



## Council Chair's Message

At the Site Steward Council meeting in July, the Area team Leaders reported on the opportunities you have had to visit your various sites and report on their condition. Most of you have been able to report that "no changes" were evident. But there are ongoing issues being addressed at both the Poshouinge site in the Rio Chama and the Nogales site in the Gallina. The council has previously allocated funds in support of the Forest's efforts to address the erosion issue at Poshu. And at the July meeting we earmarked funds to support an interpretive sign for tourists who frequently visit the Nogales site, and other measures to simultaneously minimize their negative impact as they traverse it.

In the May issue of Site Lines, I reported that the council approved Bob Florek as the new ATL for the Pecos area, and that he was looking for someone to serve as the Assistant ATL. Shortly afterwards he recruited Barbara Fletcher for that position, and, with the council's prior authorization, I promptly approved her appointment as the Pecos AATL.

A change in the leadership for the Caja del Rio was also approved at the July meeting. Gary Newgent, the long-serving ATL, succeeded in recruiting Jeff Koester to be his successor, with Gary agreeing to sup-

port him as the AATL. Our thanks to both of you!

Many of you responded to the survey sent out by Susan McGrew, who chairs the council's Education committee. She reported the results of that survey to the council and is developing several possible activities consistent with the areas of interest you identified. In particular, stay tuned to learn of plans for the opportunity to visit an important petroglyph site, led by someone who can do a "show-and-tell" about the impressive glyphs in that area. (See pg 9 for more.)

Finally, Mark Your Calendar: **Annual meeting of the SFNF Site Stewards.** It will be on Saturday, September 7 at the SFNF San Antonio Group Campground (Jemez Area). Its location should allow you to drive in for the day. But there will also be facilities for those who want to camp there the night before and/or afterwards.

By the time you're reading this, you should have received a mass email inviting you to attend this meeting, which will include presentations about the "State of the Forest," "Geology of the Valles Caldera," and "Recreation on the Santa Fe."

Also, there will be a guided tour on Sunday, the 8th, to two Jemez sites— Seshewkwa and Site 18 (led by Ted Greer).

— K. Paul Jones

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the Forest	2
Foundation Report	2
ATL Reports	3
Remembering Gail Bryant	4
Remembering Ron Whatley	6
Bond House Exhibit	7
Wildlife Programs	8
Results of Site Steward Education Survey	9
Save the Date!	10

## Contributors to this issue:

Bruce Bender  
Candie Borduin  
Grace Brill  
Cathy Gates  
K. Paul Jones  
Richard Martinez  
Susan McGrew  
Diane Meza  
Felicia Probert  
Gary Newgent  
Kathi Turner  
Phil Young  
The editors thank you!

## News from the Forest

Everyone in the Heritage Program is working hard to get field work completed before our seasonal employees leave for school and greener pastures. We have heard that the position for Zone Archaeologist of the Pecos/Las Vegas District can move forward, post the hiring “pause.” We are very excited to see this position filled, as it has been vacant since Nikki Berkebille left in late 2022. There is no date set yet, and it will still likely be months out before the person gets onboard with the Forest – but we are excited to know it is moving forward.

We unfortunately said bye to Bud Weick as he moved on to work for a contracting company doing archaeological surveys. We were all sorry to see him go but know this is a good opportunity for him and his future. Bud started out on the Pecos District as a Research Assistant (RA) and then we offered him a permanent job out of the Supervisor's Office helping on projects across the Forest.

The Cuba Ranger District had the Tanques Fire recently. This was a lightning strike fire that the Forest decided to manage for resources. Everyone on the Gallina crew knows the density of sites up in that area. Luckily the area had a previous archaeological survey, and most of the sites in the proposed boundary had been treated in preparation of prescribed burning. Becky Baisden, Aly Wolf, and the fire crews did a great job of protecting those sites with wood components, such as the Navajo hogan in the photo below.



Article and photo, Kathi Turner

## Foundation Report 8/6/2024

The Site Steward Foundation is offering an H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 in 2024 with a grant application deadline of September 30, 2024 and a grant award date of December 1, 2024. To apply for a Foundation grant, please contact Gary Newgent at [sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com) for an application.

