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Co-Chair Message

Is it time for a change? Many of us think so—at least as regards the annual meeting. After many years, our traditional two-day campout is giving way to a one-day indoor event to be hosted at the Udall Building on Museum Hill in Santa Fe. Many thanks go to Nancy Cella, Jan Stone, Irene Wanner, Gary Newgent, and Mike Bremer for their insights and planning for this year's event. Please mark your calendars for what is already shaping up to be a very fun and interesting day on Saturday, September 28, 2013.

The council is pleased to announce new area team leaders: Jo and Ramey Douglas have been named co-ATLs for the Galina; Gary Newgent and Ray Wilison have volunteered to lead the Caja team. Congratulations and great appreciation go out to all of them for their willingness to serve in these positions.

Many thanks to Mike Bremer and Anne Baldwin for leading 21 site stewards on a visit to the Caja. The tour covered segments of the Camino Real and included a visit to an agricultural site. It was a great day and informative tour. Mike will schedule another trip later this year. For details of our recent outing, see Anne's story below.

With the dry winter, many of you have gotten an early start on site visits. If not, we encourage all of you to go out early to take advantage of the nicer, cooler weather and also to make sure that all sites are visited before the hot summer begins. It is too early to make predictions, but if these hot and dry conditions persist, forest closures could prevent site visits later in the season. Please take precautions to prevent fires. Some stewards have begun carrying one or two gallon jugs of water just in case it's needed.

A reminder to all stewards—reporting your site visits is extremely important to the program. Please be sure to log your hours and mileage on a timely basis. Contact your ATL if you need any help with the website reporting.

As always, we encourage all of our members to be part of the Site Steward Foundation. If you have not joined or have not renewed your membership, now is a great time to do so. Please visit the website for more information: www.sitestewardfoundation.org.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 20, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Forest Service office in Santa Fe. Stewards are welcome.

-Cathy Gates, Co-Chair

Contributors to this Issue

*Anne Baldwin
Mike Bremer
Cathy Gates
K. Paul Jones
Keytha Jones
Jeremy Kulisheck
Jason McInteer
Gary Newgent
David Strip*

The editors thank you.

Annual Meeting, 2013

Big changes this year! The annual meeting planning committee decided and the site steward council approved a change of format. On Saturday, **September 28**, our annual meeting will be held at the Steward Udall Center for Museum Resources on Museum Hill, Santa Fe.

What else will be different this year?

- No registration fee
- Free deli lunch and snacks
- Speakers may use PowerPoint presentations
- Shorter business meeting
- No trivia contest
- Door prizes
- If it rains, we won't get wet
- Won't have to put up the big yellow Forest Service shade

Committee members have obtained commitments from four outstanding speakers. The morning presenters will be **Dr. Eric Blinman**, Director, and **Chuck Hanaford**, Educational Outreach Manager, Office of Archaeological Studies. Those who attended the New Mexico SiteWatch and Site Steward Foundation annual meeting in February will recall that these speakers brought a tableful of artifacts and replicas to examine. Dr. Blinman demonstrated how to make several items including a pinch pot and yucca thread.

Our afternoon speakers are **Pamela McBride**, who is the Director of the Paleoethnobotany

Laboratory, Office of Archaeological Studies. Her talk will be "Seeds of Survival: Paleoethnobotany and Prehistoric Plant Use." The stewards have had no presentations on this subject before, so her remarks ought to be fascinating. And **Dr. Samuel Duwe**, Assistant Professor, Eastern New Mexico University, has chosen as his topic "Mapping the Tewa: The Identification, Recording, and Protection of Shrines in the Northern Rio Grande Region."

