



SITE LINES

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2025

Council Chair's Message

Between the hot temperatures and monsoon rain, I hope everyone has been able to visit your sites at least a couple of times. Four areas have gained new stewards to assist in this process, as shown in this table:

New Stewards	Assigned Area
Cindy Atkins	Pecos
Tom Bearden	Rio Chama
David Bowman	Rio Chama
Cathryn Delude	Jemez
Pamina Haddock	Gallina
Colby Phillips	Gallina

Certified Stewards

At the Site Steward Council meeting last month, we certified two Pecos stewards who have completed their provisional year—Lynne Gaffikin and Jean Hinlicky.

Cautions About Photos Taken/Posted on Web

The Site Steward Council discussed the need to alert new stewards and remind certified stewards about the prohibition against taking photos of human remains and the posting of photos on the web that identify site locations. All stewards need to ensure that the location (geotagging) on their smartphone is turned off. See the story on pg 4 for more information.

All-Steward Roster & Mailing List

Bob Florek (Archives Chair) has distributed a new and improved roster of contact information about all current stewards and Forest staff. It will be updated twice annually and will be sent to all Area Team Leaders and their Assistant ATLs. He will simultaneously update the Mailing List used to send important notifications to all current stewards.

Annual Meeting: September 20

Mark your calendars! The annual meeting for all site stewards will be held on Saturday, September 20, at the Forest Headquarters (11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe). It will begin at 10:30, preceded by a Site Steward Council meeting at 9:30 that everyone is welcome to attend.

You can count on presentations on topics of interest to you, interspersed with a free box lunch and drink. For more information on speakers and their topics, see the story on pg 5 of this newsletter. Once again, there will be a Silent Auction until the formal meeting adjourns (at approximately 3:30). Further details will be emailed to everyone closer to the event.

-- K. Paul Jones

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the Forest	2
ATL Reports	3
Foundation Report	3
No Geotagging	4
Annual Meeting Speakers	5
Save the Date!	6

Contributors to this issue:

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The editors thank you!

News from the Forest

The Forest is working through the field season. We have welcomed our new Staff Officer (Kathi's supervisor) Jessica Dunn. She has a background in Landscape Architecture and recreation. Jessica has been on the Forest now for three months. It is great to have a Staff Officer after the position being vacant for over two years. The Forest also has a new Deputy Forest Supervisor, Anthony Madrid. He comes from the Regional Office and has a background in Range Management.

The trail at Rattlesnake Ridge has been improved and cleaned up. An ACE crew worked with Becky Baisden and the District on fixing and improving the trail. We are also close to having the large interpretive sign completed.

We have contracted with a company to clean up the graphics and produce the sign to go into the large frame. We also have plans for future smaller information signs and installing a few benches. See the photos below of "before and after" of one section of trail that they worked on.

Jana Comstock and the Espanola District are working hard on the Poshu stabilization project. They have worked with the hydrologist to install monitoring stations. They have installed the new fence to push the cows further out from the site. There is still work to be done. But they have been doing a great job in keeping the project moving forward.

-- Article and photos, Kathi Turner



Before and After: One of the ruins had a trail going up to the top with a steep grade and uneven slope. The crew benched it out to make it easier and established for users.

ATL Reports

Caja del Rio (Jeff Koester): In the drop-down menu for the site visit log, some new sites unknown to the Caja Stewards have appeared; in addition, two sites listed are extremely difficult to access. This will be discussed with Kathi Turner. Our “normal” sites are being visited regularly.

Gallina (Anne Beckett): The Gallina Team was thrilled to welcome two new Site Stewards, Pamina Haddock and Colby Phillips. The Laguna Fire has interfered with some of the Gallina monitoring efforts. Becky Baisden completed her initial review of all the Gallina sites and has eliminated a few sites from monitoring.

Garcia (Will Dearholt): Most of the assigned sites have been visited. Will and Lori recently visited the Guaje site.

Jemez (Will Dearholt): Will spent some time with Chris Gardner in the Jemez and she showed him several important sites.

All Jemez sites are being visited.

Pecos (Bob Florek): All sites have been visited at least once this year, except for Commissary Creek rock shelter, which is inaccessible due to road washouts. No site issues were reported; however, the gate to the Hacienda site is open and too twisted to close, and this was reported. We welcome two new provisional stewards, Mike Taylor and Cindy Atkins.

Rio Chama (K Paul Jones): The Rio Chama suffered a major rain event last year that impacted access to three sites in the Rio del Oso area. K Paul noted that he can access the first site and walk to the next two, but recent rains may have changed this.

One team has vehicular issues and cannot drive to their site, so K Paul is investigating alternatives. Another steward has family health issues, so K Paul is covering for him and may seek a replacement.

Foundation Report

08/10/25

A two-day tour of sites in the Gallina area of the Santa Fe National Forest north of Cuba is currently planned for October.

The Site Steward Foundation is again offering a H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 with a grant application deadline of September 30, 2025, and a grant award date by December 1, 2025. To apply for a Foundation grant, contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com for an application.

The 2026 Archaeological Society of New Mexico's annual meeting will be held May 8-10, 2026, at the Marriott Courtyard in Farmington.

The 2025 Pecos Conference, recently held near Blanding, Utah in the Abajo Mountains, was attended by about 500 people: pecosconference.org. The 2026 Pecos Conference will be held August 6-9, 2026, near Mancos, CO.

