



SITE LINES

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Message from the Council Chair

Now that the weather is improving, I'm looking forward to going out and making site visits again. Some of you will get started sooner than others. I know that in the Jemez, some of us will wait until after the first of May before roads open.

At the last council meeting, we discussed the feedback we received from you on the surveys sent out in December. The responses were overwhelmingly positive regarding training and the overall steward experience. Many stewards gave suggestions and what follows is some of them we (the council) will work on in the next year.

Visiting sites other than your own.

The area team leaders (ATLs) are happy to hook you up with stewards making site visits. They may even be able to take you out themselves. Teams go on site visits in a couple of the areas like the Caja del Rio and the Garcia and others are always welcome. If you have a particular site or area in mind, please contact your ATL for a phone number or email address of the ATL in the area you wish to visit.

Site maps not always up to date. Jeremy Kulisheck offered to lead a class on site recording. You will hear more about this soon.

Get a summary of incidents and outcomes resulting from steward reports.

Mike Bremer annually prepares an aggregation of data that could be shared with the council and with stewards through *Site Lines*. *Site Lines'* editors routinely request updates and news from ATLs as well as soliciting stories from stewards about their experiences in the field.

New steward identification cards have been distributed to the ATLs. You should receive them before you start site visits in the spring. Contact your ATL if you need it before then to take advantage of steward perks published to the listserv and in the Winter 2011 *Site Lines*.

Please save the date for the next annual meeting to be held September 17-18, 2011, with set up on Friday, September 16. We have the San Antonio Group Campground in the Jemez Mountains reserved. Individual sites cannot be reserved and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Our next council meeting will be held on April 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Forest Service office in Santa Fe. Any steward is welcome to attend.

— Ann White

Site Steward Foundation Annual Meeting

The third annual meeting of the Foundation was held on Sunday afternoon, February 20, 2011 at the Hibben Center at UNM. Gary Newgent, president, presided. John Morris moved and Sheldon Krevitz seconded a motion to accept the slate of current officers by acclamation. The motion passed. Re-elected were Gary Newgent, president; Beth Parisi, vice president; Ray Willison, treasurer; Nancy Cella, secretary;

Mary Jebson and Shelley Thompson, members-at-large. One member-at-large position is open and is expected to be filled during 2011.

Gary presented a slide show summarizing 2010 accomplishments, goals for 2011, financial reports, grants awarded and sought, and past and planned tours. Present membership is about 100 members equally divided between SiteWatch

Contributors to This Issue

Anne Baldwin
Candie Borduin
Bill Cella
K. Paul Jones
John Morris
Beth Parisi
Courtney Perkins
David Strip
Ann White
Ann Wymore

The Editors thank you.

Foundation Annual Meeting (cont.)

volunteers and Santa Fe National Forest site steward volunteers. Annual dues are directed to the Foundation general operation fund, and donations may be specified by the donor to fund either organization. Annual dues remain unchanged: \$10 for a single membership, \$25 to become a friend, and \$100 for a business. Donations directly support the annual meetings of each organization, educational and interpretive programs, and various other endeavors to support site steward volunteers.

Foundation-sponsored outings held during 2010 included two tours of selected sites in the Ojito Wilderness Area near San Ysidro, a spring overnight raft tour of sites within White Rock Canyon near Santa Fe, and a fall tour of the Dittert Site in the El Malpais National Monument near Grants.

Last year, the Foundation entered into a long-range joint venture with the Office of Archaeological Studies and Dean Wilson. It features classroom and field classes in ceramic identification. Site stewards from each team will report ceramic types and locations data to Dean Wilson for inclusion in the state-wide ceramic database.

Foundation goals for 2011 include more site tours. The next trip will be a three-day outing to visit sites in southeast Utah on BLM land. Plans for future tours are underway. A grant for signage and trail improvements at Rattlesnake Ridge in the Gallina area will be sought from the Archaeological Institute of America during 2011. The Foundation was recently awarded a grant for \$4,000 from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area to prepare and distribute an interpretive brochure titled "Linking the Past to the Present" (see Beth Parisi's story below). Slides summarizing the financial statements showed that the Foundation's cash position is sufficient and balanced. Cash on hand as of the end of the 2010 fiscal year was \$7,337. As of February 20, 2011 cash on hand totaled \$8,504. Many thanks to all members for helping maintain the Foundation nicely in the black. Complete financial statements are available upon request to Foundation members. Please contact Ray Willison at

rwillson@sitestewardfoundation.org.

-Nancy Cella

Foundation Grant Award

The Site Steward Foundation (SSF) has been awarded a grant from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. (NRGNHA) <http://www.nps.gov/norg/index.html>.

What is a National Heritage Area?

National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress. Each National Heritage Area is governed by separate authorizing legislation and operates under provisions unique to its resources and desired goals. For an area to be considered for designation, certain key elements must be present. First and foremost, the landscape must have nationally distinctive natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that, when linked together, tell a unique story about our country. National Heritage Areas (NHA) expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting large-scale, community centered initiatives that connect local citizens to the preservation and planning process.

Where is the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area?

