



# SITE LINES

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

SPRING 2023

## Council Chair's Message

The Acequia Madre – the “mother ditch” – runs right past our house, and as I write this, it has been flowing like a small mountain stream for five days. It’s always an amazing sight to me, for a couple of reasons. First, it’s a reminder of the deep and complex history of Santa Fe. It seems almost miraculous that they have managed to keep this ancient irrigation ditch running for hundreds of years, in spite of all the concrete and culverts that have been put in around it as the city has developed.

But it’s also a reminder that we have had a lot of precipitation this winter, and now here is the snow melt running right through our neighborhood. Lately they have generally run the acequia through the east side of town, but there has not been enough water to reach us. It has been several years since they last opened the gate behind the Indian School, allowing the water to flow through Ashbaugh Park and all the way to the village of Agua Fria, where it was traditionally used to water the crops that fed Santa Fe.

Which leads me to remind everyone to be careful out there as you visit your sites. There is a lot of high water and mud out on the forest roads. So as always,

please use your best judgment when visiting sites and don’t proceed if you have any doubts about your vehicle getting through!

We had a great turnout on April 15 for our Spring Council Meeting / Potluck / Presentation. Many of our new site stewards came, and retired site steward Jan Stone also attended — see the stories on pp 4 and 9. Of course, the highlight was Candie Borduin’s talk about the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. What a special place, and what important work they are doing to record and preserve it. A big thank you to Candie, and to the many of you who participate in the project.

As I mentioned in the last *Site Lines*, we always have a stream of new volunteers coming in, and the first step is to introduce them to our program through a training session. At this point we do not have anyone heading up our Training Committee to coordinate this important work. If you are interested, please contact me at bobflorek@gmail.com.

Thanks to all of you for helping to preserve all the marvelous heritage sites in our National Forest.

— Bob Florek, Council Chair

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### Contributors to this issue:

Anne Beckett  
 Nancy and Bill Cella  
 Bob Florek  
 Gary Newgent  
 Kathi Turner  
 Ann White  
 The editors thank you!

**Hot off the presses!** Volunteer site stewards play key role in cultural resource preservation. This article by Matt Dahlseid in the 5/15/23 *Santa Fe New Mexican* summarizes the aims of the Site Steward program and features interviews with a number of people we know. Good show, all!!

## News from the Forest

Jana Comstock, Zone Archeologist for Española/Coyote, recently gave birth to a baby boy. Robin Gibbs, Assistant Zone Archeologist, will fill in while Jana is on maternity/family leave.

*Pecos:* Kandi Rutan is on 120-day detail. Bud Weick, Resource Assistant, is helping out. Gilbert Burkman continues as Assistant Zone Archeologist.

*Jemez/Cuba:* Pete Taylor is retiring in June. Becky Baisden, Assistant Zone Archeologist, will be staying on, and recently defended her M.A. thesis at UNM.

*State Office:* Liz Cutright-Smith and Aly Wolf continue in their roles. Archeologist Andy Wakefield is focused on infrastructure projects. Archeologist Amanda Grace Santos is working on a project updating recreation residences and working on projects across the Forest. Megan Plummer, Archeology Technician, is assisting the Zones on projects across the Forest.

*Santa Fe National Forest:* Julian Madrid, Acting Public Services Staff Officer and Kathi's supervisor, is new and brings a law enforcement perspective to the work. Shaun Sanchez is the new SFNF Forest Supervisor.

*SFNF Focus* – Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire Damage restoration is the main priority: Items include watershed assessment and restoration, hazardous tree removal, replanting, seeding, repairing fences, fixing power lines, debris removal, and fixing bridges. There are many cultural sites, from archaic to historic, in the burn area, including trails and spiritual sites. The Tecolote and Gallina watersheds include more than 45-50 cultural sites.

### **Update on possible Site Steward funding projects:**

*Poshuouinge* – Amina Sena, hydrologist, has a source for native seed to be donated.

Micah Kiesow is also working on the project. We are anticipating the help of a Youth Conservation Corps crew with delivering and spreading the seed and cover straw. The Forest Service is looking at this as an educational opportunity for the YCC crew and any other volunteers. The date of the project will (hopefully) coincide with the start of monsoons in early July.

