



SITE LINES

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 4
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FALL 2025-
WINTER 2026

Council Chair's Message

My two years as the Site Council Chair ended with the conclusion of our meeting on January 17. Following me out the door, after also serving as council officers for two years, were Bob Dolci (Vice Chair) and Wendy Dolci (Budget Coordinator). I benefited greatly from their services. I also appreciate the participation of the two at-large council members, Richard Marlar and Lori Whitley. Jeff Koester (Secretary) is taking on a new role. The following new officers and board members for 2026 were approved at the meeting:

Bob Florek (chair)	Lynne Newell (at-large)
Jeff Koester (vice chair)	Donald Newell (at-large)
Bruce Herr (secretary)	John Pitts (at-large)
Donna Kelley (budget coordinator)	Beth Parisi (at-large)



L to R: John Pitts, Donna Kelley, Donald Newell, Lynn Newell, Jeff Koester, Beth Parisi, Bruce Herr, Bob Florek

2025 ended with the retirement of two long-term stewards: **Will Dearholt** served as a steward for 23 years and **Irene Wanner** for 20 years. Both served, respectively, as Garcia Area Team Leader and Assistant Area Team Leader for over a decade. As Site Steward Council members, Irene served as the Council Chair for two years and Will served for two years as the Vice Chair. They will be missed!

-- K. Paul Jones, article and photo

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The editors thank you!

News from the Forest

Not a whole lot has happened over the winter months on the SF National Forest. Most of the staff was able to take at least some time off. Our priorities, set by leadership, are to work to accomplish the projects that support timber, fuels, and recreation on the Forest. We do not have authority to hire any seasonal/temporary employees for Heritage, so the Heritage staff will be busy again this field season.

The Heritage program is still going forward, with the Poshuinge stabilization project [see the story on pg. 5], and with updating trails and recreation enhancements for Rattlesnake Ridge. Discussion is ongoing for new signage at Nogales, based on last year's field trip.

-- Kathi Turner

Site Steward Foundation Report

1/27/26

The Site Steward Foundation is again offering an H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 with a grant application deadline of September 30, 2026 and a grant award date by December 1, 2026. To apply for a Foundation grant, please contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com for a grant application.

Site Watch has not yet determined when or where the annual meetings for Site Watch and the Foundation will be held this spring.

The 2026 Archaeological Society of New Mexico's annual meeting will be held May 8 -10, 2026, at the Marriott Courtyard in Farmington.

The 2026 Pecos Conference will be held August 6 - 9, 2026, near Mancos, Colorado: pecosconference.org.

The Site Steward Foundation has been selected as the organizer of the 2027 Pecos Conference, with plans for the 100th anniversary of the Pecos Conference to be held at the Forked Lightning Ranch in the Pecos National Historical Park.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2026, 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

ATL Reports

Caja del Rio (Jeff Koester): Because of favorable weather, all sites are being visited regularly. No issues were observed.

Gallina (Anne Beckett): Thanks to unseasonably great weather, all teams were able to visit sites through December. Working with Becky Baisden, Zone Archaeologist, the number of Gallina sites to be visited was reduced. Currently there is a team assigned to every site, a first since Anne became ATL in April 2021!

Garcia (K. Paul Jones): With the resignation of Will Dearholt from the Site Steward Program, there is no ATL or AATL for Garcia. Kathi Turner will work with Bob and Jana Comstock to determine which sites are important to visit, which Garcia stewards want to visit them, which existing ATL can add those sites and stewards to their area, and whether Will is willing to introduce those ATLs, plus any interested Garcia stewards, to these sites.

Jemez (K. Paul Jones): Currently there is no ATL or AATL, so no visits were allowed. The Site Steward Council approved a temporary solution: Active Jemez stewards will be recruited to take turns serving as backup contact for site visits.

NOTE: Anyone interested in stepping up as ATL/AATL for Garcia or Jemez should contact Bob Florek, bobflorek@gmail.com.

