Aztec Ruins, Earl Morris & CU

- by Stephen H. Lekson and Erin L. Baxter

The University of Colorado has a century-long connection with Aztec Ruins National Monument, the great 13th century Ancestral Pueblo site on the Animas River in northern New Mexico. (Aztec is only a dozen miles south of the Colorado border on the Animas River, which heads in Colorado’s La Plata mountains – so maybe it’s OK to claim it for Colorado and CAS!) Settlers in the late 19th century named the ruins after the Mexican empire, thinking that these were the mythical northern homelands of the Aztecs. Aztec Ruins has long been recognized as a Chaco “outlier” – the two sites are about 50 miles apart – but it was more than that: Aztec was Chaco’s successor. Lekson (and others) argues that Aztec was the “new Chaco,” a relocation of the region’s “capital” from Chaco due north to a new site, from which Chacoan rulers attempted to rule Mesa Verde – but ultimately failed. Whatever Aztec was, it was the largest and most interesting “Mesa Verde” site – that is, sites with Mesa Verde pottery. Even the biggest Mesa Verde towns like Yellow Jacket (excavated by CU and Crow Canyon) weren’t as large or as complex: Yellow Jacket was a farming town with a few public buildings, Aztec Ruins was a major center (some say: capitol) with huge Great Houses and a monumental “cityscape”. The first significant -- and still the most extensive – excavations at Aztec Ruins were undertaken by Earl H. Morris (CU BA

Earl Morris and Alfred Kidder, 1938
'14, MA '1915) from 1916 to 1922. Morris was not working for the University; he was employed by the American Museum of Natural History in New York. But we claim Morris as both a CU alum and a “founding father” of the University’s Museum of Natural History. His archives – field notes, photos, maps – are split between the Museum and Norlin Library: a treasure-trove of documents and images! (More photos and notes are stored at the American Museum of Natural History, in New York, and at Aztec Ruins.) Earl Morris was born in relative poverty in Chama in 1889, the son of a mule freighter and a teacher. He became the family breadwinner at age 14 when his father was murdered, but he still managed to graduate valedictorian from Farmington High in 1908. Archaeology was not in the course offerings when he entered CU-Boulder, so he pursued a degree in psychology thinking perhaps he might become a teacher. In 1912, a chance meeting with Junius Henderson, curator of the CU Museum of Natural History, began Morris’ 40-year association with the Museum. The sophomore saw Pueblo pots in the museum, and told Prof. Henderson he knew where to find more. That summer, Henderson hired young Earl as a museum researcher, and he spent his vacation “finding pots” throughout southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. From those shaky beginnings, Morris became a respected professional and made key contributions to Southwestern archaeology. The University recognized Morris first in 1931 with the Norlin Medal and in 1947 with an honorary doctorate of letters; and in 1955 he received the first-ever A.V. Kidder award from the Society for American Archaeology. In the many decades since Morris’s excavations, several smaller (but very interesting!) research projects were undertaken at Aztec Ruins by the National Park Service. And the site was interpreted and re-interpreted in light of evolving understandings of Southwestern prehistory. The NPS excavated a “tri-wall structure” – an unusual bull’s-eye-shaped building with two rows of rooms circling

“Fig 1: “Reconstruction of Aztec Ruins by Dennis Holloway”
http://www.dennisrhollowayarchitect.com/"
a central kiva (Figure 1). Other excavations were required for “stabilization” (keeping the ruin upright) most recently several years of important excavations by NPS archaeologists Gary Brown. At the same time, we were learning more about Aztec Ruins without digging: surface surveys on the high terraces immediately behind the site. This work by John Stein and Peter McKenna (the junior author helped a bit) revealed a much more complicated complex than you’d guess from a visit to the Monument. Earl Morris excavated the massive West Ruin; but a short distance to the east was an equally huge unexcavated East Ruin and on the terrace above, an enigmatic North Ruin – built not of carefully coursed sandstone masonry, but rather with thick poured adobe walls! (In 2004 Lekson led a small project at Aztec North, probing its structure with several types of geophysical voodoo – radar, resistivity and so forth – but nothing worked and Aztec North keeps its secrets.) Stein and McKenna saw planning beneath this sprawling complex: axes and lines between multiple Tri-walls and Great Kivas literally “lined out” the town plan (see Aztec Ruins reconstruction by Dennis Holloway, http://www.dennisrhollowayarchitect.com/) (Figure 1). Some of those lines were “roads”, landscape monuments and travel corridors familiar from Chaco. Aztec’s roads ran south to Chaco (via Salmon Ruins in Bloomfield NM) and northwest in the general direction of Mesa Verde. The complexity of Aztec’s “cityscape” mirrors or continues that of Chaco Canyon. Most recently, Archaeology Southwest in Tucson AZ is sponsoring a research program at Salmon Ruins, and their analysis now encompasses Aztec Ruins, too (http://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/what-we-do/investigations/pueblos/). And at CU, we are “mining” Morris’s archives and images to learn more about this important site. Morris’s photo collection from Aztec includes shots of muscular fellows shoveling overburden onto horse-carts, placid sheep grazing on the third story of

**Fig 2:** “A Chacoan Road ascends the mesa 1 mile west of Aztec Ruins. Photograph by Earl H. Morris, c. 1917.”

“In 2004 Lekson led a small project at Aztec North, probing its structure with several types of geophysical voodoo – radar, resistivity and so forth – but nothing worked and Aztec North keeps its secrets.”
the ruin, and massive fires he set to burn the overgrowth. Interspersed in the collection are photos that show extraordinary archaeology. Some of these include delicate shell and turquoise offerings sealed into kiva benches, rows of mealing bins with corn still waiting to be ground, and Aztec’s inhabitants -- burials of people carefully wrapped in fine cotton, rush, and rabbit-fur blankets and placed under room floors, often with many of their worldly possessions. Much of the archaeology that Morris photographed was never written about. He always lamented not publishing more about Aztec, though he wrote five monographs. He intended to write up Aztec’s landscape, kivas, and artifacts in his retirement, but many of his original field notes were lost, and the job proved too difficult. Thanks to museum archives, the photos survive for today’s archaeologists to ‘find’ new data. One such “find” is a photograph of a wide Chacoan road about a mile west of Aztec (near the modern-day airport) (Figure 2). Morris snapped this picture sometime in 1917, when newly-fallen snow clearly delineated the berm of the 10m wide (30 ft) road cut across the mesa. It seems evident from photos like this that Aztec wasn’t just ‘on’ the Great North Road that originated in Chaco Canyon. Rather, Aztec was at the center of a series of road systems that linked the whole Aztecan world. This, in turn reinforces the notion that Aztec was, indeed, a ‘capitol’ in its own right with ties throughout much of the Four Corners region. Another photograph comes from the oldest kiva at Aztec Ruins (Kiva L) built in AD 1098 (Figure 3). We can see three important bits of data from photographs that a visitor to Aztec wouldn’t see today. (1) That there is clear evidence that Kiva L was purposefully burned and never used again. Charcoal from the roof can be seen piled against the floor at the top right. This shows that the roof was torched and collapsed en masse onto the floor of the kiva. And Kiva L wasn’t the only kiva that was burned in at Aztec. At least eight kivas were purposefully set ablaze, in one case, with an

“Morris’s photo collection from Aztec includes shots of muscular fellows shoveling overburden onto horse-carts, placid sheep grazing on the third story of the ruin, and massive fires he set to burn the overgrowth.”

