

# The Uncompahgre Journal



CHIPETA CHAPTER  
COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2009  
VOLUME 26, NO. 2

## Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 7 p.m.,  
Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist  
Church,  
South 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Park Avenue.**

**Program: "A review of expeditions found  
through Inscriptions" Inscription House  
Ruin and surrounding Canyons.  
Northeastern, Arizona.**

Three years of exploration in Nitsi'n, Toenslushe,  
and Navajo Canyons has resulted in a completed  
report on the expeditionary history left as  
Inscriptions or rock art.



"The Inscription House Inscription Documentation was initiated in response to two needs: 1) interpretation of the purported "1661" Inscription authenticity and location at Inscription House and; 2) thorough documentation of historic expeditions to the Navajo National Monument area and the reasons for the expeditions being in the area, an historical context."

Local Ridgeway photographer John Cappis recorded the work in photographs.

The bio of Mr. Blackburn will tell you that he began his career in 1974 as the first ranger for the 3.5 million acres of Grand Gulch Wilderness Area in Utah. That itself would help us understand his fascination and dedication to the four corners and the landscape of historic and prehistoric remains that are vanishing. His work in helping establish the Crow Canyon archaeological center and the White Mesa Institute at the College of Eastern Utah reveals his desire to protect its archaeology and history.

Fred Blackburn, author of *The Wetherills, Friends of Mesa Verde*, is an independent guide, author, and contractor responsible for organizing the donation of Wetherill family collections to the Anasazi Heritage Center. He serves as historian / author / liaison between the Wetherill family and the Anasazi Heritage Center in Cortez, Colorado, a volunteer role. He has also researched and written extensively about the late 19th century archaeological explorations of

the Four Corners. His contribution to other texts include "Handwriting on the Wall" in *Anasazi Basketmaker*, a synopsis of journal and reverse archaeology in Utah's Grand Gulch and historic inscriptions and the first recorded visits to Balcony House in *A History of a Cliff Dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado*, by Kathleen Fiero. His most recent collaboration was writing the text for *Sacred Places of the Southwest* with photographer Claus Mroczynski. This coffee table book is receiving international recognition. With Dr. Ray Williamson he co-authored *Cowboys and Cave Dwellers*, reviewing early archaeological explorations in the Grand Gulch and Mesa Verde region.

Fred completed a major research manuscript for Mesa Verde National Park titled "Historical Inscriptions and the Expeditionary History of Balcony House, Cliff Palace, Hemenway House, Little Hemenway House, Honeymoon House and Spruce Tree House: A History of Discovery, Exploration, Photography, and Documentation". He utilizes historical or ancestral inscriptions as a primary research reference. His collaboration with Wetherill Family members and his extensive knowledge of the terrain and archaeology of the Four Corners serves him well in the organization of special field programs designed by request. Fred holds a biological science degree and secondary science education certificate from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

## February Program Report

### **"THE UNDERWORLD OF GLOBAL ARCHAEOLOGY"**

Chipeta – Feb 09 program report

Acclaimed writer and naturalist Craig Childs drew a large crowd to Chipeta Chapter's February 2009 program: *The underworld of global archaeology*. Childs has always been attracted to "ancient things and stories in the ground." Childs' previous program in 2007 was about Ancestral Puebloan migrations, as described in his book *House of Rain*. This month's talk was based on his book due out this fall, focusing on the people who deal with relics from past cultures -- pot hunters, dealers, private collectors, curators, and archaeologists. Childs posed the question: what is the right thing to do with the past? He wanted to know what drives each of the characters he interviewed.



To all the relics-in-a-shoobox collectors who say, "If I don't take it, someone else will," Childs' replies, "Why not leave it right there?" In his own times of exploring the southwest, Childs leaves in place whatever he finds -- ancient vessels, baskets, artifact caches. "Always we leave it there," he said, "where the owner left it, in its natural context of sun, wind and sand."



Many private collections have come by way of the pot hunting trade. Childs described his encounter with a glass case containing 17 pre-columbian vessels and the cryptic note, “legally obtained” but no provenance. Childs interviewed a man who has dug into old graves seeking silver and turquoise jewelry. “Why not give a beautiful relic another life?” the man reasoned.

