Archaeology Southwest

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Community
Dear Friends,

No way around it: 2020.

I missed my daughter and my grandkids. I missed my colleagues and my friends. I held onto a lot, I learned a lot, and I floundered a lot. I expect many of you did, too.

Terrible things happened in 2020 and are happening now. But look at how many of us see differently now, know differently now, and are coming together in community to create change even now. Look at how many of us are stronger. More determined. Maybe even nimbler than before—mentally, if not physically, after being cooped up for a year!

We at Archaeology Southwest have been incredibly privileged and grateful to have one another, and to have you. In community. Every week. Every day.

You pivoted. You supported. You were (are) patient. You liked our social media posts and read our blogs and watched Allen’s captivating flintknapping videos and logged into our Archaeology Cafés and donated at year’s end and celebrated each achievement and milestone we review here. In that sense, this report is a commencement party for us all.

We are truly proud that, as we reflect on the next steps we laid out in last year’s annual report, we can put check marks to almost all of them. That’s due to your shared commitment to our mission, your unceasing support, the depth and strength of our partnerships, and our determination. The pandemic may have affected how we did our work at Archaeology Southwest, but not the substance and meaning of our work.

In this report, we do not make a point of checking those boxes—you don’t need us to. You know. Instead, we celebrate what we, with you and our other partners and collaborators, got done. We report some fun numbers that I hope make you smile, too.

Gratitude does not even begin to encompass how we feel about you, Friends. But thank you, nonetheless.

Sincerely,

William H. Doelle
President & CEO

Cover: Scenes from 2020. Though working from our respective homes for most of the year, we were still connected through our commitment to our mission—a commitment we are proud to share with you.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

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Michael H. Bartlett
J.D. & Evelyn Brew
John Jacob Boyer
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IN HONOR OF

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Donna Tang
Linda & Jack van Straaten
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2020

VOLUNTEERS

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Elizabeth Burt
Bob Caseldine
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Joyce Clarke
Cheryl Daniel
Gina M. Deane
Carl Evertsbusch
Valerie Freireich
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For donating professional expertise and resources, our special thanks to:

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Kurt Dongeske
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Gary Huckleberry
Patrick Lyons

2020

2,343

That’s you—our members and donors. Thanks you!
It almost goes without saying that in mid-March of 2020, our Outreach team had to pivot, and quickly. We immediately jumped on Google chat and Zoom to brainstorm new ways to interact with you, our community of learners and supporters.

One of the easiest and trickiest programs to make virtual was Archaeology Café, which was made possible, in part, by Arizona Humanities and the Smith Living Trust for the 2020–2021 season. Easy, because it made perfect sense and was easily adaptable to Zoom. Tricky, because there were a lot of details to master in a short amount of time. It turned out so well that we are going to continue the program online for the 2021–2022 season, which will be all about avian archaeology—birds!

Over the course of 2020, our YouTube channel gained more than 96,000 views, and 6,570 of those were due to Allen Denoyer’s seven-part video series, “How Did People Make and Use Stone Tools?” Allen shifted from the three Hands-On Archaeology classes he taught before quarantine to filming this version of his flintknapping curriculum. He also produced an incredible array of tools and images for our Instagram. And by the time fall came around, Allen was able to share some programming at Steam Pump Ranch in Oro Valley and Mission Garden in Tucson.

The cancelation of the Preservation Archaeology Field School led us to think about other ways people could come along with what the students usually learn. Our thanks go to the field school staff and guest “lecturers” who contributed to our (Un)Field School blog series. This also led Kathleen Bader to compile Southwestern Archaeology 101, a prolific online guide to our educational content organized by topic. The guide reminded us just how much we have to offer.

Which brings us to Archaeology Southwest Magazine. Yes, we are running behind because of several COVID-related challenges, and we apologize for that. We are doing our best to catch up, and you will receive all the issues you subscribed for. We hope you enjoyed “The Casa Grande Community,” “Ihor Kwsnavk: Connecting and Collaborating in the Great Bend,” and “Respect the Land You Stand Upon: Ending Archaeological Resource Crime in the Southwest.”