This year's Pecos Conference was attended by about 350 people and was held on the Prescott National Forest near Chino Valley, Arizona, August 1-4, 2024, [pecosconference.org](http://pecosconference.org).

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. (See also the note on pg 10.)

The Foundation recently hosted the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's 2024 annual

meeting May 3–5, 2024 at the historic Plaza Hotel in downtown Las Vegas, New Mexico. The meeting was attended by over 100 people.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2024, please consider joining or renewing today and help us make our goal of over one hundred members in 2024. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, [sitestewardfoundation.org](http://sitestewardfoundation.org) or can be mailed to our 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

## ATL Reports

*Pecos* (Bob Florek): Most of the critical sites in the Pecos area have been visited at least once in 2024, with no major issues reported. One site not visited yet is the Commissary Creek rock shelter, which is located within the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon burn area and has been inaccessible since the fire because of washed-out roads. A preliminary check on the road in June showed that at least the first portion of FR 200L has been filled in, so we will attempt to visit the site later in July.

As the new ATL and AATL, Bob Florek and Barb Fletcher are trying to visit all the sites in the Pecos area this year, guided by the previous co-ATLs, Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris, as well as other experienced members of the team. We had a get-together at Upper Crust Pizza in Eldorado in May, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet everyone on the team. Thanks to everyone for making it a smooth transition!

Sadly, the Pecos team is mourning the loss of two long-time members: Ron Whatley and Gail Bryant. They will be sorely missed (see the articles elsewhere in this issue.)

*Caja del Rio* (Jeff Koester): All sites have been visited. The sign at Los Aguajes had to be replaced because the old sign was vandalized. Jeff has been approved by the Council as the new ATL for Caja del Rio, with Gary Newgent acting as AATL.

*Gallina* (Anne Beckett): Most sites have been visited, although the Indios fire and the rain have created problems. Nogales was visited by 8 people from the SFNF. It transpired that the trail commonly used was “unofficial,” so informational signage will be used as a barricade to direct traffic away from the midden. There has been lots of tree fall, which will be used to cover the midden. The Foundation has set aside \$1000 to cover remedial work at Nogales.

*Garcia* (Will Dearholt): Chupadero has been visited. Muddy roads are an issue now, but the road to Guaje is to be fixed by San Ildefonso Pueblo. Visiting the E. Jemez sites is still under discussion.

*Jemez* (Ann White): All sites were visited (no changes) and new people were trained. Heat and rain are making visits difficult, but most roads are OK, although a couple of Forest roads were closed recently.

*Rio Chama* (K. Paul Jones): Visited all sites. Two sites were demoted to visits only twice a year. The pictograph site article generated a lot of interest in that site. The animal traps are interesting, but hard to get to. One team is on leave; two new stewards were trained, but one of them had to go to Australia for family reasons. Susan McGrew and Leslie O’Toole are taking on the Pesede site; the Pecos site they planned to cover will be visited by Bob and Carolyn Florek.

## 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 planning to do more advertising to attract new site stewards.

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: [sfnfsitestewards.org](https://sfnfsitestewards.org)

## Remembering Gail Bryant



Photo courtesy of Kimberly Bryant

Gail Bryant was a long-serving and beloved member of the SFNF Site Stewards. She passed away recently, and a number of people who knew her through Site Stewards have contributed their memories of Gail for this article. Thanks to all who wrote in!

### ***Bruce Bender:***

Gail Bryant was a spunky, wonderful human being, with a quick wit. We socialized from time to time, but the special part of our relationship was being Site Steward partners for about six years, from 2017 through 2022. We went up on Rowe Mesa regularly, visiting two of the most interesting sites up there: Very old petroglyphs on surface rock at one site, and a rock shelter at the other. It was clear that the field visits were a very special part of her life.

As time passed, she was less and less able to walk, so we got permission to drive most of the way over to the rock shelter, which had previously been a fairly long walk. She was frustrated with her physical condition, but didn't complain, and always enjoyed our time in the field. Once in a while she would make an ironic comment about being in her late 80s.

Finally she made a determination that she just couldn't do it anymore. This was hard for her, but at age 87 the time had come. We made one last trip up onto the mesa. At the petroglyph site, from where you park, there is a wonderful view of the mountains to the north and west. As we went back slowly to the truck, Gail, who grew up

in Iowa, stopped to admire the view. She said, "How you going to keep them in Iowa, once they've seen the mountains?"

