

# The Uncompahgre Journal

May 2020

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 37 Issue 5

## *Our May Presentation?*

### **CAS in the Time of Coronavirus**

There will be no meeting this month, sadly. However, for your archaeology fix this month, you may want to visit the History Colorado website. They have some great 45 minute talks and blogs about all kinds of historical items.

#### Webinars

<https://www.historycolorado.org/archaeology-preservation-webinar-series> (free, but requires registration)

#### Podcasts

<https://www.historycolorado.org/podcasts>

You might also want to check out the Crow Canyon webinars. They're free and packed with information.

<https://www.crowcanyon.org/index.php/learn-about-archaeology/archaeology-webinars>





# Field Trip and Site Stewardship Report

by Leigh Ann Hunt

Since Chipeta had to cancel field trips and out of county travel, we are cancelling the May trip to the Hanksville area with Dennis Devore as well. Even

"eagle traps" on the Gunnison, Flint Cave, Eagle Rock, Metate Draw, Hauser shelter, and the Harris shelter sites. As a matter of fact, all of these are site steward sites and it has been great to see them again. If you would like to go on a 'mini field trip' one of these days, let me know and I'll put you on my mini-email list to send an invitation. Since there is a maximum of about 8 people, if you don't get in on it, there will likely be another.

From a monitoring point of view, we noticed a few signs that visitors have been to a few of the sites, for instance, there was a "museum rock" with a collection of flakes laid out at the Harris site that Randy, the site steward, said was not there before, and motorcycle tracks in the sand in front of the Metate Draw rock art, but not very many other people appear to be out there around Montrose and Delta. A big thank you to the members who provided directions or joined in for the "healthful outdoor exercise."

though the travel ban may lift, and camping may be an option, we did not think descending on Hanksville so soon would be a good idea. I hope to have field trips in the summer that we planned, but like everything else, we will wait to see what happens. Stay tuned for email announcements later on.

Meanwhile, the "Flash Hikes" have been fun. I've had three of them and maybe ten members, in all, have accompanied me. It isn't difficult to maintain social distancing and the weather has been really fine this month. I've been to Negro Gulch to monitor my steward site, and to the Escalante Bridge petroglyphs, the

It is nice to know that our experienced and concerned CAS members as well as our volunteer site stewards

are out and about, and are undoubtedly monitoring sites all around the area, keeping an eye on things for the BLM in this time of short staff and uncertain plans for the future. The BLM, Forest Service, and Park Service are currently trying to plan for the

end of the lockdown and the start of the summer fire-fighting season while still protecting the employees. Hiring seasonal workers, providing transportation and housing, and dispatching fire and recreation crews are all going to require some changes in operations, but nobody is sure what it will take. Unfortunately, the site steward program is on the back burner until we can meet with Shane, the BLM archaeologist, and Jake, the Forest Service archaeologist, to get our Site monitoring program back in action. Probably next September we will have all our stewards come to a meeting to turn in their information from 2020, so watch for information about that late in the summer, and keep up the good work, those of you who are still volunteering! Try for *at least* one visit for the year.





Previous page:

upper and center, Harris Site;

lower, Hauser Site.



This page:

above, Roatcap Gulch;

left, eagle trap along Gunnison  
River rim.

Photos courtesy of Leigh Ann  
Hunt



*Photo courtesy of Bill Harris*

### **Moore Scholarship by Bill Harris**

**T**he Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship committee had three quality applicants this year, so it was challenging to select a finalist. This year's recipient of the scholarship is Ty Cary. Ty is a graduate of Montrose High School and McGill University. He is currently enrolled at Oxford University, UK and is working on his Master of Science degree in Social Anthropology. Chipeta, CAS extends its best wishes to Ty in his pursuit of a graduate degree.





## President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

*Photo by Sally Johnson*

It's May, and we have now gone from Spring to early Summer temperatures, which is very typical of Colorado weather.

