

From the Chair:

Teddy Stickney

The Council of Affiliated Societies was present at the 2017 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in Vancouver. In addition to holding the CoAS annual meeting on March 30th, CoAS operated a booth near the Archaeology Awareness Month Poster Competition.

I began the meeting by thanking our editor, Christopher Rowe, for reviving the biannual newsletter before welcoming Dr. Steve Tomka, the SAA Liaison to the CoAS committee, and Elizabeth Pruitt, the SAA's new manager, Public Education. With the meeting in full swing, we opened a discussion regarding how to encourage new membership by improving our relationships with non-member societies. Through this discussion, several ideas were generated about how to accomplish this goal including; member societies locating and reaching out to other non-member societies in the area, encouraging cross-membership between groups, and locally promoting then presenting regionally appropriate project results at non-member society meetings.

The annual CoAS booth at the SAA conference provides an opportunity for member societies to display their public relations materials in a highly visible platform. I would like to extend my thanks to the societies that made their promotional materials available this year, and would especially like to encourage all members to make their materials available in the future. In addition to promoting our current members, the booth hopes to increase membership by encouraging non-member representatives to provide contact information on a sign-up sheet so that they may be reached in the future.

This year, the booth was located near the poster competition, providing booth workers with an intimate view of the fantastic entries. Conference attendees can vote for their favorites, and the top entries of 2017 came from Alaska (#1), Wyoming (#2), and Oklahoma (#3).

Finally, I would like to encourage each of you to attend next year's annual meeting of the SAA in Washington D.C. from April 11-15, 2018. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Teddy Stickney, Texas Archaeological Society
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SAA News:

Society for American Archaeology Signs Journal Publishing Partnership with Cambridge University Press

Did you know that beginning in January, Cambridge University Press became SAA's journal publishing partner? This partnership gives digital access to the Society's three journals (*American Antiquity*, *Latin American Antiquity*, and *Advances in Archaeological Practice*) to SAA's members who are eligible for journals. Eligible members have the option to receive a print version of either *American Antiquity* or *Latin American Antiquity*. Additionally, past issues of the journals are available through Cambridge Core, Cambridge University Press's online platform. You can sign up to receive alerts of new issues and/or articles for your favorite journals by visiting Cambridge.org/SAA-alerts.

Editor's Note:

Christopher M. Rowe, University of Wyoming
crowe2@uwyo.edu

Thank you for picking up the latest copy of the CoAS Newsletter! We are working hard to make sure that as a member of the Council, you are heard, so as always, I would like you to consider submitting to the next edition of the newsletter. Calls for submissions will be sent out to member societies a month before the next deadline.

I would also like to ask you for feedback about the newsletter. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please send me an email at crowe2@uwyo.edu and I will happily consider them!

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society:

The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) is very excited to rejoin the Council of Affiliated Societies! In 1990, the AAHS was originally admitted to CoAS as one of its founding affiliated societies and while active for some time, the AAHS has been inactive in the group for many years. The AAHS board had wanted to renew its relationship with the SAA as a member of CoAS because during these uncertain times, the AAHS knows that what is "local" may have much larger implications. The AAHS is excited to be a

partner with other similar archaeological societies affiliated with the SAA to serve the needs and interests of American archaeology.

The AAHS is a non-profit organization which is open to the general public and has objectives and programs which are consistent with those of the SAA and CoAS. The AAHS was founded in Tucson, Arizona, in 1916 and has been one of the leading societies in the American Southwest and northwest Mexico for the past 100+ years. The AAHS is an educational organization affiliated with the Arizona State Museum with approximately 650 members.

The AAHS's goals, as stipulated in its bylaws, are to:

- (1) Encourage scholarly pursuits into the history and anthropology of the southwest United States and northwest Mexico;
- (2) Encourage preservation of archaeological sites and historical properties;
- (3) Encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials;
- (4) Publish the results of these investigations;
- (5) Aid in the functions of the Arizona State Museum; and
- (6) Provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips and other activities.

