

The Uncompahgre Journal

November 2025 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Volume 42 Issue 8

Our November Presentations

Mark Your Calendar

Nov 12: San Juan Basin archaeological Society monthly meeting with Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers on the end of the Mimbres culture. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, Durango, 7:00 pm (also on Zoom).

Nov 19: Chipeta Chapter monthly meeting with a potpourri of talks (*right*). United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Avenue, 7:00 pm.

Rein van West

Wife Jan and I have been exploring the Colorado Plateau for 20 years and have been members of Chipeta for about as long. We are not trained academically in rock art — our interest is purely avocational. We are current members of CAS - GJ and the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA). I have been a Great Gallery volunteer ranger in the Maze District for 7 years. Ever since first seeing the Great Gallery pictographs I have been fascinated with the remarkable imagery of these people and who they are. The Barrier Canyon Style (BCS) is a stand-alone style that is distinguished by the skill of the artists. My talk will focus on the little we know about the people credited with making these images.

Dan Elsner

I am an avocational archaeologist & Chipeta member. I will talk about the oldest depiction of heavenly bodies known anywhere in the world: the Nebra Sky Disc. The bronze treasure was unearthed in 1999 on the Mittelberg Hill forest in Germany. The initial disc was started during the 18th century BC with multiple changes over the years. I'll discuss the significance and meaning of the disc.

Leigh Ann Hunt

REALLY BIG STONES AND BRONZE--Tour of Ireland's Prehistory. Leigh Ann will give a quick peek at Ireland's famous Neolithic and Bronze Age sites that she toured in 2022. Newgrange and Knowth barrow tombs—artificial mountains ringed with petroglyphs; Poul Nabrone, a mega-ton rock tomb on the barren Burren of the west coast; Dun Aengus--massive ring fort on Aran Island, (home of the Fisherman's sweater) could be included, along with artifacts in the national museums. Scenic, green, and wet, Ireland has some of the most amazing early Bronze Age sites in western Europe.

Leigh Ann Hunt is an archaeologist educated at Northern Arizona and California State University at Sacramento, with digging experiences in coastal Peru, Romania, the Sierra Nevada, and Utah, California missions, and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison national forests. She has been with Chipeta Chapter in various capacities since 2014.





The Nebra Sky Disc
see Dan Elsner's topic, page 1

Photo courtesy of Dan Elsner

 **ALPINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.**
Proud to support the Colorado Archaeological Society



2130 East Main Street, Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-6761
Visit us at www.alpinearchaeology.com



Photos from Leigh Ann's trip to Ireland (*see page 1*)

Photos by Leigh Ann Hunt



Letter from the Outgoing President

Dear Members of the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society,

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Chapter President. As I prepare to retire from this position on December 10, 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have worked alongside such dedicated individuals. This period marks a crucial juncture for our organization, one that will shape our future trajectory.

The selection of a new president is essential for the continued vitality of our Chapter.

Without someone stepping forward to take on this leadership role, we face significant risks that could negatively impact the Chapter. The momentum we have built through years of hard work and stewardship may be lost, threatening the progress of ongoing projects and the regularity of our meetings. Additionally, our collective influence within the broader archaeological community could diminish without strong leadership.

The absence of a president also jeopardizes our ability to secure funding, organize events, and maintain partnerships with academic and cultural institutions. These elements are vital to our mission and the preservation of our Chapter's legacy.

A lack of succession sends a concerning signal to potential members and collaborators. It may suggest that we are not invested in sustaining our Chapter, which could lead to a decline in trust, reduced engagement, and, ultimately, the weakening of our organization.

