The View from Here …By Norm Nelson

…is improving even more! Our office now has a new National Register Coordinator. Steve Moffson comes to us from the Georgia SHPOs office with 17 years’ experience. Our new CLG Coordinator, Karla McWilliams, starts in December. She and her family are coming to NM from Michigan. We will be interviewing for the new archaeological position this month and hope to make an offer before year’s end. I have great hopes for this turn of events since it should open up more time for me to spend on the SiteWatch program!

A recently completed training in Santa Fe was enjoyed by 23 participants. Our thanks to those in the USFS Santa Fe Supervisor’s Office for hosting the classroom session. Agency archaeologists assisting with the training included Mike Bremer, Santa Fe Forest Archaeologist, and Rory Gauthier, Bandelier National Monument Chief Archaeologist. Rory enjoyed the training so much he will be joining the teaching cadre! Our thanks to the Archaeological Conservancy for allowing the group onto San Marcos Pueblo for the afternoon session as well! Bill Baxter, Jerry Rogers and Cora Cliburn provided support and guidance for the group while we were on site and I thank them for their time and efforts.

(Cont’d on Pg. 2)

In Memoriam: Robert Michael

The Elephant Butte-Caballo SiteWatch Chapter and the staff of Elephant Butte Lake State Park join together in mourning the passing of our site steward Bob Michael in June of this year. In spite of periodic battles with cancer, Bob had been an active and valuable member of our SiteWatch organization. He and his wife, Wilma, served with distinction, monitoring an important Mogollon pithouse village at the north end of Elephant Butte Lake over the last several years. We miss Bob’s energy and kind heart, and wish his family the very best as they move toward healing. Wilma would ask us to wish Bob Vaya con Dios!
The Annual SiteWatch meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 16 at the Stewart Udall Center in Santa Fe. Many of you will recall the 2012 meeting we enjoyed with the Site Steward Foundations gracious help in setting up the meeting and the lunch! The speakers list is shaping up well and I hope is one we will find both entertaining and informative. The RSVP form is attached and the agenda will be sent out in January.

Some of our chapters have sent a summary of what accomplishments they have had during the year (see newsletter article). Keep this in mind for the Annual Meeting, as we will again have the Chapter Corner for coordinators or their representative to raise issues, solutions and news to share with one another. I think this is a great way to make contacts with other chapters and to develop networks to assist in finding solutions!

One of our chapters (the agency archaeologist in particular) will be documenting various rock art clean-up techniques. This will include the hardness of the surface, the type of graffiti, and the type of treatments. The report is something the USFS will utilize and HPD/SiteWatch will be able to use as a reference. We have already had an inquiry from Utah about such methods and folks are intrigued about the report.

One last note based on the Utah connection:

New Mexico SiteWatch has made contact with several other state programs. This evolved from our participation at the International Rock Art Convention held in Albuquerque. I have entertained the idea of forming a regional alliance to share information and to assist one another in the Four-Corners states of Utah, NM, Arizona and Colorado. The California representative I met at the convention envisions something larger, a national alliance. We compromised and figure a first step should involve the Western states first, then something larger. Our first step will be taken in March in Monterey, California. The National Council on National History has accepted our proposal for a roundtable session on site steward programs. New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana will be represented. The roundtable is entitled “Protecting an Enduring Legacy: Site Stewardship, Volunteerism, and Archaeology in the American West”. NM will moderate the session, which was ranked 4th of over 70 programs (more than 400 applicants!). Everyone is excited and looking for a great outcome! It will be a great opportunity to introduce the idea of site steward programs to a new audience and to put names and faces together from across the west to form an alliance.

I’ve said this before.

Keep up the great work that you do for New Mexico. The day to day workings of the volunteer Chapter Coordinators and of the volunteer members that protect our state’s heritage are the heart and soul of our program. Many thanks to the almost 300 of you that are active in the program and for making SiteWatch a program to be proud of!

Norm Nelson, NM State SiteWatch Coordinator

Mission Statement

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

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

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

SiteWatch Chapters and Areas

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

See Chapter Coordinators list at:

http://www.abqarchaeology.org/nmsw.shtml
Coronado Historic Site Hosts Fiesta of Cultures

SiteWatch coordinators and their colleagues from the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) and the New Mexico Archaeological Council (NMAC) provided public outreach on archaeology at the Fiesta of Cultures on Saturday, October 19 at Coronado Historic Site in Bernalillo. Performers, artists, and craftspeople plied their specialties at a day-long festival for the public. Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Jan Biella and NMAC officers Dr. Brad Vierra and Ms. Toni Goar joined SiteWatch Coordinators Norm Nelson and Rebecca Procter at the archaeology tent in the plaza of the ancient Pueblo site of Kuaua. We formed a “triple threat”, promoting preservation and public/professional alliances through our three organizations.

