



## ***Dixie Archaeology Society***

### **February 2020 Newsletter**

**DAS Meeting, Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Udvar-Hazy Building on the Dixie State University Campus  
Room 121 (Boeing Auditorium)

#### **Protecting the Region's Past for the Future: What Role Does Contract Archaeology Play in this Process?**

Heidi Roberts, President, HRA, Inc., Conservation Archaeology

Most people don't realize that development projects on State, Federal, or Tribal lands must comply with a host of laws that protect significant historic or prehistoric properties. In this talk Ms. Roberts will describe the role that contract archaeologists, such as herself, play in this process, and how they assist these agencies toward the goal of protecting the region's past. Three of her company's recent projects best illustrate how this process works, and the important discoveries that result when archaeological sites can't be avoided. For example, excavations prior to the construction of the Jackson Flat Reservoir in Kanab yielded the oldest date on corn north of the Colorado River. Other projects, such as a housing development near Grapevine Spring and expansion of the Kayenta Development in Ivins, are providing new insight into prehistoric lifeways 5,000-3,000 years ago.

Ms. Roberts, who holds a B.S. and an M.A. in anthropology, founded HRA, and as president she has built HRA into one of region's most successful contract archaeology firms. As a professional archaeologist since 1978, Ms. Roberts has directed large excavation and survey projects throughout the Great Basin and Southwest. She is RPA certified and an active member of local and national professional organizations. In 2006 Ms. Roberts organized the Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Las Vegas, and in 2008 she was elected Treasurer of that association. Between 2004 and 2006, Ms. Roberts served on the Board of Directors of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, and she has also served on the Board of Directors of the American Cultural Resource Association (ACRA). Ms. Roberts is considered an expert on the development of contract archaeology, and she organized and co-edited a volume on the history of contract archaeology that was published by the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). Ms. Roberts' most recent publication is an edited volume, also published by the SAA, on the issues related to buried archaeological sites in the Western U.S. In graduate school Ms. Roberts specialized in human osteology, and she later co-authored a chapter on fieldwork methods in a popular human remains excavation guidebook. Ms. Roberts is also a published fiction writer and her first novel, published by the University of Utah Press, captures the early days of contract archaeology in remote Utah.

#### **February Field Trip to Local St. George Sites**

**Saturday, February 15, Meet 9 AM at Dixie Convention Center South Parking Lot  
Approximately 3 hours**

**Led by Gary Smith (801) 403-6180**

The February field trip will be on Saturday, February 15. We will view several St. George locations to see how development in this area is impacting archaeology sites. Meet at 9:00 AM in the south parking lot of the Dixie Center, which is near to I-15 across the street from the Cracker Barrel Restaurant (there is also an entry from Dixie Drive). We will take about 3 hours and plan on being done about noon.

This will be one of our easier trips. There is one moderate hill to climb and there can be some minor rock scrambling if you choose to do so. At one site you can see a lot from the road with binoculars. There will be some uneven ground at all sites but nothing too bad. REMEMBER YOUR BINOCULARS!

If you wish to pre-register for this field trip, please send names of those attending and phone number to Gary Smith ([bluemoose8313@gmail.com](mailto:bluemoose8313@gmail.com)). Membership is required for the field trip.

## **June Field Trip to Ute Mountain Tribal Park**

Our June field trip is planned for June 11-14, driving to Ute Mountain Tribal Park near Cortez, Colorado. On this trip we will tour several sites, including cliff dwellings, with a local Ute guide. This area is much less visited than Mesa Verde, and many of these sites still contain original artifacts. It is important to reserve lodging and space on the tour as soon as possible, as space is limited. Please see the separate email coming soon with more information and instructions on how to register for the tour and reserve lodging. Membership is required for the field trip.

## **January Presentation by Mary Manning on Bloomington Rock**

Mary Manning is an artist and a long-time student of archeology, focusing on the study of petroglyphs and pictographs all over the Southwest. She did PhD work in environmental sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, focusing on prehistorical sites in Tule Springs in the Upper Las Vegas Wash, Sloan Canyon, Spirit Mountain, Grape Vine, and Red Rock Canyon.

As a graduate student, she visited sites from Southern Nevada to Zion Canyon and the Big Island of Hawaii.

A 34-year veteran journalist at the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, she wrote about The Big Dig at Tule Springs in 1962-63 and began graduate research. She has studied with Steve Rowland, Josh Bonde, and Kristina Stave at UNLV.

Back in 2016, Mary Manning visited Bloomington Rock every day. She may not explore the rock every day now, but she is still passionate about this iconic feature in Bloomington Park. One of the many times she was exploring with the late archeologist, Boma Johnson, he said to her, "Look at where the light hits." She understood what he was saying as she knew the Ancients who wrote on the rocks used the sun and patterns to help tell their story. She has seen different patterns in the rocks because she has an artist's eye and explores at various times throughout the day.

Some of Mary's discoveries are ascending and descending snakes. There are spirals that can only be seen at sunrise but disappear as the sun grows brighter. She discovered "T" symbols and human symbols. An interesting discovery was a snake in a box; however, the box had been pecked out before the snake was made.

Technology has helped her understand some of the mystery of the rock better. For instance, Greg Lynott used his drone to take aerial photography of the rocks, enabling Mary to see petroglyphs and graffiti she had never before seen. She was able to use a "D" Stretch program to see the older petroglyphs more clearly.

Some of the petroglyphs are ancient. The rocks themselves are one million to three million-years-old. To say that Bloomington Rock is a fascinating study for Mary to delve into, is an understatement. With enthusiasm she emphasizes that the abstract art started 1000's of years ago. "It is a record of our humanity." In fact Mary is spearheading a project that she hopes will get it into the national registry.

## **Renew Your DAS Membership**

The membership year is January to January, so it is time to renew your annual membership or begin a new one. This year the membership cost is \$15 for a single and \$30 for a couple. The cost of membership includes the monthly meetings and the field trips. We have speakers in all months except July, August, and December, and we have sponsored field trips in all months except June, July, August, and December. Membership also includes email from the Dixie Archaeology Society. We will remove names from the mailing list who have not been members for the last two years.

You can sign up at the meeting with cash or check or fill out and sign the membership form ([click here](#)) and send it and your check for the dues to:

Dixie Archaeology Society

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