The goal of the project is to address erosion from arroyos. The mechanics of the project include slowing down water by seeding up at the head of the arroyo. It was noted that cattle on the site are significantly contributing to the problem. This could lead to a fencing project. K. Paul shared that the person who has the cattle is known and does not have an allotment.

*Nogales* – Becky Baisden has been talking with the Acting District Ranger and the Recreation staff about possible solutions for the fence/walkway through the midden up to the site.

*Rattlesnake* – We are waiting for Lewis Borck to finish the design for the sign at Rattlesnake.

— Kathi Turner  
Heritage Program Manager



A lovely day to remove graffiti! (see pg. 5)

## Site Steward Foundation Report

5/5/2023

The Site Steward Foundation is offering an H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 in 2023, with a new grant application deadline of July 31, 2023 and a new grant award date of September 1, 2023. To apply for a Foundation grant, contact Gary Newgent at [sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com) for a grant application.

A spring tour to the Gila Cliff Dwellings and nearby sites based in Silver City, New Mexico, May 19-21, 2023 filled up quickly.

An October tour to sites in eastern Arizona, based in Flagstaff and Winslow, Arizona is planned.

The 2023 Site Watch and Foundation annual meetings were held on March 4, 2023 in Socorro at the Macey Center, New Mexico Tech (see story on pg.5).

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico's 2023 annual meeting was held May 5-7, 2023 at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

The 2023 Pecos Conference is scheduled for August 10-13, 2023 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Please help us make our goal of over 100 members in 2023. 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 support of site stewards!

— Gary Newgent, President

### AAS Tour on the Caja del Rio



Abuquerque Archeological Society Tour

Photo: Pat Harris, AAS

On April 25, Jeremy Kulisheck, Mike Bremer, Shelley Thompson, and Gary Newgent led a group of members of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society on a tour to a series of sites on the Caja del Rio: The Los Aguajes pueblo, the rock art at the Tetilla Arroyo, the nearby world quarter shrine, the Powerline shrine, and the megafauna rub. The tour was approved by the SFNF, and the AAS members were most appreciative.



## Site Steward Council Spring Meeting and Potluck

The SFNF Site Steward Council gathered on April 15 for our regular quarterly meeting. But our often lengthy deliberations were cut short by Council Chair Bob Florek so that we could greet our arriving guests and the other SFNF Site Stewards, and prepare for our Spring Get-Together potluck.

Kathi Turner helped us set up the food and serving tables in the spacious conference room of the SFNF Administrative Building for our first event there since the advent of COVID. It was great to be back! As we sampled the delicious potluck contributions, we decided that we should have more potlucks. It was also a time to catch up with old friends and to meet our newest site stewards.

A highlight was seeing long-time site steward Jan Stone again after a long absence from our gatherings. Those of us who are new to the Site Stewards didn't realize what an important person she was to our organization over the past 20-plus years. (See the story on pg. 9.) Thanks to Ann White for bringing her! Other honored guests included Nancy and Bill Cella, who were celebrat-

ed for their more than 20 years of service to the SFNF Site Stewards (see the stories on pp. 7 and 8). As founding members of Site Stewards, they have the lengthy organizational memory that is so important for us newer members.

The day concluded with a fascinating presentation by another long-time member, Candie Borduin, on the important work being done by the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. Candie is the Volunteer Recording Coordinator for the teams who climb up cliffs and scramble over boulders to photograph and document the hundreds of thousands of incredible petroglyphs in and around the Wells Petroglyph Preserve. Her slides and accompanying talk brought the beautiful petroglyphs to life for those of us who have never had the privilege of seeing Mesa Prieta in person.\*

Our thanks go to the Cellas, Jan Stone, and Candie for their many years of service, to Candie for an inspiring presentation, and to Kathi for her invaluable assistance to the Site Steward program. We look forward to more get-togethers in the future.

