



New Mexico Archaeology

The E-Newsletter of the Friends of Archaeology
February, 2010

From the Director

Bubble Economics, Kudos & Thanks

The recession is hitting most of us with unpleasant choices. Although OAS is currently adequately funded, as part of the State of New Mexico, we are caught up in the furloughs, threats of wage reductions and general belt tightening, right along with our General Fund supported colleagues. This hurts the OAS staff unnecessarily, since we are responsible for generating our own revenues, but it can't be helped. All I (we) can do is convey appreciation for all they do under difficult circumstances.

The Museum of New Mexico Foundation, as a whole, is suffering severely, with dramatic declines in shop revenues as well as declines in income from endowment investments. Remarkably, memberships are holding their own, bucking the economic trend. That doesn't surprise me, because the strength of membership is a measure of the value of the Museum system—the best entertainment and educational deal in town. Recruit a friend to the unlimited opportunities of visiting all of the parts of the Museum and Monuments system!

Another welcome irony is that in the midst of these crises, participation in FOA activities and fundraising hasn't missed a beat. We at OAS and the FOA Board are trying to build a sense of community, interest and excitement around a subject that enriches the sense of our past and our identity. We will always try to provide strong value in exchange for your support, sharing our passion as well as a sense of wonder.

Kudos to Steve Post, Josef Diaz, the History Museum staff and the Museum of New Mexico Exhibitions staff who put together the archaeology exhibit at the Palace of the Governors! Please see it if you haven't had a chance yet.

Thanks to Barbara Ventrello of the Foundation staff for her support of FOA over the past couple of years. Barbara has taken a position with the Santa Fe Institute, and we wish her the best! Her new boss is

Dr. Jeremy Sabloff, renowned Mayan archaeologist, so she should be right at home.

Eric Blinman, Ph.D.
OAS Director



Underway – the entrance area of the new CNMA.

Photo by: Eric Blinman

OAS Project Updates

Center for New Mexico Archaeology

In May of 2006, OAS recorded obsidian and basalt debitage scattered over a 6,229 meter area of the land that now houses the Center for New Mexico Archaeology (CNMA). Testing was conducted, and OAS returned to the site in March of 2009 to conduct excavations.

Excavation exposed an extensive chipped stone scatter and five surface hearths, recovering approximately 4,000 artifacts indicative of late stage core reduction and tool manufacture. These are remains of a short term logistical camp that was possibly used as a stop to process animal and plant material during hunting along the Santa Fe piedmont.

Surface hearths ranged in condition from partially intact to extremely deflated. Partially intact features had small fire cracked rocks evident just below ground surface that, when removed, exposed radial assortments of larger fire cracked rock, bounded by large, 10 to 20 cm diameter cobbles. Deflated hearths were marked by a few large fire cracked rocks.

Charcoal was almost non-existent, but one tiny piece found imbedded at the base of a hearth was sent for analysis. The sample yielded a date of B.C. 2920, dating at least one site component to the Middle Archaic Period only 10 cm below the surface.

The artifact assemblage was mostly chipped stone, dominated by basalt and Polvadera Peak and undifferentiated obsidian, with lower frequencies of Madera, possible Pedernal and undifferentiated chert. Crews recovered at least two cores and two tested cobbles.

A quartz chopper, one preform, two obsidian projectile point tips and one complete obsidian projectile point with a concave base were recovered. Groundstone artifacts included a single one hand mano and fragmentary groundstone found as part of fire cracked rock scatter associated with thermal features. Animal bone, a piece of olivella shell, a possible piece of Cerrillos turquoise and two quartz crystals, one of which was modified to accommodate a cord, were also recovered.

Lithic analysis is ongoing, and the c-14 date needs to be confirmed, possibly by thermo luminescence (TL) analysis. This type of analysis measures levels of accumulated solar radiation in a sediment or artifact. In the case of artifacts, the radiation load can be “reset” by extreme heat. The radiation load accumulated since that time is then measured to ascertain a date. For more about TL, see www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~qtls/flint.htm#d231.

OAS volunteers who worked at the site, moving huge amounts of dirt in horrendous, cold and gale force April winds, were instrumental to the excavation. Thanks go to Barbara Chatterjee, Barry Kirschbam, Joyce Krause, Ed Lewis, Lois Lockwood, Bob Mizerak, Kathryn Ruiznavarro and Molly Talbert for “manning up” with the rest of the crew.

