

# SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



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

## The Moki Messenger

September 2016

### Next SJBAS Monthly Meeting – September 8<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, speaker Dr. Dawn Mulhern will present “Mortuary Practices of Durango Basketmakers.”

Dawn M. Mulhern is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Coordinator of the Forensic Studies Minor, and NAGPRA Coordinator at Fort Lewis College. She received her B.S. from Cornell University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Mulhern’s teaching and research interests are in skeletal biology, forensic anthropology, paleopathology, human evolution, and repatriation. She is currently collaborating with Mona Charles on two projects studying the Basketmaker II people from the Durango area, including the Darkmold site and Falls Creek Shelters. Dr. Mulhern presents papers annually at national conferences and has taught at workshops in forensic histology at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Dr. Mulhern currently serves as the college’s NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) Coordinator. She currently teaches Introduction to Anthropology, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Human Biological Variation, Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Osteology and Bioarchaeology, Research in Human Origins, and Fundamentals of Anthropological Research.

### SJBAS Meeting Report - August 11<sup>th</sup>

Submitted by Jill Tripp

Attendance: approximately 55

This meeting was held in collaboration with the Four Corners Summer Lecture Series, and was preceded by a reception in the foyer of the Center of Southwest Studies. President Janice Sheftel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She welcomed everyone, and invited anyone interested to join SJBAS. Tish Varney then announced some upcoming field trips for members: September 25 - 26 to Oak Tree House at Mesa Verde and October 1 to Yucca House National Monument with NPS interpreter Jill Blumenthal as guide. Bob Powell also mentioned his upcoming field trip on October 15 to visit Navajo Pueblito sites in New Mexico.

Tish discussed the PAAC program and mentioned the new Assistant State Archaeologist Chris Johnson, who will be teaching the next PAAC course on Archaeological Lab Techniques to be held in Dolores on November 5 - 6. Janice then introduced our speaker, Dr. Laurie Webster, and thanked her for agreeing to speak on short notice when the originally scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Laurie presented a fascinating talk entitled "Clothes Make the Person: Clothing Diversity in the Pre-Hispanic Southwest", accompanied by many slides showing clothing from her research of numerous collections.

## Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| September 8       | <b>SJBAS meeting - speaker Dawn Mulhern from FLC - "Mortuary Practices of the Durango Basketmakers"</b>  |
| September 15 - 18 | <b>Rock Art near Bluff and Ancestral Puebloan Sites on Comb Ridge - Utah</b><br>This four-day camping trip will start with a reception in Bluff and short hikes to nearby rock art panels. Then the group will make a base camp along Butler Wash and do several moderately difficult day hikes to remote Ancestral Puebloan sites on <a href="#">Comb Ridge</a> . Hikes are generally less than six miles roundtrip, but do include off trail scrambling. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information and to sign up, contact trip leader Andy Gulliford at <a href="mailto:gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu">gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu</a> . This trip is full, but there is a wait list.  |
| September 25 - 26 | <b>Mesa Verde Backcountry Hike with NPS guide</b><br>This will be a two-day trip with an afternoon hike to <a href="#">Petroglyph Point</a> on the first day, an optional overnight at <a href="#">Far View Lodge</a> , and a backcountry hike on the second day to <b>Oak Tree House</b> . This 2-hour, 1-mile round-trip hike is moderately strenuous. Expect a narrow, unpaved, uneven trail, with steps carved into the sandstone, steep drop-offs, and two ladders (4-foot and 15-foot). Total elevation change is 200 feet. Trip limit is 10, tour fee is \$25. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leaders Jim and Rhonda at <a href="mailto:rhondaandjim@msn.com">rhondaandjim@msn.com</a> . This trip is full, but there is a wait list. |
| October 1         | <b>Yucca House National Monument</b><br>This is a day trip to one of the largest Ancestral Puebloan sites in Southwest Colorado. The tour of this unexcavated <a href="#">puebloan community</a> near Cortez will be led by NPS guide Jill Blumenthal. For more information or to sign up, contact Tish Varney at <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> or 970-259-4099.  |
| October 7 - 10    | <b>CAS annual meeting and conference in Grand Junction - <a href="#">Follow this link to register</a></b>  |
| October 13        | <b>SJBAS meeting- Dan Simplicio from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center - "What Happens When Migration Stops?"</b>  |
| October 15        | <b>Pueblitos near Navajo Reservoir – New Mexico</b><br>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, but we will arrange carpools if necessary. The trip participation limit is 16. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Bob Powell at <a href="mailto:robertlpowell@durango.net">robertlpowell@durango.net</a> or 970-385-8949.  |
| November 10       | <b>SJBAS meeting - speaker Sherrill Spaar - "Archaeology of Greece"</b>  |
| December 8        | <b>SJBAS Holiday Party – Fort Lewis College Ballroom</b>   |

## PAAC Schedule – August through December

Follow this link for the second half of the 2016 PAAC Schedule: [PAAC Schedule 2016 2nd half](#)

## Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) News

### CAS Annual Meeting and Conference - October 7 - 10, 2016

Steve Lekson, Ph.D. will be the Saturday night keynote speaker. Dr. Lekson is Curator of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History and a Professor in the Department of Anthropology. Follow this link for a [conference overview](#) and [follow this link to register](#).

