



SITE LINES

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

SUMMER/FALL 2018

Annual Meeting 2018

Our site steward annual meeting took place on the weekend of September 14, 15, and 16, beginning with Friday afternoon camp set-up, happy hour, and a social gathering for about nine campers at Paliza Group Campground. Only a few complaints were heard regarding wandering cows at night. Saturday morning saw a goodly group arriving, potluck and silent auction items in hand, anticipating a full day of socializing with stewards assigned to other area teams, updates from officers, reports from area team leaders, Mike's State of the Forest report, a delicious potluck chile lunch, and two afternoon guest speakers. Most people attended only Saturday's activities, but some went on the tours of nearby Seshukwa and Twin Sisters sites on Sunday. Those who camped Saturday night reported that it was a beautiful starry night with clear skies, and good times around the evening campfire.

Lois Haggard and Paul Leo co-chaired the meeting, which began about 8:45 a.m. A few introductions were made while awaiting drawing of the first door prize. Thanks to all who donated items; drawings were made throughout the day. Will Dearholt, for Courtney Perkins who could not attend the meeting, gave the budget report for the year. The total income as of September 9 was \$420; budgeted for the year was \$933. Total expenses as of September 9 were \$558.06, with a budgeted amount for the year at \$1,160. The cash balance is \$2,880.92, with available cash at \$2,742.86. (Income generated by this year's silent auction was \$465.)

State of the Forest

Mike Bremer began by listing the various personnel changes throughout the forest. The new Forest Supervisor is James Melonas and Karl Malcolm is the acting Deputy Forest Supervisor. Diane Prather is the new Public Services Staff Officer. Josh Hall is the acting Ecosystems Services Staff Officer. Daryl Ratajszk is the new Forest Biologist. The acting District Ranger at Coyote is Michael Engelhart. Jason McInteer will be on detail until December as an acting ranger in Michigan.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the five weeks' closure of the forest due to the extreme fire danger, forest employees and seasonal workers kept busy throughout the season. At Española and Coyote, they are working on the Santa Fe Fire Shed; in Coyote on the Cordovas fuels project, the French Mesa fuels project, and evaluating stabilization needs at the Encino Lookout. On the Cuba and Jemez District, they are working on the Southwest Jemez Project, the Moya Big Game Habitat project, the Golondrino Mesa fuels project, tree thinning between Porter and Gilman, and burning on the west Jemez mesas. On Pecos/Las Vegas, they are working on the Rowe Mesa fuels project and rehabilitation of the Glorieta Lookout, which may eventually be available for rent.

The forest now has three Law Enforcement Officers: Fola Faschola on the west side, Donald Vigil on the east side, and Terry Olsson in the center.

Stewards were asked to introduce ourselves, and include team assignment and favorite site. Here's the view from the highest unit house at Mud Springs West, my favorite site in the Gallina area.

Photo by N.Cella



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Annual Meeting (cont)

Area Team Leader Reports

Jo Douglas reported for the **Gallina team**. It was a slow summer until the forest reopened in late July. Twenty-one stewards make up 11 teams who monitor 21 sites. We have a few new stewards, but at least five more are needed to adequately monitor all of the sites on a regular basis. She was pleased to report she had just recruited two interested potential stewards. On October 24 and 26, there will be a ceramics workshop, with one day devoted to identification of Gallina ceramics from the Archaeological Research Collection at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology in Santa Fe, and the second day at the Dwight Site in the Gallina area.

With the resignation of John Morris, Ann White is the acting ATL for the **Jemez Area** for this summer. She asked that anyone who might want to become ATL contact her. A total of 271½ hours of site visits have been recorded, with 830 hours for other activities. Stewards have driven 500 miles. The improvements to the main road on Cat Mesa has increased visitation to those sites.

Rio Chama: K. Paul Jones reported that his team has visited a dozen sites for 243 site hours and 108 hours of other activities. They have driven 400 miles. Exposed human remains in the arroyo adjacent to Poshuwinge are common.

Cathy Gates reported for the **Pecos Area**. The stewards made a good start on monitoring sites before the forest closure, and resumed visits when it was reopened. Seventeen stewards monitored 35 sites, and held four public tours. She reported rock theft at sites. "Good rocks" for landscaping purposes are probably being sold at roadside areas.

