



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

September 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

[sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org)

## Next SJBAS Meeting: September 14<sup>th</sup> at the FLC Student Union Ballroom and on Zoom

Our next meeting will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at Fort Lewis College. The presentation is co-sponsored with the FLC Anthropology Department. Anna Sofaer and Rich Friedman will present: “Update on Chaco Solstice Project.”

Please join us for this special joint presentation either in person or via Zoom. **Note** that the Zoom link is not our usual one so look for it on our Web site at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

## President’s Message

Our annual **Field Trip Planning Meeting** for 2023 will be held from 2-4 PM on Sunday October 16 at Lorraine McCleary’s house. All members are encouraged to bring their ideas. You don’t need prior experience as a trip leader. All you need are passion and your personal

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archaeology bucket list. Join us for the afternoon and help make this society your society. RSVP to Lorraine at [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org).

Dr. Cory Pillen, the new Director of the Center of Southwest Studies, is planning to attend the SJBAS October meeting so that SJBAS members can meet her and she can meet us. We look forward to getting to know her.

Thank you to all SJBAS volunteers and members!

Sincerely,  
Susan Hicks  
SJBAS President

### Volunteer Opportunities

Two Board positions are open for the calendar year 2023 - Field Trip Program Coordinator and Vice-President. We hope to find a Vice-President who will become the President on January 1, 2024.

We are also looking for an Assistant Program Chair.

Training and assistance will be provided for those volunteering for the open positions. There are three to five, two-hour, Board meetings per year. The Board uses email to conduct business between Board meetings, when necessary.

Contact Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com), for more information about the open positions, detailed job descriptions and a copy of the SJBAS bylaws.

**Please consider pitching in to help SJBAS continue to be an enjoyable and active organization.**

### Calendar of Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2022

See [SJBAS.org](http://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.

### Tentative Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2022

<b>September 11</b>	<b>Sand Canyon in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument</b> – Visit Sand Canyon Pueblo at the head of Sand Canyon then hike down into the canyon to view other sites. Trip participation limit is 12. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
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<b>September 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting co-presenting with the FLC Anthropology Department.</b> Anna Sofaer and Rich Friedman will present: "Update on Chaco Solstice Project."
<b>September 16-18</b>	<b>Tsiping Ruins near Abiquiu, NM</b> – Two-day camping trip or motel stay. Archaeologist-led tour of Tsiping Ruins, a Tewa Puebloan Ruin of 1250 AD. Second day visit Ruth Hall Paleontology Museum at Ghost Ranch. Trip participation limit is 15. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Tish Varney at <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> . <b>Trip is Full.</b> Contact Tish about a wait list.
<b>September 24-25</b>	<b>Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park</b> – Two-day, one-night camping trip at the Tribal Park Campground. On the first day, volunteers maintain trails and facilities; on the second day a Ute guide will lead a tour of several cliff dwellings. Participants must be fit and ready to work all day. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Thomas Polich at <a href="mailto:thomas.polich@gmail.com">thomas.polich@gmail.com</a> . <b>Canceled</b>
<b>October 5-7</b>	<b>Bear's Ears National Monument Backcountry Sites</b> – Three-day camping at BLM's Comb Wash Campground. We will explore various Ancestral Puebloan sites and conclude the trip at Andy's house in Bluff with a gathering at dusk. Trip participation limit is 10. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. <b>Trip is Full</b> but you can contact Andy Gulliford about a wait list at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> <b>Note the Date Change.</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting – The Pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest &amp; Mexican Northwest</b> presented by Christopher Schwartz.
<b>16 October</b>	<b>2023 SJBAS Field Trip Planning Meeting, 2-4 PM.</b> Any member interested in leading a trip is encouraged to attend. It will be at Lorraine McCleary's house. RSVP to <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org">lorraine@bike-durango.org</a> .
<b>November 9</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting - Ann Axtell Morris and the amazing story of early 20th century women archaeologists in the Southwest</b> presented by Kelley Hays-Gilpin.
<b>December 3</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch</b>

## Member Interview: Shelby Tisdale, Part II

The first part of Shelby's interview is in the August Moki which can be read [here](#).

**Q:** *Do you think the field school model is changing?*

**A:** It is somewhat. But it needs to change more. Archaeology is necessary especially in situations where there is development or roads that will impact an ancestral or ancient place. We still need to train students how to excavate but only when necessary. We need to teach students how to use more non-invasive technology in the field.

