



THE MOKI MESSENGER

October 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

Next SJBAS Meeting: October 12th at the Center of Southwest Studies and on Zoom

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Christopher Schwartz will present: "The pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest & Mexican Northwest."

Please join us in-person or via Zoom. **Note** that the Zoom login has changed so visit our Web site at sjbas.org for the new one.

President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

Save the Date: We are planning our Annual Holiday Brunch, Membership Meeting, and Silent Auction on December 3rd, 10:00am, in

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the Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College. Keep an eye out for our email that will give you more information.

In the meantime, we'd like to get an idea how many of you would be interested in attending an in-person brunch. Please email Michelle McKibben at michellemckibben56@gmail.com if you would like to attend (by November 3rd).

The next SJBAS Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 13, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM, Durango Public Library, Meeting Room #3. All SJBAS members are welcome to attend. Please email me at sc53hicks@gmail.com for an agenda.

Plan on attending Lorraine's Field Trip Planning meeting on October 16th (details below). We look forward to many adventures in 2023!

Thank you to all SJBAS volunteers and members!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Nominations are being accepted for two Board positions 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. Elections will be held during the Annual Meeting in December. We are also looking for an Assistant Program Chair.

Training and assistance will be provided. 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, for more information about the open positions, detailed job descriptions and a copy of the SJBAS bylaws.

Calendar of Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2022

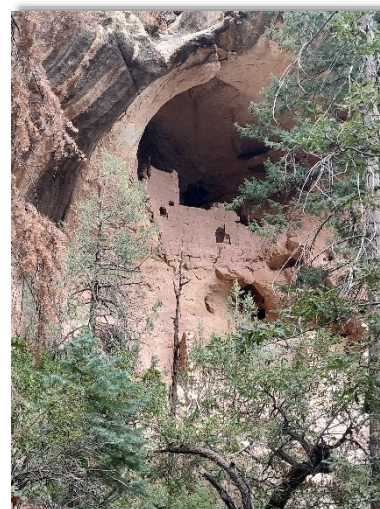
See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

Tentative Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2022

October 5-7	Bear's Ears National Monument Backcountry Sites _ 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. Trip is Full but you can contact Andy Gulliford about a wait list at andy@agulliford.com Note the Date Change.
October 12	SJBAS meeting – The Pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest & Mexican Northwest presented by Christopher Schwartz.
16 October	2023 SJBAS Field Trip Planning Meeting, 2-4 PM. Any member interested in leading a trip is encouraged to attend. It will be at Lorraine McCleary's house. RSVP to lorraine@bike-durango.org .
November 9	SJBAS meeting - Ann Axtell Morris and the amazing story of early 20th century women archaeologists in the Southwest presented by Kelley Hays-Gilpin.
December 3	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

Trip Report: Tsi-p 'in-owinge, Ancestral Village of the Tewa, Sept.16-18

Fifteen members of SJBAS convened on Sept 16 at the Ghost Ranch outside of Abiquiu, NM for a three-day adventure field trip. [Five members took a detour on the way to Ghost Ranch to see Nogales Cliff House, an 800-year-old dwelling of the Gallina culture. See picture to the right.] Ghost Ranch is an adult conference center with various accommodations and two museums. It was the haunt and muse for many of Georgia O'Keefe's famous paintings. Some members stayed in the campground while others stayed in provided housing with dining privileges.



Members were encouraged to arrive early enough to tour the Florence H. Ellis Anthropology Museum as well as the Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology featuring the Ghost Ranch dinosaur discovery, *Coelophysis*, now the New Mexico state fossil.

The “meet and greet” Friday before dinner gave everyone a chance to introduce themselves to the newer members of SJBAS as well as receive information for the Tsi-p 'in-owinge trip the next day. Our group arranged carpooling and whittled down the number to four fairly high-clearance vehicles. A free permit is required to visit Tsi-p 'in-owinge (pronounced sipping) owinge (pueblo) and can be obtained from the Coyote Ranger District Office for the Santa Fe National Forest.