Carrizozo

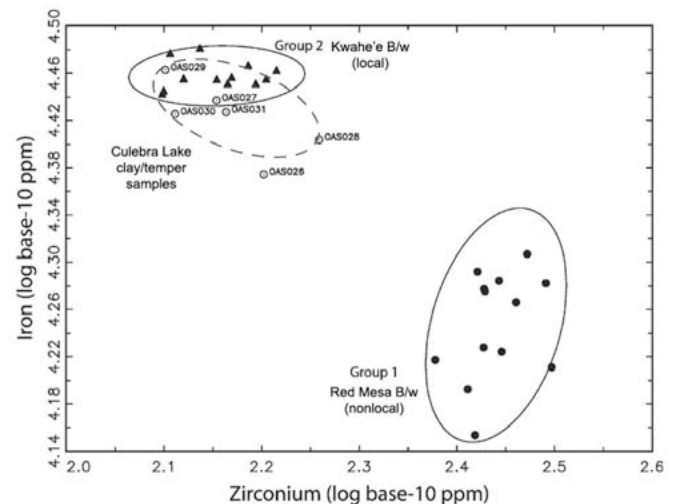
During the middle of the winter, when everything is frozen to everything else, it’s hard to think about being out in the middle of the gale, but OAS crews are out in the field in south central New Mexico near Carrizozo. Archaeologists have exposed the remains of a Jornada Mogollon site tentatively dating from A.D. 1100 to 1300.

Though the site is still under excavation, the crew has exposed the remains of a shallow, round pit structure with what appears to be a lithic chipping

station. Crews are busy defining another possible pit structure and excavating extramural features

Jessica Badner
OAS Project Director

From the Field and Lab Ceramics Research



Results from Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA) and X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Analysis of Clay Samples from Culebra Lake Formation and Ceramics from LA 835 in Santa Fe County, New Mexico

This pilot study sought to create an XRF calibration by comparing new data from ceramics recovered from LA 835 near Pojoaque Pueblo to ceramics data collected during the late 1980s, to determine if the elemental signature argued by Wiseman and Olinger (1991) to represent locally produced pottery matched that of ceramic tiles made from clay and tempers found in the southern Tewa Basin. Once calibrated, a large legacy database would potentially become comparable to other analysis results from additional samples.

Results determined that while it was not possible to create an XRF calibration to dovetail old and new data reanalysis of LA 835 ceramics, thought to represent local and imported pottery, the study did generate a clear separation between the two data sets. Importantly, these independent results indicate that the database developed by Wiseman and Olinger is internally consistent and is therefore a useful tool for

distinguishing between some ceramic manufacture areas. Further, the XRF data from the clay tiles overlapped with the group argued to represent locally produced pottery, supporting the results presented by Wiseman and Olinger.

Given these results, additional INAA and XRF analysis of archaeological material could prove useful for determining if XRF can consistently distinguish between ceramics manufactured in the southern Tewa Basin and those produced elsewhere. I would like to thank the FOA, Dr. Michael Schillaci of the University of Toronto and Dr. Michael Glascock and Dr. Jeffery Ferguson of the University of Missouri for supporting this research.

Steven Lakatos
OAS Project Director

Southwest Symposium XI

Hermosillo, Mexico

The Southwest Symposium is a two day conference held every two years in January at various locations in the U.S. and Mexico. About 100 archaeologists from both sides of the border attended this year's symposium in Hermosillo, Mexico. Simultaneous translation is available to listeners, but many test their skills in language proficiency by turning off the personal translation radio receivers. Dozens of posters on current research are also presented, usually in both languages. In addition to the conference, tours of important sites are offered. Cerro de Trincheras and La Playa, both in northern Sonora, were visited this year.

First day presentations ranged from an examination of conch shell procurement and production to a discussion of the possible influence of the Mesoamerican Xochipilli deity in Pueblo cosmology and ceremony. Also discussed were various models for understanding Mesoamerican/Southwest interaction. Mexican archaeologists reported on the establishment of a site steward program in Baja California (a first) and the possible ethnic continuities between prehistoric and historic societies in Durango, Mexico.

Fatal violence, the treatment of burials and repatriation of human remains were covered by several speakers. Studies of hostilities during Spanish Colonial settlement and the effects of missionization on historic societies are ongoing in the borderlands.

