



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

MAY 2021

SAN JUAN BASIN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

## Next meeting – May 12<sup>th</sup> by Zoom

On Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. we will use Zoom for a brief business meeting and Carla Sinopoli, Director, Maxwell Museum, will present: “LANDSCAPES OF STONE: Iron Age Monuments, Rock Art and Landscapes along the Tungabhadra River, South India.”

The South Indian Iron Age (ca. 1400 – 300 BCE) is known for its monumental landscape of megalithic mortuary and commemorative monuments, constructed during a period of emergent social inequalities and the development of regional centers and political systems. In this talk, Carla Sinopoli will speak about her work along the Tungabhadra River in modern Karnataka – truly a landscape of stone, dominated by dramatic granitic hills and home to dense population in the Iron Age. Drawing on results of nearly four decades of work in the region, the talk will provide a general introduction to recent archaeological work in the region and focus particularly on stone monuments and rock art and their relations to land use and settlement throughout the South Indian Iron Age.

Carla Sinopoli came to UNM as Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology in 2018 from the University of Michigan, where she served for 25 years as Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Asian Archaeology and Ethnology in the Museum of Anthropology. She earned her BA from SUNY Binghamton, and her MA and PhD at the University of Michigan and taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee before joining the faculty at Michigan. Her research has focused on the archaeology of complex societies, the organization of craft production, and the study of archaeological ceramics. Her primary geographic focus is South Asia, where she has directed projects at the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> c CE imperial capital of Vijayanagara, and her current co-directed project *Late Prehistoric and Early Historic Landscapes of the Tungabhadra Corridor (LPEHLTC)*. Sinopoli is the author or editor of 11 books and dozens of articles on her research.

Date: **May 12<sup>th</sup>**

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Time: 7:00 p.m. MDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WWTN1T0lMUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

## President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members,

We are beginning to schedule field trips! Lorraine has been actively planning activities that will get us outside and learning. She is also looking for volunteers to lead field trips. Please consider attending her Field Trip Leader meeting on May 15th. The Board has approved Covid Field Trip safety guidelines.

We continue to use Zoom for our monthly meetings and presentations. We are also monitoring Fort Lewis College policies so we will know when we can start meeting in the Lyceum again.

Randy Graham, the SJBAS Treasurer for 3 years, will be stepping down at the end of this year. He has done an excellent job keeping our finances up-to-date and accurate. I have thrown my name in the hat for the Treasurer position, which would create an opening for President. The transition would be on January 1, 2022.

We are still looking for a Webmaster. Please email me at [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for Webmaster, Treasurer, or President. Job descriptions, training, and support will be provided.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 17, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you would like to attend this meeting, please email Hunter McCleary at [info@bike-durango.org](mailto:info@bike-durango.org). Some items we plan to work on are advocacy, filling Board positions, and, hopefully, planning for our summer picnic to be held on August 11th at Edgemont Ranch.

Details about scheduled field trips, the Field Trip Leader meeting, and Zoom presentations are included in this newsletter. SJBAS activities can now be followed on Twitter.

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

Kind regards,

Susan Hicks

## ***Moki* Editor and Communications chair**

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, Hunter McCleary takes over as *Moki Messenger* editor and Byron Kellogg takes over as Communications chair. If you have content for the *Moki*, please email it to Hunter at [hunter@bike-durango.org](mailto:hunter@bike-durango.org), and if you have material or announcements to communicate to SJBAS members please email it to Byron at [bwkellogg@charter.net](mailto:bwkellogg@charter.net).

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - Join in the fun and become an active member!**

### **WEBMASTER**

The webmaster updates and keeps the SJBAS website current. There is room for artistic creativity - either by the Webmaster or an artistic assistant. Lyle, the current webmaster, will provide training. Volunteer should be comfortable with a computer and using Websites. This position requires roughly 2 hours per month. Contact Lyle, [lylehancock54@gmail.com](mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com), for more information.