Garcia: Will Dearholt reported that all five sites were visited by all team members before and after the forest closure. Chupadero and Guaje are more frequently monitored.

Gary Nugent reported that the **Caja del Rio** sites and stewards are "fantastic." All 13 stewards have off-road permits for their sites.

Site Steward Foundation Report

The Foundation is celebrating its first 10 years of existence! Congratulations to Gary Nugent on initiating its formation, remaining president, and giving this report. The Foundation serves as the fis-

cal entity for both the Santa Fe National Forest Site Stewards and the State of New Mexico's SiteWatch program.

November 1 is the deadline for proposals for a \$1000 grant or two \$500 grants for projects that pertain to archaeology and protection of archaeological resources.

The Foundation participated in a number of public activities throughout the year, largely by presenting a table with informational and educational materials, including membership forms. Its annual meeting was held at the Hibben Center in Albuquerque in January, in conjunction with the SiteWatch annual meeting. Information tables were presented at the annual meeting of the Archaeology Society of New Mexico and the Pecos Conference in Flagstaff. The silent auction at the latter conference netted \$3,100; 80 percent went to the Cordell contest prizes, and 20 percent to the Pecos Conference. On October 6, the Foundation will have a table at the Jemez Historic site, and another one at the October 20 Fiesta of Culture at Coronado Historic site.

The Foundation will sponsor a tour of southeast Utah sites on October 25-27. The tour is now sold out, but there is a wait list for those interested in going. The board of the Foundation will take a tour of sites in Silver City in conjunction with its Thanksgiving meeting.

Stewards were reminded that an excavation is ongoing at the Jemez Historic Site, as well as the Harvest Festival at Los Luceros on September 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Educational Lectures

The featured speaker on October 3 is Ron Barber, whose topic is "Stone Calendars of the Southwest." The November 7 speaker will be Jeremy Moss, Pecos National Monument archaeologist, who will speak about Pecos archaeology.

Stay tuned for future speakers and their topics; lectures are given on the first Wednesday of the fall and winter months (except December and January) in the conference room at the Santa Fe office of the Santa Fe National Forest. Thanks to Gail Bryant for finding speakers, preparing supper for the speakers, and providing for all stewards with homemade cookies.

Annual Meeting (cont)

Other Announcements

Candie Borduin announced a fund-raising project for Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project on October 21, 2018, from 9:30 am to 2:30 p.m. at the Wells Petroglyph Preserve. It's the 2018 Annual Flute Player Tour, a benefit for the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. "Enjoy a catered gourmet lunch by Red Mesa Cuisine paired with New Mexico wine, live flute music by Patrick Mirabal from Taos Pueblo, and a special petroglyph tour of 25 flute player petroglyphs, high above the Rio Grande and autumn cottonwoods. There will be a silent auction of fine art items. Confirmation and directions will be emailed in response to your ticket purchase. \$185.00 per person, limited to 25 attendees." Ticket Link: <https://squareup.com/store/mesaprietapetroglyphs/item/flute-player-tour-ticket-october>

Chris Gardner announced that on October 20, 2018, John Pitts (an almost 20-year veteran of the SFNF Site Steward Program) will lead a small group (10) to the top of Paliza Mesa, just off FR10, near the village of Ponderosa in the Jemez. John says: "The tour will include a brief visit to the twin pueblo ruins of Boletsakwa, followed by an extensive examination of the evidence found nearby of fertility symbolism in rock art. The focus will be on lightning imagery as seen in association with actual lightning bolt strikes, so-called rock fulgurites. This location has the most extensive collection of fulgurites known to researchers, so a likely spot for the local Puebloan residents to create petroglyphs incorporating lightning bolt images. After a 100-foot elevation gain, the rest of the approximately two-mile hike will be on flat, but uneven terrain. We will be spending much of the time next to cliffs and boulders near the edge of the mesa, so those with fear of heights, be warned. Extra care will be taken in viewing both the petroglyphs and the fulgurites. Bring your own lunch and drinks. The views from the top of the Paliza Mesa are noteworthy. We will keep our fingers crossed that we do not encounter any storms! Our stay on the mesa should conclude around 2 p.m. We will meet at the Walatowa Visitor Center by Highway 4 just north of Jemez Pueblo at

9 a.m. People can carpool if they wish from Santa Fe or wherever they are starting, but we should definitely carpool from Walatowa because the parking area to access the Boletsakwa sites is rather small." As of Saturday, September 22, there are only three spots left for this tour; if you would like to go, please email Chris at jseismic@windstream.net or upcycle87025@gmail.com.