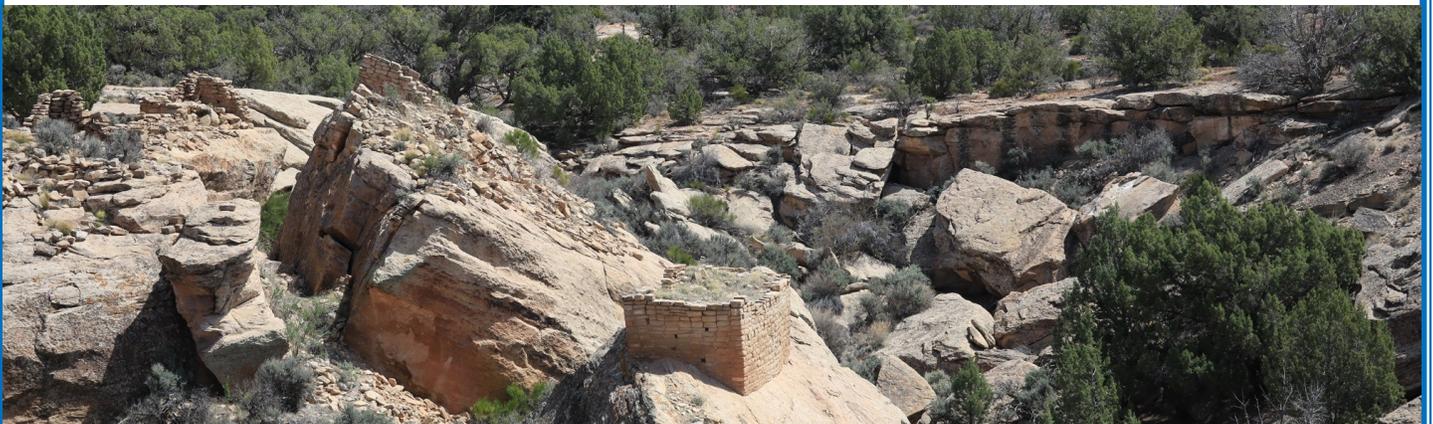
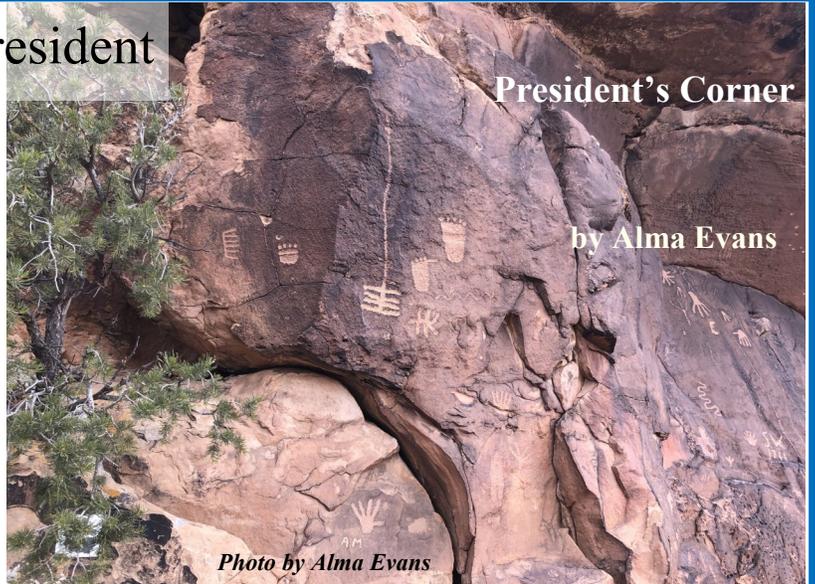
Leadership is not about achieving perfection. It is about demonstrating commitment, having a vision, and being willing to learn in the process of serving others. The Chipeta Chapter has flourished because its members have taken responsibility for guiding its direction. If we truly value our legacy as the oldest and largest Chapter, someone must step up to lead us into the future.

We must not allow inactivity to undo the progress that passion and scholarship have achieved. The ongoing success of the Colorado Archaeology Society Chipeta Chapter depends on a member assuming a leadership role.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful members whose dedication has made this Chapter one of the best. Let us work together to ensure it remains the best.

It takes all of us, with love,

Alma Evans



A Note from the Membership Chair

by Sally Johnson

I would like the membership to know that I will be gone from November till almost February, so if you need to pay your dues, we have it worked out that the treasurer will send to the state. The easiest thing you could do is go under the **Join/Donate** section of our website and then go to the state membership and pay through **Member365**. You should have your name already set up. You just have to set up an account with the website if you have not already done so. This is also a great way to get your Southwest Lore through the website, with the added benefit that your check won't be held up for months on end. By the way, if you pay by cash, I still have to write a check to send off to the state, so keep that in mind.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and if you have any questions, feel free to call me or email me and I'll be glad to help you out.