The AAHS provides a forum for professionals in archaeology, history, and related fields, avocationalists, as well as the general public, to share their common interests and enthusiasm for the American Southwest and northwest Mexico's rich cultural history. Activities, announced monthly in the newsletter, *Glyphs*, provide educational and social opportunities to explore these interests. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Monthly fieldtrips to sites of archaeological and historical interest to the greater Southwest;
- Monthly lectures on the archaeology and history of the American Southwest and northwest Mexico by leading avocationalists and scholars in the field;
- Raising money for the Arizona State Museum's library fund through semi-annual book sales;
- Funding a wide variety of archaeological and historical research projects and dissemination of their important results through several different AAHS grant programs;
- Other community events, such as participating in local regional- and State-wide activities related to promoting archaeology and history;

- And sponsoring a number of varied archaeological and historical research projects.

In addition, the Society publishes a quarterly peer-reviewed journal, *Kiva*, which presents original research in southwestern anthropology and history, and is internationally-recognized as a professional journal. To give you some insight into the type of research and scholarship sponsored by the AAHS, we'd like to present some information on three active archaeological research projects in southern Arizona that AAHS sponsors. The first, the Fort Mason Project, consists of reconstruction of previous archaeological work conducted at Fort Mason, a garrison established by the California Volunteer Infantry and Cavalry in 1865 in southern Arizona, near Rio Rico, on the Upper Santa Cruz River 8 miles from the Mexican border. Fort Mason was established to conduct operations against Apaches, monitor the French secessionists, protect mail and transportation routes, and patrol the border area against Mexican imperialists and the Confederate Army. The Fort consisted of a tent camp, barracks buildings, hospital, some adobe quarters, corrals that were never finished. Almost forty soldiers died from "malarious fever," most of whom are now buried at the San Francisco National Cemetery. The archaeological site of Fort Mason and the earlier Camp Moore (1856-57) were excavated by faculty and students of Defiance College, Ohio, from the early 1970s through mid-1980s. The collections were never analyzed and there is no final report on the results of the investigations. AAHS volunteers, under the leadership of noted historical period archaeologist Homer Thiel, are currently preparing the 88 boxes of materials for analysis and curation. The goal is to finally tell the full story of Fort Mason, and of those who were there during a particularly turbulent time in southern Arizona's history. This acquisition is significant, both because of its obvious historical relevance to southern Arizona and its research value as a "snapshot in time" of military life in the Arizona Territory. We anticipate that the outcome, in addition to proper curation of the collection, will be a final report and publication on the Defiance College excavations, and a temporary exhibit at the Arizona State Museum.

A second archaeological project sponsored by AAHS is the Cocoraque Butte Rock Art Project, located on Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) land and adjacent private land in southern Arizona. This volunteer effort seeks to record all petroglyphs, along with both grinding

features and surface artifacts found in proximity to the glyphs, which date between the Archaic and Historic periods and are located on several prominent hills. Underway since 2014, about 15 AAHS volunteers have been recruited and trained yearly to assist with the full documentation of 1,888 petroglyphs, 82 bell rocks, 69 grinding features, and 34 associated surface artifacts. The primary purpose of the project is to test several hypotheses related to Flower World imagery, symbols in rock art which is similar to those found in Mesoamerica. Results suggest that this rock art may have been a component of the belief system of the Hohokam in the Tucson area. Some results of this project have been recently published in *American Indian Rock Art*.

A third project is the Desperation Ranch Project, located in the extreme southeastern portion of Arizona, adjacent to New Mexico and close to the Mexican border. This project, a partnership between AAHS, the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon, the Coronado National Forest, and the Argonaut Archaeological Fund, is undertaking exciting research to renew investigations at the Cave Creek Midden site. Although this site received only limited study by the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation in the 1930s, it became the type-site for a long interval of prehistory in the American Southwest - the middle period of the Cochise Culture (a portion of the Middle Archaic period). Reinvestigations of Desperation Ranch are yielding significant new data about both a landmark site in the history of American archaeological research and the poorly understood Middle Archaic, a time of human recolonization of the desert borderlands and the initial experimentation and use of domesticated maize in the American Southwest. Research regarding the extent, sequence and character of the archaeological deposits at this site will help better understand and document this important component of pre-Hispanic times in the American Southwest and northwest Mexico. Publication and presentation of initial findings are already underway and some findings have been highlighted on the on-line publication *Western Digs*.

