



SITE LINES

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2020

Message from the Council Chair

I think we can probably venture out to check sites keeping in mind safe distancing when on the sites, traveling in different vehicles if you're with non-household site stewards, keeping the number of people on the site trip to four or fewer (but don't go out by yourself!), wearing a mask when close to others, and keeping hands scrubbed.

I don't see us having a training session anytime soon with a bunch of people in a room. We're just going to have to play that by ear for the time being. Same goes for an annual meeting. Bandelier isn't even open to camping right now anyway. We will see how that goes as summer progresses.

People are welcome to hike at Bandelier starting from trailheads that are NOT in Frijoles Canyon (that area is gated). I had a great hike several weeks ago to the Stone Lions starting from the Ponderosa Trailhead. Social isolation out there isn't hard! Lori and I drove across the north end of the Jemez last weekend and it was very sparsely populated until we got down closer to Fenton Lake on FR144. Then there was a veritable mob of campers, trailers, ATVs, tents, etc. State Road 4 was also full of people parked along the highway.

We've had people come across snakes here in Los Alamos recently. Two were spotted at the dog park on North Mesa. One was a pretty good-

sized bull snake (harmless, of course) and the other was a rattlesnake. The latter was slightly coiled up in probably a gopher or rabbit hole about an inch below the ground. That one would have been easy to step on. Anyway, the snakes are out now!

There are several fire restrictions in place including a new set this morning (Wed., 5/20). Camping with a fire is out of the question right now. No s'mores allowed! The SFNF is under Stage II restrictions, which are outlined on the web page https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5374641.pdf.

Let's keep in touch as we go forward here. We can see what makes sense virus- and fire-wise for visiting sites, having campouts, training sessions, etc. For now, let's visit sites (and record the visit) when possible but be safe doing it. And please report your hours and mileage to David Strip (David@stripfamily.net).

I am in at work one day a week (generally Wednesdays for now). I can't bring my cell phone in here but the office phone is (505) 664-0484. If you need to find me and I don't seem to be in my office, try my cell phone at (575) 642-8682. Note the different area code. Text messages to the cell number are fine too.

I hope you all are doing well and we'll be in touch.

— Will Dearholt, Council Chair

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Contributors to This Issue

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The editors thank you!!

Site Steward Foundation Update

The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the 2020 grant program and if you would like to apply and be considered for a grant up to \$1,000, please contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com for an application. Deadline is October 1, 2020. There were no grant applications received during 2019. To review a list of previous grants awarded, visit Projects on our website www.sitestewardfoundation.org.

The 2020 SiteWatch and Foundation annual meeting and election of officers was held online on Monday, April 20, 2020. Members of the Foundation voted on a new Board of Directors with the addition of Phil Young as vice president and Ray Willison as treasurer. Phil and Ray are both original founding directors of the Foundation in 2008 and we welcome their return to the Board of Directors. Anne Ravenstone, a member-at-large of the Foundation Board of Directors, has recently retired from the board. Anyone interested in joining the Foundation board as a

member-at-large should contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting, May 8-10, 2020 at the Sagebrush Inn in Taos, New Mexico, and the Pecos Conference, August 6-9, 2020 in Mancos, Colorado, were cancelled and rescheduled for 2021.

Please help us make our goal of over 100 members in 2020. If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2020, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website www.sitestewardfoundation.org. If you would like to be notified of Foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to our email list on the Foundation website.

Thank you for your support of site stewards!

— Gary Newgent, President

Animal Tracks

Thanks to Chris Gardner, site stewards were treated to a talk on March 4 from a Certified Tracker Level Four – Ann Hunkins – who taught us skills about tracking animals that ancestral humans knew very well. It is one of the oldest human skills, necessary in eras when people depended upon their knowledge of animals that they sought for food, skins, furs, and sometimes teeth, often regarded as trophies and proof of how skilled the hunter is. A display of antlers is still common.

What do trackers need to learn? What animals are in your area; what do they eat, where do they sleep, who are their predators, animal gaits, track patterns, differences between front and hind, left and right feet, recent weather that can age a track, and what resources are available. And that's just for starters. The following is quoted from Ms. Hunkins' handout.

"Gaits to recognize are walk, overstep walk/trot, pace/lope, and gallop. For each gait, the

principal differences are the spacing between prints, and the overall pattern of individual paw prints.