We also need to go into [existing] collections more and study what's there. Jesse Tune is doing that this summer with his field school. I look at the work that archaeologists like Laurie Webster is doing. She's not just been going in and looking at these perishable collections from Cedar Mesa in museums. She's taking Native American weavers with her and a wildlife biologist who are helping identify feathers, wood and animal bones. She



has this whole team working with her. They're analyzing all these collections with the intent to work with tribes--the Hopi, Acoma, Zuni-- to create a database for future generations.

**Q:** *What advice would you give to a prospective PhD student?*

**A:** I would advise them to work more with legacy collections—to protect ancestral and ancient places as well as to preserve places instead of more excavation. I know this is a real issue when it comes to private property. It's easy on Federal land but private land owners feel they have these treasures. And they want to build a museum. I don't know if we will ever change that. We need to move more toward protecting these ancestral and ancient places as national assets. It's part of the public's education. That's the area that has the biggest need. Organizations like SJBAS can help. It brings in people that want to learn and see these places.

**Q:** *What are you working on in retirement?*

**A:** I'm working on a book about a woman archaeologist, Marjorie Lambert who trained in the 1930s. She was trained by and then worked with Edgard Lee Hewett, who was also her mentor. She was curator of archaeology for the Museum of New Mexico for 32 years. I gave a talk on Marjorie Lambert (1908-2006) [several years ago] and now have a book due out in the spring. Marjorie was losing her eyesight and I got to know her when I was in Santa Fe at the SAR. I would read to her on Wednesday nights-- mostly on archaeology-- and then we would just chat. We talked about being a woman in archaeology, about museums and the challenges. She was an amazing woman. I finished the book during Covid and it has since been accepted by the University of Arizona Press.

Also, as past president (2020-21) of the Rotary Club of Durango Shelby plans to continue to be an active member of Rotary and to support our community.

It's been a very satisfying career. I still research and write, go to conferences museums, and read everything I can find. You don't just retire. It's a lifetime.

## Pecos Conference 2022, Highlights

Each August, archaeologists gather under open skies somewhere in the southwestern United States and then spend four days discussing recent research, problems of the field, and the challenges of the profession. The first Pecos Conference was organized by A. V. Kidder in 1927. It was called the Pecos Conference because it was held at Pecos Pueblo where Dr Kidder had been excavating since 1915. One outcome of this first conference was the Pecos Classification System. You see it summarized on our Web site [here](#).

This year's conference was held on Rowe Mesa above the village of Rowe, New Mexico four miles south of Pecos National Historical Park. The venue was an open field of grass and scattered junipers. Two huge tents provided shelter from sun and rain. One was for vendors, static displays on archaeological projects and mingling. The other was for the conference presentations and the Saturday evening dinner and dance.

The conference part of the event was Friday and Saturday. Over these 2 days we heard about 35 presentations on topics from an "Update on the San Juan College Archaeology Field School at

the Point Great House Community” to “The State of Pecos Archaeology: New Research Directions” by the Pecos Archaeologist Jeremy Moss to “Ethnomathematics in the Ancient Southwest” by SJBAS member Alma McKown.

Thirty-five presentations seem like a lot but each talk is strictly limited to 15 minutes and most speakers manage their time to allow for a few questions. I was amazed at how much research is going on in the field, at museum collections and with technological innovations such as LIDAR. Many of the papers presented were of local interest. Examples of this are the talk mentioned above about the Point Pueblo near Farmington, a discussion titled “Aztec West’s Final Days” and a paper on Escalante Pueblo and its orientation to the landscape.

Next year the conference will be in Flagstaff. Set your calendars for the first or second weekend August 2023 –Rusty Chamberlain

## Land Acknowledgements: Help or Hindrance

Most of us have heard a *land acknowledgement* at some point. SJBAS now does one before its meetings at the Center of SW Studies. Immersed as we are in the archaeology landscape, however, it may come as a surprise that land acknowledgements are controversial... at least according to a recent podcast on *Stuff You Should Know*.

The podcasters state that land acknowledgements are so new that we haven’t quite figured out how to do them right. They say that folks on the right of the political spectrum just don’t want to hear about something bad from America’s past. People on the left say these are vapid, empty statements and make no difference. And some groups are accused of just doing it for the PR affect.

One resource the podcasters point to for organizations wishing to write their own land acknowledgement is the *Native Governance Center*. This Native-run organization offers an online guide for writing one [here](#). Do not ask them to write it for you OR to find a Native American to present it. It should be hard work creating this statement, they added.

