



# SITE LINES

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2023

## Council Chair's Message

*"Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it." – Mark Twain (maybe)*

It seems not that long ago that I wrote a note for the Spring *Site Lines*, and I commented on all the wet weather we'd been having. Well, here I am talking about the weather again! As I write this, we are in the third week of highs in the 90s. Or is it the fourth week? I've lost track. And even though I don't get much sympathy from our family in Houston, I thought it was a miserably hot July, and August is not off to a promising start.

Anyway, the point is: As site stewards we need to be talking about the weather, be it too hot or too wet. Of course we all want to go out and check our sites, but please be careful when you go. Make sure you check the forecast and are prepared for the weather that you might encounter that day.

We have set the date and place for our Annual meeting: Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Randall Davey Audubon Center at the

top of Canyon Road. See the article on page 3 for more details, and watch your email inbox for updates. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Also, there will be more on this as the year grows to a close, but I'll put the idea out there now: Please consider volunteering for a position on the Council in 2024. Most of us will be at the end of our terms and rotating off the council ... which is a good thing, because it's always beneficial for any organization to bring in a constant stream of new people and the new ideas that come with them! If you're interested, please talk to your ATL, or send me an email at [bobflorek@gmail.com](mailto:bobflorek@gmail.com).\*

As always, thanks for all your hard work to help preserve so many important cultural sites in our National Forest.

— Bob Florek, Council Chair

\**Note:* Open positions in 2024 include Council chair/co-chairs, vice chair, secretary, budget coordinator, education committee chair, and Council at-large positions.

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## News from the Forest

Liz Cutright-Smith has started a four-month temporary position as the Region 2 (CO, WY, NE, SD) Assistant Regional Archaeologist. We will see her back on the SFNF in December.

Jana Comstock, Zone Archaeologist, Espanola and Coyote Ranger Districts, has returned from parental leave. We are glad to have her back on board!

Pete Taylor, Zone Archaeologist, Jemez and Cuba Ranger Districts, has officially retired as of July 28th. I'm sure he is happy, even if it was a sad day for the Forest.

Currently we are still in the process of hiring positions to backfill both the Pecos/

Las Vegas Zone Archaeologist, as well as Pete's position for Jemez/Cuba. We hope to hire those positions by the end of the year.

Heritage is still working with an Acting Staff Officer, Kathi's supervisor Julian Madrid. It is unknown when this position will be filled permanently.

The Heritage staff is busy! We are working on many Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire restoration projects, as well as the normal ecosystem restoration projects, recreation projects, and everything else across the Forest.

— Kathi Turner



Results of the Poshouinge seeding project (seed covered with straw is in the foreground). See the story on page 4.

— Photo, Robin Gibbs

## Foundation Report

### 8/6/2023

The Site Steward Foundation is offering two Wayne Nelson grants of \$1,000 each in 2023, with a new grant application deadline of October 31, 2023 and a new grant award date of December 1, 2023. To apply for a Foundation grant, contact Gary Newgent at [sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com) for a grant application.

A spring tour to the Gila Cliff Dwellings and nearby sites, based in Silver City, New Mexico, May 19-21, filled up quickly. An October tour to sites in northeastern Arizona, based in Flagstaff and Winslow, is planned for late October.

The 2023 Site Watch and Foundation annual meetings were held on March 4, 2023 in Socorro at the Macey Center, New Mexico Tech. The Archaeological Society of New

Mexico's 2023 annual meeting was held May 5–7, 2023 at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso, New Mexico. The 2023 Pecos Conference was held August 10-13, 2023 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2023, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, [sitestewardfoundation.org](http://sitestewardfoundation.org).

If you would like to be notified of Foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to our email list on the Foundation website. Thank you for your support of site stewards!

— Gary Newgent, President

## SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting, Oct. 21, 2023

The SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023 at the Henderson Pavilion, Randall Davey Audubon Center, top of Canyon Road, Santa Fe. The tentative schedule for the day is as follows:

8:30 AM Optional bird walk (sponsored by Randall Davey Center; meet in the classroom near the parking lot)

9:30 AM Site Steward Council meeting (donuts and coffee provided)

10:00 ATL Area Reports

10:30 Presentation

11:30 AM Lunch (sponsored by the Site Steward Foundation). The Randall Davey home and studio will be open to tour during the lunch break.

1:00 PM Awards

1:15 Forest Report (Kathi Turner)

2:00 and 2:45 Presentations

**Presenters:** *Becky Baisden*, Assistant Zone Archeologist, Cuba/Jemez Ranger District, will discuss her M.A. thesis, which she recently defended at UNM. She researched field houses on the south end of Cat Mesa, Jemez Ranger District, and the variability between these feature types.

*Amina Sena*, District Ranger for the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District and former SFNF hydrologist, topic TBA.

*Samuel Villareal Catanach*, Director of the Language Department at Poajoaque Pueblo, will talk about language and landscape and how each influences the other, with specific reference to the Tewa world.

**Note:** Parking at the Randall Davey Center is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. If you are the driver, park close to other cars in the lot to leave room for more. There is additional parking along Canyon Road, and at the Cerro Gordo trailhead (a short hike from the Center).

