



## Council Chair's Message

Our Annual Meeting at Banelier was a big success! Thanks to everyone who participated. We all learned a lot from our four guest speakers, and enjoyed catching up with our fellow stewards in person over a delicious potluck lunch.

In the past, these opportunities to get together continued through the winter months with Brown Bag lectures. But it takes a few dedicated volunteers to organize these events, and unfortunately at the moment we do not have anyone on the Education Committee to do this. While this activity is not critical to our mission, it certainly is a nice perk.

I think it would be best if three or more stewards could step up to help with this committee, with one chairperson. That way it wouldn't be overwhelming for any one person. If you are interested in working on the Education Committee, please let me know at [bob-florek@gmail.com](mailto:bob-florek@gmail.com).

With the cold weather, our site visits are winding down for the year. Thanks to everyone for all their efforts to preserve these important and fascinating places. Take care, stay healthy, and have a very happy holiday season!

—Bob Florek



Mike Bremer addresses participants at the October 2022 Site Stewards Annual Meeting and campout.

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### Contributors to this issue:

- Bob Florek
- Gary Newgent
- Felicia Probert
- Peter Taylor
- Kathi Turner

## News from the Forest

The Heritage Program is going through some changes. As we shared with the Council during the Annual Meeting, we are down a few people. Jordan Jarrett, Espanola/Coyote Archaeologist, accepted a position with NPS and is no longer on the Forest. Jana Comstock, Espanola/Coyote Lead Archaeologist, is currently on a temporary detail into a Tribal position at the Regional Office.

Pete Taylor, Jemez/Cuba Lead Archaeologist, is leaving for a temporary detail as Forest Archaeologist on the Kaibab NF, and Becky Baisden will get a 120-day temporary promotion into his position. (See Pete's story on pg 4.)

While we are down some key positions, we are contributing to work on the Forest priorities. The main focus of work is fire repair/recovery, where we are assisting as needed.



Felicia and Sharon's puppy was popular at the Annual Meeting; here she charms Nancy Cella. Photo by Candie Borduin.

We are also waiting on word of who will be the Santa Fe's new Forest Supervisor. Whoever they are, they will also likely guide the future direction for the Forest and our Program.

— Kathi Turner



Pete Taylor at Gallina Unit House, April 2020

### Mills Canyon Field Trip

The field trip to Mills Canyon (Kiowa National Grasslands), originally scheduled for October 8, was postponed due to inclement weather and eventually canceled. It will be rescheduled in the spring, date to be determined.

All site stewards (and potential site stewards) are invited. If you would like to be informed about the new date and are not already on the mailing list, please contact [Lillian.Greenawald@usda.gov](mailto:Lillian.Greenawald@usda.gov).

## Site Steward Foundation Report

11/18/22

The Foundation recently completed a three-day tour visiting sites in the Tularosa Basin area of New Mexico, October 7-9, 2022. The tour was attended by thirteen people with four local guides based in Alamogordo.

- Thursday evening pre-tour dinner at D. H. Lescombes restaurant with speaker David Greenwald, Jornada Research Institute President, discussing recent works at Creekside Village pueblo.
- Friday visit to Creekside Village pueblo with large kiva, pit houses, and extensive terraced fields and irrigation systems along the Tularosa River guided by David Greenwald.
- Saturday morning visit to White Sands National Park and presentation by Park Ranger David Bustos regarding preservation of 22,000-year-old Pleistocene human and mega-fauna footprints of mammoths, camels, wolves, and giant sloths.
- Saturday afternoon visit of Chihuahuan Desert archaic to historic period petroglyphs on private land near Carrizozo led by local guide Lay Powell.
- Sunday visit to the Bureau of Land Management Three Rivers Petroglyphs site, and rarely seen petroglyphs and interpretation by guide Joan Price, Jornada Research Institute Associate.

The 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Pecos Conference held on Rowe Mesa near Rowe, New Mexico, August 11-14, 2022 was organized by the Foundation with over 450 archaeologists, advocates, and volunteers attending. Thank you to all the site stewards who volunteered at the Pecos Conference this year!

The Site Steward Foundation is offering a \$1,000 H. Wayne Nelson grant to be awarded March 31, 2023. To apply for a grant, please contact Gary Newgent at [sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com) for a grant application.

