



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

—Stewarding Team

#### Inside This Issue:

Family Stewardship  
Message from Katie  
St. Thomas Tour

2-3

Book Review  
Interns

4-5

Steve Daron  
Remembered

6-7

Lincoln County News  
Regional  
Coordinators

8-9

Steward Reports Help  
Cemeteries  
Arborglyphs

10-11

Northern Picnic  
Elko Picnic

12-13

Explore—Report—  
Protect

14

# Nevada Pastwatch\*

Nevada Site Stewardship Program (NSSP)

Volume 9, Issue 2

Winter, 2018

## Message from NSSP Coordinator, Samantha Robinson

I hope everyone is having a wonderful fall! After a long hot summer, it is finally cool and smoke-free enough to be out and about. This is the time of year when we are receiving monitoring reports state-wide. I love reading about sites from areas near Carson City and Gold Butte visited on the same day.

The program is going strong with 360 stewards monitoring 340 sites across the state. In the last month alone stewards have visited over 40 sites. Site Stewards have also been asked to help federal archaeologists in graffiti removal projects, site recording projects, site clean-ups, promotional videos, and educational events.

Whether you monitor once a year or monitor sites every week, your contribution is appreciated and important. Thank you to each and everyone of you for volunteering with the program and helping us protect our public lands. You inspire us every day!



Samantha Robinson 2018



NSSP Office 2018

## Message from Rayette Martin, NSSP Assistant



I hope everyone had a great fall visiting sites and enjoying the cooler temperatures. These past few months I have been able to do a lot of public outreach in both Lincoln and Clark Counties and I am looking forward to continuing this work under my grants.

The NSSP office has been bustling with three interns this semester. They have been very helpful in improving site information, assisting with office tasks, and bringing new perspectives to our work.

Without them, I don't know how I would be able to support volunteer stewards and meet the requirements of my grants.

Rayette Martin  
Alamo, NV Fourth of July Booth

## Families who steward together, preserve together!



Left: Checking out the shelter

Below: Ty, Jon, and Laura posing for a family photo after a great day of monitoring their sites.



By Laura Benedict

Hello, we are the Benedict Family, stewards for the NSSP. We have been stewarding since February, and we love it! We are an active family that frequently does outside activities together, and stewarding just adds to our family fun. When we steward, we feel like we are doing good for our community by documenting changes to our natural resources. We get to be outside enjoying nature and talking about how the site has changed since we last visited. Also, it helps us practice our compass use skills. We enjoy stewarding so much, we encourage all of our outdoorsy friends to think about becoming a steward too. Hope to see you out there!

### Message from Katie Hoffman

It has been two years since NSSP began working to improve stewarding coverage of the top-25 most threatened sites in Clark County and though we're making great progress, the work is far from done. If any current stewards would like to add additional sites to their monitoring schedule, please consider one of the three great opportunities listed below! Each of these outings will take place in December, dates to be determined.



Katie Lying Down on the Job

**Red Rock Sites** – The sites within the Red Rock loop are easily accessible with any vehicle, and are perfect for family stewarding. They are close to town, and the park entrance fee is waived for Site Stewards. Please inquire if you'd like to join a group intro!

**Four Wheel Drive Sites** – Another area in need of additional coverage is a cluster of both historic and prehistoric sites - including a cabin ruin, petroglyphs and pictographs. These sites are remote and require 4WD to access.

**Four-Wheel/High-Clearance Sites** – Our third outing will be an off-road adventure to sites which require a 4WD/high-clearance vehicle to access.

Features include an historic dam, roasting pits, rockshelter, and rock art components.

Please contact us if you're interested in visiting any of these areas, or if you'd like to otherwise modify your stewarding assignments. Thank you for everything you do to help preserve Nevada's Heritage!



## St. Thomas Tour



By Kristie Fuentes

*Ice Cream Parlor*

On Saturday October 20th, Samantha Rubinson, Program Coordinator for the Nevada Site Stewardship Program, Mary Beth Timm, Director of the Lost City Museum, and Chris Nycz, Archaeologist for the National Park Service Lake Mead, all lead a tour of 20 people through historic St. Thomas.

