



# Newsletter of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists



Spring/Fall 2024 • Volume 46 • Number 2 • [www.coloradoarchaeologists.org](http://www.coloradoarchaeologists.org)

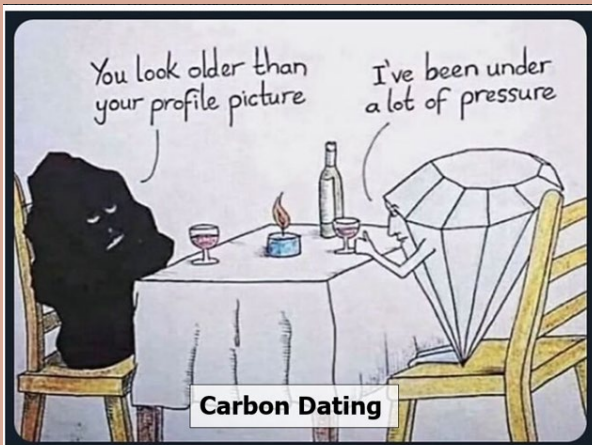
## Save the Date!

Thank you to Dominguez Archaeological Research Group for volunteering to host the 2025 CCPA conference in downtown Grand Junction, March 13–15, 2025. If you haven't been to Grand Junction in a while, you're in for a treat. The downtown area has undergone a major revitalization effort in the last 10 years and is now a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly oasis full of fantastic restaurants and stores.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.visitgrandjunction.com/>

*Photo above: CCPA members gather for a field trip during the 2024 CCPA meeting in Sterling, Colorado.*



## Volunteer!

Are you available to help with the CCPA conference in Grand Junction? If so, reach out to organizer Sonny Shelton at [sonny.shelton44@aol.com](mailto:sonny.shelton44@aol.com). It takes a village!

## Renew Your Membership!

Somehow snow is already here, which means it is time to renew your CCPA membership! Visit <https://coloradoarchaeologists.org/membership/> to pay online today!

## Contribute!

We are always looking for new and interesting material to include in the next edition of the newsletter. Please send research articles, fun discoveries, or anything that might interest the CCPA community. Submittals can be sent to: [CCPANewsletter1978@gmail.com](mailto:CCPANewsletter1978@gmail.com).

## Executive Committee Meeting

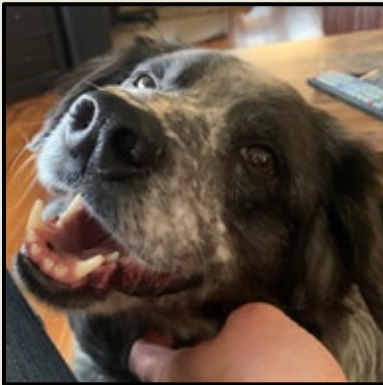
The next meeting of the CCPA Executive Committee (EC) will be held in the spring of 2025. If you have a topic that you wish to be discussed at the meeting, please contact CCPA President Becca Simon to add your item to the agenda at [rlsimon1415@gmail.com](mailto:rlsimon1415@gmail.com).

## President's Corner

By Becca Simon



Hello! Howdy! ¡Hola! Ciao! Ahoj! Kia ora! Hallo! Γειά σου! Привіт! 你好! مرحبًا! העלל! שלום! One of my newest favorite things to do is use Google Translate and study way too many languages with Duolingo. For so long, I avoided using the website or the app as I didn't want to be inappropriate or insulting trying to use it in a real-life scenario interacting with many friends and family, literally, all over the world. Volunteering in a foodbank down the road from my house in Olde Town Arvada opened my eyes to a few things—that my inability/lack of effort of learning other languages continues to impact my ability to help those in the most need, that Google Translate improved over the years through advances in so many technologies, and that there is always more work to do, thus volunteerism is a crucial part of making the world turn. Many of you are now thinking, “Becca, where are you going with this?” Stick with me.



The Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (yes, our beloved CCPA) runs totally on volunteer efforts. This organization would not exist without it. I am continually humbled and honored to stand alongside and work with so many in making our field the best it can be.

In March, we said, “Thank you,” to outgoing members of the EC—Chance Ward (Student Board Member) and Jasmine Saxon (At Large Member). We expressed gratitude to those embracing their new roles as “Past...”—Mary Sullivan (Past President) and Dante Knapp (Past Treasurer, and thus taking on the role of Finance Committee Chair). We excitedly embraced those stepping into new or repeat roles—Chris Johnston (Vice President), Andrew Milam (Student Board Member Elect), Natalie Clark (At Large Member), and Brandon Turner (At Large Member). Many thanks to the remaining EC members (see list at the end of the newsletter) for your terms, and I look forward to working with you for the rest of the year.

Other committee changes include Kimberly Bailey taking the reins of Government Affairs, Obi Oberdier with Jess Ericson as Education Committee Co-Chairs, and Sarah Rothwell guiding the Archives committee/ad hoc committee/initiative (still working out the kinks!) through the very important of getting our archives in order! If you would like to join the delightful group of committee members and chairs, I encourage you to reach out to me or any of those listed, again, at the end of this newsletter.

There is no bigger act of volunteerism than hosting and coordinating the annual meeting. Thank you to the many folks at Colorado State University (CSU) and Centennial Archaeology, LLC—Jason LaBelle, Mary Van Buren, Kelton Meyer, Lori Vanagunas, Spencer Little, Ray Sumner, all the CSU students that I don't know, Kristi Gensmer, Chris Kinneer, Travis Bugg, and all the other Centennial staff I don't know – for putting together a great meeting! The field trips, the facilities, and the content definitely reminded me that Sterling is so much more than a pit stop before pheasant hunting. Special thanks to the Northeastern Junior College Hays Event Center staff, the Overland Trail Museum, and the many wonderful sponsors. For a full recap of the meeting, see below.

For those still on edge about 2025... have no fear. The wonderful Dominguez Archaeological Research Group (DARG) will bring the meeting to the Western Slope. ¡Muchas gracias! Sonny Shelton, Carl Conner, and your



crews for taking on the effort. Sonny has made a ton of progress, with many details already addressed. We are still looking for an early bird venue. If you have ideas or would like to help in any capacity in Grand Junction, please reach out to Sonny.