Fig 3: “Kiva L in Aztec West. Photograph by Earl H. Morris, 1917.”
adult and 4 children inside. Mapping rooms and kivas like this will give us a better idea of how Aztec was built, used, remodeled, re-used and eventually abandoned. (2) Under the metal basin in Figure 3 there is a circular adobe floor feature, its walls built up high off the floor. This was possibly used as an additional hearth and may have been constructed after the original hearth (the blackened circular feature at lower right) fell out of use, or no longer worked. It could also have been a storage feature (or something else entirely). What is clear is that it wasn’t part of the original construction of the kiva. A scribbled notation on a map in Morris’ surviving notes allude to multiple re-floorings in this kiva. Multiple floors show that the Aztecs used this building for several decades – perhaps longer than any other kiva at Aztec West -- before it was eventually burned. This may show a special significance and long-use of this earliest and most clearly “Chacoan” kiva. (3) Kiva L was the most “Chaco-like” kiva at Aztec. The final photo evidence shows a series of 11 holes in the bench surface (against the kiva wall at left), the best sign we have for “wainscoting” – a particular kind of roof feature that was found at Chaco Canyon. Wainscoting was a roof made of upright wooden poles that would have been seated in these holes and then bent or angled toward the center of the kiva. The wood is gone, but the holes were clearly still visible in 1917. If we needed another clear sign that the builders of Aztec were familiar with Chacoan architecture, this is it. Aztec Ruins is a National Monument and a World Heritage site. It represents a key event in the history of the ancient Southwest, and an important episode in the development of southwestern archaeology. Earl Morris’s notes and photos – preserved, in large part, at the University of Colorado – provide a rich resource for understanding Aztec Ruins without picks and shovels.

Erin Baxter • University of Colorado
Erin is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and a recent recipient of a CAS Alice Hamilton Scholarship. Her work with the photographic collections at CU Boulder has resulted in digitization of over 1000 of Earl Morris’ photographs from his excavations at Aztec Ruins between 1916 and 1922. Making use of these un-published photographs she is building a (GIS) system that will lead to new ideas about the sequences of building and abandonment at this very important Chaco greathouse.

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Steve Lekson • University of Colorado
I am an archaeologist, working in the U.S. Southwest. Most of my fieldwork has been in the Mogollon and Anasazi regions. My principal interests are human geography, built environments, and government; but my current research projects have more to do with migrations and household archaeology. I am also interested in museums (I am Curator of Archaeology at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History) and archaeology's role in American and global intellectual life.

lekson@colorado.edu
Meetings & Contacts

**2014 Colorado Archaeological Society**
Quarterly Board Meetings

**July 26** - Montrose
**September 26—28** - Colorado Springs—Annual Meeting

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CAS Newsletter
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Robert Dundas
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anasazibob@gmail.com

**2014 “Surveyor” Deadlines**

Summer Issue
August 9

Fall Issue
October 11

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2014 Colorado Archaeological Society Quarterly Board Meetings

July 26 - Montrose
September 26—28 - Colorado Springs—Annual Meeting
# 2014 PAAC Schedule

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## Website

**Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)**

Learn about the Paleo-Indian and Columbian mammoth archaeological site in the SW Denver Metro area.

Talks and tours are scheduled on Saturdays 6/7, 7/19, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4 from 9:30 AM--12:30 PM. Contact Laura at laker@metcalfarchaeology.com for reservations.

More information is on [www.lambspring.org](http://www.lambspring.org).

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**PAAC CONTACT**

**Kevin Black**

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Assistant State Archaeologist / PAAC Co-ordinator

303.866.4671
President’s Corner

- by Jack Warner

Find any spring loaded caskeys yet? (If you just thought, “WHAT?-see my column in the last issue of the SURVEYOR) The weather here in our beautiful state in the first quarter of the year is not good for outdoor archaeological activities. So, our focus is on planning for the “good weather months”, and indoor activities like study, lectures, museum visits, and archaeological lab work. As called for in our CAS Mission statement, I would like to encourage all members to increase the focus on the “research” and “doing” of all the steps in archaeology: learning, planning, survey, curation, analysis, reporting, and site stewardship. In addition, if your Chapter activity can be appropriately participated in by members of other Chapters, I advocate letting them know about the opportunity with sufficient lead time so they can plan their participation. I greatly enjoy my home Chapter activities, but I find, upon reflection, that some of my most rewarding CAS activities in the past two years have been when I was digging or on trips with members of other CAS Chapters. Each Chapter has its strengths, and sharing knowledge, experience, and friendship make CAS stronger. I suggest using the BULLETIN BOARD section of our CAS WWW site, www.coloradoarchaeology.org, is a great way to “get the word out”. In addition, emails or voice calls to friends in other chapters makes the “other” feel more comfortable about participating in groups other than their own. We had our CAS Quarterly Board meeting in a Boulder suburb on 4/12/2014. State CAS seems to be doing quite well. I want to particularly thank the Indian Peaks Chapter for their hosting of a fine meeting in a nice, historic venue. I am looking forward to the next Quarterly meeting in Montrose scheduled for 7/26/2014. My wife, Mary, and I really enjoy meetings on the “west slope” with its rich archaeological heritage and beauty. I understand the Chipeta Chapter organizers will be offering some extra activities on the days before and after the meeting. Remember, all CAS members, not just Board members, are always welcome at meetings. At the Quarterly meeting there was one improvement item I would like to mention to all CAS members. Our membership totals have been roughly constant for some time. The current number of members is 887. This is a bit lower than the recent long run average. From my perspective, our membership goal should not be merely have big numbers, but to have good numbers of people who will be active in CAS activities. As Terry Murphy has counseled me, there is such a thing as “critical mass” for most things. I strongly believe that the best way to achieve that goal is to have all the current active CAS members-YOU-recruit your friends that have an interest in archaeology. Further, I have found it is important to mentor your recruit with a personal touch. For example, in addition to inviting them to an activity, sit with them and discuss the activity. Offer your expertise and teaching to the newcomer. If the activity is “hands on” like
Our membership totals have been roughly constant for some time. The current number of members is 887. This is a bit lower than the recent long run average. From my perspective, our membership goal should not be merely have big numbers, but to have good numbers of people who will be active in CAS activities.

