

Archaeology Southwest / University of Arizona Preservation Archaeology Field School

Student Outreach Projects Presented at the 2021 Archaeology Fair



GILA RIVER FARM, GILA, NM
JUNE 26, 2021



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300 N Ash Alley Tucson, AZ 85701

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| www.archaeologysouthwest.org

Beatriz Barraclough-Tan

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

I wanted to show people the process behind pre-contact fiber development. I focused primarily on yucca, as yucca fiber sandals are the most common textile found preserved. In order to provide people with an understanding of the objects as they were used, I created small models of four warp Basketmaker II style sandals and Mogollon style plaited sandals, as well as a full sized six warp Basketmaker style sandal. At the fair, I had visitors process yucca by pounding broadleaf yucca leaves and scraping them with period appropriate tools, and then twist them into cordage. I also used a spindle made of a stone whorl and a willow shaft to show how ancestral Puebloans would have spun cotton and other fibers into yarn.



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Mason Bolaño

FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE

Guinevive Halstead-Johnson

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

This project included information on the identification of human and non-human bone, dentition identification, and the zooarchaeology of the Gila River Farm site. We discussed everything from the human skeletal bones to herbivore, carnivore, and omnivore dentition and definitions of homologous and analogous structures between species. Visitors played a three-level guessing game for bone and animal identification in Easy, Medium, and Hard modes. The zooarchaeology of the site included what types of animals were found, when, where, and possible interpretations of faunal remains with regard to environment and human behavior. We discussed results from the 2021 field season as well as the 500+ fish bones found in 2017. We accompanied this information with examples of Mimbres/Mogollon pottery with depictions of animals, and what modern interpretations from Hopi and Zuni tell us about these images. Ancestral connections from these places to the Mimbres/Mogollon and Salado archaeological cultures connect the information to the Gila River Farm site.



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Our presentation provided a brief overview of ceramic typology in southwest New Mexico. We discussed the analysis of local pottery types, including earlier Mogollon and Mimbres pottery, Tularosa phase types, and Salado period pottery found at the Gila River Farm site.



Courtney Campbell

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA

My project focused on the tools, techniques and processes of Southwestern pottery making. I made and displayed yucca brushes for demonstration. I sourced local clay and paired a few different slips with a pot I made during the field school. The technique I used for pottery construction was taught to us by Andy Ward, and I also displayed several videos from his YouTube channel to help visitors understand the complexity of pottery making processes.



PHOTO: JOHN FITCH



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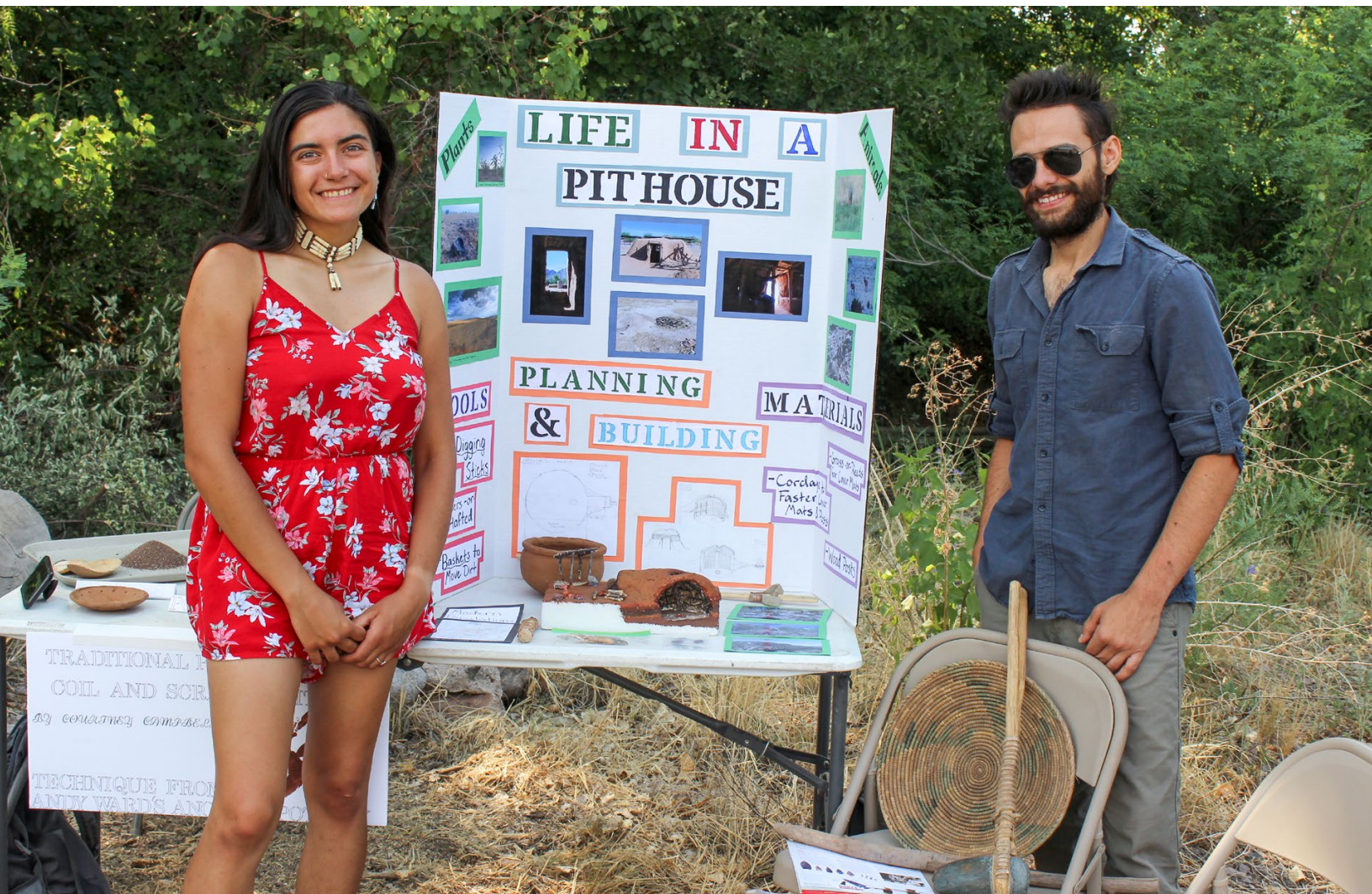
Taylor Cole

