

The Uncompahgre Journal

October 2024 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Volume 41 Issue 7

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 2: [Montrose Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with Chris Miller on preserving history and heritage. Montrose County Event Center, 7:00 pm.

Oct 4, 5, 6: [CAS](#) Annual Meeting, Grand Junction, Courtyard by Marriott, 765 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction. *See page 4, below.*

Oct 9: [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Larry Baker on past and recent research at Salmon Ruin. Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm. In person and Zoom.

Oct 16: [Chipeta Chapter](#) monthly meeting with Connie Massingale on creating color in prehistoric art of the Southwest (*right and below*). United Methodist Church, S. Park Ave and S. 1st Street, 7:00 pm.



Our October Presentation

Creating Color in Prehistoric Art of the Southwest Pigment procurement, processing, and application in the pictographs of Utah and Colorado

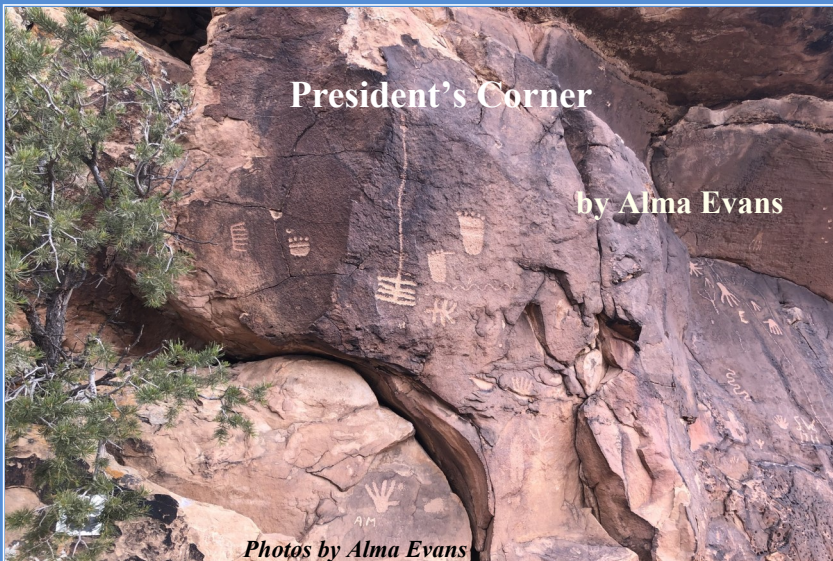
by Connie Massingale

Red ochre, also known as iron oxide or hematite, has been revered for over 200,000 years as evidenced in the archaeological record. Its usage in funerary contexts, self ornamentation, staining on jewelry and weaponry, medicinally, in tool making, and in creating imagery on stone has played a significant role in the evolution of man.

In this presentation, Massingale will touch on ancient uses of ochre throughout time, and discuss the use of red ochre and other mineral and organic pigments used in the incredible pictographs found throughout Utah and Colorado.



Connie Massingale is a certified avocational archaeologist who has a deep interest in the landscapes of the Four Corners and the people who have traveled through, and lived on, this landscape. She is a volunteer at the BLM in Moab and a site steward in Grand and San Juan Counties. She works at the Edge of Cedars museum in Blanding, Utah, documenting ceramics.



President's Corner

by Alma Evans

Photos by Alma Evans

At this writing, the Colorado CAS Conference will be held October 4, 5, & 6, 2024. I am sure it will be a huge success. The committee volunteers have been working all summer to do all the behind-the-scenes work for this event. A special thank you goes to Sally Johnson, whose expertise and experience was a great help with the planning and organization. A big thank you also to everyone who supported Grand Junction CAS to make this event a success.

Our "Speaker's Committee" continues to bring us interesting speakers. In October we get to listen to Connie Massingale talk to us about Creating Color in Prehistoric Art of the Southwest. In November, several of our

members will give short presentations on different topics. December, of course, is the month of our Christmas party.

I appreciate the enthusiasm and camaraderie we share together and have enjoyed being the Chipeta CAS President. In the upcoming year, I shall be traveling, which is the reason I would like to form a nomination committee to find new candidates for positions on the CAS Board. We could look at some new options such as having two people share the Presidency. I would be open to being a co-President for the 2025 year, sharing and showing that the job is not as difficult as it may seem.

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In Memorium

We lost another historian and archaeologist last month in the passing of Steve Baker. Steve was an honorary member of the Chipeta Chapter, as well as an important part of the Archaeology world in our area. Steve had a passion for history and often spearheaded many projects like the Kallstrom (Cerise) Homestead, saving part of the jacal, and digging into the outhouses of Ouray and Montrose homesteads. He spent numerous years on his book *Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765: The First Spaniards Among the Ute and Paiute Indians on the Trails to Teguayo*. I have attended many of his talks on his projects, and his passion for history and his knowledge along with his sense of humor always amazed me. He was a one-of-a-kind explorer and I will miss our conversations.

I would like to share the wonderful obituary of Steve Baker from Crippen Funeral Home:

<https://www.crippenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/steven-baker>

—Sally Johnson



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**

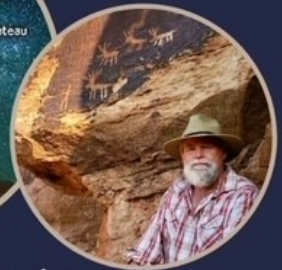
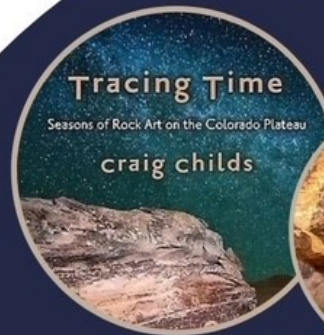
**Courtyard By Marriott
765 Horizon Drive**

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



**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**



From the Editor

Here's a quick sampling of some of the articles I've read in the last couple of months.