- Jack Warner

Colorado Archaeological Society President

jakeagle@aol.com

Jack Warner is an avocational archaeologist and a lifelong student of the archaeology and anthropology of early humans--particularly their religions and art. He has a particular interest in the early people in the Americas. He has visited archaeological sites in all six of the permanently inhabited continents of the Earth. Jack is active in archaeological fieldwork, lab artifact curation and analysis involving prehistoric human occupation in the areas of the Front Range and Southwestern Colorado. Jack also gives talks and tours relating to the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve, a 10,000+ year-old Paleo-Indian site with many extinct mammoth remains. Jack is the President of the Colorado Archaeological Society. He is a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, and The Archaeological Conservancy. Jack is the author of the book “EAGLES AND LIONS OF LAND AND SEA,” which documents the places in the world he has found the most interesting, and why. Jack received his Master of Science degree from Cornell University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

jackeagle@aol.com

What Would You Like To See?

Karen Kinnear is looking for ideas for the conference part of this year’s annual meeting. What would you like to see, who would you like to hear? What kind of presentation set-up would make you want to come to the meeting – panel discussions on hot topics in Colorado archaeology? Short presentations from each chapter on what projects they’ve worked on over the past year? A workshop or two on a particular topic? Let Karen know what would pique your interest/excite you enough to attend this year! Contact Karen at:

klkinnear@hollandhart.com
303.917.1528

“Our membership totals have been roughly constant for some time. The current number of members is 887. This is a bit lower than the recent long run average. From my perspective, our membership goal should not be merely have big numbers, but to have good numbers of people who will be active in CAS activities. “

- Jack Warner
SW Colo. Excavation Opportunities

CAS Members: Please take a look at the following information regarding an excavation opportunity in Southwest Colorado. We are fast approaching the third season of excavation at the Champagne Spring Ruins near Dove Creek, CO. We are pleased to announce (due to the positive response last season) we will again be offering one additional field school at Mitchell Springs Ruin Group in Cortez, CO.

Three Field Sessions
July 11-14       Champagne Spring Ruin, Dove Creek
August 1-4       Champagne Spring Ruin, Dove Creek
(August 8-10)    (Pecos Conference, Blanding, UT)
August 15-18     Mitchell Springs, Cortez
(Each Field Session Lasts 4 Days)

Each session will have a maximum of 12 CAS participants. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to participate for the entire four days. There is a $95 per person per session charge. Fees are required to off-set expenses related to camping, specimen collection, processing and analysis. CAS Student fee is $35. Free camping, potable water and toilets are available on-site. Previous experience is not required. PAAC Excavation course is a bonus. Researchers are meticulous about details. Your help in this task will be much appreciated.

Open to CAS members in good standing only. Ask your local Chapter Membership Chair about membership if you are not currently a CAS member.

If interested, contact Tom Hoff at tthoff@hotmail.com or 970-882-2191

Related Website >>
http://www.fourcornersresearch.com/index.html
Share Your Chapters Info

Is your Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter doing an activity that might be interesting for members of other CAS Chapters?

Please submit the information to:
CAS Webmaster, Craig Banister at: craig.banister@comcast.net
and the Surveyor editor Bob Dundas at: anasazibob@gmail.com.

- Jack Warner
President, Colorado Archaeological Society

Is Your Chapter Missing The Boat! And it is FREE!

History Colorado has an on-line calendar that will publicize your chapters Lectures, Exhibits, Tours, Field Trips, Teas, Open houses etc. statewide, including photographs, and best of all it is FREE! Now you can reach people interested in what you are doing all across the state. It’s easy! Just follow the links below, fill out the online History Colorado Event Form, and have your event added to the History Colorado Event Calendar. Remember to give them the who, what, where, and when, and they will add your event to the Archaeology & Historic Preservation Calendar website. We have a lot to offer and now have a FREE way to advertise it!

So try it out! Click on the Links below and get started!

History Colorado Event Form >>
History Colorado Event Calendar >>

ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSONS

Are your members missing out?

One of the perks of belonging to the Colorado Archaeological Society is getting our free newsletter “The Surveyor”. It is chock-full of information, photos, upcoming events, links and articles. It keeps your chapter connected with other chapters throughout the state. At your meetings please ask your membership to make sure their email addresses of record are current so they can enjoy “The Surveyor”. To add or update email addresses please contact:

Bev Goering
970.484.3101
bgoering@comcast.net
Hisatsinom Chapter
Cortez
Chapter Rep: Patricia Lacey

Scientific (Survey, Testing, Excavation, Lab): The Hisatsinom Chapter has volunteers at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (in the lab, in technical functions, in publications and Cultural Adventures). Duties during the reporting period included flotation analyses, artifact classification (ceramic and lithic), artifact classification data entry, research library data entry, editing. Chapter members are also volunteering in curation at the Anasazi Heritage Center in repackaging materials from the Dolores Archaeological Project and in documenting Paleoindian Projectile Points in the Center’s collection. Chapter members continued to support the 2500 acre surface survey on private property north of Cortez. A lithics training course for survey participants was held on March 14, 2014. Dr. Kim Gerhardt provided a review and introduction to the geological sources of stone tools in the Four Corners Area. The training was held at the Anasazi Heritage Center.

Publications Report: Our monthly newsletter features reports on the speakers and field trips with photos. We have also updated our website thanks to the expertise of our members.

Site Stewardships: Currently, 20 Chapter members are Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) site stewards. A Site Steward Training was held on March 22 for a full day session at the Heritage Center with presentations by law enforcement. There is now only one law enforcement ranger on the Monument. Three Chapter members are Archaeological Conservancy site stewards. Five Chapter members are site stewards in SE Utah. Several Chapter members are involved in the SJMA Trail Information Specialist and Wilderness Study Area programs.

Vandalism and Compliance Issues: Progress is being made on hiring a CANM Ranger.

