



THE MOKI MESSENGER

June 2021

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

Editor's Note

With the passing of the pen, Lyle Hancock ends seven-plus years of producing the monthly *Moki Messenger*. That's 89 issues of insightful coverage of matters that are important to SJBAS members. As a testament to its value to members the *Moki* was rated as the most important membership benefit. "Thanks" is a woefully inadequate expression for the difference you have made. Fear not, however. Lyle's impact continues. He has redesigned the sjbas.org Web site and will continue to manage it, although we are seeking a successor. Check it out! I also want to thank Pete Varney for contributing the picture of the T-door on page one that is from Hovenweep NM. Opposite it is a picture out the window of Kirk's Cabin in Canyonlands National Park. I will also be trying out different new sections—*A Closer Look* and *From the Stacks*-- to foster member engagement. --HM

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President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

As we work to find the new normal it is imperative that we engage not only with friends and family but that we renew passions. If you are a member of SJBAS one of those passions is clearly archaeology. Most of us are Zoomed-out, but there are other venues; some even involving real people.

You can get involved in many ways:

- **SJBAS Field Trips.** SJBAS has a new Trip coordinator in Lorraine McCleary. She has already scheduled several outings and, following a meeting in May, a number of members have stepped forward with ideas for additional trips. These can be seen in the Field Trip and Activities Calendar later in this newsletter and on the Web site (www.sjbas.org). Lorraine is putting an abundance of effort into setting up field trips for us.
- **Read a book.** The new one by David Roberts, *The Bears Ears*, is excellent and can be checked out at the Durango Library.
- **Take in a podcast** (not a Zoom). Ed Barnhart, a University of Colorado grad, has a well-received monthly podcast series on Archaeology called *ArchaeoEd*. A recent one covered Chaco Canyon and is kind of ear-opening in its conclusions.
- **Volunteer.** The Animas Museum is looking for volunteers to work on their Native American collections. You can email them at info@animas.org.
- **Learn about Durango archaeology.** Our recent virtual field trip, given by Susan Jones of the Animas Museum, was excellent. Susan shared information about the life and work of Helen Sloan Daniels, an early 1900's Durangoan who led excavations of local sites such as Falls Creek. Susan also showed local artifacts as she took us on a tour of the Museum's collections. Susan's field trip was recorded and is available [here](#) to watch at a time that fits into your schedule. The link can also be found on sjbas.org. This video is not to be missed for aficionados of Durango history.
- **Advocate for preservation.** A few ideas - become a Site Steward, learn about threats to Chaco Canyon, write letters that support protections of archaeological sites, get involved with Friends of Cedar Mesa.

I hope you have finally been able to visit, in person, with family and friends. I look forward to visiting, in person, with SJBAS friends!

Kind regards,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

Next Monthly Meeting

On **Wednesday June 9**, at 7:00 pm we will use Zoom for a brief business meeting and then Dr. Shelby Tisdale, Director of the Fort Lewis College (FLC) Center of Southwest Studies will present highlights from her recently edited book *Federico: One Man's Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to Los Angeles* by Federico Jiménez Caballero

This gripping story of an Indigenous jewelry artist's rise to fame was a collaboration between Tisdale and Jimenez over a five-year period. From the day he was born, Federico Jiménez Caballero was predicted to be a successful man. So, how exactly did a young Indigenous man from Tututepec, Oaxaca, overcome poverty, discrimination and the numerous obstacles that were thrown in his path to become a famous jewelry artist in Hollywood, an innovative entrepreneur, and a generous philanthropist in Los Angeles? In this memoir Federico tells the remarkable story of how willpower, curiosity, hard work, and passion came together to change his life forever. The book is available at Maria's Bookshop in Durango and can be ordered online from the University of Arizona Press and on Amazon.

Shelby, an award-winning author, has more than forty years of combined experience in museums; anthropological, tribal museum and cultural resource management consulting; and, university teaching. She is former director of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe (2005-2012) and the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos (2002-2005). From 2012 to 2015 she served as Vice President of Curatorial and Exhibitions at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles. A graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, Dr. Tisdale holds a master's degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a doctorate from the University of Arizona.

Date: June 9th

Time: 7:00 p.m. MDT

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2021

See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

Dates	SJBAS plans the following meetings and presentations using Zoom; and field trips.
June 9	SJBAS meeting - Shelby Tisdale will present her new book: "Federico – One Man's Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to L.A."

