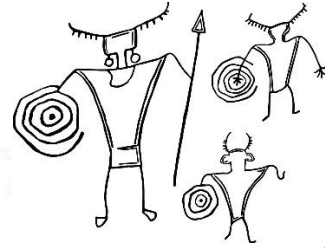


# VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello!

Earlier this year we recruited two important positions in URARA and I'm happy to announce that we have had two volunteers step up.

Deb Mitchell is our new Membership coordinator. Deb will be helping members connect and stay connected with the organization. The URARA Board has prioritized better engagement among membership this year, so Deb's efforts will be most welcome.

Ann Norman is our Funds manager. This is a new position in URARA and was created because we are increasingly involved in awarding grants to fund worthy projects. She also will be involved with fund raising activities to help support URARA's mission. Ann has had experience in both managing grants and in fund raising and we look forward to having her on board.

I'm sure that both Deb and Ann will bring new energy and ideas to URARA and help to keep us vibrant and growing.

Kent

June 2023

# Symposium Call for Papers

Dennis Devore

The symposium committee is seeking speakers for the annual URARA symposium to be held October 5-9, 2023 in Vernal, Utah. Presentation sessions will be on Saturday October 7th and Sunday October 8th. Presenters will receive free symposium registration and an honorarium of \$100 to help defer expenses.

Proposals should have a title and brief abstract of the topic. A wide range of ideas and subjects are acceptable provided they relate to rock art in Utah and the western states.

The deadline for proposals is July 1, 2023. Please email Dennis DeVore, Symposium Coordinator, at [ddv48@mac.com](mailto:ddv48@mac.com), or send to 353 Dakota Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81507.



# Symposium Call For Field Trip Leaders

Steve Acerson

Field Trips are part of the URARA Symposium. URARA needs members to lead field trips. Field Trips are a great way to meet members and enjoy views and vocational expertise while enjoying the images and nature along the way. Symposium will be held in Price, Utah, October 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Field trips will be on Friday and Monday, Oct 6 and 9. Field trips will be run in the Price neighborhood, from Nine Mile canyon to Rochester panel and everywhere in between. If you have a favorite trip to lead, contact: Steve Acerson, [whiteh20rockart@gmail.com](mailto:whiteh20rockart@gmail.com), 385-985-5402

Thanks for your support.



# Northern Uinta Rock Imagery Project

## Elizabeth Hora

At long last I am *delighted* to announce the launch of the Northern Uinta Rock Imagery Project. Thanks to financial support from URARA I will be able to support volunteer crews for 10 days to record archaeological sites that prominently feature Fremont-aged rock imagery.

I know we're all eager to get the word out for sign ups, so here are the details. This EventBrite link will have people sign up for each individual day that they want to help record. People are *encouraged* to come out for multiple days in a row! If people want to help record the rock imagery, they should sign up under the "**URARA and UCSS Volunteer**" tickets. Only 15 volunteers can be supported for each day, so sign up early! There will be a waitlist in case we have people who drop out.

If people want to bring friends/family, that's great! Those people may not be interested in recording rock imagery, so please use the "**Friends and Family**" ticket so I can keep an accurate headcount of who is coming.

The last ticket category is for visiting archaeologists and agency officials. I want us to have a fun camp in the evenings, so I will invite other archaeologists to come out and give us talks about archaeology and the natural world.

Now that you know the ticket types, here are the links to learn more and sign up for various days:

[Whole Project \(all days\)](#)

[Monday June 19](#)

[Tuesday June 20](#)

[Wednesday June 21](#)

[Thursday June 22](#)

[Friday June 23](#)

[Saturday June 24](#)

[Sunday June 25](#)

[Monday June 26](#)

[Tuesday June 27](#)

[Wednesday June 28](#)

This is going to be an extremely fun project, and I hope a bunch of your members can make it! Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you need me to add things to the FAQs.

Elizabeth Hora MS, RPA

Public Archaeologist

Phone: (801) 245-7241

Email: [ehora@utah.gov](mailto:ehora@utah.gov)

# Archaeology Month at the Price Museum

Diana Acerson

The Price Prehistoric Museum held an inaugural Fremont Festival May 6<sup>th</sup> as part of Utah's Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Building on the prehistory weeks at the museum held in the past, "Fremont Fest" was a free public day at the museum celebrating the indigenous cultures that called eastern Utah home across the millennia. The highlight of the museum's participation in historic preservation month was this Family Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> which featured free admission to the museum and activities for kids from 11:00 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon.

Fun activity tables for the visitors were available to interact with, which included Manti-La Sal National Forest, Utah Rock Art Research Association, Utah Cultural Site Stewardship, Carbon County Historical Society, and others. A local BBQ vendor was set up in the parking lot for all food and beverage needs.

