



SITE LINES

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Council Chair's Message

Much as I enjoy site stewarding, there is one aspect of the job that has always bothered me. It can be a pretty lonely activity! Most volunteer opportunities involve meeting and working with a group of people, but in this case we mostly work with just one other person (and that is frequently someone we already know pretty well).

Now, I realize that suits many of us just fine! But still, it is nice to be able to get to know some of the other great people in our program. And at our last Council meeting, we discussed a couple of items that will hopefully provide that chance.

First, this year we are going to have a full-blown annual meeting like we did in the pre-covid days, including an opportunity to camp overnight. It will be held the weekend of October 14-16 at Bandelier National Monument. (See the story below.) The program is still coming together, but you can expect updates about the

National Forest and our Site Steward areas, plus other presentations — and a chance to gather together and mingle with your fellow stewards. Contact Will Dearholt (wrd@lanl.gov) or myself if you'd like to help out with organizing or setup.

Second, we discussed resuming our winter series of brown-bag lectures. Lots of ideas were floated about taking new approaches to this, enhancing it as both an educational and social activity while we are waiting for our field season to re-start in the spring. Grace Brill has agreed to head up an ad-hoc committee to consider our options and make recommendations to the Council. If you have some ideas of your own and would like to help out, contact Grace at gracebrill33@gmail.com.

I hope everyone is finding some time to visit sites during our monsoon weather. I hope to see you at our annual meeting or upcoming winter activities!

—Bob Florek

Annual Meeting and Camp-Out Returns

The SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting and Camp-Out for 2022 will be held live and in person on the weekend of October 14-16. We have reserved group campsites in Bandelier National Monument for Friday and Saturday nights (thanks to Will Dearholt for making the arrangements).

The Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 15. The schedule is yet to be finalized, but will include updates on the State of the Forest, ATL reports, award presentations, speakers, a chili cook-off at lunchtime, and the all-important Happy Hour. Details and directions to the campsites will be provided in future mailings.

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Contributors to this issue:

Anne Beckett
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 Bob Florek
 Jeremy Kulisheck
 Gary Newgent
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 Kathi Turner

Site Steward Foundation Report 8/6/22

The Foundation recently hosted a very successful 95th Annual Pecos Conference on Rowe Mesa near Rowe, New Mexico August 11 - 14, 2022, with over 450 archaeologists, advocates, and volunteers attending. Thank you to all the site stewards who volunteered at the Pecos Conference this year!

A three-day, four-night tour is planned for October 7 - 9, 2022, based in Alamogordo, New Mexico and visiting sites in Tularosa Canyon, Three Rivers Petroglyphs, and White Sands National Park. Tour sign-up will be announced and open in late August.

The Foundation awarded two H. Wayne Nelson grants of \$1,000 each in 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. The second grant was awarded 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.

The Site Watch and Foundation annual meetings were held online Saturday, May 21, 2022. The Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting was also held online May 6 - 8, 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 continued support of site stewards!

— Gary Newgent, President



Site Stewards Program History on Website

In March 2009, Mike Bremer and Jeremy Kulischek presented a paper at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Santa Fe. The title was *Self-Sustaining Partnerships in Heritage Preservation: The Site Stewards of the Santa Fe National Forest*. The authors described the history of the Site Steward program and the challenges that led to its being administered in its present format.

A copy of this paper and the accompanying PowerPoint slides (in pdf format) have been uploaded to the Site Stewards website on the "Links and Resources" page. Although it's likely that most Site Stewards have already heard the history of the program, there are interesting comments and insights about how the Forest and site stewards have benefited from the program.

ATL Reports

Pecos — Felicia Probert reports that, while the monsoon season brought about the lifting of the Forest closure, it also brought about muddy roads on Rowe Mesa and Anton Chico, so the Pecos area stewards have had limited opportunities to get out to the sites. However, we never complain about rain and are looking forward to getting back out soon.

We are happy to welcome Barb Fletcher, Bruce Herr, and Sarah Spearman from the April training session to the Pecos area team. In between storms, we've been able to get two of them out to sites to begin orientation. We're looking forward to getting them all up to speed and able to provide some much needed help.

For the Pecos Conference, currently under way, Bruce Bender, Sharon Paris, and Felicia Probert are conducting tours of one of the horizontal archaic petroglyph sites on Rowe Mesa. Look for a story in the next edition.

Rio Chama — K. Paul reports that all but one team made it to their sites prior to the SFNF closure. Since the reopening of the SFNF, all teams have visited their sites or are scheduled to do so.

Jemez — Ann White reports that with the continued SFNF closures due to fire damage, the teams have not been able to visit their sites.

Gallina — Anne Beckett reports that, thanks to Jo Douglas, the three new Gallina Stewards received an initial orientation at Anne's house and visited their assigned sites before the SFNF closed (see photos below). Anne has been checking on road conditions, but those and weather conditions have prevented visits. Forest Roads 6, 6a, and 7, which lead to about 35-40% of the Gallina monitored sites, are closed due to a washout from the rains of a month ago. One team was barely able to visit their sites recently before being caught in a deluge on their way out on Forest Road 5.

Garcia — Will Dearholt reports that access to the Guaje site is getting worse. Oversized boulders have rolled onto the road. There are extensive feral cattle, with a new round of calves. Ashley Stabenow shared that access to Guaje was discussed recently in a staff meeting, in particular the fact that fences are down. She believed that Santa Clara Pueblo has received some funds to fix the fences. Will said that Los Alamos County, which previously had a problem with feral cattle, hired some cowboys for a roundup, which was quite successful. The next site to be visited will be Chupadero, and it is equally difficult to access.