Cross-Organizational Interactions: In conjunction with our 501(c)(3) status and our mission and bylaws, the Chapter presents monthly speakers on topics pertinent to Southwest, upper San Juan and Four Corners archaeology which are free and open to the public. During this reporting period our speakers were: January: Lillian Wakeley, Ph.D. geologists presented her first-hand experience with the Kennewick Man Project in Washington State. Dr. Wakeley was in charge of the project to determine the provenience of the skeletal material. February: Jonathan Till, archaeologist with Abajo Archaeology discussed a recent project in southeast Utah dealing with ceramic tradeware. March: Linda Honeycutt, archaeologist discussed her study of the design elements on Chapin Black-on-white pottery. She is focusing on archiving photographs of the vessels and their designs.

Other: The Chapter is sponsoring a contest among its members to find a new logo which would come from a drawing or photograph representing a prehistoric rock art, ceramic, or architectural design from a Four Corners site with an April 20th deadline for submission.
Indian Peaks Chapter
Boulder
Chapter Rep: Karen Kinnear

Scientific (Survey, Testing, Excavation, Lab):
Eight members of IPCAS continue to participate in assisting Jakob Sedig (University of Colorado) with an analysis of ceramics from his Mimbres site (Woodrow Ruin) in Arizona.

Public Education / Outreach:
We’ve had initial discussions with the Longmont Museum and Cultural Center on potential ways to support them in public education activities. One member participated in a Project Archaeology workshop during the CCPA meeting in March.

Other:
Chapter members Anne Robinson and Karen Kinnear are working with Teresa Weedin from the Denver Chapter on a field trip to Chaco in May.

ATTENTION CAS REPS AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
If your chapter does not have your information listed above and would like to be included in the next report and newsletter please have the Chapter Rep or someone in your chapter compile the “CAS Advisory Report” information and email it to:

Douglas Rouse
drouseny@yahoo.com

“Eight members of IPCAS continue to participate in assisting Jakob Sedig (University of Colorado) with an analysis of ceramics from his Mimbres site (Woodrow Ruin) in Arizona.”

- Indian Peaks Chapter
CAS Annual Meeting

Hosting Chapter: Pikes Peak
Colorado Springs, Colorado
September 26-28

Contact information: Laurie Lee
Laurie2014CASmeeting@gmail.com

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Scott Ortman
Topic:
"The Invention of Community in the Ancient Southwest"

In this keynote dinner presentation, Dr. Scott Ortman will share his recent work with Crow Canyon, which explores how Mesa Verde Pueblo society took shape during the Basketmaker III period. While this talk will touch on concepts presented in his book, *Winds from the North*, much of the information Dr. Ortman shares will be new and not yet published.

(For a complete itinerary and lodging information visit the links below)
http://coloradospringsarchaeology.org/annual_mtg/annual_mtg.html

Massive Turquoise Trade Network of Ancient Pueblos Revealed

About a millennium ago, the ancestral Pueblo Indians in the Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico obtained their precious turquoise using a large trade network spanning several states, new research reveals.

Launch Website >>
CAS July Meeting

Hosting Chapter: Chipeta
Montrose, Colorado
Saturday, July 26th

All CAS Members are Welcome!

Meeting Location:
Montrose Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Avenue, Montrose Colorado (Basement Meeting Room)

Potluck Picnic:
Bill and Kathy Harris will host a potluck picnic at their home at 6:30 PM on Saturday for attendees. Potluck Picnic Address: 1635 Ironton Court, Montrose, CO
Bill and Kathy will provide the main entrée, and everyone else should bring a dish to share. BYOB – we’ll have tea and lemonade as well.

Field Trips and additional activities are being looked into.
For Lodging and additional information on the Montrose, Colorado area please visit: www.visitmontrose.com

Nominations Needed for the Ivol Hagar and C.T. Hurst Awards

The Awards Committee, consisting of Jason LaBelle and Mark Owens, seeks nominations for the Ivol Hagar and C.T. Hurst awards. The Ivol Hagar award is named after an active and long time member of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is presented to those individuals who have made invaluable contributions to the Colorado Archaeological Society. The C.T. Hurst award is named after the founder of the Colorado Archaeological Society, who was a professor at Western State College in Gunnison. The Hurst award is presented to those who have made significant contributions to the study of archaeology in Colorado. As well, Chapters can nominate their own members for Chapter Service Awards, which recognize the efforts of members for keeping our local chapters busy, productive, and fun! For more information about any of these awards, please contact Jason LaBelle, the committee chair (jason.labelle@colostate.edu).
The Band of Holes

- by Dick Sundstrom

To attract more customers during the 1930’s Great Depression, movie studios produced low-budget films to show as the second half of a “double feature”—two films for the price of a single admission. Such “second features” often introduced up-and-coming actors, such as John Wayne and Jack Nicholson. Even Gone With the Wind previewed as a second feature. My recent article about the Nazca Lines advised, “Stay for the second feature.” I did. I visited “The Band of Holes,” a mile-long geomorph in a broad valley east of Pisco, Peru. Known locally as Picadura de Viruela (Smallpox) or Monte Sierpe (Snake Mountain), The Band resembles a braided belt, a frozen serpent or the trace of a giant millipede, when seen from an overflying aircraft—the manner of its discovery. The steep slope and rocky soil of the valley is clawed by descending gullies and ravines. The ridges between these scars are the canvas on which a past culture drew this unique figure. At its base near the valley floor, The Band follows a regular pattern: row upon row of 5 holes in a straight line, each hole a yard in diameter and varying in depth from 6 inches to almost 3 feet. Some holes are lined with courses of stone; others partially refilled by wind-blown erosion. As my guide Gustavo and I hiked upward, alternate rows sported 6 holes, forming a diagonal pattern. Climbing still higher, the holes are replaced by roughly circular stone structures.
about a foot high, built on the ground, some surrounding shallow depressions. Where The Band widens to a dozen holes, then narrows again, I imagined the bulge of an ingested meal. Now, The Band’s track becomes more serpentine, darting sharply to the left, down into an adjacent trough, then up the opposing slope to the new ridge, before arcing back again to the slope on which it began. The apex of The Band’s upward course is obscure. Gustavo pointed out three possible “heads.” What is this formation? Who made it? For what purpose? To quote the famous fictional archaeologist, Indiana Jones, “All good questions!” At the base of the geomorph are two burials, pillaged by treasure-hunting grave robbers. The tombs, rectangular and larger than the holes, contain only scattered skeletal remains. Perhaps The Band of Holes once honored these individuals. Three miles east of the geomorph are the ruins of several multi-room structures resembling an Ancestral Puebloan complex. Perhaps their former occupants sculpted The Band of Holes. Since “the snake” is perpendicular to a watercourse at the valley’s base, perhaps its body formed a boundary between two clans, tribes or cultures. Although the figure ends well before reaching the valley floor, Gustavo thought possibly the figure had once extended across the valley’s full width, before succumbing to the demands of subsequent agricultural activity. Maybe a mystical element is involved, in which the image was intended to frighten other groups from trespassing on the territory of the occupants. (Think the “Forbidden Zone” of Planet of the Apes fame.) Of course, there’s the old standby: an object of worship. Perhaps The Band of Holes is an image of Viracocha, the principal deity of the Inca, here represented by a water symbol: the snake. Certainly, considerable time and effort was invested in its construction, suggesting a significant cultural or religious association. Planning a future vacation or trip of a lifetime? Don’t limit your visit to “headliner” sites. Is Machu Picchu a “must see?” Stay for the second feature. Add the Nazca Lines or The Band of Holes to your itinerary.