I will leave you with a few takeaways for the rest of this year that came out of the spring EC meeting and my hopes for my term. Miraculously, the meeting was efficient and productive despite my fumbling through Roberts's Rules of Order. My retroactive "themes" for the meeting are logistics, activism, and the future. Attendees brainstormed and considered options for dealing with the organization's archives, the 2025 meeting, the Government Affairs committee, transfers of duties, and a bit about the website. I don't have any final decisions or specifics to report here and discussions continued at our fall EC meeting, but I encourage you to reach out to committee members if you are interested in ongoing efforts.

As a sort of "check" on the "realm" of archaeology in Colorado, the meeting included a discussion of how to keep on top of legislation and political spheres that impact our work. In April, legislation requiring the energy and carbon management commission in the Department of Natural Resources to provide technical support concerning the development of local codes governing wind, solar, energy storage, and energy transmission projects (renewable energy projects); and/or the review of such proposed renewable energy projects. The bill did become law in May, unfortunately without mention of cultural resources. Nonetheless, thank you to all members who reached out to their representatives. Keep an ear/eye/nose out there for similar issues and feel free to share with the greater organization, as appropriate, or reach out to me to see what we can do.

For those who attended the 2024 annual meeting, you might remember the fantastic panel discussion about developing the next generation of archaeologists. We talked about salaries, racism, sexism, ageism, needs for crews, and so much more. Before the panel, the EC discussed supporting these efforts in a variety of ways. The connections and discussions in multiple fashions at the Sterling meeting make me hopeful for the future.

The spring EC meeting ended similarly to how I ended my "incoming president" annual business meeting remarks. The organization needs to continue looking hard at the community created over many decades and how that community will hopefully change in the future. The EC meeting discussion looked at the issues of tokenism and inclusion of Indigenous and Native communities and remembered that there is so much work to do. During my business meeting remarks, I put a call out to the CCPA community:

People who look like me—I encourage you to lead and step up. Don't just 'say the things,' DO. Though sometimes, just listen, step back, support, and take responsibility. For the people who don't look like me, I committed to creating a safe space, supporting you, and stepping back, in hopes that you will feel safe, want to be involved, and be a part of our community.

As your President, I want to emphasize my goal to support YOU, the CCPA community. Best of luck with your fieldwork, lab work, report writing, exams, term papers, Consultation (with a big C), and never-ending collaboration (with a little c).

Over and out.

## Recap of the 2024 CCPA Annual Meeting

*By Jason LaBelle, Kristi Gensmer, and Chris Kinneer (Conference Organizers)*

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the 2024 annual meeting of the CCPA, held from March 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in Sterling. The conference got off to a snowy start on Thursday, when over 10 inches of snow was reported nearby, and Sterling was quickly covered in thick, wet snow! We had to cancel the pre-conference field trip, scheduled for Fort Sedgwick and Julesburg, due to weather conditions. But thankfully, trip leader Ray Sumner was well prepared and gave an impromptu multi-hour slide lecture on the topic to tour participants. By late afternoon, nearly everyone had arrived for the Early Bird get-together at the Overland Trail Museum. Tours of the museum, food and drinks, and plenty of catching up with friends made the night. We extend our thanks to Kay Brigham-Rich and her staff at the museum for hosting the CCPA membership that evening.

The conference met Friday and Saturday at the Student Center of Northeastern Junior College. Stacie Marx and Annie Shalla were wonderful partners from the college in planning the event. The conference schedule was packed, with the annual business meeting on Friday morning, followed by 22 talks and 15 posters over the next day and a half. A lively panel discussion titled "From Academic Training to Professional Careers: Disconnects and Opportunities" rounded out the program on Friday afternoon. Mary Van Buren, Andy Mueller, and Paul Buckner served as student paper and poster judges this year, with two papers and five posters entered in the undergraduate/graduate student competition.



*Trivia bowl judges – CCPA Fellows  
Marilyn Martorano and Chris Zier.*

The annual banquet and fundraiser were held Friday night. Entertainment included the return of the CCPA trivia bowl, where a record number of teams participated in the fun. Jessica Ericson and Jasmine Saxon served as the event's hilarious MCs, and CCPA Fellows Marilyn Martorano and Christian Zier were dignified judges.

Several other fundraising events were held, including a used book sale organized by Ray Sumner, Riley Limbaugh, and Spencer Little, and a silent auction organized by Lori Vanagunas of the Northern Colorado Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. Altogether, \$4,029.45 was raised in donations from the trivia bowl, book sale, and silent auction. Thank you to all the donors, organizers, and participants.

Finally, Robert Madden led a tour of the Flattop Butte lithic quarry on Sunday morning. Thankfully, most of the snow had melted by this point, and participants had a wonderful hike around the butte and heard Bob describe his recent excavation of a quarry pit on the butte top. Mike Toft led an informal driving tour to other sites in northern Logan County following the butte tour.

The conference would not have been possible without the support of our conference attendees and that of our sponsors. Kelton Meyer helped organize the fundraising this year, and we thank the following sponsors: Centennial Archaeology, HDR, Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology, ERO Resources Corporation, History Colorado, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, AK Pioneer Consulting, Paleoscapes Archaeobotanical Services Team, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, PaleoCultural Research Group, Colorado Archaeological Society, Woods Canyon

Archaeological Consultants, Broadbent, Statistical Research, Dominguez Archaeological Research Group, South Park Site Stewards, Martorano Consultants, Community Connections, Interpret Site, and Mike Metcalf. Finally, we thank Travis Bugg, Michelle Dinkel, Ben Perlmutter and all the volunteers for their various efforts in making this conference such a success. Thanks to everyone who attended this year. See you in Grand Junction in 2025!

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## Save the Date – 2025 CCPA Conference in Grand Junction!

CCPA Annual Meeting March 13–15, 2025  
Grand Junction Convention Center  
159 Main Street, Grand Junction, Colorado

### Hotel Information

All hotels have direct links to book online using the CCPA group rate (between \$119 and \$129 at each hotel). Click the hotel names below to see rates and see the full list of amenities. Every hotel has free breakfast listed and all are just steps away from the GJ Convention Center. All hotels charge for parking and will not give a discount; however, parking is extensive and free at the GJ Convention Center which is immediately next door. There is also some free parking downtown. Book by February 20, 2025!

