



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

VOLUME 55 No. 10

US ISSN 0002 4953

October 2021

**THE GREATER CHACO LANDSCAPE: SENSORY & POLITICAL
ENGAGEMENTS WITH PLACE**

Ruth Van Dyke

7:30 pm Tuesday, October 19, 2021

At Your Computer, Tablet, or Smart Phone

In this pre-recorded talk, archaeologist Ruth Van Dyke shares insights into social, political, and sensorial relationships across the greater Chaco landscape, past and present. Her work demonstrates how contemporary technologies can help archaeologists investigate ancient viewsapes and soundscapes. She explores how archaeologists can work together with Native peoples to influence the public understanding of contemporary economic/extractive projects across the greater Chaco landscape in northwest New Mexico. As this talk was originally recorded for Durham University last February, some of the contemporary content towards the end has changed. In Tuesday's meeting, Dr. Van Dyke will be available for Q&A, and she will update the audience on the current situation.

Ruth Van Dyke is Professor of Anthropology at Binghamton University - SUNY. Her research employs landscape archaeology to investigate the Chaco phenomenon. She is author of over 50 journal articles or book chapters and author or editor of six books, including *The Chaco Experience* (2008, SAR Press), and *The Greater Chaco Landscape* (2021, with Carrie Heitman, University Press of Colorado). *The Greater Chaco Landscape* received the 2021 American Anthropological Association's Engaged Anthropology Award, and you can download it for free at <http://read.upcolorado.com/projects/the-greater-chaco-landscape>.

Note from Vice President Gretchen Obenauf: *We're doing something a little different this month. We will play a professionally-produced Zoom lecture that Ruth Van Dyke gave for Durham University, UK last February. Ruth and Gretchen had planned for Ruth to present her talk to us in person, but COVID-19 had other plans. At the end of the recorded talk, Ruth will join us live and update us on new developments, as well as take questions from AAS members.*

A day or so prior to the meeting, an email message will be sent to members with the link for the Zoom meeting, which will open around 7 to allow for greetings among friends. Please keep your microphone muted during the presentation until the question-and-answer session.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Vice President Gretchen Obenauf in the absence of President Evan Kay.

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

Gretchen Obenauf: A professionally produced video of Ruth Van Dyke talking about the Greater Chaco Landscape will be played at the October meeting, followed by a live Q&A with Ruth.

Ann Braswell: Scott Nicolay will speak in November. Michelle Turner will present about Aztec North in either December or January.

The AAS Board decided that meetings would be held virtually on Zoom through December of this year and then be reevaluated. We will have a potluck celebration once we are able to return to the museum.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Obenauf: Income for the past month was \$32.50 from one new membership and a Pottery Southwest CD order of \$7.50. The sole operating expense for the month was the Zoom license fee of \$16.17. The checking account balance is \$5,518.72. We also gained a new (free) student membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Mary Raje: Dues collected after mid-October of this year are good through December of 2022.

Archiving Lab: Joanne Magalis reported for Archiving Chair Karen Armstrong that work has not yet resumed.

Field Trips – Pat Harris is waiting to see what happens with COVID before starting up again.

Rock Art – Carol Chamberland: The group will start working again this week now that the heat of summer is past.

Pottery Southwest – Hayward Franklin: The summer edition is online. There is a really interesting article by Mike Marshall on Pottery Mound chronology. Search on potterysouthwest.unm.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As announced in our September meeting, an award named in honor of Lou Schuyler has been established by the New Mexico Archeological Council to recognize people who, like Lou, research and write up unpublished "orphaned" excavations and collections neglected in museums.

[Donations to the Lucy C. Schuyler Award in honor of Lou may be made to the New Mexico Archeological Council (or just NMAC), P.O. Box 25691, Albuquerque, NM 87125.]

Also announced in September: Karen Armstrong was honored at the Pecos Conference with the Alexander J. Lindsay, Jr, Unsung Hero Award of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society for organizing and leading the archiving crew at the Maxwell Museum since 2004. Congratulations, Karen!

AAS made a \$500 donation in February to the Grant County Archaeological Society toward rehabilitation of a building to house the Mimbres Archaeological Research and Educational Center (MAREC). GCAS sends AAS and its other donors monthly updates on the project, which is moving along nicely.

SPEAKER

Vice President Ann Braswell introduced Keith Prufer, Professor of Environmental Archaeology and Core Faculty at the Center for Stable Isotopes at the University of New Mexico, who spoke about the terminal Pleistocene through Middle Holocene occupations in southeastern Mesoamerica. No synopsis of his presentation was available at press time.

