Up and Down the Chaco Meridian

- by Stephen H. Lekson

Sometime in the mid-1990s, I led a Crow Canyon trip to Chaco, Aztec, and Paquime. We followed a trail I called the Chaco Meridian: an alignment of the three sequential political capitals of the ancient Southwest. First Chaco, AD 850 to 1130; then Chaco re-created itself due north at Aztec Ruins, AD 1110 to 1275; and finally Paquime rose on the Meridian far to the south in Chihuahua Mexico, AD 1350 to 1450. I later published a book by that title, but the Crow Canyon tour was sparked by an earlier Archaeology magazine article and some public lectures I’d given on the subject. On the trip was Peter Pino, later Governor of Zia Pueblo; and historian Roger Kennedy, later head of the National Park Service. Seeing the sites on the ground apparently convinced them that there was merit in the argument. Kennedy encouraged me to write narrative prehistory, which I’ve done. Peter Pino, at the journey’s end, composed a song in Tewa commemorating the Meridian. It was a marvelous experience. The book Chaco Meridian came out in 1999 and went through many re-printings. As a book it was successful. Archaeologists didn’t care for it, of course. The Four Corners crowd spun and sputtered and denied absolutely that Chaco had moved to Aztec Ruins. They didn’t mind so much about Paquime, that was beyond their horizons. The Paquime gang wanted no part of Chacoans from the north. Charles Di Peso (who excavated Paquime in the 1960s) had suggested something like that, and modern researchers were systematically distancing Paquime from Di Peso’s ideas. They didn’t care, however, about Chaco and Aztec; those sites were beyond their horizons. Bryan Fagan, in a book I later invited him to write as part of a large NPS Chaco Synthesis project, considered the Meridian. He noted “few archaeologists involved with any of the three sites accept Lekson’s alignment as historical reality” – which was hardly surprising – and dismissed the Meridian as “an archaeological
It’s a myth with legs. A four point problem: North, Chaco, Aztec, and Paquime. Today, two decades later, almost everyone accepts three of those four points: Chaco moved north to Aztec Ruins. Paquime, the fourth and final point on the Meridian, is still in play. Lots of evidence, few believers. It turns out that the Meridian reached back in time: for each of the Pecos Systems stages – Basketmaker III, Pueblo I, Pueblo II, Pueblo III and Pueblo IV – the largest (by far), weirdest (by far), most important (by far), and most interesting (by far) sites of each stage are on or near that Meridian. That’s a tale too long to tell here... In 2004, David Roberts asked me if I wanted to retrace the Meridian for an article in National Geographic Adventure. Roberts is a superb writer and a friend, a Boulder boy who’s written scores of excellent books and articles and so forth. I was intrigued; this would be a smaller but more adventurous outing than the Crow Canyon trip: just me, Roberts and his photographer friend Bill Hatcher. We’d be camping and hiking and having fun. So: sure, why not? We started off at Paquime, an hour’s drive into Chihuahua. The site is amazing and impressive, but I had my eyes on higher matters: Cerro Moctezuma. Towering above Paquime, the crest of Cerro Moctezuma supports a ruin and a massive signaling tower that I’d never seen, and always wanted to see. Photographer Bill wanted to be there at sunrise. So we scouted a route out from the cab of a truck, slept a bit, and woke up in the wee hours before dawn. Stumbling through the dark up steep slopes, we made it to the top by sunrise – the top of the wrong mountain, one crest north of the Cerro. Chastened and chagrinned, I led my amused/annoyed friends up and over to Cerro Moctezuma, and the trip was worth the fuss. The pueblo ruin was larger and more interesting than I had imagined. Its location thousands of feet above the valley was curious. Perhaps it was there to service the tower, which was

“He noted “few archaeologists involved with any of the three sites accept Lekson’s alignment as historical reality” – which was hardly surprising – and dismissed the Meridian as “an archaeological myth.” I was amused and slightly proud: there’s an odd but real pleasure in launching a myth. It’s a myth with legs. A four point problem: North, Chaco, Aztec, and Paquime.”

- Steven Lekson

Paquimé, Chihuahua, Mexico
part of line-of-sight signaling system, much like Chaco’s. Indeed, much of Paquime and its region mirrored Chaco’s – although the two architectures were rather different. Chaco was stand-stone, Paquime was adobe. However, both had roads, signaling systems, a capital and a surrounding region. Paquime in those key features was so much like Chaco that archaeologists in Chihuahua adopted theoretical models for the rise of Chaco to understand the rise of Paquime. They thought the two were independent, parallel processes. But I was wondering: if a Chaco model “fits” Paquime so well, maybe there’s a historical reason? Certainly, there were facts and features that were found at Chaco, Aztec and Paquime – and nowhere else. After Paquime, we drove north through the rugged Mogollon highlands of southwest New Mexico – my favorite part of the Southwest, and the scene of my once and future research on Mimbres. The Meridian route lay along a historic military road, north-south along the west flanks of the Black Range. Its name: the North Star Road. But we didn’t follow the North Star, that would take too long. Staying on pavement took us to a camp site in the Big Burros Mountains, where I’d worked when I was a college kid. It was grand: good land, good company, good food, and a campfire under the stars. It doesn’t get any better than that! We threaded up through the North Plains, skirting the Malpais south of Grants NM. Grants was to be one of our several motel stops, a shower and a bed. And also: the Shoot-out at the 4-B Corral. All through the trip, David Roberts had quoted or channeled Eric Blinman, a prominent Santa Fe archaeologist who was dubious about the Meridian. I’ve known Eric for a long time, and I respected his brains. Long before our Meridian trip, Eric had filled Roberts’ head with doubts, questions, and so forth. I was getting tired of answering Eric’s questions second-hand, absent Eric, so I suggested that we bring Dr. Blinman down to Grants so I could get it straight from the source. Eric agreed, and we met

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- Stephen Lekson

Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico (Digital Re-Creation)
for breakfast at the 4-B Diner, an old fixture in Grants. Fueled by coffee and bacon, Eric and I quickly got into it, much to the amusement of David Roberts and Bill Hatcher. Objections were raised; voices were raised. Pretty much your typical archaeology debate, but I saw other patrons looking over at our table wondering where this was headed. At one point Eric made an objection that I thought I’d handled pretty well in the book, and I said so: “Eric, I deal with that in the book.” Eric: “I haven’t read your book.” My interest waned; what was the point? The debate sputtered on but I became more and more involved in my cooling, coagulating eggs and home fries. It was a priceless moment, and one I still cherish: I haven’t read your book. Eric said he didn’t have time for “fun reading” which I also appreciated because I’d never really thought of my writing as fun to read. I have fun writing, but… From Grants it was a short hop to Chaco. I waved at road features that lined the route of the Meridian, most notably the Ram’s Pasture Herradura. Coming into the canyon was for me anti-climactic. I knew Chaco pretty well. The adventure began when my friends – both famous climbers – started climbing. There was no cliff they didn’t like. I was afraid the authorities would put us in Park Service jail for dancing up and down the walls of their canyon, but we made it out un-apprehended and skipped up the ancient Great North Road, visiting sites along its length. There is an archaeological myth that the Great North road ends at the edge of a spectacular badlands canyon, Kutz Canyon. But Earl Morris – later of the CU Museum of Natural History – had in the 1910s excavated a Chaco Great House well beyond, well into the canyon: Twin Angels Pueblo. Twin Angels was clearly a “road house” – an isolated Great House built to service the road, like several others we had visited along the Great North Road. There was no surrounding community of pueblos, no farm fields, no nothing: just the Twin Angels great house, now maintained by the Bureau of Land Management. The

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Aztec Ruins National Monument, New Mexico
BLM keeps a register for visitors to sign, and a few weeks ahead of us Mike Marshall had signed it. Mike is a legendary New Mexico archaeologist who had done a lot of work on the North Road, and he believed firmly that the road ended at Kutz. By his signature, in fact, he’d written “the North Road never came by here,” that is by Twin Angels Pueblo. Of course I disagreed, and Roberts urged me to pen a riposte in the BLM’s register. Somehow that seemed wrong; I prefer arguing face to face. But it was a photo-op, so I did it – and immediately ripped a gash in my signing hand on the barbwire fence. I signed the book in blood, and learned my karmic lesson.

