



THE MOKI MESSENGER

May 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Meeting, May 10: “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. The presentation begins at 7 PM in the FLC Lyceum. There is a pre-meeting social beginning at 6:30. You may obtain the Zoom credentials at sjbas.org.

President’s Message

Mark your calendar! The SJBAS Summer Picnic and semi-annual meeting will be held at the Junction Creek Campground Picnic Area on June 14th. This is a fun event in a beautiful setting. Members and their invited guests are welcome. You can find more information in this newsletter.

The next SJBAS Board meeting will be held Thursday, July 20th, 1:00-3:00 PM at the Center of Southwest Studies’ 2nd floor conference room. All SJBAS members are invited to attend.

Contents

SJBAS Meeting, May 10: “From This Earth: Ancestral Pueblo Pottery in the Animas Museum’s Collection”	1
President’s Message.....	1
April 13th Board Meeting Highlights.....	2
Dust off Your Picnic Basket for our Annual Get-together in the Forest.....	2
Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023	3
Briefs.....	4
Museum Roundup	5
Volunteer Opportunities.....	6
SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members.....	6

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

April 13th Board Meeting Highlights

Two Board positions, Vice President and Secretary, will be opening up for the 2024 calendar year. Susan Hicks will retire as President and our current VP, Paul Landrum, will move into the President's position. Our Secretary, Mary Rieke, will also retire. We will begin advertising for these positions, but please step up if you are interested!

We will apply for a Special Recreation Permit for Bears Ears National Monument as soon as the BLM begins accepting them again, hopefully June 1st. SJBAS needs this permit in order to do field trips in the monument.

SJBAS currently has 120 members. A reminder that \$10 of your annual dues goes to the John W. Sanders Fund and funds Center of Southwest Studies Student Internships and Archaeological Field School Scholarships.

Dust off Your Picnic Basket for our Annual Get-together in the Forest

The SJBAS Annual Picnic "semi pot-luck" will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 from 5pm to 8pm. The location will once again be the USFS Junction Creek Campground Group Shelterhouse. The attached link provides directions to the campground.

<https://goo.gl/maps/hitFMXSLjKHswQxi7>: look for the SJBAS sign at the campground entrance and take the drive to the left.

The club will provide brats, (some vegetarian), buns, condiments, water, iced tea, and lemonade. We're asking those attending to bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. We're also asking those attending to bring your own place settings and silverware. Bring an alcoholic beverage of your choice if you wish.

Please RSVP to Michelle McKibben at: michellemckibben56@gmail.com by June 4, 2023 to allow us time for ordering brats, buns, drinks, etc. Family members, guests and prospective members are welcome - we do ask that those attending adhere to current SJBAS field trip policies. There will also be a signup sheet provided at the May SJBAS meeting on May 10, 2023 at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis at 7:00pm.

For additional information or if you wish to volunteer to help with set-up, cooking, or clean-up at the picnic, please contact Michelle McKibben at: michellemckibben56@gmail.com

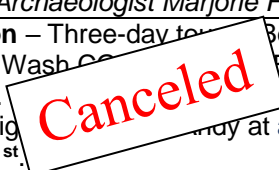
Looking forward to seeing you on June 14,

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

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.
June	Keet Seel Backpack – Note Postponement until the fall. See below.
June 14	SJBAS Annual Picnic
June 20-23	San Juan River Raft Trip – Four-day Ft Lewis College Outfitter river trip (Ft Lewis on the Water, 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.
July 12	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.
July 14	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.
August 5	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.
August 11-13	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 .
August 9	SJBAS meeting – “ <i>The Gallina Culture.</i> ” Jacque Kocer will talk about his dissertation.

September TBA	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.
Sept-Oct 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 dwellings in the Southwest. For those who want to stay for a fourth day (3 rd 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. With so much uncertainty I have pushed the trip into the fall. If you have already signed up you will retain your place in line.
September 13	SJBAS meeting – Noted Indigenous ceramic expert Karen Harry from the University of Nevada will present a topic TBA.
October 6	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 Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1st.
October 11	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> ”
October 27-29	Bear’s Ears Exploration – Three-day to Bear’s Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash. The trip concludes at Andy’s house in Bluff. 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

Briefs

Folklore confirmed by DNA? With possible insights for Southwest descendant communities [a story in the *New York Times*](#) found that oral traditions passed on for 1,000 years by Swahili peoples can be confirmed by DNA. Harvard geneticists report that “genetics corroborate the Swahili people’s own history that they tell about themselves, not what others were saying about them.” You can read the [original article in *Nature*](#).

Sustainability: Embraced of necessity but now forgotten? There's a nice *piece in [YellowScene Magazine](#)* about how Ancestral Puebloans learned to live within their environment and plan for lean times. Lessons for lives lived in the Colorado River drainage?

How close are you to the ten oldest archaeology sites in the US? An *article in [The Travel](#)* ranks Mesa Verde NP as number 1 and also includes Chaco Culture NHP, Hovenweep NM, Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark and Pueblo Bonito. [Not clear why it's separate from Chaco.]

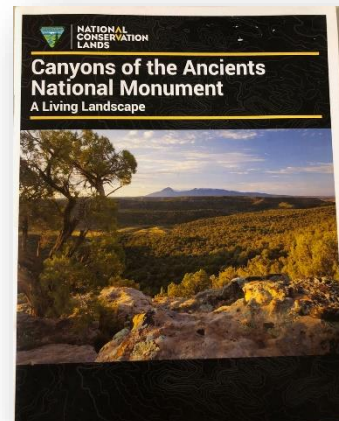
The thorny ethics of DNA research on long-deceased people is examined by the Web site *[Sapiens](#)*. Through communication stumbles in research at Pueblo Bonito the article moves on to provide an "ethical compass for paleogenomic research."

Aztec Ruins National Monument celebrates its centennial with series of events. Called "Music in the Park," these events showcase the talent and expertise of Native American musicianship and let visitors learn about traditions and living cultures in the Southwest today. The first event is on May 20th and it features Indigenous musical instruments of the American Southwest. You can learn more on [ARNM's Facebook page](#).

Museum Roundup

Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum in Dolores is expected to re-open sometime in May. It is just now completing a floor renovation. Perhaps in celebration of their re-opening the VC has completed a new guide to the Monument. It is expected to be available at the VC later in May.

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture-- Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles. The exhibit explores the connections between weaving and photography as modes of engagement with place in the American Southwest. MIAC is in Santa Fe and the exhibit runs for 12 months starting 15 July 2023. Go to the [MIAC web site](#) for details.



Arizona State Museum is taking reservations for its Four Corners Learning Expedition this fall. You will travel with ASM's director and associate director to explore the Ancestral Puebloan histories of the Four Corners region! Highlights include the Hopi Mesas, Navajo National Monument, Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, and Kinishba. Call 520-626-8381 for full details.

Edge-of-the-Cedars State Park Museum celebrates Archaeology Day on May 6. Free admission and fascinating lectures. Call 435-678-2238 for more info.

Volunteer Opportunities

Field Trip Coordinator: If you are organized then you might be perfect for this position. The manager 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.