Gail was a very down-to-earth person (she had been a nurse) and it was the only time I heard her say anything like that. The last time I saw her was a few months ago, at home in her big chair by the wood stove, her quick-witted humor intact, surrounded by her pile of library books.

### ***Paula Lozar:***

I first met Gail way back in 1984, before I moved to NM, when I joined a Sierra Club backpacking "service trip" repairing trail in the Pecos Wilderness. When I joined the Site Steward program in 2012, I was not surprised to learn that Gail was involved; it was the same combination of relishing the outdoors and performing a public service that I'd admired in her nearly 30 years earlier. I went out to the Archaic Petroglyphs site with her once, and she was delighted to show it off. She was one of a kind, and will be greatly missed.

### ***Felicia Probert:***

Gail Bryant was recognized in 2022 for being the longest serving steward on the Pecos team, serving for 17 years before hanging up her boots. She worked extensively with some of the early stewards to locate and record sites on Rowe Mesa, and willingly shared her extensive knowledge as new stewards joined the team.

(Continued on pg. 5)



## Remembering Gail Bryant (continued)

She was also recognized for the many hours and miles spent bumping over the rutted rocky roads to get to a site, and for organizing the Wednesday evening speakers for NINE years as well as bringing a meal for the speaker AND cookies for all.

### **Cathy Gates:**

I first met Gail in 2008 when I joined the Site Steward program. We partnered on visits to Pena Canyon in the Pecos. It was a somewhat rugged trip into the canyon but Gail was hale and hardy. I was very fortunate to have Gail as my first partner in the program, as she was so knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Later she was a great help to me as Team Leader for the Pecos, always offering advice and assistance whenever needed. When it became more difficult for her to do site visits, Gail volunteered at the Forest Service Office helping Mike Bremer with updating the site steward database. When asked to take over the winter lectures for site stewards, Gail threw herself into the task with gusto, learning and doing whatever was needed. And who could forget her homemade cookies at those monthly lectures!

In later years, Gail partnered with other stewards and became very enamored of the archaic petroglyphs on Glorieta Mesa, so much so that she volunteered to help give tours of those sites during the Pecos Conference that took place on the mesa. She gave freely and tirelessly of her time to site steward activities.

Gail and I became friends over the years and shared many happy moments together....in the kitchen, in the garden, out hiking or visiting museums. I was very impressed with her work ethic and her no-nonsense approach to life, but even more so with her high level of curiosity. She was a great reader of history and always keen to discuss those books. It was a great incentive for me to read those books too. She also shared her love of archaeology and the outdoors with her two

children, David and Kimberly, and introduced them to sites all over the southwest.

She will be sorely missed.

### **Phil Young:**

Gail was supportive of Site Stewards as long as I've been involved, stretching back to my days as State Coordinator for SiteWatch at NM's Historic Preservation Division. During the extremely short time I was the Pecos ATL, or functioning in the field (especially Rowe Mesa sites), she was always there to help. When I returned home from my first trip working at Petra Archaeological Park and Wadi Rum Preserve (Jordan), she reached out and asked if I'd be willing to "share" at our brown bag evening educational series. She approached me again later after she learned I'd been to "the Big Island" of Hawai'i. She was a great supporter of our resource protection programs and will be greatly missed. "Bubbles Up," Gail!



Photo courtesy of Bruce Bender

## Remembering Ron Whatley

Ron Whatley was a long-serving Site Steward on the Pecos team, and his recent death was a great loss to his teammates, not only because of his profound knowledge of the sites, but because of his generosity and geniality. Here are some memories of Ron from his teammates.

**Note:** A total of \$600 has been donated to the Site Steward Foundation by four donors in memory of Ron Whatley.

### ***Richard L. Martinez:***

Ron and I were partners with the SS for about 10 years. We did a lot and saw a lot and really enjoyed being part of the program.

I was with Ron a few days before he passed away.

I was hiking along the Chile Line Trail following the Rio Grande on a Tuesday. When our group got to a turn-around point, I had taken off my jacket and didn't realize I'd dropped my cell phone. When we returned to the parking area, I discovered the loss, and when I got home I called Ron and asked him to join me the next day, Wednesday, to recover the phone.

