



Site Lines

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

JULY 2010

Message from the Council Chair

Already, 2010 is half over. I hope you all are having a good year so far. I want to update everyone on what the council has been working on this year.

We successfully completed training May 15, 2010, with 31 new stewards. All have been assigned to areas and orientation has been completed with most of them. Several additional stewards have been approved for interim training. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new stewards.

Interim training guidelines were approved by the council at the April meeting. This method allows us to get people on board who were approved for training but unable to make it, with good reasons, to the regular training session recently.

The council is working with a graphic designer on a new website banner. She is a friend of Pecos Area ATL Cathy Gates, and is generously donating her time and talent to our organization. With many thanks and great expectations, the council will review her recommendations and hope to make a decision at the July meeting.

We continue to work with Mike Bremer and the Forest Service on the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for site stewards. This document will outline potential hazards that stewards face in the field as well as ways we can try to prevent any untoward events. All stewards will be required to sign a copy as soon as the JHA is approved. You will probably be hearing more about this topic at the annual meeting

in September.

We have a new council member. Courtney Perkins has graciously agreed to fill the member-at-large position. We also now have a vacancy for a Caja del Rio Area team leader and continue to need an assistant area team leader for the Pecos. If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please let me know (amwhite0403@yahoo.com).

Any steward is welcome to attend quarterly council meetings. The next meeting will be on Saturday, July 17, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Forest Service office in Santa Fe. We welcome participation by anyone who is interested in attending.

--Ann White

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Training 2010: Better Late than Never

As you can all imagine, training new site stewards requires time, patience, and immense amounts of preparation. So when a big snow storm blew through Santa Fe on the afternoon and evening before the program, which is offered only every other year, the safest if most maddening thing was to try to contact all candidates by phone or e-mail

to let them know our best-laid plans for Saturday, March 20, had to be postponed. The training committee is grateful almost all of the trainees whose applications had been approved were able to attend on May 15 at the new Forest Service building south of Santa Fe. Arrangements are currently being discussed concerning interim

training for those unable to attend in May; of five eligible applicants, one has already joined the Gallina team.

As usual, ATLs, AATLs, and several



Irene and Ann greet trainees

- photo by Bill Cella

Training 2010 (continued)

council members pitched in to team teach. There were several breaks throughout the day when potential stewards could ask questions, mingle and meet each other, and munch snacks.

New this year was the one-day format, which covered everything from the program's history and its six areas on the Santa Fe National Forest to filling out forms and signing up for places to monitor. Candidates received the usual folder full of information and were encouraged to read through it on their own to become familiar with organizational details and other portions of the training that had been trimmed or condensed.

Mike Bremer presented a state-of-the-forest talk before lunch, which was held both in the comfortable new lunchroom and outside at courtyard tables, where sunshine and fresh air greeted everyone.

After the candidates were given information on how to monitor a site, Mike and Jeremy Kulisheck each led half the group to a "faux site" on the vacant lot west of the building. Potsherds, old (cow) bones, rubble stone walls, and other items associated with pueblo remains had been set up that morning to provide settings for in-person introductions to approaching and monitoring a site. One location was riddled with prairie dog holes – natural damage – while the other, which sported beer cans, a pick, and shovel, had clearly been the victim of recent, illegal human activity. Faux sites were introduced at the 2008 training, saving a great deal of time by replacing a several-hour trip to the Caja.

After the site visits, speakers soon wrapped up the day with housekeeping details – how to file activity logs and other e-paperwork, program benefits, infor-

mation on the Site Steward Foundation, etc. – and collected the candidates' evaluations and preferences for areas they would like to monitor. The day was almost over by 4:00, when ATLS adjourned to the parking lot to make area assignments. To date, 31 trainees have found homes as provisional stewards. Most have already been into the field for orientation.

