

The Uncompahgre Journal

October 2023

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 40 Issue 8

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 3: *[Hisatsinom Chapter](#) monthly meeting with Steve Lekson updating his book *A History of the Ancient Southwest*. This can be viewed on zoom or in person at the First United Methodist Church, 515 N. Park St., Cortez, 7:00 pm.

Oct 4: [Montrose Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with Mindy Stewart on Shavano Valley Water Users. Montrose County Event Center, 7:00 pm.

Oct 11: *[San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Dr. Shelby Tisdale the life story of archaeologist Marjorie F. Lambert, active in the first half of the 20th century. This can be viewed on zoom or in person at the Lyceum, Center for Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, at 7:00 pm.

Oct 18: Chipeta Chapter monthly meeting with Paul Reed on the Puebloan people of the middle San Juan (*right*). United Methodist Church, Park Avenue and South 1st Street, 7:00 pm.

*Indicates Zoom meetings; these can also be viewed at a later date, in some cases.

Our October Presentation

Aztec, Salmon, and the Middle San Juan as a Pueblo Heartland

by Paul F. Reed

The Middle San Juan region of northwestern New Mexico is often misunderstood regarding its Puebloan history. Falling between the better-known ancient Pueblo cultural centers at Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde, the ancient Aztec and Salmon communities rarely attract deserved attention. Research at these Puebloan centers over the last 100, and particularly, the last 25 years has revealed a unique and outstanding record of innovation and creativity, as well as large numbers of Pueblo-affiliated peoples. In this talk, I will highlight the special nature of the ancient Puebloan use of the Middle San Juan region and the deep and current connections of modern-day Pueblos to this region.



Our October Speaker Paul F. Reed

Paul Reed has been a Preservation Archaeologist with Archaeology Southwest since 2001. He is based near Taos, New Mexico. Reed works extensively with southwestern Pueblos and Tribes to protect landscapes and elevate Indigenous voices.

In 2022, Reed and award-winning filmmaker David Wallace produced a short documentary film: *Protecting Chaco's 10-mile Zone*. Reed's recent writing is an edited book (with Gary M. Brown as co-editor) entitled *Aztec, Salmon, and the Pueblo Heartland of the Middle San Juan*, published in SAR Press' Popular Series in 2018. He also served as editor (and author of several chapters) on *Chaco's Northern Prodigies: Salmon, Aztec, and the Ascendancy of the Middle San Juan Region After AD 1100*, published by the University of Utah Press (2008). Reed was also editor (and author of several chapters) of the three-volume, comprehensive report entitled *Thirty-Five Years of Archaeological Research at Salmon Ruins, New Mexico* published in 2006. His other books – *The Puebloan Society of Chaco Canyon* (2004) and *Foundations of Anasazi Culture* (published in 2000; as editor and author) have explored the origins of Puebloan culture and Chaco Canyon.

Over the last decade, Reed has been working to protect the Greater Chaco Landscape from the effects of expanded oil-gas development associated with fracking in the Mancos Shale formation of the San Juan Basin, New Mexico. Through a series of meetings and forums with Tribal leaders, public officials, various US Government agencies, and New Mexico's Congressional delegation, Archaeology Southwest and its partners have focused on expanding protections to sites, traditional cultural places, and fragile landscapes in the greater San Juan Basin.



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President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Photo by Sally Johnson

October is the month that changes everything—in my mind. Daylight savings time will soon end*, and we will have cooler temperatures, bringing out winter jackets and many leaves. Besides spring, it is my other favorite season. I sent out an announcement Monday the 25th for a trip with George Decker to visit the wild horses in the DeBeque area. Of course, there will also be some rock art and unique rock formations: George is a wealth of information concerning the area. Please contact him directly to sign up: his contact information is in the email. There should be other trips coming up in the next month or two so watch your emails.