The AAHS is excited to further its relationship with CoAS and the SAA to aid in better communication with other similar archaeological societies across the United States and Canada. Thank you for the opportunity to offer information on our society and what we are doing to promote interest in, and further understanding of, the archaeology and history of the American Southwest and

northwest Mexico. For questions about our Society, check out the AAHS website at: <http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org/> or contact our AAHS board liaison to CoAS, Dr. Barbara Montgomery, at bmontgomery@tierra-row.com.

Barbara K. Montgomery, Ph.D.,
Senior Principal Investigator/Project Manager, Tierra
Right of Way Services

Association of Oregon Archaeologists:

Please Note: The following selections were taken from *Current Archaeological Happenings in Oregon: A Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Oregon Archaeologists, Volume 41, Number 3 2016* and have been reproduced with the permission of the publication's editor.

Current Archaeological Happenings in Oregon (CAHO) is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December) and is sent to all AOA members. The Association of Oregon Archaeologists is a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. Dues are tax-deductible and are payable on a calendar-year basis.

The Dittman Biface Cache (35MA375): Broadening Archaeological Awareness through Public Outreach

The 2015 discovery of a biface cache on private land, near Salem, Oregon, offered an opportunity to stimulate archaeological awareness across the state, specifically targeting the general public. To date, the results have been positive and expectations exceeded. The following briefly describes some of the events over the past year relating to the discovery of the Dittman Biface Cache (35MA375), the overwhelming support from the professional archaeological community, and preliminary results from promoting the find to a broader audience. On Monday, September 28, 2015, I received an email from a Salem area landowner stating that he believed he had unearthed a biface cache on his property. An image was included in the correspondence, clearly depicting 14 obsidian artifacts that resembled bifaces (Figure 1). The landowner asked if this was of interest and if so, to let him know what next steps should be taken. I responded the same day indicating I was interested. In my response, I suggested we meet, to discuss some information about

the type of archaeological site he appeared to have found, and to go over recommendations for next steps. We met the next day at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Salem.



Figure 1. The image sent from the landowner on September 28, 2015.

During our initial meeting, the landowner described how earlier in the summer he had cleared a dense thicket of blackberry bushes on his property, resulting in the discovery of a spring. Wanting to utilize the newly found spring, he borrowed a relatively small backhoe tractor from his neighbor, and began construction of a pond at the base of his property. A buried pipe was to be installed from the spring, extending downhill to the pond. Near the area where the surface spring water was first identified, where the uphill end of the buried pipe would be installed, a root wad was encountered during construction. The landowner switched to a spade shovel, to try and clear the area around the root wad, to assist with removal. While digging with the shovel, hand-sized pieces of obsidian were uncovered. At first, they seemed interesting to the landowner, who collected each as they were found. While he was aware they were obsidian, he was unaware they were likely trade items made by people, possibly around 1-4000 years ago (Connolly et al. 2015), at the Obsidian Cliffs quarry 80 miles away. After the pond project was completed, the landowner began to examine the objects uncovered on his property. He spent some time on the internet researching obsidian, and came across an article on an archaeological site from Little Lake in Inyo County, California. The obsidian pieces from his property looked similar to the California artifacts, which were described as a biface cache (Garfinkel et al. 2015). It was at that time that he, rather amazingly, decided to reach out to the SHPO for

assistance. Our meeting concluded after discussing state laws, what it meant to record a site and how that information would be used by archaeologists conducting research in the area. It was agreed that I would arrive at his residence the evening of October 6th, to collect information to complete a State of Oregon Archaeological Site Record.