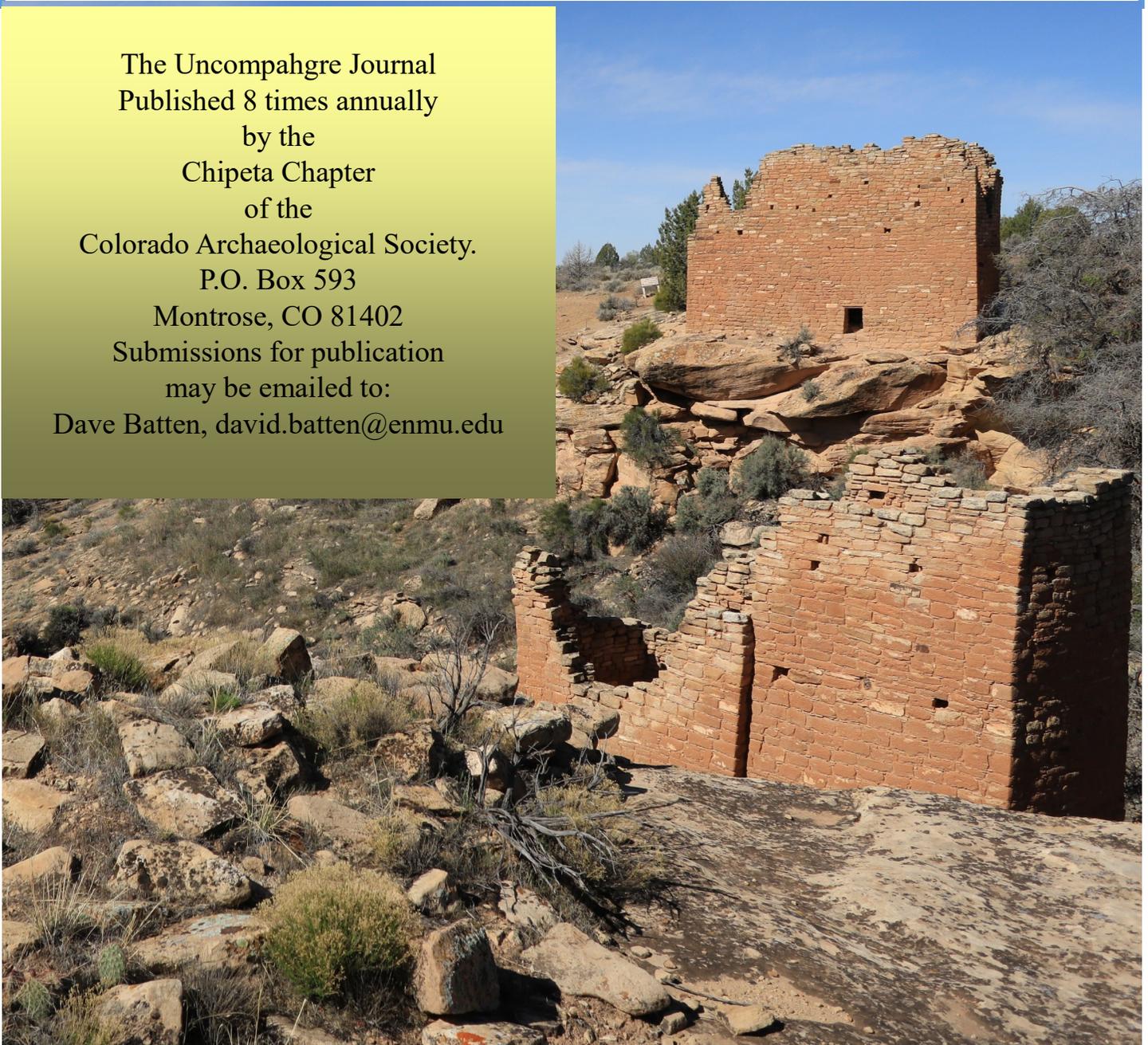
The Uncompahgre Journal
Published 8 times annually
by the
Chipeta Chapter
of the

Colorado Archaeological Society.
P.O. Box 593

Montrose, CO 81402

Submissions for publication
may be emailed to:

Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu



CHIPETA CHAPTER ** C.A.S.

SAVE THE DATE!

LUMINARIAS AND
PUEBLOS

Field Trip

Cortez, Colorado

December 5 & 6, 2025



Dan Elsner and Leigh Ann Hunt are planning a fun winter fling to Cortez--

FRIDAY 12/5—Visit Canyon of the Ancients Luminaria Night (lights, music, food) celebration with plus visiting the museum and visitor center Friday afternoon and evening.

SATURDAY-12/6 - Visit **Wallace Pueblo** Great House with **Dr. Bruce Bradley** in the morning. Optional visit to **Yellowjacket Village** (the largest PIII site between Mesa Verde and Bears Ears) with local guide Barbara Stagg in the afternoon . Stay overnight one or two nights in Cortez.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING OUT IN NOVEMBER!

Let DAN ELSNER know if you are interested-- but we will not finalize our plans or make any reservations for anyone until closer to the time. Just be ready!

DAN at elsner.dan@gmail.com or LEIGH ANN at lahunt970@gmail.com for more information.



From the Editor

Have any of you been tempted to consider *Popular Mechanics* as a promising source of archaeological information? It wouldn't have occurred to me. Yet in scrolling around on the web a couple of weeks ago, I found an astounding headline and a link to this article in *Popular Mechanics*: "Scientists Discovered a Lost Land Bridge That Could Rewrite the Story of Humanity." Intrigued, I couldn't resist following the link. The article consisted of three bullet points and two paragraphs of text, along with a stock photo of Natural Bridge State Park in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. One bullet point declared that archaeologists had "found 138 stone tools off the coast" of a region of Turkey, which included the "incredible" presence of Mousterian tools (generally associated with Neanderthals). In fact, they were found on dry land near the coast.

