



THE MOKI MESSENGER

April 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Meeting, April 12: “The Peopling of South America.”

Presented by Emeritus Professor Bruce Bradley, University of Exeter, UK. The presentation begins at 7 PM in the FLC Lyceum. There is a pre-meeting social beginning at 6:30. You may obtain the login credentials at sjbas.org.

President’s Message

It’s Spring! Time to check out the list of monthly programs and field trips that is included in this Moki. We are very lucky to have access to these incredible opportunities. You may sign up for the Keet Seel Backpack trip beginning today, April 1 (this is not an April Fool’s joke) and the Telluride Museum/Tomboy Mine day trip beginning May 1. See details below.

Linda and Rich Robinson were very active, long-time members of SJBAS. The Robinson Estate donated many incredible items to SJBAS and asked that we use the proceeds from selling

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these items to benefit Native Americans. Through Silent Auctions, we collected \$2,044. On March 7, 2023, the Board approved the donation of this money to the Ft. Lewis College Village Aid Project Solar Initiative. Please see the article included in this Moki for more information about this worthwhile initiative.

The next SJBAS Board meeting will be held Thursday, April 13, 1:00-3:00 at the Center of Southwest Studies 2nd floor conference room. All SJBAS members are invited to attend.

We continue to seek volunteers! Please consider helping us out - a little help can go a long way. Contact me at sc53hicks@gmail.com or any board member. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
 Susan Hicks
 SJBAS President

Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023

See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. Check the Web periodically for the latest details. This year SJBAS is instituting a compressed sign-up process. The past year saw way too many last-minute participant cancellations. It is hoped that if the sign-up window is closer to the trip dates there will be a firmer commitment once someone signs up. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

Tentative Field Trip and Meeting Schedule - 2023

April 12	SJBAS meeting – “The Peopling of South America.” Emeritus Professor Bruce Bradley, University of Exeter, UK.
April 24-26	Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites – Three-day car camping trip. We will camp two nights in a designated campsite and do several hikes over three days to a variety of Anasazi sites. 4 WD/HC vehicles will be needed, but we can provide. Participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Difficulty rating is moderate. Participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle Hancock at lylehancock99@gmail.com . Sign up began Feb. 1st.
April 29	Sand Canyon Pueblo – Visit Sand Canyon Pueblo at the head of Sand Canyon and then walk down into the canyon to view other sites. Trip participation limit is 12. Difficulty rating is moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty at chambrke@aol.com . Sign up began Feb. 1st.
May 10	SJBAS meeting – The presentation will be “From This Earth: Ancestral Pueblo Pottery in the Animas Museum’s Collection.” The speakers are Mona Charles, Susan Jones, Briana Paxton and Patty Joy and it is co-sponsored with the Animas Museum.
Early June TBD	Keet Seel Backpack – We are trying for the third year hoping the monument will open to guided tours. Three or four-day camping trip to Navajo National Monument (NNM) that includes an overnight backpacking trip (8.5 miles each way) to Keet Seel, one of the best-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff

	<p>dwellings in the Southwest. For those who want to stay for a fourth day (3rd night) there is a guided five-mile round trip hike to Betatakin. Limit of 10 backpackers, but others are welcome to camp. Difficulty Rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Hunter McCleary at hunter@bike-durango.org. Trip sign-up began 7 AM April 1st. Update: NNM backcountry <u>may</u> open in early June but a decision will not be made until later in May. Anyone who signs up will receive regular updates. It may be that this becomes a fall event.</p>
June 14	SJBAS Annual Picnic
June 20-23	<p>San Juan River Raft Trip – Four-day Ft Lewis College Outfitter river trip (Ft Lewis on the River, FLOW) on the San Juan River from Sand Island to Mexican Hat to view archeological sites along both side of the river. This all-inclusive trip includes transportation, food, camp gear, float gear and guides. Cost is \$600 plus/per person. A deposit of \$300 is due at sign up in Feb. with final payment 30 days in advance. Fees are non-refundable unless there is a person on the waiting list or you find a substitute. Trip participation is 16. Difficulty rating: Moderate. For information or to sign up, contact Tish at tishvarney@att.net. Waitlisted Sign-up began Feb 1st. Note date change.</p>
July 12	<p>SJBAS meeting – “<i>Sand, Stone, and Songs: Ancient Lessons from a Living Landscape</i>” presented by Vince MacMillan, archaeologist at Canyons of the Ancients NM.</p>
July TBD	<p>Telluride Museum/Tomboy Mine – One-day trip to Telluride with guided tours by Rudy Davison. Trip participation is TBD. Difficulty rating: Hard (hike starts at 11,500 feet). For more information or to sign up, contact Janice janicesheftel@gmail.com Sign up begins 7 AM May 1st.</p>
August 5	<p>Flint knapping with Paul Landrum – A flint knapping workshop will be held at Janice Sheftel’s home. Participation set at ten. For more information or to sign up, contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com. Sign up begins 7 AM June 1st. Time TBD. Cost is \$5 for materials.</p>
August 11-13	<p>Pecos Conference: 2023 – One to three-day trip near Flagstaff. Archaeologists gather under open skies to discuss recent research, problems of the field, and the challenges of the profession. Most participants camp at the conference site. No trip limit. Difficulty Rating: Easy. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com.</p>
August 9	<p>SJBAS meeting – “<i>The Gallina Culture.</i>” Jacque Kocer will talk about his dissertation.</p>
September TBA	<p>Albuquerque/Salinas Missions – Trip participation and difficulty rating TBD. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty at chambrke@aol.com Sign up begins 7 AM July 1st.</p>
September 13	<p>SJBAS meeting – Noted Indigenous ceramic expert Karen Harry from the University of Nevada will present a topic TBA.</p>
October 6	<p>Cannonball Mesa – One-day exploration of Cannonball Mesa in Canyon of the Ancients Nat’l Monument as lead by noted CANM expert Diane McBride. This is a 5–6-mile round trip hike to the site. Trip participation is 14. Difficulty rating is moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Lorraine at lorraine@bike-durango.org.com Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1st.</p>
October 11	<p>SJBAS meeting – Dr. Shelby Tisdale, Former Director, FLC Center of SW Studies, will talk about her new book, “<i>No Place for a Lady: The Life Story of Archaeologist Marjorie F. Lambert.</i>”</p>

October 27-29	Bear's Ears Exploration – Three-day trip to Bear's Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash. Trip concludes at Andy's house in Bluff, NM. Difficulty rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy at andy@agulliford.com Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1st.
November 8	SJBAS Meeting – “A Different Way to Understand Community: A Closer Look at the Velarde Valley of New Mexico” by Patrick Cruz, PhD candidate and curator of collections at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe.
November TBA	Aztec Inscriptions – A one-day guided tour of the inscriptions at Aztec West with Fred Blackburn. Trip participation and Difficulty rating TBD. To sign up or for more information, contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com Sign-ups begin 7 AM Sept. 1st.
December	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

Canceled

SJBAS Funds Support FLC Village Aid Project Solar Initiative

With one-third of Navajo Nation residents lacking electricity, a program at Fort Lewis College is using the sun to reduce that number. The Fort Lewis College Village Aid (VAP) Solar Initiative designs and installs off-grid photovoltaic solar systems for families with critical energy needs in Native American communities. Through curriculum and a certification program FLC students gain real world experience in the field of renewable energy. The program also strengthens ties between FLC and Indigenous communities. The program is run by Dr. Laurie Williams, professor of Engineering at FLC. You can learn more about the renewable energy certification program at [NABCEP](#) and Dr William's Village Aid Project [here](#).