On a personal note, I was delighted recently to receive an e-mail from someone I'd recruited. Thanks, she said, for telling me about this wonderful program. And by the way, she added, she'd been coming back from a hike one day, saw a car parked on the road's shoulder below one of her sites, and slowed to check things out. She now felt very protective of that spot, she reported, and was delighted to recognize the people who were visiting it.

- Irene Wanner



Mike at the podium



An ask-a-steward moment



It's a site — really! Jeremy (center) explains.

Photos by Bill Cella

New Steward Assignments

Thirty-one new stewards have boosted the rosters of each area team; here are the new placements:

Caja del Rio Area Team: Dallas Anderson, John Bennett, Michael Harris, and Nancy Hudson. Mac Read and Bob Greene have transferred to the Caja team.



New Caja stewards, from left: Mac Read, Mike Harris, Nancy Hudson, and Bob Greene, after seven hours of field orientation.

Photo by Gary Newgent

New Steward Assignments (continued)



Pecos Area Team

Lois Haggard, Paul Leo, John Varner, and Susan Warren. Corrine and Ray Willison have transferred to the Pecos team.

Gallina Area Team

Jo and Ramey Douglas, Cliff Evans, Pita Martinez-McDonald, Richard McDonald, Gene

Left:

back row, from left: John Varner, Ray Willison; front row: Paul Leo, Lois Haggard, Corinne Willison, Cathy Gates, Susan Warren

Right:

back row:, from left: Brent Abel, Phil Young, Susan Warren, John Varner, Terry Ballone; front row: Cathy Gates, Paul Leo, Lois Haggard, Gail Bryant, Corrine Willison, Ray Willison, Jon Greening, Brian Martinson

Photos by Jeremy Kulisheck



Jemez Area Team

Kelly Aldridge, Myles Cartelli, John Dickerson, Joe Lloyd, Linda Robinson, and Ann Wymore

Rio Chama Area Team

Joy and Ron Mandelbaum, Robin and Meade Martin

Garcia Area Team

David Fellenz, Emily Schultz-Fellenz, Andre and Cheri Trottier, and Lori Whitley.

Interim Training Guidelines

At the April 26 council meeting, guidelines for interim training were approved. When a vacancy occurs in an area team, approved applicants may fill the vacancy instead of waiting until a formal training session, which usually takes place every two years.

To summarize changes in the Site Steward Manual under Sec-

tion III, paragraph 5, approved applicants must: 1) agree to join the area team needing a new steward; 2) receive an abbreviated indoor training session of approximately four hours, provided by the ATL, which covers all essential instruction given in the regular training session; 3) sign a Volunteer Forest Agreement and Job Hazard Analy-

sis; 4) be oriented to a site or sites by the ATL followed by at least two additional site visits while accompanied by a certified site steward; and; 5) remain a provisional steward at least one year following training. The trainee may be required to attend the next full formal training session.

-Nancy Cella

Quarterly Report Reminder

New and hm, not "old," but certified stewards are reminded that as part of the records Mike Bremer needs to provide regularly to government entities and to facilitate occasional freedom-of-information requests, your activities – site visits, hours, mileage, etc. – should be provided to your ATL quarterly instead of, as in the past, annually. Check with your ATL to see if you're up to

date. The program's year begins October 1, so the third quarter for 2009/10 – April, May, June - ended on June 30. Each area has a slightly different procedure. Your ATL can tell you exactly what s/he needs and help with any questions.

Make sure you keep track of your time and travel. You are eligible to deduct \$.14/mile from income taxes as a contribution to a federal

agency whether or not you join the Site Steward Foundation, our 501 (c) (3) nonprofit branch. Remember, too, annual foundation dues and contributions are also deductible, and support our conservation efforts and other relevant activities on the forest. Visit www.sitestewardfoundation.org for details on upcoming meetings, trips, and opportunities. Thanks!

-Irene Wanner

Annual Meeting — Save the Date!

