

# The Uncompahgre Journal

September 2020    CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY    Volume 37 Issue 7

## President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Well, I hope everyone enjoyed the outdoors this summer, I know I was one in all the crowds in the mountains. I do not think I have seen that many people enjoying our area ever.

I hate to have to report that we will not be having any general chapter meetings due to the restrictions at the church. We are hoping that next year we'll be able to start up again. Therefore, if you normally pay your dues at a meeting, you will need to send in the payment or pay on the state website in the Member365 section, by clicking on the Member Logon button. Let me know if you need help setting up an account.

If you have not visited the new [State CAS website](#), it has been updated! Be sure to check it out when you can. The 2020 Annual meeting will be a virtual

meeting sponsored by the Indian Peaks Chapter (IPCAS). Please visit the website page at <http://www.indianpeaksarchaeology.org/> events. It will be held on September 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>. What a way to enjoy the speakers in your home and not have to travel over the mountains!

In 2021, the annual meeting will be hosted by us, the Chipeta Chapter. I have always missed the annual meetings due to conflicts of my busy schedule so I am pleading (on my virtual knees) for help. There seems to be a special notebook for the event that explains the ins and outs. Of course, this will be up to the board members, so I am pleading with the current ones to stay on for the next year (is it too soon to plead?).

We will be having mini-trips again, and maybe a Christmas party. I will be out of the state in October, but of course, I will have my computer. If you are a site steward please check Leigh Ann's column. Please go out and enjoy this fall.

Photo by Sally Johnson



## Chipeta Ice Cream Social

words and picture by Leigh Ann Hunt



The ice cream social in July was a nice Chipeta event in lieu of a summer picnic. Annette's backyard provided a green shady space and the homemade ice cream churns provided the frosty *piece de resistance*. About 18 attended, social distances were maintained and a Covid activities quiz contest was won by the Lairds, for admitting to the highest score for number of books read, clubs and activities canceled, trips canceled, masks made, or days of work lost, to help stop the spread of the virus. Special thanks to those who brought cookies, and to Annette for hosting it!

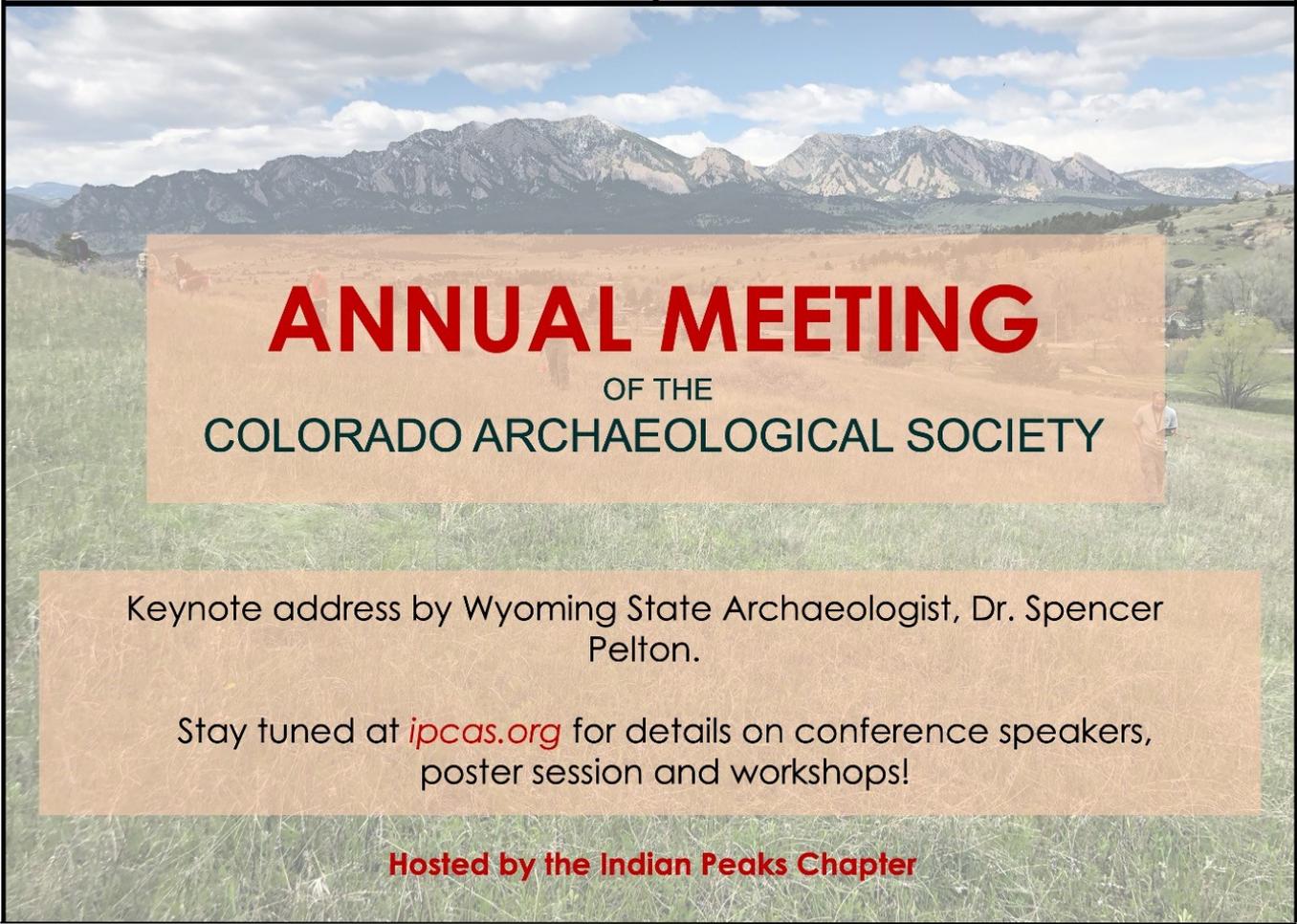
### **The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship**