I have included some items from the State CAS concerning *Southwestern Lore* from the last meeting minutes. This discussion has continued for years

on how to handle the cost and lack of articles for the publication. “The implementation of the *Southwestern Lore* subscription plan shall be postponed from the Summer 2023 issue to the Spring 2024 issue” (from the *Southwestern Lore* status report, CAS annual meeting, Sept. 2023). Here is an excerpt from the *SL* committee’s report. “By the time of the late September meeting all subscribers should have received the Summer ’23 issue. The issue contained three articles and a book review. The outlook for the immediate future in terms of manuscript supply is very good, in contrast with the situation a year ago when we had to combine the summer and fall issues due to a lack of articles. I have two good articles for the fall issue, for which editing is in progress, and another two for the winter issue. In addition, Kris Holien has been working with Alice Hamilton recipient Scarlett Engle, a CU doctoral student, who has promised to do an article in the near future on her CAS-supported work with NPS at Mesa Verde and numerous Pueblo tribes that identify with Mesa Verde cultural landscape.”

Wow(!): the planning is already taking place for the State and Nation’s birthdays (150 and 250 years, respectively). I know that the local government is submitting something for this plan. Here is an update from the History Colorado Preservation Program Committee: “Plans are being developed to celebrate and honor the State of Colorado’s 150 yr. birthday and the nation’s 250yr. birthday in 2026. It is called the “150/250 Celebration Plan”. One goal is to add 150 new historical sites in Colorado and to increase community outreach to the Indigenous, Latino, Chicano, Black, Asian American, Hispano and the LGBTQ communities. It is hoped that the plan will become a national model.

I was happy to learn that there is a new head of the PAAC (Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification) program through History Colorado. Her name is Sarah A. Allaun (sarah.allaun@state.co.us) and she has updated the website and added a couple of classes. I have taken some of these classes during the Covid shut-down and learned a lot. So please visit History Colorado for more information.

Finally, some memberships will be due soon so check out the Member365 site or send me an email and I will be glad to check your status. As right now, the Chipeta membership is 138 members. This includes Individual, family, and students. If you did not know, we are the oldest chapter in the state and the largest in membership.



Please Step Up

We are looking for a nomination committee of a couple of members to suggest officers for the board of directors. You could meet in person or by phone. As one member stated “the same people have been serving as officers for several years. I understand their want to pass along those duties.” I will be giving up my seat as President and Leigh Ann would like to step down as Vice President. Please note that the President Job is a no-experience-needed type of position; you just have to be a person who has no problems running a meeting (as well as writing a quick letter for the journal). The Vice President position is a little more work, but Leigh Ann stated that she would be glad to help with speakers. Yes, this position’s main focus is obtaining the monthly speakers. Look on the bright side: she already has speakers lined up until next year.

I will continue to do the membership for a year and that includes sending out the emails for trips, notices and journal. Jim Douras will also stay on as Treasure and Nick Ard will continue to be the CAS representative at this time.

The sad outcome is if no one steps up then the chapter will decline and maybe there will be no meetings. Please reach out to me or another Board member to keep the wheels turning.

-Sally

I’d like to second what Sally said. The club officers need to be able to give up their positions and expect others to take their place. Being an officer is not an onerous job: it only takes a few hours a month. But that slight burden is even lighter if you know that you will only have to do it for two or three years. Please consider volunteering for President, VP, or Secretary!

-Dave

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From the Editor

There is a long-standing expectation among anthropologists and archaeologists that hunter-gatherer or forager societies adhere to a fairly strict division of labor in which men hunt and women gather plant foods. The authors of a recent study wish to change this expectation. Citing numerous instances in the archaeological record of apparent hunting (and also fighting) toolkits being interred with female burials, they undertook a comprehensive study of the ethnographic record worldwide to find and quantify information on women taking part in hunting activities.

The researchers identified 391 forager societies in the ethnographic literature, 63 of which had specific information on hunting practices and gender. Among those, the evidence is clear that women often participated in hunting activities, sometimes alone, sometimes with children, sometimes with other women and sometimes with men. In the 41 societies where intentionality was discussed, almost 90% of women's hunting trips were planned, rather than opportunistic (i.e. hunting that occurred because an animal was encountered during some other activity). Among the 36 societies in which women hunted intentionally, women hunted mainly small game in about half, medium-sized game in 15%, and big game or all sizes in more than a third of the societies.