Stretching from Albuquerque to the Colorado border, the heritage area includes Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Taos counties. It encompasses a mosaic of cultures, including the Jicarilla Apache, eight Pueblo tribes,

and the descendants of Spanish colonists who settled in the area beginning in 1598.

What is the goal of our grant?

Our goal is to produce an interpretive brochure entitled "Linking the Past to the Present". In this brochure we would like to present a positive approach to preservation that helps sustain the culture, heritage, and environment of the NRGNHA.

Small rural communities throughout northern New Mexico face challenges in ensuring their survival. The brochure will explain how an artifact from the past, if left in its natural state for future study and understanding, can lead to ensuring the continued existence and enhancement of traditional ways of life. In order for communities to survive it is necessary that they generate jobs and means for individuals to continue to prosper in their local area. Traditional ways of life can be turned into locally sustainable businesses and attract tourists. Communities that build on their local strengths and available resources have a strong base from which to sustain themselves.

Connecting an artifact or tradition to one's personal interest leads to more understanding and value placed on that artifact or tradition. Understanding how resourceful and successful our ancestors were builds a sense of pride and respect for one's culture.

Foundation Grant Award (cont.)

How will we conduct research for this brochure?

We will be collecting information for this project by interviewing citizens with life-long experiences, children, and professionals from various fields of study within the local communities of Rio Arriba, Taos, and

Santa Fe counties.

If this project is something you feel that you would like to participate in, please contact me at bparisi@sitestewardfoundation.com, 505-982-1534.

--Beth Parisi

More 2010 Annual Area Reports

Gallina—This past year has been a very active one in the Gallina area. We added eight new stewards, and Gary Newgent and Shelly Thompson have moved back here after several years on the Caja. More stewards have allowed us to monitor more sites than we have ever before. Many of the new stewards are local to the area, which is an encouraging sign. Last summer, a number of team members worked with archaeologist Denver Burns to take new measurements at the so-called "tower" sites to work on Denver's hypothesis about the purpose of these sites. Spreading the weight of monitoring the sites over a larger group has allowed us to free up some time to conduct reconnaissance of previously unrecorded sites as well as rediscovery of sites previously recorded, but effectively lost because of poor documentation of their locations. We'll continue many of these activities in the new season. A major undertaking for this year will be reconstruction of the roof of the covered pit house. This fully excavated site, nominally open to the public, has been decaying because of leaks in the roof. Repairs are essential to preserving this site into the future.

—David Strip

Garcia – The good news from 2010 is that no human vandalism was confirmed. Some of the old pueblo walls on Guaje Mesa continue slowly sliding downhill, victims of natural erosion after fire. Cows, as always, turn up here and there on our sites, dislodging stones; we encountered some holes, but they appeared to have been made by animals. Any sherd piles that visitors collected and left on "stone museums" were dispersed. And the team, which had lost four members, gained five after training last May: Emily and David Fellenz, Cherie and Andy Trottier, and Lori Whitley. Those who have not been oriented fully will complete orientation this spring. These welcome additions mean everyone but the AATL now has monster trucks and 4wd to tackle the dependably terrible roads.

A track that used to dead end on a site below Guaje Mesa was covered with brush and logs by a Forest Service crew, Von Whitley, and ATL Will Dearholt two springs ago. Vegetation was filling in well. Several team members made the last 2010 site visit in mid-November before snow fell, finding neither tire tracks nor footprints on Chupadero Mesa or Garcia Canyon sites; a few hopeful hunters were out. The San Ildefonso land swap, which will affect access routes, has not yet been completed.

Our first 2011 trip into the field took place March 5, when we discovered that the brushed-out road mentioned above has begun to see traffic again. In addition, a minor track over a field house had become a full-fledged road and stones were removed from a small structure for a fire ring. We put back a number of logs and obstacles at the first site and sent news of the camping problem at the second one. Cows were present on Guaje that day, too, grazing and knocking over blocks.

Stewards who would like to accompany us on site visits can contact their ATLs, who should forward the request to Will Dearholt or me. We'll be happy to add you to the e-mail list.

--Irene Wanner

Jemez—The Beautiful Jemez Mountains. That is where the Jemez Area team has the privilege and pleasure of conducting our monitoring activities. We now have 11 teams plus our team "parents," Jan and Ralph Stone. Three new teams joined us after training in spring 2010.

During 2010, no major incursions, disturbances, or issues of human depredation occurred. However, three locations were affected by tree-cutting on or immediately adjacent to the sites. On one, five large, old Ponderosas were brought down and removed. Fortunately, there was no damage to the structure or any other surface features. Two other sites seem to be the favorites of some folks for random cutting from time to time. It has been disconcerting to see this activity but,

Annual Area Reports (cont.)

so far, no damage occurred to any of the site features.

Two sites became camping spots. At each, campers returned repeatedly to their little private domains. At one, campers scooped out and then built up a large fire pit within a meter of the base of the rubble of a room block. Of course, they used stones from the structure to build four courses to create an elaborate fire pit. At the other site, a similar situation occurred. This pit is about 10 meters from a room block. We have not dismantled either fire pit because we are awaiting guidance from the Forest Service. The stones for the fire rings are now heavily scorched with soot and would present a problem if dismantled and dispersed.

