

# The Uncompahgre Journal

April 2019

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 36 Issue 4

## Our April Presentation

### Mark Your Calendar

**Apr 2:** [Hisatsinom Chapter](#) monthly meeting, with Chuck Riggs speaking on the function of Kivas in the Mesa Verde region. Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, 7:00 pm.

**Apr 3:** [Montrose Historical Society](#) monthly meeting, with Dan Duter on the effects of the fur trade on the buffalo. Pioneer Room, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 7:00 pm.

**Apr 6:** CAS-GJ monthly meeting. Dennis DeVore relates his discovery of a nearly invisible rock art panel using photo-editing software. Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, GJ, 6:30 pm.

**Apr 10:** [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) presents Garry and Ming Adams talking about rock art from the point of view of a photographer. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Ft. Lewis College, 7:00 pm.

**Apr 17:** Chipeta Chapter monthly meeting. John Seebach on the latest finds from the Paleoindian Era (*right*). United Methodist Church, 1<sup>st</sup> St. and Park Avenue, Montrose, 7:00 pm.

**Apr 27:** [Soutwest Colorado Canyons Alliance](#) presents Bill Lipe and Mary Weahkee speaking about turkey feather blankets. Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, 1:00 pm.

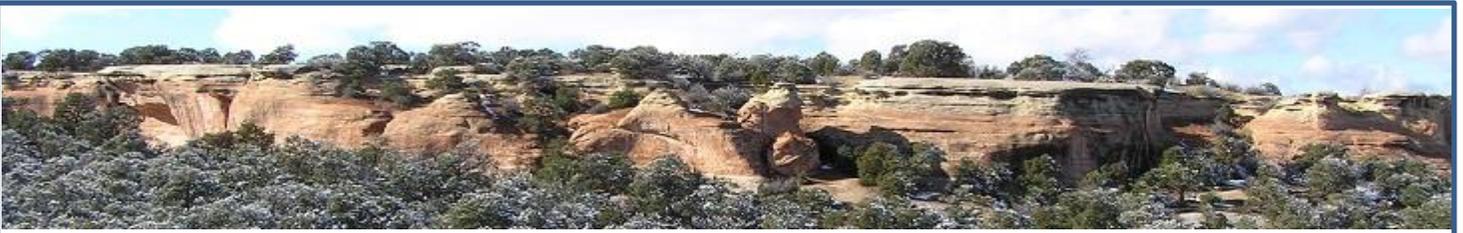
## Ancient People, New Archaeology: Recent Finds from the Paleoindian Era

by Dr. John Seebach

Prehistory changes and our knowledge deepens with every new archaeological discovery or analysis. Nowhere has this been more evident than within the sub-field of Paleoindian studies in recent years. We have new "pre-Clovis" sites. We have refined mitochondrial DNA sequences. We have necessarily-tweaked models of colonization, and of course we have put new interpretive eyes on old data sets. As a result, we continue to uncover new and interesting data from the Paleoindian era in the western hemisphere, even as we continually develop new questions to ask.



Photo by Peter Booth



### This month's speaker: Dr. John Seebach

John Seebach is Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. While primarily interested in the Paleoindian era, forager anthropology and stone tools, Seebach has expanded his research focus to include the general prehistory of western Colorado as well as the legacy of the Grand Junction Indian School. He is currently involved in a project excavating hearth features from small campsites in and around the Grand Valley. The end goal is to produce a chronology of these features, giving us a general picture of when the Grand Valley saw the most activity.



### 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](http://collegeXpress)—and note that the deadline is April 1.

Although the April 1 application deadline is now past, there is no deadline for donations. Please send your tax-deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.