### **PRESIDENT**

The President is the principal executive Officer of SJBAS and provides leadership in strategic planning for SJBAS activities to meet our Mission and Objectives in compliance with SJBAS bylaws. We have a great group of Board members that works with the President to accomplish our goals. This position requires 10-15 hours per month. Please contact Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com), for more information.

### **FIELD TRIP LEADERS**

The more trips the better! We always welcome volunteers who would like to plan and lead a field trip. Current trip leaders are willing to share their knowledge so that you can feel comfortable leading a trip. Please contact Lorraine McCleary, [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org), for more information.

### **Trip Leadership Gathering – May 15<sup>th</sup>**

As many of our field trip destinations are still closed due to Covid, we would like to put together some local field trips. We will be hosting a trip leader meeting at our home, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, 10 Artisan Ct., Durango at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. New and experienced trip leaders are welcome. We will be happy to team new trip leaders up with experienced ones to help get you started. We will gather outside on our patio for snacks, drinks, and ideas. If you can gather some tentative plans and dates that would be great. If you cannot make it, please email me your proposal for leading a trip. Please RSVP to [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org)

### **Car Camping and Backpacking Survey**

In order to determine interest in car camping and backpacking for SJBAS trips, please answer the following questions and email to [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org).

1. Are you interested in car camping for multiple day trips? Yes or No
2. Are you interested in backpacking?
  - a. Overnight only Yes or No
  - b. Multiple days Yes or No

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

On Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

## **Trip Field Trips to Resume**

Field trips for SJBAS will resume June 1, 2021. SJBAS will comply with recommendations and guidelines of applicable entities such as CDC, State of Colorado, SJB Public Health Department and La Plata County. All field trip participants will be required to have completed COVID-19 vaccines. Compliance will be by the honor system. SJBAS will neither organize nor encourage carpooling, although individuals may make their own arrangements. Social distancing is encouraged, but not required. All participants should respect the wishes of others for social distancing.

Modifications will be made depending on the unfolding of the future course of the pandemic and guidelines from regulatory agencies.

## **Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2021**

Field trips are resuming. Details are still being ironed out and trips will be announced as they materialize. Please be aware that vaccinations will be required for trip participation.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| May 19     | <b>Virtual field trip of the Animas Museum Helen Sloan Daniels Collection</b> - at 2:00 p.m. by Susan Jones, secretary of the La Plata County Historical Secretary. Please use the Zoom address that we use for monthly meetings (see <i>Moki</i> or <a href="http://www.sjbas.org">www.sjbas.org</a> ). |
| June 12    | <b>Daytrip to Sand Canyon Pueblo and Goodman Point</b> - Limited to 12. Contact Rusty at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>  |
| June 18-21 | <b>Summer solstice at Hovenweep</b> - We will explore the 5 villages of Hovenweep, Lowry Pueblo, Painted Hand, and the sun dagger solstice at Holly Village. Limited to 12-13. Contact Lorraine at <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org">lorraine@bike-durango.org</a>                              |

**Potential Tavaputs Ranch Trip** <http://tavaputsranch.com>

We are looking into a mid-week, two-night trip to Tavaputs Cattle Ranch, Utah in July or August. The owner is a niece of Waldo Wilcox whose land, now in trust, is a pristine Fremont preserve.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/secrets-of-the-range-creek-ranch-110879163/>. The owners will conduct an all-day tour in their Suburban of this 13-mile preserve. Cost is \$200 per person a night for room and meals and the tour is \$150 per person. Commitment will require a deposit to be determined later. Other optional side trips may be added, but I would like to know who might be interested in a stay at the ranch. Please let me know if you might be interested in this tour by emailing [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org).

