

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERIND FOUNDATION SUMMER & FALL 2010 (VOL. 7 NOS. 3 & 4)

# 2010 PUBLICATIONS

For most of its history the Amerind's main mission has been field research. Through the 1970s Amerind research staff conducted excavations at over a dozen archaeological sites in the Southwest Borderlands, culminating in the multi-year Joint Casas Grandes Project in north-central Chihuahua, one of the largest archaeological projects ever conducted in the greater Southwest. Each of these projects resulted in a publication that summarized the excavation results and discussed their historical and anthropological implications. In all, eighteen volumes were published on the original research of the Amerind Foundation, including the massive 8 volume Casas Grandes report by Di Peso, Rinaldo, and Fenner in 1974—a landmark in Southwest archaeological publishing.

Amerind's founder and principal research benefactor, William Shirley Fulton, died in 1964, and by the 1970s it was no longer possible for small museum-based research centers to compete for scarce federal grant dollars. The Amerind adapted to the new funding environment by modifying its mission. Since the 1980s the Amerind has supported the basic research of others through advanced seminars, a visiting scholar program, and of course professional publications—the life-blood of any research organization. Today, the Amerind sponsors half a dozen advanced seminars a year through an active collaboration with the Society for American Archaeology and several regional universities, and most of these seminars result in an edited volume. Since Amerind's first advanced seminar in 1988 we have published twelve edited volumes on a variety of anthropological and archaeological topics, and with the four-fold increase in sponsored seminars in recent years, the publication flow has gone from a trickle to a steady stream.

In 2010 the Amerind published three edited volumes in collaboration with the University of Arizona Press in Tucson. *Across the Great Divide: Continuity and Change in Native North American Societies, 1400-1900,* edited by Laura Scheiber of the University of Indiana and Mark Mitchell of the University of Colorado, is a collection of papers dealing with the late prehistoric and early historic periods in North America. Using data from a wide variety of geographical, temporal and cultural settings, contributors to the volume examine economic, social, and political stability and transformation in Native societies before and after contact with Europeans. *Becoming Villagers: Comparing Early Village Societies,* edited by Matthew Bandy of SWCA Environmental Consultants and Jake Fox of Radford University, examines

the transition from hunting and gathering to sedentary farming at various places and times around the globe by focusing not on the origins of agriculture and village life but on their consequences. And finally, *Leaving Mesa Verde: Peril and Change in the Thirteenth-Century Southwest*, edited by Timothy Kohler of Washington State University, Mark Varien of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and Aaron Wright of the Center for Desert Archaeology, examines one of the great mysteries in the archaeology of the Americas: the depopulation of the northern Southwest in the late thirteenth-century A.D.



We currently have six advanced seminar volumes in various stages of completion and five new seminars scheduled for next year, so we should

be averaging 2 to 3 new volumes a year for the foreseeable future. New publications are posted on Amerind's website and available for purchase from the Museum store, either in Dragoon or Amerind's website store. Books may also be ordered through the University of Arizona Press in Tucson.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Established in 1937, the Amerind Foundation and Museum seeks to foster and promote knowledge and understanding of the Native Peoples of the Americas through research, education, and conservation.

# FROM THE COLLECTIONS

## BY ERIC KALDAHL

# KIDS IN ANCIENT TIMES

Among the ancient artifacts at the Amerind is a small pot with black squiggles painted on it. The pot is a Mimbres bowl identified as number MS/22. The crude scribbling might look familiar to you. Children all over the world, holding their first paintbrush, pen, or pencil, have been making such drawings for centuries. Perhaps similar drawings have even graced your refrigerator? In small scale societies, all children learn to make the necessary tools for daily life. Imitation, observation, and direct instruction by mature toolmakers teach children the skills they need.

The ancient people of the Mimbres river valley in southwestern New Mexico created a remarkable ceramic tradition. Over the course of many centuries, farming families built dozens of villages there.



The Mimbreños' most stunning black-and-white pots were produced in the period AD 900-1150. The photo of pot number WM/1162 will give you a sense of their artistry. The Amerind conducted an excavation at the Mimbres site of Wind Mountain in the 1970s and today the Amerind's collection of Mimbres pottery is still consulted by researchers.

It is something of a treat to find the work of Mimbreño children in the collection. On the path to becoming mature potters, children have to get their start somewhere. Anthropologist Patricia Crown extensively researched children's pottery by studying museum collections across America. Her work suggests that the scribbles on number MS/22 were created by a child who hadn't developed the necessary motor skills for fine brushwork. In another example, pot number MS/23 shows an immature potter trying to execute a squared off "scroll shape." Compare the line work on MS/23 with the

WM/1162

line work on pot number WM/1162. A mature potter clearly created WM/1162, producing uniform lines, evenly spaced line work, elegant symmetries, and some motifs in the negative.

