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Newsletter

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CULTURAL CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN THE UPPER PECOS VALLEY: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Jeremy M. Moss

7:30 PM, Tuesday July 17, 2018

Albuquerque Museum of Art and History

2000 Mountain Road NW

Pecos Pueblo was occupied for over six hundred years and was a gateway community connecting the Plains and the Rio Grande Valley. The allure, mysteries, and myths of Pecos have fascinated archaeologists since Bandelier first recorded the site in 1881. The cultural connections to modern Pueblo groups makes it an interesting place to explore cultural continuity and to assess the legends and lore that first drew archaeologists to Pecos at the turn of the twentieth century. The presentation will summarize the history of archaeology at the site, future avenues of research, and the many cultural connections that bind modern Pueblo groups to Pecos Pueblo.

Jeremy Moss is currently Chief of Science and Resource Stewardship and Archaeologist at Pecos National Historical Park, where he has served for five years. His education began at the University of New Mexico, where he specialized in prehistoric archaeology and graduated cum laude. He has an MA from the University of Wyoming, where he studied prehistoric archaeology and specialized in hunter-gatherer studies and lithic analysis.

Moss has 21 years of experience in prehistoric and historic archaeology, integrated resource management, museum management, tribal consultation and historic preservation in the American Southwest, mostly in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. For the majority of this time he has worked for the National Park Service and universities. During his NPS career he worked at Canyonlands National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Petroglyphs National Monument, Pecos National Historical Park, Saguaro National Park and Tumacácori National Historical Park. His professional interests include public archaeology and history, historic preservation practice and policy, natural resource conservation, architectural conservation, museum management, public outreach and education, archaeological science, and ge archaeology.

Reminder: No meeting and no Newsletter in August

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June 19, 2018

President Carol Chamberland opened the meeting at 7:33 PM. She welcomed one visitor, Jonathan Anderson, and two new members, Carry and Bob Wilcox, and invited all attendees to a social time after the meeting with refreshments provided by Joanne Magalis.

Minutes: As there were no corrections or additions to the May meeting minutes, they stand as published.

REPORTS

Treasurer – John Guth: Due to exceptionally large attendance at the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's Annual Meeting hosted by AAS in May, we now have \$9300 in the checking account and \$9000 in Certificates of Deposit.

Archives – Karen Armstrong: The group is proceeding with Chupadero Black-on-white pottery sherds from the Adam Ranch. A new director for the Maxwell Museum has been hired, and Acting Director David Phillips's last day will be September 29, 2018.

Membership – Mary Raje: Currently AAS has 176 members. Mary has finished the “push” for re-enrollment and is currently working on the membership directory.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: This week the team found pottery shreds dating from AD 1200. Tom Windes has announced that he plans to map a site non-digitally. Stay tuned for this fieldwork opportunity in the fall.

Field Trips – Carol Chamberland for Pat Harris: The next field trip will be on July 21 at Forked Lightning Pueblo near Pecos National Monument with signup after this meeting. The \$10 trip fee can be paid on the day of the trip.

Pottery Southwest – Hayward Franklin: The Spring/Summer 2018 issue is due out very soon.

Webmaster – Evan Kay: Thatcher Rogers has volunteered to assist with the website.

Seminars – Carol Chamberland: The seminar on dendrochronology presented by Tom Windes went well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Chamberland announced that Dick Harris had a heart attack on June 18 and will be having surgery on June 22. She passed on a message from Dick that we all should learn CPR because he feels that it saved his life. A card was passed for people to sign to let Dick know that he is in our thoughts.

Gretchen Obenauf reported that the recent AAS survey for The Archaeological Conservancy at Tinaja Pueblo went well and there may be future survey opportunities for AAS members.

Coronado Historic Site won an award for the Dig Kuaua project of last summer. This award will be presented at Annual Meeting of American Association of State and Local History in Kansas City, Missouri on September 28.

