



THE MOKI MESSENGER

APRIL 2021

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Next meeting – April 14th by Zoom

On Wednesday, April 14th, at 7:00 p.m. we will use Zoom for a brief business meeting and Fred Blackburn will present: "Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins."

Fred Blackburn is a fourth generation Colorado Native. Born in the miners' hospital in Telluride, Colorado. Fred remains attached to the Colorado Plateau.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Histories from Fort Lewis College in 1971 and his teaching certificate for secondary science in 1990. Fred began his career in Utah as a ranger at Natural Bridges National Monument. He was hired as one of the first two rangers for the fledgling Grand Gulch Ranger Program in southeastern Utah in 1974. Fred moved to Cortez, Colorado in 1979 to assist in the early establishment of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

Fred returned to Blanding Utah in 1981 helping establish White Mesa Institute, an experiential research program sponsored by the College of Eastern Utah. The White Mesa Institute changed and grew into the Wetherill/Grand Gulch Project, an extended retracing of the Wetherill and other expeditions into Grand Gulch. Fred has been an independent guide, historian, author, and farmer/rancher in Montezuma County.

Fred is published both as a researcher and author. "Cowboys and Cave Dwellers" 1997: Now in its seventh printing; "The Wetherills - Friends of Mesa Verde" 2009. Fred collaborated with photographer Claus Mrocynski in writing text for "Sacred Places of the Southwest," a coffee table book on special cultural places of the Colorado Plateau. His last book "The Wetherills, Friends of Mesa Verde" was published as part of the Centennial series for Mesa Verde National Park.

Date: **April 14th**
Time: **7:00 p.m. MDT**

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCsOWTN1T0lmUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members,

I hope this finds you doing well. Crocuses are blooming and daffodils will be here soon.

I also hope you have been enjoying our monthly presentations. Zoom has made it possible to feature speakers from across the country - one bonus of the pandemic. We still look forward to meeting in person again.

We are making progress filling our open positions. Lorraine McCleary will be our new Field Trip Coordinator, Hunter McCleary will be our new *Moki Messenger* Editor, and Byron Kellogg will be the new Communications Chair. We are very excited to have them aboard!

We are still looking for a Webmaster. After we get our new site up and running, the average time required to maintain it is an hour or two per month. Please email me at sc53hicks@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer for this position.

The next Board meeting will be held using Zoom on April 8th from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. If you would like to find out what is happening and attend this meeting, please send an email to Hunter McCleary at info@bike-durango.org. We will work on fine tuning our goals for the year and continue to plan for the time when we are able to do activities in person.

Thank you to all of the current and past volunteers. You make SJBAS work!

Kind regards,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

SJBAS Website issues

We are updating our website and the existing site can no longer be edited or updated. However, you can still access our site at www.sjbas.org and visit the various pages. Unfortunately, the Home page monthly meeting information is for March; however, the Zoom credentials and sign-up information are the same for the April Zoom meeting. We hope to have an updated site up and running as soon as possible and we apologize for any inconvenience this outage causes.

New Field Trip Coordinator - Lorraine McCleary

Lorraine and her husband, Hunter, have lived in Durango for three years and joined SJBAS shortly after moving here. They are site stewards for S.W. Colorado Canyons Alliance, monitoring Ancestral Puebloan sites in Sand



Canyon and Durango. Lorraine also volunteers monitoring hummingbirds in Mesa Verde NP and has been a D.N.S. docent. She is an avid gardener and hiker.

Lorraine grew up in Michigan and graduated from U. of Mich. with a BS in Physical Therapy (PT). She received her MS in PT from Boston Univ. She and Hunter met at BU and began a life of moving with Hunter's job working as a pediatric PT in school systems, hospitals (Boston Children's Hospital and Stanford Medical Center) and managing a private practice while simultaneously raising their three active children. She also taught Yoga at a studio in VA for a decade.

After retirement in Virginia, they moved to Boston for 15 months to help raise a grandchild while their oldest son and his wife finished medical residencies.

