



# glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 75, No. 4

October 2024

Two-pole, lashed-rod-and-rung ladder from Grand Gulch, Utah, with ladder poles whose upper ends appear to have been sawn, possibly for packing and transport; photographed with two crutches and a cane; objects from the Green Collection (Peabody Museum photo)



## Next General Meeting:

October 21, 2024

7:00 pm (MST)

University of Arizona  
Environmental and Natural  
Resources Building 2, Room 107  
Agnese Nelms Haury Lecture Hall  
1064 E. Lowell Street  
Tucson, Arizona

and

AAHS@Home (Zoom webinar)

[aahs1916.org](http://aahs1916.org)

## In This Issue

- 2 President's Message
- 4 *Ladders, Axes, and a Tale of Two Pueblo Technologies*, Richard Ahlstrom
- 8 Cornerstone

## President's Message

*by Rich Lange, President*

Dear Reader,

You won't see this until several weeks after it was written, so, transitions at the time of that writing have now occurred and are past. Transitions—like the easing of the triple digits of summer into the moderate temperatures of fall, like the quiet campus of the summer bursting again with anxious and energetic students, and such as the AAHS Board of Directors with several new members who at this point have yet to officially meet as a board. On we go!

Writing this monthly statement (blurb?) can be one of the more challenging aspects of the AAHS President's role. Fortunately, there are usually events, upcoming or in progress, that provide the grist for that mill. Urging members to action or recounting past history are other approaches to filling the void, but even these are sometimes devoid of content or inspiration. I am always appreciative of the conscientious and vital participation of the other officers, general board members, and important, dedicated volunteers critical to all of the programs and projects in which AAHS is involved.

Pushed by the pandemic and evolving media and technology, like many, many others, AAHS embraced new approaches and options for meetings, conferences, and publications. These opportunities continue to expand and diversify, and AAHS continues to adjust to new ways of doing things. Realizing that some things are outside the experience and expertise of our board and officers, we have engaged with other organizations and businesses to help us with strategic goals and planning, as well as with the organization and function of our digital communications, data, and archives. Some of these "things" are "new," and should be obvious, others are "new" and run quietly in the background.

AAHS has been affiliated with the Arizona State Museum (ASM) on campus of the University of Arizona since its founding by the first archaeologist-director of ASM in 1916. That relationship

is undergoing some changes, brought about by long-deferred maintenance and remodeling/safety improvements that have finally received funding.



The construction means that public exhibits, the library, and certain programs/opportunities are now on hold, likely until the spring of 2028. The construction schedule may also impact AAHS access to certain materials it has always stored at ASM—archives, publications back stock, and conference and booksale materials. AAHS and ASM are working together to deal with the longer-term access issues and to react and adjust in the best ways possible as short-term changes become known.

Check your *Glyphs* newsletter and the AAHS website ([aahs1916.org](http://aahs1916.org)) to learn about upcoming events, lectures, and field trips! Stay involved with AAHS! AAHS appreciates your interest and support!



## AAHS Lecture Series

*Lectures are offered in a hybrid format, presented in-person at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Building ENR2, Agnese Nelms Haury Lecture Hall, Room 107, and simultaneously through Zoom.*

**NOTE: The December 2024 lecture will be via Zoom only.**

- Oct. 21, 2024: Richard Ahlstrom, *Ladders, Axes, and a Tale of Two Pueblo Technologies*
- Nov. 18, 2024: Brooks Jeffery and Backy Orozco, *Preserving Place and Empowering Community: The Past, Present, and Future of Camp Naco*
- Dec. 16, 2024: Chuck Adams, *TBD*
- Feb. 17, 2025: Maren Hopkins and Kelsey Hanson, *Los Barros de Juan Quezada: Land Use and Composition*

## October 21: Topic of the General Meeting

### *Ladders, Axes, and a Tale of Two Pueblo Technologies*

*Richard Ahlstrom*

Two-pole ladders and hafted stone axes first came into common use in the Central Pueblo area at the same time, the late sixth to seventh centuries, underwent only minor or localized redesign over the following millennium, and fell out of use across the Pueblo World, again at the same time, in the seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries. The two-pole lashed rung ladder was a Pueblo invention, whereas the hafted-stone axe was borrowed from elsewhere. The two-pole ladder – the central figure of this telling – has received scant attention from students of Pueblo material culture, perhaps because the few surviving examples entered the archaeological record one at a time and are now scattered among the collections of a dozen museums. Especially noteworthy is the ladder’s ingenious design, which utilizes supplemental rods and self-tightening lashings for attaching rungs to its plain or unnotched poles.