I want to thank Leigh Ann for her flash hikes. She has been visiting local sites, some with no stewards, and recorded through photos any damage. As of now, the site steward training is on hold, but please try to go out and visit your site. I think with more of the public heading to the open ranges there might be more damage to the sites.

The Board of Directors has not had a meeting in the last couple of months but will try to schedule one next month if possible. At this time there has not been a time set aside for the summer picnic, but we will announce the date as soon as it is safe. Heck, we might just plan on an August picnic in the moun-

tains; what a change that would be for the group! Again, if you would like to contribute to the journal on new sites, a trip you did, your steward site, knowledge, or photos please let me or Dave Batten know.

Thanks for all your support!

Sally



Photos courtesy of Leigh Ann Hunt.

Left, Roatcap panel; above, eagle trap.







## The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship

We'd like to congratulate this year's recipient:

*Ty Cary*

Ty is a Montrose High graduate, working on a Master's Degree at Oxford.


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.

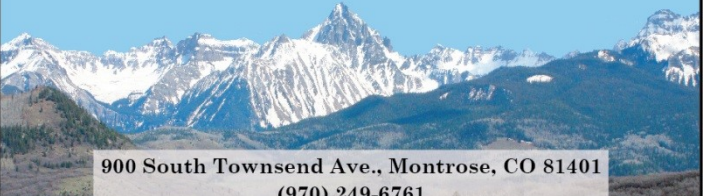
The scholarship is managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. If you wish to donate, please send your tax deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.



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## From the Editor



It's about time! Archaeology is dependent on chronology. Everything we do requires dating, whether it is trying to come up with grand theories of cultural evolution, or something as simple (hah!) as trying to describe the way of life of a group of people—at a particular time period. Chronology is essential. Archaeologists have a number of tools at their disposal to help them determine relative or absolute dates for archaeological materials and sites. Most of them are fairly vague. In the Southwest, most of us are familiar with the Puebloan chronology: Basketmaker II and III, and Pueblo I, II, III, IV, and V. This creates a very coarse-grained framework for understanding cultural developments in the last 2000 or so years before contact with Europeans. So, with a considerable amount of uncertainty, we can slot sites and artifacts into some very rough time categories of two to three hundred years, based on the nature of the physical remains left behind.

One of the tools for constructing this chronology is ceramic chronology. Ceramics are the second most common artifact found on archaeological sites throughout the world, and arguably the most common type of artifact at sites post-dating the agricultural revolution in most parts of the world. Many archaeologists divide ceramic artifacts into two main types: painted and plain. Painted pottery is typically sorted into arbitrary styles that share similar design motifs and surface and paint characteristics. That results in widely recognized pottery types that make a great deal of sense to ceramic analysts and leave those of us not so typologically inclined scratching our heads. These types are very useful, because of their limited life spans. A given painted pottery type might have been manufactured for periods of one hundred to as many as three hundred years. In the case of plainware pottery, like many types of corrugated wares, the periods of manufacture may be much greater, making them unsuitable for dating archaeological sites.

Plainwares may be not so worthless any more. A team of archaeologists working with European sites has just published a study in which they were able to extract organic materials that had been absorbed into the structure of pottery vessel walls. People have tried in the past to date sherds from the residues that remained on the inner surface of the sherd, but without success, because the visible residues were of unreliable origin. This team was able to use precisely measured amounts of certain organic solvents to coax organic materials that were tightly bonded to the ceramic structure and achieve dates that compared

well with dendrochronological and radiocarbon dates on other materials from the same sites and regions.

This could be revolutionary. The problem in the past has always been the sparsity of suitable materials for dating on a majority of sites in the world, especially those that consist only of surface scatters of rocks and sherds. This new technique won't help us with regard to lithic scatters, but could be immensely useful in dating lithic and ceramic scatters, especially where most of the sherds are basic utilitarian plain wares—just the wares most likely to have been used for cooking and storage. I can imagine all kinds of research questions that would benefit from the ability to date widely distributed and numerous items like plain pottery. For one, it would help us determine whether formerly undatable artifact and lithic scatters were created simply by visitation for whatever reason by small numbers of people over an immense span of time, or by a larger number of people in a limited time period. For complex societies, it would help us to determine what proportion of house locations may have been occupied at any one time, thus making population estimates more accurate.

