



Site Lines

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

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Greetings from the Chair - Jan Stone

So now I know what happens when you are out of the country instead of attending the council meeting--you get re-elected chairperson! It was not too hard to agree to serve another term since we have such a hard working council as well as a great group of active stewards. But be advised - term limits are in order for next year!

Speaking of hard working, we all owe many thanks to former Vice Chair **Candie Borduin** and former Secretary **Ron Krantz** for their wise and dedicated leadership. We also want to thank **K. Paul Jones** for agreeing to serve another term as treasurer. We are delighted that **Ann White** is willing to take on the vice chair position and we are especially pleased to welcome **Sandy Seehaver**, a member of the Class of 2008, to the council in the position of secretary. And thanks to **Cathy Gates** for stepping into the leadership vacuum in the Pecos area by serving as AATL. And, of course, one of our ongoing goals is to have good communications, ably served by **Irene Wanner** and **Nancy Cella** as *Site Lines* co-editors, **Ted Greer** is list server monitor and **Ron Krantz** is web page guru. Thank you all.

This time last year we listed several goals for the Site Steward Program and I am happy to report that several have been accomplished. **Nancy Cella** and her Training Committee led a very successful training event, and **Ann White** and her committee provided us with an Annual Meeting that broke attendance records. The Site Steward Foundation is now an existing group under the direction of **Gary Newgent** and the Foundation Committee. And **John Morris/Bill Cella** are about to complete their Field Operations task of assuring enough stewards for each of our six areas.

As we come to the end of the down time when we can't be in the field, we realize how important the monthly educational

meetings have been, not only for the very interesting and informative speakers, but also for the informal social times we have together. Many kudos to **Shelley Thompson** and **Pat Farr** for lining up the speakers and providing us such a great place to meet.

One of Candie's and my top goals has been to involve new and younger folks in leadership - as we see in the names of Ann, Cathy and Sandy mentioned above.

Many thanks to all who volunteer for the organizational tasks.

Enough looking back. It will soon be warm enough to melt the snow, the roads will dry, and we will be more than ready to get out in the field again. Don't forget to call in/call back.

Happy stewarding!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Beth Parisi** continues her series about *Wilderness First Aid*, page 2
- **New Series: Mike Bremer** writes about special topics in *Anthropology*; page 8

SAVE THE DATE!!

2009 SFNF Site Steward Annual Meeting

September 29-30

Camp Out in the Gallina Area

If you are interested in serving on the Annual Meeting Committee, please contact Ann White at 505/341-4576 or annwhite0403@yahoo.com

Field Season 2009

Not sure it's appropriate quite yet to invoke the "Drivers, start your engines" command, but as the snow melts and the mud dries, many site stewards are preparing to visit their sites. Preparation is the word, however, that not only involves mental and emotional readiness (that's the easy part), but also some thinking about what it takes to launch forth into the forest, sometimes many miles from pavement and accompanying facili-

ties. Check the tires (including the spare), fill up the gas tank – yes – but much more needs to be remembered. In general, items that require some thought include the vehicle itself, essential items carried in it, necessary site records and field forms, field clothing (including sturdy boots and appropriate socks), and your personal field pack. A shovel and tow line can come in handy, and don't forget batteries for your GPS and flashlight.

Although most site visits don't include mishaps that need some first aid supplies, Beth Parisi has practiced due diligence in being well equipped for medical emergencies. The winter issue of *Site Lines* featured a story by Beth that described wilderness first aid settings. That first installment of a series is followed in this issue by a description of what should be in your first aid kit. Thank you, Beth, for putting this informative article together.

Preparing a First Aid Kit - Beth Parisi

A first aid kit should be customized to reflect the environment and activities that you will encounter and include any specific personal medications and supplies. Below is a basic outline of the minimal supplies that a site steward should carry on every visit. Don't worry! All of these items can be purchased at your local drug store and outdoor store, then packed into a small compact kit.