Pecos (Bob Florek): A group of five stewards visited the Hacienda site on the Pecos River on October 1. They reported evidence of at least one place where it appears that rocks have been dug up and removed. They also updated the driving instructions in the site file.

No recent site visits were made during the winter months. They are reviewing site assignments and will reassign sites for 2026 to balance the need for familiarity with specific sites and stewards' interest in seeing different ones.

Rio Chama (K Paul Jones): Some roads were closed on January 1, limiting the ability to monitor sites. K Paul noted two areas of concern: (1) Pesede. The roads are bad; vehicles can come only within a few miles, making for a long walk. (2) Poshu. Access has been limited at times due to concern by both the USFS and the local Pueblo. In addition, they have a three-person team for the Maestas site, which requires a special vehicle.

[Kathi Turner suggested that hard-to-access but stable sites could be dropped, or visited every year or two.]

K Paul informed the council that he will resign as the Rio Chama ATL effective April 18, by which date he will recommend his replacement/s to the council for its approval.

OAS Launches New Training Programs

The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) has created two free intensive trainings that would provide Site Stewards with a better understanding of their sites and the overall SFNF Site Steward Program.

The entry level track is for individuals who do not have prior education or professional experience in archaeology. The second track is an advanced course for those with degrees in archaeology, anthropology, or a related field, and prior experience. The purpose is to expand the heritage preservation workforce across New Mexico, which we as Site Stewards do in the SFNF SS Program. It also would provide credentials for Site Stewards who would like to explore careers in public archaeology. The current program is a pilot program, but the overwhelming response indicates that future iterations will be offered.

For more information and applications, contact OAS: friendsofarchaeologynm@gmail.com.

Site Stewards and Mesa Prieta Volunteers to Share Event

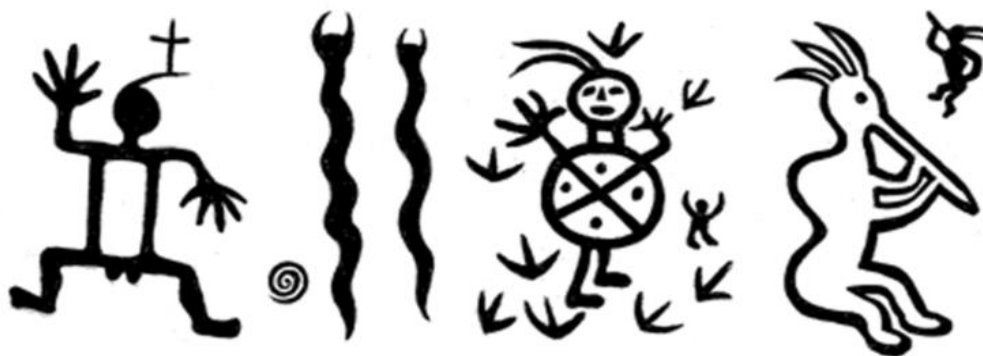
On May 3, 2026, our SFNF Site Stewards will join docents and rock art recorders of the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project for a gathering at the Los Luceros Historic Site. The goal is to introduce the groups and their programs to each other to foster cooperation and recruitment for each program.

After a continental breakfast at 9:30, the MPPP archaeologist will provide an overview of the MPP Project, followed by a presentation about the SFNF SS Program given by a Site Steward representative. Before lunch, participants can visit an information table with informational handouts on both groups as well as tour sign-up sheets.

Leaders of both groups will provide the main luncheon courses, while participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to round out the potluck luncheon and social gathering.

After a quick cleanup, we'll carpool to the Mesa Prieta parking lot (15 minutes) and meet our tour docents, each of whom will take 7-10 participants on one of the rock art tours at MPPP. After the tours are complete, the event ends (about 3 pm), and we return to Los Luceros to retrieve our cars and head home.