- [Hampton Inn](#) – 205 Main Street, Grand Junction

Internet access, swimming pool, spa, fitness center, complimentary wireless/internet access, fireplace in lobby, room service, bar/lounge, smoking areas but otherwise smoke free, LGBTQ friendly, and airport shuttle.

- [Tru by Hilton](#) – 243 Colorado Avenue, Grand Junction

Free breakfast and free breakfast-to-go, coffee/tea, free internet access, fitness room, bar/lounge, e-car charging station, and LGBTQ friendly.

- [Spring Hill Suites](#) – 236 Main Street, Grand Junction

Free coffee and tea, free internet, indoor pool, spa, fitness room, snack bar/deli, bar/lounge, and LGBTQ friendly.

- [Fairfield Inn](#) – 225 Main Street, Grand Junction

Free coffee and tea, free internet, pool, fitness room, fire pit, bar/lounge, e-car charging station, and LGBTQ friendly.

The Early Bird location and more information is coming in January! For answers to immediate questions, or to volunteer to help with planning and organizing the meeting, contact Sonny Shelton at [sonny.shelton44@aol.com](mailto:sonny.shelton44@aol.com).

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## The 2024 Conference in Sterling!

Many thanks to Meg VanNess for sharing these priceless pics of the Sterling trivia bowl!



## Remembering Dr. Bruce Estes Rippeteau and His Impact on Colorado Archaeology

Our cosmopolitan friend and mentor to many, Bruce Rippeteau passed away on August 21, 2024. Bruce left a legacy of significant contributions to the field of archaeology, both academic and organizational. A formal obituary documenting his productive life and its effect on the nation's cultural programs, can be found at <https://www.roperandsons.com/obit/dr-bruce-rippeteau/>

Bruce was born October 10, 1945. His life stretched from his birthplace in Watertown, New York, near the lush Thousand Islands region that he loved, to the deserts surrounding the University of Arizona, Tucson, where he received his Master's degree in 1970. Then there were the numerous places in-between; of note, are the University of Nebraska, Lincoln (BA 1968); Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (PhD. 1973); State University of New York, Binghamton (Associate Professor); and Columbia, South Carolina where he served as South Carolina State Archaeologist and Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology until retiring in 2002.

Another "in-between place" to benefit from his presence was the State of Colorado, where Bruce and his wife, Sandra McGuire Rippeteau, lived from 1976 to 1984. During these years, mostly as Colorado's State Archaeologist, Bruce gifted Colorado's incipient, modernizing cultural programs with his appreciation of the wide ranging and recently passed environmental protection laws and regulations along with the organizational structure to help make it all work. This spate of impactful legislation included the recently-passed 1973 Historical, Prehistorical and Archaeological Resources Act that established the position of Colorado State Archaeologist. Under Bruce's nudging, the State Historical Society gradually rounded out and staffed the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado (OSAC), which subsequently evolved into the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). Bruce's thinking seemed to be that because the federal agencies were staffing up to meet their recently legislated historic preservation responsibilities, their state partners needed to do the same.

In order to better address statewide issues and impartially conduct oversight responsibilities, Bruce wisely removed OSAC from the archaeological contracting business. This enabled his staff to focus effectively on big picture issues, such as providing support on compliance matters and developing a statewide archaeological database that consolidated all the site data from all the institutions that had documented sites often using different numbering systems. This also ameliorated the fears of small contracting firms which were uncomfortable competing with the state. While there were hiccups along the way, this eventually gave the Historical Society the structure and format to carry out its increasing statutory responsibilities at the state level under the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the many other pieces of similar legislation.

Accompanying this new environmental preservation legislation was the need for people to conduct the required archaeological studies. As a result, archaeology investigations were moving from an academically-based summer activity to year 'round private contractor-conducted archaeological studies. This gradually resulted in a paradigm shift in how American archaeology is conducted. At the time, few recognized this was happening; Bruce did. Because of his broad exposure to how archaeology was done in a number of states and his understanding that there were an increasing number of State Archaeologists throughout the nation, Bruce had two creative and brilliant ideas: (1) there was need for a State of Colorado professional archaeological organization and (2) there was need for a national organization of State Archaeologists. He recognized that everywhere in the country archaeologists were facing the same issues. He also understood that camaraderie and congeniality would lead to consensus and collaboration in how the nation's cultural history was managed.

In January 1978, as Colorado State Archaeologist, Bruce sent invitations to all the archaeologists he could identify within the state inviting them to a meeting in Glenwood Springs to discuss establishing a statewide professional archaeological organization. Bruce wrote, "At our last CRAM Workshop (October 1977) . . . we all discussed but did not act upon the formation of a group of 'professional archaeologists.' After . . . consultation and listening at length to various of your views I am sponsoring the formation of a 'Colorado Archaeological Council.'" This new organization would be very different from the beloved Colorado Archaeological Society. Bruce wrote, "The essence of this first . . . meeting obviously and properly derives from CRM concerns." He clearly had a vision and was setting the stage, indicating that such an organization must be legally bound and recognized by state laws, with a constitution and such. In the materials he provided, Bruce suggested certain organizational roles and functions for this new group. He obviously had thought about how such an organization should be structured and what it should do. At the March 10, 1978 initial meeting, Bruce presented his concept, and a group of officers pro tem and committees who would serve until the subsequent get together were selected. These groups were to work on bylaws, a code of ethics, and a newsletter and were to come up with a name before the October 28, 1978, meeting in Ft. Collins. At this second meeting, there was discussion and voting on the organization's foundation documents. A formal vote selected the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA) as the organization's name out of a number of alternatives. This had been Bruce's initial 1977 suggestion. Not only was Bruce a charter member of CCPA and therefore a founder along with all other meeting participants, but he was also the spearhead behind both the creation and naming of Colorado's professional archaeological organization.\*

Not unexpectedly, the establishment date of the National Association of State Archaeologists (NASA) is less than one month later, November 9, 1978. Bruce served as its first President.

Colorado is lucky that Bruce stopped by during his life's journey. Colorado archaeology is profoundly better because Bruce was part of it at a time of special need.

\* For sources of this information and all quotes, please refer to the 1978 and 1979 items under the Newsletter tab on the CCPA website.

