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## Co-chairs' Message

The big news right now is the upcoming annual meeting, September 21, at the Santa Fe National Forest headquarters (11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe). Doors will open at 9:00 and the business meeting will begin at 9:30. Included in the business meeting will be reports from ATLs, three standing committees, and the State of the Forest given by Mike Bremer.

Lunch will be potluck (chile or otherwise). Condiments and paper products will be provided by the Annual Meeting Committee.

After lunch we will tour the nearby San Marcos Pueblo site guided by SFNF Heritage Program Manager, Mike Bremer, and SiteWatch stewards. If you plan to go on the tour, please bring sturdy walking or hiking shoes, a hat, water, and any snacks. The Archaeological Conservancy will also require site visitors to sign a waiver prior to going to the site.

Be sure to bring your silent auction items and door prizes if you would like to donate something wonderful. We're looking forward to reconnecting with everyone and hope to see you there. Proceeds from the auction add to our general income.

Please let your ATLs know if you would like to nominate a fellow site steward for recognition at the annual meeting. ATLs - please let the nominating committee know of nominees and/or forward nominations you've received from your team. You should contact Ann White

([amwhite0403@yahoo.com](mailto:amwhite0403@yahoo.com)) or Candie Borduin ([cwborduin@att.net](mailto:cwborduin@att.net)) as soon as possible.

All indications are that we will be holding a SFNF Site Steward training March 21, 2020. We know there are many of you who have completed orientation and training by your ATL and are waiting to attend the formal training session so you can gain SFNF site steward certification. If that describes you, then mark this date in your calendar. We will be doing a social marketing campaign this time to get the word out. Look for more details as the date gets closer.

The education committee chair position is still vacant. The job requires working with Mike Bremer's guidance to schedule speakers for the first Wednesday of October, November, February, March, and April. If you think you might be interested, please email Lois Haggard at [zymophile@gmail.com](mailto:zymophile@gmail.com). Don't be shy, volunteer for something new! Our former chair, Gail Bryant, will be happy you get started.

The next SFNF site steward council meeting is Saturday, October 19, at 9 a.m. in the conference room at the Forest Service headquarters. All stewards are welcome to attend.

At this time there are no fire restrictions in the SFNF and the fire danger is listed as "moderate." As always, do be careful in your travels on the forest. We hope to see you at the annual meeting.

-Lois Haggard and Paul Leo

## Contributors to This Issue

Bruce Bender  
Mike Bremer  
Lee Borduin  
Amanda Fox  
Lois Haggard  
Paul Leo  
Gary Newgent  
John Pitts

The Editors Thank You!

## Council Meeting Summary

The regular quarterly meeting of the Site Steward Council was held on July 13, 2019. Lois Haggard, co-chair, presided.

There were two Site Steward Foundation financial reports: one shows the Profit and Loss by Class, October 2018 through June 2019. The total income for the SFNF site steward program in that period is \$320.00, and the total expense is \$240.00. The second report shows P&L Budget vs. Actual for the same time period for the Foundation. Budgeted Income is \$1,050.00 and the income thus far is \$320.00. The budgeted expense is \$890.00; actual expense totals \$240.00.

Three site steward perks' tours were discussed: Irene reported that the tour of Guaje Ruin in the Garcia area was rescheduled because of adverse weather, and took place on June 2; two people attended. The tour to Tsiping was also rescheduled until fall; it will occur on September 14, with a deadline to respond to K. Paul Jones by August 3 ([kennethpauljones@q.com](mailto:kennethpauljones@q.com)). The tour to Boletsakwa will take place on October 5, with a deadline to contact Chris Gardner by September 28 ([upcycle87025@gmail.com](mailto:upcycle87025@gmail.com)).

The new treasurer of the Site Steward Foundation is Ray Willison, replacing Kay Lee. The office of vice chair is still open.

### Area Reports:

Mike Bremer reported that some sites in the Caja del Rio have been visited. A site steward site sign has been stolen (again), and will be replaced.

Elaine Gorham reported via email that monitoring in the Gallina area had a late spring start because of weather conditions. A metate was found at the agricultural site near the Gallina River. Erosion must be the cause since this site was well recorded during a PIT project a number of years ago, and has been regularly monitored ever since. The metate was buried.

Irene Wanner reported that all sites in the Garcia area have been visited, and all are OK.

Chris Gardner reported that two new stewards have been oriented on the Jemez Team, there have been four site visits, and that no sites have yet been visited on Cat Mesa.

Lois Haggard reported for the Pecos area that a fence near the hacienda site had been cut, rock art tours have begun, and there are no major problems at other sites.