While living in Boston, Lorraine squeezed in docent work at Ipswich Audubon Sanctuary. Then she and Hunter traveled in a pop-up trailer for 15 months to National Park and Monument sites across the US and Canada (250 parks and monuments in the US alone!). While campground hosting at Canyonlands and Hovenweep, they fell in love with Durango and happily settled here.

Virtual field trip of the Helen Sloan Daniels Indian collection at the Animas Museum

On Wednesday, May 19th, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. we will use Zoom to do a virtual field trip of the Helen Sloan Daniels Indian collection at the Animas Museum. Helen was a trustee of the Durango Public Library and directed the National Youth Administration hiring of youth to dig local sites in the 30's, including Falls Creek.

Susan Jones will guide our virtual tour through this important local collection. Susan is secretary of the La Plata County Historical Society Board, and she has worked at the Animas Museum in collections for the past ten years. She was the project manager at the museum for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. We will be using the same Zoom credentials as our monthly speaker presentations.

Date: **May 19th**

Time: **2:00 p.m. MDT**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WTFN1T0lMUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

PAAC Classes coming this spring.

Here is a link to the PAAC schedule for this spring from Becca Simon at History Colorado:

<https://www.historycolorado.org/paac-event-schedule>. Registration information can also be found there.

***Overshoot & Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners* by Cloudy Ridge Productions – by Larry Ruiz**

Cloudy Ridge Productions is creating a new series of documentary films titled *Overshoot & Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners*. The project is a series of documentary vignettes featuring some of the most prominent specialists in the field of archeology and anthropology in the United States. The films will focus on the ancient Indigenous people who left the Four Corners Region during severe drought conditions, when their population exceeded the area's carrying capacity, also known as *human overshoot*.

Having lived in the Durango, Colorado area since 1978, I have become aware of the change in the weather, with more heat and less precipitation. Currently we are in extreme drought conditions which has lasted two decades—a “mega-drought”. When my path crossed with a long-term friend, Dr. Richard Grossman, some months ago and I mentioned our shared interest and a common concern about human population and climate, we begin the process of collaborating on this series of documentaries.

Dr. Grossman is a locally retired obstetrician/gynecologist, has written a regularly appearing Durango Herald column on aspects of human population for more than 25 years, and is aware that the written word, with a combination of the “visual word” could perhaps be more of an efficient means of accessing a broader audience. As the word “population” may have bad connotations for some people, Dr. Grossman and I are working on a new way to reach people: *Overshoot & Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners*, a documentary film series.

As Dr. Stephen Lekson discusses in his recent book, *A Study of Southwestern Archaeology*, "...the ancient Southwest presented to fans and the broader reading public is boring... That would be OK if the Southwest was, in fact, boring; but it wasn't.... after our captive audience of 'other archaeologists,' Southwest aficionados and the broader reading [and let's add "watching"] public should be our primary concern: creating new knowledge about the past, and making it understandable to educated consumers in the present" (Lekson 2018:165), (Weiner 2021 Personal Correspondence)

Experts to be interviewed this spring will include:

Dr. Anna Osterholtz, <https://www.amec.msstate.edu/people/faculty/dr-anna-osterholtz/>

Dr. Ryan Harrod, <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/anthropology/faculty/harrod.cshtml>

Dr. Cathy Cameron, <https://www.colorado.edu/anthropology/cathy-cameron>

Craig Childs, Renowned Author, <http://www.houseofrain.com/>

Dr. Steve Lekson, <https://www.colorado.edu/anthropology/stephen-lekson>

Dr. Katie Baustian, <https://www.skidmore.edu/anthropology/faculty/baustian.php>

Dr. Jesse Tune, <https://www.fortlewis.edu/academics/schools-departments/faculty-directory/tune>

