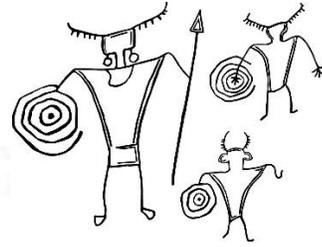


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

From the Prez, Vernal Symposium Live 1	BLM Statement on Vandalism 8
Vernal Symposium Preliminary Schedule..... 2	URARA Presentation on Vandalism to Vernal City 9
2021 Symposium Call for Presentations 3	JWP River History Museum Tour of Sego Canyon 10
Field Trip Leader Training..... 3	Calendar and URARA Events..... 12
June URARA Zoom Presentation 4	URARA Board and Contacts..... 13
Cultural Site Stewardship Program 5	

From the Prez, Vernal Symposium Live

Kent Williams

Hello URARA, June finds us in the thick of planning for the Symposium, led by Connie Bridge, chair of the Symposium committee. The meeting and field trips will be held live in Vernal, from October 1 to October 4. On Thursday, September 30, there will be an all-day site stewardship training session. Connie will keep us all posted as plans progress and the committee works through how to navigate the remaining challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, as things open up.

Coinciding with the symposium this year, we will be offering training for Site Stewardship through a program managed by the Utah State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). The program itself is not new, and a number of URARA members already serve as site stewards. What is new, is a broad effort by SHPO to perform outreach and recruit new Site Stewards.

The Board feels that the symposium would offer a great opportunity to recruit and train new stewards, since a lot of folks with a passion for preserving Utah's cultural heritage, especially rock art, will be in the same location for several days. URARA received a grant from SHPO to facilitate the training. Ian Smith, who manages the program for SHPO, will be in Vernal to conduct the training. Ian has written an article for this issue of Vestiges that describes the Site Stewardship Program (see [The Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program](#), below, p. 5). Please stay tuned, as more details on how to register will be forthcoming.

The URARA quarterly board meeting will be via Zoom on June 15. It is open to the membership. Contact me for a link to the meeting if you would like to attend or contribute an agenda item.

June 2021

Vernal Symposium Preliminary Schedule

Connie Bridge

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2021 URARA Symposium in Vernal, Utah, Sept. 30-Oct. 4. We are planning a LIVE symposium. We will be taking all precautions per the CDC and Utah Board of Health Guidelines at the time of the Symposium.

Preliminary schedule

Thurs. Sept 30:

Site Stewardship Program, all day (More information to come), replaces work shops

6:00 pm: Field Trip meeting, Uintah Conference Center (UCC)

Fri. Oct 1

Field Trips (Various locations and times)

6:00 pm: Watermelon Social (Uintah County commons, located by the library and Heritage Museum)

7:00 Heritage Museum Program

Sat. Oct. 2

All Day: Symposium (UCC)

5:00 or 6:00 pm: Banquet and Auction (UCC)

Sun. Oct. 3

All Day: Symposium

5:00 pm: Field trip meeting for Monday Field Trips (UCC)

Mon. Oct. 4

Field trips: (Various locations and times)

Registration will begin early August for the Site Stewardship Program, field trips, symposium, and dinner/auction. The cost will be comparable to last year's. Field trips will be in the Vernal Area.

The venue is the Uintah Conference Center (UCC). The address is 313 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah.

We are looking into hotel group discounts. We will let you know when we get more information on this. If you prefer, book a hotel room now.

If you prefer to camp, the Western Park in Vernal (<https://www.westernpark.org>) (302 E 200 S) has 32 camp sites available. The price is \$15.00 per site. Price includes electrical hook up, shared drinkable water, sewer dumping station. They also have restrooms and showers. Please contact Melanie at 435-789-7396 to reserve your spot early.

There also are many campgrounds in the Vernal/Uintah area. (<https://www.dinoland.com/camping/>) Call to reserve those now.

We will update you each month in Vestiges when more information becomes available.

