



SITE LINES

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COUNCIL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Greetings, site stewards! I hope the spring brings us the chance to get out to enjoy the New Mexico outdoors. Here in Los Alamos, we've had a long spell of very dry weather. The recent rains helped some, but we are still in drought conditions.

Please check your assigned sites safely and follow the current COVID protocols regarding masks. Social distancing is still a good idea, of course, but luckily it isn't hard when outdoors on a hike.

If you arrive at a site and realize that it's been disturbed, be sure to notify your area team leader.

They will follow through by letting Kathi Turner in the SFNF office know what's going on.

Before you go out, pay attention to the forest alerts regarding fire danger and any potential forest closures.

I expect that, if New Mexico does not receive sufficient rain or late-season snow, the forests will be closed to visitors. This usually includes site stewards as well.

Have a good start to the summer, and we'll be in touch.

— Will Dearholt

COUNCIL REPORT

The Site Steward Council meeting of April 25, 2021, was conducted online via Zoom. Because of technical difficulties, only eight members were able to attend.

The following officers agreed to continue through 2021: Will Dearholt, Chair; Bob Florek, Vice Chair; Judith Isaacs, Secretary; Susan McGrew, Member-at-Large. All were approved by those present. Nancy Brouillard will not continue as Treasurer, so that position needs to be filled.

Paula Lozar has agreed to chair the Communications Committee (newsletter, email, and web site), which leaves her current Member-at-Large position open. An accurate count of Council members is needed to determine whether we need to fill that position.

We currently do not have an Education chair, and the Council decided to defer a decision on whether this position is needed until in-person meetings are able to resume.

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Contributors to this issue:

Candie Borduin
 Will Dearholt
 Susan McGrew
 Gary Newgent
 The editors thank you!

SITE STEWARD FOUNDATION ANNUAL UPDATE (Revised 4/27/21)

2021 marks the thirteenth anniversary of the founding of the Site Steward Foundation in 2008. We continue our assistance to Site Steward programs in New Mexico and Colorado.

The 2021 SiteWatch and Foundation annual meeting and election of officers was held online over two days, Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17. Members of the Foundation voted 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 may contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com.

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting previously scheduled for May 7-9, 2021, at the Sagebrush Inn in Taos, New Mexico, was rescheduled for a two-hour online meeting on Saturday evening, May 8, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. A final decision on whether to hold the Pecos Conference, August 5-9, 2021, in Mancos, Colorado will be announced in June.

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 2021. Grant applications that are received in 2021 will be held for future consideration. The decision to offer a \$1,000 grant in 2022 will be announced by the Foundation Board of Directors at the annual meeting in 2022. To review a list of previous grants awarded, visit "Projects" on our website, www.sitestewardfoundation.org.

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



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No decision was made as to whether to fill the Field Operations position, but no one has held it in several years.

Will Dearholt will talk to Kathi Turner about new road permits (last year's permits were extended because of the pandemic).

Anne Beckett will replace Elaine Gorham as Gallina ATL. Elaine will stay on as co-AATL, sharing the position with Becky Johnston, until Anne and Becky are acquainted with all the sites that they monitor. This change was approved by the Council.

ATL Reports:

Caja del Rio – Gary Newgent: Site Stewards have been going out. All is okay.

Gallina – No report.

Garcia – Will Dearholt: No site visits yet. Rendija Canyon is still icy.

Jemez – No report.

Pecos – No report.

Rio Chama – K. Paul Jones: All sites have been visited. There is an ongoing problem with cattle at Poshuouinge. Lots of wood cutting at Tsi-ping.

THANK YOU, NANCY AND IRENE

April 2008 marked the first issue of *Site Lines* edited by Nancy Cella and Irene Wanner. Fifty issues later, they passed on the gauntlet of editing the newsletter to Paula Lozar and Susan McGrew. *Site Lines* is not only a legacy documentation of Site Steward activities over the years but also a wealth of still-current knowledge that the reader will enjoy reading, re-reading, and benefiting from its information.