Differences between feline vs. canine tracks include:

- Feline overall track is round
- Canine overall track is oval
- Feline heel pad is trapezoidal (two lobes leading, three behind), and larger relative to the toe pads
- Canine heel pad is triangular (one lobe leading, two behind), and smaller relative to toe pads
- Nails usually show in canine tracks (but not always) particularly with gray fox. Felines can show claws in some circumstances
- Canines usually trot, hind foot coming down in front or to side of front foot
- Felines usually travel in overstep walk – hind foot coming down on top of or in front of front foot.

Animal Tracks (cont)

Differences between a domestic dog and coyote tracks/trails:

- Domestic dogs often wander erratically – they are exploring
- Coyotes tend to travel in a direct trajectory between points of interest – they are hunting or following a particular track
- Domestic dogs’ outside toes point outward; the overall track is sloppy-looking, and nails are thick and blunt.
- Coyotes’ outside toes point forward; the overall track is neat and compact, and nails are thinner, more delicate than a dog’s, sometimes not showing at all.”

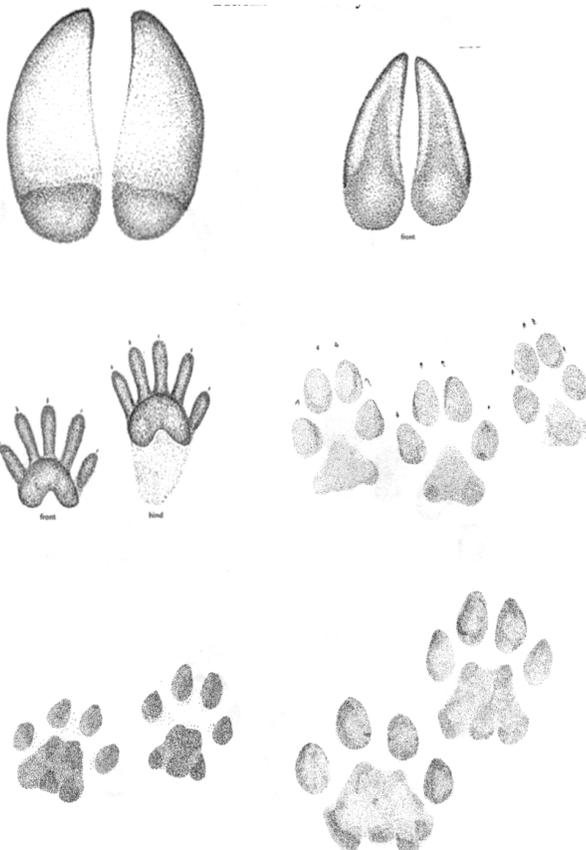
The identification of all tracks should be based on more than one track; one needs to follow the trail for a good identification. In mud and snow, tracks tend to spread out. Among the various felines, a mountain lion track can be about four inches long, while a bobcat track is usually about 1½ inches long, the same as a

domestic cat.

Other animals have distinct characteristics: Raccoons use right hind and right front feet together, and usually step in their own track. Rabbits have paired tracks, and the hind tracks are not together. Bears have five toes, nails, and are large. Possums have a big toe on the hind foot, with wide spaces between fingers on the front paws, with separate nails on hind paws. Now and then we can encounter a badger that has tilted front feet and not as tilted back feet. And we’ve all seen deer, elk, and domestic cow tracks – ungulates with separate pads.

We spent the rest of the hour or so examining casts of foot prints as well as a several sheets in Ms. Hunkins’ handout of tracks to identify. Some of us did better than others. Below are some tracks for you to identify. They are not to scale.

The handout also listed several guides to animal tracks, as well as web resources about identification and tracker certification. As usual, do a Google search for animal tracks to learn more.



Bob McCarthy, Site Steward Par Excellence

It was a warm and breezy day when Bob and I approached our assigned site on the Caja del Rio Plateau three years ago. We had hiked to our site, Caja del Rio North, from a barbed wire gate, although we could have driven farther to save some time and wear and tear on our boots. Still, Bob insisted that the exercise would be good for us and indeed the four-mile round trip was an excellent workout, would only take us an hour each way, and allow for relaxed conversation. This was and is typical of Bob, a man I call a paragon among site stewards.



