



SITE LINES

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WINTER 2024

Council Chair's Message

Hello fellow Site Stewards!

It's been a cold and snowy winter, but, depending on where your assigned sites are located, it's time to start thinking about returning to them. As always, please use your best judgment when deciding whether the weather and road conditions are good enough for a site visit, and coordinate with your Area Team Leader.

At its January meeting, the Site Steward Council elected a new slate of officers and three new chairs for our standing committees. (See the story on pg 5) The Council also approved an important change in the procedure for reporting in after every site visit, and this has been added to all three of the Site Steward manuals. (See story on pg. 4.)

As our new Training Chair, Grace Brill informed the January Council that six applicants for the SFNF site steward program have completed (or soon will) our on-line training program. With the concurrence of the Council, two stewards apiece have been assigned to the Jemez, Pecos, and Rio Chama areas, where they expressed an interest and the need for new stewards was greatest.

If you have any friends or acquaintances who might be interested in joining us, please send them to our website (www.sfnfsitestewards.org) to fill out an application, or have

them contact Grace Brill at gracebrill33@gmail.com.

At our January meeting, Gary Newgent reminded us of our related organizations: New Mexico Site-Watch and the Site Steward Foundation. The Foundation is an affiliate of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico (ASNM) and is sponsoring the ASNM's annual meeting May 3-5 at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, NM. NM SiteWatch and the Site Steward Foundation host an annual meeting for all site stewards; this will take place at Los Luceros on March 2. (See pg 9 for details.)

Most important: The Site Steward Foundation generously provides financial support to our program. There is no membership fee to be a SFNF Site Steward, but you are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to become a member of the Site Steward Foundation (\$15 Regular; \$30 Friend per year.) In addition to supporting our efforts, the Foundation also provides some great benefits to its members, including field trips to amazing archaeological sites around New Mexico. You can learn more and become a member at www.sitestewardfoundation.org.

Here's wishing everyone an enjoyable season of hiking in our beautiful National Forest while helping to preserve its cultural resources.

— K. Paul Jones

Editor's Note: Former *Site Lines* editor and long-time site steward Nancy Cella recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Congratulations, Nancy!!

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Contributors to this issue:

Anne Beckett
 Candie Borduin
 Nancy Cella
 Jana Comstock
 Bob Florek
 Susan McGrew
 Gary Newgent
 Kathi Turner

The editors thank you!

News from the Forest

The beginning of the year has been busy for the Heritage team on the Santa Fe NF. It feels like time off was eons ago! As a team we spent a lot of time and are still working on hiring archaeologists across the Forest. The good news is we are getting some great people onboard soon, hopefully by field season.

Great Announcement is that Becky Baisden is now the official Jemez/Cuba Zone Archaeologist and Andy Wakefield is now the lead Infrastructure Archaeologist! Becky is backfilling behind Pete Taylor who retired last Fall. She has been on the Zone for many years and is keeping that experience on the Zone and on the Forest! Andy is filling a new position on the Forest and will be working out of the Supervisor's Office in Santa Fe. He has worked most recently at both at the NM State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and at the Valles Caldera NP. He has been on the Forest for about a year before receiving this promotion.

We are currently working on back-filling both the Assistant Jemez/Cuba Zone Archaeologist and the Assistant Infrastructure Archaeologist positions. I, along with the Pecos/Las Vegas District Ranger are still working on backfilling the Zone Archaeologist position there (vice Nikki Berkebile). We are keeping our fingers crossed that will happen soon.

We are also excited to have new archaeology positions added to the Forest. Both the Espanola/Coyote Zone and the Jemez/Cuba Zone's are getting new GS-09 Archaeologists and all the Zones, as well as the Supervisor's Office, getting permanent Archaeology Technician/Crew Leader positions added. We are working on filling some of those positions currently, however some will likely remain vacant for a while.

—Kathi Turner, Forest Archeologist

More News from the Forest

The Espanola-Coyote zone archaeologists (Jana Comstock and Robin Gibbs) have stayed busy this winter. We have helped with prep and monitoring for multiple prescribed burns on both districts including Rincon, Gobierno Piles, and Pacheco Canyon Piles. We also completed post-burn monitoring on Gallina structural sites in the Rincon prescribed burn.