A) Protect Yourself

- 1) Latex Gloves

B) Tools

- 1) Scissors – to cut bandages, gauze or skin
- 2) Tweezers – to pull splinters, stingers
- 3) Swiss Army type knife – multipurpose
- 4) Duct tape – to repair equipment, protect blisters, tape a sprained ankle, etc.
- 5) Large safety pins – to secure a sling, remove a splinter, repair equipment
- 6) Medical Resource Book – another good resource I found is *Wilderness Medical Associates Field Guide* by Jim Morrissey

C) Cleansing

- 1) First aid cleansing pads – Green Sponge®
- 2) Small container of liquid soap
- 3) Irrigation syringe

D) Treating

- 1) Antibiotic ointment – to prevent skin infections
- 2) Aloe vera gel – for burns and skin irritations
- 3) Hydrocortisone cream—anti-itch for stings, plant or other skin irritations
- 4) Instant cold pack – to reduce swelling
- 5) Sawyer Extractor Kit® - for snake and insect bites

E) Protecting

- 1) Assorted bandages
- 2) Gauze pads – to cover and clean wounds
- 3) Gauze roll – to keep wound dressings in place
- 4) Waterproof first aid tape – to secure wound dressing
- 5) Wound closure strips – for closing open cuts
- 6) Non-adhesive sterile dressing – Spenco 2nd Skin® or

Telfa Pads® - wound protection that won't stick to open wounds, burns, blisters, etc.

- 7) Moleskin and Foam – for blister protection
- 8) Triangle bandage – 42" x 42" for making a sling, or wet and use for cooling off
- 9) Sam's Splint® - foam/aluminum splint for stabilizing bones, joints or neck

F) Medications – Read and Observe All Directions and Precautions!

- 1) Personal medications
- 2) Ibuprofen – Motrin® or Advil® for aches, pains, and reducing inflammation
- 3) Acetaminophen – Tylenol® for pain and fever
- 4) Antacid – for heartburn & indigestion
- 5) Imodium® - to control diarrhea and cramping
- 6) Pepto-Bismol® - to control diarrhea, nausea and upset stomach
- 7) Benadryl® - antihistamine for allergies

G) Basic Hiking Pack

- 1) Water purification systems – pills, filter, etc.
- 2) Waterproof matches and candle – for warmth and comfort
- 3) Dental floss – very versatile and strong!
- 4) Chemical heat pack
- 5) Whistle
- 6) Compass, map and GPS
- 7) Sunscreen
- 8) Cord or rope
- 9) Rescue Remedy® - calming agent

This selection is just a guideline. Remember safety first and you probably will never need to use your medical kit! Educate yourself on basic medical care, carry a resource guide, and be creative with the materials you have. Resources used for this article include *Wilderness & Travel Medicine* – Dr. Eric A. Weiss; *Wilderness 911* – Dr. Eric A. Weiss; *Wilderness Medical Associates Field Guide* – Jim Morrissey; Hiker.com.

Next newsletter, I will deal with handling some common specific medical situations. Enjoy your outdoor excursions! Please share your medical first aid tips or experiences with our editors, Nancy Cella, nancycella@spinn.net, and Irene Wanner, iwanner@myuw.net.

New Reporting Requirements - Bill Cella and John Morris

Beginning this year, stewards are asked to report their site steward activities to their ATL each month. This change is because of new requirements placed on Mike Bremer for associating time and mileage with the sites visited by each individual steward. The Forest Service now must know what site was visited, when the visit took place, who did the monitoring, and how much time was involved. We need to show dates and times for each individual steward and for each individual site

Fortunately, the most important information is in the site visit log. Stewards are still required to sub-

mit this report to their ATL after every site visit. The site visit log accounts for what sites were visited and by whom, and the number of hours and miles associated with that activity. Each ATL will only have to request that the steward who completes the log be more specific regarding the exact time spent by each steward at each site visited; and to be specific regarding the individual miles driven and time spent in a vehicle by each steward in association with the overall visit.

ATLs will report this information to Mike on a monthly basis. To facilitate this reporting, Mike provided a new form for this purpose. We also decided to incorporate the reporting of all other steward activities, in addition to the site visit data, on

one form. This way, we will now do all required reporting on a monthly basis and eliminate the need for a year-end report of steward time and mileage as we have done in the past.

This report form is intended to be used only by the ATL for reporting to Mike. Stewards do not report the information directly to Mike. The form was sent to each ATL with detailed instructions. How each ATL gathers the information from their stewards is up to them, and some may choose to get it by sending the form on to their team members. If the ATL asks you to fill out the form and return it each month, the ATL should help you if needed. If you have questions, contact your ATL.