At this second site, campers also erected what we describe as shrines beside the fire pit. Shrines were made on four occasions, each consisting of from one to three tree branches planted vertically in the ground. Twice, bark was scraped off and words or phrases were written with charcoal, all phrases having a somewhat "spiritual" aspect (spiritual to them, not to us!). They also added adornment to the branches using bits of old flagging as well as pieces of torn plastic bags. We removed and scattered all these branches. Once, we found rock art symbols made in charcoal on tops of the fire ring stones. Fortunately, the drawings weathered and washed off.

One very sad change occurred in our area early in 2010. A beautiful field house located on Cat Mesa partially succumbed to age and probably weather. It had originally been a two-story structure of at least four rooms. In modern times, it still had four walls standing, three of which exceed one meter in height. However, the fourth wall was still standing at its original height of over three meters.

Overall, the structure was beautiful, imposing, but clearly quite delicate. The tall standing wall had begun to slump. Unfortunately, this side faced the prevailing wind. During a visit in June, four stewards discovered the wall had toppled. It is quite likely that the wind brought on the demise of that tall wall. Interestingly, it lies on the ground almost intact, with no explosion or scattering of building stones.

Word went around the local archaeological and stewarding communities, and there were several expressions of sadness and dismay about this incident. Clearly, this is the way of things in our archaeological universe, but seeing such a change causes many emotions. Perhaps the best thing that can be said is that the collapse had completely natu-

ral causes, and was not caused by humans.

Like everyone in the SFNF Site Steward Program, the Jemez team is looking forward to getting back on the ground for another season. Concerns are developing in some quarters about the low moisture situation in our Beautiful Jemez Mountains and we are all hoping for a safe, fire-free year.

—John Morris

Rio Chama—We're looking forward to a new season out in the field. In fact, we've already visited a couple of lower-elevation sites.

One of our special projects for the new season will be a follow-up to a special opportunity Anne Baldwin provided us in mid-November of last year. Anne accompanied seven Rio Chama stewards (Isabel Carvalhal, K. Paul Jones, Karen Kotch, Ron Krantz, Robin Martin, Beth Parisi, and Sandy Seehaver) to two unnamed former pueblos (LA1230 and 1231). Thanks to Anne, we now have site plans for both pueblos. Even better, as we walked each site, she helped us visualize the former shape of the now melted adobe structures and the related features such as large firing pits, midden area, and gardens. She also helped us clarify the time of occupancy and what would have led the former inhabitants to settle there.



From left: Beth Parisi and Ron Krantz. Seated are K. Paul Jones and Isabel Carvalhal.

Standing from left to right are Sandy Seehaver, Robin Martin, and Karen Kotch.

Photo by Anne Baldwin

Annual Area Team Reports (cont.)

LA1230 is the larger of the two former pueblos which are close to one another. It is located on the mesa behind the stewards in the photo on page 4. In the distance you can see Pedernal. What you can't see is that several boulders on the slope immediately behind us have petroglyphs. Furthermore, the boulders with petroglyphs are aligned so that they look



Petroglyph at
LA 1230

Photo by K.
Paul Jones

due east through the LA1230 site to Pedernal--clearly one of four sacred mountains for these Tewa people. We were pleased to introduce these petroglyphs to Anne in partial return for the insights she had given us.

Now that we have confirmation from Anne and Mike Bremer that these petroglyphs are unrecorded, one of our special projects for the new season will be to return and conduct a more thorough survey of the slope. With proper training, we want to record the results of our survey formally.

Finally, we also have plans for an additional initiative during 2011. The mesas along the southern side of the Rio del Oso, a tributary of the Rio Chama, include three Tewa sites and one Hispanic site that we have visited regularly. There are also extensive archaeological features on five mesas across the Rio del Oso to the north. These have already been recorded by archaeologists from the University of Michigan, most notably Dick Ford and Kurt Anschuetz. But this will be the first opportunity for us to draw upon those records to locate the rich variety of features there, especially gridded farmlands, seasonal living structures, and a variety of shrines.

—K. Paul Jones

Summary of the 2010 SFNF Site Steward Volunteer Survey

In late 2010, the Santa Fe National Forest site steward council conducted a voluntary, written survey of program volunteers to assess the overall health of the program. The survey included four narrative questions and an option to identify in which area the steward volunteers. There were 17 responses to the survey with all but one of the areas identified. The responses are being reviewed and evaluated by the council with the hope of improving the program based on the comments.

#1: How do you feel about the training process, including the initial training, orientation to your site(s), completing site visit logs and/or Heritage Resource reports, and continued support?

Volunteers generally thought the trainings were well done, and that the field portion was useful. Some thought that the one-day training was too short, but could be helped by having the ATL and/or mentor actively participate in site visits for training support. Feedback regarding the one-on-one (interim) training was very positive and facilitated good communication between the new steward(s) and their mentor. Many stewards commented that

their training was so long ago that they do not remember most of it and are not familiar with the current training. There was also a suggestion of recognition for time served with the program.

