

# The Uncompahgre Journal

March 2023 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 40 Issue 3

## Our March Presentation

### Mark Your Calendar

**Mar 1:** [Montrose County Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with Montana Cohn on keeping our rivers healthy. Rooms 1 and 2, Montrose County Events Center, 7:00 pm.

**Mar 8:** [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Kelsey Hanson on paint production at Pueblo Bonito. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm. This meeting can also be accessed via Zoom.

**Mar 15:** [Chipeta Chapter CAS](#) monthly meeting with Dudley Gardner on Eagle Rock Shelter and other mobile societies (*right*). Montrose United Methodist Church, Park Avenue and 1st Street, 7:00 pm.

### Eagle Rock and Sustainable Utilization of Local Resources by Dudley Gardner

Since 2007 we have worked on excavating and analyzing materials recovered from Eagle Rock Shelter, east of Austin in Delta County Colorado. As a result of the analysis we are able to document how by utilizing local resources the site occupants were able to sustain themselves from 13,000 BP to 150 BP. As the database grew we wanted to compare the food choices made by the occupants at Eagle Rock with other mobile groups such as herders in the Targavatai Valley in Mongolia. The comparison is informative in that we can see a correlation between site selection and successful economic systems that are based on mobility.

By about 13,000 BP people living in the Gunnison River Valley had learned the value of the plant resources growing in the area and knew how to process them. They knew where large and small mammals could be acquired. They also knew where lithic materials were located. In our presentation we will focus on what we found at Eagle Rock and how individuals living along the Gunnison River utilized food resources found around the shelter. We will also discuss how mobile societies understand what food sources create sustainability in an area.



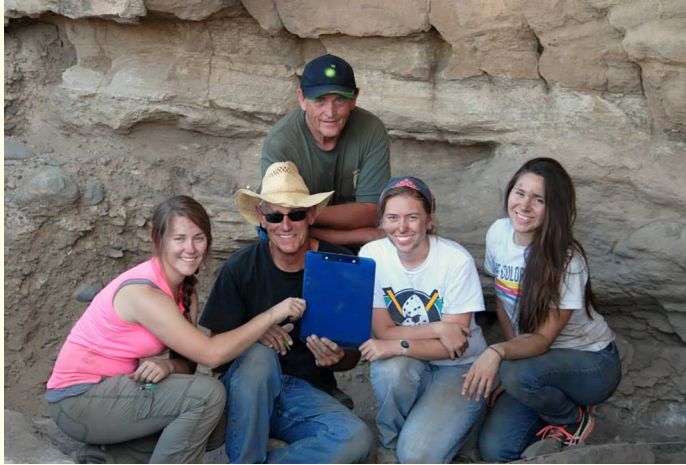
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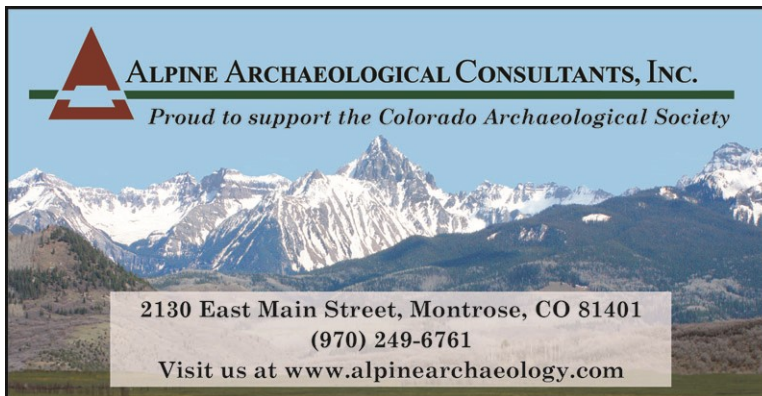


## Our March Speaker

A. Dudley Gardner, professor of history and political science at Western Wyoming Community College, earned his BA at Lee University, his MA from Colorado State University (1980), and his PhD from the University of New Mexico (2000). He began his archaeological career in 1975 working on prehistoric sites. In 1981 he worked on his first historical archeological site and has worked and published in both areas of archaeology ever since. He has served on the State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission since March 2004. He also serves on the Wyoming Review Board for the National Registry of Historic Places, a position he has held since 1985. Beginning in 2007, he led a team of WWCC field school students excavating at the Eagle Rock Shelter in Delta County. More recently he worked with a Yale University research team in Mongolia, where the team studied the Formative Period on the Russian-Mongolian border.



*Dr. Gardner (top) at Eagle Rock Shelter*



## "CHIPETA NORTH" GATHERING IN CEDAREGE!

**Save the Date:** there will be a social gathering at Alma Evans' house north of Cedaredge on March 21 (Tuesday) beginning at 3 pm; hosted by Alma and Leigh Ann Hunt, in honor of Spring Equinox.

Everyone is invited; we do hope many of you Delta County/North Fork/northern area members will come. One outcome could be to organize better carpools to the evening meetings in Montrose, or field trips. We just want to get to know each other over wine and cheese! We will send out a reminder with the address. Please RSVP via Email soon, or contact Leigh Ann for more information.

## President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

*Photo by Sally Johnson*

Well, hopefully you have enjoyed the weather in between the snowstorms, and on the bright side spring will be here soon. In the last year, we have had to cancel a couple of meetings either due to a total shutdown of the downtown or mother nature. The good news is that the February speaker is re-scheduled for another month so stay tuned.