We will ask you to register for this meeting to have a count for lunch purchases. While the Site Steward Foundation will provide funds for lunch expenses, we expect to cover the cost with the income generated by the proceeds of the silent auction, an annual event that is an important source of income for all SFNF Site Steward Program activities throughout the year. Also, if you have an item that would be appropriate as a door prize, please contact a member of the annual meeting committee:

Irene Wanner (iwanner@uw.edu),
Jan Stone (janstone@valornet.com),
Gary Newgent (garynewgent@yahoo.com),
Mike Bremer (mbremer@fs.fed.us) and
Nancy Cella (nancycella@spinn.net).

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude about 4 p.m. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 28**. Too, please check for items you might donate to the silent auction and/or arrange for as a door prize. Stay tuned for more details.

Be Fire Wise

As the weather is warming up and we are out visiting our sites, please remember to be fire wise! When visiting sites, be more cautious when parking over dry grasses and ensure no chains or other materials are dragging from underneath your vehicle. Many fires are started each year by hot catalytic converters or chains that are dragging. Also, remember to check local fire restrictions in your area. For fire re-

strictions, please visit <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or call your local ranger district. In the case that you find an unattended campfire, call SFNF Dispatch at (505) 438-5600 or 911.

And remember, always take plenty of drinking water, have fun, and be safe!

-Jason McInteer
Assistant Forest Archaeologist

Site Steward Foundation News

The Site Steward Foundation fifth annual meeting was held Sunday, February 17, 2013, in conjunction with the Site Watch annual meeting at the Hibben Center on the UNM campus in Albuquerque. Foundation highlights from 2012 include:

- The completion of two grants totaling \$6,000 received from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area for the production and distribution of educational brochures "Preserving the Past for Our Future" and DVDs "Traditional Pottery Making in Northern New Mexico."
- The Foundation's \$1,000 grant program funded three requests: two for Site Watch for magnetic auto identification signs (\$270) and wildlife cameras (\$500) and one for the SFNFSS for temperature monitoring sensors (\$230).
- Group tours sponsored by the foundation included Mesa Prieta petroglyphs, San Marcos Pueblo in the Galisteo Basin, as well as Hueco Tanks pictographs and Alamo Mountain petroglyphs, both near El Paso, Texas.
- Continued ceramics project joint venture between the foundation and the Office of Ar-

chaeological Studies and Dean Wilson in ceramics identification and the creation of a statewide ceramics database.

- Recent affiliation of the foundation with the Archaeological Society of New Mexico.

Officers elected at the annual meeting were Gary Newgent, President; Beth Parisi, Vice President; Mary Jebson, Secretary; Kay Lee, Treasurer; and William Hudson and Anne Ravenstone, Members at Large. Welcome, Kay and Anne.

If you have not already done so, please consider renewing your membership to the Site Steward Foundation for 2013. A membership form is available at www.sitestewardfoundation.org If you would like to be notified of foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to the email list on the foundation website. (If you are a current or past foundation member you may already be on the email list.) The Site Steward Foundation is also on Facebook, and don't forget to use GoodSearch for your online purchases.

–Gary Newgent, President

April 20 Council Meeting Highlights

The council welcomed new members Kelly Aldridge, secretary; Nancy Hudson, member-at-large; and Jo Douglas, new co-ATL of the Gallina Area.

The area team leaders reported that field visits have begun in places mostly closed during winter months. Ann White, Jemez Area, reported that stewards monitoring the Twin Sisters site found a teepee set up with accompanying chair/table/camp stove. While not vandalism per se, this activity was reported to the Jemez District ranger for follow-up action.

The monthly Wednesday evening lectures will begin in September and continue through November, break for the holidays, and resume from January through April 2014. These events are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month, although dates may vary to accommodate speaker preferences.

Stewards are reminded to extinguish any unattended campfires during their monitoring visits, and report any fire location to their district ranger office.

“Secrets of the Mountains: 17th and 18th century Archaeology of the Sandias and Manzanos”

As many of you already know, Jeremy Kulisheck, former Assistant Forest Archaeologist for the Santa Fe National Forest, is now Forest Archaeologist for the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands. He was the guest speaker for the March 6 educational lecture.