— story and photos, Susan McGrew



New site stewards at the April 15 Site Steward Council meeting: Richard Marlar (Gallina), Leslie O'Toole (Pecos), Nancy and Patrick Swanson (Jemez), Lynne and Don Newell (Gallina)



Lee and Candie Borduin

\*Ed. Note: The MPPP is open for group tours from March through October. For more information, check out their website at [mesaprietapetroglyphs.org](http://mesaprietapetroglyphs.org).

## Graffiti Removal at La Cieneguilla

On a moonlit night in January 2022, the La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs site on the Caja del Rio Plateau southwest of Santa Fe suffered graffiti damage. Approximately 10 panels, some with petroglyphs, were defaced with spray-painted designs. The perpetrator or perpetrators have never been caught, in spite of an ongoing investigation and a \$5000 reward posted by New Mexico Wild.

After extensive analysis, and with the appropriate approvals from the BLM and the NM Historic Preservation Division, a plan was approved to remediate the damage. A group of New Mexico SiteWatch volunteers, led by Dave Kozlowski (the SiteWatch Chapter Coordinator for Santa Fe-Galisteo Basin), assisted the BLM as part of a special project supervised by the agency archeologist, Chris Anderson.

I also volunteer for SiteWatch, so I was one of the volunteers who helped remediate the site in early March 2023. Lee and Mary Ann Onstatt also participated. Graffiti remediation procedures can differ greatly from site to site depending on the nature of the damage and the surface involved. But this project is of interest to Santa Fe National Forest Site Stewards: If we ever have graffiti issues on a site in the Forest, the approval and remediation processes would be similar.

The La Cieneguilla graffiti were mostly on basalt rock faces, rough and porous, so removing them required use of a toxic and corrosive proprietary compound. Caution is required when working with it: We all wore eye protection and rubber gloves. (It also removes dye from denim. Don't ask me how I know.)

Most of the graffiti were in an area that is a short walk from the parking lot, and a short but steep climb up the cliff. We carried our equipment up the trail, and the BLM's Fire Protection division provided the other essential ingredient – water – by running a

very long hose up from their tanker in the parking lot to the site. We were accompanied by a BLM law enforcement officer, and the Historic Preservation officer from Tesuque Pueblo also came by to observe us at work.

Once we removed a pile of tumbleweeds obstructing the area, Dave identified the graffiti to be removed. Several panels had graffiti on top of petroglyphs, so we didn't touch those because they require the attentions of a conservation expert. This site was challenging because some of the graffiti were on very rough surfaces, so they required multiple applications of the compound and lots of scrubbing with water. There are still graffiti remaining to be professionally remediated, but the area is now much closer to its pre-graffiti state.

The site is visited regularly by SiteWatch volunteers and patrolled by BLM law enforcement. In a recent incident, visitors hiking at the site saw someone creating graffiti with red paint, called the BLM's emergency number posted at the site, and the perpetrator was caught red-handed (literally) – a public awareness success story!



Dave Kozlowski applies compound to graffiti

— Story and photos, Paula Lozar

## ATL Reports

*Pecos* – Felicia Probert reports that, with the warming weather and the roads drying out, Pecos stewards have been getting out to the higher profile sites. While the roads haven't improved over the winter, the sites largely appear unchanged.

In the team update category, we are pleased to announce that Barb Fletcher and Bruce Herr recently completed the field training requirements as provisional stewards and were certified as full-fledged stewards at the April 15th meeting. Barb and Bruce work as a team and currently cover the larger horizontal petroglyph site and a vertical archaic petroglyph site up on Rowe Mesa. Congratulations to Bruce and Barb! Leslie O'Toole recently completed the site steward training online and joined the Pecos team as a provisional steward. She is currently paired with Bruce Bender covering the smaller horizontal petroglyph site and a rock shelter on Rowe Mesa. Welcome to the Site Steward Program and the Pecos Area Team!

*Jemez* – Ann White reported that the team has been unable to visit sites since last November due to fire remediation, winter conditions, flooding, and roads closed, including San Ysidro and La Cueva. The Cat Mesa site will be visited this year with a new assignment.

*Rio Chama* – K Paul Jones reported that all but the Polvadera area sites have been visited. Every site will be seen during this calendar year. Kris Herbst is a new provisional steward and K Paul is getting him familiar with the Team's sites.

