



**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**
2022 Annual Report

November 14, 2022

Letter from the Board President...

To the San Juan County Museum Association membership,

It's time again to look back on another year and thank all those responsible for a great year. The museum is now fully back in the groove as far as welcoming the public back to our world. Covid is probably here to stay, but thanks to our stellar crew, we are moving forward and putting that part of our history behind us. People are back to visiting the ruins and the museum in similar numbers from pre-covid days and DCA is quite busy doing what they do. The Site Stewards are continuing to grow steadily and that is fortunate. It seems that the sites out in the Largo Canyon area, for some reason, are aging more and more, and deteriorating as they do. We've had our site stewards report that several sites are showing some visible signs of wear and tear. We have lost a couple of walls on sites and one rock art site had a portion of the stone slide to the ground. Larry has been busy getting all the red tape in order at "String House" in Palluche Canyon so that our DCA crew can do some stabilizing work there. Since permission must be obtained from both the BLM and the State for access to the site, it has been very challenging. It was our goal to get that work done this fall, but the gods have decided that that was not to be, so we are now looking to the spring. We are optimistic that it will happen as soon as weather permits. A big thank you goes out to Ken Russell for coordinating the work that the site stewards have been doing to keep us updated on conditions in the canyons.



Severe weathering in 2022 caused the collapse of this section of the Blanco Star Panel.

I want to thank the members of the association for their continued support and say that the coming year of 2023 looks to be very promising and every bit as good as 2022.

Sincerely,
Kim Stradling
President of the Board
SJMA

From the Executive Director...

Dear Board and Association Members:

The fiscal year of 2022 has, in many ways, been a time of continuing recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and the follow up of 2021. The Salmon Ruins Museum is operating on a standard schedule for public visitation and our Journey into the Past programs led by Curator and Education Coordinator Tori Myers are booming. The Division of Conservation Archaeology (DCA), the Association's consulting firm, is picking up the pace with a rebound in local economic development. In relation to our management of the museum, these are important factors in our financial solvency, the maintenance of staff, and keeping the doors open and the lights on. Details related to specific programs will be discussed later in this report.

Issues related to my retirement as Executive Director, tentatively scheduled for this January, have had to be reconsidered. A critical structural stabilization project, originally set for early fall, has had to be postponed due to several unforeseen factors. This will be outlined later in the section detailing DCA's work. Other administrative variables are also an issue, and subsequently, I will likely seek a contract renewal for one more year with the Board's approval. With that said, we will be advertising the director's position by late spring or early summer to provide a smooth transition and orientation for a new Executive Director. By then, my term in that role will have been 30 years.



At the risk of management aggrandizement, the staff and I are very fortunate to have a great working Board of Directors. This is critical in any non-profit organization and so important for maintenance of programs and services provided to the public. The continued preservation of Salmon Ruins is a very important variable in relation to our "Mission" and relationship with San Juan County local government. The Board of Directors, staff, and I are appreciative to the Association membership for their continued support and encouragement in our work at Salmon Ruins and other heritage sites in the Four Corners region.

Best Regards
Larry L. Baker
Executive Director

Programs and Accomplishments of 2020 – *Larry L. Baker*

As the Curator, Education Coordinator, and Archaeological Ceramic Specialist, Tori Myers has a lot on her plate, which includes continuing curation of the Salmon Ruins collections and tour leader for all of our Journey in the Past programs. Lyn Wharton remains as Project Manager of the Division of Conservation Archaeology with the assistance of supervisory archaeologists Jason Meininger and new staff member Sarah Morgan assisting administratively. Brandi Amarilla remains as the Business Manager keeping the financial operations of the organization under control. Paul Reed, Archaeology Southwest Preservation Archaeologist, has been less directly involved with us, since the completion of collections repatriation and finalizing our Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) grant.

NAGPRA

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed into law in 1990 and governs consultation, repatriation, and reburial of Native American human remains and funerary objects. The Salmon Ruins Museum held such collections from the excavation of Salmon Ruins in the 1970s as well as curated materials from DCA data recovery projects, donations from private lands, and in some cases, unknown sources. In 2018, Paul Reed and the Executive Director co-authored a grant funded by the National Park Service (NPS) to undertake this complex work, which our organization was legally obligated to complete. Paul Reed and Tori Myers worked diligently to identify these specific materials within our collections.