The weather was 85 and partly cloudy with the occasional breeze blowing through our sweaty shirts. The hike itself was around 2 miles roundtrip and for the most part it is flat aside from the steep hill in the beginning that most people could conquer with a little bit of effort. Having knowledgeable archaeologists to answer questions about the historic town, its people, and the region in general added to a great experience.

For those who decide to trek it on their own, they can enjoy the new wayside signs that were erected this past summer. The wayside signs offer educational insight into the foundations that are littered all along the trail providing information on their connection to the town's heritage.

The most impressive foundation was perhaps the ice cream parlor which was situated on what was once the town's main street and still featured part of its chimney standing erect. Most of the foundations are flat, some have stairs, and around most there are cisterns barred with metal grates to keep the occasional wanderer safe from falling in. The 60 years the town spent under Lake Mead eroded many of the buildings and made the foundations fragile so they should be observed with caution.

The tour group itself consisted of eager and curious site stewards and volunteers. They weaved in and around the buildings' skeletons and were careful not to lean, stand, or sit on them to avoid any further damage.

Once and awhile a fragment of a bottle, a rusted can, or a rusted car motor could be found and breathed an extra perspective into the site. Having learned of the town's misfortune with the placement of the Hoover Dam and the slow evacuation of its residents that spanned roughly 5 years, it makes a hiker stop and appreciate the ruins all around them. The St. Thomas hike is family-friendly, dog-friendly, and historian-friendly.

## Atlas of a Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America

Book by Craig Childs

Review by Steve Dudrow

Only Childs can get away with referencing *Pulp Fiction* in an archeological tome.

How, when and why did we get here? Who are we? Craig Childs crafts his *Atlas of a Lost World* sewing together a tale of Pleistocene to Holocene transition by means of his pertinent personal adventures with abundance of research details.

Did our early ancestors find their way from Siberia via a land bridge between Asia and North America, did they follow south migrating birds over the ice that stood between them and what is now America, could they have used skin boats to skirt the ice in the Northwest? However, there is evidence that Solutrean Europeans may have arrived as early as 19,000 years ago, beating our Siberian forebears by 5,000 years. With massive amounts of water tied up in the glaciers, the ocean levels were low, opening the land bridge from Siberia and making the current Florida land mass up to triple its current size, thus giving walking space for our ancestors to migrate. The bottom line is we got here, and Childs details a variety of archeological efforts to follow the breadcrumbs from all directions.

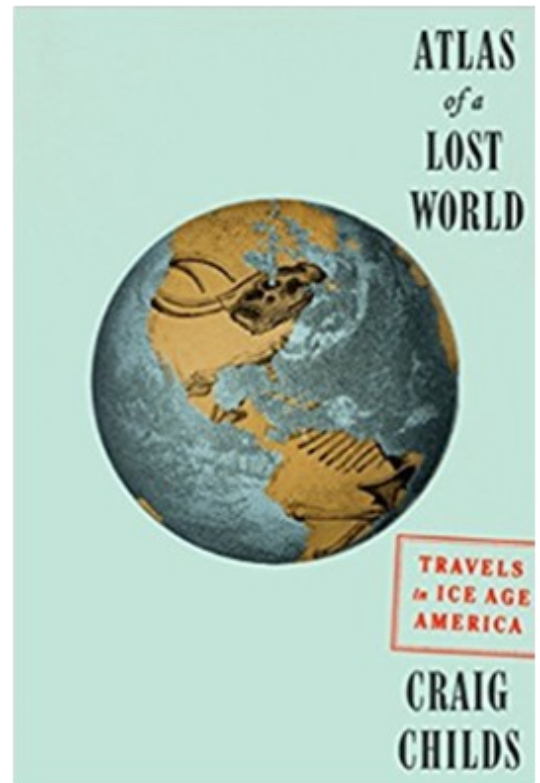
What awaited in this unknown world? Researchers have uncovered ultra-large fauna; mastodons, mammoths, saber-toothed cats, huge panthers, immense bison, and sloths that stood twenty feet tall. Paleolithic spear points with remaining proteins of their prey and animal bones that show damage from killing and skinning/cleaning also aid archeologists to determine time frames that specific animals and humans occupied the same place.