After several years in various positions with the Santa Fe National Forest, Jeremy says that overseeing the cultural resources of the Cibola is a new experience. Instead of contiguous and near contiguous districts within the Santa Fe NF, the Cibola NF&Gs has 2.5 million acres of forest and grasslands, which comprise several regions. The four national grasslands, four ranger districts, and four wilderness areas include three states, require dealings with three State Historic Preservation Officers, and have management challenges specific to each entity.

His March 6 talk dealt with the relatively unknown 17th- and 18th-century archaeological sites of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains. Both chains are marked by an abrupt western face and a gradually sloping eastern face characterized by mixed conifer and ponderosa forests that gradually grade to piñon/juniper woodlands and grasslands at lower elevations. Thus, these areas show lots of geological and biological diversity, and were available to human use for the past 12,000 years. Earliest occupations were found in Sandia Cave (Folsom era). Other well-known and well-documented sites include Tijeras Pueblo (14th century) and three large pueblos in the Salinas district: Pueblo de la Mesa, Pueblo Colorado, and Pueblo Blanco, also known as Tabira, A.D. 1300-1670s.

Jeremy’s topic of the evening concerned the history of colonization by the Spanish Empire on the culture of the Pueblos and other Native American groups during the 1600s and 1700s. Despite several publications that review the archaeology of the middle Rio Grande Valley, in general, the prehistory is poorly known, and there is little in the Hispanic archival literature that accounts for 16th- and 17th-century occu-

pation. There has been little survey, but land controlled by the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Energy (Kirtland AFB) has been 100% surveyed.

A site adjacent to the Tramway Trail, Jaral Pueblo, consists of a low mound that is the remains of a small village, probably occupied by Pueblo people who rejected life in the pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley that were under Spanish control. Despite its proximity to a popular hiking trail, the site is not a target for pot hunting, although Jeremy commented that not a sherd remains except after a rainstorm that might expose Glaze E and F pottery from the midden. Its location in a narrow notched valley at the base of a cliff affords a view westward of the entire Rio Grande Valley as well as access to the resources of a mixed ecotone.



Jaral Pueblo plaza, looking east.

Photo by Jeremy Kulisheck

Another site on the west side of the Manzanos that Jeremy discussed is the Metzler Ruin, at the mouth of the largest canyon in the Manzanos, near Comanche Springs. Although little mentioned in contemporary historic literature, it was excavated in the 1970s by Frank Hibben and appears to represent a 17th-century *rancho* or *estancia*.

“Secrets of the Mountains” (cont)

Found were dwellings unlike those of pueblos, but some of the ceramics were 17th-century pueblo plain wares. Slag and other evidence of prospecting for minerals led to the conclusion that the Spanish were hoping to find mineral wealth in this part of the Manzanos.

. On the east side of the mountain chain were pictograph sites that Jeremy described with great enthusiasm. Mostly within shallow rock shelter sites, the post-1670 pictographs in his slides showed a variety of images: men with hats (probably Hispanic figures), a kachina figure, positive handprints, a Navajo or Spanish saddle, and jumping deer. One panel appeared to be a narrative about a conflict that occurred prior to 1740 because no guns were depicted. The rock shelter sites and charcoal pictographs were near former springs. In general, Jeremy opines that these were of Navajo, Apache, and/or Comanche origin.

At the south end of the Manzanos, sites and rock art appear to be of Piro (Pueblo people of the Rio Grande Valley in the greater Socorro region) affiliation, and are related to the pueblos of the Salinas area. When this land was depopulated in the 1670s, some of its inhabitants found refuge at Isleta Pueblo, which claims affiliation to these sites today.

Everyone was delighted to see Jeremy again, pleased he was settling happily into his new job, and asked if he might return sometime in the future when he has more news to share about the Cibola.