### President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

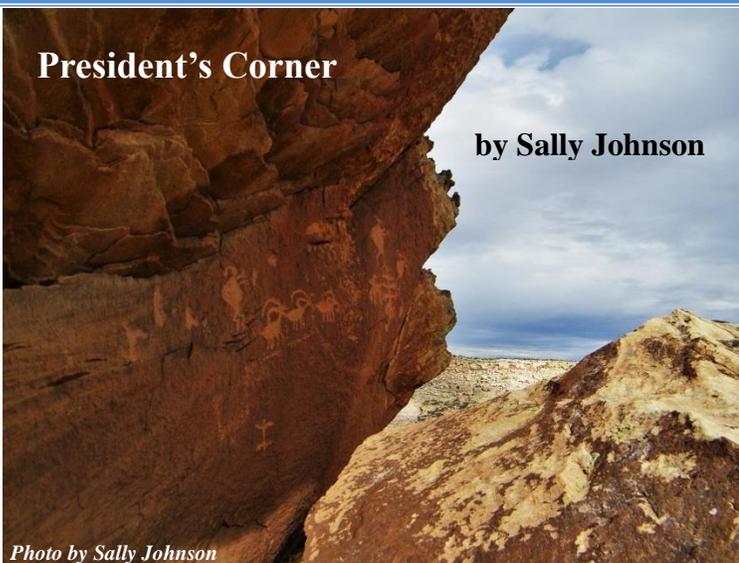


Photo by Sally Johnson

Well, another month has gone by filled with trips being canceled due to the weather. The good news is these trips will be rescheduled, so be sure to watch your email for updates or check with the trip leader for more information. I believe we are in the spring weather time now, but of course, we live in Colorado and it changes often. Remember that each trip will be officially announced in an email with an attached trip announcement. After receiving the announcement, you can sign up by contacting the trip leader.

The position of Membership Coordinator is still open for someone who would love to volunteer a few hours a month. Until that special person steps up, I have temporarily taken on the job. We have

made a few changes to the membership form, including a check box to opt out of the *Southwest Lore* printed version, and a new address to send renewals to. In addition, there is an option for secondary memberships, if you are already a member of a different chapter, but would like to be a member of Chipeta as well. Starting immediately, you will be receiving Chipeta Chapter information via the email address of [sjcas1@gmail.com](mailto:sjcas1@gmail.com). If you have problems receiving any notices please let me know. If you would like to know when your renewal is due, you can visit the Colorado CAS site and log into the M365 and if you are in the 30-day window, it is probably time to renew. I will try to remember to bring a current list to the general meeting, but feel free to email me. Enjoy the weather and thank you for being a member of Chipeta Chapter.

Sally



## Site Stewardship, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes

by **Bill Harris**

### Escalante Canyon FT

The Chipeta Chapter will visit Escalante Canyon on April 19, 2019. The trip will visit the Walker and Smith cabins and the waterwheel on the Gunnison River. Time-permitting, the group could visit the Escalante Bridge rock art panels. The two cabins are along the road, but to

get to the waterwheel requires a 3-mile hike over rolling terrain. The trip will be led by site stewards Barb and Art McIlravy. The field trip will last into early afternoon, so bring a lunch and water. Meet at downtown City Market at 8:30 am. No dogs please. Limited to 12 participants. Sign up by emailing Art McIlravy at [artmcilravy@gmail.com](mailto:artmcilravy@gmail.com)



### Chipeta Chapter Field Trips—Save the Date\*

Date	Location	Brief Information	Leader(s)
<b>April 12-14 (Fri-Sun)</b>	Canyon of the Ancients Ranch and National Monument	Outside Cortez, CO, lodging option at the Ranch or camping. Detailed announcement will be emailed. For more info now, leave a phone message for Dave at 970-260-2117	Dave Upchurch
<b>April 19</b>	Escalante Canyon	Historic cabins and rock art with Site Stewards, 1 day	Art McIlravy
<b>April TBA</b>	Little Park and Glade Park	Rock art, 1 day	George Decker
<b>May 3-4 (Fri-Sat)</b>	Maybell /Rangely area	Clock site and other unusual prehistoric sites	D. DeVore, G. Decker, L. A. Hunt.
<b>June TBA</b>	Rio Grande Southern Railroad sites	Trout Lake Trestle, Vance Junction coal chutes, possibly Ames powerhouse, with Site Stewards	Fred and Sue Henderson
<b>June TBA</b>	Special	Debeque wild horse herd viewing trip, single day	George Decker
<b>June 27-28 (Thurs-Friday)</b>	Los Pinos Old Agency Ute Fort	Single long day or multi-day camp-out in Cochetopa Park south of Hwy 114.	Leigh Ann Hunt
<b>July 13 or 20<sup>th</sup> or TBA</b>	Monarch Pass Game Drives	Single day hike, Monarch Pass ski area vicinity with Pike-San Isabel Forest Archaeologist	Joe Oglesby

\* This list has our goals and dates. As our plans get solidified we will send out specific information on how to sign up and final details. Please ask if you have questions now; it will help us plan.