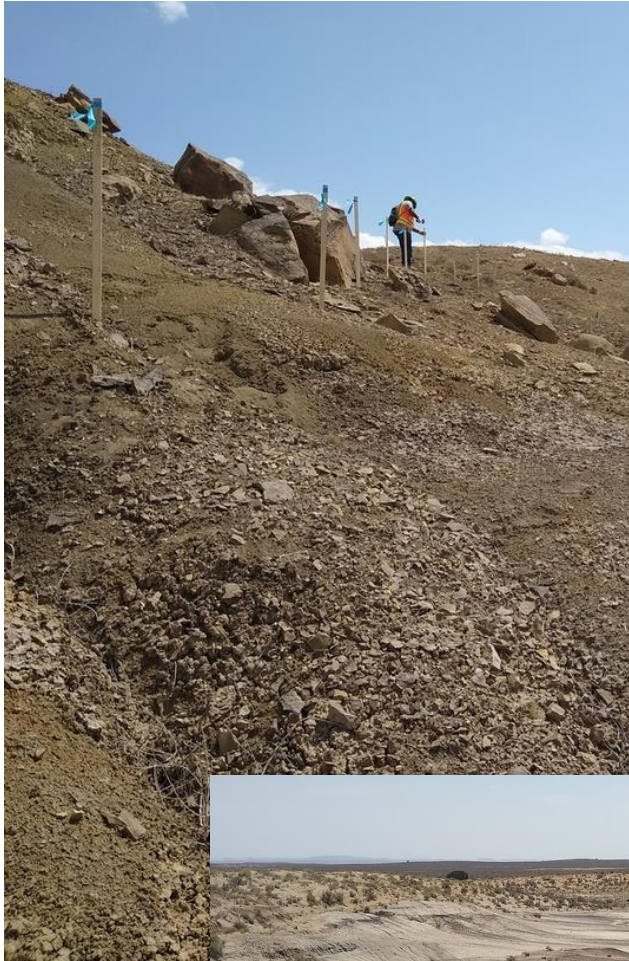


A big space is required for a big project!

The majority of these collections, designated as “unaffiliated”, were transferred to the control of the Hopi Tribe, which set the stage for reburial. Numerous Pueblo tribes participated in the consultation process including: Hopi, San Felipe, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, Pojoaque and Santa Clara. The reinternment of 194 individuals and 9,635 funerary objects was conducted at the end of Fiscal Year 2021 on September 30.

This left a single individual to be repatriated for the Navajo Nation. Following consultation with the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, instructions for reburial were received in early Fiscal Year 2022. Reburial of the individual was undertaken in December, 2021. This completed this critical and complex work for the Association and San Juan County in compliance with the law and met the requirements of the NPS grant. It cannot be emphasized how sensitive and spiritual this effort was to the respective tribes involved.

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION ARCHAEOLOGY (DCA)



As the DCA Projects Manager, Lyn Wharton has “stayed the course” and will likely be with our organization into sometime in 2023. At this time, she has served in this capacity for 29 plus years. Jason Meininger, Senior Supervisory Archaeologist, has been assisting Lyn in a limited capacity in relation to program management as well as undertaking field projects. New hire, Supervisory Archaeologist Sarah Morgan, is also working with Lyn to learn the ins and outs of DCA management. Currently, DCA field staff includes: Patrick Alfred, Supervisory Archaeologist, and Assistant Archaeologists Leonard Yazzie and Anthony Tahe. Hans Freuden, Laboratory Archaeologist, has been undertaking preparation of maps for reports as well as special projects unrelated to field work. Leta Yazzie serves in a clerical capacity for preparing reports.

Some of DCA’s projects and activities this past year.