Navajo/Apache/Comanche Pictograph

Photo by Jeremy Kulisheck

Literature that might be of interest to stewards:

1984. *Rio Abajo: Prehistory and History of the Rio Grande Province*, Mike Marshall and Henry Walt. New Mexico Historic Preservation Program, Santa Fe.

1987, *Secrets of a City: Papers on Albuquerque Area Archaeology In Honor of Richard A. Bice*, edited by Anne V. Poore and John Montgomery. Archaeological Society of New Mexico Papers 13. A paper by Curt Schaafsma in this collection describes 16th- and 17th- century Pueblo sites.

-Nancy Cella**

**Many thanks to Jeremy for correcting and editing this summary.

Site Steward List Server Reminder

The SFNF Site Steward Program conducts most of its steward-wide communication via a list server. Items mailed on the list server include the quarterly newsletter *Site Lines* and all notifications for meetings, training programs, special events and Forest information and alerts. In addition, information about site steward-related topics with other organizations is transmitted by the list server. The list server is a private list provided through Yahoo Groups, meaning it cannot be accessed through a search or any method other than by invitation. Members of the SFNF Site Steward Program are invited to join; once a member, that steward will receive messages only from SFNF Site Stewards or associated personnel (i.e. Forest Service). Any member of the list server can send a message to the entire SFNF Site Steward membership by using your Yahoo ID to send messages to sfnfsitestewards@yahoogroups.com. **If you have not yet requested an invitation to join from Ted Greer**, List Serv Coordinator, please do so as soon as possible. Messages relating to this year's field season should reach every steward. Please email your request to join the list server to Ted Greer at tgreer@theodoregreer.com. He will send you a notice that reads: "Welcome to Yahoo! Groups! You have been invited to join the group sfnfsitesteward. Note: This is a pre-approved invitation"

If you have any problems joining the group, please contact Ted. Thank you.

Rio Chama Area News

The site stewards for the Rio Chama area are off to a great start this year. Nearly all of the Rio Chama stewards were able to participate in a potluck hosted by Ron and Nancy Krantz (see accompanying photo). We shared a lot of great food and had an opportunity to talk about developments during the past year and make plans for the new season of site visits. In fact, we've already visited nearly all of our assigned sites at least once since March.



Some of us benefited from the opportunity to meet at lunch in March with Sam Duwe, who is now teaching at Eastern New Mexico University and did a doctoral study about the Tewa sites in the Rio Chama Basin. Sam will be back in the area later in the summer—and will be one of the speakers at our program's annual meeting on September 28—and has asked us to introduce him to some Tewa sites he has not yet visited.

Several of us also look forward to the opportunity in June to accompany Sunday Eiselt on a visit to the Jicarilla Apache and Spanish rancho sites along the Rio del Oso, a tributary of the Rio Chama. A revised version of Sunday's dissertation on the Jicarilla Apache is about to be published.

—K. Paul Jones, ATL

Standing: Sandy Seehaver, Ron Krantz, Mary Jebson, Karen Kotch, Grant Luckhardt, & Nancy Krantz
Seated: K. Paul Jones, Isabel Carvalhal, Beth Parisi, Charlie Koenig, & Stella Davidsen

Photo by Keytha Jones

Garcia Area News

On March 30, ATL Will Dearholt and I made a visit to the Garcia to check our sites near and on Guaje mesa. Some of you might remember us reporting that a land swap was finalized with San Ildefonso Pueblo recently. The Pueblo has since put up quite a lot of barbed-wire fence, which prevents backcountry visitors, wood cutters, and hunters from driving all over as they used to. Now, however, one of the few open routes leads directly to the lower Guaje remains, which have become the dead-end turnaround for traffic.

In recent years, we had brushed out this road but, as usual, people going out there often bring chainsaws and remove wood, gradually reopening access. We found lots of tire

tracks all over what's left of the walls. We've reported our findings. Mike says something will need to be done to close that stretch of road again.

