

The Astronomy of the Ancestral Puebloans: Wupatki, Mesa Verde & Chaco. How the ancestral people used the sky and its motions to anticipate seasonal change to guide their daily life, ceremonies and survival.

While living on the Navajo Reservation, Bryan began watching the skies and sharing his experience with Navajo kids, who then shared their sky stories with him. This sparked his interest in the astronomy of native societies. When working at a therapeutic high school in Idaho, he and his students reconstructed a full-scale model of Stonehenge. At Wupatki National Monument, he recovered the significance of an ancestral Puebloan calendar wall which he will share with us today.

Winner of the 2013 VIOLA Outstanding Science Educator Award, Bryan Bates is best known for his research in the astronomy of the ancestral Puebloans and their development of science through observation of natural cycles.

He continued with research on Fajada Butte at Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, confirming the lunar standstill shadows on the “Sun Dagger” site. Chair of the 7th Oxford International Conference on Archaeoastronomy (2004), Bryan was also the co-editor of the conference proceedings *Viewing the Sky through Past & Present Culture* and later co-editor of the 2010 edition of *Journal of Astronomy in Culture* covering both technical research aspects and research results on archaeoastronomy in the Southwest.

Bryan Bates has explored and led wilderness trips in the mountains and canyons of the West for 40 years. Following a B.A. Degree in Native American Studies and M.S. in Environmental Science, he and a friend backpacked 21 days through the Grand Canyon. Bryan has led canyoneering backpacks, been a river guide, and conducted archaeological & archaeoastronomical research across the Colorado Plateau, including the Grand Canyon. He has published on archaeoastronomy and was Chair of the Oxford International Conference on Cultural Astronomy. Bryan is currently President of the Society for Cultural Astronomy. Bryan taught biology, environmental science and natural history at Coconino Community College, until retiring as Professor Emeritus, Science, at CCC.

In addition to his research and teaching, Bryan works as an interpretive naturalist with a number of different organizations including the American Association for Advancement of Science, the National Parks Conservation Association and numerous Natural History Museums, and now the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Bryan lives with his wife and daughter in their two-story solar powered and resource recycling Hogan that Bryan designed and built and was awarded the 2004 Sustainable Housing Award.