



SITE LINES

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2008

Annual Meeting, September 12-14, Bandelier National Monument

A coyote chorus sang, owls hooted, ravens wonked, and parajitos trilled – this was the best annual meeting ever! This was the consensus of the attendees of the 2008 annual meeting, who gathered at Juniper Campground at Bandelier. After days of on-and-off rain showers during the previous week, clear blue skies prevailed for the weekend with a full moon as a bonus. Many thanks go to the members of the planning committee and those who brought food and contributed in other ways. Ann White chaired the committee, which was composed of Will Dearholt, Chris Gardner, Shelley Thompson, Jan Stone, Mike Bremer, and Jeremy Kulisheck.

Attendees included 52 site stewards, five guests of site stewards, 11 SiteWatch stewards, five Forest Service employees, and three guest speakers.

Campers settled in Friday night; the socializing began, and for many of us, it was an early night after a long week. The meeting was officially called to order at 10 a.m. by Council Chair Jan Stone. Forest Service representatives included Linda Riddle, District Ranger for the Jemez; Jessie Scott, Acting Recreational Staff Officer for the Jemez; Anne Baldwin, Espanola/Coyote Resource Area Supervisory Archaeologist, Mike Bremer, Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Resource Program Manager, and Jeremy Kulisheck, Assistant Forest Archaeologist.

Paul Jones presented the treasurer's report, which reflected in-

come and disbursements as of Friday, September 12. We had a cash balance of \$779.07, which included most of the meeting registration fees.

Jan reviewed the changes in leadership (officers, ATLS, AATLS, and council members-at-large). At a subsequent quickie meeting prior to lunch, the council approved the selection of Bill Cella as the new AATL for the Gallina and Ted Greer as the new list serve manager.

Next year's annual meeting will tentatively take place in the Gallina. Stay tuned for details!

Area Reports

The summaries below reflect the verbal reports during the business meeting, Ron Krantz' minutes, and supplementary information received from ATL Gary Newgent.

Caja del Rio: Members of the team include Gary Newgent (ATL), (Ray Willison (AATL), Shelley Thompson, Corinne Willison, Walter and Pat Farr, Bob McCarthy and John Pitts. The teams monitor four major sites. Total hours for site visits were 142 with 256 hours for all other activities, and 1,880 miles driven. The group meets for breakfast about every other month during the field season. No problems have been experienced in 2008.

Gallina: ATL Candie Borduin named the 16 members of the team who monitor 28 clusters of 100+ numbered site locations. Five teams monitor Nogales Cliff House, a cliff dwelling that has high public visitation. Her team made 115 site visits this year, and drove some 7,200 miles. Some of the team's stewards will be doing back-country reconnaissance. No damage

of consequence has been noted to date.

Garcia: ATL Will Dearholt introduced his small, but mighty team, which includes several new stewards. Each team member has now visited every site, and will be ready to fledge soon after the one-year probationary period expires. Road conditions continue to be a problem, some erosion has been noted at sites, and a possible illegal dig needs further investigation.

Jemez: ATL John Morris announced team members; all new stewards have been oriented and are active. New sites to be monitored are being identified.

Pecos: Pecos ATL Jeff Straight was not present, but Mike Bremer reported that all new stewards are oriented and no evidence of pot hunting or other disturbance has been found.

Rio Chama: ATL Paul Jones reported that the team visits six pueblo sites on a regular basis, as well as agricultural fields and animal traps. An elusive pictograph has yet to be re-located. An illegal dig at Rancho Rio del Oso, a homestead, was reported by team members and subsequently investigated by Mike Bremer, Anne Baldwin, and two LEOs (see story in June *Site Lines*).

Committee Reports

Communications: Nancy Cella reported on three aspects of this committee's tasks: the list server, the website, and *Site Lines*. Some list server messages regarding the annual meeting were not received

Annual Meeting (continued)

by all members. Those who change their e-mail addresses need to report these changes as soon as possible to the list serve manager at (tgreer@theodoregreer.com).

Ron Krantz reported that our website has received relatively light use: An average of 202 unique visitors saw an average of 630 pages each month; visitors arrived from around the world. The site is continuously updated, including an announcement of the 2009 Pecos Conference. Please contact Ron if you wish to post an item of interest, remembering that the website is public domain (rnkrantz@mindspring.com).

Two issues of *Site Lines* have been published this year, with two more anticipated. Irene Wanner, who monitors and corrects style and grammar, is co-editor with Nancy. Mike reviews content prior to publication. Stories of interest to all such as travel destinations and other activities focusing on Southwest archaeology are solicited and welcomed. Please send stories or ideas to nancycella@spinn.net or iwaner@myuw.net.