Trip Report: Santa Fe Museum and Epicurean Crawl

In early March twelve of our members enjoyed two days of back rooms, special rooms and labs in a whirlwind Museum experience. Added to that were the superb culinary treats available in Santa Fe! We set our sights on three locations, each offering a different experience: The School for Advanced Research (SAR), the Museum of





Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) and the Center for New Mexico Archaeology (CNMA).

Up the winding Garcia Road sits SAR, an advanced research center which, until 2007, was known as the School of American Research. It was founded in 1907 as the School for American Archaeology. It is an independent institute for the study of anthropology, related social sciences, and humanities. SAR is located on a beautiful 8-acre campus on an estate that was once the home of sisters Amelia Elizabeth White and Martha Root White. Within the campus is the Indian Arts Research Center (IARC) which houses an outstanding collection of Native American art, including pottery, jewelry, textiles and clothing, paintings, basketry, and drums.

We were treated to a guided tour by docent Nick Seeds, who took us into two vaults of treasured items. His theme was the transition from utilitarian objects to art objects over time. The lower level of the first vault displayed pottery, both ancient and modern, from 19 pueblos, each with their own section. Numerous pots from the SAR collections were selected by the Pueblo Pottery Collective for the *Grounded in Clay* traveling exhibit, which we saw later in the afternoon.

Scholars attending SAR study and copy the techniques for making these pottery items. One particularly creative clay artwork showed the entire process of making a pot in one exquisite piece. In addition, showcases of jewelry invite delight in this area. Years ago, the balcony railing in the upper level displayed weavings. These and other textiles are now kept rolled and encased in plastic due to little moths that play havoc with the wool. Originally, rugs were protected by applying arsenic to the surface! Clothing and paintings complete the items in Vault 1.

The second vault provided a way to examine the process of making a woven basket. We also saw Hopi, Zuni and Mohave ceramics on display as well as many examples of Indigenous artwork.

Next, we joined Patrick Cruz for lunch at the Museum Hill Café. Patrick is the curator and PhD candidate working at the **Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC)**. His family lives in the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (Tewa for *place of the strong people*) and is a potter in his own right along with his uncle and grandmother.

Our “backroom” tour was below the MIAC exhibit halls accessed by keyed elevator. Pottery use for cooking declined after Europeans introduced metal pots. The process is now preserved for producing pots for collectors



and tourists. Patrick’s family continues the tradition. We learned about the various techniques of firing such as using cow patties and wood to produce a black finish. Clay comes from many sources with the strongest containing mica or volcanic tuff. Patrick also demonstrated how the burden basket allows gathering with both hands by securing the basket via a band on the head.

Returning from the curation area, the group went on to view *Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery*. This exhibit further explored the relationship of clay and Indigenous peoples’ culture and connection to the earth. Pottery on display included those from Patrick Cruz’s grandmother and Clarence Cruz, his uncle. All are from Okay Owingeh Pueblo. Patrick’s own relationship to pottery making was quoted in the exhibit and here with the author’s permission:

*“digging ... gathering ... processing ... kneading ...
forming ... scraping... sanding... firing...
You experience anxiety when firing a pot, hoping that
all your efforts, your time, your creative ability
all of yourself that you have invested into this clay being
will come to fruition, and that it will survive the firing
and from it will be born something of beauty.”*

-Patrick Cruz
OKAY OWINGEH

Our visit to the **Center for New Mexico Archaeology** the following day involved traveling to a remote location west of Santa Fe and down a dirt road. Although spitting rain, we approached the front door carefully as a previous storm piled high sticky Russian Thistle (tumbleweed) and almost covered the windows! It was like “Raiders of the Lost Arc” only in New Mexico! Once inside, we were greeted warmly by our guides Diana Sherman and Caitlin Ainsworth.



The center contains two areas – Curation and Lab. Caitlin started on the lab side to their library and talked about the educational materials collected from estates and academic sources. In an activity room, school students can see replicas of turkey feather blankets, weaponry and pottery as part of their educational outreach.