I received an update from the State CAS that membership is up in numbers, which we have not had any problems with, as we continued to be one of the larger memberships in the state. The State was worried that Covid would decrease membership, but in fact, has increased membership. That could be a great thing if you think about all the education that we are spreading concerning the archeological sites of the state. We are hoping to get back out at least to

the drier climates, as the mountains have received record snowfall and will be inaccessible till about the middle of July by some accounts. Hope to see you at our next general meeting, and please let us know if there is a special place that you would like to visit or revisit for a field trip.



### **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. Please put "Moore Scholarship" in the memo line.

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## From the Editor

I get a short list of science news headlines via internet. If I see something interesting, I'll check out the link, usually a site like LiveScience. If it still piques my interest, I'll go to the journal article online and download it and read it, if it's open source. The news reports often include statements or inferences that I can't find in the actual journal article, and it's unclear if these come from the researcher in an interview, or if it is an editorial comment from the news site. There's an example of this in the following tidbit.

The title of the news article was "Lab-Grown Nose Gives a Whiff of How Ancient Humans Used to Smell." I suppose the double meaning in the title was intentional, and I do find it amusing. But even more amusing is the idea of a lab-grown nose. It calls to mind the end of the Woody Allen movie *Sleeper*, in which the hero takes a disembodied nose hostage at gun point. The reality is not as funny as that, though every bit as interesting.

Starting with the reconstructed genomes of Neanderthals and Denisovans, a team of researchers created an assemblage of "odor receptors" (OR) for each of the two ancestral (sub)species in order to analyze the differences between their olfactory apparatus and ours. I don't understand exactly how they did this, but I think they started by identifying the genes that were known to be involved with the sense of smell. Then they created the proteins that were the actual ORs, and exposed them to the odorants, or scents. I guess that the stronger the reaction of the protein to the OR, the more sensitive the sense of smell for that particular odor. The whole idea is really pretty amazing, though I still prefer to visualize the Nose mounted on some lab apparatus, with scientists holding little spoonsful of odorants in front of it. The results? They found that Denisovans were more sensitive than us in several ways, specifically to sulfurous odorants as well as smells described as resembling vanilla, chocolate, and honey. On the other hand, they found Neandertal nos-

es could smell the same sorts of things that we do, but they were far less sensitive.

Here's the part where I find fault with the news article. Presumably it was the reporter who opined that the less-sensitive Neandertal nose would have been a good thing, in that it made it easier for people to put up with the unhygienic living conditions and the pungency of their friends and family. Now I grant that the reporter may have just been having fun at the expense of the researchers, rather like I'm doing, but I found the comment offended me. I mean, come on, aren't these kinds of bad smells just social value judgments?

Isn't our sensitivity to body odor, etc. a first world development due to widespread availability of showers in a culture that obsesses over cleanliness? The arguably wisest creatures I know, dogs, are fascinated by smells that we consider offensive, because it tells them so much about other critters. They're certainly not repelled by them.

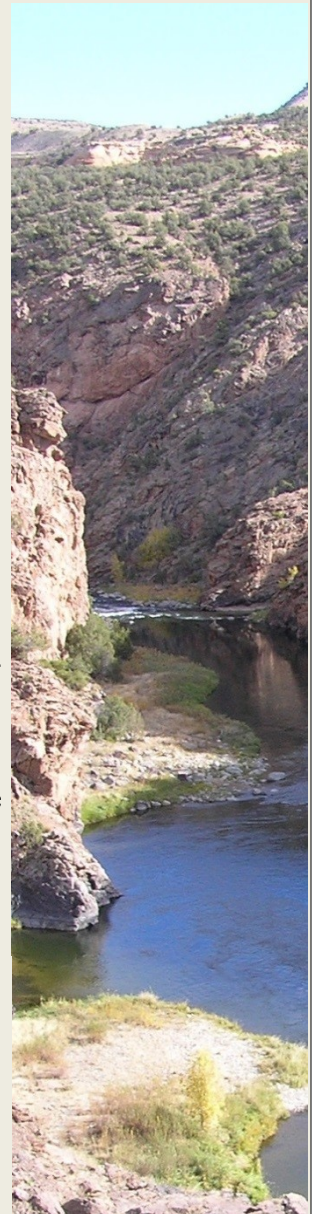
To get back to the science, I think I'll reserve judgment on this research until a few more such studies chime in. If we have learned anything about DNA in the last 50 years, it is that there is a wide variety of genes that influence any particular human trait, some of which may be switched on or off depending on environmental variables. I expect that there will be a great deal more to learn about our ancestors' sense of smell.

### References:

de March, Claire A., Hiroaki Matsunami, Masashi Abe, Matthew Cobb, and Kara C. Hoover  
2023 Genetic and functional odorant receptor variation in the Homo lineage. *iScience* 26, Published: December 28, 2022. DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2022.105908>.

Rodrigues, Nicole

2023 Lab-Grown Nose Gives a Whiff of How Ancient Humans Used to Smell. Taxi. [DesignTaxi.com](https://www.designtaxi.com), accessed February 28, 2023.



**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, [president@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:president@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, [vp@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:vp@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Secretary:** Susan Henderson, [secretary@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:secretary@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, [treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, [casrep@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:casrep@chipetachaptercas.org)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, [editor@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:editor@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, [membership@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:membership@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Site Steward Coordinator (acting):** Leigh Ann Hunt, [sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Library:** Linda Manske, [library@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:library@chipetachaptercas.org)

## OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris / Fred Henderson, [scholarships@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:scholarships@chipetachaptercas.org)

## 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)

PAAC courses have been suspended for an indefinite period, but here is the web site at History Colorado.

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

### Future Speakers

**April:** Dr. Tim Riley from the Price museum.

### 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.*