PhD. Candidate Rob Weiner, <https://www.colorado.edu/anthropology/rob-weiner>

<p>Dates</p>	<p align="center">Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2021</p> <p align="center">SJBAS plans the following meetings and presentations using Zoom.</p> <p align="center">Field trips are not yet planned.</p>
<p>January 13</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting - Dianne Scialla will present: “Heavenly Splendor, the Baths of Caracalla.”</p>
<p>February 10</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting - Steve Nash will present: “Mogollon Archaeology Near Reserve, New Mexico: A Journey from Chicago to Denver and Beyond.”</p>
<p>March 10</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting – Kelley Berliner will present: "The Archaeological Conservancy's Preservation Efforts in the East: from the Paleolithic through 19th-Century Industrial Sites."</p>
<p>April 14</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting – Fred Blackburn will present: “Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins.”</p>
<p>May 12</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting – Carla Sinopoli, Director, Maxwell Museum, will present: “Indi.”</p>
<p>May 19</p>	<p>Virtual field trip of the Helen Sloan Daniels Indian collection at the Animas Museum</p>
<p>June 9</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting - Shelby Tisdale will present her new book: “Federico – One Man’s Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to L.A.”</p>
<p>July 14</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting - Davina Two Bears, visiting FLC professor, will present: “Diné Survivance and the Old Leupp Boarding School.”</p>
<p>August 11</p>	<p>SJBAS Picnic (Tentative) at Edgemont Ranch</p>
<p>September 8</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting - Wirt Wills, UNM Professor will present: “Reconstructing the Pueblo Bonito Mounds: New Data and Models.”</p>
<p>October 13</p>	<p>SJBAS meeting - Douglas MacDonald will present: “Before Yellowstone: 11,000 Years of Native Americans in the National Park.”</p>
<p>December 4</p>	<p>SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch</p>

Kelley Berliner’s response to Janice Sheftel

As to your question about whether or not we have any pre-Clovis sites in the East, I would say yes, but they are not Archaeological Conservancy preserves. The two that come to mind are Meadowcroft Rock shelter in Pennsylvania (dates to 14,500 years ago and has a unique tool assemblage) and Cactus Hill in Virginia (possibly as old as 20,000 years ago or more, but the data are conflicting. I would say this one is a "maybe" that would require more research).

Friends of Cedar Mesa receive \$300,000 from World Monuments Fund

Friends of Cedar Mesa has been awarded \$300,000 from the World Monuments Fund to help protect the most at-risk archaeology sites in the Bears Ears area of southeast Utah. The contribution is part of a \$1 million fundraising campaign for needed preservation measures, said Josh Ewing, executive director of Friends of Cedar Mesa, based in Bluff, Utah.

“We are very grateful for the contribution and the help it will provide protecting these important historical sites. Regardless of where anyone stands on the controversy surrounding Bears Ears National Monument, there is no doubt that public-private partnerships are needed to address the very real issues here on the ground,” he said. “We know threatened cultural sites of Bears Ears cannot wait for a government bailout or a final resolution in years of legal proceedings.” ([Read article](#))

President Biden orders review of Bears Ears boundaries

A rocky corner in southern Utah has been the focal point of protests and political battles for years. A recent move by the Biden administration is giving Native tribes hope that a broken promise could be mended. On his first day in office, President Biden ordered federal officials to review the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument -- a sprawling region rich in red rock canyons, cliff dwellings and numerous archeological sites that former President Donald Trump drastically shrunk in size (December 4, 2017) only 11 months after its official designation (December 28, 2016). – CNN ([Read article](#))

Aqueduct to Pompeii

Wayne Lorenz, Wright Paleohydrological Institute, who was the July SJBAS speaker on Fountains in Pompeii, just published an article in the February issue of “Water & Environmental Technology.” The water system that provided potable water to Pompeii was a major trans-basin diversion project, constructed about 2,000 years ago. The water was transported from large springs located in the Sabato River watershed through a tunnel to Pompeii and other Roman communities in the Naples Bay area of Italy. This great public works project provided water to a large geographical area, and, in doing so, crossed the boundaries of several natural watersheds in the Naples Bay area. The water supply project was one of the longest trans-basin diversion projects in the empire and was one of the most expensive.