Carol Chamberland reminded members that we will need a new venue for seminars after Dave Phillips retires. Please see Carol if you have a venue in mind that will accommodate 20 people.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

SPEAKER

Evan Kay introduced Erin Hegberg, a PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico and a historical archaeologist with the Office of Contract Archeology, who spoke on the role of wood resources in the historic archaeology of New Mexico and Colorado. Ms. Hegberg provided the following synopsis of her presentation.

Respectfully submitted by Ginger Foerster, Secretary.

Junk on the Trunk: Trees and Perishable Wood Features in the Archaeological Record

By Erin Hegberg

This presentation was intended to give listeners an introduction some of the more common types of historic wood and tree features that occur in New Mexico and Colorado forests. While a “wood resource” may include everything from wooden *vigas* to ax or saw-cut stumps, this presentation briefly covered 1) peeled trees; 2) limbed or shaped trees; 3) structural features; and 4) carved trees, particularly aspen.

Peeled trees are most often pine species that have had the bark removed to access the cambium layer underneath. In many trees, cambium is very rich in vitamins and minerals, including high amounts of vitamin C and calcium. It can be an emergency food during lean times, and an important food source in early spring when other vitamin sources have not yet emerged. In the Southwest, peeled trees (culturally modified trees, or CMTs) are most commonly ponderosa pine, but other species have been observed with peels. For example, lodgepole pine is also peeled for cambium in the Pacific Northwest, and juniper is peeled because its bark is useful for a range of different artifacts, rather than for food. Peeled trees can occur singly or in clusters, such as the History Grove at the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and Indian Grove at the Great Sand Dunes National Park in southern Colorado. Cambium consumption is most often associated with Ute peoples, but Navajo, Apache, Pueblo, and other Southwest groups have also been reported as using tree cambium in different contexts. Marilyn Martorano has dated many trees in Colorado, using multiple cores and correlating the tree date with the scar date; most peels are from the mid to late 1800s (Martorano 1989).

Limbed and shaped tree features include living trees in the forest that have historically had limbs removed, or shaped for a variety of reasons. Historically, people would have removed branches from trees to improve campsites, create livestock accessibility or tie-up points, or to collect branches for fuel or structures. The date when branches were cut can also be determined using tree rings, and sometimes these dates are vital to understanding the precise occupation period of an archaeological site.

The bulk of the presentation was spent discussing carved aspen trees, or dendroglyphs. These are common features that can be found throughout the mountains in Western states, including New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and California. I presented information from two large dendroglyph samples—over 350 carvings recorded by the Office of Contract Archeology in the Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico and 277 aspen trees recorded near Buckles Lake, approximately 12 miles north of the New Mexico border, near Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Much of the documentation of carved aspen at this point has been by volunteer groups, such as Colleen Olinger’s group in the Valles Caldera and the San Juan Mountains Association in Colorado. Work by avocational historians who have come to care about the stories has produced large datasets of carved aspen. Recording often includes a drawing of the carving, a transcript, and sometimes other technological applications such as photogrammetry, or digital photo manipulation, to clarify faint carvings.

Common themes recorded on carved aspen in both the Valles Caldera and the Buckles Lake area include some combination of a name and a date, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of the carved aspen. Images also include naturalistic or figurative themes such as horses or leaves, and anthropomorphic themes, such as portraits. Dendroglyphs are most famous for their sexual imagery, but these only account for approximately two percent of carved aspen imagery.

Dates carved on trees indicate that the trees were carved between May and September, during the high elevation grazing season, and carving ages range between the late 1890s until today. The highest number of trees were carved during the 1930s, and the greatest number of unique names occur during the 1930s, as well. It is likely that most of the older carvings—on older trees—have been lost due to aspen mortality. Aspen tend to live between 70 and 120 years. This suggests that aspen with 1930s carvings, already over 100 years old, may not last much longer, which makes volunteer recording work even more valuable.

A case study involving Frank Lopez Sr. and Sebedeo Valdez from the Buckles Lake sample was presented. Frank and Sebedeo represented the most frequently carved names in the sample, with 24 instances of Frank and 21 instances of Sebedeo. They carved their names on the same trees nine times, enough to speculate that they were a team that worked and carved together.

