

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
2019 Annual Report**



Spooky "Light Painting" by Ron Hunt

November 12, 2019

Letter from the Board President...

As President of the San Juan County Museum Association, I would like to congratulate all members of our diverse team of dedicated employees, volunteers, board members and Association members for a great year! Salmon Ruins continues to be a place the community, as well as those who come from afar, can come to learn about and experience what our cultural heritage is all about here in San Juan County. I meet people quite often who tell me how lucky I am to live in such a culturally rich area that has so much to offer.

I would like to thank the staff at Salmon who work tirelessly to make this a museum that we all can be so proud of. An especially big thank you goes out to Larry Baker who, despite his continued mobility issues, always seems to be out in front leading the troops. His tireless attitude is a trait I admire and aspire to every day. Special thanks also goes out to our Curator and Education Coordinator, Tori Myers. Tori's efforts in organizing artifacts involved with the NAGPRA initiative has been invaluable. This work she has done "in her spare time" while also carrying a heavy load of Chaco Canyon and other tours that is so important to our bottom line. Another important cog in the wheel here at Salmon is our very own Brandi Amarilla who is often the glue that holds everything together on the ground floor. Thank you, Brandi for all you do to keep things up to date and moving.

Now it's time to congratulate our cellar dwellers. DCA (Division of Conservation Archaeology) has had a steady year out in the field keeping the San Juan County Museum Association in business. The Oil and Gas Industry continues to struggle and the power plants continue to struggle, yet Lyn Wharton and crew continue to hang in there and stay busy in the contract archaeology business! They may work out of the basement, but they do a fantastic job. I would like to throw out a huge thank you to Lyn for being there for us. For those of you unaware of her status, she's supposed to be retired, yet she continues to come to work and keep us from drowning. She's only here on a part time basis now, but she's doing a huge "full time" job.

Our Northwest New Mexico Site Steward program is still out there doing a great work in the canyons thanks to Ken Russell. Luckily, we haven't had any serious vandalism issues this year which makes us all very happy. We have had news from the BLM that they will be giving us some monetary support in the coming years again, which is great to hear.

One more thing that has been completed recently is the repair of the Salmon Ruins Root Cellar roof and north wall. This work has been long overdue and it is great to have it completed. Thanks go to Larry for making this happen.

Finally, I want to thank our current San Juan County Museum Board of Directors for doing an outstanding job this year and for allowing me to serve again as President. Thank you all for a great year at the Museum!

Kim Stradling
President
San Juan County Museum Association

From the Executive Director...

Dear Board and Association Members:

Your Executive Director had considered retiring at the end of the 2019 calendar year, however, I have decided to continue in this position for through 2020. Introspection regarding the last 26 years has provided consideration to the tasks that need to be completed as I think about exiting. I guess it comes down to... I ain't done yet.

One of the major projects that we are in the middle of undertaking is the work on the consultation with Native Americans in relation to the repatriation of the Salmon Ruins human remains and associated funerary objects. For the Native tribes, these are sensitive issues related to their ancestral homeland in the San Juan Basin. I will discuss this project in more detail later in this report.

Our work related to our various "Missions" through Salmon Ruins remains challenging. We would not be able to undertake the projects we do without our dedicated staff and volunteers. Our staff is relatively small, but key personnel in select positions have taken on several "hats" to keep our organization operating. Brandi Amarilla keeps, not only the Business Office organized, but the museum gift shop as a retail entity and our Annual Arts and Crafts Fair as a fundraiser. Tori Myers serves as a Curator and Education Coordinator, maintaining collections and our multi-faceted tour programs. Lyn Wharton has agreed to stay on as the Division of Conservation Archaeology Projects Manager for another year keeping staff archaeologists on task, both in the field and in the office. Lyn is a master at agency permitting and client interaction.

The Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards Program remains the first line of defense in patrolling and monitoring significant sites in the remote reaches of our high mesa county. Patrolling and monitoring significant cultural resources provides a deterrent to vandalism and looting. This volunteer initiative is so important in the protection and preservation of our national heritage.



Exciting moments keep Larry from retiring!

I cannot praise and thank our Board of Directors enough for the job they do in terms of working consistently with me. Our membership needs recognition for their continuing support and donations as a revenue stream. Our membership may be relatively small and our staff limited, but we continue to maintain goals and progress respective of our "Mission".

