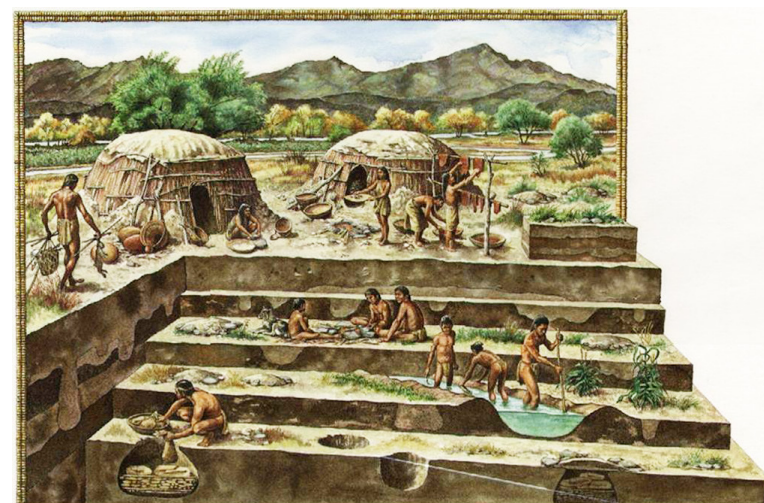


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The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 66, No. 1

July 2015



Artist's conception of the Las Capas site (by Michael Hampshire)

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Next General Meeting: July 20, 2015
7:30 p.m.
University Medical Center
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

President's Message

by Jesse Ballenger

The 2015 Pecos Conference of Southwestern Archaeology will be held in Mancos, Colorado, August 6-9. For registration information and a schedule, visit <http://pecosconference.com/>.

Each August, archaeologists gather under open skies somewhere in the southwestern United States or northwestern Mexico. They set up a large tent for shade, and spend three or more days together discussing recent research, problems of the field, and challenges of the profession. In recent years, Native Americans, avocational archaeologists, the general public, and media organizations have come to speak with the archaeologists. These individuals and groups play an increasingly important role, as participants and as audience, helping professional archaeologists celebrate archaeological research and to mark cultural continuity.

First inspired and organized by A.V. Kidder in 1927, the Pecos Conference has no formal organization or permanent leadership. Somehow, professional archaeologists find ways to organize themselves to meet at a new conference location each summer, mostly because they understand the problems of working in isolation in the field and the importance of direct face time with colleagues. To make progress with objective science and other cultural matters, books and journal articles are important, but one still must look colleagues in the eye and work out the details of one's research in cooperative and contentious forums.

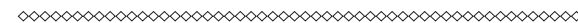
Open to all, the Pecos Conference remains an important opportunity for students of prehistory to meet with professional archaeologists on a one-on-one informal basis to learn about the profession, gain access to resources and to new research opportunities, and to test new methods and theories related to archaeology.



AAHS Lecture Series

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

- July 20, 2015: Jonathan Mabry, *Irrigation, Social Changes, and Ecological Knowledge in Early Farming Societies in the Sonoran Desert*
- August, 2015: No Lecture (Pecos Conference)
- Sept. 21, 2015: Michelle Hegmon, *The Archaeology of the Human Experience*
- Oct. 19, 2015: Chuck LaRue and Laurie Webster, *Ancient Woodworking, Animal Use, and Hunting Practices in Southeastern Utah: New Insights from the Study of Early Perishable Collections*
- Nov. 16, 2015: Deni Seymour, *The Earliest Apache in Arizona: Evidence and Arguments*



FRIENDLY REMINDER! ADDRESS CHANGES, TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT

Please remember to provide us with a change of address as soon as you know your new address. If you have a User ID and Password, you can manage this online. Alternatively, please email Mike Diehl, Vice President, Membership (mdiehl@desert.com), who will be happy to take care of that for you. Even if you need to change your address just for the summer, please notify AAHS so you can receive *Glyphs* and other information.



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

July 20: Topic of the General Meeting

Irrigation, Social Changes, and Ecological Knowledge in Early Farming Societies in the Sonoran Desert

by Jonathan B. Mabry

Based on archaeological settlement patterns and cross-cultural comparisons, it may be inferred that the use of canals and irrigated field systems in the middle Santa Cruz Valley of southern Arizona by 1500 B.C. required cooperation among multiple families, and ultimately led to territoriality and tethered, recurrent sedentism within settlement districts bounded by each other. Cross-cultural comparisons also imply that this transition was associated with the development of the nuclear family household as the basic social and economic unit, concepts of private property ownership and inheritance, and continuity of household lineages. The roots of prehistoric villages in the Southwest can be seen in these new features of social organization.

