

## *SAA Award for Excellence in Archaeological Analysis* 2023 Nomination Statement

**Nominee: Dale R. Croes, Ph.D.**

**Wet Site Archaeologist, Adjunct Professor, Washington State University (WSU)**

**With: Ed Eugene Carriere**

**Suquamish Elder and Master Basketmaker and Canoe Carver**

The over 50 years of career work by nominee Dale R. Croes, Ph.D. (Northwest Coast wet site basketry and cordage analyst) and Ed Carriere, Suquamish Tribal Elder and Master Basketmaker (Salish Cultural Expert) has been characterized in the *SAA Archaeological Record* as “*nothing less than a new paradigm for collaborative partnerships between indigenous groups and archaeologists*” by Dr. Anna Marie Prentiss in her *Editor’s Corner* (November 2018:2). Their featured article in this *SAA Archaeological Record* (Vol. 18, No.5), co-authored by their publisher, Dr. Darby Stapp, describes and defines their analytical approach: ***Generationally-Linked Archaeology*** and it is detailed in their memoir: *Re-Awakening Ancient Salish Sea Basketry, Fifty Years of Basketry Studies in Culture and Science* (2018:1-267, *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* (JONA), Memoir 15, Figure 1).

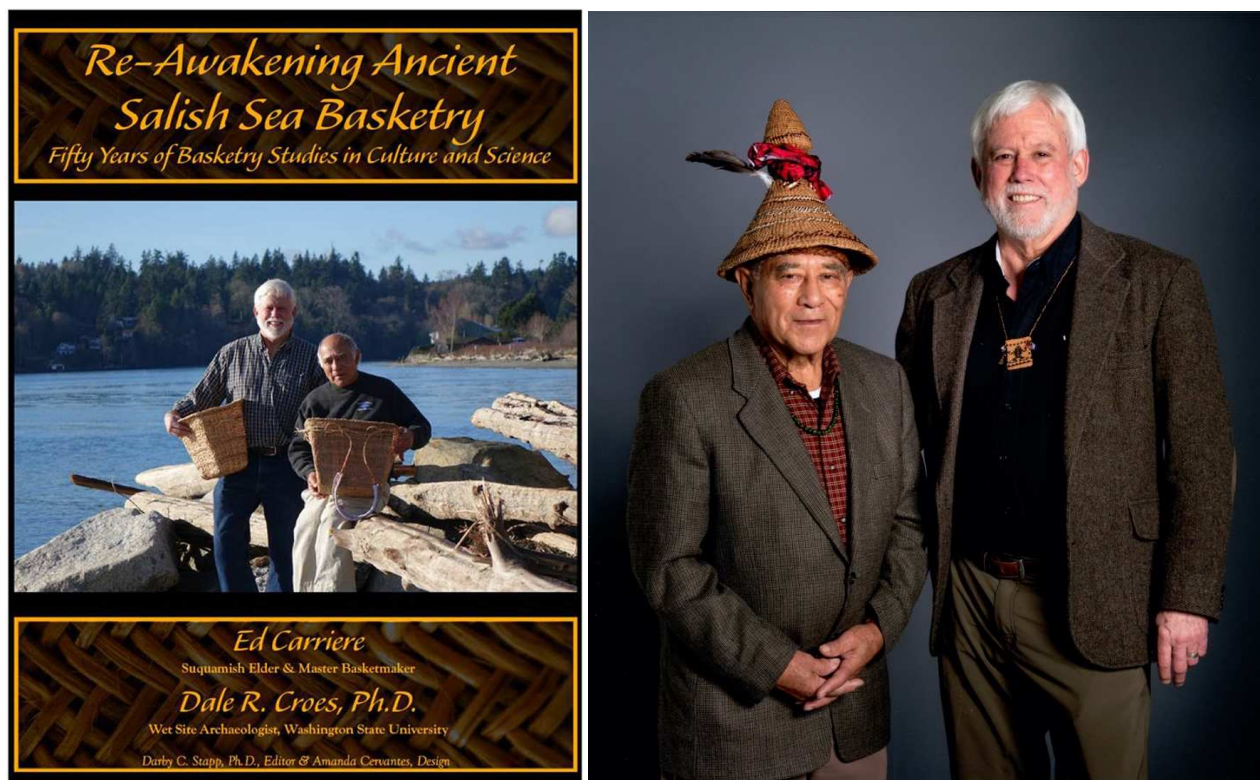


Figure 1. (left) Cover of Ed Carriere and Dale Croes’ book on replicating ancient archaeological wet site basketry recovered from the Salish Sea from wet sites on the Northwest Coast of North America; (right) Ed Carriere and Dale Croes in portrait photograph while visiting and helping the New York *American Museum of Natural History* with their recent remodeling of Franz Boas’ *Northwest Coast Hall*.

Nominee Dale R. Croes received his B.A. in anthropology from the UW and his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology at Washington State University (WSU) under Chair Richard Daugherty. His career involves (1) his M.A. and Ph.D. dissertation research on ancient basketry and cordage artifacts from the Ozette Village mudslide-covered plank houses, (2) conducting post-doctoral research by directing 9 years of fieldwork at the 3,000 year old Hoko River wet site with the Makah Tribe, (3) co-directing the *Qwu?gweš* wet site with the Squaxin Island Tribe for 11 years, and (4) directing the two years of excavations at the National Historic Landmark wet site of Sunken Village, Portland, Oregon with the Siletz, Grand Ronde and Warm Springs Tribes. Under the guidance of Richard Daugherty, Croes and other graduate students learned the great analytical and ethical value of working on sites in equal partnership with tribes whose territory the sites exist. Working his whole career in wet site archaeology, which have excellent preservation of wood and fiber artifacts, Croes quickly recognized that the partnership-tribes embraced wet site work since over 90% of their ancient perishable material culture is recovered in these sites versus the rare stone, bone and shell artifacts in “dry” shell midden sites. Tribes assisted in the research and often through financial support since they had equal ownership of projects.