What made that particular trip even more memorable was the fact that as we approached the rectangular outline of a major pueblo ruin, we found that the sign advising the public that the area was of archaeological importance and monitored by site stewards was *missing*. Regardless of one's personal opinion on whether these signs serve a useful purpose or not, we found it offensive that some visitor had stolen government property! We reported the missing sign the same day. In due course, the decision was made by the Santa Fe National Forest staff to replace the sign immediately. With the help of other volunteers, a deep hole was dug and cement used to make such thefts much more difficult. On the subsequent inspection, we found the original sign lying on the ground less than 100 feet away from its original location behind a large piñon tree! That sign was later retrieved by another site steward. The replacement sign had the metal plaque removed from the post. Subsequently, Bob and I affixed a new plaque securely, using nails and screws. Such is the life of

site stewardship, even in the far reaches of the SFNF.

To be a successful site steward requires many personal attributes. Among those, I would say that physical stamina, powers of observation, and a devotion to the purpose of site stewardship are the most important. Bob has those qualities in spades. And I am a pretty good judge of that since I have shared a number of diverse volunteer activities with him during more than 20 years. In 1999, I was able to recruit him to work as a docent in the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture where he outlasted me by many years giving regular Wednesday tours of the exhibits. I also welcomed him as a member of a rock art recording team preparing scientific reports on the rock art panels for the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project just north of Española. Eventually, I organized the official rock art survey team on Mesa Prieta, called the Rock Art Trekkers (RATs), and immediately asked Bob if he would join the team. He gladly accepted and served admirably for more than a dozen years, exploring very difficult terrain, which included what I called "basalt tsunamis." I can't go into all of Bob's outstanding volunteer activities here but I must say his devotion to the Labyrinth Resource Group of Santa Fe since 1998 has shown the kind of steadfast leadership and hard work that surfaces frequently in the Site Steward Program.

In this case, he was the one who inspired me to participate and help construct and maintain a number of labyrinths in and around Santa Fe. I should also add that as a consequence of Bob and Marge's enormous contributions to life in Santa Fe, they were both recognized as "Living Treasures" last year for their "dedication to the life, heart, and spirit of our community." So, you can see why I feel honored to be Bob's site steward partner.

But back to Bob's steadfast work as a site steward. Since our training and joining the nascent SFNF program in 1999, Bob and I have been regular teammates, serving in four separate areas of the forest. Initially assigned to inspect Huerfano Mesa and Castles on the Chama ruin, we enjoyed the privilege of driving

Bob McCarthy (cont)

2.5 hours each way. The road through the Llaves Valley and across Chupadero Mesa (Gallina District) could be tricky at times (snow cover was the smoothest) and I had to have the front end of my Jeep realigned after our first trip! Nevertheless, the view from the Castles was one of the best in the SFNF, stretching from the Santa Fe Ski area to Colorado!

From there we graduated to the Jemez District to monitor three pueblo sites on Borrego Mesa. These sites were more accessible to the public and hence prone to more visitation. On one visit we found that trees were being cut down right on a ruin's room blocks. We reported this, as well as the presence of an axe with personal markings stuck in the stump of one of the recently cut trees. Unfortunately, we never heard what action, if any, was taken in response to our report.

Our third assignment was to the La Cueva area of the Pecos District, which had suffered severe damage due to moss rock removal. We were sent to locate archaeological sites that consisted of small piles of flat rocks based on older map-derived GPS coordinates. We did not find many, but on one inspection we found a segment of a metal conveyor belt evidently used to move rocks closer to available transportation. We also inspected a truck with a large flat rock in the bed (but no driver!) and once sighted a group of collectors who tore out of the drainage so fast in their truck, they almost left two of their party on the dirt road. The historic homestead with corrals we found was eventually recorded by a group of volunteers.

Again, thirsting for more adventures, we were delegated to the Caja del Rio group, which gave us the opportunity to inspect a number of different sites from ancient agricultural fields to vast rock art collections. Still, we make sure on a regular basis that Caja del Rio North is a routine stop.

We have discovered several new rock art panels in the vicinity of the ruin; they are in the process of being recorded.



Panel at Tsikwaiye—"basalt heights" at Caja del Rio Rio North. Photo by John Pitts

One rock art panel found at the bottom of the White Rock Canyon below the pueblo ruin (opposite the Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier National Monument), turned out to be a "missing link" of the style that Polly Schaafsma calls Plateau Puebloan style.

