



The View from Here Is

By Norm Nelson

...a study in the ancient Chinese curse “may you live in interesting times”. There is good news, there is the “say what?” genre, and then there is the “interesting” material. First the good news: The USFS just notified our office that they will be matching last year’s \$10,000 dollar grant to the SiteWatch program. This is a yearly song and dance that we go through and I was very pleased to see program support remain unchanged from last year. There is an initiative that involves partnerships with the Aldo Leopold Charter High School in Silver City that is of particular interest (see related article). The program may serve as a model for the Taos chapter, and there is interest in the program in Washington D.C.

Our BLM partners have also been busy and, I am pleased to report, expanding their use of the program in the Carlsbad area. Jim Renn is a new archaeologist for the Carlsbad office and is applying his energies to the expansion of the program. We will be providing a Basic Training soon for new recruits and reporting more news from this area as it becomes available.

(Continued on Page 2)

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>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 News from the State Coordinator
- 3 News Bits/Aldo Leopold High School Project
- 4 Annual Conference 2011
- 5 Aldo Leopold School Project, Cont’d.
- 6 Ojo Caliente Team Discovery

State Coordinator

Norm Nelson, Archaeologist,
Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo St., Rm 236, Santa Fe, NM 87501
NormanB.Nelson@state.nm.us
505-476-0255

Assistant State Coordinator

Rebecca Procter, New Mexico State Parks, 505-476-3385
rebecca.procter@state.nm.us

Volunteer Deputy State Coordinator

Mark Rosenblum
markrosenm@msn.com

(Continued from Page 1)

National Parks is also getting more involved. Pecos National Monument has set up a meeting with representatives of the SiteWatch program. The park has a new archaeologist on board (Sue Eininger) and she is interested in having SiteWatch monitor 30 to 40 sites within the park. The meeting is set for June 30th. Bandelier has requested more information and has identified volunteers. I will be meeting with park officials on June 28th to generate some more momentum for their staff and volunteers.

State Parks continues to add volunteers to the program, most recently, with the training of campground hosts and park staff. Some of the state parks have cultural resources located within the campgrounds and it is not unusual for a visitor to bring a potsherd to the visitor center. By training the hosts and staff we now have contacts who can educate people about site etiquette and take a moment to further their knowledge of the area.

The “Say What?” news has its beginnings with the most recent legislative session. There were 12 separate pieces of legislation that were introduced aimed at altering aspects of HPD’s mission. Some legislation sought to redefine how the CPRC (our policy board) goes about its business while other legislation would have essentially made HPD a non-player with development in New Mexico. Those supporting preservation as it currently exists were able to get all 12 pieces off the table with no impacts to historic preservation. Many thanks are due to a small dedicated band of people that monitored the session and spoke out in support of historic resources.

On to the “Interesting” end of the news: Those that would change our mission at HPD have already made it known that there will be twice as many pieces of legislation, with the same intent, introduced in the next legislature. Some proposals may even be floated in the Special Session. The same group of players that defended the preservation status quo in the last legislative session are organizing and if there is a need for assistance there may be a call from the larger preservation community for help from interested individuals. Stay tuned for more on this.

→

→ It is summer! Everyone is outside. Stay well and BE CAREFUL out there! There be monsters on the edges of those maps, don’t you know!

Norm Nelson, NM State SiteWatch Coordinator

* * * * *

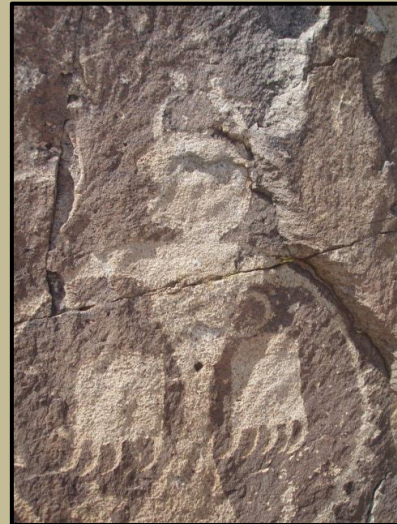


Photo by Norm Nelson

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.abgarchaeology.org/nmsw.shtml>



News Bits

Call for Volunteers!

Two SiteWatch chapter coordinators have been telling Rebecca that there is a strong need for additional site stewards in the central and northwestern regions. Please note that the need is especially great at Bluewater Lake State Park, Navajo Lake State Park, and Chaco Culture National Historical Park. If you know someone who'd like to join SiteWatch to help in these areas, or if you are already working for the organization but have time to add another site to your schedule, PLEASE contact Norm Nelson. These parks are in serious need of our expertise and services, and would greatly benefit from additional monitoring.



