



Newsletter of the Grand Junction Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

Who We Are:

CAS-GJ is one of nine local chapters of the Colorado Archaeological Society. CAS-GJ consists of people who are interested in the archaeology and the early history of western Colorado and eastern Utah. Members are of all ages and backgrounds, and archeological experience.

When We Meet:

The 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted in the meeting section, at the Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, Grand Junction, CO. Meetings include a guest lecturer. Snacks welcomed.

When We Explore

Members are eligible to participate in Chapter field trips which include one-day and multi-day trips and will be notified by email when they are scheduled.

September 23, 2026 Dr. Stefania Wilks



Hidden in Stone: Reconstructing 12,000 Years of Ancient Plant Use in the Northern Great Basin

This presentation explores how microscopic starch residues preserved on ancient ground stone tools are revealing evidence of plant processing that has remained hidden for thousands of years. Drawing on archaeological sites spanning the last 12,000 years in Oregon's northern Great Basin, Dr. Stefania Wilks, demonstrates how starch residue analysis can identify the processing of edible plants such as biscuitroot and yampa while providing new insights into Indigenous foodways, settlement patterns, and human adaptation to changing environments. By bringing together archaeology, paleoethnobotany, and microscopic analysis, this research offers a new perspective on the everyday activities of Great Basin peoples and illustrates how seemingly ordinary stone tools preserve an extraordinary record of ancient life. Stefania is an archaeologist and archaeobotanist specializing in ancient plant use in western North America. She earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Utah and did an internship at Crow Canyon.

2026 Board & Positions

President: Laney Heath

CO- VP: Pat Riley, Sharon Brennan,
Janet Ford

Secretary: Renee Krebs

Treasurer: Jim Schultz

Membership: Jamie Vavra

CAS Representative: Larry Moore

PAAC Representative: Geoff
Peterson

Trip Coordinators: Alan Green &
Mark Connelly

Members at Large: Evita Schultz,
Anita Stoltman, Scott Wood, Lorna
Reed, Anne Djokic

Newsletter: Mary Grande

Contact Us

Website:

<https://www.casgichapter.org/>

Email: president@casgichapter.org

[Meetup Members Only](#)

Let it Rain



- Next Month's Meeting on October 28, 2026:
Sue Fisher, author, amateur archaeologist and
interpretive tour guide at Chimney Rock National
Monument. Her talk is entitled, "Chimney Rock,
the Ultimate Outlier."
- There are no meetings in November or December.
- The Chipeta Chapter in Montrose lecture schedule
is available at [Chipeta Chapter \(CAS\)](#)

