

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

October 2015

Next SJBAS Meeting – October 8th

Our next SJBAS meeting will be held Thursday, October 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at FLC. Our speaker will be Dr. Tim Maxwell, presenting "The Place In Between: Casas Grandes, the U.S. Southwest and Mesoamerica".

The prehistoric town of Paquimé, in the Casas Grandes region of northern Chihuahua, was the center of the largest trade network in the Southwest. Many explanations have been offered on the size of the network, who controlled it, and its disappearance. The Mexican states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Zacatecas lie between the complex cultures of Mesoamerica and the pueblo world of the U.S. Southwest. Did Mesoamerican societies influence the people in these remote, largely desert regions? Were the pueblo people of New Mexico and Arizona affected by Mesoamerica? The nature of the relationship will be explored.

Tim Maxwell, Ph.D., is director emeritus of the Museum of New Mexico, Office of Archaeological Studies. He has worked in Southwest Archaeology for almost 40 years and in northern Mexico for 15 years. He has been a Fulbright scholar and is currently involved with historic preservation organizations in Santa Fe.

September 10th Monthly Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Janice Sheftel, President. Janice welcomed members and visitors and announced that Tish Varney was circulating a sign-in sheet to keep records of attendance at the monthly meetings.

Foxie Mason announced that she is selling raffle tickets for the *Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund* on behalf of CAS and tickets are \$3 each, 4 for \$10. The prizes include a seed pot and two hand-carved flutes by David Nigteagle.

Janice reminded the attendees that the Colorado Archaeology Society (CAS) 80th annual meeting and conference will be held in Durango, hosted by the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society with events beginning Friday, October 9th, an all-day conference and banquet on October 10th, a free PAAC course and several field trips on October 11th. The keynote speaker for the banquet is Dr. Doug Owsley presenting his studies of the *Kennewick Man*. Janice encouraged members and visitors to register for the event and referred to the club's website for a link to registration forms.

SJBAS was successful in being selected for a \$750 grant from the Ballantine Family Fund. The Board will be talking to Julie Tapley-Booth about using those funds to sponsor Fort Lewis College students to attend the conference.

Tish Varney announced a need for additional volunteers to assist during the conference, specifically: individuals to be “timers” on Saturday to help the presenters keep track of remaining time towards the end of presentations; a greeter for the film showing Sunday evening, and a volunteer to place and remove directional signs to the Lyceum before and after the showing.

Janice then made some brief announcements concerning upcoming field trips and PAAC Courses:

- The Mesa Verde field trip September 16 - 17 is full but still accepting names for the waiting list.
- There is room on the Navajo Pueblito field trip on October 11th which is part of the CAS Conference field trip offering. SJBAS members are welcome to attend the field trip whether or not they sign up for the CAS Conference.
- Tish announced that the PAAC course on October 11th offered as part of the CAS Conference will be free and is great for those who write site survey reports for the State.
- The next PAAC course about ceramics will be held in November at the Anasazi Heritage Center.

There being no further club business, Janice adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and introduced the evening program:

*Eating Along the Edges of Agriculture:
A Comparison of Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan Coprolites
from the Northern Colorado Plateau*
Dr. Tim Riley

“This talk presents an evaluation of coprolite specimens from Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan sites as records of individual dietary decisions. Most archaeologists recognize that the Ancestral Puebloans were farmers heavily dependent on their staple crop of maize.

Fremont diet has been seen as much more variable, with maize farming being only a part of their broader subsistence strategy. Coprolite specimens present a direct opportunity to compare and contrast the dietary patterns among these contemporary archaeological cultures. Prior studies of coprolites from this region have greatly expanded our knowledge of past subsistence patterns, but have not taken full advantage of the record of individual dietary decisions recorded in each coprolite specimen. Patterns of dietary consumption related to seasonality, habitat exploitation and diet breadth are all present in the data available from coprolite specimens. The menus, or dietary combinations, reflected in individual coprolite specimens are assessed through the identification of congruent dietary components from each specimen. The resultant menus reflected in these clusters are evaluated with reference to a diet-breadth model developed for the region.”

As a paleo-ethno botanist, Dr. Riley has a keen interest in learning the foodways of pre-historic peoples. He wants to know what foods to prepare for his classes that would be about the same as the Ancestral Puebloans and Fremont cultures prepared for themselves. There are several ways to go about learning past foodways. How were foods prepared? What evidence is there for food processing? What evidence for cooking? What items were eaten... domesticates like maize, squash, beans, etc.; wild plants; wild animals. How to account for geographic and temporal variability.

