

GAAAC

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission's (GAAC)
Annual Report FY2012-13



Petroglyphs at Aqua Fria National Monument. Photo by Eric Vondy, SHPO

GOVERNOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013

INTRODUCTION

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

The GAAC has assisted SHPO, a division of Arizona State Parks, in developing and implementing successful educational and volunteer programs for the public, including Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month, the annual Archaeology Expo, and the Arizona Site Steward Program. 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 plan and monitor educational programs jointly developed with the SHPO, and to develop recommendations for actions and programs that will ensure the protection of the state's archaeological resources and museum collections. Task-based GAAC committees meet more frequently, as needed. Annually, the GAAC presents the Governor's Awards in Public Archaeology in recognition of successful efforts to preserve the traces of our shared past. All meetings and meeting agendas of the GAAC are announced in advance by Arizona State Parks, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

(Terms expire)

Chair

Dr. Connie Stone (1 September 2011*) Archaeologist
Retired/ U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Vice Chair

Kristen McLean (1 September 2014) Former Coordinator
Arizona Site Steward Program

Members

Thomas Jones (1 September 2014) Historical Archaeology Representative
Archaeologist/ Archaeological Consulting Services

Dr. Chris Downum (1 September 2011*) University Representative
Professor/ Northern Arizona University

Donna Ruiz y Costello (1 September 2012) Avocational Archaeology Representative

Duane Hubbard (1 September 2013) Federal Agency Representative
Archaeologist/ National Park Service

Rick Karl (3 October 2014) Arizona State Museum Representative
Archaeologist/ AZSITE Coordinator

Jody Crago (29 February 2016)

Museum Representative
Chandler Museum/ Historical Society

Dr. Joshua Watts (9 January 2016)

Board Member, Arizona Archaeological Council

(* Members continuing to serve due to lack of new member appointments by Governor.)

GENERAL PROGRAM DIRECTION

The GAAC will:

- Inform and advise policy-makers regarding issues relating to stewardship of archaeological and cultural resources, public education, resource protection, support for professional standards, maintenance of data and collections, and other matters of public policy relating to historic preservation.
- Encourage and support programs carried out by the SHPO that educate the public about the significance and stewardship of archaeological resources.
- 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.
- Advise the SHPO on its annual Archaeology Expo and other activities in conjunction with the celebration of Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Month.
- Encourage preservation and educational activities through the annual Governor's Awards in Public Archaeology that recognize individuals, groups, programs, and organizations that have significantly contributed to the protection, preservation, and knowledge of Arizona's archaeological resources.
- Advise Arizona State Parks on management of its volunteer Site Steward Program.
- Encourage communication with, and among, those with an interest in preserving and celebrating Arizona's archaeological heritage, including Indian tribes, professional organizations, avocational organizations, and Arizona citizens.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

- Distributed a report with policy recommendations on how to more effectively protect and manage archaeological resources along the international border.
- 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.
- Publicized a list of 100 archaeological and historical sites and parks that are open to public visitation, developed in conjunction with Arizona's Centennial celebration. Because these sites are open and available to the general public, the list includes locational information and websites, where available.
- Monitored and advised the activities of the Historic Archaeology Advisory Committee, which previously functioned as an independent advisory group to the SHPO. A current project is an update to the existing Historical Archaeology in Arizona Research Guide.
- Actively helped organize and participate in the annual Historic Preservation Conference held in Mesa in June 2013. 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 an awards ceremony. GAAC also supported training sessions on historic sites and archival research developed by the Historic Archaeology Advisory Committee.
- Conducted a survey of the Arizona archaeological and historic preservation community to solicit information on desired topics for future training sessions that could be used to set priorities for developing and supporting future workshops at the Historic Preservation Conference or other venues.

- Participated with a booth and display at the annual Archaeology Expo in March 2013.
- Participated in the Volunteer Venture and Site Steward Conference sponsored by Arizona State Parks in April 2013.
- Initiated a project to highlight successful partnerships in support of archaeological parks within the State Parks system and to gain and publicize “lessons learned” in creating and sustaining such partnerships in times of budget reductions.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committees focused respectively on Public Policy, Public Education, and Professional Competency have been established within GAAC to identify emerging issues, track continuing situations, gather relevant information, set priorities for action, and, where appropriate, work with SHPO in developing solutions to problems. Committees report to the full Commission at each meeting.

STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

In an effort to increase communication with the broader historic preservation community and to create more opportunities to sponsor training, GAAC has become involved in helping to organize presentations, workshops, and sessions at the annual, statewide, Historic Preservation Conference that is sponsored by the SHPO and the Arizona Preservation Foundation.

In an effort to bring more recognition to its honorees, GAAC presents its Awards in Public Archaeology at the Historic Preservation Conference, the same setting in which the Governor’s Historic Preservation Honor Awards are presented. GAAC also sponsors and assists in various training opportunities at this conference.

THREE-YEAR PLAN

The plan consists of a statement of GAAC’s general program direction and the effectiveness of its standing, task-based committees. This organizational structure continues to make GAAC more proactive and accountable.

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