

The Uncompahgre Journal

March 2020

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 37 Issue 3

Mark Your Calendar

Mar 3: [Hisatsinom Chapter](#) monthly meeting, with Jesse Tune on last summer's Fort Lewis College Paleo-Indian field school. Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, 7:00 pm.

Mar 4: [Montrose Historical Society](#) monthly meeting, with Kelly Crippin on the Monahan Mansion. Pioneer Room, Friendship Hall, Fairgrounds, 7:00 pm.

Mar 9: [CAS-GJ](#) monthly meeting with Kevin Jones talking about how ancient rock art is viewed in modern culture. Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, GJ, 6:30 pm.

Mar 11: [San Juan Basin](#) archaeology monthly meeting, with John Hoffecker on the Upper Paleolithic on the East European Plain. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, Durango, 7:00 pm.

Mar 18: Chipeta chapter monthly meeting with Zeb Miracle on historic maps and their value to historical studies (*right*). United Methodist Church, 1st St. and Park Ave, 7:00 pm. ****Notice that we won't be able to get into the building until right at 7:00.**

Mar 19: Plateau Valley Historical Preservation Society [March Oral History Presentation](#) on the history of the livestock industry in Plateau Valley. Mesa County Libraries, 443 N. 6th St, GJ. 12:00-1:00 pm.

May 20: Save the date. To celebrate Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, Sally Cole, renowned rock art researcher, will be presenting at the Chipeta monthly meeting. The venue will be the Ute Indian Museum. Topic to be announced.

Our March Presentation

Mapping Western Colorado

Maps are an extremely valuable primary resource and can help researchers find new insights and information on communities. This talk will show hundreds of years of western Colorado history through maps such as those created by early exploration, General Land Office surveys, and the Sanborn Map Company. All of these resources are available online, and brief instructions and tips on using these databases will be provided.



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Our March Speaker



Photo courtesy of Zeb Miracle

A western Colorado native, Zebulon Miracle is the Curator of Curiosity for Gateway Canyons Resort and Spa located in the beautiful canyon-country at the foot of the Uncompahgre Plateau. After graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder with degrees in history and anthropology, Zebulon was fortunate enough to move back to the region that has long inspired him.

After serving numerous positions at the Museum of Western Colorado including Curator of Anthropology, Collections Manager, and Curator of Cross Orchards Historic Site, Zeb was honored with the opportunity to start a new position and department for Gateway Canyons that will allow guests and visitors the chance to not only see and hear the wonderful history and geology of the area but to also experience it first-hand.

Zebulon's true passion is connecting people with the lands, cultures, history, and heritage of the American Southwest. Zebulon has offered numerous tours around the American Southwest as well as Mexico and France that have allowed hundreds to marvel at the cultural history of places such as Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Mesa Verde National Monument, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, and dozens of rock art sites. Locally, Zebulon has worked with historic preservation projects at Calamity Camp (a National Register of Historic Places listed uranium camp), the Hanging Flume (recognized by the World Monument Fund), and Driggs Mansion along the Uncompahgre-Tabeguache Scenic Byway.



Photo courtesy of Bill Harris

Site Stewardship, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes

by Bill Harris

I have decided to step down as the volunteer coordinator for the Site Stewardship Program. After 5 years of serving in that capacity it is time for someone else with more energy to take over. Since I've been part of the program it has grown to 30 plus stewards visiting over 50 archaeological sites. This past year there was a noticeable drop in site visitation, and the program could use some fresh energy and ideas. I will be assisting the BLM and the chapter with transitioning to a new coordinator. I plan on serving as a site steward for several sites, so I won't be going away. I will continue serving on the scholarship fund committee at the board's pleasure and plan on leading a few field trips a year.

The recent issue of Southwestern Lore has an article authored by me, Rand Gruebel and Leigh Ann Hunt. It is the culmination of a lot of hard work relocating and recording the Huschers' "Middle Fork Hogans." It

wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration, expertise and interest of Rand and Leigh Ann. It is the type of archaeological work where avocationals can make a difference and do some real archaeology. I encourage Chipeta Chapter members to seek out these types of opportunities. The chapter has an opportunity to work with the BLM on an interpretive site project near Escalante Canyon. You'll be hearing more about it later this spring.

I'm excited about our May speaker, Sally Cole. She's an archaeologist specializing in rock art. She's the author of "Legacy on Stone," and put together the wonderful interpretive display at the Kane Gulch Ranger Station on Cedar Mesa west of Blanding, Utah. I've known Sally and her husband, Chuck since 1985. This past fall we visited the Ute rock art along Blue Creek. She'll have some interesting insights about Ute rock art.

