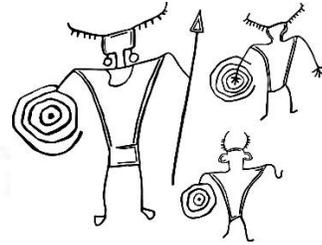


# VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello URARA: When travelling to see and experience rock art, or other amazing features we are fortunate enough to have access to in our beautiful corner of the world, you may have heard of the term “social trails”. It’s an expression that implies a good time, walking side by side, socializing with friends. Who wouldn’t want to walk on a social trail, at least once in a while?

The term actually refers to a path created by someone wandering off an established trail, then followed by another person who sees that path, then another, and so on. The end result can be a spiderweb of trails surrounding an area of interest. Social trails around rock art sites can have a direct impact on panels by destroying vegetation that holds the soil in place, and impacting cultural artifacts associated with the site. Loosened soil and sand blown by wind can abrade rock art panels and accelerate the natural weathering processes that degrade panels over time, and careless footprints can crush or disturb artifacts. Social trails can also attract the attention of people who may lack the awareness and sense of site etiquette that URARA members have, and potentially lead to more destructive behavior at rock sites and panels, inadvertent or otherwise.

Recently, the URARA Conservation and Preservation committee had an occasion to glimpse the result of social trail behavior on a much larger scale, when BLM solicited comments as part of the scoping process on a new Travel Management Plan (TMP) for the San Rafael Swell area. Our analysis of the proposed routes compared with the existing designated routes, indicated many miles of routes that appeared between 2008, the date of the existing TMP, and the present. Many of those routes appear to have been created by Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, away from routes designated in an earlier TMP.

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Our public comments are posted on:

<https://www.utahrockart.org/resources/Conservation%20Docs/URARA%20San%20Rafael%20Travel%20Plan%20Mar2021%20Comments%20-%20Copy.pdf>

While many of us use OHVs (the term includes 4WD trucks and SUVs) to access remote areas and enjoy the spectacular vistas and locations and visit rock art sites, we want to do so responsibly, and stick to established, designated routes. In a similar way, we need to be aware of our footprints at the scale of a single rock art site. When approaching a site and looking for the best view of a panel or angle for a photograph, please be aware of your impact and try sticking to an established path. We want to enjoy and appreciate rock art, but we also want to do our best to ensure that the characteristics of rock art that resonates so powerfully with people, which includes the sites themselves as well as the panels, is preserved.

## Gary Burningham, 1932-1921

Diana Acerson

Long-time URARA member Gary Burningham passed away Sunday March 28. He had suffered much from loneliness since the death of his wife Janet. He fell ill last week and had to have a stint put in his heart. Then his kidneys failed. Gary has been with URARA for a very long time and has shared his passion and love for the images from around the western United States with a lot of us. See <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/gary-burningham-obituary?pid=198208951>

## Volunteer Opportunity Rochester Panel

Elizabeth Hora, SHPO

Matt Podolinsky has been working with SHPO for over a year to design a project aimed at reducing damage to rock imagery sites. Matt is requesting volunteers to help with collecting demographic information on visitors to the Rochester Panel on weekends this spring. Understanding who is visiting Utah rock art sites will not only benefit his research, but will support public land managers and cultural resource specialists in their management of rock art sites.

The volunteer opportunity will involve collecting surveys via tablet or hard copy at the Rochester Panel parking lot. Shifts will be three hours in length. Training for collecting surveys will take place 15 minutes before each shift. Surveys will not collect sensitive information (names, identifying information, etc.) Covid-19 precautions and sanitation will be followed. A shade shelter and table will be provided.

Survey weekends are Friday thru Sunday, April 16-18, and Friday thru Sunday, April 30-May 2.

For questions or details, contact Matt via email: [matt.podolinsky@gmail.com](mailto:matt.podolinsky@gmail.com)

## Dave Manley Exhibit - Written In Stone 2021

Howard Berkes



We all can't jam into the back seat as Dave Manley navigates the rough roads and canyons of Cedar Mesa. We all can't crowd around him as he discovers a new ruin or pictograph panel. We all can't stay silent and listen as he describes the sophisticated masonry work in a granary. No, most of us are stuck with what Manley brings back from his journeys and that's an alternative that is as good as it gets.