Created in honor of Chipeta Chapter founding member Carlyle "Squint" Moore and his wife, the scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving high school senior or college student intending to enroll or already enrolled in an Anthropology or Archaeology program. Students can apply online at collegeXpress—and note that the deadline is April 1.

The scholarship is managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. If you wish to donate, please send your tax deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.

September 25-26

Virtual Conference



**ANNUAL MEETING**  
OF THE  
COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

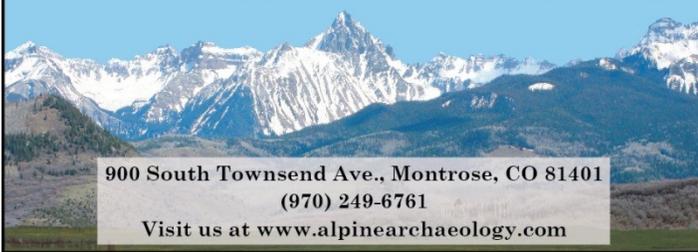
Keynote address by Wyoming State Archaeologist, Dr. Spencer Pelton.

Stay tuned at [ipc.as.org](http://ipc.as.org) for details on conference speakers, poster session and workshops!

**Hosted by the Indian Peaks Chapter**



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## June 12 Chipeta Field Trip: Uncompahgre Grooved Rock and Unaweep Canyon

words and pictures by Leigh Ann Hunt (except as noted)

On a nice but warm day in June, George Decker showed a group of about 12 members a historic 1930s granite quarry on the Divide Road, some Ute charcoal drawings, the bizarre grooved rock on the north end of the plateau, and a nice but vandalized petroglyph along the Unaweep Scenic Byway.





**June 12 Field Trip continued**



**Photo by Dea Jacobson**

## Thoughts About Our Site Steward Program

words and pictures by Leigh Ann Hunt

I want to share some information with you about our Site Steward program and where we might go with it. With new (more or less) BLM and Forest Service archaeologists and with new developments out in the world of Site Stewardship in the Four Corners area, this might be a good time to adjust our program. But first, a little background.

Site stewards or “Adopt-a-site” programs have been active in the Southwest for decades. Every time there is a spell of pothunting or vandalism, people wish there was some way to prevent it or catch the perps in the act. The idea of getting more “eyes on the ground” seems to really work, to keep track of what’s going on with the really important or fragile sites. One of the greater concerns nowadays is impacts

with this. San Juan Mountains Association, and Friends of Canyon of the Ancients are two groups that have started monitoring programs in southern Colorado.

The Chipeta Chapter has partnered for a number of years with the Uncompahgre BLM and Uncompahgre National Forest to monitor local cultural sites. The Chapter provides the Site Stewards program coordination, recruits volunteers, and keeps track of the volunteer hours that are donated. Not all the volunteers are members of the Archaeological Society, but they are all part of the local steward program. For the last five years Bill Harris has coordinated the Chipeta program, and currently I am doing this (on an interim basis). As a retired Forest Service archaeologist with 25 years in the Four Corners region, I can vouch for the importance, and the thanklessness of site monitoring! All of the agencies track how much information they have on the current status of their heritage sites, and programs with community participation are in a better position to keep their budgets and their managers’ attention, which is why they really do need to track how much time and work is donated to their Heritage programs by people like us.