K. Paul Jones reported that all sites have been visited in the Rio Chama area, and some new agricultural sites have been discovered.

-Nancy Cella, Acting Secretary

## Reminder about Activity Reports

If you visit an area in which you're not a member, for example, if you go on one of the day trips offered this summer and fall led by an ATL in another area, when you send in your Activity Report, put your name and the date as usual, but in the category where you usually check the area to which you belong, instead check the area you're visiting. I belong to the Garcia but recently monitored a site on the Jemez, so I'd check Jemez – not Garcia – when I file my report. Thanks!

-Irene Wanner

## Site Steward Foundation Update

The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the 2019 grant program and if you would like to apply and be considered for a grant of up to \$1,000, please contact Gary Newgent at [sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com) for an application. Deadline is October 1, 2019.

Ray Willison has accepted the position of treasurer on the Foundation board of directors after the recent retirement of Kay Lee as treasurer. Ray was an original founder of the Site Steward Foundation in 2008 and the original treasurer of the Foundation for its first five years. The vice president position on the Foundation board is still vacant and available for anyone interested in supporting site steward programs in New Mexico and the Southwest. Please contact Gary Newgent if you are interested.

The Foundation managed an information table, and helped out with the silent auction at the recent Pecos Conference in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, August 8-11.

Please help us make our goal of over 100 members in 2019. If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2019, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website [www.sitestewardfoundation.org](http://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.

— Gary Newgent, President

## Visit to the Stone Circles Site in Pecos

In mid-June, I went with Ron Whatley to visit some stone circles up on Rowe Mesa. These are pretty remote, requiring miles of off-road driving along basic two-tracks and then a mile or two of hiking. I was substituting as the second person, his usual partner being unavailable.

The location is absolutely spectacular, out on a point at the top of high cliffs. It wasn't the best day for taking scenic photos, being very hazy, but I took some anyway. Here are three, described in order:

View from Penitente Cross - This cross had apparently been recently reset. You can see

how careful the foundation of rocks is. The view looks eastward. The railroad right of way is gray, with the green swath of the Pecos River just beyond it. I-25 heads toward Starvation Peak on the left side. The village of San Jose is on the left, near where I-25 and the river cross.

High Cliff - Looking the other way, toward the northwest, this view shows Johnson Mesa and the Sangre de Cristos near Santa Fe. It gives a good idea of the height and ruggedness of these cliffs. A semi truck on the interstate lends some scale. Another cross can be seen, this one apparently solar powered.



## Visit to the Stone Circles Sites in Pecos (cont)

Rattlesnake - We ran across this rattlesnake while hiking in. Got pretty close before we saw it. It was big, maybe five inches thick in the middle, maybe six. It didn't get very excited, just rattled a little to let us know it was alive, and swiveled its head to keep an eye on us as we passed. Did I mention it was big?

P.S. The stone circles were fine.

-Bruce Bender

All photos by Bruce Bender.



## Did You Know? Music and Archaeology

Many of you know of my interest in music, especially playing folk and bluegrass. In brainstorming issues that might be of interest my attention kept getting distracted by music that I was either thinking about or listening to. Rather than put off either topic I came up with trying to explain how my interest in archaeology and music dovetail. At first I thought I was just caught in a typical over-tasking situation until I told myself to slow down and actually think about why I practice both and their similarities.

First off, playing music and practicing archaeology both challenge an individual to push their creative boundaries to solve problems. In archaeology we attempt to address past human behavior using evidence left behind. In playing music the musician has to learn songs that are evidence left behind by those who created those songs, and the musician's job is to figure out how to play that song in an enjoyable fashion that may also please those listening so that they can either hear it for the first time or recognize it as something they have heard before. In both archaeology and music the practitioner is recreating an environment that was created by others and replicating patterns intended by the creators.

Second, music and archaeology both require practice to achieve a level of skill to be successful in imparting the intent of the song or

the archaeological record. Neither field can be successfully achieved without a certain degree of experience. Musicians spend years becoming adept at replicating the notes on their instruments whether it is a dreadnaught guitar or Bobby McFerrin's voice. Archaeologists rarely succeed without acquiring a college degree and an equal or greater measure of field experience. Both fields require intensive experience with their "instruments" to interpret and perform or publish the results of their study.