Site Lines issues contained information from contributors like Mike Bremer for "Did You Know," Beth Parisi for "Safety in the Field" episodes, and John Pitts, the "ever adventurer." Various site stewards contributed book reviews and summaries of the winter Site Steward talks that are as thorough as if the reader were present for the talk.

The issues recorded awards, tributes, research, and, unfortunately, obituaries. Reports on exciting adventures led by members of the Site Steward Foundation provided vicarious experiences for the readers, as did adventures reported on by site stewards themselves to Ireland, Portugal, San Luis Valley, Canyon de Chelly, and other amazing places.

For hours of interesting reading, go to <https://www.sfnfsitestewards.org/newsletters.php> Settle in and enjoy this legacy of history, past and current, provided by Nancy and Irene.

Thank you, Nancy and Irene, for your hours of contributions, imagination, and creativity. What an excellent job you have done! And thank you, Paula and Susan, for continuing the tradition!

— Candie Borduin

... AND THANK YOU AGAIN, NANCY

Retired *Site Lines* editor Nancy Cella hosted the current and former editors (all vaccinated, we hasten to add) at a recent luncheon at the Blue Window in Los Alamos. Candie Borduin, the original editor of *Site Lines*, was unable to join us ... which gives us an excuse to meet for lunch again!



(L to R: Susan McGrew and Paula Lozar, current editors; Irene Wanner and Nancy Cella, former editors. Photo thanks to the Blue Window hostess.)

ANCIENTS ON THE MOVE

On a recent camping trip, my husband and I visited a few archaeological sites we had never seen. At the Homol'ovi State Park near Winslow, AZ, we visited the pueblo ruins of an ancient people called Hisat'sinom, ancestors of present-day Hopi, who settled on the rich flood plain and sandy slopes of the Little Colorado River in the 14th century. The ranger at the little Visitor Center mentioned that there were eight pueblo ruin sites of this people, but only two were accessible, the others being on private land.

Homol'ovi I and Homol'ovi II, while not reconstructed, show just how large their neighborhood of pueblos was and the rich variety of crops, including cotton, that sustained them. It is believed that a series of floods in the late 1300s drove the people away. They would eventually move north to join people living on the mesas, known today as the Hopi, who consider Homol'ovi part of their homeland.

The Hopi supported the formation of the state park in 1986 to protect their ancient sites and to serve as the center of research for the Hopi late migration period, 1200 to late 1300s. The park offers a nice campground, several interesting hiking trails, a small museum in the Visitor Center, an historic Mormon graveyard, and excellent biking paths and roads.

(*Ed. Note:* If you'd like to learn more about research at Homol'ovi, see Richard Lange's talk, "A History of Arizona State Museum Research around Homol'ovi and at the Ancestral Hopi Village of Homol'ovi II." A video is available on Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDgPTetfOL9FHuAW49TrSig>)

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ECOLOGIES OF SPACE AND TIME: THE SHARED HISTORY OF HUMANS AND FIRE IN THE JEMEZ

Can the influence of human occupation on landscapes in the past suggest how we can better manage fire and land use today? Dr. Rachel Loehman, a Research Landscape Ecologist with the US Geological Survey, addressed this question in a talk to the Site Watch Annual Meeting on April 16, 2021.

The Jemez Mountains contain thousands of sites from the 1200-1700 CE period, ranging from large pueblos with hundreds of inhabitants to small “field houses.” In the earlier years of this period, there were more people living in the Jemez than in the city of London! The Hemish people used fire for many different purposes: Cooking, heating, rituals, clearing land for farming, campfires for hunting or working in the fields, and signal fires, to name a few. But they managed to live in this environment at high population densities without suffering from the catastrophic fires that we have come to experience in the last 100 years.

To help us understand how the Hemish lived with fire, Dr. Loehman distinguished between high-severity and low-severity fires. High-severity fires burn hotter, spread more rapidly, and kill trees of all sizes; low-severity fires, which the Ponderosa forest has adapted to, burn mostly in grass, spread more slowly, and kill fewer trees, especially large ones.