We had only walked a short distance when he said he couldn't go any farther (felt weak) and would wait for me at the car. I found the phone right away where I thought it would be. It had about 3% charge left and I started to send him, "I just fou ..." and the phone failed!

We left and stopped at Jinja's for lunch and were making plans (as soon as he felt up to it) to hike at several locations in Northern AZ. At lunch, he said he'd never felt as awful as he had in the past 6 months, and several days later Joyce called so we could come to Christus.

Still can't get over this, as we've been friends for over 20 years. He lived next door to us when he first moved here, and in addition to our site visits we did a lot of hiking, camping, horse-back trips, rafting, etc. over the years. I'll really miss him!

Best wishes for the Site Steward program.

### ***Felicia Probert:***

When Sharon Paris and I took over leadership of the Pecos team a few years ago, I went out in the field with Ron several times to "download" the considerable amount of knowledge he had in his head about nearly every site that the stewards monitored, and some sites that he and his steward partner Richard Martinez found along the way. Ron had the best natural sense of direction and memory for driving or walking to sites of anyone I ever knew. In addition to his considerable knowledge of the sites and a keen eye for finding lithic scatter and artifacts, he was always up for a milkshake at the DQ or lunch at Frankie's in Pecos (his treat!) on the way home. Below is a picture of him leading us right back to where my vehicle was parked after he took me to several sites on east Rowe Mesa so that I could take GPS coordinates to find them in the future.



Photo courtesy of Felicia Probert

## The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project Celebrates “25 Years on the Rocks”

Photo exhibit at the Bond House Museum

July 10 – October 31, 2024

Over the last twenty-five years, the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project has worked diligently for the protection and preservation of the cultural landscape of the northern Rio Grande Valley region. We estimate that there are well over 100,000 petroglyphs that cover a vast timeline from Archaic periods through Spanish contact and 20th century influences.

In addition to ancestral petroglyphs, Mesa Prieta includes numerous archaeological features such as grid gardens and historic trails that are interwoven into the Valley's histories.

This exhibit includes photography by Norman Doggett and other materials that highlight the histories, traditions, and archaeological features of the region. We invite visitors to learn more about the educational mission of the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project and to further engage with this special place known as Mesa Prieta —Tsikwaye.

Exhibit hours are every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. The Bond House Museum also features a permanent exhibit detailing the grand history of the Espanola Valley area. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

Co-Curators: Dr. Norman Doggett and Dr. Matthew Martinez

Partial funding was granted by the County of Rio Arriba Lodger's Tax.

The Bond House Museum is located at 706 Bond Street, Espanola NM 87532

For more information: 505-747-8535 or email [sg.history65@gmail.com](mailto:sg.history65@gmail.com)

“This exhibit is outstanding, nothing short of world class, and I encourage everyone to go.”

— Candie Borduin



Don't miss “25 Years on the Rocks! Stories of Long Ago Told”:

**The “25 Years on the Rocks” Symposium, September 13 and 14, 2024**

Northern New Mexico College

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project welcomes anyone who has been part of the project for the last 25 years. Please see the website at [mesaprietapetroglyphs.org](http://mesaprietapetroglyphs.org) for updates.





## Wildlife Program on the Santa Fe National Forest

The Santa Fe National Forest Wildlife Program has had a jam-packed 2024 field season, from managing multiple partnerships, to conservation education, to using new technology for survey needs.

One of the many partnerships that the Santa Fe Wildlife Program supports is River Source. The work here involves engaging and training local youth to restore ecologically important riparian and wetland ecosystems. This summer, students have specifically helped protect habitat for the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse. This species is strongly associated with moist, streamside, dense riparian vegetation and its habitat can be degraded through trampling or loss of vegetation.

Students assisted in repairing the broken riparian exclosure fence meant to keep ungulates out of riparian habitat, and participated in track plate installation to survey for the jumping mouse.

Track plating is a non-invasive method to survey for the presence or absence of small mammals. The setup uses bait lures to attract the animal, which then steps on an ink pad leaving specific footprints which can then be used to identify the species. This was a unique experience for students, as many of them had never heard of the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse nor surveyed for it.



