



SITE LINES

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News from the Forest

The early fire season on the Santa Fe National Forest means that Site Steward visits to parts of the Forest will be curtailed. Please be aware of these closures.

The SFNF has issued a closure order to protect public health and safety during fire operations on the Cerro Pelado Fire in the Jemez Mountains. The closure order prohibits members of the public from entering the restricted area, which includes all Forest Service lands and trails within an area roughly defined by NM Highway 4 on the west, Valles Caldera National Preserve on the north, Bandelier National Monument on the east, and Zia Pueblo and Santo Domingo Pueblo on the south.

A second closure order applies to the area of the Cerro Pelado Fire Camp along Forest Road 376.

There is also a closure order for the entire Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District due to the Calf Canyon/ Hermit's Peak fire. The closure



<http://cliparts.co>

order prohibits members of the public from entering the restricted area, i.e., all the National Forest System lands, roads, and trails located within the boundaries of the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District on the SFNF (see the map at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe>).

Remember that the rest of the Forest is currently under Stage 2 fire restrictions, which can be read on the "Alerts and Notices" page of the Forest website, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe>.

Among other things, these restrictions prohibit off-road travel by motor vehicles, which could affect visits to some of the sites that Site Stewards monitor.

However, this is a rapidly changing situation, and it is possible that the Forest may be closed completely in the near future due to the extreme fire danger.

Before you go out for a site visit, check with your ATL and the SFNF website for current conditions. SFNF notices will be forwarded to the Site Stewards mailing list when they are issued. For updates on fire operations, see <https://nmfireinfo.com>.

-- Kathi Turner

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Contributors to this issue:

Hubert Allen, Jr.
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 Candie Borduin
 Lee Borduin
 Bill Cella
 Bob Florek
 Carolyn Florek
 Gary Newgent
 Kathi Turner

Message from the Council Chair

Why do we do it?

As the new chair of the Site Steward Council, I found that one of my responsibilities was to give the introductory presentation at our recent online training session for new site stewards. I was given a PowerPoint file with the title “Welcome_Background_Mission,” which I last saw when I received the training myself, five years ago!

It was a good chance to review and remind myself, why are we doing what we do? Our purpose statement was shown in the presentation, and it’s right there in our Site Steward Manual; it actually consists of seven numbered statements. But the key concept that is repeated throughout those seven statements is *preservation*.

We don’t visit these sites just to add to our bucket list of places we have visited (although it is kind of fun). We don’t visit these sites to make new archaeological discoveries (although sometimes we do find interesting stuff). We certainly don’t go to collect or to take pictures for social media!

Our purpose statement Number One is pretty clear: our goal is to “Preserve in perpetuity major prehistoric and historic archaeological as well as paleontological resources for the purposes of conservation, scientific study, interpretation, and public education.” It may need a bit of updating; the term “prehistoric” is out of favor, and I’m not aware of any paleontological sites on our list. But the purpose is nevertheless clear. We monitor and report to serve the purpose of historic preservation. Our sites may not be Mesa Verde or Chaco Canyon, but they still represent important pieces of the history of the Southwest, and they need to be protected.

What about the other six statements? I’m not going to list them all here, but they include phrases like “Increase public awareness” and “Promote better understanding.” The point is, we should try to think and act on our purpose of historic preservation in our daily lives, not just when we’re visiting our sites.

— Bob Florek

Fire Information Sources

During a forest fire, rumors fly, and it can sometimes be hard to find accurate information about current conditions and road closures. Here are some reliable sources you can use to keep up to date:

<https://nmfireinfo.com>

From the site: “This website is an inter-agency effort by federal and state agencies in New Mexico to provide timely, accurate, fire and restriction information for the entire state.” Information on active fires is updated at least once a day, and more often if the situation changes.

<https://fire.airnow.gov/>

From the site: “AirNow is your one-stop source for air quality data.” The data

shown on the Fire and Smoke map comes from sensors operated by Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, plus some “crowdsourced” data.

