



# SITE LINES

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3  
FALL 2020  
ANNUAL MEETING

## Message from the Council Chair

Greetings, site stewards. We held our annual meeting via Zoom this year due to the ongoing pandemic. We were hoping to be hosting a campout at Bandelier but that's just not going to happen. We will hope for a better situation next fall. Instead, the meeting was held on Zoom on Saturday, September 19. The meeting was called to order shortly after 9 a.m.

The virus has changed a lot of plans but we all know that already. I think we're still able to get out as site stewards by taking different ve-

hicles and staying apart a little bit even in the field. We're not hosting any educational nights at the Santa Fe National Forest office in Santa Fe due to the pandemic, which is a change from previous winters. And it's not clear to me when we're going to get back to that. Similarly, we're not holding any new training sessions for the foreseeable future either. I think the message for now is to forge on with site visits, avoid crowds, wear a mask, and march forward with life.

—Will Dearholt

## State of the Forest

We have had quite the turnover in the Santa Fe Heritage Program. As most of you know Jason McInteer, Assistant Forest Archaeologist, and AnnMarie Kmetz, Pecos/Las Vegas Archaeologist, left for new positions in Oregon in early 2019. They both accepted positions on the Willamette National Forest. In September 2019, Anne Baldwin, Espanola/Coyote Archaeologist, retired from the Forest Service and in December Mike Bremer followed her into retirement.

So, that left a lot of vacancies and positions to fill. The Heritage Program is now fully staffed after long vacancies and a long Forest Service hiring process. The new Heritage Program Manager/Forest Archaeologist is myself, Kathi Turner. I was raised in Santa Fe so being selected for this position has been like coming home to me. I have been an ar-

chaeologist since 1991 working throughout the Southwest and Midwest. I received my Master's degree from Washington State University in 2002. I have been with the Forest Service for 15 years now and have worked on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri and the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands prior to coming to the Santa Fe. I know I have big shoes to fill behind Mike and I will do my best.

We have hired a new Assistant Forest Archaeologist, Liz Cutright-Smith. She comes to us from the San Juan National Forest in Colorado. She came on board in June and we had about six weeks prior to the beginning of her maternity leave. Liz will be back at the end of October. Liz received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 2013. She has worked in the Southwest and California for different state and federal

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**Gary Newgent**  
**Kathi Turner**  
**Ann white**  
**Ray Willison**  
**Phil Young**

**The Editors Thank You!**

## State of the Forest (cont)

agencies including the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, AZ, and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, CA.

The Jemez/Cuba District is the one that has the most consistency with staffing. Peter Taylor is the District Archaeologist and Becky Baisden is the Assistant District Archaeologist. Peter started working for the Forest Service on the Apache/Sitgreaves National Forest, AZ, in 1981 as a crew member on a hotshot crew. He spent 16 years in the fire organization before making the switch to archaeology in 1999. He has a master's degree from the University of Arizona with an emphasis on historical archaeology, awarded in 2005. Peter has been the District Archaeologist since 2015. Prior to that he worked on the Apache/Sitgreaves National Forest and the Coronado National Forest, AZ. Pete states, "I have been fortunate enough in my career to have had positions that were challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding. I have worked in areas that represent the three major southwestern prehistoric cultures: Hohokam, Mogollon, and Ancestral Puebloan."

Becky was the archaeologist overseeing the Southwest Jemez Mountains Restoration Forest Landscape Collaborative Project for three years, and has been with the Santa Fe National Forest since 2013. She has worked throughout the Southwest and has previously worked on the Apache/Sitgreaves National Forest. In March of 2019, Becky was selected to replace Connie Constan for the Assistant District Archaeologist. Becky is currently also attending UNM in the Public Archaeology Master's Program.

The Española/Coyote District has two new archaeologists in place now. Jana Comstock replaced Anne Baldwin as the District Archaeologist earlier this year. Jana was the Assistant District Archaeologist working with Anne since 2012. Jana is not new to the Forest but new to this position. We are very happy she decided to accept this position as she has institutional knowledge of the District and Forest. Jana received her master's degree from Northern Arizona University in 2012, and has worked throughout the Southwest and Colorado.