September 17-19

We are planning on having the annual meeting of the SFNF site stewards on the weekend of September 17-19, 2010, in the Pecos area this year at the Holy Ghost Campground if renovations there have been completed. The council is looking in to alternative meeting areas if not, and will inform the stewards as soon as possible via our yahoo group e-mail. But the dates are firm, so please put them on your calendars. We have not yet determined what sites will be on the agenda for visits, but there are many and varied locations from which to choose. And we anticipate the usual pleasant surroundings, evening campfires, storytelling...you name it.

As usual, those wishing to come out Friday afternoon to help set up the meeting tent and their own spots will be welcome, as are a few pieces of firewood and carefully packed pots of chili for the Third Annual Chili Cookoff, which will be a highlight of Saturday's festivities. We're looking for someone new to coordinate the chili cookoff this year. Shelley Thompson, who has coordinated the event since its inception, would like to relax and enjoy the weekend activities this year. We would like to thank Shelley for the excellent job she did as the coordinator of this successful and tasty culinary affair. It has truly been one of the tastiest and most appreciated parts of the meetings so far.

Duties of the coordinator include:

- sending out the notice prior to the annual meeting announcing the chili cookoff;
- tracking those who wish to participate with a pot of chili or dishes to complement these offerings;
- setting up tables at the meeting site with stoves, dishes, silverware, etc.

If you and/or a SiteWatch friend would like to coordinate this year, please let me know. My email address is amwhite0403@yahoo.com.

Another popular event at the annual meetings has become the silent auction. Please think about setting aside something for the auction, which raises funds for the Site Steward Foundation. We've been fortunate in the past to have a wonderful variety of articles, from art, books, and iris bulbs to hotel accommodations, dinners in Santa Fe, clothing, camping gear, and much more. Contact me at the above e-mail address if you have any questions.

We hope to see all our stewards at the annual meeting this September. As always, it'll be fun, educational, and a marvelous opportunity to make or renew friendships.

- Ann White

Site Steward Foundation News

Activities sponsored by the Site Steward Foundation are in full swing. This non-profit organization, which supports events for stewards from SiteWatch and the SFNF Site Steward Program, serves as a central financial agent, sponsors grant applications, and other activities that promote its mission. The board of directors is composed of members of both organizations.

Ceramics Project

A joint educational, training and research project between the Site Steward Foundation (SSF) and the Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) is up and running! Our first group of 15 volunteers has begun the training process.

The foundation has provided each volunteer with copies of two resource books on ancient pottery and has purchased several more books to start a lending reference library. All of our volunteers attended a fantastic field trip to The School of Advanced Studies Research Museum to view Native American pottery and other cultural resources. Our first two formal training workshops with Dean Wilson of OAS are scheduled for July 10 and July 31, 2010.

This will be a long-term project and collaboration between the SSF and OAS to document and make available in-the-field ceramic observations to amateur and professional archaeologists via the OAS website.

Anyone who is interested in joining the second session for this educational research project, please contact me at bparisi@sitestewardfoundation.org or 505/982-1534.

- Beth Parisi



Left to right: Arabelle Luckhardt, John Morris, Cathy Gates, Grant Luckhardt, Sonny Farr, Pat Farr, Mary Jepsen, Elaine Gorham, Beth Parisi Photo by Isabel Carvahal

Site Steward Foundation News (continued)

Ojito Wilderness Tour

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, the second Ojito Wilderness Tour was held. Gary Newgent and Shelley Thompson led this fabulous trip that visited five sites in the Ojito Wilderness Area.

Our day started out at some horizontal petroglyph panels overlooking a Seismosaurus dinosaur quarry (photo). The petroglyphs and view of the surrounding country from this spot are fabulous. Our next stops were to several different stone-masonry pueblos. These buildings probably date from the A.D. 1200s. There is evidence of agricultural activity and small field houses surrounding the sites. We saw many different types of pottery sherds, lithic material, and tools. The research literature that our trip leaders provided indicated that there has been human occupation in this area off and on from the Paleo-Indian period to the present time. The literature also contains various professional opinions about where the peoples who lived at these sites came from.

