

## Archeology Speaker for February

Heidi Roberts was our speaker for February. Roberts established her business in 1997. HRA, Inc., Conservation Archaeology is a privately held, small, woman-owned business serving the cultural resource needs of government and private clients in the Great Basin and Southwestern U.S. HRA holds permits to conduct archaeological investigations on Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and state lands throughout Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. With nearly 100 years of combined experience in archaeological consulting, HRA's staff is fully familiar with state and federal policies and procedures.

Heidi's main focus is protecting cultural resources primarily on federal lands or lands involving federal funding. Her specialty is human remains. She has surveyed over 180,000 acres, monitored, cleaned, and inspected 5632 miles of backhoe trenches, and excavated 146 major features and 161 burials.

Although she felt lots of discrimination against women in the 1970s, she persisted in the field of contract archeology and has written over 190 major reports and discovered a 6000-year-old house in Kanab.

Some of her other discoveries involve the Archaic period, which is difficult to construct because the people were highly mobile. Heidi discovered evidence that 6000 to 8000 years ago, people were hunting rabbits using nets.

In Kayenta her team excavated seven prehistoric sites using backhoes. They found two houses, each had oval hearths; grinding slabs, dandelion greens and grass seeds were found in the activity area between structures. These brush shelters were dated 3337 BC and 3149 BC.

At the Brio site she discovered a 13,000-year-old camel tooth. Other discoveries involved the science of food. She found pottery and roasting pits containing evidence of using prickly pears for food as well as wine-making remnants, and roasted cholla buds, which are high in calories and calcium.

Great respect is given to the land. Before excavating, the land is always given a blessing.