



THE

Albuquerque Archaeological Society

Newsletter

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HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT ABIQUIU? WHICH ONE?

Cheryl Muceus

**7:30 PM, Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW**

Living in the Abiquiu area of Northern New Mexico for the last 20 years, I am surrounded by history and traditions. The Hispanics of the area have been around for almost 300 years and those are the newcomers. As the westernmost outpost of the Spanish Empire in Nuevo Mexico, Abiquiu was the village that explorers hoped to see again when setting out into the wilds. I will share a little history, stories and images of both the old Abiquiu and the new.

Cheryl Muceus (sounds like museum), retired in 2013 from Ghost Ranch Conference Center, where she managed both the Florence Hawley Ellis Museum of Anthropology and the Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology. Cheryl was hired in 1985 by Dr. Ellis as her assistant curator of anthropology and flowed into other positions, such as “duster of dinosaur bones,” as needed. Coordinating the Archaeology at Ghost Ranch seminar from 1991 to 2013 was another.

Note: At the request of the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, our December meeting has been changed from December 15, the third Tuesday, to December 8, the second Tuesday. Please change your calendar.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Marc Thompson.

Refreshments for the evening were provided by Ann Carson and Donna Respopo. All present were invited to gather for refreshments after the meeting. Several visitors and new members introduced themselves.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the newsletter and Helen Crotty received applause for the excellence of the last newsletter.

TREASURE'S REPORT:

Treasurer John Guth reported that we have \$7,500 in our checking account and \$13,000 in CDs. This is after giving the Dudley King Scholarship and paying for storage boxes at the Hibben. He also reported that we now have 176 members.

VICE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice President Gretchen Obenauf reported that Carol Condie is home and doing better after a pelvis fracture. She hopes to attend this the October meeting. Carol is on the board of directors of the Archaeological Conservancy, and she asked Gretchen to urge our members to join and contribute to this excellent organization. Copies of the Conservancy's magazine, *American Archaeology*, which is free with membership, were available in the lobby.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archiving, Karen Armstrong: Last spring, the group rescued Kim Sargent's collection from the Chamisal site; it is now stored, at least temporarily, at the Maxwell Museum. The Sapawe material is under control although some interesting materials are still missing. After being on vacation for most of the summer, the group is now working on material from Alaska. This collection consists of bones from many different species of Arctic animals, and Karen showed the membership a whale vertebrae from the collection. Karen is always looking for new recruits for the archiving group. She has now been volunteering at the Maxwell for 10 years and is going to receive a pin for her service.

Rock Art, Carol Chamberland: The team attempts to go out every Tuesday to record rock art on BLM lands. This summer has been difficult because of rain, disappearing roads and a flat tire. Today they actually were able to record a site. The rock art groups have been led by Dick Harris and Carol, but there are now some new leaders in training to take on some of the burden.

Nominating Committee, Diane Courney: Diane Courney asked that anyone interested in serving on this committee should let her know. The committee will be looking for people interested in serving on the Board of Directors in 2016.

Field Trips, Pat Harris: Carol Chamberland led a tour of the new history exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum on August 16th. The participants were a small group of intelligent women and the trip was very enjoyable. Three future field trips were discussed. On September 27, there will be a three-hour tour of Mesa Prieta in Petroglyph National Monument. On October 4, Carol Chamberland will lead a rock art tour of Tomé Hill. This trip was rained out twice in the spring, but hopefully it won't rain this time. October 24-25th is the date for our overnight field trip to a Chaco outlier and to petroglyphs in Largo Canyon coordinated by Steve Respopo. This trip is currently full; contact Steve to sign up for the wait list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marc Thompson reported that the next issue of *Pottery Southwest* would be available on the internet by the end of the week. Editor Patricia Lee is seeking papers and other materials for future issues.

Danielle Silva, a representative of U.S. Federal Eagle Credit Union (formerly U.S. New Mexico Federal Credit Union) announced that members of AAS are eligible to join U.S. Federal Eagle Credit Union. Reading materials about the credit union were available on the table outside the door for anyone interested in joining.