Aztec Ruins was next. The main ruin at Aztec had also been excavated and restored by Morris. His excavations exposed a huge building, in fact the single largest building project ever undertaken by Chacoans. But it was only one of three major and many minor Great Houses in the Aztec complex. On the bluffs above Morris’s building sat the Aztec North Great House. We had permission to drive up on the bluff, and look at it. Aztec North was made of adobe, not sandstone. And it faced more or less due south, looking hundreds of miles south towards the north-facing pueblo perched high on Cerro Moctezuma in Chihuahua. Another fine moment! We ended at Chimney Rock, where five years later I would participate in a hugely enjoyable and productive field project. That was in the future, however; with David Roberts and Bill Hatcher, Chimney Rock was a remarkable photo-op. But not for me. I was not nimble enough or pretty enough for National Geographic Adventure. They hired a very fine young man from Durango to climb out on Chimney Rock’s crags and cliffs, while Hatcher fired off shot after shot – and got some great ones! It’s true that I was neither nimble nor pretty: I’m not fond of heights and I was experimenting with facial hair — and the experiment was failing badly. One of Hatcher’s photos of me admiring a pictograph looks like I had a bad run-in with a piece of chocolate cake. Trips like that, and the earlier trip with Crow Canyon, are what keep me going. You can classify and count and calculate and conclude, write your report, and that’s all very well and good. But there’s nothing like going out into the country and seeing sites with intelligent friends, who will insist on answers to questions I haven’t even thought to ask. Five hundred miles up and down the Chaco Meridian: trips like that are priceless.

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.

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- Stephen Lekson
Meetings & Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Colorado Archaeological Society Quarterly Board Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 12 - Boulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26 - Montrose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26-28 - Colorado Springs - Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2014 “Surveyor“ Deadlines
- Spring Issue
  - April 26
- Summer Issue
  - August 9
- Fall Issue
  - October 11
## 2014 PAAC Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>Dolores</td>
<td>Colorado Archaeology (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–9</td>
<td>Craig</td>
<td>Perishable Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Colorado Archaeology (session 1 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21–23</td>
<td>Alamosa</td>
<td>Historical Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Colorado Archaeology (session 2 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Colorado Archaeology (session 3 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9</td>
<td>Montrose</td>
<td>Archaeological Practice in Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 19, 26</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Colorado Archaeology (sessions 4–6 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28–30</td>
<td>Pueblo</td>
<td>Prehistoric Ceramics Description &amp; Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Colorado Archaeology (session 7 of 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (session 1 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>Glenwood Springs</td>
<td>Prehistoric Ceramics Description &amp; Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rock Art Studies (session 1 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (session 2 of 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Boulder or Pueblo</td>
<td>PAAC Board meeting at CAS quarterly meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rock Art Studies (session 2 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (session 3 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22, 29</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rock Art Studies (sessions 3–4 of 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (session 4 of 7)</td>
</tr>
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<td>2–4</td>
<td>Fountain</td>
<td>Perishable Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rock Art Studies (session 5 of 7)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (session 5 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rock Art Studies (session 6 of 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (session 6 of 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rock Art Studies (end, session 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Lithics Description &amp; Analysis (end, session 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Durango</td>
<td>Field &amp; Laboratory Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Durango</td>
<td>Field &amp; Laboratory Photography (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–14</td>
<td>Pawnee Buttes</td>
<td>Summer Training Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–22</td>
<td>Pawnee Buttes</td>
<td>Summer Training Survey</td>
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**Website**

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

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President’s Corner

- by Jack Warner

“I want to be buried in the middle of nowhere in a spring loaded casket filled with confetti, so some future archaeologist has one heck of a day at work.” For the many CAS members that I have yet to meet, I am Jack Warner, the new Colorado Archaeological Society State President. My creative daughter, the Montessori schoolteacher, sent me this text message, and I thought it expressed my feelings about my new job quite well. I think archaeology should be interesting, rewarding, and an adult form of fun. I look to gain wisdom from understanding the people of the past. I was a grade school avid reader of National Geographic. I have been interested in archaeology and anthropology for almost my whole life. I took what my college called an “engineering anthropology minor”. My major was engineering and I spent a 42-year career researching, developing and, teaching about advanced communications services and equipment. Along the way, I earned a Master of Science and an MBA. I have been an active member of CAS for less than 5 years, but archaeology has truly become an avocation for me. I have greatly enjoyed being part of the CAS dig and lab teams focused on the Blackfoot Cave prehistoric hunter-gatherer site South of Denver and the Champagne Springs Anasazi site dig team North of Cortez. When you spend hours and days deep in dig squares with other CAS members and live with them in camp, you really get to know them. I learned of the activities of Chapters other than my own Denver Chapter. I have been very impressed by the quality of CAS people statewide and the depth of archaeological activities being done by the Chapters. In preparation for my new State office, I had in-depth conversations with the past President, Linda Seyfert, and our long standing Executive Secretary, Tom Hoff. I also had an excellent meeting with our Colorado State Archaeologist, Richard Wilshusen. I want to thank them and the past and continuing Board members for the fine condition of our Society. I also studied the CAS Constitution and Bylaws. In my many years of managing creative R&D people, I’ve learned that it is always important for a group to “keep an eye on the goal”. I was impressed by the CAS mission statement from our Constitution, and will repeat it here: The Colorado Archaeology Society is a non-profit organization committed to the stewardship of archaeological resources in Colorado. We achieve this thru public education, research, conservation and enhanced opportunities for responsible participation in archaeology for interested individuals and organizations. For the past 3 years I’ve been the President of the Denver Chapter. I’ve learned that almost all of the work of CAS is done in the Chapters. I view the State CAS as a service organization to help Chapters and members participate in archaeological activities they choose. From my interactions with members of other CAS Chapters at digs, trips, and Board meetings, I know all Chapters have areas that they excel at and that all are different. As I mentioned above, I believe CAS is in good shape overall. In addition, at our first quarterly meeting 1/18/2014 at History Colorado in Denver, all of the working committees seem to be well led and doing fine. I do believe there are two areas that I would like State CAS to increase focus going forward and I plan to work in that direction. 1) CAS members would benefit if individual Chapters opened more of their activities to all State CAS members. For example, if a Chapter has a trip, dig, or survey, invite other Chapter members to participate. A great example of doing this well is how the Hisatsinom (Cortez) Chapter has invited all CAS members to participate in the Champagne Springs dig the past 2 years. 2) Looking at the CAS Mission statement, an increased focus by the State CAS on the “research” and “doing” of archaeology (survey, excavation, curation, analysis, talks, and publication) seem appropriate. To partly address this second point, after consultation with the
State Archaeologist and some of the Chapter’s field archaeology Principle Investigators, we have redefined the “Advisory Committee” to be called the “Science/Advisory Committee” and to direct it to evolve into a two-way clearinghouse of information related to Statewide CAS scientific activities and opportunities. Doug Rouse of the Pikes Peak Chapter has agreed to lead this redefined committee. I want to close by saying I am honored to have been elected the President of CAS for 2014. I am very open to input and discussion. I hope to meet with as many of you as possible. Perhaps we can uncover a spring-loaded coffin together!

- Jack Warner

Colorado Archaeological Society President

jackeagle@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.

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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

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Editors Note:
Who says the “Surveyor” doesn’t have Reach! The following was received from Bruce Bradley in the UK after he read the lead story in the Fall 2013 Issue of the “Surveyor”. We put him in contact with the lead archaeologist of “Eagle Rock” Glade Hadden of the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose, Colorado.

Thanks Bruce!