Site Steward Randy Patton at the Harris Site

from ever-increasing numbers of visitors to highly visible and accessible sites and ruins, in addition to impacts from pothunting in archaeological deposits, especially in dry rockshelters.

Following the lead of Arizona in the 1970s, many states’ Office of Archaeology have run these volunteer programs. I helped start a monitoring program through Edge of the Cedars Museum in Utah in the 1990s, and other states have various kinds of monitoring programs, following the lead of Arizona in the 1980s. Colorado does not have a statewide program, but different parts of the state have partners who help

One issue with the past steward programs is that they depended very heavily on specific motivated people and their interest to keep their momentum. Coordinators, the BLM or Forest Service contacts, and the volunteers themselves all get other priorities and tend to drift away. Another major issue is how and when the management agencies get the monitoring information and where it is kept. Now, in neighboring Utah, there is a renewed emphasis on site monitoring. The state of Utah just passed a law requiring site stewardship as part of its Office of Archaeology, which means they will have a staff person assigned to the program and its partners. The Friends of Cedar Mesa (FCM), located in Bluff, Utah, meanwhile, were hired for the past several years to develop site visitation guidelines and a monitoring program for the Bears Ears and then the whole state, and they still manage site stewards for the Bears Ears area. Each

land managing agency at the local area's office gets the results (reports and photographs), same as we do here in Montrose.

## A New Monitoring Technique

The FCM has started using a site monitoring "app" or program for your cell phone, that simplifies site monitoring reporting. I have spoken with their coordinator, Wanda Rachow, and given it a little test drive, and I like it. According to the FCM website:

"Arch Monitor is an app developed for the Utah Heritage Stewardship Program through an agreement with BLM Utah. A 1st of its kind, the app is allowing public land managers, scientists, and volunteers to quickly collect and submit data in the field about at-risk cultural, archaeological, and paleontological sites."

In a nutshell, here is how these phone apps work: The company that made the app has a server that runs the app when you are connected to the internet using your phone (with Apple or Android). You download the Arch Monitor app onto your phone or tablet. Before you go to the site, you upload into your site file all your Baseline photographs, and they become copied onto your phone to take with you. If you don't have any digital photos to use, then on your first visit you take the baseline pictures with your phone, and label them on your phone in the app. Before going to the site yourself, you connect to the internet and put the baseline photos and the site info on your phone. You have to have an account to do this, of course.

In the field on your site, you take new photographs from given photo points, repeating some of the baseline photos, and they are automatically labelled with the site number and date. You check boxes in the app Site Report form, and if there is anything "significant" it is flagged and labeled separately in the app. You can type in a few notes and take photos of any details you want.

When you get back to civilization, you connect to the internet using your cell service, edit and fine tune your notes, and then "Submit" your report. It goes "up into the cloud" and is saved there, and the agency contact person or the steward coordinators can look at the data and can download it into whatever files they want to keep. You don't have to turn it all in separately, and your totals of hours and sites visited are already tabulated in management reports. If you use a digital camera and don't have a "smart phone", you can do all the uploading on a PC-based version when you come home. If you have noted any significant vandalism or criminal event, that is sent to the agency immediately for you.

The advantage is that no one has to round up the digital files, DVD's jump drives, and copy them off for the agency archaeologist to download and file and label. No one in the Chapter has to gather data for the annual report of hours and sites. The downsides of this app are that some of us would have trouble learning to use it. Even though it is super simple, like just check boxes and a little typing, there will always be some training needed. Also, my phone does not show photos on its screen in bright sunlight so using the baseline photos that way would be hard, I would rather carry a set of prints I think. And the main drawback is that, to use the company digital server for these stewardship projects costs some money which the agencies and

their partners, in other areas, have had to come up with.

But stay tuned, this could still be a useful tool for site monitoring. Chipeta chapter will be looking for more volunteers to monitor sites in our area, as new sites are added and some previous sites are dropped from our list if we think they are not so vulnerable to damage. If you can spend even a day or two a year, you can be a site steward.



## From the Editor

It's three months since I last put out a newsletter. For one thing, I've forgotten how to put a newsletter together. It also means that interesting archaeological studies have been piling up in my computer. I think I'll just give you a quick look at some of those that have caught my eye.