Annual Site Steward Awards

Every year Area Team Leaders nominate stewards on their teams who have gone above and beyond the expectations for team members. The awards committee (Jan Stone, Candie Borduin, and Ann White) prepares the Certificates of Appreciation and selects the Zuni fetishes that exemplify the efforts of the winners. We're all volunteers, have busy lives, and we're grateful for those who contribute more hours of their time. There were four awards given this year to: **Paula Lozar, Cathy Gates, Bob Florek, Gail Bryant, and a special award for John Morris.**



The Awards Committee: From left: Candie, Jan, and Ann
All photos by N.Cella

Paula's certificate reads: "For always being thorough and meticulous in whatever she does. For serving as Site Steward Council Secretary for two years and providing comprehensive minutes. For providing excellent work that makes life easier and more pleasant for all who work with her."

She was awarded a badger fetish. "Badger is aggressive and tenacious. Keeping Badger's behavior in mind can help one accomplish a specific goal or purpose as it has a great ability to focus. Traditionally, healing properties are attributed to Badger."

Annual Meeting (cont)



Candie reads Paula's certificate

Cathy's certificate reads: "For being the embodiment of a good leader and not just sometimes. For gently reminding stewards to report when going on site visits and promptly responding to volunteers' requests to visit other sites. For being most generous with her time and energy for stewards and for working with the Pecos Ranger staff to develop and present a public program showcasing some of our sites."



Jan reads Cathy's certificate

Cathy was awarded a beaver fetish. "Beavers are extremely energetic and exhibit great diligence in whatever they do. Their willingness to participate in purposeful and cooperative activity is part of their medicine. We can learn a great deal from this singular quality. Whether building their underwater lodges, repairing dams, or taking care of their kits, beavers do it with zeal. This is why we have the expression, 'eager beaver.' They are gentle creatures who show us that working hard can be its own reward."

Bob's certificate reads: "For visiting his assigned sites on a regular basis since 2016 while also visiting other sites and for learning about the variety of sherds in the Rio Chama. For recruiting Dean Wilson to offer two-day ceramics workshops—one lab day and one field day for each of the six Forest teams. For recruiting and organizing stewards to make these trainings a success."

Bob was awarded a wolf fetish. "Wolf medicine has to do with deciphering information and finding new pathways for the benefit of the clan. Being part of a clan and exhibiting loyalty to it is

some of the wisdom Wolf brings. And yet, even though Wolf is very loyal, it retains its individuality within the clan."

K. Paul Jones awards Bob his certificate and fetish.

Photo by K. Jones



Candie reads Gail's certificate

Gail's certificate reads: "For working hard during the winter months for NINE YEARS to provide stewards with an agenda of interesting speakers for the Wednesday evening lecture series. For bringing delicious cookies and providing supper for the speaker. For assisting Mike in the office all while fulfilling her site steward duties."

Gail was awarded a dragonfly fetish. "Dragonfly is the messenger who carries prayers to Spirit World. The double-winged form of dragonfly is sometimes referred to as the "Pueblo Cross." Dragonfly is recognized as a sign of water, which is where this remarkable creature lays its eggs. Where there is Dragonfly, there is water; where there is water, there is life. Dragonfly is a skilled aerial acrobat, and like the mind, can move quickly in any given direction to accomplish its goal. Being mindful of dragonfly can help guide us to our own positive transcendent goals. The lovely, often iridescent colors of the wings remind us that the mundane existence that we commonly accept as the only reality may be an illusion."

Annual Meeting (cont)

John Morris joined the site steward program in 2003, and has been Jemez area team leader for almost that long. He also served as chair of the Field Operations committee, and was a member of the Site Steward Council. His certificate of appreciation reads: "For his sustained long-term and outstanding contributions to the Site Steward Program including his roles as mentor, friend, and leader, and especially for his many years as ATL for the Jemez team. For his contributions to the organization as it is today and his many years of service on the council." John resigned from the program in 2018. John will be awarded a special bear fetish:



"The bear is a grizzly and was carved by Salvador Romero of Cochiti Pueblo, is made of found stone that appears to be basalt that, when still soft, collected an array of white crystalline material."