Everyone convened at Bode's Convenience Store in Abiquiu on September 17 to meet our advisor, Patrick Cruz. Patrick is from Ohkay Owingeh, one of the Tewa pueblos and is curator of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. Patrick certainly added a level of knowledge to our trip!

The 17-mile, Forest Roads 31 and 27 to the Tsi'pin trail head varied from good dirt to rocky, steep and muddy. Cows were part of the local wildlife. Even with these difficulties, each vehicle made it through! The trailhead parking was flat and ample with lots of trees and grass.



Tsi-p 'in-owinge, which means Village at Flaking Stone Mountain (Cerro Pedernal) sits on Pueblo Mesa. It is accessed by a trail that drops and rises 500 ft. through forested switchbacks, across a narrow natural causeway and then up to the mesa. Dominating the vista is Cerro Pedernal, or Flint



Mountain and the source for extensive chert beds (sample to right). Chert is used to craft projectile points and was in abundance on top of Tsi-p 'in-owinge.

Entry into the pueblo is through a rock barricade some say is original. The path follows a well-defined walkway worn into the volcanic bedrock. Within the two- to four-story pueblo village of approximately 1500 rooms sits a plaza, multiple smaller kivas and a great kiva constructed with



native stone. Black on white pot sherds adorn the ground. The pueblo was abandoned by 1450 with residents going in smaller groups to present day Tewa areas such as Ohkay Owingeh around Espanola.

Our lunch spot provided a view below of the farms of *Cañones* as well as the Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu Reservoir and Pedernal in the distance. Grasses and cacti across the mesa mixed in with pinon and juniper were the common flora.

All too soon, the group had to face the arduous (for some) hike back up to the trailhead on Polvadera (meaning dusty or powder) Mesa. In the afternoon, the west facing trail can be hot despite the trees as well as a bit of a slog!

Our caravan made its way back to Abiquiu around 5pm. Reservations at Café Sierra Negra were set at 6 PM but the restaurant accommodated our earlier arrival. With a variety of menu choices and a number of refreshing drinks, the finale to our day culminated in camaraderie and good memories.

Back at the (Ghost) Ranch the morning of September 18, participants could head out for further adventures, gather for a farewell breakfast together or hike on the many trails around the facility. Opportunities abound for additional adventures in the future!

Participants included: Cathy Morin, Ian Rich, Bill and Janice Postler, Ruth Guarino, Paula Lutz, Thomas Polich, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Randy Graham, Tish and Pete Varney, Rusty Chamberlain, Jim Shadell, Bart Womack and advisor Patrick Cruz. – *Story by Tish Varney*



Suggested links for more information on Tsi-p 'in-owinge:

[New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources](#)

[US Forest Service](#)

[Trail Notes from OtherHand](#)

Or the Gallina culture:

[Wikipedia: Gallina](#)

[Trail Notes from OtherHand](#)

Thanks to Pete Varney, Paula Lutz, Randy Graham, and Rusty Chamberlain for photos.

Interview with Cory Pillen, Director, Center of SW Studies

In 2021 Shelby Tisdale retired after six years as director of the Center of Southwest Studies. Her successor is Dr. Cory Pillen. With a PhD in Art History and experience in museums, Cory brings a different perspective and background to The Center. In a recent interview she talked

about how The Center will still be the museum and archive resource it always has been but that the mission will also include more engagement with the FLC community and those outside it.

In 2021 Shelby Tisdale retired after six years as director of the Center of Southwest Studies. Her successor is Dr. Cory Pillen. With a Ph.D. in Art History and experience in museums, Cory brings a different perspective and background to the Center. In a recent interview she talked about how the Center will still be the museum and archival resource it has always been, but will work to expand its programming and engagement with the FLC community and those outside it.