URARA's table was supplied and manned by Steven and Diana Acerson. They had the ever-popular sand boards for the kids, (adults too), to create their own rock art imagery. Coloring book pages and lots of rock art information were also available for everyone. It was a fun experience.

This is an annual free "Family Day" event, just retitled as the Fremont Festival. It is a great opportunity for folks to see how amazing the museum is, and for us to give out information about URARA and rock art. Thanks to Tim Riley, the museum curator, for the invitation.



# Cedar City Documentation Event

Diana Acerson

URARA helped to coordinate this event initiated by the BLM Utah Cedar City Field office, and partnered with the Utah Cultural Site Steward (UCSS) program, to complete documentation of a large petroglyph site within the Cedar City field office jurisdiction, as part of Archaeology Month.

May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> were the dates, and about 20 volunteers from UCSS and URARA, including several folks from the BLM, gathered to assist with this project on the morning of May 24<sup>th</sup>. After instructions and orientation given by Debra McCarthy, BLM Fuels Archaeologist for the Color Country and Paria River District who spearheaded the event, we were assigned groups to work different sections of the site. With leaders from the BLM and UCSS for each group for the two days, we traversed the rugged terrain and recorded each panel within our assigned areas. Roy Plank, the BLM the District's Fuels Archaeologist/Cultural Data Representative, collected the data for the project at the end of the day.



The groups were able to complete 90% of the site in the 2 days. More panels were also found to add to the number, so it was a very successful event.

Those participating representing URARA were; Steven & Diana Acerson, Jeff Frey, Nina Bowen, and Connie Bridge. Other URARA members were present as UCSS stewards. I apologize for not having their names in time for this article, but without them, we could not have completed this work in the two days.



*A few of the folks: Steven Acerson, URARA; Roy Plank, BLM; Jack & Eva, (summer volunteers for the BLM); Emery Blanchard UCSS, Debra McCarthy BLM, Diana Acerson URARA, Ian Wright UCSS, Chase Roberts UCSS, and Karl Vochatzer BLM*

This site was originally recorded in 1969. That recording only included two pictures and a small paragraph that did not describe the type of petroglyphs at the site, their location, or the number of panels. Steve Acerson, who had visited the site more than once, notified Debra at the field office that there were hundreds of panels across the area. The site was then selected as the project for Archaeology Month to re-record the site to include all the missing petroglyphs.



It was nice to make new friends, put names to faces, and meet the folks we talk to on the phone. The weather cooperated for the most part. We had a little rain the second day, but that didn't hinder our progress. A beautiful place, great people, and gratifying project.



## Janet Louise Gorski, 1959 - 2023

Steve Acerson

It's with sadness I've heard of the loss of Jan Gorski. Long-time member of URARA, Jan passed away on May 13, 2023

Jan was born on January 22, 1959, and throughout her life, she embraced a wide range of interests and pursuits. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, with a Minor in Mathematics, demonstrating her passion for the field. Jan dedicated her professional life to several esteemed companies, including Martin Marietta, Hughes Aircraft, Advanced Systems Engineering, CIBER, and Scitor Corp.

Jan was a woman of many passions and found joy in photography, travel and nature, as well as archaeology and rock art, and she eagerly absorbed knowledge on these subjects. Jan was also an avid reader and possessed a green thumb, tending to her beloved garden.

Obituary <https://www.thenaturalfuneral.com/janet-louise-gorski/>



# Comb Ridge Trip Report

**Bob Crifasi**

On May 13 and 14, several URARA members visited various sites on Comb Ridge and nearby Bluff, UT. The highlights were hikes to the iconic Procession and Owl panels. But there was plenty of time after the advertised hikes to visit additional sites, including the Wolfman Panel, Fishmouth Cave, and other locations around Bluff. We arrived at Fishmouth just in time to see a hiker stranded on a cliff above the cave and the San Juan County Search and Rescue mobilization for an extraction. After the field trip concluded, several of us rendezvoused at Carol Patterson's home to share a few beers and snacks and swap ideas about what we had seen over the weekend.



# Shovel Bums at Work in the Field

**John McHugh**

The Blessed Sacrament School “Shovel Bums” archaeology club has been hard at work. On Fridays at 1 PM the students drive with several parent-chaperones and their supervisor-teacher, John McHugh, into the field to steward and re-document prehistoric Native American rock art. They arrive at their destination along the western shore of Utah Lake by 2 PM, work for three hours, then return back to their school by 6 PM. The kids are learning lots about the rudiments necessary to comprehend rock art; things like styles of pecking, repatination, superimposition, etc.

The Shovel Bums will continue their work through the summer of 2023 and hope to have one or two overnight camping field trips to steward and document rock art.