Replacement site signs may be obtained from Candie Borduin.

Education: The fall-winter 2007-2008 season featured speakers from the professional archaeological community who spoke on a variety of topics (see stories in March and June issues of *Site Lines*). Shelley Thompson reported that several individuals have been contacted as speakers for the 2008-2009 monthly educational meetings.

These meetings have been held on each second Wednesday evening starting at 5:30 for a brown-bag supper. The presentations begin at 6 pm and end between 7 and 7:30 pm. Responding to requests from those who have difficulty attending a mid-week meeting because of their day jobs, Shelley polled the group to

decide between Wednesdays, Saturdays, or what? Option 1 is Wednesday evenings, 5:30-7:00 pm; Option 2 is Saturday mornings, 10:30-12:00.

The group voted to continue meeting on Wednesdays, with the possibility of meeting on Saturdays in January and February when road conditions tend to worsen. The proposed dates are: 10/1, 11/5, 12/10, 1/7 (or 1/10), 2/4 (or 2/7), 3/4, and 4/8. Stay tuned for future list serve announcements, but pencil in these tentative dates on your social calendars now. These meetings serve to educate as well as provide an opportunity to socialize.

All speakers are offered an honorarium of \$50, a token compared with the usual fees. Contributions toward subsidizing these honoraria are welcome; please contact Shelley to contribute to this fund.

Field Operations

Bill Cella reported on two items noted in previous list serve messages to all stewards.

Autumn is hunting season in many areas of the forest. Site stewards are reminded to always wear international orange – vests, hats, whatever – when in the field and to be aware of hunters' possible presence. Please review specific dates and locales that are now posted on our website.

List serve announcements when site visits are to occur haven't been an effective method of communication since visits may be scheduled too late for other area team members to respond. The council needs to determine the best method for making ATL contact information available to all stewards without compromising the privacy of member information.

SiteWatch

John Morris, as SFNF Site Stewards representative, reported on SiteWatch activities and introduced members of two chapters.

Although SiteWatch and SFNF Site Stewards programs are not structurally related, they share the same interests and activities. Administered by the Division of Historic Preservation in the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, SiteWatch has nine chapters in New Mexico. John welcomed the 11 SiteWatch guests. He also reported that Kathy McCoy, a state legislature representative, is promoting this line-item-funded program that is now on soft money.

The Torrance County chapter has 29 members; six attended our annual meeting. The chapter monitors seven sites. Coordinator Bill Simms discussed their activities, and an alarming incident that involved active shoveling during a monitoring visit at Pueblo de la Mesa on the Cibola NF. All parties were surprised. The looters fled but no license plate numbers could be taken – all an object lesson for new SFNF stewards who recalled the then-tedious recitation during their training session about how to approach a site. Mr. Simms, with a background in law enforcement, cautioned that professional looters should be considered armed at all times.

Carmen Johnson, representing the Taos County chapter, reported that they have 26 members, plus 12 more at the Vecinos del Rio/Wells Petroglyph Preserve area. The group monitors 30 sites on Forest and BLM lands. Except for a few downed fences, no site damage was observed.

She announced that the Taos Archaeological Society is sponsoring the Archaeological Society of New Mexico State Convention on May 1-3 at the Kachina Lodge in Taos. Check www.TaosArch.org for details.

Annual Meeting (continued)

State of the Forest

Mike Bremer discussed the Travel Management Project, which reduces the number of forest road miles from 4,600 to 2,300. The action was issued in July 2008, 13 community meetings were held, and comments were solicited for a 45-day period, which ended September 2. Comments are still being received, however, and members were urged to comment very soon if they have particular concerns.

After complete data analysis, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared with a goal of implementing a plan in 2010. Common road needs include big game retrieval, dispersed camping, and administrative access (which will not be open to the public). No new roads are being requested.

Management of cultural resources will be affected by closures; site stewards will be issued special permits to gain access to their sites; Mike will keep us apprised. A new PDF map of proposed road closures is on a FS website www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/pa.htm.

A 91,000-acre fuels treatment project is in process in the Coyote District. Tony Largaespada is directing a 12-person survey crew in a relatively untouched, undamaged wilderness area. They are finding standing walls, vessels on the surface, and other evidence of little or no site disturbance.

Mike announced that Mark Martin is the new assistant archaeologist for the Coyote District, Steve Romero is the new chief ranger in the Pecos/Las Vegas District, and Derek Padilla is the new chief ranger in the Cuba office.