Thank you for all the goodwill you have expressed about our Outreach programs over this past year. It has meant the world to us.
I want to begin by thanking all of you who took the time—and are taking the time—to advocate for Greater Chaco, whether that was contacting your legislators or re-sharing news articles and social media posts.

I am hopeful that we can get Congress to pass the Chaco Heritage Protection Act, and not least because in 2020, I directed field reconnaissance in the northwest, north, and northeast portions of the 10-mile protection zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Now that we have relocated a sample of the more than 4,000 sites in the zone, there is no question that this protection zone is not arbitrary. We and our partners want to make this protection zone permanent.

» The zone comprises approximately 700,000 acres

» It contains about 4,200 known archaeological and historic sites that speak to episodic use of the area by diverse cultural groups from about 10,000 BCE to the present

» Less than 20 percent of the area enclosed by the zone has been surveyed, so the actual site count is undoubtedly much higher

Our 2018 ethnographic project with Acoma Pueblo suggests that there are probably 100s—if not 1,000s—of as-yet-unidentified Traditional Cultural Properties and other Tribal cultural sites across Greater Chaco.

During the project, we also assessed six site clusters or communities. The communities at Pierre’s and Bis sa’ani are well known archaeologically, but the other four areas are not well known. These six areas represent a sample of the clustered sites and communities within the 10-mile zone and across Greater Chaco, and they plainly illustrate the high density of sites directly adjacent to Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

The protection zone clearly requires greater protection than federal policy and regulations currently provide. Ultimately, Archaeology Southwest will formally propose that the Bureau of Land Management should create additional zones of protection around cultural-historic communities and site clusters across Greater Chaco.
Like most people, my 2020 didn’t look much like what I had expected! Our Preservation Archaeology Field School went on hiatus for the year due to COVID-19, so I got to experience my first summer in Tucson. We tried to fill some of the void with our summer "(Un)Field School" blog series (page 5). In addition to learning to recognize more backyard birds as I gazed out the window at home, I took this unexpected extra “desk time” to catch up on publishing research.

Stephen MacDonald—a friend and colleague in our field school’s traditional home—and I published Faunal Remains from Archaeology Sites in Southwestern New Mexico, a monograph summarizing animal remains from all 105 known substantial archaeological collections from the Mimbres and upper Gila watersheds in New Mexico. This is an important reference for biologists making decisions about how to manage animal species today, and for archaeologists who need to know whether an animal whose remains they have identified is an unusual occurrence or not.

Deb Huntley, Jeff Clark, and many others released our final report on Archaeology Southwest’s field school excavations at the 3-Up site. This report shows how our field school research helps us understand migration and how people from several different backgrounds found ways to negotiate their differences and live together centuries ago.

Five other articles and book chapters I worked on in 2020 will be coming out over the next two years, on topics such as archaeology and climate change, sustainable hunting practices in ancient times, and how animal remains help us identify previously unseen religious and community practices in the past.

Jeff Clark and I developed an approved plan for safely conducting the Preservation Archaeology Field School this summer, and I cannot wait to get back out there. Still, 2020 turned out to be a very productive hiatus.
Search of Places, Pottery, and Pathways

For 2020, we were joined by Preservation Archaeology Postdoc Chris Caseldine, who is also an alumnus of our 2011 field school! In addition to sharing his expertise on Hohokam irrigation in the Phoenix Basin, Chris helped us document the ancient and enduring Komatke Trail and worked with Jeff Clark on an assessment of backcountry archaeological sites on the Tonto National Monument (TNM).

Chris, Bill Doelle, Aaron Wright, and volunteer crews located and mapped segments of the Komatke Trail that pass through the Maricopa Mountains, in the Sonoran Desert National Monument, and into the Rainbow Valley. Archaeologist Andy Darling had mapped this important trail to the edge of the mountains, where the footpaths peter out. The Archaeology Southwest crew picked up where he left off, and found and followed the trail by virtue of the artifacts on the ground surface in places where the footpaths are not evident.

Jeff and Chris collaborated on a research design for evaluating more than 90 sites (excluding the main cliff dwellings) within or near TNM’s boundaries. We assessed the effectiveness of TNM’s monitoring program and provided suggestions for the future. Chris also provided an updated site-monitoring form and a post-fire monitoring form.