The responses regarding reports were mixed with some stewards stating that the reports are fast and easy to complete and other stewards stating that the site logs are tedious and redundant. Some stewards reported that their ATL completed the site visit logs for them based on correspondence after the site visit, but it was stressed that the stewards should know how to complete the logs as well. Responses also indicated that some stewards are unclear about what a Heritage Resource Report is and when/how to complete one.

#2: What are some of the rewarding and interesting aspects of your site steward experience (training, orientation, site visits, social connections, education, Site Steward Foundation, other)?

Many stewards reported that being outside at beautiful places is the most rewarding part of the site steward experience. One pointed out that participating in the program provided incentive to get out into the forest once a month and another enjoyed being able to look for other

Summary of Site Steward Survey (cont.)

sites in the assigned area. Another common theme is the social aspect of the program with responses. Overall, volunteers find the site visits rewarding and feel they are doing important work.

The educational opportunities, including lectures, Site Steward Foundation trips, and general archaeology education were cited as some of the most interesting aspects of the program. The annual meetings and the *Site Lines* newsletter were also mentioned as interesting aspects. Involvement on the council or as an A/ATL was also cited as rewarding and interesting.

One suggestion came from an appreciation of the crossover with the SiteWatch program training and field visits. The suggestion involves coordinating with other similar programs in shared/similar areas for cross-training and/or “more eyes and ears in the field.”

#3: Please describe any obstacles or challenges you may have encountered with the program and suggest how these they could be remedied.

Although most responses did not have any major issues, one of the most often cited challenges or obstacles was getting to sites. Many stewards reported long, rough drives to sites that require high-clearance and 4WD vehicles. For some, the lack of an adequate vehicle has been a challenge and there were questions about volunteers using USFS vehicles after receiving proper training. Not having the most exciting sites was also mentioned.

Another challenge involves scheduling site visits during the provisional period. Many stewards thought that the year-long provisional period made for scheduling challenges with their ATL, and they would like to see that period shortened so they can visit sites independently. A suggestion was made to have some sort of criteria or a checklist met before provisional stewards are released for independent site visits.

A lack of enough initial guidance and training from the ATL and not being notified by the team leader and/or members of the team about subsequent site visits was mentioned.

A suggestion was made to possibly include a recap of incident reports filed throughout the forest, including the outcomes, to increase knowledge for all stewards about the importance of the program. The suggestion was to include this information in *Site Lines* once or twice a year.

Some stewards reported that locations for features and/or assigned sites were erroneous, making locating and monitoring changes to sites difficult.

The difficulty in filling leadership positions (A/ATLs, council members) in the program was also cited as a challenge.

#4: Please provide any other comments or suggestions to improve the Site Steward Program.

Some of the other comments and suggestions include: having ATLs organize one trip per year open to all stewards to a different site in their area so that stewards can see all the areas and have some variety; resurveying older sites using GPS technology and identifying map data for more accurate locations; and having a “host bar” at gatherings.

There were many encouraging comments saying it has been a positive experience and expressing thanks for the opportunity to be part of the program.

A blank copy of the survey can be obtained from and returned to Courtney Perkins at

perkins.court@gmail.com if any steward did not complete one and would like to do so. Comments are also welcome at quarterly council meetings.

Thanks to everyone who replied.

—Courtney Perkins

Turkey Hunting Season

With warmer temperatures and dry conditions, stewards are resuming their site visits, and they should be aware that spring turkey hunting season begins in April. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has announced dates for the spring hunt beginning with a youth hunter only season April 9 and 10, followed by the regular spring season April 15 through May 10. Both youth and regular spring hunting will take place in all six areas of the Santa Fe National Forest in which SFNF stewards monitor sites. A fall season is also scheduled in September and November, concurrent with big-game hunting, for which we will provide more information by late summer.

As you plan your site visits during this time, we encourage you to be especially aware of your surroundings. Stewards should wear some international or blaze orange clothing article and avoid typical big-game colors such as white, black, tan, and brown. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

--Bill Cella

Another Chapter in the Story of the Herbert Dick Gallina Collection

So what is the Herbert Dick Gallina Collection? About ten years ago, Mike Bremer and Jeremy Kulisheck obtained custody of 215 boxes of artifacts excavated during a 10-year period from Gallina sites. Herbert Dick of Adams State College held annual graduate student field schools in an area of about two square miles in the heart of the Gallina from about 1970 to 1980. The collection had been stored at the Southern Methodist University branch at Fort Burgwin near Taos, and most of the collection was still in its original containers. Once the collection had been obtained, Mike addressed the sorting and cataloguing of what were thousands of artifacts. Two Passport in Time programs focused on volunteers beginning to sort through some of the boxes. A volunteer, Denver Burns of Ft. Collins, CO, was especially interested in the work and offered, with Mike's approval, to take a dozen or so boxes home every several months to continue the work of sorting, cataloguing, placing the material into labeled archival Ziploc bags, and entering the data into a database. When the collection was not being studied, it was stored in a 12x16-foot locker in a Forest Service building.

