



SITE LINES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2021

News from the National Forest

I am quickly coming up to my one-year anniversary as the Santa Fe National Forest Archaeologist (March 1st). Also coming up is the one-year anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic and the telework mandate from our Forest Supervisor. It has made for an interesting year of transition. During that time, we have filled all the vacancies in the Heritage shop and they have also had to transition to new positions during the telework mandate. This year has brought challenges to all of us, with just a small part being learning new positions and keeping projects moving along.

Currently all our offices are still closed to walk-in business. We have been directed to continue teleworking as much as possible. We do, however, get to go in the field when we can (others more than me) to work on projects or inspect cultural resources. We are also in the process of hiring temporary archaeology techni-

cians for the summer field season. It looks like it will be another challenging field season keeping crews safe while also completing project work.

A big change on the Forest is that James Melones, Forest Supervisor, accepted the Forest Supervisor position for the National Forests of North Carolina. He began that position last November. The Santa Fe currently has an Acting Forest Supervisor, Erin Swiader. Erin's regular position is the Chief of Staff for the Northern Region, Missoula, Montana. She began her temporary detail at the beginning of January and will be here until April. The permanent Forest Supervisor position is being advertised.

I think everyone is looking forward to warmer weather and passable roads to get back into the field.

— Kathi Turner

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Contributors to this issue:

Will Dearholt
 Elaine Gorham
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 Gary Newgent
 Shelley Thompson
 Kathi Turner
 The editors thank you!

Outgoing Editors' Note:

After 12 years as co-editors of *Site Lines*, Irene Wanner and I realized that we are tired and ready to pass the torch. We are delighted to announce that Paula Lozar has agreed to be the new Editor! Please offer Paula all the cooperation and support that you have given us – the publication is, after all, for and by all Site Stewards. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed items for our newsletter. Let's hope that 2021 sees the resumption of some degree of normality. – Nancy Cella

Ed. Note: Sincere thanks to the people who volunteered to proofread. Susan McGrew was first in line, but I'm grateful to everyone who contacted me.

Council Chair's Message

Happy 2021, Site Stewards! I realize that there is not a lot of site checking going on at this time of year. That's certainly the case in the winter when we often cannot access our sites due to snow. I suspect the COVID pandemic also makes it harder, even though it's a nice way to get out of the house and not be in a crowd of people.

Throughout the Fall, Lori Whitley and I went out to the Garcia area several times just to be out and about. I was also out in the Jemez Mountains a few times collecting firewood and wandering around. It appeared to me that the mountains were being visited by like-minded folks who needed to get away. It's nice that we

have these volunteer and recreational opportunities fairly close at hand, and we should take advantage of them when life gets a little rough.

I hope people in the Site Steward organization are able to acquire vaccines as they become more widely available. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and get out for some fun or a hike, at least occasionally. We'll be in touch as the spring approaches.

— Will Dearholt

Note: Site Stewards from other areas are welcome to join site visits to the Garcia. (It's a 1-hour drive on very rough roads, so an off-road-capable vehicle is required.) Contact Will if you're interested.

Report from the Caja del Rio



Photo: Shelley Thompson

Caja del Rio stewards John Pitts, Gary Newgent, and Shelley Thompson visited a few sites in January. Part of their exploration included looking for a previously sighted but unrecorded petroglyph.

The inscription reads "H Pino." The 1870 NM territorial census recorded a 24-year-old Herman Pino living with his wife and children in La Cienega, NM. On the Puebloan mask, notice the apparent "weeping" eyes and the use of a natural indentation in the stone for the mouth.

There is no record of this site in the NM archaeological database. We might have found a new item for the record!

Site Steward Foundation 2020 Annual Update (Revised 2/2/21)

The SiteWatch and Foundation annual meetings will be held over two days, Friday April 16 and Saturday April 17, from 10:00 - 3:30 each day. There may be as many as four speakers over the two days. The Foundation annual meeting and election of officers is tentatively scheduled for 10:45 - 11:15 Saturday morning, but may change to another time on Saturday.