How the World’s Oldest Wooden Sculpture is Reshaping Prehistory

The world’s oldest known wooden sculpture — a nine-foot-tall totem pole thousands of years old — looms over a hushed chamber of an obscure Russian museum in the Ural Mountains, not far from the Siberian border. As mysterious as the huge stone figures of Easter Island, the Shigir Idol, as it is called, is a landscape of uneasy spirits that baffles the modern onlooker.

Dug out of a peat bog by gold miners in 1890, the relic, or what’s left of it, is carved from a great slab of freshly cut larch. Scattered among the geometric patterns (zigzags, chevrons, herringbones) are eight human faces, each with slashes for eyes that peer not so benignly from the front and back planes. Read article - <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/22/science/archaeology-shigir-idol-.html>

Q&A in the Smithsonian Magazine: March 2021, p. 84: Why have teeth survived in skulls long after other body parts have decayed?

Answer from Doug Owsley, Head of Biological Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History and twice a speaker with SJBAS. When teeth are buried and left alone, they are durable and resilient. Also, pre-agricultural humans generally had less tooth decay than modern humans because their diets contained less sugar. Anthropologists can obtain a lot of information from the condition of these ancient teeth, such as how people prepared their food, and which other groups share their DNA.

Online Archaeology Events

April 15 Webinar: Arizona State Museum's Homol'ovi Research Project

Archaeologist Richard Lange will present "A History of Arizona State Museum Research around Homol'ovi and at the Ancestral Hopi Village of Homol'ovi II" for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" dinnertime program via Zoom. He will discuss seven ancestral Hopi villages near Winslow that were inhabited between 1260 and 1400, focusing on the largest and latest one—Homol'ovi II Pueblo—and how, when, and by whom it was founded. *Old Pueblo Archaeology Center* | [More Information and Zoom Registration >>](#)

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting April 15-17 Virtual Conference. To find out more and register, go to <http://www.saa.org/annual-meeting> 202-789-8200

Jemez Historic Site, Virtual Tour to view go to <http://nmhistoricsites.org/jemez/vr> (through 6/30)

Voices of the Clay: San Ildefonso Pottery, 1600-1930, Santa Fe Museum of Indian Arts and Culture virtual exhibit: www.indianartsandculture.org

Denver Museum of Nature and Science: Explore the diversity in traditional and modern lifeways of North American native peoples. Reserve timed tickets in advance. (303)370-6000, www.dmns.org/visit/exhibitions

Regional Archaeology News

Video: Chaco Landscapes: Sensory and Political Engagement with Place

Archaeologist Ruth Van Dyke shares insights into social, political, and sensorial relationships across the greater Chaco landscape, past and present. She explores how archaeologists can work together with Native peoples to influence the public understanding of contemporary economic/extractive projects, including those in northwest New Mexico. *Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Society and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center* | [Watch Now >>](#)

Video: Should We Stay, or Should We Go?

Karen Schollmeyer and Scott Ingram consider "Should We Stay, or Should We Go? Farming and Climate Change, 1000–1450 CE." Karen and Scott discuss ways farmers respond to climate changes, especially

droughts, highlighting findings from their case studies in southwest New Mexico and central Arizona. *Archaeology Café (Archaeology Southwest)* | [Watch Now >>](#)

An Enlightening and Hopeful Conversation with Former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

In the latest episode of CWP's *The Landscape*, a conversation with former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about President Biden's executive order on climate change, the threat of anti-public lands extremists, and how to build coalitions and consensus through listening. *Host Aaron Weiss at the Center for Western Priorities* | [Read More >>](#)

Roads and Public Lands in Utah

On January 25, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear arguments related to *Kane County, Utah, v. the United States*, thereby upholding an earlier ruling by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. By confirming the right of environmental groups to intervene in counties' lawsuits to claim title to roads crossing public lands, the decision dealt a major blow to the counties and their long-running fight for control over public lands in their midst. *Jonathan P. Thompson at The Land Desk* | [Read More >>](#)

