



Council Chair's Message

HELP WANTED

One year, four meetings ... it's not that much! What am I talking about? Serving on the SFNF Site Stewards Council, of course. It's that time of year; we need people to take positions on the council, including Chair (or co-Chairs), Vice Chair, Secretary, Budget Coordinator, and At-Large.

There are many reasons NOT to do it. They usually go like this:

1. I'm busy with other things
2. I don't like meetings
3. I'm new to the organization
4. Other people will do it

I've said all these things at one time or another, and yet here I am writing the message from the chair. So these excuses don't get much sympathy from me!

One of the good things about this organization is that there is a forced turnover of council officers. No one gets stuck with the job, and the council isn't dominated by the same people.

If you are interested in helping out in 2024, or have any questions, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee (K Paul Jones, Irene Wanner, and Susan McGrew), or your ATL. The council will vote to approve new officers at our January meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING THANK YOU

By all accounts, we had a successful annual meeting. A big "Thank You!" to everyone who contributed to its success, including Anne Beckett for helping to arrange for the venue and speakers, Mary Ann and Lee Onstott for coordinating the delicious lunch, Susan McGrew for getting us started with coffee and donuts, Shelley Thompson for coordinating another successful silent auction, and especially our speakers who gave an interesting range of topics in their presentations: Becky Baisden, Kathi Turner, Amina Sena, and Samuel Villareal Catanach. Also thanks to the Randall Davey Audubon center for providing such a beautiful location for our meeting, and tours of the historic home and studio. And finally, thanks to all of you who showed up. You can find more details about the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

— Bob Florek



Turtle fetish awarded to Ron Krantz

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the Forest	2
Small Sites and Big Assumptions	2
Foundation Report	3
ATL Reports	4
Site Steward Awards	5
Dean Wilson's Show and Tell at Ku	7
Save the Date!	8
Annual Meeting Note	8

News from the Forest

We are still waiting on word from a hiring event where we can hopefully backfill Nikki Berkebile's position as Zone Archaeologist on the Pecos/LV District, as well as backfilling Pete Taylor's Zone Archaeologist position on the Jemez/Cuba Zone. We are also trying to fill a supervisory Archaeologist position in the Supervisor's Office to assist with a lot of large projects that the Forest is working on. Hopefully we will be able to announce names and start dates at the next site steward meeting.

At the moment we are still working with a lot of vacancies across the Forest, not just in the Heritage Program, and everyone is working hard to keep projects moving forward and protect resources.

The rest of the crew is working on field projects and trying to get a lot of work completed before the snow (hopefully) flies. We have crews out assisting on monitoring restoration projects in the HPCC burn scar on the Pecos District, crews inspecting contract archaeology work on the Coyote District, and crews working on projects across the Forest to prep for scheduled prescribed and pile burns. I think we will all give a small sigh when the snow comes, so everyone can start working on writing up all the field projects and take a break from driving across the Forest.

I think the Annual meeting was wonderful: Great talks from a variety of people. Thank you to all who assisted in pulling everything together and making it a success.

— Kathi Turner

Small Sites and Big Assumptions: Questioning the Uncritical use of "Field House" to Classify Small Pre-contact Structures on South Cat Mesa of the Jemez Ranger District

Small pre-contact structures throughout the Southwest that lie on the periphery of large village sites are often classified as "field houses," a term that carries with it the assumption that these structures were utilized seasonally, occupied for a short duration of time, and functioned to support agricultural practices. On the Jemez Ranger District, about 70 percent of sites are classified as being "field houses".

The uncritical and widespread use of this classification without consideration of the entire artifact assemblage may skew archaeological interpretations of land use, demography, and settlement patterns. I examined field houses on South Cat Mesa of the Jemez Ranger District to answer whether the broad and uncritical use of this term to describe small pre-contact structures assumes a singular function when they may have served more than one purpose.

To test this idea, attributes drawn from previous research were analyzed for 131 field house sites, including method of construction (such as use of mortar, plaster, chinking, presence of wall coursing, or standing walls), presence of vigas, number of rooms, presence and frequency of extramural features, assemblage size, ceramic types present, and flaked and ground stone.

My study shows that there is variability in sites classified as "field houses" on South Cat Mesa, suggesting that some may have been used more intensively, occupied for longer periods of time, reoccupied repeatedly through time, or had other functions such as hunting camps, menstrual huts, sweat lodges, or pinon-picking shelters, to name a few.

Continued on pg 3

Site Steward Foundation Report 11/11/23

The Site Steward Foundation is currently reviewing three grant applications that were received prior to the application deadline of October 31, 2023 in anticipation of awarding two H. Wayne Nelson grants of \$1,000 each by December 31, 2023.

A five-day Foundation tour of archaeological sites and petroglyphs near Flagstaff and Holbrook, Arizona was held October 27 – 31, 2023 with twelve attendees plus local guides and archeologists.

