

# The Uncompahgre Journal

September 2023 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 40 Issue 7

## Mark Your Calendar

**Sep 2:** Ridgway State Park Saturday lecture with Hannah Carroll on the postglacial environmental and ecological history of the area. Ridgway State Park visitor center, Dutch Charlie entrance off US 550. 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Parks pass probably required.

**Sep 5:** [Hisatsinom Chapter](#) CAS, monthly meeting with Mark Varian on recent work on great houses in SW Colorado. First United Methodist Church, 515 N. Park St., Cortez, 7:00 pm.

**Sep 6:** [Montrose County Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with Officer Hewitt on the history of the Police Department. Montrose County Events Center, 7:00 pm.

**Sep 13:** [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Karen Harry on Alaskan ceramics. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm.

**Sep 20:** Chipeta chapter monthly meeting with Steve and Diana Acerson on stopping rock art vandalism (*right*). United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Ave, 7:00 pm.

## Our September Presentation

### Stop Vandalism

A program presented by Steve and Diana Acerson

This program is focused on educating the public as to why rock art is worth protecting, the proper etiquette for visitation, and how to report vandalism. Our obligation is to protect, educate, and preserve these images so their stories can continue.

Three years ago, Steve and Diana organized the Stop Vandalism program for URARA, dedicated to the education of communities on why it is important to protect and not vandalize rock art, with information to be used and distributed to their households. The goal is to teach local youth and their families how they can help protect rock imagery so it will remain for all humanity.

Steve and Diana together have been working hard to help educate those they come in contact with about the importance of these ancient and historic images left by those who came before us. Conservation and preservation of rock art images is their passion. Somehow in the balance of life, it needs to continue to exist. They as a couple, are striving to make that happen.





## Our September Speakers: Steve and Diana Acerson

Steve is a Utah native, born into a diversified environment, following the human footprints and paths of man's existence from sunrise to sunset, for as long as the stories and he have existed. Raised in Green River, Utah during the uranium boom he helped his grandfather mine. The mines were located on the Henry Mountains, and the San Rafael Swell. Being a youngster, he would get dressed and head out for a day of exploring canyons and chasing anything that moved. His career of 40 years was with the Utah Department of Transportation, maintaining all the highway features that keep the travelling public moving and safe. He started out as a maintenance worker, and finished as an Area Supervisor over 14 maintenance stations. Lunch hour explorations allowed him to return later to visit the many rock art sites he discovered. Since his retirement in 2013 he has been able to return to canyons and visit other rock art in Utah as well as other States. The reality is there is always more to see, more to protect.

Steve has always been very passionate about rock art, where Diana came into the organization not knowing much about these impressive and unique Utah "works of art". She grew up in Sandy, Utah and went into the work force, moved to San Diego County, California where she had the opportunity to get involved with the conservation and preservation of endangered species of the botanical side of the then San Diego Wild Animal Park, now Safari Park. Coming back to Utah in later years, it was easy to make the transition to the conservation/preservation of rockart.

Steve has been instrumental in creating the field trip programs URARA offers to its members, and was on the URARA board for many years, including leading as President of the organization. In his work with the Bureau of Land Management, the State Historic Preservation Office, and others, he has made great strides in the relationship between land managers and URARA, now considered a partner to them in the protection of rock art.

Diana created URARA's Area Coordinator program with URARA volunteers, to work with land managing agencies like the BLM, to protect rock art in proposed project areas. She has been a member of URARA's Conservation Committee for 11 years. She and Steve are site stewards in Utah State History Preservation Offices' USCC site steward program, and have been stewards for the Smiths Conservancy at Lake Mountain on the west side of Utah Lake for 9 years. Diana is presently Vice President of URARA.



## President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Photo by Sally Johnson

Is it September already? If you are a new member or just need some reminders, the CAS group will have three months of speakers, (Sept., Oct., and Nov.) then our Winter, Christmas or Holiday gathering in December. We will not have a silent auction this year as of right now, but things might change. In addition, another reminder to you that the Moore scholarship has been dissolved and the funds were given to the Crow Canyon Archeological Center and the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

We had another great summer gathering. The added bonus was that the board supplied the main dish, fried and baked chicken. It seems that there was the standard rain at the beginning of the event, but it stopped and cooled down to a nice temperature. As

an added bonus I did not come home with any extra serving items to track down the lost owners. It was great to put names and faces to old and new members. We also missed the regular members. I will not call out their names yet. Just remember we missed seeing your face and we hope you were on a grand adventure during the picnic.