That's what we clearly see in the [year-long exhibit](#) at the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding, Utah, where Manley has graced museum walls with a collection of more than 40 stunning images, in color and black and white, that basically seat us on his shoulder as he peers through his camera lens at Cedar Mesa and other landscapes and rock art in the Four Corners area.

The exhibit is titled "Written in Stone 2021" and it enhances the museum's focus on Cedar Mesa antiquities by bringing inside the pictographs, petroglyphs, and sandstone and sky, we all travel so far and hard to witness. Manley helps provide additional context for the museum's extensive and jaw-dropping collection of Cedar Mesa artifacts.

Manley, a stone mason by trade, has a sharp eye for fine detail. He claims not to be an expert but has an expert's intuitive sense of where panels may be, how they might be connected, and how they fit into the larger stories of the people who carved and painted rock, and made the canyons home.

Central to the exhibit is "The Crane," which Manley describes as "simple in content but striking in appearance." It sits alone in a small alcove. There are no other major carvings or paintings in the alcove, as if the carver meant it to exist without distraction. "Panels that contain just a few elements seem to convey powerful meaning," Manley notes in the text accompanying the image. "Less is more."

"The Crane" is so powerful it was selected as the cover image for Manley's book "[Ancient Galleries of Cedar Mesa](#)" (2016, Canyonlands Natural History Association), a book every rock art admirer should have. As "The Crane" shows, the exhibit takes many images from the book and enlarges them without loss of detail or sharpness. They are simply more engaging than ever, stopping visitors in their tracks.

The exhibit also adds Manley's words to each photograph, with text panels that provide some sense of meaning and context, stories of search and discovery, and a stone mason's understanding of chipping rock. "I understand the delicate touch needed to create the undulating lines and small details," Manley writes about a "tiny masterpiece," only 17 cm high, called Delicate Shaman. "Someone was on their knees for hours, intently focused and with metered breathing to keep the tool steady."

The exhibit also features long panels that stretch across the museum's walls. These are images we all strive to capture and bring home. Few of us will do that with the artistic composition, perfect lighting, and very fine detail Manley brings to his images. The photographs are for sale and priced very reasonably compared to what we typically see in galleries. Manley replaces sold images so the exhibit will remain intact through the end of the year.

# Musings on a Sunday Morning

Diana Acerson

How do we really look at rock art, rock writing, rock imagery, whatever you want to call it? I remember many years ago when I first joined URARA, I attended a board meeting, helping out with the lunch time break with Cindy Everitt. One of the board members, good heartily started qualifying the various rock art enthusiasts: The archaeologist, photographer, anthropologist, artist, data gatherer, geologist, poet, engineer, observer interpreter, analyst, story-teller, teacher, meditator, conservationist, Native wanna-be, sight-bagger, and ..... wait for it... the tag along! Yes! I made the list. I belonged. I was worried there for a second or two. Rock art was fairly new to me at the time. Yes, I just wanted to fit in. Then, listening to my philosophic husband, it was more than just the rock art. It was the whole experience. The hike: bush-wacking, rock scrambling, elevation changes, hostile vegetation, cattle and wildlife trails. The landscape: amazing vistas, fantastic and colorful rock formations, canyons, rolling hills, trees, flowers, native plants and yes that hostile vegetation. The people: sharing information, telling stories, building friendships, expressing excitement, helping and watching over each other. The wildlife: antelope, deer, squirrels, rabbits, big horn sheep, prairie dogs, coyotes, foxes, cougars, bob cats, snakes, lizards, all kinds of birds; eagles, hawks, ravens, magpies, chucker's, quail, turkey vultures, ... The weather: sunny hot and cold days, cloudy days, windy days, rainy days, ... and all the adventures and stories that come with each hike. But the icing on the cake is finally reaching that rock art! COVID-19 this past year however, did not hinder our being able to enjoy those fabulous hikes to that amazing rock art! Thanks YouTube...!

# April URARA Zoom Presentation

Werner Duecker

This month we are pleased to welcome archaeologist R.E. Burrillo who will present "Borderlands: Collision and Coalescence in the Culture History of Southeast Utah." Ralph is an engaging speaker, and his talk will focus on the concept of how the Bears Ears area of San Juan County has been a "melting pot" or cultural crucible for the past 13,000 years or so. representing a peripheral zone to the heartlands of cultural occupation areas throughout its history. This is reflected in its lithic artifacts, ceramic styles, architectural styles, clothing, and rock art. This is a major theme of his recent book *Behind the Bears Ears: Exploring the Cultural and Natural Histories of a Sacred Landscape* published by Torrey House Press.