Users can set their location on the map and choose various display options. The “Smoke” option is especially helpful because it shows the location and severity of smoke plumes.

<https://nmroads.com/>

This site is maintained by the NM Department of Transportation and is their official information source for road closures, alerts, construction zones, etc. It can be helpful year round, not just during a fire.

— Paula Lozar

Site Steward Foundation Report

4/30/2022

The Foundation is pleased to announce that two H. Wayne Nelson grants of \$1,000 each were recently awarded for 2022.

The first grant went to the South Park Site Steward program to create an educational presentation of how obsidian from the Jemez Mountains traveled to and was utilized in the South Park area of central Colorado. and the second grant went to Margaret Berrier to print and distribute copies of her rock art preservation coloring book. To review a list of previous grants awarded, visit "Projects" on our website, sitestewardfoundation.org.

During April, the Foundation completed a two-day, three-night guided tour visiting Navajo pueblitos and rock art in Largo Canyon in addition to private tours of Salmon Ruins and Aztec Ruins in north-west New Mexico. A fall tour is planned for October 7 - 9, 2022 in the Tularosa, New Mexico area visiting sites in Tularosa Canyon, White Sands National Park and Three Rivers Petroglyphs. Tour sign-up will open in June.

The Site Watch and Foundation annual meetings will be held online Saturday, May 21, 2022.

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting is scheduled to be held online May 5 - 8, 2022.

The Foundation is organizing and hosting the Pecos Conference scheduled for August 11 - 14, 2022 on Rowe Mesa near Rowe, New Mexico. Site Stewards are invited to volunteer to help with parking, registration, and other jobs. Shifts are four hours, and volunteers get free admission to the conference and a free dinner on Saturday evening. If interested, contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com.

Please help us make our goal of over 100 members in 2022. If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2022, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, 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



ATL Reports

Caja del Rio: Near the Los Aguajes shrine where damage was discovered last November, a sign was erected to point out that the site is monitored and damaging it is illegal.

Garcia: Not much monitoring has been done so far this season. Will Dearholt needs site stewards with high clearance and 4WD vehicles.

Jemez: Forest Road 10 is open so far, but may be closed due to fires. [Ed. Note: As of publication date, a portion of 10 is now closed.]

Rio Chama: All sites were visited twice over the winter, except for closed sites.

A reburial of a burial affected by erosion needs to be done (NAGPRA is a factor).

Pecos: The ATLs are prioritizing their sites and the number of visits needed per year, and will share their criteria with other ATLs. They plan to group sites according to what is a reasonable day's work. They will conduct public tours of the Archaic site for the Pecos Conference in August, and may do a public tour in June if the Forest Service requests it.

Gallina: One team went out in April, but there was lots of mud and still some snow, so they never got to the site. There were no visits otherwise: There is a limited window to visit these sites due to weather and hunting season. The ATL/AATL have made a priority list for their sites (they have multiple locations on 34 sites).

Site Steward Training

The classroom portion of the Site Steward training program was presented online on April 16. The training had not been held for several years; a session was planned for Spring 2020, but was delayed because of the pandemic.

In the past, the training involved an "in the field" exercise as well as classroom training. However, this year almost all of the Site Steward candidates have had some field training already from their ATLs. So the Training Committee determined that only the classroom part was needed, and it could be presented online (our usual classroom was not available because the Forest Service offices have not opened yet).

The session covered all the subjects specified in the official training outline, and lasted from 10 AM until 3 PM. Thanks to Susan McGrew for suggesting the use of a questionnaire to assist trainees in making the most of the presentations.

Sixteen candidates completed the training and are now fully certified as Site Stewards. Congratulations to everyone!

Trainees indicated their preferences for assigned areas, and the ATLs reviewed their preferences before making assignments. Three trainees were assigned to Gallina, four to the Jemez, five to Pecos, and four to Rio Chama. (Two current Site Stewards are transferring from Rio Chama to Pecos.)