Another bullet suggested that this study identified a "previously unknown land bridge" connecting Turkey with Greece. Hence the photo of the natural bridge in Virginia, I guess. In fact, it is not news that there would have been land routes through the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece during glacial periods when the ocean levels were much lower than at present. This could be considered a land bridge, but only in the same sense as the Bering Land Bridge: actually a living landscape hundreds of kilometers wide. This would not have been something that people crossed, but rather something that people lived and hunted and gathered on, likely spent their entire lives on.

The final bullet stressed that the "new land bridge could rewrite the story of hominin migration" in this area, because until now "experts ... believed that hu-

mans migrated through the Balkans or the Levant to reach Europe." Fascinating. Given that Greece is in the Balkans and Turkey is situated immediately between the Levant and Greece, the new information would still suggest that people moved through—and lived in—the Levant and the Balkans as they slowly made their way towards western Europe.

In fact, the original article is of interest because the team surveyed an area that had been neglected in the past, and because they were looking for—and found—artifacts dating to Neanderthal times and beyond. In their discussion, the Turkish researchers pointed out that at some time periods the surveyed areas would have been part of an unbroken landscape that stretched from present day Turkey to Greece through areas that are now under water. At no point do they claim to have found a previously unknown land bridge between the two countries, though they do stress that the area would have been an active corridor for travel when the sea levels were low.

I will do my best in the future to avoid following random links on the internet.

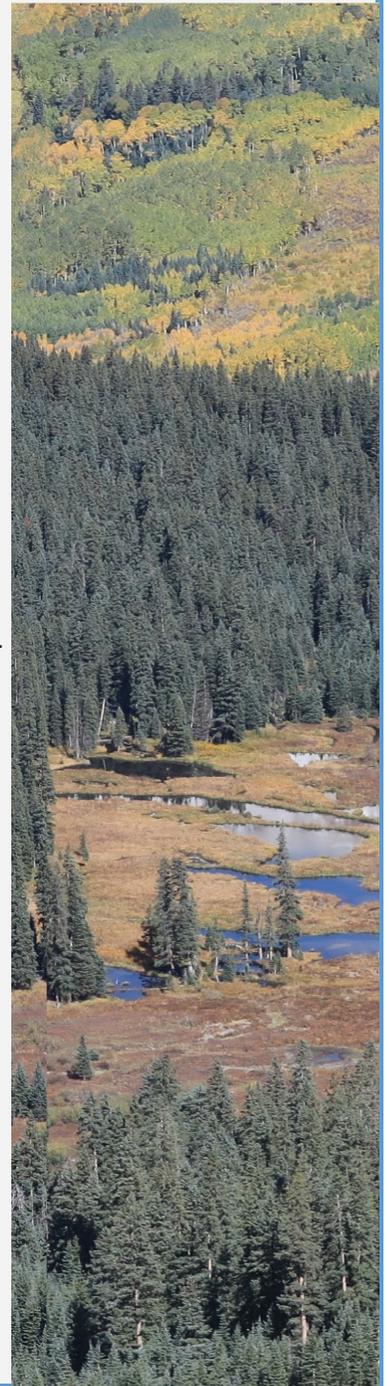
References

Bulut, Hande, Göknur Karahan & Kadriye Özçelik

2025 Discovering the Paleolithic Ayvalık: A Strategic Crossroads in Early Human Dispersals Between Anatolia and Europe. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*, (17 Sep 2025). <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564894.2025.2542777>

Orf, Darren

2025 Scientists Discovered a Lost Land Bridge That Could Rewrite the Story of Humanity. *Popular Mechanics*, Published October 17, 2025. <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a69045794/new-land-bridge/>



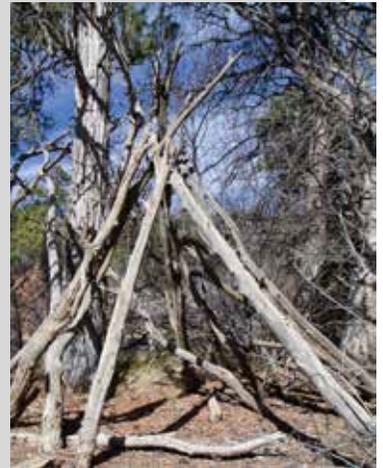
Chipeta Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 593
Montrose, Colorado 81402



Membership Application

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

Photos by Dennis DeVore



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
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, vp@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Secretary:** Elizabeth Binder, secretary@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, casrep@chipetachaptercas.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, editor@chipetachaptercas.org
- **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>

PAAC Contacts

Sarah A. Allaun

Assistant State Archaeologist
sarah.allaun@state.co.us
303-866-5746

Leigh Ann Hunt

Chipeta Chapter PAAC Coordinator
vp@chipetachaptercas.org

Future Speakers

January: Zeb Miracle

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.