Protecting Greater Chaco: Recent Efforts to Save a Fragile Cultural Landscape

Paul F. Reed
Archaeology Southwest

“The Greater Chaco Landscape is threatened by increasing drilling activity associated with development of the Mancos Shale via fracking. Many groups and individuals have spoken up and banded together to fight this threat. Archaeology Southwest has been actively engaged in this process for a couple of years. In this presentation, I summarize our work and detail the steps taken to help ensure greater protection for the irreplaceable landscape associated with Chacoan Society.”

For the last two years, Paul Reed has been working to protect the Greater Chaco Landscape from the effects of expanded oil-gas development associated with fracking in the Mancos Shale formation. Through a series of meetings and forums with public officials, Tribal leaders, various US Government agencies, and New Mexico’s Congressional delegation, Archaeology Southwest and its partners have focused on expanding protections to sites, traditional cultural places, and fragile landscapes in the greater San Juan Basin.
March Speaker Paul F. Reed

Paul Reed is a Preservation Archaeologist with the Tucson, Arizona based Archaeology Southwest and works as a Chaco Scholar at Salmon Ruins, New Mexico. Reed has been employed in this position for 15 years. He completed work as editor (and author of several chapters) on Chaco’s Northern Prodigies: Salmon, Aztec, and the Ascendancy of the Middle San Juan Region After AD 1100, published by the University of Utah Press in August 2008. Reed was also editor (and author of several chapters) of the three-volume, comprehensive report entitled Thirty-Five Years of Archaeological Research at Salmon Ruins, New Mexico published in 2006 by the Center and the Salmon Ruins Museum. His other books -- The Puebloan Society of Chaco Canyon and Foundations of Anasazi Culture (as editor) have explored the origins of Anasazi-Pueblo culture and Chaco Canyon.

The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship

Created in honor of Chipeta Chapter founding member Carlyle “Squint” Moore and his wife, the scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving high school senior or college student intending to enroll or already enrolled in an Anthropology or Archaeology program. Students can apply online at collegeXpress—and note that the deadline is April 1.

The scholarship is managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. If you wish to donate, please send your tax deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.

Want More?

Archaeology Southwest is a great link to find out about current issues and events relating to Southwest Archaeology.
Public Outreach, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes

by Bill Harris

West End Field Trip, April 29-May 2, 2016. Due to the rave reviews of last year’s West End trip we will do it again this year. Enough different sites have been added this year to entice repeat offenders to return. We will be visiting a mix of rock art, architectural and rockshelter sites. Access to the sites is at a level 2 or 3 (see Field Trip Leader Guidelines) with some 4WD and rugged hiking thrown in for good measure. The group will be camping at the Old Ball Park campground near the old townsite of Uravan along highway 141. Porta-potties will be on-site, but no other amenities. Those wishing a more civilized approach can make reservations at the Rim Rock Hotel in Naturita, CO – 970-865-2500. A potluck is planned for the last night in camp (May 1). If you haven’t experienced the unique flavor of the West End and its archaeological sites, this is a must-see opportunity. Contact Bill Harris at 970-249-8055, or trlgpa@skybeam.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

The BLM and Forest Service will be conducting a joint archaeological survey in the Dry Mesa area, southwest of Delta, CO the weeks of April 4th and April 11th – if the work isn’t completed in the first week, then it will be extended into the second week. Archaeologists Glade Hadden and Brian Haas will coordinate the survey, and volunteers are needed to assist with the field work. Work will entail walking grids to identify archaeological sites – the area has a high potential for wickiups. CAS members with survey experience or who have taken the PAAC Site Survey class are invited to participate for one or more days. A camp will be set up so people can come for more than one day. The drive from Montrose is about 2 hours, or 1.5 hours from Delta. To sign up, contact Robin Lewis at the Montrose Public Lands Office, 249-5308, or rlewis@blm.gov.

Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) is seeking volunteers to serve as guides and chaperones for the Delta Schools Outdoor Ed Days, May 3 – 6, 2016. The seventh graders will visit several stations in Escalante Canyon to experience first-hand the wonders of nature and the historic importance of the Escalante Canyon area, west of Delta. We need one person each day to escort the students out to the Gunnison River water wheel – the hike is about 2.5 miles round-trip on fairly flat ground. Historic information will be provided. CCA staff will contact chaperones about the details of the event. Contact Bry at bryanna@canyonsassociation.org to sign up.
Susan M. Chandler-Reed, SAA President-Elect

Although the results of the Society for American Archaeology elections will be formally announced at the Annual Meeting in Orlando this spring, we have learned that Susan Chandler-Reed is the new president-elect of the premier nationwide association of professional archaeologists. Susan is a long-time local archaeologist and member of the Chipeta Chapter, along with husband Alan. She was elected to a three-year term, in which the first year will be a period of learning. The second year, she will take over as president of the organization, and the third year she will act as the font of wisdom and organizational memory for the new president.

A Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) with 37 years of experience on prehistoric and historic investigations in the western United States, Susan earned her BA in Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College and her MA in Archaeology at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She moved to Montrose in 1978 to work for Centuries Research and married her co-worker, Alan Reed, in 1979. She and Alan then worked for Nickens and Associates from 1979 to 1987. Until her retirement in 2013, she was President of Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., which she, Alan, and Jon Horn founded in 1987.

This isn’t the first statewide and national recognition Susan has received. Among offices she has previously held are President of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists and the American Cultural Resources Association, Treasurer for the Society for American Archaeology, and SAA Liaison to the RPA. She is the current chair of the SAA Investment and Finance Committee. In 2015 Chandler-Reed also received the American Cultural Resource Association's “Lifetime Achievement Award” in recognition of significant contributions to the profession and long-term leadership in the cultural resources industry. She and Alan have two children and four grandchildren. Their son, Charlie Reed, has followed in the family footsteps and is one of Alpine Archaeology's new owners.

Our congratulations go out to Susan. The SAA couldn’t be in better hands.
Membership Application

Date: ____________________
Name: ____________________
Street or RR Address: ____________________
City: ____________________ State: _______ Zip: ______________
Telephone: ____________________
Email: ____________________
(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Check One: ______ New ______ Renewal
Check One: ______ Annual Dues (includes state CAS dues)
   ______ Family with Southwest Lore*  $40
   ______ Individual with Southwest Lore* $35
   ______ Senior no Southwest Lore*  $25
(Family = 2 or more members, same household)

*Southwest Lore is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is mailed quarterly. Most of our members elect to subscribe, and it helps support CAS.

Code of Ethics
As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge to:
• Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
• Respect the property rights of landowners.
• Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
• Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
• Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
• Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
• Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
• Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: ____________________ Other Family Signature: ____________________

Make checks payable to “Chipeta Chapter CAS” and mail the signed application to:
Dennis DeVore
353 Dakota Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81507
Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

Research Design and Report Writing

This class, which is part of the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC), will cover the importance of how to plan a project and to organize the results through a final report. It will include information on how to plan and define a research design, how to analyze cultural materials and how to write a final report of the findings. The class, which is April 16 and 17, is 15 hours long and the cost is $12. To register, please contact Chipeta Chapter PAAC Coordinator Beverly Kolkman (see below).

PAAC Contacts

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Field Trip Committee

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Ed Horton - hortedon@gmail.com,
Carol Patterson – Urracapro@aol.com
Bill Harris - trlgpa@skybeam.com.

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the field trip leader.