Hi Robert,

I read the article about Eagle Rock shelter with great interest. The 12,500 year old carbon dates don’t make the material Clovis but pre-Clovis. The article indicates that flaked stone was found in association with these dates. What is the nature of the flaked stone? I assume if a point had been found it would have been illustrated in the article. I am currently working on the analysis of the Older Than Clovis assemblages at the Gault Site in central Texas and would be very interested in finding out more about the Eagle Rock shelter materials. Also, has a geomorphologist been brought in to analyse the deposits?

Thanks for any additional information,

Bruce

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international: 44 1392 262 490

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“Surveyor” England Connection

“I read the article about Eagle Rock shelter with great interest. The 12,500 year old carbon dates don’t make the material Clovis but pre-Clovis.”

- Bruce Bradley

Large Pit House
PBS Video

Time Team America travels to Southern Colorado in search of the Lost Pueblo Village. Get a glimpse inside what would have been the largest known pit house on the Dillard site 1,400 years ago.

(Click on Launch Video or Photo to view video)

Launch Video >>
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: craig.banister@comcast.net
and the Surveyor editor Bob Dundas: anasazibob@gmail.com.

- Jack Warner
President, Colorado Archaeological Society

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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:

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History Colorado Event Form >>
History Colorado Event Calendar >>
Adventure into the Jungle

- by Sam Roberts

The Front Range of Colorado is home to one of the most spectacular mountain ranges in the country and it is also my home. I am currently a junior at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison, double majoring in anthropology and geochronology. During my senior year of high school I realized that I wanted to study archaeology when I got to college and I chose Western State because of the numerous ancient sites located in the Gunnison Valley. I plan to continue school after my undergraduate degree and ultimately my goal is to receive my PhD in archaeology. During my sophomore year at Western I had the option of attending two different archaeological field schools, one based in Gunnison and the other based in Belize. I decided to attend Dr. David Hyde’s field school in Belize, Central America, a field school which gave students the opportunity to live and work in the jungle of northwest Belize for three and a half weeks. Dr. Hyde’s field school conducts excavations under the Programme for Belize Archaeology Project, an organization which has been doing archaeological investigations in the 260,000 acre Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area since 1995. The program, directed by Dr. Fred Valdez of the University of Texas, seeks to find and excavate the cultural remains left by the ancient Maya who inhabited the area for almost 4,000 years. Dr. Hyde has been doing research in the area since 1997 and since 2004 his focus has been on a site called the Medicinal Trail Community. He has been taking field schools to the site to do excavations at “Group B” since 2012, a hinterland elite household group, within the Medicinal Trail Community. The field school started on May 19th and excavations began on May 21st, 2013. My excitement on the first day of excavations was unparalleled, soon I thought I would be excavating objects that had been buried in the jungle for over 1,000 years, I was sorely mistaken. Being new to field work, I hadn’t realized that the first few days of the season were reserved for the removal of backfill dirt, so instead of 1,000 year old dirt I was excavating one year old dirt. There were two areas of excavations to start the season, one located on the temple of the group called structure B-1 and the other located on a residential structure called structure B-2. The majority of the excavations I participated in were on structure B-2. The goals for structure B-2 were to continue the excavations that were done the previous season and to excavate the outer wall of the structure to find the corner of the building. Also, excavations were done on the interior of the building to find the back wall to the south and to find the interior wall of the structure. I was one of the lucky ones in the group and only had to endure one day of backfill excavation and on day two I began my first ever excavation of ancient remains. My first unit was to the west of the backfill and my partner and I were instructed to excavate along the already exposed exterior wall of the structure and down to the courtyard floor the structure was placed on. In my first unit I excavated many lithic remains and numerous ceramic fragments, I was completely entranced in the process of discovery and with every lithic or ceramic fragment (no matter how small) I was in awe that I was holding a piece of history that was last held by a Maya citizen over 1,000 years ago. Along with the excavations at the site, Dr. Hyde brought a colleague into camp
to do topographic mapping and surveying. Mr. Stowe was a very entertaining man and along with providing students with a gut-busting laugh at lunch he also gave each of us individual instruction and experience in using a Sokkia Topcon GTS 304 Total Station with an HP-48 data collector. This was one of my favorite parts of the field school because I got the chance to get out of the dirt for a few days and discover another important aspect of archaeology. The work may have seemed tedious to many of the students but the end result was a topographic map of much of the Medicinal Trail Community, something I was proud to contribute to. Also in camp was a student from the University of Texas who had miniature GPS guided helicopters that took aerial pictures and videos of the excavations being done. It was really cool to see the professors get so excited about this new view of their excavations, and the pictures truly added another dimension to the analysis. It was exciting to see the study of Stone Age people move into the 21st century. Over the course of the season I opened and closed numerous other excavation units and unearthed many more artifacts. During the excavations I ran into a major issue with excavating structures: nature. Over time the jungle will reclaim its territory and this area of Belize was no exception. When excavating I had to excavate around more tree roots than I can remember but there were a few stand outs that I will never forget. Excavations on structure B-2 hit a stand still when my partner and I came to the principle root of a tree that was sitting atop the structure. This tree root was responsible for the destruction of the exterior wall of the structure and to remove the 5-7 inch diameter root we implemented the use of hand saws, machetes, and even some of the local workers had to help in the removal of the behemoth root. Another major obstacle that was encountered while we were excavating was the rainy season. In this particular part of the jungle the rainy season started right about the time that field schools start but we were lucky in that the start of the season was delayed by a dry winter. Inevitably the rain came, in force, and with it came the insects, insects the size of trowels and more colorful than a Maya mural. There was no fixing the insect problem but we could work around the rain, albeit not on our own. Each field school enlisted help from local workers who knew the jungle and could assist with anything and everything we needed, including erecting tarps for cover from the rain. Our group had two locals working with us and to put it simply, they were amazing. The ingenuity and resourcefulness these men had was staggering and if that wasn’t helpful enough, one of the men was a Maya descendant and had a vast knowledge of Maya archaeology. Not all of nature was detrimental however, while working at the site we had numerous visits from spider monkeys and howler monkeys which provided a much needed break at times. The jungle is a magnificent place where the achievements of humans are in a constant struggle to outlast the resilience of Mother Nature.

After excavations ended, we took a vacation the last four days we were in Central America. We traveled to Guatemala for two days and to a Caribbean island for the last two days of the trip. In Guatemala we went to the monumental site of Tikal, here we had the chance to explore the massive complex that was once the center of Maya civilization. It was awe-inspiring to see the tem-
ples rise far above the tree line even after thousands of years of jungle reclamation, this site serves as an example of the dominance of the Maya people. After we left Guatemala and went to the island off of the coast of Belize we were left to do anything we wanted and for me that included soothing my bug bites in the salt water and a bit of spear fishing. This ending trip was the perfect way to close out the month long field school. This field school was a life changing experience and it not only gave me valuable experience, it gave me confirmation that archaeology is what I want to do with my life. Since this was my first exposure to field work I will remember it for the rest of my life, but I will also remember the people I met on this journey. The local people of Belize were incredibly welcoming and warm and although I may have not known what they were saying all the time, they were a joy to be around and live with. While in camp I met students from all over the country and formed friendships that continue to today. I not only made social connections, I also made professional connections with professors and other professionals in the field of archaeology. This amazing experience would not have been possible without Dr. Hyde, Western State Colorado University, and the Colorado Archaeological Society. I would like to thank the Alice Hamilton Committee for selecting me as a 2013 scholar because without your generous donation this adventure would not have been possible.

“...”
- Samuel Roberts

Since the federal government passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in 1990, History Colorado has worked with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and the two resident Ute Tribes to repatriate and rebury hundreds of ancestral Native American remains, but has struggled to find the best way to address remains that, for one reason or another, have no place for reburial. On December 13, 2013, after two years of consultation, the State of Colorado—represented by the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, History Colorado, and the Department of Natural Resources—entered into a historic agreement with the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and four federal agencies—the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—to develop procedures for identifying lands where Tribes may rebury remains that were found in locations where obstacles prevented their reburial. The signing of this agreement sets a historic precedent and will likely serve as a national model for making further progress under NAGPRA. Congratulations!
Richard’s World

At the last Colorado Archaeological Society Quarterly meeting on Saturday, January 18th the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation was our host in Denver at History Colorado. Our State Archaeologist, Richard Wilshusen, agreed to provide a special tour of the new museum exhibit a portion of which highlights the Mesa Verde area as well as two other areas / times in Colorado history, all of which emphasize the importance of water for survival and livelihood: LIVING WEST. The Wetherill / Mesa Verde collection was particularly interesting. Thanks Richard it was truly a great tour and exhibit!

