



THE MOKI MESSENGER

December 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

Annual Membership Dues

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 \$25 (\$50 family, \$10 student) payable to ‘SJBAS’ and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch, Dec 3 at Ft Lewis College

Our Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch will be held in person on Saturday, December 3rd, at 10:00 a.m., at the Vallecito Room in the Fort Lewis College Student Union. The festivities will feature a catered brunch, a review of our 2022 field trips, introduction of new members, door prizes and special silent auction, and our annual meeting with election of officers. Fully vaccinated SJBAS members and invited guests are welcome as we get together for this wonderful annual event.

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President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

It's hard to believe this year is almost over. In 2022, SJBAS held several field trips, excellent in-person monthly programs, a fun summer picnic and, in a few days, we will be getting together for our Holiday Brunch and Annual Meeting. This year SJBAS was able to fund a \$1,000 Ft. Lewis College Field School Scholarship and a \$1,000 Center of Southwest Studies Internship. Our two students will join us at the brunch and will give presentations about their experiences. We are looking forward to meeting them in person.

During the Annual Meeting on December 3rd, members will vote for the SJBAS 2023 officers. The following members have volunteered to fill these positions: President - Susan Hicks, Vice-President - Paul Landrum, Secretary - Mary Rieke, and Treasurer - Mary Moorehead. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted before the vote.

I would like to thank our departing Board member, Lorraine McCleary who has been our Field Trip Coordinator for 2 years and brought us through the worst of the COVID pandemic. Thank you, Lorraine, for your service and we look forward to seeing you on field trips and other activities. Another note, Hunter McCleary is retiring as the SJBAS Vice-President, but he will continue to serve on the Board, edit the Moki Messenger Newsletter, and help us with technology.

Please join us in welcoming Paul Landrum as our nominee for Vice-President. He is full of ideas to help keep SJBAS an active and meaningful organization. Your vote is important for approving this new officer.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take Lorraine's place as Field Trip Coordinator. Please volunteer and send me an email (sc53hicks@gmail.com). I will be happy to fill you in on the details of the position.

The next SJBAS Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 13, 2022 at the Durango Public Library, Meeting Room #3. All SJBAS members are welcome to attend. Please email me at sc53hicks@gmail.com and I will send you an agenda. If you can't attend the meeting, please email ideas, questions, and comments by January 3rd and I can add them to the agenda.

Happy Holidays!
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

John W. Sanders Internship and Educational Outreach Fund and Annual Dues

The education of future Archaeologists is important for the preservation of sites and understanding of cultures. Under the SJBAS Bylaws, one of our objectives is to support and

encourage Fort Lewis College (FLC) students pursuing archaeology related fields, specifically by funding FLC Center of Southwest Studies student internships and other related programs, as SJBAS finances warrant.

To meet this objective, SJBAS established an Internship Fund many years ago and it was funded by member donations. John W. Sanders was a dedicated, passionate member of SJBAS and when he passed away in 2013, the fund was renamed to honor John and a large number of donations were made in John's memory.

In the past, SJBAS has awarded \$500 to the Center of Southwest Studies to support internships. Over the years, student tuition costs and their living expenses have increased substantially. Our current SJBAS goal is to fund two \$1,000 Internships to the Center of Southwest Studies, and one \$1,000 FLC Archaeological Field School Scholarship per year.

The fund continues to receive member donations, silent auction proceeds, and an occasional donation from a member's estate but the amount received from these sources has diminished. The Board realized, if we are to continue to meet the SJBAS Bylaws and Objectives, that we needed a more reliable source for funds. Therefore, the Board approved a dues increase of \$10 per year (\$0.83 per month) per member starting in 2023. The \$10 increase will be transferred directly to the SJBAS John W. Sanders fund and will be used for Ft. Lewis College Internships and Scholarships and related programs. This \$10 increase is considered a donation and is tax deductible because SJBAS is a 501(c)(3) organization. **If you have already sent in your dues for 2023 using the previous rate, please consider sending in the difference.**

Thank you in advance for your help and understanding that this dues increase directly supports FLC archaeology students.

If you would like details about the JWS Internship Fund balances and financial history, or have any other question, please contact Mary Moorehead, Treasurer, or Susan Hicks. Contact information may be found at the end of this *Moki Messenger*.

Calendar of Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023

SJBAS will announce its field trips and speakers for 2023 at the annual meeting at FLC in December and in the January *Moki*. Stay tuned.

SJBAS 2022 Year in Review

Speaker Program Review

SJBAS was most fortunate to have a wonderful array of speakers in 2022 on the archaeology of the Four Corners Area, included as part of the Four Corners Lecture series, and elsewhere. These programs were presented in hybrid format: either only on Zoom, with SJBAS members able to view the programs together at the Center of SW Studies, or with the speaker in person in the

Center, with the program also broadcast on Zoom. SJBAS's September program was also part of "History Live" presented by the Southwest Colorado Humanities Roundtable.