Dale R. Croes is an adjunct Professor with WSU Department of Anthropology in Pullman, WA. After retirement from teaching in 2013 he has worked with Ed Carriere, Suquamish Master Basketmaker, to replicate and analyze the 2000-year-old basketry from the Biderbost wet archaeological site (east of Seattle), held at the University of Washington (UW) Burke Museum. The result of their work is a human story describing over fifty years of their cultural/scientific work in a JONA Memoir, and it is equally in their two voices, Ed Carriere as a cultural expert and Dale Croes as an archaeological scientist (Figure 1). The synergy of their work together produces much more than can be produced through their separate cultural and scientific expertise.

Since the mid-1980s Dale Croes was often guided/mentored by wetland archaeology specialists Drs. John and Bryony Coles of England, attending and conducting with them one international Wetland Archaeology Research Project Conferences (WARP; 2003, Olympia, WA.). Following Dr. John Coles lead and his original books on *Experimental Archaeology*, Croes has often teamed up with partnership-tribes to conduct experimental archaeology and ethnoarchaeology projects assisted by the excellent preservation of the 90%+ of their ancient material culture. Croes and students, in teamwork with tribal cultural experts, have replicated and conducted experimental work with ancient wooden shanked fishhooks (300 recovered from the 3,000 year old Hoko River wet site), hafted stone fish filleting knives (some with end-hafted microblades), basketry including sewn tule mats and bark boards found to cover temporary fishing camp shelters, cordage replicas of salmon gill nets (at 3 wet sites), and the leaching of acorns found and recorded in over 100 hemlock-branch-lined acorn leaching pits at the Sunken Village wet site, Portland, Oregon. Croes learned from the Cole’s lead the importance of preserving cultural knowledge in conducting experimental archaeology and ethnoarchaeology; in a new approach he and Ed Carriere coined as *Generationally-Linked Archaeology*, they worked in a synergy of culture and science. Croes and Carriere presented this work at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WARP in Bradford, UK, sharing how preserved wetland/wet site basketry and their experimental archaeology-ethnoarchaeology produce an outcome that has upheld the Coles’ guidance in wetland, experimental archaeology and in preserving the past through generational knowledge.