SPEAKER

Gretchen Obenauf introduced Laurie Webster, an anthropologist from Mancos, Colorado, who specializes in South-western perishable material culture and a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Webster spoke about her most recent research on nineteenth century collections held by museums in Washington, DC and Provo, Utah. She provided the following synopsis of her presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

---*Joanne Magalis*, Secretary

Re-excavating the Past: New Work with Ancient Textiles, Baskets, Wood, and Hides from Southeastern Utah

Laurie D. Webster, PhD

During the 1890s, local “cowboy” archaeologists recovered nearly 4,000 Basketmaker and Pueblo-period perishable artifacts from dry caves in southeastern Utah. In 2011, I began a project to document and photograph these extraordinary collections and make them more widely known to archaeologists, native communities, and the public. In 2011 and 2012, with the help of assistants Erin Gearty and Chuck LaRue, I spent two months at the Field Museum of Natural History documenting the Green and Lang collections, and in September 2012, I gave a talk to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society (AAS) about that work. In 2014, we spent another month at the Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) at the Smithsonian Institution and then two weeks at the Museum of Peoples and Cultures (MPC) at Brigham Young University. These four years of work have resulted in the documentation of approximately 1500 perishable artifacts, the generation of more than 4500 digital photographs, and the radiocarbon dating of 16 objects.

The focus of my talk at the September 2015 meeting of the AAS was our 2014 work with these collections. I began by summarizing the histories of the major collections we studied: (1) the Charles Lang and Platte Lyman collections made in Allen and Cottonwood Canyons in 1893 and 1894, now at the MPC; (2) the Kunz Collection made by Charles McLoyd and Charles Cary Graham in Grand Gulch and canyons of the Colorado River in 1892-1893, initially purchased by John Kunz from Aztec, NM, and then bought from him by Fred and Talbot Hyde for the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH); (3) the Hyde Exploring Expedition in Grand Gulch and Cottonwood Wash led by Richard Wetherill in 1893-1894, funded by the Hyde brothers for the AMNH; and the (4) the Whitmore-Bowles Exploring Expedition led by Richard Wetherill in Grand Gulch, Cottonwood Wash, Chinle Wash, and Marsh Pass in 1896-1897, later also purchased by the Hyde brothers for the AMNH. I explained that in 1909, when then-curator George Pepper left the employ of AMNH, he took 98 boxes and barrels of these artifacts with him, and with the blessing of Talbot Hyde, later sold them to George Heye for his new Museum of the American Indian, now part of the Smithsonian Institution. After receiving these collections, Heye intentionally erased the AMNH and field numbers from the artifacts, which has created significant provenience problems for the museums and documentation projects like ours.

After discussing the histories of these collections, I shared about 50 images of perishable artifacts that were recorded by the project in 2014. Basketmaker II examples include several finely woven sandals in the process of manufacture; twined and looped yucca bags, one formerly filled with red pigment; coiled basket trays; a small bag made from a prairie dog hide, still filled with a type of tobacco; several man’s hair ornaments, one still bearing a well-preserved wrapping of bluebird, sapsucker, and junco feathers; an S-shaped throwing stick; two atlatls; a dart foreshaft bunt; and a dartmaker’s kit consisting of a cottonwood tray with foreshaft blanks, dart points, a bundle of sinew, and other objects. Basketmaker III artifacts include a pristine twined sandal and a cottonwood feather box. Pueblo-period artifacts include a hide shirt; wooden draw knives; a turkey-feather twined blanket with a decorative design worked in white feathers; finely woven twined sandals; a painted wooden armband; the base of a bifurcated coiled basket and a small bifurcated twill-plaited basket; twill-plaited sifter baskets with various forms of decoration; a full-size wooden

bow; bundles of hair snares and scissor snares; cotton seeds; a cotton beater; spindle shafts with a variety of whorls; and a wooden bowl with reed dice.

The Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding, Utah, will serve as a permanent archive for project data and photographs, and we are also working on an on-line digital perishables archive to make the basic information and images more widely available. In February 2016, we will begin our survey of the 1700 perishable artifacts at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, which is expected to take about three to four months to complete over the next two years. We will then turn our attention to the collections at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the Phoebe Hearst Museum at University of California Berkeley. Readers wishing to learn more about our project, follow our progress, or support our work with a tax-deductible contribution can check out our new website, <http://www.friendsofcedarmesa.org/perishablesproject/>.