Congratulations to all, and thanks to those who submitted nominations as well as the members of the Awards Committee.

And then we adjourned for lunch: fired up the stoves, unwrapped salads, grated cheeses, opened boxes of crackers, and set out plates, bowls, flatware, and napkins for a filling and delicious lunch. Many chiles made for a marvelous feast. The lunch hour stretched to 1½ hours, with plenty of time for visiting and enjoying the scenery. Meanwhile, shoppers cruised the silent auction, making their bids and enjoying the sunshine.

Thanks to Shelley and her helpers for preparing three tables of silent auction items as well as to everyone who contributed something. Some of the funds raised will go to pay for next year's annual meeting.

Guest Speakers

Our afternoon guest speakers were Dr. Tom Swetnam, Regents' Professor of Dendrochronology, Emeritus, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, Jemez Mountains Tree-Ring Lab; and Dr. Ana Steffen, Interdisciplinary Scientist/ Communicator, Valles Caldera National Preserve. We are very fortunate to have speakers of this caliber nearby and willing to share their expertise.

Although the title of Dr. Swetnam's talk was "Fire and Humans in the Jemez Mountains," he first talked about dendrochronology, its history, development, applications, and trees in the Southwest that yield reliable dates.

Founded by astronomer Andrew Douglass in the late 19th and early in the 20th century, modern dendrochronology is the science of obtaining absolute dates from growth rings in trees. Douglass, based at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, wondered about the effect of sunspots on the earth's climate. He noted that there was an 11-year cycle of minimum and maximum solar fluctuations, and connected these fluctuations with differences in tree ring widths.

The method of obtaining a date from an individual tree begins with sampling a core from a live tree and noting its pattern of rings. From that sample, the pattern is compared with a core sample from dead trees, eventually establishing a time line that can stretch back hundreds of years and can produce an absolute date by counting growth rings. Archaeologists became aware of this dating method early on; Neil Judd sampled logs at Pueblo Bonito, sampled more at Aztec Ruin, but didn't retrieve absolute dates. Emil Haury, Pat Crown, Tom Windes, and Herbert Dick were among the legions of archaeologists who collected samples of wood showing tree rings to date their sites.

Samples of wood collected in various forests show differences in how the forest has changed through the years: during prehistoric times, there is evidence of small, frequent fires but later, fire

Annual Meeting (cont)

suppression due to sheep and cattle grazing and intentional fire suppression resulted in the growth of many trees within zones of the wildland-urban interface, where, as a result, today there are huge fires.

A large project funded by the National Science Foundation in 2012 (and described by Dr. Swetnam at the 2017 site steward annual meeting) assembled a multidisciplinary team of scientists to study the history of human communities in the Jemez Mountains. One of the outcomes of this project was an estimate of the population by various methods. The team reached an estimate of 5,000-8,000 people on the Jemez mesas, which compares nicely to that of Jemez Pueblo priest Gerónimo Salmerón, who in 1629, claimed that he had baptized 6,566 souls. During the time of occupation, the team found evidence of frequent small fires, with major fires occurring after abandonment. During occupation, small trees were cut for construction and firewood.

So how old is the tree-ring calendar? In some parts of the Southwest, tree rings date back to 2,000 years; much depends on the species of tree. Bristlecone pines yield the oldest rings, and limber and ponderosa pines are good. In general, evergreens, oak, and giant sequoias yield good rings, although coastal sequoias are not as accurate. Of the junipers, Rocky Mountain junipers are good for tree-ring dating.

Other tidbits:

- Evidence of bark peeling is usually associated with its use as food during hard times.
- The year 2002 was the driest in thousands

of years because of the combination of drought and heat.