Respectfully submitted by Susan King, Secretary

FIELD TRIP TO THE OJITO WILDERNESS AREA SCHEDULED OCTOBER 30

Pat Harris, Field Trips Chair, is pleased to announce a hike October 30 that has something for everyone. The Ojito Wilderness Area near San Ysidro offers moderate walking and features a homestead, hoodoos, some rock art, selenite crystals, an archaeological site, interesting geology, and more. Earlene Shroyer will be our guide. Proof of Covid immunizations is requested.

Details of meeting place and time will be sent to AAS members who sign up. Our usual \$10 fee per person will be collected at the meet place. To sign up, email Pat Harris, Coordinator, at patparhar@comcast.net.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Earliest Known Use of Tobacco: Scientists have unearthed evidence of a milestone in human culture – the earliest-known use of tobacco – in the remnants of a hearth built by early inhabitants of North America's interior about 12,300 years ago in Utah's Great Salt Lake Desert. Researchers discovered four charred seeds of a wild tobacco plant within the hearth contents, along with stone tools and duck bones left over from meals. Until now, the earliest documented use of tobacco came in the form of nicotine residue found inside a smoking pipe from Alabama dating to 3,300 years ago.

The researchers believe the nomadic hunter-gatherers at the Utah site may have smoked the tobacco or perhaps sucked wads of tobacco plant fiber for the stimulant qualities offered by the nicotine it contained. The seeds belonged to a wild variety of desert tobacco, named *Nicotiana attenuata*, that still grows in the area. "This species was never domesticated but is used by indigenous people in the region to this day," said archaeologist Daron Duke of the Far Western Anthropological Research Group in Nevada, lead author of the research published October 11 in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*. "On a global scale, tobacco is the king of intoxicant plants, and now we can directly trace its cultural roots to the Ice Age."

The Great Salt Lake Desert today is a large dry lake bed in northern Utah. The hearth site at the time was part of a vast marshlands, with a chillier climate during the twilight of the Ice Age. It is called the Wishbone site owing to duck wishbones found in the hearth. The hearth remnants were found eroding out of the barren mud flats where wind has been peeling away sediment layers since the marshlands dried up about 9,500 years ago. Artifacts there included small sharp stone-cutting tools and spear tips made of obsidian, used for hunting large mammals. One spear tip bore the remains of blood proteins from a mammoth or mastodon.

"We surmise that tobacco must have figured into the ecological knowledge base of those who settled the interior of the North American continent, some 13,000-plus years ago," Duke said. [Adapted from an article by Will Dunham for Reuters via *Southwest Archaeology Today*, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

CALENDAR CHECK

Events

City of Albuquerque Open Space Division free events Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17 celebrating the Pueblo Legacy in New Mexico. (Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Boulevard, Albuquerque unless indicated otherwise.) See the website cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/events/pueblo-legacies for more details.

Walking Tours of Piedras Marcadas Canyon with rangers from Petroglyph National Monument October 16, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and October 17, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Meet at Piedras Marcadas Canyon parking area (limited facilities) off Golf Course Road at Jill Patricia Street. Bring water and wear walking shoes.

Traditional Medicinal Plants Walk through Visitor Center gardens with Dara Saville October 16, 2 pm. (Limited space; call 505-768-4950 for registration.)

Pottery Demonstration, Hands-on activity, and Sale by Stephanie Zuni, Isleta Pueblo potter, October 16, 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Bosque Walk presented by Bosque Wild! Volunteers October 17, 8:00 to 10:00 am, meet at the Open Space Visitor Center.

Talk and Tour of Pueblo Piedras Marcadas with Archaeologist Matthew Schmader October 17, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (*limited space and currently waitlisted; call 505-768-4950 for registration.*)

Southwestern Indigenous Peoples: Their Culture, Languages & Legacy by Jon Ghahate, Museum Cultural Educator, Pueblo Cultural Center Auditorium, October 17, 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Limited to 40, no registration required.

Free Lecture

“Sixty Years at Sapawe: An Update on Ongoing Archaeological Investigations at an Ancestral Tewa Village in the Rio Chama Valley of Northern New Mexico” by Thomas C. Windes, Peter J. McKenna, Nancy J. Akins, and Regge N. Wiseman Friday, November 12, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, Hibben Center, University of New Mexico campus. Livestream address to be announced. Free parking in the lot just north of the Maxwell Museum.

Conferences

New Mexico Archaeological Council Fall Conference “Legacy Projects: Old Data/New Research” November 13 9 am to 4 pm at Hibben Center, University of New Mexico campus. Online registration at nmarchcouncil.org. Advance registration and NMAC membership required. Livestream address TBD. Park in non-reserved spaces on campus.

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting May 6–8, 2022 Sagebrush Inn, Taos.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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www.abqarchaeology.org and www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc

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

2021 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, email info@abqarchaeology.org or consult Membership Directory. Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing trips@abqarchaeology.org.

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