Currently, general cultural resource compliance work has increased over the past year and is primarily concentrated in the Lybrook area, south of Bloomfield. With the closure of the San Juan Generating Station, field work at the Westmoreland San Juan Mine has been discontinued. Lyn Wharton has been compiling a synthetic report detailing DCA's projects related to subsidence at the San Juan Underground Mine, which is the process whereby the ground surface settles following the extraction of the underground coal seam (see photo at right). This can, in some cases, impact cultural resources on the ground surface. Subsidence monitoring, recording, and some data recovery at select sites has been going on since 2002.



A private donation was received several years ago from Roy and Patricia Dan to “jump start” a structural stabilization project at a Navajo defensive site. The site selected for stabilization is String House (aka Twine House) on New Mexico State Trust Land. The project was tentatively scheduled for the fall, but had to be postponed until next spring, due to logistical considerations related to access, New Mexico State Land Office administrative requirements, and road conditions into Palluche Canyon following late summer torrential rains.



Twine House in a recent visit by Site Stewards Russ and Tracy Bodnar.

NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO SITE STEWARDS

The Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards Program remains as an internal component of the Association for patrolling and monitoring remote heritage sites. The stewards are volunteers visiting cultural resources to deter looting and vandalism, which can increase during tough economic times. Not only do stewards monitor archaeological sites, but repair and replace interpretive signs, mend protective fences around sites, and assess the condition of architectural sites with standing walls and intact roofs. The primary areas patrolled are Largo and Gobernador Canyons, the La Plata Valley, and World Heritage sites along the Great North Road.



Three Cheers for hard-working site stewards, Ken Russell and Clay Johnston!

At this time, there are 40 steward volunteers monitoring a total of 154 sites. Kim Stradling, Linda Wheelbarger, and most recently, Jonathan Kelly, serve as Co-Directors of the program. Ken Russel has recently stepped down as a director, but is still active flying his drone to update site files, assess the condition of sites, and replace signs. Clay Johnston deserves special mention in his role as “Director Emeritus” evaluating sites and replacing interpretive signs. Kim has continued maintaining and updating individual site files so the information remains current, based on steward reporting. Linda has been primarily involved in steward orientation and training. As the program administrator, I appreciate this important work for the protection of our cultural heritage.

Curation and Education - *Tori Myers*

What a busy year for the museum! Accordingly, the weeks have flown by so fast that imagining a summary of our activities is actually very difficult to do. It just doesn't feel possible that we are entering the 2023 fiscal year! The busy pace has been a good sign that travel is available to people again and that visiting historical and archaeological venues is still a priority. We have changed a variety of staff,

have some new ideas to get started during the winter, and are focused currently on our only dedicated fundraiser of the year, the 33rd Annual Arts and Crafts Fair.

EDUCATION

We are looking forward to the long-overdue publication of our official newsletter, *The Outlier*, in the spring. The Site Stewards also want to publish their occasional newsletter, *The Monitor*, given a wide variety of activities and new stewards in 2022. As it has become clear that the winter season is the only opportunity I have to work on items like newsletters, this will be a priority for 2023, but will require some input from organizers and participants.

Summer Solstice was celebrated this year with a “sunrise” tour at 7 AM on June 21, which fell on a Tuesday, with 10 participants. The tour was advertised on our websites and Facebook, which have been a good way to reach people. Many visitors have enjoyed adding photos to our Google My Business page. I was disappointed that we had no school groups or requests to visit classrooms in 2022, although we did have a book club from Durango who had read *House of Rain* by Craig Childs, and wanted a guided tour of Salmon Ruins as a follow up. It appears that the main reason for not working with the schools is that the teachers are unable to plan a trip several months in advance, and by the time they request a date in April or May, all of the dates are already filled by tour requests so they can’t fit into the schedule. We did organize 2 days during the worst of the summer heat with the Bloomfield Boys and Girls club. The first visit was a great success, but the second visit was all the same children who had come a month earlier, and none of them wanted to pay attention because they had already done it. The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center brought a group of teachers from around the country who were part of a program to include more Native American studies and perspectives in their curriculum.



A chilly solstice sunrise behind the museum.

We were sad to not be able to host a Mata Ortiz demonstration and sales day, because Oralia Lopez didn’t contact us until the day they were driving through. She was able to bring in a reduced number of items at 5pm with no advanced notice, for Brandi to add to the gift shop. Hopefully next year will be better organized on their end so that a whole day of this well-loved event can take place.