The person who replaced Jana as the Assistant District Archaeologist is Jordan Jarrett. Jordan was on the District on a detail behind Anne in January to May; she then transferred permanently from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in July. Prior to joining the Forest Service, she worked at Bandelier National Monument. Her background is in Southwest archaeology with a focus on Ancestral Pueblo and Mogollon ceramics from the Mogollon Rim region. She studied under Andrew Duff while getting her master's from Washington State University, and has been working in the Southwest Region for the National Park Service and the Forest Service since graduating. She is looking forward to working on the Santa Fe National Forest and getting to know the volunteers working on the Española/Coyote District!

Pecos/Las Vegas District still has Gilbert Burkman as the Assistant District Archeologist. Many of you know and have worked with Gilbert over the years. The new District Archaeologist is Nikki Berkebile. Nikki comes from the Apache/Sitgreaves National Forest (are you sensing a theme yet?) and prior to that, she worked for the Grand Canyon National Park for three years. Nikki also worked for the Klamath National Forest and as a fire archaeology intern at Yosemite National Park in 2014. Nikki received her master's degree in 2014 specializing in archaeobotany of the Southwest, and in her spare time takes on the projects analyzing archaeobotanical samples. Nicki has been working as an archaeologist since 2010 throughout the Southwest and Midwest. She is looking forward to meeting the site stewards working in her District.

### Noteworthy projects:

Jemez/Cuba, from Becky: "In August, we surveyed approximately 50 acres on Cat Mesa with the Ancestral Lands Crew. The crew helped to record a small newly discovered pueblo. They assisted Jemez Ranger District archaeologists in filling out site recording forms as well as analyzing and photographing artifacts. The crew also assisted archaeologists in assessing cultural resources for fuels treatment and fire sensitivity.

(photo next page)

## State of the Forest (cont.)



Ancestral Lands Crew Learn to Recognize Artifacts, Jemez District

Española/Coyote, from Jordan: Thanks to reports from site steward Susan (McGrew) regarding grazing impacts, Poshuouinge Pueblo received archaeological monitoring, fence repair, and cleanup early on in the season. In June of this year, the Heritage crew, with the help of the Española/Coyote Ranger staff and a Youth Conservation Crew, repaired portions of the south fence and gathered dung from across the plazas of the site. Rotting posts were replaced and new barbed wire strung to help exclude cattle, and some dung was removed from the site. Plans for the site include additional

fence placement to the north side of the site and continued grazing exclusion, further dung removal, and restoration in the plazas, as well as continued monitoring and erosion mitigation. Thanks to Susan for her concern and care of this site!



Fence Repair at Poshuouinge Pueblo, Rio Chama District

-Kathi Turner  
Heritage Program Manager

Photos by staff archaeologists

## Committee Reports

Ann White, chair of the Archive Committee, reported that in the spring, she updated the site steward archives with 2018 and 2019 materials. These included Council agendas and minutes, updated manuals, *Site Lines*, rosters, and awards.

There are no current plans for any Wednesday evening talks, and no chair person for the Education Committee. The final speaker of the 2019-2020 season was to be Molly Toll. Her lecture in April was cancelled.

Nancy Cella, Communications Committee Chair, reported that two issues of *Site Lines* have been posted on our web site thus far in 2020, and the Fall Annual Meeting issue is presently in preparation. Occasional messages have been sent to all stewards via the List Serv.

## Site Steward Foundation Update

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. Other current board members are Mary Jebson, secretary, and Bill Hudson, member-at-large. Anne Ravenstone and Chris Gardner, both members-at-large of the Foundation Board of Directors, have 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](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com).

As a result of the 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.

During the past year, donations and memberships to the Foundation's general fund have declined significantly resulting in reduced funding for our annual \$1,000 grant program. As such, the Foundation Board of Directors made the difficult decision to not award a grant in 2020. Grant applications that have been received this year will be held for consideration in 2021. To review a list of previous grants awarded, visit "Projects" on our website [www.sitestewardfoundation.org](http://www.sitestewardfoundation.org).

In July, the Foundation received a \$1,000 donation to the Santa Fe National Forest site steward fund from Mary Ann Nelson in honor of her husband, H. Wayne Nelson, who recently

passed away. Wayne was considered the godfather of the Santa Fe National Forest site steward program, having encouraged and aided Mike Bremer in starting the program. In remembrance of Wayne, the Foundation Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to name the Foundation's grant program the H. Wayne Nelson Grant.

