



THE  
Albuquerque Archaeological Society  
*Newsletter*

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**MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: SLIP, PAINT, AND  
COLOR HORIZONS ON ANCESTRAL PUEBLO POTTERY**

**Suzanne Eckert**

**7:30 pm Tuesday, June 21, 2022**  
*At Your Computer, Tablet, or Smart Phone*

While most people familiar with Southwestern archaeology are familiar with the notions of pottery types and wares, fewer people are familiar with the concept of pottery design horizons – decorative characteristics identified on multiple pottery types and wares that cross cut multiple regions. Dr. Eckert will discuss different design styles identified on Ancestral Pueblo pottery and how understanding broader decorative horizons provides a different perspective that may allow insights into social dynamics on a scale greater than one allowed by examination of regional ceramic series alone.

Suzanne Eckert earned her doctorate in 2003 from the Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University. She is currently the Head of Collections at the Arizona State Museum and Associate Professor in the School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. Dr. Eckert's research focuses on how pre-colonial and colonial cultures organized ceramic technology, and how this technology integrated with other aspects of society, including migration, religious practice, ideology, gender, and ethnicity. Her current project is focused in the Lion Mountain region of the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico..

*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 mute your microphone and turn off your video during the presentation until the question-and-answer session.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – EVAN KAY**

All good things must end, in their time. The Albuquerque Archaeology Society Board of Directors needs candidates to stand for board positions this year. Society elections are not voted on until December, but the process of elections starts sooner than that. Two officers have reached the end of their term limits: Second Vice-President Ann Braswell and President Evan Kay. We need active members who are ready to step up to the plate and join a board that works hard to make the members happy (or at least content) with the society's direction. (Continued, next page.)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

Our bylaws state that –with very few exceptions—officers may only hold positions on the board for four one-year terms.

### 4. TERMS OF OFFICE:

- a. *The new officers and directors shall assume their positions at the adjournment of the regular December meeting, and shall hold office for one year or until their successors accept office in their stead.*
- b. *No elected officer or director, except the Treasurer and the Secretary, may be elected to the same position for more than four consecutive terms, and no person may hold more than one elected position at a time. (Bylaws, p. 4)*

The other exception is First Vice President Gretchen Obenauf. As she had already held the position for two years when the term-limit was voted in, her position has been “grandfathered.” Gretchen was elected to a position that, at the time, had no term-limit.

The Second Vice President assists the First Vice President with preparing the monthly program of speakers, reaching out to those in the archaeology community to request a presentation. Either Vice President may also step in for the President temporarily when the President is unavailable to fulfill their duties. The Second Vice President position needs someone who is outgoing enough to contact potential speakers, and also to introduce that speaker to the members at the meeting.

The President’s job is to oversee the direction of the Society. The main duty is being the public face of the Society, representing the membership to the public and to the other organizations, and hosting the business portion of the monthly meeting. In addition, the president is tasked with organization and coordinating the activities of the various teams and committee members. This is to ensure that the jobs that need to be done get done.

While this is the most public job in the Society, a new President would not be alone. As mentioned in the opening paragraph, many members of the board are already skilled at assisting the President with the operations of the society “behind the scenes,” as it were. In addition, one of our Directors at Large, John Guth, has served admirably for the past four years, and must step down to comply with the term-limits. Per the Bylaws, the outgoing President is offered the position of one of the Directors at Large:

*The Society's immediate past elected President shall have the option of filling one director position. If the option is declined, two director positions shall appear on the election ballot. (Bylaws, p. 7)*

So, a new President would not be “sent to swim in the deep end of the pool,” without some guidance.

Finally, we again ask that the members of the Society look within themselves to find the resolve to stand for one of the two board positions that must be filled this year. You do not even have to decide immediately. In September, the board will solicit a Nominating Committee of two Society members, who will ask the voting membership for recommendations to stand for the Officer positions that are needed. That is about three months away. So, think about it, and if you are recommended for office, please answer the call.