DONATIONS

Most donations this year came in the form of books for our Research Library, mainly a few at a time coming from board members or friends of the staff, or from anonymous donors during the weekends. We have been able to keep up with these donations thanks to Hans Freuden helping to check the San Juan College database and update our catalog as things come in.

A spectacular donation of used historical Navajo weavings was taken in 2020 from long-time friend and supporter of Salmon Ruins, Steve Long. While some of these items were kept as ideal examples for our permanent collections, most were intended as a donation for the gift shop, and we were finally able to move them in this summer. They are priced incredibly reasonably, and have done well so far. Another friend of the staff, Peter Bullock, donated a number of modern Native American Art including carved fetishes, paintings and musical instruments. While a few unique items are being retained as part of our permanent collections, the rest will be sold in the gift shop.



Some of the Steve Long rug donations on display and on sale!

One ceramic vessel was donated by a local family who is moving away. It is a nearly complete Navajo Pinyon Gray vessel with a partial coating of pitch and soil residue. They had no definite information, but family lore indicated collection during the 1950s or 1960s in Largo or Gobernador Canyon as part of the construction of telephone lines through that area. A partial Pueblo III period corrugated jar was donated by the Fred Wade family, who found it while cleaning a relative's house.

We were very pleased to take several large cash donations, including two that came from individuals returning from one of our private archaeological tours, to help the museum and our outreach. We are very grateful for these important and unexpected donations!

JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

While not surprising that people were relieved to return to their travel plans, it was also a relief for us to see a return to a busy tour season! The museum is so fortunate to have this rare and unique opportunity to educate the public about what we do and how it all works. Visitors regularly express how excited they are to finally be able to ask questions of a guide who actually knows about the cultures, details, and research of the area. A total of 136 tours were booked this year, with 19 cancellations. While we don't know the reason for some of these, most were due to illness or injury while traveling, and came with promises to reschedule next year. Tours were conducted to Chaco (97 times), Bisti (8 times), Arches (2 times), Dinetah (4 times), and Salmon/Aztec (6 times). Several Bisti, Arches and Dinetah tours were with returning visitors who have visited other places with us in the past. Tours remained busy through all of October with 3 or even 4 tours booked each week! Fortunately (for me) there was a break in part of July and August, when it was over 100 degrees almost every day, when requests stopped. Several tours were also cancelled at the last minute due to completely unexpected storms and flooding between July and October, resulting in quite impressive photos from the places we like to visit.



A rarely-seen view of Fajada Butte in the snow.

Also related to tours and tourism in the region, the Four Corners Museum Network has resumed meetings. This is an extremely important outlet for unsupported local organizations who don't have the means to advertise to help one another publicize. Membership fees are extremely small, \$30 per year,

and go to funding a brochure that provides a short description of each place and their relative locations on a 4-corners map to help promote visitation while people are doing other activities nearby.

RESEARCH

We did not entertain visiting researchers this year, but we have done considerable work on organizing materials and the curation storage areas to accommodate research. During the busy tour season, I often was lucky to find one day a week that could be used for data entry, editing and correcting the databases, and working with volunteers. This time was spent largely in photographing, editing and updating the faunal database, working mainly with the returned items from Kathy Durand. These items are now correctly documented and organized as FS 1 – 2500 (so far – the project is ongoing).

Another project that I worked on was to create a database of ethnobotanical and perishable materials, predominantly corn cobs and kernals. This was in response to an inquiry from Mark Varien at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. We did not have a database reflecting perishable materials for Salmon Ruins, except exclusively items that have been studied in the past, such as when Laurie Webster reviewed the woven items. Many of these are no longer available, as they were associated with burials and have been reburied as part of our NAGPRA resolution in 2021. About 1000 previously uncatalogued items are now correctly documented and organized as FS 301,000 – 301,973 (again, so far – the project is ongoing).



Curation this year has been full of burned corn and corncobs, and faunal remains – some more interesting than others!