Through four decades of ancient basketry and cordage research from all explored Northwest Coast wet sites, Croes has continued to statistically test style similarities in specific regions of the entire coast. Working from as far back as possible (deep-time) Croes has tested degrees of similarity of basketry and cordage attributes and types from all available wet sites. The different statistical tests, including hierarchical cluster analyses, cladistic analyses and Bayesian phylogenetic tests, demonstrate regional evolution of long-term cultural styles through time, especially in Ed Carriere's (Salishan) region and those from the outside (Wakashan) West Coast sites for at least 3,000 years. These tests link into Ed's style of basketry that he learned through his Great Grandmother Julia Jacobs, who raised him from infancy, thus showing *Generationally-Linked Archaeology* from both deep-time forward and Ed's efforts to learned from as many generations and museum examples back through time (see Ed's bibliographic information below).

Croes has published over 55 peer-reviewed papers, 12 books, shown in his vita and entered into Academia.edu (<https://wsu.academia.edu/DaleCroes> ) and ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dale-Croes/research>. He also contributed to these recent articles and a video documentary with Ed Carriere.

1. *Generationally-Linked Archaeology*, *The SAA Archaeological Record*, September 2018: [https://www.academia.edu/48503826/GENERATIONALLY\\_LINKED\\_ARCHAEOLOGY\\_explained](https://www.academia.edu/48503826/GENERATIONALLY_LINKED_ARCHAEOLOGY_explained)
2. *A Meeting of Science and Culture*, *American Archaeology*, Fall 2018, by Julian Smith: [https://www.academia.edu/42717811/A\\_Meeting\\_Of\\_Science\\_And\\_Culture\\_by\\_Julian\\_Smith](https://www.academia.edu/42717811/A_Meeting_Of_Science_And_Culture_by_Julian_Smith)
3. *The Basketmaker*, *Hakai Magazine*, 2019, by Laura Trethewey: [https://www.academia.edu/42809805/The\\_Basketmaker\\_Hakai\\_Magazine\\_by\\_Laura\\_Trethewey](https://www.academia.edu/42809805/The_Basketmaker_Hakai_Magazine_by_Laura_Trethewey)
4. Video Documentary *Salish Sea Basketry*, By Woodlanders, 2020: <https://www.academia.edu/video/jyap6j>

Dale Croes also helped form and has directed the regional *Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society* (PNWAS) for going on 37 years now, specifically for the public interested in the archaeology of the region. Members attend public talks, workshops and volunteer on excavations directed by professional archaeologists. See history of PNWAS at: [https://www.academia.edu/51660413/Pacific\\_Northwest\\_Archaeological\\_Society\\_PNWAS\\_Reaching\\_the\\_Northwest\\_Advocational\\_Public\\_for\\_36\\_Years](https://www.academia.edu/51660413/Pacific_Northwest_Archaeological_Society_PNWAS_Reaching_the_Northwest_Advocational_Public_for_36_Years) .

We hope **Ed Carriere**, Suquamish Elder (88) also can be recognized in this *Award for Excellence in Archaeological Analysis* since he is the first Indigenous Master Native American Basketmaker who has replicated and worked extensively with **archaeological** wet site basketry recovered from sites throughout his traditional Salish Sea territory, and dating back to as early as 4,500 years ago. Ed will be attending the SAA Portland Conference, presenting a poster in the *Fiber and Perishable Interest Group Poster Session: Defining Perishables: The How, What, And Why of Perishables and Their Importance in Understanding the Past* on Saturday Morning. Their poster will add *The How, What, Why and **Who** of Perishables....*

As mentioned, Ed learned the art of basketmaking from his great-grandmother, Julia Jacob of the Suquamish Tribe, who raised him from infancy. Julia, born in 1874, was raised in the traditional cedar plank house, Old Man House, until a teenager, learning all the old traditions of basketry, and then her family was moved to their Indian Allotment across the bay where Ed currently lives. He started to learn the old-style split cedar limb and root Salish basketry, especially his lifetime specialty, the clam baskets, from her at age 15. From sales records kept, we estimate that he has made over 600 clam baskets so far in his lifetime.

