



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

MARCH 2020

SAN JUAN BASIN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.sibas.org](http://www.sibas.org)

## Next Meeting – March 11<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, John Hoffecker will present: “The early Upper Paleolithic archaeology of the East European Plain.” There will be a pre-meeting social at 6:30.

John’s primary research focus is the global dispersal of anatomically modern humans, which began more than 50,000 years ago in Africa. His specific geographic focus is Eastern Europe, where he has done field and lab research since the late 1980s. Since 2001, he has been working at open-air sites on the East European Plain, in both Russia and Ukraine, that were occupied by modern humans more than 30,000 years ago. In 2012, he began a new field project at Mira, located on the Lower Dnepr River. He has also worked for many years in Alaska. Recently, his Alaskan research has addressed questions about the emergence of Inupiaq settlement and economy on the coast of NW Alaska, and in 2011 he completed the field phase of a multi-year project at Cape Espenberg (northern Seward Peninsula).

John is currently a Fellow at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado at Boulder. He has earned degrees as follows: B.A., Archaeology, Yale University, 1975; M.A., Anthropology, University of Alaska, 1979; and a Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Chicago, 1986.

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### [SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities](#)

#### **Hospitality Volunteers needed for April 8<sup>th</sup> pre-meeting social**

We need one or two volunteers to bring cookies or simple snacks and to help set up the welcome tables in the foyer at the Center of Southwest Studies for our April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you are interested, please contact Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com).

## The Next 40 Years! – Volunteering for SJBAS

Volunteers have made SJBAS a great organization for over 40 years and your Board is planning for the future. We are actively seeking members to help with a variety of volunteer opportunities. Volunteering can be as simple as bringing cookies to a pre-meeting social, leading a field trip, or even becoming a Board member. There are many ways to get involved.

We have developed a specific list of Volunteer Opportunities in a questionnaire format to solicit feedback from members who may be interested in volunteering in some capacity. Please follow this link to the [Volunteer Opportunities List](#). We encourage members to print the list, complete the contact information, and indicate areas of interest. Completed forms may be scanned and emailed to Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com), mailed to Susan at: SJBAS, Attn: Susan Hicks, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302, or brought to our next meeting.

## Come visit our SJBAS Website

We encourage you to visit our website, [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org). The site is full of current and historic information about our society; it is up to date and easy to navigate. The Home Page has timely information about our monthly meetings, upcoming events, CSWS events, and SJBAS Quick References, including [Quick Reference Guide](#), [Lecture and Presentation Schedule](#), [Field Trips](#), [Brochure](#), [Moki Messenger](#), and [Volunteer Opportunities](#). One can easily find [Membership Information](#) and [PAAC class schedules](#), and there is an extensive recommended [Reading List](#) and directory of [Helpful Links](#). On the [Newsletter page](#) there is a link to the current issue of the *Moki Messenger* and archived newsletters going back to 2011. [Field Trip Archives](#) feature field trip reports back to 2008. The [Contact us](#) page has contact information for our Board members. If you have any questions about our website, please don't hesitate to contact our webmaster, Lyle Hancock, at [lylehancock54@gmail.com](mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com).

## Know Your SJBAS Neighbor

Each month we plan to feature a different SJBAS member in this article. Please contact Rege Leach, [rleach@frontier.net](mailto:rleach@frontier.net), if you would like to share your profile.

## Janice Sheftel – SJBAS Program Chair and past President

When I read about the reinvention/reinvigoration of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society in the “Durango Herald” in 1979, I promptly started attending SJBAS lectures, field trips and PAAC classes. Growing up in Washington, D.C., I had never heard of the Anasazi or Ancestral Puebloan peoples. The SJBAS programs gave me a wonderful background in our area's history and pre-history and many long-term friendships. At the time I joined SJBAS, I was working as a librarian at Park Elementary School and as the media specialist for District 9-R. Prior to arriving in Durango in 1975, I had worked in Bakersfield, California, as a branch library head, following a career as a computer programmer at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Before living for a year in Tokyo, I had earned my MA in Library Science from Michigan. After my library work for District 9-R, I had the opportunity to work in the 9-R Gifted and Talented program, and post-divorce, I attended law school at the University of Toledo.

