



Council Chair's Message

At the Site Steward Council meeting in April, I learned that the winter snow and then the muddy roads kept several of you from making your first visit to your site this spring. But I'm hoping that's past us now and the winds have died down so that you can get back into the routine of regular visits.

At the April meeting, the council approved notable changes in the leadership of two areas—Pecos and Rio Chama. Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris have stepped down as Co-Area Team Leaders (ATLs) having served in that role since February 2022. The council was pleased to approve Robert (Bob) Florek as the new Pecos ATL. With Co-ATLs in the Pecos area, there was no need for an Assistant ATL (AATL), but Bob is now looking to fill that position. Meanwhile, Felicia has kindly volunteered to serve as the AATL on an interim basis until Bob can recruit a Pecos steward. If you're a Pecos steward, let Bob know if you are willing to take on this minimal task.

Prior to moving over to the Pecos Area, Bob and Carolyn Florek had been Rio Chama stewards. And Bob had been serving as the Rio Chama AATL. Thus, if you're

following along with this "musical chairs" game, this created an opening for a new Rio Chama AATL. Susan McGrew, with the council's approval, has now taken on this responsibility in addition to serving as the chair of the council's Education committee.

Meanwhile, several new stewards are receiving on-site training in their respective areas. There are, however, openings available in multiple areas for additional new stewards. If you're aware of one or more people who might be interested (in your, or another, area of the SFNF), please pass this information on to Grace Brill (gracebrill33@gmail.com), who is the chair of the Training Committee, and she'll contact them.

Finally, Mark Your Calendar: The Fall annual meeting of the SFNF Site Stewards will be on Saturday, September 7. It will be at a camp site in the SFNF (still to be determined). Its location should allow you to drive in for the day. But there will also be facilities for those who want to camp there the night before and/or afterward. And, there will be a guided tour on Sunday the 8th, to one or more sites in the immediate area.

— K. Paul Jones

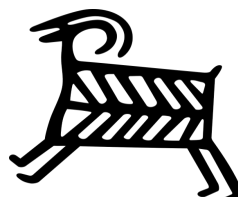
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the Forest	2
The MPPP and SFNF Site Stewards	2
Foundation Report	3
25 Years on the Rocks	3
ATL Reports	5
Visit to Polvadera Creek Pictographs	6
SFNF Seasonal Employee Training	7
Save the Date!	8

Contributors to this issue:

Candie Borduin
Jana Comstock
K. Paul Jones
Gary Newgent
Kathi Turner

The editors thank you!



News from the Forest

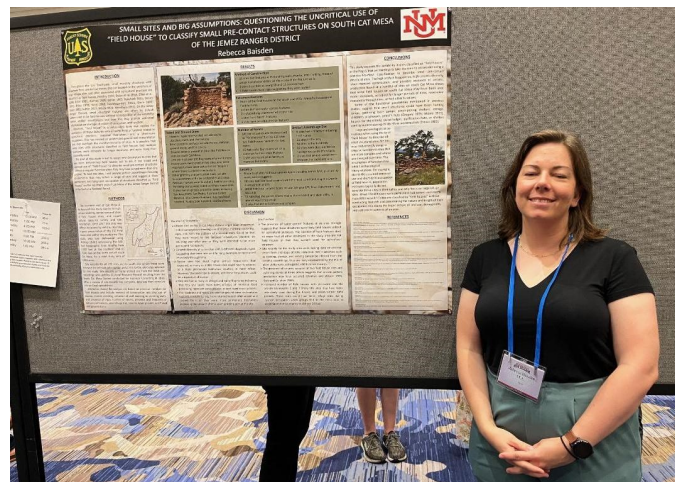
The Heritage staff is gearing up for a busy field season. We have welcomed five seasonal employees to the Zones to help with field work this summer (see the story on pg. 6). We are still officially in a hiring pause, but we are anticipating the Forest Service Chief's message soon for laying out (hopefully) a path forward to continue hiring some of the positions needed across the Santa Fe NF. The Heritage program is still short-staffed on the Pecos/Las Vegas and Jemez/Cuba Zones. Unfortunately, the Zone Archaeologist for P/LV and the Assistant Zone Archaeologist for Jemez/Cuba have been caught in the USFS National hiring pause.

