

## CURTIS MARTIN PRESENTED THE C.T. HURST AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY

MATTHEW J. LANDT AND JACK WARNER, CAS Awards Committee

Curtis Martin was presented the 2022 C.T. Hurst Award, also known as the Silver Trowel Award, at the 2022 CAS annual meeting. The C.T. Hurst Award, first given in 1980, is named for one of the CAS founders. The award is given to someone who has made extraordinary contributions to Colorado archaeology through excavation or survey projects, collections research, extensive publication for professional and public audiences, or long-time service to agencies, universities, or private companies.

CAS recognizes Curtis Martin for his 45 years of service as a professional archaeologist and his work as the principal investigator for the Colorado Wickiup Project (2003–present), which received the 2014 Governor’s Award (Figure 1). Curtis received his master’s degree in anthropology in 1975 from the University of Colorado and later directed excavation and stabilization projects in the Mesa Verde area, including at the Escalante site, Lowry Ruins, and in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. He has worked for the Colorado State Highway Department (now Colorado Department of Transportation), the Museum of Northern Arizona, and private cultural resource management firms in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, California, Montana, Texas, and Switzerland. He has taught archaeological field methods at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction since 2003. He worked for Grand River Institute and Dominquez Archaeological Research Group from 1997 to 2017 and has continued his work through his own company, Chinook Archaeological Consultants (2019–present). Curtis Martin is the author of *Ephemeral Bounty: Wickiups, Trade Goods, and the Final Years of the Autonomous Ute* (Martin 2016a).



Curtis’s Colorado Wickiup Project is an ongoing effort to document the aboriginal wooden features in the state (Figure 2). As he states, “Wickiups were temporary conical and domed [wooden] shelters constructed by the Native American inhabitants of Colorado for millennia” (Martin 2016b) (Figure 3). Because of their perishable nature, wickiups are quickly disappearing and most remaining wickiups were built in the last 300 years (Figure 4). Curtis’s wickiup project is important for many reasons, not least of which is the fact that wickiups from the last 100–200 years may be the last habitations of the Ute, Shoshone, Comanche, Arapaho, or Cheyenne before they were forced onto reservations (Martin 2016b). Curtis’s work has also shown intensive off-reservation occupation and continued use of their previous hunting and gathering areas after the 1880s and well into the twentieth century.

Curtis has completed hundreds of archaeology reports in his career (see select bibliography below). He was a board member of the original Grand Junction CAS chapter and was active in resurrecting it in its current form. Because of Curtis’s devotion to exploring the archaeology of Colorado and his dedication

20 Figure 1. Curtis at the Pisgah Mountain Wickiup Village (site 5EA2740) in 2010. 21 Figure 2. Curtis

measuring wickiup poles at the Windger Flats wickiup (site 5ME6674) in 2015. Figure 3. Curtis (right) at the Buckles Wickiup (site 5MN65, Monitor Mesa Wickiup 2 of 3), his first wickiup, in 1977 with Laura Maness (left) and Kevin Black (middle). 22 Figure 4. Curtis photographing the Musick Lodge (site 5SH3788) in 2009. 23 to broadening our understanding of Colorado's ephemeral Native American wickiups, the Awards Committee wishes to acknowledge his contributions with the C.T. Hurst award in 2022