In recent years, usually Bob initiates our visits, showing his enthusiasm despite his age, now 91. He reminds me that our work is not done, and it is true. We frequently make discoveries and enjoy the variety of artifacts in situ and wildlife viewings. We have also included two nearby ceremonial sites in our inspection and are looking to find another one soon. Plus, we like to jazz up our visits by collecting trash along our routes. This consists mostly of aluminum cans (Bud Light and Coors are the favorites), oil cans, glass bottles (we don't touch the broken ones), and occasionally auto parts! So, recycling is also in our job description!

These are only the highlights of the joy it has been to be Bob's partner in site stewardship. If any site steward serving in the SFNF is interested in going down to our site, I'll be glad to introduce you to Bob so he can show you the way! You will never forget the experience.

—John L. Pitts

Jana Comstock is Promoted

It's very good news that Jana Comstock has been promoted to Annie Baldwin's former position at the Española district of SFNF. Officially, she is now Zone Archaeologist/Heritage Staff position. She will be an excellent addition. Congratulations, Jana!

At the site steward Annual Meeting held at Abiquiu Lake in 2016, Jana and the other National Forest archaeologists' outstanding service was recognized.



Left to right: Jason McInteer, Annemarie Kremetz, **Jana Comstock**, Anne Baldwin, Mike Bremer (under the yellow tarp).

Jana's certificate of appreciation reads:

"For demonstrating her commitment and support to the SFNFSS program through her attendance and participation in many steward events including lectures, tours and educational events (even if her boss, Annie, didn't make her ...). Jana is always cheerfully willing to look up and provide information we need and shares her considerable knowledge and insights. She is a delight to work with in the field, has a wonderful eye, and explains what she observes. It is a pleasure to have the dedicated support from someone who loves archaeology as much as we do."

She has used her extensive archaeological experience as a team leader for six years with the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. Her expertise in site survey, site recognition, and lithic typing has been invaluable in her work.

— Candie Borduin

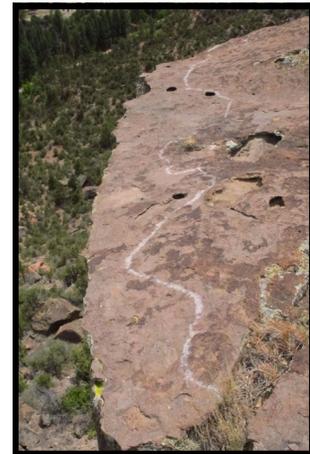
A Visit to Boletsakwa

While we were camped at the gate (closed) on FR10 (between the two Paliza closed campgrounds), Siobhan (Hanford) and I decided to go for a hike to the top of the mesa directly above us. Avoiding the long uphill road route, we headed straight up to the cliffs above us. We knew there was a small break in the cliffs, which we had seen from the top of the mesa a while back. Little did we know that to approach that break we had to do a lot of scrambling up a steep slope with lots of loose rocks and powdery soil (pumice?). We also had to maneuver over the orange band, a set of cliffs below the upper cliffs. Well, we made it with some effort. The big reward, besides arriving on top alive, was the discovery of two rock art panels on the ascent (unmarked) as well as rediscovering a stone wall that appeared to be a hunting blind in the drainage. Since it was obvious that game came up to the top of the mesa following the same rough route, it made sense that there was a hunting blind.

Once on top of the mesa, we followed the rim all the way to the Boletsakwa ruin. We found and inspected all the rock art panels as well as the occasional fulgurite. En route, we also observed fresh boot prints.

Fulgurite on Paliza Mesa.

Photo by John Pitts



No human or natural impact was observed—if you exclude some impressive pack rat dens—on the Boletsakwa ruin, itself, which was overgrown with grasses. We followed the path down the east side of the mesa, encountering some well-developed ATV trails, as well as an obscure marked rock art panel. We descended a steep

A Visit to Boletsakwa (cont.)

slope to the road leading down to our campsite and found a number of white-taped trees but few obvious signs of archaeology.

The entire trek that day covered about five miles and took 6.25 hours. It was a good, worthwhile adventure.

