



"We enjoy the experience of being a part of something that will preserve our history for many years to come."

—Stewarding Team

Nevada Pastwatch*

Nevada Site Stewardship Program (NSSP)

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Message from NSSP Coordinator, Samantha Rubinson Ph.D.

As the beautiful spring weather is turning into the summer heat, the NSSP office is no less busy. With Rayette, Katie, I, and our interns in the office, it is packed and very lively. Beyond processing your monitoring reports we have several projects we have been working on. These include the creation of new promotional materials (such as posters, post cards, and brochures), the creation of a Site Stewardship video, and the creation of new educational workshops. Katie, being the wonderful artist/graphic designer she is, has designed all the printed materials, Rayette took lead on the video, and two interns organized the workshops. These should be ready to be distributed in the next few months.



Hiking in Lincoln County

I have been working with State Parks, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Carson City, and Pershing County Water District to develop stewardship programs on their lands. Many of these areas will be set-up by 2020.

I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Rayette Martin, Program Assistant



Springs Preserve Cafe

The past few months have been creatively challenging. Working with video for outreach and education has been a primary focus and seeing the final products has made the effort worthwhile.

I am excited to continue working on sites in Lincoln County for the next two years. I am finishing an outreach focused grant with the BLM and will be transitioning over to working on education and the development of a stewardship program for the State Parks in the county.

Lucky for me my family doesn't mind my frequent trips north of Las Vegas. My husband and kids love joining me and have found many fun camping and fishing spots to enjoy.

I feel very lucky to work in such an amazing state with great volunteers!

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Prehistoric Ceramic Workshop Series



Kneading the clay to prepare it for making pots.

We have concluded another successful Pottery Workshop Series with our friend Professor Sally Billings, of the College of Southern Nevada. This was a three-part series which walked participants through all stages of clay harvesting, vessel formation, and firing of the wares.

Workshop goes first assisted with the grinding of dried clays that had been collected from natural deposits here in Southern Nevada. In order to prepare this natural clay into a shapeable medium, it was mixed with a tempering agent such as sand or crushed olivine, and then reconstituted with distilled water. The temper is used to control shrinkage in the vessel during firing, and we had great results

with both of the tempers we tried. The clay mixture was then left to sit for multiple months, giving it time to age and take on a more plastic quality, which helps the finished Clay Body stay together during the formation of the vessels.

The second workshop in the series focused on creating a vessel, and participants were introduced to a variety of ancient techniques. Our potters used a pre-form, traditionally called a “Puki”, which helps hold and shape the coiled pots until they are dry enough to be free-standing, and they scraped the coils to a smooth finish using shaped bits of gourd and obsidian flakes. Each pot took on a shape of its own, and some participants had the time and patience to make multiple wares.

Finally the day came for firing our vessels. This was done in a pit kiln – essentially a hole dug into the earth and lined with a heat-retaining stone. First a large fire is built in the pit and left to burn to coals. Next a layer of broken pottery is placed over the coals to provide a foundation for the pots to be fired. Once the pots are placed carefully into the pit, they are covered with yet another layer of broken pottery – we



Adding coils to the base of the pot.

Prehistoric Ceramic Workshop Series Cont.

used terra cotta planters broken into large sections. This provided a protective barrier between our wares and the second large fire, which is built on top of the pit again and left to burn to coals once more. The insulating layers of broken terra cotta helped to create a mini oven in which our pottery could bake without being directly exposed to the fire. After the second fire burned to coals, we smothered it with shovels full of ash and soil, until no smoke could be seen escaping. Our pottery was then left for several days inside the kiln, allowing the entire contents of the pit to cool very gradually in order to prevent cracking that could be a symptom of thermal shock.

The results of our workshop were fantastic! Every pot we made survived the firing, and each participant had at least one finished vessel which they had a hand in creating from start to finish. Everyone had a great time learning about native pottery production, and most importantly, participants left with a deeper appreciation for each pot sherd located during their stewardship outings.



*The pit kiln shown after opening.
Wares were carefully exposed using hands and potsherds.*



*Thank you Sally Billings from the
College of Southern Nevada!*



*Our fired pots, stacked and awaiting pickup from
the SHPO office.*

In Memory of Mark Boatwright

By Samantha Rubinson

Mark Boatwright, the BLM archaeologist for Red Rock National Conservation Area, managed over 180 site stewards for the BLM in Southern Nevada.

By the time I started working with him in 2012, Mark was a little bit of a legend with the site stewards and the local archaeological community and I quickly realized it was his open personality and genuine love for the resources. That is not to say our first year wasn't rocky. The State was in the process of taking over the Clark County Site Stewardship Program and change is rarely easy. But we eventually won him over by spending two weeks doing field survey in Gold Butte for him in over 100 degree weather.

In the years since, Mark became a good friend and supporter of the program. I spoke to him often enough I had his phone number memorized. We worked on many projects together that trained stewards to do everything from graffiti removal to site recording.