Click Here:
Living West Exhibit

Richard Wilshusen
Colorado State Archaeologist

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).

“Our State Archaeologist, Richard Wilshusen, agreed to provide a special tour of the new museum exhibit a portion of which highlights the Mesa Verde area as well as two other areas / times in Colorado history.

Click Here:
Living West Exhibit
Line Shack Draw Site  
- by Craig Banister

The Colorado Archaeological Society sponsored a tour to the Line Shack Draw archaeological site on Sunday, October 6, 2013. The tour was one of many events associated with the CAS Annual Meeting and the 71st Annual Plains Anthropological Conference held in Loveland, Colorado in early October. Our guide was Michael Troyer, an archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office, in Canon City, CO. Michael is currently an anthropology graduate student at Colorado State University. Line Shack Draw (5LR110) is a large, stratified multi-component site located within the Red Mountain Open Space north of Fort Collins, CO. The site represents 7,000+ years of prehistoric and historic occupation and activity in the foothills of Larimer County. Surface inventories along with subsurface testing have revealed an extensive site with intact, buried components. Preliminary analysis suggests an intermittent indigenous occupation spanning the last 7,000 years, as well as sheepherding and ranching activity that dates to the early 20th century. All components are centered around a small, spring-fed gulch at the edge of the foothills. CAS members from several chapters met at the Red Mountain Open Space parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and the entire tour lasted until 1:00 p.m. Under normal circumstances, the site is about a 1.75 mile easy to moderate hike one-way from the parking lot. However, due to the catastrophic flooding in Colorado caused by a storm in September, flash floods on the main creek washed out a segment of the trail. So, our hike was extended to about 2.5 miles one-way, following a different trail. The landscape we walked through was rolling grassland with hills and bluffs with layers of rust-red, gray, white, and tan rocks. The bottoms of the small green valleys are normally dry, sandy washes but the creek we encountered had strong flowing water due to the massive rainstorm a few weeks earlier. Two ecosystems converge in this area of the Laramie Foothills -- shortgrass prairie and the Rocky Mountain foothills. The combined system contains one of the most extensive shrubland-grassland complexes on the Front Range. After walking over 2 miles, we approached two small, wooden cabins, one built out of axe-hewn logs and the other out of rough-cut plank lumber. The interpretive sign located next to the log cabin stated that Dr. A. E. Goodwin (a dentist from Ft. Collins) had homesteaded near here on the Boxelder Ranch with his family beginning in 1910. Michael collected the group together and gave us information about the historic components of the site. Next, we walked west a short distance to the prehistoric site area. We spent about 30 minutes here while Michael spoke about the artifacts found during the surface survey and excavations. The water spring, which was perhaps the focal point of this occupation site, was located in the bottom of the small gulch. Over time, a small stream had cut erosional banks that were now about 4 meters deep in some places. In the walls of the stream bank, two different hearths were pointed out to us, each about 2 to 2.5 meters down from the surface of the ground. For each hearth, bits of charcoal were exposed in the red dirt wall. That was exciting to see. On the hike out, we stopped at a third hearth, also located in a creek bank that had rocks mixed in with the charcoal layer. Further south, we were shown two tipi rings, which are circular patterns of stone typically left over from an encampment of Native Americans. Michael Troyer graciously provided the following summary of information regarding site 5LR110. **Description.** E.B. Renaud and R.G. Coffin first
noted 5LR110 in the 1930s. Colorado State University began investigations at 5LR110 in the early 1970s under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Ann Morris. The site was discovered by Dr. Morris and her students in 1974, as part of the archaeological survey of the Boxelder Project, a water control project in Larimer County, Colorado. More recently, Dr. Jason LaBelle has been reinvestigating the site. I have had the opportunity to work on the site since 2009. At that time, we began systematic surface inventories and subsurface testing to identify areas of dense cultural material that would warrant further investigation. Additionally, several large arroyo systems dissect the site and provide a glimpse of some of the deeper cultural deposits. Our efforts in 2009 resulted in the identification of high-priority areas that became the target of more intensive excavations in 2011. Furthermore, in 2011 we were fortunate enough to have Laurie Huckabee with the U.S. Forest Service Research Station accompany us and conduct dendrochronological analysis of one of the historic cabins and select trees along the stream bed in an effort to better understand local fluvial geomorphology and historic cabin construction and use. Laurie also conducted an extensive survey of the surrounding area documenting evidence of past flood and fire events as well as noting a number of potentially culturally modified trees, which warrant future investigation.

**Artifacts.** To date, we have identified prehistoric occupations dating back over 7,000 years and continuing into the Protohistoric (post-contact) era. We have recorded over 1,100 flakes, 59 tools, 100 pieces of bone, 5 stone circles, 3 hearths, 2 historic cabins, and hundreds of historic items largely indicative of historic sheepherding activities. Additionally, we have acquired five radiocarbon dates associated with the three hearth features and two non-cultural charcoal features. **Conclusion.** 5LR110 is a key component of our research program in northern Colorado. In addition to the enormous research potential of the site, given the size and diversity of the assemblage, the site also affords the opportunity to engage the public with the interests and preservation concerns of the professional community. 5LR110 is presently protected as part of the Red Mountain Open Space and is accessible via the extensive public access trail system Larimer County has made a hallmark of its nature conservation efforts. The day was sunny, but a constant wind was blowing throughout the hike, which made for a tiring day by the end.
time we reached the parking lot. Ranch roads are present in the Open Space, and cattle grazing is permitted. In fact, on the hike back to our cars, we encountered a small herd of Angus cattle at a water tank, not far from the trail. We gave each other the stare-down for a short while, then moved on. The Red Mountain Open Space adjoins the Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, which lies to the east, both of which were opened to the public on June 6, 2009. The Soapstone area contains the famous Lindenmeier Folsom campsite, excavated from 1934 to 1940 by Dr. Frank Roberts under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Michael Troyer was a terrific guide — very knowledgeable, answered all of our questions, and gave a great overview of the historic and prehistoric sites of the Red Mountain Open Space. The field trip was a great learning experience for CAS members and one that I would highly recommend if offered in the future.

Craig Banister • Denver Chapter

I joined the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) in April 2012. I participated in as many CAS events as possible in 2012 and 2013, site surveys, the excavation at Blackfoot Cave, and lab curations, primarily at the Castle Rock Depository (Blackfoot Cave artifacts). I’m particularly interested in lithic materials and have enjoyed my experiences learning about the archaeology of Colorado.