Site Steward Foundation

Gary Newgent gave a brief update of the status of the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity created so that contributions to the SFNF Site Steward organization as well as members' mileage may be tax deductible. A board of directors was appointed to serve until elections can be held at the first annual meeting in February 2009, stationery has been selected, and an e-mail account established. The Foundation was incorporated in April 2008 and awaits authorization from the IRS, after which it can solicit members (see proposed flyer in box below).

Site Steward

Foundation, Inc.

The Site Steward Foundation, Inc. (the Foundation) is in the finalization process and will begin to seek memberships and contributions in early 2009. The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has been created for the purpose of generating and managing resources to support the conservation, preservation, monitoring, education and research of archaeological, historical and cultural resources in the state of New Mexico. The primary mission of the Foundation will be to aid organizations such as the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program and the New Mexico SiteWatch Program and organizations with similar purposes and objectives. Examples of how funds may be used are for education, training and equipment for Site Stewards, and stabilization and restoration of sites.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Foundation will be able to receive government and private foundation grants as well as tax-deductible business and individual contributions. Free radio and public service announcements can also be obtained due to the Foundation's nonprofit status.

Membership benefits include tax deductions for non-reimbursed charitable volunteer mileage at the rate of \$.14 per mile and tax deductions for annual membership dues and donations to the Foundation. Of primary importance are member's hours spent volunteering as a Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward or SiteWatch Steward can be used to receive matching grants to the Foundation.

The initial Board of Directors is comprised of: Gary Newgent, President; John Morris, Vice President, Ray Willison, Treasurer; Phil Young, Secretary, Candie Borduin, Bill Cella and Jeff Straight, Members at Large.

Site Stewards and anyone interested in the preservation and conservation of archaeological, historical and cultural resources in the state of New Mexico are encouraged to join the membership of Site Steward Foundation, Inc. For further information about membership and contributions, please contact Site Steward Foundation, Inc. at sitestewardfoundation@yahoo.com or by writing to P.O. Box 32224, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

The Second Annual Great Chile Cook-off. . . .

was just that – great – and included salads, appetizers and desserts. The hungry horde approached the eight pots of chile with great enthusiasm.

Many thanks go to those who brought food – we ate well, and no one went hungry.

Annual Meeting (continued)

Guest Speakers

The afternoon session featured three guest speakers: Greg Kuyumjian, Forest Hydrologist and Fire Ecologist; Kirt Kempter, Geologist; and Rory Gauthier, Bandelier Archaeologist.

Mr. Kuyumjian reviewed the fire history of the east side of the Jemez Mountains beginning in the 1950s, all of which was human caused and occurred early in the fire season. From this history of large fires, which ranged in size between 5,000 to 43,000 acres, changes in landscape can be observed, particularly when fires burned areas between 15,000 and 20,000 acres.

Several consequences obtain. Previously hidden archaeological sites are exposed, erosion increases by 300-400%, which lead to flooding increases of 1,000-1,500 cfs. With fuels more scarce, wildlife habitat is changed such that grazers and browsers must migrate to find food. The changes in forest composition are enough that it is estimated to take 500-800 years for the vegetation to recover its former state. For instance, the Oozier Ridge fire on the NM/CO border burned for three years; now, 125 years later, no trees are growing.

Springs fed by percolation of surface water often increase in the short term, but shallow aquifers are often depleted and not recharged. Springs may occur farther down slope due to moving surface water. The hot springs in the Jemez Mountains are usually unaffected by wildfire since their sources are underground.

Wildfires not caused by humans usually occur later in the season; often, they are caused by lightning with the potential of being extinguished by showers.

Dr. Kempter presented a series of photos that recreated the evolution of the landforms in the Southwest from 5 billion years ago to the present. He elaborated the various events that accompanied landform changes: seaway ebbs and flows, compression of the plates, volcanism, earthquakes, rise and decline of dinosaurs, and the present state of landforms.

The current contact between the two major plates is the San Andreas fault, with the Rio Grande Rift being the biggest local tear in the landform. The Pajarito Plateau was formed from tuff from two major eruptions: 1.6my (million years) ago in the lower Bandelier region and 1.25my ago in the Valles Caldera.

His long-range predictions of changes in landform: in 8-9my, Los Angeles and San Francisco will be one city, the Atlantic Ocean will be larger, and the Pacific Ocean will be smaller. The Rio Grande rift is still splitting apart, allowing subsurface magma to ooze upward. The last eruption occurred at McCartys (3,000-4,000 years ago), and the next one is due near Socorro. The Valles Caldera is still active, and ranks 60th in a list of 160 volcanic eruption possibilities. In spite of the activities occurring elsewhere, the Colorado Plateau rose one to two miles in elevation without being compressed or stretched.

Mr. Gauthier presented an overview of the archaeology of the Pajarito Plateau.