On the planning side, we have been working on the Encino Vista Landscape Restoration Project with deliverables such as the cultural resources specialist section in the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), the cultural resources specialist report, the Phase I cultural resources assessment, Inventoried Roadless Areas analysis, and tribal consul-

tation. The Draft EA is tentatively set for public release in early March.

We've hired three seasonal technicians that will start in early April. We've also worked on compliance reports for the Los Alamos Canyon Restoration project, a NMDOT culvert cleanout project on Highway 96, routine road maintenance on Forest Road 102, and the Divide Timber Sale.

The icing on the cake is the Poshuouinge Erosion Control project had a planning kick-off meeting in January, and an internal Forest Service employee site visit will occur in late February.

— Jana Comstock,
Espanola/Coyote Zone Archaeologist

Site Steward Foundation Report

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The Site Steward Foundation recently awarded a \$2,000 grant to Jonathan Sandor, Susan Smith, Maryann Wasiolek, and John Groh (Torrance County Archaeological Society) for pollen analyses and investigation of topographic depressions that surround Pueblo Blanco, one of the Salinas Pueblos in central New Mexico, to test whether they may have been used for agriculture. This would be the first time Native American agricultural fields have been directly tested in the Salinas Pueblos region.

The 2024 Site Watch and Site Steward Foundation annual meetings will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Los Luceros Historic Site, Alcalde, New Mexico.

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.

Registration and reservations for discounted motel rooms for the ASNM annual meeting will begin in early March on the ASNM website.

The 2024 Pecos Conference is scheduled to be held on the Tonto National Forest near Payson, Arizona, August 8 -11, 2024.

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 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

New Pecos ATL Needed!

Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris, co-ATLs for the Pecos area team, have announced they are stepping down as of the April council meeting, and hope to nominate a new ATL at the same time.

This is a good opportunity for a first-time ATL. Felicia and Sharon have worked with the Forest Service to prioritize and set annual visit recommendations for each site, and have updated most of the site files with standard driving directions, maps, baseline photos, and NAD 83 GPS coordinates. All documentation for each active site has been scanned, and Felicia and Sharon plan to stay on the team as active stewards to ensure a smooth transition.

More information concerning the ATL's duties and responsibilities may be found at https://www.sfnfsitestewards.org/admin_manuals.php.

Anyone interested in the ATL position should contact Felicia at 208-890-3347 or fjprobert@msn.com, or Sharon at 208-890-7647, sharon_paris@msn.com.



Thank you, Bob Florek!

Bob Florek recently completed two terms as Site Steward Council Chair. He will remain on the Council as chair of the Archives Committee, and he and his wife Carolyn will continue as site stewards. Bob also volunteers for the State Office of Archeological Studies; see his story about his recent project on pg 9.

Site Steward Council Elections

The Site Steward Council met on Saturday, January 20th, and unanimously elected new officers for the 2024-2025 year, a welcome relief for the Nominating Committee! K. Paul Jones chaired the organization ten years ago, but graciously agreed to chair the Council for yet another year. He's hoping he can match the inestimable service provided by esteemed outgoing Chair, Bob Florek.

The other Officers and At-Large members are new to the joys (and tribulations) of steering the site stewards through the rigors of protecting our heritage resources. We jubilantly welcomed them with open arms, promising to support them, and knowing that the rest of us are safe for another year (or two).

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New SFNF Site Steward Council officers: K. Paul Jones, Chair; Wendy Dolci, Budget Coordinator; Bob Dolci, Vice Chair; Jeff Koester, Secretary; Leslie O'Toole, Member At-Large; Richard Marlar, Member At-Large; not pictured, Lori Whitley, Member At-Large.

Updates Available to Site Steward Program Manuals

The Site Steward Program manuals were recently revised to update and clarify the procedures for site steward check-out/check-in when making site visits.

The updated manuals are posted on our website, and all site stewards and ATLS/AATLs are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the changes.

ATL Reports

Pecos: Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris, co-ATLs for the Pecos area team, tare stepping down in April, and hope to nominate a new ATL at that time. Any certified Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward is eligible to serve as ATL for the Pecos team. For more information, see the story on pg 3.