The ability to date plainware pottery with some accuracy would certainly help us to learn more about site dynamics in general. But all this will require a dating technique that is affordable. Take a look at the reference I have provided to this publication. There are 25 authors for this article. When the author list takes up more space than the abstract, the technique being described is usually rather high tech. And high tech means expensive, because the technology is not readily available to the average CRM archaeological company. I'm guessing that right now, there are not many places in the world with the right combination of tools to do the work. One can only hope that with time the process will become common enough to be affordable.

Casanova, Emmanuelle, Timothy D. J. Knowles, Alex Bayliss, Julie Dunne, Marek Z. Barański, Anthony Denaire, Philippe Lefranc, Savino di Lernia, Mélanie Roffet-Salque, Jessica Smyth, Alistair Barclay, Toby Gillard, Erich Claßen, Bryony Coles, Michael Ilett, Christian Jeunesse, Marta Krueger, Arkadiusz Marciniak, Steve Minnitt, Rocco Rotunno, Pieter van de Velde, Ivo van Wijk, Jonathan Cotton, Andy Daykin, and Richard P. Evershed

2020 Accurate compound-specific  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of archaeological pottery vessels. *Nature* 580:506-510. [https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2178-z?WT.ec\\_id=NATURE-202004&sap-outbound-id=209D9F4D2F59B9AB8569B64C583840D5EF847F4D&mkt-key=42010A0557EB1EEA9BA455206EAC3C35#citeas](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2178-z?WT.ec_id=NATURE-202004&sap-outbound-id=209D9F4D2F59B9AB8569B64C583840D5EF847F4D&mkt-key=42010A0557EB1EEA9BA455206EAC3C35#citeas), accessed 5/1/20.

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## Membership Application

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Check One:

☐ New

☐ Renewal

**Annual Dues\*** (includes state CAS dues): Check one

☐ Family (2 or more members same household) .....\$40

☐ Individual .....\$35

☐ Student (Circle if Individual or Family).....\$25

☐ Senior/Disabled\*\* (Circle if Individual or Family).....\$25

☐ Secondary (Circle one) Individual (\$10) or Family (\$15)

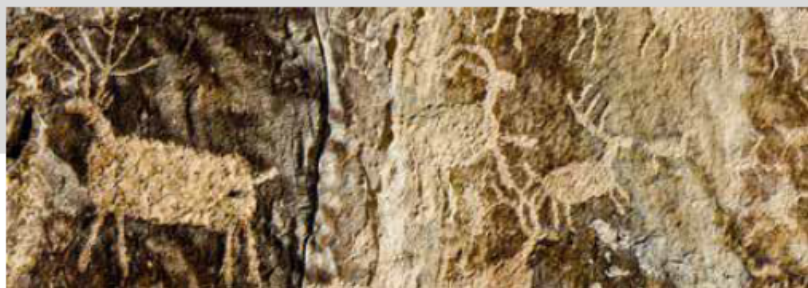
☐ Opt out of printed **Southwest Lore**

Photos by Dennis DeVore



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\*\***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 "Colorado Archaeological Society" and mail the signed application to:

Chipeta Chapter  
P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81401



## CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

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## OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Fred Henderson, [trlgpa48@gmail.com](mailto:trlgpa48@gmail.com)

## CHIPETA CHAPTER WEBSITE

- <https://www.chipetachaptercas.org>

## TO JOIN OR RENEW:

- Go to the Chipeta Chapter website and follow the membership links.

## Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

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## Want More?

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



## Field Trip Committee

Leigh Ann Hunt, Joe Oglesby, and George Decker

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.*