Dick Sundstrom

An avid avocational archeologist, Dick has visited the world’s “Top Ten” archaeological sites, served as president of the Colorado Archeological Society, and conducted a workshop at the Saving Places Conference, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Dick visits museums and classrooms giving interpretive demonstrations. He lives in Colorado Springs with Barbara, a/k/a Trilby Louise, his wife of fifty-four years.

sundstromrw@yahoo.com
Archaeology Southwest Links

Looking at Archaeological and Genetic Evidence to Study Plant Domestication
Suddenly there was a word for chili peppers. Information about archaeological remains of ancient chili peppers in Mexico along with a study of the appearance of words for chili peppers in ancient dialects helped researchers to understand where jalapeños were domesticated and highlight the value of multi-proxy data analysis. Their results are from one (Kraig Kraft et al.) of nine papers presented in a special feature issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on plant and animal domestication edited by Dolores Piperno, staff scientist emerita at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and Curator of South American Archaeology at the National Museum of Natural History and Greger Larson of Durham University in England. [http://bit.ly/1iC1yKs - Phys.org](http://bit.ly/1iC1yKs)

A Look at the Attack on the Antiquities Act
Some in congress want to change a bill that allows presidents to designate national monuments. Should we care? Some in congress want to change a bill that allows presidents to designate national monuments. Should we care? Recently, U.S. Representative Rob Bishop celebrated a victory. He managed to push bill HR 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act, through the House. Its aim is to weaken the President’s ability to designate public lands as national monuments, an authority assigned under the Antiquities Act of 1906. [http://bit.ly/Qphaqt - Outside Magazine](http://bit.ly/Qphaqt)

Exploring a Thousand-Year-Old Obsidian Trade Network
Reconstructing social networks from hundreds of years ago is much more challenging than finding the connections between people today, thanks to the Internet. In Colorado and New Mexico, Earthwatch volunteers are helping to trace the links between early residents of the American Southwest at a time long before paved roads or mail would have brought them together. [http://bit.ly/1n9e7Az - Earthwatch](http://bit.ly/1n9e7Az)

Mesa Verde’s “Mummy Lake” Reservoir Hypothesis Questioned
In 1917, Jesse Walter Fewkes suggested that a sandstone-lined circular pit in Colorado’s Mesa Verde National Park was an Ancestral Puebloan water reservoir. But a new analysis of the hydrologic, topographic, climatic, and sedimentary features of “Mummy Lake” and its surroundings indicates that the pit would not have been effective for collecting or distributing water. [http://bit.ly/1kw6yqN - Archaeology Magazine](http://bit.ly/1kw6yqN)

Recapping the Recapture Canyon ATV Protest
A first hand report by Executive Director, Josh Ewing. Frustrated with years of delay from the BLM in deciding the fate of a proposed ATV trail in Recapture Canyon, protestors rode their machines into the Canyon on Saturday, May 10th. Because of recent events where BLM employees had been threatened with violence and because of the confrontational attitudes of some militia-type riders who came to town for the ride, many conservation groups decided not to send supporters into the canyon. Friends of Cedar Mesa was not even in existence when the Recapture controversy started, so we had not been highly involved with the issue. However, I did feel that someone from the conservation community really needed to be there to see what happened and document the event. Two other Bluff locals volunteered to join me, and we hiked into the canyon and waited for ATV riders to show up. [http://bit.ly/RC9Yr8 – Friends of Cedar Mesa](http://bit.ly/RC9Yr8)
Smithsonian Scientists Exploring Origins of Maize Domestication
By simulating the environment when corn was first exploited by people and then domesticated, Smithsonian scientists discovered that corn’s ancestor; a wild grass called teosinte, may have looked more like corn then than it does today. The fact that it looked more like corn under past conditions may help to explain how teosinte came to be selected by early farmers who turned it into one of the most important staple crops in the world. The vegetative and flowering structures of modern teosinte are very different from those of corn. These and other differences led to a century-long dispute as to whether teosinte could really be the ancestor of corn. [http://bit.ly/1nkC6rP – Eurekalert.org](http://bit.ly/1nkC6rP)

Was Beringia a Refuge for Ice Age Peoples?
Genetic and environmental evidence indicates that after the ancestors of Native Americans left Asia, they spent 10,000 years in shrubby lowlands on a broad land bridge that once linked Siberia and Alaska. Archaeological evidence is lacking because it drowned beneath the Bering Sea when sea levels rose. University of Utah anthropologist Dennis O’Rourke and two colleagues make that argument in the Friday, Feb. 28, issue of the journal Science. [http://bit.ly/1oi3pDB - Heritage Daily](http://bit.ly/1oi3pDB)

Modeling Ancient Economies and Climates in the Northern Southwest
The Village Ecodynamics Project aims to solve a longstanding mystery in the prehistory of the American Southwest. Kohler refers to this puzzle as “the elephant in the room.” Ancient Puebloan peoples, also known as the Anasazi, occupied the present-day Four Corners region (where Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico meet) for hundreds of years. They cultivated corn and lived in large settlements, most famously at Mesa Verde, now a U.S. National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. [http://bit.ly/1ddwkXM - Scientific American](http://bit.ly/1ddwkXM)

