

glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 70, No. 3

September 2019



Hand stencils in an alcove at JO4

Next General Meeting:
September 16, 2019; 7:30 p.m.
Duval Auditorium
Banner-University Medical Center
1501 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, Arizona
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

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President's Message

by John D. Hall

Five years ago this month, southern Arizona was hit with the remnants of Hurricane Norbert, a Pacific Coast tropical storm that eventually became a Category 3 hurricane on September 6, 2014. By September 8, the storm moved over Arizona and dropped heavy rains. With records going back to 1921, Hurricane Norbert tracks as one of the top 10 wettest tropical cyclones in southern Arizona. My house is along the Cañada del Oro (CDO) Wash, and my rain gauge recorded 2.5 inches that day. The CDO wash was completely flooded and I was able to get a photograph from the La Cañada bridge.



Floodwaters in the Cañada del Oro Wash, September 8, 2014.

One of my favorite activities is walking in the wash (usually with a dog or two). Over the years, I have become accustomed to the topography of the CDO near my house. I know each little arroyo, the sand bars in between, and which grove of trees provides the best shade. The flood of 2014 completely changed the landscape of the CDO. My first hike in the CDO after the flood was almost disorienting. Places where I expected an arroyo were filled in with sediment and previous sand bars had been scoured out with new arroyos. Even groves of mesquite trees were undermined or removed completely.

As I became familiar with this new landscape, my brain switched to archaeology, as it usually does. One large sand bar I used to hike



Uprooted mesquite tree in the CDO after the 2014 flood, with my hiking companion for scale.

along prior to the flood always had prehistoric pottery sherds. I made it a habit of ending my walk along this particular sand bar, looking for sherds. In fact, sherds were common enough that I would often impress my out-of-town guests by casually finding a sherd on every walk. After the 2014 flood, that large sand bar was gone, as were the sherds.

It reminded me of some of the textbooks I read during my school days, such as Michael Waters' *Principals of Geoarchaeology* or Michael

B. Schiffer's *Formation Process of the Archaeological Record*. Schiffer's book is particularly important for explaining how archaeologists must keep a critical eye toward the process of change and the formation of the archaeological record.

Archaeological sites and artifacts are constantly affected by time, nature, and even people. For example, keeping these processes in mind, I know that none of the sherds in the wash were in situ. The wash is a dynamic and constantly changing environment, as the 2014 flood reminds us. The sherds I located on that sand bar probably originated from some of the large Hohokam villages upstream, such as Honey Bee Village in Oro Valley or Romero Ruin in Catalina State Park. Without the knowledge of formation processes, I might have had the erroneous notion that the sherds were in their primary context. The sherds I used to find on that sand bar are now somewhere downstream, perhaps on another sand bar. Maybe someday while my mind and my feet wander I will find a new sand bar with different sherds and my routine will start anew.

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.*

Your field trip committee is busy planning trips for the upcoming season. Unfortunately, we have not yet finalized the details.

As soon as information is available, it will be posted on the website. Stay tuned!

Chihuahua Adventure: Paquimé, Cueva de la Olla, and More November 1-4, 2019

TRIP FULL – WAITING LIST ONLY

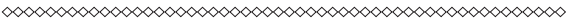


Paquimé, previously known as Casas Grandes, was one of the largest and most influential communities in the ancient U.S. Southwest and northwestern Mexico, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Excavations by the Amerind Foundation and Mexico's Instituto Nacional

de Antropología e Historia have revealed a thriving community with many multi-storied roomblocks, ballcourts, ritual mounds, and enormous amount of exotic goods, such as macaw parrots, copper, and marine shell. We will visit Paquimé and its world-class museum. The trip will be led by archaeologist/ethnobotanist Paul Minnis.

Paquimé was more than a large community. It was the center of a large network of hundreds of outlying towns and hamlets, and we will visit several of these sites. Cueva de la Olla (Cave Valley) is a famous ruin in the mountains just west of the Casas Grandes region. If we have sufficient time, we will also visit other sites not open to the public.

A trip to this region is not complete without a visit to Mata Ortiz, a town of 400 potters who started their tradition by imitating ancient pottery. Their artistic talents have now extended far beyond imitation.



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.

- Sept. 16, 2019: Kirk Astroth, *Profound and Persistent Beauty: Results of the Petroglyph and Pictograph Recording Project in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming*
- Oct. 21, 2019: Patrick Lyons, *Davis Ranch Ruin Site in the San Pedro Valley*
- Nov. 18, 2019: David E. Purcell, *Seasons of the Sun: Experimental Timelapse Photographic Documentation of Archaeoastronomical Sites in Wupatki National Monument*



Old Pueblo Archaeology Educational Programs

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center offers speakers to give presentations on various topics for educators and other adults, as well as for children, upon demand.