One case study involved the bureaucratic obstacles encountered when the O'odham requested the return of the remains of Yaquis massacred by Mexican troops in 1902 from the American Museum of Natural History.

The one day site tour first went to La Playa, a 10 sq km, early agricultural site covered with an impenetrable layer of fire cracked rock. Hundreds of inhumations, shell workshops and irrigation canals have been discovered here.

Next visited was Cerro de Trincheras, a high hill covered with 900 terraces built between A.D. 1300-1500 and occupied by perhaps 2000 people.

Tim Maxwell
OAS Research Fellow
(Tim Maxwell and Guadalupe Martinez attended the Southwest Symposium XI with the help of the Friends of Archaeology).

OAS Brown Bag Talks

Talks on Tuesdays

OAS Brown Bag lunch time talks on Tuesdays have started again, ringing in 2010. We are fortunate that the New Mexico Film Museum will continue to sponsor the venue at its theater located at 418 Montezuma. Doors will open at 11:45 AM, and the talks will start at 12:00 PM. Mark these 2010 dates on your calendar. Hope to see you there!

February 23. Robert Dello-Russo, Ph.D., Deputy Director, "Recent Discoveries at the Water Canyon Paleoindian Site in Socorro County, New Mexico." Several short field seasons of archaeological testing at the Water Canyon Paleoindian site, LA 134764, have given us a tantalizing picture of the site's potential to inform us about Paleoindian groups in New Mexico and the ecological setting in which they lived. With intact Clovis and Cody Complex components, the site contains distinct artifact scatters, bison bones, a buried marsh deposit and a wealth of paleoclimatic proxy data. Dr. Dello-Russo will discuss the current research directions and place the Water Canyon site within the larger context of Paleoindian research in western North America.

March 23. Jessica Badner, OAS Project Director, "Really Big Stuff Underground." Excavations at the Santa Fe Railyard exposed 30 archaeological sites. The largest, LA 146402, had components that spanned a time frame from Spanish

Colonial to post industrial Santa Fe. This presentation focuses on nineteenth century Railyard infrastructure in the context of previous land use and explores the socio-economic scale of railroad construction in context with other large infrastructure constructed in Santa Fe during the westward expansion.

April 27. Wolky Toll, Ph.D., OAS Project Director, “Miracles of Preservation in a Destructive Milieu.” “Progress” has been eradicating evidence of its past during most of human history. It is very possible to see the information glass as more than half empty, but it still contains remarkable amounts, more in some cases than others. The processes of both destruction and preservation have great implications for how we know the past. Examples of surviving archaeological context, drawn heavily from OAS projects, and the implications for our view of the past will be discussed.

Book Review

Life on the Rocks: One Woman’s Adventures in Petroglyph Preservation

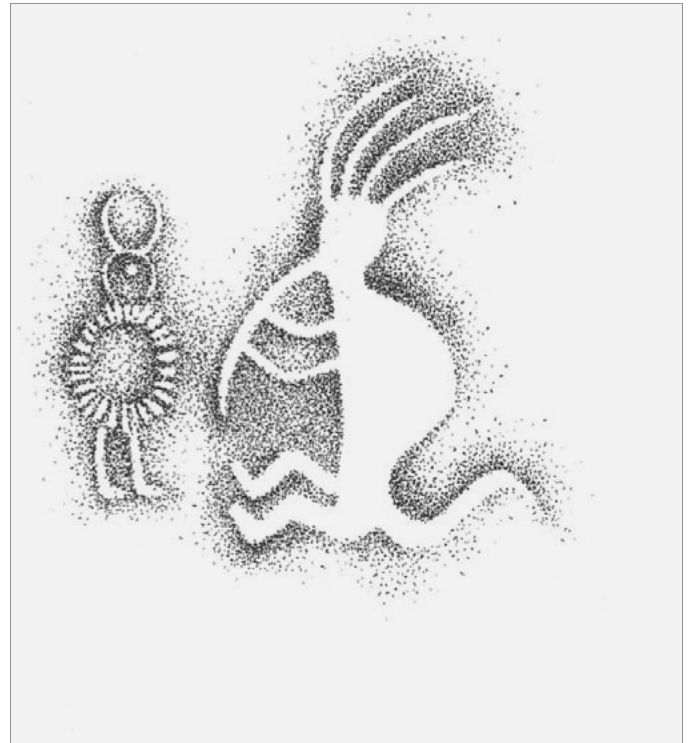
By Katherine Wells
(University of New Mexico Press, 2009; 197 pgs., illus., \$21.95 paper)

