

## New Mexico



# SiteWatch Newsletter

*Protecting the Enchantment*

Spring/Summer 2011

### The View from Here Is ....

*By Norm Nelson*

... mostly festive! Greetings and best wishes for a happy and a safe holiday season! For all of the uncertainties out there in the world it seems like the day to day routines continue to roll along.

SiteWatch continues to move forward by providing basic trainings, by planning for another in January, and is looking to establish the program in more of New Mexico. The chapters have been busy with their monitoring, setting up educational opportunities for members, and exploring the possibilities of expanding into another high school! There is one last item, our upcoming Annual Meeting! This year the event will be held in Santa Fe (see below for more details).

The most recent training was held in Hobbs at the request of the BLM, with 21 people attending the class. We were hosted by the Western Heritage Museum (many thanks to Cal and his folks) and enjoyed what Phil Young thought was our best training to date! After a lunch – also provided by WHM – the group went out to Rattlesnake Springs to see a Paleo-Indian site located there. I must admit to being both  
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### Mission Statement

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

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

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

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#### State Coordinator

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surprised and pleased at being in Hobbs as the southeast corner of New Mexico doesn't get much attention when it comes to archaeology! The program and the wonderful resources will be well served by our new members.

Our next training will be held in Carlsbad on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Anyone interested should contact Rebecca Procter, Mark Rosenblum or myself. This training was also requested by the BLM and will focus on the Carlsbad area. New interest out of Roswell and Socorro should also result in upcoming trainings, with a third in the offing here in Santa Fe. There is even some rumbling out of the Clayton area i.e. the Kiowa Grasslands. Stay tuned for details if you have a desire for a refresher course or for those interested in entering the program!

Some of you may have already heard of a ceramics workshop that is being offered to SiteWatch volunteers. The workshop is being offered through the Site Steward Foundation, our friends group, and will be held January 14<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Fe National Forest office in Santa Fe. There are three extremely well qualified instructors teaching this class – Hayward Franklin, PhD. Archaeologist; Jennifer Dryer, Santa Fe National Forest Archaeologist; and Dean Wilson, Director of the Ceramics Lab, Office of Archaeological Studies. The fee for this class will be \$5.00 for those who have not previously taken an ASNM class. There will be an option for those who are interested in receiving class credit towards an ASNM certification to do so. Please refer to the ASNM website for more information on their certification program - [www.newmexico-archaeology.org](http://www.newmexico-archaeology.org) - To register for this class or for further information please email with your name and phone number : Beth Parisi at [bparisi@sitestewardfoundation.org](mailto:bparisi@sitestewardfoundation.org)

Hats off to the Taos/Northcentral Chapter for their work with the Taos School District. Members of the Taos Archaeological Society (TAS) are also members of SiteWatch. These folks are approaching the district to see what possibilities there are for starting an archaeological program in the public schools.

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→ This would include the SiteWatch program in some form and sounds similar to what happened with the Aldo Leopold Charter High School in Silver City. Best of luck to CJ and the rest!

Many thanks to all of you that have donated your time, effort and interest in preserving New Mexico's heritage! Keep up the great work!

*Norm Nelson*, NM State SiteWatch Coordinator

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Photo by Norm Nelson

## SiteWatch Chapters and Areas

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

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

## **News Bits**

### **Annual Meeting 2012!**

Our Annual Meeting is coming up on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The meeting will be held in Santa Fe at the Stewart Udall Center, located off the Old Santa Fe Trail on Museum Hill. Speakers are being lined up and lunch will again be provided free of charge by the Site Steward Foundation. One segment of the program will include time for Chapter Coordinators to bring the membership up to date on what is going on in their chapter. Anyone interested in updating folks should contact either Rebecca Procter or Norm Nelson. **SEE REGISTRATION FORM Page 6.**

### **Truth is Stranger than Fiction**

Santa Fe/Galisteo/Pecos Chapter enjoyed a brown-bag talk this month by National Park Service employee Dan Lenihan, speaking on submerged cultural resources. Strangely enough, the NPS program for underwater archaeology began in New Mexico, where there was a need to evaluate sites that have gone underwater at man-made reservoirs. The program has now grown to an international effort from its beginning in our desert "ponds"!

