

The Uncompahgre Journal



CHIPETA CHAPTER
COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2011
VOLUME 28, NO. 8



Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m., Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, South 1st St. and Park Avenue.

Program: "Eastern Slope Archaeology and the Uncompahgre Plateau" presented by Neil Hauser,

Mr. Hauser will talk about excavation and survey work he is doing on the eastern slope. Comparison of those artifacts with items found near Montrose is providing information about differences in environment, technologies, mobility and trade.

Neil Hauser grew up in Montrose as a neighbor of Squint Moore and spent many days in the hills with Squint and his father. His impressive background includes a BS in Physics, MS in Electrical Engineering and a MA degree in Archaeology. His current projects include being the principal investigator of an excavation of a site for Douglas County being done by Denver Chapter of CAS, principal investigator of the archaeological survey of property belonging to the Arapahoe Conservation District, NSF grant investigating a new application of optical stimulated luminescence with Dr. Feathers from Univ. of Washington and Dr. Sanderson from Univ. of Glasgow, Scotland and a contract to investigate sourcing of cherts in NW Colorado and SW Wyoming

OCTOBER PROGRAM REPORT

"Gunnison River Rock Shelter" presented by BLM Archaeologist Glade Hadden

Ol' Man River, that's the Gunnison. After the last Ice Age, a far more powerful Gunnison River carried glacial melt down from the San Juan Mountains. Herds of big game found a natural river crossing site downstream from the formidable Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Early hunter - gatherers followed these herds of bison, elk and deer. Today local archaeologists are investigating a natural rock shelter located near this big game river crossing.

At the October 21, 2011 program of Chipeta Chapter, Archaeologist Glade Hadden of the Bureau of Land Management presented a chronology of five years of summer field seasons at this Gunnison River rock shelter located within Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. Glade's co-investigators are BLM archaeologist Carol Patterson, who is also Chipeta Chapter President, and archaeologist Dudley Gardner of Western Wyoming College in Rock Springs.

Located on the first pitch above the Gunnison River, the exterior walls of the rock shelter are covered with panels of mostly archaic petroglyphs. Carol Patterson created rock art tracings to help separate and define the many images of deer or elk, and anthropomorphs, some superimposed on older images.

Glade wanted to learn whether there was anything of archaeological value under looting pits that pockmarked the site. For the first three field seasons, from 2007 to 2009, Dudley Gardner led student crews from Western Wyoming College. Thermo-luminescence and carbon-14 dating techniques were used to confirm there was intermittent occupation at the shelter during archaic and formative periods spanning four thousand years. "And Dudley dug deeper," Glade said.

Field seasons of 2010 and 2011 yielded Fremont-style basketry. A dated corn kernel pushes back previously known dates of when corn first appeared in the area. Archaic points were found. From hearth materials at deeper levels, carbon 14 dates confirm occupation of the site during a Paleo-Indian time frame.

We know from Mark Stiger's May, 2010, Chipeta Chapter program that Folsom people constructed winter shelters at the top of W Mountain outside the city of Gunnison and near the Gunnison River. Did Paleo-Indians walk the rock rim of the Black Canyon? Some of them stopped a while at the rock shelter site, built hearths, hunted, collected plants. The farther back in time, the less evidence we have of early people's day-to-day lives. Glade reported that two more field seasons are planned at this rock shelter site. The story is just beginning to unfold.

Glade noted there may be field season work opportunities at the site for interested Chipeta Chapter members. For example, Chipeta member Bev Kochman has contributed many hours as a site steward after having taken Glade's site steward training program. The site is currently closed to the general public while security measures are in place to prevent disturbance.

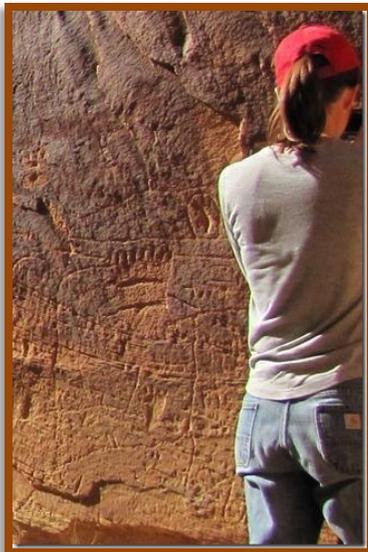
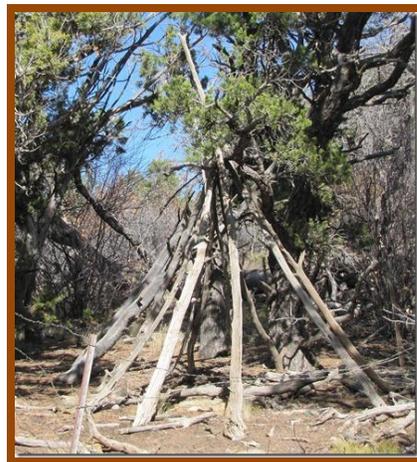
Chipeta Chapter is grateful to Glade Hadden for his presentation of some very remarkable finds. Glade's program was arranged by program coordinators Chuck Richey and Trishia Winslow. ~Laurie Labak