The last sites we visited were historic in nature including the Tenorio Ranch Historic Site. It seems that these historic sites were placed either in the same area or close proximity to previous Native American occupations.

This was a great trip to an area not frequently visited. Thank you, Gary and Shelley, for all your work in researching, organizing, and leading trips to such an interesting area! Due to the popularity of this tour, a third trip has been scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2010. Limited spaces are left, so visit the foundation website to reserve soon!

-Beth Parisi

White Rock Canyon Raft Trip

Fourteen intrepid site stewards from around the state spent two fantastic days on the Rio Grande



Petroglyph panel in the Ojito Wilderness
Photo by Isabel Carvahal

rafting through White Rock Canyon and exploring seldom visited archaeological sites. This adventurous trip down the canyon included visits to petroglyph panels, agricultural fields and features, and pueblos. The tour was sponsored through the Site Steward Foundation, Inc. on June 19-20.

Anne Baldwin, Supervisory Archaeologist for the Santa Fe National Forest Española/Coyote Resource Area, provided us with on-site education and extensive reference material. Anne taught us about each individual site we visited as well as how to interpret what we saw, how to complete a site survey form, elements of ceramic and lithic identification, ways to view the settings of the sites on the landscape, and many more aspects of archaeology too numerous to list. Anne also gave us information on how the Forest Service handles forest fires, a very timely subject.

Jon Asher, a previous SFNF site steward for river corridor sites through White Rock Canyon and expert river guide, was our head boatman. Jon provided us with extensive

information on the Rio Grande, geology, native flora and fauna, the history of Cochiti dam and its impact on the river and nearby archaeological sites, and much rafting and river lore. Jon was instrumental in locating and guiding our boats to the remote locations we visited and our beautiful campsite on a bench overlooking the water.

All our group had a wealth of archaeological as well as life-experience stories that were generously shared at our site visits, around the camp, and in the rafts as we floated along.

Los Rios River Runners, www.losriosriverrunners.com, made our journey safe, fun, educational, and furnished all the river and camping gear we required as well as delicious meals.

Thank you very much to all our group members and Los Rios River Runners for making this trip so educational, adventurous and enjoyable!

-Beth Parisi



On the raft (left to right): Jerry Richardson, Isabel Carvahal, Jon Asher, Ken Ahler, Jim Mickle.

Photo by Beth Parisi

Even More Foundation News

Upcoming Tours

A tour to the Dittert site located in the El Malpais National Conservation Area 30 miles south of Grants is scheduled for Saturday, September 25. Twenty participants can be accommodated. The site has been identified as a possible Chacoan outlier with several different features. BLM Park Ranger Paul Yoder, Charles Kaplan and Rhonda Backinoff will lead the tour. Moderate hiking is required.

A fall tour to the Ojito Wilderness Area is scheduled for October 23; 10 more participants can be accommodated.

A proposed three-day tour to southeast Utah archaeological sites in spring 2011 was discussed at the board meeting on June 13. Shelley and Gary described the potential plans, which contact with the BLM in Monticello, a list of motels in Blanding and Bluff, and an estimated cost of \$250 per person for three days of tours for 12 people. Shelley, Gary, and Beth will lead the tours. The first day could include a visit to the Edge of Cedars museum in Blanding.

If you would like to attend one of these tours, please see the foundation website (www.sitestewardfoundation.org), for costs and other information.

“Did you know: Fire Affects Archaeology?”

With all the recent fire activity on the forest and the big fire in Flagstaff, it seems like a good time to talk about the relationship between fire and archaeology. Because of the anxiety and excitement surrounding fires, the public does not always get to hear about or see the efforts made to manage effects to cultural resources resulting from fire.

Between the end of May and the end of June this year, the forest experienced three fires: the Rio Fire, caused by an unextinguished campfire left by a thoughtless camper; the South Fork Fire, caused by lightning; and the Tecolote Fire, also caused by lightning. When fire strikes, the Forest Service responds by deciding whether to suppress the fire or manage it for resource benefit.