This seems like a small sample, but keep in mind that it is a world-wide sample of foraging societies for which data were gathered on hunting activities by women, and there is no reason to assume that the proportions are not reasonably representative of the other 300-plus forager groups in the ethnographic record.

I doubt that anyone ever really thought it to be a hard and fast rule that only women gather and only men hunt, but this is still an eye-opening result. The biggest takeaway is probably that archaeologists should not be so surprised when they find a woman's grave with hunting tools in it. In the past, archaeologists have had long discussions about the meaning of hunting or fighting tools in what appeared to be a woman's grave. They might argue that it wasn't a woman's grave, or the tools belonged not to her but to a loved one who had dropped some of his precious objects in her grave as an expression of grief, or perhaps that the

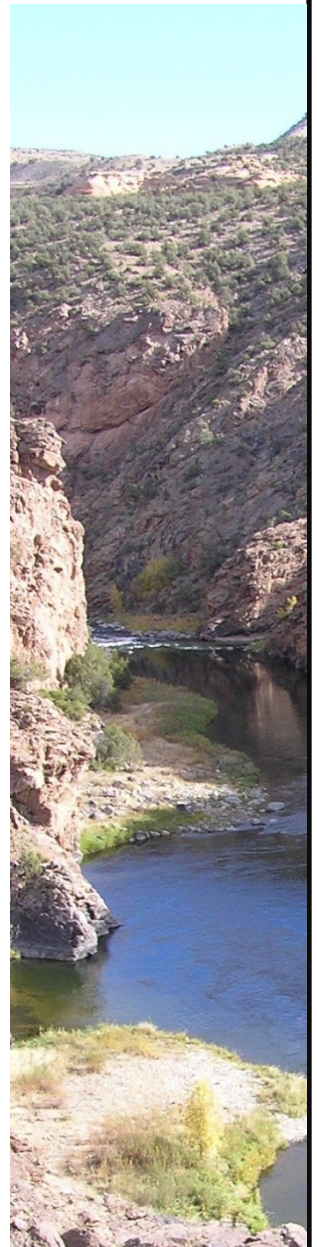
objects weren't really hunting tools. Those who favored the simplest explanation sometimes had to resort to the expense of getting a DNA analysis to demonstrate the gender of the burial, but it's still hard to counter the arguments that there are cultural reasons for male tools to be placed with a female burial. The evidence from this new paper makes it less necessary to try. We should expect to find many more such cases in the archaeological record.

But I'd like to make one other point. It is the job of archaeologists to be skeptical. With regards to grave goods, there are a myriad of ways that people in different cultures inter their loved ones. Grave goods may have many different meanings, even within one society. It is not outrageous that archaeologists might argue over the intent behind grave goods that don't fit the perceived norm, and it is not at all outrageous that archaeologists would spare no expense to be certain that the interred individual is indeed a female. There is so much uncertainty in archaeological inference (which in my mind is part of the charm of the discipline), that it makes sense to throw every available tool at an issue that provokes or promotes controversy.

Finally, I'd like to know what the ethnographic record says about men participating in gathering activities. Do men take part in gathering activities in the same kinds of numbers as women do in hunting activities, or do they just lie around in the shade when they are not out hunting, as has been suggested in some notable ethnographies? Whatever the answer to that question, this new research does much to eliminate some of the skepticism on the topic of women hunting.

References

Anderson A, Chilczuk S, Nelson K, Ruther R, Wall-Scheffler C
2023 The Myth of Man the Hunter: Women's contribution to the hunt across ethnographic contexts. PLOS ONE
18(6): e0287101. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287101>



Chipeta Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
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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
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, vp@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Secretary:** vacant
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, casrep@chipetachaptercas.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, editor@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, membership@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Site Steward Coordinator (acting):** Leigh Ann Hunt, sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Library:** Linda Manske, 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)

For information, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac>

PAAC Contacts

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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.