I was fortunate to be able to return to Durango, first as a law clerk for several summers while I was attending law school, and then as an associate with the firm of Maynes, Bradford and Shipps, in which I later became a partner. Frank E. (Sam) Maynes was a wonderful mentor in the field of Colorado water rights. With his support, I had the chance to serve on the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Beginning in 2003, I became the program chair for SJBAS, but I couldn't attend Society meetings because I had to attend Board meetings of a client, the Dolores Water Conservancy District, on the same night as the SJBAS meetings. (It wasn't until after I retired that SJBAS changed its meeting date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday night of the month.)

While working in the law field, I had a chance for numerous vacation trips. I like to visit smaller areas for an extended time. Travels included Turkey; Scotland; Cornwall, England; Andalucía, Spain; all parts of Switzerland; Provence, France; the Baltic States; Cuba; Australia, New Zealand, and many different parts of Mexico, with a special love for Oaxaca.

I have had many volunteer opportunities, including working with SJBAS. I began hosting foreign families with SERVAS in 1985. I am on the Board of Directors of the San Juan Symphony, on the coordinating committee of Great Decisions, and on the Lifelong Learning Committee of the Fort Lewis College Professional Associates. Each year I am the host family for a foreign student at Fort Lewis College, although the student lives on campus. I enjoy working in my yard; reading scads of books and magazines; working crossword puzzles and word scrambles and cooking. I have enjoyed folk dancing from a variety of countries. – by Janice Sheftel

## Board Meeting Highlights - February 26, 2020

1. From input gathered at the Annual Membership Meeting on December 7, the Board drafted a document, **SJBAS Goals and Objectives** at its Long-Range Planning Meeting on January 23. The document was adopted on February 26 as a guiding and continuing work in progress for the Board. The document is available for the Membership to review by emailing Rege Leach [rleach@frontier.net](mailto:rleach@frontier.net).
2. An additional program was added to the 2020 SJBAS Programs Calendar: August 5, 2020, Ruth Van Dyke will give a special presentation on Chaco, with accompanying film.
3. The next SJBAS PAAC Class will be May 15-18, in the Lyceum at CSWS. The topic will be ceramics: "Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis" and "Ceramic technology, methods of manufacture, physical/stylistic analysis and basic Colorado ceramic characteristics." The cost is \$25 pp. Contact Tish for more information or to register, [tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net)
4. WE NEED:
  - a. A volunteer to replace Jill Tripp as Publicity Chair. The person will work and train with Jill through 2020 and fill her position as of 1/1/21. Please contact Jill, [jtripp51@yahoo.com](mailto:jtripp51@yahoo.com).
  - b. A volunteer to be Hospitality Coordinator for our Summer Picnic. Please contact Susan, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com).
5. The next SJBAS Board Meeting is May 20, 2020, 12-2 p.m. in the LPEA Conference Room. This is an open meeting to members. Please email Paula for more information, [paula@durango.net](mailto:paula@durango.net).

**SAVE THE DATE:** June 10 - SJBAS Summer Picnic at Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds

### **CSWS Presentation - Traditional Technologies Tour in Oaxaca, Mexico – March 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College will host a free presentation from Drs. Laurie Webster and Shelby Tisdale titled, "Traditional Technologies Tour in Oaxaca, Mexico" on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Center's Lyceum.

Drs. Webster and Tisdale will share their observations based on their travels to Oaxaca, Mexico in March 2019 with Native American weavers, a wildlife biologist, a graduate student and documentary filmmaker as they visited indigenous weaving communities to study and exchange traditional technologies. Their travels included visits to markets, archaeological sites, several rural communities representing different indigenous cultures and languages, and textile designs. Webster and Tisdale will discuss how the Native American weavers from the Southwest exchanged their weaving techniques with the Zapotec, Trique, Amuzgo and Mixtec weavers they met in Oaxaca.

Dr. Laurie Webster is a specialist in the perishable material culture of the Southwest and currently serves as director of the Cedar Mesa Perishables Project. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Arizona and is a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History and the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Her publications include *Beyond Cloth and Cordage: Archaeological Textile Research in the Americas* and numerous articles about Southwestern weaving and other perishable technologies. She lives in Mancos, Colorado.

Dr. Shelby Tisdale, Director of the Center of Southwest Studies, has over forty years of combined experience in museums; anthropological, tribal museum and cultural resource management consulting; and, university teaching. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. She has curated numerous exhibitions on Native American and Hispano arts, culture and history. Dr. Tisdale is an award-winning author and has published three books, and forty articles and book chapters relating to American Indian art and culture, repatriation, and women in the West.