Patricia Crown's study of Mimbreño children's pots uncovered some fascinating cases. She found that mature potters often made the small pots that the youngest potters scribbled upon. On the vessels of some immature potters, older potters actually painted faint lines for children to follow with their brushes. Crown also identified some of the hallmarks of children's pots. Children frequently lift up their brushes when laboriously shaping a figure, giving their lines a jerky look. When drawing arcs and circles, immature artists will make short, small, straight strokes. Sometimes children will push on a paintbrush, leading to smears and blotches.



MS/23

As they matured in their art, Mimbres children gained better motor skills and more fluidity to their gestures. The "practice" pots of Mimbreño children helped them grow and learn, leading to some of the most beautiful and innovative pottery produced in ancient North America.

For further reading: See Patricia Crown's 2001 article "Learning to Make Pottery in the Prehispanic American Southwest," published in the *Journal of Anthropological Research*, volume 57, pp. 451-469. See also Crown's 1999 chapter "Socialization in American Southwest Pottery Decoration" in the book *Pottery and People: A Dynamic Interaction*, edited by J.M. Skibo and G.M. Feinman, published by the University of Utah Press.

# AMERIND NEWS!

# FOUR CORNERS TOUR

The 26,000 square mile Navajo Reservation that straddles the Southwest's Four Corners is home to some 300,000 tribal members—the largest Native American tribal group in North America. The Navajo, or *Diné* (literally, the People), relate a mythic creation story that tells of their emergence from three underworlds through a magic reed to the fourth world of today. The archaeological story describes ancestral Navajo and their linguistic cousins the Apaches migrating to the Southwest from western Canada in the early centuries of the last millennium. Practically invisible to the earliest Spanish colonists of New Mexico, Navajos make their first appearance in the historical documents in the

and various scenic spots and trading posts along the way. We bounced in jeeps down rutted tracks deep into Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto. We visited the Navajo Tribal Museum in Window



Ancestral Pueblo rock art, Canyon de Chelly

Rock where we were given a special behind-the-scenes tour and had our pictures taken with Miss Navajo Nation (the

late 1620s. By the time of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, however, ancestral Navajo groups were living in scattered settlements throughout northwestern New Mexico, often in close proximity to Pueblo and Spanish villages which they raided in bad years and traded with in good. In fact, a long history of contact, trade, intermarriage, and other cultural exchanges with Pueblo people accounts for the Navajo's adoption of farming, sheep pastoralism, the upright



*Group photo, Monument Valley. Tour leader Jennifer Denetdale, first row, second from the left* 

loom, and a variety of religious practices and symbolisms that help distinguish them from their Apachean cousins.

In May of this year the Amerind took 25 members on a six day tour of the vast Navajo Nation. The tour was led by Dr. Jennifer Denetdale, professor of Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico and a direct descendant of famed Navajo chief Manuelito. Amerind board member Dr. Joseph Suina provided back-up interpretation for Jennifer, and Connie Eickstaedt of Southwest Seminars in Santa Fe handled all tour logistics. Focusing



Floating down the San Juan River near Mexican Hat

on Navajo history and culture, the itinerary included stops at Canyon de Chelly, Hubbell Trading Post, Window Rock, Navajo Community College, Monument Valley, Navajo National Monument, Black Mesa, high point for several men on the tour). We sat on the dirt floor of a large hogan at Navajo Community College in Tsaile and listened to the creation story told by a Navajo elder. We floated down the San Juan River from Bluff to Mexican Hat with Wild Rivers Expeditions, exploring rock art and ancestral Pueblo sites along the way and seeing bighorn sheep in the canyon walls above our rafts. We ate a fabulous steak and beans picnic lunch deep in the heart of Monument Valley. And all along the 700 mile loop from Flagstaff to Flagstaff we were regaled by Jennifer's stories of

growing up on the Rez and the history, traditions, and music of her people.

Next year's tour will be the first week of September

when we plan to return to the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico to continue our explorations of the Eastern Pueblos. We'll begin the tour on September 2 at Acoma's San Esteban feast day and we'll conclude the tour at the northern-most Pueblo of Taos, one



Amerind members in Monument Valley, Navajo Tribal Park

of the oldest and most picturesque communities in northern New Mexico. Detailed itinerary and cost information will be posted on our website in early 2011, or you can call me for more information as plans are being formulated (John Ware, 520.586.3666, or jware@amerind.org).