Haaland Confirmed as Secretary of the Interior

A fierce Indigenous woman is now the caretaker of the nation's public lands and waters for the first time in U.S. history. Deb Haaland was confirmed as the nation's 54th Secretary of the Interior in a 51–40 vote Monday, making her the first Native American to lead a Cabinet agency. *Aliyah Chavez in Indian Country Today* | [Read More >>](#)

Continuing Coverage: Haaland's Long To-Do List

Haaland, the former Democratic congresswoman, made history Monday by becoming the first indigenous Interior secretary. She's promising to begin repairing a legacy of broken treaties and abuses committed by the federal government toward tribes. It's one pillar of a long and ambitious to-do list of reforms the administration is planning at the sprawling agency that is the federal government's most direct contact with the nation's 574 federally recognized—and sovereign—tribes. *Kirk Siegler at NPR* | [Listen Now >>](#)

Notice: Apply Now for the Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School

Announcing the 2021 Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School. This year's project will take place in La Plata, County, in southwestern Colorado. *Fort Lewis College* | [Learn More >>](#)

Continuing Coverage and Commentary: Tribes' Vision for Bears Ears

Bears Ears is at once the ancestral territory of Indigenous peoples and land managed by federal agencies in trust for all of the American people, not just locals who live in the gateway communities. The tribes are the ultimate authorities on antiquities here—it is their history and culture represented by the cliff dwellings and petroglyphs of Bears Ears. After performing their promised review, the Biden administration should look to the leadership of the Diné, Hopi, Senom, A:shiwí, and Nuchu peoples, and designate a new Bears Ears National Monument that protects the full measure of lands and features in this spectacular landscape. *Erik Molvar at Counterpunch* | [Read More >>](#)

Bill Would Create Visitor Center for Bears Ears

A bipartisan bill to help build a visitor center at Bears Ears National Monument is sailing through the Utah Legislature and gaining support with pro-monument groups. It passed a Senate committee unanimously on Tuesday and moved on to the full chamber. The bill would create a committee to design a visitor center for the monument. It would include a representative from each of the five tribes with ancestral ties to Bears Ears, as well as three members of the Utah Legislature. Only the tribal representatives would be voting members. *Kate Groetzinger for KUER 90.1 (NPR)* | [Read More >>](#)

Moccasin Fragment Shows Connection between Canadian Subarctic and American Southwest

A piece of leather from an 800-year-old moccasin found in a Utah cave has helped researchers retrace the ancient steps of a remarkable migration that saw some Dene (Athapaskan) people leave their homes in the continent's Subarctic and eventually create new homes scattered across the southern United States as Dineh (Navajo) and Ndee (Apache) ancestors, according to an international research project featuring the work of University of Alberta researchers. *Michael Brown in Folio (University of Alberta)* | [Read More >>](#)

Commentary: New Mexico's Pueblos and Their History of Autonomy

Surely there was some understanding, some minimal agreement that the Spanish were here to stay, but the Pueblos would maintain their power and authority. How else could it have unfolded? If the Pueblo leaders had understood all Oñate was offering them was complete domination by the Spanish, surely their warriors would have wiped out the colony in that instant. And they could have. ...Instead, they entered into a compromise of shared power and authority; autonomy and sovereignty. *Rob Martinez in the Santa Fe New Mexican* | [Read More >>](#)

Grand Canyon Protection Act Introduced in Senate

Arizona Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema introduced the Grand Canyon Protection Act to strengthen the state's economy by protecting the Grand Canyon and Arizona's outdoor heritage. ...Kelly and Sinema's Grand Canyon Protection Act prohibits new uranium mining around Grand Canyon National Park, protecting Arizona's water supply, outdoor recreation and tourism industries, and tribal communities. *Press Release at Kelly dot senate dot gov* | [Read More >>](#)

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2021

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	info@bike-durango.org
Secretary	Rhonda Raffo	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Communications chair	Byron Kellogg	bwkellogg@charter.net
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lorraine McCleary	
Membership chair	Denise Galley	membership@sjbas.org
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary	info@bike-durango.org
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	chambrke@aol.com
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	michellemckibben56@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year; however, if you paid dues in 2020, these would carry over through 2021. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, 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.**