Dr. Loehman participated in the FHiRE (Fire & Humans in Resilient Ecosystems) project, a multidisciplinary effort that included ecologists, archeologists, fire specialists, tree-ring specialists, and ethnographic field workers. The purpose was to model the ecology of land use in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) of the Jemez between 1200 and 1900 CE. Archeology is a relative latecomer to fire management studies, but it is helpful for identifying signs

of human presence and using materials such as potsherds to date periods of occupation.

The project used the FireBGC program to model fire behavior in the forests of the Jemez Mountains, factoring in climate variability and population trends. They modeled various scenarios, e.g., high vs. low population, ignitions, use of fuel wood, and structural and agricultural use. Under the high-population scenarios, resource use (especially fuel wood) exceeded the carrying capacity of the ecology, so people had to spread out more widely and harvest whatever wood was available. This is apparently what happened in the 1340 through 1630 period, and it greatly influenced how fire burned on the landscape: Because the forest was so picked over, fire severity was lower, fewer large trees were killed, and fires tended not to spread. This conjecture was confirmed by using tree-ring data to date the fires.

The Hemish people were part of a resilient ecosystem, in which they lived with fire by removing fuels and using ignitions judiciously, leading to low-severity fires. A high-use landscape has fewer pines, but larger trees and more grass, so high-severity fires occur rarely. Now, after centuries of fire suppression and logging, the landscape has been destabilized; there are more thickets and smaller trees, such as oaks, leading to more high-severity fires.

This conclusion has implications for forest management in the WUI. Also, high-severity fires can damage archeological sites, because they produce high enough heat to fracture rocks and crack lithics and potsherds, so reducing fire severity is also valuable for historic resource preservation.

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Later in our trip, we found ourselves in the mining town of Globe, AZ, and discovered a Globe community-supported ancient pueblo ruin, partially restored and accompanied by a very nice Visitor Center, a museum, a gift shop, an ethnobotanical gardens exhibit, and an excellent Interpretive Guide. Called **The Besh Ba Gowah Archaeological Park**, the 200-plus-room pueblo is the heartland of the Salado people.

Varying theories exist about who the Salado were. Most agree they were either immigrants from the Hohokam in south and central AZ, or pueblo people who traveled south and sojourned with the Hohokam for a few generations.

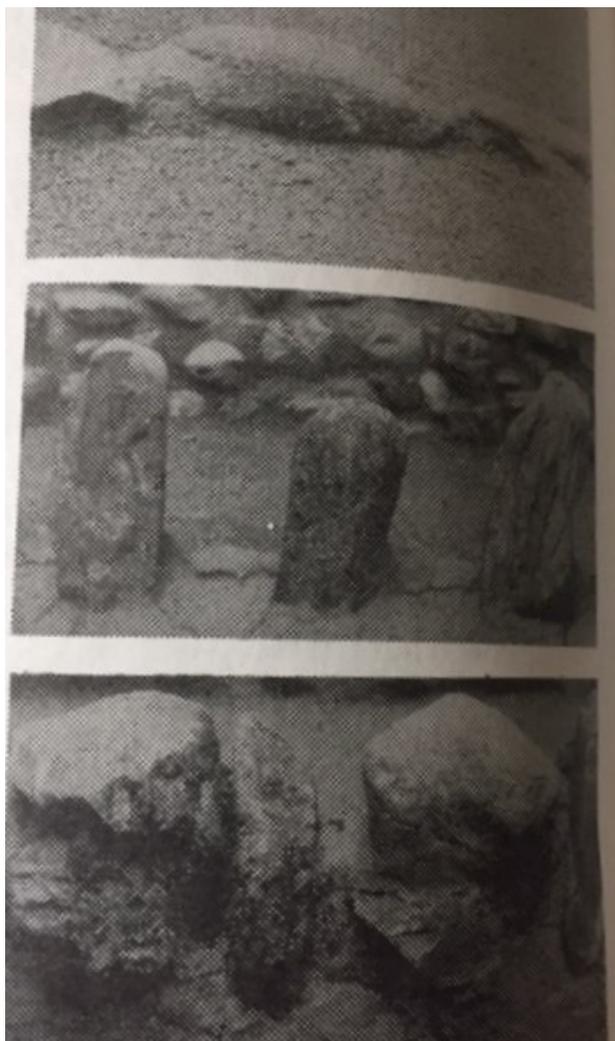
Though this pueblo was built and occupied from 1225 to around 1400 CE, the presence of 750 CE Hohokam pit-houses underlying the pueblo indicates a clear Hohokam influence. However, through assimilation and acculturation with the northern Mogollon and "Anasazi" peoples, the Salado successfully combined the cultural attributes of these different peoples to create their own distinct lifestyle.