# AMERIND'S 10 YEAR

In 2010, two years shy of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012, the Amerind Foundation launched a 10-year, eight million dollar capital campaign with the goal of rehabilitating Amerind's historic buildings, providing handicapped access



throughout the museum complex, improving collections care and conservation, and raising endowment funds to support ongoing research and education programs as well as several new program initiatives.

Consider some of Amerind's long-term challenges:two of our buildings date back to the homesteading era of the 1890s, the Museum and Fulton Seminar House were constructed in 1930s and 1940s, and our "newest" building, the Fulton-Hayden Library and Art Gallery, turned 50 last year. Elderly buildings are in constant need of maintenance and rehabilitation, and even before our capital campaign



got underway the Amerind Board decided to begin a major investment in campus infrastructure.

Last winter we hired a roofing contractor to rehabilitate Amerind's aged tile

roofs and the work was completed the last week in June, just before the monsoon rains arrived. In all, nearly 28,000 square feet of roof in the museum, collection repository, art gallery, and seminar house was replaced, and a layer of rigid foam insulation was added underneath the tiles to increase energy efficiency. On your next visit to the Amerind you may not see any difference in the roofs—the old ceramic tiles were simply taken up and put back—but you may notice our new copper gutters and downspouts that will allow us to install water catchment and storage systems to support future landscape renovations.

With insulation added to our roofs we can now begin installing heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) in the seminar house and museum (central air and heating was built into the art gallery building when it was constructed in 1959). By the close of 2010 we will have energy-efficient heating and cooling systems in five guest rooms in the Fulton Seminar House, and early next year we will add HVAC systems to the remaining guest room and seminar house dining room, as well as air conditioning systems to the second floor of the museum.

Our next urgent order of business is to make the entire museum complex accessible to handicapped visitors. For a number of years we have used portable ramps and a back entryway to move wheelchairs throughout the museum building, but portable ramps cannot accommodate the new motorized chairs, and the stairs leading to the Fulton-Hayden Art Gallery are inaccessible not only to people in chairs but to many of our older ambulatory visitors as well. Our plan is to install mechanical wheelchair lifts in the museum and seminar house to replace the portable ramps currently in use, and small elevators in the museum and art gallery will make the second floors of both buildings handicapped-accessible. We will also replace the steps currently leading to the museum and art gallery with permanent ramps and handrails

to facilitate access to both public buildings.

Renovation will not be confined to the public areas of the Amerind



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

complex. Eighty percent of Amerind's priceless collections are currently housed in storage rooms with substandard climate conditions. We will complete extensive renovations of our main collection repository over the next three years, including structural changes to the building's walls, floor, and ceiling, installation of a state-of-the-art climate control system, and installation of Space Saver<sup>©</sup> track

shelving units that will nearly double the current storage capacity of the collections repository. When these renovations are completed we will be able to reintegrate all of our organic collections (wood, fiber, cloth, etc.) from their current storage room in the air conditioned art gallery back into the main collection repository. Reuniting the collections will not only make them more accessible to staff and visiting scholars, but it will also free up over 1600 square feet of gallery and public programming space on the first floor of the Fulton-Hayden Art Gallery-nearly doubling the exhibition space in the art gallery building.

When these urgent capital projects are completed we have plans to convert the residence immediately north of the art gallery into an expanded museum store, café, and education center, while the current museum store will be converted into a small theater. A little later in the campaign we plan to build a residence that will double our visiting

scholar capacity at the Amerind. Finally, if the right donor comes along we would like to close out the decade with the construction of a multifunction lec-



ture hall, classroom, and staff office building immediately north of the museum complex.

In addition to capital needs, over the next ten years we hope to expand existing research and education programs through stra-



tegic collaborations with regional universities and other non-profits. Our goal is to raise funds to endow existing programs and new program initiatives, including a greatly expanded advanced seminar program, a collaborative global sustainability program with Arizona State University, a Southwestern Borderlands research center with the University of Arizona, and our own resident scholar and Native artist-in-residence programs.

None of the capital or program expansion projects we envision for the Amerind over the next decade will be possible without the support of individual and institutional donors. Amerind's endowment provides funds for annual operating expenses, but additional endowment funds must be raised to support Amerind's vision for the decade. A variety of naming opportunities will be available on a wide variety of levels to encourage individual legacy gifts and bequests.

Although large donations and bequests will be crucial to our overall goals, many smaller gifts will have a huge impact as well, and all gifts, large and small, will be acknowledged on multiple



donor walls and landscape installations. And of course, as development and construction move forward the Amerind will continue to provide high quality public and education programs and support for scholars and Native artists.