During the site recording, I was able to inspect the bifaces in person for the first time. Each was laid out on a paper towel, on an outside deck railing when I arrived (Figure 2). While standing near the bifaces, we discussed obsidian sourcing and obsidian hydration as possible analyses to consider. After viewing the area where they had been recovered (Figure 2) it was immediately clear that while considerable ground had been moved for the pond and feeder pipe, the bifaces, by chance, had been uncovered near the extreme edge of the still visible area of disturbance. I thought archaeological excavation would be appropriate, since the likelihood of collecting important information about the site appeared relatively good, if units could be opened up outside the disturbed area, immediately adjacent (within a meter) to the root wad, where the majority of bifaces had been recovered. The landowner gave his consent for me to apply for an excavation permit.

In the months since I decided to assist the landowner with the biface cache, I have been completely and utterly overwhelmed by the support received from him and his family, area tribes, the archaeological community, SHPO, Heritage Division, and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). The site is the first documented biface cache in the Willamette Valley, and possesses the ability to shed light on a number of archaeological research questions relating to the obsidian biface trade. It is important to stress, that we would not know of the existence of the site, if the landowner did not report his find. The fact that the landowner is a teacher who wants to learn as much as possible (and share with his students!), I could not have asked for a better opportunity to promote archaeology through public outreach. I have not even mentioned (aside from in the upcoming report), the incredible connection the property has with some nearly forgotten historic moments in the Willamette Valley (such as it is associated with a family that travelled to Oregon with Marcus Whitman, that unfortunately included the future victim of the first documented murder in Salem – or shedding some light on the naming of a nearby creek).



Figure 2. The bifaces as they appeared on October 6th (recovery area located beyond the visible bare ground to the left).

Since the landowner wants to learn as much as possible about his property, the in-progress report already includes a rather robust historic background section, far beyond what might be expected for a biface cache investigation.

The overwhelming majority of time and effort spent on the project, from research, analyses, excavation and documentation, have been conducted at no cost, by volunteers (tribes, universities, contractors, SHPO and analytical specialists). The report will be available within the next year (it is being written on my own time with several contributions) and includes an extensive acknowledgements section. In fact, I am still receiving help from a number of professionals in the archaeological community. After the story aired on Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), and OPRD sent out its press release (allowing for added exposure throughout Oregon, the United States - and internationally!), I was inundated with phone calls and emails from landowners (mostly in Oregon). Each wanted to report sites on their property, or wished to return artifacts in their possession to a tribe or museum. Regarding the pending results of the excavations (which occurred in June and August, 2016); I will only add that the biface cache site, is actually, a site with a biface cache. That being said, we did recover one biface (Number 15) on the day the student fieldtrip and media were visiting (Figure 3). The timing was perfect, and generated considerable discussion from the excited students.



Figure 3. Biface number 15, as encountered during archaeological excavations in June, 2016.

References Cited:

- Connolly, Thomas J., Craig E. Skinner and Paul W. Baxter. 2015
Ancient Trade Routes for Obsidian Cliffs and Newberry Volcano Toolstone in the Pacific Northwest. In *Toolstone Geography of the Pacific Northwest*, edited by Terry L. Ozbun and Ron L. Adams, pp180-192. Archaeology Press, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.
- Garfinkel, Alan P., Jeanne Day Binning, Elva Younkin, Craig Skinner, Tom Origer, Rob Jackson, Jan Lawson, and Tim Carpenter. 2004
The Little Lake Biface Cache, Inyo County, California. *California Historical Quarterly* 17:87-101.
- John Pouley,
Oregon SHPO Assistant State Archaeologist
- Update on PSU's Archaeology Roadshow: Spring 2017 Events*
- For the past five years, faculty and students from Portland State University, and community members representing tribes, federal and state agencies, archaeology companies and others have hosted Archaeology Roadshow in Portland, Oregon. This annual outreach event includes two main parts: an artifact identification component where experts are on hand to analyze and interpret personal treasures brought in by the public; and an exhibit/activity element where community partners and students present exhibits and hands-on activities to promote stewardship of Oregon's heritage and engage adults and children in learning about the value of archaeology.