I want to thank the trip leaders for putting together some great trips this summer. I heard the dinosaur track trip was a robust hike but a great trip. I will be in Price, Utah, at the beginning of October for the Utah Symposium till the 9<sup>th</sup>, but if anyone wants to do Nine Mile or a few other sites I will be glad to stay a couple of extra days. Just shoot me an email with your thoughts on a Utah trip.

As always with November just around the corner, if you would like to step up and be on the Board of Directors please let us know. Just to let you know that I have been President and Membership chairs since 2019, Leigh Ann Hunt has been V.P., trip organizer, and a few other jobs, for 6 years, Susan Henderson Secretary for almost 2 years at keeping the board on task and time, Jim Douras has been Treasurer since 2013, and Nick Ard the CAS Representative to the state since 2016. I would also like to point out what a wonderful website guru Anne Cable has been for years. David Batten is another hidden gem who works on the Journal with wonderful insights to other topics that he has found. Not only does he do a great journal but also he has done a great job editing my letters. Remember you do not have to be an expert with archaeology but just someone who has the energy to work on a wonderful board for 9 months. The bright side of stepping up is that you will not have to organize an annual meeting for many many years.

Again, let us know about trips, the board, journal articles or recommendations for speakers. Thank you again for being a great group and supporting history.

Sally







On August 16, a group of Chipeta members and guests

hiked to the West Gold hill dinosaur trackway on the mountain above Ouray. This was the subject of Rick Trujillo's presentation to the group last fall. That talk came about because our club member Alma made the trek and recommended Rick as an engaging speaker about his trackway discovery as a kid in the 1950s.

So the four-mile round-trip hike is more or less straight up and then straight down, with gorgeous views of the valley below. Although a fairly strenuous hike for some of us, the trackway is astonishing to see up close. A sauropod dinosaur wandered all over a "saturated substrate of sandstone" with ripple marks, which later became the Lower Quartzite (Morrison era) rock formation of interest to Ouray area miners. It dates to the later Jurassic period. The critter made 134 footprints in the mud and made a sharp turn en route, some 160 to 145 million years ago.

The rain held off until after we got back to the brewpub, so it was a perfect day in the mountains. Our thanks go out to the property owners who allow hikers access to the trackway, and thanks to Dan Elsner for setting up this trip!

## Dino Tracks!

by Leigh Ann Hunt





A parting shot from the Dino hike



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## From the Editor

A lot of news articles came my way this summer under the broad tent of archaeology. One of them, a study by Ashleigh Wiseman, goes a long way back, in a couple of ways. First, it deals with remains excavated almost 50 years ago (November of 1974). The remains belonged to a female hominid that was given the scientific name of *Australopithecus afarensis*, but she became better known as Lucy. Second, the remains were determined to be approximately 3.2 million years old. Lucy's been studied a lot, because she represents one of the most complete sets of remains of any pre-human hominid that I know of, with about 40% of her living complement of bones being present.

There has been a lot of discussion about how human she was. She wasn't, of course, but she's still widely considered to be very close to the direct line of human ancestry. It's not her head and face that give her that distinction, however: she's pretty ape-like in that regard. Rather, it's her pelvis, lower limb, and knee structure. It appeared that Lucy was able to walk upright on two legs. There's not 100% agreement on this, with some researchers insisting that she would have preferred a stooped, bent-kneed posture, with considerable use of her arms. The consensus after 50 years favors her being bipedal, but whether it was habitual or occasional is still contested.