In summary, this is a marvelous follow-up book to Charles Mann's *1491* (published in 2006), laying out many plausible migration paths for original America continent human inhabitation. I suggest this as a must read for those in our line of archeological public service.

And then there is the *Pulp Fiction* reference..... you will need to read the book to find that out.



Craig Childs  
<https://twitter.com/>



## Interns



**Kristie Fuentes** is an anthropology undergraduate student at The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) working towards an associate's degree. She is currently caught between wanting to be a cultural anthropologist and an archaeologist. However, she does hope to work for a museum in the future and she hopes to highlight powerful women in history through writing and art. With interests mainly focusing on ancient civilizations from around the world, she is shifting gears with SHPO and is open and excited to be learning about Nevada's prehistoric and historic heritage. While she enjoys hiking at Red Rock and occasionally Mount Charleston, she spends most of her free time reading, writing, drawing, and sculpting. She is taking next semester off and moving to Florida to participate in the Disney College Program.

**Ryan Clavir** is an anthropology undergraduate student at CSN, seeking M.A. degrees in anthropology and education. Growing up in the Southwest, his love for culture and history was inspired by visits to various New Mexican Pueblos and Pre-Puebloan cliff dwelling sites throughout childhood. He currently resides in Las Vegas and enjoys hiking at Lake Mead with his two sons, Fox, and Gabriel. As an intern at SHPO, Ryan hopes to contribute and do his part for the conservation effort here in Southern Nevada.



**Kaiya Doyle** is an anthropology undergraduate student at CSN, starting her path toward a doctorate degree. She hopes to become an Archeologist and pursue Egyptology and Ancient Greek studies. She has had a love for history ever since she was a small girl. One day she hopes to travel the world and discover something new from the ancient world. Her history interests are ancient Egypt, ancient Greece as well as ancient China and many more. She is passionate about her work and enjoys going to sites and learning about the people who use to live there. She is always open to learning new things about history and how it affects the world today.



## Steve Daron Remembered



### Obituary Excerpts:

Steve Daron, passed away on September 25th, 2018 after an 11 month battle with cancer.

Steve was the Cultural Resource Program Manager at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Boulder City, Nevada. He ensured the cultural, archaeological, and historical places and artifacts of the park were managed, cared for, and preserved for future generations of National Park Service visitors and researchers.

Steve's enthusiasm for archaeology led him to be involved with many organizations and activities. Steve was President of the Nevada Archaeological Association for many years, as well as an active board member. He was also the team lead for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership.

In 2003, Steve also became involved with the Nevada Cultural Site Steward Program. He also recruited and trained stewards through local archaeology clubs he was active in throughout the state of Nevada, including the Nevada Rock Art Foundation and Archaeo-Nevada Society. Because of Steve's work with this program, 41 stewards help monitor more than 30 archaeological sites at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Additionally, the site stewards

helped the Lake Mead Archaeology Crew document more than 28 rock art sites and 1,255 rock art and graffiti panels.

Steve was also an active member of the Boulder City, Nevada Historic Preservation Committee from August 2010 through November 2017. He served as the Chairman from March 2016 through November 2017.

Steve received formal recognition and awards for his dedication and commitment to his work, and work with teams, including the: 2013 Secretary of Interior Partners in Conservation Award; 2010 Preserve America Steward Award from First Lady Michelle Obama; and the 2010 Preserve America Award from the Department of Interior and the National Advisory Council on Preservation.



*Preserve America Award*



## Steve Daron Remembered



NSSP Picnic:



Engaging with Volunteers

*Steve will be missed. His smile was infectious and his humbleness comforting. Our program's success was due in large part to his support and guidance. His contributions will not be forgotten.*



Reunion of St. Thomas



NSSP Best Chili Award!