Probably the most intriguing one for me suggested that besides creating a remarkable adventure story, Thor Heyerdahl may have gotten the science at least partly right. I'm sure you are all familiar with Heyerdahl's epic journey from South America on a balsa wood raft to eventually wash up on Easter Island, proving in his mind that it would have been possible for Polynesia to have been settled by South Americans. DNA analyses suggest that something like that may have actually happened, once at least (after having had scorn heaped upon him for more than half a century by mainstream archaeologists). Here's a link: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-020-01983-5>.

Then there's the article about DNA analysis identifying incest in a very wealthy grave from stone-age Ireland. A man interred in an elite burial chamber was found to be the product of a union of either siblings or a parent and child. We all probably are aware that the royal families of Europe were incestuous, at least if you consider cousin marriage incestuous. In fact, it's fairly common around the world for societies to have endogamous marriage—where one is required to marry a relative. Sibling marriage isn't as common, but not unprecedented, and probably occurred often enough among royalty. If you want to keep foreign—or better said, non-elite—blood from polluting your class, you pretty much have to marry relatives. It's not surprising that it goes back all the way to the stone age, but it's interesting to find clear evidence of it in Ireland 5,000 years ago. Sheridan, A., 2020. Incest uncovered at elite prehistoric Irish burial site. *Nature* 582:347-349.

Humans are really good at messing up their local environments. As soon as people started settling down to live more or less permanently in one place, you start seeing declines in health, as the disease burden shot up. Sanitation is always an issue in early settlements. In complex societies, it gets worse. A study published in June examines sediments from reservoirs in the great Maya city of Tikal. They find evidence of very serious pollution that peaks in the Late and Terminal Classic periods around the time of the abandonment of the city. These reservoirs would have been important sources of drinking water in the city, especially during the dry seasons and in times of drought, which became more and more common in the 50 or so years leading up to abandonment. Phosphates and toxin-producing bacteria were among the pollutants found, but there were also high concentrations of mercury. Where did it come from? Some of it might have come from volcanic eruptions, but the authors blame most of it on the Maya use of cinnabar—mercury sulfide—a pigment that the Maya were extremely fond of (the authors cite an individual burial that was covered by 10 kg of cinnabar powder). With those kinds of tastes, one wonders which caused the most damage: polluted water or a fondness for dangerous pigments. In any case, it seems likely that polluted reservoirs would have contributed to the abandonment of Tikal.

Here's a link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-67044-z>.

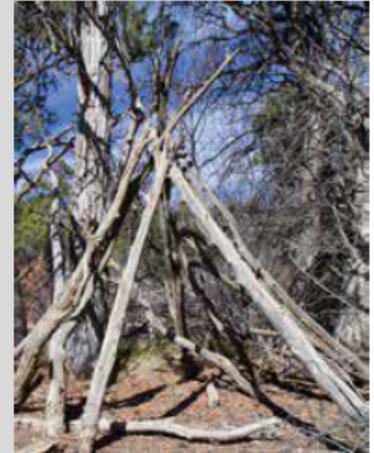




## Membership Application

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 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Photos by Dennis DeVore*



(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Check One:

- New  
 Renewal

- Annual Dues\*** (includes state CAS dues): Check one  
 Family (2 or more members same household) .....\$40  
 Individual .....\$35  
 Student (Circle if Individual or Family).....\$25  
 Senior/Disabled\*\* (Circle if Individual or Family).....\$25  
 Secondary (Circle one) Individual (\$10) or Family (\$15)  
 Opt out of printed **Southwest Lore**

\***Southwest Lore** is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society: print copies are mailed quarterly to all members except seniors, who receive electronic (PDF) copies.

\*\***Senior** is any person who is at least 65 years of age; **Disabled** is any person who is permanently disabled.



## Code of Ethics

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

- Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
- Respect the property rights of landowners.
- Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
- Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
- Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
- Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
- Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
- Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Family Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Colorado Archaeological Society" and mail the signed application to:

Chipeta Chapter  
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- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Fred Henderson, [trlgpa48@gmail.com](mailto:trlgpa48@gmail.com)

## CHIPETA CHAPTER WEBSITE

- <https://www.chipetachaptercas.org>

## TO JOIN OR RENEW:

- Go to the Chipeta Chapter website and follow the membership links.

## Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

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## Want More?

Archaeology Southwest is a great link to find out about current issues and events relating to Southwest Archaeology.

## Field Trip Committee

Leigh Ann Hunt, Joe Oglesby, and George Decker

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

*Masthead photo courtesy of Carol Patterson. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.*