To learn how foods were prepared and cooked, one can study features such as grinding stones, clay-lined hearths, earth ovens (i.e., agave roasting pits), ceramic vessels, parching trays, and boiling baskets. The study of stable isotopes in bone collagen can give a broad picture of long term accumulation of general categories of food items. For example, the presence of carbon reflects the photosynthetic path of plants eaten, whereas nitrogen reflects intake of animal protein.

Stable isotope analyses in Fremont areas near the Great Salt Lake indicated that more mammals were eaten than fowl. Social status and gender also played a part in what foods were eaten. Males that were elaborately interned revealed higher consumption of maize. Temporal differences showed increasing maize from AD 400 – 850, more mixed economy

from AD 850 – 1150, and more wild plants after 1150. After 1150 there was less nutritional stress as evidenced by increased skeletal robusticity.

Established villages showed a higher dependence on maize and lower levels of animal protein. This makes sense as the wild animals in the vicinity of a long lasting village would become depleted due to hunting pressure. Faunal remains in the Great Salt Lake area indicate animals such as fish, waterfowl, muskrats, and an occasional bison in the diet. South of the Wasatch Front and on the Colorado Plateau, an artiodactyl index indicates deer, bighorn sheep, and antelope in the diet, along with lagomorphs (rabbits and hares). In more sedentary sites, there are fewer deer and more lagomorphs. In more highly mobile sites, there are more deer and fewer lagomorphs.

In biological studies, there are issues of preservation and recovery. In situ recovery is problematic. Flotation can be used to find carbonized plant remains. Pollen has limited utility for dietary reconstruction. Fremont sites showed dietary use of seeds, fruits, nuts, cactus, three types of maize, two types of beans, and squash. Residue analysis, starch and phytoliths can be determined from dental calculus (tartar).

Written ethnographic records do not exist. The Great Basin hunter gatherers came later; they had highly diversified diets. The Ancestral Puebloans used many wild supplements in a maize dominated diet. All in all, there are many limitations of evidence for pre-historic foodways.

Coprolites are fossilized or desiccated fecal material. Fecal material can be found in cess pits or latrines, intestinal contents from mummified burial (the last meal), or as coprolites, individually recognizable specimens. Coprolites were first analyzed by Dr. Eric O. Callen, a plant pathologist in Canada. In 1955 he developed a rehydrating technique, necessary to analyze a coprolite. In the 1970's modern analytical techniques were developed as part of processual archaeology to try and understand past human behavior.

Coprolites are complex biological artifacts. There are botanical and faunal components and health indicators. Biochemical analysis is important. Preservation is limited to arid, water logged or frozen sites. Protection from the elements in buildings and rock shelters is critical. As artifacts, coprolites offer very uncommon representation of past behavior, as they are specific to an individual.

So... how similar were Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan diets? Nearly all Ancestral Puebloan meals contained maize, and most contained maize with various wild resources. The Fremont used maize in approximately 41% of their meals, but the majority did not contain maize. Thus, maize in Fremont meals was not as dominant as in Ancestral Puebloan meals. Fremont meals were more similar to Basketmaker meals of mostly wild resources than Ancestral Puebloan meals of mostly maize.

New SJBAS Members

SJBAS would like to welcome new members Rege and Nancy Leach, and Judy Schaefer.

CAS Amended and Restated Articles and Bylaws - September 1, 2015

At the upcoming CAS Annual Meeting in Durango on Saturday, October 10, 2015, all members present will be asked to approve the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Amended and Restated Bylaws that the CAS Board of Directors has been working on for over a year. These documents can be found on the State CAS website: [Constitution and Bylaws](#). Please review these documents and let your Chapter President or CAS Representative know if you have any questions or concerns. You may also contact [Sharon Murphy](#) and [Karen Kinnear](#) with your questions or concerns. In order to vote, a CAS member must attend the annual meeting.

80th CAS Annual Meeting and Conference at Fort Lewis College - October 9th – 11th

SJBAS is excited to be hosting the 80th CAS annual meeting and conference. This is a great opportunity for SJBAS members to participate in activities with the state organization that we all belong to. There will be a reception at the Toh-Atin Gallery and buffet dinner at the Himalaya Kitchen on Friday evening. On Saturday the conference will include a number of archaeological papers and presentations, an evening banquet and keynote presentation by Dr. Doug Owsley, “Kennewick Man: The Scientific Investigation of an Ancient American Skeleton” at the Fort Lewis College ballroom. A number of field trips to local archaeological sites and institutions will be available on Sunday. There are volunteer opportunities for SJBAS members to help with the conference. To volunteer, please contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net. Follow the links below for more information and to register for the conference and field trips. It is not too late to register, but you must register before October 5th if you want to dine at the conference.

