



THE MOKI MESSENGER

JANUARY 2021

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Next meeting - January 13th by Zoom

On Wednesday, January 13th, at 7:00 p.m., we will use Zoom for a brief business meeting and Dianne Scialla will present: "Heavenly Splendor, the Baths of Caracalla."

Dianne works for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. For the last 25 years, she has researched Roman architecture and art in Rome and Naples and has shared her work in writing and lectures. In 2012, she was introduced to the Conservation curators of Pompei and Herculaneum and through her friendship with them, she has been able to further her understanding of Roman art and culture in the Bay of Naples. She has also worked with Wayne Lorenz of Wright Water Engineers concerning the remarkable bath complexes throughout the region. At this point, it is her life-long pursuit. She studied classical Greco/Roman art and history at the University of Athens Greece under Professor Antony Sofianos from 1974-76.

Date: **January 13th**

Time: **7:00 p.m. MST**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WWTN1T0lmUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members,

Happy New Year!! It will definitely be happy if I can see you all in person sometime during the new year. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

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[SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities](#)

This is my first letter as the new, humble SJBAS President. I want to thank outgoing president, Rege Leach, for his leadership during the challenging, historic year of 2020. Good job! We have a great Board, and I am looking forward to working with them. I will be the organizer, but they have the ideas, advice, and enthusiasm to allow us to continue to follow the Mission and Objectives of SJBAS.

We welcome input from all SJBAS members. Members are always welcome at Board Meetings or you may contact any Board member via email. Email addresses can be found on the SJBAS website under Contacts.

Our monthly Zoom meetings are popular and will carry us through until we can safely meet in person. We are looking forward to scheduling field trips and our summer picnic as soon as possible. Stay safe and keep in touch.

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Board cancelled the Annual Meeting due to unworkable pandemic restrictions but held the necessary vote for the election of officers and approval of amendments to the Bylaws by email.

Fifty-five members voted unanimously to approve the slate of officers nominated by the Board. Congratulations to our new President, Susan Hicks; Vice-President, Hunter McCleary; Secretary, Rhonda Raffo; and re-elected Treasurer, Randy Graham.

Fifty-five members voted unanimously to adopt the December 11, 2020 Bylaws update. We have published the updated Bylaws on our [Club Business](#) web page, or you can view them directly at [BYLAWS amended 2020](#).

Membership Dues – 2021

Membership dues are usually renewed each year by January 31st. Because of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the pandemic, we are waiving 2021 dues for members who paid dues in 2020. However, 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.

Next Board Meeting

SJBAS members are always welcome to attend and participate in our Board meetings. We have scheduled the next Board meeting for January 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. using Zoom. If you would like to attend, email [Hunter McCleary](#) and he will send you the Zoom link.

SJBAS Historical Note from John Sanders

The San Juan Basin Archaeological Society, established in 1979, is a vital amateur group that has assisted in local archaeological research and has helped Florence Lister publish two books on area archaeological sites.

The original San Juan Basin Archaeological Society was begun in the 1930s as an active group of amateur archaeologists in the Durango area. The chapter carried out a series of sit surveys and excavation within the city limits and in Ridges Basin in cooperation with Fort Lewis College. World War II was the primary cause of the group's closure in the 1940s.

In 1978, Chuck Brockway and Helen Daniels decided to revive the original organization, which led to a series of meetings in early 1979 devoted to setting up such an organization. In March 1979, the SJBAS submitted a successful petition to become a chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. Mr. Brockway served as the first president. Later, the group adopted the kokopelli figure as its logo/emblem.

These are the group's three major objectives: to learn about archaeology, especially the pre-history of the Four Corners locale; to combat the vandalism of historic artifacts; and to cooperate with and provide assistance to professional archaeologists working in the region. Currently (2004) the group includes monthly lectures and ten to twelve field trips each year. Public education about vandalism, as well as opposing various forms of industrial development effecting archaeological sites, is one of the group's primary efforts. The SJBAS also works closely with the U.S. Forest Service to inventory remains and to conduct site surveys.

Source: Email attachment from John Sanders, SJBAS Vice-President and Newsletter editor since 1985.

<p>Dates</p>	<p align="center">Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2021</p> <p align="center">January - June</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 – Fred Blackburn will present: "Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins."</p>
<p>April 14</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>May 12</p>	<p>SJBAS Meeting – Jesse Tune will present: "Ice Age Ireland: The colonization of Ireland, an ecology perspective."</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>

Online Archaeology Events

Archaeology Southwest - January Archaeology Café: Archaeology Southwest's Conservation Properties

Please join Archaeology Southwest at 6:00 p.m. MST on January 5, 2021, when John R. Welch, Director of Archaeology Southwest's Landscape and Site Protection Program, will discuss "Protected Places: Archaeology Southwest's Conservation Properties and Their Emerging Roles in Preservation Archaeology." John will give a virtual tour of conservation properties protected by Archaeology Southwest and highlight their potential for cultural heritage stewardship and research. Find more information and Zoom registration at the link:

<https://bit.ly/3qb7RvW>

Regional Archaeology News

Congresswoman Debra Haaland Nominated to Be Next Secretary of the Interior

President-elect Joe Biden chose Rep. Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) Thursday to serve as the first Native American Cabinet secretary and head the Interior Department, a historic pick that marks a turning point for the U.S. government's relationship with the nation's Indigenous peoples. With that selection and others this week, Biden sent a clear message that top officials charged with confronting the nation's environmental problems will have a shared experience with the Americans who have disproportionately been affected by toxic air and polluted land. "A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior," Haaland tweeted Thursday night. "...I'll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land." <https://wapo.st/34DfHW3> - Washington Post

Additional commentary at High Country News: <https://bit.ly/2WFupYg>

Read Archaeology Southwest's statement here: <https://bit.ly/3nyVTdM>

San Juan County Commission Asks Incoming Administration to Restore Bears Ears

With fewer than 50 days remaining before Inauguration Day, the San Juan County Commission passed a resolution Tuesday calling upon President-elect Joe Biden "to take immediate action to restore the Bears Ears National Monument" once he assumes office. The resolution marks a dramatic reversal of the commission's position from four years ago when, in December 2016, President Barack Obama designated a 1.35 million-acre national monument at the request of five Native American tribes with ties to the region over the loud objections of nearly every elected leader in Utah. <https://bit.ly/36XX4xH> - Salt Lake Tribune

Haynie Site Soon Protected by Conservation Easement

The Haynie site appears to be one of the most northern reaches of the greater Chaco society, which spanned an estimated 250-mile radius from the Ancestral Puebloan settlement located about 60 miles south of Farmington, which is now part of Chaco Culture National Historical Park. ...Patrick Barker, executive director of La Plata Open Space Conservancy, said the Haynie site will soon be placed in a conservation easement.

<https://bit.ly/387y7AM> - Durango Herald

Publication Announcement: Becoming Hopi

Becoming Hopi: A History, edited by Wesley Bernardini, Stewart B. Koyiyumptewa, Gregson Schachner, and Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma. University of Arizona Press, 2021. <https://bit.ly/2HYFjo2>

Continuing Coverage: Trackway at White Sands National Park

Every parent knows the feeling. Your child is crying and wants to go home, you pick them up to comfort them and move faster, your arms tired with a long walk ahead—but you cannot stop now. Now, add to this a slick mud surface and a range of hungry predators around you. That is the story the longest trackway of fossil footprints in the world tells us. Our new discovery, published in *Quaternary Science Reviews*, comes from White Sands National Park in New Mexico and was made by an international team working in collaboration with staff from the National Park Service. <https://bit.ly/2JA8Hld> - Sapiens (via The Conversation)

Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante: What Might Happen Next?

“It’s quite possible that the cases are just sort of done because you have a new president reinstating Bears Ears and Grand Staircase,” said University of Arizona law professor Justin Pidot, who worked at Interior during the Obama administration. The underlying legal question—whether the Antiquities Act gives presidents the power to shrink national monuments—would then remain unanswered until a future...president again attempts to downsize a site. <https://bit.ly/3kkZtpz> - Bloomberg Law

“There’s a fundamental issue about the power of the executive under the Antiquities Act,” [Scott Berry, board vice president for Grand Staircase Escalante Partners] said, “and if we’re not just going to have a situation in the future of flip-flopping monuments ... we’re going to need to get that question answered.” Should the monuments be restored, Berry insisted the Bureau of Land Management should scrap its recently adopted management plans for the Grand Staircase and the 900,000 acres pulled out of the monument. And the new Bears Ears management plan should be replaced as soon as practical, according to Josh Ewing, executive director of Friends of Cedar Mesa. <https://bit.ly/3kqtWmk> - Salt Lake Tribune

Commentary: “A River of Stories and Prayers”

It is here, in this pristine, remote stretch of the Little Colorado River Gorge on the Navajo Nation, near Grand Canyon National Park, that developers aim to back up ancient waters behind concrete dams. The Little Colorado River is known by many names to the 11 tribes affiliated with the Grand Canyon. As a Diné (Navajo) woman from Western Navajo Agency, I call the Little Colorado River Toh Bi Kaah, meaning “water above.” Since time immemorial, the Little Colorado River’s precious waters have meant life to Indigenous peoples in the Southwest. <https://bit.ly/3pgUIGJ> - Sarana Riggs in *Colorado Plateau Advocate Magazine* (Grand Canyon Trust)

Publication Announcement: The House of the Cylinder Jars

The House of the Cylinder Jars: Room 28 in Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon, edited by Patricia L. Crown. University of New Mexico Press, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2lobCx3>

Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Ready to Work with New Administration

We very much look forward to working with the incoming Biden administration to restore the Bears Ears

National Monument and to re-establish the Bears Ears Commission, thereby once-again recognizing the role of the five Coalition Tribes in Monument management. <https://bit.ly/36wi8tz> - Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

Continuing Coverage: What's Next for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante?

