

# The Uncompahgre Journal

September 2024 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 41 Issue 6

## Our September Presentation

### Mark Your Calendar

**Sep 3:** [Hisatsinom Chapter](#) monthly meeting with Robert Bischoff on material culture and social networks in the Southwest. First United Methodist Church, 515 N Park Street, Cortez, 7:00 pm. In person or on Zoom

**Sep 4:** [Montrose County Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with representatives of The Museum of the Mountain West speaking about history and future plans. Fairgrounds Event Center, Montrose, 7:00 pm.

**Sep 11:** [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Venancio Aragon, Diné textile artist, on "The survival of Diné textile traditions." Lyceum, Center for Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm. In person or on Zoom.

**Sep 18:** [Chipeta Chapter](#) monthly meeting with Dan Elsner on the archaeology of beer (*right*). First Methodist Church, S 1st Street and Park Avenue, 7:00 pm. In person event.

**Oct 4, 5, & 6:** State CAS annual meeting with Craig Childs, hosted by Grand Junction Chapter CAS. Courtyard by Marriott, 765 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction (see [poster](#), page 3).

## The Archaeology of Ancient Brews

by Dan Elsner

Dan doesn't have formal training in archaeology, but it's a lifetime hobby. The initial spark was ignited on a dig along the Hudson River in New York State when he was 10 years old. Upon moving to Western Colorado in 1983 the ample archaeological resources continued to pique his interest. Multiple trips to Mesoamerica to visit Olmec, Toltec, Maya and Aztec sites continued to expand his desire to know more about cultures that were on a par with European civilization. After serving New Belgium 1554 beer at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival he became interested in the process behind copying and reproducing ancient brews. Hence this presentation was conceived.

The following will be covered:

Reconstructing ancient brews with organic residue analysis

Using archaeological methods to obtain the best samples from ancient tombs and burials

Discussion of extreme fermented beverages

Chemistry to determine the organic contents

Ancient artwork analysis to give clues to consumption and availability

Review why cultures drink alcoholic beverages

There will be specific beverage reviews and post-lecture sampling of

Chateau Joahu — China

Mavrud — Balkins

1554 — Europe

Mylonas Retsina — Greece



## President's Corner



by Alma Evans

It's September! Welcome back to Chipeta Chapter, Colorado Archaeology Society.

This summer, I had the opportunity to visit many of the petroglyphs on the big island of Hawaii. The petroglyphs were carved with stone tools into the ancient lava flows. Many are before contact with western influences. Perhaps, the opportunity to tell you more about these fascinating petroglyphs will present itself.

In May, The Eagle Rock Shelter visitation sponsored by CAS, Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado West Museums for Archaeology Month was a huge success. Sally Johnson organized this event. Thank you, Sally! She had help from George Decker, Joe Oglesby, Beverly Kolkman, Briana Esparza. "Thank You" to all the volunteers. I was at the entrance/exit point at the gate, which allowed me an opportunity to take a very informal survey as the visitors left. I recorded comments such as: Great, Fantastic, Amazing, Helpers were so Knowledgeable, Thanks for getting us on the right road, it Fulfilled my Expectations, a Glorious Day etc. Of course, there were a few like: It was a very bad road, we could not walk that steep trail. (Note to trip guides, be sure and mention steep grades, lack of shade or other hazards on the trail at sign up).

### **There is good news for participants and volunteers:**

The Colorado CAS meeting on July 27, 2024, adopted the proposal from Alliance of Nonprofits for an accident insurance program to cover participants and volunteers for members of Colorado Archaeology Society including the Chipeta Chapter.

The cost of this insurance will be borne by the Colorado CAS.

CAS – Grand Junction Chapter will be hosting the October Colorado CAS Quarterly Meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Craig Childs will close the conference on that date, exact time TBA. Field trips on the 6<sup>th</sup> are tentative due to on-going conversations with the BLM. On Monday, September 9, a full registration, agenda and times of events should be available on the Colorado CAS website. Committees have been working on this all summer. Your support would be appreciated.

Our Chipeta Chapter is looking forward to a variety of speakers to finish 2024.

If you have ideas or suggestions for field trips, please let a Board Member know.

*Photo courtesy of Alma Evans*

The Uncompahgre Journal is Published 9 times annually by the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.

