

New Mexico Archaeology

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION

WWW.NMARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

AUGUST 2023

MARY WEAHKEE RETIRES

BY MATTHEW J. BARBOUR
CO-INTERIM DIRECTOR, OAS

Mary Weahkee is gone?! Well maybe not gone but retired. I know, it's a surprise to me too.

Mary has been a fixture at the Office of Archaeological Studies over the past 17 years and is nothing less than a rock star when it comes to archaeological education. Need a turkey feather blanket or some yucca sandals? Mary has you covered, and she will spin one hell of a story while she demonstrates.

I first met Mary when she applied to work on the Santa Fe Convention Center project back in 2006. I would like to take credit for hiring her, but really that belongs to Stephen Lentz, who was the project director. I was just a crew chief. Steve was crazy and Mary was crazy, but both cared about the past and got along well. Mary, being of Tewa and Comanche ancestry, felt connected with the people of Ogapogeh, and she mostly worked on the pueblo aspects of that project. Later, when we came in from the field, she learned flaked stone analysis under James L. Moore. Mary went on to make sizable contributions to several major research projects. She also spent time slumming it with me on some historic archaeology and hunter-gatherer projects.

However, if I had to put a finger on when her career

See **Mary**, on Page 5.



Volunteer Barbara Chatterjee labels artifacts from the OAS Palace of the Governors project.

HELPING HANDS

THANKS, OAS VOLUNTEERS! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

BY SHELBY JONES

Looking back on the OAS volunteer program of the last fiscal year has been a truly amazing experience. Coming out of a couple of years of COVID pandemic restrictions that limited many of OAS's volunteer programs, fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) has blown all expectations out of the water.

In FY23, 40 volunteers donated over 5,000 hours of time! When converted to full-time employees, that is an average of 2.5 employees every month. We can honestly say that without the amazing team of volunteers many of our most crucial projects might never have happened. Thank you so very much!

Projects worked on this past year include:

Yucca, yucca, and more yucca: In early 2023, OAS was contracted to make a turkey feather shawl and rabbit skin blanket for a movie production. A team of volunteers later, the project was completed in the nick of time. These two beautiful pieces will be featured in a soon-to-be-released film. OAS was also able to retain ownership of the items, which will be used in our Education Outreach Program.

La Plata: In the late 1980's, OAS excavated more than 15 sites in the northwest part of the state on behalf of the New Mexico Department of Transportation. The analysis and reporting has taken the better part of three decades, but now OAS is able to move

See **Helping**, on Page 6.

OAS EXTENDS WELCOME TO NEW DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The Office of Archaeological Studies welcomes new Director of Business Operations Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers.



Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers

Seltzer-Rogers started his archaeological career at the Archaeology Southwest Preservation Archaeology Field School at Mule Creek, NM in 2013. Since then, he has worked

near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, on the Gila River Indian Community in central Arizona and in southern Arizona, throughout New Mexico, and in central Texas. He earned his MS and PhD with Distinction from the University of New Mexico in 2019 and 2023, respectively. He is a ceramic analyst with an expertise in southern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, and northern Chihuahua archaeology, the formation of borderlands in pre-Contact contexts, and actively participates in research projects throughout this area. He is currently authoring three books reporting results of excavations conducted at several sites more than 40 years ago and is a strong supporter of collections-based research. He resides in Albuquerque with his wife, Heather, who is also an archaeologist, and their three cats. ❖

LOOKING FOR US?

If you're planning a trip to OAS, we're at 7 Old Cochiti Road, off Caja del Rio Road. We're the first building on the left, just before the animal shelter.



FIELD TRIP

OAS staff got a chance to observe other archaeologists at work early this summer during a special visit to Belén, where Dr. Debra L. Martin and Dr. Pamela K. Stone and their crew excavated several portions of the first Nuestra Señora de Belén mission church on private land in the city's Old Town neighborhood. The Historic Belén Bioarchaeology Project team was able to locate the original foundation of the mission church along with several individuals buried in and around the church. Following examination and analysis, all human remains and burial goods will be reburied in the cemetery on the grounds of Our Lady of Belén Catholic Church in 2024. The project was funded by a National Science Foundation grant. Photos by Melissa Martinez.



