

# The Uncompahgre Journal

March 2024 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

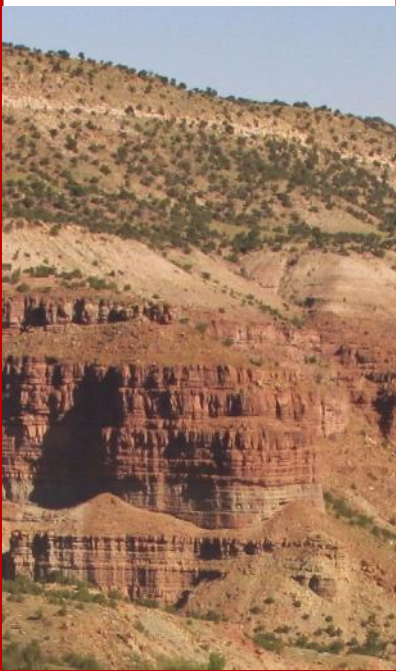
Volume 41 Issue 3

## Mark Your Calendar

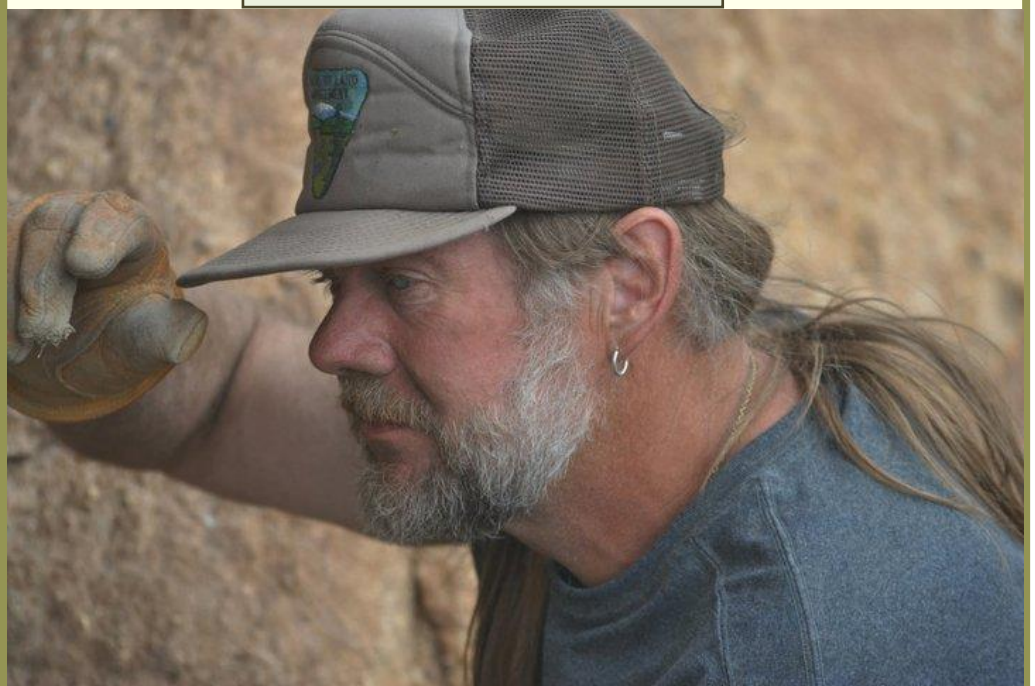
**Mar 5:** Hisatsinom Chapter monthly meeting with Dave Dove on a connection between two tenth-century communities. First United Methodist Church, 515 N. Park St., Cortez, CO, 7:00 PM.

**Mar 13:** San Juan Basin Archaeological Society monthly meeting with David and Chloe Valentine, on astronomy in the Chacoan system. A reception will start things off at 6:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm.

**Mar 20:** Chipeta Chapter monthly meeting with Glade Hadden talking about dinosaur tracks (*right*). Montrose United Methodist Church, 19 S Park Ave, 7:00 pm.