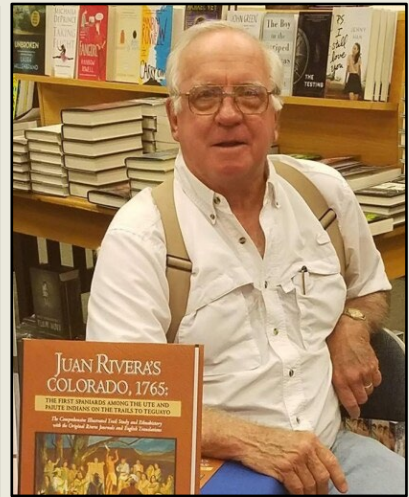


## Steven G. Baker: An Archaeological Legacy

By Gordon C. Tucker, Jr.

Steve Baker was an influential and controversial figure in contract archaeology in Colorado and adjacent states for decades. He passed away peacefully at his home in Montrose, Colorado, on September 20, 2024, at the age of 79 after a long-term struggle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and congestive heart failure (CHF). Along with Richard Carrillo and Jon Horn, Steve was a strong advocate for historical archaeology in Colorado during a time when few took the subject seriously. Steve could be prickly at times, but no one doubted his scholarly acumen and his attention to details.

Steve was born in Topeka, Kansas, in May, 1945, and was raised and schooled in Holton, Kansas. He was the son of Guy Weldon ("GW") Baker and Mildred (Millie) Merl (Metzger) Baker. He had two older sisters, Mary Elizabeth and Susan Alice, and a younger brother, Dan Brent. Although his father was an attorney and member of the bar, he primarily managed his construction company (G.W. Baker Construction), specializing in the aggregate business in northeastern Kansas. Steve's mother was a high school English teacher who later in life went into real estate. He graduated from Holton High School in 1963, received a BA in anthropology from the University of Kansas in 1968, and an MA in American history from the University of South Carolina in 1974. With his first wife Lynn and their two daughters Chelsey (b. 1973) and Jennifer (b. 1974), Steve moved to Montrose in 1975 and founded Centuries Research Inc., one of the first private archaeological firms in the country. He and Lynn divorced in 1979, and Steve married Nancy Carter in 1985. Together, they have two sons, Christian (b. 1986) and Matthew (b. 1988), and six grandchildren.



*Left to right: Steve in Washington state (1966), in Canada in the late 1960s, and at a book event around 2016.*

Steve worked on archaeological projects in Manitoba and New Brunswick, Canada, and in Colorado, Georgia, South Carolina, Kansas, Washington, Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming. While in South Carolina, he studied under renowned historical archaeologist, Stanley South, who Steve credits as “one of the truly grand champions of historical archaeology.” Steve considered himself lucky to have worked with South and believed he received the finest such training then available (Baker 2024a). After moving to Colorado, he quickly became a specialist in the archaeology of western Colorado and the Ute Indians, as well as the historical archaeology of mining communities. He assembled a substantial body of work on the Western Slope and beyond. Jason LaBelle praised Steve’s contributions to our understanding of Fremont and Numic sites in Rio Blanco County, even though his interpretations were often questioned.

According to Adrienne Anderson, “Steve loved the process of doing research, and that, to me, was his forte. Research was what he did to the exclusion of other activities that many of us believe to be important to a well-rounded professional life. He was obsessed to a degree with the details and minutiae that often give a story its life. He had lots of ideas and thoughts about what went on in the past.” Susan Collins maintained that “Steve was a brave individual who was often willing to try something new, whether it was a scholarly approach, a business arrangement, or a different interpretation.”

Steve was a charter member of CCPA when it formed in 1978 and was active in the organization. He was a regular attendee at CCPA annual meetings for many years until his declining health limited his attendance. He was supportive of avocational archaeologists, especially members of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Chipeta Chapter, and often involved them in his research.

I first met Steve when I moved to Montrose in 1981 to work for Nickens & Associates, another CRM firm whose principals once worked for Centuries Research. My interests overlapped with his, especially where the CAS Chipeta Chapter was concerned. I was always impressed with Steve’s intellectual fervor and the depth and breadth of his knowledge of archaeology in western Colorado and adjacent states. His passing leaves a large hole in the fabric of Colorado archaeology.

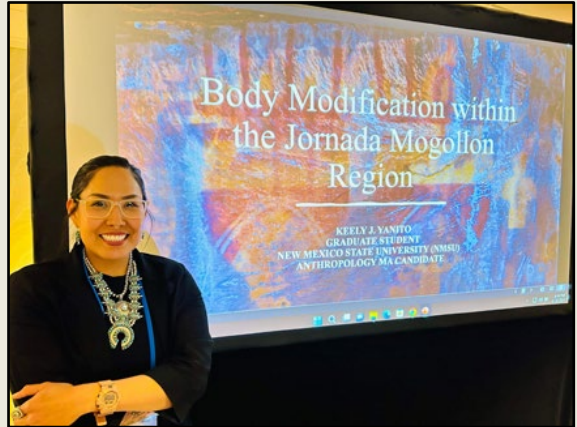
AUTHOR’S NOTE: In writing this obituary, I benefited greatly from comments made by several fellow archaeologists, including Adrienne Anderson, Minette Church, Susan Collins, Jason LaBelle, and Marilyn Martorano. A special note of thanks to Chris Zier who provided a list of Steve Baker’s *Southwestern Lore* articles and reviewed a draft of this obituary. For more information about Steve’s life, please visit the website of the Crippen Funeral Home in Montrose: <https://www.crippinfuneralhome.com/obituaries/steven-baker>. I sincerely thank Nancy Baker for taking the time to review this obituary and bless its publication. She graciously provided the “then and now” photos of Steve. She also noted that she was “glad that he was a fighter and a ‘maverick’ who proudly wore that badge.” Most of the collections from Steve’s office have been donated to the Ouray Historical Society.

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## CCPA's Native American Scholarship is Awarded!

By Bridget Ambler, Native American Scholarship Committee Chair

The CCPA EC approved the recommendation of the CCPA Native American Scholarship (NAS) committee to award the full 2024 NAS to Keely Yanito. Some of you may recall that Yanito was a successful scholarship recipient in 2023, using the CCPA NAS scholarship to fund her New Mexico State University (NMSU) field school where she learned excavation techniques at Cottonwood Pueblo in New Mexico. During field school, she also visited sites featuring petroglyphs and pictographs and studied pottery designs in the Jornada Mogollon region to identify common motifs incorporated into tattoos. Yanito is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.