Rather than interpreting early irrigation communities in this region as adaptations to environmental or population pressures, which appear to have been absent during the period of their formation, the alternative paradigm of “niche construction theory” from evolutionary biology may be a more appropriate explanatory framework. This theory recognizes a larger role for human agency, and interprets resource diversification and intensification in contexts of low population pressure and varying resource abundance as resulting from deliberate human efforts to manipulate the environment to enhance resource productivity and predictability. Niche construction theory also provides a model for how accretional irrigation systems were inherited and further developed by subsequent generations through niche-construction techniques and other traditional ecological knowledge that was culturally transmitted between generations.

Suggested Readings:

- Doolittle, William E., and Jonathan B. Mabry
2006 Environmental Mosaics, Agricultural Diversity, and the Evolutionary Adoption of Maize in the American Southwest. In *Histories of Maize: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Prehistory, Biogeography, Domestication, and Evolution of Maize*, edited by J. Staller, R. Tykot, and B. Benz, pp. 109-121. Elsevier, San Diego.
- Mabry, Jonathan B.
2009 Early Farming Societies in the Desert Southwest. *Archaeology Southwest* 23(1):18-19.
- 2008 *Las Capas: Early Irrigation and Sedentism in a Southwestern Floodplain*. Anthropological Papers No. 28. Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson.
- Merrill, William L., Robert J. Hard, Jonathan B. Mabry, Gayle J. Fritz, Karen R. Adams, John R. Roney, and A.C. MacWilliams
2009 The Diffusion of Maize to the Southwestern United States and Its Impact. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 106:2109-21026.
- Smith, Bruce D.
2012 A Cultural Niche Construction Theory of Initial Domestication. *Biological Theory* 6:260-271.

Speaker Jonathan Mabry is the Historic Preservation Officer and City Archaeologist for the City of Tucson. He has 37 years of archaeological experience, including fieldwork in the Middle East, U.S. Midwest and Southwest, and northwestern Mexico. He earned a doctorate degree from the University of Arizona Anthropology program in 1992.

As a Senior Project Director for Desert Archaeology, Inc., from 1994 to 2007, he directed excavations at numerous sites in southern Arizona, ranging in age from the Archaic to the Historic periods. A series of excavations he directed at sites along the Santa Cruz River in and near Tucson documented very early pottery, crops, canals, and architecture. Between 2000 and 2003, he co-directed archaeological investigations that extended the beginning of Tucson's history back more than 4,000 years ago and uncovered remnants of the 18th century Spanish Colonial presidio, mission, and mission garden.

He is currently co-directing a reinvestigation of the Middle Archaic type site for the southern Southwest near Portal, Arizona, which has uncovered a bison kill area. He is also co-directing the first archaeological excavations of prehistoric shell middens along the northern coast of the Gulf of California in Sonora, Mexico.

Upcoming AAHS Field Trips

*Participation in field trips is limited to members of AAHS.
There is generally a 20-person limit on field trips, so sign up early.*

Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research

September 12, 2015; 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Join us for a tour of the world famous Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona. This tour, led by Dr. Ron Towner, will showcase the new Bryant Bannister Tree-Ring Building—a state-of-the-art facility containing outstanding laboratories for exploring all aspects of dendrochronology, as well as the only federally recognized archive for all tree-ring samples from federal lands. The equally famous UA Radiocarbon Lab, headed by Dr. Greg Hodgins, will also be visited during the tour.

To register for the trip, contact Cannon Daughtrey at cannondaughtrey@gmail.com.



AAHS is Turning 100 Years Old in 2016!

Help us plan the celebration. We are looking for a group of volunteers to work with AAHS Board Member Suzanne Crawford to come up with plans to mark our 100th anniversary. We anticipate some event at the Southwest Symposium to be held in Tucson in January 2016 and at the 2016 Pecos Conference to be held in Las Cruces, as well as a local celebration. There will be a budget provided—the amount yet to be determined. You do not need to be local to participate in organizing and brainstorming. If you are interested in helping please send an email to Suzanne at suzanne2400@gmail.com.

Cornerstone

Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum

The following story, originally published on May 11, 2015, is reprinted with permission from Cronkite News. Our thanks to editor Steve Crane and reporter Kristen Hwang. See the online version with photos and related stories at <http://cronkitenewsonline.com/2015/05/for-museums-sifting-decades-of-artifacts-is-painstaking-but-vital-work/>

For Museums, Sifting Decades of Artifacts is Painstaking, but Vital, Work

by Kristen Hwang

Suzanne Eckert leaned over the second-floor railing in the old Arizona State Museum building, now used for storage after the museum outgrew the space years ago.