Caitlin’s expertise is Osteology or bone analysis. Her lab contains a variety of specimens to use as guides in identifying bones uncovered from many sources. One favorite was the skeleton of a turkey.



Further down the hall, we met Dr. Marvin Rowe and Jeffery Cox in their copiously filled lab. Marvin created and built what looks to be a mad scientist's analytical machine he calls the Low Energy Plasma Radiocarbon Sampling machine. The process is a non-destructive method that does not damage artifacts. It is used in dating organic material such as pigments, teeth and bones. There are only three machines in existence and Marvin had a hand in all of them. Since Marvin's retirement, Jeffery comes in to help out.

Animal bone identification, archaeomagnetic dating, plant-material identification, pottery analysis, and technology labs provide specialized services to clients and archaeologists throughout the Southwest.

Diana Sherman, Archaeological Research Collections Manager took the group to the curation area. Here she introduced us to Amy Montoya, ceramic typology expert, photographer and jewelry maker.



The Museum acts as the Repository for the State of New Mexico, curating archaeological materials from State lands, and also accepts donations of artifacts from private land in New Mexico. There is something on the order of 10 million artifacts on site. They also store artifacts from some Tribal collections.



Along one side of a large room filled with examination tables, sits row upon row of labeled drawers each containing examples or types of ceramic (mostly pieces).

These come in as a result of highway building and other activities where artifacts are discovered. By comparing the know designs with those found, it is possible to identify the origin of the pot from the style.

“The climate-controlled repository in the next area contains gigantic system of rolling shelves that move along a track. The adjustable shelves can hold many sizes of pots. Amy had recently finished construction of individually designed support structures for each of the very large water jars recovered from the infamous 2009 raid by Federal agents in Blanding, several of the town folk were arrested.

The perishable artifacts such as bone awls and sandals are stored in special cabinets to keep out rodents and other critters.”

Thank you to Jill Tripp for filling me in on the final area. I’ve quoted Jill, above.



Trip participants were: Mary Moorehead, Nancy and Jim Ottman, Russ Crump, Marlene Sloan, Bill and Jill Tripp, Tish and Pete Varney, Thomas Polich and Hunter McCleary.

-Tish Varney, field trip organizer

Interview with Patrick Cruz, Curator of Collections, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture



Patrick Cruz, an enrolled member of the Ohkay Owingeh community, is completing his PhD dissertation and working at MIAC, Santa Fe. He recently spent an afternoon giving SJBAS members a backroom tour and then sat down with the Moki Messenger editor for a chat.

Q: What do your Indigenous peers learn from coming to a museum? Do they feel that their culture is being appreciated and showcased for western culture to see or are they maybe offended that their cultural items are displayed behind glass?

A: Depends on the museum and the individuals. Some have the view that none of this should be in museums. I can understand that. But in a way it’s like the damage has been done. So now it’s maybe more about taking care of these pieces now that they are here.

At our museum we have quite a few Indigenous folks on staff and have connections to people in the communities. So, the idea is to bring in school groups and consultants. So, we hope to add an

educational aspect. To maybe connect some of our pieces with someone's ancestor; someone's aunt or great aunt. So, fostering those kinds of relationships is what I enjoy doing.

Q: What exhibits have the most impact to visitors?

A: For a non-Indigenous person, just the history of the Southwest. So that might be our “[Here, Now and Always](#)” exhibit which explains who Indigenous peoples are. Their experiences, life histories and art. Indigenous folks won't be as interested in that kind of thing. They may gravitate toward pieces but they already know their own history.

Our “[Grounded in Clay](#)” exhibit would really attract them because that's where you don't have a scholar curating it. [A curator] would put it together one way. We're putting it together a different way because there are 60 different curators. Whatever [story] they want to tell. It's not so much about the pieces as the story. They're reading the panels about someone that is here and alive that they can relate to.