We look forward to seeing you all again!

2021 Symposium Call for Presentations

Dennis DeVore

The Symposium Committee announces a Call for Proposals for Presentations for the Utah Rock Art Research Association Annual Symposium to be held in Vernal, Utah October 1-4, 2021.

Proposals should have a Title, and an Abstract of not more than 200 words. The deadline for proposals is July 18, 2021. We ask that everyone submitting proposals honor the deadline so we can finalize the program in a timely manner.

Preference will be given to presentations that relate to Utah rock art, particularly those about the Vernal area. Presenters will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes.

Due to the rapidly improving covid situation, prerecorded presentations are no longer required. The URARA symposium in Vernal will be live in all respects. Presentations that are prerecorded can still be submitted and are encouraged for those who do not plan to attend. But live presentations will be the norm, just as in the past.

Please send abstracts to Dennis DeVore, Presentations Coordinator, preferably via email to ddv48@mac.com or by mail to 353 Dakota Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81507. Consult Dennis for Instructions for submitting recordings.

Accepted presenters will receive a \$100 Honorarium to help with expenses, plus free Symposium registration.

Field Trip Leader Training

Wanda Gayle

URARA wants to offer field trip leader training to members who indicated on their membership that they would like to lead a field trip. We intend to resume field trips at some point and want to build a team of new, trained leaders.

Email Wanda Gayle at wgayle@sisna.com if you are interested. Include the rock art area you are familiar with, if any. We will keep you posted on training opportunities.

Wanda Gayle
URARA Field Trip Committee Chair

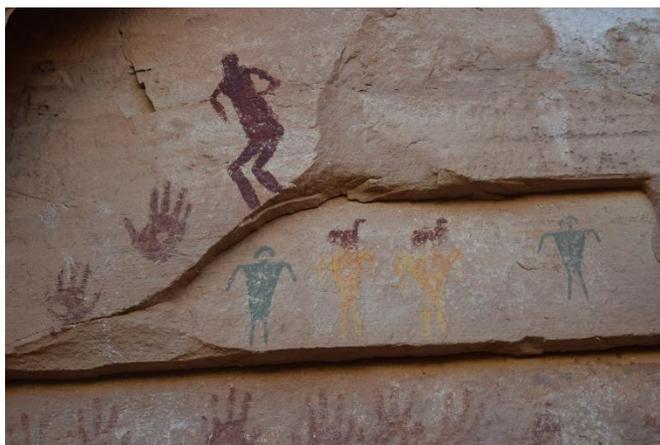
June URARA Zoom Presentation

Werner Duecker

This month Roger Cook will present Rock Art of the greater Cedar Mesa area. Roger has had an avocational interest in rock art for many years. His first visit to Cedar Mesa was in 1988 when he was hooked by its labyrinth of canyons, stunning views and density of small cliff dwellings and rock art sites. He has been exploring Cedar Mesa and the surrounding area ever since, ever curious to see what is down the next canyon, around the next bend.

Cedar Mesa is known as one of the central locations for the Basketmaker culture and in later years, the Pueblo cultures. Due to the high density of archaeological sites and cultural connections to current Pueblo tribes, Cedar Mesa was included in the Bears Ears National Monument created by President Obama. Most of Cedar Mesa was removed from monument status by President Trump but is currently being reviewed for reinstatement by the Biden administration. Hopefully, this talk will help more people see why this area needs more protection than it currently has. Roger's talk will give an overview of the various rock art styles from Cedar Mesa with a primary focus on the Basketmaker and Pueblo cultures.

The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, June 17th at 7:00 PM MDT. Watch your email for registration information.



Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program

Ian Smith, SHPO

The Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program (UCSS) is a statewide program managed by Utah's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Utah is home to over 12,000 years of human history that can be seen and experienced in more than 100,000 known archaeological sites across the state. Each day history is made – and history is lost. This program is tasked with helping to maintain and preserve Utah's unique cultural heritage throughout its entire fascinating and diverse history.