### **Mesa Verde: Current Questions and Debates in the Discipline of Southwest Archaeology – March 6 – Fort Lewis College**

Join the panel of speakers in Noble Hall, Room 130, at 7:00 p.m. on March 6<sup>th</sup> to explore the ongoing questions and debates about Mesa Verde in the field of Southwest Archaeology. What is the significance of Mesa Verde to descendant communities? What role does Mesa Verde continue to play in our shared history? How does archaeology in and about the Mesa Verde region represent the latest developments in the methods, ethics, and theories in archaeology more broadly? Presented by the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History and Mesa Verde National Park. Follow this link for more info: [Mesa Verde Discussion](#).

### **PAAC class at Dolores - Prehistoric Lithic Description and Analysis - April 3 - 5**

The next PAAC class in our area is "[Prehistoric Lithic Description and Analysis](#)" from April 3rd - 5th at the Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum. This course introduces individuals to the technology of

stone tool manufacture, the identification of tool classes, and basic lithic analysis. For more information or to sign up, please contact Caroline Brown, Hisatsinom PAAC coordinator, at [paac.hisatsinom@gmail.com](mailto:paac.hisatsinom@gmail.com).

### **Next PAAC class in Durango – Prehistoric Ceramics - May 15 – 18**

The next PAAC class in Durango is “Ceramics,” May 15 – 18, in the Lyceum, CSWS, Fort Lewis College. The History Colorado class description is: Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis - Ceramic technology, methods of manufacture, physical/stylistic analyses, and basic Colorado ceramic characteristics. For more information or to sign up, please contact Tish Varney, SJBAS PAAC Coordinator, [tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net).

### **Excavation Opportunity – Four Corners Research – Champagne Spring – September 2020**

Have you ever wanted to experience an archaeological excavation but could never take enough time away or afford the expense? If you answered yes to either of these questions you may be interested in the following opportunity. This September, for only the second time since 2013, Four Corners Research will be conducting two field schools at the Champagne Spring Ancestral Puebloan community near Dove Creek. This site is one of the largest known tenth-century centers in the Northern Southwest and consists of approximately 300 rooms and 60 kivas, including a great kiva, a prehistoric road, and an unusual roadside shrine.

There will be two excavation sessions: **September 4-7 (Labor Day weekend) and September 11-14**. The cost of each session is only \$95 which helps pay for some of the associated costs of conducting these sessions, processing artifacts, dating materials, artifact curation, etc. Group sizes are limited, so the sooner you make your reservations, the better your chances of getting an open slot. Follow this link for more information, [Champagne Spring Excavation](#), or go to [www.fourcornersresearch.com](http://www.fourcornersresearch.com) to download a sign-up sheet.

### **Crow Canyon Travel Seminars 2020**

For more than three decades, Crow Canyon has contributed to some of the most important new understandings in Southwestern archaeology. Our travel seminars provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to travel the American West and beyond. When you travel with Crow Canyon, you gain new experiences and learn about other cultures all while helping us sustain the archaeological research that drives Crow Canyon. Your tuition and expenses cover an unforgettable experience that provides top value— and it also supports the non-profit mission of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. This is Crow Canyon’s legacy and by travelling with us you're making a positive impact and a direct contribution to our mission. Browse the [2020 travel seminar line-up](#).

### **How did the last Neanderthals live?**

Forty thousand years ago in Europe, we were not the only human species alive – there were at least three others. Many of us are familiar with one of these, the Neanderthals. Distinguished by their stocky frames and heavy brows, they were remarkably like us and lived in many pockets of Europe for more than 300,000 years.

For the most part, Neanderthals were a resilient group. They existed for about 200,000 years longer than we modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) have been alive. Evidence of their existence vanishes around 28,000 years ago – giving us an estimate for when they may, finally, have died off. Fossil evidence shows that, towards the end, the final few were clinging onto survival in places like Gibraltar. Findings from this British territory are

helping us understand more about what these last living Neanderthals were really like and new insights reveal that they were much more like us than we once believed. – BBC – Future ([Read article](#))