Upon returning to camp we were also rewarded to find that the SFNF had responded to my alert that ATVs were being driven through the forests. A large yellow sign was attached to

the gate stating that motorized vehicles were required to stay on the established roads. The trailer with multiple ATVs parked in the lot next to the gate packed up shortly thereafter and departed for destinations unknown.

So, that is life in one small corner of the SFNF during the Coronavirus pandemic. I sure look forward to being able to travel farther up FR10 and to find a more peaceful camping site in the near future. — John Pitts

Wayne Nelson

One of the first group of site stewards, Wayne Nelson, died on April 1, 2020. In September 2019, he had a fall and fractured his right hip. He had emergency surgery but was not able to regain any mobility. Mary Ann Nelson reports he remained very positive in spite of being confined to a wheelchair and requiring the assistance of caregivers. He began to lose strength from limited exercise and told Mary Ann that he was "ready to come down from his mountain into the green valley, sit beside the beautiful stream and let God take him." Wayne was 94, and he and Mary Ann had been married 62 years.



Wayne Nelson

Photo by Candie Borduin

Wayne arrived in Santa Fe as a retiree after a seven-year search for the ideal home. He attended classes at Santa Fe Community College in soil science, environmental law, and sylvan culture, then knocked on the door at the Forest Service, presenting himself as a volunteer. He became aware of the rich archaeological treasures on the Forest and his interest focused in that direction. He was one of four people who took classes with the State Land Office on

monitoring archaeological sites, and was certified as a site steward. The others attending were Mike Bremer, Terry Ballone, and Susan Scott. This original cadre started the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program and went on to develop the program as we know it today.

Wayne was born on a cattle ranch in Wyoming. It was so remote that he had to spend winters in Utah in order to obtain schooling. Wayne says that he escaped by joining the U.S. Army at age 18. He never returned to the ranch life. Because of his interest in computer study, Wayne attended the Southwest State College in Springfield, MO. He joined Rand Corp. to explore applications of computer use. He was sent to Tinker AFB, in Oklahoma City, OK, to implement the first installation of the IBM 705 computer for Air Force use. He spent two years at the Pentagon and fled when overwhelmed by the bureaucracy!

He eventually moved into world-wide marketing and sales for Burroughs, Corp. Wayne traveled for ten years before settling into being in charge of strategic and business planning. When Wayne retired, he headed back to the mountains that he had so dramatically left behind in his youth.

As a resident of Santa Fe, Wayne was the Area Team Leader for the Garcia area, also known as the Pajarito Province. He was a council member due to his status as an ATL and as the head of the crucially important Training Committee.

Wayne Nelson could rightly be called the Godfather of the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program.

— Jeanne Gozigian

Wayne Nelson (cont)

In 2000, when the Cerro Grande fire commanded 99.9% of Mike's attention, again Wayne went to Mike and insisted that the volunteers form a group to oversee the site stewards so they could continue to function as the eyes of the forest for archaeological sites. In 2000 and 2001, Wayne gathered a group of site stewards to write the documents that the organization adheres to today, with a number of revisions. One of his final actions for the organization of the new site steward entity was to form

a council of governing stewards in leadership positions that endures today.

Another of Wayne's final efforts for the site steward organization was to attempt to bring together a nonprofit organization to manage the group's finances in that, as volunteers for the forest, we and the forest could not handle money. Much of Wayne's preliminary work was applied to what later became the Site Steward Foundation, Inc.

— Candie Borduin

Caja del Rio Site Stewards Score a Hat Trick*

Living under the threat of a major pandemic caused by the Coronavirus has kept a lot of people in isolation in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. While businesses have closed and large group gatherings have been banned, the Santa Fe National Forest has followed the advice of the Center for Disease Control and directives of the New Mexico governor. A concomitant development has been the rush of people to enjoy outdoor activities where one is at less risk of exposure to the virus. This is a good thing but may also increase the public visitation of the archaeological sites the site stewards are charged with protecting.

Those of us fortunate enough to be volunteering on the Caja del Rio Plateau have witnessed a major increase in visitors, official and unofficial. On one recent trip to the Bajada escarpment, I encountered a couple from Durango, Colorado, looking for hiking spots while driving their RV down the old, rutted Route 66, as well as two pick-up trucks with National Forest Service insignia who claimed to be from Idaho lending a hand to the SFNF in efforts to prevent forest fires. So, it makes sense for site stewards to increase site visitations and help the National Forest, which is caught up in the strictures of working at home and limited field work projects.