Two years had passed and most of the collection was still in torn paper bags inside water-damaged, mouse-infested, dusty, sagging, and torn boxes. Mike and Denver decided to bring together a party of volunteers in the Santa Fe office to sort the entire collection, bag the artifacts in archival quality bags, paper and boxes, and to continue to build the database of what was actually in the collection.

About 122 of 215 boxes were brought to the Forest Service office by Mike, Denver, and other volunteers including Lee and Candie Borduin, John and Diane Lenssen, Dwight Fieselman, and Elaine Gorham. Work commenced for about two weeks with the result that all of the artifacts were sorted, bagged, labeled, catalogued and placed in archival storage boxes.

A year later, the second half of the boxes received the same treatment. Volunteers marveled at the amazing artifacts in the collection: finely made Gallina three-notched ax heads, field hoes, hundreds of points, a six-inch bone awl in perfect condition, turkey tethers, comb arrow shaft straighteners, thousands of ceramic sherds, burned corn, burned wood, and other fascinating artifacts. A huge shortcoming, however, was that the artifacts remained mixed – artifacts from a single site could be scattered in 35 boxes.

In 2010, the final sort occurred to identify artifacts for each of the 30 or so sites represented in the collection. This time, Denver, Lee, and Candie tackled the job and moved all of the 215 boxes to the new Forest Service office to a room requiring stacks five boxes high in rows about 24 inches apart. Denver, of course, wanted to start with Site 1 and, of course, most of the boxes holding Site 1 material were on the bottom of the stacks. After five days, all the burned wood material had been separated and placed in storage to be transported to the dendrochronology lab at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and all of the site-specific artifacts were in individual boxes categorized within a data-base established to identify where each artifact was.

Mike's ultimate goal was to develop the collection into one that would be desirable for a museum to accept and possibly put on display. With the help of Pat and Sonny Farr, Elaine Gorham and Beth Parisi, Mike developed a plan to start sorting through the boxes one by one and cataloguing every artifact. Each piece was measured, weighed, and entered into a log book that eventually would become another very detailed database.

During this detailed sorting process, the Site Steward Foundation started the Ceramics Project organized by Beth Parisi along with Dean Wilson of the Office of Archaeological Studies. When Dean was informed that the SFNF site stewards were working with the Herb Dick Collection, he was extremely interested in the possibility of getting ceramics data from the collection to add to the rather limited knowledge base about Gallina ceramics. It was decided that the Ceramics Project would start a separate Gallina Sherd Project to sort the ceramics from the Herb Dick Collection into even more detailed categories. This process is in its beginning phase and anyone who is interested in joining this project is welcome to contact Beth Parisi. This is a fantastic way to learn more about ceramics, lab techniques, and make valuable contributions to the understanding of the Gallina culture.

Work on the collection was conducted weekly for more than a year until in February, 2011, when extremely cold temperatures caused a pipe in the building where the collection was stored to rupture and flood the stacks of boxes in the collection. The bottom box of each stack collapsed from the moisture and the entire collection threatened to fall to the ground. Mike and Jeremy removed all of the boxes from the storage area and pulled out about 35 of the

Herbert Dick Gallina Collection (cont.)

water-soaked boxes and took them back to the Forest Service office. Their fears were, of course, water damage to the artifacts but also of mold developing and making the collection unsafe to handle.

Once again, volunteers gathered to help sort and rebox the collection. Sonny and Pat Farr and Lee and Candie Borduin emptied all the boxes, dried the plastic bags, and were immensely relieved to discover that none of the artifacts in bags had gotten wet. The boxes with hammer stones, axes, metates, and manos were spread out to dry. Boxes with ceramic sherds, projectile points, and fine artifacts were hand dried, and also spread out to air dry. Several boxes contained burned corn; they were left open to dry during the weekend. All of the material remained in context with its provenience or site so none of the work of the previous year was lost.

The following week, Mike enlisted the help of even more volunteers to return the boxes to the storage area. With extra help and with the entire collection being outside of the storage area, volunteers were able to sort the 52 boxes completed by Pat and Sonny Farr, Elaine Gorham, and Beth Parisi, and place them at the back of the storage unit. Boxes were sorted (a bit) by site and a map made so that specific boxes could be more easily found. This time, the entire collection was set on pallets. Thanks to Sonny Farr, Beth Parisi, Gail Bryant, and Cathy Gates for participating in this final redeposition.

Each time volunteers see more of the artifacts in the collection, enthusiasm rises to participate in its evaluation and preparation for museum acquisition. Thanks to Mike, Beth, and Dean, the ongoing Gallina Sherd Project allows access to this amazing treasure.

—Candie Borduin



This artifact is one of a pair of arrow shaft straighteners. The examples in the Dick collection are very precisely and finely made tools.



A few whole vessels are included in the Dick Collection; this black-on-grey olla displays the graphic design typical of Gallina pottery



Three notched axes are representational of the Gallina Culture. Some were thought to be used as weapons, others used for cutting vegetation.



These nine pendants demonstrate the care the Gallina people gave to stone implements. The artifacts are made from chalcedony and came from one site.