<p><b>Dates</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Upcoming Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2020</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Updates are in red.</b></p> <p align="center">Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
<p><b>March 11</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - John Hoffecker will present: “The early Upper Paleolithic archaeology of the East European Plain.”</p>
<p><b>March 27 – 29</b></p>	<p><b>Bears Ears Exploration</b> – 3-day camping trip – We will camp in a dispersed campsite with pit toilets and hike to a variety of archaeological sites. On Sunday, we will meet for happy hour at Andrew Gulliford and Stephanie Moran’s house in Bluff. 4WD/HC vehicles are required. Participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>April 6 – 10</b></p>	<p><b>Grand Gulch Backpack Trip</b> – 5-day backpacking trip. Specific route and distance depend on what permit we can get. Trip will include some off-trail hiking to Ancestral Puebloan sites and be moderately difficult. The trip participation limit is 8. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle at <a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>April 8</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Richard Jenkinson will present: “Art of Dinetah.”</p>
<p><b>April 18</b></p>	<p><b>Rock Art near Bluff, Utah</b> – Day trip – This will be a full day of exploring rock art sites, including hiking Butler Wash to the San Juan River, walking to sites near Sand Island Campground, and hiking to the Sand Dune series of panels on the northwest edge of Bluff. We will meet for happy hour at Andrew Gulliford and Stephanie Moran’s house in Bluff. This is a full-day trip, so participants will likely want to camp or stay in a hotel in Bluff the night before. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>May 8</b></p>	<p><b>Downtown Durango Walking Tour</b> - Meet at train depot at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a 1.5-hour downtown Durango walking tour with historian Andrew Gulliford; walk north on Main Avenue to El Rancho, walk up to East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and then south on 3<sup>rd</sup> back to depot. Participants will learn about Durango’s commercial and residential districts and colorful local history. Trip participation limit is 18. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>May 13</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Marilee White will present: “Reversing Archaeology: Ethiopia’s Ancient Stone-hewn Churches.”</p>
<p><b>May 15 - 18</b></p>	<p><b>PAAC Class in Durango – Ceramics</b> - Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis - Ceramic technology, methods of manufacture, physical/stylistic analyses, and basic Colorado ceramic characteristics. Contact Tish Varney for details and to sign up: <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>.</p>
<p><b>June 1 - 4</b></p>	<p><b>Keet Seel Backpacking</b> – This will be a four-day trip that includes car camping at Navajo National Monument and an overnight backpacking trip (8.5 miles each way) to Keet Seel, one of the best-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in the Southwest. A Park Service guide</p>

	will provide a tour of the cliff dwellings. The backpack is rated by the Park Service as strenuous, plus backpackers may have to carry 6 liters of water per person. For those who want to stay for a fourth day there will be a guided five-mile round trip hike to Betatakin. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Hunter McCleary at <a href="mailto:hunter.mccleary@gmail.com">hunter.mccleary@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 10</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Picnic</b> – Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds
<b>June 22 – 24</b>	<b>Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day</b> – 2 to 3-day motel trip to Santa Fe – Combine colorful feast day ceremonies at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo with other sites such as El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Bandelier National Monument, etc. – Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
<b>July 8</b>	<b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Wayne Lorenz will present: “New finds at Pompei.”
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Fort Lewis College Field School</b> – Details will be forthcoming.
<b>August 5</b>	<b>Special presentation on Chaco by Ruth Van Dyke</b> – Fort Lewis College
<b>August 7 – 9</b>	<b>Attend Pecos Conference near Mancos</b> – Camp at conference site or do day trips from Durango. For more information or to sign up, contact Foxie Mason at <a href="mailto:fmason@frontier.net">fmason@frontier.net</a> .
<b>August 12</b>	<b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Liseth Louderback will present: “Potatoes of the Southwest.”
<b>Early September</b>	<b>Navajo Nation Fair</b> – Window Rock, AZ – 2-day motel trip during first week of September. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
<b>September 9</b>	<b>SJBAS social gathering</b> – Details will be forthcoming.
<b>September 19</b>	<b>John W. Sanders Lecture</b> - Trenton Holliday of Tulane University will present: “Meandering Neanderthals – A New Look at our Closest Fossil Relatives.”
	 
<b>September 21 – 24</b>	<b>Chaco Culture National Historical Park 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Astronomy Festival</b> – 3-day camping trip – Park Service programs may include astronomy, star gazing through powerful telescopes and talking with astronomers, site tours, campfire programs, and a sunrise program to observe the autumnal equinox. We will do one or two hikes to backcountry sites (4-5 miles each). Reservations for campsites must be made by each SJBAS participant. For more information or to sign up, contact Paula Lutz at <a href="mailto:paula@durango.net">paula@durango.net</a> .
<b>October 5 – 7</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites</b> – 3-day camping trip. We will camp for two nights in a dispersed campsite and hike to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. 4WD/HC vehicles are required, and participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle Hancock at <a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a> .