The research outlook for next year is good – one of our summer visitors is a student at University of Arizona. Her study is paint types and possible origin sources for paint used on ceramics and wood. I am working with her on items requested for her study, and expect her to visit in January to collect samples. But that story will be for next year's summary!

VOLUNTEERS

For many years, we've relied on the gracious assistance of Stephen Slusher and Erin Brooks as our main volunteers. This year we are grateful to add Joel Mayer to the list of esteemed helpers who come in and do tedious, thankless tasks that the staff here are either too busy to fit into our schedule, or that involve work that a small non-profit organization simply can't afford to pay someone to do. The organization of the research library has long fallen into the latter category, and as such has suffered from inconsistent documentation as well as horrifying disorganization of materials over the many years since we lost our retired professional librarian, Jim Snyder, more than 15 years ago. Joel recently retired from the education system in San Antonio, Texas and moved to Farmington. Even before he had found a permanent living space in town, he had already contacted us and offered to volunteer, and has continued to do so twice a week during and since the complexity of relocating.

Joel has dived in to the enormous task of figuring out what we actually have in our Vertical Files – that's the formal name for newspaper clippings, articles, unpublished manuscripts, and other assorted documents that libraries and organizations collect over the years. These items can be hard to identify and even harder, sometimes, to figure out why they were saved. Joel's work has been to create a library database, which will eventually be searchable and kept as part of the rest of the library database, so that each article can be sorted into folders and categories that are functional for researchers. Although incredibly important and useful, these types of files are frequently forgotten and overlooked by library staff and patrons alike. Not only has Joel created a detailed list of items, and eliminated many that are not as relevant to long-term library use or Salmon Ruins history as someone thought at the time, but his familiarity with the files has already enabled him to help a visitor, who came in looking for information that had not materialized elsewhere. They were delighted with their experience and left the museum satisfied. It is for this reason, and in recognition of his patience and willingness to help with such a tedious task, that Joel Mayer is the recipient of our Volunteer of the Year award! Thank you so much, Joel, and I hope we haven't scared you away from continuing to help us in the future!

Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape – *Paul F. Reed*

As 2022 moved forward, positive things continued to happen for protection of Greater Chaco and other threatened areas across the American West. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the withdrawal of 351,000 acres from mineral development on Federal land in the 10-mile zones around Chaco Culture National Historical Park. To support the land withdrawal, in May 2022, Archaeology Southwest produced and released a mini-documentary entitled *Protecting Chaco's 10-Mile Zone*, filmed

and edited by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist David Wallace (David Wallace Visuals). The film can be viewed on You Tube with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol8-AiG6lXg>

In their own words in the film, Pueblo leaders Chairman Mark Mitchell (All Pueblo Council of Governors and former Governor of Tesuque Pueblo), Governor Michael Chavarria (Santa Clara Pueblo), Governor Randall Vicente (Acoma Pueblo), cultural leader Octavius Seowtewa (Zuni Pueblo), former Vice-Chairman Clark Wayne Tenakhongva (Hopi), and Diné conservation leader Reyaun Francisco, speak to the living and vital connections their communities have to the Greater Chaco Landscape.



Left to right, Gov. Vicente, Acoma Pueblo; Gov. Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo; Octavius Seowtewa, Zuni Cultural Resources Advisory Team leader at Pueblo Bonito during March 2022 filming

In the film, I also explain how people can help achieve the goal of respecting and protecting those connections by sending formal comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in support of a 10-mile protection zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Archaeology Southwest has been advocating for such a zone for a decade as oil and gas development has steadily encroached.

The threat of oil and gas drilling continues to loom over Chaco Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the ancestral home to both the Pueblo and Navajo peoples. Tribal communities have fought for decades to protect the Greater Chaco Landscape and its cultural resources and safeguard the health of their families from nearby drilling. Currently, the 10-mile protection zone withdrawal process is going through an Agency National Environmental Policy Act review. Final approval for the withdrawal is expected in 2023.

In 2023, Archaeology Southwest's efforts will continue as we work to get the administrative withdrawal in place, to get a Chaco protection bill through Congress, and to get BLM and BIA's Resource Management Plan Amendment and Programmatic Agreement with measures to protect cultural resources approved and finalized.