Jeff continued to lead our Fluid Identities Initiative, which brings together several staff researchers to consider and refine the concept of Worlds and large-scale identities in the Gila River Watershed. The team wrote a series of eight online essays about past life and identity in the vast region.

Bill remedied his annoyance at being cooped up by joining Samuel Fayuant (Tohono O’odham Nation) on a sporadic reconnaissance of archaeological sites on the Nation reported to have Sells Red pottery. Bill and Samuel have been able to ground-truth a hypothesized pattern about what communities were using—and continued to use—this special pottery. They shared some of their ideas in an Archaeology Café on May 4, 2021.

And last but never least, in collaboration with the Conservation Lands Foundation, Friends Grassroots Network, Friends of Cedar Mesa, and other partners, Bill continued to advance our efforts to help protect and expand the National Conservation Lands. (He estimates that this amounted to 400 Zoom-hours.) We are hopeful that Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments will soon be fully restored.

Above: Surveying the Komatke Trail.
We officially launched cyberSW on June 9, 2020. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF SBE-1738062), the knowledge platform is a collaboration by Archaeology Southwest, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the University of Colorado Boulder.

cyberSW is not only the largest research database for archaeology of the American Southwest and Mexican Northwest, but also one of the largest—in terms of volume and variety of data—in the world. Together, the website and underlying graph database provide a powerful toolkit for ground-breaking research that does not require breaking actual ground.

» After a simple registration process, cyberSW is open to anyone with an Internet connection

» More than 230 registered users—including professionals, students, and interested avocationalists—are active on the platform

» cyberSW averages 3,000 visits per month

» New tools enable complete social network analyses and demographic reconstructions

» Volunteer citizen scientists Katherine Cerino, Jaye Smith, and others have been working from home to infuse the repository with data on pottery and public architecture

» Jaye Smith and Jeff Clark also led a virtual volunteer project that cleaned up cyberSW pottery typologies and made the web platform more user-friendly

What are you waiting for? Come to cybersw.org and check it out!

Above: This map from cyberSW shows 189 sites that have ballcourts. These were added to cyberSW in 2020.

Visit the cyberSW database: cyberSW.org
We kept busy in the field and at home in 2020. In May, we completed fieldwork on the three-year Lower Gila River Ethnographic and Archaeological Project (LGREAP, NEH RZ-255760). During the fieldwork, director Aaron Wright interviewed team members Jason Andrews, Charles Arrow, Keahna Owl, and Zion White—all members of the Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, which has ancestral connections to the region—and subsequently turned those interviews into a series of blog posts.

After coming in from the heat, Aaron secured a $114,219 NEH CARES grant (RJ-2740218) that extended employment for the Kwatsáan team members through the end of 2020 (and beyond). We used our completed field documentation and existing reports to develop a petroglyph database covering southern Arizona. Our team has also been recording petroglyphs at Gillespie Narrows, a parcel Archaeology Southwest now protects (page 16), and assisting with the Komatke Trail project (page 10).

Ultimately—and working with Kwatsáan cultural leaders including Lorey Cachora, Manfred Scott, and Claudette White—we used our interviews as a springboard to talk about our collaboration and Indigenous connections to the landscapes we documented. We shared these in “‘iihor Kwsnavk,” a special issue of Archaeology Southwest Magazine (Vol. 34, No. 1) that Aaron edited over the fall and winter. It was released in early 2021.

Aaron also published articles on the dating of Lowland Patayan pottery and the complicated questions around petroglyphs at Taliesin West, for a total of three contributions to the tally on page 9.

Learn more about LGREAP, which has been funded by a Collaborative Research Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: archaeologysouthwest.org/lgreap

Above: Hummingbird Point petroglyph. Above right: Zion, Aaron, and Charles on survey. PHOTOS: PAUL VANDERVEEN
As Director of our Landscape and Site Preservation Program (LSPP), I kept sane in 2020 by getting outside and inspecting all of Archaeology Southwest’s preserves across Arizona and New Mexico. I am happy to report that the properties and easements are in good order, with just a few exceptions. We also acquired 20 acres to complement a significant and sensitive preserve in Yuma County.

