What’s Up Down Below?

Forest Service Heritage Management on the Monticello Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest

The Moab-Monticello Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest manages over 500,000 acres of forested lands in San Juan and Grand Counties, Utah, including much of the "Shash Jaa" national monument as currently defined. The presentation’s title refers to the Abajo (meaning “below” in Spanish) Mountains right west of Monticello.

The discussion focuses on current and future management of cultural resources on the Monticello District. It begins with information on forest planning efforts and provides a brief introduction to the District’s archaeology, describing current conditions and trends as well as future needs for managing its cultural resources. Following this introduction to management issues, the discussion turns to the archaeology of the Monticello District and focuses on recent Pueblo I period community studies and insights in the core area of the District. The talk concludes with a brief discussion of future directions of the District Heritage Program.
Our May Speaker

Donald Irwin serves as the Moab-Monticello Ranger District Heritage Manager of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, managing cultural resources on over 500,000 acres in the Abajo and La Sal Mountains areas in Southeast Utah. Don obtained his Master’s Degree from Arizona State University in 1993 and has worked professionally in the Southwest for the past 39 years. Don currently resides in Southwest Colorado.

President’s Corner
by Teri Hauser

First I want to thank Leigh Anne for running the April meeting! I was out of town and she graciously agreed to take the reins.

I am excited that the summer field season has begun. We are having our first Para-Archaeologist in Training Survey on 5 May. Hopefully we will be able to schedule some more in the near future!

The State CAS Quarterly meeting was held on 7 April. The board reviewed the survey results and has agreed to offer both the printed journal and online PDF. The PDF will be printable off of the M365 link, as soon as they determine how to set that up. By January of 2019, they will initiate a means to opt out of receiving the printed journal, when you renew your membership, if you wish to only have a PDF that you can read online or print yourself, as desired.

See you in the field or at the meeting!

Cheers!
Site Stewardship, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes
by Bill Harris

Site Steward Activities:
On March 12th chapter members George Decker, Joe Oglesby and Bill Harris assisted archaeologists Glade Hadden and Matt Landt with the recording of a small site that contained pottery sherds. The site was near the Escalante Game Drive site, but there was no indication that the site was associated with the game drive. The pottery had been found by George and Ed Horton over 20 years ago. The site’s artifacts were mapped, and the sherds collected for curation. The pottery sherds were most-likely from a pot or pots made by the Ute Indians.

The Site Stewardship Program got off to a great start this year. An update for stewards was held on April 7th at the BLM office. Retiring BLM archaeologist, Glade Hadden was feted after the update. Glade has been incredibly supportive of the site steward program. We hope he will become a site steward extraordinaire from his new home in Paradox Valley.

Field Trips:
The West End field trip scheduled for May 10-13 is full. To accommodate the big demand for this trip we will be organizing 2 groups each day. There’s so much to see we certainly won’t be stumbling over each other. Russ Barr, Glade Hadden, Leigh Ann Hunt, Carol Patterson and Bill Harris will serve as group leaders. Leigh Ann Hunt is working on a summer field trip to the Red Mountain Mining District, possibly Corkscrew Gulch – more on that later. Joe Oglesby is organizing a field trip in June to M Mountain in Gunnison, date TBA.

The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship
We’d like to congratulate this year’s recipient:

Colin Patrick McCollough

Colin is a graduate student at Western State University in Gunnison.

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.

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From the Editor

Last month I wrote a few words about Chris Fisher and the project down in Honduras involving the LiDAR discovery of two large sites that one might call cities. The chronicler of this project, Douglas Preston, reports that this part of Honduras’ Mosquitia region was absolutely unoccupied jungle when the expedition flew in to confirm the LiDAR map. That is, human-shy animal species were not the least bit shy. I would not have thought there were any such places left on the planet, but I’m willing to believe it.

Honduras, like many other countries in the tropical forest belt, is grappling with the issue of illegal clearing of native forests to provide grazing for cattle. There is also considerable drug smuggling, and archaeological sites there are prone to looting. You can sell a nice looted sculpture for a lot more than you can earn doing most anything else.

So now the Honduran government and the LiDAR discovery team have to figure out what to do with these sites. Now that their locations are known, they are in grave danger from looting. The government is committed for the moment to devoting troops to safeguard the sites, but there are problems there as well. For one, soldiers don’t make much money either, so the temptation to loot is real. For the other, the sand flies in that part of the jungle, at least, are transmitters of the leishmaniasis organism. Of the various species of leishmaniasis around the world, this one seems to be one of the most virulent and causes a particularly gruesome death, involving the eating away of the bones of the face, centering on the nose. Anyway, it is not a safe environment for the soldiers who are required to guard the site.

Science, especially archaeological science, has benefited from the discovery of these sites, and Honduran leaders are embracing the role of descending from a powerful and complex culture in its pre-Columbian past. Yet, a considerable amount of trouble has been caused, whose solutions are not readily apparent. This is part of the dilemma of advances in remote sensing technology.


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Colorado Archaeological Society
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Membership Application

Date: __________________
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City: __________________ State: ________ Zip: __________
Telephone: ___________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________
(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Check One:  Check One: **Annual Dues** (includes state CAS dues)

____ New
____ Renewal  _______ Family with Southwest Lore* .................. $40
(Family = 2 or more members, same household)
____ Individual with Southwest Lore* .................. $35
____ Student with Southwest Lore* .................. $25
____ Senior/Disabled* * no Southwest Lore ............. $25

*Southwest Lore is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is mailed quarterly.

** Senior is any person who is at least 65 years of age; Disabled is any person who is permanently disabled.

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:
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Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

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Chipeta September Speaker
To be determined

Want More?
Archeology Southwest is a great link to find out about current issues and events relating to Southwest Archaeology.

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Field Trips
Bill Harris - trlgpa48@gmail.com

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

Masthead photo courtesy of Carol Patterson. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.