<p><b>October 2, 3, 9 or 10 ??</b></p>	<p><b>Dinetah Pueblitos and rock art in Largo Canyon, New Mexico</b> – This will be a day trip to visit three Navajo Pueblitos and several rock art panels. We will drive down through Aztec and return through Ignacio. The longest walk is ¾ mile over relatively flat terrain. 4WD/HC vehicles are required; however, if heavy rains occur during the preceding week, we may postpone the trip because of slippery roads. The trip participation limit is 16; we will arrange carpools. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Bob Powell at <a href="mailto:robertpowell@durango.net">robertpowell@durango.net</a> or 970-385-8949.</p>
<p><b>October 9 – 11</b></p>	<p><b>Navajo Culture – Crown Point Rug Auction, Hubbell Trading Post, maybe Canyon de Chelly</b> – 2 to 3-day motel trip. For more information or to sign up, contact Randy Graham at <a href="mailto:rg44@bresnan.net">rg44@bresnan.net</a>.</p>
<p><b>October 14</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Fred Blackburn will present: "Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins."</p>
<p><b>October 1 – 15 ???? TBD</b></p>	<p><b>Paquime / Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico</b> – 4-day motel trip – This tour of Paquime and nearby archaeological sites leaves by van from Deming, NM. The tour leader is retired archaeologist Paul Minnis who has conducted excavations in the Casas Grandes area and published widely. We will also visit Cave of the Olla, Cuarenta Casas, the Paquime Museum, and various nearby cliff dwellings and some rock art. There will be optional side-trips to nearby historic Hacienda San Diego and an 1880's Mormon settlement. The town of Mata Ortiz is also known for its revivalist pottery industry inspired by Paquime. The cost is approximately \$1,000/person double occupancy and includes lodging, most meals, and travel by van. The first and last nights in Deming are not covered. Dr. Minnis is not charging for his time but would appreciate it if each participant made a contribution to the archaeology institution of their choice. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Hunter McCleary at <a href="mailto:hunter.mccleary@gmail.com">hunter.mccleary@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>November 11</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Rand Greubel, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, will present: "Archaeological Investigations: CDOT's Highway 550-160 Connection Project on Florida Mesa"</p>
<p><b>December 12</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch</b> – Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College</p>
<p><b>Other Related Trips and Activities</b></p>	
<p><b>June 11 – 16</b></p>	<p><b>San Juan River by Holiday Expeditions</b> – Sand Island to Clay Hills - Andy Gulliford goes along as historian.</p>
<p><b>August 11 – 14</b></p>	<p><b>Green River rafting by Holiday Expeditions</b> - Gates of Lodore - Andy Gulliford goes along as historian.</p>
<p><b>Not scheduled</b></p>	<p><b>Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park by Holiday Expeditions</b> - Weber Canyon horseback to Sandal House - day trip - Andy Gulliford goes along as historian.</p>
<p><b>September</b></p>	<p><b>Excavation Opportunity – Four Corners Research – Champagne Spring</b> – Follow this link for more information, <a href="http://www.fourcornersresearch.com">Champagne Spring Excavation</a>, or go to <a href="http://www.fourcornersresearch.com">www.fourcornersresearch.com</a> to download a sign-up sheet.</p>

October 17	International Archaeology Day
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## Regional Archaeology News

### “The Bears Ears Water Project: What Environmental Chemistry Reveals about Agriculture and Landscape Archaeology in the Greater Cedar Mesa Area”

R. E. Burrillo (SWCA Environmental Consultants) discusses the Water Project and his involvement in efforts to protect the greater Bears Ears landscape. Prospective visitors are strongly encouraged to learn how to visit with respect at the Bears Ears Education Center in Bluff, Utah. - January 7<sup>th</sup> Archaeology Café – Archaeology Southwest ([Link to discussion](#))

### Continuing Coverage: Chaco Buffer Zone

Months after the U.S. House passed a bill that would create a long-sought, 10-mile drilling ban on federal land around Chaco Culture National Historical Park, the Navajo Nation is demanding Congress cut the proposed protection zone in half. The Navajo Nation Council said the measure seeking a reduction in the Chaco buffer zone, approved Thursday on a vote of 18-1, is in response to concerns about the effects it could have on Navajo people who own land in the area. – Santa Fe New Mexican – ([Read article](#))