“This is one of our storage rooms,” said Eckert, the museum’s head of collections. In front of her, stacked 10 high, 12 wide and at least 40 deep were boxes of material from past archaeological digs.

It’s the haystack in which museum researchers must find thousands of very special needles – the human remains and “funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony” it acquired over decades of government-sanctioned and commercial looting of Native American graves.



Suzanne Eckert and John McClelland look down on hundreds of boxes from past archaeological digs that are part of the Arizona State Museum collection. (Photo by Kristen Hwang)

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The museum, like all facilities in the country with Native American artifacts in their collections, is required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to return those remains and cultural items to the tribes from which they came.

It's slow going.

As of April, the Arizona State Museum had issued notices of inventory completion for 1,095 human remains – a little less than half

of its total collection of culturally identifiable remains.

Still, that's better than most museums in the country, which collectively had more than 140,000 human remains left to be repatriated last year, according to the National NAGPRA annual report for 2014.

That's out of a total collection estimated at 180,000 human remains when the repatriation law took effect in 1990.

When NAGPRA was enacted, it came with a five-year deadline. Federal agencies and institutions that receive federal money, like museums and universities, were supposed to publish inventories of items they were holding that should be returned to tribes by 1995.

"Five years sounds like a long time, but for museums that have been collecting ... for 120 years, they had very large collections," said John McClelland, the Arizona State Museum's NAGPRA coordinator.

McClelland, who began working with NAGPRA as a graduate student in 1995, said early archaeological digs were not well documented and museum inventories were kept on obsolete computer equipment that couldn't be trusted.

Researchers had to take inventory by physically sifting through boxes of objects.



Suzanne Eckert, head of collections at the Arizona State Museum, with shelves full of baskets that are part of the museum's collection. (Photo by Kristen Hwang)

"We feel like we need to go back to the original excavation notes to find out what was originally reported, and then we need to track down all of those objects," McClelland said. "There wasn't enough time in those five years to do a physical verification of what was on the shelves or to do that kind of research."

McClelland said the museum plans to finish the job in three years. That's OK with Arizona's tribes, which would rather have the museum do a thorough inventory in the next three years than run the risk of repatriating incomplete collections.

Despite many tribes' frustration with the slow pace of the work nationally and with the refusal by some museums to return items they say fall under the law, advocates say the Arizona State Museum stands out as a model for how NAGPRA was intended to be carried out – researchers collaborating with tribes to return items as a measure of good will.

"We're just all generally getting a better understanding of prehistory in America, and I think working with NAGPRA, it's a really good way to bring the tribes and the researchers together," said Melanie Deer, a curatorial and museum specialist at the museum.

The museum works closely with tribes in Arizona and nearby states to determine cultural affiliation of objects and human remains, and McClelland is well respected in the tribal community for his efforts to carry out their wishes.

McClelland said he treasures the relationships he has built working with Native American communities and said his work with repatriation has changed his view of archaeology.

"In the scientific profession, you tend to view bone as just that,



The Arizona State Museum at the University of Arizona has spent decades sifting its collection of Native American remains and artifacts to determine what should be returned to tribes. (Photo by Kristen Hwang)

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as material that is inanimate that you would study," McClelland said. "As a result of my continued work with repatriation and working with Native American communities, I really changed that attitude quite a bit to view human remains as a person."



John McClelland, who oversees the Arizona State Museum's compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, said the museum hopes to finish its inventory of tribal remains and objects in the next three years. (Photo by Kristen Hwang)

Deer said that understanding is important to the process.

"These were people," she said. "It's no longer just the history books that we're looking at. We're looking at actual people, and their modern descendants.

"The big thing in Southwest America is they want to rebury their family members and return them to where they should be," Deer said.

And McClelland said that understanding has benefits for the scientific community, as well.

"To understand that the treatment of someone's ancestor is an incredibly emotional and spiritual concept to many people is tremendously beneficial for ourselves to broaden our viewpoints," he said.



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.

AAHS Membership Application

Membership is open to anyone interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Membership runs for a full year from the date of receipt, 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 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

Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

Institutional Subscriptions

For institutional subscriptions to *Kiva*, contact Maney Publishing at subscriptions@maneypublishing.com or <http://maneypublishing.com/index.php/journals/kiv>. For institutional subscriptions to *Glyphs* (\$100), contact AAHS VP for Membership at the address below.

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

Michael Diehl, VP Membership
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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.

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