April 14, 2020

Tonight’s Speaker

Keith M. Prufer
Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Environmental Archaeology Laboratory at the University of New Mexico.

Unraveling the Long Road to the Maize Diet in the Neotropics of Mesoamerica

Pollen and starch grain evidence indicates that domesticated maize (Zea mays subspecies mays) first appears in the Balsas region of Mexico by ~9,000 years ago, but few data exist on when corn became an integral part of the human diet in Mesoamerica. In this talk I present new data for a transect spanning 9,500-1,200 years ago of stable isotopes of carbon showing the adoption of maize was gradual, later than might be expected, and resulted in a maize dependent diet in the neotropics by 4000 B.P.
For 25 years Keith has conducted excavations in the Maya Lowlands focusing on human-environmental relationships. His newest project is investigating the Paleoindian and Archaic origins of humans in the neotropics through studies of diet, technology, and genomics.

New Officers

The New Officers of the Taos Archaeological Society for 2020-2021 have been confirmed to volunteer in these positions.

1) Nancy Colvert      President
2) Philip Alldritt    Vice President
3) Debbie Espie       Secretary
4) Chris Ellis        Treasurer
5) Anita Briscoe      At Large
6) Judith Hetem       At Large

The Taos Archaeological Society is always looking for volunteers to participate in activities and volunteer as officers. Please contact taoscuba@hotmail.com to volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for your continuing support of TAS!

Pot Creek Ceramic Sorting
Pot Creek Ceramic Sorting is still requesting volunteers to participate in processing out their Prehistoric collections. Wednesdays at 9:00am at the SMU Laboratory. Contact Mark Henderson for more information. markscotthenderson@gmail.com

ASNM 2020

The Taos Archaeological Society is pleased to announce we are hosting the Annual Meeting of Archaeological Society of New Mexico. The Conference will take place May 8-10, 2020 next Spring. TAS is looking for volunteers to participate in helping Saturday May 9. The meeting theme will be “Taos at the Crossroads of Trade”.

Register on the TAS website now for DISCOUNT at taosarch.org

Interesting lectures, Field Trips, Steve Lekson keynote speaker and Banquet Dinner. Burro loading demonstration, Silent Auction.

Contact Phil Alldritt at taoscuba@hotmail.com to participate as a volunteer.
TAS Budget

Budget information for 2019-2020 for the Taos Archaeological Society is now posted on the website.

Lifetime Membership

The Taos Archaeological Society is offering Lifetime Membership with the contribution of $500.00 per individual anytime up until December 31, 2019. Take advantage of this Tax Deductible opportunity and help TAS fund our mission!! The Lifetime Membership will include the Member plus 1 additional family member.

TAS
PO Box 143
Taos, NM  87571

Basket and Sandal Weaving Demonstration
Saturday, June 13, 2020

Mary Motah will conduct a basket and sandal weaving demonstration and hands on workshop. The workshop will take place at the Kit Carson Board Room on Cruz Alta Road from 10am-4pm.

Participation is limited to 15 persons. This will fill quickly. Registration based on first 15 payments received. Please include your email to receive a confirmation.

If you miss out we will do this in an ongoing basis. The second 15 payments received will be confirmed to participate in the June 2021 workshop.

The participation fee is $15.00 check or money order made out to Mary Motah. It should be mailed to

Phil Alldritt  
PO Box 659  
Arroyo Hondo, NM  87513

First 15 deposits received are confirmed.

No one is confirmed until payment is received.

Participants should bring a small pocket knife, wear shorts, bring brownbag lunch and drink.

In case of cancellation and you request a refund contact me here.

Thank you for your support and participation in the TAS activities!!

The TAS Board of Officers
Field Work

The Taos Archaeological Society, in cooperation with Carson National Forest will participate in archaeological testing of a rock shelter site in Valle Vidal Summer of 2020. We will be posting updated information soon to members.

La Cueva excavation underway

We excavated and surveyed this area for a week August 5-9, 2019 and recorded two hearths and many artifacts. Three new sites were also recorded. We collected lithics including obsidian and 5 ceramics. Also, in the excavation we found an Archaic projectile dart San Pedro variety (see photo below (circa 1500 BC). Great group of archaeology techs and volunteers from TAS.
SUMMER POTLUCK!

JULY 19, 2020

5:00pm-7:00pm
Carolyn Johnson’s House
Watch for directions in your email!
Bring your favorite summer dish to share!
Wine, Lemonade and Tea provided.
BRING YOUR OWN CAMPING CHAIR!

TAS Education Initiative
The Taos Archaeological Society is Funding trips for students to The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project! Trips coming up this Spring 2020!
Contact Phil Alldritt at taoscuba@hotmail.com

TAS is looking for Members to form an Education Committee who will promote and facilitate communication with teachers and schools to advance our bus trip programs!!
To participate in this very successful effort contact Phil Alldritt at taoscuba@hotmail.com

Thank you!
TAS Archives – Material Needed

TAS is also looking for Members to participate in organizing TAS archives from 2000-Present. We are requesting that any Members who have photographs from TAS trips and any archival materials to contact Phil Alldritt at taoscuba@hotmail.com. Thank you!!!!

Upcoming Trips

Trip reservations are first come first serve all trips have limited space. No reservation is confirmed until deposits have been made. Watch for future trips on the website! Thank you!

All TAS trips may be sign up for by TAS Members who are Active Members in Good Standing. Persons wanting to participate should become Members by mailing 30.00 to TAS PO Box 143 Taos, NM 87571 Thank you!!!

Next Speaker

September 8, 2020

Exciting speakers coming all next season! Watch for the bulletins online at taosarch.org for announcements!