With tongue firmly in cheek, we report:

Like the postman, snow cannot prevent the bold Gallina Team from its appointed site visits, or at least some of them. We monitored the Wolf Draw site in mid-January. The snow was almost three feet deep and the road past the Deer Run/Wolf Draw intersection was not plowed. Undeterred, the brave SFNF site stewards strapped on cross-country skis and laid fresh tracks for about one mile through the deep snow. Somewhat unsurprisingly, the team reports the site was undisturbed except for elk and bunny tracks.

Respectfully submitted by David Strip and Elaine Gorham.

Winter Educational Meetings

Site stewards and their guests gathered in the conference room at the Stewart Udall educational building on **January 7** to hear **John Pitts** talk about rock art and show his slides of the upper Santa Fe Canyon, a rugged area that served as a trade route for many years in the past. Consisting of Forest Service and BLM lands, the rock art stretches for about six miles from La Cienega to La Bajada. John's slides of the many styles and ages of rock art showed a variety of anthropomorphic figures, water and fertility figures, such as Awanyu, zoomorphic forms, and what John termed "busy magic" items. Multiple elements were seen on the same surfaces, which suggest repeated efforts to portray particular messages. John graciously invited site stewards to join him on future hikes to the area (contact John at serenepix@comcast.net if you are

interested). He has been a site steward for many years. Currently on the Caja del Rio area team, he previously served on the Pecos, Gallina and Jemez area teams.

Our guest speaker on **February 4** was **Stephen Post**, deputy director of the Office of Archaeological Studies, Division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. The topic of his presentation was "Behind the Palace: Archaeological Excavations for the New Mexico History Museum." Steve has focused his archaeological expertise between 2002 and 2007 on the archaeology of Santa Fe, most recently for the principal excavations of the history museum site.

The Governor's Palace has many stories to tell, and is a major icon of New Mexico. Steve reviewed the history of previous investigations of the broadly

defined phases of the occupation: 1619-1680 (Colonial Period); 1680-1692 (Pueblo Revolt); 1693-1821 (Middle and Late Colonial); 1821-1846 (Mexican Period); 1846-1912 (Territorial American Period); and 1912-present (statehood). Archaeological evidence has been retrieved from all periods, although there is not much left or known from the earliest occupations. Of greatest interest to Steve are building foundations, which, he feels, hold the most potential to enable us to understand the structural changes through time.

Steve reminded us that the Friends of Archaeology, Museum of New Mexico Foundation, offers guided field trips throughout the season; the next event is an open house on April 26 at Los Luceros Hacienda, north of Espanola (www.museumfoundation.org/foa).

On **March 4**, our speaker was **Charlie Haecker**, staff archaeologist for the National Park Service Intermountain Region-Heritage Partnerships Program. Charlie's chief area of interest is battlefield archaeology. He previewed his presentation that he will give at the Society of American Archaeology's annual meeting in early May. Entitled "Hammer Blow of Empire: War and Resistance in 16th Century New Mexico," the slide show and talk reviewed the history of warfare at Spanish contact, as practiced by Cortez and his Indios Amigos in Central Mexico. Rumors of the fabled Seven Cities of Gold in 1539 initiated the massive Coronado expedition toward Hawikku, then the principal Zuni pueblo. (See www.native-americans-of-the-southwest.info/hawikkuzuni.htm for more information.) A smaller group from the 1540 expedition arrived at

Hawikku in July; all expedition members were starving but were not welcomed. A battle on the plain below the five-story pueblo ensued, the pueblo's defenses were breached, and Coronado and his group remained until November.

Archaeological surveys (principally magnetic imaging and electrical resistivity) of the main battlefield in 2003, 2004, and 2006 yielded over 200 artifacts: horseshoe nails, crossbow pieces, lead balls, and other pieces of metal identified as being used during the 16th century. Eventually, surviving members of the main expedition, including Coronado and his party, traveled to the Rio Grande valley. Apparently, the villages along the Rio Grande were destroyed by these explorer-invaders; when Oñate arrived in 1698, the valley was virtually empty.

Most of Charlie's talk focused on his recent investigations at the pueblo of Piedras Marcadas, now declared Open Space near the city of Albuquerque's

Open Space Visitor Center. Most fascinating were the maps generated by the electrical resistivity techniques; the images showed the subsurface outlines of a huge pueblo. Distribution of the metal artifacts told the story of battle strategies, as well as placing the event in Coronado's time. Charlie stated that the site, in spite of its past disturbances and virtually unprotected state, shows the best battlefield preservation of late Medieval-Mesoamerican iron artifacts in the world. It merits World Heritage designation.