Members of the Foundation will vote on a new Board of Directors with the addition of Shelley Thompson as a Member-at-Large. Shelley was a previous Member-at-Large for many years and we welcome her return to the Board of Directors. Other current board members are Gary Newgent (President), Phil Young (Vice President), Mary Jebson (Secretary), Ray Willison (Treasurer), and Bill Hudson (Member-at-Large). Anne Ravenstone and Chris Gardner, both Members-at-Large of the Foundation Board of Directors, retired from the board in 2020. Anyone interested in joining the Board of Directors 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 previously scheduled for May 7-9, 2021 at the Sagebrush Inn in Taos, New Mexico has been postponed until May 6-8, 2022. A final decision whether or not to hold the Pecos Conference, August 5-9, 2021 in Mancos, Colorado will be announced this May or June.

During the past year, donations and memberships to the Foundation's general fund have declined significantly, resulting in re-

duced 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 were received in 2020 will be held for future consideration. The decision to offer a \$1,000 grant in 2021 will be made by the Foundation Board of Directors at the annual meeting in April. To review a list of previous grants awarded, visit "Projects" on our website, www.sitestewardfoundation.org.

In July 2020, 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 over 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.

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

Report from the Gallina

Here in Llaves it is cold and quite muddy. In late October, David and I covered the Gurule sites for our injured steward. So all of the sites in the Gallina were visited at least once in 2020.

Now that hunting has started in earnest, we have seen a lot of hunters in the area, including many with dogs. (I can't believe NM still allows that.) Many hunters are camping in illegal spots, as usual. Now that there is carrion around, we've seen the dance of the ravens (around the carcass) and the singing of coyotes (calling friends to the feast).

Last fall I got a good look at a very strange wild cat that was batting around one of our fly traps in the middle of the night. I put the light on when I heard the racket and it stayed in the light for at least 20 seconds,

so I got a good look. I have never ever seen a wild cat that looked like that, so I checked the web, and saw that it was a jaguarundi. We put out our wildlife camera the next few nights, but it didn't come back. So I can't prove it.

Life out here is good. Social isolating is easy. I hope everyone is staying safe.

Update in January 2021: I now have a little fox that comes around the house looking for food in our mulch pile. Then there was the deer I saw last night eating the bird seeds. Winter is tough.

— Elaine Gorham

[*Ed. Note:* There were jaguarundi sightings in the Ruidoso area in 2018, but I haven't heard of any farther north.]

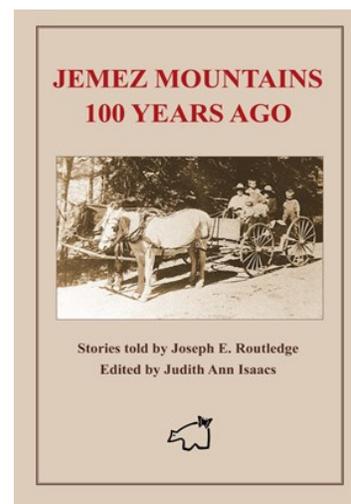
A Window into Jemez Mountains History

Long-time Jemez Area Site Steward Judith Isaacs recently published *Jemez Mountains 100 Years Ago*. She edited 60 of Joseph E. Routledge's stories, originally published in the *Jemez Thunder* from 1999 to 2002.

Routledge (1920-2014) grew up in the Jemez Mountains during horse-and-buggy days, when wolves and bears were still common and the 75-mile trip to Albuquerque took three days.

Illustrated with several period photographs, the book showcases the humor and self-reliance of these pioneers and provides a fascinating view into our local past.

Judith will offer a reading for Site Stewards at a time and in a format to be decided as determined by COVID restrictions.



The book is available at Amanda's Country Store in La Cueva, at the Jemez Artisans Gallery and Jemez Mountain Pottery and Sculpture in Jemez Springs, from Amazon, and from the author/publisher (jaisaacs10@gmail.com).