The setting provided a perfect place to tell fiesta goers about the fascinating cultural resources of New Mexico. It was a great opportunity to explain how cultural materials are threatened by various human and natural forces, and how we are trying to protect them. You can bet we SiteWatch folks were recruiting potential members very energetically! We were also able to pass on information about archaeological sites that can be visited by the public through pamphlets recently commissioned by the Historic Preservation Division and developed by the Friends of Archaeology, a non-profit group assisting the Museum of New Mexico.

Coming Soon to a Region Near You!

Elephant Butte Chapter member Marsha Carra is working to bring a new SiteWatch Chapter to eastern New Mexico. In cooperation with anthropology professors at Eastern New Mexico State University, Marsha hopes to enroll college students in the program and to bring the SiteWatch message to a part of the state where our work has not been pursued in a long while. Marsha says there are opportunities to hold a training at the University while also reaching out to the nearby communities to encourage participation. Look for more on this soon!

Southwest Chapter Continues Education Efforts

Marilyn Markel, Southwest Chapter Coordinator, recently shared some of the work the chapter is doing to enhance educational outreach. She indicated that her chapter continues to have a strong connection with local students.

Currently, seven students at Aldo Leopold High School in the Youth Conservation Corps program are training to be junior site stewards and are monitoring sites on the Gila National Forest and have been giving presentations about archaeology and preservation to area school students. The ALHS students have made several trips to the Dragonfly Petroglyph Site and other sites on the Fort Bayard Game Refuge as part of their site steward training. On September 20th, the students gave presentations to about 80 elementary students during the Fort Bayard Education Day. On October 31st and November 1st, the ALHS students participated in outdoor classroom education for over 100 La Plata Middle School students on the Fort Bayard Game Refuge. The ALHS students have also given presentations on archaeology and preservation to students at San Lorenzo Elementary and Aldo Leopold Middle School using the Gila Conservation Education Center’s archaeology outreach program.

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Mr. Mike Bremer, supervising archaeologist for the Santa Fe National Forest, provided hospitality for the most recent SiteWatch training, held at the Forest Service headquarters in Santa Fe on Saturday, November 2. With 23 new volunteers, five instructors, and a visit from the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer, the day was crowded with enthusiastic people and multiple topics surrounding preservation of cultural resources!

Aspiring site stewards were joined by veterans who were reviewing the training to refresh their knowledge. Our trio of existing instructors (Norm Nelson, Phil Young, Rebecca Procter) was augmented by a vivid hands-on artifact demonstration by Bandelier National Monument archaeologist Rory Gauthier. The afternoon field session took place at San Marcos Pueblo, one of the most important Classic Period sites in the Galisteo Basin.

Local historian Bill Baxter provided expert guidance through the pueblo, pointing out multiple roomblocks of different periods and the foundation of the Spanish church erected as part of the European conquest of New Mexico. He was assisted by site stewards Jerry Rogers and Cora Cliburn. Participants were able to spot artifacts and discuss pottery types and raw materials for the chipped stone tools that litter the pueblo.

In September the Site Steward Foundation sponsored a “Cordage and Containers” class. Attendees learned how to process yucca and dogbane fibers in order to make cordage using splicing and reverse wrap techniques. We also processed bottle gourds in order to make our own water bottles. It was a fascinating outdoor class on a beautiful fall day and we gained insight into how our ancestors used natural resources to their benefit.

The foundation operated an informational booth at the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference held over 3 days in October at the Santa Fe convention center. There were over 1,000 attendees at the conference and over 50 lectures were delivered by some of the top archaeologists from around the world. We were given booth space in the exhibition room surrounded by an incredible collection of Clovis and Pre-Clovis artifacts. Some of the artifacts on display were ones we only read about but never imagined being able to see. There was a considerable amount of interest from the attendees about who we are and what we do. The foundation raised $260 from memberships and sales.

The foundation recently applied for a $20,000 grant through the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division’s 2014 Small Historic Preservation Grant Program. If awarded in January, the grant would provide statewide assistance to SiteWatch in the areas of steward training, supplies, speaker honoraria, updates to the training manual and the development of an online site visit reporting system.

