



The View from Here

By Norm Nelson

...includes a successful Annual Meeting, two recent trainings, a new Chapter Coordinator in the SW Chapter, and more partners in need of SiteWatch volunteers!

The Annual Meeting was in Santa Fe this year, on February 19 (see article Page 4). Several great presentations were made by guest lecturers, including Dr. Robert Dello-Russo (OAS/MNM) about his Paleoindian research at the Water Canyon Site, Dr. Alysia Abbott (Abbotech) and her presentation Pre-Contact occupants near the San Miguel Chapel, Peter Lipscomb from NM State Parks and his talk "Archaeology meets Astronomy; the Sky of our Ancestors and the Chaco Canyon Supernova", and Dedie Snow's (NMCRIS/ARMS) presentation "A History of ARMS and Site Survey in NM". All were informative and entertaining!

Gary Newgent provided a Site Steward Foundation Update and Business Meeting. For

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Mission Statement

SiteWatch is a statewide volunteer program coordinated by the State Historic Preservation Division (HPD) and funded by public and private partnerships. SiteWatch is founded upon the belief that the preservation of New Mexico's cultural heritage is essential to our state and nation's knowledge and quality of life. SiteWatch seeks to conserve and protect cultural properties by coordinating the efforts of New Mexico's citizens and landowners as they serve as stewards and educational docents of their own cultural resources. By reducing the degradation of cultural treasures due to vandalism, theft, and natural processes through monitoring and education, SiteWatch ensures that irreplaceable heritage resources can be appreciated by current and future generations of New Mexicans. ◀

Handbook: The most recent copy of the handbook is posted with our SiteWatch forms (and this newsletter) at:

<http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/documents/128.DOCUMENT.pdf>

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anyone new to SiteWatch, the Foundation is our friends group and assists us every year with the meeting. Thanks to them, we have a meeting space, a silent auction, and lunch for attendees. Check out their website and consider joining the foundation...they love to set up tours and travel about the region to visit archaeological wonders!

New to the meeting was a segment devoted to the chapter representatives and whatever they deemed important to report on. It was a chance for chapters to hear directly from one another, seek answers or feedback, and to share the good news from around the state.

Two trainings have been held in the past few months, one in Carlsbad (our thanks to the Carlsbad Museum for the training space) and one in Santa Fe (many thanks to our partners in the Santa Fe Forest for a training space). See Newsbits for more details!

Southwest Chapter news is that Kyle is handing the coordinator's job over to Marilyn Markel. She is a long-time member of the Grant Co. Archeological Society and is very active in educational outreach programs. Many thanks to Marilyn for keeping the chapter on the move. I thank Kyle for all his energy and time to the program and look forward to his continued participation in the SiteWatch program.

More partners are interested in utilizing SiteWatch volunteers. Bandelier National Monument wants to monitor the back country after last year's massive Las Conchas fire. Erosion is an issue and the sites are easier to spot now that the undergrowth is gone. Discussions are slated for June. Petroglyph National Monument has also expressed a renewed interest. I will be meeting with representatives of the park on May 14 to see what we can work out. Graffiti is the biggest issue for the park and our presence will help!

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is a recent newcomer to SiteWatch, but already has 21 sites being monitored. They anticipate more activity in the future. BLM sites in the Hobbs area have been added recently, with a very active group of volunteers operating out of the Western Heritage Museum. More BLM sites around the Carlsbad area should also be added to the list soon.

→ Look for new activity around the Roswell area in the coming year (BLM lands). Socorro BLM is also looking to get back into the act, and the new Cibola Forest Archaeologist, Jeremy Kulishceck from the Santa Fe Forest, promises more activity in the near future. Magdalena, Torrance County, and the Kiowa Grasslands figure into the picture. So keep up the good work, let me know if you have any needs in your chapter, and stay well out there

