



# glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 69, No. 1

July 2018



*Field school student Johnny Schaefer finds a perforated plate sherd at the Gila River Farm site (photo by Leslie Aragon).*

**Next General Meeting:**  
**July 16, 2018; 7:30 p.m.**  
**Duval Auditorium**  
**Banner-University Medical Center**  
**1501 N. Campbell Ave.**  
**Tucson, Arizona**  
[www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org)

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## President's Message

by John G. Douglass

I recently saw a photo on social media of Cerro Pedernal ("Flint Hill" in Spanish) taken by Lewis Borck. That image brought back good memories from my college days. Pedernal, as it's commonly known, is a prominent mesa in northern New Mexico, which was a local source of chert for Native peoples for thousands of years, including the Gallina. Two summers during college, I worked at nearby Ghost Ranch, and each day during those summers, I would see Pedernal to the south of the ranch, rising up on the horizon. Georgia O'Keefe, who had a home at the ranch for many years, painted Pedernal numerous times, and I believe her ashes were scattered on the mesa. It's an amazing landscape, and I have very fond memories of the area and my experiences there.

Those two college summers, I was responsible for a variety of tasks at the ranch, including working on a research farm and being one of two ranch garbage collectors. The research farm was great, as I learned how to buck alfalfa, drive a tractor, drive a dump truck, care for sheep (Churro sheep, the hardy variety introduced by the Spanish and still used today by some Native groups), maintain wet batteries for a solar system, and grow foods using local water-conservation techniques. Perhaps the most important life lesson I learned working on the research farm, based on being careless, is to never reach over an electrified fence and accidentally touch the live wire.

As ranch garbage collector, each afternoon was spent driving around the ranch with another college student, dumping the contents of large metal barrels into the bed of a pickup truck. The pickup truck we used had a stepside bed with a handle bolted along the bed rail, allowing one of us to drive and the other to ride standing on the side of the truck, ready to jump off and grab the next barrel of garbage. After a short amount of time, we developed a good rhythm.

Once the truck was full, we would head to the landfill, back the truck up to its edge, drop the tailgate, and shovel the garbage into

the deep trench.

This process continued until all the garbage on campus was collected.

The following morning during a coffee break, we

would return to the landfill and set fire to the garbage to reduce the volume prior to being buried by a bulldozer. We were pretty smelly at the end of each hot afternoon, but it was satisfying work.

I bring up the ranch because it was the first place I experienced a monsoon in the American Southwest. I grew to love those two summers partially because of the dramatic swings in weather. In early May, there would still be morning frost on the ranch grass due to the high elevation. As the summer progressed, it became hotter, and monsoon storms would steadily build in the afternoons, creating dark stormy clouds, lightening, and the possibility of a deluge. Sometimes, we'd get nothing but lightening, but sometimes we'd get inches of rain in a short amount of time.

The unpredictability of the monsoon was one of the things that fascinated me the most. When working on the research farm or out collecting garbage, we knew that when the rain hit Highway 84, a few miles south of the main ranch campus, we had about 10 minutes to find cover. If we got wet, we wouldn't melt, but it sure got slick once the silty sediments of the ranch got hit by a storm.

Right now, we are on the cusp of the monsoon starting to build after a tough spring full of heat and little moisture. Very soon, large clumps of the American Southwest will once again dramatically come back to life, with formerly brown and shriveled vegetation transforming almost overnight into vibrantly green colors. All of those seeds that were dispersed by the wind and animals after the spring will have a chance to grow and thrive, replicating the cycle of the previous year.

I hope each of you enjoys the monsoon this summer as much as I will.