The several remains above on the mesa showed no trace of human visitors or vandalism. We noted that erosion, prompted by past fires, continues on certain slopes.

For company, we had a lone bull, a polite fellow who let us look around all we wanted. We hope the new fences will help reduce the number of cows we usually see at our sites.

—Irene Wanner, Garcia AATL

What's not to Like about the Caja?!

So you've heard about the vandalism and worry about the cows and know how popular the Caja del Rio has become to the city of Santa Fe as a recreation site. Heck, there is even a new Laboratory of Anthropology curation facility *and* a dog park for heaven's sake. It's a happenin' place.

And it was a happenin' place in the past as site stewards found out during a recent May morning for a field trip led by Mike Bremer, our talented Forest Archaeologist and his trusty sidekick, Anne. We made several stops with the main goal to visit the prehistoric La Bajada agricultural fields and segments of the historic El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, as well as to discuss the nuances of transportation corridors (yes, even Old Route 66), Forest Service interpretation challenges, and Anne's favorite, "management."

After an orientation in the parking lot of the Forest Headquarters where Mike pointed to the features on the Caja landscape in the distance, he brought the six-car caravan to its first stop at Rancho de los Golondrinas, a popular living-history museum and interpretive facility. The National Park Service recently placed three informative signs on the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro at Golondrinas; these are beautiful interpretive boards with excellent information on the camino, from its origin in Zacatecas, Mexico, to its terminus at Yunque Owingeh (Ohkay Owingeh). We would soon walk along several of those alignments and in the footprints, if not the wheel ruts, of the early 17th-century explorers.

Passing the community of La Cienega and traveling up the rocky slopes of the Caja del Rio, navigating the dusty road through Bureau of Land Management-administered parcels to Forest Road 24, our vista expanded to take in the flat expansive landform. Headed south and with eyes directed to the old circa 1960s-era powerline (an archaeological feature listed on the National Register of Historic Places) on the right and the occasional dips and swales of the land to the left, Mike stopped, the caravan stopped, and everyone followed our leader to a discrete, linear, north/south depression: a segment of the Camino Real!

Never passing up an opportunity to talk about the challenges facing the Forest Service and our attempts to interpret the past to our visitors, Anne mentioned the ongoing partnership with the National Park Service, Intermountain Trails Division, and the Santa Fe NF, specifically the Española Ranger District, to complete an interpretive plan for the Camino Real and share the magic of the past with our visitors. With an already stellar Camino Real brochure produced by the Parkies (always said with fondness) and the Bureau of Land Management, the segments of the Camino on Forest lands presented an awesome opportunity to capture that fascination with roadways and trails and the past in all forms.

The Santa Fe itself partnered with a group called *Recreation Solutions, Inc.* for a sign to be installed at the Headquarters' Office, linked via a QR code (those funny squiggly black-and-white boxes) on the panel, to a digital brochure taking the visitor on a virtual tour through prehistoric, wagon, military, and modern transportation corridors on our small bit of the big Southwestern landscape.

Driving farther along FR 24, we encountered another equally riveting segment of the trail, discussed the hardships of early land travel, and vowed to never malign our SUVs and keep their tires properly inflated.

An informal lunch stop took us to La Bajada scarp, literally an awe-inspiring, as-far-as-the-eye-can-see vista, both restrained and dynamic at the same time. The enormous basalt boulder field we rested on increased our appreciation for those who had come before and also rested after a journey up the scarp. Whether they were the builders of the transmission line that transverses the mesa edge and extends down toward pueblo land, the prisoners who helped transform the inaccessible hillside into the footprint of US Highway 1 and Route 66, or the earliest native people walking the sharp and dangerous incline, we reflected on them all.

With none of Anne's brownies to extend the break, Mike discussed the Forest's recent Travel Management decision and distributed copies of the new maps (*see the article by Mike below*),

What's not to Like? (cont)

we moved on toward our last stops of La Bajada agricultural fields and the overlook from Tsinat mesa and the riverine segment of the Camino Real called Las Bocas.