Antiquities dealers value artifacts by their profit potential. One middle-eastern dealer claimed he brokers over 40 million dollars a year in antiquities. The underworld trading lanes of drugs, guns, and money also includes antiquities.

Childs interviewed private collectors in Albuquerque who feel their 300 ceramic artifacts are works of art that should not be hidden away. They want to display their ceramics in their own home where they can enjoy them every day.

Childs described the vast collection of southwest ceramics in storage at the Peabody Museum, and rarely visited by outsiders. He spoke of a museum curator always looking to acquire “the last, best, biggest artifact.” Childs noted that the era of pot hunting commissioned by museum curators is beginning to fall off, no longer the ‘noble cause’ it once was.

Archaeologists, said Childs, have a credo: “We Will Discover History; We Must Know,” then they methodically excavate and document each cubic centimeter. Childs asks, “Why are we uncovering everything that’s in the ground?” He feels the archaeologist’s mentality is: “I’ll write up the detail and data so I can pothunt legally from the ground.”

In quantum theory, the uncertainty principle says that you cannot look at a nano-particle without changing it. In the same way, said Childs, we become a part of the history of every site we visit and study. “We are not immune from time,” explained Childs, “We are in the continuum.”

In all of Childs’ remarkable books, he explores the southwest like a boy on a trampoline, bouncing against the curious space/time membrane. Child’s newest book, *Trespass*, is due out in September. “Things need to be said, and questions need to be brought up,” he said. “This book will get me in a lot of trouble.”

Thank you, Craig Childs, for generously sharing with us your passion about the southwest. Program coordinator Dr. Carol Patterson arranged for Craig Childs’ presentation. We look forward to another great year of programs in 2009. *Laurie Labak*



**BUSINESS SPONSOR:** We greatly appreciate the interest in and support for the Chipeta Chapter from: **Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.**

~~providing professional archaeological assistance and consulting~~

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**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 2075, Montrose, CO 81402

**Phone:** (970) 249-6761

**E-mail:** [alpine@alpinearchaeology.com](mailto:alpine@alpinearchaeology.com).

## President's Corner

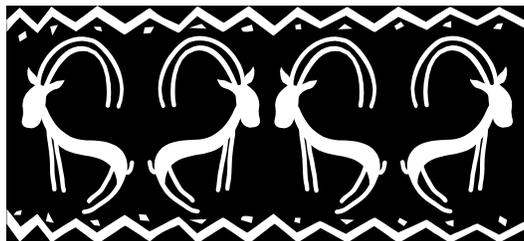
March 2009

As temperatures begin to rise and our urge to get out and enjoy the outdoors increases, I think it would be a good time to remind all of the need to be aware of and avoid cryptobiotic soils whenever possible. Cryptobiotic soils are patches of black, bumpy dirt that you see in areas of the southwestern United States. These "bumps" are living organisms that help stabilize the soil, stop erosion, and nourish the soil. Much more detailed information about cryptobiotic soils can be found at <http://eduscapes.com/nature/cryptosoil/> (this site gives three different levels of details about the subject, easy-detailed). Limited information can also be obtained at the BLM office, 2505 S. Townsend in Montrose or by doing a web search for "cryptobiotic soils" where, by the way, great pictures are also available by searching "cryptobiotic soils + pictures". We will also have information at membership meetings. If you're still not sure what this soil looks like, ask another trekker on the next hike. Hopefully, this awareness will encourage us to do our part in keeping those areas that we cherish both healthy and thriving.

Bill Manske [billmcc9@gmail.com](mailto:billmcc9@gmail.com)

## Archaeological Surveying Class - Stand-by Openings

Basic Site Surveying Techniques will be the next PAAC class in Montrose, April 17 - 20, 2009. This intensive four-day, 25 -hour class includes a field trip to identify and record a site. The class has already filled, but several openings are available on standby basis. For more information contact Chipeta chapter PAAC coordinator Laurie Labak, at 970-712-8121, or [labak@sopris.net](mailto:labak@sopris.net).