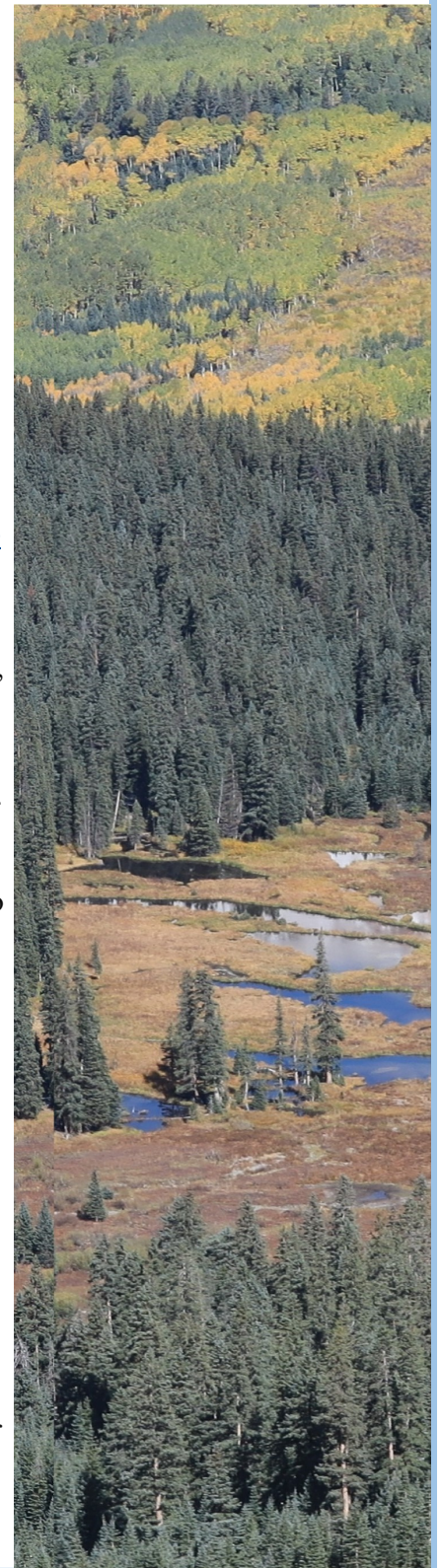
[Human dispersal and plant processing in the Pacific 55,000–50,000 years ago](#): One of the big questions in world archaeology revolves around the peopling of the South Pacific, and the route taken from Malaysia to Australia, where people arrived as early as 60,000 years ago. There is a proposed northern route through Borneo and Indonesia to New Guinea, which was part of the Australian continent at that time. Others suggest a more southerly route through Sumatra, Java, and Timor. Both routes would have required some long sea crossings. This article describes excavations at a site called Mololo, on a small island off the coast of New Guinea, with human occupation levels as early as 55-50,000 years ago, which the authors suggest lends credence to the feasibility of the northern route. They also use faunal and botanical evidence to suggest that these people were comfortable using tropical forest as well as marine resources.

[Forensic toxicology backdates the use of coca plant in Europe to the early 1600s](#): This is not one of the big questions of archaeology, just an interesting note. This article reveals the unexpected evidence of cocaine use in Italy in the 1600s. The researchers performed toxicological examinations of eight preserved brains from a very large crypt containing remains from thousands of individuals who died in a local hospital through several centuries. They were surprised to find clear evidence of breakdown products of chewing cocaine leaves in two of the brains, a couple of hundred years before cocaine was thought to have arrived in Europe.

[Rapanui genomes reveal resilience and pre-European contact with the Americas](#): DNA analysis of 15 skeletons (in collections scattered around the world) from Rapanui (popularly known as Easter Island) which seems to show two important things. A popular theory has circulated for years that the population of Rapanui crashed shortly before the arrival of Europeans, due to overpopulation and the resultant overexploitation of available resources. This study found no evidence of such a crash. Rather, the DNA sequences indicate that the population grew slowly from the time of arrival in Rapanui, reaching a maximum level right about the time of the arrival of Europeans. The second interesting finding was that there was about a 10% admixture of native South American genes in all the individuals, indicating round-trip excursions from Rapanui to South America dating to before the arrival of Europeans (1250-1430 CE).

[Implications of Rock Art Aesthetics in Olmec Sculpture](#): This is not high-tech, but it does seem cutting edge, in a way. This is a very detailed and painstaking study of the nature of the relationship between Olmec sculpture and contemporaneous rock art. It is not science really, but art history, or interpretive archaeology, and it's very interesting reading. It suggests that the monument sculptors occasionally borrowed themes from the rock art in order to create a connection between the urban settings of the sculptures and the wild settings of the rock art.

[The Fremont Frontier: Living at the Margins of Maize Farming](#). This is high-tech modeling that deals with corn agriculture among the western Fremont. It is a very detailed analysis of what we know of the western Fremont, especially regarding the places where they found it possible to raise maize in an inhospitable environment. It is mostly a description of the creation of their model and an evaluation of how well it fits with other descriptions of the Fremont subsistence strategy. It's very dense, but packed with information.



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: _____

Photos by Dennis DeVore



(email required to receive Chipeta Chapter newsletters & field trip info)

Check One: **Annual Dues*** (includes state CAS dues): Check one

New Family (2 or more members same household)\$40
 Renewal 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
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- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, casrep@chipetachaptercas.org

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- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, membership@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Site Steward Coordinator:** 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>

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Next month: member short presentations

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.