The agricultural fields continue to amaze...row upon row of alignments to contain fields, protect crops, and it's to be hoped, catch blessed rain. Small rock piles indicated mounds where corn had been planted and larger, more formal rock piles suggested field houses. These temporary structures, found throughout the prehistoric farming locales in the Southwest, were an important part of the economy of the 14th-century farmers on the landscape. The people lived in larger residential communities located elsewhere on the Caja, but chose to plant here to maximize the features of the land and the proximity to water in the river below.

Stopping finally beneath the old powerline once again only facing east, Mike and Anne pointed down the canyon to the segment of the Camino Real known as Las Bocas, referring to the "mouths" of the drainages, where the Santa Fe River and smaller water courses converge farther south.

(top) Lunch amongst the basalt outcrops overlooking the La Bajada scarp and community below.

(bottom) The group in and alongside a wagon rut of the Camino Real. Photos by Anne Baldwin

We wrapped up a fine day with an equally fine crew photograph and remembering the beauty, the conversation, and the link to the past we all share on the Caja.

-Anne Baldwin, Archaeologist
Coyote and Española Ranger Districts



Did You Know? Travel Management on the Santa Fe National Forest

Well, it is history now. Maria Garcia, Forest Supervisor for the Santa Fe National Forest, signed the Travel Management decision in August of 2013 and the decision was implemented in February 2013 after appeals were addressed and travel management maps were printed. As a result of that decision, the forest has a designated a system of roads, trails, and areas for motorized use. The decision also prohibits all motor vehicle use off the designated system. The legal tool for designation consists of the Motor Vehicle Use Map(s) (MVUM), which is available for free at any forest office and in several other locations. The forest has printed thousands of copies of the MVUM, which

comes in two maps, one for the west side and one for the east side. The maps show the designated system of travel on the forest but little else and need to be used in conjunction with other mapping tools such as the Forest Visitor map (the ½ inch to the mile map available for sale at most forest offices and other locations). One thing to be aware of is the MVUM maps supersede the Forest Visitor maps and only roads shown on the MVUM that correspond to roads on the Visitor Map are considered legal for motorized travel. The primary web reference for Travel Management on the Santa Fe is <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/projects/?cid=stelprdb5412097>.

Did you Know? (cont.)

You can use either on your home computer or your laptop. The Google Earth and Garmin tools are very useful, and can be used with more recent handheld GPS units, which might be useful for the more Ludditious among us.

Other than all this technical wiz-bang, the forest would like you to understand the potential benefits from Travel Management designation. The biggest change is in the total number of miles of road open for motorized travel. Prior to the decision, there were nearly 6,900 miles of roads and trails on the forest open for motorized travel. The decision reduced that mileage down to around 2,300 miles, a significant change and one the forest hopes will lead to a healthier forest. In addition, before the decision, cross-country motorized travel was not restricted unless an area was specifically closed such as in the wilderness or other roadless areas. Now, cross-country motorized travel is prohibited unless expressly designated such as in dispersed camping, big-game corridors, and motorized areas. All these designations are shown on the MVUM and the various travel aids offered on the web-pages.

On Memorial Day weekend, the forest conducted a large-scale effort to educate the public about the new travel management designation. As with all major decisions, there will be a period of adjustment during which the forest will concentrate on educating the public about the change with a limited focus on enforcement. Enforcement will occur for truly egregious violations but the forest is certain most will follow the letter of the law resulting from the designation and eventually the hoped for results will be realized. The general feeling on the forest is it represents a truly beneficial change in forest use that will serve to provide sustainable forest resources for the future.