[Annual Meeting Information](#)

[Annual Meeting Registration Form](#)

[Annual Meeting Field Trip Registration Form](#)

CAS Conference Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Doug Owsley: “Kennewick Man: The Scientific Investigation of an Ancient American Skeleton”

- Steven G. Baker and Rick Hendricks: Juan Rivera and the Legend of Teguayo and Its Bearded Indians Who Looked Like Europeans: Lost Spanish Sailors or Descendants of Ancient Paleoamericans?
- Bruce Bradley: Since Monte Verde: continuing developments in the understanding of the peopling of South America
- Jason Chuipka: Sacred Ridge and the Animas-La Plata Archaeological Project, 10 Years Later
- Kaitlyn Davis: Smoking Customs and Plains-Pueblo Interaction at Pecos Pueblo
- Kathy Fine-Dare: NAGPRA at the 25 Year Mark: Compliance, Education, and other Obligations and Opportunities
- Dave Dove: Power Accumulation, Expression and Transfer at Mitchell Springs
- Pascale Meehan: Through Weeds and Water: Initial investigation results from the site of Zacatepec, Oaxaca, Mexico
- Paul Reed: Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape
- Charles R. Riggs: Hearths, “Kivas,” and Households at the Pigg Site: An Architectural Strong Analytical Case from Southwest Colorado
- Cliff Spencer: Running the Circus from the Monkey Cage
- Linda Wheelbarger: Ten Years at Point Pueblo
- Mark Varien: The Pueblo Farming Project: A Hopi-Crow Canyon Collaboration to Understand Ancestral Pueblo Maize Farming
- Laurie Webster: Re-excavating Ancient Textiles, Baskets, Wood, and Hides from Southeastern Utah: The Thrills and Challenges of Working with Older Museum Collections

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument – Trip report by Foxie Mason

Nine enthusiastic SJBAS travelers drove across western Colorado and most of southern Utah to participate in a tour of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM), August 25 - 28, 2015. The trip itinerary included a stop at the Big Water, Utah GSENM Visitor Center for an extremely interesting talk by James Cates, about the discovery of a wide variety of (more than 4,000) late Cretaceous Era dinosaurs, some never before identified. About 400 have already been excavated by more than 123 different academic paleontology programs and institutions.

Next day, a planned tour of Virgin River Ancestral Pueblo sites was to occur with the GSENM archaeologist, Matt Zweifel out of Kanab, Utah. Due to an unexpected half-day torrential downpour which closed the road to the sites, the group met with Matt for more than 3 hours of presentations about his work and research in the Monument. The morning was capped by a back of the house tour of the Paleontology Laboratory at the BLM Administrative Center where we viewed the ongoing work on a variety of dinosaur specimens and enjoyed an al fresco lunch with Matt on the BLM outdoor porch. That afternoon we had an exceptionally informative visit to Pipe Spring, which became a National Monument in 1923. Located in the "Arizona Strip", the site is located at a spring critical to the Paiute Indian tribe, and has a storied history. First serving as a stronghold fort against Navaho raids, then as Brigham Young's cattle ranch, and later as a "sanctuary" and holdout for the multiple wives of Mormon pioneers who were evading the investigations of U.S. Marshalls seeking to prosecute polygamists.

Next day the group traveled to the north portion of the Park and visited the GSENM Visitor Center at Escalante, Utah. The original plan was to tour Fremont Ancestral Indian sites along the Escalante River, with a BLM guide, but events conspired against us. Our BLM guide was sent to Washington State to fight the fires there and our attempt to "self-guide" ourselves along the river trail were thwarted by high water runoff from the previous day's rainfall which prevented us from making the necessary river crossings to reach a number of panel and occupation sites. We, however, hiked the Upper Calf Creek Trail and enjoyed the wonderful Utah canyon country. On the last day, we visited Anasazi State Park, operated by the State of Utah and enjoyed a talk by the Director, Mike Nelson, after which the group departed for home.

Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

Our complete 2015 Field Trip Schedule is available on our website at www.sjbas.org/Trips.htm. Please check the website schedule periodically to check for trip updates and contact the trip leaders directly by phone or email for trip details and to sign up.

October 8	SJBAS meeting - speaker Tim Maxwell, presenting "The Place In Between: Casas Grandes, the U.S. Southwest and Mesoamerica".
October 9 - 11	CAS annual meeting and conference – Durango – SJBAS is host We hope to see lots of SJBAS members at the conference. We also need volunteers. Please contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net for more information and to sign up.
October 11	Pueblitos near Navajo Reservoir – New Mexico This trip is open to CAS annual meeting participants, but there is also room for SJBAS members. This will be a day trip to visit three Navajo Pueblitos. We will drive down through Aztec and return through Ignacio. The longest walk is ¾ mile over relatively flat terrain. 4WD/HC vehicles are necessary. The trip participation limit is 16; we will arrange carpools. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Bob Powell at robertpowell@durango.net or phone 970-385-8949.
October 19 – 21	Canyonlands N. P. Rock Art – Utah This will be a 3-day camping trip to visit rock art sites in Indian Creek Canyon and the Needles District of Canyonlands N.P. The hiking will be moderately difficult with some off-trail hiking required; hikes may be up to six miles long. 4WD/HC vehicles will be necessary, but carpooling will be arranged. We will camp at the Squaw Flats C.G. group campsite in Canyonlands N.P. The trip participation limit is 12.

	For more information or to sign up, contact trip leaders Barb and Lyle Hancock at lylehancock@bresnan.net or 970-764-4531. Trip is full, but there is a waiting list.
November 12	SJBAS meeting - speaker Mike Adler, SMU-Taos
December 10	SJBAS annual meeting and holiday party – Fort Lewis College Ballroom



2015 CAS Raffle Prizes (3)

Native American Flute, 25" Wolf Flute, key of G#, #3501, Cedar. Hand-carved, signed and numbered by Colorado artist-musician David Nigteagle. Donated by Doug Sproul, Pikes Peak Chapter. Beaded flute wrap by 'Sam' Rutter. Custom quilted bag. Estimated combined value \$395.

Acoma Polychrome Seed Pot by Carolyn Concha. Spherical, 7"-diameter, donated by the Reagans, Pikes Peak Chapter. Estimated value \$350.

Native American Flute, 32" Eagle, key of B, #3081, walnut. Hand-carved, signed and numbered by Colorado artist-musician David Nigteagle. Donated by Doug Sproul, Pikes Peak Chapter. Beaded flute wrap by 'Sam' Rutter. Custom quilted bag. Estimated combined value \$425.

The drawing for these two flutes and painted bowl will be part the CAS Conference October 9 - 11 in Durango. Tickets are available at Chapter meetings at 1 for \$3 or 4 for \$10. The purchase price of the tickets is tax deductible.

CAS Chapter News

Hisatsinom Newsletter - October

[Hisatsinom Newsletter October 2015](#)

As part of the Four Corners Lecture Series, the Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Chuck LaRue and Laurie Webster on October 6th at 7:00 PM at the Sunflower Theatre, 8 E. Main St., Cortez, CO to discuss "Ancient Woodworking, Animal Use, and Hunting Practices in Southeastern Utah: New Insights from the Study of Early Perishable Collections." Chuck and Laurie will discuss some of the over 1500 perishable artifacts from Cedar Mesa that have been "re-excavated" from museum collections as a part of the Cedar Mesa Perishables Project. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Colorado Archaeological Society News

CAS Surveyor <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/PUBLICATIONS/Newsletters/Newsletters.htm>

CAS Bulletin Board <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/bulletinboard.htm>

CAS Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1425711501080053/>

Please share your photos, upcoming events, links to archaeological articles etc. and let other CAS chapters in the state know what you have been up to.

Fort Lewis College



CENTER of SOUTHWEST STUDIES
FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Reconciling Water Rights, Law, Justice, & Ecology in the 21st Century

Monday, October 5th at 6:00 pm ~ Lyceum Room 120



a talk by Eric Perramond

Associate Professor of Environmental Science & Southwest Studies at Colorado College

Water rights adjudications are one of the most consequential state procedures in the American West.

These legal and administrative pursuits quantify, and locate, every water rights user in each state.

Why do we know so little about these adjudications? What are their consequences for water users in New Mexico? And most importantly, what does the water adjudication process tell us about our changing cultural relationship with water itself?