Office of Archaeological Studies

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

Friends of Archaeology

The Friends of Archaeology is an interest group within the Museum of New Mexico Foundation that supports the OAS. To join the FOA, you need only become a member of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation and sign up. Visit www.nmarchaeology.org for information. We're also on Facebook, at "www.facebook.com/FriendsOfArchaeologyNM".

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 through participation in and funding of research and education projects.

FOA Board

Chair: Jerry Cooke
 Treasurer: Jerry Sabloff
 Board Members: Barbara Am Ende, Keith Anderson, Margaret Armstrong, Joyce Blalock, Donna Coleman, Jerry Cooke, Greg Dove, Susan McMichael, Tom Noble, Sherill Spaar, and Marja Springer

Contributors to the Board:
 Matthew Barbour, Michelle Ensey, Shelby Jones, Melissa Martinez, Lauren Paige

ARCHAEOLOGY FAIR



Archaeologist Isaiah Coan represented OAS at the Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division's, Annual Archaeology Fair held August 4 and 5, at Lincoln Historic Site. The fair, held during Old Lincoln Days, saw approximately 250 visitors over the course of the two days. As always, our atlatls and bows and arrows were very popular with kids and adults. Other exhibitors included the Historic Preservation Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, N.M. State Land Office, N.M. State Parks, Jornada Research Institute, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Archaeological Society of New Mexico. Participants could observe flintknapping, make pinch pots, examine a variety of pottery vessels and sherds, and learn about ground penetrating radar and magnetometers. Photo by Jeff Pappas.

BROWN BAG TALK OCTOBER 27: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS REDUX

OAS Research Associate and Friends of Archaeology Board Member Sheri Spaar will be offering a special Brown Bag Talk, "Día de los Muertos Redux: The Deep Archaeological Roots of the Day of the Dead," on Friday, October 27, 2023. This talk will concentrate on the half-way mark between the Fall Equinox and Winter Solstice that has been a cause of ritual and celebration in most pre-modern societies worldwide. Archaeological evidence from the Bronze Age of Europe through the New World sheds light on the

ancient European past and its influence on the practices in the New World.

This talk will be held in the OAS library at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology. Talks are informal. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This talk begins **Friday, October 27, 2023, at noon**. The lecture will be provided in an online format, either on the Friends of Archaeology Facebook page or the FOA Youtube channel. Look for announcements on this and other talks on the FOA Facebook page or the OAS website. ❖

Events

TOUR EVENT

COMANCHE GAP ROCK ART TOUR PLANNED

IMAGES FOUND HERE HAVE LONG BEEN INTERPRETED AS 'GREETINGS' TO HOSTILE INTRUDERS

Many who attended the San Cristobal Pueblo rock art tour requested that FOA try to arrange for access to the rock art of Comanche Gap (El Crestón) in the Galisteo Basin. We are working on it, with morning and afternoon tours planned for **Saturday, October 7, and Sunday, October 8, 2023.**

The rock art is a mix of warrior and religious imagery, most on south-facing igneous rock surfaces within 20 to 30 feet of the top of the dike that cuts across the south end of the Galisteo Basin. The images and their locations are dramatic and have long been interpreted as greeting potentially hostile intruders from the south. A brief overview of the site can be found online at Galisteo Basin Archaeology El Crestón (<https://galisteo.nmarchaeology.org/sites/creston.html>).

This opportunity is late-breaking in that we are still arranging for permissions from the multiple landowners. More details will be available prior to the opening of enrollment through Eventbrite starting September 21. The cost will depend, in part, on whether we can arrange for full access to the dike, but it will be equal to or less than \$85 per person. In all cases, the hike is strenuous, requiring that participants clamber over blocky talus slopes with some steep ascents. ❖



SUMMER PROJECT



OAS student interns Abby Madrid, above, and Brandon Laate, left, created traditional dippers from the abundance of gourds hung out to dry outside CNMA last summer. The two worked under the guidance of Mary Weahkee to create the dippers.

Photos by Mary Weahkee.