As an archeologist, Ralph's work has primarily focused on general Southwest prehistory, prehistoric settlement and agriculture in the Bears Ears area of southeast Utah. He has written extensively on the Bears Ears area with recent articles published in several leading archaeological magazines, including *Archaeology Southwest Magazine*, *The Archaeological Record*, and *Kiva: The Journal of Southwest Anthropology and History*. He is currently working as a project director for PaleoWest Archaeology in Phoenix Arizona.

Tune in at 7:00, Thursday, April 22

5 | April 2021

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# Spring RockArt Extravaganza

Jim King

In the absence of URARA field trips, many Urarans have been organizing private trips. This reports on one recent trip. A dozen avid rock art friends gathered early March and began a two-week tour of rock art sites. The journey took them to the borderlands of California and Arizona; into central Arizona, and eventually to the Agua Fria National Monument of north central Arizona. In all, more than twenty-five areas containing unique and quality rock art panels were explored. In addition, stops were made to visit ruins and the Heard Museum.

The group included, Ned and Edna Clem, Pat Sullivan, Connie Bridge, Tina Tan and Robert Crifasi, Steve and Diana Acerson, Nina Bowen, Joe Brame, Pam and Jim King.

For many, this was the first much needed escape from the Covid-19 lock down. The group felt pretty confident of not getting ill because several had been vaccinated and there was little contact with the people of the communities along the way.



For the most part, the bulk of the sites visited contained rock art attributed to the Hohokam, Yuman and Patayan cultures. The following photos are but a small representation of the rock art sites our group saw. Hundreds of photos were taken by each of the group to be analyzed and enjoyed after the trip. This photo shows a stunning panel located at Sears Point near Gila Bend.



This deeply carved petroglyph is at a site north of Yuma. It is believed to have been made by a Yuman speaking culture during the late Archaic.



This petroglyph symbol is located on a rock that was struck by lightning. There is still a magnetic response that can be seen when a compass is moved in across its face.

Humming  
bird on a  
panel near  
Gila Bend.



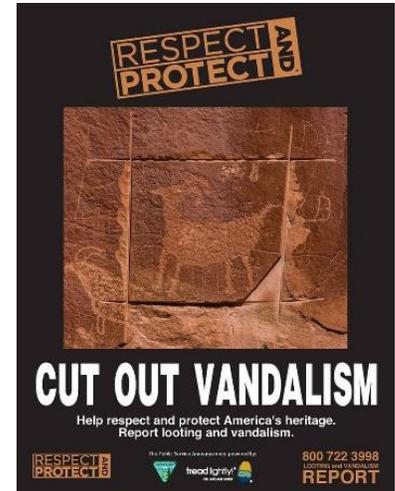
Geomet-  
ric  
glyph  
located  
in a red  
rock slot  
canyon  
near  
Gila  
Bend.

# Stewardship News

Diana Acerson

- Respect and Protect – A quarterly Zoom meeting hosted by Tread Lightly, updated all partners, including URARA, on events taking place and new Public Awareness activities happening around the state. Groups reported their efforts on cultural resource protection. There was discussion of resources available to aid the protection efforts. For more information on the Respect and Protect program, visit: <https://treadlightly.org/campaigns/respect-and-protect/>

- Site Steward Program – Utah State History is launching a new statewide site steward Program. New stewards and returning stewards are participating in basic training sessions. The training is in two parts. Part one is a virtual classroom style training. The second part will be introduction to the sites that stewards will be monitoring. If you would like to be a steward and/or would like more information about the program visit: <https://history.utah.gov/shpo/upan/ucss/> or “Utah Heritage Stewardship Program” on Facebook.