**5<sup>th</sup> grader Marco Tsandes gladly displays his IMACS sketch of a petroglyph near Utah Lake.**



**6<sup>th</sup> grader Matthew Mills points out a unique petroglyph along Utah Lake.**

## Footnote on Pareidolia

Carol Patterson



Regarding last month's article on the Smith Family Preserve, I realized my pareidolia, influenced by a beautiful silk thread tapestry I bought in China that was made by one of the "minority" (indigenous) cultures. It hangs in my bedroom, and I gaze at it every morning and evening before I go to sleep. It features a beautiful maiden with arms swirling above her head holding flowers in one hand. Behind her are silver threaded peacocks and feathers on a blue background. She's in my subconscious and slipped out through my own cultural filters. :)

(If you are interested in the subject of seeing the subconscious, or not seeing what's in front of you, consult the wonderful paintings of Bev Doolittle. - ed.)

## Rock Imagery in the News

**The hidden history of "Hand Talk" Vox 16 March 2022**

<https://www.vox.com/videos/23075393/hand-talk-pisl-missing-chapter-sign-language>

**The Mystery of This Petroglyph-Covered Alaskan Beach, Smithsonian 22 March 2023**

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/the-mystery-of-this-petroglyph-covered-alaskan-beach-180981858/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=editorial&spMailingID=48122823&spUserID=NzQwNDU0OTIyMTES1&spJobID=2422613097&spReportId=MjYyMjYxMzA5NwS2](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/the-mystery-of-this-petroglyph-covered-alaskan-beach-180981858/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&spMailingID=48122823&spUserID=NzQwNDU0OTIyMTES1&spJobID=2422613097&spReportId=MjYyMjYxMzA5NwS2)

**Carvings on Australia's boab trees reveal a people's lost history Science News 2 March 2023**

<https://www.snextpores.org/article/carvings-australia-boab-trees-lost-history-first-nation>

**[Suspects identified in graffiti on woolen mill, stone at Childs Park](#) Pocono Record 1 April 2023**

**The first archaeometric investigation on rock art and pigment residues from Georgia QI 10 Jun 23**

<https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S1040618223001039?token=C69CE6568AEFB5C6C2DB8BC5CEE6E05244BEE90AE2FDC8F152EDEA9EC6DD49309652248EB6BBEF1CD33140810AE87653&originRegion=us-east-1&originCreation=20230516161251>

## Calendar and URARA Events

June 8-11	URARA Resheduled Dry Fork Ashley Creek Documentation
June 9	SHPO Preservation Conference, <a href="https://ushpo.utah.gov/conference/">https://ushpo.utah.gov/conference/</a>
June 19-28	Northern Uinta Rock Imagery Project – see p. 4 above
July 18	Quarterly Board Meeting 6:00 to 7:00PM Zoom
July TBD	Summer Picnic
Aug 10-13	Pecos Conference, Flagstaff, <a href="https://www.pecosconference.org/2023">https://www.pecosconference.org/2023</a>
October 5-9	URARA Annual Symposium, Price, Utah
October 8	Quarterly Board Meeting and Members Meeting (at Symposium)
October 18-21	GBAC Bend, Oregon, registration is now open <a href="https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/">https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/</a>
December TBD	Christmas dinner (s)

URARA symposia and field trips are available to members only. Vaccination is strongly encouraged. All members receive an email notification when a field trip opens for registration. Notifications go out between 45 and 14 days before a trip. You can register for a field trip when you get the notification. If a trip is full when you try to register, your name is added to a wait list. You will get another notification if and when someone drops out and you can be added to the trip.

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

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

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.

Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) will continue to present occasional webinars on Zoom <https://coloradorockart.org/>

Utah Humanities Public Events, <https://utahhumanities.org/index.php> > Events

# URARA Board and Officers

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.

[www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org) . Contact information - [utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com)

## 2023 URARA Board and Officers

President	Kent Williams
Vice President	Diana Acerson
Treasurer	Carol Duecker
Secretary	Roger Cook
	Darlene Koerner
	John McHugh
	Rick Matthews
	Nina Bowen
	Keith Fessenden

## Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison	Carol Patterson
Historian/ Archives	Keith Fessenden
Website	Troy Scotter
Membership Coordinator	Deb Mitchell
Funds Manager	Carol Duecker
Conservation/Preservation	Werner Duecker
Documentation/Research	Darlene Koerner
Education	John McHugh
Field Trips	Steve Acerson
Symposium Chair	Diana Acerson
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Nominations/Governance	Werner Duecker

## URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		Werner Duecker
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker, Carol Duecker
Paria River	Kanab	Jeff Frey
Color Country	Cedar City	Gina Hupka
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen
Color Country	Richfield	Jeff Roberts
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney, Darlene Koerner
Green River	Price	Layne Miller
West Desert	Fillmore	Steve Acerson
West Desert	Salt Lake	Don & Adele Leavitt