The Rio Chama Team is having a spring event, and 80% are able to join at the Dulci home. Bob Florek encouraged all the ATLs to get their teams together.

*Garcia* – Will Dearholt reported that road conditions have prevented any recent site visits. There have been cattle all year and the Guaje site is overrun with cattle. The cattle seem to be multiplying, and Los Alamos County is working to get them off the highway where they have become a serious hazard. ATV tracks and traffic signs are visible at sites, but not many woodcutters are seen. Firewood permits are now available.

*Gallina* – Anne Beckett reported that, due to winter and road conditions, the Gallina site stewards had not yet been able to visit sites. She did a road conditions assessment earlier in the week, and several roads were not passable.

*Caja del Rio* — No report (but see the AAS tour story on pg 3).

## SiteWatch/Foundation Annual Meeting

The SiteWatch and Site Steward Foundation annual meeting was held on March 4 at the Macey Center, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM. Thirty-six people attended.

The morning speaker was Cody L. Dalpra, Archaeologist, Bureau of Land Management Las Cruces District Office, who spoke on "Lithics: A General Overview of Prehistoric Stone Tools, Sources, and Associated Mobility."

In the afternoon, Christopher D. Adams, East Zone Archaeologist, Gila National Forest, Truth or Consequences, spoke about the "Victorio Fight on Palomas Creek, May 24-25, 1880" and the archeological investigations of this historically important battle.

The silent auction raised \$736 for Site Watch. Awards were presented to several site stewards, including Paula Lozar, for "dedication in preserving New Mexico cultural resources."

— Gary Newgent

Continued on pg. 8

## A Tribute to Nancy and Bill Cella

At the SFNF Site Stewards gathering on April 15, 2023, Anne Beckett (the ATL for Gallina) recognized Nancy and Bill Cella, who have chosen to step down as site stewards, for their many years of service to the program. As Anne puts it, "If the Cellas became aware of a need in the Site Steward Program, they became involved." Over the years, they have engaged in almost all activities of the program.

Bill Cella was ATL of the Pecos in the early days of the Site Steward Program, and he and Nancy led Site Survey days in the Pecos to survey undocumented sites. Bill was involved in the formative meetings for the Site Steward Foundation. Nancy served as Training Committee Chair and helped to develop alternate year virtual trainings. She also chaired the Annual Meeting Committee for many years, and Bill set up sites for the Annual Meeting in the Gallina.

Nancy edited *Site Lines* for twelve years, 2008-2020, along with Irene Wanner. Both Nancy and Bill were involved in keeping site steward documents updated.

Bill was consistently involved in the Gallina Pit House roof stabilization project. He and Nancy were principal drivers for the \$75,000 grant application (unfortunately unsuccessful) to stabilize Nogales and Rattlesnake Ridge sites.

Sites they monitored on the Gallina over the years were Mud Springs West, Chupadero

Camp North, Gallina Excavated Pit House, Rattlesnake Ridge, Site 02-300, Site 25, Site 26, Nogales Cliff House, Eagle Point, and Confluence Chupadero/Rio Gallina.

The Cellas have received more Site Steward Awards than any other couple in the Program! See their response on pg. 8.

-- Anne Beckett (with contributions from Candie and Lee Borduin, Elaine Gorham, and Jo Douglas)



Bill and Nancy Cella  
Photo by Susan McGrew

## Site Steward Recognition

Let's not wait until Site Stewards retire from the program to recognize their contributions and their years of service! In every issue of *Site Lines*, we'd like to highlight one or two Site Stewards who have done outstanding service to the program for a long time or through involvement above and beyond the call of duty (or both).

ATLs, if you have Site Stewards on your team who you feel deserve recognition, send their names and a brief description of their contributions to the Editor (email address on pg 9). We'll review your write-up, and may contact you for more information. Photos are welcome!

— Editor



## Response from Nancy and Bill Cella

Bill and I would like to thank members of the Council, especially Anne Beckett, for acknowledging our 20 years' service to the SFNF Site Stewards on Saturday, April 15. It was a most pleasant surprise. Thanks as well for the Eagle fetish; it is beautifully crafted from a shed elk antler. Not only did we enjoy and benefit from our field experiences in the Pecos and Gallina areas, but also we met so many great people along the way.