*Keely Yanito presenting at the SAA meeting in New Orleans, 2024.*



*Yanito thrilled to be at her first SAA meeting.*

Yanito has continued her research in the NMSU anthropology/CRM graduate program, assembling data on body modification design motifs in the Jornada Mogollon region, and hopes to complete her MA in the summer of 2024 while she works as an archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service. Her 2024 NAS application requested reimbursement for travel and meeting costs to present her work in an SAA symposium on rock art studies that she organized and chaired at the annual meeting in New Orleans. Her presentation, "Body Modification Within the Jornada Mogollon Region," presented her research on Indigenous identity as reflected in petroglyphs, pictographs, and pottery design elements that have been incorporated in body modification and tattooing in the American Southwest. She focused on facial painting and tattooing among the Jornada Mogollon peoples, ancestors to the Jumanos cultures which include Jumanos, Salinas Pueblos (Tompito), and Manso peoples.

The NAS committee unanimously agreed that Yanito's application was thorough, inspiring, and reflected CCPA's intent to foster professional growth among Indigenous practitioners. Congratulations, Keely Yanito, for your accomplishments. We look forward to watching your professional career in archaeology flourish!



## Colorado Boarding School Project

**By Sara A. Millward and Dr. Holly K. Norton**

History Colorado was directed by The Native American Boarding School Research Program, Colorado House Bill 22-1327, to perform numerous activities to understand the impacts of the federal Indian boarding schools, specifically the Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School in Hesperus, Colorado. History Colorado partnered with multiple third parties, including Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; Statistical Research, Inc.; AECOM; Heritech Consulting Services; Living Heritage West, LLC; and Steve Grinstead Editing and Writing Services to aid in the completion of this very large project. Dr. Jenny Sturm of Statistical Research, Inc. incorporated a suite of geophysical survey methods to identify previously unlocated graves at the Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School cemetery. Additionally, the Colorado School of Mines, funded by State Historical Fund grants, conducted geophysical investigations at the Grand Junction Indian Boarding School, in Grand Junction, Colorado. Consultation with numerous Tribal partners occurred throughout the project. Alpine was also working on a separate, complimentary project for the Colorado Department of Human Services investigating the Grand Junction Indian Boarding School, which is today the Grand Junction Regional Center.

Timelines were tight, and the research efforts multifaceted. Information needed to be collected from federal, state, and local archives, specifically the Denver and Washington D.C. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Colorado State Archives, the Stephen H. Hart Research Center at History Colorado, the University of Colorado–Boulder, the Colorado State University, the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, and the Denver Public Library system. Historical newspapers, federal reports related to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Indian School superintendents' reports as well as any additional relevant documents and photos the team could find were collected and analyzed.

Organized by History Colorado, one of the largest data collection trips was to NARA D.C. and included individuals from History Colorado, Alpine, AECOM, and the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. The task—to find and scan as many documents as possible related to any boarding schools in Colorado—was replicated at NARA Denver and other repositories. Standardized file naming practices were implemented, and documents were organized in a master spreadsheet, allowing researchers to track what had already been accessed. Work at NARA D.C. would not have been possible without the full support of the NARA staff including Rose Buchanan, the expert archivist on Record Group 75 where all boarding school information is held. All told, the archives team scanned over 7 GB of data—approximately 5,500 pages of high-resolution PDFs—from NARA D.C. and NARA Denver.

To be very clear, while these research efforts were as exhaustive as possible under the timeframe presented by Colorado House Bill 22-1327 (which was, essentially, a year), there is more information to be found. This includes documents at NARA D.C. that were not scanned due to time constraints as well as documents collected during this project that have not been closely read. Only so much can be done in a calendar year. When considering this project and the results discussed in the final report, readers should remember that archival information is tricky. Historical documents vary in condition and can be difficult to read due to age, physical condition, or handwriting. These source documents are also all from the perspectives of those in positions of power, which necessitates critical reading and interpretation.

The full report authored by Dr. Holly K. Norton and additional informational documents distributed by History Colorado are available [here](#).

So, what did we find?

In short, we discovered a lot and it cannot be neatly summarized. Below are a few bullet points that highlight a very small amount of the new information found during this project.

- We identified additional schools that up until this point were not considered part of the Colorado boarding school network. When this project started, the Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School, the Southern Ute Indian Boarding School, and the Grand Junction Indian Boarding School (locally known as the Teller Institute) were assumed to be all the schools in Colorado. However, an additional five schools were added to the list: the Navajo Springs Day School, Allen Day School, State Industrial Schools for Boys, Good Shepherd Industrial School for Girls, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.
- Both Fort Lewis (FLIS) and Grand Junction (GJIS) Indian boarding schools enrolled students from multiple Tribal nations. We've currently identified 20 different Tribal groups represented within the FLIS student body and 22 Tribal groups within the GJIS student body.
- Conditions of both schools were extremely subpar. This was not unexpected, as the schools were constantly underfunded and the buildings overcrowded. However, exactly how terrible the conditions were was somewhat surprising. Neither GJIS nor FLIS had sanitation facilities that met 1890s standards. GJIS regularly had the intermixing of raw sewage and groundwater and relied on cesspools for years. FLIS used repurposed military buildings that were difficult to heat in the winter. Unsurprisingly, both schools were plagued by illness.
- Very ill students were often sent home instead of being treated at the schools' infirmaries, resulting in an artificially low student deathrate. Students died during their journeys home, and it is unclear where they are interred.
- The Outing program, which placed students with local families, ranches, or business to learn additional skills, provided a lot of labor to Rocky Ford, Colorado, farms. A former GJIS superintendent, J. M. Collins, started his own farm in Rocky Ford prior to 1905 and employed students from the school during the summer months.
- There is a lot more readily available information about FLIS including employee and student ledgers, copy books documenting outgoing correspondence, and several maps of the school grounds. No such records were identified for GJIS even though all non-personal paperwork was supposed to be sent to the Office of Indian Affairs upon the schools closing and it is easy to assume it was destroyed instead of archived as instructed. However, these documents could be in long-term storage and never properly accessioned into the NARA holdings.
- In March of this year, History Colorado, Living Heritage Anthropology, and the Keystone Policy Center received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to collect oral histories from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe centered on boarding school experiences.
- On April 25, 2024, the Colorado State Legislature passed HB24-1444 to extend the Native American Boarding School Research program for an additional three years. The bill includes funding for conducting Tribal consultations, community listening sessions, and an oral history program.