## July 16: Topic of the General Meeting

### *Perforated Plates, Fish Bones, and the Archaeology of the Upper Gila River in the Fourteenth Century*

Karen Gust Schollmeyer  
*Archaeology Southwest*

Each summer, students and professional archaeologists at the Upper Gila Preservation Archaeology Field School work together near Cliff, New Mexico, to understand what life was like in the region in the AD 1300s. A collaboration of Archaeology Southwest and the University of Arizona, this project is focused on how people formed the communities we are studying, which were long lived and incorporated residents of different origins and ethnicities. Cliff Valley archaeological sites preserve evidence of long-established local Mogollon traditions of pottery and architecture combining, with traditions imported from northeastern Arizona in the 1300s to form a new ideology that included people from several different ethnic backgrounds. At the same time, farmers found ways to use local plant and animal resources that resulted in less archaeological evidence of resource depletion than the large villages of previous centuries. Excavated rooms in Cliff Valley villages show an interesting range of activities, including craft production, purposeful deposits of items created when people stopped living in certain rooms within a village, and evidence for variability in how long or how often ancient farmers lived in the same rooms and villages or moved between homes. This talk summarizes our latest research on these topics, including findings from this summer's freshly backfilled excavations.

#### **Suggested Readings:**

Before the Great Departure: The Kayenta in Their Homeland. *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* 27(3). <<https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/product/asw27-3/>>

A Complicated Pattern: Pursuing the Meaning of Salado in Southwest New Mexico. *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* 26(3-4). <<https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/product/asw26-3-4/>>

*Speaker Karen Schollmeyer is a preservation archaeologist at Archaeology Southwest. She grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and earned her undergraduate degree at Stanford University and her Master's and Doctoral degrees from Arizona State University. She has worked on archaeological projects in the Peruvian Highlands, the Ethiopian desert, and the American Southwest. Karen's research interests include zooarchaeology, long-term human-environment interactions, and food security and landscape use. She is also interested in how archaeologists' long-term insights can be applied to contemporary issues in conservation and development. Karen has done research and fieldwork in southwest New Mexico for 20 years, and is especially interested in the "edges" of the Mimbres-Mogollon area along the Rio Grande and the Upper Gila.*



## 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.*

The AAHS Field Trip Committee (Kirk Astroth, Katherine Cerino, Pamela Pelletier, Rebecca Renteria, and Chris Sugnet) is in the midst of planning the 2018–2019 field trip season. Here are some teasers. We hope to include trips to the rock art of the Silver Creek area north of Show Low, a backcountry tour of Casa Grande, a visit to the CCC Camps in Saguaro West, a trip to Fresco caves north of Willcox, a visit to the Tonto National Monument and Roosevelt Lake sites, the Mendoza Cave area near Three Points, a trip to Mission Gardens and Tumamoc Hill here in Tucson, and a visit to San Xavier Mission. All are in the very early planning stages, so stay tuned to our website.

Our September trip will be to the University of Arizona Tree-Ring Laboratory on the morning of September 22. Sign up details to be announced shortly.

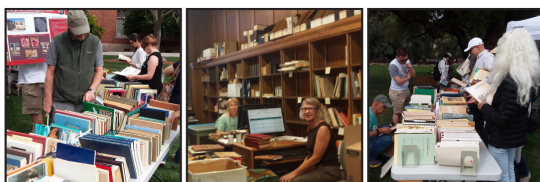
## Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing  
Arizona State Museum*

# THANK YOU, AAHS for your support of ASM's LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

A million thanks for 26 years of back-breaking work on behalf of the ASM library and archives! Since 1992, through the used book sales, you have provided us not only with an acquisition budget, but also a means by which to employ work-study students. For the countless hours spent processing innumerable volumes, moving thousands of pounds, and raising tens of thousands of dollars—I am immeasurably grateful. Thank you!

Mary Graham  
ASM Head Librarian, 1987-2018



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## 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. If you are joining as a household, please list all members of the household. Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership.

### Membership Categories

- ☐ \$60      **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$45      **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$35      **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$100      **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$150      **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$300      **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$1,500      **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.*

I wish to receive *Glyphs* by (circle your choice):      Email      Mail      Both

I am interested in volunteering in AAHS activities:      Yes      Not at this time

### Institutional Subscriptions

University libraries, public libraries, museums, and other institutions that wish to subscribe to *Kiva* must do so through the publisher, Taylor & Francis at tandfonline.com. 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](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org), or by mailing the form below to:

Barbara Montgomery, VP Membership  
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*Kiva*: Debra Martin, Acquisitions Editor | [debra.martin@unlv.edu](mailto:debra.martin@unlv.edu)  
*Glyphs*: Emilee Mead | [emilee@desert.com](mailto:emilee@desert.com) | 520.881.2244

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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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