Bill Baxter (the Archeological Conservancy) explains the history of San Marcos Pueblo to field-trip participants. San Marcos was one of the largest pueblos in the Southwest (approximately 2,000 rooms) in the 15th and 16th centuries. (photo by Betsy Leach)
John Geissman (UT-Dallas) reviews the geology and evolution of the Rio Grande Rift. (photo by Mike Jackson)
John Ferguson (UT-Dallas and SAGE) explains the geological context of the San Marcos Pueblo site and gives an overview of geophysical exploration of the site. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Former plaza area of the pueblo, with the Cerrillos Hills in the background. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Cucurbita foetidissima ("coyote gourd") growing in the former plaza area of the pueblo. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Bill Baxter elaborates on the cultural history and significance of the pueblo. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Vegetation patterns reflect the arrangement of buried rooms and walls. [photo by Betsy Leach]
Rio Grande Glazeware was produced at San Marcos and exported to other pueblos in the upper Rio Grande area and possibly as far away as the southern Plains (photo by Betsy Leach)
Obsidian at the site may have originated at nearby Valles Caldera or Mt Taylor, or may have been brought in by trade from more distant localities (photo by Betsy Leach)
Glazed pot sherd (photo by Betsy Leach)
Site of the San Marcos Mission from 1610 until the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Malachite and turquoise were mined in the nearby Cerrillos Hills for local use and for trade. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Excavated pueblo sites at Aztec Ruins National Monument (top) and Salmon Ruins (bottom) show some of the features that may be present at San Marcos (clockwise from upper left): room complex with mortarless stone walls; ~900-year old viga and latilla roof of pine, spruce and aspen; more than 150 ground-floor rooms surround the central plaza; plaza and Great Kiva, roughly 18 m in diameter. (photos by Betsy Leach)
The Devil’s Throne, an Oligocene hornblende-latite porphyry that was emplaced into the Cretaceous Mancos Shale and into 34-Ma laccoliths. Rock magnetists for scale. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Geologizing at the base of Devil’s Throne. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Geologizing at the base of Devil’s Throne. (photo by Laurie Brown)
Geologizing at the base of Devil's Throne. (photo by Mike Jackson)
Climbing through the laccolith near Devil's Throne. (photo by Betsy Leach)
Observing the laccolith intrusive contact (photo by Laurie Brown)
Observing the laccolith intrusive contact (photo by Laurie Brown)