With such vast amounts of federal and state land containing so many archeological and cultural resources, it is difficult for land managers to monitor all these sites without the help of volunteers. The UCSS Program is a valuable aid to federal and state land managers in their efforts to better protect cultural resources. Without the additional manpower provided by volunteers, monitoring efforts on this scale would be impossible.



Programs like this have proven to help deter looting as well as the intentional or unintentional damage to sites that are monitored and visited by stewards.

In a rapidly changing world, cultural heritage helps to provide an “anchor of understanding of our place as a nation and people in the geography and history of North America” (NPS, 2010 p.82). Archeology provides us a unique window into the past, along with otherwise unobtainable educational opportunities to learn about the tangible and intangible history of those who lived in this land before us.

There is much to learn from the future, but there is an equal amount to be learned from the past. By attempting to understand and learn from the many generations of people before us, we are better able to put our own time in perspective and to move forward with a clearer direction. These resources not only add to the richness and quality of our lives, but also to the lives of all those who visit them, read about them, or otherwise experience them. The best way to ensure that future generations will also be able to have their lives enriched by these amazing places, objects and landscapes is through a well-informed public dedicated to their preservation as part of our national heritage (NPS, 2010).



The dedication of Utah Cultural Site Stewards will be a major factor in the ongoing preservation of these resources

The Utah Cultural Sites Stewardship Program (UCSS) is more than a volunteer program. It is a statewide community made up of a vast and knowledgeable network of professional archaeologists, federal and state land managers and dedicated public volunteers all working together as partners to monitor sensitive and threatened archaeological sites. These sites are critical components to the story that encompasses and makes up the history of this state and its peoples.

The UCSS Program is housed and operated out of the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and acts as a statewide hub for all stewardship efforts. The UCSS operates across both federal and state boundaries, working with all shareholders in the development and creation of operating procedures for stewards and partnering organizations statewide.

This program is instrumental to the continued generation and consistency of archaeological site data. The data in turn provides a vital tool for federal and state land managers in their efforts to protect our cultural resources. The trust and assistance provided by land management agencies in this program is a must-have element to its overall success and longevity. Volunteers who participate in this program fulfill a key role in helping to ensure the accuracy, consistency and ongoing procurement of reliable site data.

Site Stewards also assist land managers by being an additional set of eyes on the ground. This is done by consistent monitoring and reporting of any natural or unnatural element that may threaten these sites.

Program Goals and Objectives

1. Develop a statewide network of trained and skilled volunteer Site Stewards.
2. Assist federal and state land managers in the preservation of Utah's cultural resources.
3. Monitor archaeological and cultural sites.
4. Provide and disseminate accurate and consistent site data.
5. Improve public understanding and appreciation of cultural sites.
6. Discourage, prevent and deter damage to cultural resources.
7. Maintain reliable and accurate site data to assist land managers, law enforcement and the general development of knowledge.
8. Promote and develop relationships and partnerships from among all land user groups and organizations in an effort to build more effective stewardship opportunities.

Program participants and their roles

There are three primary participants in the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program – Site Stewards, Agency Archaeologists, and the Site Stewardship Coordinator. All participants work together and depend on one another to accomplish the objectives and goals of the UCSS Program. Success is dependent upon open communication, respect, and professional interaction between all three participant groups.