All photos by Candie Borduin

“Pits and More Pits”

On March 2, the final presentation of the 2010/11 Wednesday evening lecture series featured Jessica Badner, project director at the Office of Archaeological Studies. Her topic, “Pits and More Pits,” is one chapter of an unpublished report of excavations within the impact area (a 4.5 mile by 275-foot-wide corridor) of State Route 599, the bypass around Santa Fe. Excavations were carried out 10 years ago.

The general area between Santa Fe and the Caja del Rio is mixed grasslands/woodlands that has four major tributaries separated by broad ridges and secondary arroyos. Bottomlands are protected. In general, the area had a diverse array of plant and animal resources, plentiful wood, and a wide variety of stone materials. For those who lived off the land during the Archaic Period, this area provided most of the necessary ingredients for seasonal use.

The Archaic Period in the Southwest roughly spans the centuries after the extinction of megafauna such as mammoth, horse, bison, bear, sloth, dire wolf, saber-toothed tiger, etc. of the Paleoindian period. The moist conditions of the Late Pleistocene that allowed megafauna, playas, and plentiful plant resources gave way to a drier climate more like today's, interspersed with drier/wetter periods in different areas. Profiles in the strata of present-day arroyos tell the story of fluctuations between winter predominant rainfall, when vegetation flourished, to eras of summer dominant and more intense rainfall, when arroyo downcutting occurred more frequently.

Dates of Archaic sites generally fall between ca. 6000 BC to ca. AD 400 depending upon the availability of resources of any specific area in the Southwest. The period is usually characterized by a shifting settlement pattern of hunters and gatherers who utilized the plant, animal, and water resources as they became seasonally available. Population densities were usually low, groups were mobile, sites in optimum areas were reoccupied, structures were expedient and often temporary, and the usual weapons of choice were atlatls and darts (the bow and arrow were later). Maize kernels are found only in the latter centuries of this period, and corn was probably not cultivated on a subsistence scale. Looking at the land now, one can only marvel at the ingenuity and resourcefulness of these people who took advantage of what the landscape offered.

A total of 14 excavated sites yielded data for 18 temporal components throughout the period between 3500 BC to AD 900. Burials not associated with the Archaic occupation dated to AD 1325.

Remains at the five Early and Middle Archaic (3400 to 1700 BC) Archaic excavated sites indicated a generalized hunting/gathering strategy within an unstable landform. There was much environmental change in this period, erosion occurred and perennial springs dried up. Cherts and gravels along drainages were utilized. These sites were located in protected settings near major tributaries of the Rio Grande. Site structure was more diverse, and the larger residential and special activity areas indicated use by extended kin units.

Seven sites during the Late Archaic (1700 BC to AD 400) yielded evidence of the use of local plant, animal and stone resources and periods of seasonal occupation, which characterized the area's use. There seems to be more emphasis on specific activities, and a pit structure with small features was found.

The six latest Archaic (AD 400 to 900) sites saw a possible population influx and the first evidence of corn. No permanent settlement was indicated, and the area probably remained utilized for its resources.

And now we come to the pits and more pits part, the focus of this chapter in the report. Given the shallow depth of all sites, the small artifact assemblages, few botanical and faunal remains, and no ceramics, some ingenuity was required to arrive at basic assumptions about all 168 pits—all sorts of pits: slab-lined, cobble-lined, unlined, pits with burned fill, pits with unburned fill; pits used for different purposes, e.g., storage, cooking and heating. Throughout the Archaic Period, pits were intentionally made, often carefully constructed, and used repeatedly, activity areas were identified, e.g., meat roasting, plant processing, and storage. The few recovered plant remains indicated the use of Gambel oak acorns (which contain little tannin); baked flowers and fruits from yucca; roots of Fendler's parsley; seeds, fruits and buds of various cacti; and juniper seeds and cones. Plants were cooked by heating rock, resulting in fire-cracked rock, which releases steam that cooks the plant materials.

Gail Bryant, Education Chair, is to be thanked for the diverse and informative selection of the series speakers that began last October. As soon as dates and speakers for the 2011/12 series are set, announcements will be forthcoming in *Site Lines*. Remember to reserve the first Wednesday evening of October, November, January, February, and March. Dates may change if the speaker's schedule does not accommodate the first Wednesday.

Thank you again, Gail, for assembling a fascinating series of speakers.

—Nancy Cella

Forest Restoration Program to Begin

In three public meetings during the first week of March, the Santa Fe National Forest and the Valles Caldera Trust presented their plans to begin restoring 220,000 acres of forest and grassland to a healthier, more fire-resistant state. Working together with two local pueblos, other government agencies, and wildlife and ecology advocacy groups, the Forest Service and the Caldera Trust successfully competed for a 10-year, \$40-million funding package from Congress called the Southwestern Jemez Mountains Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Plan.