## FEMA – Tribal Section 106 Programmatic Agreements: Introduction and Updates from the Rocky Mountain Region

By Charles A. Bello, FEMA Environmental/Historic Preservation Section, Advisor

Programmatic Agreements (PAs) are important and effective components of any compliance effort. This includes the Unified Federal Review (UFR) process (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/review>) to expedite compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in consultation with Tribal partners for a variety of disaster and non-disaster assistance programs. There are two types of Section 106 PAs, project-specific and procedural, and FEMA's Environmental Historic Preservation (EHP) section uses both. This article focuses on employing procedural agreements to fulfill the agency's Mission and Grant Program(s) project review responsibilities to efficiently serve communities recovering from disasters.

Specific PAs cover adverse effects to individual sites or properties such as structural repairs, demolitions, relocations, or impacts to archaeological sites/traditional cultural properties. A procedural PA establishes a *process* to meet FEMA's broader Section 106 compliance responsibilities for a program, or a category of projects/resource types. The EHP uses this type of agreement when effects of an undertaking may not be fully known, but when there are reasonable expectations for the (hopefully benign) outcome of a proposed undertaking (and, which might serve as roadmap for compliance review based on a predictable range of projects). This type of agreement was recently implemented by Region 8 for 16 Indian reservations in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas (Figure 2).



**Figure 1. Region 8 Tribal lands are shown in yellow.**

Procedural agreements allow FEMA EHP reviewers to exclude “routine” categories of disaster damages/impacts to historic properties from formal consultation (i.e., certain types of debris management; roadway repairs to pre-disaster design and condition; in-kind repair or replacement of various facility types/elements; etc.). The resulting shortened compliance times allow projects to be completed faster and more efficiently. Compliance is streamlined for common undertakings and/or frequently encountered effects. This type of agreement contains activities exempted from review, programmatic allowances, and standard treatments, rather than through case-by-case consultation.

Section 14(b) of 36 CFR Part 800, the implementing regulations of Section 106, outlines the process through which an agency such as FEMA develops PAs. It is comprehensive, and the EHP practitioners follow it to the letter. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation encourages using PAs as an alternative to standard Section 106 compliance. The benefits of using a PA occur in several ways: where effects on historic properties are similar and repetitive; where effects cannot be fully determined prior to either approval or implementation of a project; and where other parties are part of the decision-making process (common with FEMA-funded projects).



FEMA Region 8 EHP (Denver, Colorado) has genuinely great relationships with the 29 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). We have effectively utilized PAs for the past 13 years – some formally codified and others where negotiations are ongoing (pending signature), or where agreements are in place for the interim use of certain stipulations, allowances, or timeframes.

The 2013 FEMA nationwide Prototype PA (template and revisions) is clear and thorough, covering all aspects of historic preservation compliance that may come to light because of fires, flooding, winter storms, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disaster events (<https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/fema-prototype-programmatic-agreement>). The agreement spells out formal and legally binding terms between FEMA and a state or tribe (as either a grantee or recipient, who will typically be the administrator for funds provided under a variety of FEMA programs). The agreement establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance.

Typically, in any given year, FEMA funds thousands of projects—many of which are routine activities with little potential to adversely affect historic properties but still require Section 106 review. PAs avoid redundancy during project review and compliance. Consultation is required only in certain situations that are clearly spelled out and previously agreed to by all parties, resulting in reductions in overall costs and time and certainly the number of individual project reviews that would otherwise have to occur. The focus is on flexibility—allowing a quicker turnaround of projects so that the effects of undertakings on historic properties may still be (legally) considered while minimizing delays to FEMA’s delivery of federal assistance (obligation of funds). The consultation that does occur is consistent and predictable.

The 1988 Stafford Act is the authority and foundation for most federal disaster response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. In 2013, an amendment to the Stafford Act enhanced FEMA’s environmental and historic preservation regulatory reviews with the creation of the Unified Federal Review process—promoting early coordination among federal agencies to expedite immediate and long-term projects—consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, etc. Importantly, the 2013 amendment to the Stafford Act mandated increased engagement and collaboration with Tribal Nations and allowed Tribal governments for the first time to directly petition for disaster assistance without going through a state governor.

Region 8 is focused on identifying the needs and interests of Tribes related to disaster response, recovery, and mitigation and has dedicated support staff to coordinate tribal engagement. Tribal territory within Region 8 occupies about 38,000 square miles (43 percent of the land mass of all reservations in the United States). Some of the largest reservations in the country are in Region 8: the Uintah and Ouray (Utah), Cheyenne River (South Dakota), Oglala Sioux (South Dakota), Standing Rock Sioux (North and South Dakota), Crow (Montana), Wind River (Wyoming), Fort Peck (Montana), Blackfeet (Montana), Confederated Salish and Kootenai (Montana), and the Rosebud Sioux (South Dakota).

Over the past two decades, most of these Tribes have experienced floods, snowstorms, tornados, straight-line winds, and wildfires. About a decade ago, many of the Tribes in Region 8 were part of various simultaneously declared disasters—within one year. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was one of the first to request a direct presidential disaster declaration because of the 2013 Stafford Act amendments. Self-government is the inherent right of Tribes to function as nations and with a unique and direct relationship with the federal government. The paradigm of sovereign nation-to-nation consultation is key. FEMA embraces the “whole community concept,” building lasting partnerships with tribal governments. We understand that Tribes possess special expertise and knowledge about the environment and properties of religious and cultural significance. Effective communication is of the utmost importance.

Working in “Indian Country” can be an interesting and rewarding experience. This is especially true when engaging directly with elders (who often are true “keepers of the traditional culture”) during disaster

response/recovery. Tribal governments are sometimes challenged in their ability to address disaster-related damages to historic/archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, and sites related to ongoing spiritual/heritage activities. It is important to note that FEMA/Tribal disaster-related collaboration illustrates the importance each government places on balancing disaster response and recovery with historic and cultural preservation responsibilities (36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4)).

