

The Uncompahgre Journal

September 2021 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

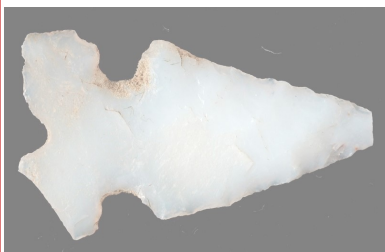
Volume 38 Issue 7

Welcome Back!

Mark your calendar for September 15 at 7:00 pm at the United Methodist Church meeting room for the Chipeta Chapter's *Special Welcome Back* meeting with speaker Carl Conner.

Refreshments will be served, and there will be **extra socializing** time.

Seating will be conducive to social distancing, and masks are strongly encouraged by Methodist Church.



And Announcing...

Coming Soon!

A new, mobile friendly design for the Chipeta Chapter website:
chipetachaptercas.org

It will go live in the next couple of weeks.

Our September Presentation

Reassessment of the Shavano Spring Site A State Historical Fund Project

The Shavano Spring Site was one of the most important locales investigated by William Buckles for his 1971 doctoral dissertation. Recent resurveys of the open site, located on the southern end of the Shavano Valley near Montrose, revealed evidence of additional previously unidentified occupations in apparently intact deposits that had survived intensive agricultural activity in the area.

Our assessment project was supported by the Chipeta Chapter board from its inception and this talk will share our work with the chapter. We assembled important information about Buckles' excavations in the 1960s, revised his original site maps to exhibit modern conditions, conducted stratigraphic examination of a modern ditch intrusion, and updated the projectile point and radiocarbon dates. The presentation will cover the new information and demonstrate the importance of future investigations at this site.





SAVE THE DATE

2021 CAS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 8-10



Montrose, CO

Holiday Inn Express

Hosted by the Chipeta Chapter

FEATURING

Keynote speaker R. E. BURRILLO,

"Bears Ears: 120 Years of Conservation History"

12 speakers on assorted topics--

Wallace Ruin, 3D modeling, Canyon Pintado;

Poster session, social hours, and of course field trips

For more information contact sjicas2@gmail.com or

Chipeta Chapter website www.chipetachaptercas.org

or the Colorado Archaeology Society website

Notice!

This will be a hybrid zoom/in-person meeting. In-person attendees must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask.

President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Photo by Sally Johnson

Well, fall is in the air and trips are being planned. I am sure by now, hopefully, you are aware that our chapter is hosting the statewide Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting on Oct 8th -10th. COVID case numbers across the state are leveling off, but not yet going down, so at this time the State CAS has decided that the meeting will be an in-person/hybrid meeting. We will have some stipulations, as follows. 1) Those attending in person must be fully vaccinated and must wear a mask indoors at all times except when eating/drinking. Social distancing guidelines must also be followed. 2) September 25 is our go/no go cutoff date; we have to cancel the in-person meeting no later than Sept. 25 to avoid losing

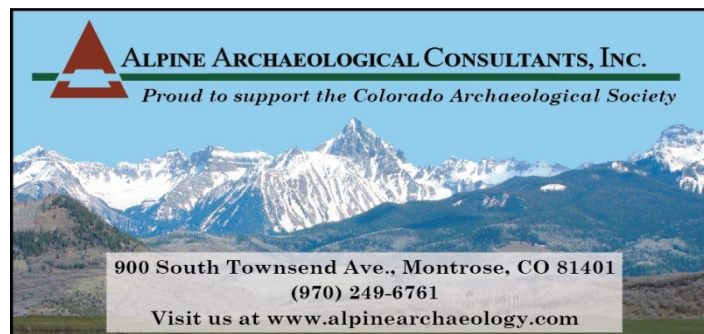
money owed to the Holiday Inn for snacks and meals. Factors to consider in making that decision include increasing COVID numbers in Montrose or if state guidelines change and restrict large gatherings of people. And 3) we will put a statement at the bottom of the registration page to the effect that members/participants attending in person do so at their own risk.

As for the monthly meetings at the Methodist Church, there is a mask encouragement for any activities in the church, except when eating or drinking. I am sure that we can set up the seating for social distancing if needed.

In other news, the summer gathering had a great turnout, but it was cut short with much-needed rain. It was wonderful to be able to catch up with everyone and enjoy the wonderful side dishes.

The Board did meet for a planning period for the state meeting and everything is ready to go and the registration is open at this time. I want to thank the members who stepped up to volunteer for the annual meeting. We would not be able to do this event without you.

Sally



HistoriCorps Seeks Volunteers

HistoriCorps is an organization that has worked on various historical sites in our area, including several in the GMUG national forest, and is dedicated to sharing the historic preservation experience with members of the public, with no special skills required. And they provide free meals!