Moki: Your background is quite different from your predecessor. How will that change the focus or emphasis of the Center?

Cory: I have an undergraduate degree in arts administration and worked for years in museums before going back to graduate school. I was more on the administrative side of things; HR, accounting, and development. But I also did some curating.

There is a lot of overlap between art history and anthropology and archaeology. I don't know if anthropologists look to the scholarship on visual culture and art history but many art historians read the work of anthropologists.

I went through a graduate program that very much valued this type of interdisciplinary research. I was working at a children's museum in Madison, Wisc. and started taking classes on my lunch break. The first class I took was taught by Ann Smart Martin, who was trained as a historical archaeologist. She has degrees in anthropology and archaeology and did her Ph.D. in material culture. Ann is a specialist in colonial and early American history, and looks at archeological finds from different locations, putting them in a broader cultural context.

Ann played a large role in my decision to attend graduate school. And, when I first went back to school, I wanted to study objects. Although my focus eventually shifted, Ann was a mentor throughout the duration of my graduate school career and served on my dissertation committee. Her influence is very much a part of my training. So, I don't see the overall vision of the Center changing drastically in terms of the types of exhibitions offered, collections care, or research access. Shelby and her staff accomplished a lot over the last few years. Although the Center has held some art exhibits, it has never defined itself as an art museum. Variety is important to our mission.

Moki: Where does your funding come from?

Cory: The Center is under Fort Lewis College's Office of Academic Affairs, which means we receive some funding from the school. We are reliant on external funding, though, for exhibitions, programming, and most of our collections care. These additional funds come from

individual donations and memberships. There have been some substantial planned gifts in the past and donations from foundations. We also write grants. The “As Seeds, We Grow” exhibit developed by Elise Boulanger, our Curatorial Fellow, was funded by grants from the Warhol Foundation and the Women and Girls of Color Fund. We’ve also gotten grants to support our collections from national and state sources such as the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board, as well as local organizations like the Ballantine Family Fund and the La Plata Electric Association. In the future, we also hope to take advantage of funding the city is making available from revenue generated by the Durango lodger’s tax.

Moki: What are your exhibit plans for the museum?

Cory: We’re currently in the process of planning two new exhibits, which will open after April.

Moki: Anything you can talk about?

Cory: We are working on several ideas for next year. We also just embarked on developing a five-year strategic plan since the last one was written in 2016. This will take several months and is a two-step process. First there will be a self-assessment and then we will work on developing the actual plan.

One thing we hope to do is expand our outreach to the community. We have considerable outreach already through our programs and the school groups that come through, such as those from FLC and the Durango schools. We want to expand this by developing collaborative partnerships in terms of programming and exhibitions. We don’t want to be just a place to visit. We want people to participate and become stakeholders. That’s an important distinction.

Moki: How will you leverage your resources?

Cory: Our varied collections, which range from archaeological and archival materials to contemporary cultural works, are what make us unique and an important resource both on campus and in the Four Corners region. The Center offers so many interesting, cross-disciplinary opportunities for researchers and exhibit goers to learn about the varied cultures of the Southwest. Likewise, we support FLC’s mission by providing hands-on, experiential learning activities for students.

Our museum and archival resources are open to the public and researchers can request access to specific objects in our collection. An example would be Amy



Partially-finished drawing of a 19th century Paiute water basket in the Center of Southwest Studies collection. Willow rods, sumac stitches, and pinon pitch coating with (now broken) horsehair handles.

Wendland, a professor at FLC and an artist/illustrator. Amy has a prestigious residency at the Denver Botanic Gardens and was struck by an herbarium sample of a narrowleaf willow she found in her research. She decided to make a work of art that explored the cultural and historic importance of the plant by integrating her investigation of the sample with a historic willow basket from the Center's collection.

Moki: Is the Center involved with the Colorado History investigation of the Indian School at Old Fort Lewis?