Examples of topics include:

- ♦ Archaeological Excavations on the Eastern Tohono O’odham Reservation
- ♦ Teaching the Fundamentals of Archaeology
- ♦ The Study of Chipped Stone Tools
- ♦ The Study of Prehistoric Ceramics
- ♦ The Peoples of Ancient Arizona

To schedule a speaker on these or other Southwestern archaeology, history, and culture topics your organization might like to hear about, contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at 520.798.1201.

September 16: Topic of the General Meeting

Profound and Persistent Beauty: Results of the Petroglyph and Pictograph Recording Project in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming

*Kirk Astroth
University of Arizona*

The Powder River Basin west of Kaycee, Wyoming is rich with history. The lush basin east of the Big Horn Mountains, known now as Hole in the Rock, was home to indigenous people for centuries who left images on the red sandstone canyon walls and in alcoves. The basin was also the site of the Chief Dull Knife Battle of 1876 (five months after the Little Bighorn Battle), which demoralized the Cheyenne tribe and in which they sustained heavy losses and lost their sacred bundles to attacking soldiers. The basin is also the site of the Johnson County Wars, in which cattle barons invaded to eliminate small stock growers and rustlers in 1892. Butch Cassidy and his gang were just a few of the reported rustlers who hung out in the area.

The Middle Fork of the Powder River contains such a great variety and unique examples of petroglyphs and pictographs that it is being nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This summer, I volunteered with Sacred Sites Research to help recording this site on private land. Led by Lawrence Loendorf, Julie Francis, and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer, Mary Hopkins, our multi-disciplinary team utilized a range of research techniques to record the site.

My presentation will share the results of this summer's recording project, which includes a large number of unique bear images, bear claws, hand stencils, incised images, and oddly, two Fremont-style petroglyphs that represent the farthest east such images have ever been found. Rock images range from quite ancient to more modern Crow images of sweat lodges and tipis.

After a full career as a high school history teacher, university professor, and assistant dean, **Speaker Kirk Astroth** retired and returned to school as a graduate student in Applied Archaeology at the University of Arizona, with a research project focused on relative dating of petroglyphs. Kirk is also a volunteer at the Arizona State Museum in the Conservation Laboratory where he is X-raying more than 2,000 sandals from the Southwest. Kirk has had a lifelong interest in rock imagery, is a former Arizona Site Steward, worked as an intern at the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research, and has volunteered with Archaeology Southwest on several recording projects, including the Painted Rocks Petroglyph site. He has presented papers at the San Diego Rock Art Conference, the Pecos Conference, and the American Rock Art Research Association Conference.

Suggested Readings:

Francis, Julie E., and Lawrence L. Loendorf

2002 *Ancient Visions: Petroglyphs and Pictographs of the Wind River and Big Horn Country, Wyoming and Montana*. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Loendorf, Lawrence L.

2008 *Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains*. Taylor and Francis, New York.

Loendorf, Lawrence L., Christopher Chippindale, and David S. Whitley (editors)

2012 *Discovering North American Rock Art*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Schaafsman, Polly

2018 Chaco Rock Art Matters. *Journal of the Southwest* 60(1):42-73.

AAHS SUBVENTION AWARDS

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) is pleased to announce the 2019 competitive subvention award program for AAHS members. The purpose of this program is to provide money in support of the publication of digital or print books or *Kiva* journal articles that further the mission of AAHS. Many sources of grant funding do not support publication costs. Through this program, AAHS can provide occasional funding to prevent this barrier to the sharing of research results. This year, awards up to \$5,000 will be considered. For more information on award criteria and submittal, visit: <https://www.az-arch-and-hist.org/grants/subvention-awards/>. The deadline for submissions is September 9, 2019.

Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum*

ASM MASTER CLASSES

Taught by museum experts actively
conducting research in their disciplines

Learn new things • Reconsider conventional wisdom • Advance your level of knowledge
Discuss current issues with civility and respect

THE EVOLUTION OF OUR BODIES

From Planet of the Apes to the Dawn of Man

with Dr. James T. Watson

Associate Curator of Bioarchaeology and Associate Professor of Anthropology

More than seven million years of evolution led to the dominance of our species over the planet. A long but often scant trail of fossil skeletons tells the tale. But biological evolution is only one part of the equation as behavioral adaptations, or "culture", both contributed to and accelerated the evolution of our human form. Today we live trapped in bodies that hold the residues of physical evolution and their limitations, under the intensely rapid transformations of modernity. In this four-part series, you will journey through millions of years of evolution with Dr. Watson to trace the development of our species from the hominin fossils to the modern legacy of lifestyle diseases.

Wednesdays

Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2019

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Old Main, Silver and Sage Room

\$200 ASM members (\$80 tax deductible)

\$250 non members (\$130 tax deductible)

Registration includes campus parking, class materials, coffee and light snacks
Gift portion supports Dr. Watson's graduate student assistants

Reserve your seat by contacting
Darlene Lizarraga at
520-626-8381 or
dlf@email.arizona.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**ARIZONA
STATE MUSEUM**

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, or by mailing the form below to:

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

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A A H S



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University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0026
USA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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