The Regional Heritage staff were able to attend the Regional Heritage meeting in Mescalero, NM in March. This is always a good opportunity for the Forest Heritage teams in the Southwest Region to get together and discuss their various programs, learn what everyone is working on, and meet co-workers.

Some of our team also attended the Society for American Archaeology meeting in New Orleans, LA in April. Becky Baisden, Zone Archaeologist, presented a poster on the small sites on the Jemez Ranger District and the use of the term "field house."

In February, we had a field visit to Poshouinge with the new SFNF Hydrologist, Kevin Carns. Also present were Micah Kiesow, Forest Watershed Coordinator, Amina Sena, Pecos District Ranger (and previous SF Hydrologist), Jana Comstock, Robin Gibbs, Aly Wolf, and myself. We introduced Kevin to the site and its erosion problems, discussed the proposed action, and decided what information we need to compile to send to the Tribes and the NM SHPO to initiate consultation for moving the project forward.

— Kathi Turner



Becky Baisden presenting at the SAA meeting.

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project and SFNF Site Stewards

In 2002, when Katherine Wells put out an invitation for volunteers to train as petroglyph recorders, several SFNF Site Stewards responded. Not only did they train, they stayed, and they have been with the Project for 16-22 years!

The privilege of working on Mesa Prieta is infectious, much like being a Site Steward on the Santa Fe National Forest. The reward is never knowing what magnificent images are "just around the corner" that may not have been seen for hundreds of years. Some landowners first resisted strangers on their land, but there now is a waiting list of five more properties to be recorded, a total of 44 since 2002.

To participate in a preservation project that has been identified as the LARGEST PETROGLYPH SITE IN NEW MEXICO is exciting and an honor.

For more information about the project's history and the planned celebration of its 25th anniversary, see the story on pg. 3.

— Candie Borduin

Site Steward Foundation Report

5/11/24

2024 marks the sixteenth-year anniversary of the founding of the Site Steward Foundation in 2008. We continue our assistance to site steward programs in New Mexico and Colorado.

The 2024 Site Watch and Foundation annual meetings and election of officers were held March 2, 2024, at Los Luceros Historic Site, Alcalde, NM, and were well attended. Two speakers from the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project and one from Los Luceros were featured.

The Site Steward Foundation awarded an H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$2,000 grant to Jonathan Sandor, Susan Smith, Maryann Wasiolek, and John Groh (Torrance County Archaeological Society) for pollen analyses and investigation of topographic depressions that surround Pueblo Blanco, one of the Salinas Pueblos in central New Mexico, to test whether they may have been used for agriculture.

An H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 is offered in 2024 with a grant application deadline of Sept. 30, 2024 and a grant award date of Dec. 1, 2024. To apply for a Foundation grant, contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com for a grant application.

The Foundation held two tours in 2024: A two-day guided tour in May of the Gila Cliff Dwellings and Mimbres River archaeological sites and petroglyphs, based in Silver City, NM, and a five-day guided tour of archaeological sites and petroglyphs near Flagstaff and Holbrook, AZ. No tours are currently scheduled for 2024.

The Site Steward Foundation hosted the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's 2024 Annual Meeting May 3–5, 2024, at the Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NM, attended by 100 people.

Please help us to make our goal of over 100 members in 2024. If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2024, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website sitestewardfoundation.org, or they can be mailed to P.O. Box 32224, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

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

25 Years on the Rocks: The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project

In 1992, Katherine Wells and her partner Lloyd Dennis bought an 188-acre parcel of land in Lyden, New Mexico, on the east side of Mesa Prieta. What attracted Katherine to the property in the first place was what she and Lloyd called the Key Rock, a huge boulder on a hilltop, covered with petroglyphs, that overlooks Katherine's home today. As they settled in on the property, building a studio and then their dream home, Katherine discovered there were hundreds of petroglyphs on the site and the surrounding area. Her already established interest in archaeology surged at the potential of living in such a rich petroglyph area. Very early on, she realized this archaeological treasure needed to be protected, a driving force that continues through today.