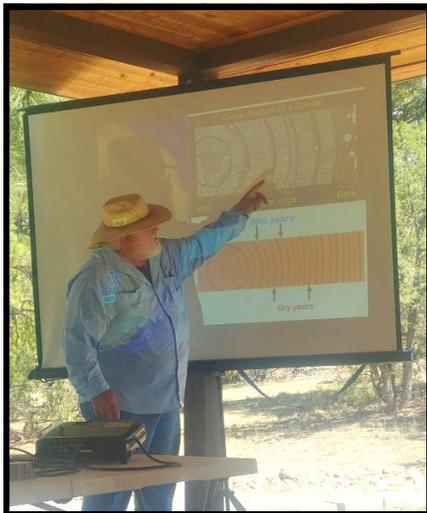
- Monsoons that follow a drought sometimes yield false growth rings within the same season. During a really dry year, there may be no growth rings at all.

Dr. Swetnam had some marvelous slides that demonstrated many topics of his lecture. He answered questions for some time.

Dr. Steffen's talk was entitled "Fire Effects on Material Culture in the Jemez Mountains." She presently is on the staff of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, a National Park Service entity.

After 2000, there has been an estimated 460% increase in fires because of an increased fuel load, disruptive forest structure due to logging and grazing, an increase in numbers of humans in the forest, and hot dry conditions. The big fires really matter in both direct and indirect effects. Corrals, fences, and cabins are lost; the Baca Ranch Historic District was threatened several years ago, but good firefighting efforts saved the structures. Peeled trees, carved aspens (arborglyphs), and marked pines were lost; an estimated 5,000-8,000 aspens were burned. Plaster on crumbling adobe structures was impacted. Obsidian artifacts showed spalls and fractures. Indirect effects included downed trees, surface erosion, collapsed root burnouts, and sediment transport during subsequent heavy rains. Sherd and lithic scatters were washed away, and debris fans in some areas showed huge cuts. The Valles Caldera has very deep soils, and after the Las Conchas Fire, the formerly stable old sites were much disturbed. Within the years 2011, 2012, and 2013, enormous changes took place; subsurface features were exposed, and then gone. Dr. Steffen showed slides of the same area for each of these years that illustrated the changes very well. Sites of all ages were affected, but Archaic sites suffered the most. On-the-ground monitors were able to protect some structural sites from bulldozer impact during backburning. Future damage to sites can be minimized by removal of fuels in the immediate vicinity.

Obsidian source areas within the Valles Caldera have been affected by fire, as have many obsidian fragments and artifacts. Although fire doesn't



Dr. Tom Swetnam illustrates a point.

Photo by K.. Paul Jones

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Is published quarterly
by the Santa Fe National
Forest Site Steward
Program

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Annual Meeting (cont)

are fractures that do not have a bulb of percussion found on human-altered flakes. The obsidian fractures at a flaw in the material. When fire envelops a piece of obsidian, water within the material boils, bubbles, and explodes; it looks like pumice and is very light in weight. Dr. Steffen explained various kinds of differences in the fire-exposed obsidian, all macroscopic in appearance.

Artifacts can be dated by obsidian hydration, a process of measuring the amount of water in the material. Obsidian hydration dating is based on the fact that a fresh surface is created on a piece of obsidian in the tool manufacturing. Not all dates retrieved by this process are accurate, however.

Both speakers were able to show slides, thanks to Dr. Swetnam's very quiet generator, a long cord, and his projector.

Judging from the subsequent email correspondence, our speakers educated and entertained us all very well, and each other, too. Many thanks to both of them.



Dr. Ana Steffen

Photo by K. Paul Jones

The meeting adjourned between 4 and 5 p.m. Campers enjoyed leftovers and stories around an evening campfire later. Sunday, there were visits to a couple of Jemez Pueblo ancestral sites.

Our annual meetings are always a great opportunity to meet other stewards, learn more about the areas we monitor, and appreciate everyone's commitment and diligence to the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program. Many thanks to all who attended and who contributed to the success of the meeting.

Save the Dates

October 3 Educational Lecture. Ron Barber's talk will be about Stone Calendars of the Southwest. Conference Room, SFNF Santa Fe Office. Doors open at 5:15, lecture begins at 6 p.m.

November 4 Educational Lecture. Jeremy Moss's talk title is "The Archaeology of Pecos: Myth, Mystery, and Cultural Continuity". Conference Room, SFNF Santa Fe Office.

November 17 Site Steward Council meeting. 9 a.m. Conference Room, SFNF Santa Fe Office. All stewards are welcome.