So, go out enjoy your national forest and be aware of where you are on the MVUM. If you have any questions, consult the webpages, contact Mike Bremer, or visit your local forest office and pick up your free copy of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

-Mike Bremer

Travel Management Maps, Further Notes

Mike sent out info for Travel Management maps, including a Garmin download produced by the SFNF. The color map is only supported on the newest units, and the B&W map is downloaded directly to your GPS. I've used the data provided by the SFNF to produce a map more in the style of the Garmin commercial maps. If you want to install and use this map, you install it on your computer and use Garmin's MapSource or BaseCamp programs, just as you would for any Garmin map. The map I produced is an overlay on whatever map you want to use as your base map. It shows the different road types, shows the actual camping corridor "on the ground," not just the dotted line on the map. The various road types, camping corridor, and cross-country travel areas all show up on your GPS and as you move the mouse over them, they pop up with the description. The map also shows private land within the forest.

To install the map:

1. Save the attached zip file to c:\ProgramData\Garmin\Maps.
2. In the Explorer window, double click on the zip file you just saved.
3. Click "extract all files."
4. It should offer to extract to c:\ProgramData\Garmin\Maps\SFNF_Travel_Management.gmap. Click extract.

That's it. Now the map is available in MapSource. It will download to your GPS the same way any other map does.

The map is set so that only your base map will appear until you are zoomed in and the scale bar shows 0.8 mile. Likewise, no details appear in MapSource until you are zoomed to 1 mile or closer.

-David Strip

Site Lines

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Program

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

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

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

Save the Dates

- July 20 Council Meeting, 9 a.m., Conference Room, SFNF office, Santa Fe
- Aug. 8-11 Pecos Conference, Flagstaff, AZ (<http://bit.ly/104FLBX> - Pecos Conference Website.) Check out the Friday night home brew tasting and gathering that savors the relationship between archaeologists and beer.
- Sept. 16 Scott Ortman, speaker, 6 p.m. Conference Room, SFNF office, Santa Fe
- Sept. 28 Site Steward annual meeting, 9:00 a.m. Stewart Udall Building, Santa Fe
- Oct. 2 Glenna Dean. Speaker, 6 p.m. Conference Room, SFNF office, Santa Fe
- Nov. 6 John Kantner, speaker, 6 p.m. Conference Room, SFNF office, Santa Fe

On September 16, October 2 and November 6, bring a box supper and join us at 5:15, when doors open.

Items from Southwest Archaeology Today

The Society for Historic Archaeology Examines Deaccessioning — The “Third Rail” of the Curation Crisis?

In 1996, former SHA Curation Committee Chair Bob Sonderman (Museum Resource Center, National Park Service) argued that archaeologists' commitment to preserve an astounding volume of artifacts has fostered “an overwhelming sense of primal fear when the thought of deaccessioning archaeological material is raised.” Archaeologists do indeed have an emotionally charged approach to collection and curation of artifacts: We value every object in an assemblage as an element in a complex historical narrative; we are especially committed to the notion that “small things” matter; and we have faith that future scholars may one day find fresh insights in old things. Yet preserving everything may be neither a practical strategy nor an especially constructive research method. <http://bit.ly/12YRoJr> - SHA.org

The Atari Stratum May Be Quite Extensive

How old do remnants of our material culture have to be before they're considered artifacts? If you're a gamer, not very old at all. This week, Canada-based game developer Fuel Industries got approval from the city of Alamogordo, New Mexico, to excavate the site of the so-called Atari Dump — a desert landfill where the famous video game manufacturer Atari buried hundreds of tons of broken and outdated merchandise in 1983. <http://bit.ly/18JXp33> - Western Digs

Tucson's “Roman” Artifacts Strike Again, or This Week in Preposterous Book Reviews

Lost Cities and Ancient Mysteries of the Southwest by David Hatcher Childress is an important historical work on the influences of ancient Egypt and Rome on the Southwest and Mexico. Childress provides important archeologic (sic) findings which support his theories. In addition, the work has many pictures of the historical findings which will provide the basis for much conversation. <http://bit.ly/10uauJj> – Seattle Pi