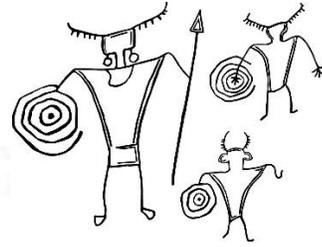


# VESTIGES



November 2022  
Volume 42  
Number 11

Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello URARA,

It was good seeing everyone who was able to attend the Symposium in Vernal. It was great to hold a live event again and good to see you all venturing out. While the weather on Friday put a damper on field trips a bit for that day, I'm pretty sure most of you enjoyed yourselves, and hopefully learned some new things about rock art.

To confirm we were on the right track for Vernal and to help us plan for the 2023 Symposium, we ran a member survey. I'd like to share some general results of the survey with you. A high percentage of the folks who attended were very satisfied overall with the symposium, with the field trips and with the venue. There were some great comments and suggestions on how we did overall and how we could improve.

Attendance was down a bit from the last time we had a live symposium, 104 compared with around 160. We also noticed a drop in members registering for field trips, with 67% of folks at the symposium registering for Friday field trips and 50% registering for Monday trips. Why the lower numbers? Why did people choose not to attend or were unable to? We asked that question from those who did not attend, and out of the 16 people who responded to that particular question, the answer is still a bit unclear. There does seem to be some lingering concerns over COVID, and it appears that Vernal was a bit too far to travel from where some of you live. Hopefully the lower attendance isn't a trend, but we shall see after the 2023 Symposium. It will be held in Price, Utah on October 5-9 (including Thursday workshops, and field trips on Friday and Monday). So, save those dates, and hopefully we will see you all again in Price.

November 2022

# Treasures under the Rainbow

Steve Acerson

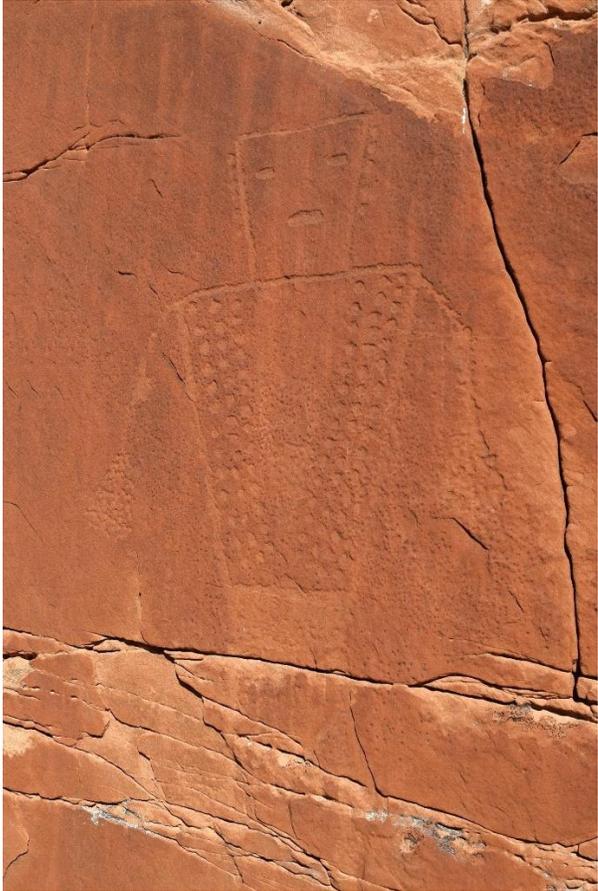
Vernal Symposium, field trips F01/M01.

Even though the weather each day created muddy roads, both groups made it to our destinations. As we got out of our mud covered vehicles the weather cleared and allowed us great hiking conditions. Other field trips were cancelled, so I had more members added, which I was glad to visit with folks I hadn't seen for a few years.

Rainbow Park and McKee Springs have many images of a typical Vernal Style, with very little vandalism. Viewing, discussion, and a little echo testing was enjoyed by all.

I still want to become one of the octogenarian mountain goats that still out-climb me when I decide to grow up... I salute them in their ability.





# Smith Family Archaeological Preserve

Rick Mathews

The Smith Family Archaeological Preserve (SFAP) has completed its fall season tours. Several visitors to the SFAP were able to learn about Utah Valley's early inhabitants. Elizabeth Hora led a tour in October for BYU students and many other people were able to spend a Saturday learning more about Utah's pre-history.

