

SITE LINES

DECEMBER, 2002

SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST SITE STEWARD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

TWELVE NEW SITE STEWARDS COMPLETE TRAINING

October 19, twelve people committed to becoming Santa Fe National Forest Site Stewards met at MIAC to attend a full day training session led by Mike Bremer, members of the SFNF Site Steward Council and Art Krupicz, Director NM Site Watch Program.

Field training on the Caja del Rio occurred the following Saturday when new stewards visited a "vandalized site" and learned how to collect valuable information without damaging evidence in assisting Law Enforcement Personnel.

Each of the twelve new stewards has been assigned to Area Teams and most have been oriented to and assigned sites. The twelve new recruits are an excellent and knowledgeable group and are enthusiastically accepting their responsibilities. The stewards and their areas of assignment are: Ed Crow, Gary Hein, Don McGovern and George Henke – Caja del Rio; Sid Barteau, Alden Dunham, Alston Lundren, Shelley Thompson, and Gary Newgent – Gallina; Judith Isaacs and Rebecca Learmonth – Jemez; and Alan Everson – Pecos.

SPRING SITE STEWARD TRAINING SESSION PLANNED

About a dozen more people have expressed interest in being trained as Site Stewards on the Santa Fe National Forest. Plans for an April or May 2003 training session are underway.

FRIENDS INTERESTED IN PROGRAM?

Please forward [Site Lines](#) to other interested folks who may be interested in becoming a SFNF Site Steward.

Those interested in Site Steward Training may contact Mike Bremer @ mbremer@fs.fed.us or call 438-7846 or Curt Hawley @ askibum@aol.com or 474-3397

GPS TRAINING SESSION

Mike Bremer conducted a program on the use of compasses, USGS maps and GPS equipment early this fall. Assisted by Wayne Nelson and Anne Baldwin, active Site Stewards became more familiar with terms such as townships, declinations, bearings and UTM's, incorporating the information learned in field exercises. Attending the training were Curt Hawley, Bill Rogers, Beth Parisi, Lauri Friedman, George Gozigian, Diane Marron, Lee and Candie Borduin. Thanks to Mike – hopefully he can be persuaded to repeat the program in 2003.

NOVEMBER SITE STEWARD COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting report of the SFNF Site Steward Council which met in Santa Fe on November 16 at MIAC:

- All Area Team Leaders have completed reviewing and adding information to Site Files. Wayne Nelson worked individually with each Area Team Leader to facilitate the completion of Site Files. Mike Bremer is working to provide USGS and land ownership maps for each file.
- The Santa Fe National Forest will issue official government ID cards to all SFNF Site Stewards. Area Team Leaders will be contacting Site Stewards to arrange times to go to the Santa Fe office for picture taking.
- Zella Cox formatted an evaluation form for the new Site Stewards to use to critique the value of the fall training. Suggestions are requested as to what other information would be valuable in training.
- A GENERAL SITE STEWARD MEETING is scheduled on Wednesday, February 5 from 7-9 pm at the SFNF office on Rodeo Road. A short meeting is planned followed by an EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. Details to follow.
- The next Council meeting is February 15, 2003 at MIAC from 11am to 2:30pm.

TSI'PIN-OUINGE

"The Village of the Flaking Stone" by Jeanne Gozigian

Beautiful, tranquil Tsi'pin, also known as Tsiping, is one of the very special sites monitored by the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program.

Because of its close proximity to the village of Canones, it has been visited by unknown but suspected, large, numbers of people over the years. It has been estimated that illegal excavation and pot hunting occurred over a period of 50 years. For this reason, the site is now closed to the public and can only be visited after obtaining a permit from the Coyote Ranger Station.

Tsi'pin stands on a mesa top 800 feet above the village of Canones. The view from the mesa includes Abiquiu reservoir and, through a cliff side "window" in the rock, the distinctive Pedernal peak for which the ancient village was named. It was built from the volcanic "tuff" which was quarried on the spot. Occupation is estimated from 1200AD to 1325AD from tree ring sampling and the study of ceramics.