Norm Nelson, NM State SiteWatch Coordinator

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Photo by Norm Nelson

SiteWatch Chapters and Areas

- Central New Mexico (Albuquerque)**
- Chaco Culture National Historical Park**
- Elephant Butte/Caballo (Truth or Consequences)**
- Jemez Mountains (Los Alamos)**
- Lincoln County (Lincoln NF)**
- Middle Rio Grande/ El Camino Real (Socorro)**
- North Central (Taos)**
- Northwest (Farmington)**
- Quemado (Reserve District, USFS)**
- Santa Fe/Galisteo Basin & Pecos NHP**
- Southeast (Carlsbad)**
- Southwest (Silver City)**
- South Central (Las Cruces)**
- Torrance County (Torrance County Arch. Soc.)**
- Valencia County Chapter**

See Chapter Coordinators list at:
<http://www.abgarchaeology.org/nmsw.shtml>

NEWS BITS

Congratulations, New Chapter Coordinator

SiteWatch is lucky to be getting the services of Marillyn Markel, who has kindly agreed to become the chapter coordinator for the Southwest Chapter. Congratulations Marilyn! Your energy and dedication are already legendary in SiteWatch; we wish you luck with your new duties. We also deeply thank outgoing chapter coordinator Kyle Meredith, who has put in many, many hours of hard work on the chapter the last few years. Take a deserved rest Kyle, but don't disappear from our ranks—we need you!



Hueco Tanks Rock Art

Site Steward Foundation Offering Fall Tour

Gary Newgent, president of the Site Steward Foundation of the Santa Fe National Forest, tells us that the Foundation is sponsoring a fall 2012 tour of the Hueco Tanks site near El Paso, Texas. The Foundation, though founded in northern New Mexico, is making an effort to reach out to SiteWatch volunteers in the southern portion of New Mexico. The tour is being planned by Bill Hudson, president of the Grant County Archaeological Society in the Silver City area and new member at large on the Foundation Board. Gary says more details, date, etc. will be forthcoming soon via mass email announcements, but also check for information on the Foundation website www.sitestewardfoundation.org.



El Morro National Monument: Exchange Students Fined For Vandalism

By Leslie Bastik

From the National Park Service Morning Report -- Monday,
April 23, 2012

On March 21st, two South Korean foreign exchange students attending the University of New Mexico on student visas pled guilty to charges of disturbing an archeological site. On October 13, 2011, park employees discovered two names – “Super Duper Dana” and “Gabriel” – illegally carved into the sandstone bluff known as Inscription Rock. After ascertaining that the monument visitor register included an entry that day by a visitor who identified herself as Dana Choi of South Korea, a protection ranger began an investigation. Through Facebook, the ranger was able to identify the defendants, who were arrested on December 2, 2011 based on a criminal complaint. The students entered their guilty pleas under plea agreements that required them to pay almost \$30,000 to the NPS to cover the costs of repairing the damage they caused.



NewsBits, Cont'd: Recent Trainings, Santa Fe and Carlsbad

By Phil Young and Rebecca Procter

Late January saw the first training session of 2012, held in Carlsbad at the behest of BLM archaeologist Jim Renn. The attendees included local citizens with long-time interests in archaeology, former site stewards getting re-introduced to the program now that the chapter is being started again, and professionals from Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The afternoon field trip was to a large burned-rock ring midden, a feature related to prehistoric hot-rocks roasting of mescal roots. Such sites are ubiquitous in the southeastern part of our state, and occasionally contain deposits that are intact enough for thermoluminescent dating.



On Saturday March 24th, eleven interested site stewards journeyed from Albuquerque & Taos plus locations in-between to join Santa Fe-Galisteo Basin Chapter Coordinator Phil Young, Deputy State Coordinator/State Parks Archaeologist Rebecca Procter, and Cibola NF Archaeologist Jeremy Kulisheck in discussions about current SiteWatch programs and protocols. Many of the attendees were new SiteWatch stewards attending for the Introduction & Orientation training aspects, while others were more experienced, including a current steward, an experienced site steward from the Santa Fe National Forest Site Stewards, a professional archaeologist, and a tribal heritage program representative. Two of the newly trained were UNM students---(Go Anthro Lobos!) The afternoon field practices introduction was conducted at San Marcos Pueblo, led by none other than Sir William Baxter, site steward and tour guide extraordinaire. A fine and instructive time was had by all...