These brief notes above on each event do not really do justice to these excellent presentations.

On **April 8**, our speaker will be **Carmen Padilla**, whose topic is the history and prehistory of Las Golindriñas. Watch for Shelley's email announcement in late March.

Site Steward Foundation, Inc. First Annual Meeting, February 20, 2009

Gary Newgent presided over the first annual meeting of the Foundation on February 21 at the Hibben Center on the UNM Campus. Gary reviewed the history of the goals and formation of the Foundation throughout 2007-2008. The Foundation was incorporated on April 3, 2008, and presently is a bona fide 504(c)(3) entity. There are now some 60+ members from the SFNF Site Steward and Site Watch organizations. Foundation members may be contacted at sitestewardfoundation@ya-hoo.com; the Site Watch web page is at <http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/PROGRAMS/sitewatch.html>.

Foundation dues and donations go for special projects, which might include site stabilization, a speakers program, and sponsorship of site steward annual meetings and Site Watch conferences. The initial board of directors shepherded the formation through the lengthy and complex incorporation process.

At the Annual Meeting, the proposed slate of candidates was accepted by acclamation.

The new board of directors consists of Gary Newgent, president; John Morris, vice president; Ray Willison, treasurer; Nancy Cella,

secretary, with Beth Parisi, Shelley Thompson, and Charles Kaplan as members-at-large.

Site stewards are urged to join the Foundation.



Back row: John Morris, Charles Kaplan, Gary Newgent
Front row: Beth Parisi, Nancy Cella, Shelley Thompson

Site Watch Conference February 20-21, 2009

Several SFNF site stewards attended this conference, a very informative and entertaining event quite different than SFNF site steward annual meetings. The conference featured a full array of guest speakers, PowerPoint presentations, handouts for several talks, plentiful door prizes, two days of field trips, an awards dinner, and a silent auction.

Phil Young presided over the Saturday indoor portion held at the Hibben Center on the UNM campus, adjacent to the Maxwell Museum. Welcome talks were presented by Phil, Katherine Slick (Director of the Historic Preservation Division), and Dave Simon (Director, New Mexico State Parks).

Rebecca Proctor, state parks representative, discussed the problem of protecting New Mexico's burial places, which she considers the most endangered of cultural resources. Many burial places are disturbed by various activities: looting for historic artifacts, bulldozing for house lots and roads, and natural erosion and soil deposition. State statutes protect both marked and unmarked burial places, boxes, grave goods, and bones; none may be intentionally disturbed. The key word in enforcement of these statutes is "intentionally." The law applies to both state and private land.

When any evidence of unmarked burials is encountered, the relevant law enforcement authorities and the state historic preservation officer should be notified.

Jeff Hanson, Bureau of Reclamation archaeologist, spoke about the mitiga-

tion of damage to the Fort Craig Buffalo Soldier burial ground.

Fort Craig was constructed in 1854 with the mission of protecting El Camino Real from Apache raiders. In 1866 all-black units were assigned to the fort, and by 1868, a burial registry was begun. In the 1880s, the fort was decommissioned and burials were exhumed, but not all were found. When the wholesale looting and removal of human remains, including a remarkably well preserved skull, became too obvious for authorities to ignore, the whole burial ground was excavated and forensic reconstruction of human remains was undertaken. "No Human to Treat a Soldier" was the title of Hanson's talk.

Continuing the theme of the disposition of human remains, **Bradley Bowman**, from the Museum of Archaeology and Material Culture in Cedar Crest, discussed what site stewards might encounter on routine visits and what they need to know. Of the 162,000 recorded sites in New Mexico, many have associated human remains. Although several federal and state statutes apply to the appropriate disposition of skeletal material, understaffing of governmental agencies makes enforcement problematic. Mr. Bowman provided many details on the topic, and stressed that getting to know local law enforcement officers was essential.

Hayward Franklin, an independent ceramics consultant, gave a presentation on basic prehistoric Pueblo

pottery. Using examples from his most recent project on Pottery Mound at the confluence of the Rio Puerco and Rio Grande, Hayward focused on characteristics basic to all pottery: how it's made; shape and function, as well as texture and paint decoration. While much of the information was more or less common knowledge, it was refreshing to hear about fundamentals such as clay, temper, building, surface treatment, paint, forms, function and firing techniques without becoming overly involved with types and time periods.