Among the speculated items on President-elect Joe Biden's to-do list that is expected to get quick action is an executive order rescinding President Trump's dismantling of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah, action that possibly could spur even more legal battles over these unique landscapes. "His campaign has been clear that restoring the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments is a top priority and we're very grateful for that," said Steve Bloch, the legal director for Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. <https://bit.ly/3f64ukW> - National Parks Traveler

But a new executive order won't permanently protect the monuments, since it could be overturned by the next president. That's according to Shaun Chappoose, a member of the Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee and co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, which was formed by five tribes to advocate for Bears Ears National Monument. The coalition is currently suing the Trump administration over its 2017 decision. Chappoose said if Biden dismisses that lawsuit when he restores the monument, the next president could shrink Bears Ears again. ...He said he'd like to see the lawsuit, which also applies to the revised Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, play out, since it would settle the question of whether a president can undo monuments created by another president under the Antiquities Act. <https://bit.ly/35CSunG> - KUER (NPR)

Beyond those strong indications of President-Elect Biden's future agenda, many questions remain. How long until President Biden takes action? Might he wait to see the outcome of the current litigation, which will determine if future presidents can "unprotect" monuments their predecessors designated? Would President Biden consider expanding Bears Ears to the 1.9 million-acre boundary originally requested by the Tribes? Could there potentially be some sort of congressional solution that would prevent the back-and-forth uncertainty that Bears Ears has already suffered? <https://bit.ly/35FqP5R> - Friends of Cedar Mesa (FCM)

FCM's longtime Executive Director, Josh Ewing, plans to step out of day-to-day operations of the organization in the spring of 2021: <https://bit.ly/3f5Qs2l>.

Navajo Nation Requests Restoration of Bears Ears National Monument

"After years of litigation, the Department of Justice looks forward to the Navajo Nation having the opportunity to work with the other tribal parties and the Biden-Harris Administration in a collaboration of sovereigns to permanently restore protections to the lands and sites in Bears Ears, which have great significance to our culture, history, and way of life," says Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen McPaul.

<https://bit.ly/3mnUnKn> - KNAU (NPR)

Read the press release from the Office of the President, Navajo Nation: <https://bit.ly/37mCpDD>

Ancient Use of Ice Caves at El Malpais National Monument

Kenny Bowekaty, a longtime archaeologist, tour guide and member of the Ashiwi people in the nearby Pueblo of Zuni, said the people in the region who were around during the study period likely would have used the caves for religious purposes, as well as to store animals hunted nearby. "Ice to the Ashiwi people is still a resource of life," Bowekaty said. "There's a lot of compounded uses for what would have been considered ice caves." <https://bit.ly/360xqYp> - Scientific American

Exploring an ice-laden lava tube of the El Malpais National Monument and using precisely radiocarbon- dated charcoal found preserved deep in an ice deposit in a lava tube, USF geosciences Professor Bogdan Onac and his team discovered that Ancestral Pueblos survived devastating droughts by traveling deep into the caves to melt ancient ice as a water resource. <https://bit.ly/3fvGzeG> - University of South Florida Newsroom

Hopi Farming Traditions and Climate Change

Members of the Hopi Tribe rely on rains to nourish their corn, carrying on ancient traditions of dry farming in desert valleys that stretch between the mesas. The Hopis say that in their religion, they pray for all humanity and all living things, and for storm clouds that will soak the soil and give their corn plants moisture to thrive. But this year, hardly any summer monsoon rains came. The Hopi Reservation baked in one of the hottest summers on record. <https://bit.ly/3mwzPQs> - Arizona Republic (azcentral.com)

Commentary: Walking in Beauty on Our Public Lands

The Navajo—or Diné—have a life philosophy which loosely translated in English means “walk in beauty.” But like most translations, much is lost in other languages. This short phrase refers to the life-long goal of attaining harmony within the universe on an existential level; of achieving human existence in balance with space, time, wildlife, nature, science, the seasons, the four directions, and so on; in a way that flows without disruption. <https://bit.ly/36mhgJa> - Hilary Tompkins and Angelo Baca at “The Latest,” Conservation Lands Foundation

Turkey Feather Blanket Analyzed

A team led by Washington State University archaeologists analyzed an approximately 800-year-old, 99 x 108 cm (about 39 x 42.5 inches) turkey feather blanket from southeastern Utah to get a better idea of how it was made. Their work revealed thousands of downy body feathers were wrapped around 180 meters (nearly 200 yards) of yucca fiber cord to make the blanket, which is currently on display at the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding, Utah. <https://bit.ly/33yU5to> - WSU Insider

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2021

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	hunter.mccleary@gmail.com
Secretary	Rhonda Raffo	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Communications chair	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Membership chair	Denise Galley	membership@sjbas.org
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
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

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