Drone Footage “Finds” Remarkable “Unseen” Petroglyphs in Utah
Some drones have a undesirable popularity for snooping on folks and facilitating functions of war. But unmanned aircraft can be utilized to give authorities a new watch of inaccessible and remote places to uncover lost treasures. An amazing selection of 20 petroglyphs has been exposed by a drone flight in southern Utah. [http://bit.ly/1gD6KJn - USA News](http://bit.ly/1gD6KJn)

“Unseen Petroglyphs” Fully Documented
While the archeologist interviewed for our story did not immediately recognize the petroglyph panel, one of our viewers did. Jonathan Bailey is an avid hiker and photographer who says he and others have visited the petroglyph panel many times and provided photos as well. He says his photos were taken long before the panel was captured on video by a drone, dispelling the idea that the petroglyphs are a new discovery. Bailey maintains a website of his photos and adventures, which is well worth checking out. [http://bit.ly/1gD9Pcm](http://bit.ly/1gD9Pcm)
The Links Have It

History Colorado
historycolorado.org/

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)
historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac

Colorado Archaeological Society
coloradoarchaeology

Colorado Archaeology Events
digonsite.com/guide/colorado

Land Use History of the Colorado Plateau
cpluhna.nau.edu/index.htm

Bureau of Land Management
blm.gov/wo/st/en.html

Mesa Verde National Park
nps.gov/meve/index.htm

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
crowcanyon.org/

Utah Rock Art Association
utahrockart.org/

Ute Mountain Tribal Park
utemountainute.com/tribalpark.htm

Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance
www.cparch.org/

Rock Art Blog—Peter Faris
http://rockartblog.blogspot.com

“Surveyor” Link of the Month
Ancient Rock Art in Texas Yields ‘Surprising’ New Finds

(Click on Launch Article or Photo to view article)

Launch Article>>
Wanted...Your Presentation

Do you have a presentation to offer? Are you willing to create a presentation to share with others? If so our Education Committee is looking for you! The Colorado Archaeological Society Education Committee is compiling a list of all CAS members who have put together, or are willing to create, presentations and who are interested in presenting at schools, clubs, or other public venues or at other CAS chapter meetings. If you are interested in being included in that list or have questions, please contact: Karen Kinnear at:

klkinnear@hollandhart.com

Join Us!

We look forward to welcoming new members to the Colorado Archaeological Society! Join us in the education, scientific exploration and protection of Colorado’s archaeological heritage!

Joint CAS/Chapter Members- Contact Chapter • Student Individual*- $8.00 • Student Family*- $10.00 • Unaffiliated Individual- $20.00 • Unaffiliated Family- $23.00 • Institution- $40.00 • Supporting- $25.00 + • Contributing- $150.00 + • Life Individual- $400.00 • Life Family- $500.00

* Current Student ID Required

Make checks payable to: Colorado Archaeological Society
and mail to:
BEV GOERING, CAS Membership
PO Box 271735, Fort Collins, CO 80527-1735
bgoering@comcast.net or 970.484.3101

“We look forward to welcoming new members to the Colorado Archaeological Society! Join us in the education, scientific exploration and protection of Colorado’s archaeological heritage!”

www.coloradoarchaeology.org
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING HILITES

The Quarterly Board meeting of the Colorado Archaeological Society was called to order by President Jack Warner on April 12, 2014, at 12:30 p.m. in the Left Hand Grange #9, Niwot, CO. Roll call was taken, with a quorum present. Chapters represented were: Colorado Rock Art, Denver, Hisatsinom, Indian Peaks, Pikes Peak, and San Juan Basin.

TREASURER: Current assets are $45,837 and liabilities are $3,500.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

2014 Quarterly & Annual Board Meetings. The CAS Annual Meeting will be held in Colorado Springs September 26-28. The venue is the Shrine Club and Dr. Scott Ortman will be the banquet keynote speaker.

Constitution and Bylaws Review. The Committee reported that the review is still an on-going process. They plan to have a draft version ready by the July Quarterly meeting with an all-membership vote expected at the Annual meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ALICE HAMILTON SCHOLARSHIP (PHIL WILLIAMS/TERRI HOFF):

The Committee awarded $4,050 to 9 Scholars consisting of four undergraduates, two Masters Candidates and three PhD Candidates from five institutions across the state. Since Scholarship inception in 1987, CAS has awarded $78,625 in scholarships to 223 students.

Erin Baxter, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder $750
Guy Hepp, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder $750
Pascale Meehan, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder $625
Jeremy Haas, Masters Candidate, University of Denver, Denver $375
Kristie Hollon, Masters Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder $400
Christina Burch, Undergraduate, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins $400
Michelle Dinkel, Undergraduate, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins $250
Rebecca D’Occhio, Undergraduate, University of Colorado, Denver $250
Zachary Hall, Undergraduate, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison $250

“Pass the hat” donations at the meeting totaled $106 for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund.

EDUCATION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH (KAREN KINNEAR):

The Committee continues to work on developing short-range and long-range goals and explore ways to develop and/or support a variety of public education activities through local CAS chapters as well as collaboration with other organizations. Karen attended the all-day Project Archaeology workshop which was held during the CCPA meeting in Glenwood Springs March 22. Efforts continue to build our speaker spreadsheet list to share with all chapters. A draft application form was developed for chapters to use when applying for Public Education Matching Grants. Comments are welcome. It was suggested to include examples of acceptable and non-acceptable grant projects.
PAAC (KEVIN BLACK):

Eight PAAC courses (Alamosa, Boulder, Denver (2 classes), Dolores, Fort Collins, Montrose and Pueblo) have been completed or are in progress. Average attendance was 15-16 people. Two PAAC courses (Avon and Craig) were cancelled, due to insufficient sign-ups. There were 3 more days of PAAC Winter Laboratory Project in Denver following the last quarterly meeting. Eleven volunteers participated during the entire month of January with the largest number (4) coming from the Indian Peaks chapter. Analysis of artifacts focused on the old field school collections from UNC–Greeley. Data entry will play a dominant role in future PAAC labs, along with close-up photography.

Two PAAC certificates are awarded this month to Carla Hendrickson and Wendy Schiferl, both members of the Pueblo chapter who each earned the PAAC Scholar certificate. Congratulations to Carla and Wendy!

The third (and final) season of the Summer Training Survey near the Pawnee Buttes in Weld County will again occur in two separate, short sessions on June 10–14 and June 19–22. We may visit nearby sites with US Forest Service archaeologist Larry Fullenkamp. Interested volunteers should contact Kevin by May 19. Survey information is on the OAHP web site at www.historycolorado.org/oahp/summer-training-survey. Questionnaires for the next PAAC course schedule covering the last half of this year will be sent to the local PAAC Coordinators soon. Chapter responses should be sent to Kevin by May 22. Since this will be the final year of the Pawnee Buttes survey, the task of writing the technical project report is now on my schedule. Thus, there will likely be a cutback in the total number of PAAC courses offered for the next year.