After ceramics came lithics: **Ron Fields'** topic was "Getting to the Point: Stone Tools and Weapons." Ron, who works for the National Park Service and Petroglyph National Monument, discussed stone tools, showed informative slides, and provided copies of the Special Bulletin No. 1 from Petroglyph N.M. "Projectile Points of New Mexico," January 2009.

His principal question was when did the atlatl and spear disappear from the weaponry of prehistoric people? Or did these tools disappear at all? As SFNF site stewards who attended the 2006 annual meeting at Paliza Campground will recall, Ron brings his self-replicated weaponry, although we didn't get to play with the atlatl this time.

Phil introduced the new Site Watch Coordinator, Norm Nelson, an archaeology reviewer for the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Museum of New Mexico. Norm will devote a portion of his time to Site Watch administration.



Conference attendees inspect the weaponry



Gary Newgent receives his door prize from Phil Young

Six Sites in Six Days: The Ultimate Jornada Mogollon Road Trip

- Your itinerant rock art hunter, John Pitts

It used to be in college if someone yelled "ROAD TRIP!" within hearing distance, I was immediately on board. But we're not talking about Vassar or Sweet Briar here, however. We are talking about a recent six-day trip through the border regions of New Mexico and Texas, in search of the highly-touted Jornada Mogollon style rock art. There is no question that the trip was worth the time and suffering. It froze the first night (ice in my water bottle). And the vicious thorny bushes (several dozen varieties) left uncomfortable scratches and puncture wounds all over my body that restricted my typing accuracy for several days.

We struck out from Santa Fe on Day One for Alamogordo with a full load of camping gear, food and drinks in the cooler, lots of maps and plentiful photo memory cards. When we almost ran over a ringtail cat in the Valley of Fires State park near Carrizozo, we stopped at the visitor center to inquire about the animal. The volunteer there gave us lots of information and even tracked down a local octogenarian who could give us more info on the history of Lincoln County. We pushed on to the Three Rivers Petroglyph Site just past Tularosa, where we spent four hours surrounded by over 20,000 panels (photo #1, next page). Many were illuminated by perfect afternoon light. We saw lots of typical Jornada Mogollon images (400-1000 years old), including almond-eyed anthropomorphs and masks, wavy abstracts (rain?), rams (some being dispatched by atlatl-armed hunters), concentric circles with dots, and the ubiquitous stepclouds.

On Day Two, still on a Three Rivers high, we took the five-mile Alkali Flats hike across White Sands National Monument. Refreshed again, we sliced past Las Cruces, stopping briefly on the way to Alamo Mt. to pick up a camp table and further driving instructions from another rock art aficionado. We passed El

Paso, bought gas (last gas for three days), and reached camp at dusk, settling on the shoulder of 6,670-foot high Alamo Mt., which stands 1,500 feet above the surrounding section of the Chihuahuan Desert called the Otero Mesa. This is a rarely-visited area rich in plant and animal life (we passed a pronghorn antelope herd numbering at least 100); the region also has one of the largest and least-damaged rock art assemblages in North America. The rock art array runs along the western tip of Alamo Mt. for approximately two miles and is spread across several hundred vertical feet.

We were prepared for the local depictions of goggle-eyed anthropomorphs and "spirit figures," stylized serpents and numerous other animals, plus the familiar wavy lines and abstract designs. What really surprised us were the anomalies showing highly decorated anthropomorphic bodies including horn-like headdresses. The real shock was to see the "Apache wind gods" with body and ear decorations (photo #2, next page). True to form, the wind did pick up when we progressed from the "little devil" glyph to the wind gods! I should also mention my favorite piece of graffiti found there: a carefully pecked message saying, "REMEMBER THE ALIMMO." When did they stop teaching spelling in school?! Or maybe it should have read, "Remember the lime," for gin-and-tonic drinkers!

