



THE MOKI MESSENGER

March 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society
sjbas.org

SJBAS Monthly Meeting: March 13

Our next monthly meeting will be held in person and on Zoom on Wednesday, March 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, David and Chloe Valentine, of Cloudy Ridge Productions, and GB Cornucopia, a long-serving interpretive ranger at Chaco Culture National Historic Park, will present "Archeoastronomy at Chaco Canyon." You will find much more information on the talk, the speaker and a Zoom link on our Web site at sjbas.org.

President's Message

The board met and approved the 2024 budget with some adjustments. We will continue to sponsor scholarships through the JW Sanders fund and maintain other routine functions. However, due to lower than expected renewals and new members, we have a small budget shortfall of \$350 for the year which will be made up from savings. While this had little impact on the clubs' finances or activities the trend is a concern. A generous contribution by a board member also helped offset the shortfall.

This brings up priorities for the coming year:

1. Increasing membership is imperative and several options were discussed. We feel that word of mouth is one of the more effective methods of recruiting new members so if you plan on attending one of the monthly presentations, invite a friend.

2. SJBAS needs to become more of a regional presence in the archaeology realm. This is essential if we are to maintain legitimacy with the various bodies governing access to sites we have traditionally visited. We have plans to cosponsor special events and make presentations to various groups about SJBAS and area archaeology. There are also two service trips to local reservations planned for this year.

3. Recruit volunteers to serve on the board. Some of our members have held various positions for years and burn out has become an issue. If they leave without a transition, we will lose a considerable amount of expertise and organizational memory. Currently there are several volunteer positions open including programs, membership, and social co-chairs. New volunteers will assist current chairs in their duties as they learn the ropes. PLEASE CONSIDER.

FIELD TRIPS - We resubmitted an application to the BLM for a letter of agreement granting access to Bears Ears National Monument for two trips originated by Dr. Andrew Gulliford and Lyle Hancock. This was the same format and content as last year when we were granted a letter of agreement, so we are hopeful although no word has come back as yet.

PRESENTATIONS - There are several interesting presentations scheduled including “Archeoastronomy at Chaco Canyon” and “Dating of White Sands Footprints”. The latter concerns one of the oldest known sites in North America. In addition, a back pack trip into Keet Seel and a return to the San Juan River sites are planned.

Paul Landrum, President SJBAS

Date Set for SJBAS San Juan River Raft Trip

Tish Varney, trip organizer, reports that Ft Lewis on the Water (FLOW) has confirmed that our San Juan River raft trip will be May 10-13. Tish said there are still a few spaces available for this guided trip. Is this becoming an annual event? Ask her when you register. You may reach her at tishvarney@att.net.



Center of Southwest Studies SJBAS Intern: Lacy Miller

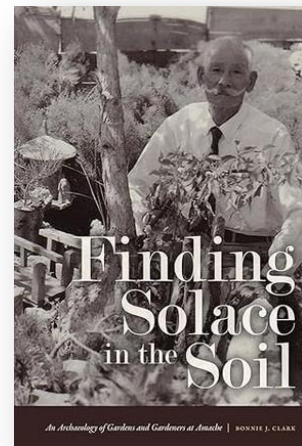
SJBAS dues support two FLC interns each year. One of them is Lacy Miller who provided the following sketch.

Howdy! My name is Lacy Miller and I am a junior at Fort Lewis College. I am studying to become a paleontologist. For as long as I can remember I have loved paleontology and have always wanted to work with fossils in and outside of a museum. I am currently majoring in Geology, getting a minor in Anthropology. I am also working on a G.I.S. Certificate and a Museum Management Certificate. So far, I have been a part of several paleontological dig sites in Colorado,

Wyoming, and South Dakota. I have also worked at four museums, including the Fort Collins Discovery Museum, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota, and the Center of Southwest Studies. For the past three years I have loved working at the Center, which is the on-campus museum for Fort Lewis College. During my free time, I am the Geology Club President and I am a member of the Four Corners Geological Society. I also love to go rock and fossil hunting.

February Talk offered Uplifting Perspective on Resilience through Gardens at a WWII Japanese-American Concentration Camp in SW Colorado

Sometimes it's easy to forget that there are other cultures in the Southwest that demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. Professor Bonnie Clark from the University of Colorado has spent more than a decade studying and documenting the gardens at the Amache Japanese-American Internment camp near Granada, Colorado. President Biden designated it a National Historic Site in 2022. You may watch a zoom recording of her talk [here](#) or find the link on sjbas.org. She also has a new book out on her research called "Finding Solace in the Soil." There is also an [article in the *Durango Herald*](#) about the new NPS designation.



