

# The Uncompahgre Journal



CHIPETA CHAPTER  
COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2009  
VOLUME 26, NO. 4

## Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 7 p.m.,  
Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist  
Church, South 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Park Avenue.  
Program: Author and Photographer Dave  
Manley presents: **“Written in Stone”**  
A photographic tour of rock art in the Four  
Corners.

Photographer Dave Manley moved to Colorado  
24 years ago to attend Colorado Mountain  
College where he studied commercial art and  
took up mountain biking and climbing. Over time  
mountaineering became his passion and

eventually he picked up a camera to record those adventures. Dave’s early work captures expansive  
vistas and 360 degree images from mountain summits, thus Grandeur Images was born  
[www.grandeurimages.com](http://www.grandeurimages.com). More recently Dave’s travels are taking him to areas in the Four Corners  
region previously inhabited by ancient cultures where rock art abounds. Now his lens is focused on  
this early art form that continues to speak to us from another millennium.



In 2008 two pieces of Dave’s  
work were selected out of  
hundreds of submissions for  
the Farmington Museum’s  
Gateway to the Imagination  
national juried competition. In  
2008 Fort Lewis College’s  
Center for Southwest Studies  
juried competition awarded  
Dave Best of Show for his  
photo of the Great Gallery and

accepted two submissions for the 2009 contest. Dave is currently involved in a rock art recording  
project in the Dinetah (Navajo homeland) in Northwestern New Mexico. The upcoming exhibit at the  
Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding, Utah will showcase the Great Gallery and other rock art,  
ruins, landscapes and wildlife from the Four Corners region.

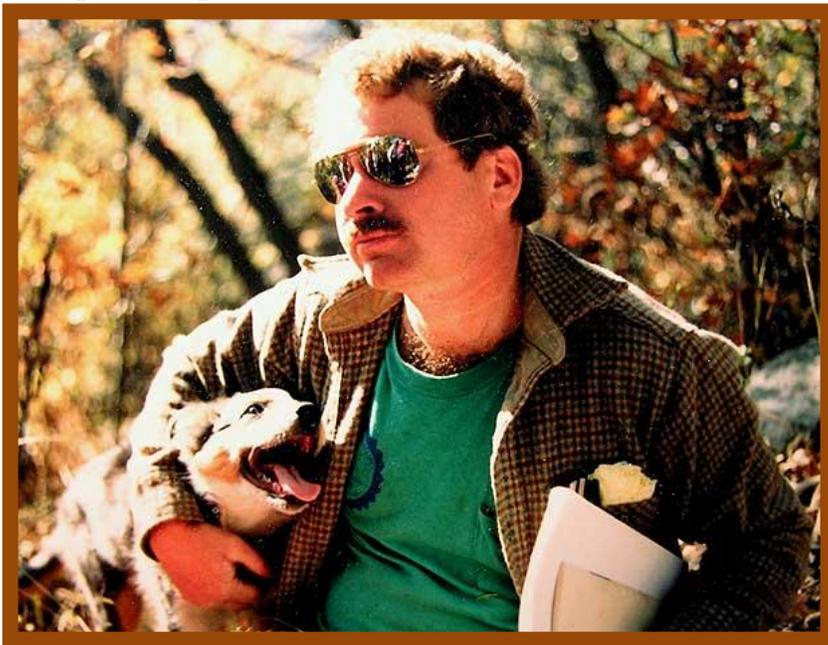
Mr. Manley's presentation will be a thrill for those who appreciate rock art. Three years of travel in the Four Corners have gone into making this show and many different styles of rock will be represented. Some of these sites are rarely visited giving attendees a chance to see images of rock art that is not well known. Images from each of the Four Corners states will be presented and photographic techniques will be discussed. There will also be a display of actual photos.



## March Program Report

### **Fred Blackburn's 21st Century Expeditions into Navajo Canyon**

Chipeta Chapter's March 2009 program featured well-known Southwestern historian and writer Fred



Blackburn. His illustrated presentation was titled, "A review of expeditions found through inscriptions." Blackburn directed a field program for high school students from 2005 to 2007 at the Inscription House Ruin in Navajo Canyon in northeastern Arizona.

Inscription House Ruin lies along the main route into Navajo Canyon. Constructed using jacal adobe with T – shaped doorways, the site was occupied in late Pueblo III and Kayenta periods, AD 1250 – 1300, with heavy agricultural use nearby. Scant remnants of cotton plants survived in the canyon as late as the 1920s.

Chipeta Chapter's February speaker, Craig Childs, said, "Every visit to a site adds to its history." Fred Blackburn explores this idea as he investigates early-day expeditions by studying inscriptions carved by Anglo explorers.

