

The Goat Camp Ruin Project: Volunteer Archaeology in Central Arizona

Join retired Forest Service archaeologist J. Scott Wood as he tells us about the Goat Camp Ruin project that he has been conducting for the last 13 years for the Town of Payson in the highlands of central Arizona. The project, sponsored by the Arizona Archaeological Society, will eventually see this important Northern Salado site developed for interpretation and incorporated into the Town's recreational trail system. Goat Camp Ruin began as one of the earliest and eventually largest Preclassic Hohokam pithouse villages in the area. As it continued its occupation into the Classic Period it transformed into a smaller masonry village, which is where this all-volunteer project has concentrated its effort. At its height it contained over 30 rooms and has evidence of a later Apache re-occupation. The excavation phase is still ongoing, but will be coming to an end in a year or so as stabilization of structures and preparation of the site for visitation take over. Scott's presentation will walk you through the highlights of a decades' worth of excavation of the site, its place in Payson area prehistory, and the fate of the Northern Salado as they were caught up in the Great Drought.

J. Scott Wood

After working his way through both UofA and ASU, he received his MA in Archaeology from ASU in 1978 and decided he'd had his fill of academia. Along the way he worked briefly for the Museum of Northern Arizona, Pueblo Grande Museum, ASU, and volunteered for the Forest Service on the Tonto National Forest. That's where he ended up, and 40 years later retired as the Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Program Manager in 2015. While there he was involved in preservation and interpretation, working with volunteers, promoting public archaeology, and incorporating citizen scientists in archaeological research. He helped found the *Arizona Archaeological Council* and the *Arizona Site Steward Program* and is still training new Stewards. He is currently on the Board of *Friends of the Tonto National Forest*. In addition to the Goat Camp Ruin project, he is also working on a long-term volunteer-supported research project on Perry Mesa. And he really hates writing bios.