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“From Above:
Images of a Storied Land”

Opens at Arizona State Museum

Adriel Heisey’s stunning large-format aerial images of the Southwest’s cultural landscapes will be on exhibit at the Arizona State Museum from February 8 through September 20, 2014. Archaeology Southwest has been honored to partner with Mr. Heisey on this outstanding traveling exhibit, which invites viewers to consider anew the wonder and fragility of the region’s storied places.

http://bit.ly/1lf7EUj

Arizona State Museum
The Nazca Lines

- by Dick Sundstrom

What’s on your “bucket list?” The movie starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman inspired many to prepare such an enumeration: places to go, people to see, things to do—all before kicking that proverbial oaken container. My coda to this worthy endeavor consists of two simple statements. First: Once you have a list, do it! Second: Stay for the second feature. Back in 1911, Hiram Bingham III led the Yale University Peruvian Expedition to “discover” Machu Picchu, a then little-known Inca site in the highlands of Peru. The April 1913 issue of National Geographic magazine, devoted exclusively to Bingham’s trip, brought Machu Picchu to the attention of the world. Seventy-five years later, in 1986, I too visited Machu Picchu, traveling with a small tour group of adventure vacationists. We rode mules, hiked and camped along the Inca Trail—a fascinating, instructive, thoroughly enjoyable trek. But, one persistent regret has dogged my memories of that trip ever since: I omitted the mysterious Nazca Lines from my itinerary. In September 2013, I corrected that oversight. Less well known than Machu Picchu, the Nazca Lines occupy nearly 200 square miles of desert northwest of the small city of Nazca, located near the Pacific coast in southern Peru. More than a thousand years old, the lines were drawn by the Nazca using various tools to scrape away the iron oxide-coated stones which cover the surface. This action exposed the paler soil beneath. Perhaps by using a primitive version of a surveyor’s transit and a plow-like device of some sort, the Nazca skillfully drew long, impressively straight lines on the expansive plain. Some of the lines extend more than a mile. By removing the stones from larger areas, the Nazca added trapezoidal figures and other geometric shapes which, from the air, suggest that an airport lies below. The Nazca artists did even more, creating line drawings of animals, insects, sea creatures and plants. From above, one can see dozens of images, including a monkey, a condor, a whale and a tree. On a nearby hillside, an enormous humanoid figure, once called The Giant but more recently retitled “The Astronaut,” waves a greeting. All provide evidence of the intelligence and engineering skill of these ancient inhabitants. Flying over the Nazca plain is unique in the world of aviation. In Nazca, a series of unique experiences awaited me. For instance, instead of weighing our luggage, they weighed us! At our gate, no door barricaded our access to the jet way. There was no jet way. Instead, a low chain link fence served as the only demarcation. When the steward opened the fence gate, we walked directly onto the tarmac. There, the crew greeted us individually. Imagine being photographed with the pilot! “I hope this isn’t to help identify the remains,” I fretted. Boarding our plane required only a stepstool, reminiscent of those employed by railroad conductors. All eight of us passengers entered the aircraft quickly and easily. Everyone had a window seat. I was assigned seat number one, directly behind the pilot—and I mean, directly. No anti-terrorist barrier. Passengers were as much in the cockpit as the pilot and co-pilot were in the passenger cabin. One by one, The Monkey, The Spider, The Astronaut, The Hummingbird and The Tree passed beneath our wings. What the Nazca artists called these images and intended them to represent remains a mystery. So, when you plan your next vacation, don’t limit your visit to the “headliner” site. Is Machu Picchu on your bucket list? Stay for the second feature. Consider adding the Nazca Lines to your itinerary.
Archaeology Southwest Links

Colorado Protects Remains of Clovis Era Structures
The Mountaineer Site, on the summit of western Colorado’s Tenderfoot Mountain, is home to some of the oldest structures in North America. Dating back 10,000 years to what archaeologists refer as the Folsom Period, the eight Paleoindian dwellings uncovered here are the only ones of their kind ever discovered. But the mountain is also important to telecommunications companies, which over the years have installed transmission towers at the site and inadvertently harmed archaeological deposits. [http://www.themountainmail.com/free_content/article_3c3e53b8-3bf4-11e3-bf01-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.themountainmail.com/free_content/article_3c3e53b8-3bf4-11e3-bf01-0019bb30f31a.html)

Europeans in Clovis Migrations?
More than 15,000 years ago the first people came to the Americas, walking across the Bering Strait on a land bridge from Siberia, or maybe sailing east along the coast. These people spread down and through North, Central and South America, with early civilizations like the Clovis people taking root. As the theory goes, early Americans originated from a small group of people that made it over from Asia. But when researchers dig into the genes of some Native American people, unexpected genes, genes with a European heritage, jump out. [http://bit.ly/HkXQpM](http://bit.ly/HkXQpM) - Smithsonian.Com

The Clovis Point: One of Smithsonian Magazine's 101 Objects that Made America
When Edgar B. Howard heard that a road crew in eastern New Mexico had stumbled across a cache of big ancient bones, he dropped everything and grabbed the first westbound train. At the time—November 1932—Howard was an archaeology research associate at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. He had been working for a few years in the Southwest and had seen his colleagues in this intensely competitive profession snatch discoveries from under his nose. Days later, he was in Clovis, New Mexico, persuading the landowners to let him excavate. [http://bit.ly/16F24P3](http://bit.ly/16F24P3)

New Sourcing Technique Detects Obsidian In Seconds
Obsidian is a naturally occurring volcanic glass with a smooth, hard surface. It is far sharper than a surgical scalpel when fractured, making the glass a highly desirable raw material for crafting stone tools for almost all of human history. Found in East Africa, the earliest obsidian tools are nearly two million years old, and today, doctors still use obsidian scalpels in specialized medical procedures. [http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1112943717/obsidian-artifacts-sourced-new-technique-091013/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1112943717/obsidian-artifacts-sourced-new-technique-091013/)

Earliest Use of Chocolate in America Discovered, Suggesting Ancient Immigrants
Some strange pottery found at an ancient settlement in southeastern Utah contains the oldest known traces of chocolate in the United States, an anthropologist says. The site dates back to the 8th century — 200 years earlier than the only other known evidence of the food, found at Chaco Canyon, the famous ceremonial and trade center of the Ancestral Puebloans. [http://westerndigs.org/earliest-use-of-chocolate-in-america-discovered-suggesting-ancient-immigrants/](http://westerndigs.org/earliest-use-of-chocolate-in-america-discovered-suggesting-ancient-immigrants/)

Preservation Archaeology: The Cliff Valley Cache
In 1972, a cache of truly remarkable items—a large, wooden human figure and a slightly smaller stone human figure accompanied by animal effigies, textiles, and wooden objects—was recovered from a cave in the Cliff Valley, along the Upper Gila River in New Mexico. The objects are described in a 1978 University of New Mexico master’s thesis by Henry Walt (and most of the information in this post comes from Walt). I knew of the cache, but I didn’t know that it had been purchased by the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC)—so I was very surprised to stumble across it in a gal-
lery at the AIC on a weekend visit last month. Seeing the objects in person prompted me to go back to the report and to think about how these objects fit in with our work in the Upper Gila. [http://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/2013/10/30/faces-of-salado/]

**Reinventing the West**

A strange thing happened in Escalante, Utah, during the government shutdown last fall. The town, a remote community of fewer than 800 souls perched on a high desert plain around a trickle of water called the Escalante River, is surrounded on all sides by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, two million federally protected acres of rugged, visually breathtaking sandstone wilderness larger than the state of Delaware. Because the monument is so vast, pierced by several highways and county roads, it was virtually uncloseable during the shutdown. So when thousands of tourists were turned away from the more famous national parks in the region—Zion, Arches, Grand Canyon—they made their way to Escalante to salvage their vacations. [http://bit.ly/KdWleS - Washington Monthly]

**What Part of “Sacred” Don’t You Understand?**

The Paris auction of 27 sacred American-Indian items earlier this month marks just the latest in a series of conflicts between what tribes consider sacred and what western cultures think is fair game in the marketplace. Earlier this year, Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, said “To see the art market driving this kind of behavior, it’s not just distressful to the Hopi people, it’s a hurt that I don’t believe people can really understand.” [http://bit.ly/JCGkOa - Minnesota Public Radio News]

**tDAR Celebrates the 107th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act**

One hundred seven years ago, on 8 December 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt designated two archaeological sites as National Monuments. Montezuma Castle in Arizona and El Morro in New Mexico were among the first properties set aside for special preservation by Roosevelt using the authority given to the president by Section 2 of the then-new Antiquities Act. During his second term as president, Roosevelt would designate 18 National Monuments, encompassing over 1.5 million acres. Among the other properties he proclaimed as Monuments are the Grand Canyon (Arizona), Muir Woods (California), Olympic (Washington), Lassen Peak (California), Tonto (Arizona), Natural Bridges (Utah), and Tumacacori (Arizona). [http://bit.ly/1gdMKJ] - The Digital Archaeological Record