## Our March Presentation

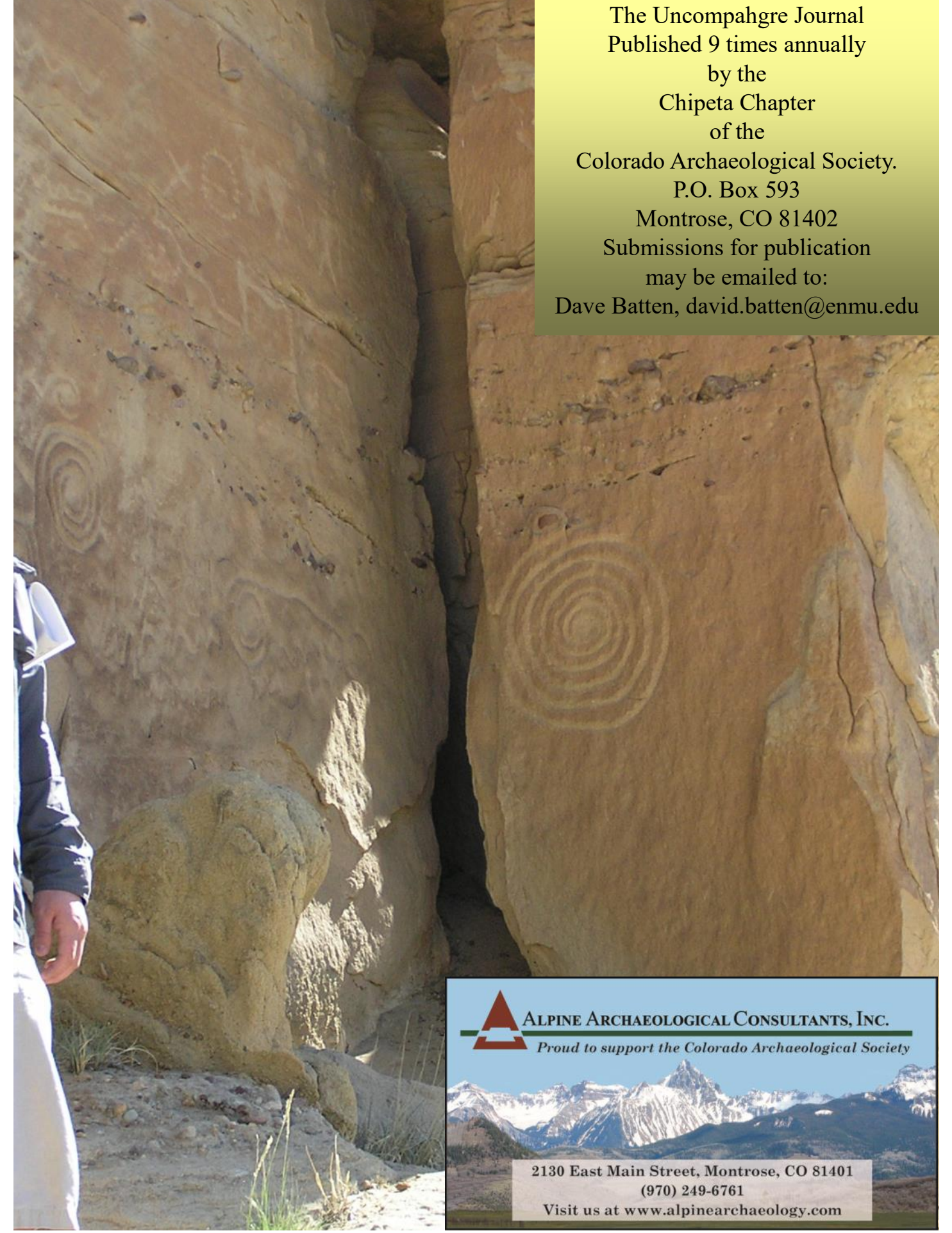


### Tracking the BIG Game

Glade Hadden will be talking about dinosaur tracks that he has seen in his extensive travels around western Colorado.

Glade is the former area archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose, Colorado. He has been involved in the field of archaeology for over thirty years, starting as a seasonal “dig-bum” for the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management before becoming a private consultant. He is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), and is a member of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), Colorado Archaeological Society and the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. He is a former member of both the Montana Archaeological Society and the Utah Professional Archaeology Council. Glade retired from the Bureau of Land Management in 2018 and moved to the Paradox Valley so he could be closer to the archaeology he loves.