From the Editor

I've been thinking about rats lately. I don't think I've written about them yet. Back in October, Anne and I were hiking in the Needles District and spotted a very nice, big, probably old, packrat midden. It was hanging under an overhang on a nice chunk of red sandstone. I suppose there had once been a corresponding block of rock holding it up, which must have recently fallen off the cliff, leaving the midden exposed. Dumbly, I did not think to take a picture.

Those of you who go to meetings and pay attention will now know three uses of the term midden. First and foremost is the cash midden in the back of the meeting room, a repository for unneeded and unwanted surplus green stuff that would otherwise clog up your wallet. I don't know who came up with that or when, but it was an inspired choice. Second is the midden that can frequently be found on the south side of Puebloan architectural sites, where the daily detritus of everyday life was disposed of right outside the door—much more convenient than dumps aka sanitary landfills. And third is the pack rat midden, which is the same idea as the above two (green and multicolored detritus of settled life). Packrats live in, not next to, their middens as they take the green and brown and shiny things that catch their eyes and incorporate them into their living environment and urinate on them, which hardens them up nicely.

Packrats, also called wood rats, belong to the genus *Neotoma*, though there are other rodents that do similar things. They are beloved by a wide variety of scientists, including archaeologists, biologists, botanists, zoologists, paleo-ecologists, and paleo-you-name-it-ists in general. Why? A couple of reasons. First, their slightly yucky living habits (which you probably wouldn't find yucky if you were a wood rat) create a nest that is practically impervious to decay, so that all the green and woody plants and some animals and bugs that are incorporated into it are preserved for thousands of years (up to 50 or 60,000 years). Second, they have a very limited range for filling their nests, with a radius of no more than about 100 meters, and most likely about a third of that, so they tightly sample the immediately surrounding environment. Third, they aren't particularly picky: they pick up practically anything and everything that they can carry. Fourth, the animals inhabit their middens for many generations, so that change through time can be documented.

Therefore, where wood rats live, a great deal can be learned about local environments. All you have to do is find a nice wood rat midden, soak it for a period of time to soften up the fossilized urine, called appropriately enough, amberat, set aside some particularly common bits of plant material or fecal matter for radiocarbon dating, separate the material by kingdom, animal or plant, and have a great time identifying all the different taxa. An example of the possible results of this kind of work is the documentation in City of Rocks, Idaho, of change from something like a sagebrush grassland over 25,000 years ago, to an open juniper woodland in the last 5,000 years. In a case of more archaeological interest, middens allowed researchers to demonstrate the loss of trees in the Chaco landscape, well before the heyday of the great Chacoan building boom a thousand years or so ago, when thousands of trees were cut for roof beams and hauled for many miles from the Chuska Mountains and other places.

The latest work on rat middens, as you might expect, involves DNA. Researchers are hoping to be able to advance the information gleaned from middens by using some innovative techniques to enhance the information available from little surviving scraps of DNA. At this time, the best they could do was match information gained from taxonomic examination of macrofossils (seeds, leaf parts, needles, twigs, bark, droppings, bone fragments, carapaces, etc.), but they predict better results as the technology of recovery continues to improve.

Moore, Grace, Michael Tessler, Seth W. Cunningham, Julio Betancourt, and Robert Harbert

2020 Paleo-metagenomics of North American fossil packrat middens: Past biodiversity revealed by ancient DNA. *Ecology and Evolution*, first published 20 February, 2020: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6082>, accessed 3/1/2020.



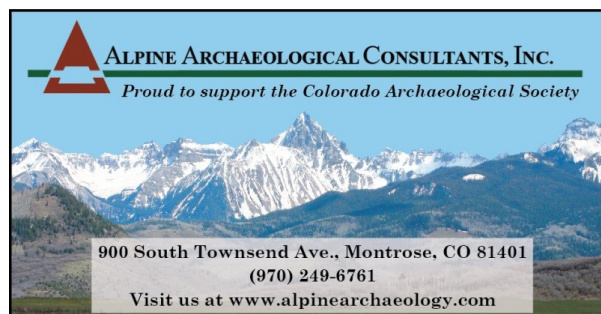
2020 CHIPETA CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Remember that this list is for you to make plans. Please don't contact anybody about going on a particular field trip until the announcement has been sent out by email.