## Lincoln County News

### Public Outreach and Archaeological Stewardship Expansion in Lincoln County

At the Fourth of July Festival in Alamo, NSSP held a public outreach booth with information on citizen stewardship and a free pictograph activity. This was one of our busiest years.

During the Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo in Panaca, NSSP's Pioneer Board Game was a huge success. We had tons of visitors to our booth and many kids came back to play multiple times. It was also a useful tool for folks to point out where their property is or where they graze their cattle. Many conversations were had about cultural resources in the area.

During the Labor Day Festival in Pioche, NSSP held a one hour talk about ghost towns and archaeology at the Thompson Opera House. A good crowd of over 30 attendees were provided a PowerPoint on Lincoln County Mining towns and rock art sites and were shown a video on how to help protect these amazing places.

NSSP also had an outreach booth at town park for the duration of the festivities. The pioneer game was played and Archaeology Junior Ranger Books were handed out.

**Future:** The current grant is coming to an end. The final time and funds will be spent before the end of February, 2019. NSSP has age appropriate outreach workshops planned for both 4th grade students and high school classes. We are looking forward to working with the schools in the county.



*Pioneer Game Developed by NSSP Played at the LC Fair and Rodeo and Pioche Labor Day Festival*



*Ghost Towns and Archaeology Talk by NSSP at the Pioche Labor Day Festival in the Historic Thompson Opera House*



### Interpretive and Monitoring Opportunities for State Parks in Lincoln County

NSSP will start monitoring sites in Lincoln County State Parks soon. We received a grant to help develop the program with park management and staff and to prepare sites at the parks for monitoring.

This is a pilot program and if successful, NSSP will be monitoring sites on other State Parks in Nevada.

Rayette will continue to be funded by these grants and will be spending a majority of her time working on these projects.

*CCC Water Tank at Cathedral Gorge State Park*



## Regional Coordinator Spotlights



Joan Johnson

Joan Johnson recently added the USFS Carson Ranger District to her list of Regional Coordinator Duties. She has been an amazing help introducing new stewards to sites included the recently added arboglyph sites. She is always willing to help out and does so with enthusiasm.

Gregg Noord has taken on the task of becoming the Regional Coordinator for the sites in the BLM Red Rock Field Office. These include the highly visited and impacted sites along the scenic loop. He has hit the ground running by visiting the sites to learn them at every opportunity. We are so lucky to have someone so dedicated on our team.



Gregg Noord

## Retiring Regional Coordinators Sue & Roger Kolar



Sue and Roger in Skagway, Alaska

In 2013, the NSSP absorbed the Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) under George Phillips. With that program transfer, the NSSP was provided an amazing gift, Regional Coordinators, Sue and Roger Kolar.

The Kolars have been dedicated to the program since their training in 2004. They visited their first assigned site (Keyhole) in their Volvo from 2005-2007. They bought their Jeep in 2007 and expanded the sites they covered. In 2008/9 they became regional coordinators for the Eldorado Valley/Boulder City area and in 2012 they took over the Las Vegas Region when Anne McConnell and Elaine Holmes retired.

From 2013-2018 the Kolar's were the reason NSSP succeeded in monitoring sites in the Red Rock National Conservation Area, they also helped with Forest Service sites in the Goodpsprings area, and Gypsum Cave by Lake Mead.

The NSSP databases shows that since 2010, Sue and Roger Kolar have donated a combined 646 hours and driven 4894 miles. The amount of information they have provided about their sites to the BLM, US Forest Service, and NSSP is priceless. Sue has been patient with our never-ending questions and Roger has provided us with some of the best spreadsheets we have ever seen!

The Kolars will continue to monitor a few of their favorite sites for us but will be handing over their Regional Coordinator duties to a new Coordinator, Gregg Noord.

## Steward Reports Assist Investigations

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This October, NSSP experienced two major impacts to very different sites. In both instances, site steward reports made Law Enforcement's job easier.