**APRIL 8, 2021 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – by Rhonda Raffo, Secretary**

- I. Next Board Meeting is on 6/17/2021.
- II. An SJBAS Board Transition Policy has been adopted.
- III. The following Board positions currently held by Lyle Hancock have been filled:
  - . Field Trip Coordinator – Lorraine McCleary
  - . Moki Messenger Editor – Hunter McCleary
  - . Communications Chair – Byron Kellogg
- IV. SJBAS will make a \$200 donation to the Cloudy Ridge Productions from the John W. Sanders Fund to support their “Overshoot & Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners” series.
- V. The next Moki will include a posting of how members can donate to Cloudy Ridge Productions if they so wish.
- VI. Randy Graham will step down from his position as Treasurer at the end of 2021. Susan Hicks expressed interest in taking this position, as accounting is her background. We will publish in the May Moki for members interested in being the President in 2022 to please contact Susan.
- VII. Hunter has set up a Twitter account for SJBAS. This will be published in the next Moki.
- VIII. Current Field Trip Activities:
  - . May 19<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Field Trip of the Helen Sloan Daniels Indian collection at the Animas museum is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.
  - . Picnic scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - . Holiday Brunch scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - . Field Trip Leader meeting scheduled for May 15.
  - . Lorraine McCleary in the process of developing a SJBAS Outing Policy.

<b>Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2021</b>	
<b>Dates</b>	SJBAS plans the following meetings and presentations using Zoom.  Field trips are not yet planned.
<b>January 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Dianne Scialla will present: “Heavenly Splendor, the Baths of Caracalla.”

<b>February 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Steve Nash will present: "Mogollon Archaeology Near Reserve, New Mexico: A Journey from Chicago to Denver and Beyond."
<b>March 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Kelley Berliner will present: "The Archaeological Conservancy's Preservation Efforts in the East: from the Paleolithic through 19th-Century Industrial Sites."
<b>April 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Fred Blackburn will present: "Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins."
<b>May 12</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Carla Sinopoli, Director, Maxwell Museum, will present: "LANDSCAPES OF STONE: Iron Age Monuments, Rock Art and Landscapes along the Tungabhadra River, South India."
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Virtual field trip of the Animas Museum Helen Sloan Daniels Collection</b> – at 2:00 p.m. by Susan Jones, secretary of the La Plata County Historical Secretary. Please use the Zoom address that we use for monthly meetings (see <i>Moki</i> or <a href="http://www.sjbas.org">www.sjbas.org</a> ).
<b>June 9</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Shelby Tisdale will present her new book: "Federico – One Man's Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to L.A."
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Daytrip to Sand Canyon Pueblo and Goodman Point</b> - Limited to 12. Contact Rusty at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>
<b>June 18 - 21</b>	<b>Summer solstice at Hovenweep</b> - We will explore the 5 villages of Hovenweep, Lowry Pueblo, Painted Hand, and the sun dagger solstice at Holly Village. Limited to 12-13. Contact Lorraine at <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org">lorraine@bike-durango.org</a>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Davina Two Bears, visiting FLC professor, will present: "Diné Survivance and the Old Leupp Boarding School."
<b>August 11</b>	<b>SJBAS Picnic (Tentative)</b> at Edgemont Ranch
<b>September 8</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Wirt Wills, UNM Professor will present: "Reconstructing the Pueblo Bonito Mounds: New Data and Models."
<b>October 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Douglas MacDonald will present: "Before Yellowstone: 11,000 Years of Native Americans in the National Park."
<b>November 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Steve Lekson will present on Paquime.
<b>December 4</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch (tentative)</b>
	<b>Other Trips not affiliated with SJBAS</b>
<b>August 13 - 15</b>	<b>Western History Canoeing Adventure on the Colorado River (near Fruita, CO)</b>

With historian and SJBAS member Andrew Gulliford. Register with Centennial Canoe Outfitters, <a href="http://www.CentennialCanoe.com">www.CentennialCanoe.com</a>
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## Ongoing website issues

We are still 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](http://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 May 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.

## “Overshoot and Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners” – Tax deductible Contributions for Windy Ridge Productions

Tax deductible contributions can be made to help support SJBAS member Larry Ruiz’s upcoming film, “Overshoot and Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners.” The San Juan RC&D is the fiscal agent (address below) for the film endeavor. Contributions should be made out and sent to the RC&D with a notation that the donation is for Windy Ridge Productions.