FIELD TRIP REPORT

October 21, 2011

Escalante Canyon is enchanting in the fall – towering redstone cliffs, cobalt blue skies, and cottonwoods of burnished gold lining the creek. Ed Horton, Bill Harris, and George Decker led a Chipeta group October 21 in search of a wikiup village and some rock art panels.

The wikiups were nestled in a thick stand of pinyon and juniper near the rim of the canyon on Brushy Ridge. Nearby were abundant springs also used by early-day homesteaders and ranchers in the canyon. The canyon rim attracts powerful thunderstorms and more rainfall than the canyon bottomland.



About a dozen wikiups were scattered over several acres. One wikiup, next to a scrub oak stand, had collapsed when its supporting tree blew over in a windstorm. Several wikiups were protected with cattle fencing. One wikiup included hearthstones, mano and metate. There was a well-preserved "dog house," a low shelter with row of short pole roofing. Dennis Devore noticed old axe marks on a large pinyon where lower branches were hacked off. The wikiup structures were especially intriguing to the four children who accompanied parents on this segment of the field trip.

After the wikiup tour, Bill Harris led a smaller group up a steep slope to a particularly fine set of panels of Archaic and Ute petroglyphs. Several sets of abstract lines might depict game trails and hunting strategies, as researched by Dr. Carol Patterson. There are nearly thirty unique bear paw images at this rock art site. Ed Horton believes the many bear paws may represent individual Ute bands or family group signatures.

Perhaps Ute bands gathered there for their all-important spring Bear Dance at this high, scenic place above the Escalante North Fork and nearby abundant springs.

Special thanks to generous Chipeta members who shared car-pooling space, retrieved left-behind cameras, and gave a steadying hand to the weak-kneed on rocky trails. George Decker and Bill Harris assisted Ed Horton, who is Chipeta Chapter's field trip coordinator. ~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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Phone: (970) 249-6761

E-mail: alpine@alpinearchaeology.com.

BLM UNCOMPAGHGRE FIELD OFFICE LETTER TO CHIPETA MEMBERS

Dear Chipeta Members,

As the BLM manager of the Uncompahgre Field Office, I would like to clarify the BLM's position regarding public visitation and archaeological tours at the Lawhead Gulch rock art and excavation site, now known as the Eagle Rock excavation, located within the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. As many of you know, the recent field school led by Dr. Dudley Gardner from Western Wyoming College has produced important dates of antiquity. BLM is currently working on procuring funding for a full excavation of the area beginning next spring. The excavation is expected to take at least one year with the potential for additional time being needed based on any further significant findings at the site.

Many of you are also aware that past pot hunting activities and vandalism; recent theft of materials from the site during the summer field season; and increased interest and visitation at the site have created a significant security burden for BLM to adequately protect the area over the winter months ahead and during the upcoming excavation period.

While BLM recognizes the increased public excitement and interest in the site and the Society members' enthusiasm and desire to take people out to the site to view and learn more about the archaeological resources first hand; we are very concerned that any type of increased visitor use at the site will lead to more incidents of either deliberate or inadvertent damage to the area.

I would like to request that members of Chipeta Archaeological Society join with us in helping to protect the integrity of the Eagle Rock excavation by not bringing additional attention via presentations, visits or tours to the site until either the excavation is complete and/or BLM and the tribes agree on how best to incorporate public visitation to the site in ways which would not compromise the ongoing work of the scientists. We would be happy to provide a tour when it becomes an appropriate time.

