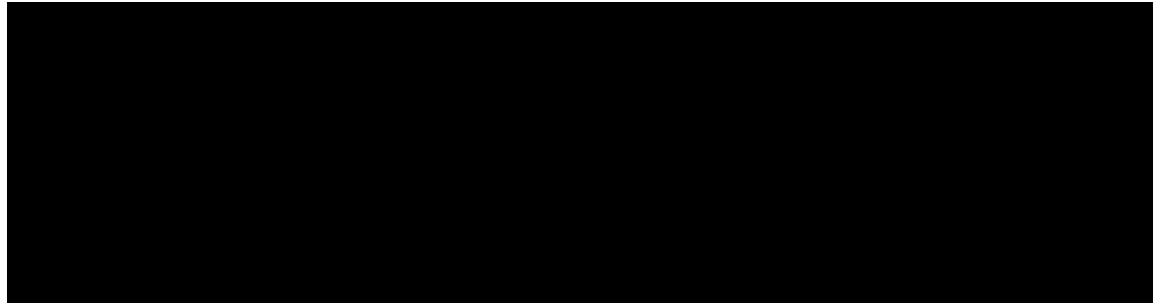


**The Grand Canyon Geoarchaeology Project (GCGAP): research-focused
cultural resource investigations and findings
from the first excavations in 2008**

Gary O'Brien



A new geoarchaeological project begun in 2008 by Utah State University with funding from the Bureau of Reclamation and in cooperation with Grand Canyon National Park applies a research-driven philosophy to the treatment of sites being destroyed by erosion. The first year of this exciting new research project focused on three cultural sites in Glen and Grand Canyons. Among other discoveries, the 2008 work has revealed a strong archaic presence that includes possible evidence of early maize cultivation and the oldest (middle Archaic) site yet discovered in Holocene alluvium along the river. Geomorphologists and archaeologists are combining various tools, perspectives, and interpretations to bring into clearer focus the ancient cultural presence in deeply buried sediments as well as more recent protohistoric remains situated atop the modern ground surface. This presentation will discuss our field methods, new age results, and preliminary interpretations of stratigraphic and cultural evidence.

Note: For more information on this topic refer to Volume 21 #3 of the *Boatman's Quarterly Review* (Fall 2008). The article is entitled "New Geoarchaeological Investigations of Cultural Sites Along the River", by Gary O'Brien, Jonathan Damp, and Joel Pederson.