Thanks to the training committee for all their hard work: Lois Haggard, K. Paul Jones, Paul Leo, Paula Lozar, and Susan McGrew. Presenters also included Will Dearholt, Bob Florek, and Kathi Turner from the Santa Fe National Forest.

The training materials are available for review on the SFNF-SS website.

— Paula Lozar

Fourth Mesa, Rio Del Oso

After several years of visiting Ku-ouinge as our site in the Rio Chama area, Bob and I were re-assigned by K. Paul Jones to the Late Coalition site, Fourth Mesa. Further up the Rio del Oso, which has its headwaters off the flanks of Tsihoma mountain, after three crossings of the Rio, we parked and scrambled up to the first terrace.

Across this mesa is an old road which still appears on maps, but is so badly washed out in places and overgrown, or blown away with wind, that it's more a remnant than a functional road.

There are various rock groupings on Fourth Mesa, with good examples of rock alignments bordering gravel mulch grid gardens. Near the beginning of our hike is an elongated pile of rocks, about 3 feet high on average, that extends for a few yards within a healthy group of junipers. Obviously these basalt boulders were gathered and piled here for a reason.

At one point early in our hike there is a fenced area of several acres. On our first visit, Bob repaired the gate so cattle could not get in. Information from Mike Bremer says that this acreage was fenced in decades ago to protect a rare species of pediocactus. We slowly explored this acreage for the site tag in a juniper and the cactus, but found neither. We did find some rock alignments and possible room blocks.

Fourth Mesa is a rewarding hike with a clear view to the east of Ku-ouinge mesa in the middle ground and the Sangre de Cristos on the horizon.

At one end of this pueblo and farming site is a cupule boulder. Ku-ouinge still has the most spectacular cupule boulder, but the smaller boulder at Fourth Mesa is packed with fine examples of cupules. Not only are the cupules distinctive, but there is one larger central cupule, with a snake-like channel which leads to it. Slicks can be found nearby, more rock alignments, and less obvious room blocks.



Boulder with Cupules

New to our steward experience are the series of borrow pits: six round kiva-like depressions along the southern edge of Fourth Mesa. It is theorized that these pits were dug for gravel to mulch the agricultural fields that cover the mesa. Near the borrow pits is a midden area with predominantly Santa Fe Black-on-White pottery sherds, and some scattered lithics.

In comparison to Ku-ouinge's many midden areas, the findings at this earlier Ancestral Pueblo site are sparse.

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Fourth Mesa, Rio del Oso

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On the terrace above the main site we observed two hearths adjacent to two possible borrow pits. These hearth/campfire circles were formed with flat upright rock slabs arranged in a relatively small circle. No ash or burned wood was visible in or around these hearths. We have never seen a campfire circle like these before on our hikes as site stewards.

To date, Bob and I as a team have only visited Fourth Mesa twice, but with K. Paul's encouragement we know we'll be heading back soon to explore and discover new subtle evidence of the long history of human occupation of this beautiful and quiet place called Fourth Mesa.

— Article and photos, Carolyn Florek



Rock alignment on Fourth Mesa

2022 ASNM Volume Honors Bremer and Baldwin

The Archeological Society of New Mexico (ASNM) publishes annual volumes to honor “individuals who have significantly contributed to the understanding, protection, and public education of the archaeological record of New Mexico and to the continuation of the ASNM and local affiliates.” The 2022 volume, *Stewards of the Forest*, honors J. Michael Bremer and Anne R. Baldwin, who both recently retired from the USFS. It is being distributed to ASNM members in early May 2022.

One of the articles, authored by Candie Borduin, Beth Parisi, Nancy Cella, and Lee Borduin, summarizes Mike and Anne's contributions to the SFNF Site Stewards program and recounts some research that has come out of the program. Thanks to the ASNM editors of the volume, Emily Brown and Matt Barbour, a pdf of this article has been posted on the SFNF Site Stewards website for your reading pleasure. Click on the “Links and Resources” tab at the top of the home page, then click on “Paper in Honor of J. Michael Bremer and Anne R. Baldwin.” (It's a large file and may take more than a few seconds to load.)