The Site Watch and Foundation 2024 annual meetings are planned for this spring, date and location to be finalized soon.

The Site Steward Foundation will be hosting the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's 2024 annual meeting May 3–5, 2024 at the Plaza Hotel in downtown Las Vegas, New Mexico. Tours of sites in the area will be included.

The 2024 Pecos Conference is scheduled to be held near Payson, Arizona, August 8 -11, 2024.

At the SFNF-Site Stewards Annual Meeting, a Silent Auction raised \$655 for the SFNF fund, and two people joined the Foundation.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2024, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, sitestewardfoundation.org, or a check can be mailed to our P.O. Box 32224, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

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

Small Sites and Big Assumptions, continued from pg 2

The use of “field house” to describe small pre-contact structures on the Jemez Ranger District is being applied more critically, and I am introducing more generalized terminology to describe small structural sites whose function cannot be determined, such as “rubble mound,” “one- or two-room pre-contact structure,” or “pre-contact dwelling.”



Article and photo, Rebecca Baisden. Condensed from a talk given at the Annual Meeting.

ATL Reports

Pecos (Felicia Probert): With cooling temperatures from the summer, the Pecos team has been making more site visits, including a few remote sites that only require checks once a year, and catching up with a couple that haven't been looked at in a while.

Between the pandemic and last year's fire closure, the historic stone cabin and pre-historic rock shelters in Pena Canyon had not been visited in several years, but a visit in September showed the sites were in good shape. There were no signs of activity in the area, besides some reasonably fresh bear scat.

Two stewards attempted to visit a rock shelter in the Commissary Creek area, within the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire footprint, but didn't make it to the site due to a road washout in a heavily burned area. There was evidence of significant erosion beyond the initial washout site and new vegetation already beginning to reclaim the road bed. The washout has been reported to the Forest Service. Due to the remoteness of the site and the lack of other routes into it, this special site will enjoy the ultimate protection— lack of access.

Rio Chama (K Paul Jones): No problems. The first phase of the Poshuouinge stabilization project has been completed and is a big improvement. The team is determining what SFNF signs need to be replaced or added. The decision to add a sign will be driven by whether or not the public has already found the site.

The Pecos team has lent a site steward, Leslie O'Toole, as a Rio Chama site steward is suffering from long Covid.

Jemez (Ann White): All sites have been visited. No damage to report.

On a recent site visit to Little Boletsakwa, Chris Gardner found this worked potsherd. Archeologists at the Annual Meeting identified it as a gaming piece. Nice discovery!



Caja del Rio (Gary Newgent) – Roads are in good condition. The team has four new site stewards: James Ackard, Jennifer Steketee, Stan Jones, and Jeff Koester. Stan and Jeff are now a team. The Caja del Sur del Medio site has not been visited due to the 8-mile round trip to the site.

Gallina (Anne Beckett): Stewards continued to visit sites around fire activities and the heat of the summer. There will be changes in the team as some stewards leave the area and sites are being reallocated to ensure that the most vulnerable sites are visited. Becky Johnson brought up the continuing damage to one wall on the Excavated Pit House. Becky Baisden, Assistant Zone Archaeologist, intends to visit the site soon.

Garcia (Will Dearholt): Guaje was visited mid-summer. Cows still present, but not a lot of signs of people. It's been a couple of years since the Garcia Canyon site was visited with Irene. Chupadero needs to be visited.

Site Steward Awards

At the Annual Meeting, Certificates of Appreciation and fetishes were presented to nine site stewards for going above and beyond. (The awards committee were Felicia Probert, Paula Lozar, and Ann White.)

The award recipients are:

Candie and Lee Borduin from the Gallina team were recognized for their 24 years of tireless efforts on behalf of the Site Steward program, including support to Mike Bremer with setting up the SFNF Site Steward Program, leadership of the Gallina Team, creation of the original site files, including driving and hiking directions and maps, and gathering as much site data as possible to enrich the experience of visiting the sites, and for their assistance in working with new Gallina stewards to ensure their success.

Candie and Lee were awarded a double mountain lion fetish. Mountain Lion medicine is about setting good examples and boundaries.

Will Dearholt from the Garcia team was recognized for his 20 years of service as the ATL for the Garcia team, for sacrificing his 4WD vehicle and enduring the worst roads on the Forest, for his leadership of the Council during a particularly trying time due to the pandemic, and for consistently volunteering to help with training, the annual meeting, and just about anything where help is needed.

Will was awarded a bear fetish. The bear is the principal animal for the Pueblo People. Bear fetishes are used for healing, protection, strength, journeying, mothering, hunting, and gathering.

Lois Haggard from the Pecos team was recognized for her many years of service on the Training Committee that included her diligence in updating and maintaining the training materials, for coordinating the first ever on-line training course, and for ensuring that the online course was recorded and available for new stewards to complete on an as-needed basis.

Lois was awarded a beaver fetish. Beavers are extremely energetic and exhibit great diligence in whatever they do. They are gentle creatures who show us that working hard can be its own reward.