If you are interested in learning more about Amerind's plans, please contact our development director, Becky Rebenstorf (brebenstorf@amerind.org) or executive director John Ware (jware@amerind.org) or call us at 520.586.3666.

# VIEW FROM COATI CANYON...

## NATURE SIGHTINGS AT THE AMERIND

by Barbara Hanson

Fall is seed time. Desert broom seeds with their white parachutes float like snowflakes through the air and grass seeds stick in my socks wherever I walk. On a hike at the Chiricahua Mountains last week I found two bear scats dark pink with the remains of manzanita fruits. Here at the Amerind the coyote scats are piles of mesquite beans and parts of pods. Some scats are full of brownish-red hack-

berry seeds, others of white gourd seeds. These scats tell the story of co-evolution between plants and animals going back over 100 million years.

Being rooted in place, flowering plants have to rely on outside mechanisms to disperse their seeds to as many favorable locations as possible and plants have evolved a huge variety of adaptations to spread their seeds via wind, water, birds, insects, and mammals. Perhaps the adaptations we are most familiar with are the seed "containers"—berries, pods, or other fruit that attract mammals and birds with color or fragrance and often a tasty reward for the animal. Both plant and animal benefit from this relationship—the plant gets its seeds dispersed and the animal gets lunch.

Each seed develops from a fertilized ovule (basically the "egg" of a plant) and contains proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, the nutrients necessary to sustain the new plant which will grow from it. These are exactly the same nutrients animals need, which is why seeds are one of the most important food sources for many animals, including humans. For millions of years plant seeds provided our ancestors with essential nutrients. Gathering wild plant seeds was crucial to hunter-gatherer societies all over the world. Southwestern archaeologists have recovered vessels filled with the preserved seeds of dozens

of plant species, as well as desiccated human wastes full of identifiable seed remains. Some of the earliest agricultural plants were grown for their seeds corn, wheat, beans, rice. Even after the advent of agriculture, however, early farmers consumed wild plant seeds to augment their diets. Here in the Southwest, acorns and piñon nuts added lysine, an essential amino acid for humans that is not available in corn. Plants that we think of as weeds in our gardens, like pigweed and goosefoot, were encouraged to grow among the corn rows, not only for their tasty greens but also for their nutritious seeds. Seeds of the coyote gourd, consisting of 35% protein and 50% fat, supplemented the autumn diet.

> Besides being utilized for food, seeds and their carriers have provided humans with oils, soap, dyes, medicine, and spices to flavor and preserve food. Some seeds were so highly valued they sparked global explorations (think of the Spice Road in Asia), or became valuable transcontinental commodities (think cacao and coffee beans). Some even became currency: Montezuma required tribute paid to him in tons of wild amaranth seeds collected by his Aztec subjects.\*

Looking at what I eat through this lens of seed-eating history, I am amazed at what a large proportion of my food is from plant seeds and their carriers. Berries, fruits, and nuts are perhaps the most obvious, but I can also count all the grains and legumes, the oils made from seeds—olive, safflower, canola, etc.—as well as the pepper and other spices, the flax seed in my supplements, and of course my two favorites—coffee and chocolate!

\*Dunmire and Tierney, Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province, Museum of New Mexico Press, 1995, pg. 174.

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THE BACK PAGE

The aftermath of what some people are calling the Great Recession may not be the most propitious time to launch a major fund-raising effort, but Amerind facility and program needs don't simply go away when the economy goes south (see story on pages 4 and 5). In a year when many non-profits are letting go of staff, curtailing programs, and some even closing their doors, the Amerind is looking ten years ahead and building toward a major capital campaign and program expansion. And why not? Through careful management and responsible leveraging of resources, Amerind's endowment has regained over two-thirds of the value it lost when the housing bubble collapsed in 2008, and our efforts are motivated by an inspiring shared vision that we all embrace: to build a center of excellence recognized world-wide for its research and dissemination of knowledge about indigenous peoples, their cultures, and their histories.

Let me share the board's vision with you. Many first-time visitors to southern Arizona are astonished by the beauty of our landscape and its intricate web of life, and many of them find their way to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum to learn more about this fascinating world we call the Sonoran Desert. And of course, many go back time after time to re-experience one of the great "living

museums" in the world. One of our fondest dreams is that the Amerind will someday be the destination of choice for residents and visitors who want to learn about the human history of southern Arizona. The first humans arrived in what is now southern Arizona during the Ice Age, so we have been here longer than Saguaro cacti and Javelinas! The human story of southern Arizona deserves the anthropological equivalent of the Desert Museum, and the Amerind is uniquely situated to tell that story.