Third, both music and archaeology, much like painting, cannot be practiced well without putting in the effort to master the basics. At some point in time this proficiency leads to being able to either play difficult pieces or interpret difficult scenarios in the archaeological record. But this is not sufficient recognition of what a master in archaeology or music is really capable. Eventually, the musician learns to moderate tone and play music in new and innovative ways. Audience members may surely recognize a piece but a true musician can add nuance that inspires and tugs at the heart of the listener. An archaeologist with years of experience and an open mind can find new ways to explain the archaeological record that may have stagnated under traditional interpretation but was waiting for a new look at old data. Once the traditional skills of each are learned then improvisation has the potential to create new interpretations.

## Music and Archaeology (cont)

Finally, archaeology and music collide as forms of entertainment. It is rare to have archaeologists who do not listen to music in their personal lives or do not have something blasting over the speakers when they are working in the lab or finalizing research. Many archaeologists are avocational musicians and find it a relaxing form of entertainment that stimulates their creative side or assists in helping answer

archaeological questions. I cannot speak to a connection in the other direction from music to archaeology other than to say that many of my musician friends also have an intense interest in the past whether it is historical or archaeological. For either profession though the questions the practitioner asks are similar.

-Mike Bremer

## What is Missing Here?

If it were not tough enough to take the hour-long drive across the Caja del Rio to reach one of those cliff-side pueblos, the site steward team of Bob McCarthy and John Pitts, has had more than its share of signage problems.

Once upon a time, the team found the official sign warning folks to respect the site and all of its archaeological contents, or else . . . MISSING! Not a trace, including the post. All that was left was a narrow hole in the ground.

The site steward management responded rapidly and hauled another post and sign out to the site, Caja del Rio North. Concrete was poured into the hole and rocks piled around the base of the sign. Voilà! The return of the sign. On the next visit of the site stewards, however, the original sign, totally intact and unharmed was found a short distance away from its original location. It was hiding behind a large piñon tree. So that sign, now no longer needed, was retrieved and put on the floor of the HQ file room.

But back to the latest incident. On a visit just three months ago, the faithful and observant site monitors spotted the metal plaque entirely missing from the plywood board on the sign. Post there, board there, but plaque with the threatening language unbolted and gone. The team was ready to call it quits and just not have a sign because it was drawing the wrong crowd to the scene, but that reaction was premature. Soon, the Caja ATL, Gary Newgent, came up with a replacement. So, the team ventured to the home of Gary, down by Cerrillos, and obtained a replacement metal plaque, screws, nails, and tools to perform the necessary replacement. On the next inspec-

tion, Bob and John succeed in reaffixing the new metal plate. Problem resolved! Well, until it gets ripped off again.

It would be interesting to know if any other site steward teams have had related experiences. If so, any views on the utility of having these signs placed next to sensitive archaeological sites in the SFNF? It would be hard to gauge how successful they are as a deterrent to pot hunters and artifact collectors. But one way to tell is whether those activities continue even after a sign is erected. Just curious!

One thing is true. There are folks out there who admire the signs enough to have removed and vandalized at least one sign!



Caja del Rio Site Stewards Bob McCarthy and John Pitts with new sign in place. Maybe this time is for keeps.

-Story and Photo by John Pitts

## Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Talk, 20th Anniversary Lecture Series

At the beginning of each year, 40 trained MPPP recording volunteers are invited to participate in voting for the “best of the best” of the previous year’s recording on Mesa Prieta. The top 25 selections are featured in a Land Owner Report prepared for the Richard Cook Family. Similar Land Owner reports are prepared for other private land owners as recording on their land is completed. The most spectacular, well made, unique, well documented selections of petroglyphs and other archaeological features are featured in these reports. Candie Borduin will present many of these best of the best images. This is a rare opportunity to see images on several parcels of private land that are not seen by the general public!

This event will be held on Tuesday, August 27th from 6 to 8 pm at the Heritage Center in Alcalde, N.M.



Photo by  
Lee Bor-  
duin

Candie has volunteered with MPPP since 2002 and has served as Petroglyph Recording Trainer and Coordinator since 2008. She considers working on the mesa to be a rare privilege and the opportunity to work with MPPP volunteers to be equally rewarding.

-Amanda Fox  
Mesa Prieta Tour and Outreach Coordinator



One of the best of the best petroglyphs recorded in 2018. Is it THE best? Come and see Candie's slide show on Tuesday, August 27, at 6 p.m.

Photo by a MPPP volunteer

## A Site Full of Surprises: The Powerline Site

It will come as no surprise that there is a vast and intriguing variety of sites that site stewards monitor in the Santa Fe National Forest. It runs the gamut of pueblo ruins, geoglyphs, isolated features, trails, ceremonial sites, rock art panels, etc. I would like to highlight one on the Caja del Rio Plateau that is much more than the simple description of ceremonial site. It is the Powerline Site, found a short distance to the east of the well-known and visited sister site, Los Aguajes Pueblo.