Not all fires get treated the same. Human caused fires receive automatic suppression. Natural ignition fires, such as those resulting from lightning, may be managed for resource benefit or suppressed depending on the values at risk. One of the first questions a ranger or the forest supervisor asks, in addition to those regarding the value of life and property, is whether the fire will have a positive or negative effect on cultural resource values. Both archaeological sites and places of traditional cultural importance can be affected by fire.

Regardless of whether a decision is made to suppress the fire or manage it for resource benefit, the cultural resource specialists on the ranger districts evaluate the potential for the fire and its associated activities to affect cultural resources. They consult their survey and site records to see what the site density is in an area and determine if there are sites with perishable remains or characteristics that can be affected by fire. In addition, they also consult with cultural preservation specialists for local tribal communities. If fire managers plan on using heavy machinery to construct fire lines, the Forest Service provides cultural resource specialists to accompany the bulldozers to ensure site and traditional cultural place avoidance during line construction. In the past, the major effects to archaeological sites and places of traditional importance during

fire suppression occurred during line construction or the preparation of areas for fire camps, safety zones, and drop points. Fire does burn over sites and, when possible, cultural sites with perishable remains or values at risk may receive some level of treatment including wrapping with fireproof fabric, treating with fire retardant materials or black lining to provide a fire proof zone around sites.

If the line officer decides to manage a fire for resource benefit, the same questions get asked regarding effects to cultural resources, but the potential for effects is likely to be lower because fires managed for resource benefit are generally assessed to have lower values for resources at risk including cultural resources. This type of management also allows for more thought to be given to how a fire will burn across a landscape.

Frequently, machinery is not used to construct fire lines since natural barriers provide protection for resources. The archaeologists on the ranger districts assess the potential for the fire to burn cultural sites with resource concerns and have the opportunity to provide for protection measures. Some types of sites may benefit from having the fire burn over them. The reduction of fuels on sites that can sustain fire burning over them at reasonable temperatures, such as ceramic and lithic scatters, and architectural sites, may benefit from the reduction in fuels. In the past, fire was a constant presence in the environment and many of the sites on the forest experienced frequent fire that removed fuels. The buildup of fuels since the beginning of fire suppression in the 20th century has led to increased fuel loads on sites, potentially leading to higher burn temperatures on sites, which may have been able to sustain lower temperature burns in previous centuries.

Although fire can be frightening and make our hearts race, we need to understand that it has a place in the management of our nation's forests and that the effects to cultural resources resulting from fire can often be managed to provide for benefits to those resources.

- Mike Bremer

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project

Spring of 2010 has been a busy time for the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project (MPPP) volunteers. After a very wet winter, volunteers were able to return to the field in March for petroglyph recording, tours, and other activities.

Starting with training in late March, 14 new petroglyph recorders received a one-day classroom training followed by two field-training days prior to being assigned in the field. New volunteers bring the total number of petroglyph recorders and surveyors to 35 – an all-time high for the project. Recorders are oriented to a provenience (identified parcel of land) of about 20 acres to survey and record all the petroglyphs located in that area. In addition, all cultural landscape features such as artifacts, structures, and trails are documented so that more information can be accumulated about the previous occupants of the mesa.



MPPP Petroglyph recorders – and SFNF site stewards - K. Paul Jones, Bill Cella, and Jan Stone work as a team to record a petroglyph panel.

- Photo by Candie Borduin

Docent-led tours of the Wells Petroglyph Preserve dominated the spring activities. Two public tours are held in both the spring and fall, and always are well attended. In addition, private tours of all sizes can be accommodated whether for several people or large groups such as the Santa Fe Singles. School tours for local students who are involved in the 4th grade curriculum - "Discovering Mesa Prieta" - are held during the week. Students travel by bus to the mesa with their teachers, parent chaperones, and others to participate in docent led field work days on the mesa. The students are well prepared through their course study and are familiar with terms such as "basalt," "repatination," and "volcanic lava flows." Their assignment includes sketching their favorite petroglyphs; images are taken back to the classroom where multimedia art work is completed.