With that in mind, I have been out with my team mate, Bob McCarthy, twice recently to visit the Caja Del Rio North site with its extensive pueblo ruin. While we did not observe any disturbance there, nor at the nearby World Quarter Shrine site, there were motorcycle

tracks and foot prints leading up to the ruin. Next, on May 27, three of us on the Caja team, including ATL Gary Newgent and Paula Lozar, decided to go and inspect sites between Tetilla Peak and the Santa Fe River Canyon (Cañada de Santa Fe).

The weather offered up a near-perfect day, warm but breezy, and the roads were dry. Paula led the way (we drove in separate vehicles as instructed) first to the Camino Real Site, which because of its age is difficult to recognize. However, we did see the location where the old migration route crossed a low ridge line near the Bajada escarpment leaving an eroded cut in the basalt formation. No changes were observed. Next we drove north to check on the two sites that form the Bajada Archaic Site (LA 9500, LA 9501). Following a hike down the drainage that separates these two sites, we proceeded to the southwest edge of LA 9500 where we discovered a vehicle but no one present. Upon inspecting the cliff face below the site we found a number of climbing tools attached to a rope indicating that this is a known site for mountain climbers. Still, we did not see anyone, nor was there evidence of disturbance to the archaeology. I should note that upon returning to the vehicles after checking the arroyo between the sites, I found a set of about a dozen keys including two identical car keys. We could not help but speculate what the poor owner must have felt when he lost both the primary key and spare at the same time!

Finally, we ended our tour of the three sites by driving down the power line road stopping a short distance from the northern cliffs of the Santa Fe River Canyon. There one can observe a vast area

A Hat Trick* (cont)

that evidently was used in ancient times for agricultural pursuits. We observed rows of terraces created by basalt boulders, a walled structure (date?), and a number of rock piles that may have been used for the cultivation of corn, beans, and squash. The Caja agricultural site goes on for a good distance and all we could observe was the presence of several head of cattle enjoying the spring grasses.

This inspection showed us that despite some increased visitation during this pandemic, we did not see any human disturbance to these exposed sites. However, the job of Site Stewards is never done. More visits are being planned, including a tour of the three ceremonial sites and many ancient trails surrounding Los Agujes Pueblo.

—John L. Pitts

*John says the hat trick reference is used in ice hockey. A hat trick is three goals scored in one game. So, John used it as simile for three visits in one day. I had to ask.

Editor's Note: There's more to the May 27 site visit story:

The afternoon that we went out, John and I

were eating lunch under a tree near the Ag Fields when this little critter buzzed up and sat on my knee—big buggy eyes, long skinny body, transparent wings, green hump on its back, long hairy legs. I didn't know what it was, but it was as curious about me as I was about him/her—it flew off a few times, but it kept coming back and perching on me. When I got home, I looked it up, and it was a Robber Fly, so called because it aggressively captures other insects and eats them.

A little bell tinkled in the back of my brain: Isn't there a Robber Fly kachina? So I looked *that* up, and turns out that it's no other than our old friend Kokopelli—who is not to be confused with the humpbacked flute player beloved of tacky souvenir shops. (I actually have a Kokopelli kachina figure, which I bought decades ago from a teenage boy, I think at Indian Market. The figure has all the classic characteristics.) Anyway, I thought it was rather cool to be visited by Kokopelli .

The reference for the kachina was *Kokopelli: The Making of an Icon* by Ekkehart Malotki (2004).

— Paula Lozar

A Brief Story About Three Bear Cubs and Their Mama

Some may remember the story and photo in the *Albuquerque Journal* about a mama bear and her three cubs being captured and relocated to a safer place than among the garbage cans in Los Alamos. Here's a photo of the family while they were still on the loose at the Viswanathan home on Barranca Mesa. Gowri (my group leader) told me that the property is a certified wildlife habitat and has three ponds in the yard. No wonder it's attractive to critters.

—Will Dearholt



Photo by Hari Viswanathan

Outer Hebrides - South Uist Archaeology Tour September 9, 2019

Katy Blanchard (Gallina Team) and I arrived the day before on the ferry from Uig (Isle of Skye) to Lochmaddy (North Uist). It was our third trip to Scotland but our first time to visit the Outer Hebrides. We decided to stay on Benbecula because we felt it was the most centrally located for exploring North Uist, South Uist, and Barra. (We didn't make it to Barra, but that's another story.) We were scheduled to meet our tour guide, Kate McDonald, Ph.D., University of Sheffield, (uistarchaeology.com) at 10:00 a.m. at the Kildonan Museum for an eight-hour tour.