San Juan RC&D

PO Box 1006  
Durango, CO 81302

## La Plata County, Historic Preservation Review Commission Annual "Driving Tour" - explore a part of La Plata County that the driving tour could not have accessed! – Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Our 2021 topic is Exploring Tacoma Power Plant, Electra Lake, and the Animas Canyon Toll Road in the North County. The beauty of the virtual tour is that it allows us to highlight an area that we would not have been able to accomplish as a driving tour. Anyone can participate from home and there is no walking involved (something that may have restricted participants in the past). Of course, there is no way to fully capture the beauty of the area virtually and we will be missing a fantastic lunch served up by a grange, but hopefully it will be interesting and informative! La Plata County, Historic Preservation Review Commission Annual "Driving Tour" - explore a part of La Plata County that the driving tour could not have accessed!

Follow this link to the virtual driving tour poster and registration information: double click on the PDF icon.



2021 Virtual Tour  
Poster\_V3.pdf

## Tyrannosaurs probably hunted in packs.

Tyrannosaurs probably hunted in packs, scientists announced Monday after analyzing fossils unearthed in Utah's [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#), a conclusion challenging long-held assumptions that the iconic dinosaurs were solitary predators. The new findings could provide fresh support for the Biden administration as it [considers expanding the boundaries](#) of a protected area that then-President Donald Trump [cut in half in 2017](#). Follow link to article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/04/19/grand-staircase-tyrannosaur/>

## Online Archaeology Events

### National Parks Conservation Association – The Writing on the Wall – Stephen Alvarez

A digital archive of sites from around the globe that would let regular people gaze at seldom seen works for as long as they like and connect to the minds of our distant forebears. In 2016, the nonprofit [Ancient Art Archive](#) was born. A trove of photographs, videos and 3D models (essentially virtual tours that can be viewed on any computer), the archive aims to compile the most beautiful and significant prehistoric rock art, stories and markings from six continents. <https://www.npca.org/articles/2837-the-writing-on-the-wall>

### The Greater Chaco Landscape

The online version of an incredible volume of work by Dr. Ruth Van Dyke and Dr. Carrie Heitman is now available via the University Press of Colorado through this link:

<http://read.upcolorado.com/read/the-greater-chaco-landscape/section/2176d5a3-c5fa-474a-8f96-853dd6cf6c36#cvi>

David Valentine and I had the honor to work on this project since 2017, providing two years of video documentation to support the written volume and years of work of these scholars. Thank you Dr. Van Dyke, Dr. Heitman, and Dr. Steve Lekson from David and I for the privilege. Additionally, special thanks to Darrin Pratt, the Director of the University Press of Colorado, for his hard work of building this volume for online viewing! We're all excited to share the work with the public!

Warmly,  
Larry Ruiz

Cloudy Ridge Productions  
Owner, Director & Producer  
[larryr@mydurango.net](mailto:larryr@mydurango.net)  
[www.cloudyridgeproductions.com](http://www.cloudyridgeproductions.com)

### New video leads Maxwell Museum of Anthropology virtual visitors through early human history

The Maxwell Museum of Anthropology website is a treasure trove of education resources, gift shopping, etc. When the pandemic shut down public places, the team at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico decided if people couldn't come to the museum, they'd take the museum to the people. Virtually. The latest edition to the online lineup of features on the Maxwell website is a video called *Ancestors*, which takes the viewer through the museum and its depiction of early human history, from



the first human ancestor to stand on two feet through the first stone tools, to social development and the first art. To find the YouTube virtual tour, access the Maxwell museum website virtual tours:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF4BRRY8RGE>. - By Mary Beth King

### **Archaeological Conservancy Preservation Efforts in the East**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our virtual lecture featuring Eastern Regional Director, Kelley Berliner. Unfortunately, some attendees experienced difficulties signing into Webex and missed the event. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working with Webex to fix the issue for future lectures. Kelley's talk was recorded and is now available on our You Tube channel to view at your convenience:

<https://youtu.be/loT6fBep4fs> .