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Submissions for publication may be emailed to:

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# COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
IN GRAND JUNCTION, CO

**OCT 4, 5, & 6 2024**

The Grand Junction Chapter will be  
hosting the 2024 Annual  
CAS Conference and Member Meeting

**Courtyard By Marriott  
765 Horizon Drive**

**Friday, Oct 4-** CAS State Board Meeting

**Saturday, Oct 5** -Conference Speakers,  
Silent Auction, Networking, Keynote  
Speaker

**Sunday, Oct 6-** Tours of local sites arranged by  
Grand Junction CAS

Lower Monument Canyon Trail to  
Independence Monument  
McDonald Creek Cultural Area  
Shavano Valley Rock Art Site  
Canyon Pintado

**Tracing Time**

Seasons of Rock Art on the Colorado Plateau

**craig childs**

**Saturday Evening  
Keynote Speaker  
Craig Childs**

Craig Childs will present an intriguing look at rock art with stories from his book, "Tracing Time." With a spirit of generosity, humility, and love of the arid, intricate landscapes of the desert Southwest, Childs sets these ancient rock art communications in context, inviting the audience to look and listen deeply.



PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.COLORADOARCHAEOLOGY.ORG](http://WWW.COLORADOARCHAEOLOGY.ORG)



## Chipeta Summer Gathering

### Sally reports:

We had a hot picnic this July, but it was still a great gathering.



Sometimes the rain is welcome to join us for the day, when it cools down the event.



*Photos courtesy of Sally Johnson*

**A note from Sally Johnson, Membership Chair**

**Remember, you have to be a member to enjoy the upcoming State Annual Meeting that is being hosted by the Grand Junction Chapter. You will be able to register on the state website soon for the October 4-6 meeting. It is easy to sign up with the link from our website for membership.**



## From the Editor

If you were a member of a Puebloan community around 1000 years ago, and you wanted to get the attention of all the residents in your local community, how would you do that? You could signal them visually by standing on a high point and waving your arms, but most of them probably wouldn't be looking your way at the right moment. A better approach might be to holler at them, or find some other way to make a loud noise, like maybe a gong—or perhaps a conch shell trumpet.

An article in the journal *Antiquity* suggests that the latter was the case. Conch shells may well have been a way for community leaders to notify rank and file members of an important meeting, or of danger, etc. The authors note that 17 conch shells were found in Chaco Canyon great houses, and conch shells are still used in ceremonies at two contemporary Pueblo communities. Previous work had shown that one could produce a blast of 96 decibels on a conch shell, which might well be enough to mobilize an entire Chacoan great house community, and that the “soundscapes” might have been as important to the region's sensory experience as the viewshed.

Well, how do you test that idea? One way would be to check whether a shell blast would be heard in every corner of the community. Here's how I'd do it: I'd get a friend with great lungs to blow a blast on the conch trumpet every five minutes, and I'd walk around to the outlying habitation sites and note my position on a map every time I heard the conch AND every time I didn't hear it (we'd have to be sure our watches were synchronized). At the end of a couple of months, I'd have strong legs and sore feet, and my friend would have powerful lungs, abraded lips, and probably poor hearing. Perhaps there's a better way.

The authors knew from previous research that one could model this question using GIS software by knowing the decibel level of a conch shell blast along with some characteristics of the landscape, like “physical barriers, air temperature, relative humidity, and ambient sound pressure.” That research had found a close relationship between the range of a conch trumpet and the extent of the dependent community around a great house.

The authors studied five Chacoan communities, defined as a great house and surrounding small habitation sites. Having established that a conch shell trumpet could be heard some 1400 meters in the absence of landscape features that would block the sound, they modeled the various landscapes with the above-mentioned landscape variables taken into account. The results: in no case were all of the community habitation sites within hearing range of the Great Houses, but in all cases a majority of the habitation sites were within range. Statistically, the likelihood that this was a result of chance was found to be very very small. The authors will continue to evaluate this question, but given the results so far, it seems likely that conch shell trumpets could have been important for signaling in all of these communities. The authors feel that the study of “soundsheds” could be as informative as the study of viewsheds at Chacoan great houses.

### References

Van Dyke RM, Primeau KE, Throgmorton K, Witt DE.  
2024 Seashells and sound waves: modelling soundscapes in Chacoan great-house communities. *Antiquity* 98(399):777-794. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2024.54>



**Chipeta Chapter**  
 Colorado Archaeological Society  
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 Montrose, Colorado 81402



## Membership Application

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

*Photos by Dennis DeVore*



(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.



### 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)
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- **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**

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303-866-5746

##### **Leigh Ann Hunt**

Chipeta Chapter PAAC Coordinator  
[paac@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:paac@chipetachaptercas.org)

### Coming Up in October:

**Connie Massingale**

**Creating Color in Prehistoric Art of the Southwest**

### 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.*