There were probably 400 to 500 ground floor rooms. With upper stories, there were perhaps 1000 rooms in all. In addition, there were 16 kivas, enclosed and unenclosed. One of these is the Great Kiva, which is 10m in diameter and was hewn from the bedrock with stone tools. Also on the site are cavates, cliff side structures, "defensive" walls, shrines, stairways, trails, a reservoir area, and what are assumed to have been agricultural fields. There is an "eagle trap" on the mesa edge.

Lucky, indeed, are the site stewards charged with monitoring Tsi'pin. The long, rough road trip and switchback trail into the ruins are well worth the experience of visiting this special place.

**PASSPORT IN TIME:
Avocational and Enhancement Archaeology
on the Nation's National Forests
By Mike Bremer**

The Heritage Resource program on the nation's National Forests began in the mid 1970s and has accomplished a large amount of inventory and evaluation of archaeological sites. However, most of that work was conducted as support to other resources such as Fire, Forestry and Range. Appropriated dollars for Heritage Resource enhancement and preservation projects have never been sufficient to enable Forests to perform needed maintenance, inspection, documentation and research on sites located outside areas where other work occurred. Over time the inability to complete this work has resulted in a steady decline in the condition of heritage resources on the Nation's forests. Forests have struggled to find creative ways to stretch the limited dollars allocated to the specific management and preservation of heritage resources.

In the late 1980s Forests in the midwest needed volunteers to keep a field school in operation. They took the concept of a volunteer organization from a program in Canada called Passport to the Past. In 1991 the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) formally instituted the Passport in Time (PIT) program by providing for a position to oversee the program including development of a brochure and coordination with Forests. Today there are over 117 Forests involved in the program in over 36 states.

In Arizona and New Mexico (the Southwest Region of the FS) PIT provides individuals a full range of volunteer opportunities. All 11 Forests in the region have sponsored programs through the PIT program including excavations at Elden Pueblo near Flagstaff and survey of historic Apache battle sites in southern New Mexico. Most of the projects last one to two weeks. Individual Forests sponsor a project and frequently outside partners, including museums and

universities, also participate. Usually, Forest archaeologists supervise the work using the participants as laborers and advisors. Volunteers in the program offer diverse and experienced backgrounds. Many are retired and in what they refer to as their "second career". High school and college students also attend PIT projects. While PIT projects may require a diversity of skills and talents, volunteers are asked only to have a great attitude and a good time.

The Santa Fe National Forest has completed a variety of PIT projects since 1992 including stabilization of a historic ranger station, recording and mapping a historic period Hispanic site, documentation of significant Archaic rock art, survey and documentation in remote areas of the Forest, and stabilization of an American period site. Generally, these projects lasted for a week, with groups averaging five to ten individuals supervised by archaeologists from the Santa Fe National Forest.

Scheduling of PIT projects occurs semi-annually and is announced through either a publication called the PIT Traveler or on the Passport in Time web site (www.passportintime.com). Projects occur on a fall/winter and spring/summer cycle. The PIT Traveler provides details for projects occurring during each of these seasons. If you would like to become part of the Passport in Time please sign on to the webpage or contact the PIT Clearinghouse at:

Passport in Time Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 31315
Tucson, AZ 85751-1315
(520) 722-2716
(800) 281-9176 voice, TTY
(520) 298-7044 fax
pit@sicrm.com

UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS

- SFNF GENERAL SITE STEWARD MEETING is scheduled on Wednesday, February 5 from 7-9 pm at the SFNF office on Rodeo Road. General meeting followed by EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM to be announced.
- SFNF SITE STEWARD COUNCIL MEETING – February 15, 2003 at MIAC from 11am to 2:30pm. All Site Stewards are welcome to attend.
- 2003 Pecos Conference, August 14, 15, 16, 17 2003. INAH Centro Cultural Paquime, Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. www.swanet.org