**DNA Evidence Points to European Genetics in Paleolithic Siberian Populations that Migrated to the Americas**

The results show that people related to western Eurasians had spread further east than anyone had suspected, and lived in Siberia during the coldest parts of the last Ice Age. “At some point in the past, a branch of east Asians and a branch of western Eurasians met each other and had sex a lot,” says paleogeneticist Eske Willerslev at the University of Copenhagen, who led the sequencing of the boy’s genome. This mixing, he says, created Native Americans — in the sense of the populations of both North and South America that predated — as we know them. His team’s results are published today in Nature. [http://bit.ly/1jUax92 - Scientific American]
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
“Supernova' Cave Art Was No Such Thing, Astronomer Says”

(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: kkinnear@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.coloradoarchaeogogy.org
The Quarterly Board meeting of the Colorado Archaeological Society was called to order by President Jack Warner on January 18, 2014, at 11:10 a.m. in the History Colorado Center, Denver, CO. Jack Warner introduced the new officers and welcomed all to the meeting. Roll call was taken, with a quorum present. Chapters represented were: Chipeta, Denver, Hisatsinom, Indian Peaks, Pikes Peak, Pueblo, Rock Art and San Juan Basin.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (TOM HOFF):

History Colorado’s State Historical Fund has awarded a grant to the project “San Juan Red Ware Sourcing and Exchange” in the amount of $6987.00 with a cash match of $2299.00 to be paid by Mr. Dave Dove.

TREASURER:

Current assets are $43,924.17 and liabilities are $3,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

2014 Quarterly & Annual Board Meetings. The schedule for the remainder of the year is April 12 in Boulder, July 26 in Montrose and September 26-28 in Colorado Springs. Durango is the venue for the 2015 CAS Annual meeting.

Constitution and Bylaws Review. The Committee is still reviewing the proposed draft revision and plans to send a draft version to the Board about two weeks prior to the April Quarterly Meeting, so an informed discussion can be held during that meeting. Updated versions based on discussion at the quarterly meeting will then be circulated to the membership via the Chapters. Members/Chapters will then have time for review with their comments due at the July Quarterly Meeting. Revision will also bring both documents into compliance with State statutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ALICE HAMILTON SCHOLARSHIP (PHIL WILLIAMS/TERRI HOFF):

Applications will be due on March 30 for the 2014 Alice Hamilton Scholarship awards. Awards will be announced on April 12 at the April Quarterly Meeting. This year’s raffle item will be a set of three custom hand-crafted petroglyph metal garden art pieces donated by Pikes Peak Chapter member Ann Keil.

PAAC (KEVIN BLACK):

Five PAAC courses (Boulder, Denver, Dolores, Durango and Pueblo) were held during the fourth quarter, 2013. Average attendance was 18 people. Three PAAC courses (Alamosa, Fountain and Glenwood Springs) were cancelled, due to insufficient sign-ups. The PAAC Winter Laboratory Project resumed in December at the off-site storage facility in central Denver. Four volunteers worked in the lab on six days completed. The low turnout resulted in the cancelling of two lab days. Gretchen Acharya of Indian Peaks Chapter earned a Laboratory Trainee certificate.

PUBLICATIONS (LARRY EVANS):

All remaining copies of Colorado Context books have been sold back to CCPA.

PUBLICATIONS / SOUTHWESTERN LORE (JUDI HALASI):

The Winter 2013 issue is currently in progress at the CU Press. Work is progressing on the review of fifteen “cache” articles for the projected double issue for Spring/Summer 2014.

PUBLICATIONS / COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY (KEVIN BLACK):
No new manuscripts have been received. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Montrose, CO) and Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Golden, CO) still plan to underwrite the next issue on the archaeology of northwestern Colorado. Mr. Metcalf and Rand Gruebel of Alpine will co-edit the issue. Kevin Black will be copy editor.

PUBLICATIONS / SURVEYOR NEWSLETTER (ROBERT DUNDAS):

Deadlines have been set for contributing material for Surveyor publication: Winter issue - February 1, Spring issue - April 26, Summer issue-August 9, and Fall issue-October 11. Deadlines are 2 weeks after CAS Board meetings.

PUBLICATIONS / WEBSITE (CRAIG BANISTER):

The CAS website (coloradoarchaeology.org) was transferred to a new ISP in January 2014, both the Hosting Plan and Domain Name Registration.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST (RICHARD WILSHUSEN):

It is now been three years since I got hired as the State Archaeologist and the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Archaeology. This continues to be the best job I have ever had and the most challenging job I have ever had. I could not have sustained myself without your encouragement, your advice, and your incredible enthusiasm for a common passion that CAS and I both share: archaeology. Here are a few observations:

1. I have deeply appreciated your ability to partner with other groups, whether History Colorado, the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, or the Plains Anthropological Society. I know that you do not want to defer to other groups, but I think the presence of CAS at the meetings of those meetings has reminded them of the important role that CAS plays in the doing, educating, and supporting of archaeology in our state.

2. I am incredibly impressed with the efforts of the Education Committee of the last year. I recognize that this committee is in the midst of re-envisioning its role in CAS and individual chapters, but I think education and outreach is fundamental to CAS’s identity, no matter how you choose to do it. Both Kevin and I will try to make you aware of any training or new programs as CCPA and History Colorado design efforts for archaeological outreach.

3. I am always happy to see CAS members in the field, whether it be on the PAAC field school, Champagne Springs, Bent’s New Fort, touring the culturally modified trees above Alma, CO, at various Archaeological Conservancy projects, or other field settings where I have encountered you. I will be working with you as we likely have several new projects I see on the horizon, one of which may entail work with an incredible museum collection. Stay tuned.

4. Your support of the curation of the materials from CAS’s excavations at the Upper Plum Creek Shelter in 1981 is gratefully acknowledged. We were able to securely rehouse and now curate approximately 26 cu. ft. of artifacts from CAS excavations in 1981 that involved 125 CAS volunteers over six weeks. This site was on private land in Las Animas County and the collections were well taken care of in Diane and Bob Rhodes’ garage, but in need of permanent curation.

5. Kevin and I have appreciated the partnerships your chapters have formed with local and regional museums, whether they be for your monthly meetings, PAAC classes, or other activities. With this year’s archaeology permits, we have turned the corner on implementing a strategy to address the curation crisis.

6. I thank the Awards Committee for continuing to recognize our state’s most effective and tireless advocates. I particularly appreciated the choice of last year’s Silver Trowel
26

(Hurst) award.

7. Bev Goering’s tireless work on membership has been revelatory to me. I think this is the critical gauge of any organization. Her reports have taught me more about what makes CAS work/not work than I ever suspected.

8. Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee has been fundamental to encouraging many young archaeologists to continue into the profession. I never want to forget the support they offered to someone such as myself.

9. The Long Range Planning and Science/Advisory committees are critical to considering the society’s present and future mission. I regularly pin their reports to a bulletin board next to my desk and look at them when I run out of energy. Never forget to challenge yourself to change and grow stronger, and never forget your important role in the archaeological research and outreach in our state.

10. Finally, my hat is off to the Executive Board officers and to the representatives who serve on our Board’s committees. These executive officers amaze me with their commitment and enthusiasm.

CHS / CAS REPS (PETER FARIS/BOB MUTAW)

Four State Historical Fund grants were approved for archaeological projects including the grant to CAS, mentioned in the Executive Secretary’s report above. Bob Mutaw recognized the accomplishments, hard work and tremendous support for Colorado archaeology exhibited by State Archaeologist Richard Wilshusen during his present tenure.

HISTORY COLORADO PROJECTS (TERRY MURPHY):

There has been no official activity since the last CAS quarterly meeting. A planning meeting for spring and summer activities is scheduled for later this month.