MARY

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really started to take off, it was when she began doing education outreach activities with Eric Blinman, Charles Hannaford, and Mollie Toll. Mary learned a lot from all of them: atlatls, textiles, native plants, and so on. In some ways, she surpassed them. As a Native American, Mary offers a distinct perspective on the types of ancestral lifeways taught by OAS, but what truly sets Mary apart is her ability to relate to people and tell a story. It's not uncommon for a crowd to gather around Mary to hang onto her every word.

When I returned to OAS earlier this year, it amazed me as to how much these education programs had grown. The emphasis had always been on childhood education, but there was more engagement with Native American communities and a wider array of activities being undertaken as part of education outreach. Mary, as well as others, deserves a great deal of credit for this. There is a reason, this is an award-winning program.

Now, with Mary's absence, OAS has some big shoes to fill. I am confident we can. Staff, including Isaiah Coan, Shelby Jones, and Caitlin Ainsworth, are poised to put their own unique spins on OAS education outreach. We have also just received funding from DCA Secretary Garcia y Griego to support a full-time educator position at OAS, temporarily with the potential of a more permanent position in the future. This is a huge step forward for an education program that up until now has largely been funded through donations and grants!

To say we will miss Mary is an understatement, but the legacy of what she and others before her built lives on at the OAS and has a bright future. ❖



Above: Mary Weahkee, far right, teaches a group of Santa Clara Community Day School students to make yucca sandals as part of the Office of Archaeological Studies Education Outreach Program.

Left: Visitors to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro take a moment to talk with Mary, far left, about the manufacture of yucca cordage. Mary is able to offer a distinct perspective on the types of ancestral lifeways taught by OAS, but what truly sets Mary apart is her ability to relate to people and tell a story.

Photos by Isaiah Coan.

Volunteers

HELPING

Continued from Page 1.

forward with the curation of material goods that were excavated during the project. The curation of these artifacts was incredibly detailed work and required, in itself, an "excavation" of both old reports and even older documents. With the help of one incredible volunteer, 147 reconstructable vessels are boxed up, labeled, and documented, ready to move to their permanent home in the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture's Archaeological Research Collections repository.

Archaeomagnetism: Prior to his death, Robert DuBois made arrangements with OAS to curate his archaeomagnetic research, samples, and data. Unfortunately, he passed without sharing this knowledge with his estate. As a result, all of his records were in disarray. With a bit of ingenuity, OAS was able to acquire these records and start the massive project of organizing them. Now, more than 10 years later, all of the magnetic records have been digitized and the location of the sample cubes within boxes at OAS have been documented. Just over 8,000 cubes have been recorded and double-checked; the remaining 7,000 are on our list for FY24.

Robert DuBois left OAS a spinner magnetometer for his 15,000 samples. This had fallen into disrepair, but two volunteer engineers have been working tirelessly to acquire the parts necessary to repair the system.

Experimental Ceramics: Dr. Patricia Crown at UNM has been looking for replicas of Chaco cylinder jars for a destructive experiment. Two OAS volunteers learned how to construct these unusual vessels and have provided her with several replicas for her experiments. They are also creating replicas of another unusual vessel: "duck pots" for the OAS Education Outreach Program.

Analytic Laboratories: The OAS Analytic Laboratories received wonderful gifts this year: two Raman Spectroscopy units and several Supercritical Fluid units. These pieces will augment the analytic capacity of the laboratories once



Volunteer Lee Balick is sorting more than 15,000 archaeomagnetic samples by date. The samples were donated by the late Robert DuBois. Photo by Melissa Martinez.



Bob Florek, an OAS volunteer, takes a pXRF reading of a pottery sherd. Photo by Shelby Jones.

they are serviced and functional. Two retired scientists have been assisting in the set up of these instruments.

Radiocarbon Sampling Laboratory: During FY23, OAS received an influx

OAS IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in doing volunteer work at the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, send an e-mail to our volunteer coordinator, Shelby Jones, at shelby.jones@dca.nm.gov. Hurry! Our new program starts this fall.

of samples for radiocarbon sampling and dating. With the help of volunteers, we were able to maintain a constant flow of samples through our sample pre-treatment protocols, ensuring that the plasma radiocarbon sampling system was continuously supplied with samples.