## Tours and Treks

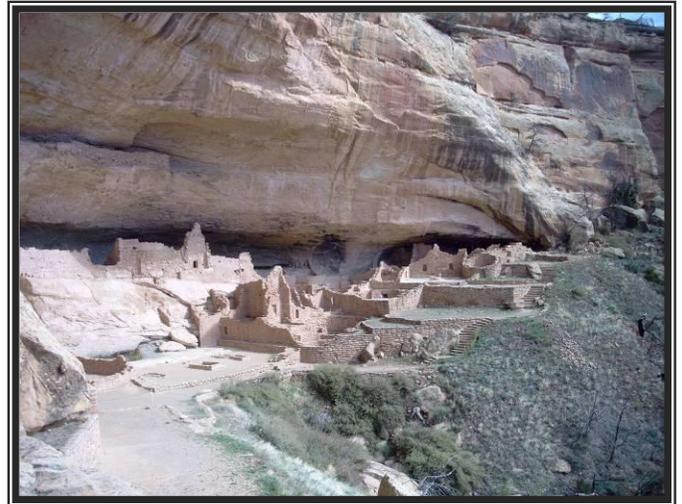
### **An Archaeologist's Tour of Mesa Verde**

Friday, May 22, 7:30 a.m. to Monday, May 25, 6 p.m.

Meet at Colorado History Museum, Denver

See Mesa Verde National Park—Colorado's only UNESCO World Heritage site—through the eyes of Society archaeologist Kevin Black. Mesa Verde has more than 4,000 archaeological sites, including its famous cliff dwellings, and extensive backcountry with abundant wildlife.

Enjoy all the area has to offer. This tour will examine the park's cultural history, focusing on its prehistoric farming era. The bus from Denver will follow a different route on the return trip to highlight other important archaeological sites.



Trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, a three-night in-park stay at the Far View Lodge, three lunches and a wine and cheese party, park admission, Anasazi Heritage Center admission, and guide services.

Cost: \$595 CHS members dbl. occupancy, \$675 nonmembers (single supplement \$190)

Code: MESA

Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling 303/866-4686

[http://www.coloradohistory.org/programs/tours\\_treks.html](http://www.coloradohistory.org/programs/tours_treks.html)

#### **2009 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

**President** Bill Manske (417-9014)  
**Vice President/Programs** Carol Patterson (252-8679)  
**Secretary** Marcia Coman (249-3479)  
**Treasurer** Linda Manske (209-6232)

**CAS Representative** Chuck Richey (249-1751)  
**Professional Advisor** Carol Patterson  
**Appointed Members** Dick Drake, Ed Horton,  
Herb Probasco

#### **Standing committees (per by-laws)**

**Field Trips:** Ed Horton, chairperson (874-5142); Chuck Richey

**Publicity:** Herb Probasco, chairperson (252-0918); John & Carla Sanborn, Laurie Labak

**Nominating:** (Appointed in the fall) **Library:** Elizabeth Binder, chairperson (249-9647)

#### **Other committees and posts**

**Refreshments:** Joan Richey

**Scholarship:** Hal Manhart, chairperson (249-2017); Jon Horn, Rayner Eymann

**Membership/Hospitality:** Chairperson needed; Elizabeth Binder

**PAAC:** Laurie Labak (970-712-8121)

# MESA PRIETA PETROGLYPH PROJECT OFFERS WELLS PETROGLYPH PRESERVE TOURS



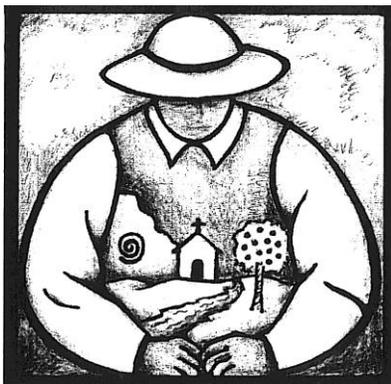
## Announcement

The Wells Petroglyph Preserve located on Mesa Prieta (Black Mesa) just north of Ohkay Owingeh (formerly San Juan Pueblo) opens for public tours four dates in 2009. The tours are two hours long (9:30am to noon) and are led by docents familiar with the Preserve and history of the area. The Wells Petroglyph Preserve is a world-class rock art area with over 6000 petroglyphs representational of Archaic, Rio Grande style and Historic periods.

The tours cover extremely steep and rugged terrain. Hats and water are a must, walking sticks are strongly recommended as are boots or sturdy shoes. Bring your camera and/or binoculars! Children under ten are not permitted, nor are any pets. Tours are limited to 30 participants per day and will be divided into groups of 8-10 each with a docent guide. A minimum donation of \$10 per participant is requested.