Please help us make our goal of more than 100 members in 2021. If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2021, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts 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 our email list on the Foundation website.

Thank you for your support of site stewards!

-Gary Newgent, President

For the Saturday Zoom meeting, Phil Young reported in Gary's absence. In addition to the above information, Phil reported that the Foundation storage area contents are now being stored at Gary's home. He urged site stewards to please renew their membership for the year 2021, as well as consider volunteering for the two open At-Large membership positions.

Ray Willison summed up the financials for the site stewards. Income was down because of various cancellations, as well as expenses. Income for the current fiscal year is \$1350, which includes Mary Ann Nelson's \$1000 donation in memory of Wayne. Expenses totaled \$120 for website fees.

## Area Reports

**Caja del Rio:** During the past year, the Caja del Rio site stewards inspected the pueblo ruins of Caja del Norte and Los Aguajes, as well as the various agricultural, Archaic sites, and remnants of the Camino Real. The roads are in relatively good condition throughout the Caja and all site steward signs are also intact.

Total travel time for the Caja stewards last year was 35 hours covering 406 miles. Site visits totaled 33 hours with 14 hours of nonsite activities.

In the past few weeks, a wildfire burned approximately 50 acres near Cerro Colorado in the northern portion of the Caja plateau. After a recent site visit to Los Aguajes, Shelley Thompson and Gary Newgent drove the entirety of FR 24 from the south to the north, but there were no visible signs of the fire burn area from anywhere along FR 24. A group site visit led by John Pitts to various ceremonial sites associated with Los Aguajes is planned for some time in October. Below are photos of the ceremonial sites that will be visited.

—Gary Newgent, Caja del Rio ATL



Ceremonial Site #3

photos by John Pitts

**Pecos:** The final 2019 tour of the Glorieta Mesa petroglyphs was carried out on October 5, 2019, culminating in a total of six tours with 68 participants. It was a very good year. Making these tours happen successfully takes teamwork, dedication, and lots of coordination. It was a combined effort by site stewards and staff at the Forest Service. Many thanks to Felicia Probert, Sharon Paris, Tom Mayer, and Edel Mayer for conducting these public tours. The guides were aided with excellent support by Melissa Bruch in the Pecos Ranger District Office. Melissa received phone calls from the public in response to the Forest press release, provided the callers with information on the tour, and maintained the tour sign-up lists. The site stewards called each participant to confirm the reservation, coordinated getting them to the site, and conducted tours of both sites, providing interesting and valuable information on these Archaic sites and their importance in the archaeological record. We are missing that opportunity in 2020!

Despite the pandemic and the Forest restrictions, Pecos stewards have been able to get out and monitor sites this spring and summer. Except for sites that are off-road, we have visited nearly every site in the Pecos at least once and a number have been visited several times, especially those on Glorieta Mesa.

Two incidents were reported to the Forest Service early in the spring. The first one was on the east side of Glorieta Mesa at the Stone Circles



Ceremonial Site #1

Ceremonial Site #2 (below)



## Area Reports (cont.)

site. There have been prescribed burns on that side of the mesa during the past couple of years, and this year Ron Whately and Richard Martinez noted tape on the trees at the site indicating that the site was included in a new burn area. Usually sites are marked differently so that they are protected.

The second incident involved the Hacienda in Anton Chico. Lee and Maryann Onstott discovered a salt lick and remnants of hay bales inside the new fencing at the site, along with fairly fresh tire tracks going through the gate into the site. In addition, the fence that was erected on the east side of the site had been cut in two places. The fences on both the east and west side of the Hacienda had been installed several years ago for the express purpose of keeping cattle out of the ruins. According to Gilbert Burkman of the Pecos Ranger Station, he is working with range staff to develop a plan to help with further intrusions into the site. They have also raised awareness with law enforcement.

— Cathy Gates, ATL

**Garcia:** All sites except Chupadero have been visited this spring and summer. We were able to get past the rough spots on FR 416v in the jeep and access Garcia Canyon, Garcia Mesa, and Corral Mesa. All sites were in good shape though Corral has had cattle on the site in the recent past. Guaje has been checked twice and is in good shape though it has the same cattle problem as Corral. The roads are in very bad shape in the Garcia. Only by going off the established roadways were we able to reach the northern sites. I expect to check the Chupadero site later this fall.