Site Stewards/URARA member Pat Sullivan

- Nebo Title VI Native Cultural Education Program – The mission of the Nebo Indian Education Program is to aid in the academic and cultural needs of Native American students in the Mt. Nebo School District, through supplementary programs directed by the parent committee and the Title VI formula grant. The grant provides teacher resources and presentations to further spread correct knowledge of the history, culture, and way of life of Native Americans. Eileen Quintana, Program Manager, is a member of URARA and has been introducing students to rock imagery and is planning to take students on a field trip in coming months to see the images at West Mountain. She hopes to give them more opportunities to attend field trips to experience rock imagery around the state of Utah. She is conducting on-line workshops with students now on rock art archaeology.



West Mountain Images



Eileen Quintana

- Adelbert Doyle Smith Preserve at Lake Mountain - The State Historical Preservation Office, along with URARA members and others, are documenting the cultural resources at the Preserve March 29<sup>th</sup>. At this event the App for the state's new site steward program, will be tested on some of the panels. The Preserve has been reseeded after last summers fire and rehabilitation of the road and acquisition of new trail markers are in process. For more information about the Preserve and the amazing rock imagery, visit:



<https://www.facebook.com/smith.family.archaeological.preserve/>

To donate for the rehabilitation and much needed improvements to the Preserve, visit:

<https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/smithfamilypreserve/>

- State History conducts documentation of rock imagery sites in Carbon, Sanpete, and Sevier counties

- URARA members along with other volunteers, are in the process of documenting sites from URARA's database. Under the direction of Logan Simpson, the contractor for SHPO, two 8-day events are taking place. The first group of documenters are active at this writing. They began March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will finish up March 30. The second group begins April 6-12<sup>th</sup>. Teams of 3 - a supervisor, field archaeologist, and volunteer, are spending 8 full days each session documenting approximately 168 sites.



## Calendar and URARA Events

April 22	URARA Zoom Presentation, 7:00, <a href="https://urara.wildapricot.org/">https://urara.wildapricot.org/</a>
Jun 12-13	ARARA Virtual Symposium by Zoom <a href="https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info-2021">https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info-2021</a>
July TBA	URARA Field Trip Dinwoody, Wyoming
Aug 5-9	Pecos Conference, Mancos Colorado <a href="https://www.pecosconference.org">https://www.pecosconference.org</a>
Oct 1-4	URARA Symposium
Oct 13-16	Great Basin Anthropological Conference Las Vegas <a href="https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org">https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org</a>

URARA Field trips have been temporarily suspended for the duration of the epidemic. URARA field trips are available to members only. For information or sign-up, please go to <https://urara.wildapricot.org/events>, or contact Cheryl Ames at [cheryl\\_e\\_ames@msn.com](mailto:cheryl_e_ames@msn.com), 303-940-2043. Registration will open approximately 45 days prior to the start of the field trip. At that time you may register until the set number of participants is filled; then your name will be added to the waiting list.

URARA currently offers presentations via Zoom, mostly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Don't forget to check the URARA FACEBOOK PAGE once in while.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA), Las Vegas, meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. <http://snraa.org/snraa.org/EVENTS.html>

Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS), St George, meets on the second Wednesday of the month, Saturday field trips once a month. <http://www.dixierockart.com/>

Colorado Archaeological Association, Grand Junction Chapter meets on the second Monday of the month. <https://www.meetup.com/CAS-GJ/>

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets at the Kumeyaay Center in Poway every other month, sometimes on the first Sunday, sometimes not. <https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>  
Now on-line.

Utah Public Archaeology Network (UPAN). Calendar of events and monthly newsletter. <https://history.utah.gov/antiquities/upan>

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is hosting on-line events. URARA members can access for free. Registration at: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Lectures>

# URARA Board and Contacts

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324. [www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org).

## 2020 URARA Board and Officers

Kent Williams, President  
 Connie Bridge, Vice President  
 Carol Duecker, Treasurer  
 Nina Bowen, Secretary  
 Troy Scotter, Website Manager  
 Leigh Grench  
 Darlene Koerner  
 Wanda Gayle  
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## Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison	Carol Patterson
Historian/ Archives	Keith Fessenden
Website/ Membership	Troy Scotter
Conservation/ Preservation	Troy Scotter
Documentation	Leigh Grench
Education	John McHugh
Research	Darlene Koerner
Field Trips	Wanda Gayle
Symposium Chair	Connie Bridge
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Board Nominations	Werner Duecker

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## URARA Conservation Coordinators

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Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker	<a href="mailto:wdeck.wd@gmail.com">wdeck.wd@gmail.com</a>
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