Bandelier National Monument covers 33,000 acres, and has 3,000 sites in the database comprising 500 Pueblo Coalition sites, 10 Classic Pueblos, and 800 field houses. Included in the Other category are lithic and ceramic scatters. In fact, Juniper Campground is located on a very large lithic scatter that was not identified when the campground was constructed in the 1960s. Survey of monument land is 78% complete;

when Mr. Gauthier arrived in 1999, only 50% of the monument had been surveyed. Most of the sites are within the pinyon/juniper zone, with site density about one in six acres. Site density drops as elevation rises. Major attractions are nearby sources of obsidian, such as Rabbit Mountain, which has deposits of weapons-grade obsidian.

The chronology of monument sites encompasses all the major time periods of Southwest prehistory. No single component Paleoindian sites have been recorded on monument land, but a hearth dated to 10,000 BP (before present) was found in a trench at a more recent site, and a surface Polvadera obsidian projectile point has been found.

More use occurred during the Archaic. All phases of the Archaic period are represented, but very little is known about the nature of the occupation.

A land rush happened at about AD1175, with the breakdown of the Chacoan system and population movement toward more stable water sources. The peak years of building at Bandelier were from AD 1250 to 1300, when thousands of buildings were erected in scattered villages throughout the plateau. The nature of the occupation changed during the AD1300-1325 period, when large Classic period villages were constructed. A decline in aggregation of the population occurred at about AD1325, and by AD1550, during a very dry time, population numbers declined.

In general, Pueblo site distribution patterns follow the occurrence of El Cajete pumice, which fell like rain during the last large eruption of the Valles Caldera. This pumice tends to hold moisture better than other soils, and was used for agriculture.

The plateau was occupied during and following the Pueblo Revolt (AD1680-1720), which was a period of turmoil among the Tewa villages

Annual Meeting (continued)

along the Rio Grande. Hispanic homesteads were established in the 1880s in Frijoles Canyon; some sites exhibited Tewa polychrome pottery. CCC workers removed all the historic structures in the canyon during their 1933-1934 tenure.

And Finally

Awards, the trivia quiz and happy hour concluded Saturday's events. Awards for above-the-call-of-duty activities went to Gary Newgent, Linda Zwick, John Bradley, Nancy Cella, Shelley Thompson, and Ron Krantz. Each recipient was honored by the presentation of a certificate of appreciation and an appropriate fetish. In a note to Jan Stone, Linda expressed her appreciation, which represents a collective response from all recipients (please see box).

Jeremy and Mike presided over the trivia quiz that included questions in several categories of archaeology and odds and ends. Shelley and Beth Parisi monitored the anticipated undisciplined audience responses. The many prizes awarded for correct and almost-correct answers were donated primarily by Shelley and John Morris — many thanks.

Sunday Field Tours

Rory Gauthier led 45 stewards on a walking tour to several unexcavated Coalition Period sites on the east ridge of Frijoles Canyon. On the way back to camp, we visited a CCC work site that featured the partially buried remains of an old Ford vehicle. A trip to the mesa north of the Tsankawi area of Bandelier National Monument featured a stop at Duchess castle, the mid 20th century home of two Anglo women who were an impetus of the revival of prehistoric Pueblo pottery making, followed by a trek up the trail to rock art and cavates.

Photos in a separate file of *Site Lines* show some of a very good day in the field.

“. . .As I reminisce, I realize that the steward program has been valued opportunities for me: (1) indulging my life-long amateur interest in archaeology and anthropology of the American Southwest via the regular visits to Boletsakwa, hearing about and visiting other monitored sites, and attending the lectures sponsored by the steward program on a variety of interesting topics by a variety of interesting experts, (2) enriching my already-rewarding relationships with my father and Betsy with our joint role in stewardship of Boletsakwa, and (3) providing me an incentive to regularly visit a place that is peaceful, beautiful, and spiritual. My thanks, again, for the certificates, fetishes, and the intangible benefits of being a site steward.” Regards, Linda Zwick

2008 Pecos Conference

This year's Pecos Conference was held in Flagstaff on August 8-10. Most of the events took place under a large tent in a field near the base of the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Area. The Pecos Conference is very informal: there is no refereeing of submissions — all speakers are welcome. While most of the speakers were working archaeologists and archaeology graduate students, a number of presenters and many of the attendees were avocational archaeologists. One or two speakers in the latter category presented what might be graciously described as “very unusual” theories in “non-traditional” terms. Dress is correspondingly informal, mostly jeans, baseball caps, and excellent Pecos Conference T-shirts. The weather, we were told, was typical of a Flagstaff Pecos Conference — temperate days punctuated with an afternoon downpour.