Judith Isaacs from the Jemez team was recognized for encouraging new people to become site stewards, for her mentorship of new stewards, for her past service as Council secretary, and for her assistance with planning and preparing for many annual meetings.

Judith was awarded a wolf fetish. Wolf medicine has to do with deciphering information and finding new pathways for the benefit of the clan.

Ron Krantz from the Rio Chama team was recognized for his diligence in capably maintaining the Site Steward website for so many years that no one is quite sure how long, and for his efforts in the current restructuring of the website.

Ron was awarded a turtle fetish. The turtle has always been esteemed because it carries its home on its back and goes with the flow of the river, not against it.

Ann White from the Jemez team was recognized for her leadership of the Archives Committee from the start, and for ensuring that the meeting minutes, manuals, training materials, awards, Site Lines, and other materials relevant to documenting the history and background of the Site Steward Program were digitized and safely stored.

Ann was awarded a double horse fetish because she has done the work of two people in maintaining the steward roster and serving on the awards committee. Horse affords mobility that gives us freedom and power, but not the power that weighs us down. We need to be mindful that the most positive relationships are cooperative ones. All participants must respect the power of others with acceptance and tolerance.

[Continued on pg 6]



Award presentation to Ann White. (Some subterfuge was required by the other committee members because Ann didn't know she was getting an award.)

Site Steward Awards, continued from pg. 5

Bob McCarthy and John Pitts from the Caja team were recognized for their devotion to duty over 24 years from the earliest days of the Site Steward Program. During that time, Bob and John have worked in 4 different areas where their curiosity and willingness to explore new areas and take on new assignments resulted in the discovery of previously unrecorded sites and areas of theft and vandalism, thus allowing the Forest Service to investigate and act as appropriate, including remediation. They have also shared their vast knowledge and passion for heritage resources with numerous other stewards. John and Bob were also awarded bear fetishes.

While John Pitts sent his regrets from the bottom of the Grand Canyon, we were honored to be joined by several members of Bob's extended family to witness this milestone and to join the group in thanking Bob for his many years of service and contributions in protecting our nation's heritage resources.



Lois Haggard, Felicia Probert, Ann White



Bear fetish awarded to John Pitts



Award presentation to Bob McCarthy

Photo: Chris Gardner



Double horse fetish presented to Ann White

Article: Felicia Probert

Photos: Courtesy of Felicia Probert, unless otherwise noted

Dean Wilson's Show and Tell at Ku

On November 11, a group of Rio Chama site stewards (and a SFNF archaeologist) had the opportunity to meet with C. Dean Wilson for a "Show and Tell" about the pottery sherds to be found in the Rio Chama area. Dean is an OAS Research Associate and former Director of the OAS' Ceramics Analysis Laboratory. He met with us at Ku-ouinge, a Tewa site in the Rio del Oso area which existed from ca. 1350 – 1550.

The predominant pottery style during these centuries was Biscuit Ware (A & B). But he helped us identify the other pottery styles present in the surviving sherds. He explained how and why the Tewa developed their distinct Biscuit style.

This included understanding the geology of the Rio Grande rift and the type of clay in this area vs. elsewhere.

We came away from Dean's Show and Tell with more confidence about how to identify the different pottery styles in the Rio Chama thanks to Dean's sharing with us a portion of his vast knowledge. He told me he welcomes the opportunity to be in the field sharing what he knows. I'm sure he would be receptive to proposals from other ATLs to arrange a similar session in their areas of the SFNF.

— K. Paul Jones, Rio Chama ATL



L-R: Robin Gibbs (SFNF archaeologist), James Kempes, Kris Herbst, Rex Davidson, Grace Brill, Bob Dolci, Dan Schwartz, and Dean Wilson. Not in photo, but also participating: Isabel Carvahal and Beth Parisi. Photo: K. Paul Jones

Site Lines

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Save the Date!

The next Site Steward Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:30 AM, location to be announced. All Site Stewards are welcome to attend Council meetings.

The Site Steward Foundation will be hosting the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's 2024 annual meeting May 3–5, 2024 at the Plaza Hotel in downtown Las Vegas, New Mexico.

The 2024 American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) conference will be held May 16-20, 2024, in Farmington, NM, site of the first ARARA conference in 1974.

The 2024 Pecos Conference is scheduled to be held near Payson, Arizona, August 8 -11, 2024.

Annual Meeting Note

Thanks to Council Chair Bob Florek and the SFNF Site Stewards who worked very hard to make the October 21 Annual Meeting such a success! Using the Randall Davey Audubon Center as the venue was a wonderful idea with its large classroom, beautiful grounds, and opportunities to tour the main

house and gardens. The three speakers were excellent, interesting, and diversified. Lunch was simple to provide, ample, and very good. As always, the Silent Auction and Awards Ceremony were enjoyable. And thank you for the honor!

— Candie and Lee Borduin,
Gallina