It is our hope, as land managers that you will respect and appreciate our concern and legal mandates for protection of this site and support us by being patient, and refrain from visiting the site with friends, relatives, and other interested publics until the excavation is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact either myself or Glade Hadden (970-240-5303). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barb Sharrow, Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office
970-240-5300

PRESIDENTS CORNER

November 2011

Dear Members,

The Nominating Committee has come up with a roster of candidates for offices for the vote this month. I am looking forward to a régime change with new faces and new ideas to lead our organization forward. I am sorry to have to step down from any position on the executive board, due to conflicts of interest with my BLM position. I am confident the Chipeta Chapter membership will be in good hands for the coming years of service. I thank all of you who have stepped forward to pick up the reins. We will continue to have great field trips and inspiring educational presentations.

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of several members of the Chipeta Chapter. Member David Pitts died unexpectedly on Mon. Oct 24th. His daughter and her husband, Kathy and Frank Jones, are also Chipeta members. Gloria Roberts, a Chipeta member, passed away November 3rd. Her daughter, Robin Roberts, is here and let us know. Services in Montrose are on Friday at 2 pm at the LDS church on Hillcrest Blvd. I so appreciated her great adventurous spirit and love of archeology and Indigenous cultures. Her house is filled with art from Africa and South America.

These members will be greatly missed. ~~Carol Patterson

2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President	Carol Patterson 252-8679	Vice President/Programs	Chuck Richey 249-1751
Secretary	Marcia Coman 249-3479	Treasurer	Linda Manske 209-6232
CAS Representative	Beverly Kolkman 835-4109	Appointed Members	Ed Horton
Standing Committees (Per By-Laws)			
Field Trips	Ed Horton 874-5142, Chuck Richey	Publicity	Trish Winslow
Newsletter	Carla & John Sanborn 874-8586	Nominating	(Appointed in the fall)
Library	Linda Manske, 209-6232	Professional Advisor	VACANT
Other committees and posts			
Refreshments	Trish Winslow	Scholarship	Hal Manhart, 249-2017; Jon Horn, Bill Harris
Membership/Hospitality	Bill & Linda Manske, 209-6232	PAAC	Connee Moffatt 243-8066

****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.

Ed & Fran Adams
Ed & Judy Cort
Martha Grewal
Nick Neubaum

Norling & Lila Anderson
Arleen Friedman & Duane Thaxton
Beverly Kolkman
Diane Thompson, Gregg Wood
& Helen Pederson

Marcia Coman
David Gann
Alex & Laurie Labak
Carol Patterson

Membership /Renewal 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.

Date:_____.

Name(s):_____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____

Zip:_____ - _____ Phone:_____ E-mail:_____

(Used only by Chipeta & CAS)

____Renewal ____New Member Are you a member of another CAS chapter? Yes____ No____
Annual dues include membership in Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS).

____Individual* (\$23) ____Family* (\$30) *Receives Southwestern Lore, the CAS journal
____Individual--No SW Lore (\$15) ____Family--No SW Lore (\$20)

____Supporting Contribution - Amount_____

I want to receive the Chipeta monthly newsletter via: ____Email or ____US Mail
I want to receive The Surveyor, the state newsletter via: ____Email or ____US Mail

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

I(We) give CAS permission to :

- Yes____No____ disclose my/our phone number(s) to other CAS members
- Yes____No____ publish my/our name(s)/contact information in a chapter directory
- Yes____No____ publish my/our name(s) in a newsletters (which may be sent to other chapters, etc.)

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 this page, with signature(s) to: Chipeta Chapter of CAS,
P.O. Box 593
Montrose, CO 81402

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



Please recycle

Archaeologists Rally Against "Apache Leap" Land Transfer

Archaeology groups are lining up against a proposal, currently being debated on the floor of the House of Representatives, to give a major copper mining company a large chunk of federal land in Arizona in exchange for private lands. The groups are particularly concerned that any mine built on the former federal land would destroy archeological sites near Oak Flat, a popular Arizona recreational area. The trade would be "a blatant giveaway of the nation's public land to a single private stakeholder" and would set "a dangerous precedent," William F. Limp, president of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in Washington, D.C., argues with colleagues in a letter to lawmakers signed by eight archeology and historic preservation groups.

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/10/breaking-news-archeology-groups.html?rss=1>

Aztec Ruins to Celebrate World Heritage Site Status

Since 1987, the Aztec Ruins and National Monument has been in elite company with Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Greece's Acropolis and the Great Wall of China as a World Heritage site. "When people realize that we have something right here that important, then can encourage them to go check it out," said Aztec Chamber of Commerce President Christa Romme. "Hopefully it will get people to come out."

http://www.daily-times.com/farmington-news/ci_19180082?source