Annual Conference Full to Brim with Varied Speakers

State Coordinator Norm Nelson and Acting SHPO Jan Biella welcomed stewards from around the state to our first annual conference to be held at the Museum of New Mexico Stewart Udall Center, a beautiful "Pueblo Modernist" building at Museum Hill in Santa Fe on February 19. The conference included important business, but was made especially fun by the bevy of special presentations by professionals.



We heard about the sky of our ancestors and the Chaco Canyon Supernova petroglyph from State Parks interpreter and astronomer Peter Lipscomb. Exciting and unusually intact Paleoin Indian deposits are being unearthed and studied by the team of Dr. Robert Dello-Russo of the Office of Archaeological Studies. Robert gave a terrific outline of science in the making, showing how it is very much a work in progress. Dr. Alysia Abbott described fascinating finds at the San Miguel Mission church in Santa Fe, confirming that indeed the site was occupied long before the Spanish arrived in New Mexico. Helping us understand how archaeology has evolved in our state was Ms. Dedie Snow of the Archaeological Records Management Section. She gave details of the ARMS database and how site survey records have evolved and increased in sophistication from the 1930s to today.

Just to make sure our brains were fired up and ready for all that knowledge, the Site Steward Foundation once again provided a terrific buffet lunch for participants right on site. Thanks to the SSF for their generosity, and for making it possible for the stewards to get together over food and share stories and insights! Extra thanks to state coordinator Norm Nelson and volunteer state coordinator Mark Rosenblum for their work getting us a venue and helping with setup and cleanup!

Show 'Em How It's Done, Site Stewards! Site Damage Reported and Evaluated

In early March, site stewards Bob and Wilma Michael of the Elephant Butte Chapter visited their site for a quarterly review. A large and important Mogollon village at the northern end of Elephant Butte Lake, the site was first recorded in the 1930s and has seen multiple re-recordings, but also much natural and man-made damage over the years. That morning, Bob and Wilma found clear evidence of machine damage to the site, and observed vehicles from a road construction and maintenance crew nearby. Bob made photos of the damage to send to the chapter coordinator, but even more important, he had taken earlier baseline photos of the site in some of the same locations. It was thus very easy to see where new damage had occurred. Chapter coordinator Rebecca Procter worked with the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist Mark Hungerford to identify the road crew and find out what went wrong. It turns out the workmen were from Mark's own agency, and there had been a breakdown in communication about where the crew should not go during its road grading work. At an office-wide meeting at his agency, Mark was able to convey how serious the situation was but also confirm that the damage appears to have been unintentional.

As heartbreaking as the incident is, it has been the stimulus for some good actions. The Bureau of Reclamation is taking steps to make sure its field crews are never allowed to go out without a manager present who is aware of sensitive cultural sites that must be avoided. Rebecca and Mark Hungerford have visited to evaluate the level of damage done and consider next steps. Mr. Hungerford is now working to get funding to do some digital mapping and archaeological work to retrieve information from the damaged areas to help mitigate for the loss of intact deposits.

Most important of all, Bob and Wilma kept their heads, documented the damage, and left the site right away to make sure they stayed safe! A HUGE thank you to them for doing such a great job! This is what we are all about, and it's great to see stewards so committed to our mission. Rebecca just wants to thank all the stewards at the Elephant Butte Chapter for being so diligent and dedicated---we are following in the footsteps of fantastic stewards state-wide, and want to maintain their high standard!



The slab-lined bin (see uprights in left side of photo) which was narrowly missed by a road grader during recent damage to this Mogollon pithouse village.



John Morris receives Richard A. Bice Award, Archaeological Society of NM. Photo by Gretchen Obenauf

John Morris Recognized for Years of Excellent Service to the Archaeological Community

The Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement, 2012, inscribed as follows:

"In recognition of a decade of extensive contributions to the New Mexico Site Watch Volunteer Program."

John's volunteer efforts include service in multiple capacities to the Santa Fe National Forest, Cibola national Forest, and the Rio Grande and Central SiteWatch Chapters. Further recognition is warranted for his efforts as steward and program coordinator with the Chaco Culture National Historical Park Program.→



→Speaking from my experience working with John at Chaco, I have found him to be a dedicated volunteer and has done a great job training new site stewards. He has been instrumental in helping with recent revisions to the program, and has become a first class student in our rock art remediation program. Not only that, but he is a great guy to work with. We hope we can keep him for many years to come.