When stuck indoors, I compiled a draft of the first-ever LSPP Plan. The plan outlines how we will transition from opportunistic acquisition to strategic integration of our preserves with our broader mission. I shared our thinking at the January 4, 2021, Archaeology Café.

Zoom and email enabled me to continue to participate in cultural resource protection planning for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Archaeology Southwest has a longstanding commitment to community-based conservation and preservation in this region of southeastern Arizona. And I had the fierce pleasure of clicking “send” to file our formal comments opposing harmful changes to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

In other advocacy close to my heart, I supported the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Apache Stronghold, and the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition by holding the U.S. Forest Service to high standards for the identification, assessment, and preservation of cultural resources affected by the proposed Resolution Copper Mine. Some of you may know this situation by the English-language place name “Oak Flat.” Its Apache name is Chi’chil Bidi’goteel.

Finally, I’d like to introduce you to Skylar Begay, Archaeology Southwest’s first Tribal Outreach Fellow. We hired Skylar in late fall of 2020, with support from the Wyss Foundation through a fellowship program dedicated to creating future conservation leaders. From what I have seen of his work thus far, that outcome is assured.

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» Watch John’s Archaeology Café: youtu.be/0Vs1QrMM0
» Learn more about the Great Bend of the Gila campaign Skylar is helping to lead: archaeologysouthwest.org/projects/gila-bend/

Above: View of petroglyphs in Gillespie Dam, one of the sites we protect. PHOTO: PAUL VAN DER VEEN Right: Skylar Begay.
Partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Our role at Archaeology Southwest is a little different, but just as rewarding. Through a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreement between Archaeology Southwest and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), we work with federal and Tribal agencies to prevent and respond to violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

In 2020, as part of a larger team, we continued to analyze specimens from background and crime-scene contexts in pursuit of “proof of concept” for the application of forensic sedimentology to ARPA violations. We were pleased to finalize the first edition of *A Guide to Field Investigation and Documentation of Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Violations*.

Along those same lines, we had to pivot from planned in-person training workshops to webinars and virtual conferences. Our working group presented “2020 Perspectives and Tools for Addressing Archaeological Resource Crime: Prevention, Detection, Investigation, Remediation,” a webinar for the Arizona Site Stewards. The goal was to introduce the Site Stewards to the BIA–Archaeology Southwest ARPA Initiative and our approach to ARPA investigations. It is critical that we train more people to be able to undertake ARPA field damage assessments.

But responding to potential crime scenes isn’t all we do. We are also building a movement to end archaeological resource crime (ARC) by prioritizing Indigenous perspectives on ancestral sites and sharing those perspectives in a variety of ways.

Throughout 2020, we worked with a Native American-owned digital marketing firm to create and produce our Save History campaign. *SaveHistory.org went live in January of 2021*. This is a living website that features Tribal voices and provides a tool for reporting ARC. Please visit, and be sure to follow our Facebook page.

Over the fall and winter, Stacy brought together an incredible group of Native and non-Native contributors who wrote or spoke about ARC with solemnity and sincerity. The result is “Respect the Land You Stand Upon,” *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* Vol. 34, Nos. 2 & 3, published in May of 2021.


» Watch the presentation to the Arizona Site Stewards: youtube.be/hsDHNhVgf9g

» Follow the Save History movement: facebook.com/save.history.2021
First Zoom staff meeting, April 6, 2020. Not pictured: Jason Andrews, Leslie Aragon, Charles Arrow, Christopher Caseldine, Stephanie Egurola, Kamillia Hoban, Keenan Montoya, Keahna Owl, Laura Packard, Nicholas Poister, Andre Takagi, and Zion White.

Unrestricted $3,086,165
Temporarily restricted $2,000,134
Permanently restricted $5,290,633
Total $10,376,932

Unaudited. Complete audited financials are available on request.

Archaeology Southwest works in the original homelands of Indigenous peoples who have stewarded their lands since time immemorial. Our headquarters in Tucson are located on the ancestral lands of the Tohono O’odham.