The Site Steward Foundation has been selected as the organizer of the 2027 Pecos Conference, with plans for the 100th anniversary of the Pecos Conference to be held on Rowe Mesa or the Pecos National Historical Park.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2025, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, sitestewardfoundation.org, or checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 32224, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

If you would like to be notified of Foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to our email list on the Foundation website.

Thank you for your support of site stewards!

— Gary Newgent, President

Geotagging is Not Our Friend

One of our duties as Site Stewards is to refrain from publicizing the locations of the archeological sites we monitor. Unfortunately, some smartphone cameras (iPhones in particular) default to recording the location of every photograph they take, otherwise referred to as geotagging. If a pot-hunter wants to find out where a photo was taken, there are many tools available to do so. For example, one can upload the photo to Google Photos and simply hit the “Information” button, and Google obligingly reveals the location – if it’s recorded.

The solution to this is to turn off geotagging on any phone you use to take photographs during site visits. How to do this will vary depending on the make and model of your phone, but it’s usually under the “Settings” menu. Here’s a link to a recent article about how to turn off geotagging on an iPhone, but the process is similar for other types of smartphones:

<https://www.techbout.com/turn-off-geotagging-for-photos-iphone-ipad-8738/>



This photograph of new Site Stewards Colby Phillips and Pamina Haddock was taken by Anne Beckett at Rattlesnake Ridge. It isn’t geotagged (I checked! – Ed.)

Site Stewards Needed!

The SFNF Site Steward program is always in need of more site stewards to ensure that all areas are thoroughly covered, and that there is backup when site stewards are unavailable or have to leave the program. We are working on remedying this situation in the near future.

However, one of our best recruiting methods is word of mouth. If you have friends who like archeology and the outdoors, and find the idea of site visits interesting, urge them to contact us. If you are visiting a site and run into hikers who are curious what you’re doing there, tell them about the site steward program and suggest that they follow up with us (we have actually gained new site stewards that way).

Contact information is on our website: sfnsitestewards.org

2025 SFNF Site Steward Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will begin at 10:30, preceded by a Site Steward Council meeting at 9:30 which everyone is invited to attend. The meeting will feature these three speakers:

11:00 – 12:00: *Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers* (Ph.D.) will talk on “Mimbres and Post Mimbres Archaeology in Southwestern New Mexico and Northern Mexico.”

In this talk, he will contextualize the heyday of the Mimbres culture during the eleventh century, discuss the major shifts that occurred throughout the area through the mid-fourteenth century, and offer a more fulfilling account of what occurred during this highly dynamic period. Until recently, he was Deputy Director at the Office of Archaeological Services here in Santa Fe. He now works for Chronicle Heritage, an international cultural resource firm. He is also the President of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico.

1:30 – 2:30: *Timothy R. Pauketat* (Ph.D.), a leading scholar on the subject, will describe “Cahokia: The Current State of the Largest Archaeological Complex North of Mexico.”

He will draw on his own research over the last three decades to highlight what we know about the place (near St. Louis), its people, its history, and its impacts on all North Americans before and after contact. He'll briefly compare it to Chaco and to Mesoamerica, and he'll discuss its serious preservation challenges. In 2025, he assumed the position of SAR Press Director, after a distinguished career as Illinois State Archaeologist, Director of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, and Professor of Anthropology and Medieval Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

2:45 – 3:45: *G. B. Cornucopia* has titled his talk “Chaco's Beads of Time.”

Like a necklace with eight beads, he'll describe the string of sites along the length of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park. His presentation will be a personal journey to each of these sites during his 34 years as an Interpretive Ranger in the park. He'll share what is known about each site. Being an avid amateur astronomer, he has been very interested in the astronomy of the ancient Chacoans. He will describe how they constructed these sites to keep time, predict summer and winter solstice times, and pinpoint directions.

Education Committee

We hope to restart the Bown Bag evening presentations this Fall or early next year. We're lining up speakers, and we plan to focus on the six areas we cover in the SFNF. We hope to examine the artifacts, features, and lifestyles of each area so we can compare and contrast our six areas and the different ways their prehistoric inhabitants “made a living”.

We'd like to determine what the Site Stewards would prefer:

- Which day of the week would you prefer?
- What time of day would you prefer?
- Do you prefer in person or zoom attendance?
- Would you enjoy another Spring Get-together with a speaker or two on a Saturday?

We're also looking for volunteers to assist on the Education Committee. The more input we have, the better the product! Please send your responses to sumac3b@gmail.com. Thanks!

-- Susan McGrew

Site Lines

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

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Save the Date!

Site Steward Annual Meeting, Sept. 20, 2025, SFNF headquarters, 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe. Council meeting at 9:30, general meeting at 10:30, lunch provided.

2026 Pecos Conference, August 6-9, 2026, near Mancos, CO. Specifics to be provided at a future date.

Editor's Note: Microsoft is discontinuing its support of Publisher, the program in which all past issues of *Site Lines* were formatted (thanks to Nancy Cella for creating the handsome template that we've been using). This is the first issue formatted using Microsoft Word. Comments welcome – this is still very much a work in progress!

We're on the Web!

[www://sfnfsitestewards
.org](http://www://sfnfsitestewards.org)