Those who are able to go on a tour are shown a wide variety of early Fremont rock images, some Great Basin Representational and perhaps even one Ute image. The possible Ute image has been added to an earlier Fremont image. There are some great examples of relative dating.

This is a great place to learn about the lives of those who came before.

The trail is maintained by SFAP volunteers and is not too difficult. Experienced tour guides share their knowledge and insights with tour participants. Each guide offers his or her own perspective. Tours are offered most Saturdays April-May and Sep.-Oct. You can email [a.smith.conservancy@gmail.com](mailto:a.smith.conservancy@gmail.com) to get on the list for the next season. Even if you've been, go again. You may see something new or see something in a whole new light.





Smith Preserve

Rick Mathews

## **URARA Stewards attend UCSS Annual Event**

**Diana Acerson**

October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, several URARA site stewards attended a fun event hosted by the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program. It was held at the Frontier Homestead State Park Museum and Southern Utah University Hunter Conference Center, in Cedar City.

There were tours of the Museum and University archives, field trips, workshops, lunch, and a great presentation the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>, by Elizabeth Hora, Public Archaeologist for Utah SHPO, who is a URARA member whom so many of us have enjoyed working with on many projects.



Elizabeth is especially interested in ways to Stop Archaeological Vandalism at sensitive rock art and other cultural resource sites. Her presentation was "Looking for People in Prehistory" at the Get-Together. She reviewed recent research suggesting that the Uinta Fremont people could have included two distinct language groups: Proto-Kiowa-Tanoan and Pre-Hopi. The Utah SHPO has contracted Utah State University to record the rock imagery at McConkie Ranch this fall and she hopes that the results of this fieldwork can assist her in her proposed study of Fremont jewelry, dress, and body painting to learn more about the social identities of Uinta Fremont people.



Nate Thomas, State Archaeologist and Deputy Preservation Officer for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), also a URARA member, conducted a site visit to Parowan Gap. Where Stewards learned the planning process for creating the visitor experience that exists today at the site. The planning and design work back then we learned included engineering by our own Werner Duecker! We spent time touring the site with Nate and got the opportunity to learn more and search for rock art we know just hasn't been discovered yet! 😊

The other site visit by some of the Stewards was to the Mountain Meadow Massacre site, with Ben Pykles, the Historic Sites Manager, for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Stewards were able to learn more about this event in 19<sup>th</sup> century Utah history.

Workshops included a Pump Drill presentation by Liz Nagengast-Stevens, the Curator of Collections and Archaeologist from the Fremont State Park and Museum, and a Prehistoric Duck Decoy Presentation from Scott Whitesides, also with the BLM.



After a grand pizza lunch, we all were able to tour the SUU Archaeological Repository, with the SUU repository archaeologist, Barbara Frank.

Thanks to SHPO's great site steward program staff: Ian Wright, Cultural Site Steward Coordinator; Matt Pololinsky, Cultural Site Stewardship Assistant Coordinator; and Lexi Carson, Cultural Site Stewardship Data and Events Specialist, for an amazing Get-Together. Can't wait to see what they put together for next year!



If you would like to become a site steward for your favorite rock writing/art/imagery site, contact: Ian Wright, [iwright@utah.gov](mailto:iwright@utah.gov), or Matt Podolinsky, [mpodolinsky@utah.gov](mailto:mpodolinsky@utah.gov).

## Book Review

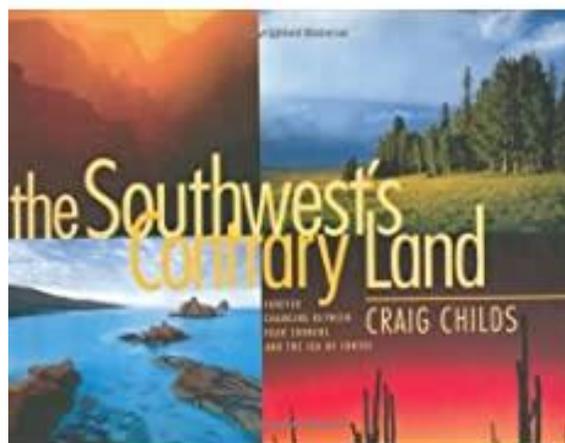
Good Reads for you: **The Southwest's Contrary Land** by Craig Childs

"Here are stories and color photographs that will excite your spirit and lead you on scenic adventures through a land deemed contrary because it brims with contradictions in the landscapes that it puts side by side. This land changes its look as readily as a jet-setter switches wardrobes. Cool, fern-draped valleys sidle up to snow-capped mountains cloaked in conifers. A few miles distant, desertscapes coated with cactus bask under a lamp of sun.