New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat

The Forest also participated in the Summer Field Experience targeted at high school students and led by Highlands University. Here, biologists from the Forest Service and National Park Service

educated students on managing biological resources on public land. Students had the opportunity to handle live reptiles and amphibians local to the southwest, including a barred tiger salamander, a king snake, and a diamondback rattlesnake. Students were also introduced to what a federal biologist does by actively engaging in a guided bird walk with several federal and NGO biologists.



Summer Field Experience student with new friend

Finally, have you ever heard or seen a Mexican Spotted owl? If you are lucky, you may have heard the infamous four-note hoot this species projects, but it's not likely due to their isolated and remote territories. Every year biologists on the Santa Fe National Forest actively survey for this species over many miles of strenuous terrain.

This year, the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District has been using Acoustic Recording Units in remote parts of the forest to assist in surveys. These small units, roughly about the size of an iPhone, are meant to passively survey remote areas over a long period of time, which enhances the probability of detection. Typically, the recording units are set to record for four hours every day when the owls are most active. When recordings are collected, biologists will review them and determine whether they have picked up the target species, in this case the Mexican spotted owl. If an owl is detected by the unit, biologists will then follow up with a



## Survey Reveals Education Choices of Stewards

In April, we created and sent out a survey to determine what type of educational programming would best meet the needs of our site stewards.

We received nearly 40 responses to our questions, plus stewards' comments on topics of interest. The top four choices in each category were:

### Activities

- Once a year Annual Meeting (which we already do) 64.1%
- Once a month evening brown bag and lecture (which we did pre-Covid): 56.4%
- Field event, to include a guided hike or demo, followed by application of a skill: 56.4%
- Presentation by one of the six areas on their site characteristics, possibly a site visit and demo: 41%

### Topics:

- Information on the cultural lifestyles of pre-contact inhabitants: 71.1%

- Comparison of regional differences among the six areas: 65.8%
- Identifying ceramics or lithics or animal tracks, etc.: 55.3%
- Using GPS to correctly place a feature within a site or a site within the area: 52.6%

### Other Topics of Interest:

In addition to cultural lifestyles, there was interest in geology, plants, astronomy alignment, and Native speakers; fully 50% expressed interest in **rock art**. Also, stewards would like visits to sites with an archaeologist to guide and explain.

### Future Plans:

We hope to visit Mesa Prieta in October for a guided tour of the largest rock art site in northern New Mexico; details will follow. The survey information will also guide our educational plans for 2025. Stay tuned.

— Susan McGrew and Grace Brill

## Wildlife Program on the SFNF (continued from pg. 8)

more detailed survey around the location where the unit was deployed and try to narrow in on where the owls might be living. Having a better idea of where owls occur on the landscape helps biologists protect the species when the Forest is implementing management actions.



In search of the elusive Spotted Owl

— Article and Photos, Diane Meza, Wildlife Biologist

## *Site Lines*

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

Editor:  
Paula Lozar  
(505) 473-3479  
lozarpaula@cs.com

Assistant Editor:  
Susan McGrew  
(505) 424-3932  
sumac3b@gmail.com

We're on the Web  
[www://sfnsitestewards.org](http://www://sfnsitestewards.org)

## *Save the Date!*

**SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting, Sept. 6-8, 2024.** San Antonio Group Campground (Jemez area). The meeting on Sept. 7 will include a silent auction, reports from the Forest and the ATLS, a potluck lunch, and several speakers. Site tours led by the Jemez team are planned for Sept. 8. The campground is reserved for the nights of Sept. 6 and 7 for those who want to camp out. A detailed schedule and directions to the meeting will be emailed to all Site Stewards closer to the date.

**Note on Pecos Conference Future Plans.** The Pecos Conference is usually held the second weekend in August of each year. Currently planned locations are 2025, Blanding, Utah (Abo Mountains); 2026, Mancos, Colorado; 2027, Rowe Mesa, New Mexico.

We are trying to establish conference locations that can be planned and guaranteed for each year over a five-year period. Right now, we have Rowe Mesa and Flagstaff as recurring venues. We hope to add Blanding and Mancos as other recurring conference sites representing all the Four Corners states; organizers are working on this goal. That leaves one year open for alternative conference locations, or until a fifth recurring site can be determined.

— Gary Newgent