Best Regards,
Larry L. Baker
Executive Director

Programs and Accomplishments of 2019

NAGPRA

As was mentioned in last year's report, the Association has been involved in consultation with Native tribes in association with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. This legislation, passed in 1990, governs the consultation, repatriation, and subsequent reburial of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects held by museums and curatorial facilities, which have received federal funding. For Salmon Ruins, the NAGPRA related inventory has been forwarded to 25 tribes in the greater Southwest.

Tribal consultation is a complex process with interested tribal entities and is structured by a NAGPRA grant prepared by the Executive Director and Paul Reed. The grant was submitted to the National Park Service and awarded for a total of \$69,932.00. This serves to defray costs related to tribal representatives traveling to Salmon Ruins to consult with regard to cultural affiliation, repatriation, viewing funerary objects, and reburial. Currently, representatives from the western Pueblos including Hopi, Zuni and Acoma have been the most involved. Some of the Rio Grande Pueblos have also consulted, including San Felipe and Santa Clara. Other tribes have also contacted us for consultation to be scheduled in the near future.

Stabilization of the Homestead's Root Cellar

The Salmon Homestead Complex is comprised of four individual structures including the Homestead House built in 1898, the Carriage House, the Bunkhouse circa 1918, and the Root Cellar. The Root Cellar, used for food storage, is a semi-subterranean, single room structure built of several different wall types, including: stone masonry, upright juniper posts, and wooden planking. A window and door are present in the east wall. Approximately 1990, the roof was reconstructed of wooden lintels resting on two central main timbers (vigas) and extending to the masonry and upright post walls, north and south walls respectively. Some of the northern beams of the roof had deteriorated and fallen into the room's



The Salmon Family's Root Cellar, Interior.

interior. The upright posts had slumped toward the structure's interior with several collapsing along the east section of the wall, contributing to the roof's instability.

Structural Stabilization of the Root Cellar was funded by the Association and conducted over a one-month period by three members of the DCA Ruins Stabilization Unit. The masonry wall was repointed, and the upright juniper posts were reset and anchored together with a stringer screwed into the posts along their exterior. Deteriorated latillas on the roof were replaced. A special roofing fabric was set on top of the latillas to prevent moisture from impacting the roof beams. It was painted brown and a thin covering of dirt spread over its entirety so that it appears like the original structure.

Division of Conservation Archaeology (DCA)

Lyn Wharton has been managing the Association's consulting firm, Division of Conservation Archaeology, for over 26 years. Her understanding of agency requirements and cultural resource management requirements respective of energy resource development are second to none. Lyn has a strong commitment to our organization and has postponed her retirement once again, indicating she will stay involved through next year. Lyn's shoes will be tough to fill once she decides to leave.

Our archaeological staff has kept busy through this past year. Excavational data recovery has continued on Westmoreland's San Juan Mine in relation to the placement of surface facilities related to underground mining. The placement of ventilation structures such as gob vents for venting methane require very specific positioning for insuring safety in the underground mining environment. In some cases, this requires the partial excavation of archaeological sites to offset impacts and what is termed "adverse effects".



Complex overlapping features at site LA 22258.

Several oil and gas projects have been undertaken to facilitate some initiatives in a limited resurgence of this industry. Primarily, clearance surveys are being undertaken on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. The work is being conducted along existing pipeline corridors that were constructed prior to the current laws governing such actions. Pipeline maintenance or corridor expansion necessitates surveys be conducted.

Research and Publications

Your Executive Director had another paper published this year in an edited volume of papers which were presented at the 2016 Conference for the Society of Cultural Astronomy in the American Southwest. The paper was entitled: Tree Harvesting on Lunar Standstill Dates and Its Relationship to Sociopolitical Complexity: Revisited, and will be included as a chapter in *Before Borders: Revealing the Greater Southwest's Ancestral Cultural Landscape*, co-edited by Greg Munson, Ray Williamson, and Bryan Bates. This chapter revisits earlier work by Kurt Mantonya and Yours Truly, but incorporates dendrochronologic data from the Chaco Research Archive (2010). The following is the Abstract for the chapter as set forth in the volume.