Two H. Wayne Nelson grants of \$1,000 each were awarded in 2022, the first 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 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](http://sitestewardfoundation.org).

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2023, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, [sitestewardfoundation.org](http://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



## Farewell from Pete Taylor

I have been the Zone Archaeologist for the Cuba and Jemez Ranger Districts since I started working on the Santa Fe National Forest in December 2014. When I arrived on the Forest, one of the first things I was made aware of is that the two Ranger Districts I was assigned to are home to perhaps the highest density of archaeological sites in the US Forest Service system, with well over 4,000 sites occurring on the Jemez Ranger District and more than 3,000 sites on the Cuba RD.

I came to Archaeology after working for 16 years with the Fire organization on the Apache/Sitgreaves and Coronado National Forests. I served on a Hotshot crew, on Engine crews, as a Lookout, and as a Fire Prevention Technician. I finished my Fire career as a Dispatcher. In the fall of 1999, I made the switch from Fire to Archaeology. I was mentored by Bill Gillespie, the Assistant Forest Archaeologist on the Coronado NF. Bill's steady guidance gave me the necessary skills and appreciation for the work that we perform and the great responsibility and privilege we have to protect our cultural resources. While working as an Archaeologist on the Coronado National Forest, I attended the University of Arizona and earned a Masters in Archaeology, with an emphasis on Historical Archaeology. I quickly learned that the job of an Archaeologist with the Forest Service is no place for specialization, we must conform our individual interests to what is on the ground in front of us.

Before coming to the Santa Fe NF, I worked as a Zone Archaeologist on the Apache/Sitgreaves NFs in Arizona. The prehistoric cultural resource sites on the three Forests I have worked on represent the three primary southwestern precontact cultures: Hohokam, Mogollon, and Ancestral Puebloan. Each culture has produced unique site and artifact characteristics while also possessing universal similarities. I have been lucky to have been exposed to all of these cultures in my years with the Forest Service, in addition to historical mines, homesteads, frontier Army posts, and Civilian Conservation Corps sites.

I have been fortunate in my career to have jobs which gave me a strong sense of accomplishment and respect for our natural and cultural resources. The United States is a leader in Natural Resource management and was the first country in the world to set aside public lands for the public to enjoy and learn from in the form of National Parks and National Forests.

In my eight years on the Santa Fe, I have been exposed to incredible and impressive cultural resources, from pueblos and field structures with standing walls and intact vigas, to an eagle trap high on a sandstone column, to the cliff structures at Nogales and massive pueblos composed of hundreds of rooms on the Jemez RD. These are truly wonderful sights that words cannot adequately describe, and I am humbled to have had a small role in their protection and preservation.

It is not only the archaeology that is special on the Santa Fe NF, but the people as well. I have met and worked with so many wonderful people that I cannot begin to name them all. The Forest is really lucky to have such a strong Heritage staff and a very promising new crop of archaeologists to fill in behind the folks who have left or are leaving.

The Santa Fe is also very lucky to have the Site Stewards. You are the eyes on the ground, and I applaud your dedication and willingness to help protect the cultural resources that are so important to us all.

November 18 was my last day (until March) in my position on the Santa Fe. I start a four-month assignment on the Kaibab NF in Northern Arizona on Monday, November 21. Upon the completion of that assignment, I will either retire or move into the Kaibab position permanently. Becky Baisden will be getting a 120-day temporary promotion into my current position.

I wish you all the best.

—Pete Taylor

## ATL Reports

**Pecos:** Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris are happy to report that our three provisional stewards have been out to their assigned sites at least once, and are quickly learning the ins and outs of negotiating the roads, what to look for on site, and completing the associated online reports. In spite of the extended forest closure followed by the rains, they were able to get to all but 4 of the 25 sites that are actively monitored.

On Sunday, August 14th, Bruce Bender, Sharon Paris, and Felicia Probert led 26 people (and one dog) attending the Pecos Conference on a tour of one of the horizontal archaic petroglyph sites on Rowe Mesa. The weather and road conditions cooperated to allow for the safe passage of everyone to and from the site. A late season sunflower bloom made for pretty views on the short drive to and from the site.

At the Annual Meeting, Bruce Bender was appointed AATL for the Pecos team.