BOOK REVIEW

From Tribute to Communal Sovereignty: The Tarascan and Caxcan Territories in Transition, edited by Andrew Roth-Seneff, Robert V. Kemper, and Julie Adkins. 2015. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 272 pp. \$55 (cloth). ISBN 978-0-8165-3158-5.

Reviewed by Matthew J. Barbour

The Jalisco and Michoacán regions of central western Mexico remain relatively obscure to New Mexican archaeologists and archaeological enthusiasts when compared with the Yucatan or Valley of Mexico. Yet, it is from this region of New Spain that New Mexico was settled. Cultural and historical ties abound between the area once known as New Galicia and our present day home.

From Tribute to Communal Sovereignty explores the prehistoric, historic, and present day indigenous communities of western central Mexico through a collection of academic articles by American, British, and Mexican scholars. It is one of the few books written in the English language to deal extensively with the region and for that reason alone is a valuable resource.

The papers in the book are divided into the following four parts.

Part I, Introduction: “Ethnic Landscapes: Territoriality, Time Immemorial, and the Twenty-First Century,” by Andrew Roth-Seneff and “Indigenous Population Transformation in West-Central Mexico,” by Robert V. Kemper and Julie Adkins.

Part II, Construction the Historic Horizon of Contact: “Territory and Resistance in West-Central Mexico, Part 1: Introduction and Archaeological Background,” by Phillip C. Weigand; “Territory and Resistance in West-Central Mexico, Part 2: The Rebellion de Nueva Galicia and Its Last Postclassic Prelude,” by Phillip C. Weigand; and “The Prehispanic Heritage of the Tarascans (Purepecha),” by Helen Perlstein Pollard.

Part III, Native Organization and Colonial State Formation: “Visions of the Past: The Tarascan Kingdom and the Late Colonial Primordial Titles of Michoacan,” by Hans Roskamp; “Identity and Ethnicity in Colonial Michoacan: Corporatism, Social Contract, and Individualism among the Tarascans,” by Felipe Castro Gutierrez; and “Indigenous Space and Frontier in Sixteenth-Century Nueva Galicia,” by Jose Francisco Roman Gutierrez.

Part IV, The Past in the Present: “The Historia of Islands: New Huichol Territorial Claims to Ancestral Places,” by Paul Liffman; “The Defense of Territory in the Costa-Sierra Nahua of Michoacan,” by John Gledhill; and “Ritual and Public Spheres in an Ethnic Celebration of Communal Sovereignty: The Purepecha Transition,” by Andrew Roth-Seneff.

Part I discusses the problems faced by self-recognized Tarascan and Caxcan peoples in regards to communal land claims and cultural identity. Then in Part II, the focus turns towards the cultural history and systems utilized by Native Americans in pre-Columbian west-central Mexico living both within and outside of the Tarascan Empire. Part III explores Tarascan and Caxcan conquest by, rebellion against, and integration within the Spanish Empire. Last Part IV summarizes and interprets how indigenous identity and land holdings have evolved under the Mexican government including the Constitution of 1917 and the legal reforms that continue into the twenty-first century.

Contributors to the collection are to be applauded for their multidisciplinary approach to the research. The work combines archaeology, history and ethnography to stunning effect. *From Tribute to Communal Sovereignty* is a masterful overview of the Tarascan and Caxcan peoples, how these indigenous groups were impacted by European colonialism, and in what manner they are organized and identified today.

For New Mexico scholars, Jose Francisco Roman Gutierrez's article "Indigenous Space and Frontier in Sixteenth-Century Nueva Galicia" is perhaps the most noteworthy. Gutierrez discusses the ideological causes and spiritual revitalization movement which contributed to the Mixton War and other rebellious acts in sixteenth century New Galicia. This lies in stark contrast to traditional interpretations which paint these as uprisings against Spanish rule. Rather than rebellions against secular officials, Gutierrez argues that it was resistance against conversion and cultural degeneration. Under this interpretation, the Mixton War has clear commonalities with modern elucidations of the Pueblo Revolt which would occur in New Mexico over a century later.

The academic prose may turn off some readers. Added to this is the fact that English is not the primary language of some of the contributors. *From Tribute to Communal Sovereignty* is not an easy read. The focus on a relatively obscure portion of Mesoamerica may not initially be of interest to many archaeological enthusiasts. However, an understanding of this region can be beneficial for scholars studying not only west-central Mexico, but New Mexico and New Spain, as a whole.

