_pecos_conference. The website includes information about the conference location, amenities, and the presentation submission form, for those participants who intend to present a poster or paper. If you are not planning to camp at the conference, please visit the Notes and Accommodations sections soon to plan your hotel stay.

The 2011 Pecos Conference is sponsored by the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance, DMG Four Corners Research, Inc., and Past Peoples Consulting LLC; individuals and organizations interested in joining with these organizations as sponsors may contact organizer David Purcell at davidpurcell@gmail.com. Volunteers, field trip organizers, and vendors please consult the Contact section for the appropriate event coordinator information.

The website is updated frequently; please make sure to check periodically for new information.

This year will feature special sessions on the archaeology and history of the Arizona Strip, southwestern Utah, and southern Nevada, including a workshop on Arizona Strip ceramic traditions. Please join us for a special event!
Ancestral Hopi Painted Pottery Seminar
Friday, May 20; 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
ASM Pottery Gallery
AAHS Membership Required to Attend

Join Dr. Patrick Lyons, ASM Acting Associate Director and Head of Collections, for a two-hour seminar focused on ancestral Hopi painted pottery. Dr. Lyons will teach about the typology and chronology of Jeddito Yellow Ware, Jeddito Orange Ware, Winslow Orange Ware, and Hopi White Ware, using whole vessels and sherds from ASM’s collections. He will address key research questions that archaeologists have explored using these wares, including exchange, migration, and the origin of the katsina religion.

Also included in the program are a tour of the Agnese and Emil Haury Southwest Native Nations Pottery Vault and an opportunity for participants to test their new knowledge by sorting sherds. The seminar will conclude with a question-and-answer session. A compilation of published sources on ceramic analysis and ancestral Hopi pottery and handouts synthesizing typological and chronological information will be provided.

Attendance is limited to 30 people. To register, contact Katherine Cerino at kcerino@gmail.com

Suggested Reading:


The Cornerstone

State Museum’s “Woven Wonders” Nationally Recognized: Preparing for Public Debut

$400,000 grant jump-starts fund-raising effort for new storage and exhibition spaces

With the award of a $400,000 grant from the federal preservation competition Save America’s Treasures, Arizona State Museum (ASM) at the University of Arizona is embarking on a fund-raising campaign to construct a climate-controlled storeroom and new exhibition space for its vast collection of southwestern basketry and other “woven wonders” of southwestern heritage.

Arizona State Museum cares for some of the world’s most significant collections representing the peoples of the American Southwest and northern Mexico. Among the museum’s vast and varied collections is a comprehensive assemblage of American Indian basketry. With more than 25,000 specimens, the collection includes not only baskets, but cording and other items representative of every regional culture group dating from 11,000 years ago to the present.

“Receiving this grant is an honor because it recognizes the national importance of the collection, but it is also testimony that the collection faces imminent danger of deterioration caused by inadequate environmental controls within the museum’s two historic buildings,” said Dr. Nancy Odegaard, the museum’s head conservator. “All measures have been taken to ensure responsible stewardship; now the only step left is placing the objects into a renovated space.”

According to Odegaard, an upgraded “visible vault” for this collection will mitigate threats from...
Established by the Arizona territorial legislature in 1893, Arizona State Museum is the oldest and largest anthropology museum in the region, is the nation’s largest and busiest state-run archaeological repository, and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

ASM occupies two historic buildings, both on the National Register of Historic Places, just inside the University of Arizona’s Main Gate in Tucson. While the buildings’ exteriors are beautiful, their interiors are not up to 21st century standards of climate control and exhibition space. This project is part of ASM’s ongoing efforts to retrofit its facilities.

See <http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/preserv/woven_wonders/faq.shtml> for an illustrated list of frequently asked questions about Arizona State Museum’s woven wonders.

## ANNUAL PLAINS ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The 69th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona, at the Marriott University Hotel on October 26–29. For additional information, contact María Nieves Zedeño at mzedeno2@email.arizona.edu, or visit the conference website at www.pac69.com.
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.