Date	Location	Info	Leader(s)
March 22*	Gunnison Rim eagle traps and Delta Power line site recording	One day. Help Leigh Ann find a certain eagle trap site and then gather field data to record the Powerline site rock shelter	Leigh Ann Hunt
April 11	Roc Creek panel	One day . Short hike.	Russ Barr
April 20-23 (M-TH)	NORTHERN CHACO ROADS AND RUINS	Overnight trip camping /motel. Visit Chaco road segments, great kivas, and Red Knobs ruin out of Blanding, Utah; next day see segments and pueblos near Lawry Pueblo in Canyon of the Ancients with BLM guide.	Leigh Ann Hunt
April or May TBA	Roatcap, Cushman panel and other sites near Montrose	One day.	Bill Harris & site stewards
May 18-19 (mon-tues)	Hanksville Area	Overnight. Petroglyphs. Camp at Goblin valley or motel in green river	Dennis Devore
Early June TBA, or maybe late September	Rainbow Park in Dino-saur, and Browns Park	Multi-day. Outlaws, med wheel? and Vernal style petroglyphs	Joe Oglesby and Leigh Ann Hunt
Late June	Ouray County Museum, and Neosho Mine hike	One day . Visit the museum and hike to Neosho Mine ("laundry" cabin) outside Ouray.	Leigh Ann Hunt
July TBA	Monarch Pass game drives	One day, mile hike, has commitment to guide from RGNF archaeologist	Joe Oglesby and Cat
August TBA **TENTATIVE	Survey near Los Pinos Pass, Gunnison NF	Survey/hike on a plateau with high artifacts density, lithics (if we can get it arranged in time).	Leigh Ann Hunt
September	Price River Canyon , UT Rock Art	One day, drive and walk. Several panels	Leigh Ann Hunt and Joe Oglesby
October 8-10	West End & Paradox	Multi-day. Camp out at Uravan	Bill Harris

* DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER. To Be Announced. Watch for detailed Field Trip announcement in your email.

** 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.



President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Photo by Sally Johnson

Well, here we are gearing up for Spring trips. This is just a reminder that you can sign up for a trip once it has officially been announced by email and the trip information is sent. Please check in with the trip leader named on the trip announcement to sign up for a trip.

We want to thank Bill Harris for his last five years of being the Site Steward program leader. He will continue to help with the transition of the program. If you are willing to help with the Site Steward program, please let me know. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a committee in place for this amazing program? Remember the old saying, "Many hands make light work." We will have updates on the program after meeting with Bill and the BLM, and evaluating the results of a small survey.

Remember that the March meeting will start about 10 minutes late because we will not be able to get into the Church until 7:00 pm. As always let me know if you are having any problems receiving emails.

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of the

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P.O. Box 593

Montrose, CO 81402

Submissions for publication
may be emailed to:

Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu

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.

PAAC Course Schedule

Grand Junction (CAS-GJ Hosting)
Lab Techniques
March 13-16

Alamosa/San Luis Valley (Fort Garland Hosting)
Lithics
March 27-29

Cortez/Dolores (Hisatsinom Hosting)
Lithics
April 3-6

Boulder (Indian Peaks Hosting)
Geophysics
May 1-4

Durango (San Juan Basin Hosting)
Ceramic Description and Analysis
May 15-18

South Park/Fairplay (Site Stewards Hosting)
Colorado Archaeology
May 29-31

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 & 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)

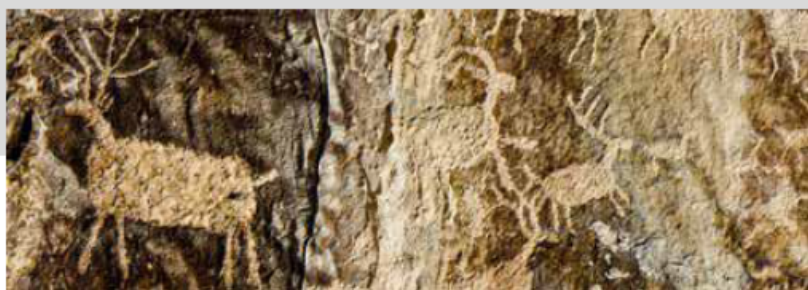
☐ Opt out of printed **Southwest Lore**

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

- **President:** Sally Johnson, sjcas1@gmail.com
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, lahunt970@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Annette Butts, annettebutts63@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, mtncpa@gmail.com
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, nrard@bresnan.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu
- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, sjcas1@gmail.com
- **BLM Liason:** Bill Harris, trlgpa48@gmail.com
- **Library:** Linda Manske, manske46@gmail.com

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Fred Henderson, 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.

Want More?

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

Chipeta April Speaker

Steve Simms

The Fremont area

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

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

March 13-16: Lab Techniques
Grand Junction (CAS-GJ Hosting)

March 27-29: Lithics
San Luis Valley (Fort Garland Hosting)

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