First, at a site in Gold Butte National Monument, site stewards reported a petroglyph boulder missing. It indeed had been dragged off the top of a solid rock slope. Previous reports helped NSSP and Law Enforcement narrow the incident down to about a five day time frame.

The second major impact was to a historic cemetery in the Northern part of our program. Due to the amazing baseline photography and records of a recently assigned set of stewards, the digging at a historic grave could be deemed as new and the time frame of the looting was narrowed to seven days.

While none of us wants to find a level 3 impact (site damaged), it is key that volunteers understand just how important photos and level 0 (no impact) reports are. You may not have been involved in these two stories but you should all give yourselves a pat on the back for being a part of this process.

Investigations on both of these sites are currently in progress. Thank you to all our volunteers!!!!

## Cemeteries Have Been Added to the Program in Virginia City

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By Samantha Rubinson

On August 28<sup>th</sup> the volunteers from NSSP worked with the BLM and the Comstock Cemetery Foundation to document the current condition of the two historic cemeteries in Gold Hill, Nevada (near Virginia City), to assist with restoration efforts and make the sites ready for stewardship. These cemeteries are located in the Comstock Historic District and have memorials dating primarily from 1860s-1940s. Seven site stewards participated in the event and will be stewarding the historic sites.



## Arborglyph Sites near Reno Added to the Program

By Samantha Robinson



Over the last six months the Nevada Site Stewardship Program has added three large arborglyph sites in the Carson Ranger District to the list of sites for stewardship. These sites are large stands of Aspen trees with beautiful carvings done by the Basque sheep herders as they made their way through Northern Nevada in the early 1900s. Like the sheepherders who carved them, the arborglyphs are vanishing from Northern Nevada, as the trees succumb to the ravages of time: fires, development, vandals, disease, insects, and old age.



These carvings, with their smooth curved lines, are visually different from modern blocky graffiti, and record of the presence, experiences and thoughts of the Basque sheepherders. They often include names, dates, messages, and artwork. The writing can be in Spanish, Basque, or French and may contain place names, imperfect English usage, or misspellings.

The Carson Ranger District Regional Coordinator, Joan Johnson, has been working with her stewards to get a baseline of all of the trees in each of the sites. They have called it an adventure and are always curious as to what they will see next.

If you are interested in exploring and protecting these sites please contact the NSSP Office.



## Nevadans for Cultural Preservation



NVFCP is gearing up for their second annual archaeology workshop fair. This year's theme is containers. The program will be a bit shorter but still contain great hands on activities and informative talks. Announcements will go out as soon as plans are solidified.

With a lack of grant funds, NVFCP has turned to creative fundraising. They started an **Art4Archaeology** Etsy page that sells donated art by local artisans. 100% of the proceeds go to NVFCP. They also created **Cats on Sites!** This playful calendar that features a variety of cats on archaeological sites with funny captions. These items will make great holiday gifts.

NVFCP holds joint programs with NSSP to enhance and support preservation efforts.

### Ancient Food: A Prehistoric Foraging Workshop by Doyle Wayman

Participants learned about edible plants in the Nevada desert and how they were prepared in prehistoric times. They got to try different foods and drinks and get their interests peaked for learning more.

Mesquite Bread with Juniper ash  
Cold Tea: Rose hips/Purple sage  
Hot Tea: Mormon Tea, mix of desert flowers  
Palo Verde soup  
Sautéed Cholla buds  
Sautéed Rabbit  
Salad - Purslane, Mustard, Amaranth  
Prickly pear cactus/quail eggs  
Amaranth grain

"My family enjoyed learning about edible plants in the desert. We recognize these as subsistence foods, and not as something we will harvest for consumption on a regular basis. If we are ever in need, it is good to know that some aspects of certain plants are edible. We would like to learn what these plants look like in the wild, how to recognize when the various parts are edible, and how to distinguish the edible plants from similar-looking plants which might cause sickness (or worse) if consumed.