The present study is an attempt to technologically flesh her out, to examine her lower body musculature in detail to see whether the muscle strength and relative positioning would have combined to allow her to walk upright. Where previous studies identified the "line of action" of important muscles used in walking, Wiseman recognizes that the strength and direction of

pull of muscles is contingent also on the space occupied by other adjacent muscles. She used comparative muscle anatomy from modern humans and apes along with a vast array of computer packages. Importantly, she considered the size and orientation of the muscle attachment scars still detectable on the bones. This process allowed her to model not just the direction of action, but also the shape and bulk of each of Lucy's 36 muscles (per leg).

I have no expertise to evaluate the multiple steps she performed to arrive at a detailed representation of Lucy's musculature, but I am definitely impressed by the result. Assuming Wiseman's reconstruction is reasonably accurate, Lucy, at about 3 feet 5 inches tall, had very powerful lower limbs, especially when compared to a similarly scaled modern human reference figure. The thigh and gluteal muscles are particularly impressive. Wiseman concludes that Lucy was indeed capable of efficient upright walking, while still being a competent climber, as befits a resident of the forest/grassland ecotone of late-Pliocene eastern Africa.

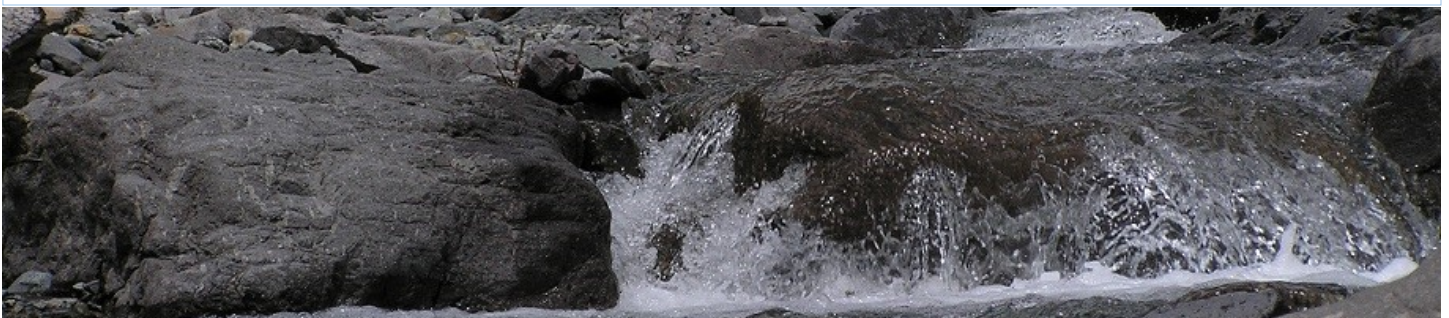
### References:

Wiseman, Ashleigh L. A.

2023 Three-dimensional volumetric muscle reconstruction of the *Australopithecus afarensis* pelvis and limb, with estimations of limb leverage. In *Royal Society Open Science* 10: 230356. 14 June 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.230356>

Ouellette, Jennifer

2023 3D muscle reconstruction shows 3.2 million-year-old "Lucy" walked upright. *Ars Technica*, 13 June 2023. <https://arstechnica.com/science/2023/06/3d-muscle-reconstruction-shows-3-2-million-year-old-lucy-walked-upright/> [Be sure to scroll down far enough to see the comparison with a modern human]



**Chipeta Chapter**  
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Montrose, Colorado 81402



## Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or RR Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(email required to receive Chipeta Chapter 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

☐ Secondary (Circle one) Individual (\$10) or Family... (\$15)

☐ Opt out of printed *Southwest Lore*

*\*Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society: a .pdf is posted to Member365 for download. Effective soon, if you want a print copy, you will have to go to the state CAS website and pay an additional fee.

Photos by Dennis DeVore



## 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  
P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81402



## CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

- **President:** Sally Johnson, [president@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:president@chipetachaptercas.org)
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- **Secretary:** Susan Henderson, [secretary@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:secretary@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, [treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, [casrep@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:casrep@chipetachaptercas.org)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, [editor@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:editor@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, [membership@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:membership@chipetachaptercas.org)
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- **Library:** Linda Manske, [library@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:library@chipetachaptercas.org)

## 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)

The PAAC program is currently being revamped. There is no timeline on when it might be restarted, but if it happens, we'll be sure to notify you.

Or check their webpage:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac-event-schedule>

### 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.*