The tour docents for the Wells Petroglyph Preserve provide an excellent presentation for all tour groups – whether professional and avocational archaeologists, curious visitors or students. Docents know the tour

routes well, focus on safety for the people touring as well as helping preserve the terrain by reminding people to stay on the trails and not to touch the petroglyphs. Fall tour dates are September 18 and October 23. To inquire about or register for a tour, please contact tour coordinator Paula Breaux at paulabreaux@windstream.net.

In June, the 9th annual Summer Youth Intern Program comprising 12 local Pueblo, Hispano, and Anglo youth recorded petroglyphs in the same manner as adult volunteers. Professional archaeologists Dr. Richard Ford and Paul Williams (BLM, Taos district), a dozen adult volunteers, and four young adult mentors worked for two weeks with the youth on the mesa. The area of focus was BLM land that makes up a large portion of Mesa Prieta; one day was spent on Ohkay Owingeh recording on pueblo land. A different focus for this year's program was conducting data entry into the MPPP multilayer database where all of the material recorded on the mesa is entered and stored. In the nine years since the program began, participants have recorded almost 1,000 boulders with about 4,800 individual petroglyphs.



GIS expert Jeff Toomey instructs Summer Youth Program participants in the use of a GPS.

- Photo by Candie Borduin

One of the most exciting happenings for the project is the completion of the multilayer database that is now ready for data entry. The database is state of the art and compatible with other petroglyph recording databases in the state. All data recorded and thousands of photos from Mesa Prieta will eventually all be entered there for archival purposes as well as access by researchers and scholars. For information about MPPP activities or opportunities to volunteer, please contact Janet MacKenzie at mesaprieta@cybermesa.com

- Candie Borduin

Big Game Hunting Dates

During the periods of hunting in the forest that begin in early September, site stewards are encouraged to wear some international orange clothing article and avoid typical big game colors of white, black, tan, or brown. Note that the "any legal sporting arm" hunts start on a Saturday and end on Wednesday at sundown. Thursday and Friday are not hunting days. Also, hunting activity is most intense during early morning hours and late afternoon so midday hikers are less likely to encounter hunters.

Hunting information for the areas monitored by site stewards is as follows:

Caja del Rio - included in Game Unit 6C. Likely little hunting activity, but these are the dates:

Deer: Sept. 1-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders and bows); Oct. 16-20, Nov 6-10 (any legal sporting arm).

Elk: Sept. 1-15, 16-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders, bows and crossbow); Oct. 16-20, 23-27, Oct.30-Nov.3, Nov.26-Dec.1, Dec. 4-8, Dec. 26-30 (any legal sporting arm).

Gallina - included primarily in Unit 5B with a few sites in Unit 5A.

5B: (Llaves area and east to the Rio Chama)

Deer: Nov. 6-10, 24-28 (any legal sporting arm).

Elk: Sept. 1-15, 16-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, Oct. 30-Nov.3, Nov. 26-30, Dec.18-22 (any legal sporting arm).

5A: (Continental Divide and points west)

Deer: Sept.1-22 (bow hunting); Nov. 9-15 (any legal sporting arm)

Elk: Sept. 1-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27 (any legal sporting arm).

Garcia - included in Game Unit 6C

Deer: Sept. 1-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders and bows); Oct. 16-20, Nov.6-10 (any legal sporting arm)

Elk: Sept. 1-15, 16-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders, bows and crossbow); Oct. 16-20, 23-27, Oct.30-Nov.3, Nov.26-Dec.1, Dec. 4-8, Dec. 26-30 (any legal sporting arm).

Jemez - included in Game Unit 6A.