Ed's goal always was to learn styles from as many generations back as he could, through his tribal Elders and museum collections, which got him about 5 generations back. Then, beyond anything he ever thought possible, he met a Washington State University (WSU) waterlogged/wet sites archaeologist, Dr. Dale Croes, in 2004, who, as mentioned, had spent his career excavating these well-preserved sites, recovering ancient Coast Salish and West Coast baskets dating from 15 to 150 generations back, 300 to 3,000 years old. By visiting Croes' seven hundred year old *Qwu?gwes* wet site and helping to excavate some of these ancient clam baskets that were very similar to the ones he makes, Ed literally was able to learn from his 30<sup>th</sup> and earlier generation grandparents, something he never dreamed would be possible.

Again, Croes had compared ancient basketry from throughout the Salish Sea region, using statistical techniques, and demonstrated that the styles through 3,000 years linked sequentially into Ed's old-tradition cedar limb/root basketry, going from deep-time through to the work Ed learned from Julia and her/his Elders. Unlike Ed's efforts to go back through the generations of basketry styles, Croes was going the opposite direction, from the earliest wet site archaeological basketry found through to the current work Ed excelled in, statistically showing a generationally linked sequence in the Salish Sea for at least 3,000 years. Together they termed their joint analytic approach *Generationally-Linked Archaeology* in a book they published together with equal voice in 2018 (Figure 1, above).

Carriere and Croes knew of each other and their work since Croes visited him at a 2004 *Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association* (NNABA) gathering and invited him to visit and help at the Squaxin Island Tribe/college *Qwu?gwes* wet archaeological site. He could hardly wait. Their ongoing work together really became possible through Croes' 2013 retirement from teaching, when he decided to update his analysis of a 2,000-year-old wet site basketry collection from a Coast Salish site near Snoqualmie, east of Seattle, and currently housed at the University of Washington (UW) Burke Museum. In a flash of insight Dale decided to call Ed to see if he wanted to join him and possibly replicate baskets from his 100<sup>th</sup> grandparent's work; did he ever.

Thus, starting a new phase in Ed's expanded basketmaking and teaching. After carefully studying these 2,000-year-old split cedar root baskets (determined from cellular analyses) he went to work replicating this earlier style. He made perfect replicas of these pack baskets, slightly different in construction from the traditional baskets he learned from his Great Grandmother Julia (Figure 2).

After making several beautiful replicas, Dale arranged for them to go to Canada, to the University of British Columbia (UBC) *Museum of Anthropology*, to observe even earlier ancient Coast Salish basketry, dating from 2,000, 3,000, and 4,500-years-ago from the Fraser Delta wet



sites—fully 225+ generations back in Ed’s Salish Sea traditions. (Unfortunately, archaeological artifacts from sites are rarely seen by Native Peoples in museums, mostly preserved for viewing by Western scientists).



Figure 2. Ed replicas of two 2,000-year-old Snoqualmie River wet site baskets, the two baskets possibly made by the same Master weaver, as both have the exceptionally fine open-twined weave bodies seen only from this 2,000-year-old site, not from other similar dating sites (n=3) in Canada. The smaller one, a miniature pack basket, may have been made by this weaver for a young relative, possibly a grandchild.

After viewing the 2,000-, 3,000- and 4,500-year-old baskets at the UBC *Museum of Anthropology*, Ed first made flat sample weaves from cedar root of the ancient baskets found in these different time periods and from three Fraser River Delta archaeological wet sites. Then he decided to make a “book” from the examples of 225 grandparent’s generations of teachings by putting all these slightly different ancient styles of weave into one pack basket: first several rows of the 4,500-year-old weaves, then rows of 3,000-year-old techniques, 2,000-year-old style weaves, and the top area with 1,000-year-old to contemporary styles (Figure 3). He calls it an *Archaeology Basket* since it has “layers” of weaves from the different time periods. He has made

nine, currently working on his tenth of these now; one graces the full back cover of their book and the publication describes in detail this work.