Graffiti Cleanup at Gypsum Cave



Gold Butte Field Project 2013– Excessive Heat Warning

In his last six months we had been focusing our joint efforts to clean-up data for one of his most important districts. Though he was sick, he still worked with me from home or came into our office to chat. He passed away a week after his last visit to our office during which he and I had finally had a plan to complete our data clean-up. A project I plan to see till the end.

Mark was a friend and mentor. He will be missed by many and will live on in everything he touched.

Mark Boatwright



Gold Butte Site Introduction



Teaching a NSSP Intern



Arrow Canyon Site Introduction

Mark was a friend and teacher with a burning passion for preservation and working with volunteers. He challenged me and stood beside me to celebrate my successes as a new archaeologist and volunteer manager. He was always there to provide guidance and support, a few laughs, and a story or two. His stories and advice will stay with me and I am dedicated to carrying on preservation work for some of his favorite places.

Rayette Martin-NSSP Assistant



Mark, Betty, Linda, and Michele

Mark will always hold a special place in my heart. So glad I had a great hike with him in May in Gold Butte. He spent the day sharing his expertise with new stewards. We all so enjoyed his company! He will be greatly missed!

Betty Conway-Gold Butte Regional Coordinator

Site Stewardship Program Southern Picnic



Chili Tasting

October 14, 2017

NSSP was happy to have a great turnout for the annual southern Nevada appreciation picnic. We decided to do an agency chili cook-off again and a steward cornbread competition. They were both crowd pleasers.

Highlights from the stewarding year were shared. In 2017, Clark County Stewards made 238 site visits, donated 1,964 hours, drove 17,366 miles, and reported 61 impacts.

Interns and office volunteers contributed 1,147 hours to the program.



Raffle Prizes

A spotlight was also shined on Mark Boatwright's contributions to NSSP and preservation. He covered three field offices and his volunteers made up about half of the total volunteers for the state.

The event closed with a raffle. There was a Jeep grill, massage gift card, and many other donated items to be won.



Wonderful Spread of Food



Rayette Martin Presenting a Thank You to Mark Boatwright

2018 Spring Interns



Kayla Spriggs is an Anthropology Undergraduate student at University of Las Vegas, Nevada, seeking her bachelor's degree. She hopes to pursue educational outreach post graduation. She currently works as the Interpretive Staff Supervisor at the Neon Museum, and is excited to be expecting her first child in September. Kayla, her husband, and her baby bump are featured in the new stewardship promotional video discussed later in this newsletter. For her semester's outreach project, Kayla has been developing an artifact identification workshop be able to serve a variety of purposes for the program. The workshop includes a basic introduction to artifacts, hands on activities, and artifact identification videos to better illustrate what artifacts look like in the field.

Carlos Romo is an undergraduate student at UNLV pursuing a bachelors in anthropology. His interests are in the area of bio-archaeology and early hominin studies, although he is currently undecided between the two. His love for anthropology began at a young age with Mesoamerica and after a little detour through the world of astronomy he is finally back where he belongs. He has had a blast working on Lincoln County archaeological sites and he is fascinated by how much the past life of prehistoric peoples and early settlers are preserved by the desert. Carlos also made his way into the stewardship promo video. His public outreach project was to develop a guide for visiting archeology in Lincoln County as part of a citizen stewardship effort in the region.



Katie Hoffman



Katie, Rayette, and Samantha

NSSP is happy to have received continuing funding for Katie Hoffman to work on the top 25 most impacted sites in Clark County.

She has been a valuable team member and contributes tremendously to the success of the program overall.

Recently she has been creating new NSSP promotional materials that will be distributed soon. Examples of her work can be found on page 10.

We are looking forward to another 6 months of teamwork!

Our New Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative (LCAI) Grant



NSSP will be starting on a new LCAI grant this fall. Our new project will focus on assisting Nevada’s State Parks with joining the NSSP. This expansion will begin with the State Parks in Lincoln County including Kershaw-Ryan SP, Cathedral Gorge SP, and Beaver Dam SP.

Sites will be set up for monitoring, park staff will be trained on “Artifact Identification” and “Engaging the Public in Preservation” and materials will be developed for public outreach and education.

NSSP hopes to enhance community and visitor appreciation for archaeological resources in Lincoln County through interactions with educated park staff, cultural resource information in the State Park’s Visitor’s Center, and State Park interpretive programs.

Atlatl Workshop



Angelo Robledo, World Atlatl Association Competitor and UNLV Anthropology student and Rayette Martin, Nevada Site Stewardship Program Assistant taught 11 participants how to create darts/spears using traditional materials and how to throw darts using an atlatl (spear thrower). Jake Hickerson, BLM Basin and Range National Monument Archaeologist, assisted with the day. Participants were from the local area and a few were from Utah.



Cinco de Mayo: Field Work, Tacos, and Tour

The fieldwork in Shooting Gallery has continued. This time we enticed volunteers to join us for tacos after a long day hiking in the back-country.