I have visited the site more than once because it has one characteristic that I find essential for a ceremonial site: a great vista. It sits on a small hillock close to the La Bajada Escarpment and has a perfect view of La Tetilla Peak (not an Indian name!) to the northeast of the site. Below is a photo to give you a clear impression of that view. In the foreground, you will observe a roughly circular ring of stones that provides the evidence of a ceremonial site. That circle has an opening (hard to see) facing east. No surprise there.



And the next big surprise—and you may not believe this—is that on the cliffs to the west of the hill with the stone circle is a large smoothed area surrounded by rough surfaces covered with green/gray lichen. In fact, it is not just one section of cliff that protrudes that is completely smooth. On the most recent visit, it was found that two adjoining surfaces also display smooth areas. It is striking and requires an explanation.



Since I have seen these smooth areas in a number of areas in southern New Mexico, most notably the Alamo Mt./Cornudas Mtns. region, I have concluded that the Powerline Site was visited eons ago by megafauna who used sections of the cliffs to scratch themselves. That is how the surface got its glassy-smooth feeling. I welcome any other theories and would be glad to show any disbelievers my surprise discoveries!

-Story and Photos by John Pittts



But to me the first surprise was the rock art (and modern graffiti) found on the cliff just to the east of the stone circle. Some impressive images show masks, geometrics, possible birds, etc. That, of course, begs the question: Which came first? The rock art or the ceremonial circle? Chicken or egg? Any guesses? I would say they were created roughly concurrently.

## Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project 20th Anniversary Celebration!

Sunday, October 20th, 2 - 5 pm.

### **Site Lines**

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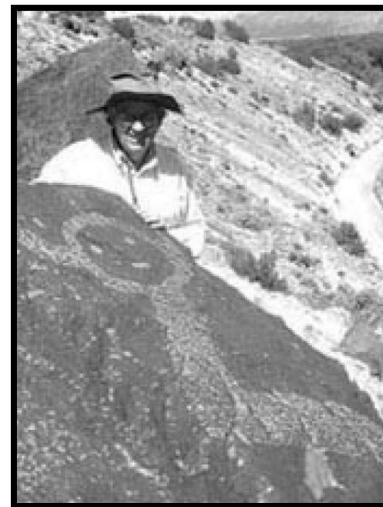
Come and celebrate our 20th Anniversary with us! Join us on the dance floor as we enjoy the music of Felix y Los Gatos, learn a bit of cultural history as esteemed Dr. Richard Ford shares his knowledge of nearby Phioge Pueblo, sip local wine provided by Black Mesa Winery, peruse our auction of more than 50 items including original art, artisan weaving, artist hand-crafted jewelry, and gift certificates to visit area attractions, gaze at the beautiful fall foliage in one of New Mexico's most beautiful sites, Historic Los Luceros, in view of the mesa we work so hard to protect, and—best of all—eat cake! The entry fee of \$100 will help us meet our annual budget and work toward another 20 years of progress. There will be entertainment, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, cake, and a cash bar.

-Amanda Fox, Mesa Prieta Tour and Outreach Coordinator

*Ed. Note: Los Luceros Historic Site, the main house, outbuildings, and grounds have been beautifully restored; it is a treat just to be there. This is a unique New Mexico treasure.*



Los Luceros Historic Site, Alcalde, NM (above)



Dick Ford (at right)

Photos provided by Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**August 27:** Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project Talk. Candie Borduin, speaker, The Best of the Best of Recorded Rock Art, 2018. 6 to 8 pm, The Heritage Center in Alcalde, N.M.

**September 21:** SFNF Site Steward Annual Meeting. 9 a.m. Forest Service Office Conference Room. (please bring a door prize, item for silent auction, dish to share for lunch)

**October 2:** Wednesday evening lecture, speaker TBA. SFNF Santa Fe office conference room, doors open at 5:15 p.m. for brown bag supper, lecture at 6 p.m.

**October 19:** Quarterly Council Meeting, 9 a.m. SFNF Santa Fe Office conference room. All stewards are welcome to attend.

**October 20:** Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, October 20, Los Luceros, 2-5 p.m. Dick Ford speaker, music, silent auction, and food. \$100 fee.

**November 4:** Wednesday evening lecture, speaker TBA. SFNF Santa Fe office conference room, doors open at 5:15 p.m. for brown bag supper,