Garcia (Will Dearholt): Garcia Canyon and Guaje were checked. No damage, but cattle are still an issue. They offered to help check sites west of Bandelier if needed.

Jemez (Ann White): Many roads are closed (including FR 10, where most of their sites are located), so no site visits have taken place. There is considerable snow in the area, so they won't start visiting again until March or April.

Rio Chama (K. Paul Jones): Road conditions and cold weather have prevented visits. At

Tsiping, visitors have been using the wrong (unofficial) trails most of the time.

Poshuwingeh is a priority for the SFNF: A hydrologist and a geologist will evaluate the erosion situation and propose what should be done next.

Gallina (Anne Beckett) No visits; they have had lots of snow and rain, so the roads are impossibly muddy.

Caja del Rio (Gary Newgent): No recent visits; his last visit was last fall. The roads are in OK condition.

He isn't sure how the efforts to make the Caja a wilderness area are progressing. The draft EA for the proposed LANL transmission line is up for comments, and site stewards are free to comment on it as private citizens.

Site Steward Council Elections, continued from pg 4

The Site Steward Council also welcomed new Committee Chairs for the upcoming year.

Grace Brill officially revived the Training Committee, which had been only a memory since Covid. She had rebooted it even before her election, for which we are very grateful (and for Bob, too, who had added it to his many jobs while our Chair).

Susan is following the sterling act of Education Chair, Gail Bryant, who retired just before Covid, but is remembered for her engaging lineup of speakers and her outstanding cookies!

And Bob just can't get enough, choosing to continue his work on the Archives that he started while he was our Chair—you go, Bob! Many thanks to Ann White for her years slaving over all those records in the Archives.

Paula had to leave before the photo shoot, but we want to remember her years of selfless work as Communications Chair, creating the quarterly (and professional) *Site Lines*, as well as overseeing the website and mailing list. Thank you, Paula, for continuing in this position.



New Site Steward Committee Chairs, from left, Susan McGrew, Education; Grace Brill, Training; Bob Florek, Archives; not pictured, Paula Lozar, Communications (ongoing).

— Story and photos, Susan McGrew

In Memory of Jan Stone

Nancy Cella: With her quiet demeanor and squeaky little voice, who would guess Jan's small frame contained a bright and formidable intelligence and determination that surpassed that of many of us in the SFNS Site Steward organization?

Bill and I first met Jan and Ralph Stone on their Jemez Springs cabin deck for a social gathering of the Jemez Area team in summer 2004. We had attended the Fall 2003 two-day orientation and didn't hear much from anyone during the following winter. We bought our home in a housing development a mile or so south of Horseshoe Springs in fall 2006, and guess who greeted us at our front door on our first day after obtaining the house key -- Jan and Ralph! We were friends from that time on.

Jan was a faithful and busy site steward until she and Ralph became stewards emeriti. Although we were on different teams, we attended the same site steward activities, official and otherwise. Their friends and home often included us, thankfully, and we always enjoyed their company and friendship. We were so sorry when Jan could no longer host a small cabin full of a large group of Thanksgiving guests. We met and enjoyed their many friends and visitors, and they introduced us to a lovely family at Jemez Pueblo events.

Not surprisingly, Jan was a faithful and consistent participant in all her site steward assignments and activities. We continued our friendship at Jan's assisted living residences; our last visit (a week or so before her birthday celebrations) was in December 2023. She was happy and looking forward to three days of birthday celebrations with as many friends as she could muster.

Unfortunately, those celebrations did not happen because she went to the ER at UNM Hospital on December 12 – two days before her 95th birthday. She died in hospice care on January 18, 2024.

The Cellas are among many who will miss our dear friend, Jan Stone.



Jan Stone, 2012
Anonymous photographer

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In Memory of Jan Stone, Continued from pg 6

Candie Borduin: Jan and Ralph, Lee and I all started in the Site Steward Program at the same time in 1999. With their friendly and outgoing demeanor, the Stones were an easy couple to befriend as we had common interests and a desire to help this infant program succeed.

When Mike Bremer had to pull away from building the Site Steward program during the Cerro Grande fire in 2000, we four were among the group headed by Wayne Nelson to form the volunteer Site Steward Program and Council.