A total of 10 volunteers, 3 NSSP staff, and the Archaeologist for Basin and Range National Monument broke into 4 groups to visit different areas. They were able to visit 21 different archaeological sites within the Shooting Gallery ACEC to look for evidence of human impacts like looting, graffiti, and road incursions.

A few areas of concern were identified and a stewardship plan is being developed to ensure any future issues are addressed in a timely manner.

After hiking and documenting findings to the sites, volunteers were treated to a taco buffet sponsored by the Anne Carter Fund through Nevadans for Cultural Preservation. Anne Carter was the regional coordinator for the rock writing sites in southern Lincoln County until her passing in 2017.

Volunteers spent the evening camping at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge watching bats and sharing stories. The next morning, NSSP held a talk at the Pahrangat Visitor's center on the rock writings at Black Canyon followed by a short walking tour to see some of the regional rock writings.



Photos Above
Preparing to break into groups to visit sites at Shooting Gallery

Boulder in Shooting Gallery



Photos Below
Petroglyphs seen from the road in Black Canyon

Dinner and Camping at Upper Pahrangat Lake



Push for Citizen Stewardship

Spring is the season for Citizen Stewardship!

This is the time of year when the warmth and birdsong beckon to us all – to come and rejoin nature, and enjoy those cultural sites we love to steward. If you have been out to some of our parks here in Southern Nevada, you'll see that you are far from alone out there in our wilderness – and though visitation is not always a bad thing, the increase in visitors can also mean an increase in impacts. As an organization dedicated to preserving these resources, we have devised a new campaign to reach out to members of the public and engage them as Citizen Stewards.

This campaign begins with an educational video which has been produced by the NSSP to introduce the public to cultural resources and the Nevada Site Stewardship Program.



The video contains interviews with land managers and law enforcement personnel, who appeal to the viewer to help protect cultural resources by reporting impacts they may encounter while out enjoying their own hobbies and interests. This new approach does not require training or enrollment in the NSSP, but instead offers the viewer an avenue for reporting what they see when they happen to be out.

The video is accompanied by a new set of promotional materials, again appealing to the general public as Citizen Stewards. These materials include business cards, posters, post-cards, and tri-fold brochures – all featuring the web-address for our online impact reporting form.

Citizen Stewarding is poised to be another important layer of protection for Nevada's rich cultural heritage – but this in no way negates the work that all of our volunteers do every day. We are most thankful to all of you who have become stewards and who act as the voice for your individual sites. Thank you for all of your hard work, and we wish you a safe Stewarding season.



Creating a Citizen Stewardship Video



The task of producing a Citizen Stewarding and NSSP Promotional video was a brand-new challenge to our team. While all of our staff is thoroughly versed in bringing our message of cultural resource preservation to the public, not one among us had previous experience in video production. Thankfully, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation were able to assist by lending us a GoPro Hero5 camera with accessories, and a laptop computer with video editing software. Further technical assistance came from local audio production company Mutability, who generously provided usage of audio recording equipment and an engineer to help with music and sound quality. Once we secured these materials, and with our time funded by various grants, we embarked on our new mission to record interviews and stewarding action shots as often as possible.

Agency staff interviews were held at the Corn Creek Visitor's Center and Lake Mead NRA. Interviews with volunteers occurred at different archaeological sites around Las Vegas. The NSSP photo archive also came in handy to illustrate what the speakers were covering. Site stewards from across the state also contributed photos to supplement the video footage.

In total, the video runs about 13 minutes. From this and our excess footage we hope to next produce a series of short clips to serve as public service announcements, which will incorporate a variety of voices and perspectives on cultural resource preservation from other areas around the state.

NEVADA SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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Our Amazing Volunteer Site
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Submit Articles and Photos for Our Next Newsletter

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Geotags and Android Phone

How to Prevent Geotags from Being Saved When You Take a Picture With Your Android

In order to ensure that Geotag information is not captured when you snap future pictures you need to perform the following steps:

I. Visit the Camera App

Either click on settings (gear icon) and deselect save location or

Swipe left to right to open settings and deselect save location

Be sure to check this regularly especially after any updates on your phone.

How Can You Tell if a Photo has Geotag Location Data embedded in it?

If you want to check to see if a photo has geotagged information in its metadata that might reveal the location that it was taken from you need to download an EXIF viewer application such as Koredoko EXIF and GPS Viewer.

There are also browser extensions available for your PC's web browser such as FireFox that will allow you to simply right-click on any image file on a website and find out if it contains location information.

Earth Day: Fort Mojave Cultural Site Clean Up

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Nevada Site Stewardship Program have been working with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe to remove trash and campfire debris from a sensitive and important cultural site for



the Tribe. The hope is people will get the hint that this isn't the place to camp. Volunteers removed about 20 bags of debris containing ashes from fire rings, nails from the burning of pallets, and a light scattering of other trash.