



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Series



Inhabitants of an Archaeological and International "Frontier": The Precolonial History of the Santa Cruz Valley and the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands

Free Online Presentation by
Archaeologist Hunter M. Claypatch, PhD

Photos courtesy of Hunter Claypatch:

*San Martin Purple-on-brown jar, Sonoita Street site, Nogales
& Nogales Polychrome bowl rim sherds, Paloparado site*

Southern Arizona's Santa Cruz River valley was one of the most important regions in the precolonial Southwest United States and Northwest Mexico. In the arid Sonoran Desert, this nearly 300-kilometer river provided an oasis for early hunter-gatherers and later sedentary populations. While the northern portion of the Santa Cruz Valley crosscuts present-day Tucson and has been subject to considerable archaeological research, the majority of the river's southern portion has been little-studied.

In this presentation Dr. Hunter Claypatch highlights the rich cultural history of the river's southern portion, the Upper/Middle Santa Cruz. This segment of the river crosses the U.S.-Mexico border, has evidence for material culture that spans several thousand years, and served as a "contact zone" for precolonial Hohokam and Trincheras populations.

Using excavated ceramics, Dr. Claypatch gives special attention to the region's occupation between 700 and 1300 CE. During this time local inhabitants were dynamically shaped by regional cultural interactions but also created their own unique cultural florescence and forms of expression.

Thursday December 18, 2025

7 pm Mountain Standard Time

To register for the Zoom program click on this link:

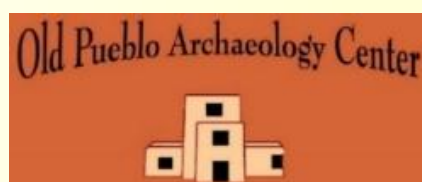
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0aPpBP5mQfOBSad66Tu03Q

For more information contact Old Pueblo at info@oldpueblo.org or **520-798-1201**.

Inhabitants of an Archaeological and International “Frontier” . . .

Photos courtesy of Hunter Claypatch:

Archaic period (left) and Early Agricultural period projectile points attest to the antiquity of human occupation along the segment of the Santa Cruz River in Arizona’s Santa Cruz County.



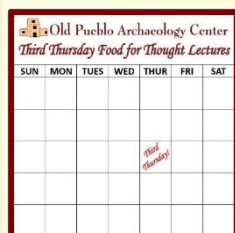
For more information about this month’s program and other Old Pueblo Archaeology Center activities contact Old Pueblo at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.

Dr. Hunter M. Claypatch received his PhD from Binghamton University in 2022. He is a ceramicist who has worked extensively with precolonial pottery on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico international border. He specializes in Trincheras tradition of northern Sonora and the precolonial inhabitants of modern Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

Dr. Claypatch’s research applies traditional ceramic techniques, practice theory, and models for cultural connectivity to reconstruct Indigenous lifeways. He is a professor at Pima Community College, Tucson and President-elect of the Arizona Archaeological Council professional organization.



The Third Thursday Series: Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Third Thursday Food for Thought Zoom webinars on the Third Thursday evening of each month feature presentations about archaeology, history, and cultures.



If you would like to be added to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s emailing list to receive semimonthly announcements about Old Pueblo’s Third Thursday and other activities (and other southwestern archaeology organizations’ activities), go to www.oldpueblo.org, scroll down to the “Subscribe” box, and enter your name and email address there. One can unsubscribe from our emailing list at any time.

Flyer version of October 20, 2025