**Gallina:** Anne Beckett acknowledged the rangers of the Cuba District that repaired FR 7, allowing access to about 40% of the sites monitored by the Gallina Team. It was much appreciated. She also noted that Candi and Lee Borduin found an obvious human bone at one of their sites. It was reported to Zone Archaeologist Pete Taylor, who visited the site and, after documenting it, reburied the bone. Anne shared the story because she felt it represented the successful partnership between Forest Service staff and Site Stewards.

**Rio Chama:** K. Paul shared the many visits and miles the team put in in the last fiscal year. Currently the Rio Chama team has 20 active stewards, including 6 new stewards, and 4 "on sabbatical." There are ongoing issues at Poshuouinge.

**Garcia:** Will Dearholt said that the Guaje site is the most vulnerable site due to its proximity to Los Alamos, but road conditions continue to be an issue. He believes it's time to look at new sites that are easier to get to and a better use of time. The Garcia team could use another steward with a high clearance vehicle. A possible new site in Sanchez Canyon, a late coalition period site, involves a 1.25-hour walk.

**Jemez Team:** Bob Florek reported that it has been a slow year so far. New Site Stewards will be going out next week. All trained site stewards have been or will be out to their sites.

**Caja del Rio:** John Pitts filled in for Gary Newgent. Digging in a World Quarter Shrine was discovered at Los Aguajes, and there appeared to be uninformed "reconstruction" of the shrine. The Forest Service has erected a sign pointing out that this is an important area. Also, the remains of a washing machine were found by a ceremonial site, as though it had fallen from the sky. Site Stewards removed it. A site in White Rock Canyon has significant rock art panels that have not yet been recorded. A possible PIT project is under consideration for this area.

## Site Steward Awards

At the Annual Meeting in October 2022, Certificates of Appreciation and fetishes were presented to five stewards for going above and beyond. The award recipients are:

**Bruce Bender** from the Pecos team for being the utility person that every team needs. He partners with two different stewards responsible for 5 different sites and is always available to go out with another steward if their partner isn't available. He serves as an at-large member of the Council and helped with tours to the Rowe Mesa archaic petroglyph sites. He takes the initiative for onsite maintenance tasks like pounding in fence posts to keep a site secure and buying new cable locks for site gates. Bruce has proven to be an asset to the SFNF Site Stewards program since joining in 2017 and the Pecos Team is glad to have him!

Bruce was awarded a beaver fetish. Beavers are extremely energetic and exhibit great diligence in whatever they do. Their willingness to participate in purposeful and cooperative activity is part of their medicine. We can learn a great deal from this singular quality. Whether building their underwater lodges, repairing dams, or taking care of their kits, beavers do it with zeal. This is why we have the expression, "eager beaver." They are gentle creatures who show us that working hard can be its own reward.



Gail Bryant was unable to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting, so Felicia Probert later presented her with her award certificate and fetish at her home.

**Gail Bryant** from the Pecos team decided to step down as an active steward at the end of September. She was recognized for being the longest serving steward on the Pecos team, serving for 17 years before hanging up her boots. She worked extensively with some of the early stewards to locate and record sites on Rowe Mesa and willingly shared her extensive knowledge as new stewards joined the team. She was also recognized for the many hours and miles spent bumping over the rutted rocky roads to get to a site, and for organizing the Wednesday evening speakers for NINE years as well as bringing a meal for the speaker AND cookies for all.

Before calling it quits, Gail took one last trip to one of the archaic petroglyph sites on Rowe Mesa. As she climbed into the truck to leave, she was heard to say, "How you going to keep them in Iowa, once they've seen the mountains." Gail, we're glad the mountains called you to New Mexico, and a sincere thanks for your many contributions to the SFNF Site Steward program and for being an integral part of protecting our nation's cultural resources.

Gail was awarded the corn maiden fetish. At Zuni Pueblo the three stages of Woman are recognized as Maiden, symbolizing potential, Mother, the life giver, and Grandmother, the wise elder.

**Jo Douglas** from the Gallina team for being an incredible asset to the Site Steward Program. This includes her commitment to achieve site visits with substitute partners as well as assuring regular visits were made to the Nogales Site shared by multiple stewards; her persistence in finding access routes to sites when the going became too difficult; for assisting with the review of sites for reprioritization of site visits and Site Visit Quick Reference for Gallina; for sharing bits of history about most monitored Gallina sites, as well as on-the-ground knowledge with the ATL; and for assisting with in-person orientation for new stewards. Jo is always ready to visit a site, whether hers or others, and the Gallina Team and ATL are especially lucky to have her.