In spring 1993 she met with Jay and Helen Crotty, directors of the New Mexico Archaeo-

logical Society's Rock Art Field School, and arranged to have a recording session on the property that summer. The project recorded over 3000 petroglyphs in the first season, and realized that at least one more season's work would be required. But it was also clear that the whole of Mesa Prieta was an important area, not only for petroglyphs, but as a record of thousands of years of cultural history of Northern New Mexico. Sites on the mesa reflect all of its inhabitants: Pre-Puebloan nomads, Pueblo hunting and farming activities, the Spanish conquest, and sheepherding and ranching in more recent times.

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project (MPPP) was founded in 1999 with the intention of surveying and recording all the petroglyphs on the mesa, both on the Wells property and on other landowners' parcels. (Continued on pg. 4)

25 Years on the Rocks, Continued from pg. 3

The first set of volunteers was trained by the Crottys and by Jerry and Jean Brody. Permission to record was obtained from several land-owners, recording protocols and forms were developed, and funds were raised to support the project. Field work began in 2002.

The local Pueblos were involved from the beginning, and with their support the first Summer Youth Program was held in 2002. A vital part of the Project's work is providing youth from the Pueblos with a more intimate involvement with ancestral sites, and teaching them scientific and technical recording skills that they can use in the future. The program received a Take Pride in America® National Award in 2011. In 2007 the Project developed the first of a series of educational programs, "Discovering Mesa Prieta: The Petroglyphs of Northern New Mexico and the People Who Made Them," for use by teachers in local schools.



Summer Youth Program students taking measurements on a petroglyph panel.

Most of the surveying and recording work for the project is performed by a group of carefully trained adult volunteers, and to date about 85,000 petroglyphs and other cultural features have been documented on 39 separate properties. In 2007 the Wells property was donated to The Archaeological Conservancy and became known as The Wells Petroglyph Preserve. The Preserve represents the most concentrated area of petroglyphs on Mesa Prieta and is on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Cultural Properties. A re-recording of the Wells Preserve revealed over 11,000 images on the Preserve alone!



Intrepid volunteer Lee Borduin recording a petroglyph panel. Photos courtesy of MPPP.

A docent-led tour program developed early on gives members of the public access to the petroglyphs and other features on the Preserve. Fundraising activities are regularly held on the property – most recently, "Eclipse Day on the Mesa" to celebrate the annular eclipse in October 2023, tying that celestial event to the petroglyph images.

The 25th anniversary of the Project is this year, and several events celebrating the occasion have been held or are planned. The Project Director, Dr. Matthew Martinez, gave a well-received talk to Southwest Seminars in January. In March, William Frej and Polly Schaafsma, who recently published a splendid book on petroglyphs of the Southwest, *Blurred Boundaries*, gave a presentation in Santa Fe. Tours on the Wells Petroglyph Preserve are planned for participants in the Farmington-based ARARA convention in mid-May, and a lunch event with "Founder's Favorites" is scheduled in late May on the Preserve. The Historic Bond House Museum in Espanola will host a photo exhibit about the project in July through September, focusing on cultural time periods documented through petroglyphs and archaeological features on Mesa Prieta. The culminating event of the celebration will be a symposium in September: "25 Years on the Rocks! Stories of Long Ago Told," see pg 8.

— Candie Borduin and Paula Lozar

ATL Reports

Caja del Rio (Jeff Koester for Gary Newgent): The Norte and Los Aguajes sites have been visited. At the latter, they encountered two hikers who are interested in becoming site stewards, and referred them to our website.

Construction of the new electrical line is scheduled to start in summer 2025.

Gallina (Anne Beckett): Site visits have begun for the season, and the roads are being analyzed for access (one road has turned into an arroyo!). They may need two more site stewards.