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2022 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President Evan Kay called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**MINUTES:** There was one correction by Membership Chair Mary Raje to the minutes published in the May newsletter of the April meeting: the correct number of members should be 105.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

**Tom Obenauf** noted that income for the month was \$125 from membership renewals, \$120 from field trip fees, and \$1,100 in two donations, for a total of \$1,345. Operating expenses were \$16.17 for the monthly Zoom license

fee, \$106 for WordPress web hosting, \$23.20 postage, \$28.42 for newsletter copying, and \$1,179 for the annual liability insurance premium. There were no program expenses for the month. Checking account balance at the end of the month was \$5,999.66.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership – Mary Raje:** The Membership renewal period is closed and the list has been updated. The next task is to start on the Membership Directory.

**Archiving Crew – Karen Armstrong:** The crew started working again on April 13, and 6 to 8 volunteers are participating each week. They curated the Treasure Hill Mimbres site collection, which was donated by Dr. La Verne Herrington. Karen wrote to Dr. Herrington to thank her for the donation and to let her know what a privilege it was to work with the materials. The group is now processing a surface collection from a site that was the subject of Dr. Herrington's dissertation.

Karen asked the members to let her know of any suggestions to re-name the volunteer group. The name "Archiving Crew" is not appropriate because the term *archive* refers to materials on paper. They will need a new name for the new volunteer T-shirts for this curating crew. Please email [info@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:info@abqarchaeology.org) with any ideas.

**Pottery Southwest – Gretchen Obenauf:** The latest issue is out and available on line. It's a good issue that revolves around a central topic: sourcing.

**Vice President's Report – Ann Braswell:** Speakers are lined up for the June and July meetings.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friends of Coronado will be presenting the history of Bernalillo at their upcoming Sunday meeting. An announcement will go out to membership shortly.

The business meeting ended at 7:50.

Susan King, Secretary

## SPEAKER

Ann Braswell introduced Kellam Throgmorton of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, who spoke on the origins of Zuni Spotted Chert, and presented a landscape-level history of how people used the material from the paleolithic Folsom period to late Pueblo III times in the 1000s. No synopsis is available.

## BOOK REVIEW

***Barger Gulch: A Folsom Campsite in the Rocky Mountains***, by Todd A. Surovell. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 2022. x+229 pp., 93 figures, 25 tables, 12 plates, 4 maps, frontispiece, bibliography, index, author details. \$65.00 hardcover (ISBN 9780816545551), \$65.00 eBook (ISBN 9780816546251).

Investigations of the first inhabitants of North America typically rely upon a series of site types: isolated projectile points on the surface, mammoth or other megafauna kill sites, caches, and – rarest of them all – campsites. The rarity of ten-thousand-plus-year-old campsites in North America is both a product of past activities, ancient and more recent, including high mobility, limited permanency of house construction, excavation strategies, and taphonomic processes such as site deflation, burial, and destruction of sites. Todd Surovell (Professor of Anthropology, University of Wyoming) aims to convince readers that not only does a small campsite located in the Rocky Mountains contain definitive evidence in support of house structures but also that it was occupied for a relatively longer period of time.

The first chapter ("Problems") sets the stage for the volume, introduces issues in Paleoindian archaeology, provides a brief overview of the Barger Gulch Locality B site (hereafter Barger Gulch) and Folsom archaeology, and contrasts this volume with the more standard, traditional Paleoindian archaeological site report publication.

This chapter also lays out the objectives for the volume, namely to examine the use of space at a Folsom site. Chapter 2 (“Background”) begins with a brief discussion of the environment and climate of Middle Park in north-central Colorado (where Barger Gulch is located). It then introduces the surrounding area and the site with a standard overview of previous investigations, details of size, distribution of artifacts, and what areas Surovell (and colleagues) excavated, and it explains, as well, the methods used in the excavation of the site and analysis of artifacts. Chapter 3 (“Geology”) provides a geoarchaeological context and paleoenvironmental reconstruction for the site during the Paleoindian period and provides details regarding the dating of the Folsom occupation at the site.