Caja del Rio — No report (but see the story on pg. 6).



Jo Douglas, former Gallina ATL, introducing new site stewards Frank Wilwol (center) and Jim Norton to the Rattlesnake Ridge site.



New Gallina site steward Richard Marlar learning about the Fiero site.

Photos: Anne Beckett

News from the Forest, continued

We will have an Acting Zone Archaeologist for the Pecos/Las Vegas Zone, hopefully starting sometime in September.

Ashley Stabenow, who was on the Forest as Acting Assistant Forest Archaeologist, has completed her detail with us. She has been a great resource and fun to work with these last few months. While on the temporary detail with us, Ashley was offered and accepted a promotion with the Prescott National Forest. So she is heading back to the Prescott to a different position than the one she left.

Liz Cutright-Smith has concluded her detail in the NEPA program area and has returned to her position as Assistant Forest Archaeologist. We are all happy to have Liz back!

We also want to welcome Aly Wolf as the new Program Support Archaeologist in the

Supervisor's Office. Aly has been on the Santa Fe on and off for many years, usually working as a seasonal Archaeologist out on the Jemez Ranger District. She will be working with Liz and me on backlogged projects and Heritage projects.

The Heritage program will be growing in the next few months. We will be onboarding an infrastructure crew that will oversee the heritage for many of the proposed infrastructure projects on the Forest.

Debbie Cress, the Forest Supervisor, has taken a detail opportunity at the Washington Office. At present our Acting Forest Supervisor is James Duran, who is also the current Forest Supervisor for the Carson National Forest. He has assumed duties for both Forests.

— Kathi Turner

Nikki Berkebile Moves On

Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District Archaeologist, Jean (Nikki) Berkebile, has accepted another position and will be leaving the Santa Fe National Forest at the end of August. She will be the new Integrated Resource Program Manager at Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, based in Mountainair, New Mexico. She will be conducting cultural resource compliance for projects and long-term monitoring of park resources, working with the maintenance team on preservation, mitigation, stabilization, and restoration projects on the park's cultural resources, and serving as museum collections manager for the monument.

While Nikki is excited about her new path and future challenges, she has valued her time on the Santa Fe where she has developed her skills on managing cultural resources compliance of large landscape projects, built relationships with the district's site stewards while managing the protection of the Hacienda Site, and worked as a resource advisor and a member of the BAER team for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fires. She will certainly miss the stunning views of the Pecos Wilderness, the unique archaeology of the local area, and her amazing co-workers on her district.

— Nikki Berkebile



Ashley Stabenow
Photo courtesy of Kathi Turner

Caja del Rio in the News

The Caja del Rio plateau, which borders the Rio Grande to the west of Santa Fe, has been heavily used (and abused) over the centuries. Native American hunters crisscrossed the plateau looking for game. Pueblos with their associated shrines were built on or near the Caja del Rio, with agricultural fields that stretched for miles.* Then later shepherders and ranchers grazed their animals there and constructed lambing pens, corrals, and cattle tanks.

A branch of the Camino Real crosses the southern end of the Caja del Rio, and a segment of the 1920s Route 66 parallels that road before descending in a notorious series of switchbacks to cross the Santa Fe River. This road was replaced by I-25 in the 1960s as the main route to Santa Fe, and since then the Caja del Rio has been a playground for recreationists ranging from hang gliding aficionados to mountain bikers, rock climbers, and target shooters. Most of the Caja del Rio is now administered by the BLM, the Santa Fe National Forest, and the State Land Office, and some areas are still permitted for grazing, while several power lines crisscross the plateau.

Volunteers from the SFNF Site Stewards Program currently monitor archeological sites on the Forest portion of the Caja del Rio, and New Mexico Site Watch volunteers also monitor the extensive La Cieneguilla petroglyph site on BLM land at the southern rim of the plateau.

*No exaggeration: Take a look at the southern end of the Caja using Google Earth. All those areas that look like corduroy are agricultural fields!

But there is no consistent monitoring for most of the plateau, although the BLM and the Forest Service will respond when site stewards or other visitors report vandalism or damage.

Recently there have been instances of graffiti at La Cieneguilla and vandalism at the Los Aguajes shrine, and a new power line to serve the needs of Los Alamos National Laboratory is proposed and under discussion. These events have sparked interest in preserving the Caja del Rio, with a group called the Caja del Rio Coalition leading the charge. The group comprises nonprofit associations, Pueblo and civic leaders, and local environmental and recreational groups committed to protecting the land, wildlife, and sacred sites on the plateau from further destruction.

So far, resolutions have been passed by Santa Fe County, the All Pueblo Council of Governors, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, and most recently the Santa Fe City Council, supporting extended protection of the Caja. But more grassroots support from the community is needed. You can find out about the Coalition on their website, cajadelrio.org.

If you get involved, remember: Although Site Stewards are free to participate in advocacy programs as private citizens, they should be cautious not to present themselves as official representatives of the Site Steward program, the National Forest, the BLM, or other governmental agencies.

— article and photo, Paula Lozar



Caja del Rio vista

Site Lines

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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:
<https://sfnsitestewards.org>

Save the Date!

September 5: Taos Archeological Society meeting, 7 PM, Kit Carson board room. Speaker: Paul Reed.

September 17: Santa Fe Archeological Society meeting, Pecos Trail Café, dinner at 5:30, speaker (to be announced) at 7:30.

October 8: Field trip to Kiowa National Grasslands, led by Jeremy Kulischek. See the story on pg. 2.

October 14-16: SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting and Camp-Out, Bandelier National Monument. See the story on pg. 1.

See you at the Annual Meeting!



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