There has been considerable study and in some cases, controversy regarding astronomy and its relationship to Chacoan great houses. Nevertheless, many researchers would agree, at some level, that Chacoan architecture has incorporated a variety of constructional elements related to observations of astronomical phenomena by the architects of Bonito Phase structures. Studies of solar and lunar observations have included relationships to: the location of sites; orientation and constructional forms of buildings; select features incorporated into the masonry and interiors of the structures; and tree harvesting (cutting dates) related to great house constructional sequences. Particularly intriguing with respect to these observations is the lunar standstill cycle and more specifically, the movement of the moon from the major lunar standstill at maximum to the minor lunar standstill at minimum and back over an 18.6-year period. This paper revisits earlier work related to lunar maximum and minimum tree cutting dates at Chacoan pueblos, and provides additional data from select sites to support the importance of tree harvesting during these specific lunar standstill positions. Evidence of major tree cutting during these periods of lunar observation reinforces the premise regarding esoteric knowledge and the power it embodied in an elite class to further suggest a hierarchical structure within Chacoan society.



The San Juan County Museum Association/ Salmon Ruins is recognized as the Publication Affiliation for the chapter.

Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards

The Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards Program continues to operate within the framework of the Association. A group of volunteer stewards remain the front line of defense as a deterrent to looting and vandalism of our national heritage sites located in the remote, high mesa country of northwestern New Mexico. Our organization operates independently, but cooperates with the New Mexico Site Watch. Currently, three co-directors work with the Executive Director to facilitate the program. These include Kim Stradling, Ken Russell and Linda Wheelbarger. Of course, former Director, Clay Johnston remains

directly involved with the management team. Currently, the program has 53 volunteer stewards patrolling 151 sites under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, New Mexico Game and Fish, New Mexico State Land Office, Archaeological Conservancy, and several private individuals. Operational funds have been provided in the past by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A grant has recently been submitted to the BLM that would provide funds over a three-year period to support this important work in protection and preservation. Although there has been dialogue with the BLM regarding the grant, formal notice of the award has not been received as of the date of this report.



Preservation at work with the Site Stewards crew.

Curation and Education - Tori Myers

Volunteers

A huge array of faunal bones, soil samples and charcoal fragments have been lovingly repacked by Stephen Slusher this year. These items have been wrapped in raw cotton, paper towels, and tiny cardboard boxes since they were recovered from the field and cataloged by the lab. Stephen has on occasion found interesting treasures such as projectile points, fossils or paint pigments that keep him interested as well as busy. This year a new volunteer, Marc Kennedy, began working with us for a few hours every Monday. Marc works for the Farmington Police Department but has been taking museum management classes and hopes to eventually work at a historic or military themed museum. He has also been helping to repack and organize the collections. More volunteers are needed, so make sure all of your retired friends and family know that we want to entertain them! Erin Brooks has been typing her little fingers off catching up about 100 missing boxes from the database that had been previously catalogued but overlooked for data entry. We also had Rochel Korte, who worked with Brandi throughout the summer to fulfill a 120-hour requirement for her scholarship at college.

Volunteer of the Year: Rochel Korte – Thanks Rochel for helping all summer long!

Education



Educational outreach has improved over the past year. A group of 80 4th graders visited the museum and grounds in April from the Kirtland Elementary School. We divided them into groups and gave them a guided tour of the Salmon site, the Heritage Park area, and allowed them some time in the museum. The day was exhausting but invaluable, and hopefully will lead to many more student visits. In addition, Larry presented at the SAA meeting in Albuquerque discussing site stewardship, and also conducted a Summer Solstice sunrise tour with Brooks Marshall. We have also helped to organize and provide artifacts for the Site Stewards' program to offer a table for several local events. Salmon Ruins hosted Oralía Lopez and John Bezy in their annual visit to the museum, where they demonstrate and sell modern Casas Grandes pottery. The event was quite successful and included many unique pieces.

Pottery from Mata Ortiz.

Tribal Consultations

Remember that NAGPRA grant? We have been hosting visitors from some of the Pueblos on occasions all through the year to get their opinions and interpretations regarding human remains, burial goods and other artifacts as well. This year we participated in meetings with representatives from San Felipe Pueblo, Hopi Pueblo, Zuni Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, and Acoma Pueblo. We have confirmed that the actual reburial will be conducted by a medicine man from Hopi Pueblo in the Fall of 2020, and all of the participating visitors have been satisfied with that plan. Several additional NAGPRA meetings are pending, namely a second Santa Clara Pueblo visit, Tesuque Pueblo, and Navajo Nation.

Several small but interesting donations were taken this year. These include anonymous library donations along with several boxes from members. Anonymous artifact donations were also made, including one from the ARC Thrift Store in Farmington. A neighbor to the Salmon property, Fred Wade, donated several groundstone axes and a variety of pottery and other artifacts that he collected from his property across the San Juan River in Bloomfield. Some previous donations taken by the museum over the past 40 years have been evaluated in light of the NAGPRA negotiations, and several have included human remains. Paul Reed and I have been working to identify these so that they can be reburied at the same time as the Salmon excavation materials, so that future NAGPRA work will not be necessary once the reburial takes place.