## Member News: The Mesa Prieta Tour is on for Oct 16th

The docents have volunteered to have us on this earlier day as a group, thanks to the early Chapter member commitments. Dr. Carol Patterson will be leading us to adjacent area panels, as well. David Casey & David Manley have found three days of new Dinetah sites. This will form the other part of the trip which will be done either on the way down or on the way back. Details of the David Casey trip will be announced at a later date. Contact Ed Horton, [horton-ed@juno.com](mailto:horton-ed@juno.com), with questions or to get on the list of participants.



## **\*\*Membership Renewal Alert\*\***

A gentle reminder, the following membership renewals are due or overdue. Please contact Linda Manske, chapter treasurer, at 209-6232, if you have any questions or corrections.

C. Wesley & Wanda Allen  
Tom & Joy Baird  
Jack and Sarah Benham  
Karen Derrick  
Jules & Sandy Minter

Rand Greubel  
Merdese Hauser  
Barbara Hawke  
Stephen Slade  
Jay Thompson

David Pitts  
Alan Reed & Susan Chandler  
Charles & Joan Richey  
Dick & Andi Furman

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

Payment of dues is considered affirmation of consent to abide by the Code of Ethics of CAS

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check one  Renewal  New Member Are you a member of another CAS chapter?  Yes  No

Check membership category. Dues include membership in Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS)

Individual (\$23)  Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual\* (\$15)  Family\* (\$20) Supporting contribution: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\*Does not receive Southwestern Lore, the CAS journal

I want to receive *The Uncompahgre Journal*, the Chipeta Chapter newsletter, via:  E-mail or  U.S. Mail

I want to receive *The Surveyor*, the state newsletter via:  E-mail or  U.S. Mail

Contact information about our members is never disclosed unless approved in advance by members.

(We) give CAS permission to:

Yes  No  disclose phone numbers to other CAS members

Yes  No  publish name/contact information in chapter directory

Yes  No  publish name in newsletter (which may be sent to other chapters, etc.)

## CODE OF ETHICS

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge:

- To uphold state and federal antiquities laws.
- To support policies and educational programs designed to protect our cultural heritage and our state's antiquities.
- To encourage protection and discourage exploitation of archaeological resources.
- To encourage the study and recording of Colorado's archaeology and cultural history. To take an active part by participating in field and laboratory work for the purpose of developing new and significant information about the past.
- To respect the property rights of landowners.
- To assist whenever possible in locating, mapping and recording archaeological sites within Colorado, using State Site Survey forms.
- To respect the dignity of peoples whose cultural histories and spiritual practices are the subject of any investigation.
- To support only scientifically conducted activities and never participate in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentation about archaeological matters.
- To report vandalism.
- To remember that cultural resources are non-renewable and do not belong to you or me, but are ours to respect, to study and to enjoy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form, with signature(s), to Chipeta Chapter of CAS, P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 814023

Chipeta Chapter  
Colorado Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 593  
Montrose, CO 81402



*Please recycle*

**Large Clovis Cache Found in Boulder:**

Landscapers were digging a hole for a fish pond in the front yard of a Boulder home last May when they heard a "chink" that didn't sound right. Just some lost tools. Some 13,000-year-old lost tools. They had stumbled onto a cache of more than 83 ancient tools buried by the Clovis people - ice age hunter-gatherers who remain a puzzle to anthropologists. The home's owner, Patrick Mahaffy, thought they were only a century or two old before contacting researchers at the *University of Colorado-Boulder*.

[http://www.sacbee.com/827/story/1655900.html?mi\\_rss=Latest%20News](http://www.sacbee.com/827/story/1655900.html?mi_rss=Latest%20News)

**Ancient Ceramic Collection Donated to the Forest Service:**

Lester Sharp, 92, and his son, Henry Sharp, 60, are two carpenters from Ruidoso who have donated their family collection of prehistoric pottery to the United States Forest Service in Alamogordo. A selection from their collection is on exhibit at the new USFS building and other pieces from the Sharp collection will be installed at the Smokey Bear Ranger District Office in Ruidoso.

[http://www.alamogordonews.com/ci\\_11770831?source=most\\_email](http://www.alamogordonews.com/ci_11770831?source=most_email)