That both the two-pole ladders and the axes continued in use for so long is a testament to how well they performed their appointed tasks. Both implements did, however, involve considerable effort to produce and maintain – substantially more than that required by the older tools and techniques they replaced. Pueblo craftspeople took on that added effort based on the ways the ladders and the axes contributed to the construction and use of pithouses that, for the first time, were routinely being built with roof-top as opposed

***This lecture is free.***

***No registration is required if you are planning to attend in person (see cover). The lecture will also be offered via Zoom, also free. However, for Zoom, you must pre-register at: <https://bit.ly/2024OctoberAhlstromREG>.***

to side-wall entries. The tools' contemporaneous adoption was not, in other words, merely coincidental, but rather, was a function of the roles they played in broader developments in the Pueblo-built environment. Their contemporaneous obsolescence, 1,000 years later, was also not a coincidence, as Pueblo users deemed the traditional artifacts inferior to the mortised-rung ladders and axes of iron and steel introduced to them by newly arrived Spaniards during their conquest and establishment of a New Mexico colony. Here again, developments in ladder and axe technology reflect broader patterns in Pueblo history.

My talk will explore these and other topics in the history of Pueblo ladders and axes while also touching on challenges and opportunities in studying these two relatively uncommon artifact types.

*Speaker Richard Ahlstrom has been conducting archaeology in the American Southwest for just over five decades, first as a doctoral student at the University of Arizona, then working on several mostly contract projects distributed widely across the region, and now as a retiree. Study locations important to the development of his archaeological identity include the Las Vegas Valley in southern Nevada; Park Wash and Jackson Flat in southcentral Utah; Cedar Mesa in southeastern Utah; the Dolores Project area in southwestern Colorado; Walpi Pueblo, Black Mesa, and the Flagstaff area in northeastern Arizona; Perry Mesa in central Arizona; the Barry Goldwater Range in southwestern Arizona; and Faraway Ranch in southeastern Arizona. From Dr. Ahlstrom's dissertation on, he has maintained an active research interest in the interpretation of tree-ring data from all manner of Pueblo-tradition contexts. This lecture for the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is drawn from a manuscript on Pueblo ladders and axes recently submitted for publication.*

### **Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society Newsflash!**

AAHS has a new web address.  
Check out the newly designed site at [AAHS1916.org](http://AAHS1916.org).



*Follow AAHS on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/archandhist](http://www.facebook.com/archandhist)*



## UPCOMING AAHS FIELD TRIPS

*Field trips are only available to current AAHS members and are limited to 20 people unless otherwise noted. For more information or to sign up, email [aahs1916@gmail.com](mailto:aahs1916@gmail.com).*

### **The Archaeology of Perry Mesa, Arizona October 19–20, 2024**

Join AAHS for a two-day tour of sites on and around Perry Mesa with Connie Stone and R. E. Burrillo. This is a two-day event for which attendees have the option of joining for one or the other or both.



Day one, Saturday, will be in Agua Fria National Monument, with retired BLM archaeologist Connie Stone leading folks on a tour of locations to be decided within the monument. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Badger Springs, where there is a large parking lot. This is the easiest day in terms of hiking, no more than a few miles total.

Day two, Sunday, will take place atop Perry Mesa, with researcher and AAHS trip director R. E. Burrillo leading folks on a tour of three major population centers. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the junction of Copper Creek and Bloody Basin Roads. Total hiking distance will be close to eight miles, although it will be walking around three archaeological sites, allowing people to move at their own pace and to skip areas they do not want to attempt.

Motels are scarce in the immediate vicinity, with the closest ones being in Black Canyon City to the south or Cordes Lakes to the north. Dispersed camping is available all over the top of Perry Mesa, so people who want to attend both days are encouraged to camp. High clearance and/or 4WD vehicles are necessary to reach all of the locations for the planned visit, so it will be crucial to plan for carpooling once the list of attendees is finalized. Travel to the Perry Mesa vicinity from Phoenix takes about 45 minutes and about 2.5 hours from Tucson.

