



THE MOKI MESSENGER

July 2021

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

This is the time we have been waiting for! Please read on to find out about our first in-person monthly meeting, the summer picnic, and several field trips. Also, the Board has approved a donation to fund 2 Internships at the Center of Southwest Studies.

It feels good to be getting back to normal!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks

Next Monthly Meeting

At long last. Our next meeting will be IN PERSON at the La Plata County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m. [Note the day and venue change from earlier calendars.] The meeting will be held in the **Lightner Conference Room** and will be preceded by refreshments so show up early. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Davina Two Bears, visiting

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FLC professor, will present: “Dine Survivance and the Old Leupp Boarding School.” This talk is particularly timely given recent events at Indian boarding schools in Canada.

Dr. Two Bears is Diné (Navajo) originally from Birdsprings, Arizona. Her maternal clan is Tódich’ii’nii, Bitter Water, and she was born for Táchii’nii, Red Running into the Water Clan. Before deciding to go back to school, Dr. Two Bears worked for the Navajo Nation Archaeology Department for 14 years as a tribal archaeologist and program manager. In 2019 Dr. Two Bears completed her dissertation and received her doctoral degree from Indiana University in Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology, and a PhD Minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies. Davina is currently a Visiting Instructor in Native American and Indigenous Studies and a Mellon Scholar at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. In 2019 she graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington and received a PhD in Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology and a PhD Minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies. Her dissertation was based on her

grandparents’ oral history about the Old Leupp Boarding School, an early twentieth century Federal Indian Boarding School located on the southwestern Navajo Reservation. Using decolonizing research methods, including interviews with Navajo elders and a critical analysis of historical records and photographs, I investigate the early history of the OLBS (1909-1942) focusing on how Navajo children resisted and survived assimilation.

Please note that all in-person attendees must be vaccinated.

This meeting will also be broadcast on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Date: July 21st

Time: 7:00 p.m. MDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WTN1T0lmUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

Field Trip Focus

With several Andy Gulliford trips coming up we wanted to give members an in-depth heads-up. Andy is not only a Professor of History at Fort Lewis College, he is a columnist for the *Durango Herald*, is referenced as a source in books about SW Colorado, and often shares his years of accumulated wisdom in tours throughout the year. SJBAS is fortunate in having him offer to conduct three tours for us this year with one coming later in July.

Arborglyphs at Beaver Creek and Piedra Stock Driveway Trip July 23

Learn about the history of sheep herding in southwest Colorado with a full-day tour of historic carved aspen trees or arborglyphs in Beaver Meadows and along the Piedra Stock Driveway in San Juan National Forest near Pagosa Springs. Andy recently published *The Woolly West*, which delves into these arborglyphs. This book won the Colorado Book Award and the Wrangler

Award for Outstanding Nonfiction. This trip is rated Easy Active and is limited to 20 people. Contact Andy@agulliford.com for more information or to sign up.

Field Trips, Speakers and Other Events for 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 field trips. Meetings will be in-person meetings and offered through Zoom.
July 21	SJBAS In-Person meeting - Davina Two Bears, visiting FLC professor, will present: “Diné Survivance and the Old Leupp Boarding School.” At the La Plata County Fairgrounds. Lightner Conference room above the Exhibit Hall. 6:30 to 8 PM. All are welcome.
July 23	Arbor Glyphs at Beaver Creek and Piedra Stockdrive: The Hidden History of Sheepscapes in SW Colorado. Contact Andy@agulliford.com for information or to sign up.
August 7-8	2021 Pecos Conference, Mancos, Colo. Contact Foxie Mason for further details. Her email is fmasondurango@gmail.com . There will be a SJBAS member get-together the evening of the 7 th .
August 11	SJBAS Picnic at Junction Creek Group Campground. See below for details.
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@agulliford.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@agulliford.com . Limit of 10.
December 4	SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch

Modified Field Trip Covid Policy

The SJBAS field trip policy remains the same as published in the [June Moki](#)

SJBAS Annual Picnic, August 11

Save the date. The annual SJBAS picnic is a go for August 11 from 5-8 PM at the Junction Creek Group Picnic Area just outside Durango. The site has a capacity of 65 people so we will send out an RSVP email by mid-July. As in the past, SJBAS will provide brats, vegetarian brats, buns, condiments, ice tea, lemonade, and water and members will be asked to bring salads, sides, and desserts and their plates and utensils. The mid-July email will divide the members by alphabet as to what they will be asked to bring and will also ask for volunteers to assist with grilling, setup, and cleanup. If you have questions, please email Michelle or Mark McKibben (michellemckibben56@gmail.com, maypo1054@gmail.com). As with all SJBAS events, attendees must be vaccinated and sorry, no pets.