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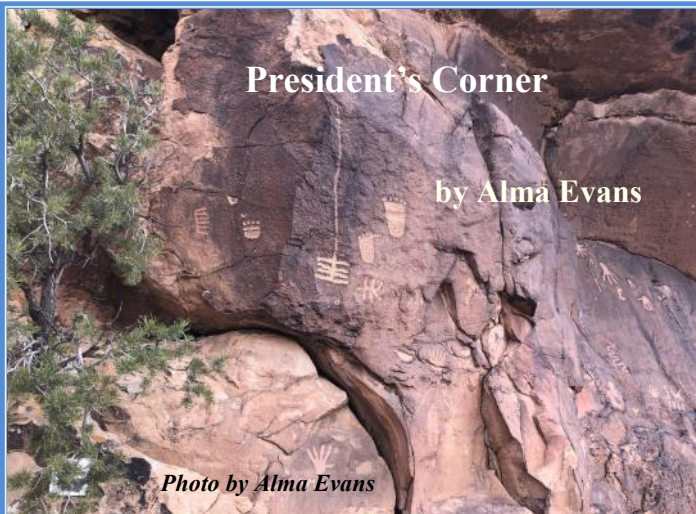
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## President's Corner

by Alma Evans

Photo by Alma Evans

## BOARD UPDATES

### Goal for Chipeta CAS 2024

- ◇ Obtain liability insurance that covers trip leaders and Chipeta Chapter. (Unassigned – waiting to hear recommendations from the CAS State Board.)
- ◇ Coordinating site stewards with Colorado Canyons and Chipeta CAS for both training and assignments for monitoring sites. (Assigned to Chris CCA & Leigh Ann Hunt, our site steward trainer.)
- ◇ Contact local high school and college extension in an effort to attract younger members to our club. (Unassigned, looking for a volunteer).

### Guidelines for the Presentation Committee:

- ◇ Each presenter will be given \$100 for gas and a meal.
- ◇ Each presenter will also be given an honorarium of \$100.
- ◇ Additional expenses of motel will be given when needed.
- ◇ Additional travel money will be compensated when required for travel.
- ◇ Any expenses that go over \$500 must be approved by the Chipeta CAS Board.

**The Quarterly State CAS Board Meeting** was held January 27, 2024, by ZOOM. Most of the meeting was taken up with committee reports for last year's (2023) work. The main point of discussion under New Business:

#### Liability/Accident Insurance

The issue – More than one trip leader had to do a quantity of paperwork because of an accident on a field trip. That is a very uncomfortable position for trip leaders.

The Question – In a litigious environment, who should be covered?

Trip Leaders?

Local Board Members?

State Board Members?

Next Question – Who pays?

The people taking the field trip?

The Local Chapter?

The State CAS?

Need to know, insufficient information at this time.

Would the membership be open to a small membership fee increase?

Membership fees have not been raised for several years.

How much will it cost the State?

How much will it cost for the Local Chapter?


How much is a "small fee" increase?

Reduce the amount paid back to local chapters?

The State Board is working on answers to the above questions. At the April General meeting, the local chapter representatives may be asked to vote on these questions.







# The Katsina Runners and Rain Bringers

Carol Patterson  
Bluff, Utah  
2024

**Saturday, March 30th, 2024**

**6:00 - 7:30 pm**

**Bears Ears Educational Center and online**

**For Zoom meeting Link:**

**[www.BearsEarsPartnership.org/Events](http://www.BearsEarsPartnership.org/Events)**

**Presenter: Carol Patterson, PhD**

- Petroglyphs of runners
- LiDar maps of ritual running roads
- Music with slides of Indigenous women and men who run long distances, relay races and ceremonial circuits

This presentation examines the use of ancient roads that link up prehistoric sites in the Upper San Juan region. Evidence of these roads from LiDar maps and ethnographic documentation supports the theories of their use by ritual running and relay races to draw out the Cloud Beings for rain. Petroglyphs of the runners are found in proximity to these ancient roads of which there are three types; long distance for trade, short distance for relays and circular for ceremonies.