Note that this file includes the covers and title page for the whole volume, but only the single paper. The complete volume is currently available free to ASNM members and for \$35 to non-members; see the ASNM website, <https://archaeologicalsocietynm.org> for purchase information.

Memories of Terry Ballone

The passing in 2020 of long-ago SFNF Site Steward Terry Ballone recently became known to several stewards of his era and to retired Forest Archaeologist Mike Bremer. His passing prompted acknowledgement of his many contributions to the early program.

Mike Bremer:

Around 1996, Leonard Atencio let me know that the Santa Fe National Forest was going to have a Site Steward Program. I cast about for ways to reach out to volunteers, and contacted people who had worked with me and the Forest via the Passport in Time (PIT) program. I believe that is where I first met Terry. Although I haven't seen him in 10 years, I remember the strong impression he made on me regarding his commitment to protecting the nation's public heritage via volunteerism.



Terry Ballone's business card selfie, courtesy of Hubert Allen

I worked with Terry and Wayne Nelson to learn the ins and outs of creating a site steward program based on the SiteWatch program overseen by Norm Nelson with the Historic Preservation Division of the State of New Mexico. Norm was kind enough to let the three of us attend SiteWatch training at the State Land Office. From that genesis we worked to create the site stewardship program on the Santa Fe National Forest, including initial training. Of that group of three, Wayne was the workhorse, I was the agency gadabout, and Terry was the prod-der preferring not to let it descend into Federal bureaucratic limbo. Frankly, without Terry and Wayne, there would be no Site Steward program on the Santa Fe National Forest.

Once the program was up and running, Terry was a faithful site steward, primarily for the Jemez and Gallina areas. He dutifully reported his trips and provided photographic documentation of his adventures. His preference was not to get into written detail; he was comfortable letting the Forest know that he had made a trip and that things were okay or needed some looking after.

When the Cerro Grande Fire threatened the SFNF Site Steward program, a group of dedicated volunteers resurrected the program by developing protocols and a training program. I think Terry felt that the additional bureaucracy added an undue burden on the volunteers, but he was supportive because it meant that the program would survive. He continued to participate as a site steward. He continued to be the voice sitting on my shoulder as program manager, reminding me what the program really should be and that its primary purpose was to assist the Forest in resource protection and provide an avenue for the public to share in that protection. He also continued to participate in PIT projects throughout the southwest.

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Memories of Terry Ballone, continued from page 7

The last time I interacted with Terry was at an annual site steward meeting at Bandelier National Monument. Shortly after that, he let the organization know that he was moving on to other adventures. He had participated for well over a decade in the program on the Santa Fe National Forest. I will always be grateful that Terry chose to participate in the program from the very start. Thanks, Terry, and *Vaya con Dios*.

Lee Borduin:

Terry Ballone was one of the trio that launched the SFNF site steward program along with Mike Bremer and Wayne Nelson. Terry's obvious intelligence and enthusiasm for petroglyphs and archaeology undoubtedly helped drive the program startup.

Terry was always willing to share his extensive knowledge of glyphs and would gladly conduct tours of his favorite areas with "the really good stuff." I recall his participation in an early PIT project in the Garcia Canyon area.

He was an active participant at site steward annual meetings and campouts. His absence the past several years was often noted, and the belated news that he had passed on was received with sadness and reflection in the circle of archaeonuts. He definitely was one of a kind and is and will be missed.

Bill Cella:

Most of the archaeological sites monitored by site stewards are so remote that "someone could easily go out there with a jackhammer and nobody would hear it," Terry was quoted in a 2003 *Albuquerque Journal* article seeking steward volunteers.