### Challenge to 10-Mile Chaco Buffer Zone; Paul Reed Responds

In late January, delegates of the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution seeking to reduce the proposed buffer zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park from 10 miles to 5. Paul F. Reed, Chaco Scholar and Preservation Archaeologist at Archaeology Southwest, issued the following statement: “The 10-mile cultural protection zone, as presented in congressional bills H.R. 2181 (passed House in 2019) and Senate 1079 (pending), around Chaco Culture National Historical Park was a compromise that was years in the making, involving discussions with multiple Native American Tribes, including the Navajo Nation, and the All-Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG). The zone is intended to protect 12 Chacoan great house communities that largely lie between 5 and 10 miles from the Chaco Park boundary.” – Archaeology Southwest ([Read statement](#))

### Commentary: Protecting Pinyon and Juniper Forests

Rooted in survival and ceremony, cultural uses of pinyon and juniper for the Diné, Hopi, Paiute, Ute, and other Native peoples range from food and medicine to firewood and art. The importance of the trees goes far beyond calories, warmth, and shelter, though. To Indigenous peoples, pinyon and juniper represent a way of life—a long-standing connection to the land—that continues to this day. – Kamran Zafar at the blog of the Grand Canyon Trust ([Read article](#))

### Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico expands land holdings

The National Park Service announced recently that it has completed the purchase of a 40-acre parcel known as Sulphur Springs within the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Many of the geothermal features on the property are found nowhere else in New Mexico, and similar sites are very rare in the western United States, officials

said. The acidic pools and streams in the area also are home to a range of “extremophile” algae and bacteria. Acquiring Sulphur Springs was critical to protecting the breadth of geothermal features within the preserve, officials said. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

### **Far View Reservoir – Mummy Lake an Unroofed Ceremonial Structure within a Large-Scale Ritual Landscape**

The structure at Mesa Verde National Park known historically as Mummy Lake and more recently as Far View Reservoir is not part of a water collection, impoundment, or redistribution system. We offer an alternative explanation for the function of Mummy Lake. We suggest that it is an unroofed ceremonial structure, and that it serves as an essential component of a Chacoan ritual landscape. A wide constructed avenue articulates Mummy Lake with Far View House and Pipe Shrine House. The avenue continues southward for approximately 6 km where it apparently divides connecting with Spruce Tree House and Sun Temple/Cliff Palace. The avenue has previously been interpreted as an irrigation ditch fed by water impounded at Mummy Lake; however, it conforms in every respect to alignments described as Chacoan roads. Tree-ring dates indicate that the construction of Spruce Tree House and Cliff Palace began about A.D. 1225, roughly coincident with the abandonment of the Far View community. This pattern of periodically relocating the focus of an Anasazi community by retiring existing ritual structures and linking them to newly constructed facilities by means of broad avenues was first documented by Fowler and Stein (1992) in Manuelito Canyon, New Mexico. Periods of intense drought appear to have contributed to the relocation of prehistoric Native Americans from the Far View Group to Cliff Palace/Spruce Tree House in the mid-13th century and eventually to the abandonment of all Anasazi communities in southwestern Colorado in the late-13th century. – ResearchGate ([Read article](#))

### **New Documentary Features Three Conflicts Involving Public Lands**

*No Man's Land* director David Garrett Byars is behind the documentary about America's public lands. Through the work of Montana investigative journalist Hal Herring, *Public Trust* focuses on three land-based conflicts: the slashing of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah; the potential permanent destruction of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota; and the de facto sale of one of the last wild places in America, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Using extensive research and interviews with tribal leaders, government whistleblowers, journalists and historians, *Public Trust* follows the people who are fighting back, including Native American activist Angelo Baca, Gwich'in Steering Committee's Bernadette Demientieff and Spencer Shaver, a defender of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. – Hollywood Reporter ([Read article](#))

### **New Management Areas Protect Archaeology in Southwestern Colorado**

The Bureau of Land Management Tres Rios Field Office has designated three areas of critical environmental concern in Montezuma and San Miguel counties. The new amendment to the 2015 Resource Management Plan designates the Mesa Verde Escarpment (7,373 acres) and Ancestral Puebloan ACEC (792 acres) in Montezuma County, and the Gypsum Valley ACEC (6,170 acres) in San Miguel County. Areas deemed of critical environmental concern require special management attention to protect important historic, cultural and scenic values; fish, wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. The designation allows for development and recreation with a management focus to avoid or protect areas with significant ecological or cultural values. – The Journal ([Read article](#))

## SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2020

President	Rege Leach	<a href="mailto:rleach@frontier.net">rleach@frontier.net</a>
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<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>
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## San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**