- **Site Stewards** are trained Utah SHPO volunteers who monitor one or more archaeological/cultural site. They are relied upon for accurate and up to date site information. Site Stewards are on-the-ground representatives to the public, and model appropriate site visitation behavior while helping to educate on the importance of protecting and maintaining cultural resources. Each volunteer has participated in the SHPO training course and has been assigned specific sites by the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Coordinator. Working in conjunction with a professional archaeologist, stewards have been provided with a detailed introduction to their sites and have direct access to cultural resource management professionals and resources.
- **Agency Archaeologists** involved in this program will typically be Agency Archaeologists responsible for a particular region and the cultural resources therein. Site Stewards will work closely with Agency Archaeologists and operate under their express permission on agency lands. Agency Archeologists will typically be the one to accompany stewards in their initial site visit. They are also the ones most knowledgeable in regard to the cultural resources under their jurisdiction and will interface frequently with Site Stewards. Monitoring information collected by stewards will be disseminated back to land managers through SHPO.
- **Site Stewardship Coordinator** is a staff position within SHPO, tasked to oversee and manage the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program. Responsibilities include recruiting, training Site Stewards, and working with partner agencies and organizations to develop a strong and sustainable statewide stewardship program. The Coordinator will work with agencies to match stewards with sites that have been approved and identified by individual agencies. The Coordinator will work directly with stewards to match them with sites that align with steward's abilities and interests. The Coordinator is also responsible for the collection and dissemination of program data.

Site qualification for stewardship

Sites included in the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program have been selected for the following reasons:

- The site is at-risk from environmental or human-caused factors
- The site is of exceptional cultural, historical, or archaeological importance
- The site is on land that is managed by participants in the UCSS Program

The UCSS Program Coordinator works with land managers to identify sites that fall within the above outlined site criteria for stewarding. Stewards have the opportunity to request sites based on their individual interest. The UCSS will work with each steward one-on-one to pair them as closely as possible to sites that align with their:

- Individual ability
- Geographic location of interest
- Period in history most interested in
- Cultural resource site type

Departmental Consulting Archeologist, (compiler). (2010) *The Secretary of the Interior's Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program, 2004-2007*. Washington, DC: Archeology Program, National Park Service, Washington, DC. At <https://www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/reportPdfs/2004-07.pdf>, accessed 27 March 2021.

BLM Statement on Vandalism at Birthing Rock

MOAB, Utah – Birthing Rock, a prominent rock imagery site along Kane Creek Road in the Moab Field Office, was recently vandalized. The BLM strongly condemns vandalism of cultural resources and is working with professional conservators to remove the offensive graffiti. To prevent further damage, please do not attempt to clean or remove the graffiti.

The BLM is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the vandalism. If you have any information concerning this vandalism, please contact BLM Law Enforcement at 435-259-2131 or 800-722-3998. You can remain anonymous.

It is up to all of us to protect public lands for future generations to learn from and enjoy. The BLM encourages everyone who visits public lands to practice Leave No Trace principles and visit with respect.

URARA Presentation on Vandalism to Vernal City

Diana Acerson

With the recent vandalism of the “Birthing Panel” in the Moab area that has been in national news recently, this presentation was timely. Vandalism of cultural sites is a growing problem as more people get out to “see America”, especially after being confined with COVID-19 restrictions, now being lifted. Unfortunately, so many don’t see the need protect the land or the history on and within it.

The Purpose of Steve’s and my visit to Vernal was to help the city spread the word to their residents about the effects of the vandalism and the importance of educating people on why everyone needs to protect rock art from acts of vandalism. Through simple efforts such as remembering how to behave when coming upon rock art, can make a huge difference.

Each councilperson and staff received a packet containing materials, stickers, posters, and other information collected from State History, Respect & Protect partners like the BLM, Tread Lightly, URARA, and others. The “ethics” were included along with the Vandalism Hot Line contact numbers. We had created guidelines and ideas for the city that they can use to get the information out to the residents and visitors.

First and most important was informing the city, already familiar with rock art in the Uinta Basin, on why it’s urgent we educate people on the behavior/ethics to protect it when they are in the area. Then we presented how it benefits the city economically having pristine images for everyone to see, ponder, and enjoy when they are visiting the area or out recreating in the back country. Visitors might choose to include the rock art in their trip plans and stay longer in hotels and campgrounds, frequent local businesses and restaurants longer, and spend more time at Dinosaur National Monument and other local visitor attractions.