Please plan on joining us and look for the July email to RSVP, get directions, and volunteer if you can.

Trip Report: Sand Canyon Pueblo and Goodman Point



The first SJBAS field trip of the 2021 season were visits to Sand Canyon and Goodman Point Pueblos on June 12. These two sites are the remains of Pueblo III villages, 1150-1350 AD. While Sand Canyon is the more dramatic, Goodman Point has the honor of being the first archaeological site protected by the federal government. It was withdrawn from homesteading to protect the resource in 1889.

The group assembled at the Sand Canyon trailhead. The seven explorers were Rusty Chamberlain, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Brooks and Janice Taylor and Susan and Donn Hicks. Most of us had visited Sand Canyon before. After a brief orientation and explanation about how each of these pueblos and others in the area are built

around the heads of canyons, we headed down a short trail to Sand Canyon Pueblo through a forest of Junipers.

Sand Canyon has numerous signs explaining the site. They all have illustrations to explain what might appear to be mounds of rubble. The first sign is at the head of the canyon close to where a spring and an intermittent stream divide the East and West section of the village. This site once had 14 D-shaped towers surrounded both sides.



We first toured the west side which is the largest area. Part way around the wall, we crossed over it into a plaza. From the plaza we climbed steps up to a mound which over looked a large D-shaped structure that contained 2 kivas. The trail then wound us through the village ruins across a stream bed to a Great Kiva. Down in the kiva Lorraine and Hunter identified the stone footings for the roof columns, although the sign indicated that archaeologist found no roofing material. A short walk from the Great Kiva leads to the cliff edge with a clear view of the ruins and cliff on the East side.

On the East side, our first stop was a D-shaped tower. We could definitely see the D shape and the excavated kiva of Room Block 1000. The remarkable thing about the East side is that much of the construction is terraced down the slope below the cliff.

From Sand Canyon we back tracked to Goodman Point. This site was added as a unit of Hovenweep in 1951. Like at Sand Canyon, the trail first lead near the head of the canyon. Here there is a wide, open area of slick rock and shallow soil. The trail goes along the North wall of the largest part of the village. While it takes some imagination, these are two sites are silent testimony to the ingenuity and perseverance of these long-ago cultures.

For our picnic lunch, we stopped at the Mountain Ute rest stop east of Cortez. This place has covered tables. Even with the 90-degree heat, the shade provided cool comfort while visited and eat our lunches. –Rusty Chamberlain

Pecos Conference, August 7-8, Mancos.

Each August, archaeologists from around the country gather under open skies somewhere in the Southwest to share new ideas and findings about Southwest prehistory. This year we are fortunate to have it just down the road in Mancos. SJBAS participants can drive to attend the daily sessions or camp at the conference site (plan to arrive Friday evening if camping). Foxie and Dick Mason will serve as “hosts” for any SJBAS members who choose to attend and will

organize a get together at the camp site (details to be determined) for participants. Please contact Foxie Mason for further details. The Masons can be reached at 970 247 0252 or 214 649 3250. Her email is fmasondurango@gmail.com. You can register at pecosconference.org/register.

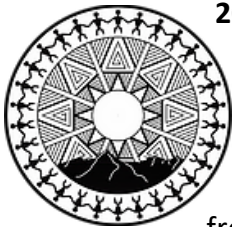
Quick Bits

An upcoming zoom talk on July 15 at 7 PM looks at “Domestic Turkeys in the US Southwest’s Archaeological Record.” It’s sponsored by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and you can register [here](#).

Changes coming to Chimney Rock NM. San Juan National Forest has proposed charging admission to Chimney Rock Nat’l Monument. The proposal also says that staff will be hired, including a ranger. A “robust volunteer program” will continue. The full announcement is [here](#).