Chapter 4 (“Formation”) focuses on site formation processes, providing details on the extent of natural disturbance on the site’s assemblage over the past 12,800 years. The main objective of this chapter is to convince the reader that although there are several significant disturbances impacting the artifacts, the assemblage retains much of its original spatial patterning. The fifth chapter (“Lithics”) provides a surprisingly brief overview of the lithic assemblage, given that it is composed of some 75,000 lithic artifacts. Important conclusions from this analysis include: 1) although the lithic assemblage as a whole is typical for a Folsom occupation, it is one of the densest known; 2) the inhabitants of Barger Gulch had limited concern regarding raw material scarcity; and 3) the formal tools reinforce the conclusion that the campsite was occupied for a relatively longer duration than other Folsom sites. Chapter 6 (“Hearths”) is a frank discussion of the struggles and successes the excavators encountered when identifying hearth features at Barger Gulch. In so doing, Surovell provides an important contribution for future researchers to understand what Paleoindian hearths look like (i.e., usually lacking pit morphology, ash, oxidation, and only some charcoal staining), hopefully improving future excavations. This chapter also presents data on the four identified hearths and the surrounding distribution of artifacts, and it leads into the succeeding chapters (7-9).

The seventh chapter (“Houses”) argues forcefully for the presence of several house structures at Barger Gulch, a claim of great significance given the paucity of definitive Paleoindian houses. Barger Gulch lacks robust structural evidence (e.g., adobe, rock masonry, pit outlines) that most archaeologists rely upon in defining houses, so Surovell undertakes several innovative quantitative methods to determine if the spatial distribution of artifact density, burned artifacts, and artifact size, as well as the contouring of the site, can illuminate where Folsom houses may have been. He combines these variables with a factor analysis, the results of which support the conclusion that at least three house structures dating to the Folsom occupation are present at Barger Gulch and he calculates the likely size for each. Chapter 8 (“Inside”) reconstructs the interior spaces for each house, including an assessment of where the doors likely were and how the interior space was used. Surovell determines that the hearths are centrally located and the doorways faced north. He also proposes that the houses were likely round to dome-shaped and the inhabitants produced their lithic tools within the houses and routinely cleaned the house floors. Thus, the spatial distribution within the houses of lithic debitage and tools is more indicative of secondary discard (cleaning) rather than intentional primary discard. Additionally, the distribution of lithic debitage supports the premise that the late-stage reduction and finalization of tools occurred within the houses, around each hearth. Chapter 9 (“Outside”) builds upon these interpretations and expands outside the houses to assess use of external space. Again, Surovell evaluates artifact density, types, and size, as well as the results of lithic analysis to derive his interpretations. Surovell’s key conclusions from these analyses, bolstered by his ethnographic research among the Dukha reindeer herders of Mongolia, that the occupation of Barger Gulch was during the winter and that most early-stage reduction occurred outside of the houses around an external hearth., and he identifies the material signature for a likely fourth house.

Chapter 10 (“People”) in many ways acts as a discussion piece of the results of analyses from chapters 5 through 9. Surovell assesses the layout of the small campsite at Barger Gulch and suggests that in addition to the four houses identified through excavation there were likely six more. This inference leads him to estimate that the campsite contained perhaps 40 to 50 inhabitants during the winter, although he suggests it may have been as high as 200 or as low as 10. Based on the distribution of raw material types, Surovell argues that the inhabitants of Barger Gulch did not move as a single band, but rather arrived independently, potentially as part of larger fission-fusion actions. Finally, Surovell returns to the results of lithic debitage and suggests that the higher presence of ‘low-skill’ bifaces at the site supports the assertion that during the winter occupation children practiced and

improved their flintknapping skills at houses in one portion of the site. The final chapter (“Conclusions”) reiterates the main conclusions from the conducted analyses, reinforces the significance of those conclusions, and suggests that houses likely existed at other excavated Folsom sites, but that previous archaeologists may have missed them, given changes in excavation strategies and foci over time. Surovell also advocates applying the methods of chapters 6-9 to identify houses at said sites (e.g., Lindenmeier), as they do not rely upon the presence of architectural remnants.

*Barger Gulch* is a multifaceted contribution to Paleoindian archaeology and offers substantial value to numerous research communities, including archaeologists focused on the Paleoindian and Archaic periods, taphonomic processes, Plains archaeology, and investigations of highly mobile, small-scale societies. Surovell demonstrates that Paleoindian and Archaic archaeology can identify structures even when lacking architectural materials, can differentiate activities that occurred within as opposed to outside of said structures, and can identify ethnographically-documented hunter-gatherer activities such as fission/fusion of groups. The methods employed in this volume should be of interest to numerous research interests and Surovell innovatively combines and applies them to derive sizable interpretations from what another archaeologist would likely see as simply a dense lithic scatter. I highly recommend this book to researchers investigating Paleoindian and Archaic periods, mobile small-scale societies in archaeological and ethnohistoric records, as well as those still practicing such lifeways today, and to individuals looking to revisit collections and data from Paleoindian sites excavated decades ago. It will prove to be of great benefit to be on the shelves of such researchers and will certainly be cited in such studies for decades.