Chaco Canyon was the topic of three programs: in August, Rob Weiner discussed Chacoan Roads; in September, Anna Sofaer and Rich Friedman brought us up to date on the latest research of the Chaco Solstice Project; and in March, Ryan Harrod, Garrett College, lectured on Social Control in the Chaco Phenomenon. Ed Jolie, Arizona State Museum, spoke about ancient basketry shields of the Northern SW in May. In April, Lexi O'Donnell, University of Mississippi, informed us about teeth telling tales. Anna Osterholtz, Mississippi State University, presented a discussion in January on the manipulation of the body in mortuary rituals. November saw Kelley Ann Hays-Gilpin, Northern Arizona University, talk about Ann Axtell Morris. Away from the SW, in February Douglas MacDonald, University of Montana, talked about the ancient peoples of the Yellowstone area. —Janice Sheftel

Field Trip Review



SJBAS had an active core of members participating in its field trips this year. Lorraine McCleary began the year with at least one trip planned for almost every month. Covid waylaid a couple of trips and forced some coordinators to wing alternate destinations. Kudos to all trip leaders. Lorraine said that organizing and leading a trip is quite rewarding. There's not only

the educational aspect but the friendships you develop. Many trip participants go on to be trip leaders when they realize how easy it is. Next year's trip agenda will be out in January but we can add a trip anytime, she said. If you have a bucket list with a relevant trip on it, that's half the work right there. Contact Lorraine if you simply want to explore a trip idea.





SJBAS Speaker Follow-up

The October SJBAS speaker was Dr. Christopher Schwartz who talked about the “The pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest & Mexican Northwest.” He was kind enough to answer a few questions from the audience after the talk ended.

Q: Might it be possible, through DNA analysis, to determine how many macaws were imported from Mexico versus the number born and raised locally?

CS: It should, in theory, be possible to use DNA analysis to determine how many macaws were imported from Mexico versus the number born and raised locally, however, it would require that you sample all or most of the macaws that have been encountered in the SW/NW and get yields of DNA material sufficient for analysis. The greater the sample size, the better we are able to understand the relatedness of macaws to one another (much like 23 and me and other DNA companies today). We would also need to sequence the whole genome to fully understand their relatedness, although it is possible to get a less sophisticated idea of their relatedness using mitochondrial DNA in place of nuclear.

This has been done on the macaws from Chaco and Mimbres, and the major finding is that they are all so interrelated that there must have been a founding set (male and female) of macaws from which all of the birds from Chaco and Mimbres descended. The challenge for this study—and our hypothetical sampling of all SW/NW macaws—would be understanding exactly where the birds came from. DNA can tell us about relatedness, but it cannot tell us whether this founding set of macaws was kept locally in the SW/NW or people procured them from a single place within their natural habitat, or perhaps if a family of bird keepers kept those birds somewhere between here and southern Mexico, and they brought birds from their home to the

SW/NW. Strontium isotope analysis can start to get an idea of where these birds might have come from, but again it would require a ton of sampling.

Q: What were the ceremonial ways in which macaw feathers were used? What other artifacts made of macaw feathers have you found, other than the gorgeous “breach cloth” you showed us?

CS: As far as I know, people also used macaw feathers in masks, headdresses, attire, ceremonial paraphernalia, on wands, and on prayer sticks (although not amongst the Zuni). I know most of this from Octavius Seowtewa’s chapter about Zuni use of macaws, but outside of that we really don’t have a ton of instances of prehistoric feather textiles that have preserved well enough to know more about their specific uses. Macaws were/are important to many tribes and so I would anticipate their feathers have various uses amongst many of the SW/NW tribes, but that knowledge isn’t always shared with archaeologists.

Q: Might there be any connection between the use of macaw feathers and the use of feathers by various California Indian tribes?

CS: I haven’t seen the California tribes’ use of feathers so I’m afraid I can’t comment on that. I’ll have to make my way to Oakland though because it would be wonderful to be able to draw some comparisons!

Briefs

Where will the proposed Bears Ears Cultural Center be located? Currently the only public visitor’s center devoted solely to Bears Ears is the recently renamed Bears Ears Partnership in Bluff. The Utah State University Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism was tasked with recommending possible sites for a Cultural Center. They identified three “hot spots” as ideal candidates: near Bluff, south and west of Blanding and west of Monticello. You can download their full report [here](#). *Moki* reached out to the Bears Ears Partnership to get an idea of what their role might be once a Cultural Center has been built. Ann Siegel, communications director, said that “while our [mission] and the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition’s missions are different, we work closely together and believe that our partnership creates opportunities to fill gaps and collaborate on serving the Monument’s on the ground needs. Our role will continue to prioritize partnership with tribes and serve as a support for tribal leadership of the Monument.” She added that “we are very much part of the conversation with the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition. We are looking at how the Bears Ears Education Center, our expansion plans and our partner-first approach fit with the goals of the BEITC.”

Museum Roundup

Does your home have that hint of a museum? The School for Advanced Research is offering the online course “Caring for Your Personal Collections at Home.” It is December 6 and 8, online, or in-person on December 13. There is a charge but it is discounted for SAR members. You can find more information [here](#).

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	hunter@bike-durango.org
Secretary	Mary Rieke	mbrrieke@hotmail.com
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Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	michellemckibben56@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock99@gmail.com

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