They go on to say that a land acknowledgement statement can also include ways to help Native Americans. One way is right here in Durango with free tuition at FLC for Native Americans. You can also show up at rallies supporting Native Americans or get involved in community service projects that support local tribes. The podcasters also point to one movement in Seattle called *Real Rent Duwamish* which asks area residents to make rent payments to the Duwamish Tribe. Over 20,000 people make payments to this fund.

If you don’t have the app you can listen to it on the Web [here](#).

## Briefs

**New Mexico Annual Archaeology Fair** is set for October 15 at the Bernalillo Community Museum.

**More monuments for “under-represented” communities?** A thought-provoking [some would say woke-provoking] article on the *Center for American Progress* web site says President Biden needs to make even greater use of the Monuments Act-- that most National Monuments tell just the stories of white history. The impact is that minorities, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Latin Americans, even women don't see their stories told so don't bother to visit. You can read the article [here](#).

**Rare Ancestral Puebloan Pouch with a Surprise inside.** Anthropologists at Utah State University used x-rays to study the contents of a leather pouch, discovered in 1965, that was estimated to be between 750 and 1500 years old. The investigators, mindful of NAGPRA, used non-invasive methods with the idea that it could be a sacred object. Imaging revealed a seashell inside. Anthropologists said the presence of such an exotic item suggests this was an important cultural item. You can read the full story [here](#).

## Museum Roundup

**How Do You Walk through a Museum?** Quickly browsing labels, bee-lining to an eye-catching showcase? An article in the recent issue of *Travel and Leisure* magazine helps you think about how to get the most of your museum experience. They do it by profiling the re-vamped **Museum of Indian Arts and Culture** in Santa Fe. In interviewing the curator, we learn that its layout tells a “cohesive narrative” using layout, color, design, and sound that lends flow to the experience-- not just isolated static exhibits. You can read the story [here](#).

**Animas Museum Receives Grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services.** Called an *Inspire! Grant for Small Museums*, the award is for \$46,000 and will help the Museum analyze, catalog, and preserve their Ancestral Pueblo pottery. For museum visitors that will mean enhanced in-person and online exhibits. Local archeologist Mona Charles will lead the project. You can read more [here](#).

## Jill Ward: An Appreciation



Former SJBAS member Jill Ward died earlier this year. She was 78. Jill was born, lived, and worked most of her early and middle years in the canyons of Manhattan. Jill and Foxie Mason met when they both worked at the Aspen Institute summer campus in late 70's and 80's and became friends and hiking buddies on their days off. After they both moved on from their Aspen Institute jobs, they kept up their friendship. In the late 1980's Jill came to visit her friend in Durango and afterward, Jill began to visit Durango each summer for a week and those visits

soon changed to two-week visits and then month-long stays. Eventually, Durango became her home after September 2001. Her love of the Southwest was fueled by a two-week trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, her hikes in the mountains, and the companionship

of her beloved dogs, Willow and then Topper. Intrigued by SW culture and archaeology, she also joined SJBAS, signing up for trips, and volunteering as co-editor of the Moki newsletter. For ten years she also volunteered at Mesa Verde advising guests at the Visitor Center and sometimes assisting the Mesa Verde Archivist. Jill, who also had a lifelong love of music, sang with the Mancos Valley Chorus and a barbershop quartet for a number of years and later became a board member and president of Music in the Mountains. We will miss you, Jill. –Foxye Mason

## SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

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	Mary Rieke	<a href="mailto:mbrrieke@hotmail.com">mbrrieke@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead	<a href="mailto:mmtax@cmconline.com">mmtax@cmconline.com</a>
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg	<a href="mailto:bwkellogg@charter.net">bwkellogg@charter.net</a>
Membership co-chairs	Tish Varney and Lorie Hansen	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> <a href="mailto:lmhansen39@gmail.com">lmhansen39@gmail.com</a>
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lorraine McCleary	<a href="mailto:Lorraine@bike-durango.org">Lorraine@bike-durango.org</a>
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore	<a href="mailto:bmoore5552@gmail.com">bmoore5552@gmail.com</a>
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary	<a href="mailto:Hunter@bike-durango.org">Hunter@bike-durango.org</a>
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a>
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	<a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	<a href="mailto:michellemckibben56@gmail.com">michellemckibben56@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lhancock1@outlook.com">lhancock1@outlook.com</a>

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$15 (\$30 family, \$10 student) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.