Beginning with Josiah Gregg and Susan Magoffin, many Anglo Americans coming to New Mexico have written diaries and memoirs recounting their impressions and experiences. In recent years this literary tradition has been carried on by such local authors as Tom Ireland, Sallie Wagner and Sam Ballen. Most recently, Katherine Wells has written *Life on the Rocks: One Woman’s Adventures in Petroglyph Preservation*.

Wells moved from urban southern California to rural northern New Mexico in 1992, bringing with her a fervent interest in Indian rock art. She writes, “And I am not alone. By now I have met many people I refer to as ‘rock art junkies’. They will drive to the ends of the earth, endure deeply rutted or muddy roads, suffer long, difficult hikes, broiling heat, cold, wind, rattlesnakes—anything to see petroglyphs. Searching for these treasures is a pilgrimage for me and for them.”

Not surprisingly, when a realtor showed her and her late partner Lloyd a 188 acre parcel of land containing thousands of petroglyphs along the Rio Grande, they purchased it and initially lived on it in a

trailer. Soon, however, they began the long, trying process of building a residence and art studio. With each walk Wells took around her surrounding land, her passion for rock art grew.



Animal flute player with horned anthropomorph.

Illustration by Katherine Wells

As the title indicates, Wells’ book is about petroglyphs and preservation. But there’s a lot more to it. She writes about her experiences of discovering and adapting to rural northern New Mexican life, landscape and culture, including local politics and economics.

When her beloved petroglyphs and many more on adjacent properties in the Velarde area became threatened by large scale, insensitive rock quarrying operations, she helped organize opposition among her neighbors and formed the activist group, Vecinos del Rio. They persistently wrote letters, held public meetings, met with politicians and garnered media coverage until they succeeded in getting relevant laws to be better enforced and new policies established in certain state agencies.

Wells’ memoir also gives a blow by blow account of the anxieties and satisfactions of building one’s own house—in her case, one that used straw bales in the walls for insulation and took advantage of solar heating. During the extended process, Lloyd became

stricken with cancer. He died in 2001.

Important themes throughout *Life on the Rocks* are Katherine Wells' joy in exploring her surroundings and educating herself about the approximately 6,000 petroglyphs on her land and how she arranged to have her rock art treasure recorded, protected and used to educate local youth. To do this, she enlisted the involvement of local volunteers, anthropologists and students. Along the way she gained the support of nearby Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, as well as private and governmental funding sources.

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, which eventually expanded to include surrounding properties with rock art, continues to the present. In 2007, Wells donated all but a few acres around her residence to the Archaeological Conservancy.

Life on the Rocks, which is illustrated with black-and-white photographs and line drawings by the author, offers an intimate personal view of how one woman managed to take on a new life in a new place while holding together a personal relationship, making art and working as an environmental activist against formidable economic forces and bureaucratic indifference. The rewards of the experience, she suggests at the end, did not quite balance out the negative effects of the accumulated stress and fatigue.

Still, as she says, "The landscape and skylines awe me no less now than that first summer. The view from my kitchen window each day, each season, is a pure blessing. The land is my hard-won refuge. Beloved, boulder-strewn home."

David Grant Noble
FOA Member

From the Board

A Field Trip and Potluck Event

2010 has started out with more than 1,400 residences on FOA's mailing list, but we want more!

With no additional friends group membership fee, we encourage FOA members to round up your Museum of New Mexico Foundation friends who are not yet FOA members or anyone else who may be interested and bring them along to one of our events. Here is the perfect opportunity. FOA is cosponsoring a spring event with the Friends of Coronado State Monument (CSM) in Bernalillo, New Mexico.

Over 400 years ago Francisco Vásquez de

Coronado led an army from Campostela, Mexico to a stretch of the Rio Grande bounded by present day Albuquerque and Bernalillo. War with the region's Tiwa speaking Pueblo inhabitants resulted in the Spaniards' conquest of several villages.