Jan and Ralph were the ATLS of the Jemez district and continued as site stewards until Ralph's passing in 2012. Jan served as Council Secretary and Vice Chair, then became Chair in 2008 and 2009. She was a regular member of the Annual Meeting committee, and a founding member of the Awards Committee as well as the Archives Committee with Ann White and Candie Borduin.

I recall our first annual meeting at Holy Ghost Campground. Jan was among the few who camped in a tent and emerged in the morning to a frosty river environment. As always, she was in good spirits -- but from then on, she slept in her SUV when she overnights at the meetings, few of which she missed. Jan remained active in site steward activities as long as she was able.

In 2009, Jan partnered with fellow Site Stewards Bill Cella and K. Paul Jones to train as petroglyph recorders with the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. Hiking long distances on the rugged mesa where no trails existed to their assigned areas, Jan and her team worked regularly to document ancient images on the boulders and other archaeological features. Jan continued recording on the mesa as the most senior recorder until she retired in 2018 for health reasons. During their ten years together on the mesa, the team documented over 200 acres of private land!

Jan was a person with commitment, devotion to her friends, and attentive interest to activities she had always enjoyed. The variety of friends who continued to support her was huge and dated back to early days. Her interests paralleled those of her friends; she could pick up conversations with friends instantly based on past shared pursuits. Her ever-keen mind remained eager to learn and stay current with the world. She was a dear friend, and I miss her greatly.



K. Paul Jones, Bill Cella, and Jan Stone recording petroglyphs on the Mesa Prieta. Photo courtesy of Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project.

Chasing Pots into Mexico

In October, Carolyn and I (Bob Florek) had a unique opportunity to visit the town of Casas Grandes and surrounding areas in Mexico, including the archeological sites of Paquimé and Cueva de la Olla, and the modern pottery-making town of Mata Ortiz.

It all started with a project that I have been working on as a volunteer at the NM Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) for the past several years. This project came about through a fortunate combination of three resources: (1) The extensive collection of ancient Southwest ceramics at the Archaeological Research Collection adjacent to OAS, (2) a portable X-Ray Fluorescence unit (pXRF) that provides quick and non-destructive elemental analysis of ceramic samples, and (3) a volunteer who had some free time on his hands!

Over time I assembled a database of the pXRF readings, providing a broad survey of the composition of various Southwest ceramic types. Of particular interest in this survey is the composition of the black paint used in various painted designs. Varying amounts of iron, manganese, copper, and lead characterize the different types and can be used to compare and contrast the different paint recipes employed.

Perhaps the most interesting observation from this survey was an unexpectedly high amount of barium measured in the black paint on sherds and pots from Casas Grandes, compared to any of the other ceramic types that I measured. The barium was apparently associated with manganese, which is commonly used as a black pigment. When I shared these results via email, Tim Maxwell suggested that I present them at a meeting to be held at Paquimé. (Tim is the former director of OAS and an expert on Casas Grandes.) And that's how a group of us from OAS ended up driving to Chihuahua in October. Besides Tim, Carolyn, and myself, our entourage included Marvin Rowe, Jeff Cox, and Caitlin Ainsworth.

The meeting was held October 26-27 at the Museo de las Culturas del Norte, adjacent to the excavated ruins of

Paquimé. It consisted of talks by researchers and students, in both Spanish and English, on various topics related to Casas Grandes archaeology. The paper I presented with Marvin was well received and prompted a few questions afterwards, which may lead to additional analyses. But while we enjoyed the meeting and learned a lot from it, the real highlight of the trip was visiting sites nearby.

First was Paquimé itself; this site was excavated by Charles Di Peso and Eduardo Contrera Sanchez in the 1960s, and is the subject of many studies and books, some highly speculative. It was clearly a major cultural center during the period 1200-1400 A.D., with influences and trading relationships with both Meso-American sites to the south as well as Mogollon and Puebloan sites to the north. Examples of these relationships abound; for example, live macaws from the south were held in special enclosures, probably to be used for ceremonial purposes.