Reineabhal Chambered Cairn

We followed Kate a short way from the museum to our first site, Reineabhal Chambered Cairn, a Neolithic tomb. After driving a short way down a farm track, it was an easy walk across a heather-covered field to the cairn. It is one of the best-preserved chambered cairns in the Uists. It is about 75 feet wide at the base, which is set with upright kerb stones, of which about 12 are still visible. The mound is about 12 feet high, with a 3-foot-wide entrance to the main chamber. The entrance does not appear to have been disturbed. (Source: Britainexpress.com)



A Neolithic tomb

Cladh Hallan

Next we visited Cladh Hallan, a settlement that began around 2000 BC. (The currently used cemetery is down this road near the ruins so the road was in pretty good shape.) The original houses were U-shaped, called "jelly baby houses" due to their shape like the candy. Around 1250 BC the U-shaped houses were replaced with the roundhouse. Roundhouses were built with a low stone wall and a timber roof cov-

ered in a thick reed thatch, and the floors were sunk below ground level. A row of probably seven of these roundhouses were constructed here. This site is significant because it is the only place in Great Britain where prehistoric mummies have been found. Two unusual skeletons were found beneath the floor of a 3000-year-old roundhouse. One of the skeletons, apparently an older man, had died around 1500 BC, the other, a woman, around 1300 BC. Analytical tests revealed that the two bodies had been deliberately mummified in a bog. Both skeletons were intact and buried in a tight fetal position. The woman had two of her teeth removed and placed in her hands after death. The man's remains were even stranger – he had the torso and limbs of one man, the skull of another, and a jawbone from a third, and the three had died over a span of 150 years. By radiocarbon dating the remains and charred grain on the floor of the house, the researchers determined that the bones had been buried long after death, meaning they spent hundreds of years out of the ground. But the skeletons were still articulated, indicating that skin and sinew were holding them together when they were buried – something not possible in the damp climate of South Uist without some form of artificial preservation. It was determined that the bodies were preserved in a bog long enough to stop decomposition and tan the skin and sinew, but not long enough to demineralize bone completely. The bodies were then removed from the bog, wrapped and displayed in a warm, dry, and presumably



Cladh Hallan Roundhouse

sacred place for hundreds of years. Researchers are left with a number of mysteries, such as why one body was a composite and why they were eventually buried. (Source: archaeology.org, megalithis.co.uk)

Outer Hebrides Tour (cont)

We went back to Kildonan Museum and Cultural Centre for lunch. We found more delicious soup here – Scotland has such good soup!

Dun Mhulan or Dun Vulcan

Down another farm track and through a herd of cows, we found the remains of this Iron Age fort now surrounded on two sides by the sea. Erosion has done its work.

When it was built around 150 BC, it would have been surrounded by a freshwater loch. The dun or broch was 60 feet in diameter when built, with 13-foot-thick walls.

The walls were double skinned walls, two walls with passages and chambers built into the thickness of the wall. Excavations suggest that the inhabitants lived well, literally high on the hog, as their diet included more pork than neighboring settlements at Bornais and elsewhere on South Uist. In the first few centuries AD, a small settlement grew up around the dun. Among the structures discovered so far are a house and a pair of rectangular barns. About 400 AD, the broch was rebuilt as a roundhouse, with the main entrance over the roof slabs we can see today. Dun Mhulan was abandoned by the time the Vikings arrived but it was still a prominent feature in the landscape. We know this because the name of the Norse settlement at Bornais (next stop on the tour) is made up of the Norse words “borg” and “ness”, or “fort on the promontory.” (Source: britainexpress.com)



An Iron Age Fort at Dun Vulcan

Viking Settlement on the Bornais Machair

There is not much to see here, just a plaque and a really cool gate. It is just down the farm track from Dun Mhulan. The significance of this site is that some pretty interesting finds have been made there including green marble from Greece, ivory from Greenland, bronze pins from Ireland, and a piece of bone marked with an ogham inscription (an ancient text that arrived in Scotland from Ireland). This suggests a Norse of high status lived here. This area has been extensively excavated over a ten-year period by the Universities of Cardiff and Sheffield.