\*\* To Be Announced. Watch for detailed Field Trip announcement in your email

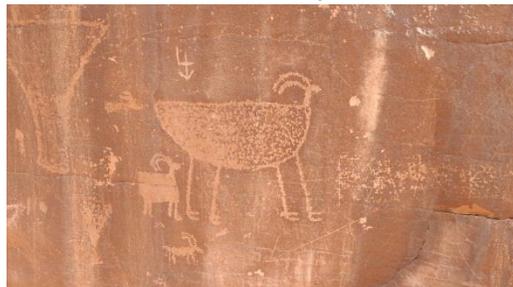
## San Rafael Swell Field Trip



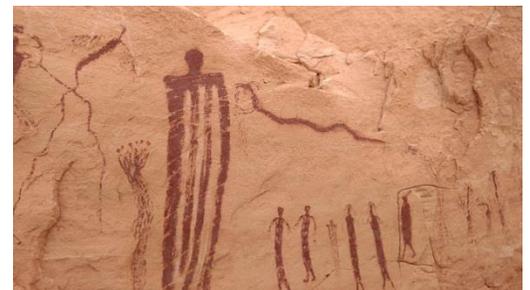
by Leigh Ann Hunt



Twelve Chipeta chapter members participated in March's lovely San Raphael field trip led by Dennis Devore. Dennis's phenomenal knowledge of the area allowed us to visit a dozen rock art sites over two days, from Hog Spring at the south end, to Temple Mtn, Straight, Old Woman, Wild Horse, and Cottonwood washes north of Hanks-



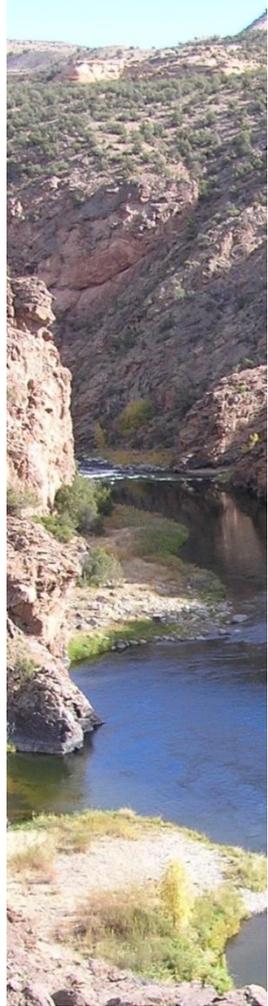
ville. Some of the sites had immense looming red Barrier Canyon figures, some had the small delicately drawn red figures, some had intricate Basket Maker petroglyphs, and some had evidence of rough stone structures, grinding slicks and other signs of occupation. Since it had recently rained, the desert sand was damp, the washes were running with pleasant streams, and everywhere pot holes contained clear water, but the weather cooperated with warmer temperatures and little rain on the hikes. Being based out of motels or RV's in Green River was good when it rained at night.



*All photos by the author*

I often wonder about the value of maintaining collections from archaeological sites. Sites are dug every day, and the collections must be curated. Our museums and other repositories are bursting at the seams. When I think about archaeological curation, my mind conjures up the last scene of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, in which the boxed-up ark is wheeled away for storage in a vast warehouse, to never again be seen or studied. I was nominally in charge of a curation facility at Eastern New Mexico University. Though not as cavernous as the repository imagined by Steven Spielberg, it had its share of forgotten artifacts (including many bags of sediment from a variety of sites). I was pleased one year when Patricia Crown inquired about ceramic sherds from Guadalupe Ruin, a site that had been excavated in the 1970s by ENMU. Dr. Crown was interested in chocolate. She had already found traces of it on sherds from Pueblo Bonito, and was interested in finding out whether this elite import had made it also into Chacoan outliers. The results were ambiguous, but at least five of the ten sherds showed evidence of a caffeinated drink, either chocolate or the wonderfully named *Ilex vomitoria*, a holly common in the eastern U.S. I helped her sort through the myriad boxes until she found the right inauspicious-looking bags full of dusty, thousand-year-old black on white sherds, just a few centimeters on a side.

Things are constantly showing up in collections that with new eyes and new technology can take on greater importance. One such item popped up in the news last month. A Ph.D. student at Washington State University was making an inventory of WSU's collections when he happened upon a tool, about 4 inches long, comprised of two cactus spines attached side by side with sinew to a small piece of wood. The tips of the cactus spines were stained black. He had found a tattoo needle. There's nothing particularly astonishing about that—tattooing is known ethnographically in the Americas, and similar tools have been found in the Southwest dating to eight or nine hundred years ago. But this newly rediscovered needle from southeast Utah is 1000 years older than that, dating from Basketmaker II times.