The Archaeology Roadshow has been highly successful by several measures. Since its launch in 2012, it has grown in most ways-- in number of visitors and exhibits; in participation by tribes, companies, agencies, and non-profit organizations; and in financial support. We gratefully acknowledge AOA as one of the important donors that help keep the event going. With the theme "The Archaeology of Dwellings," the June 2016 event attracted over 700 visitors. Over 30 exhibits were created and hosted by five federal agencies, three state/county government agencies, three Oregon universities (faculty and students), seven private companies, two tribes, five avocational or non-profit organizations, and one local elementary school.

Organizations see the potential of an event like ours for showcasing their own activities and at the same time galvanizing public support for heritage and stewardship. Individuals who volunteer gain experience sharing their knowledge with the public. While an event like this starts with the goal of educating the public about the value of archaeology and stewardship, a major benefit is simply building community among heritage organizations that share a common bond.

Take a look at this video from the 2016 event to see what the Roadshow is all about:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1nPWDe8SnQ&feature=youtu.be>

We're now gearing up for the 2017 events and want to let AOA members know how they might get involved. On Saturday, June 3, on Portland State campus next to the Farmers Market, we're hosting the 6th annual Archaeology Roadshow. With a similar format as in past years, we're hoping to increase participation of community partners and attract even more visitors, developing activities that encourage adults and children to explore ways heritage enhances our lives and our connections to where we live.

We're excited to announce that Archaeology Roadshow is going to actually go "on the road" in 2017 thanks to a grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission. Burns will be our first stop, with a mini-Roadshow planned in town on June 10, 2017. Our plan is to take a minimum of five exhibits from the Portland Roadshow along with the professionals and students who created the activities. We want to work with archaeologists and heritage specialists in Burns and eastern Oregon to support their creation of activities that promote heritage and archaeology in

eastern Oregon. We plan to host a panel of experts to identify the artifacts visitors bring to the event. Scott Thomas (BLM) has graciously and generously agreed to serve as local coordinator of the Burns event. Our goal is to use our experience developing the satellite Roadshow in Burns as a model that could be taken to communities across the state in successive years, as we continue to gain knowledge about best practices (both for Portland events and rural communities) and the financial support becomes secure.

So what can you do?

1) Host an exhibit/activity: We'll be ready to help you-- brainstorm an idea or connect you with volunteers to help "man" your booth at the Roadshow.

2) Volunteer on the day.

3) Become an event sponsor or make a donation to help keep this event free and open to the widest audience possible.

4) Follow us on Facebook....

<https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologyRoadshowPDX> and share information about the events with your friends, families and networks.

5) Come to the Roadshows planned for June 3, 2017 (Portland) and June 10 (Burns); and bring your friends and neighbors.

Follow our updates as planning proceeds:

<https://www.pdx.edu/anthropology/archaeology-roadshow>

Virginia L. Butler, Lyssia Merrifield, and Virginia Parks

Massachusetts Archaeological Society:

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society (MAS) is in the midst of very busy time. The MAS was pleased to have completed a Museum Assessment Program (MAP) Peer Review in 2014, and was selected for a second visit with our reviewer in 2015. The MAP grant was awarded through the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Dr. Michael Hammond, recently retired Executive Director of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs, CA, was our reviewer on both visits. Based on his excellent work and continued partnership with the MAS/Robbins Museum, the

Trustees of the Society pursued additional support in 2016 to strengthen the organization and the museum operations.



The MAS/Robbins Museum, Middleborough, MA

As a result of this effort, the MAS sought and secured a \$30,000 grant to complete much-needed repairs to the Robbins Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology. The museum began as a small manufacturing facility built in the early 20th century and is now a contributing element in the National Register listing for the town of Middleborough. The grant was awarded through a joint funding program between the state and local government and was developed through the Massachusetts' Community Preservation Act (CPA). This, alongside other grants and private funding, allowed for a rehabilitation of the Robbins' original windows. The rehabilitation retained the look and feel of the museum's historic facade, while increasing energy efficiency and security for the collections. Overall, the preservation project funded by the CPA helped to maintain a valuable historic structure in the downtown area, while offering greater protection to the collection of archaeological artifacts, documents, publications, and photographs.