This title is a mouthful. Southwestern refers to the Jemez Mountains, which includes 130,000 acres of land within the Jemez District of the National Forest, 89,000 acres of the Valles Caldera Preserve, and almost 4,000 acres of Jemez Pueblo land. Collaborative refers to the many important players who control and interact with this land such as The Nature Conservancy, New Mexico Watershed and Restoration Institute, New Mexico Game and Fish, as well as the Forest Service, the Valles Caldera Trust, and the Pueblos of Jemez and Santa Clara; forest landscape refers not only to the forest per se, but also to the grasslands, meadows, wetlands, and riparian areas found in the caldera and the watersheds of the Jemez and San Antonio Rivers, so vital to both humans and animals living in the Jemez Valley.

Before the most recent colonizers of the northern New Mexico, Americans from the East, descended beginning in 1850, there were plenty of fires in our area. But they were low-intensity, natural fires that regenerated the forest and kept the understories clear of brush and filled with forbs and grasses. Beginning about 100 years ago, the Forest Service undertook a policy of fire suppression, which resulted in a dense, clogged understory, which helps create high-intensity fires.

In the 1960s, intensive logging, often involving clear-cutting, began and lasted for more than two decades. Thus, many old-growth healthy tree stands were removed, allowing different types of smaller trees to emerge, again resulting in a "clogged" forest.

Those in charge of our forests are now trying to undo the damage that was done, partly unwittingly (fire suppression) and partly deliberately (clear-cutting). The goal, through careful burning and thinning, is to restore the forest to a healthy, resilient state. The main strategy eliminates dense second- and third-growth understory, reducing the density of trees. This procedure will decrease the "fuel ladders," which can lead to intense crown fires that are so devastating. The natural woodland fires in our areas were

low burning and stayed in relatively small areas. If this plan is successful, the result will be a forest with widely-spaced, taller trees, and healthy grasses and forbs underneath.

We all know what devastating wildfires look like. What does a natural fire pattern look like? Dr. Bob Parmenter, preserve scientist for the Valles Caldera Trust, states that in an area like the caldera, one could expect south-facing slopes to burn about every 12 years, the north-facing slopes to burn every 20 years, and the open grasslands to burn every 2 to 5 years.

So, according to the studies of fire patterns in similar areas and studies of what has actually happened on the caldera, essentially the whole area would be renewed by fires every two decades. The collaboration now has one decade to try to rebuild a healthy, more resilient forest, grassland, and riparian area.

The Restoration Plan was funded for 10 years; if successful, it will reduce the risk of devastating wildfires, restore a natural fire pattern, increase forest diversity, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and improve water quality and the health of the watershed. Thinning and burning are only two strategies in the plan, although they will be the most visible to those in and around Highway 4.

There will be smoke one way or the other. The first way is through uncontrolled wildfires, which can leave a forest dead. The other is through prescribed fires, imitating the natural type of low-intensity natural fires that occurred in our forest for millennia before the 1900s. The good news is that the smoke from the old fires will be much less than smoke from wildfires.

In addition to thinning and burning, the Restoration Plan also includes wetland and riparian restoration, controlled grazing, elimination of invasive species, and the closing of hundreds of miles of roads. Open montane areas, those beautiful valleys along Highway 4, are excellent grasslands, rich in biodiversity, streams, wetlands, and wildlife. Periodic fires were part of their life cycle, resulting in regeneration of the grasses. The lack of natural fires has harmed them, as has the introduction of cattle grazing, which has been particularly hard on the riparian areas.

With our temperatures warming as years go by, having a healthy and fire-resistant forest land becomes more and more important. Some people wish that we had never started intervening in the forests in the first place. Unfortunately, that is water under the bridge. And the option of letting the forests revert to their natural state is not possible because of how the forests have been altered. Dr. Parmenter states that

Forest Restoration Program (cont.)

with any luck—and continuation of the promised funding—our surroundings should look very different in 10 years from how it does not. And we can hope we

might never have to watch another Cerro Grande fire burn 48,000 acres of forest land to a crisp.

—Ann Wymore

The above article first appeared in the *Jemez Thunder*. The editors thank Ann for allowing us to reprint her thoughtful and comprehensive article. Ann is a member of the Jemez Area team.

A Book of Interest....

Site stewards might enjoy a new book by Gila National Forest lookout Philip Connors, who will give readings at Bookworks in Albuquerque (4/26), Otowi Station Bookstore and Science Museum Shop in Los Alamos (4/27), and Garcia Street Books in Santa Fe (4/29). Check with the bookstores for times.

Fire Season - Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout
By Philip Connors; Ecco. \$24.99. 256 pages.

Before Philip Connors became a U.S. Forest Service fire lookout on New Mexico's Apache Peak (elevation 10,010 feet), he bagged groceries, fried donuts, painted houses, tended bar and held many other jobs before winding up at *The Wall Street Journal* as a copy editor. Well-read and schooled in journalism, he nevertheless wrote little, but rode herd on grammar, spelling and punctuation for three years, taking pleasure in work whose "success was measured by how rarely people noticed what I did."

Years later, after eight summers in a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed 7x7-foot glass house atop a 55-foot tower monitoring the Gila National Forest for fires, he observes, "The essentials of my current line of work - anonymity, discretion, watchfulness - are not so different from those demanded of a copy editor...." Instead of a busy newsroom, Connors had only his dog and the occasional hiker for company. No need to dress for success or suffer a traffic-clogged commute. From April to August, he spent 10 days at his remote post, then took four days off if a relief lookout was available.