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project in Velarde, NM has some of the densest concentrations of petroglyphs in North America. They recently used some covid relief funds to create 3D models of petroglyphs to not only better understand these ancient images but create virtual tours. You can see a sample [here](#).

Archaeological Conservancy to acquire Montezuma Village. *Archaeological Conservancy Magazine* reported that *The Conservancy* will purchase Montezuma village, an 85-acre, Ancestral Puebloan community in the upper reaches of Montezuma Canyon in SE Utah. BYU documented the village in the 1960s, recording 91 sites in a one-mile stretch of the canyon. A small portion of the village is on BLM land.



2021 Pecos Conference logo designed by SJBAS member Aaron O'Brien.

Aaron designed this freehand; no rulers or protractors. The logo depicts the La Plata’s, home to Hesperus Peak, the sacred mountain of the north for the Navajo. Its name Dibè Nitssa translates to Black Jet Mountain. Inspired by Puebloan pottery, the sun rises above Hesperus Peak while figures inspired from local rock art gather around.

Books about hiking SE Utah. *Exploring Utah’s Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa* is by Andrew Weber. It includes descriptions of 25 of his favorite destinations. In a different perspective, Morgan Sjogren writes that she didn’t want to write another secrets-to-Bears-Ears guidebook. Her book--*The Best Bears Ears National Monument Hikes*-- is about how to respectfully visit and learn from commonly visited sites. You can see an interview with her in [Moab Sun News](#).

Hundreds of places with racist or offensive names dot the US. The term *squaw* can still be found in dozens of sites around Utah and Colorado. The term *Ancestral Puebloan* has not quite supplanted *Anasazi* everywhere. For example, Utah has Anasazi State Park. Apparently, most name changes happen only when local communities want them changed. You can search the place names database [here](#). The original article appeared in [Axios](#).

[Science Moab](#) talks to archaeologist R.E. Burrillo about past and future SE Utah. In interview style Burrillo gives a good overview of Bears Ears' past and what it might become. He calls early archaeologists' looters. "We need more indigenous scientists and archaeologists," he added. He also said that he is very concerned about the dramatic increase in visitation. "Death by a thousand cuts," he said, adding that people need to have respect for a place that is living history to Native Americans.

National Monuments Can Boost Local Economies, reports an article in [Headwaters Economics](#). They summarize several research studies which found that local economic growth was **not** adversely impacted by new monument designations and often was given a jolt.

Will artificial intelligence speed up some artifact interpretation? Four experienced archeologists at Northern Arizona University tested their skills at interpreting decorated pottery sherds against a deep-learning computer. Scientists and machine each categorized thousands of sherds. The machine tied with two archaeologists and beat the other two. The research was reported in the [Journal of Archaeological Science](#).

Architect Society Amplifies Call for Returning Parks to Native American Stewardship. An editorial from the American Society of Landscape Architects reminds us that Native Americans have always been here and they were caring for the land long before the arrival of Europeans. The full editorial can be read [here](#).

From the Stacks

This month for our look at what area archaeologists and historians are reading or have written we check in with Andy Gulliford, Fort Lewis College Professor of History & Environmental Studies. For his upcoming day-trip to see Arborglyphs around Pagosa Springs (July 23rd) we recommend his book *The Woolly West: Colorado's Hidden History of Sheepscapes*. It was the 2019 winner of the National Cowboy and Western Museum Heritage award for best non-fiction book. We also recommend another of his books: *Outdoors in the Southwest: An Adventure Anthology*. Both are available at Durango Public Library although they may be out of print in some local book outlets.