The first 30 Site Stewards to register for this free event will be guaranteed a space. Contact Siobhan Hancock at sbhancock33@gmail.com to reserve your spot.



Petroglyph images drawn by Katherine Wells, reproduced courtesy of the MPPP

Site Steward Council Meeting Announcement

The next Council meeting will be on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. at the Forest Service office (11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87508). The doors open at 9:15 for coffee and donuts before the meeting. As always, ALL SFNF Site Stewards are welcome to attend; you do not have to be a Council member. This is usually our best opportunity to meet and hear from Kathi Turner and her staff.

Poshuouinge Erosion Mitigation Project Progress in 2025

The Española Ranger District on the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) has begun implementation of the Poshuouinge Erosion Mitigation Project, the purpose of which is to stabilize and preserve this large precontact archaeological site (FS Site 03-10-08-00029/LA 274). The site is an ancestral Tewa village dating to AD 1375-1500. This project involves a combination of actions over multiple years: Constructing additional barbed-wire and pipe fencing to reduce cattle and visitor impacts, seeding, mulching, vegetation thinning, and installing stone erosion control structures. The project is led by Jana Comstock (Zone Archaeologist) and Robin Gibbs (Assistant Zone Archaeologist) of the Espanola and Coyote Ranger Districts. SFNF Site Stewards monitor the site regularly.

During Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025), many activities took place at the site. In fall of 2024, Comstock, Gibbs, and a three-person seasonal crew completed pedestrian survey and thoroughly updated the site documentation. Then an interdisciplinary team of forest resource specialists completed analysis for a NEPA Categorical Exclusion for the project in April 2025. Also in April 2025, Comstock and Gibbs completed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 cultural resources clearance. The clearance comprised a full inventory report and a greatly expanded site record, including new site mapping at sub-meter accuracy.

In the spring and summer of 2025, implementation activities included visiting the site with Ohkay Owingeh and Santa Clara Pueblo representatives, surveying for migratory birds, constructing perimeter fence and associated vegetation thinning, developing of vegetation and hydrologic monitoring plans, and establishing baseline

vegetation, hydrologic, and archaeological feature monitoring areas.

Implementation assistance was provided to the SFNF Heritage team by a five-person Youth Conservation Corps crew, SFNF Hotshots, and other SFNF staff including fire engine crew, range staff and technicians, a planning specialist, an engineer, a wildlife biologist, a botanist, an ecosystems program coordinator, a hydrologist, and recreation technicians.

We accomplished so much with the help of many. Stay tuned for further implementation activities in Fiscal Year 2026!



Fence construction with YCC crew and SFNF Planning staff. Taken June 11, 2025.

-- Article and photo: Jana Comstock

Bob McCarthy, Outstanding Site Steward

Site Steward Bob McCarthy passed away on November 16, 2025, after having served as a volunteer with the Santa Fe National Forest for over 25 years. It was my pleasure to have been his site steward partner that entire time. Perhaps not many folks knew of his service as well as I did, so let me share a few recollections.

Bob was born on St Patrick's Day, 1929, in Brooklyn, New York. His memoir, written near the end of his 96 years, shows that he made friends easily, and early in his life developed a deep interest in nature. When it came time to select a college, he shouldered his backpack and took a two-day train trip to attend Deep Springs College near the Mojave Desert, California. It was not like Brooklyn, but Bob thrived and enjoyed the outdoors and academic experiences. After two years he chose to attend Swarthmore College and decided to go into the ministry. He got his Master's degree in Theology at Yale Divinity School and eventually was assigned to several churches in Pennsylvania in 1953-57.

Bob left the ministry after 6 years and joined the Bell Laboratory of AT&T, working in personnel management and stock management for 16 years. Eventually he ended his work career heading the recycling programs in Middlesex County (NJ) for 5 years. When Bob (and wife Marge) came to Santa Fe in the mid-1990s, he had lots of energy. First, he became a Docent at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC). As a fellow docent, Bob and I became close friends. Given our growing, mutual interest in nature and archaeology, it was logical that we both joined the SFNF Site Steward program in 1998. We also became long-term rock art recorders with the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project (initially, Vecinos Del Rio Project).

