



The San Tan Chapter of the  
Arizona Archaeological Society  
invites you to join us at the  
San Tan Historical Society Museum  
20425 S Old Ellsworth Rd, Queen Creek, AZ  
**Wednesday February 12, 2025 meet up at 6:00pm**  
**presentation starts at 6:30 pm**



Dr. William E. Doolittle is the Professor Emeritus- Erich W. Zimmermann Regents Professor in Geography and the Chairman of the Department of Geography at The University of Texas at Austin. He received his PhD 1979 University of Oklahoma, Geography and Archaeology. Dissertation research in Sonora, México. Four books and dozens of articles and chapters.

*This will be a Zoom presentation, please join us at the Museum. Come early and visit with other members. For those unable to meet us at the Musuem please join us via Zoom.*

**Topic: "A Biography of the Safford Valley Grids Project."**

*Based on the book The Safford Valley Grids: Prehistoric Cultivation in the Southern Arizona Desert Volume 70 written by James A. Neely and William E. Doolittle.*

**--VIDEO CONFERENCE PRESENTATION**



Abstract: A project born of happenstance, prevarication, perfect timing, and little cost, the story of the Safford Grids Project is one of humor, friendship, collaboration, and productivity. The results are known, but the back story isn't. This talk is a personal account of how several factors came together resulting in a book that answered a question that mystified archaeologists for a century.

"Crisscrossing Pleistocene terrace tops and overlooking the Gila River in southeastern Arizona are acres and acres of rock alignments that have perplexed archaeologists for a century. Well known but poorly understood, these features have long been considered agricultural, but exactly what was cultivated, how, and why remained a mystery. Now we know. Drawing on the talents of a team of scholars representing various disciplines, including geology, soil science, remote sensing, geographical information sciences (GISc), hydrology, botany, palynology, and archaeology, the editors of this volume explain when and why the grids were built. Between A.D. 750 and 1385, people gathered rocks from the tops of the terraces and rearranged them in grids of varying size and shape, averaging about 4 meters to 5 meters square. The grids captured rainfall and water accumulated under the rocks forming the grids. Agave was planted among the rocks, providing a dietary supplement to the maize and beans that were irrigated on the nearby bottom land, a survival crop when the staple crops failed, and possibly a trade commodity when yields were high. Stunning photographs by Adriel Heisey convey the vastness of the grids across the landscape".\*\*\*\* from bookshop.org

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88052303027?pwd=FcXn3TfIQFea4XiDeN5mwZQzixYVwB.1>

**Meeting ID: 880 5230 3027 Passcode: 336192**

Contact Marie Britton at [mbrit@cox.net](mailto:mbrit@cox.net) for more information.