Similar to the NAGPRA consultations, but operating through Paul Reed's extended grant for the SPARC program, we were able to host three separate Hopi groups, two Zuni groups and one Acoma group. At these meetings, we demonstrated how to use the SPARC website, encouraged them to think of ways to use the information within their own Pueblos and/or schools, and allowed them to view and handle artifacts that were not found in burial contexts. On several occasions, the participants did request to also interact with NAGPRA items, but the purpose of the meetings was not to express or document burial concerns. These meetings were conducted by Paul Reed, Carrie Heitman and Worthy Martin, but I participated at least one day of each consultation to make it easier to present and organize the artifacts

that participants were interested in viewing. The facilitators also took each group on field trips to explore Salmon, Aztec and Chaco while they were here, as many of the participants had not ever gone to those sites. The meetings were very positive and helped to establish a better relationship with some of the tribal groups that are related to sites like Salmon Ruins.

Journey Into the Past

This has been the busiest year ever seen by our museum tour schedule! There were 160 tours, with only 17 cancellations. Although the majority of tours continue to be for Chaco or Chaco-related excursions, 6 went to the Bisti Badlands, 2 were “Arches and Archaeology”, and 3 were to the Dinétah. Most of the non-Chaco tours are return customers, which is very exciting! I always make sure they leave knowing there is much more to see and do in the area, and that we would love to see them again. This year I had an amazing assistant, Lori Scheiss, who is an archaeologist specializing in Physical Anthropology (Human Remains). She teaches full time at San Juan College in the Biology Department, but was kind enough to help with the tour program during the summer so that I could attempt to keep up with the non-tour related duties here at Salmon Ruins.



One of over 500 arches hidden away in our area.

The tours have become so popular that we need more than one tour guide! Remember when the program started and we had to practically give them away to get people involved? This is truly one of the achievements I am most proud of, and while it is exhausting to maintain the pace of the tours, I hope that it continues to be so successful and to bring in desperately needed income. Tours are well underway for the 2020 season – to date, 9 tours have been scheduled for November and 6 more for the spring!

Visiting Researchers

This year we had two researchers work with artifacts from the Salmon Ruins collections. Ben Bellorado came in December to study twined sandals. Our collection includes one complete twined sandal and several fragments, as well as several styles of plaited sandals and fragments. Twined sandals are indicative of Chacoan influence and are the focus of Ben's Doctoral Dissertation. Jade Robison, who conducted research on shell objects in 2018, is ready to publish her findings. In January, Jason Hayes

visited with a laser scanner attached to a drone, and created a detailed 3D model of the Salmon site. He has been working on architectural models and the finished video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f-XQOqSMCI>. A researcher in Florida has requested to study our Macaw skeletons, and Paul Reed has contacted them to organize the loan of those faunal remains.

Research Partnerships with Paul Reed

NAGPRA Project

For the NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) Project, Salmon Ruins Museum applied to the National Park Service in 2018 and was awarded \$69,000 to do consultation with Tribes in the New Mexico and the Hopi Tribe in Arizona.

Reed, Curator Tori Myers, and Executive Director Larry Baker welcomed a team from the Pueblo of Zuni for several days in July 2019 for NAGPRA consultation. The team went on a tour of the Salmon Pueblo, looked at artifacts from the Salmon collection, reviewed the NAGPRA documentation, and travelled to Aztec Ruins for a tour to help the Zuni team understand the cultural context of Salmon and the Middle San Juan region. The visit was a big success and the Zuni team was satisfied with the plans discussed.



Larry with the Zuni team.

On July 29-30, Reed and Baker travelled to the Hopi Mesas to meet with Hopi Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Stewart Koyiyumptewa. The Hopi team was updated on Salmon's NAGPRA status and informed of the plan to conduct reburial of human remains & funerary objects in the fall of 2020. Mr. Koyiyumptewa said that the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office would be glad to take care of the physical job of reburial. Mr. Baker agreed that this was a good plan of action.