The Navajo Canyon field program was a partnership of the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, and Jefferson County Open School. Students learned archaeological surveying and documentation techniques. They backpacked into Navajo Canyon with little water, relying instead on rainwater trapped in tanahas, or rock basins. Over three years, 140 students racked up 15,000 hours of volunteer service pursuing their 20 research objective: "Find and document historical inscriptions to retell expeditionary history." They also recorded any evidence they found of human occupation, including historic Navajo structures.

Nineteenth-century Anglo travelers carved initials, names and dates into rock walls in Navajo Canyon. Many of these autographs can be linked to specific persons and expeditions described in historic

newspaper accounts and journals. One deeply carved date, 1661, had been altered in historic times from the original date of 1861. Blackburn described the chronology of Anglo expeditions into the area. Early-day miners sought gold and a lost silver mine. In 1909 John Wetherill made three trips into the canyon.

The canyon is very important to the Navajo Nation today. Navajos farmed in the canyon from 1930 to 1960. Representatives of the Navajo Nation were very supportive of Blackburn's project, and were especially grateful to the students for their work recording Navajo rock art and settlement sites.

Also grateful was a certain longhorn cow the students found almost buried in quicksand. After four hours of digging, and covered in mud, the students freed the cow.

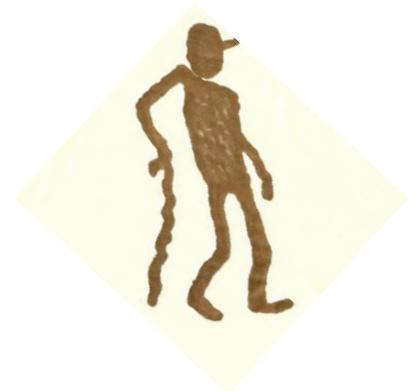
Today the canyon is no longer farmable due to extensive erosion. Arroyos up to 40 feet deep have cut into the wide canyon bottom. Blackburn noted pottery and archaic hearths appearing as gullies continue eroding up to six feet a year. "You can't get upset about the deterioration," explained Blackburn, "but you can record it." The students left all artifacts in place.

Fred Blackburn also talked about his current projects in southwest archaeology: the transfer of Wetherill Family archives to the Anasazi Heritage Center; the investigation of Ancestral Puebloan cotton cultivation and abandonment rituals. Blackburn has also contributed to a Ken Burns documentary on Mesa Verde and the Wetherills, due out in the fall of 2009.

Chipeta Chapter thanks Fred Blackburn for sharing with us his field seasons in Navajo Canyon with all those enthusiastic, energetic high school students from Jefferson County Open School. You've inspired us to imagine the possibilities when a high school outdoor education program merges with wilderness trekking and archaeological study. Dr. Carol Patterson, Chipeta Chapter program coordinator, arranged for Fred Blackburn's presentation. *Laurie Labak*

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**Moore Scholarship**-Please consider a donation to the Carlyle (Squint) and Juanita Moore Scholarship Fund. The fund supports college students in the field of archaeology. The fund now provides one scholarship, and the goal is to support two scholarships. Checks can be made out to "Montrose Community Foundation"-in the check memo section note "Moore Scholarship". Please do not make them out to Chipeta Chapter. Funds should be mailed to Montrose Community Foundation, P.O. Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402. Please note that the check payee and mailing address represent changes from previous scholarship information.



# President's Corner

April 2009

One of Chipeta's talented artisans, Fran LeBlanc, has decorated and donated a beautiful gourd to be offered as a silent auction item at our April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. All proceeds from the auction will go to Chipeta Chapter. Bring your cash or checkbook and be ready to take part in the bidding. Thank you, Fran! Bill Manske [billmcc9@gmail.com](mailto:billmcc9@gmail.com)



## **Chipeta Chapter Members**

Please note: It has been a long-standing policy that all Chipeta field trip attendees must be CAS members. (Yes, Chipeta members are also CAS member.) Please keep this in mind as it would help avoid some "uncomfortable" moments at trip departures. Thank you

**BUSINESS SPONSOR:** We greatly appreciate the interest in and support for the Chipeta Chapter from: **Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.**

~~providing professional archaeological assistance and consulting~~

**Street address:** 900 South Townsend Avenue

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 2075, Montrose, CO 81402

**Phone:** (970) 249-6761

**E-mail:** [alpine@alpinearchaeology.com](mailto:alpine@alpinearchaeology.com).

## **2009 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>President</b>	Bill Manske (417-9014)
<b>Vice President/Programs</b>	Carol Patterson (252-8679)
<b>Secretary</b>	Marcia Coman (249-3479)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Manske (209-6232)