Cleaning: Over the past several years, OAS has embarked on a cleanliness mission. This goal has led to many changes throughout the building. The OAS library is now completely reorganized, incorporating 109 boxes of books from the personal library of one of OAS's esteemed colleagues, the late Regge Wiseman. Additionally, the journal

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HANDS

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nook of academic publications has been reorganized to accommodate the needs of the staff. It is now a wonderful reading space that is used regularly. The copy room storage area was also subject to cleaning. While it was quite a treat to find old typewriter pieces and a large collection of floppy disks, it was definitely more of a treat to discover a useful, well-organized space.

Database management: Specialized data collection and database management continued this year with three return volunteers assisting in with our bioarchaeology database, pXRF, and the radiography studio.

Archaeology: We wouldn't be the Office of Archaeological Studies without a team of volunteers assisting with artifact washing, labelling, sorting, and processing. This year, volunteers worked primarily on three projects: the old Taylor Draw project and more current projects from the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum downtown and the Palace of the Governors.

Education: Lastly, the OAS Education Outreach Program thrives on volunteer assistance—from aiding in classrooms to working in our developing interpretive gardens to constructing traveling kits for students across the state, and so much more.

As we look towards this current fiscal year, we hope to expand our offerings and develop a more formal volunteer program. While changes are inevitable, one thing is a constant, OAS is indebted to our volunteers and we are beyond grateful for the contributions our volunteers make on a near-daily basis.

If you are interested in volunteering at OAS, please e-mail Volunteer Coordinator Shelby Jones at Shelby.Jones@dca.nm.gov. We will be rolling out our new volunteer program this fall. Shelby will ensure you are on our list of potential volunteers. ❖

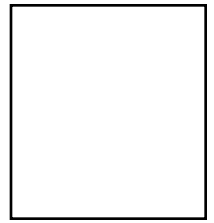


Top: Ellen Herr, recently completed the reorganization of the OAS journal nook.

Above: Intern Abby Madrid and volunteer Ann Rasor catalogue the OAS library while incorporating an additional 109 boxes of books donated by the family of the late Reggie Wiseman.

Right: Volunteer Laura Reich sorts swageloks in the supercritical fluid lab.

Photos by Shelby Jones.



BROWN BAG LECTURE: OCTOBER 11, 2023

BLUE GRAY TO BISCUIT WARE; TRENDS AND CONNECTIONS

This free lunchtime talk offered by OAS Research Associate C. Dean Wilson talk represents the second of several presentations discussing the nature and significance of trends noted for the distinct decorated pottery long produced by Tewa potters in the Northern Rio Grande. This talk will elaborate on trends noted previously for Tewa White ware, focusing on a period spanning from AD 1250 to 1550, during which distinct local "white" ware forms occur at the many Pueblo villages across large areas of the Northern Rio Grande. This is reflected by a sequence of organic painted pottery that includes the production of blue gray (Santa B/w), then biscuitoid (Wiyo Black-on-white), and finally biscuit ware (Abiquiu and Bandelier Black-on-gray white). Evidence, concerning whether

such trends predominately reflect a long sequence of local developments in the Tewa homeland or influences and people resulting from large scale migrations of groups abandoning the Mesa Verde region during the late thirteenth century, will be discussed.

This talk will be held in the OAS library at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology. Talks are informal. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This talk begins **Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at noon**. The lecture will be provided in an online format, either on the Friends of Archaeology Facebook page or the FOA Youtube channel. Look for special announcements regarding this and other talks on the FOA Facebook page or on the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies website. ❖

MAKE YOUR MARK ON NM ARCHAEOLOGY!

Please consider supporting the Office of Archaeological Studies by making a gift to education or research by check, credit, stock, IRA rollover, or planned gift. Your tax-deductible donation through the Museum of New Mexico Foundation will have a lasting impact. One hundred percent of your donation will be directed to the OAS. No administrative fees are charged. Give online: museumfoundation.org/give/. For questions, or to donate, contact Lauren Paige, at (505) 982-2282, or via e-mail at lauren@museumfoundation.org.