Initiative to Aid Archaeological Collaboration by Members of Elephant Butte Chapter

A project has been launched at Elephant Butte Lake to gather information on ceramics at sites being monitored by our stewards. By re-tabulating the types of pottery present on the surfaces of several sites, the stewards, along with chapter coordinator Rebecca Procter, hope to increase the information available on the interaction of Mimbres and Anasazi inhabitants of this cultural borderland. Ultimately, the data will be the basis for a short paper to be presented at this year's Pecos Conference in northern Arizona. We hope to use our research as a starting point for collaborating with archaeologist Karl Laumbach and his colleagues, who have been working at the nearby Cañada Alamosa drainage on a major research project for the last nine years. Never doubt that what SiteWatch stewards do is important and relevant to the field of archaeology!

Aldo Leopold High School and SiteWatch Archaeology Project

Aldo Leopold High School in Silver City, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Southwest New Mexico SiteWatch, and community partners are working together to provide employment opportunities to the youth of southwest New Mexico in a project that enhances the area's natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources. The goal of the archaeology project is for students to learn valuable job skills through experiential education, while learning to appreciate and understand the importance of protecting, conserving, and enhancing area resources. Students work with community partners, educators, and skilled professionals. ALHS students on the archaeology project crew get to learn about protecting and preserving cultural resources, teach others about those resources, earn credit, and get paid. The community gets resources protected and monitored. Archaeology project community partners include the Gila National Forest, the Town of Silver City, New Mexico SiteWatch, the Gila Conservation Center, the Grant County Archaeological Society, and the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site.

In the summer of 2009, Harolene Pitts, a teacher at Aldo Leopold High School enlisted the help of members of the Grant County Archaeological Society (GCAS) and Southwest New Mexico SiteWatch to develop a program which would encourage area youth to learn about cultural resources of southwest New Mexico and to allow high school students to participate in the site steward program. GCAS members suggested that interested students should participate in the NM SiteWatch training program and become site stewards at the Dragonfly Rock Art site located on the Fort Bayard Game Refuge, Gila National Forest, and at the Ursa Major Mimbres Pithouse/Pueblo Site owned by the town of Silver City. Ms. Pitts met with Bob Schiowitz, Silver City District Archaeologist, GNF, and with Alex Brown, Silver City Town Manager to request their participation in the proposed site steward/YCC archaeology program. Both the Gila National Forest and the Town of Silver City became partners in the project

The ALHS/YCC archaeology program was expanded in 2010 and 2011. Marilyn Markel, SiteWatch volunteer, and the manager of the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site became a staff supervisor of the archaeology crew in the fall of 2010. Students participated in the Gila Conservation Education Center's "hands-on" outreach program, teaching elementary students about archaeology. Students also visited area museums, developing research skills, and learned more about the sites they were monitoring. Students new to the archaeology crew that did not attend the site training workshop, learned about being a site steward through watching the SiteWatch training CD provided by the SiteWatch area coordinator and working with SiteWatch volunteers.

Continued on Page 5



Annual Conference Held at Hibben Center, UNM



Photo by Eugene Rooney

SiteWatch was privileged to host the annual conference at the Hibben Center for Archaeology at the University of New Mexico on February 20, 2011. The Site Steward Foundation provided an excellent catered lunch right at the Center, so attendees could go from the talks directly to lunch and networking without any extra wear and tear! Dr. Dave Phillips assisted in getting display and exhibit space prepared in the Hibben Center lobby, while Norm Nelson and Phil Young worked to set up refreshments and arrange the audio-visual hookups.

The morning session highlighted three insider views of the designation of Mount Taylor as a traditional cultural property (TCP) under the National Historic Preservation Act. Acting State Historic Preservation Officer Jan Biella spoke in detail of the nature of her agency's involvement in the designation, the timeline for the designation, and the unique quality of this action as the first of its kind in the nation. She noted that preservationists and the public all over the country are watching this development carefully as an important precedent in the history of cultural resource management.

Cynthia Benedict of the Cibola National Forest described in detail the kinds of development that can be accommodated by the Mt. Taylor TCP, and how certain types of resource extraction typically occur. Theresa Pasqual of the Acoma Pueblo Historic Preservation Office provided a fascinating description of the coordinated efforts of her tribal community and four other tribes in developing the approach that was taken to getting Mt. Taylor recognized for its cultural and historical values.



Mt. Taylor as seen from Acoma Pueblo. Photo by Rebecca Procter

The afternoon sessions covered a range of topics from how to deal with snakes and large predators when in the wild (NM Dept. of Game and Fish), the possible connections between the Anasazi and Mogollon cultures and the various movements of these peoples around the Southwest through time (Dr. Steve Lekson), and finally, the important contributions made to the preservation of archaeological sites by site stewards acting as volunteers for the public good (Jim Walker, Archaeological Conservancy). As always, the silent auction offered a treasure trove of fun and beautiful items for attendees, while raising greatly needed cash for the SiteWatch program. Folks who experienced this well-organized and deeply interesting session will surely be looking forward to our next annual conference!