Some compare the Southwest's environmental transitions to what you'd experience traveling from Mexico to Canada. For this book, author Craig Childs trekked over hundreds of miles, observing the transitions close to his Southwest home and discovering something about life. In crystalline prose he relates the landscape to a passage in his life. Scattering his father's ashes in remote Canyon Creek, he reflects:

"I did not think of my father and his ashes as a traveler, ceaselessly flowing from one confluence to the next. Instead, I thought of him as a process. A story being told. I thought of him as a pool of unknown trout and the busted trunk of an alder half sticking up through the water. I thought of him as a raw, deep canyon heaped with boulders and mazes of creek passages -- the canyon he had once promised me. I thought of him as the beginning and the end at once."

Childs' journey of discovery covers Alpine to the Little Blue River; up Mount Graham, a perfectly contained sky island; around Sedona; through Canyon Country; along the lower Colorado River; and through the Sonoran Desert to the Sea of Cortes, with magnificent full-color photography by internationally recognized Arizona Highways photographers illustrating the range of his travels."



Review Courtesy of Amazon Book Review.

# The Sound of Thunder

Carol Patterson

The sound of thunder acoustical project on the San Juan River, reported on by Steve Waller at Symposium, will soon be found in "Patina" published on the URARA website:

The Sound of Thunder, Acoustical Project on the San Juan River  
Produced by Steve Waller and Carol Patterson, April 25, 2022

Additional voice and percussion by

Janet Lever-Wood and Cody Little

Sponsored by a research grant from

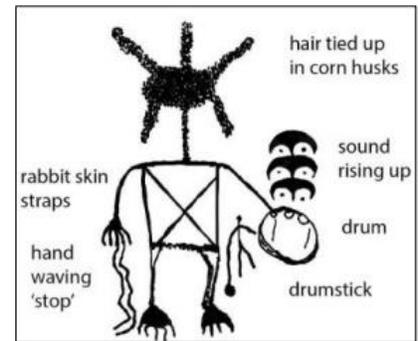
the Utah Rock Art Research Association.

The project was conceived from Carol's interpretation of the stacked arc (or crescent) symbols found in several panels along the San Juan River, that according to the ethnographic literature, are associated with the sound of thunder. It is mentioned in the mythic text as the sound that the Koshari creates with a drum. The Pueblo people believe that imitating the sound of thunder entices the clouds to bring rain.



The arc symbols are found at four sites on both sides of the San Juan River.

Acoustic monitoring was established among the 4 panels (targets) with arc symbols, as well as control locations, to map out the soundscape of the canyon.



(left) A clip from the primary panel, the “Katsina Panel”, well known to visitors boating down the San Juan. (In the 1980’s it was locally known as the “sound panel” because of the stacked arcs over the heads or beside the ears, suggesting communication or the perception of sounds of some sort. For a modern version of this glyph, see the Dish Communications logo – ed.) The figure at the far right of the panel, with the big hair and big feet, is interpreted as the Koshari, the drummer and dance-leader.

(right) Annotated sketch of the Koshari interpreted from the Keresan tradition.

Patterson and Waller plan a future URARA internet webinar on the project. Stay tuned.

## Calendar and URARA Events

Nov 5

SDRAA Rock Art 2022 Virtual Symposium [www.sdraa.org](http://www.sdraa.org).

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.

Dixie 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.

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>

Utah Humanities Public Events

[https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/component/com\\_calendar/Itemid,184/component\\_com\\_calendar/id,2203/view,event/](https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/component/com_calendar/Itemid,184/component_com_calendar/id,2203/view,event/)

## 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)

### 2022 URARA Board and Officers

Kent Williams, President  
 Darlene Koerner, Vice President  
 Carol Duecker, Treasurer  
 Roger Cook, Secretary  
 Diana Acerson, Conservation  
 Wanda Gayle  
 John McHugh  
 Rick Matthews  
 Nina Bowen

### Committee Chairs and Appointees

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

### URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		open
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