Garcia (Will Dearholt): Chupadero has been checked, and all is OK. He observed redware at the site, which he hasn't seen before. There is some ATV traffic in the area. The Forest Service is collecting information on lithic sites on the east side of the Jemez for possible future monitoring.

Jemez (Ann White): No visits since December because the roads were closed, but they are scheduled to reopen between 4/15 and 5/15. They have two new stewards, but one has limited time, so they may need one more.

Pecos (Felicia Probert): Robert Whatley, a long-time site steward, has passed away.

His expertise will be sorely missed.

There is a new steward for Rowe Mesa. They visited one site, but snow blocked access to the other.

Felicia and Sharon Paris retired as co-ATLs as of the 4/13 Council meeting, and Bob Florek was approved as the new ATL. Felicia will serve as Interim AATL until Bob selects a new AATL.

Rio Chama (K. Paul Jones): About half of their sites have been visited so far. (See K. Paul's article on pg. 6 about his visit to the Polvadera Creek pictograph site.)

The Council approved Susan McGrew to replace Bob Florek as AATL. Two more stewards are needed to replace Bob and Carolyn Florek, who have transferred to the Pecos team.

Kris Herbst was certified as a site steward and was assigned to Maestas with another steward. Two teams were assigned to Tsi'ping, but one team has resigned, so another team is needed.

Two provisional stewards, Tom Studer and Jo Bertini, are going out to Site 1230-31, but another team may be needed because they travel to Australia frequently.



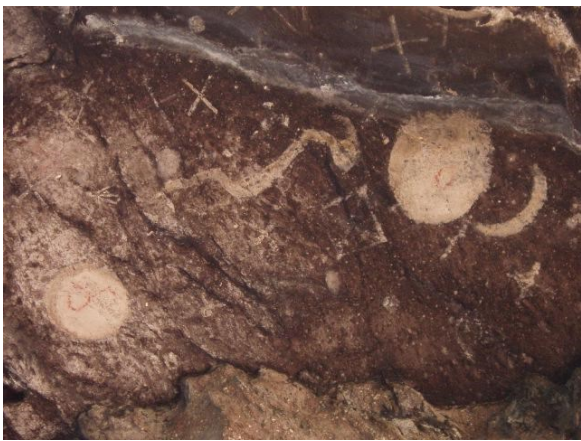
A spectacular petroglyph panel from the Mesa Prieta. (Information identifying the location has been removed.) Photo courtesy of Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project.

A Visit to the Polvadera Creek Pictograph Site—and More

On March 28, Jana Comstock (Zone Archaeologist, Espanola and Coyote Ranger Districts) and I led a tour to an outstanding pictograph panel located along the west bank of Polvadera creek in the Rio Chama area. Accompanying us were Robin Gibbs (Assistant Zone Archaeologist, Espanola and Coyote Ranger Districts), two archaeologists from the SFNF Headquarters (Andy Wakefield and Bud Weick), plus Hydrologist Kevin Carns (SFNF Headquarters).

The pictograph panel (see photo #2) is located next to the west side of the creek on the underside of a rock outcrop. What makes the panel outstanding is the combination of a one-horned Avanyu (serpent) along with numerous moons (full and crescent) and stars (the Xs).

To reach the panel, we walked approximately three miles through a combination of narrow canyons and open valleys with amazing views. There is extensive obsidian lithic scatter both along the trail and on the ground below the pictograph panel. For those who climb to the top of the rock outcrop above the site, you're rewarded with evidence of a knapping site.



Polvadera Creek Pictographs

(Photo: K. Paul Jones)



Andy Wakefield, K. Paul Jones, Kevin Carns, Bud Weick, & Robin Gibbs

(Photo: Jana Comstock)

Jana arranged for the hydrologist, Kevin Carns, to accompany us. The SFNF Watershed Program recently initiated the Polvadera Creek Sediment Stabilization and Ecosystem Restoration Project. The first phase of the project was completed in 2023. This involved in-stream work installing post-assisted log structures and beaver dam analogs, erosion control in the tributaries by installing one-rock dams, rock rundowns, and Zuni bowls, and willow plantings. He and Jana now had an opportunity to check on the effectiveness of this project and to determine possible additional measures to control the tributaries flowing into the creek. If any site stewards wish to accompany K. Paul on his next site visit in the fall, send him an email (kennethpauljones@gmail.com).