Deer: Sept. 1-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders and bows); Oct. 16-20, Nov. 6-10 (any legal sporting arm)

Elk: Sept. 1-15, 16-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders and bows); Oct. 16-20, 23-27, Oct. 30-Nov.3, Nov. 26-30, Dec. 26-30 (any legal sporting arm).

Rio Chama - included in Game Unit 6C.

Deer: Sept. 1-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders and bows); Oct. 16-20, Nov. 6-10 (any legal sporting arm).

Elk: Sept. 1-15, 16-22 (bow hunting); Oct. 9-13 (muzzleloaders, bows and crossbow); Oct. 16-20, 23-27, Oct.30-Nov.3, Nov.26-Dec.1, Dec. 4-8, Dec. 26-30 (any legal sporting arm).

Pecos - included in Game Unit 43.

Deer: Sept. 1-22 (bow hunting); Sept. 24-30 (muzzleloaders and bows); Oct. 23-27, Oct.30-Nov. 3 (any legal sporting arm).

Elk: Sept. 25-29 (any legal sporting arm).

- Lee Borduin

Looking for a handout in the Jemez Mountains, December 9, 2008

Photo by Nancy Cella



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We're on the Web
www.sfnfsitestewards.org

Summer Travel:

New Hikes at Mesa Verde National Park

Three new ranger-guided hikes are available to Mesa Verde visitors starting this summer. From Memorial Day through September 30, the strenuous eight-hour, six-mile walk to Spring House will also pass other cliff dwellings in Navajo and Wickiup canyons. The fee is \$35.

Another hike, the five-hour tour atop Wetherill Mesa, also costs \$35. Its route runs about five miles, but over easy to moderate terrain that introduces the area's long habitation history. Both tours can be booked online at Mesa Verde Institute, www.mesaverdeinstitute.org. This website has an informative calendar of events and lots of other attractions to check out, too.

The third option is a two-hour, three-mile walk to Mug House, which is named for three mugs that were tied together and found, much later, in one of the rooms. Dated to about A.D. 1150, Mug House is estimated to have supported 80-100 people. The path to reach it descends 30 meters and includes a ladder, switchbacks, steep drop-offs, and a little scrambling. Tickets must be purchased in person at Far View Visitor Center up to 48 hours in advance. The fee is \$15. There's a 14-person limit for this walk.

All tours depart once daily. The mesa walk and Mug House tour run until Labor Day, September 6.

--Irene Wanner

A Few Good Dates to Remember . . .

July 17: Quarterly council meeting, 9 a.m., Forest Service Office, Santa Fe. All site stewards are welcome to attend.

Aug. 12-15: 2010 Pecos Conference, Silverton Colorado http://www.swanet.org/2010_pecos_conference/index.html

Aug. 29: Site Steward Foundation board of directors meeting, 10 am, Flying Tortilla, Santa Fe.

Sept. 17-20: Site Steward Annual Meeting, Pecos Area. Watch for List Serve/Yahoo announcements.

Sept. 25: Site Steward Foundation-sponsored tour, Dittert site (see Foundation website)

Oct. 6: Educational Meeting, SFNF Office. 5:30 brown bag supper, 6:00 speaker. Guest speaker will be announced in List Serve/Yahoo messages

Oct. 23: Site Steward Foundation-sponsored tour to Ojito Wilderness Area

Nov. 3: Educational Meeting, SFNF Office. 5:30 brown bag supper, 6:00 speaker. Guest speaker will be announced in List Serve/Yahoo messages.

Ongoing Call for Newsletter Contributions

All stewards are welcome to contribute to **Site Lines**. If you travel someplace of archaeological interest and would like to share the details, if you read a fascinating book or article relevant to our interests and activities, if you hear of a relevant program or lecture nearby, either query us or send a completed article. The newsletter appears quarterly, roughly January (winter), April (spring), July (summer), and October (autumn). We welcome your participation, and your photos!

-Nancy and Irene