June 12	Day Trip to Sand Canyon Pueblo and Goodman Point. Limited to 12. Contact Rusty at chambrke@aol.com for information or sign up.
June 18-21	Summer Solstice at Hovenweep NM. Car camping trip. Contact Lorraine at lorraine@bike-durango.org for information or sign up.
July 14	SJBAS meeting - Davina Two Bears, visiting FLC professor, will present: “Diné Survivance and the Old Leupp Boarding School.”
July 23	Arbor Glyphs at Beaver Creek and Piedra Stockdrive: The Hidden History of Sheepscales in SW Colorado. Contact Andy@gulliford.com for information or sign up.
August 11	SJBAS Picnic (Tentative) at Edgemont Ranch
August 16-20	Tavaputs Ranch and Range Creek Tour: Pristine Repository of Fremont Archaeological sites. Optional visits to Price Prehistoric Museum, Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry at Jurassic NM and the Rochester Panel. Contact Lorraine at lorraine@bike-durango.org for more information or to sign up. Registration deadline is July 1.
September 3	Durango Walking Tour with Historian Andy Gulliford. For more information or to sign up contact andy@gulliford.com .
September 8	SJBAS meeting - Wirt Wills, UNM Professor will present: “Reconstructing the Pueblo Bonito Mounds: New Data and Models.”
October 13	SJBAS meeting - Douglas MacDonald will present: “Before Yellowstone: 11,000 Years of Native Americans in the National Park.”
October 17	Bluff Rock Art Day. After a day of rock art viewing there will be a wine and cheese reception at Andy Gulliford’s house near Bluff. For more information or to sign up contact Andy at andy@gulliford.com . Limit of 10.
December 4	SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch

Modified Field Trip Covid Policy

The CDC, the State of Colorado, and the SJB Public Health Department have loosened up its Covid Recommendations and, therefore, the SJBAS Board has modified the Field Trip Covid Policy. The new policy is:

San Juan Basin Archaeology Society Field Trip COVID Policy

Field trips for SJBAS will resume June 1, 2021. SJBAS will comply with recommendations and guidelines of applicable entities such as CDC, State of CO, 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. All participants should respect the wishes of others for social distancing. Modifications will be made depending on the future course of the pandemic and guidelines from regulatory agencies.

Adopted May 27, 2021

Update on Board Positions

Mary Moorehead has volunteered to fill our Treasurer position beginning January 1, 2022. She is highly qualified, having her own accounting and tax preparation business and experience with non-profit organizations. Her name will be placed on the Officer Ballot and the membership will vote at our Annual Meeting in December. Thank you, Mary!

Susan Hicks plans to remain president for another year (that is, if elected in December).

We are continuing our search for a Webmaster. We hope there is someone out there who has some computer skills and would love to get involved! Contact Lyle Hancock at lylehancock54@gmail.com if you have questions. Lyle will provide training and support.

Our Next Board Meeting

All SJBAS members are welcome at our Board meetings. Our next Board meeting will be held on June 10th, 1:00-3:00, using Zoom. We will be discussing the John W. Sanders Internship and Education Fund, Field Trips, Advocacy, and the Summer Picnic (which is still tentative, we're keeping our fingers crossed). Please email Susan Hicks, sc53hicks@gmail.com, and she will email you the agenda and make sure you receive the Zoom link.

Quick Bits

Amerind Museum: Dragoon, Ariz: New permanent exhibit: "Fleet of Foot: Indigenous Running and Games from Ancient Times to Today"

Museum of Norther Arizona, Flagstaff, Ariz: New renovated permanent exhibit: Native Peoples of the Colorado Plateau" (350 objects selected by 42 native consultants).

El Rancho de Las Golondrinas, Living History museum Virtual Learning: Learn about the history of the Camino Real, turquoise mining, Spanish Colonial Traditions, games and recipe <https://golondrinas.org/virtual-learning/>.

The Center of Southwest Studies is now open to the public again. Hours are Monday through Thursday 10-4 but you need to [make an appointment](#).

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, [online exhibits](#): Celebrate the history of the New Mexico Highway Archaeology Program.

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society presents 16 mm film taken in the mid-1960s of the Murray Spring Clovis Site which served as a hunting camp 13,000 years ago. It includes renowned archaeologist C Vance Haynes, Jr. being interviewed by Jesse Ballanger. You can watch the video [here](#).

Recently Archived Archaeology Events

Helen Sloan Daniels and the Early Years of Durango Archaeology, a presentation by Susan Jones, collections manager at the Animas Museum. Susan tells the story of how Helen Sloan Daniels was an early advocate for preserving Native American artifacts in 1930s-40s Durango. You can view the video [here](#).

Conversations from the Mesa "[A Postcard Perspective on the History of Mesa Verde](#)" with Dr. Andrew Gulliford. Presented by Mesa Verde Foundation and recorded May 15th.