It was great to have several URARA members in attendance supporting us in this effort. Thanks Darlene Koerner, Tim Sweeney, Keith Fessenden, Bill Hirt, and Oscar Olson.



JWP River History Museum Tour of Sego Canyon

Diana Acerson

The Smithsonian's Water|Ways exhibition is currently at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River. Presented by Utah Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, and communities statewide, the Green River portion of the Water|Ways tour has been taking place since April 3rd and goes through June 6th, 2021. As part of this event Steve Acerson was asked by Green River Museum Executive Director Candice Cravins, to lead a tour of rock art as part of the "river community." The Thompson/Sego area was an important location to the People as part of the waterways and systems used by them, enabling their methods of migration to and from the arid regions of eastern Utah.



Foreground: Candace Cravins, Museum Director

Everyone on the tour was greeted with a beautiful day to be out. And they were able to view the amazing pictographs and petroglyphs that have been visited by rock art enthusiasts, locals, tourists, and studied by researchers, for decades. Steve enjoyed pointing out and talking about the various features and styles of the rock art to the enthusiastic and obviously interested group. As luck would have it, he had to compete with the activity of a cattle roundup going on at the corrals located within the rock art area. Although it was hard to talk over the noise of the mooing, neighing of horses, and the commands of the cowboys, cowgirls, and children, working to load the cattle into trucks, the tour seemed not to mind and appeared to like the added adventure. But the rock art was obviously the "star of the show". If you have not visited this site, it is located east of Green River, Utah. Take the Thompson Springs exit off Interstate 70, turn off the exit and proceed north of the freeway. Drive on through Thompson Springs, over the railroad tracks, and continue on into the canyon.



Calendar and URARA Events

Jun 12-13	ARARA Virtual Symposium by Zoom https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info-2021
June 15	URARA Zoom Presentation, 7:00, https://urara.wildapricot.org/
July Maybe	URARA Field Trip Dinwoody, Wyoming
Aug 5-9	Pecos Conference, Mancos Colorado https://www.pecosconference.org
Oct 1-4	URARA Symposium, Vernal, Utah
Oct 13-16	Great Basin Anthropological Conference Las Vegas https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org
Oct 28-31	OSTA Conference Las Vegas https://oldspanishtrail.org/

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 Wanda Gayle at wgayle@sisna.com. 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 monthly presentations for members via Zoom. Don't forget to check the URARA FACEBOOK PAGE once in while.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA), Las Vegas, meets on the 4th 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.

2021 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
 John McHugh

Email

utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com
5bridges@xmission.com
uraratreasurer@gmail.com
ninadb Bowen@gmail.com
troyscotter@gmail.com
lggrench@yahoo.com
timdar@ubtanet.com
wgayle@sisna.com
jjmchugh72164@comcast.net

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

urraca2fly@gmail.com
khfessenden@gmail.com
troyscotter@gmail.com
troyscotter@gmail.com
lggrench@yahoo.com
jjmchugh72164@comcast.net
timdar@ubtanet.com
wgayle@sisna.com
5bridges@xmission.com
ddv48@mac.com
rockdoc@xmission.com
wdeck.wd@gmail.com

URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Email</u>
Coordinator Lead		Diana Acerson	dace1950@gmail.com
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker	2pnqbaker@gmail.com
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker	wdeck.wd@gmail.com
		Carol Duecker	dueckercm@gmail.com
Paria River	Kanab	Jeff Frey	condor@kanab.net
Color Country	Cedar City	Gina Hupka	redrockgina@infowest.com
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen	ninadb Bowen@gmail.com
Color Country	Richfield	Jeff Roberts	jeffroberts@cut.net
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney	dryforktim@gmail.com
		Darlene Koerner	timdar@ubtanet.com
Green River	Price	Layne Miller	laynemiller@yahoo.com
West Desert	Fillmore	Paula Quay	paulaquay@ymail.com
West Desert	Salt Lake	Steve Acerson	whiteh20rockart@gmail.com