### **BBC – Cahokia, the lost megacity in the United States**

[http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20210412-the-us-lost-ancient-megacity?xtor=ES-213-\[BBC%20Features%20Newsletter\]-2021April16-\[Travel%7c+Button\]](http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20210412-the-us-lost-ancient-megacity?xtor=ES-213-[BBC%20Features%20Newsletter]-2021April16-[Travel%7c+Button]).

### **Solstice Project - Spring Equinox 2021 update**

With great thanks for your continuing interest and support, we wish to share the exciting progress of our new film *Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon*, and the results of our recent research in the greater Chaco World. For details, please see our Annual Letter by clicking on this link: [Annual Letter](#).

You will view our innovative modeling and animation of the monumental Chaco buildings and go on an in-depth journey into Pueblo Bonito, a building on a par with temple architecture of the ancient world. With these new technologies, our film draws out the remarkable complexity of the Chaco World and its vast expanse across the Four Corners. We explore the stimulating impact of Mesoamerican objects in the inner precinct of Bonito and learn from parallel developments in the wider Mesoamerican region of solar and lunar astronomy.

In our recent interviews and field work we have gained insights into the intensity of the ritual lives of the ancient Chacoans and perceptions of their skills of mapping an immense desert terrain with their intricate cosmology. Our efforts continue to protect the Chaco legacy, and to share its beauty and accomplishments through our films and papers. Look for a rebroadcast by KNME at summer solstice of our last film *The Mystery of Chaco Canyon*.

Your support is vital to our work. Please send your tax-deductible contributions by clicking [here](#), or mailing a check to our address below. You can follow us on Facebook for current news at [facebook.com/solsticeproject](https://www.facebook.com/solsticeproject), you can also follow the page for our new move at [facebook.com/Written-On-The-Landscape-Mysteries-Beyond-Chaco-Canyon](https://www.facebook.com/Written-On-The-Landscape-Mysteries-Beyond-Chaco-Canyon)

Sincerely,  
Anna Sofaer  
Founder and President, Solstice Project

## Regional Archaeology News

### Essay: Maize, the Mother of All Things

Science and technology go hand in hand, each spurring the other forward. Western science is a powerful way of generating knowledge, but it is not the only one. Long before colonists came to our shores, there were scientists here of every kind, including botanists, agronomists, and geneticists, practicing indigenous science and developing regenerative technologies. The nature of these two ways of understanding the world is written in vivid green ink in our respective cornfields. *Robin Wall Kimmerer in Emergence Magazine* | [Read More >>](#)

### Suit Filed to Protect the “Lands Between”

A conservation group in San Juan County is suing the Bureau of Land Management over tens of thousands of acres of public land it leased to oil and gas developers in 2018. The land lies between Bears Ears and Hovenweep national monuments. The lawsuit claims drilling there could cause irreparable damage to cultural sites. ... Josh Ewing is the director of Friends of Cedar Mesa, the group that brought the lawsuit. ... Ewing said the goal of the lawsuit is to stop drilling from taking place on the parcels leased in 2018. *Kate Groetzinger at KUER (NPR)* | [Read More >>](#)

### Climbing Bolts Found in Moab-Area Petroglyph Panel

Reay started climbing up the middle of the three routes. “I get halfway up, and all the sudden there’s a petroglyph four inches from a bolt,” he said. “I look up, and there’s a whole panel, and the route goes right through the middle of it.” That night, Reay and his friends pulled the bolts on the first route and downclimbed. By Sunday, they had pulled the other two routes which had been bolted through the panel as well. *Owen Clarke in Climbing* | [Read More >>](#)

### Biden “Poised to Act” on Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante

“We still have cultural ties to this area. It is much like the Mormon temple up in Salt Lake City,” Clark Tenakhongva, vice chairman of the Hopi Tribe, told reporters Thursday in Blanding. “If you desecrate our shrines, our temples, down here, you are destroying our culture, our religion, our lifeline and our history of how we became part of this nation.” By all accounts, Biden is listening to tribal voices and is poised to act. *Brian Maffly, Matt Canham, and Zak Podmore in the Salt Lake Tribune* | [Read More >>](#)