Recent interviews that Prof. Jesse Tune did for recent archaeology podcasts:

- A Life in Ruins: <https://www.archaeologypodcastnetwork.com/ruins/50>
- Mesa Verde Voices: <https://www.mesaverdevoices.org/thefirstmigrations>

From the Stacks

A new recurring feature will be a look at what area archaeologists' rate as their favorite "local" reads. This month, to go along with her newly published book, are recommendations from Shelby Tisdale, retiring director of the Center of Southwest Studies.

On her reading table is *The Dine Reader: An Anthology of Navajo Literature* edited by Esther G. Belin, Jeff Berglund, Connie A. Jacobs, and Anthony K. Webster just published this spring by The University of Arizona Press. It is a compilation of short stories, poetry, and book excerpts by 35 different Navajo authors. It provides great insight into Navajo language and culture. [*This book is available at Durango Public Library.*]

A Closer Look



For much of the 20th century the standard conservation practice used concrete mortar to stabilize selected crumbling Ancestral Puebloan structures. As can be seen from the picture above, lower section, concrete mortar looks like... concrete mortar. Some years back the National Park Service began using acrylic mud (picture inset, above left) to stabilize structures. In fact, one archaeologist (Hartzler) did his PhD thesis on the use of acrylic mud at three Southwestern sites. Both of these pictures above are from the same Ancestral Puebloan structure at Hovenweep NM. At the time these pictures were taken NPS had hired Hopi masons to scrape out the concrete mortar in some sections and replace it with a proprietary mix of acrylic mud. They said the mud would last longer and look better than concrete mortar. The team moves from site to site around the Southwest working to stabilize selected structures.

Regional Archaeology News

Tribal Elders and Leaders Share Information on How to Visit ancient cultural sites with Respect. The article is by Talia Boyd, Cultural Landscapes Manager at Grand Canyon Trust. You can view the perspective at [The Grand Canyon Trust Blog](#).

Life as an Indigenous Archaeologist. Stacy Taylor, from the Michi saagiig (Mississauga) tribe, is an archaeologist at Parks Canada. She writes about how archaeologists and Indigenous people have not always understood one another. Stacy says artifacts are teachers who have a story to

tell. Our ancestors walked before us, she said, but they are still teaching us. You can read her piece in [The Walrus](#).

Should National Parks Be Returned to Native Americans? David Treuer, an Ojibwe on his mother’s side, writes a piece in [The Atlantic](#) about returning National Parks to a trust comprised of all Native American tribes. As part of a larger discussion about reparations he said Native Americans are better suited as stewards of these lands for all Americans. Treuer focuses only on iconic Parks such as Yosemite and Yellowstone. He does not mention the lone “experiment” in joint stewardship—Canyon de Chelly National Monument which is the only NPS unit shared between the Park Service and a tribe-- the Navaho Tribal Trust. PBS *NewsHour* also [interviewed Treuer](#) for his story.

Time for a permit or reservation to visit Bears Ears? Currently only one site in the area requires a permit—Moon House. Friends of Cedar Mesa and BLM are working to increase educational signage but they expect a tidal wave of visitors this year. There’s more on this story at [NPR’s KUER](#).

What Doomed a Sprawling City Near St. Louis 1,000 Years Ago? [New York Times, April 24, 2021](#). Cahokia was long thought to have collapsed from environmental degradation wrought by over-population. New research says that this theory has more to do with modern day anxieties and assumptions than actual evidence. The research suggests that the Cahokians, rather than exhausting their environment, actually pursued sustainable agricultural practices. What may have led to the abandonment of Cahokia? The authors suggest politics and cultural changes should not be overlooked. Insights for understanding ancient Southwest cultures?

Ft Lewis College Program gets archaeology students off the ground with drones. Prof Jesse Tune has a program that helps them get FAA drone certification. You can listen to his [podcast](#) on the subject and watch some [Facebook video](#) of him at Mississippian Mounds.

Utah’s Office of Outdoor Education Announces Grants totaling \$7.1 million for Dozens of Projects. Among the recipients is Friends of Cedar Mesa which received \$6,000 toward the Bears Ears Outdoor Education Program. In contrast, the Kanab Archery Complex received \$150,000. Radio Station KSL has a [detailed list of recipients](#).

Ancient Native Americans May Have Cultivated more than Maize, Beans and Squash in Bears Ears. The results of a new study suggest that Ancestral Puebloans may have cultivated dozens of species of medicinal plants. Scientists at the University of Utah found many species of medicinal plants growing in abundance near ancient communities but were rarely found elsewhere. This research may have implications for efforts to restore protection to Bears Ears National Monument. Bear in mind that Big Pharma spends millions of dollars each year looking for the next breakthrough drug in remote places. Maybe it’s in our backyard. The authors go on to recommend that Bears Ears be co-managed with indigenous local tribes. The findings were published in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
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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.