PUBLICATIONS / SOUTHWESTERN LORE (JUDI HALASI):

The Spring 2014 issue is currently in progress at the CU Press. Work is also progressing on the summer issue, and on the review of the 15 cache articles for the projected double issue for Fall/Winter 2014.

PUBLICATIONS / COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY (KEVIN BLACK):

No new manuscripts have been received. Based on the prospects for manuscript submittals in the near future, the publication of the next issue on the archaeology of northwestern Colorado is unlikely to occur before 2015.

PUBLICATIONS / WEBSITE (CRAIG BANISTER):

There was some discussion of readership of THE SURVEYOR by CAS members and non-members. Craig was requested to report the total number of monthly “hits” to the CAS website at the July Board meeting.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST (RICHARD WILSHUSEN):

1. After hearing the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee report I want to emphasize the importance of these scholarships and to note the typically high quality of students who apply for these grants. I have met three of the students who just were awarded scholarships and have taught two more of them. They are all good bets and I so appreciate that CAS continues to bet on the future of archaeology. I bring thanks also from Jakob Sedig, a Ph.D. candidate who has been aided by CAS volunteers. Thank you.

2. It has been great to see CAS get back into educational outreach in a big way. I saw several of you for the training on Project Archaeology at the recent CCPA annual meeting in Glenwood Springs, and I hope to see more of you at History Colorado’s training on archaeological education in late July at our museum. We will get the specific dates to the Education Committee.
3. Regarding History Colorado’s board nominations, I have worked with several key board members to support two strong nominations that would bring strong archaeological interests/experience to the board to replace Bob Mutaw and Peter Faris. These decisions are several months away, and I will keep CAS’s leadership in the loop on our board’s composition. Your engagement is key.

4. I will be at the El Pueblo Pavilion meeting scheduled for May 10th. This pavilion covers the El Pueblo excavations done by Bill Buckles and the Pueblo CAS chapter, and it is a facility in need of renewal and upgrade. The pavilion is owned by the city even though it is in front of History Colorado’s El Pueblo Museum. The meeting will bring together state representatives, city council, CAS members, our staff at El Pueblo Museum and other citizen groups. I hope this meeting will initiate the planning for longed-for improvements and cooperation.

5. Our GIS (geographic information system) has been linked to our Compass site data query system. This should be available to those of you who use our Compass system in the next two months. We are in the midst of planning for the modernization of our current database system. This really will transform our operations over the next year.

6. I will plan to visit with the Colorado Springs chapter by early fall to discuss the three agreements we (at SHPO) have signed with Army Garrison at Ft. Carson. These will have long-term public benefits and I will need the local chapter’s input as we implement the terms of these agreements.

AWARDS (JASON LABELLE):

Jason LaBelle plans to step down as the Chair but will remain on the Committee to serve in a reviewer capacity during the transitional period of 2014 and 2015. A potential candidate for the Chair position has been contacted. We would also like to add a long-time CAS member to the Committee.

HISTORY COLORADO PROJECTS (TERRY MURPHY):

The Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month Task Force (AHPM) has met twice this quarter. A major topic was the schedule change so that major History Colorado (HC) summer activity occurs during the Colorado Day celebration on the first weekend of August. Colorado Day is a free day at the History Colorado Center, and the attendance last year was significantly larger than a normal weekend. HC would like to have CAS and other partners participate in the Colorado Day celebration, and possibly present a program during May. I would like to get suggestions for possible CAS activities at HC on Colorado Day. CAS Chapters are encouraged to present their own events in May as a local promotion of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Planning for 2015. A theme of honoring youth groups, such as Boy Scouts, Little League, YWCA, 4-H, Girl Scouts, etc., has been suggested. A 2015 poster contest is in the works for high school age students. 2014 posters. The 2014 posters are available and are smaller letter size paper posters. They are available online to print copies. Online calendar of archaeological programs. Another reminder: the HC online calendar is available for publicizing events of all CAS chapters.

MEMBERSHIP (BEV GOERING):

There are 645 memberships with a total of 887 members. Total number of memberships from last quarter (12/31/13) has dropped by 40. However, several chapters are still sending in late renewals, one being Chipeta. Unaffiliated members are 45 and unaffiliated memberships are 39. Institutional memberships are 63.

LONG RANGE PLANNING (DICK SUNDSTROM):

The Long Range Planning Committee continues to consider how communication among chapters
might be improved. Two obvious channels of communication are *The Surveyor* and the CAS web site, where communication is going on already. Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. Some ideas being discussed include: submit “trip reports” with photos, local chapters advertise field trips that can accommodate a larger attendance, and share help tips/suggestions/ideas. The Bulletin Board on our web site reports items of general interest. Questions include:

Who is our intended audience—CAS members only or a larger population? Is there a security issue involved in the shared information?

The Committee membership has changed as Jack Warner, Barbara Potter, and Linda Seyfert have stepped down. Ariel Dickens, President of the Pikes Peak Chapter, has joined. As always, we invite you to join us as we address many interesting and challenging opportunities for CAS. Dick brought up the topic of a Facebook presence by CAS as a means of social media communication. Ideas and comments should be sent to Dick before the July Board meeting.

The motion passed to provide additional monies to the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund through reallocation of an additional 50 cents from each paid CAS membership per year to the AHS Fund, bringing the total amount to $1.00 per membership. This action would raise the amount of allocation to the AHS Fund from approximately $350/year to $700/year. Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee Co-chair Terri Hoff then announced that the maximum award allowed to any one student will be $1,000 beginning in 2015.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2014 Budget (Niesen)** Motions passed unanimously to move $2,000 from THE SURVEYOR Restricted Fund to the Southwestern Lore Restricted Fund for this year only, and to approve the 2014 budget with stated revisions.

**State compensation policy for expenses incurred by hosting Chapters for Quarterly Meetings (Tom Hoff)** Local chapters are incurring increasing expenses for hosting State Quarterly Board Meetings. Motions passed to provide a reimbursement to the Hosting Chapters up to $250 for facility rental, in addition to the maximum $75 reimbursement already available for meeting refreshments, and to amend the 2014 Budget with $750 total for meeting reimbursement.