### **He Chose Wisely**

Chapter leader Phil Young has returned from a second one-month stint assisting park rangers at the spectacular archaeological site of Petra in Jordan. Phil reports on his exploits at <http://travelranger87508.blogspot.com/> if you'd like to hear and see about his adventure. We've made him promise to stop wearing that Indie Jones hat and rushing around on a stallion, now that he is home!

### **Book of "Knowledge"**

The long-awaited handbook revision is almost ready for chapter coordinator review. Rebecca hopes to send out a document before the end of 2011. If you have interesting photos for a handbook, e-mail them to her.

## **The Unknown Looms Large at the Woodrow Site**

By Kyle Meredith, Southwest Chapter Coordinator

The Woodrow Site along the Gila River is one of the most fascinating sites in southwestern New Mexico. Owned by the Museum of New Mexico and fenced for decades, it is now regularly monitored by SiteWatch steward Greg Conlin. Woodrow is one of the few ruins where potsherds, lithics, and other small artifacts still lie strewn abundantly among the vestiges of pueblos and pithouses. While it has been the victim of looting and questionable excavations, many of the features lie intact beneath the surface, making it a valuable subject for investigation of a culture that may have inhabited the site from early pithouse through classic Mimbres periods.

There are more mysteries than facts here. The history of excavations at the site is spotty and incomplete. The maps are vague and hard to reconcile with the surface indications. That is where Jakob Sedig comes in. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado (CU) who wants to write his dissertation on Mimbres of the Gila. He is working with the noted Mimbres scholar, Dr. Stephen Lekson. Along with Rachel Johnson, of the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, and Kellam Throgmorton and a few other CU graduate students, Jakob undertook a survey, including some mapping (hand-drawn and GIS) and a non-collective analysis of surface sherds during the week of June 6-10<sup>th</sup> of this year.

*Projectile Point from Woodrow*

Hosting a recent visit by a small group of site stewards, he explained the technique we saw. Using the western fence as baseline, Jakob's crew laid out lines perpendicular to it every twenty meters. Along those lines they plotted ten-meter circles every twenty meters. Within those circles, they methodically counted and recorded the number and placement of each of the various ceramic styles and artifacts. Additionally, they chose specific key locations off the grid for other circles. By plotting the specific concentrations, Jakob hopes to identify the chronological context of the features apparent above ground to guide future excavations.

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*Site stewards Josh Reeves and Kyle Meredith, USFS archaeologists Elizabeth Toney and Bob Schiowitz, and archaeologist Jakob Sedig at the Woodrow Site. Photo by Greg Conlin*

The ceramic styles encountered during research cover the entire range of Mimbres occupation in the Upper Gila, including brownwares, redwares, Mogollon Red-on-Brown, Three Circle Red-on-White, and all Mimbres black-on-white styles. So far, they have found no indication of Hohokam, Chacoan, or Salado components, which Jakob felt might be present. (The possible existence of ball court is a hypothesis passed down for many years suggesting contact with the Hohokam culture to the west.)



*Sherd with animal designs*



*Obsidian point*

Jakob was also surprised at the relatively low concentration of obsidian, especially with the near proximity to Mule Creek, famous for its nodules of “Apache tears”. However, he showed us a few tiny, beautifully-crafted points (see example above) and one rather large one. He was able to visit an obsidian site being studied by the Center for Desert Archaeology, also working in the region.

The hope is that this survey will lead to a deeper probe into the Woodrow Site and its place in the Mimbres cosmography. Although no excavations were performed this summer, the week-long project at Woodrow has been the most intensive work ever conducted at Woodrow. This preliminary research will provide great insight into the occupation history and chronology of the site. Jakob hopes to continue his research at Woodrow next summer, which will better situate Woodrow within the prehistoric occupation of the Gila and Mimbres river valleys.

New Mexico State SiteWatch  
Site Steward's Conference

**2012**

***REGISTRATION FORM***

**When:** Sunday, February 19th, 2012

**Where:** Stewart Udall Center, 725 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe

**Cost:** Your Sunday!

PLEASE complete this form and e-mail to:

Gary Newgent at [gnewgent@sitestewardfoundation.org](mailto:gnewgent@sitestewardfoundation.org)

Norm Nelson at [normanb.nelson@state.nm.us](mailto:normanb.nelson@state.nm.us)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sign up for lunch (how many?): \_\_\_\_\_