Upcoming Events for 2024

[Contact trip organizers for details.
See sjbas.org for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

March 13	SJBAS Monthly Meeting at Center of SW Studies. 7 PM “Archeoastronomy at Chaco Canyon” by David and Chloe Valentine, of Cloudy Ridge Productions, and GB Cornucopia, long-serving interpretive ranger at Chaco Culture National Historic Park.
March 15	“Symphony Chaco: A Journey of the Spirit” featuring R. Carlos Nakai. This is a multi-media performance, combining music, photography and narration celebrating of the majestic beauty and deep mystery of Chaco Canyon, featuring the world’s premier performer of Native American flute. FLC Concert Hall at 7:30 PM. For more information see FLC Concert Hall .
March 28	Guided Day-trip to Salmon Ruins – “Colors of the past: A Guided tour of Salmon Ruins and Museum,” by Kelsey Hansen, University of Arizona. Meet there at 1:30pm. Contact Janice Sheftel at janicesheftel@gmail.com .
April 5-7	Bluff, Utah 3-day camping trip – Exploring Bluff area via car camping with Andy Gulliford. Trip is pending BLM permit approval. Contact andy@agulliford.com
April 10	SJBAS meeting – “How landscape shaped the world of Indigenous cultures” by Piyawit Moonkham, visiting professor of Archaeology at Fort Lewis College.

Trip Signup Opening Dates

Note: The dates below are when you may first get on the trip list. We have instituted signup dates to minimize last-minute drop-outs. Many of these trips fill up so get your name in with the organizer. See the complete 2024 Calendar at sjbas.org for details

February 1 Now registering!	San Juan River Trip – May 10-13 Outfitter FLC FLOW. This is a four-day guided trip with all amenities included in the price. Difficulty: Moderate. Limit 16. Contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net for more info.
February 1	Bluff, Utah 3-day camping trip – Exploring Bluff area via car camping with Andy Gulliford. Trip pending BLM permit approval. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact andy@agulliford.com
February 15	Keet Seel overnight backpacking trip. The date for this trip is still uncertain as we await word from the NPS. We are hoping for late May. The ranger in charge says there are no group permits available; that the 20 available slots for each overnight are available first-come-first-serve. The trip organizer, Hunter McCleary, monitors the Navaho Nat’l Monument web site daily and will alert interested members when to sign up. Hunter.mccleary@gmail.com
April 1	Sand Canyon and Goodman Point Pueblos – Day trip to two Pueblo III villages in Canyons of the Ancients. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com .

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

History Colorado is once again implementing a course of study for groups and individuals interested in furthering their knowledge of archaeology history and practice. Certification could enable a person to work on a dig or survey team. Currently, there are 3 classes that are offered— a) Introduction to Archeology, b) Site Stewardship, and c) Nomination Workshop (for classification as a Historic Site). The following online class begins March 25-May 31 and registration is open now. PAAC website (<https://www.historycolorado.org/class-offerings-and-communications>)

Introduction to Archaeology (6 credit hours)

This class is designed to introduce participants to the field of archaeology over the course of 10 weeks. Throughout the course, we will explore the theoretical and methodological foundations of archaeological research and learn how material remains uncovered in the archaeological record are used to reconstruct the past. Each week, we will cover topics such as theory & anthropological inquiry, fieldwork methods, commonly encountered artifacts, geoarchaeology & site formation processes, chronology, curation, experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, animals & plants in the past, historical archaeology, and cultural heritage law in the US and Colorado.

Where: Online Course Delivery*

When: March 25-May 31

Registration: Open now [online!](#)

*This course will be taught entirely online. All materials including lecture slides and video lectures, readings, and other handouts will be published weekly and participants may view them at any time throughout the duration of the class. To receive full credit for the class, participants must complete the Class Survey at the end of the course.

For questions about PAAC and linking to the HC website, contact Betsy Moore, bmoore5552@gmail.com.

Additional SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities

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 additional 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.

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.sjbass.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 Board Members

President	Paul Landrum
Vice President	Thomas Polich
Secretary	Susan Hicks
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg
Membership chair	Tish Varney
Field Trip Program coordinator	Rusty Chamberlain
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. Individual dues drop to \$15 after June 30. 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.