When Coronado State Monument opened to visitors in 1940, tourism promoting Edgar L. Hewett speculated that the pueblo of Kuaua at CSM was the village where Coronado's men spent two winters. Archaeology has not substantiated that, although several 16th century European sites have been found to the south. (The September 2010 Chiles and Sherds event will be held at one of them, Piedras Marcadas.)

What several generations of archaeologists have uncovered at Kuaua has revealed a fascinating story of a center of commerce, a nexus of trade with people of neighboring pueblos of northern New Mexico, the Great Plains, the Pacific coast and Mexico.

On Sunday, May 23 at 12:00 noon Friends of Archaeology and Friends of CSM will meet under the portal of Coronado State Monument's Visitor Center, designed by architect John Gaw Meem. We ask all who attend (you, we hope!) to bring your favorite dish, prepared to meet, mix, and mingle with other Friends in view of the towering Sandía Mountain across the river.

From 1:00 to 2:00 PM, CSM docents will guide tours throughout the monument, including the Kiva Mural Room. Several carefully removed, stabilized and preserved murals from one of the kivas at CSM are the only original, ancestral Pueblo murals accessible to the public today.

At 2:00 Dr. Eric Blinman will verbally explore possible connections between Kuauans and today's Pueblo people. Then Dr. Helen Crotty, whose doctoral dissertation (UCLA) compared murals at Awatovi, (AZ), Pottery Mound, Zuni and Kuaua, will wrap up our wonderful afternoon with a talk.

This is a FREE event. If you would like to attend, please save your place by calling the FOA Reservation Hotline, (505) 982-7799, ext.5, on or after April 1. A volunteer will call you back to answer any questions, provide directions to Coronado State Monument and record the food item you wish to bring.

Please join us, and bring a friend!

Penny Gómez
FOA Chairperson

Trip Announcements

Visit to the Gila Region

Silver City /Mimbres Trip

June 4-7, 2010

Friday, 5:30 PM to Monday, noon

Pottery of the Mimbres people of the Gila region of New Mexico is considered to be some of the most beautiful in existence. The highly stylized geometric, animal and human imagery reflecting the Mimbres culture is a subject of academic inquiry by both archaeologists and art historians.

The FOA trip to the area surrounding Silver City will provide an introduction to the Mimbres and other Mogollon residents who lived in the southwestern part of our state a millennium ago. Our local guide for the trip will be archaeologist Dr. Cynthia Bettison, Ph.D., Director of the Western New Mexico University Museum (WNMU).

The Silver City area is rich in prehistoric culture as well as post contact history and mining, but this trip's emphasis is on the Mimbres. We will visit some sites that are closed to the general public and have not been pot hunted or excavated for research.

The trip begins Friday evening, when we are transported from our hotel by charter bus to the town of Pinos Altos, a mining town ten miles outside of Silver City, settled in 1803. We will have dinner at the Buckhorn Saloon and Opera House, built in 1860. During the evening, Dr. Bettison will present a program on the Mimbres, sharing her extensive knowledge of the Mimbres culture and art.

Saturday morning the bus will take us to the Western New Mexico University Museum for a tour of its Mimbres collection, one of the largest in the U.S. Dr. Bettison will guide us through the collection.

After the tour, we will enjoy a delicious box lunch on the beautiful WNMU campus and board our bus for a tour of four archaeological sites. The first two include Mattocks Ruin and Cottonwood Ruin, which are of the Classic Mimbres Period. We then drive to Pictograph Canyon for a walk to view some of the most interesting rock art in the area. Our last stop will be at Lake Roberts Vista Site. The site has both a Late Pithouse component and a Classic Mimbres occupation. Dr. Bettison was co-director of the research conducted at this site in 1992, 1994 and 1995.

On Sunday morning we will carpool and caravan to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and TJ Ruin, approximately 45 miles from Silver City. Charter bus service is not available. Another box lunch will be provided for us.

The Gila Cliff Dwellings were constructed by Mogollon people and consist of 42 well preserved rooms constructed in five natural caves. They were occupied for 15 or 20 years between A.D.1270 and 1290. TJ Ruin is a late Pithouse to Classic Period Mimbres village. TJ Ruin has not been pot hunted or excavated for research and is extremely fragile. Although the site is closed to the public, the National Park Service has given us permission to visit the site with Dr. Bettison.