In September the foundation sponsored the SFNFSS annual meeting at the Stuart Udall building in Santa Fe and will also be sponsoring the upcoming SiteWatch annual meeting in February.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, please considering joining today. The foundation now accepts debit and credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website www.sitestewardfoundation.org If you would like to be notified of foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to the email list on the foundation website. (If you are a current or past foundation member you may already be on the email list.) The Site Steward Foundation is also on Facebook, and don’t forget to use GoodSearch for your online purchases.
Another Reason to Love SiteWatch!
Annual Conference Set for February 2014

After sharing Valentine’s Day with your dog, your mom, your spouse, or your favorite archaeological site, make plans to join us for the annual SiteWatch Conference, to be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014! We guarantee fascinating speakers, a chance to interact with other site stewards, and a delicious FREE lunch!

This year we are meeting at the **Stewart L. Udall Center for Museum Resources**, part of the Museum of New Mexico, located on **Museum Hill in Santa Fe**. We’ll be together all day for a full program of activities. We’ll be sending out a program early next year when the conference date is closer. In the meantime, please send in your registration form, attached to Page 7 of this newsletter so we can reserve a spot for you for lunch.

When you make your travel plans, note that the Udall Center is located at 725 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe, NM 87505, near the museums on “Museum Hill”. Look for a sculpture depicting a wagon arriving on the historic Santa Fe Trail as your landmark (see below). Here’s a link to Google Maps:  
https://maps.google.com/maps?q=725+Camino+Lejo,+Santa+Fe,+NM&hl=en&sll=35.680446,-105.938501&sspn=0.037509,0.063429&oq=725+&t=h&hnear=725+Camino+Lejo,+Santa+Fe,+New+Mexico+87505&z=16

OR  http://goo.gl/maps/vhJ14

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International Event Comes to Albuquerque

Contributed by Gary Hein

The International Federation of Rock Art Organizations (IFRAO) and the American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) met May 26–31, 2013 in Albuquerque. IFRAO is a worldwide organization that partners with local rock art organizations to hold a conference in different places in the world. In 2014 IFRAO and the Chinese rock art community will meet in China. ARARA on the other hand generally meets in the United States. In July 2014 ARARA will meet in Rock Springs, WY.

The wonderful part about the combined meeting is the diversity of papers that are presented. There were presenters from twenty-five counties. These papers ranged from discussion of results to the methods used in the different counties to collect and study rock art. I found several papers from the Wisconsin region of the U.S. interesting in that rocks natural or shaped like bison were found and defined space on the landscape. Features of this type are not something we in New Mexico tend to consider when we are doing rock art recording.

From my perspective, being able to listen and discuss the papers and work with such a wide variety of people was a great opportunity. I got to take a gentleman from Saudi Arabia on a landscape tour of our area and discuss the similarities and differences in terrain and iconography.

The drawback to the conference was that there were concurrent sessions and language barriers. Nevertheless I would attend and IFRAO/ARARA conference again.

SiteWatch and Historic Preservation Division Get Good Exposure at IFRAQ

Terry Moody, then the National Register Coordinator for the NM Historic Preservation Division, organized a group of volunteers to man a table at IFRAQ, the International Federation of Rock Art Organizations meeting in Albuquerque last spring (See article left column). Those of us who participated were able to promote SiteWatch and historic preservation in New Mexico to an international crowd of rock art experts and enthusiasts.

While it was easy to be “wow-ed” by the fascinating in-depth discussions of rock art around the world and here in the U.S., it was just as rewarding to hear people from all over the globe express interest and enthusiasm for our home-grown SiteWatch program! Many people took posters of New Mexico Historic Preservation Month and brochures on various state programs, including ours, to take home. We were all pleased that our very own Dr. Polly Schaafsma, a renowned expert on the rock art of New Mexico, gave one of the keynote presentations at the conference. SiteWatch and the Historic Preservation Division offer deep thanks to the host organization, American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA), for the chance to promote our programs.

From http://www.bing.com/images/
2014
New Mexico State SiteWatch
Site Steward’s Conference
REGISTRATION FORM

When: Sunday, February 16th, 2014

Where: Stewart L. Udall Center for Museum Resources, 725 Cam. Lejo, Santa Fe

Cost: It’s FREE as a thank you for your time and efforts!

PLEASE complete this form and e-mail to:

Gary Newgent at gnewgent@sitestewardfoundation.org

Norm Nelson at normanb.nelson@state.nm.us

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Agency/Organization: ______________________________________________

Location: _________________________________________________________

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

Sign up for lunch (how many?): _____________________________