Lonesome Pine: Tree Rings and the Plaza Tree of Pueblo

During the 1924 excavations at Chaco Canyon, archeologist Neil Judd and his crew discovered a stump with large “snag-like” roots and a 20-ft, 24-in.-diameter log in the west courtyard of Pueblo Bonito. Did this tree grow there, or somewhere else in the canyon, or was it brought from a distance? Dr. Tom Swetnam, who was associated for 35 years with the tree-ring laboratory at the University of Arizona, Tucson (and its director for 15 years), discussed these questions in a webinar on Nov. 21, 2020 as a benefit for Friends of the Jemez Springs Public Library.

The tree-ring dating (dendrochronology) laboratory was founded by A.E. Douglass, an astronomer who was interested in climate history. He discovered that tree ring widths reflected sequences of wet and dry years, and the patterns they formed could be used to cross-date tree ring samples going back in time. This procedure has been used to date thousands of roof timbers from Pueblo Bonito and the other “great houses” of Chaco Canyon to provide a timeline for their construction.

Archeologists thought for decades that the “lone pine” grew where it was found, or nearby in Chaco Canyon. To this day, the National Park Service brochure shows a painting of Pueblo Bonito with the tree growing in the west courtyard.

However, recent studies tell a different story. The dendrochronology laboratory has a large section of the stump, and about 8 years ago Dr. Swetnam’s student Chris Guiterman took another look at it. The tree-ring sequence of the heartwood shows that the tree grew from 731 AD to at least 981, but its outer layers have decayed away. It is estimated that it was harvested in the late

1000s or early 1100s during the later period of construction at Pueblo Bonito. But it couldn’t have grown on the soil layer where it was found because that layer dates from about 1100 and the tree is at least 300 years older.

The researchers also analyzed strontium isotope ratios to identify the source of the wood. Two isotopes of strontium are present in soil and are absorbed by trees, but the ratios of the two isotopes differ according to area. Soils in all the mountain ranges surrounding the Chaco basin were analyzed, and this data was used to pinpoint where the timbers at Chaco Canyon came from. The “lone pine,” like most of the other timbers at Pueblo Bonito, came from the Chuska Mountains, 40 to 50 miles away. This evidence agrees with the tree-ring data, which also varies slightly from area to area. The results of this study were published in *American Antiquity* in April 2020.

Many questions remain. The vigas of Pueblo Bonito are smooth and unscarred, in spite of having been transported a great distance, so they evidently were carried there rather than dragged or rolled. (Dr. Swetnam hypothesizes that the logs were peeled and dried to keep the weight down for transport.) And why this particular tree was brought to Pueblo Bonito with some of its roots intact is still a mystery.

What was the purpose of placing the tree in a plaza at Pueblo Bonito? Was it a *gnomon* (like the pointer of a sundial) used to mark time? Was it a ceremonial climbing pole or part of a ritual, as some Pueblos use trees to this day? Was it a bench, or even just a piece of firewood? Dr. Swetnam has consulted with the Pueblos, but no interpretations are forthcoming.

(continued on pg. 6)

Lonesome Pine, continued

Note: Dr. Swetnam's talk is available online:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/2cSECAYImBSOtNIP3s38KREUH3Rh1ffXwRQh5ArfIB3plrFIAVSy2AnP4vVE64DW.uQQSCBLHgtSVMm3m>

(The talk starts 7 minutes into the recording, and there is a 15-minute question session at the end.)

Donations to Friends of the Jemez Springs Public Library are welcome:

<https://jsplibrary.org/fol/>

Continuing Education for Site Stewards

Northern New Mexico is home to a wealth of lectures, seminars, and readings of interest to Site Stewards. The pandemic has put a stop to "live" events, but over the past year many archeology nonprofits have moved their events online. The following is a brief and highly subjective list of series that I've found consistently interesting and thought-provoking. Most webinars are free to all, but donations are strongly encouraged.

Important: Preregistration is usually required for these webinars. Be sure to note the time zone and adjust as necessary.

The *School for Advanced Research (SAR)* in Santa Fe presents webinars, colloquia, and conversations with resident scholars and artists. Check out upcoming events at <https://sarweb.org/>.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, CO offers webinars on Thursdays at 4 PM (MST) focused mostly on archaeology and history in the Four Corners. For a list of upcoming events, go to <https://www.crowcanyon.org/>. There's also a link to past webinars on their YouTube channel.