(Source: BBC.com)

Howmore (Tobha Mor) Ancient Chapels

We finished up the tour at Tobha Mor. When the first chapel was built is not known, but a stone slab incised with the outline of a cross may suggest a Christian presence here before the 9th century. A series of chapels and parish churches were built here. The remains of four or five churches and chapels survive today. (I do not know which is which in the photos. Sorry.)

1. Caibeal Dubhail (Dugall's Chapel). A charming, tiny chapel of Irish type which had a steeply-pitched stone roof, and a door with sloping jambs, unusually in the east wall.

2. St Mary's church (Teampall Mòr). This was the parish church of South Uist, probably built in the later 13th century.

3. Caibeal Dhiarmaid (St. Dermot's Chapel). This church predated Teampall Mòr, possibly of the earlier 13th century, and appears to have been much altered during its use.

4. Caibeal Chlann 'ic Ailein (Clan Ranald chapel). This occupies the highest (and oldest) ground. Originally a chapel with an eastern doorway similar to Caibeal Dubhail, but later a nave was added (now lost) with moulded chancel arch of 12th or early 13th century date. John of Moirdart (Eoin Muidearach) left funds to rebuild the chapel, in which he was buried in 1574, incorporating the fine armorial panel now in Kildonan Museum. (Source: visitouterhebrides.co.uk)

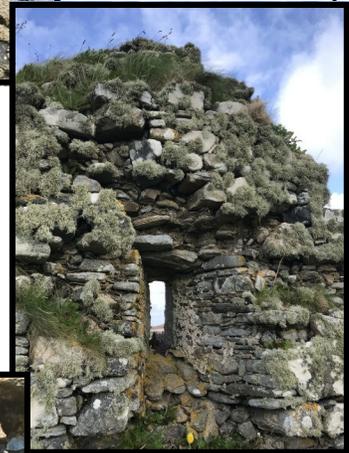
Outer Hebrides Tour (cont)

Kate told us a story about the armorial panel mentioned above being stolen by some young men and taken to London where it stayed under the bed of one of them until he died and it was found when his parents came from Canada to clear out his flat. There are tales of a curse connected to this stone. Folklore has it that anyone who desecrated the ancient grave would be doomed to meet an early death. The young man was 33 when he died. The panel was returned and resides in the Kildonan Museum along with a plaque relating the story of it being stolen.

Kate also told us during the course of the day that she had participated in a TV episode of *Time Team* (S15 E5 Bodies in the Dunes Outer Hebrides) on Barra. Since Katy has seen all the episodes, she was pretty impressed. We went back to our B&B that night and watched the episode and we saw Kate our tour guide!

End of a very interesting and informative tour!
And the weather cooperated; we even saw some sunshine!

—Jo Douglas



Ancient Chapels at Howmore

All photos by Jo Douglas



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"I Walk with the Old Ones"

West of the Great River
In the mountains called the Jemez
High on the Mountain facing eastward
The Province of the Pajarito
Ancient land of the Tewa.

The old, old, old ones lie in their cocoons in the middens
While the young, young, young ones have gone to the river
Where they spend their evenings in the bright lights
And the activities of the Casino
The old ones moan in their anger
The sounds mingle with the songs of the wind
I've heard them, yes I have, as I walk on the Mesas

New people came dressed in uniforms to show their authority
With bold words they announced their intention
"Ecosystem Management Demonstration"
They toiled for decades to thin in the waterways
Leaving dog hair thickets on the brow line
They measured seed beds with a micrometer to record their intentions
The old ones were awed at the presumption intended.
They tittered at the nonsense such efforts portended
I heard them, yes I did, as I walked on the Mesas

The "Great One" whose perspective is endless
Awakened from resting and observed the condition
The need for action continuing the cycle
Brought fire to those Mesas with wind to drive it
A meaningful "demonstration" of "Ecosystem Management"
The old ones from their middens sang forth "hallelujah"
I heard them, yes I did, as I walked on the Mesas

Their ancient land is in yet another transition
A state of beauty to those with the vision
The old ones now slumber secure in the midden
Their silence more peaceful as I wander their Mesas.

Wayne Nelson, about 2006