The article caught the attention of Bill Cella. Responding to Bill's application

for him and his wife, Nancy, to join the stewards, Terry apologized for not getting back personally, explaining that he did manage, however, to speak to half of the nearly 80 people who responded. Terry commented that he had no idea that there was so much "pent up volunteerism out there."

Bill recalled that some years ago, when Terry lived on Albuquerque's west mesa, he had backdoor access to nearby rock art and extensive knowledge of rock art sites that he had visited in New Mexico.

As an aside, Terry was a vocal fan of IPA brews, often exhorting on the merits of one vs. another. Terry also was a connoisseur of home-brewed beer and knew where to find the best hops – a key ingredient – in nearby mountains. "Terry once gave me a bottle of his home brew following a site steward annual meeting," Bill recalled, adding "it was the best beer I've ever tasted."

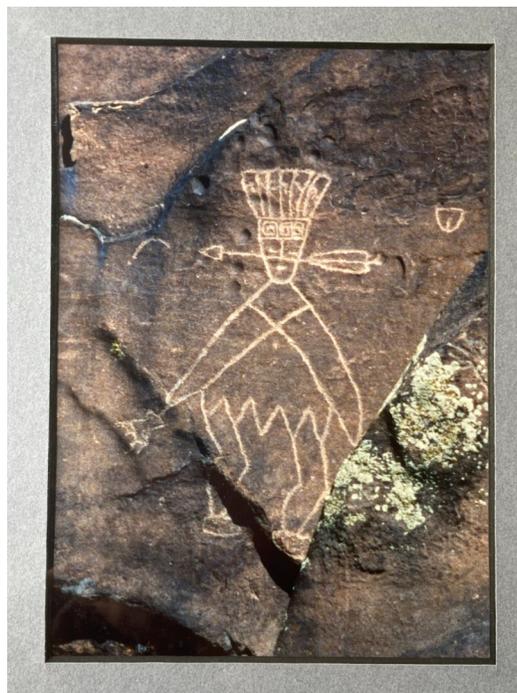


Photo of Galisteo Basin petroglyph by Terry Ballone, courtesy of Hubert Allen and Sandy Ashworth

Memories of Terry Ballone, continued from page 8

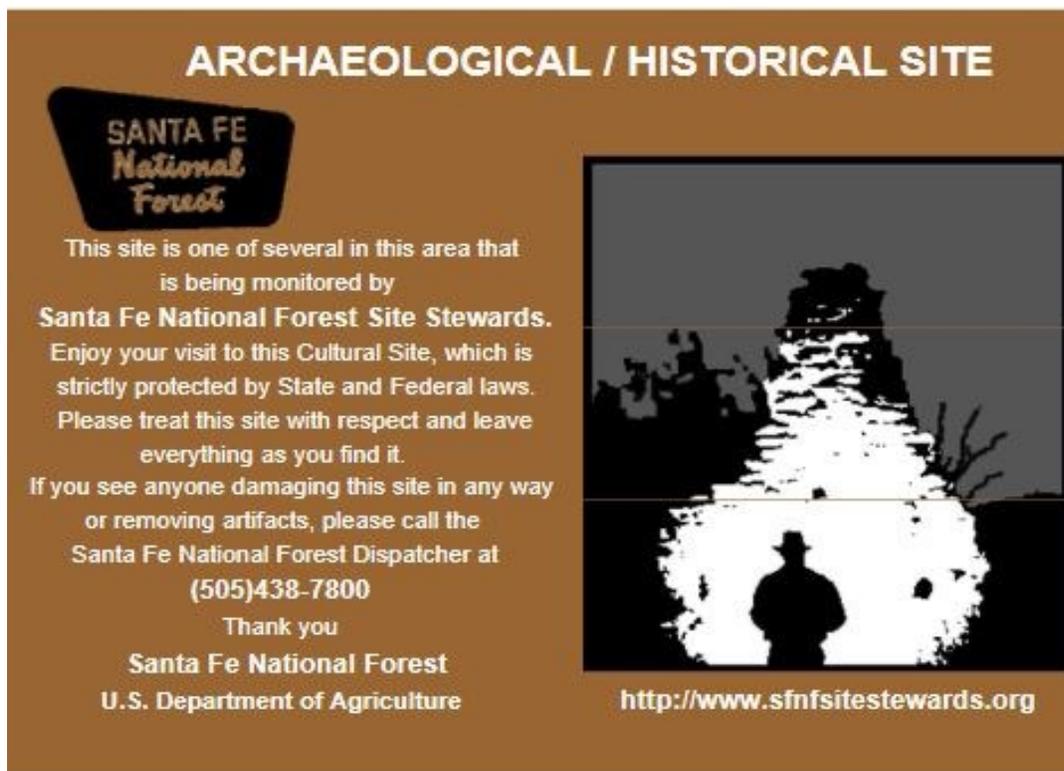
Hubert A. Allen Jr:

Terry was a best buddy, always seeking new adventures, and I was lucky enough to tag along for a good decade plus. We explored dozens of petroglyph sites and he photographed ravenously. He believed they were sacred. He was a protector.

Candie Borduin:

Terry was a unique, extremely intelligent, generous and likeable person. Lee and I admired and liked Terry and appreciated his keen archaeological skills, particularly in observing petroglyphs.

Among other contributions Terry made to the Site Steward program was his focused effort to produce a photograph that could be used as the program's logo. One of the sites Terry monitored was Seshukwa (Eagle Dwelling Place) in the Jemez Mountains. In 2004, he made an illuminated nighttime photo of himself in front of a standing wall at Seshukwa. This dramatic photo was adapted by the SFNF SS Council for its logo, signature banner, and web site heading, and was eventually used on the first site steward field signs placed at frequently visited sites to indicate that the site was being monitored.



Original Site Steward sign with photo by Terry Ballone, courtesy of Candie Borduin.

— Article compiled by Candie Borduin

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Editor:

Paula Lozar
(505) 473-3479
lozarpaula@cs.com

Assistant Editor:

Susan McGrew
(505) 424-3932
sumac3b@gmail.com

We're on the Web:
www://sfnsitestewards.org

Save the Date!

- The Southwest Seminars lecture series for May 2022 features two Rio Chama Site Stewards as speakers. On May 16, Harriet "Rae" Beaubien will speak on "Surprising Finds from a Classic Maya Site: Recovery and Rediscovery," and on May 23, Dr. Linda Brown speaks on "Dream Bundles: Cultural Preservation & Contemporary Maya Ritual Practitioners." Lectures are at 6 PM at Hotel Santa Fe, and prepayment is required; contact Southwest Seminars at (505)466-2775 or Email: southwestseminar@aol.com.
- The Site Watch and Site Steward Foundation annual meetings will be held online on Saturday, May 21, 2022.
- The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) conference will take place online on June 17 - 19, 2022.
- The Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands is seeking volunteer stewards to assist with monitoring at-risk archaeological sites on its Kiowa National Grassland unit in northeast New Mexico. On June 25, 2022, Jeremy Kulisheck will lead a tour of the Mills Canyon petroglyphs and historic sites. The Kiowa National Grassland (Mills Unit) is located near the town of Roy, about 2¼ hours east of Santa Fe. Most sites are accessible by passenger car, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. Access to some sites requires walking up to one mile, and reaching rock art and rock shelter sites requires short scrambles on steeper slopes. For more information, contact Jeremy Kulisheck, Forest Archeologist, at jeremy.kulisheck@usda.gov, (505) 346-3873 office, (505) 470-0679 mobile.
- The Pecos Conference is currently scheduled to meet in person on Rowe Mesa, Rowe, NM, August 11 - 14, 2022. Site Stewards are encouraged to volunteer at the conference; see the Foundation Report on page 3 for more information.



Thanks to the fire-
fighters who are
working to protect
our National Forest!

<http://cliparts.co>