Day Four we drove long and hard on dirt roads, crossing into a wondrous and wild country called Texas. Wildlife sightings included a roadrunner and a family of four javelina. And, yes, three owls sang to us the whole night we camped by the Rim Rock of the Hueco Mountains. With the days warming up, we were able to visit two sites rich with rock art in Tigua Canyon. The so-called Mullen Ranch site specialized in images derived from the Shumla projectile point* that often appeared as an anthropomorphic form or attached to an atlatl in an apparent hunting scene. Farther up valley was a small site with

more Shumla point glyphs but the highlight was located in two nearby caves. We saw pictographs, some retaining significant details, made with red, yellow, and black paint. The depictions were of possible hunting scenes, exemplified by spears projecting into obvious quadrupeds. This, to me, was the highlight of the trip.

On the final day "down south," we examined two sites within a mile of each other. The Haas site surrounded a small bowl at the base of majestic red sandstone cliffs. It felt and looked like a "ceremonial locus" to me with large, multi-element panels facing the inner space. Also of note was a group of rams, one of which appeared to have internal organs that we identified as two lungs, a heart, and a digestive tract complete with stomach, all in the correct locations (photo #3, next page). The nearby Whispering Cliffs site contained one large boulder with two rare goggle-eyed, antlered quadrupeds (photo #4, next page). Directly upslope was a cave that had magnificent black, white, and yellow paintings on the roof. The key element among many images was an eight-foot long centipede. (Yes, there were 100 feet!) The decorated duck and row of 24 dancing figures were equally fascinating.

This most certainly was a productive trip, one I could recommend to anyone who needs a challenge. You'll require a high-clearance vehicle, great balance on rocks and cliffs, a willingness to sleep in tents, and stare at star-filled skies without cell phone coverage, as well as a thick skin or thorn-resistant clothing. Avoid rattler season (after March), and bring your passport! We saw at least a dozen border patrol vehicles on the back roads and were interrogated closely by the Federales on one occasion.

More information about these sites and the trip is available at serene-pix@comcast.net.

*A Shumla point is a notched dart point found in West Texas; a Google search of Shumla point brings up several interesting web sites. For an overview of field work and culture history, check out the entry "Lower Pecos-Archeology" posted by UT-Austin.

Photo #1



Three Rivers Connected Cats

Photo #2



Alamo Mountain Apache Wind Gods

Photo #3



Haas Site Gutsy Ram

Photo #4



Whispering Cliffs Anthropomorph

Jack Francis, 1936-2009 - Candie Borduin

Jack Francis was a site steward with the SFNF first on the Caja del Rio team, then moved to the Jemez team for several years. He was the volunteer coordinator for seven years at Petroglyph National Monument, overseeing completion of that project's rock art recording. Jack was diagnosed with a brain tumor more than three years ago and endured many treatment therapies. He passed away on February 17, 2009.

Jack's wife, Anne, was the president of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico some years ago. They moved back to Kansas two years ago to be with family and it appears that he again became involved in avocational archaeology while living there. Here is the link for his obituary: <http://www.amosfamily.com/2009/02/jack-dennis-francis>.

Jack was a very nice man, deeply devoted to preservation. As a volunteer leader for seven years for an extremely difficult and challenging project, we know he had great people skills, too.



Anne and Jack at a Jemez Area Team Gathering at the Stones' Home

Did You Know: Time - Mike Bremer

"I'm late, I'm late! For a very important date. No time to say hello-goodbye. I'm late, I'm late, I'm late." White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

or

"The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." Albert Einstein

Time's a funny thing! We never have enough of it and we can't organize our lives without it. But how many of us have actually sat down and thought about how time affects us and where our understanding of time came from? Why do we freak out when Frieda's late for lunch and why do folks refer to being on "northern New Mexico" time?

Time is fundamental to what we do and how we get through our day, but do we realize that for all its impact on our lives if humans did not ascribe importance to time, its effect on us might very well be different. As a matter of fact, not everyone deals with time in the same fashion. It's more than the fact that Elsie is chronically late or Tito compulsively organizes his calendar down to the minute and then has a coronary if things don't go as planned. Depending on where you are in the world, cultures deal differently with time. It's such a fundamental concept in the study of human society that whole volumes are written on it. (Stay tuned to the next version of 'Did You Know' on the four subfields of anthropology-Ooooooh, I can hardly wait.) Culturally, humans have a variety of ways of dealing with

time and frequently they are unaware that their concept is radically different from other folks.