The site was home to several thousand people, and featured multiple room blocks, plazas, a ball court, and fresh water provided by a canal that directed water from a spring two miles to the north. Perhaps most notable of all is the distinct polychrome pottery found at Paquimé and the surrounding region, featuring elaborate figurative designs and shapes (and the subject of our pXRF study). The Museum at Paquimé features excellent displays of the various cultural artifacts found at the site and in the surrounding region.



View of Paquimé

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Chasing Pots into Mexico, continued from pg 8



Casas Grandes polychrome jar from the MIAC collections. Note the macaw head motifs.

After the meeting, we had a couple of days to explore further. On Saturday October 28, we drove about an hour west, into the mountains of the Sierra Madre Occidentale, to visit the Cueva de la Olla site. This is a series of cliff dwellings built in overhangs of volcanic rock in a beautiful upland valley, very similar to cliff dwellings we have seen throughout the Southwest but featuring an unusual large granary, about twelve feet tall and built in the shape of a jar (the “Olla”).

On Sunday, we drove south to the village of Mata Ortiz, which is famous for the remarkable proliferation of pottery-making that has developed there in just a few decades, all thanks to the work of a local man named Juan Quezada. In the 1970s, he taught himself to make pottery inspired by the ancient Casas Grandes pottery that he observed in the region, and, in a relatively short amount of time, taught his family and neighbors the techniques he developed. Ultimately this pottery has become famous and much sought-after, and can be found in stores in Santa Fe and throughout the world. Quezada died in 2022, but we had the opportunity to visit his gallery as well as the homes and shops of several other potters in the town, including his grand-niece Zulema, who generously spent over an hour showing us her techniques.

Of particular interest to Marvin and me was the raw material that they used for their black paint. They knew it was manganese, and provided us with samples of the loosely consolidated black material that they dug in the volcanic hills to the east of town. After we returned to Santa Fe, I analyzed this material and found it had the same elevated proportion of barium as the paint in the ancient pots. This lends support to the idea that the barium occurs naturally in the manganese ores found in the region, and it is apparently quite different from the sources of manganese in the Four Corners region and northern New Mexico.

Finally, because it was the weekend before Day of the Dead, we had the opportunity to enjoy the festivities at the local square in the town of Casas Grandes. Colorful displays, giant puppets, lively music, delicious food, and friendly people all combined for a wonderful celebration and a perfect way to end our short but unforgettable visit to this small town in Chihuahua. This is most definitely not “tourist Mexico,” and the drive can be a bit tense at times (passing in Mexico can turn into a game of chicken), but we all had a fabulous time and look forward to the day we can return!



Mata Ortiz potters Zulema and (her mother) Dora Quezada with examples of their work.

— Article and photos: Bob Florek

NOTE about names: “Casas Grandes” is both the name of a modern town in Chihuahua and a term used by archaeologists to describe an ancient area of cultural influence. The Casas Grandes area extended throughout northern Chihuahua and Sonora, as well as southern New Mexico and Arizona. “Paquimé” is the name of a specific site to the south of the modern town of Casas Grandes. And all this is completely separate from the site called “Casa Grande” (singular) near Phoenix, Arizona, which is a Hohokam site.

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://sfnfsitestewards
.org](http://www://sfnfsitestewards.org)**

Save the Date!

The next Site Steward Council meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2024, 9:30 AM at the SFNF headquarters. All Site Stewards are welcome to attend Council meetings.

The Hermit of La Cueva Festival, sponsored by the Doña Ana Historical Society and The Friends of Pat Garrett, takes place on Feb. 24-25, 2024, at the Rio Grande Theater in Las Cruces. For more information and tickets, see riograndetheatre.org.

SiteWatch Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 2, 2024, 10 AM—3:30 PM, at Los Luceros Historic Site, Alcalde, New Mexico. NM SiteWatch and the Site Steward Foundation host a free annual meeting to appreciate all site stewards. Preregistration required at <https://forms.office.com/g/nH8jRm1e6e>

The Site Steward Foundation is 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. For information and to register, see archaeologicalsocietynm.org/

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; see arara.wildapricot.org.

The 2024 *Pecos Conference* is scheduled to be held near Payson, AZ, August 8-11, 2024. For more information, consult pecosconference.org.