2022 Donors

\$15 - \$99

Ronald & Gloria Avery
Martha Bradley
Randy Everett
Trudy Farrell
Lily Fein
Andrea Greenaker
Mary Hayes
Huth Family
Rita Kantarowski
David Kern
Ronald & Judith Mapstone
John & Molly Renner
Dave & Ann Salmon
Jill Smith
Michael Starsinic
Jon Uncapher
Penni Whitten
Bob Young

\$100 - \$999

Alan Brew
Bill & Nancy Cella
Pat & Holly Hassenbuhler
Hilcorp
David Ingle
Tim Kearns
Marston Keeler
Steve & Pam Long
Meredith Matthews
George McGough
Lonnie & Carolyn Pippin
James Rickman
Ken Russell
Stratified Environmental
Ronald Werner
Anonymous Donations and
Donation Box at Entrance

\$1000 and over

Roy & Patty Dan
Ed Deal
Jo Hudson
Kendall Family
Roland & Martha Mace
Roger Moore
William Pinckard, Jr
Dorothy Washburn



Your donations of time, money and interest make our work possible. Thank You!

2022 Statement of Activities
Cash only, October 31, 2022
Revenue and Related Income

Services	\$464,138.00
Gift Shop Sales	\$31,957.00
Fund Raising and Association	\$7,571.00
Admissions	\$16,029.00
Donations	\$33,908.00
Grants	\$0.00
County Support	\$7,000.00
Site Stewards	\$2,546.00
Sale of Assets	\$0.00
Membership	\$2,775.00
Consultant	\$1,496.00
Interest	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$567,420.00

Expenses

Museum	\$ 311,423.00
Division of Conservation Archaeology	\$ 296,615.00
TOTAL	\$ 608,038.00

2022 Financial Statement

Unaudited Statement of Financial Position, October 31, 2022

Assets

In-bank Cash	\$10,729.00
Savings and Short-Term Investments	\$213,762.00
Long-Term Investments (Endowment)	\$939,759.00
Accounts Receivable (DCA)	\$154,591.00
Gift Shop Inventory	\$38,527.00
Prepaid Insurance	\$2,353.00
Petty Cash	\$250.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,359,971.00</i>
Property and Equipment	\$141,208.00
TOTAL	\$1,501,179.00

Liabilities and Capital

Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Taxes	\$10,959.00
Vacation Benefits	\$26,482.00
Deferred Revenue	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$37,441.00

Capital

Investments in Fixed Assets	\$345,897.00
Unappropriated Fund	\$413,736.00
Current Fund	\$1,022,405.00
Net Income	(\$-384,772.00)
TOTAL	\$1,397,266.00
Total Liabilities and Capital:	\$1,434,707.00

Board of Directors, 2022

President
Kim Stradling

Vice President
Ken Russell

Secretary
Andrea Greenaker

Treasurer
Clay Johnston

Members
Ingrid Gilbert
Richard Friedman
Mickey Ginn
Karen Marchand
Dean Peek
Patricia Shelton
Beth Clancy
Donna Thatcher

San Juan County Representative
GloJean Todacheene



Association Staff Salmon Ruins Museum

505-632-2013

salmonruins.education@gmail.com

Larry L. Baker, Executive Director
Tori Myers, Curator & Education Coordinator
Brandi Amarilla, Business Manager
Melvin Dennison, Operations Support
Penelope "Penni" VonGedda, Receptionist
Suzanne and Wayne Martinez, Custodians

Division of Conservation Archaeology

505-632-2779

dca3.archaeology@gmail.com

Lyn Wharton, Projects Manager
Jason Meininger, Supervisory Archaeologist
Sarah Morgan, Supervisory Archaeologist
Patrick Alfred, Supervisory Archaeologist
Anthony "Tony" Tahe, Assistant Archaeologist
Leonard Yazzie, Assistant Archaeologist
Tori Myers, Ceramic Specialist
Hans Freuden, Special DCA Projects
Leta Yazzie, Administrative Assistant

Archaeology Southwest

preed@archaeologysouthwest.org

Paul F. Reed, Preservation Archaeologist