A Closer Look

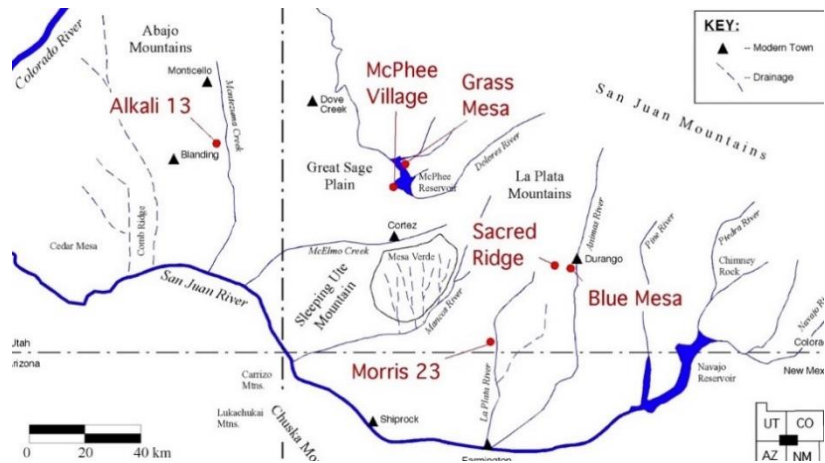


The iconic picture above of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde was taken in 1891, most likely with a camera similar to the one shown with AJ Lopez, an intern with the Center of Southwest Studies. AJ's working with an 1890s camera from the Edward Ellison Camera Collection. They've been working with their historic camera collection since the spring — researching, cataloging, photographing, and re-housing. What's remarkable is how well documented many Southwest sites are from the turn of the 20th century. It is estimate that thousands of pictures were taken at many sites around the Southwest. Unfortunately, many of these *time capsules* are locked away in various museums and collections, awaiting digitization and study.

Regional Archaeology News

Loss of resilience preceded transformations of pre-Hispanic Pueblo societies. New research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* further supports the idea that drought was not the only culprit in the decline of SW societies. The authors tracked declining stability of the status quo marked by increasing violence and increasing wealth inequality. Among the key measurements was tree-ring data which tracked the ebb and flow of construction. When you're optimistic about the future, you build more. And the reverse. Basically, drought might have been the tipping point but it was lack of adaptability and failing leadership that doomed the society. The old way of doing things wasn't working. The complete article is [here](#).

What Happened before Lake Nighthorse? A recent video provides background on how various agencies and 23 tribes have collaborated to better understand and preserve the cultural resources around Lake Nighthorse before the reservoir was filled. The video was produced by Larry Ruiz of Cloudy Ridge Production. The City of Durango now manages the eastern shore for recreation but much of the rest of the shore is a preservation buffer closed to the public.



In the years leading up to its being filled in archaeologists excavated all sites below the high-water mark. Seventy-four sites were found in an area called **Sacred Ridge** and they offered some surprising insights. The most profound was that in the early 800s widespread violence led to the abrupt abandonment of the

area. Half of the population of one village showed signs of extreme torture and mutilation. The cultural memory of what happened at Sacred Ridge led to this area being avoided by all succeeding Ancestral Puebloan tribes for over 1,000 years. Stephen Lekson, who was interviewed for this story said it's not unusual for populations to suddenly leave an area. But for it to become an exclusion zone for so long is rare. The video is [here](#).

Bears Ears, not just a Native American treasure but one for paleontologists. In a recent issue of [Nature](#), the case is made that Bears Ears needs protection not just for its cultural resources but for its fossilized ones, as well. The Rocky Mountain West is described by one paleontologist as one of the best places in the world to find fossils. With vast swaths of the public lands opened by the Trump administration to mineral extraction and ATV use, protections have been greatly diminished.

Are pictographs more sophisticated than we thought? In the Lower Pecos Canyon in Texas 300 rock art sites show accelerated deterioration due to climate change or increasing humidity. Researchers at the Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center report that the last 60 years have seen elevated levels of deterioration. Shumla scientists use high resolution photography and x-ray technology to create baseline documentation of panels at 300 sites. From these they create 3D models. Digital microscopes and X-ray fluorescence also let them see multiple layers of paint. These techniques are non-destructive and layering shows that rock painting is more sophisticated than previously thought. You can watch a short video [here](#).

Is returning public lands to Native Americans an emerging trend? *Yale Environment 360*, a publication of the Yale School of the Environment, writes about how land is being given back to Native American tribes for stewardship. They cite cases in California, Montana, New York and Oregon. Some transfers involve the US Government and some private entities such as Nature Conservancy. You can read the story [here](#).

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

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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 for \$20 (\$30 family) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.



Eastern Collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*) seen at Two-Story House Pueblo, Canyons of the Ancients NM. Note yellow socks indicative of a male during breeding season.