It all began by following up on a notice in the *Albuquerque Journal* some 20 or so years ago. And it's not over! Although we have relinquished our official roles in the organization itself, and this is our last year of monitoring our sites in the Gallina Area, we want to continue our friendship with our site steward friends. We'll participate in the site steward activities as much as we can, maybe even visiting a site or two.

Our ATL, Anne Beckett, has reassigned our sites – Eagle Point, near Cuba, and Mud Springs West, accessed by FR 10; we oriented new steward Richard Marlar to Eagle Point in late April. Mud Springs West may be

monitored by Becky Johnston and Bill Hill. I usually found myself smiling as I began the trek uphill to the various loci in the Mud Springs West cluster. The view from the topmost unit house stretches high above the terrain in all directions – hence, its location for those who occupied it so many years ago. It pleases me to think about the builders seeing the same expansive view that we experience today.

How to sum up 20 years? I guess the best way to participate in any organization is to jump right in, join any activity that beckons, and keep at it until the next opportunity presents itself, or until someone else takes over. Except for days in the field when the no-see-ums were particularly pesky, I can say that we have relished every opportunity to join others in what has been for us a very rewarding experience.

Thank you, everyone, for being our friends and acquaintances. We're not saying goodbye.

— Nancy and Bill Cella

## SiteWatch/Foundation Annual Meeting, continued from pg. 6

In the afternoon a group of stewards went on an optional field trip to Penjeacu Pueblo ruins (LA 282), on BLM land just south of Socorro, where we were met by BLM archaeologists for a brief overview. The site was occupied by the Piro people, who lived in several pueblos in the middle Rio Grande area and were possibly related to the tribes that lived in the Salinas Missions pueblos.

The condition of the site was not good; it is heavily visited and has probably been looted in the past. An old bulldozer cut is evident through the middle of one of the room blocks.

As with many of the sites we are familiar with, the room blocks are visible as raised areas and possible kivas by depressed areas. Some scattered sherds were seen.

But the location of the village was significant: It was situated on the edge of a terrace overlooking the west side of the Rio Grande flood plain, similar to the location of Kuaua at Coronado State Monument.

— Bob Florek



## 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:  
[www://sfnsitesteward  
s.org](http://www://sfnsitesteward<br/>s.org)

## Save the Date!

**May 20:** Chiles and Sherds Tour to benefit the Office of Archeological Studies, at San Cristobal Pueblo, Galisteo Basin. \$95 for FOA members, \$105 non-members. Includes a sack lunch and several different tour options. For registration details, see [https://www.nmarchaeology.org/events/event-details.html?event\\_id=705](https://www.nmarchaeology.org/events/event-details.html?event_id=705).

**May 27:** 12th Annual Pueblo Fiber Arts Show, presented by the New Mexico Pueblo Fiber Arts Guild and School of Advanced Research, Poeh Cultural Center, Pojoaque, NM, 9 AM – 4 PM.

**August 10-13:** The 2023 Pecos Conference takes place near Flagstaff, Arizona. Registration opens May 13. For more information see <https://www.pecosconference.org/>.

## A Special Guest at the April 15 Gathering

Jan Stone and her husband Ralph were founding members of the Site Steward program in its present format. They joined in 1999, just before the Cerro Grande fire in 2000 changed the organization for the stewards forever. Jan and Ralph served as co-ATLs of the Jemez team for many years.

After Ralph's death, Jan remained a site steward despite her many physical difficulties. She was chair of the Site Steward Council for two years, and served on the Annual Meeting Committee during that time. She also served with Candie Borduin and Ann White on the Archives committee when they went through more than 10 years of site steward records to determine how much we needed to keep.

Jan now lives in Albuquerque in an assisted living facility and

keeps up with the stewards through the email group. She has remained friends with many stewards who visit her regularly. She was very excited to attend the Site Steward potluck, where she saw old friends and heard Candie Borduin speak about Mesa Prieta.

— Ann White



Photo: Susan McGrew