Contributed by Roger A. Moore,
V.T. Archaeologist,
Chaco Culture National
Historical Park



Interior windows, Pueblo Bonito
Photo by Rebecca Procter



New Mexico SiteWatch

QuickSheet – Site Visit Safety Tips

- Follow the mandatory SiteWatch sign-out procedure: make sure someone (preferably your Chapter Coordinator) knows where you're going, your route, and when you're due back.
- Take the time to make sure your vehicle is in good condition, with a full tank of gas
- If using a cell phone, be sure it works onsite. If not absolutely certain, bring a backup form of communication.
- Carry lots of water and extra food (enough for an extended stay in the field due to vehicle breakdown, new site discovery, or other unexpected delay)
- Be aware of the weather – don't guess, don't take chances
- Be cautious when driving through arroyos, washes, or muddy areas
- If your vehicle breaks down, stay near it. Leave your vehicle only if certain beyond doubt where help is located
- If you must walk, rest 10 minutes per hour.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight
- Wear the proper clothes for conditions onsite; keep in mind changes in altitude, storm forecasts, etc.
- Travel and work in teams (at least two, depending on agency guidelines).

- When approaching your site, be aware of fresh disturbances (tire tracks, footprints, vehicles); View the site from as far away as safely possible- do not approach if suspicious activity is taking place: **FIND-REPORT-DOCUMENT**. Observe what is going on from safe distance and report to authorities. *
- Do not pickup "trash" on way into site; it may be evidence from illegal activity. After site is inspected and there is no new unauthorized activity you can pickup recent litter on your way out (leave potential historic items).
- Always check-in with your Chapter Coordinator upon safe arrival home, or completion of your trip. Report what you found to your Chapter Coordinator (as required by the land manager).

* site #, date, mileage, time spent traveling, time on-site, what was found, etc.

NOTE: The Chapter Coordinator is responsible for getting the information to the appropriate Agency Representative after each visit or Quarterly (or in some cases just annually) depending on the needs of the Agency.

SITE STEWARD FOUNDATION, INC.

JOIN US! The Site Steward Foundation, Inc. was formed in 2008 to generate and manage resources to support the efforts of site stewards in the state of New Mexico. Site stewards volunteer to help conserve, preserve, monitor, research and provide education about archaeological, historical and cultural resources throughout the state.



Who We Are

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Foundation is eligible for government and private foundation grants as well as tax deductible business and individual contributions. Public service announcements can also be obtained due to the Foundation's non-profit status. Member hours spent volunteering as a site steward can be used to receive matching grants.

What We Do

The primary mission of the Foundation is to aid organizations such as the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program and the New Mexico SiteWatch Program, in addition to other organizations with similar purposes and objectives. Funds will be used to support the conservation, preservation, monitoring, education and research of archaeological, historical and cultural resources in the state of New Mexico.



501(c)(3) non profit organization
www.sitestewardfoundation.org

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SITE STEWARD FOUNDATION, INC.

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL TO:
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Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Membership dues and contributions will be acknowledged.

Funds will be used to support the conservation, preservation, monitoring, education and research of archaeological, historical and cultural resources in the state of New Mexico.

**Support New Mexico Site Stewards and Preserve
New Mexico's Cultural Heritage by joining today.**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$10 Member

\$25 Friend *gift to you – Cool Tie Head or Neck Band*

\$100 Business *gift to you – Two Cool Ties Head or Neck Bands*

ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF: _____

Please use my contribution for SFNF Site Steward Program

Please use my contribution for New Mexico SiteWatch Program

Please use my contribution as needed

Please make checks payable to: **Site Steward Foundation, Inc.**
Membership dues and contributions to Site Steward Foundation, Inc.
are tax deductible

Benefits of Membership

Site stewards and anyone interested in supporting New Mexico's site stewards and the preservation and conservation of archaeological, historical and cultural resources in the state of New Mexico are encouraged to join Site Steward Foundation, Inc. Membership benefits include tax deductions for annual membership dues and contributions to the Foundation. Members are also invited to attend tours, lectures and educational events sponsored by the Foundation.

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