Everyone's favorite dish was the juniper bread, especially with butter. We look forward to more workshops of this nature." -Laura Benedict



Speaker-Doyle Wayman sharing his knowledge and cooking with Site Stewards and Community Members.



Mesquite flour and Juniper ash bread in the tins. Honey Mesquite pods in the plastic container. Prickly pear pad (nopales) on the table.

This was a joint NVFCP and NSSP workshop.





## Northern Nevada Appreciation Picnic



This year's theme was Cajun with Rachel Crews, making muffuletta sandwiches and Jeff Thelen bringing a big pot of chicken gumbo. Attendees brought amazing sides and shared stories while eating great food, throwing atlatl darts, and playing friendly games of bocce ball. The picnic was held at BLM Archaeologist's Rachel Crews' home. NSSP, BLM Carson Ranger District, and Carson City staff shared words of appreciation for all of the volunteers.



## Elko Appreciation Picnic

June 9th, NSSP held a training class for stewards to monitor sites for the BLM in the Elko area. As part of the training Dan Broockmann, BLM Archaeologist, showed stewards artifacts from their reference collection. After the training, newly trained stewards joined with existing stewards to enjoy a picnic and were able to pick which areas they plan to monitor.



## NEVADA SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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Our Amazing Volunteer Site  
Stewards!

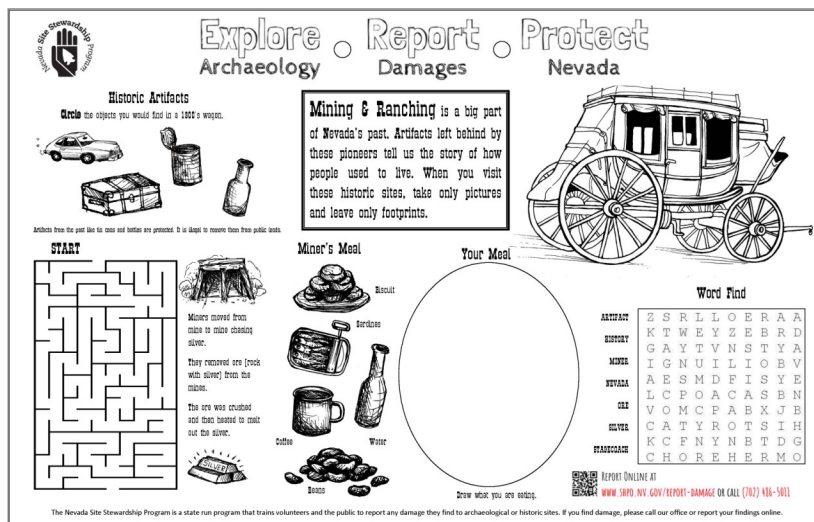
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## Explore—Report—Protect



By Katie Hoffman

The Nevada Site Stewardship Program is always looking for new ways to educate the public about preservation of cultural resources. This endeavor takes many forms, and has recently culminated in the launch of our **EXPLORE – REPORT – PROTECT** advertising campaign.

In addition to the colorful posters and informational brochures, the creative geniuses in the Southern Nevada State Historic Preservation Office have recently designed and began producing print materials directed exclusively toward children. The idea of reaching out to children is not new, and began in Lincoln County with the NSSP involvement in creating the popular Archaeology Junior Ranger Book, which is now available. We also have developed and conducted several outreach events geared toward kids and families – as we understand that informing children about preservation of cultural resources is one of the best ways to prevent future problems.

One especially exciting new development is the introduction of the all-new set of children's restaurant placemats, which will be found in some of Clark County's rural restaurants this fall. The placemats will include games and puzzles, facts about Nevada history and archaeology, and information for parents on where to learn more. We are excited to add these placemats to our growing arsenal of outreach materials. Let us know if you spot one while out on your adventures!

**Coming Soon:** Katie Hoffman, who has created our more recent illustrations, has been working hard on another exciting new outreach material. Comic books – geared toward children aged 6-10 – are currently in the works, with an anticipated delivery in Winter of 2018.