The tools FEMA uses when working with Tribes are the same as for states: GIS products; Programmatic Environmental Assessments for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance; and especially Section 106 PAs—signed on an individual Tribal basis and applicable to all FEMA programs. Again, PAs exclude routine activities from FEMA and THPO review and streamline consultation for a wide variety of other projects—getting projects to move faster/more efficiently and quickly getting money on the streets. EHP has PAs signed and implemented with 16 of the 29 Tribal nations within Region 8 (listed by date of signing):

- Chippewa Cree Tribes of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation (Montana)
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation (North and South Dakota)
- Fort Belknap Indian Community (also known as the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Indians) (Montana)
- Spirit Lake Dakota Nation (North Dakota)
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation (North Dakota)
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Indian Reservation (Wyoming)
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Reservation (South Dakota)
- Rosebud Sioux – Sicangu Lakota, Upper Brulé Sioux Nation (South Dakota)
- Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (South Dakota)
- Lower Brulé Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brulé Sioux Indian Reservation (South Dakota)
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Indian Reservation (South Dakota)
- Crow Tribe of Indians of the Crow Indian Reservation (Montana)
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation (Colorado)
- Yankton Sioux Tribe of the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation (South Dakota)
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation (Montana)
- Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation (Wyoming)

Region 8 is committed to establishing interagency agreements and pursuing programmatic approaches during both steady state and disaster activations. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.14(b)(4), PAs allow consultation to occur on a direct government-to-government basis for “undertakings” occurring on sovereign lands and facilitate identification and evaluation of historic properties following tribal protocols dealing with adverse effects to a wide variety of historic/traditional cultural properties and archaeological sites. Additionally, other federal agencies can utilize these PAs to fulfill their Section 106 responsibilities for response and recovery activities when appropriate.

My success in working with Tribes is related to the time I physically spend in Indian Country—getting to know THPOs and their staff, members of Tribal councils and various departments, and elders – both professionally and personally. I try to gain their respect, confidence, and friendship—establishing my role as a credible Tribal liaison – then having the opportunity to present the utility of projects, PAs, and the UFR process. Currently, I am negotiating with the remaining tribes in Region 8, and the outlook is good for getting additional signed agreements.

The EHP staff regularly review projects outside of reservation boundaries where there is documented ancestral interest from a wide variety of cultural groups. Section 106 requires federal agencies to “consider”

the effect a project may have on historic properties, and the agencies are obligated to seek Tribal input. FEMA makes a good faith effort to meet those responsibilities.

FEMA/Tribal collaboration illustrates the importance each government places on balancing disaster preparation, response, and recovery with our shared environmental and cultural preservation responsibilities. FEMA's focus is on flexibility but making sure the effects of undertakings are legally considered and adequately documented while minimizing delays to the delivery of federal assistance (the obligation of funds—our bottom line).

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## Membership Committee

**By Jon Horn, Committee Chair**

We sent out several dues reminders and have gotten a very good response. In fact, we now have 225 members who are current on their dues, which is a record high membership for the organization. This breaks down as 11 Fellows; 181 Voting Members, including 1 Native American; and 33 Associate Members. Twelve of our members are students. Thank you to everyone who responded to the reminders! If you got reminders, they are for real! If you haven't responded yet, please do. We have 39 members who were members in 2023 but haven't yet renewed, and I still have hopes that another 25 who did not renew in 2022 will still do so.

The easiest way to renew is through our website: <http://coloradoarchaeologists.org/membership/>. The other way is by mail using the renewal form included at the end of the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support! If you have renewed by mail for this year, the mail is slow, and I may not have heard that you have done so yet. Let me know if you ever have a question about your membership.

So far, this year, we have approved 20 new memberships. Thank you for joining! We can always use more members, so please talk to your colleagues, students, and employees about what a great organization CCPA is and the value of becoming a member. As always, YOU—our current members—are our best ambassadors, so please encourage archaeologists you know and those that support archaeology through GIS or other means to join! Applications are available on the website and at the end of the newsletter. We have tried to make the application process as easy as possible by having a dedicated email address to submit them to: [ccpaapplication@gmail.com](mailto:ccpaapplication@gmail.com).

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## Ward Weakly Memorial Scholarship Update

**By Mark Mitchell, Committee Chair**

CCPA members donated an incredible \$4,000 to the organization's scholarship funds during the 2024 annual meeting in Sterling! The Trivia Bowl netted a nontrivial \$2,300, followed by the silent auction (\$1,300) and the book sale (\$400). The Ward Weakly and Native American Scholarship committees—and the students they serve—are deeply grateful to the membership for their generous contributions. Thanks!

Since 1992, the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists' Ward Weakly Memorial Scholarship has awarded more than \$38,250 to 63 undergraduate and graduate anthropology students studying Colorado archaeology. Scholarship funding allows students to pursue more substantial projects, thereby directly contributing to our shared understanding of the state's past. Most importantly, the scholarship application



process helps students learn how to design and present a successful grant proposal. Although no proposals were received during the spring 2024 grant round, the hard work and accomplishments of past recipients have more than justified CCPA's long-term investment in the program.

CCPA member participation has been essential to the scholarship fund's success. If you work with a prospective applicant, either as a faculty mentor or an employer or a co-worker, the committee encourages you to talk to them about how a Ward Weakly scholarship can enhance their education. Scholarship awards fund a wide variety of budget items, including specialized analyses, software, selected fieldwork expenses, and travel expenses. Details on scholarship program requirements, along with an application form, are available online at <http://coloradoarchaeologists.org/scholarship-opportunities/ward-weakly-scholarship/>.