This vision, of course, which is part and parcel of the capital and programmatic expansions outlined in this issue of the Amerind Quarterly, can never be achieved without the support of our members. Did you know that museums nationwide receive almost 90 percent of their support each year not from government grants, not from corporations, not from private foundations, but from individual donors? With the help of donors like you, the Amerind will continue to advance critical research on the human condition. As research continues, new knowledge will be generated and translated into publications that will be studied by scholars and students worldwide. An investment in the Amerind is truly an investment in a future that values our past.

-John Ware, Executive Director



## BECKY REBENSTORF NAMED AMERIND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Amerind Foundation appointed Becky Rebenstorf as Director of Development in 2010. Becky has more than 20 years if experience in development, communications, and community relations, with special expertise in donor cultivation and creating public awareness. Her development career includes work at the Jane Goodall Institute, the American Red Cross, the Arthritis Foundation, and the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

In addition to her development background, Becky brings a wealth of public relations and community relations experience to her new position. She served for six years as the community relations manager for the Arizona Daily Star and Tucson Citizen, where she served as liaison with Tucson non-profits.

As a community volunteer, Rebenstorf has built a strong reputation in community service. She has volunteered in leadership roles for Angel Charity for Children for more than 16 years. She continues to serve on the board of Angel Charity as well as on the board of Catholic Community Services Foundation. Becky can be reached at 520.733.1674 or e-mail brebenstorf@cox.net.

## JAKE SWAMP (OCT. 18, 1941 - OCT. 15, 2010)

The Amerind mourns the passing of Mohawk elder Jake Swamp (Tekaronianeken). Jake was one of the most respected Mohawk Iroquois leaders of the past century, a member of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs for many years, a great orator in his own language as well as in English. He was a wonderful communicator, willing to share the wisdom of his culture with many people across the planet, and always with a sense of humor close at hand. Jake and his wife, Judy, came to the Amerind in April of 2009 to plant a tree of peace, something he did all over the world as a way of promoting the teachings of the Peacemaker and the Iroquois concept of the "Seven Generations," which tells us to keep in mind the



wellbeing of the coming generations as we live, act, and make decisions today. You can see and hear Jake's words when he was at the Amerind by going to: www.arizonanativenet.com, click on "See our video library" and then search for "Jake Swamp."





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Letters to the director and board members can be sent care of the Amerind, Box 400, Dragoon, AZ 85609.

The Amerind Quarterly is produced seasonally by staff and volunteers of the Amerind. John Ware and Eric Kaldahl content; Barbara Hanson, content, editor, and drawings; C. Charnley, design and layout; photography by Amerind staff (except where noted).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THE AMERIND

## January 2011

Acclaimed Pueblo potter Rosemary Lonewolf will be Amerind's artist-in-residence in January and will be demonstrating her art in the museum. Check the website for information on a program and brown bag we will schedule once Rosemary is here.

### February 1, 2011

Botany Walk with Barbara Hanson. Offroad at the Amerind. Meet outside museum entrance at 11:00 a.m.

### February 19, 2011

Opening of a memorial exhibition of the life and work of famed Hopi artist Michael Kabotie, in Amerind Museum's second-floor gallery.

### March 5 - 6, 2011

Celebration of Seri history, art, and culture. Seri artists will demonstrate and sell their art in Amerind's main museum gallery. A lecture on Seri history and culture will be presented on Saturday, March 5.

## March 14, 2011

Botany HIKE in nearby mountain range. Limited to 12 people. Call Barbara Hanson for details and to sign up at 520.586.3960.

### March 14 - 19, 2011

Navajo weaving workshop with award winning Two Gray Hill weavers Barbara Teller Ornelas and Lynda Teller Pete.

### March 24, 2011

Botany Walk with Barbara Hanson and lunch at the Amerind for Casas Grandes members. Call or email Becky Rebenstorf to sign up: brebenstorf@amerind.org or 520.850.6382.

## April 14 - 20, 2011

"Sky Island Journeys II." Tour of People and Nature in Southeastern Arizona, based out of the Amerind

### April 28, 2011

Birds and Botany Walk. Meet outside museum entrance at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars

### June 4 - 8, 2011

Pottery-making workshop with famed Hopi-Tewa potter White Swann.

### July 2011

Installation of an exhibit by contemporary artist, Emmi Whitehorse, Navajo, in the Fulton-Hayden Memorial Art Gallery.

## September 1- 6, 2011

Sixth annual Pueblo World Tour, focusing on the Eastern Pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico.

## September 7-11, 2011

Tour of Navajo and Hopi artists and trading posts in the Four-Corners with second-generation Tucson trader Mark Bahti.