More recently, the MAS was awarded a Collections Assessment Program (CAP) by the Foundation of the American Institute of Conservation (FAIC) and the IMLS in March 2017. The Trustees are greatly looking forward to the insight of our CAP reviewers, as these expert collections consultants will guide the Robbins toward improved storage and management of the upwards of 150,000 objects in its repository. With their support, the MAS can improve the state of our collections and expand our displays in time for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. A 1620-2020 commemoration to be held in the adjacent town of Plymouth, MA, is an opportunity for the Robbins to

share important cultural and historical content through the artifacts and other materials related to the Native American peoples who were present at the time of the Pilgrims' arrival.

The MAS co-hosted the annual conference of the New England Anthropological Association this March. Over 70 regional students and professionals attended a reception held at the Robbins. The MAS was also represented at the Eastern States Archaeological Federation meetings, as well as the Conference on New England Archaeology. Our three regional chapters have strong attendance, and our members are regularly called upon for their expertise in archaeology, preservation, and education.

Finally, the Robbins Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology was featured on the Greater Boston television program *Chronicle*, a widely watched news series in eastern Massachusetts. Since the museum was featured, the Robbins and the MAS have experienced an uptick in visitor traffic and membership interest. To find the link to this video feature, please visit our website at www.MassArchaeology.org, or visit our Facebook page @MassArchaeology to catch up with archaeology in Massachusetts!

Suanna Selby Crowley, PhD, RPA,
President, Massachusetts Archaeological Society

The Nevada Archaeological Association:

The Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) is a statewide organization with affiliated societies and regional chapter organizations including; Am-Arcs of Nevada, Reno, NV, Archaeo-Nevada Society, Churchill County Chapter, Elko Chapter, Lincoln County Chapter, White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society, and Nevada Rock Art Foundation (NRAF). These groups allow members a chance to experience Nevada archaeology.

The NAA supports Nevada student efforts statewide, fosters cooperative relationships, provides learning opportunities and experiences, enhances preservation, and provides a publication outlet for research, and preservation of Nevada's rich history.

The NAA encourages the public to participate in the preservation of Nevada's cultural heritage through education, and involvement in archaeological and

historical preservation. We encourage this through sponsoring publications, annual meetings, grants and awards, commenting on compliance documents, and supporting various Nevada events focusing on archaeology.

The NAA Annual Meeting is held annually in various locations throughout the state of Nevada. Meetings feature presentations sharing information and research findings from throughout the state, workshops, field trips, a keynote speaker, an awards banquet, and the election of the NAA Board of Directors.

Board Meetings occur quarterly to conduct NAA business and are open to all NAA members. The NAA meets around the state and tries to coordinate field trips and lectures into the meeting.

Publications and Awards:

- The Nevada Archaeologist* is the NAA's journal and is published annually with contributions from professional and avocationalists.
- The In-Situ* is the NAA's newsletter, it is published electronically on a quarterly basis and features: Chapter news, events of interest, and interesting and informative information about archaeological research in Nevada
- The Ting-Perkins Award is presented at the Annual Meeting to a deserving individual for outstanding avocational contributions to archaeology in Nevada
- The Silver Trowel Award is presented at the Annual Meeting to professionals that have spent a majority of their professional career working in Nevada, have made outstanding, positive and lasting contributions to archaeology in Nevada, and have maintained the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in the conduct of their career.
- A Student Grant is awarded annually to support student research in Nevada archaeology
- Student Paper/Poster Awards are presented annually at the Annual Meeting for the best student paper and poster

Sponsored Events and Public Participation:

- Nevada Historic Preservation and Archaeology Awareness Month occurs annually during the month of May.
- The NAA creates a poster, available to the public. You can also join professional and avocational archaeologists at state sponsored events throughout the state of Nevada in May.
- The Public Participation Committee participates as an interested party commenting on how government

agreements account for the preservation and protection of cultural resources.

Christina Callisto,
Treasurer, Nevada Archaeological Association