Bob and I remained a team for the Site Stewards until he reached the age of 93, an amazing age for what is a physically taxing



Bob McCarthy and John Pitts, Oct. 2022

activity. We served in four of the administrative districts of the National Forest. Following our first trip out to the Castles on the Chama site (we also visited Huerfano Mesa), I had to have the front end of my Jeep re-aligned, but we kept going back and even hiked to other sites (towers) in the Llaves Valley. After doing the 5-hour round trip drive to Castles for some years, we were assigned to inspect three pueblo ruins on Borrego Mesa, Jemez District, where we started to use our trash collecting skills to pick up beer cans found along the way. Then we took on the challenge of locating sites (mostly rock piles/cairns) in the Pecos Area, which the Forest had sparse information on. Mostly we reported on the loss of "moss rocks" in the area, which may have been archeological sites at one time. Eventually we gravitated to the Caja del Rio (Española District), focusing our efforts on one ruin overlooking White Rock Canyon. Each time we visited the site, we brought home a bag or two of empty metal drink containers.

Not surprisingly, Bob and I had some fun while monitoring sites. At the Caja del Rio North site, we helped install a Site Steward information sign which we discovered missing on a subsequent visit. Upon receiving our report of the missing sign, a team went out and installed a new sign, securely installed with a cement base. Not long after that,

(continued on pg 7)

Bob McCarthy, Outstanding Site Steward, continued from pg 6

we found the original sign hidden behind a large piñon a short distance away! Of course, we also found disturbances to some of our sites and were pleased to find that the National Forest archaeologists were interested and visited those sites with us. On another occasion, when we discovered that a World Quarter Shrine had been disturbed, a new Site Steward sign was installed, which is still standing.

I appreciate the fact that Bob gave over 25 years of devoted service to the preservation and protection of archaeological sites on the Santa Fe National Forest. And I, personally, will miss my friend and partner, Bob McCarthy.



Bob McCarthy and John Pitts posting a Site Stewards sign, June 2019

-- Article and photos, John Pitts

A Request from the Archives Committee

We are updating the membership roster and email list this spring. If you have received the email notification for this newsletter and no longer wish to be on the list, please contact Bob Florek at bobflorek@gmail.com. Note that there is an option to be an "inactive" member, so if you are no longer able or willing to do site visits, but still are interested in what's going on or in attending meetings, please let us know that.

Site Stewards Needed!

The SFNF Site Steward program is always in need of more site stewards to ensure that all areas are thoroughly covered, and that there is backup when site stewards are unavailable or have to leave the program. We are working on remedying this situation in the near future.

However, one of our best recruiting methods is word of mouth. If you have friends who like archeology and the outdoors, and find the idea of site visits interesting, urge them to contact us. If you are visiting a site and run into hikers who are curious what you're doing there, tell them about the site steward program and suggest that they follow up with us (we have actually gained new site stewards that way!).

Contact information is on our website: sfnsitestewards.org

Site Steward Awards Presented at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting in September 2025, the following Site Stewards received awards and appropriate fetishes:

Anne Beckett – Bear Ann keeps up with the Forest Service in the Gallina area and keeps the team informed about road conditions and fires. She keeps the roster of Gallina stewards and sites up to date. And she communicates with the team about items of interest, such as relevant archeology articles. She is a great, hard-working team leader!

