

**GOVERNOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016**

INTRODUCTION

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission (GAAC) is a statutory body that advises the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on archaeological issues in Arizona. It includes up to 11 members with expertise in prehistoric or historic archaeology, anthropology, heritage tourism, public education, economic development, and Native American affairs.

The GAAC supports public outreach and involvement in archaeology. It has assisted the SHPO, a division of Arizona State Parks, in developing and implementing successful educational and volunteer programs, including Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month, the annual Archaeology Expo, and the Arizona Site Steward Program. Annually, the GAAC presents the Governor's Awards in Public Archaeology in recognition of successful efforts to preserve the traces of our shared past. Working with other entities, both public and private, the Commission supports local economic development through archaeological heritage tourism while fostering a stewardship ethic for the protection and preservation of irreplaceable archaeological resources.

The Commission meets quarterly to review information regarding archaeological issues in the state, to monitor educational programs jointly developed with the SHPO, and to develop recommendations for actions and programs that will protect the state's archaeological resources and museum collections. Standing committees focused respectively on Public Policy, Public Education, and Professional Competency work to identify emerging issues, gather relevant information, set priorities for action, and work with SHPO in developing solutions and preparing reports. Committees report to the full Commission at each meeting. All meetings of the GAAC and its committees are open to the public, with dates and related agendas announced in advance by Arizona State Parks.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (Terms expire)

Chair

Dr. Thomas Wilson (1 September 2016) City Representative
Arizona Museum of Natural History, Mesa

Vice Chair

Dr. Joshua Watts (1 September 2016) Archaeologist
Board Member, Arizona Archaeological Council

Members

Thomas Jones (1 September 2017) Historical Archaeology Representative
Archaeological Consulting Services

Gerald “Shane” Anton (1 September 2015) Tribal Representative
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Dr. Ruth Greenspan (1 September 2017) State Agency Representative
Arizona Department of Transportation

Christopher Watkins (1 September 2018) Anthropology / Archaeology Representative
Arizona Public Service

Members who served, but whose terms ended or left the Commission during the period of this report, are Clint Chandler and Daniel Bogert.

GENERAL PROGRAM DIRECTION

The Commission operates in accordance with the following directives:

- Inform and advise policy-makers on issues relating to stewardship of archaeological resources, public education, resource protection, professional standards, maintenance of data and collections, and other matters of public policy.
- Support educational programs carried out by the SHPO that promote public understanding and stewardship of archaeological resources, such as Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month and the annual Archaeology Expo.
- Promote professional competency by supporting training programs and workshops in historic preservation laws, the practice of archaeology, and the current state of knowledge of Arizona prehistory and history.
- Encourage preservation activities by presenting the annual Governor’s Awards in Public Archaeology recognizing individuals, organizations, and programs that have significantly contributed to the preservation and knowledge of Arizona archaeology.
- Advise Arizona State Parks on management of its volunteer Site Steward Program.
- Encourage communication among those with an interest in protecting and celebrating Arizona’s archaeological heritage, including Indian tribes, professional organizations, avocational organizations, and Arizona citizens.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

- Served as a partner of the annual Arizona Historic Preservation Conference held in Phoenix in June 2016. As part of the conference, the GAAC considered nominations from the public in selecting the recipients of the annual Awards in Public Archaeology that were presented at a special ceremony. The Historical Archaeology Advisory Committee of the GAAC also presented a workshop on “Useful Material Things,” at the Conference.

- Provided guidance to the Site Steward Program, in which over 800 Site Stewards in 13 regions are working with 32 outside agencies to protect 1,200 archaeological sites in Arizona.
- GAAC participated in planning and implementing the very successful Site Steward 30th Anniversary Conference, held in Phoenix June 7-8, 2016.
- Monitored and advised the activities of the Historical Archaeology Advisory Committee, which includes GAAC members and volunteers. The Committee is continuing to update components of the *Historical Archaeology in Arizona Research Guide*.
- Continued to advise the Arizona State Museum on adding new layers of data to the AZSITE system, the statewide database of archaeological and historical sites.
- Participated at the annual Archaeology Expo at Casa Grande National Monument in March 2016.
- Continued review of cultural sensitivity training from staff of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and promoted such training for all participants in archaeological projects in Arizona involving Native American sites, landscapes and materials.
- Reviewed and continue to monitor the Archaeological Site Names draft protocol submitted by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
- Reviewed the Arizona State Museum's digital management protocol and the *Archaeological Data Service/Digital Antiquity/Guides to Good Practice*.

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS IN PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

In an effort to bring more recognition to its honorees, GAAC presents its Awards in Public Archaeology at the Arizona Historic Preservation Conference, the same setting in which the Governor's Historic Preservation Honor Awards are presented by the Arizona Preservation Foundation and the State Historic Preservation Office.

The following recipients were honored in 2016:

- Walter Gosart, Avocational Archaeologist
- Tom Wodall, Avocational Archaeologist
- Fran Maiuri, Site Steward
- Carl Evertsbusch, Site Steward
- Richard & Sandy Martynec, Site Stewards
- City of Flagstaff Open Space Program, Government Agency
- Dave Abbott, Lifetime Achievement

ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE AWARENESS MONTH AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY EXPO

The Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month included a total of 70 individual events located in 22 cities across the State of Arizona within the month of March, 2016. The

highlighted event for the Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month is the Arizona Archaeology Expo.

As indicated by the Visitor Survey results, GAAC believes that the 2016 Arizona Archaeology Expo was a great success in meeting the educational goals for which we strived and in providing important stewardship take-aways to the public. We have provided summary highlights below:

- The majority of survey respondents were new to the Expo, allowing us an opportunity to introduce the public to the importance of archaeology.
- An estimated 1,000 people visited the Arizona Archaeology Expo.
- Most visitor respondents thought the tours, lectures, and demonstrations were among the most enjoyable events at the Expo.
- Good Tribal participation in the Archaeology Expo with all four of the Southern Tribes present (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, and Tohono O'odham Nation).

SUNSET REVIEW BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Legislative review of state advisory boards and commissions is generally required by law every ten years. The purpose is to evaluate the need to continue the existence of an advisory group, or to revise, consolidate, or terminate the group. The Auditor General of the State of Arizona wrote to the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission on June 10, 2015, notifying the Commission that its Sunset Review would begin in the summer of 2016. The SHPO developed the necessary documents and the Director of Arizona State Parks provided them to the Committee of Reference in timely fashion.

THREE-YEAR PLAN

The Three-Year Plan presents GAAC's program direction and the priorities that will guide the work of its standing, task-based committees. The current plan was completed in the year under review and covers the period from 2016-2018.

For additional information about GAAC and its activities, including its Three-Year Plan, PDFs of its reports, and lists of past Awards in Public Archaeology winners, visit the GAAC web pages listed under the SHPO section of the Arizona State Parks website:

<http://azstateparks.com/committees/GAAC.html>
http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/gaac_awards_list.html