

Meet the Monument 2020 Main Speaker Bios



Larry Jones got his B.S. and M.S. in Biology from California State University, Long Beach. He spent over 40 years studying a variety of animals, including invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. For thirty of those years he worked as a Wildlife Biologist for both the research and management branches of a federal land management agency in California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona. He has written or edited about 100 technical and popular papers and chapters on various biology topics, including four books, one of which is *Lizards of the American Southwest*. A fifth book is in press, *Venomous Animals of North America: Vertebrates and Invertebrates of Land and Sea from the United States and Canada*. Although retired from federal service, Larry continues a long-term lizard-monitoring project and just finished a three-year study of scorpion ecology. He is now working part time as a zookeeper in the herpetology, ichthyology, and invertebrate zoology section of a Tucson zoo and aquarium.



Debbie C. Buecher, M.S. has over 30 years of experience working with bats including: developing species lists, conducting baseline inventories, long-term monitoring, and acoustic sampling. Her Master's thesis was: "*Bat Diversity, Resource Use, and Activity Patterns along a Sonoran Desert Riparian Area*". This work was conducted in Sabino Canyon Recreational Area. She owns her own consulting firm – Buecher Biological Consulting that specializes in bat research. She has extensive experience with mist netting and ultrasonic bat detectors, which allows her to monitor bats across rugged landscapes in the Southwest. She has studied caves for over 45 years and is a member of the Cave Research Foundation. She has explored >200 abandoned mines for bats prior to closure for human safety. Recently she and colleagues have been monitoring bats in Arizona and New Mexico for *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the fungus that causes the catastrophic bat disease known as white-nose syndrome. She often collaborates with: Arizona Game and Fish, New Mexico Game and Fish, National Park Service, Arizona State Parks, University of New Mexico, National Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.



Kirk A. Astroth has been an avocational rock art enthusiast for many years. Growing up in Utah, Kirk spent a lot of time exploring the deserts and canyons of Southern Utah, looking for rock art and habitation sites. After retiring as a professor at the University of Arizona in 2017, he entered the graduate program in applied archaeology at the University of Arizona. As a part of his program of study, he is researching dating techniques on petroglyphs at 3 sites in Arizona. Kirk is a former Arizona site steward, a former board member of the Arizona Archaeological & Historical Society, and currently volunteers with Archaeology Southwest, with Sacred Sites Research, Inc., and at the conservation lab at the Arizona State Museum where he is x-raying over 2,000 ancient sandals from the Southwest. Kirk is also a volunteer with Humane Borders, providing water in the desert for migrants coming up from the south.