FIESTA OF CULTURES OCTOBER 17 AT CORONADO HISTORIC SITE

The Friends of Coronado present their fun-filled annual celebration, Fiesta of Cultures, on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 to 4:00. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate and enjoy the blending of local Pueblo, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures with music, dancing, ancient life-way demonstrations, and fine arts and crafts vendors for pre-holiday shopping. Included are an atlatl throw, calf-roping game, and other craft activities for the kids, plus yummy refreshments. Returning this year are the popular Buckaretttes, "Spanish conquistadors," and mountain men who will share their adventures. You'll enjoy watching blacksmiths, authentic pottery firing, weaving, and other life-way demonstrators/reenactors. Don't forget to see the baby Alpaca! The art gallery features a new video about the site as well as the early Native Easel Art exhibit. And if you have not been to the museum lately, you will want to see the beautifully updated exhibits. Tours of the ancient pueblo and the painted kiva will go on throughout the event, and Historic Preservation Division, SiteWatch, New Mexico Archeological Council, and the Office of Archaeological Studies will all have tables. No admission charge for the day at the Coronado Historic Site in Bernalillo.

UPCOMING JORNADA RESEARCH INSTITUTE DIGGING OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Dr. David Greenwald, President of the Jornada Research Institute (JRI) announces another field session for JRI members at Creekside Village near Tularosa, October 17 and 18 to continue excavations in the great kiva and on the three pit houses currently being excavated. The weather should be ideal. Contact JRI regarding your interest to participate, as interest is near capacity for attendance. This field session is a member event only as the landowner requires liability insurance that is provided through membership in JRI. Membership is easy and inexpensive (\$20 annually for students and seniors, \$35 for individuals, \$65 for families). To join, visit jornadaresearchinstitute.com/become-a-member/.

Another dig opportunity with JRI is coming in November (date not firm yet). Dr. Michael Bletzer will return to Sevilleta/Tzelaqui Pueblo to continue excavating in the Mission Mound in Socorro. The late September session produced some interesting discoveries, including a metal hook, Spanish pottery, and trade pottery from northern New Mexico.

JRI-related tours include Sevilleta/Tzelaqui Pueblo on October 24 as part of the Celebrate Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. You can sign up through the Friends of Sevilleta website (amigosdelasevilleta.org) for either a morning or afternoon tour led by David Greenwald to this incredible sixteenth and seventeenth century site along the Camino Real. Also enjoy the events at the National Wildlife Refuge Center that are planned that day.

On Sunday November 15, a day-long tour of Three Rivers Petroglyph Site will be led by Joan E. Price, M.F.A. research associate at JRI. For this guided tour, the group will meet at Three Rivers Petroglyph Site parking lot at 7:00 a.m. for sunrise, looking for and discussing the solar animation of images on stones and discussing ethnographic and cultural landscapes. Please be prepared to pay a \$5 fee for day use of the site maintained by the Bureau of Land Management. Please RSVP Joan Price at rainhousejoan@tularosa.net.

NEW MEXICO ARCHEOLOGICAL COUNCIL FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 14

The NMAC fall conference on “Fire and Archaeology in the Southwest” will be held at the Hibben Center Saturday, November 14, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, preceded on Friday, November 13 7:30-9:00 pm by a public presentation “Humans, Forests, and Fires in the Southwest: Multi-Century Perspectives from Tree Rings, Fire Scars and Archeology” by Tom Swetnam, Laboratory of Tree Ring Research at the University of Arizona in Hibben Room 105. Concurrent with the conference will be a book sale at the Maxwell Museum gift shop of a large selection of used (and mostly out of print) publications on Southwest archaeology and ethnology at (ahem) fire sale prices. For a preliminary program and registration form, contact Amalia Kenward at amaliackenward@fs.fed.us.

ANSM 2016 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SANTA FE APRIL 29 TO MAY 1 HOSTED BY THE SITE STEWARD FOUNDATION

The 2016 annual meeting of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico will be Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, 2016, at The Lodge hotel, 750 N. Saint Francis Drive in Santa Fe. Single- and double-occupancy rooms will be available to meeting attendees at the discounted rate of \$89 per night. The meeting will be hosted by the Site Steward Foundation beginning Friday afternoon with posters, vendors and exhibitors, meetings, silent auction, reception and cash bar. Saturday activities include field trip signup, posters, vendors and exhibitors, silent auction, presentation of papers, speakers, annual meeting, evening social hour, cash bar, and end with the Bandelier dinner and speaker. An assortment of field trips will be offered on Sunday in the Santa Fe area with box lunches available.