**Digital Context proposal and funds request (Mark Mitchell & Tom Hoff)** There was much discussion and explanation by Richard Wilshusen and Tom Hoff regarding Mark Mitchell’s proposed competitive grant application under $35,000 to the State Historical Fund for studying the feasibility of digitizing the Colorado Contexts. A motion passed for CAS to participate up to $2000 as a cash match in support of Mark’s application.

**CAS Quarterly meeting attendance via teleconference (Jack Warner)**

With a question of getting a quorum for CAS quarterly meetings, David Batten, of Chipeta Chapter, suggested that State CAS offer an option for people who are unavailable to attend in person, to be linked to the live meeting by some sort of teleconference. As no one volunteered to research the issue, an email will go out requesting volunteer(s).

President Jack Warner thanked the Indian Peaks Chapter for hosting the meeting, which adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Kris Holien, 4/26/2014
CAS Recording Secretary
kjholien@aol.com

“Motions passed unanimously to move $2,000 from “THE SURVEYOR” Restricted Fund to the Southwestern Lore Restricted Fund for this year only, and to approve the 2014 budget with stated revisions.”
Maya Hidden Worlds Revealed

- by Jack Warner

This is the largest exhibition about the ancient Maya Civilization and archaeology ever to be displayed in the USA. It provides a cross section of Mayan life from "divine kings" who ruled city-states to the artisans and laborers who formed the society's backbone. It explains the results of recent archaeological research made possible by the decipherment of Mayan writing. Mary and I visited the exhibit in preparation for our upcoming vacation trip to Riviera Maya. Mayan archaeology is one of my 3 main archaeological interests, and I have had the chance to study much and visit 4 of their city archaeological sites and museums in the USA, Yucatan, and Guatemala. This is the best single Mayan exhibit I've ever seen. The exhibit includes impressive large reconstructions--including parts of buildings, a cave, big stelae--and rare original artifacts. It also has many good, short videos and participation activities. One of the more unique items was a natural rubber ball, hand made in the style of those used in the Mayan ball game--you are encouraged to lift it (it is quite heavy, about like a light bowling ball) The exhibit also shows how archaeology is actually done and has displays of dig and lab tools. It is very strong in exhibiting the decipherment of Mayan writing. I highly recommend visiting this exhibit and believe it would be very interesting to those who are visiting the area. If you go: you need to get time slot tickets and pay an extra fee. If possible, I would try to avoid times when school groups can go. We went at 2:45 PM on a weekday and the exhibit had few people and it was very pleasant. We took 2 hrs 15 min. to see the exhibit and were rushed near the end due to the museum closing at 5.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Exhibition runs through August 24, 2014

Launch Website >>
http://www.dmns.org/maya-hidden-worlds-revealed

A natural rubber ball, hand made!
2014 Hart Awards

The 12th Annual Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation was presented to the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray “Colorado Wickiup Project.” In 2003, with funding support from the State Historical Fund and the Bureau of Land Management, the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group (DARG) began conducting a documentation and information-sharing project for all known Protohistoric/Historic aboriginal wooden structures in the state, known as the Colorado Wickiup Project. Since then, researchers have identified more than 300 sites with over 800 wooden features and more than 50 sites with over 300 wooden features. Combined with early ethnographic and historic records of native peoples, archaeological documentation of abandoned habitations and campsites has created a wealth of data and contributed to the study of prehistoric and proto-historic architecture, subsistence techniques, seasonal migratory patterns, and life ways. In addition, DARG sought the perspective of the Ute, who view wickiups not only as structures in which ancestors resided, but as living places that serve as a direct connection to their past. The project has revealed new aspects about the traditional life ways of the Ute and testifies to the wide range of Ute occupation in Colorado. The Colorado Wickiup project has contributed demonstrable understanding of how aboriginal peoples of this region used these ephemeral wooden structures in the past, and it is an outstanding example of research that combines archaeology, ethnography, history, and technological innovation. In addition, History Colorado presented six awards for outstanding work in preservation and archaeology in Colorado. Lieutenant Governor Garcia was present for the ceremony, which honored Denver's Emerson School, the Logan County Courthouse, the Hanging Flume in Montrose County, the comprehensive preservation efforts in Greeley, the archaeological career of Richard Carrillo, and, recipient of this year's Governor's Award, the Colorado Wickiup Project. Congratulations, honorees!

Launch Website >>

Learn more about this year's awardees and their magnificent projects

“The 12th Annual Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation was presented to the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray “Colorado Wickiup Project.”
New “Pueblo Bonito” Discovered

An ancient multi-room pueblo resembling Chaco Canyon’s largest and best-known great house, Pueblo Bonito, has been discovered in Arizona’s Petrified Forest National Park, according to park officials. The site, along with nearly 10 other ruins of various dates and sizes, was found on a 26,000-acre parcel of land that the park acquired just last year.

Launch Website >>

87th Anniversary
2014 Pecos Conference
August 7—10
Blanding, Utah

Launch Website >>
http://www.swanet.org/2014_pecos_conference/events.html

News from the North: A Burial from Salmon Pueblo and Some Thoughts on the Great Drought

Host Scott Michlin recently welcomed me back to his morning radio show on KSJE, the San Juan College radio station in Farmington, New Mexico. I spoke about a recent email exchange I had with a curator at Yale University’s Peabody Museum regarding an unknown human burial, perhaps from Salmon Pueblo. (Note that the site is named for the Salmon family and is pronounced “Saul-mun.”) You can listen to our discussion here.
Inhabiting what is now North America around 12,600 years ago the Clovis people (named after the type site in New Mexico) were not the first humans to walk this land, but they do represent the first widespread occupation of the continent – until the culture mysteriously disappeared only a few hundred years after its origin . . .

Launch Website >>

Old American Theory is 'Speared'

An ancient bone with a projectile point lodged within it appears to up-end - once and for all - a long-held idea of how the Americas were first populated. The rib, from a tusked beast known as a mastodon, has been dated precisely to 13,800 years ago. This places it before the so-called Clovis hunters, who many academics had argued were the North American continent's original inhabitants.

Launch Website >>

“Clovis Genome settles debate on indigenous American lineage. Inhabiting what is now North America around 12,600 years ago the Clovis people (named after the type site in New Mexico) were not the first humans to walk this land, but they do represent the first widespread occupation of the continent.”
Depth of Field . . .

“Whatever their original intention, the long-dead artists and hunters confront us across the centuries with the poignant sign of their humanity. I was here, says the artist. We were here say the hunters.”

- Edward Abbey

“Into the Vortex”
- Randy Langstraat