— Continued on pg 7

## Site Steward Awards, continued from pg 6

Jo was awarded a mountain lion fetish. Mountain lion is at the top of the food chain and is regarded to be a great hunter and leader. A mountain lion's presence is usually felt but not seen. Mountain Lion medicine is about setting good examples and boundaries.

**Ted Greer** from the Jemez Team was recognized for making consistent site visits to assigned sites; for always donating examples of his artwork to the annual silent auction; for taking call out and call back in when the ATL and AATL are away; and for setting an excellent example as a site steward. The Jemez Team is lucky to have him!

Ted was awarded a badger fetish. Badger is aggressive and tenacious. Keeping Badger's behavior in mind can help one accomplish a specific goal or purpose as it has a great

ability to focus. Traditionally, healing properties are attributed to Badger.

**Susan McGrew** from the Rio Chama team was recognized for her exceptional work as a site steward since 2016, including quickly taking on the role of lead steward for her assigned site; for her diligence in conducting regular site visits, and her extra attention to special concerns at the site due to animal disturbance and erosion of human remains; for her service on the Council, first as a Member-at-Large, and now serving as the Council Treasurer; for her work in drafting a list of potential budget items for the Council's consideration, including funding for site improvements, and then developing the proposed 2023 budget.

Susan was also awarded a beaver fetish.

— Felicia Probert

## News from the Caja del Rio

On August 12 the Caja del Rio Coalition held "Celebrate Caja Del Rio's Culture, Land, Water, and Wildlife" at the Santa Fe Brewing Company. As the date conflicted with the Pecos Conference, many Site Stewards who are interested in the Caja were unable to attend the event. John Pitts was there, and remarked:

*I listened to all the speakers and noted that all had good aims but not a single mention of work already done by the SFNF and its Site Stewards, as well as the Site Watch volunteers. And hardly a suggestion of the benefits of working with public land management agencies which oversee most of the Caja del Rio. Amazing how little folks know about what public land managers have been doing for ages.*



La Cieneguilla petroglyph

Bob Florek adds:

*I was both impressed and unimpressed. Impressed at all the people who got up to speak, including some big names like Representative Leger Fernandez and a surprise, unscheduled visit from Senator Heinrich. Unimpressed for a couple of reasons: I didn't hear anyone talk about what they specifically want to do for the Caja, and although they keep saying that it is a coalition, I'm not sure which organizations are actually members of said coalition. I signed up on their website for more info and updates, but have heard nothing.*

**Ed. Note:** The Caja del Rio Coalition's website ([cajadelrio.org](http://cajadelrio.org)) has been updated recently with a list of its current members: New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Wild, Earthkeepers, Nuestra Tierra, HECHO, and the Pueblo Action Alliance. (It's a nice website too.) They sponsored a "Clean-Up on the Caja" event on Nov. 5, and in June they held a "field trip" to the La Cieneguilla petroglyph site — which, by the way, is monitored regularly by a team from NM Site Watch led by David Kozlowski.

Photo and story: Paula Lozar

## *Site Lines*

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## Save the Date!

Santa Fe Archeological Society lecture on Jan. 17, 2023: "Cultural Continuity and Change in the Upper Pecos Valley: The Archaeology of Pecos National Historical Park," Jeremy Moss, Chief of Science and Resource Stewardship/ Archeologist, Pecos National Historical Park. 7-8 PM at the Pecos Trail Café. All interested participants are welcome. Non-members are asked to make a voluntary \$5.00 contribution at the door to attend the lecture.

SFAS lecture on Feb. 21, 2023: "Los Luceros – Revealing the Hidden Gem of New Mexico," Carlyn Stewart, MA, Instructional Coordinator/Lead Archaeologist at Los Luceros Historic Site. 7-8 PM at the Pecos Trail Café.

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico's annual meeting will be held in Ruidoso, New Mexico, May 5-7, 2023, hosted by the new ASNM affiliate Jornada Research Institute.

The 2023 Pecos Conference will be held in Flagstaff, Arizona, August 10-13, 2023.



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Wishing you a happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous new year!

— The Editors