On August 28 and 29, 2019 Reed and Executive Director Larry Baker travelled to the Pueblo of Santa Clara for a meeting with the Pueblo for NAGPRA consultation. The Santa Clara Pueblo team welcomed Baker and Reed. The group discussed the background for Salmon Pueblo, reviewed the NAGPRA documentation, and made plans for a visit by a Santa Clara Pueblo team to Salmon to see everything firsthand. The visit was a big success and the Santa Clara team was satisfied with the plans discussed. Additional follow-up with Santa Clara resulted in the scheduling of a visit by the Pueblo's cultural team to Salmon on November 11-13.

On Sept 18, 2019 Reed, Tori Myers, and Executive Director Larry Baker welcomed representatives from the Pueblo of Acoma for a visit to Salmon Ruins for NAGPRA consultation. The team

went on a tour of the Salmon Pueblo, looked at artifacts from the Salmon collection, reviewed the NAGPRA documentation, and specifically assessed the probable location for the reburial of human remains and funerary items from Salmon Pueblo. The visit helped the Acoma team better understand the cultural context of Salmon and the Middle San Juan region. The visit was a big success and the Acoma team was satisfied with the plans discussed.

SPARC Project



Paul Reed, Carrie Heitman & Worthy Martin at Aztec.

three different teams from the Hopi Tribe, Cultural Preservation Office (including Hopi Tribal Preservation Officer Stewart Koyiyumptewa) to Salmon Ruins Museum between May and August, 2019, to consult on the SPARC Project. In addition, a team from the Pueblo of Zuni, Cultural Resources Advisory Team, led by Octavius Seowtewa visited Salmon in September 2019.

The Native American team toured Salmon Pueblo, the Aztec Pueblos, and spent time looking at the exhibits in the Salmon and Aztec Ruins museums. The team also virtually toured the SPARC website, looking at all aspects of the website. Time was spent looking at historic photographs, as well, that are part of the Chaco Research Archive. The visits were very successful and plans were made to continue the consultation process and develop plans for both Hopi and Zuni to produce materials for inclusion on the SPARC website.

In May 2018, we successfully launched the SPARC Project online website (salmonpueblo.org) with a public event held at Salmon Ruins Museum. Briefly, the Salmon Pueblo Archaeological Research Collection (SPARC) Project ran from May 2015 to May 2018. The project entailed collaboration between four institutions: the Salmon Ruins Museum, Archaeology Southwest, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia. Three phases of work created SPARC: (1) digital acquisition (that is, scanning of the huge collection of data, drawings, photographs, slides, and original field forms); (2) data integration and management; and (3) online preservation of and access to materials.

In 2019, Co-Principal Investigators Carrie Heitman and Paul Reed, together with SPARC Computer Director Worthy Martin convened a series of meetings with Tribes at Salmon Ruins Museum. The consultation sessions were supported by a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation. We welcomed

2019 Donors

\$25 - \$99

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Heard Museum

\$1000 and over

Jo Hudson



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

2019 Statement of Activities
Cash only, October 31, 2019
Revenue and Related Income

Services	\$436,992
Gift Shop Sales	\$21,038
Fund Raising and Association	\$4,487
Admissions	\$13,187
Salmon Reunion	\$0
Donations	\$13,229
Grants	\$13,545
County Support	\$5,000
Site Stewards	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0
Interest	\$0
Membership	\$1,739
Consultant	\$5,999
Miscellaneous	\$425
	<u>TOTAL: \$515,641</u>

Expenses

Museum	\$267,908
Division of Conservation Archaeology	\$292,659
	<u>TOTAL: \$560,567</u>

2019 Financial Statement
Unaudited Statement of Financial Position, October 31, 2019

Assets

In-bank Cash	\$78,346
Savings and Short-term Investments	\$301,035
Long-term Investments (Endowment)	\$937,355
Accounts Receivable (DCA)	\$98,572
Gift Shop Inventory	\$41,963
Prepaid Insurance	\$14,371
Petty Cash	\$250
	<u>Subtotal: \$1,471,892</u>
Property and Equipment	\$217,751
	<u>TOTAL: \$1,689,643</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets/Capital

Accounts Payable	\$0
Taxes	\$3,077
Vacation Benefits	\$10,930
Deferred Revenue	\$56,387
	<u>TOTAL: \$70,394</u>

Capital

Investments in Fixed Assets	\$345,896
Unappropriated Fund	\$430,026
Current Fund	\$301,617
Net Income	(\$65,147)
	<u>TOTAL: \$1,012,392</u>

Total Liabilities and Capital: **\$1,082,786**

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Mike Jim, Operations Support

Suzanne and Wayne Martinez, Custodians

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