After breakfast on Monday, our last day, we will check out of our rooms. Our bus will transport us to the Woodrow Ruin, which was occupied from A.D. 700 to approximately 1200. Dr. Bettison will again join us for our tour. Woodrow Ruin is the largest Mimbres site in the Gila Valley and the largest surviving Mimbres site that is relatively intact. The trip concludes at noon, when our bus returns us to our hotel in Silver City. Participants will have opportunities to visit and explore on their own numerous sites of interest in southern New Mexico, such as the Deming-Luna Mimbres Museum, Old Mesilla near Las Cruces, or the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona. Suggestions will be provided in the trip packet.

Trip Rating: Moderate to Strenuous.

Participants must be in good physical health. Activity will include walking up and down steep, un-maintained trails, traversing uneven ground strewn with rubble and climbing up ladders, with varied distances at each site.

The cost per person, \$355 for MNMF members or \$405 for nonmembers, includes Friday evening dinner with a no host bar, box lunches on Saturday and Sunday, archaeological guide fees, a donation to the WNMU Museum, admission to the Gila Cliff Dwellings and other sites, and the charter bus. A \$125 tax deductible contribution to the OAS Studies Research and Education Program is included in the trip fee.

Join the Friends of Archaeology!

Membership is FREE for all MNMF members

Call 505-982-6366, ext. 106 or go to

www.museumfoundation.org

Participants will be responsible for their own lodging and transportation to and from Silver City.

A group rate at the Silver City Holiday Inn Express of \$89.95 plus tax per night, which includes an ample breakfast bar, has been arranged. Trip participants must make their own individual reservations and should tell the clerk about being with the Friends of Archaeology in order to receive our group rate.

The trip is limited to 20 participants. Signup begins on March 15, 2010, at 12:00 AM.

Please call the FOA Reservation Hotline, (505) 982-7799, ext.5, to reserve.

Our cancellation policy is to fully refund before April 24, 2010, and in part thereafter.

Kathy McRee and Joyce Blalock.
Trip Coordinators

Gerry's Corner



Get the FOA Newsletter more quickly!
Sign up for E-news, delivered as a pdf document, today. It's fast, easy, eco-friendly and in color.
Call (505) 982-6366, ext. 117, or
Email Marylee@museumfoundation.org

Office of Archaeological Studies

The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) was the first museum program of its kind in the United States. Its staff conducts international field and laboratory research, offers educational opportunities for school groups and civic organizations and works to preserve, protect and interpret New Mexico's prehistoric and historic sites.

If you would like to know more about OAS, please see our Weblink: www.nmarchaeology.org

Friends of Archaeology

The Friends of Archaeology is a support group of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation for the Museum of New Mexico, Office of Archaeological Studies.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Friends of Archaeology is to support the Office of Archaeological Studies in the achievement of its archaeological services mandate from the state of New Mexico by participation in and funding of research and education.

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2010 Programs

- 2010**
- Feb 23 OAS Brown Bag Talk, Recent Discoveries at the Water Canyon Paleoindian Site, Robert Dello-Russo, PhD, NM Film Museum Theater, 11:45 AM. See page 3.
- Mar 20-22 Hohokam and Southern Arizona Field Trip.
- March 23. OAS Brown Bag Talk. "Really Big Stuff Underground." Jessica Badner, OAS Project Director. New Mexico Film Museum Theater, 11:45 AM. See page 3.
- April 27 OAS Brown Bag Talk. "Miracles of Preservation in a Destructive Milieu." Wolky Toll, Ph.D. New Mexico Film Museum Theater, 11:45 AM. See page 4.
- May 23 Pot Luck Lunch, Tours and Talks at Coronado State Monument, Bernalillo, NM, 12:00 PM. Cosponsored by FOA & Friends of Coronado State Monument. See page 5.
- June 4-7 Mimbres Sites & Ceramics—Field Trip to the Gila Region of New Mexico. See page 6.
- Sept. 18 Gallina Sites Field Trip—Sites between Coyote & Cuba, New Mexico. Details in May Newsletter.
- Sept. 26 Chiles and Sherds VIII—A Celebration of the Archaeology & Cuisine of New Mexico.
 Piedras Marcadas Site, Open Space Visitor Center, Albuquerque.
- Oct. 8-10 Coronado Contact Sites & Zuni Field Trip.
- Oct. 30-31 Conflict in Modern Times: Trinity Site Trip, with Alamogordo Option.