We often hear that time can be either circular or linear and that various cultures focus on one of these, but when you ask folks to analyze what they mean by this, you also get a variety of answers depending on who is answering the question. Anthropologists explain to those willing to listen that cultural groups with a circular belief in time tend to think of history and the future as being a part of the present while those who view time as a line tend to think more in terms of discrete units of past, present and future. Now what that all really means in terms of how successful a group is depends on what you're interested in. For us, the important thing to realize is that different cultural groups have different concepts about how the world operates and that affects how they view the world.

Common to everyone's concept of time, however, is that humans use it to organize their world. If anything is fundamentally similar between differing

systems of time it's that humans have a need to organize their lives. Dividing time into pieces helps order memories and schedule events. Few if any groups could function as a social unit without a concept of time that provides order.

A fundamental aspect of doing archaeology is providing order to the past. If you think about it we cannot talk about the past without carving it up into units. All good archaeologists explain the past by carving up their area of study into units of time. Even bad archaeologists will divvy up time but how it is supported by the evidence may be questionable. We also recognize that our arbitrary placement of a time scale on what we are interested in may not correlate to the concept or division of time that was in place when material remains were left behind. The development of a chronology, time scale or phase system relies on the ordering of the past by the archaeologist into sensible units that have meaning and are based on the evidence at hand.

Dates to Remember

March 28: John Pitts' Slide Show and Talk, 5 p.m. at the Travel Bug, 829 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe: "Guatemala: Antigua to Tikal"

April 8: Educational Meeting, 5:30 for brown bag, 6:00 for talk by Carmen Padilla, Las Golondrinas

April 25: SFNF Council Board Meeting, 9 am, BLM/FS Office at 1474 Rodeo Drive, Santa Fe. All stewards are welcome to attend.

May 1-2: Archaeological Society of New Mexico Meeting, Taos, NM (www.taosarch.org)

May 16: John Pitts' Slide Show and Talk, 5 p.m. at the Travel Bug, 829 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe. "Laos, Cambodia (Up the Mekong)"

Sept. 19-20: SFNF Site Steward Annual Meeting/Camp Out in the Gallina Area

Site Lines

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Fundamental to the practice of archaeological time keeping is asking questions about the "exact" or "absolute" time that events occurred as opposed to determining when events occurred "relative" to each other. Time is so fundamental to the practice of archaeology that invariably the first questions asked of an archaeologist by another archaeologist is how old is it, how do you know that and how do you know the order of what happened.

Answering "How old is it?" questions can be relative or absolute. In some cases, we can know fairly accurately when something occurred even if we use relative dating techniques that are closely tied to known time. Using decorated ceramics in the Southwest to place relatively a site in time is a fairly common practice. We know that Kwahe Black-on-white was made before Santa Fe Black-on-white; therefore we can relatively date sites with Kwahe B/W as occurring before sites with Santa Fe B/W.

However, we would not be able to use Kwahe and Santa Fe to relatively date sites if the pottery types themselves were not absolutely or chronometrically dated, meaning their dates have been tied to absolute dating methods such as carbon-14 and tree-ring dating. Almost all chronometrically well dated pottery types in the Southwest have absolute dates stemming from associations with tree-ring dates on

sites. However, it's deceptive to say that absolute dating techniques render exact dates. In their own way they are "relative" to the context in which they are found. Tree-ring dates are by far the most reliable dates found in the Southwest but the interpretation of the context in which those dates are made can be difficult. The best dates are those that give cutting dates of the tree but it can be difficult to tie a cutting date to the context in which the sample is found. It takes skill and experience to recognize and describe the context and association of absolutely dated samples and their relationship to artifacts and features.

The intent here is to give you an understanding that the concept of time is universal when it comes to humans wanting to order their environment. However, there is nothing universal about the way humans deal with time. It differs widely among cultures, if not among groups. Interest in time may be expressed differently within groups depending on the purposes of the group. Although this is an important lesson, we hope you have learned either here or in other ways the main point we want you to take from this is that archaeological interpretation requires acknowledging that time differs across cultural groups, and that archaeology relies on ordering time.

Credits

The editors would like to thank all those who contributed to this issue. Photos not otherwise identified were taken by Bill Cella. We appreciate everyone's participation in the preparation of *Site Lines*. Thanks also go to Ron Kranz who prepares the PDF file and posts each issue on our website.

Readers: please remember Beth's request to send in stories about your first aid experiences in the field.

And just for fun

Here's a photo of a six-toed foot petroglyph in White Rock Canyon. **Six toes?**

Photo by John Pitts