From Liz Rice, HistoriCorps Workforce Manager:

HistoriCorps has scheduled some truly excellent projects near Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction this September, and we are in need of a few more helping hands! We have several volunteer spots available at both NRHP-listed [Calamity Camp](#) and the CCC-constructed [Lookout Mountain Picnic Area](#). HistoriCorps is undertaking this work in partnership with the BLM. Or [Check out our 2021 Project Schedule](#).

If you'd like to help us get the word out, please don't be shy to forward this info to your friends and family, or share on social media. Thank you!

St. Germain and Ironton Field Trip, Wednesday, August 18, 2021

A group led by Leigh Ann Hunt learned about the history of the area around the St. Germain garage near Crystal Lake.



We also visited the Ironton town site where several original buildings remain. Two hikes were also a part of the trip: one steep hike to the site of the Lucky Twenty log cabin complex and one to the Colorado Boy shaft house.



Words and photos by Bill Manske

It was a great day to be in the mountains, and we learned a lot about the history of the area.



Chipeta Chapter Seeks Volunteers

The Chipeta Chapter has a volunteer opportunity to do archaeological survey in Paradox Valley. Glade Hadden is seeking assistance with an archaeological survey of future bike trails in eastern Paradox Valley to take place this October or November. Dates have not yet been selected, but we are hoping for two crews of 2 to 3 volunteers each, supervised by an archaeologist, for several days. We ask you for a commitment of at least two days.

The minimum requirement is to be able to recognize prehistoric artifacts, such as lithics; PAAC classes or survey experience would be a plus. Glade can provide camping space and meals, or you can motel in Naturita. Anyone interested should contact Leigh Ann Hunt at lahunt970@gmail.com, and let us know what your availability is, also if weekend or week days, between October 20 to November 20, so we can try to meet your schedule.



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.

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Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu

From the Editor: *Solanum jamesii*

The Four Corners Potato has been in the news a lot in the past few weeks. Many of the articles suggest that this potato has been cultivated by indigenous cultures of the Southwest for 11,000 years (e.g. Bitsóí 2021). That's an important claim—and a rather audacious one. Here's the background: five years or so ago, excavations through several occupation levels of a rock shelter site in the Escalante (Utah) Valley, turned up a number of ground stone tools. The oldest occupation level dated to 10-11,000 years ago. Analysis of the microscopic plant remains on some of the grinding surfaces yielded starch grains that turned out to be from *Solanum jamesii*, the Four Corners Potato, a tiny little thing, but apparently very nutritious.

The word cultivation implies domestication. Domestication is responsible for one of the great transformations of human societies. Its consequences include population growth, increased disease burden, famine, and the development of complex social and political structures.

Simply gathering plant foods is not cultivation. Cultivation is a very active and intrusive process of preparing land, sowing or planting seeds, and nurturing the resulting plants to maturity. It represents a lot of investment of time and labor with no return for several months. How and why do people make the transition from hunting and gathering to food production?

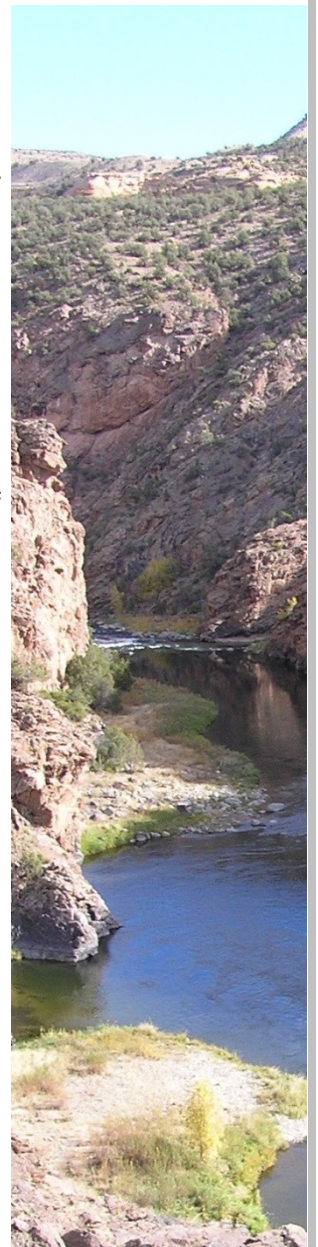
Many of the earliest domesticates (like wheat and barley) or semi-domesticates (e.g. Chenopodiums and Amaranths) were originally weeds, pioneer species that require lots of sunlight and disturbed soil. People tend to disturb soil and create clearings when they camp for longer periods of time at favorable locations. When opportunistic edible annual plants colonize such areas, a mutually favorable relationship develops. People provide the environment, plants provide some sustenance to the people.

People may intentionally manipulate the environment to encourage the growth of desirable wild plants, or they may disperse seeds in a suitable environment, then return periodically to harvest and disperse more seeds. With more effort come more rewards, and eventually the process of domestication may require people either to relocate near the stands of plants and to tend them, or to relocate the plants to be near established human settlements.