## **NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE**

**New Book Honors Life and Work of Linda Cordell.** *Linda S. Cordell: Innovating Southwest Archaeology*, edited by Deborah L. Huntley and Maxine E. McBrin and published by the Museum of New Mexico Press, pays tribute to Linda Cordell’s research and work which contributed to a greater understanding of Ancestral Pueblo life in the Southwest. Contributors to this volume in memory of Dr. Cordell include Maxine E. McBrinn; Theodore R. Frisbie; Nancy J. Parezo and Catherine S. Fowler; Carla R. Van West; Judith A. Habicht-Mauche; Karin Larkin; Matthew A. Peeples and Gregson Schachner; Toni S. Laumbach and Karl W. Laumbach; Stephen H. Lekson and Catherine M. Cameron; Kelley A. Hays-Gilpin, George J. Gumerman III, Dennis Gilpin and Lisa C. Young; Richard H. Wilshusen; Benjamin A. Bellorado and Barbara J. Mills; Suzanne L. Eckert and Deborah L. Huntley; Lindsay Anne Randall; Sheila Goff, Leigh Kuwanwisiwma and Dody Fugate; Joseph Traugott; Jun Sunseri and Charles Carrillo. Chapters cover diverse topics of interest to Cordell and offer a broad view of the Southwest as seen through the influence of one extraordinary individual. Jacketed Hardbound \$45. [From Museum of New Mexico Press.]

**New Protections for Sacred Lands surrounding Mount Taylor.** Lands that have been cut off from access will once again be accessible to the public, including the Indigenous people who once served as stewards of those lands. Conservation groups, tribes, federal officials and state leaders teamed up to acquire 54,000 acres near Laguna and west of Albuquerque. The purchase includes two adjoining properties and has been referred to as L Bar Ranch. It will, in the future, be combined with the adjacent Marquez Wildlife Management area. Part of this land has already been transferred to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for management while the rest will be transferred over the next five years.

The property includes sites that are sacred to several New Mexico tribes and Pueblos including Navajo Nation and the Pueblos of Laguna, Acoma and Zuni, including about 1,000 archaeological sites. About half of the property is within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property. The Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property includes federal, Tribal, state, private and land grant properties and encompasses more than 442,000 acres.

The Trust for Public Land spearheaded the effort to acquire the land. In the case of the L Bar Ranch property, the importance to the Pueblos was a driving reason behind the acquisition. The Marquez Wildlife Management Area straddles the McKinley and Sandoval County lines and was initially purchased in 1968 to provide opportunities for big game hunting. The state provided \$31 million toward the purchase of the land. The total purchase price was \$34.1 million. [Adapted from articles by Susan Montoya Bryan in the *Washington Post* and Hannah Grover via *Preservation Archaeology Today*, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

## CALENDAR CHECK

### Lecture

**“The Coronado Expedition: An Armed Multicultural Commercial Enterprise”** by Richard Flint and Shirley Cushing Flint, 2 pm on Sunday June 26 at Bernalillo Town Hall Council Chambers, 829 Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo. Admission \$5 for non-members of Friends of Coronado Historic Site. Not available on Zoom.

### Webinar

**Virtual Tour of two ancestral sites at Bear’s Ears National Monument** with led by BLM’s Shirley Cloud-Lane with Jared Lundell and Whitney Peterson, Thursday, June 23 at 4 pm MST. First of a planned series presented by Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and partners. For More information and Zoom registration visit [crowcanyon@swcp.com](mailto:crowcanyon@swcp.com).

### Conferences

**PECOS CONFERENCE** August 11-14 on Rowe Mesa, New Mexico hosted by the Site Steward Foundation. Registration online now open at [pecosconference.org](http://pecosconference.org).

**SOUTHWEST KILN CONFERENCE** October 7-9, Western New Mexico University Museum, in Silver City, New Mexico. Further information to come later.

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**ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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**[www.abqarchaeology.org](http://www.abqarchaeology.org) and [www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc](https://www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc)**

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### 2022 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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