A comparison of the signatures and dates of Frank and Sebedeo can tell us something about their relationship. Sebedeo almost always wrote in Spanish with a day-month-year format, but when Frank's signature is there as well, the date is usually written in English, with a month-day-year format. Sebedeo's signatures tend to co-occur with more drawings than Frank's. Both herders appear to have been experimenting with different signatures. Frank often tried out different styles of "handwriting" as well as adding and dropping his middle name (Anthony) or initial. Sebedeo's work includes several alternate spellings for his name: Sebedeo and Sevedeo have equivalent pronunciation in Spanish and were probably commonly interchangeable. Other variations include Cebedeo S. Valdez, Cebedez Taldez, Sedello, and Sebedes. Frank Lopez carved "Edith, CO" on earlier trees and "Lumberton, NM" on later trees. A man named Francisco Lopez, a 56 year-old stock-raiser, was located in the 1930 U.S. Census in Lumberton, NM, with a son, Francisco Lopez, Jr., who was a laborer. A Frank Lopez, Jr. was also identified on carved trees from the Buckles Lake sample, suggesting that "Francisco" could be Frank, returning to graze his own sheep in the pastures of his youth.

Reference Cited

Martorano, Marilyn A.

- 1989 Culturally Peeled Ponderosa Pine Trees, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, Saguache County, Colorado. Report to the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Goodson and Associates, Lakewood, Colorado.

AAS FIELD TRIP NEWS

Pat Harris, Field Trip Chair, reports that Earlene Shroyer will be serving as coordinator for the AAS Forked Lightning field trip, signup for which was filled at the June meeting. The October trip to Black Water Draw is on hold for now due to Dick Harris's illness. He is at home, recuperating from heart surgery.

FORT STANTON LIVE EVENT JULY 14

The 2018 Fort Stanton Live Celebration will feature the grand opening of the Fort Stanton Hospital Exhibit. After so many years of being closed to the public, (other than After Dark Tours) five rooms in the historic Fort Stanton hospital will be permanently opened, complete with interpretive exhibits. Also on view will be the premier of the Japanese Internment Exhibit: Confinement in the Land of Enchantment (after several months at Fort Stanton, this exhibit will travel on to Lordsburg and Santa Fe). Music will include the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band, Pecos River Brass Quartet, 1st New Mexico Field Music, and Spencer Jackson Minstrel Show. Chuckwagon Living History Demonstrations will be presented by the staff and friends of the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum.

AMERICAN ROCK ART RESEARCH ASSOCIATION STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

The American Rock Art Research Association announces a new student research award of up to \$2500 for a graduate-level student. Award funds are for reimbursement of research expenses in order to publish a thesis, dissertation, or peer-reviewed academic paper as part of a student's academic program. Deadline for application is January 31. The award supports travel to a rock art site, field work with a qualified mentor or program, laboratory work to further research study, and/or literature research. See arara.wildapricot.org/Student-Research-Award for details.

CALENDAR CHECK

Lecture

“Comanche Rock Art on the La Vista Verde Trail” by Gary Grief, Tuesday, July 24 6:30pm at the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Center, 848 NM Highway 68, Alcalde, New Mexico. Suggested donation \$5.00. More information at tours@mesaprietapetroglyphs.org.

Conferences

Pecos Conference August 9–12 at the Hotshot Camp in the Kaibab National Forest about 10 miles outside of Flagstaff, Arizona. More information and online registration available at pecosconference.org.

Sapawe Conference “From Sapawe to Casitas” September 7–9, El Rito Campus, Northern New Mexico College. Free and open to the public, but advance registration required. Register at elritolibrary.org or call (575) 581-4608.

Mogollon Conference October 11–13 at Corbett Center, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. Call for papers on the archaeology of the Mogollon region. Deadline for submissions August 1. See the website [<lonjul.net/mog2018/>](http://lonjul.net/mog2018/) for details.

New Mexico Archeological Council Fall Conference “The Archaic Period,” November 10 at the Hibben Center, UNM Campus. Call for papers.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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