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ray Mills

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

We built a 1:25 scale model of an early pit house that would have been used between 200CE and 500CE in the southwest. We built the model out of clay, small dowel rods, small green mesquite branches, and purchased fibers, and mounted it on a styrofoam board. We also made a small plaza in front of the structure that included a ramada, an outside roasting pit, stone flakes, cords of wood, a log bench, and a kneeling mat. We also included a trifold board to detail what life in this house would have been like. The board included plants ancient people would have gathered and/or harvested, animals they may have encountered, the tools and materials to build the structure as well as our personal schematics for designing our model. We also included a section with pictures of the standing and experimentally burned pit houses built by Allen Denoyer at Steam Pump Ranch to show how these structures may appear in the archaeological record.



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Josué Cortijo Contreras

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO RIO PIEDRAS

My project focused on feminist and gender archaeology. Through this theoretical orientation I try to implement the idea of giving voice to people that have been marginalized in historical discourse. One group this has happened to are women, as patriarchal attitudes have caused a lack of recognition of women's work. The archaeology field has been falsely seen as a largely male discipline, particularly in the early years of its development. To address this misconception, I presented information about leading women in Southwest archaeology, with a focus on early decades when their work was underrepresented.



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Lewis Dolmas

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

For my project, I hoped to help build a wider appreciation for the artistry behind, and quality of Neolithic tools. To do this I recreated a ground stone axe in the 3/4 groove style most commonly found at the Gila River Farm site. At the fair, I used the replica axe, excavated axe heads, raw materials for axe making, and educational photos and graphics to walk visitors through the process of creating an axe and to demonstrate its effectiveness.



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Megan Eigen

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ALBANY

While the excavation process can sound a little boring to some, the meticulous process is truly fascinating and beautiful to me. My goal with this project was to excite fair attendees by showing how the landscape carries rich and exciting information about past people, above and below the ground surface. New Mexico encompasses some of the greatest archaeological sites in the Southwest and through survey, excavation and preservation, we are able to learn incredible information about the cultures of the past.



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Gabby Pfleger

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

When I started learning about southwest ceramic styles, I was really interested to find that there is a lot of overlap between how ancient Salado potters and other southwestern groups made pottery in comparison to the way I learned to make pottery in the modern day. My project highlighted the similarities and differences between the two in a few different categories: 1) materials, 2) clay forming techniques, 3) firing, and 4) painting. To highlight how Salado pottery would have been created, I displayed the bowl I made under potter Andy Ward's instruction, which I painted using natural slip and yucca brushes. I also displayed a Salado sherd found at the Gila Farm Site, which I used to show people how the colors would have looked after being fired.



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Jason Roberts

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO / BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

My outreach project examined the cultural ecology of Southwestern Piñon-Juniper Woodlands from an ethnographic perspective. I focused on the Hopi community of northern Arizona and the ways in which they have made use of these woodlands as important sources of subsistence and medicinal materials. I examined the three basic types of Piñon -Juniper Woodlands (Piñon -Juniper Savanna; Piñon -Juniper Wooded Shrubland; and Piñon -Juniper Persistent Woodland), their key indicator species, subsistence uses, and relationship to the Hopi and to contemporary Native American people near Cliff, New Mexico. The project also examined the medicinal and spiritual significance of juniper and piñon trees to the Hopi, particularly the ways in which juniper smoke and the products of the juniper tree have historically been used for purification and protection.



Sam Rosenbaum

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ruijie Yao

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Our project concerned using site mapping and artists' reconstructions to help visitors understand the idea of "sense of place" and link the Gila River Farm site to the landscape. We worked to update site maps with the most current project results, and then create an artist's reconstruction of the architecture. Interpretation focused on architectural

details such as wall construction techniques and their importance for understanding the growth of room blocks at the site. We also researched the local natural landscape to create a lively image of a settlement where an ancient community would have flourished.



PHOTO: JOHN FITCH



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Thank you!

Thank you to the Nature Conservancy and Martha Schumann Cooper for their support during the Archaeology Fair and our excavations; the Davises, our wonderful hosts in Cliff; our favorite cook Julie Gierhart; our friends and neighbors in the Cliff/Gila area; and the students and staff of the 2021 Preservation Archaeology Field School for their hard work. The field school was supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF REU 1851763), the University of Arizona Foundation, and Archaeology Southwest members.



PHOTOS: JOHN FITCH



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