— K. Paul Jones

Santa Fe NF Heritage Program Welcomes New Seasonal Employees

Field season is upon us, and with that the Santa Fe National Forest Heritage Program welcomes our new and returning seasonal employees! On the Pecos-Las Vegas Zone, Cameron Turley is returning for his second season on the Santa Fe. On the Espanola-Coyote Zone, Lauren Oates, Maggie Frederick, and Sebastian Schipman are starting their first season. And on the Jemez-Cuba Zone, Robin Kibler is starting her first season.

To kick off the season, we did a field training day on April 15 focusing on feature identification and geospatial data collection. We went to the La Bajada Type Site area, which is on the Caja del Rio on the outskirts of Santa Fe near Tetilla Peak. For those that don't know, this is the site from which the Bajada projectile point type was named. This is a Middle

Archaic projectile point that dates from 7000-4000 BP and is found throughout the Southwest.

Nine of us spent the day practicing using ArcGIS Field Maps on our tablets. ArcGIS Field Maps is an all-in-one mobile app for field data collection, map viewing, and real-time location sharing. For our purposes, we are primarily using the app to map archaeological sites, but we can still produce hand-drawn maps as needed.

The Heritage Program also has several Juniper Geode GPS receivers that allow us to have improved accuracy with the data we gather on the tablets. These receivers can give us sub-meter accuracy for recording site features; amazing! In sum, we're looking forward to a great field season with a fabulous team of archaeology technicians to help us get some important work done.

— Article and photo, Jana Comstock
Zone Archeologist, Espanola and Coyote Districts



Back row (L to R): Cameron Turley, Sebastian Schipman
Middle row (L to R): Maggie Frederick, Lauren Oates, Megan Plummer, Robin Kibler
Front row (L to R): Robin Gibbs, Jana Comstock, Becky Baisden

Site Lines

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

Editor:

Paula Lozar
(505) 473-3479
lozarpaula@cs.com

Assistant Editor:

Susan McGrew
(505) 424-3932
sumac3b@gmail.com

We're on the Web
www://sfnsitestewards.org

Save the Date!

The next Site Steward Council meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2024, 9:30 AM at the SFNF headquarters. All Site Stewards are welcome to attend Council meetings.

The 2024 Pecos Conference is scheduled to be held near Payson, AZ, August 8-11, 2024. For more information, consult pecosconference.org.

SFNF Site Stewards Annual Meeting, Sept. 7, 2024, location and speakers to be announced. This year's meeting will be a camp-out (for those so inclined), but within driving distance of Santa Fe for those who just want to come for the day.

25 Years on the Rocks! Stories of Long Ago Told

The "25 Years on the Rocks" Symposium seeks to recognize and honor the legacy of the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. The Mesa Prieta region along the northern Rio Grande corridor is a significant cultural and historic site that includes well over 100,000 petroglyphs and archaeological features that date back thousands of years.

This primary celebratory event, September 13 and 14th at Northern New Mexico College, will welcome anyone who has been part of the project for the last 25 years as guests or speakers. Currently still in the planning stages, the two-day symposium will feature scholars from connected disciplines to present cultural and historic perspectives that define our connections to Tsikw'aye, Mesa Prieta, and Northern New Mexico homelands. Speakers from the area include volunteers, researchers, former Summer Youth Interns, poster sessions, and other events offered free to the interested public on a pre-registration basis. Keynote speakers are being arranged that coincide with catered Indigenous meals.

MPPP is bouncing back from the effects of COVID, and the enthusiasm of the Project's volunteers is evident. Once numbering over 100 volunteers, about 40 now carry forth the mission of preservation through documentation, education, and outreach of heritage stewardship. We are a project to protect a place! Several of our volunteers have been active with the Project for well over 20 years.

Please see the website at mesaprietapetroglyphs.org for updates on activities for the year and scheduling.