In his engaging new memoir, *Fire Season*, Connors describes not minding having traded a view of Jersey City from Lower Manhattan for southern New Mexico's thunderstorms, wildlife and wildflowers, for hours of sitting and staring "into the inscrutable heart of the desert" waiting "for the sight of that first twist of smoke."

Ninety percent of American lookout posts have been decommissioned, Connors writes. But on the Gila, 10

lookouts remain open because the arid Southwest receives 30,000 lightning strikes annually. Only the Gulf coast of Florida surpasses this "most fire-prone landscape in America" for density of lightning strikes, and there, storms usually produce heavy rain. On Connors' watch, the average seasonal count has been 200 wildfires.

Many are benign surface fires. But others spread to thousands of acres due to a long-term policy of complete fire suppression, which allowed dangerous amounts of brush, duff and other fuels to accumulate. Connors explains the crucial nature of small, sporadic fires to maintain forest health, often discussing the Forest Service's current use of fires to restore ecosystem functions and preserve biodiversity. This reversal of government fire protocol and changing the public's general acceptance of Smokey Bear's message that all fires are bad, he shows, has taken a long time.

His book, then, sends thoughtful word from deep in the wilderness. There, where supplies still arrive by backpack or mule and Connors cuts firewood by axe and handsaw, is also where slurry bombers and helicopters, hotshots and smoke jumpers are summoned to fight manmade blazes or those threatening homes or towns.

Watching provides ample time for contemplation. Connors' interests include musings about Aldo Leopold's seminal role in local and national land ethics, famous writers who worked as lookouts - Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac, Edward Abbey - Indian wars, restoring native fish, effects of eradicating large predators such as bears and mountain lions, consequences of logging and renting forests for cattle grazing, and much more. Connors welcomes readers to his beloved high place, generously sharing its expansive view.

—Irene Wanner

Site Lines

Is published quarterly
by the Santa Fe National
Forest Site Steward
Program

Co-editors
Irene Wanner
570 Vista Hermosa
Jemez Pueblo, NM
87024
iwanner@uw.edu
(575/829-3357)

Nancy Cella
84 Ponderosa Place
Jemez Springs, NM
87025
nancycella@spinn.net
(575/829-4634)

We're on the Web
www://sfnsitestewards.org

More Recommended Reading....

An excellent overview of changing forest-management policies is available in Mary Stuever's book, *The Forester's Log – Musings from the Woods* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009). A professional forester intimately involved with all aspects of forest health, she writes of her experiences working on National Forests in New Mexico and Arizona for the past 25 years.

Notes from the Site Steward Council Meeting of January 22

The council accepted the report of the nominating committee: Ann White and Von Whitely agreed to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for a second year; Pecos team member Eleanor Gossen will become the new Secretary; and Rio Chama team member Beth Parisi will serve as Budget Coordinator. Thank you all for being on the council for 2011/12.

Gary Newgent was presented with a bear fetish and certificate of appreciation for his service as ATL on the Caja del Rio team for several years. He accepted an award for Shelley Thompson (turtle fetish and certificate of appreciation) for her initiation and efforts to make the chili-cook-off at annual meetings a very successful part of the meeting. Thank you, Shelley and Gary, for all you do for site stewards and the Foundation.

Forest Travel Management Plan: Jeremy Kulisheck reported that forest employees are currently addressing the comments from the public, and will produce the final Environmental Impact Statement by late spring. When signed, the Travel Management Plan will go into effect, and enforcement will begin when vehicle maps are issued and put on-line. The Forest is cooperating with the Fish and Game Department for enforcement, and every hunter will be given a map of the status of forest roads.

Southwest Seminars on Monday nights

Assisted by Hotel Santa Fe and an enterprise from the Picuris Pueblo, and benefiting The Archaeological Conservancy, this series of lectures is held every Monday night, at 6 p.m. at the Hotel Santa. Entitled "Ancient Sites and Ancient Stories 2011," it features speakers from mostly the Southwest.

Topics are varied and include archaeology, ethnology, habitat protection, and anthropology. Seating is limited, and the fee is \$15 at the door or \$110 for 11 lectures. Lectures began on March 21 and continue through May 30. For the list of all the speakers, go to <http://www.americanarchaeology.com/santafe.html>.

Save the Dates

Site Steward Council Meeting

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. at the Forest Service office, Santa Fe

Foundation Board Meeting

Sunday, June 26, 10 a.m. New Mexico Museum of Art, on the plaza, Santa Fe

Pecos Conference:

August 11-14.

Information about the conference location, amenities, and the presentation submission form for the 2011 Pecos Conference of Southwestern Archaeology may be obtained from David Purcell at davidepurcell@gmail.com. The conference will be held at Mile-and-a-half Lake on the Arizona Strip. Early registration will open about April 1.

Their website is http://www.swanet.org/2011_pecos_conference.

Site Steward Annual Meeting

September 16-18, San Antonio Campground, Jemez Mountains.