## From the Editor

It's interesting how archaeologists get excited about the most mundane and trivial things—they seem to revel in minutia. Last month I wrote about the study of a few pieces of chewed birch pitch. Sometime in the last year I wrote about a few clay bricks and what they could tell us about the earth's magnetic field. Some 30 years ago in Germany, archaeologists dug up some sticks near a place called Schöningen. Some of them were clearly spears, and others were just sticks. The former created quite a stir because they were at least 300,000 years old, and wood doesn't usually survive that long. They were finely wrought, well-balanced throwing spears from a time when we thought all early humans could do was grunt and bash things with sharp stones. With all the furor over the spears, the two short sticks were kind of neglected. But this is the way science works. Big discoveries are made and careers are launched. Little discoveries are left behind until a generation or so later, when grad students and early career scientists rediscover them and point sophisticated tools at them to learn their secrets.

This contrasts a lot with the way things were done when archaeology was a young discipline. All the questions were big ones. In 1912, celebrated archaeologist Nels Nelson excavated hundreds of rooms in the Galisteo Basin of New Mexico in one summer. Their interests were broad cultural frameworks and museum-quality artifacts. Pottery sherds, lithic debitage, and animal bones were all thrown away. Only slowly did goals and techniques begin to change through the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and accelerating as it drew to a close. The coevolution of high-tech analytical tools and painstaking excavation techniques over the last 50 years or so exacerbated this concentration on minutia.

This article is about a stick, a little less than 80 cm long by at most 2.5 cm in diameter, and the suite of analyses it was subjected to. The stick was sharpened on both ends and was slightly curved. It was suggested a) that it might have been a throwing stick, similar to a boomerang, but non-returning, b) that it might have been a child's spear, recognizing that children of hunting and gathering societies begin hunting at an early age, or c) that it could have been a fighting tool for close combat, either with other people or with animals.

This one particular pointed stick was subjected to micro-CT scanning, three-dimensional microscopy, and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, probably the most detailed examination ever of a wooden object. They examined the grain, the nature of the wood cells, whether the stick was from a branch or a trunk, and how the stick probably grew. They studied in detail how the bark and cambium were stripped off the branch, noting tool marks and abrasion (sanding), especially near knots. And they concluded that the object was a stick with two pointed ends, that had been carefully created and may have been used as a) a throwing stick, or b) a child's spear, or c) a tool for close quarters fighting or hunting. But it was not a digging stick.

Laughable? Yes, we should all chuckle about this. But it had to be done. Here is a stick that was (very carefully) created for some utilitarian purpose over 300,000 years ago. This was before modern humans existed, and even before Neandertals as we know them. Before Schöningen, we weren't sure that humans in those times had throwing spears. The battery of tests they threw at the poor stick were time consuming and expensive, but if they had not been done we wouldn't know that the discoloration near the points probably wasn't caused by blood or animal fat, and that damage on the shaft was probably a not a result of hitting a wild animal, but of trampling after the stick had already been lost and buried in muck. Ruling out these speculative attributes is a massive contribution. Add to that the detailed information about the amount of care taken to fashion the stick, and it was absolutely worth the effort.

## References

- Milks A, Lehmann J, Leder D, Sietz M, Koddenberg T, Böhner U, et al. 2023 A double-pointed wooden throwing stick from Schöningen, Germany: Results and new insights from a multianalytical study. PLoS ONE 18(7): e0287719. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287719>





**Chipeta Chapter**  
Colorado Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 593  
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:** Alma Evans, [president@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:president@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, [vp@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:vp@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **Secretary:** Elizabeth Binder, [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)
- **Site Steward Coordinator:** Leigh Ann Hunt, [sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org)
- **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)

For information, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac>

### PAAC Contacts

#### Sarah A. Allaun

Assistant State Archaeologist

[sarah.allaun@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.allaun@state.co.us)

303-866-5746

#### Leigh Ann Hunt

Chipeta Chapter PAAC Coordinator

[paac@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:paac@chipetachaptercas.org)

### Future Speakers

**April: Sonny Shelton**

**May: Ken Roll-Dyke**

### 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 Bill Harris. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.*