Archaeology Southwest in Tucson, AZ presents their "Archaeology Café" series on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 PM (AZ time). This season's topic is Preservation Archaeology. They offer a list of resources and references for each talk, and recordings of past talks are available on their website, <https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/>.

They also publish a weekly e-newsletter, *Southwest Archaeology Today*, that lists upcoming events, articles of interest, etc. – sign up on their website.

And for us rock art enthusiasts:

The American Rock Art Research Association presents webinars about rock art worldwide, ranging from Zimbabwe to Ontario to Southern California. An upcoming webinar on February 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM MST, *The Rock Art of the Serrania La Lindosa, Colombia: Amazing Sites and Viral Hyperbole* by Jeff LaFave, sounds especially interesting for those of us who are wondering what all the media fuss was about. Find them at <https://arara.wildapricot.org/>.

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project holds "Chats with the Archeologist" on their YouTube channel on the second Friday of each month at 2 PM. Visit <https://www.mesaprietapetroglyphs.org/> for more information.

In Memoriam: John Bradley

Long-time Site Steward John Bradley passed away on December 20, 2020. He monitored the Boletsakwa site in the Jemez for many years with his daughter Linda Zwick.

From the Los Alamos Monitor:

We mourn the death and celebrate the life of John P. Bradley, who was, as he always said, "born at a very early age" in Utica, New York, in 1928.

He grew up in Cassville, New York, and met Emily Preston, in Utica, where they married; and he has missed her very much since her death in 2006.

John very much loved the outdoors, including, as an adult, skiing, hiking, kayaking, and swimming as often as possible, as well as working around the 5-acre property he and Emily bought in 1966 in the Pojoaque Valley.

John obtained degrees in chemical and civil engineering and loved working in the jobs he held, including for the New Mexico State Highway Department, as the Public Works Director of Los Alamos County, and as an engineer for a succession of subcontractors of Los Alamos National Laboratory, and, finally, beginning at age 80, as an employee of LANL.

His life was full of love of people and animals he came to know, and he has always been known for his sense of humor.

He is survived by his children, Linda (and Bill) Zwick, Craig Bradley, and Jill (and Doug) Hefele, by his brother-in-law, Dick Chisholm of Johnston, Rhode Island, his niece Laura Chisholm of Portland, Oregon, and his nephew Geoffrey Chisholm (Denise Parrillo and their son Sam Chisholm) of Scituate, Rhode Island.

John's favorite charities are the Wildlife Center, 19 Wheat Street, Espanola, NM 87532, and the Emily Bradley Memorial Fund, PO Box 538, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

From Will Dearholt:

My main memory of John was him coming into the LA County pool at 6 am in a wet suit to swim. He was a regular in the swim lanes in the mornings for years. If I chatted with him in the locker room after swimming, he'd point to one ear and say he couldn't hear very well in that ear. And then he would point to the other ear and say he was deaf in that one.

From Candie Bourduin:

John Bradley was one of a kind. ... May each of us be blessed with his positive outlook, strong work ethic, and interest in life well into our aging years.

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.org

Save the Date!

SiteWatch and Site Stewards Foundation Annual Meeting

Friday and Saturday, April 16-17, 2021 from 10 am to 3:30 PM.

This year the SiteWatch Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom. Look for a meeting announcement with the schedule and registration link coming soon.

Interested in a virtual meet-up or presentation on the evening of Thursday, April 15th? Let your coordinator know.

As with every year, the meeting is free.



New Mexico SiteWatch
protecting the enchantment
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

November 2021:

Site Steward John Pitts announces “Cultural, Rock Art, & Wildlife Exploration of Zimbabwe: 11-Day Rock Art and Geology Tour” co-led with well-known guide Rob Burrett, Nov. 6 -17, 2021. On the schedule are game drives, visits to rock art and archeological sites, history, culture, scenery, and conservation. For a detailed itinerary and more information, contact John at serenepix@comcast.net.

Note: Not a Site Stewards-sponsored event.