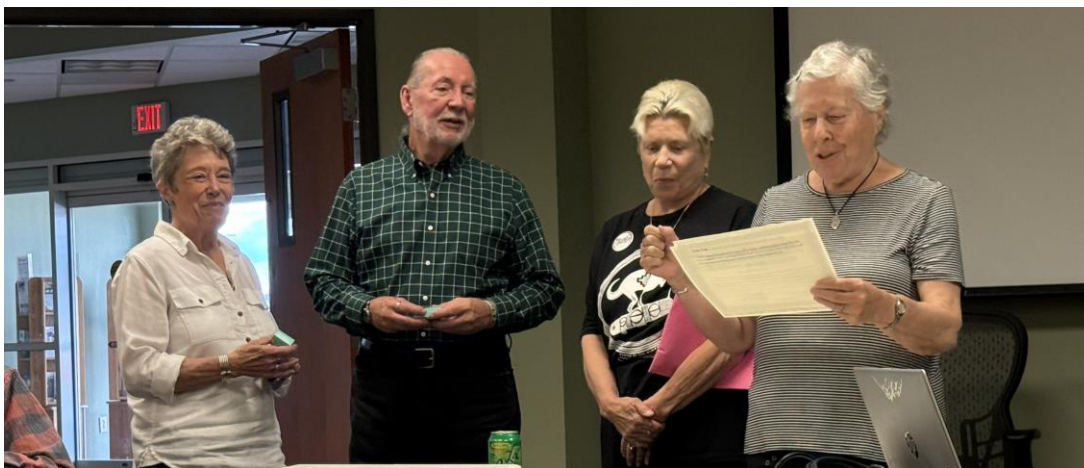
Wendy Dolci – Hawk In the past year, Wendi has introduced the new AATL to sites in the Rio Chama area, and stepped in when substitute partners were needed. She has done reconnaissance trips after major rain storms to check whether the roads were passable, and helped to search for new routes. Her humor and willingness to take on new roles have made meetings fun.

Grace Brill – Frog Grace has always been willing to help out when needed, whether it is filling in for a missing partner for a site visit, helping on various Site Steward committees, or taking on the challenging Training Committee by herself. She is a delight to work with and a valuable member of the SFNF Site Steward Program.

Joe Stack (Beaver), Lynne Newell (Beaver), and Donald Newell (Turtle) This team took on the challenge of finding a site that literally hadn't been visited in years, and no one was sure how to get to it. They also offered to juggle the sites they were visiting to take on another site when it became available. They continually do extra research on their sites to get to know them better.

John Pitts – Mountain Lion During his 27 years of service as a Site Steward, John has reported many cases of vandalism to rock art sites, particularly in the Los Aguajes Pueblo area. He also discovered rock art panels in San Juan Canyon and White Rock Canyon, which he recorded with the collaboration of Forest archeologists. John has applied his expertise in rock art recording to sites in the Santa Fe National Forest and served as a liaison to other rock art projects in northern New Mexico.

Paula Lozar – Hawk Paula has been a member of Site Stewards for many years, and has been a reliable steward as well as a council officer and volunteer. Currently she is the editor of the *Site Lines* newsletter and also directs the Communications Committee, updating the Site Steward website and other technological matters.



Lynne and Donald Newell receive their certificates from Awards Committee members Susan McGrew and Paula Lozar (chair) at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Not present: Awardee Joe Stack and committee member Becky Johnston. (Photo: Beth Parisi)

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

Save the Date!

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico's annual meeting will be held May 8 -10, 2026, at the Marriott Courtyard in Farmington. <https://archaeologicalsocietynm.org/events/asnm-annual-meeting-2024/> [sic]

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will be hosting its annual conference in Great Falls, Montana on June 25-29, 2026, at the Holiday Inn. For more information, see the ARARA website at <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-General-Info-2026>

2026 Pecos Conference, August 6-9, 2026, near Mancos, CO. Specifics will be provided at a future date.

The **Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference** will occur on October 14-17, 2026, in Santa Fe. For more information, see <https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/csfa/paleoamerican-odyssey-program-2026>

Editor's Note: Because of the government shutdown last fall, the Fall issue of this newsletter was not published in November 2025 as planned. This edition combines the Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 issues.