Free lecture, open to the public.

970-247-7456

swcenter.fortlewis.edu

CSWSMail@fortlewis.edu

Four Corners Archaeology News

Annual RIMS TO RUINS Art Exhibit Plays Critical Role in Funding Mesa Verde Foundation

September 15, 2015 - Englewood, CO - On November 7, 2015, join nationally recognized artists of the West to help raise money for the Mesa Verde Foundation. The annual RIMS TO RUINS event will feature stunning artwork of Mesa Verde National Park and the Colorado Plateau captured by regional artists with proceeds supporting specific park projects such as the restoration of the iconic Cliff Palace.



Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde National Park

Event Details:

WHEN: Saturday, November 7, 2015 6:00pm

WHERE: The Kent Denver School
4000 E Quincy Ave, Englewood, CO 80113

HOW: \$50 tickets available at www.mesaverdefoundation.org
or by phone (303) 321-3120

Art lovers and RIMS TO RUINS guests are also encouraged to attend an Art Talk and Luncheon with artists Jim Asher and Joe Anna Arnett November 6th at Cherry Hills Country Club (\$75 per person).

Visit this link for a short video about the stabilization of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=896RsnFAZ2o>

About Mesa Verde Foundation

[Mesa Verde Foundation](#) acts as the main philanthropic partner for Mesa Verde National Park, which is located in **Montezuma County, Colorado**, near the southwestern corner of the state. Because only a small portion of entrance fees paid to the park actually go toward the preservation of Mesa Verde, extra funding is necessary to keep this ancient treasure intact for future generations.

Mesa Verde Foundation exists to **fund capital improvements, projects** and **educational endeavors** for Mesa Verde National Park in order to promote an understanding of its cultural and natural resources

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Foundation relies heavily upon the support and generosity of our donors and Fellows members to turn these preservation efforts into a reality.

Visit www.MesaVerdeFoundation or call (303) 321-3120 for more information on supporting Mesa Verde National Park and upcoming Foundation events. Additional information can be found at facebook.com/MesaVerdeFoundation and nps.gov/meve/index.htm.

Mesa Verde National Park – Cliff Palace in Danger of Slipping

In the fall months of 2015, teams of archeologists and stabilization experts will be actively working in the southern end of the Cliff Palace alcove to restore aging retaining walls dating back to the 1930's.

The root of Cliff Palace's structural problems is the foundations - really the lack of them - upon which the entire southern end of the community was built in the 13th century. Although the northern areas appear firmly based on bedrock, the southern end is footed in loose unconsolidated soil and rubble. Without a solid base, the structures in the southern end of the site are sliding downhill at uneven rates, leading to cracks and general instability that will lead to wall collapse if left untreated.

Cliff Palace has stood for hundreds of years, why is it deteriorating now?

When the park initially opened in 1906, the problem of preserving it was complicated by its terraced front. In some places, the walls in front of the alcove floor had to be rebuilt. By the end of the 1933 travel season, a program of repair and protection was prepared. Cliff Palace, was moving and settling slightly on its foundations. With increased visitation it became necessary to close the main portion of Cliff Palace to visitor entry as the vibration caused by heavy traction was causing some of the prehistoric terraces to deteriorate at a rapid rate.

Why are you doing this work?

Cliff Palace is significant to millions of people who have walked its ancient pathways. It is particularly important in the traditions of the Pueblo people of the American Southwest. It also is a much-beloved part of Mesa Verde. The national parks, including Mesa Verde, exist thanks to citizens who, more than 100 years ago, committed to setting aside these special places for the future.

Funds that are raised for the park by the Mesa Verde Foundation's fundraising efforts, such as Rims to Ruins, a western Art Exhibition and Sale on November 7, will go directly to the foundation and restoration projects such as this on behalf of the park. For more information or to purchase tickets to the event visit: mesaverdefoundation.org.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to help stabilize Cliff Palace and would like to make a reservation to attend Rims to Ruins, please contact the Mesa Verde Foundation at info@mesaverdefoundation.org or call the foundation at 303-321-3120 or 970-799-0920. You will make a difference.

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Jim Mueller	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Vice President Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Secretary	Barb Hancock	barbhancock@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
CAS Representative	Terri Hoff	tthoff@hotmail.com
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

Moki Messenger contact	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Please complete the SJBAS application package, including liability waiver and site etiquette forms, <http://www.sjbas.org/Application.pdf>, make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the application forms to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**