AMERICAN ROCK ART RESEARCH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN LAS CRUCES MAY 27-30, 2016

Las Cruces will be the site of the annual meeting of the American Rock Art Research Association May 27 to 30, 2016. One of the many reasons that ARARA chose to meet in Las Cruces next year is President Obama’s designation of 85,000 acres as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The new Monument includes a large number of archaeological sites, including over 50 rock art sites. ARARA Area chair Marglyph Berrier has already met with many local people to plan for field trips. The field trip wish list includes over 20 sites within a one- to two-and-a-half-hour drive from Las Cruces, among them Three Rivers and Hueco Tanks. Anyone wishing to help with the preparation or to volunteer to lead a field trip can contact Marglyph Berrier at marglyph@msn.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Lelia (Lea) Shepperson 1931-2015

Lea Shepperson died at home September 27. She and her husband, Robert Shepperson, had been AAS members for a number of years. Before moving to New Mexico in 1990, Lea had been active with the League of Women Voters in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma and served as an art docent in Oklahoma City museums. In New Mexico, she helped prepare an inventory of the Casa San Ysidro Collections in Corrales and also served on a team to prepare an inventory of a private Spanish Colonial collection in Santa Fe. A service of celebration of her life will be held Saturday, October 17 at 2:00 pm at the Albuquerque Friends Meeting House, 1600 5th Street NW.

CALENDAR CHECK

Events

Fiesta of Cultures Saturday, October 17, 10 to 4, at Coronado Historic Site in Bernalillo, New Mexico.

Free Lectures

“Humans, Forests, and Fires in the Southwest: Multi-Century Perspectives from Tree Rings, Fire Scars and Archeology” by Tom Swetnam, Laboratory of Tree Ring Research at the University of Arizona, on Friday, November 13, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, Hibben 105, UNM Campus.

“Photographs as Technology and Idea: A Discussion of Photos from the Maxwell Museum’s Archive” by Curator Deborah Romanek, Thursday, October 22, 7:30 pm. Hibben 105, UNM campus.

Tours

“Archaeology, Ethnology, Archives.” Curator David Phillips will lead a tour of Archaeology, Curator Lea McChesney will present the Ethnology collection, and Archivist Diane Tyink will introduce recently processes archival collections, Wednesday, October 14, 11:00 am, Maxwell Museum, UNM campus.

Sevilleta/Tzelaqui Pueblo near Socorro on Saturday, October 24 as part of *Celebrate Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge*. Sign up through the Friends of Sevilleta website (amigosdelasevilleta.org) for either a morning or afternoon tour led by David Greenwald.

Three Rivers Petroglyph Site day-long tour on Sunday, November 24 2015, led by Joan E. Price, research associate at JRI. Meet at 7:00 a.m. \$5 day use fee Contact Joan Price at rainhousejoan@tularosa.net.

Conferences

Southwest Kiln Conference October 16–18, 2015, in Safford, Arizona, at Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park Campus. For details visit the conference website at swkiln.com.

New Mexico Archeological Council “Fire and Archaeology in the Southwest” Saturday, November 14, 8:00 to 4:00 at the Hibben Center, UNM campus. Registration and preliminary program at amaliackenward@fs.fed.us.

Southwest Symposium January 14-16, 2016, at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Information at <http://bit.ly/1zqAyGX>.

ASNM Annual Meeting April 29-May 1, 2016, at the The Lodge hotel in Santa Fe. Preliminary notice.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196

www.abqarchaeology.org

www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc

Annual Dues: For emailed Newsletter: Student no charge (provide copy of current ID); Basic \$25; Sustaining \$35+. Print Newsletter by First Class Mail: Basic \$30; Sustaining \$40. Institutions/Libraries: \$10 for print Newsletter by First Class Mail, emailed Newsletter at no charge.

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Pottery Southwest
Editor: M. Patricia Lee
Contact: Arlette Miller 410-9263

Webmaster

Mark Rosenblum 866-0300