# AAHS Fall Used Book Sale

Thursday, October 10: 1:00–4:00 pm

Friday, October 11: 10:00 am–4:00 pm

AAHS will hold its annual fall Book Sale on Thursday afternoon, October 10 (1–4 pm) and Friday, October 11 (10 am–4 pm) in front of the Arizona State Museum building. Proceeds from the sale support the Arizona State Museum Library. Come browse and buy anthropology, history, biography, and general non-fiction books. New inventory, including many beautiful American Indian Art books. Books are priced from \$2.00 to \$20.00.



Due to ongoing restoration work at the Arizona State Museum, this may be our last book sale for some time, so you will not want to miss it.



## 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. Examples of topics include:

- ◆ Archaeology and Cultures of Arizona
- ◆ Archaeology and You: Preserving the Past for the Future
- ◆ Arts and Culture of Ancient Southern Arizona Hohokam Indians
- ◆ Set in Stone but Not in Meaning: Southwestern Indian Rock Art
- ◆ Arrowhead Making and Flintknapping Workshop
- ◆ Traditional Pottery Making Working

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.

## Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing  
Arizona State Museum*

# Upcoming Master Classes at ASM



**Biographies of Culture and Power in Colonial Mexico**, a five-part series taught by Dr. Michael M. Brescia, curator of ethnohistory and professor of history.

October 23, 30 & November 6, 13, 20, 2024  
9:30-11:30 a.m. In person (space limited) or on Zoom.



**Germes and Genes: Modern Perspectives on Ancient Diseases**, a six-part series taught by Dr. James T. Watson, curator of bioarchaeology, and Dr. Keith Maggert, associate professor of molecular and cellular biology.

January 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 8, 15, 2025  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. In person (space limited) or on Zoom.



**Narrative Threads: How Perishable Material Culture Illuminates the Ancient Americas**, a four-part series taught by Dr. Edward A. Jolie, Clara Lee Tanner associate curator of ethnology and associate professor of anthropology.

March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025  
In-person Only. Space limited to 12 persons.

**Full details/pricing at [statemuseum.arizona.edu/events](https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/events).**  
To register, contact Darlene Lizarraga at [dfi@arizona.edu](mailto:dfi@arizona.edu) or 520-626-8381.



## 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.

### Membership Categories

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

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:

Emily Jonsson, Vice-President for Membership  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society  
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

I wish to receive *Glyphs* (circle your choice):    Digital Only    Print and Digital

I wish to receive *Kiva* (circle your choice):    Digital Only    Print and Digital

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) are to: encourage scholarly pursuits into the history and anthropology of the southwest United States and northwest Mexico; encourage the preservation of archaeological sites and historical properties; encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; publish the results of these investigations; aid in the functions of the Arizona State Museum; and provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities.

AAHS considers the following to be contrary to the Society's objectives and enjoins its members, as a condition of membership, to abstain from the following: the practice of collecting and dealing in archaeological materials for personal gain; the excavation of archaeological sites or historic properties without permit or permission; and the unlawful or unethical acquisition of archaeological or ethnographic materials.

For your records, any portion of your payment over the basic \$60.00 membership may be tax deductible.

#### Officers

President: Rich Lange | [aahspresident@gmail.com](mailto:aahspresident@gmail.com)

Vice President for Activities: Ralph Burrillo | [aahsfieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:aahsfieldtrips@gmail.com)

Sebastian Chamorro | [aahsfieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:aahsfieldtrips@gmail.com)

Vice President for Membership: Emily Jonsson | [aahsMemberVP@gmail.com](mailto:aahsMemberVP@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary: Rebecca Harkness | [aahs1916@gmail.com](mailto:aahs1916@gmail.com)

Communications Officer: Blaine Burgess | [bburgess@chronicleheritage.com](mailto:bburgess@chronicleheritage.com)

Treasurer: Bill Gillespie | [aahstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:aahstreasurer@gmail.com)

#### Directors

Samuel Fayuant

Barbara Montgomery

Stan Ponczek

Noah Place (student representative)

Jeff Jones

Daniel Montoya

Ben Bellorado (ASM representative)

#### Editors of Society Publications

*Kiva*: Allison Rautman | [rautman@msu.edu](mailto:rautman@msu.edu)    Thomas Rocek | [rocek@udel.edu](mailto:rocek@udel.edu)

*Glyphs*: Emilee Mead | [emilee@desert.com](mailto:emilee@desert.com) | 520.881.2244

### Board of Directors 2024-2025

A A H S



Est. 1916

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society  
Arizona State Museum  
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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