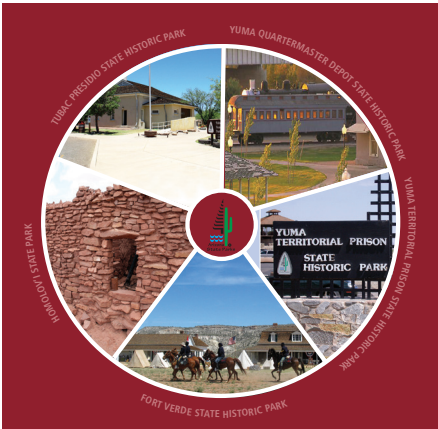


# GAAAC

## Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission Annual Report FY2014-15



**GOVERNOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015**

**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**

Clint Chandler (1 September 2017)      Federal Agency Representative  
Regional Director -- Metro Phoenix and Greater  
Arizona, Office of Senator Jeff Flake

Thomas Jones (1 September 2014)      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

Members who served, but whose terms ended or left the Commission during the period of this report, are Dr. Connie Stone, Dr. Charles Redman and Rick Karl.

### **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**

- 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*.
- Served as a partner of the annual Arizona Historic Preservation Conference held in Flagstaff in May 2015. 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.

- Supported training workshops at the Historic Preservation Conference, developed and presented by the Historical Archaeology Advisory Committee, on “Evaluating the Significance of Historical Sites in Arizona.” These topics were selected in response to a public survey of training needs conducted by the GAAC.
- 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 Yuma in March 2015.
- Distributed and electronically published *Arizona’s State Cultural Parks: Innovation and Creativity in the Great Recession*, a report based on research conducted by the Public Policy Committee, including interviews with State Parks staff and partners.
- Reviewed the Commission’s 2006 report, *Standards for Conducting Archaeological Investigations on Private Land*. No additional revisions were deemed necessary.
- Received 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 the Arizona State Museum’s digital management protocol and the *Archaeological Data Service/Digital Antiquity/Guides to Good Practice*.
- 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. Planning is underway for celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Site Steward Program in 2016.

### 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 2015:

- Neil Weintraub, Professional Archaeologist.
- Doug Newton, Site Steward
- John Scheuring, Site Steward
- H. Jill McCormick, Tribe
- Town of Camp Verde & Yavapai County, Government Agency
- Rick Karl, Special Achievement

### SUNSET REVIEW BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Legislative review of state advisory commissions is generally required by law every ten years. The purpose is to evaluate the need to continue the existence of a state agency, or to revise, consolidate, or terminate the agency. The State Legislature notified the GAAC of its sunset review in July 2013 and requested relevant information, which was provided by the Commission and the SHPO. On November 4, 2013, the GAAC Chair and SHPO staff provided testimony and answered questions at a hearing of the Senate Natural Resources

and Rural Affairs Committee and House of Representatives Government Committee of Reference.

Senate Bill 1314, which became a continuation omnibus, gave a three-year continuation of the Commission. The bill passed and was signed by the Governor. GAAC will have another review beginning in the summer of 2016. Sunset date for the Commission is July 1, 2017.

### **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 covers the period from 2013-2015. Work has begun in the second half of 2015 for the Three-Year Plan 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](http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/gaac_awards_list.html)**