### Essay: The Indigenous Future of Bears Ears

Tribes must have a lead role in the development of land-management policy, especially when the land base encompasses large parts of our ancestral history and self-identity. Furthermore, any monument advisory committees must include tribal representatives that are chosen by the tribes themselves, not by outside interests. The inclusion of Indigenous stewardship values within these decisions is long overdue. *Lyle Balenquah in Advocate Magazine (Grand Canyon Trust)* | [Read More >>](#)

### Commentary: National Monuments Must Be Restored, and Quickly

My research highlights just a few examples of the diverse tapestry of Native American histories woven in the Bears Ears landscape over millennia, and the uniqueness and significance of the archaeological record that the drastic 2017 reduction of the monument ignored. I have seen firsthand the effects of historic and recent looting and vandalism at these sites, but the specter that threatens most urgently is over-visitation. Protections must be restored to better manage visitation, protect the resources and better serve the public. *Benjamin Bellorado in The Journal* | [Read More >>](#)

### **Mesa Verde National Park Gains Dark Sky Designation**

Mesa Verde National Park is known for preserving ancient cultural sites, and now it will protect the nighttime view of the stars above as well. This year, Mesa Verde was designated the 100th International Dark Sky Park, according to a park news release Monday. The certification recognizes the exceptional quality of the park's night skies and provides added opportunities to enhance visitor experiences through astronomy based interpretive programming. ...The Dark Sky designation also serves to highlight the spiritual and practical connections the Ancestral Puebloans had with night skies and stars. "We want to work with tribal communities to bring those stories out, said Kristy Sholly, chief of interpretation and visitor services for the park. *Jim Mimiaga in The Journal* | [Read More >>](#)

### **Chief Justice Roberts Signals Interest in Challenges to the Antiquities Act**

In his statement, Roberts wondered whether presidents have abused the 1906 law by ignoring a provision requiring that monuments be "limited to the smallest area compatible with the care and management of the objects to be protected." ... The chief justice went on to suggest that a handful of other lawsuits—including a pair challenging President Trump's cuts to two Utah-based national monuments—could present "better opportunities" to review use of the Antiquities Act. *Jennifer Yachnin for E&E News* | [Read More >>](#)

### **National Park Service Releases Mobile App**

Just in time for National Park Week, the new National Park Service (NPS) mobile app is now available for visitors to national parks across the country. Created by park rangers with visitors in mind, the NPS App gives the public up-to-date information about all 423 national parks in one easy-to-use app. Visitors can download the NPS App in the iOS App Store and Google Play Store to plan a trip, find interactive maps, download maps and tours ahead of time and find things to do and places to visit during National Park Week and beyond. *National Park Service* | [Learn More >>](#)

### **Why did Cahokia, One of North America's Largest Pre-Hispanic Cities, Collapse?**

At its peak around the turn of the first millennium, [Cahokia](#), a city in what is now Illinois, was home to as many as [20,000 people](#). Members of North America's [Mississippian culture](#), Cahokia's residents constructed enormous [earthen mounds](#) used alternatively as residences, burial grounds, meeting places and ceremonial centers. Per the [Washington Post](#)'s Nathan Seppa, the bustling community included farmers tasked with cultivating maize, [artisans](#) who crafted ornate clay vessels and sculptures, and even [ancient astronomers](#) who tracked the passage of time with the help of Stonehenge-like [timber circles](#). Follow link to article: [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/why-did-cahokia-one-largest-pre-hispanic-cities-north-america-collapse-180977528/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20210416-daily-](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/why-did-cahokia-one-largest-pre-hispanic-cities-north-america-collapse-180977528/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20210416-daily-)

## **SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2021**

President	Susan Hicks	<a href="mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com">sc53hicks@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	<a href="mailto:Hunter@bike-durango.org">Hunter@bike-durango.org</a>
Secretary	Rhonda Raffo	<a href="mailto:rhondaandjim@msn.com">rhondaandjim@msn.com</a>
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**SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> 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.**