<b>CAS Representative</b>	Chuck Richey (249-1751)
<b>Professional Advisor</b>	Carol Patterson
<b>Appointed Members</b>	Dick Drake, Ed Horton, Herb Probasco

## **Standing committees (per by-laws)**

**Field Trips:** Ed Horton, chairperson (874-5142); Chuck Richey

**Publicity:** Herb Probasco, chairperson (252-0918); John & Carla Sanborn, Laurie Labak

**Nominating:** (Appointed in the fall) **Library:** Elizabeth Binder, chairperson (249-9647)

## **Other committees and posts**

**Refreshments:** Joan Richey

**Scholarship:** Hal Manhart, chairperson (249-2017); Jon Horn, Rayner Eymann

**Membership/Hospitality:** Chairperson needed; Elizabeth Binder

**PAAC:** Laurie Labak (970-712-8121)

**\*\*Membership Renewal Alert\*\***

A gentle reminder, the following membership renewals are due or overdue. Please contact Linda Manske, chapter treasurer, at 209-6232, if you have any questions or corrections.

Tom & Joy Baird  
Karen Derrick  
Barbar Hawke  
David Pitts

Russell Bullock  
Dick Drake & Fran LeBlanc  
Jon & Sonja Horn  
Charles & Joan Rickey  
Jay Thompson

Rich Cline & Jan Smeltzer  
Fran Greuble  
Jules & Sandy Minter  
Stephen Slade

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

*Payment of dues is considered affirmation of consent to abide by the Code of Ethics of CAS*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check one  Renewal  New Member Are you a member of another CAS chapter?  Yes  No

Check membership category. Dues include membership in Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS)

Individual (\$23)  Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual\* (\$15)  Family\* (\$20) Supporting contribution: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\*Does not receive Southwestern Lore, the CAS journal

I want to receive *The Uncompahgre Journal*, the Chipeta Chapter newsletter, via:  E-mail or  U.S. Mail

I want to receive *The Surveyor*, the state newsletter via:  E-mail or  U.S. Mail

Contact information about our members is never disclosed unless approved in advance by members.

(We) give CAS permission to:

Yes  No  disclose phone numbers to other CAS members

Yes  No  publish name/contact information in chapter directory

Yes  No  publish name in newsletter (which may be sent to other chapters, etc.)

**CODE OF ETHICS**

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge:

- To uphold state and federal antiquities laws.
- To support policies and educational programs designed to protect our cultural heritage and our state's antiquities.
- To encourage protection and discourage exploitation of archaeological resources.
- To encourage the study and recording of Colorado's archaeology and cultural history. To take an active part by participating in field and laboratory work for the purpose of developing new and significant information about the past.
- To respect the property rights of landowners.
- To assist whenever possible in locating, mapping and recording archaeological sites within Colorado, using State Site Survey forms.
- To respect the dignity of peoples whose cultural histories and spiritual practices are the subject of any investigation.
- To support only scientifically conducted activities and never participate in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentation about archaeological matters.
- To report vandalism.
- To remember that cultural resources are non-renewable and do not belong to you or me, but are ours to respect, to study and to enjoy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form, with signature(s), to Chipeta Chapter of CAS, P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81402

Chipeta Chapter  
Colorado Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 593  
Montrose, CO 81402



*Please recycle*

**Interpretations of Colorado Clovis Cache Continue to Evolve:**

In the University of Colorado press release, Yohe says the discovery of the protein residue caused the investigators to change their minds about the purpose of the cache. Initially, they suspected it was a ritual deposit, but because some of the tools had been used, they decided it was a utilitarian cache. According to Bamforth, some ancient hunter buried the items, "fully expecting to come back at a later date and retrieve them." It's certainly possible that the artifacts represent this kind of cache, but I think it's premature to discard the idea that the artifacts are the remains of an Ice Age ceremony.

<http://www.cdarc.org/page/6dwk> -

**The Story of the Ancestors of Modern Puebloan Peoples Featured on the Archaeology Channel:**

Ancestral Puebloan people in Colorado and Utah developed a remarkable culture and agricultural adaptation before moving their settlements southward centuries ago. For the past hundred years, archaeologists and Native people have collaborated to paint the picture and tell the story of the vibrant culture that once thrived here. The Anasazi Heritage Center of the Bureau of Land Management produced this film to share that story. This compelling story is the subject of The Cultural Heritage of the Great Sage Plain, the latest video feature on our nonprofit streaming-media Web site, The Archaeology Channel.

<http://www.archaeologychannel.org>