



New Mexico

SiteWatch

Protecting the Enchantment

SUMMER 2007

NEWS!

- 1- **SiteWatch Conference** planned for Oct. 11th (ASNM's S-1 Site Survey course) and Oct 12th (A.M.) at Northwest NM Visitor Center, Grants, NM (**Registration Form attached below**).
- 2- Media Release going out to recruit volunteer stewards interested in helping in Lincoln & Valencia Counties, and the Carlsbad, Sandia Crest, & Bandelier/Los Alamos areas.
- 3- I'm back from incident command/fire duties in 3-Corners area (ID, NV & UT); I've temporarily postponed leaving part-time state employment to the ranks of volunteer. Hoping that State SiteWatch Coordinator will be advertised this Fall.

Have you looked at our Handbook recently?

It does change from time-to-time. We try to keep the most recent copy posted with our SiteWatch forms (& this newsletter) at: www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/documents.php

Let's take a quick look at a little of it:

“Mission Statement

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

This Handbook provides a summary of the NM SiteWatch program and serves as a basis for expanding partnerships between agencies, potential stewards, and SiteWatch. “

Plus: **“Due to local needs and variation, this Handbook is intended to be a general guideline, not a directive.”**

Now, for some of what-is-happening-out-there:

Chaco: Several training sessions have occurred at Chaco over the past few months, adding new volunteers to the steward rolls. Chapter Coordinator Sally McLaughlin has taken a leave-of-absence. BJ Ratlief, Chief Ranger at Chaco will be our point-of-contact.

Central NM (Albuquerque): "In the 2nd Quarter of 2007, we have managed to get a few more people assigned to sites (a couple never to be heard from again) and just

about everyone has received Site Steward instruction, thanks to the recent Training Sessions. In May, we had a partial "Rock Art Documenting" Class at Tomè Hill, orchestrated by Mark Rosenblum and conducted by Dick Yeck. Sadly, after one hour of a scheduled four hours, the heavens opened and everyone ran for cover. Mr. Yeck was able to impart the basics, stressing that our "Documenting" was not for the Official Record, but for inclusion in a managing agency's site file. The summer rains (not officially the Monsoon yet) should make travel to some of our sites interesting." (Chapter Coordinator Terry Ballone)

Elephant Butte/Caballo State Parks (*Truth or Consequences*): This is a new chapter that received training in May. It was designed by New Mexico State Parks and BOR to help monitor and protect sites along the Rio Grande in this area. ARPA violations have occurred on BOR lands. Word of mouth is making its way through the community but SiteWatch hopes to get the media involved so they report our use of volunteers to safeguard resources in the two parks. More volunteers are needed; some are being recruited, others have been trained but need to finish out their paperwork and begin their assignments. Per request of LE Officers, the volunteer stewards have been requested to "not visit" certain sites until further notice. (Chapter Coordinator Norm Nelson)

Jemez Mtns (*Los Alamos*): Chapter Coordinators Craig Martin (L.A. County) and Laura James (moving to Inyo NF, CA) are working with George Coxey (george.coxey@lacnm.us) to take over volunteer coordination in this area. Due to Craig's work schedule and duties he has been attempting to be Agency Rep + the Chapter Coordinator. Not a long-term "best practice," as SiteWatch tries to help take the load off, not add to it. George is re-contacting Chapter members to find out status.

Middle Rio Grande (*Valencia, Socorro & Catron Counties*): The Chapter sponsored the above mentioned Rock Art training at Tome Hill, and was involved with the El Camino Real sign unveiling nearby. Stewards have been actively monitoring El Camino Real features and helping BLM with the planning cycle for their interpretation & protection; remains of a WW II bomber were found/documented; other work has been in area of Johnson Hill. (Chapter Coordinators Mark Rosenblum and Tom Harper)

North Central (*Taos*): Over the past few months twelve stewards visited 10-sites (logging 52 hours), and reported conditions (downed fence, recent rock shelter construction) to BLM. In addition, 5 OJT trainees being oriented by Carmen Johnson. Taos Archaeological Society also continued with their excellent lecture and field-trip series. (Chapter Coordinator CJ Johnson)

Northwest NM/NM Site Stewards: "We have taken on 6 new sites that were recently recorded for the BLM. Most are near currently monitored sites... We had very heavy patrols around Summer Solstice, since that has been a time of sites being damaged in recent years. We either missed them or have not found damage. Two years ago they had a fire inside a pueblito and used the remains of a hogan for fuel. Last year near the same area there was also a fire in a pueblito only a mile from the previous year. This seems to be folks ("new agers") having some kind of ceremony. Record heat and gas prices are taking a big hit on our hours. (Chapter Coordinator Tom Whitson)

