

March Newsletter

From: Dixie Archaeology Society (dixierockart@msn.com)

To: grcannonjr@yahoo.com

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March 2019 Newsletter

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DAS Meeting, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7 p.m.

Making SENSE of Archaeology: Developing Curriculum and Multi-Sensory Experiences for the Visually Impaired

Presented by Shawn Lambert

Shawn Lambert is the Public Archaeologist for the state Utah and works at the Division of State History. He received his Masters and Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma studying the historic Choctaw and prehistoric Caddo tribes and specialized in ceramic technologies. Shawn enjoys using 21st century technologies, such as 3D modeling, printing, virtual reality, and augmented reality to engage and teach the public about archaeology, science, and history.

The Utah Public Archaeology Network (UPAN) has partnered with the Utah School for the Blind, Utah STEM Action Center, and the Utah Blind Institute to develop the first fully multi-sensory, 3D printed archaeology exhibit specifically tailored for people with visual impairments. The development of the exhibit centers on the accessibility needs of the Blind community using tactile objects, texture, Braille, scents, and special lighting components. Accessibility needs to be the foundation on which we construct educational experiences, curriculum, and as a primary framework to increase the knowledge-making capacity of archaeological materials. The designers hope this exhibit will normalize the use of a broader range of accessibility resources so that multi-sensory experiences are available to everyone.

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7 p.m.

Udvar-Hazy Building on the Dixie State University Campus

Room 121 (Boeing Auditorium)

Field Trip, Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. (4 to 6 hours) Cane Beds and Raven Slot

Led by Mel Langness

The February field trip was canceled due to muddy road conditions. The same trip is planned for March. This month, however, there will be an alternate local field trip if the trip to Cane Beds is not possible.

The March 16 field trip will be led by Mel Langness (the "attention on deck" man). We are going to the Cane Beds and Raven Slot. Both are in the vicinity of Colorado City. We will be traveling on dirt/gravel roads so a high ground clearance vehicle with at least all-wheel drive is recommended.

We will meet at the Walmart on Hwy 9 that is between I-15 and Hurricane at 9:00 a.m. Park in the parking lot as close to Hwy 9 as possible and as far from the store as possible. This trip will take 4 to 6 hours, so bring food and water as necessary including a lunch. Some moderate hiking and rock scrambling may be necessary. If there is significant rain the trip will be canceled and a local field trip will be substituted.

You may preregister by emailing your name and phone number to spencercarola@yahoo.com, or sign up at the meeting.

Summary of February Presentation by Mary Manning on the Archaeology of Tule Springs, Nevada

Nancy Kramer

The Dixie Archeological Society was thoroughly entertained by long-time member Mary Manning. Mary is an artist and a long-time student of archaeology, focusing on the study of petroglyphs and pictographs all over the Southwest. She did Ph.D 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.

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.

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

A student of archeologist, Boma Johnson, Mary learned about the variety of petroglyphs and pictographs, the latest finds in archaeological research, and a special site a mile from her Bloomington home. She continues to conduct independent research, as well as enjoying a career as a fine artist, showing in Arrowhead Gallery on Tabernacle, Gallery 35 on Main Street, and in her new studio at Arte on Dixie Drive.

"I am thrilled to continue studies in both archaeology and art, and I am proud to be a member of the Dixie Archaeological Society, the Protectors of Tule Springs, and Gold Butte," Mary says.

Mary Manning rode horseback to Tule Springs as a teenager, before freeways sliced the Las Vegas Valley. As a 34-year veteran journalist, she learned about archaeological research that took place there from 1900 throughout the 20th century. In 2002, she wrote about The Big Dig of 1962-63 and the first field use of carbon-14 dating by Willard Libby. She did this after her research on prehistorical use of the site as a Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In ancient times, Tule Springs was a wet environment. Huge floods created a wash where ancient mammoths, American lions, Sabertooth cats, the American Longhorn Bison, the American camel and many other animals lived. Early archaeological finds indicate that inhabitants left Tule Springs and Nevada by the thousands.

In the 1950s, evidence of cooking fires was found. The discovery showed a human presence of 12,000 years. Petroglyphs proved to be 10,500 to 14,800 years old. Many of the treasures found there were taken to far away museums. An effort is being made to recover these artifacts.

The Big Dig was an excavation that took place in Tule Springs in 1962-1963. 200,000 tons of sediment was removed, uncovering ice age mammal remains along with other skeletons.

Finally, in 2003 and 2004, Eric Scott and Kathleen Springer hit the fossil jackpot. They fought to prevent urban development from swamping the rich fossil beds of Tule Springs. "Tule Springs offered water to humans and animals for eons," Mary says. "Development of the Las Vegas Valley threatened the buried treasures at Tule Springs." Mary fought alongside others to protect Tule Springs.

Finally, in December 2014, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid persuaded President Barack Obama to declare Tule Springs a national monument, covering 23,000 acres of land north of the City of North Las Vegas in the Upper Las Vegas Wash.

Protectors of Tule Springs continue to raise money for signs, cleanups, and the return of thousands of fossils taken away after each excavation.

DAS Membership

It is time to renew or start a new membership for 2019. We are changing the dues slightly. Annual dues will be reduced to \$20 for an individual and remain at \$30 for a couple. This cost of membership includes the monthly meetings and the field trips. You can find the application form on our website, <http://dixierockart.com> or you can pick up the application form at the meeting.

The membership year is January to January.

Please fill out and sign the membership form ([click here](#)) and send it and your

check for the dues to:

Dixie Archaeology Society
PO Box 611
Washington, UT 84780

Forms will also be available at the next club meeting.

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