Bob and Michele Thompson have retired and moved out of state.

— Will Dearholt, ATL

**Jemez:** The Jemez Area was unable to start spring site visits due to the closure of FR 10. In July, we had our first visits and since then most of our sites have been visited. The most significant damage has been done with illegal wood cutting, which is a problem at many of our sites. Our stats for the first three quarters of the year are as follows: Site Visit Hours = 46.4; Nonsite

visit hours = 43.75; and miles traveled = 2369.

We've had a few members go inactive or move away. Nancy Hudson, a long-time steward, moved out of state. As a result, Chris is looking for a partner for the Boletsakwas. Due to the andemic, we had a team that went inactive. We are currently looking for a team to visit Seshukwa and Site 18. Both sites are large and have a number of interesting features such as standing walls and rock art adjacent to the site. If you are interested in taking on additional sites or want to trade for these sites, let Chris (505-506-7384) or Ann (505-220-7175) know.

— Ann White and Chris Gardner, Co-ATLs

**Gallina:** This year has been a tough year. In general, site visitation is down. This is understandable because of the virus and the unusually hot and dry spring and summer we've had. Many of our team members are seniors and take social isolating seriously! Nevertheless, most of the sites in the Gallina have been visited at least once, several twice. This is a testament to our team's dedication. Kudos to all of them.

One of our team, Lyn Bain, had an accident, breaking an arm and a leg, and hasn't been able to make any site visitations so far this year. If she has recovered sufficiently, she and her partner will cover their sites in September. Otherwise, the ATL will cover them.

We have one new member of our team, Joe Stack, who will team up with Peter Singer.

We have had one incident of vandalism: the scratching of names on a rock wall that contains petroglyphs. Pete Taylor, Kathi Turner, and Becky Baisden came up to take a look in late August. Damage was pretty minimal, although the names and home town of the culprits were clearly marked. An easy follow-up for the LEO?

Since we've had a minimal monsoon season, fire danger in the Gallina remains high. We are looking forward to the cool weather of September and October, and hoping for more precipitation to improve the grazing conditions, which are now poor. Springs are drying up.

There have been lots of visitors to Nogales Cliff House, the midden is almost completely gone, and the trail to the site is in poor shape.

-Elaine Gorham, ATL

## Site Lines

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We're on the Web  
[www://sfnsitestewards.org](http://www://sfnsitestewards.org)

## Area Reports (cont.)

**Rio Chama:** In spite of the pandemic, we managed to maintain a fairly active site visit schedule for the past six months. None of our team members has tested positive for the virus. And our teams visited all but two of our sites for an average of 2.5 visits per site. This was possible because most of our site visit couples live in the same household. No doubt they welcomed the opportunity to get away from their cloistered domiciles without worrying about spreading the virus. We even had two teams (Bob & Carolyn Florek and Grace Brill & Dan Schwartz) join forces for visits to a couple of sites. This was possible because they drove separately and wore their masks when they couldn't maintain social distancing. If you're willing to do the same, we welcome you to join us on one of our future site visits. Just contact me at [kennethpauljones@gmail.com](mailto:kennethpauljones@gmail.com).

Our teams found no human and only minimal natural disturbances. And some of them found previously unknown artifacts—such as the petroglyph in the Rio del Oso area (photo #1) the riverine area, and of Wendy Dolci (#2) next to a glyph). And when Grace and Dan joined the Floreks for a visit to the Ku site, they found some burnt corn (#3) of them—with Dan holding the burnt corn).

Our most challenging site visit is the long drive and hike to reach Tsiping in the Polvadera Mesa area near Cañones. The nature of this pueblo site and its views make it well worth the effort. And the stewards for this site—Rae Beaubien and Linda Butler—have found a way to relax during their lunch break by setting up their hammocks (#4) of Linda taken by Rae.

—K. Paul Jones, ATL

During the Saturday Zoom meeting, K. Paul moved that two provisional site stewards be certified. A voice vote approved Andrew Akin and Robert Dolci for certification.



At left, photo #1



Below, photo #2



Above, photo #3



At right, photo #4