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## Twenty-Five Years Ago in Colorado Archaeology (Spring 1999)

- The June 1999 Newsletter of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists was the organization's initial foray into the cyber frontier. It was the first issue to be distributed electronically, albeit taking several minutes to download – without pictures! Over half of the membership elected to receive the newsletter via email. And the rest is history...
  - Officers elected for 1999-2000 were President, Carol Gleichman; Secretary, Mark Mitchell; Treasurer/Membership Chair, Mary Sullivan; Board Members, Minette Church, Richard Carrillo, Jon Horn, Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, and Todd McMahon; Vice President, Gordy Tucker.
  - As a result of the very successful, day-long symposium on historical archaeology organized and chaired by Richard Carrillo at the 1999 annual meeting, CCPA put together a Historical Archaeology Context Committee. The purpose of the committee, chaired by Richard Carrillo and Adrienne Anderson, was to develop the framework for a State Historic Fund Grant Application to support preparation of a context for Colorado's historical archaeology.
  - While thinking ahead toward a historical archaeology context, CCPA was in the throes of wrapping up its five prehistoric contexts. Draft contexts were undergoing revision and copy editing, with the final documents due to the State Historic Fund at the end of June. Distribution of the published contexts was expected by the end of October.
  - On May 18, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) published its revised regulations for implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This update modified a few of the procedures for Section 106 compliance and provided some new alternatives for getting through the process. Major changes included detailed requirements for consultation with Tribal Nations and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, the requirement for a memorandum of agreement for all projects that may alter or destroy an archaeological property, and elimination of the requirement for consultation with the ACHP for “no adverse effects to historic properties” and most “adverse effects to historic properties” findings.
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## Treasurer's Report

By Katy Waechter, CCPA Treasurer

Treasurer duties have officially transferred from Dante Knapp to Katy Waechter. Dante did a fantastic job maintaining CCPA's accounts, QuickBooks records, setting up CCPA's online payment methods with Zeffy, Zettle, and investment accounts. Thank you, Dante, for handing off a well-run system and your support with the new treasurer onboarding. A big thanks to everyone involved in planning and implementing the 2024 CCPA conference in Sterling! Extra thanks to conference sponsors and volunteers. The annual meeting could not have happened without you and your support. Please find the annual meeting revenue and expenditures in Table 1. Like last year's meeting in Ouray, this year's meeting was a huge success, netting \$3,860.09. In addition to making a profit this year, we raised an additional \$4,029.45 (\$2,341.95 from trivia, \$1,282.50 from the silent auction, and \$405 from the book sale) for CCPA's scholarship funds. With our current conference registration set up through Zeffy, CCPA saved \$806 in PayPal fees for this year's conference. Table 2 shows our bank and investment account balances as of May 5, 2024.

**Table 1. CCPA 2024 Annual Meeting Revenue and Expenditures.**

Revenue	
Banquet	\$3,950.00
Sponsorship	\$7,850.00
Registration Fees	\$5,820.00
On-Site Sales	\$1,290.00
<b>Total Annual Meeting Revenue</b>	<b>\$18,910.00</b>
Expenditures	
Student Paper & Poster Awards	\$400.00
Catering	\$9,313.91
Facilities	\$1,320.00
Merchandise	\$2,145.14
Supplies	\$1,870.86
<b>Total Annual Meeting Expenditures</b>	<b>\$15,049.91</b>
<b>Net Annual Meeting Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,860.09</b>

**Table 2. CCPA Account Balances.**

Account	Balance (USD)
Banking Accounts	
Checking	\$23,416.43
Publications	\$1,861.32
Scholarship Fund	\$21,524.00
Investment Funds	
General Funds	\$80,649.13
Publications	\$15,289.95
Scholarship	\$38,649.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$181,390.68</b>

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Society for Historical Archaeology**

New Orleans, Louisiana, January 8–11, 2025

<https://sha.org/conferences/>

### **Saving Places Conference**

Colorado Springs, January 29–February 1, 2025

<https://www.coloradopreservation.org/saving-places-conference/>

### **CCPA 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Grand Junction, Colorado, March 13–16, 2025

<https://coloradoarchaeologists.org/meetings-events/>

### **SAA 89th Annual Meeting**

Denver, Colorado, April 23–27, 2025

<https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>

### **American Cultural Resource Association**

Raleigh, North Carolina, September 11–14, 2025

<https://acra-crm.org/annual-conference/>

### **Great Basin Anthropological Conference**

Reno, Nevada, October 2025

<https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/gbac/gbac-registration/>



# Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists

## CCPA List of Current Officers and Committee Chairs

### **President 2024–2025**

Rebecca Simon

### **Past President 2024–2025**

Mary Sullivan

### **Vice President 2024–2025**

Chris Johnston

### **Secretary 2023–2025**

Jessica Ericson

### **Treasurer 2024–2026**

Katy Waechter

### **American Indian Board Member 2023–2025**

Anna Cordova

### **Student Board Member 2024–2026**

Andrew Milam

### **Board Member 2023–2025**

Talle Hogrefe

### **Board Member 2023–2025**

Sara Millward

### **Board Member 2024–2026**

Natalie Clark

### **Board Member 2024–2026**

Brandon Turner

### **Archives Committee**

Sarah Rothwell

### **Awards & Recognition Committee Chair**

Michelle Slaughter

### **Education Committee Co-Chairs**

Jessica Ericson and Obi Oberdier

### **Ethics Coordinator**

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### **Listserv Coordinator**

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### **Membership Committee Chair**

Jon Horn

### **Native American Initiatives Committee**

Bridget Ambler

### **Publications Committee Chair**

Kelly Pool

### **Ward F. Weakly Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair**

Mark Mitchell

### **Web Page Editor**

Mary Sullivan





## About CCPA

Founded in 1978, the CCPA is a non-profit voluntary association that exists for the purpose of maintaining and promoting the goals of professional archaeology in the State of Colorado. These goals shall include but not be limited to: a. establishing and promoting high standards of archaeological research, reporting, and management. b. establishing and promoting a mechanism to represent professional archaeological interests in political and public forums. c. establishing and promoting a mechanism for communication within the archaeological community. d. promoting public education and interest in the fields of archaeology and cultural resources management. e. providing Council input to the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. f. demonstrating concern for the archaeology of Colorado. g. establishing and promoting open communication and cooperation between archaeologists and the living descendants of groups subject to archaeological research in Colorado.

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## Mailing Address

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists  
c/o ERO Resources Corporation  
1626 Cole Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Lakewood, CO 80401

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## Online

[www.coloradoarchaeologists.org](http://www.coloradoarchaeologists.org)

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## Publications

A variety of contexts (regional overviews) are available for purchase or free download on the CCPA website. Visit <http://coloradoarchaeologists.org/contexts/> to download an order form, order through PayPal, or complete a free download.

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## Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists

Email submissions and questions to: [CCPAnewsletter1978@gmail.com](mailto:CCPAnewsletter1978@gmail.com).