A little chunk of ancient technology just pushed direct evidence of tattooing way back. But what struck me most about this little tidbit is the detail of its construction: the cactus spines were from the prickly pear and the wooden handle was from three-leaf sumac, or skunkbush. Nature is a remarkable innovator. Similar structures (such as spines) created by different organisms can be nearly identical at the species level yet different at the genus or family level, so that a prickly pear spine can be distinguished from that of say, a barrel cactus. If I found a spine sticking out of my leg, I doubt that I'd be able to make that distinction unless the pad or joint was attached. As to the sumac, given that it was a very small worked piece of wood, the identification to species level impresses me. For my bachelor's degree I took a course on identifying wood. I never really did get the hang of it, but it was interesting. All the senses were involved: touching, tasting, smelling, and of course seeing with the aid of a hand lens or a binocular microscope. I don't know if hearing might be involved. Did you know that in ceramic identification, certain types of pottery are distinguished by the sound the sherd makes when you drop it on the table?

I wonder, was sumac used because of particular properties of the wood, or was it just a handy twig? I don't think it would have occurred to me to seek out a particular species as I was making my tattoo needle, but there are lots of things about technology that I don't know. My guess is that a rabbit brush or a big sage would have done just as well.

What these anecdotes share are the identification, by biochemists and paleoethnobotanists respectively, of specific plants used in deep antiquity to create useful products, thus helping us establish a connection with these people, elite or ordinary alike, across large gulfs of time. And remember that these identifications would have been impossible were it not for nearly forgotten collections from 40 and 50 year old excavations. Hats off to science!

Laura Geggel

2019 "Prickly Pear Cactus Needles Are Oldest Tattoo Tool in Western North America." *Live Science* February 28, 2019 (<https://www.livescience.com/64883-oldest-tattoo-tool-western-north-america.html>, accessed March 1, 2019).

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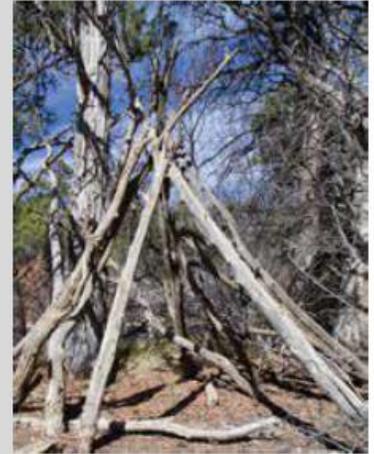
## Membership Application

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or RR Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(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)  
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Photos by Dennis DeVore



\***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  
P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81401

## CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

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- **Secretary:** Annette Butts, [annettebutts63@gmail.com](mailto:annettebutts63@gmail.com)
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- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, [nrard@bresnan.net](mailto:nrard@bresnan.net)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, [david.batten@enmu.edu](mailto:david.batten@enmu.edu)
- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, [sandkjohnson1@juno.com](mailto:sandkjohnson1@juno.com)
- **BLM Liason:** Bill Harris, [trlgpa48@gmail.com](mailto:trlgpa48@gmail.com)
- **Library:** Linda Manske, [cc-manske2@bresnan.net](mailto:cc-manske2@bresnan.net)

## OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

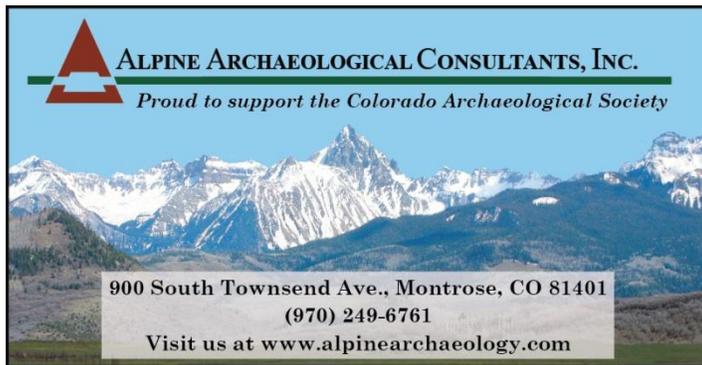
- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Bill Manske, [trlgpa48@gmail.com](mailto:trlgpa48@gmail.com)

## 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)

### PAAC Contacts

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## Chipeta May Speaker

Larry Loendorf, rock art archaeologist

## 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.*