Ed's 6<sup>th</sup> *Archaeology Basket* is now on display in the remodeled Franz Boas' *Northwest Coast Hall* at the New York *American Museum of Natural History* and his 9<sup>th</sup> was recently placed on display at the *Seattle Art Museum* (SAM).



Figure 3. Ed Carriere's *Archaeology Basket* with the main pack basket weaves used by 225+ generations of his ancestor's "teachings," for over a 4,500-year period.

The book Ed Carriere and Dale Croes produced together: *Re-Awakening Ancient Salish Sea Basketry, Fifty Years of Basketry Studies in Culture and Science* (2018, Figure 1) details the history and story of their lives, both Ed's cultural training and Dale's scientific training and work on Northwest Coast archaeological wet sites, and their coming together on this replication project, often termed *Experimental Archaeology* and *Ethnoarchaeology*. In the book, and not

always a common practice, 50% is in Ed Carriere's direct voice (every word carefully checked by him).

Following their work at UBC, Ed and Dale began presenting their efforts, with PowerPoint, to both Indigenous and Archaeological audiences and communities. They traveled to regional, national (SAA, n=3), and international scientific archaeological conferences, as well as to Northwest Native Communities (from Oregon to Alaska), at the Maori National Weavers Hui in New Zealand, and were invited and visited the Ainu communities and museums/universities of Northern Japan, hosted by Dr. Junko Habu, University of California, Berkeley (therefore presenting their work to the broad Pacific Indigenous Neighborhood). Both indigenous and scientific communities applauded this synergy of culture and science, and many of these visits are described in their book.

Also documented is Ed's teaching others through his lifetime and his recent work on replicating ancient baskets is being taught to a young Squaxin Island Tribe apprentice, Josh Mason, initially through a teaching grant from the Bill Holm Center, UW Burke Museum. Josh is now teaching this work in several Coast Salish communities. (see feature on Josh Mason in this article: [https://www.academia.edu/40704859/GENERATIONALLY\\_LINKED\\_ARCHAEOLOGY\\_The\\_Study\\_of\\_Ancient\\_Salish\\_Basketry\\_in\\_National\\_Basketry\\_Organization\\_Magazine](https://www.academia.edu/40704859/GENERATIONALLY_LINKED_ARCHAEOLOGY_The_Study_of_Ancient_Salish_Basketry_in_National_Basketry_Organization_Magazine) ).

In aspiring to meet his life-time personal ambition to learn basketry construction from as many Coast Salish generations of basketmaking back, Ed has fulfilled his goal and dream in spades, far beyond his wildest imagination, learning from 225+ generations of Coast Salish weavers through well-preserved archaeological Salish Sea wet sites. Through Croes and Carriere's recent effort and providing it to the public in a book, presentations, and apprentices, they have not only contributed to the deep-rooted Coast Salish Nation's traditional heritage, but to that of our nation as a whole and internationally throughout the Pacific Basin neighborhood as well. Few of us can learn basketmaking from our 200+ years of grandparents and present it for all future generations to learn from this deep-rooted cultural and arts heritage of our nation.

Last July Carriere was recognized nationally and awarded one of four *Community Spirit Awards* by the *First Peoples Fund* at a Kennedy Center awards dinner in Washington D.C. See his recognition at: <https://www.firstpeoplesfund.org/ed-carriere>. We also hope Ed Carriere receive the *National Heritage Fellowship* from *The National Endowment of the Arts*, one of 10 awards given to artists from a broad array of arts and cultural communities in our nation. Both national awards would be given in large part since Ed is the first Master Native Basketmaker who has become involved in studying and replicating **archaeological** basketry recovered in wet sites and from millennium back in his traditional territory. Croes did this work for his life-time archaeological research effort and Ed did this work so future generations of Salishan peoples can learn from 200+ generations of their grandparents through the archaeological recoveries and analyses.

Thank you, Dale and Ed