Aldo Leopold High School (Continued from Page 3)

Adam Snider a student at Aldo Leopold wrote the following about his experiences as a site steward in the YCC program (excerpt from 2010 YCC Report, slightly edited):

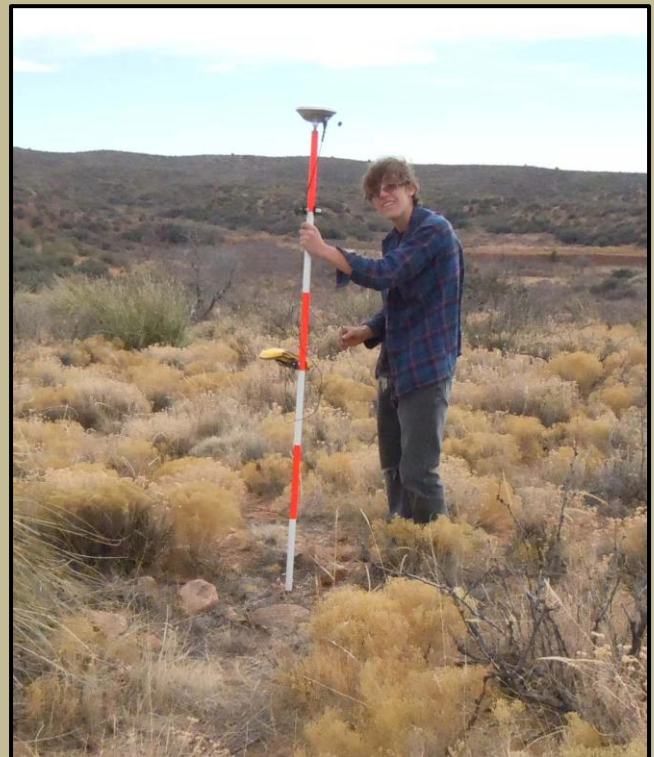
“Sometime in late November or December 2009, Harolene Pitts, a teacher of mine at Aldo Leopold High School, approached me about a YCC crew that would be starting in the spring, the Archaeology Site Watch Crew. I signed up for the crew the next semester. I’ve always been interested in people, and interpreting the past through a place that still exists now seemed just to click with me. After attending the SiteWatch training held in Truth or Consequences with my crew, I really was inspired. I applied myself a lot that semester so I would be guaranteed a spot on the crew the next year. The crew worked at two different sites, the Ursa Major site, and the Dragonfly Site. From the first day, I could tell I was extremely “bought-into” archaeological preservation. On many occasions I found myself in bittersweet moods of discontent with modern humanity’s blemish on the past, our irreverence towards the people who lived here before us.

Gradually, I picked up the ability to put historical, and pre-historical, artifacts into a context I could imagine. In my current, senior year at ALHS, I began to emerge as a leader in my crew, the specialist, the one who really gets what’s going on. More importantly, I began developing a type of respectful affection for the people whose sites I was preserving. It’s hard for me to put into words my connection to these sites. “Sites” now seems too impersonal a word for my taste. These were real people, and their property and legacy deserves to be respected and at least learned about—a belief I hold at the highest level of importance as I am also committed to maintain these sites as a SiteWatch steward. I am the only one on the current crew, with the exception of our Supervisor, Marilyn Markel, who knows how to fill out the SiteWatch forms and who really has any archaeological experience at all, and I am considered a mentor to the other crew members. I always find it a pleasure to help my co-workers find their own interpretation of a pictograph, or discuss why or why not a family of Native →

→Americans may have lived in the area we’re studying. Using the aforementioned reasons of moral belief and personal interest and past experiences, I am now starting a preliminary internship with Bob Schiowitz, the USFS Archaeologist in the Gila Forest. My internship includes office work and field work in the Silver City FS district. It is YCC that helped me find my passion for archaeology and got me onto what I think to be my future career path—archaeology”.

Adam Snider completed his YCC internship with the Gila National Forest, graduated from ALHS in May, 2011, plans to enroll in college in the fall and pursue a career in archaeology.

The partnership between Aldo Leopold HS, Youth Conservation Corps, New Mexico SiteWatch, and community partners has been a great success. The project will continue to grow. In the future, the students will monitor more sites through SiteWatch and, to expand the educational experiences of the ALHS students, the YCC archaeology crew will work more closely with the Gila Conservation Education Center and the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site to teach area elementary students about our culture heritage.



Ojo Caliente Team of the Taos Chapter—Never a Dull Moment!



Tim Viereck reports to Chapter Coordinator C.J. Johnson that the Ojo Caliente team continues to make interesting discoveries:

“There really is a very curious little ruin up on the sculpted rock outcrop just east of the little slot canyon near Ojo Caliente.

Paul Williams is sitting in about the same spot that this midden shot shows - that whole steep little slope is all earth, rocks and sherds, some lithics. Lots of varieties of corrugated ware, a little biscuit ware.”

This photo shows Tim’s son, Jasper Viereck, in front of the cool site Tim describes here. It seems it’s been given the monicker “Greenman Site” as it was first noted by a local couple of that name. That tiny figure with the hat in the center background is BLM’s Paul Williams---he’s saying “It’s MY pile of sherds---yeah!!” SiteWatchers report it took two hours to convince Paul to come down from the mountain---ha!!