Cory: We have an extensive archival collection related to the Old Fort that was recently digitized. We were able to provide that material to the researchers who are working on the history of the Old Fort. Our archives manager Nik Kendzierski will also be taking a trip to do some archival research with them later this fall.

Moki: What kind of documents do you have?

Cory: Nik and Gretchen Gray would know more but there are thousands of documents from the National Archives and Records Administration, cultural and archaeological reports, and newspaper clippings. We also have photos, maps, and a wide variety of other archival material.

Moki: You will continue to support interns?

Cory: One reason we are successful in managing our archives and museum collections is the use of interns supported by organizations such as SJBAS. We are a small staff so this is incredibly valuable. Collection care is never done.

Importantly, these internships also give undergraduate students the opportunity to get hands-on, professional training in the museum and archives fields, training that is usually only available at the graduate level. Many of our interns have been able to jump-start their careers in fields such as archaeology, museum studies, conservation, and library sciences because of their time as interns at the Center.

How Much Work lies ahead for NAGPRA?

The National Park Service recently reported that the University of Alabama alone still holds the remains of 10,245 Indigenous people. The Native Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires that all Federal agencies and institutions receiving Federal funds return remains and funerary objects to lineal descendants and affiliated tribes.

Moki Messenger reached out to Chip Colwell to get a quick snapshot of just where US institutions are in returning Indian remains. Dr Colwell authored *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits: Inside the Fight to Reclaim Native America's Culture*. He cited estimates that only 40% of the ancestral remains in various collections have been returned. By his estimate it will take another 70-100 years to comply with the law. Colwell noted that most of the Alabama remains were unaffiliated, thus apparently leaving them in limbo. But he goes on to cite a University of

North Dakota case where many remains have not even been reported, 30 years after passage of NAGPRA.

The Alabama situation raises the question of repatriating unaffiliated remains. A recent conversation with Patrick Cruz, curator at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe and an enrolled member of the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo suggests one solution. He said that in his experience tribes rarely disagree over repatriation. He said they usually defer to the tribe with more experience.

Colwell added that the decades of work ahead of the US doesn't even take into account international repatriation.

Briefs

The 2022 Southwest Kiln Conference will be held October 7-8 in Silver City, NM. The conference includes live demonstrations and is focused on the Mimbres culture. It's hosted by Western New Mexico University. More information is available [here](#).

Is the Outdoor Museum concept really safe from sticky fingers? An article in the current issue of National Parks Conservation Association addresses the dilemma of leaving artifacts in place or rescuing them. Indigenous communities prefer their ancestors' possessions remain *in situ*. The Park Services strives to accommodate them but experience says that once even a well-hidden site is broadcast the item likely will walk off. All one has to do is walk the East trail of Sand Canyon. Good luck finding a single sherd. You can read the entire article [here](#).

Corn, beans, deer, rabbit, nuts.... Fish? A podcast on research into the diet of Ancestral Puebloans relates not only that fish were an important part of their diet but that these fish were whoppers compared to today. Moreover, possibly because of climate change this item is no longer on the menu of their descendant communities. Jonathan Dombrosky of Crow Canyon spoke with podcaster Nalini Nadkarni of Utah Public Radio. He also looked to his future work in which he will try to establish a chronology of fishing in the diet of peoples of the Southwest. You can *catch* the podcast [here](#).

Archaeology Southwest launches the 2022-23 Season of Archaeology Café. The eight-part series on the first Tuesday of each month explores the complexities of collaborative research. The series is mind-broadening as it also introduces viewers to other American cultures such as Chinese railroad workers and African Americans. You can learn more and register [here](#).

New Books

Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance, the latest book from Andy Gulliford, arrives later in October. Andy looks at the 11,000 years of the Greater Bears Ears area and discusses what's at stake for those seeking to protect it.

Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America offers an often-ignored perspective on Indigenous resistance to European conquest. It includes a section on the Pueblo Revolt.

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

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SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st 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.