EDUCATION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH (KAREN KINNEAR):

Karen Kinnear reported the Education Committee met in November to discuss items to include in the preliminary plan for education/outreach such as: identify current educational activities within the Chapters; develop and share educational programs among Chapters; co-sponsor programs/events with other organizations; encourage AHS awardees involvement; establish a speakers contact list, and consult with partners at History Colorado, CCPA, Crow Canyon for opportunities for joint projects. The Committee met recently with OAHP staff, and plan a similar discussion with CCPA Education Committee soon. Efforts continue on building the speaker contact list with input received from 5 chapters (Chipeta, Denver, Hisatsinom, Indian Peaks, Pikes Peak), and encouraging other chapters to also contribute.

AWARDS (JASON LABELLE):

Two articles are in preparation for an upcoming issue of *Southwestern Lore* regarding awards presented at the 2013 CAS Annual Meeting: the CT Hurst Award to Kevin Black and the Ivol Hagar Award to Peter Faris. Funds were requested and approved to purchase up to 6 awards for future winners as there are no remaining blank plaques.

MEMBERSHIP (BEV GOERING):

There are 946 chapter members and 685 chapter memberships. Unaffiliated members are 40 and unaffiliated memberships are 35. Institutional memberships are 63.

SCIENCE/ADVISORY (JACK WARNER, Acting):

The Advisory Committee has been renamed the Science/Advisory Committee to better reflect the Mission of CAS, and to redefine the Committee’s focus. This committee plans to evolve into a two-
The Advisory Committee has been renamed the Science/Advisory Committee to better reflect the Mission of CAS, and to redefine the Committee’s focus. This committee plans to evolve into a two-way clearinghouse of information related to Statewide CAS scientific activities and opportunities; as well as, continue its past role of informing the State Archaeologist of all CAS Chapter external activities. New chair is Doug Rouse of Pikes Peak Chapter.

LONG RANGE PLANNING (DICK SUNDSTROM):

Dick Sundstrom reported the Long Range Planning committee has two recommendations to present regarding providing additional monies to the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund. The first is to reallocate 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. The second recommendation is to reallocate the funds previously budgeted and spent on costs associated with mailing hard copies of the Surveyor newsletter (all electronic publication approved in 2013), totaling approximately $1,000/year. Motion to approve the first recommendation failed 9-12. Motion made and approved to have an overall evaluation and review of the budget with committee chairs providing direct input for budget requests to Treasurer Niesen, before the April Quarterly Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Reports. Jack Warner requested that all committee reports please be kept to 5-10 minutes to provide time for all. Items requiring longer discussion should be submitted in advance as a "New Business" item. In addition, a short written summary report with copies to be distributed should be provided at the meeting.

Financial Audit Committee. Volunteers to perform the financial audit of the 2013 CAS State records are chair Larry Evans, Bob Rushforth, and Teresa Weedin.

2014 Encampment. There was a discussion of a possibility of an Encampment for this year. Committee volunteers Barbara Potter, Carla Hendrickson and Linda Trzyna will investigate feasibility.

President Jack Warner thanked Richard Wilshusen and the OAHP staff for hosting the meeting, and Kevin Black, in particular, for providing the afternoon cookies. Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m. so that all who wished to could join Richard Wilshusen and Kevin Black on a guided tour of History Colorado’s new exhibit: LIVING WEST.

Kris Holien, 01/27/2014
CAS Recording Secretary
kjholien@aol.com

"The Advisory Committee has been renamed the Science/Advisory Committee to better reflect the Mission of CAS, and to redefine the Committee’s focus. This committee plans to evolve into a two-way clearinghouse of information related to Statewide CAS scientific activities and opportunities; as well as, continue its past role of informing the State Archaeologist of all CAS Chapter external activities."
The Myth of Progress

- by Harvey Leake

“Progress” is a word that gets bandied about with increasing regularity. Its usefulness in describing movement toward a desirable goal is often clouded by proponents of various causes who use it without describing exactly what their proposed goal is or explaining why they think it would be so desirable. This is often the case when the word is used to represent hoped-for societal change. The advocates of such change find the word particularly beneficial when they want to avoid full disclosure of their intended means and ends, skirt any discussions of the negative ramifications of their objective, and summarily dismiss contrary ideas as inferior and deserving of no further consideration. It would seem that progress, used in this sense, would reflect a multitude of meanings as viewed through the eyes of each beholder. Surprisingly, though, just about everyone, regardless of social background or political persuasion, is passionately marching in lockstep toward the same fundamental vision of social change, like the pioneers in a famous nineteenth century painting entitled “Spirit of the Frontier”. It depicts the westward movement of a floating goddess and her followers who, aided by technology, are clearing the way of wild animals, Indians, and darkness. Cultural critic Neil Postman, in his book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, describes this concept of progress thusly: “all Americans… believe nothing if not that history is moving us toward some preordained paradise and that technology is the force behind that movement.” Henceforth, I will use the capitalized form—Progress—to represent this particular ideology.

An inevitable corollary of the philosophy of Progress, it seems, is that there is something wrong with those who are disinterested in or critical of this quest for technological nirvana. Such people are dismissed as unenlightened, backward-looking, and inferior both intellectually and morally. They are disregarded, ridiculed, and sometimes dealt with using more violent means. I became interested in this subject years ago while researching the history of my ancestors, the Wetherill family of Mancos, Colorado. They experienced this repression first-hand when, informed by their Quaker heritage, they attempted to spread the word that modern society could learn important lessons of life by studying the ways of Native Americans. The Wetherills moved to southwestern Colorado around 1880. It was a period when most of the settlers considered the local Ute Indians to be adversaries and impediments to civilization. The Ute presence limited development of the region and expansion of mining, farming, and ranching operations. The family patriarch, Benjamin Kite (B. K.) Wetherill viewed the situation from a different perspective. He had lived with the Osages during the previous decade and respected their ability to live happily in their natural environment. Rather than fighting with the Utes, the Wetherills treated them as neighbors. In 1888, B. K. Wetherill’s eldest son, Richard, and son-in-law, Charlie Mason, discovered Cliff Palace and some of the other cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde. The family believed that they had found an amazing resource for educating the public, and they worked hard to gather artifacts for use in spreading the message. They were disappointed when they realized that the public was not so enthused. “The neighbors ridiculed and scoffed at the idea of preserv-
William Henry Holmes. “Of course it is a pity that they could not be reserved and preserved,” Holmes replied, “but when their multitude is considered—they cover a good part of four States and Territories—it seems a Herculean task.” B. K. Wetherill wrote several other letters, reiterating the need for government action. “We are particular to preserve the buildings, but fear, unless the Gov’t sees proper to make a national park of the Cañons, including Mesa Verde[,] that the tourists will destroy them,” he warned. He was unaware that Holmes had decided to terminate the dialog at the outset. “There seems to be no need of other communication with him,” Holmes had recorded privately upon replying to B. K.’s first letter. My ancestors must have wondered why a government bureau that was created for the purpose of studying Indian culture was so disinterested in helping protect invaluable archaeological resources such as the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde. I wondered the same, so I undertook a study to better understand what the leaders of the Bureau of Ethnology were thinking. I learned that they were staunch believers in Progress, which they viewed as incompatible with the concept that valuable insights could be gained from exposure to Native American culture. John Wesley Powell was a disciple of social theorist Lewis Henry Morgan whose book, Ancient Society, or Researches in the Lines of Human Progress from Savagery Through Barbarism to Civilization, was published in 1877. Morgan wrote that human culture evolves and progresses through these three stages. He purported to document the “Growth of intelligence through inventions and discoveries,” thus asserting that non-technological cultures are intellectually inferior. Powell elaborated on Morgan’s theory in two articles: “From Savagery to Barbarism” and “From Barbarism to Civilization”. He maintained that civilized society is not only technologically and intellectually superior, but morally superior as well. “In savagery, the beasts are gods; in barbarism, the gods are men; in civilization, men are as gods, knowing good from evil,” he wrote. The position of these men and many others in the Federal Government was that Native Americans were stuck in the barbaric stage and needed to be civilized. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, since their inception in 1849, implemented a number of unsuccessful strategies to bring the Indians “up” to modern intellectual and moral standards, while failing to acknowledge that the divide was fundamentally a philosophic one. William Henry Holmes, who had responded to B. K. Wetherill’s first letter, later expressed the violent aspect of the government approach. He believed that the dominant culture was destined to predominate and that “the complete absorption or blotting out of the red race will be quickly accomplished. If peaceful amalgamation fails, extinction of the weaker by less gentle means will do the work.” - Harvey Leake

Richard and B. K. Wetherill on left at a Ute wedding, ca. 1892

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One of the casualties of so-called Progress is dimming of the light in children’s eyes.