**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.

### 2016 Alice Hamilton Scholarship Raffle

The 2016 Scholarship Raffle Prize is the "Zebra Sentinel", a 32-inch tall decorative ceramic vessel made especially for CAS by Pikes Peak Chapter member and nationally-known ceramic artist Jerry Rhodes. ([See the 2016 Raffle Flyer...](#)) SJBAS board members will have tickets on sale at upcoming meetings and events. Tickets are \$3 each and four for \$10. If you cannot wait for the next meeting, please contact Terri Hoff at [tthoff@hotmail.com](mailto:tthoff@hotmail.com) or phone 970-882-2191.

### Article in High Country News about the proposed Bears Ears national monument

**“Don’t let Bears Ears go the way of Moab”** Conservationists in Moab, have been heartened by the strong statewide and national support for the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. Yet this author was struck by how many people also say that they do not want to become “another Moab.” [Read article](#)

### Archaeology Southwest – Exploring and protecting the places of our past

**Bears Ears Initiative:** Archaeology Southwest joins the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition](#) and the [Friends of Cedar Mesa](#) in urging President Obama to declare the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. [Follow this link to the Bears Ears initiative website](#)

**Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape:** The Greater Chaco Landscape is threatened by oil and gas development. But with your help, we can change course and bring additional protection to Chaco’s fragile cultural treasures. The BLM can use a tool known as a “master leasing plan” for the Greater Chaco Landscape in order to strike a balance between responsible energy development and the protection of communities and cultural resources. This approach would help ensure that where development does occur, it happens responsibly, and not at the detriment of people, natural resources, or cultural resources. [Follow this link to the Coalition to Protect Greater Chaco website](#)

**Camp Naco Strategic Preservation Plan:** Built in 1919, Camp Naco was part of a thousand-mile long “human fence along the border.” In 2006, the remaining complex of 20 adobe buildings, located just 700 yards from the

International Border, was threatened with imminent demolition. Since then, a team of committed preservationists has gone to work to protect this historic site. [Read Preservation Plan](#)

**Coordinated Resource Management Planning for Arizona’s Perry Mesa:** The archaeological record of Perry Mesa exemplifies a pattern that occurred throughout central Arizona in the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries. Groups moved from valleys to upland areas, where they aggregated into relatively large pueblo villages and devoted considerable attention to defense and long-distance trade. On Perry Mesa, hundreds of archaeological sites exist within a distinctive natural landscape. Archaeology Southwest is participating in planning efforts to promote Perry Mesa’s important cultural resource values. [Visit website](#)

## Four Corners Research-Archaeology in the Mesa Verde Region

This fascinating website is dedicated to the archaeological work being done at the Mitchell Springs and Champagne Springs communities near Cortez. This site was created as a repository for information generated during research and survey projects performed from 1988 - 2004. Subsequent research conducted by members of various Chapters of the Colorado Archaeological Society will also be posted here. Current research involves test excavations at the Mitchell Springs Ruin Group and Champagne Spring Ruins: [Mitchell Springs and Champagne Springs](#).

## Solving the abandonment mystery of the Four Corners Region – Steve Lekson, Ph.D.

The abandonment of the Four Corners is a classic theme in Southwestern archaeology: at about AD 1250, tens of thousands of people lived in hundreds of villages around the Four Corners area, from the Mesa Verde district on the east to the Kayenta district on the west. By AD 1300, the area was effectively empty. [Read this in depth article](#)

## SJBAS Elected Officers

|                     |                        |  |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| President           | Janice Sheftel         | <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> |
| Vice President      | Florence (Foxie) Mason | <a href="mailto:fmason@frontier.net">fmason@frontier.net</a>         |
| Vice President      | Jim Mueller            | <a href="mailto:rhondaandjim@msn.com">rhondaandjim@msn.com</a>       |
| Field Trip Program  | Lyle Hancock           | <a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a> |
| Secretary           | Barb Hancock           | <a href="mailto:barbhancock@bresnan.net">barbhancock@bresnan.net</a> |
| Treasurer           | Mark Gebhardt          | <a href="mailto:mark@virtbiz.com">mark@virtbiz.com</a>               |
| CAS Representative  | Tish Varney            | <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>           |
| PAAC Representative | Tish Varney            | <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>           |

## Other Positions

|                                 |                |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Moki Messenger editor           | Lyle Hancock   | <a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a> |
| Programming Chair               | Janice Sheftel | <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> |
| Publicity Chair                 | Jill Tripp     | <a href="mailto:jtripp51@yahoo.com">jtripp51@yahoo.com</a>           |
| Webmaster and email coordinator | Lyle Hancock   | <a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a> |

## 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 our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**