One of the conference sessions was devoted to new discoveries and theories of the development of agriculture in the Southwest and the origins of maize cultivation. It is commonly believed that maize agriculture in the New World originated in Central America, where there is evidence that it existed between 8,000 and 6,500 years BP. Also, squash, arrowroot, manioc, and bottle gourd are believed to have

been cultivated in Central America between 10,000 and 8,000 years ago. Since bottle gourd is not a native plant, it was believed to have been brought to the Americas by the Paleoindians. Maize arrived in the Southwest about 4,200 years BP. Fence Lake is one area where 4,200-year-old maize has been found. Maize wasn't grown alone but within a group of farmed plants and heavily used wild plants, 20 to 30 plants in number if you include wild grasses. Around 2,000 years BP, the number of wild plants used decreased to approximately 16, and around 1,000 years BP, the number decreased again to 10 (including maize, beans, squash, agave, and cotton.) Early maize was popcorn.

The Middle Archaic peoples were the first to use maize. A plethora of data show that around 4,200 years ago, climatic conditions changed to encourage the spread of maize in the Southwest. The Indian populations before 2,000 years BP were healthier (but had terrible teeth) and lived to an average age of 50. It is believed that the decline in health of the Southwestern Indian populations was a result of the narrow dietary range, crowding, and disease.

A Few Dates to Remember

October 25: 9 a.m. Council Meeting, Forest Service office, 1774 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe. Site Stewards may attend any council meeting.

November 5: 5:30 p.m. brown bag supper. 6:00 p.m. Jack Loeffler, guest speaker. Center for Museum Resources, Museum Hill, 725 Camino Lejo.

December 10: 5:30 p.m. brown bag supper. 6:00 p.m. Educational Meeting, guest speaker TBA

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Pecos Conference (continued)

Many of the remains of the later populations showed much violence and trauma. At the same time, there is evidence that food storage was moved from outside to inside residences, implying a transition from common sharing of food to nuclear family ownership of food.

Spectroscopic information is being used to detect "signature" foods from the lining of pottery. The measurements are highly sensitive and techniques are being developed to avoid contamination of samples by even minuscule amounts of introduced chemicals. This appears to be a promising new technique.

Another significant theme was a new hypothesis on the cause of the extinction of megafauna at the close of the Pleistocene era. A Friday evening presentation at Northern Arizona University by Allen West, Jim Witke, and Ted Bunch, with hardly an empty seat, put forth arguments for a comet impact as the cause of the megafauna extinction and the end of the Clovis culture. Unlike the Alvarez theory of an asteroid impact at the K-T boundary (Cretaceous-Tertiary Period at 65.5±

0.3 my) and the subsequent discovery of a suspected impact site in the Yucatan, this hypothesis posits either an air-burst or impact over the Laurentide Ice Shield in what is now Canada, either of which means that there is no crater to be found. Just as the presence of iridium at the K-T boundary led the Alvarez team to its theory, the presence of nanodiamonds, fullerenes with extra-terrestrial helium, and other anomalous materials in the "Black Mat" that occurs at the layer corresponding to the megafauna extinction, are the basis for the comet hypothesis. The presentation was followed by an animated, but brief Q&A session. Discussion of this topic continued on Saturday morning with a panel under the big tent. Allen West and Jim Witke faced off with three skeptics, including Carolyn Shoemaker (of Shoemaker-Levy Comet fame) and Mark Boslough, who has done extensive computer modeling of airbursts of extraterrestrial objects. Both sides presented their cases well and challenged the other side to justify their claims.

The 2009 Pecos Conference will be held in Cortez Colorado, August 6 to 9. Mark your calendar now.

- Elaine Gorham and David Strip

Pot-Hunting Evidence Reported by Maggie Dew and Larry Chase



Jeremy Kulisheck, left, assistant forest archeologist on the Santa Fe National Forest, records a pot hunter's recent damage at a Gallina site while Candie Borduin, Gallina ATL, helps with measurements. Miranda Largaespada, background, assisted Jeremy. She is an archeological technician in the Forest's Student Temporary Employment Program. A Forest Service law enforcement officer was on hand as well to investigate. While damage was limited, the Gallina disturbance follows within months a similar incident in the Rio Chama site steward area.

The editors thank those who contributed to this issue: Ron Krantz, whose meeting minutes added details to the text; Elaine Gorham and David Strip who reported on the Pecos Conference after the fact; Gary Newgent who added details to his ATL report; and Jeremy Kulisheck, Mike Bremer, Candie Borduin and Bill Cella who read the text prior to publication and offered corrections and suggestions.