-Harvey Leake
environments, accumulation of manufactured things, involvement in one diversion after another, and either hero worship or envy toward those who have made a better showing. Intentional contact with nature, if it occurs at all, often involves sanitized abstractions of the real world. Today’s politically-charged rhetoric focuses on how to best enhance the ability of the citizens to create artificial environments. Freedom is the ability to make one’s own escape from nature with a minimum of man-made encumbrances, and equality is the assurance that all people are provided that ability. Indoctrination into the philosophy of Progress is so prevalent in our society that most of its adherents do not even recognize that an alternative—adaptation to nature—exists. I was fortunate to find, in the papers of my great-grandmother, a manuscript that explains the tenets of this philosophy with clarity. It is the account of a Navajo man named Wolfkiller who recounted the moral training that he received from his mother and grandfather when he was a boy and how it helped him deal with life as he grew older. My great-grandmother, Louisa Wade Wetherill, translated and recorded his story, and it is now available in the book, _Wolfkiller: Wisdom from a Nineteenth Century Navajo Shepherd_. Wolfkiller received his first lesson in adaptation to nature in the early 1860s when he was about six years old. His grandfather overheard him complaining about the chilling wind and gently explained that it was something to be thankful for. “All things are beautiful and full of interest if you observe them closely and study them,” the grandfather admonished. After considering this advice for a few days, Wolfkiller came to see that the wind is good. “We had thought the wind was just a useless thing to cause us unhappiness, but now we saw that it had many purposes. It cleared the air of the odors of decaying plants and dead animals, brought the clouds on its wings to give us rain, and made us strong,” he concluded. When a violent rain and lightning storm terrified the young boy, his grandfather took him out to study the aftermath. “See how beautiful it really is,” said the grandfather. “How black the clouds are. See the streaks of white lightning coming down. See the rocks over which it has passed—how they glisten. And you can see how fresh and green the cornfields, grass, and trees are now. We needed the storm to make things beautiful.” When winter came again, Wolfkiller’s mother told him to go outside and roll in the snow. “The snow will be with us for several moons now, and if you roll in it and treat it as a friend, it will not seem nearly as cold to you,” she explained. By following his elders’ guidance along “the path of light”, Wolfkiller achieved an intimate and rewarding connection with the earth. He so treasured the wisdom it offered that he no longer worried about his living conditions, which would be considered extreme by today’s standards. Wind, storm, cold, and even natural death, caused him little concern. His journey was not a difficult one. Simply by overcoming his unfounded fears of nature, he was able to focus on learning the skills he needed to avoid life’s real dangers and gain access to the invaluable insights that only nature can provide. Estrangement from nature is debilitating to the younger generation in particular. Continually wired into electronic gadgetry, many children have lost their innate sense of fascination with the real world. Look into their faces as they wander the malls or big box stores in anticipation of acquiring the latest computer game, texting device, or audio or video recording. Gone is the spark of light that graced the eyes of the children of yesteryear. Today’s kids, as well as most of their elders, are missing the joys of encountering nature’s stunning scenery, the simple pleasures of sunshine, fresh air, and starlit nights, and the intrigue of discovering for themselves what is over the next ridge. Above all else, they are missing out on the lessons in wisdom that only nature can offer. These deficiencies can hardly be considered progress.

More than thirty years ago, Harvey Leake began researching the history of his pioneering ancestors, the Wetherills of the Four Corners region. His investigations have taken him to libraries, archives, and the homes of family elders whose recollections, photographs, and memorabilia have brought the story to life. His field research has led him to remote trading post sites in the Navajo country and some of the routes used by his great-grandfather, John Wetherill, to access the intricate canyon country of the Colorado Plateau. Harvey was born and raised in Prescott, Arizona. He is a semi-retired electrical engineer.

**Originally published in:**


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- Harvey Leake
What Next!

- by Ryan Heinsius

Controversial Development at the Confluence Takes a Step Forward

A proposed development project near the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers is one step closer to becoming a reality. But, as Arizona Public Radio’s Ryan Heinsius reports, several key questions still remain about the controversial, multimillion-dollar development.

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“A proposed development project near the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers is one step closer to becoming a reality.”
- Ryan Heinsius

Mano and Metate Sculpture - Klamath Falls, OR
Leslie Elisabeth Wildesen
1944—2014

-by O D Hand

Leslie Wildesen passed away on Friday, January 24, 2014, due to a reoccurrence of cancer. She served as Colorado State Archaeologist and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer between 1984 and 1988. Many of the office staff remembers Leslie as a very energetic person, fully engaged in life, brimming with enthusiasm, always exploring new interests and ideas, and talented in so many ways. She had a great sense of humor and a laugh that could be heard throughout the office. She took an active role in advising on archaeological issues, reviewing archaeological documents, Native American consultation, and was very supportive of the staff. The Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologist and the Colorado Archaeological Society were organizations that Leslie supported and from which she made many long lasting friendships.

Leslie came from the Pacific NW but we’re not exactly sure where. Her college career included a BA from Stanford University, a MA from San Francisco State University, and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. Early research and field investigations were conducted in Alaska, California, Oregon, and Washington. In 1976 Leslie became the first Regional Archaeologist for the Pacific NW Forest Region (Region 6). It was in 1984 that she came to Colorado and served as Colorado State Archaeologist and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. During the early 1990’s, Leslie took the position of Regional Archaeologist for the Rocky Mountain Forest Region (Region 2), holding the position for about a year and a half, leaving in 1992. Leslie was awarded several honors and appointments, including a Congressional Fellowship by the American Anthropological Association, serving as a staff member of the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks. President Ronald Regan appointed her to three consecutive terms as an expert member of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee. In addition, Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh appointed Leslie to the State Historic Review Board. Leslie returned to Portland, Oregon in the mid 1990’s and founded and served as President of Environmental Training and Consulting International, Inc. (ETCI). The focus of the corporation was on NEPA and related topics in the US and environmental management systems and sustainability overseas. She traveled extensively conducting environmental and business sustainability projects for government agencies and corporations throughout the US, as well as in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. In 2010 she published a book on sustainability for the hospitality industry, Hospitality Forever: A Sustainability Handbook for the Lodging Industry. Leslie stayed active in ETCI until about a year ago. Life in Portland was full. While administrating ETCI, Leslie was also an avid bicyclist and a crew member on a Chinese dragon boat. In 2007, to express the “purely artsy part of myself,” Leslie create the website Aerial Warthog Productions for the purpose of producing photography shows, musical CD’s, and short stories and zines. Most years Leslie hosted a photography show and/or CD release party, calling the event a “salon.” Typical Leslie, the party was always held at a real salon, a “hair salon” or a “nail salon.” In 2011, Leslie produced an iBook, called Just Attitude. It is a collection of humorous essays about her experience with breast cancer. The book is for cancer survivors and friends and/or relatives of survivors, anyone who needs to “laugh out loud.” Leslie had survived the first cancer diagnosis, however it returned. On January 10, 2014, Leslie and the love of her life, Jeanne Crouch were married in Vancouver, WA, what a wonderful occasion. On January 24, 2014, Leslie Wildesen passed away at home, with Jeanne by her side, holding her hand. Good bye old friend, you will be missed.

"The Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologist and the Colorado Archaeological Society were organizations that Leslie supported and from which she made many long lasting friendships."

-O D Hand
Depth of Field . . .

“Children went naked, but babies wore diapers made of shredded juniper bark and when the women worked were strapped onto woven or wooden cradleboards.”

- Suzanne Kita