The pueblo was constructed of stone cobbles and adobe mortar, and the walls were plastered with adobe. Another interesting aspect of the site was the three types of foundations used and visible in a number of rooms: 1) a single row of large, flat stones; 2) vertical slabs alternating with interior wooden wall support posts; 3) a combination of the first two styles, incorporating large stone cobbles and upright stone slabs. (See the photo at right.)

Perhaps a hold-over from Hohokam pit house construction, or features of early pueblo construction? Or they may represent different periods of construction.

A visit to this site will be well worth the effort.

— Susan McGrew



Foundation Types at Besh Ba Gowah pueblo. Photo from the Interpretive Guide, used with permission of the museum.

In Memoriam: “Pablo” Williams

Anyone who was active in archeology in northern New Mexico during the past three decades will have encountered Paul Williams. Paul, who preferred to be known as “Pablo,” came to Taos in 1984 as the first archeologist in the Bureau of Land Management office, and held this position until his retirement in 2012. He passed away at his home in Albuquerque on April 10, 2021.

In addition to his job, Paul became involved with community archaeological projects. He was a founding member, supporter, and occasional officer of the Taos Archaeological Society and a long-time supporter of the Archeological Conservancy. For the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, he mentored teenagers in the Summer Youth Intern Program and helped to get funding for the program. Thanks to Paul, the MPPP, in partnership with the BLM, won a national Take Pride in America® Award in 2011, and the project was able to take five youngsters from the program to Washington, D.C. to receive the award. He also worked with Wild Rivers, contributed to the management of

archaeological sites in the Ojo Caliente area, and helped in getting the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act passed by Congress.

Mark S. Henderson of Taos, who volunteers with Site Watch and knew Paul well, commented:

Paul's work to carry out the spirit of federal archeology and historic preservation laws by leading efforts for the public to participate in archeology should be emulated by all archeologists who receive public funding for part or all of their livelihood.

Likewise, the public should challenge all archeologists, especially those who receive public funding, to consider Paul a role model for how to do archeology and provide a path for everyone to participate in conservation of archeological resources.

Paul's obituary in the Taos News is available online: https://www.taosnews.com/obituaries/paul-pablo-williams/article_fe8f8a82-a1e9-11eb-ae25-333885f30ac4.html



Ed. Note: On May 1, 2010, Paul Williams led a field trip to La Cieneguilla petroglyph site for participants in the ASNM annual meeting. This was the first time I'd met him, and I was impressed with his knowledge and his commitment to historic preservation. This is one of my photos from that day.

Site Lines

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Save the Date!

The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture presents *Contemporary Native Issues: Indigenizing Archaeological Thought and Practice*. "A new generation of Indigenous scholars are challenging the colonial frameworks that continue to deeply influence institutions of knowledge and power. The burgeoning field of Indigenous Archaeology offers broad critiques of Western and colonial archaeological thought and practice, while fostering archaeologies that are respectful of Indigenous people's experiences and beliefs." This panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Joseph (Woody) Aguilar, will take place on May 18, 2021, 5 PM MDT. Register at https://nmculture-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aV8cKyLbSomQy3BtNf-qnQ

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is holding their annual conference virtually on June 12-13, 2021. Registration is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members, and free for students. For more information, go to <https://arara.wildapricot.org>

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