In the first case, the people move to the appropriate habitat for the plant. In the second, the plants get moved from their native habitat to a preferred human settlement. This will require additional nurturing efforts, and may result in genetic changes that make plants more dependent on people. Both cases require that other subsistence activities be neglected. This leads to increased dependence of the people on the plant. Some researchers suggest that domestication was a two-way process, in which plants harness the power of people to distribute and nurture the species (Rindos 1984). Certainly, domesticated plants are some of the most successful species on earth, in terms of their worldwide distribution and the total land area devoted to them. During this process of domestication, modifications occur, either by accident or intent, and fruit becomes bigger or softer or easier to harvest, or in some other way more useful to humans—and they often become dependent on humans for survival.

This brings us back to the Four Corners Potato. Was it domesticated, and if so, when? The presence of potato starch grains on 11,000-year-old metates does not indicate domestication. It indicates the use of a gathered plant. Twenty years ago, starch grains from maize were identified on grinding stones at a 9,000 year-old site in Oaxaca (Piperno et al. 2009). This was revolutionary, because it pushed back the timing and probable location of the domestication of maize. However, this discovery required that the starch grains be recognizable as being from maize, and not from teosinte, its wild ancestor. The genetic changes from the wild to the domestic plant had already occurred. That is not the case with *Solanum jamesii*. The 11,000-year-old starch grains are from wild potatoes.

These wild potatoes are often found growing today near modern and prehistoric pueblos, however. They are thus occupying “atypical habitats” that differ from their ex-



(Continued from previous page)

pected distribution (University of Utah n.d.). Thus, it's likely that seeds or tubers were gathered by people and intentionally planted closer to home. That's a step toward domestication, but we have no information yet on how long ago those relocations occurred, or how much additional manipulation was required to successfully establish the plants at the new location. There is also no indication that these potatoes are genetically or morphologically different from wild potatoes found elsewhere.

It is clear, however, that there is a long record of use of the Four Corners Potato in the high deserts of the Colorado Plateau. This is an important and exciting discovery, and I'm sure archaeologists, anthropologists, geneticists, and botanists will be studying this potato for many years to come. Perhaps we'll one day get a speaker here to talk about it.

References:

Bitsóí, Alastair Lee

2021 "11,000-year-old solution to modern problem: Ancient potato could thrive in changing climate." **Yale Climate Connections**: https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/08/11000-year-old-solution-to-modern-problem-ancient-potato-could-thrive-in-changing-climate/?ms=sat_email&utm_campaign=sat&utm_medium=email&utm_source=aswemail&emci=7f33d548-3f0b-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=6b4d4f7a-400b-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=12664, accessed September 9, 2021.

Dolores R. Piperno, Anthony J. Ranere, Irene Holst, Jose Iriarte, and Ruth Dickau

2009 Starch grain and phytolith evidence for early ninth millennium B.P. maize from the Central Balsas River Valley, Mexico, *PNAS* 106 (13): 5019-5024.

Rindos, David

1984 *The Origins of Agriculture: An Evolutionary Perspective*. Academic Press, New York.

University of Utah

n.d. Plant Domestication: Four Corners Potato. Department of Anthropology, The University of Utah, https://anthro.utah.edu/research/archaeobotany/domestication_potato.php, accessed September 9, 2021.

PAAC On-Demand Courses

From History Colorado and Assistant State Archaeologist Rebecca Simon:

The following three on-demand courses are now up on the History Colorado PAAC web page. Those interested in taking one of these on-line classes should visit this page: <https://www.historycolorado.org/paac-event-schedule>.

Archaeological Practice in Colorado Archaeological Laboratory Techniques Research Design and Report Writing

Students will receive information on how to access the class starting **September 6**.

Because of the uncertainty of schedules and policies around the continued pandemic and general world situation, we are only offering in-person classes upon request and with the stipulation that they might be cancelled.



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



Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street or RR Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

(email required to receive Chipeta Chapter 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

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

☐ Opt out of printed *Southwest Lore*

**Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society: print copies are mailed quarterly, and a .pdf is posted to Member365 for download.

Photos by Dennis DeVore



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 81402

CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

- **President:** Sally Johnson, sjcas1@gmail.com
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, lahunt970@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Annette Butts, annettebutts63@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, mtncpa@gmail.com
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, nrard@bresnan.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu
- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, sjcas1@gmail.com
- **Site Steward Coordinator (acting):** Leigh Ann Hunt, lahunt970@gmail.com
- **Library:** Linda Manske, manske46@gmail.com

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris / Fred Henderson, 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)

For information on On-Demand PAAC courses, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado.org/paac-event-schedule>.

PAAC Contacts

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rebecca.simon@state.co.us
Assistant State Archaeologist/
303-866-4671

Dave Upchurch

PAAC Coordinator

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.