Southwest/South Central (*Silver City and Las Cruces*) the Southwest Chapter lost its Coordinator Arch Slate to a move. He was replaced in July by Kyle Meredith. Before his departure, Arch organized a two-day campout in June with fourteen Site Stewards at Diamond Creek to monitor, photograph, and update reports on 22 Forest Service sites,

20 of which are on the Priority Heritage Assets List. It provided valuable training, was a great way for local stewards to get to work together, and it was a success we'd like to duplicate with other groups of sites. In April, the SW Chapter assisted on the annual Sierra Club service project in the Gila National Forest. Under the direction of GNF Archaeologist Chris Adams, five SW Chapter Stewards served as team leaders in conducting a week-long survey within an extensive group of sites. Chris Adams is the new Zone Archaeologist for the Black Range and Gila Wilderness Districts, and on June 19th introduced himself to our group at a meeting in the Silver City Forest Service office. He outlined the areas where SiteWatch can best assist the GNF and indicated an eager willingness to assist us in any way he could. Currently there are over 50 stewards listed with the SW Chapter, about a quarter of which are active in the Las Cruces area under the coordination of Deb Dennis. (Chapter Coordinators Kyle Meredith and Deb Dennis).

Southeast (Carlsbad): BLM Carlsbad archaeologist Rebecca Hill attended a June 8th meeting in Fort Stanton with Lincoln NF archaeologist Eric Dillingham and BLM Roswell archaeologist Pat Flanary. There is interest in trying to develop SiteWatch in/around Lincoln County sites (BLM & Lincoln NF primarily). A recruiting media release is being worked on. Beckie reports that a new rock art site was discovered and reported on Lincoln NF lands, and that four active stewards provided Quarterly Service Reports (THANK YOU Hill, Holmen & Rohrer).

West Central: Cibola NF and BLM- Albuquerque are working with the newest area to have training and start to organize steward activities. Introductory training was held in June 16th in Gallup.

(Note: not all areas/Chapters reported; hopefully next time)

"Getting to know you..."

This time featuring the Middle Rio Grande Area:

Chapter Coordinator Mark Rosenblum

Mark has been a SiteWatcher since the organization of the Central New Mexico Chapter and is now coordinator of the Middle Rio Grande Chapter where he has organized several SiteWatch workshops held in Valencia County. Prior to moving to New Mexico in 2001 Mark lived in New York after retiring from a career as a metallurgical engineer, an electronics manufacturer and an alcoholism counselor. Upon arriving in Los Lunas, and taking up residence in a 100 year old adobe farmhouse, he was a full time volunteer in animal rescue and is still a member of the Valencia County Animal Control Advisory Board. He also has been active in the Chamber Music Albuquerque organization and can now be found helping at the concerts of the New Mexico Jazz Workshop.

SiteWatch Steward Jonathan Briggs

Briggs, who has been a freelance technical writer for many years, is also currently a full-time member of the CNM English Department faculty. Prior to teaching, he was a technical editor with the UNM Health Sciences Center. Briggs, who is originally from Massachusetts, has lived in New Mexico for more than 30 years. During that time he has developed an deep appreciation for the state's wide range of historical and cultural treasures.

EQUIPMENT

SiteWatch has received a couple more field kits, with digital Kodak camera and Garmin 12XL GPS units. Chapter Coordinators needing one should contact me (while they last).

2007

New Mexico SiteWatch Site Steward's Conference **REGISTRATION FORM**

When: October 11th (all day) – 12th (am), 2007
Where: **Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center**
1900 E. Santa Fe Ave. Grants, New Mexico

Tentative Subjects/schedule:

Oct. 11th- **Arch. Soc. of NM's S-1/Site Survey course 8:30am – 5pm**

Oct 12th- **subjects of steward interest, 8:30-11:30am** (followed by State Arch. Fair).

PLEASE complete this form and mail/e-mail to:

Phillip Young
Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo St., Room 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505.827.6314
phillip.young@state.nm.us

Name: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Location: _____

Contact Information: _____
(e-mail preferred for information updates)

Do you plan to attend both days? Yes _____ No _____

(if no, which day do you plan to attend? _____)

NOTE: Registration is limited to the 1st 60 [Sorry :-(]