Q: What are your favorite museums?

A: Here, of course. The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. I'm also partial to the Center of Southwest Studies [as I went to Fort Lewis College]. I also like aerospace museums. [Laughs].

Q: Is there a way to visit a museum?

A: See a docent if they have one. They can answer questions. I like museums that you explore as you go. I don't like a structured museum. But some people benefit from that.

Q: What would you say to someone say from the Tewa community who might be considering a career in archaeology?

A: I would say not to be dissuaded; not to let other people's opinions drive what you are interested in. The other thing about our museums is if you are really connected to your community, you feel like in a sense you are curating a community's materials. We are curating these materials for the tribes. In that case you are sort of a steward. Treating these materials with the respect they deserve and not just a piece of art work.

Having an Indigenous background, having certain values can contribute to understanding a site. You can use the science to understanding something but often the human aspect is missing.

The other thing that Indigenous see when they visit an archaeological site is that archaeologists are so focused one little thing... ceramics. And they're only looking at that one thing— sherds. Always looking down. The thing that's most important to tribes past and present is the landscape. Where that site sits on the landscape. The mountain points, the hills. A lot of archaeologists are not seeing broader [perspective].

Briefs

Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance (SWCA) Hosts Earth Day Cleanup on April 22. The cleanup will be at Canyons of the Ancients Nat'l Monument and runs from 9-noon. Participants also get a tour of Lamb House with CANM archaeologist Vince MacMillan. Trash bags, gloves and light refreshments will be provided. You may get more information by emailing Markleigh Swanson at swcocanyons@gmail.com or go ahead and register [here](#).

Crow Canyon Celebrates the Big Four-Oh with Slew of Local Field Trips. Four days of celebration run from October 11-15. Events include the solar eclipse, and field trips to Mesa Verde, the Hawkins Preserve, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Farm and Ranch and Yellow Jacket Pueblo. You may learn more and register [here](#).

Talk on Drinking Rituals and Politics in Chaco Canyon, April 17 at 7 PM on Zoom. Presenter will be Patricia Crown and you may register at the [Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society](#).

Canyon de Chelly National Monument Makes Top Five Parks for Educational Value. *RoadTrippers* asked the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association and the National Park Service for a list of the top five parks to visit to learn about Indigenous cultures. Canyon de Chelly is co-managed with NPS and the Navajo Nation. You can read the article at [RoadTrippers Magazine](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Field Trip Coordinator: If you are organized then you might be perfect for this position. The coordinator coordinates the effort to produce, communicate, and monitor the SJBAS annual field trip program. The coordinator shall conduct at least one annual field trip organizational meeting. This person does not need an in-depth knowledge of archaeology. This is a Board position.

Program Co-Chair: We are looking for a volunteer to work with our Program Chair, Janice Sheftel. The Program Chair secures speakers for regular membership meetings and works with other SJBAS members to organize other lectures, such as the John W. Sanders Lecture. This is a Board position. Please contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com for more information.

Membership Co-Chair: The co-chair will work with Tish Varney and, eventually, move into the chair position. The Membership Chair is responsible for organizing recruitment of new SJBAS members and supporting Board members in encouraging active participation by members. This is a Board position. Please contact Tish Varney (tishvarney@att.net) for more information.

Technology Assistants: We are looking for people to assist in running our monthly programs - this includes running Zoom and helping our speakers set up their Power Point presentation.

Webmaster Assistant: If you know your way around a computer, please consider volunteering to assist our Webmaster, Lyle Hancock, when he is unable to access a computer. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining and updating the SJBAS website, www.sjbas.org. Please contact Lyle for more information, lylehancock99@gmail.com. Training and support will be provided for all positions.

We look forward to working with you!

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks
Vice President	Paul Landrum
Secretary	Mary Rieke
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg
Membership chair	Tish Varney
Field Trip Program coordinator	OPEN
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock

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.