## Seeding Project at Poshuouinge

The seeding project in the southern area of Poshuouinge occurred on June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, and again on July 6th. Kathi Turner, Robin Gibbs, and Hydrologist Amina Sena (now District Ranger for Pecos/Las Vegas) planned the project and arranged donations of native seed and over 600 bales of weed-free straw.

Approximately 45 young people from the Youth Conservation Corps and interns, plus a group of SFNF employees, helped to spread perennial grass seed and cover the seed with weed-free straw. The seed was sown just above the southern edge of the arroyo to slow erosion from rain water flowing off the southern mesa and into the arroyo.

The straw bales were enormous – imagine getting them up that hill! It took the crew two and a half days to carry over 400 bales

up to the seeding location. Then it took a couple more days to break up the bales and spread the straw over the seeds.

Many thanks to K. Paul Jones and Jim Kempes for volunteering in the intense heat to help spread seed ... what troopers!

Kathi said that this is Phase One of several techniques that will be employed in coming years. The next phase involves installation of erosion control features to slow down water flow within the arroyo, as well as more seeding.

We who know and love Poshu are very grateful to Kathi, Amina, and all the folks who labored with the seed and straw ... considering the extreme heat of that day, they are all heroes!

-- Susan McGrew

More photos on page 5



Amina Sena addresses the crew from atop the pile of straw bales.

Photo: Leslie O'Toole

## ATL Reports

*Rio Chama* — Bob Florek reports that all sites have been visited at least once this year. Two teams are monitoring Tse'ping, a heavily visited site because of easy access. Ku needs a Site Steward sign at the entrance by the unofficial trail from Cañones. Poshu also needs a sign.

*Gallina* — Anne Beckett reports that about 3/4 of the sites have been visited. One team has been out due to a member's surgery. Anne suffered an injury too and was out for months. She submitted 4 new stewards for certification, and all were certified by Kathi Turner via email. The sites are all OK (but there are lots of gnats!). The midden at Nogales needs barricades to stop hikers taking shortcuts across it. Lewis Borck is supposed to create a sign for Rattlesnake, but hasn't provided it yet. Note that the AllTrails website lists illegal trails in this area.

*Jemez* — Ann White reports that she and Chris Gardner have visited many sites, and that all sites in the Jemez have been visited at least once this year. There are lots of cows on some sites. A few new stewards still need training: They indicate the wrong area when submitting reports.

*Pecos* — Felicia Probert reports: Things have been pretty quiet on the Pecos these last few months. Monitoring of the high priority sites is on track for the year, but teams are generally waiting for cooler temperatures to make their way out to the more remote, lower priority sites.

*Caja del Rio* — Stan Jones, a new steward, has visited Norte and Los Aguajes. Appliance debris is an issue here. *Ed. Note:* See the Caja del Rio Coalition event in "Save the Date" on pg. 6.

*Garcia* — no report.

## Seeding Project at Poshuouinge — continued from pg 4



Straw bales going up the hill.



Some of the 400 straw bales on the way!

— Photos, Kathi Turner

## Site Lines

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## Save the Date!

*August 21:* Robert Weiner, Ph.D., *A Sensory Approach to Exotica, Ritual Practice, and Cosmology at Chaco Canyon*, sponsored by *The Aztlander*. 7 pm, CDT. Free. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85230136439> on the event date to join the session.

*Southwest Seminars* offers lectures 50 Mondays of the year, 6 PM at Hotel Santa Fe. \$20 per lecture, or \$75 for a monthly series. Remaining lectures in the August series are:

*August 21*, Mateo Romero (Cochiti Pueblo) and "The Usual Native Suspects": *Who Are We and Why Does It Matter? Or, When Are Indians Going to be the "Good Guys" in the Movies?*

*August 28*, Carleton Bowekaty, Former Lt Governor, Zuni Pueblo: *Bears Ears: In The Sacred Land Between*

*August 24:* Dr. Kelley Hays-Gilpin and Dennis Gilpin, *Duck Pots in Brooklyn: Rediscovering the Hunters Point Chacoan Community*, from Crow Canyon's free archeology webinar series. 4 PM MDT. Register at [crowcanyon.org/archaeology-webinars/](http://crowcanyon.org/archaeology-webinars/)

*September 21:* The Caja del Rio Coalition is holding a community "Listening Session," 5 to 6 PM, First Presbyterian Church, 208 Grant Ave., Santa Fe. "Listening sessions are a safe space where community members can share their experiences on the Caja and voice their suggestions in how to protect it."

*October 21:* SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting and Site Steward Council meeting, Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe. (See story on pg. 3)

## Site Steward Recognition

Let's not wait until Site Stewards retire from the program to recognize their contributions and their years of service! In every issue of *Site Lines*, we'd like to highlight one or two Site Stewards who have done outstanding service to the program for a long time or through involvement above and beyond the call of duty (or both).

ATLs, if you have Site Stewards on your team who you feel deserve recognition, send their names and a brief description of their contributions to the Editor (email address at left). We'll review your write-up, and may contact you for more information. Photos are welcome!

— Editor