



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

## DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611  
Washington, Utah 84780

John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Dave Evans - Treasurer
Barbara Bergman - Secretary	Susannah & Mark Nilsson, Board Members
John Macumber, Board Member	Jon Gum - Board Member

### May Meeting

**When:** May 11th @ 7 PM

**Where:** DSC  
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.  
Room 203

**Why:** Ben Everett – DAS member

Ben will speak on “Rock Art as a Window to a Further Reality”.

### New Business

Sue Gum has resigned her position on the DAS board. Sue has been a valued board member and her enthusiasm and experience will be missed.

This, however, creates an opportunity for someone to step forward as assume her position on the board. We are looking for someone who has a passion for rock art and is willing to

work behind the scenes to assist in the running of DAS. Please contact me or any other board member to express your interest.

## Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society web site ([www.dixierockart.webs.com](http://www.dixierockart.webs.com)) is up and running. Please consider signing up as a site member. Site members should receive email updates whenever anything on the site is updated.

Please post your comments on the blog that is part of the site. This site is for you, the members. We'd like to hear what you think.

## Field Trip Report

The April field trip was to the Indian Canyon and Rosy Canyon. Thirteen DAS members joined together for this adventure, Figure 1. (Susan's adventure was more than the rest, but that's a story for her to tell.)



Figure 1 – The group



Figure 2- Canyon overlook



Figure 3 – Canyon Overlook



Figure 4- The group in the Alcove

Indian Canyon is a beautiful place even if it had no rock art. It is a quiet canyon in a juniper / pinion forest (Figures 2-3). The Indian Canyon rock art is located in an alcove, about 250 feet below the canyon rim. It consists of pictographs in white, red, and blue. What is really unique about this site is the subject matter. It consists almost entirely of anthropomorphs, with a few animals interspersed. There are no other rock art symbols. This is essentially a portrait gallery.

Some typical images are shown in Figures 5 – 10. Many of the anthros have what appear to be feathers – ranging from 3 to 7. There are a total of twelve portraits in groups of 3 or 4.



Figure 5 – Portraits - note the Feathers



Figure 6 – Anthros with Feathers



Figure 7 – More Anthros



Figure 8 – Red Figures overwriting White Figures



Figure 9 – Yellow Anthros



Figure 10 - Horse

The age of the pictographs is thought to be from 400 to 1200 AD. However the horse figure dated to at least 1700 AD. It is also thought that the red overwriting in Figure 8 dates to about 75 years ago.

A more complete trip report to Indian Canyon can be found on the website.

Following the trip to Indian Canyon, the group stopped at a site in Rosy Canyon. This site is called the basket site because of the large number of what appear to be burden basket petroglyphs (Figure 11). The baskets appear to upright and full. Other symbols include a hunting scene with bow and arrow, serpents, spirals, portals, and anthros.

The site also included a ruin (Figure 12) with a large room and two smaller rooms. On the ceiling of the large room were pictographs of anthros (Figure 13), including one with a duck on its head. There was also one petroglyph of a basket and two staffs (Figure 14).

There was a large panel to the left of the ruin, that contained an elk with a very large rack or a tree of life together with other symbols (Figure 15).



Figure 11 – The Basket Panel



Figure 12 – The Ruin



Figure 13 – Pictographs on Ceiling of Ruin



Figure 14 – Petroglyph on Ceiling of Ruin



Figure 15 – Panel to the left of the Ruin



Figure 16 – Rosy Canyon Valley

The site faced west and had a very large overlook of the rosy canyon valley. This appears as if would have been a very fertile location; hence the large number of full burden baskets. This also would have been a good place to observe the western sky and horizon.

A more complete trip report to Rosy Canyon can be found on the website.

In summary – perfect weather, great rock art and a wonderful group of people – a perfect field trip.

## Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, **May 21st**. It is scheduled to be to **Paiute Cave and Nampaweap** located on the Arizona Strip. Paiute Cave is a “drive up” site with some scrambling into a lava tube. Nampaweap requires about a ½ mile hike on fairly level ground. High clearance vehicles are required as we will be traveling for many miles on dirt roads. 4-wheel drive vehicles are encouraged. This will be an all day trip so bring food, snacks and lots of water.

**Remember, you must be a member of DAS to participate in a field trip. You must be at the meeting in order to sign up for a field trip.**

# Meeting Report

## “The Legal Framework for the Protection of Cultural Resources”

Gardiner Dalley, archaeologist, retired from the BLM in Cedar City

April 13, 2011



Gardiner Dalley

A core premise is that an archaeologist’s work is important to human society:

- It provides a tie to the past
- It allows us to appreciate past cultures
- It provides lessons from interactions with groups and the natural environment
- It can demonstrate how pressure on local resources can result in adverse consequences

Another core premise is that professional anthropologists and archaeologists need data to help them form theories and conclusions. Cultural anthropologists work with large groups of people or cultures. Physical anthropologists work with human remains. Archaeologists work with non human artifacts. Importantly these artifacts, these must be viewed in-situ so that their context can be known and understood.

A major problem encountered by archaeologists is the absence of surface artifacts. The collecting of artifacts by amateurs destroys a main source of data needed by archaeologists.

Physical or “dirt:” archaeology is a “destroy as you go” profession. You only get one try to excavate and obtain surface artifacts. Gardiner estimates that over 95% of the sites in Washington County have been “dug up” by amateurs, consequently much potential data has been lost or compromised.



Surface artifacts can be extremely important in establishing who was responsible for the site and for dating the site. Surface artifacts can include things like scrapers, grinding implements, projectile points and pottery shards.

Projectile points developed slowly over time, and this development timeline is understood. A projectile point can help date a site to +/- 1000 to 2000 years.

Pottery developed at a much more rapid pace. Pottery shards can help date a location to within 30-50 years. Importantly, the structure of the pottery and its physical appearance (shape, color and design) can also help pinpoint the location where the pottery was manufactured. The location of manufacture combined with the location of the find can help define the movement of people and perhaps trade routes.

Unfortunately, the surface artifacts, or low hanging fruit of archaeology, are absent in many of the sites viewed today. Gardiner attributes this to increased population, increased leisure time and those "DAM ATV'S".

Gardiner summarized some of the legal remedies that can be applied to protect our archaeological resources:

**Antiquities Act of 1906:** Short, sweet and to the point. It was only 1 page long. Importantly, section 2 of this act established National Monuments.

**Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979:** Long and very comprehensive relative to what is covered.

Both of these laws apply to Federal Lands. Utah has corresponding state laws that apply to State Lands. These laws do not apply to private land.

Gardiner said that practically, it is very hard to make a legal case on either of these two laws. Likewise, judges have been reluctant to apply penalties that are specified.

**Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act:** The desecration of a body can apply to Federal, State and Private Land.

In summary, we as DAS members should take Gardiner's message to heart. When we visit a site, we should view the rock art or other site, but not do anything that may disturb the surrounding area, as this may have importance for archaeologists. We should also know our limitations and not get involved in any "digs" unless we are well supervised by a trained archaeologist.

John Mangels

## Thanks

Thanks to Gardiner Dalley for his presentation. Also thanks to Mel Langness for leading the field trip to Indian Canyon and Rosy Canyon and to Sue Gum for initially showing us the way. Thanks also to Keith and Lydia Rhea for their help and patience.

I also want to personally thank Sue Gum for her work on the board. She has helped me by organizing and leading field trips and by showing our field trip committee the location of many sites that we all have enjoyed.

## Final Thoughts

One of our past speakers, Craig Harmon, BLM archaeologist from the Richfield office made both the local and Salt Lake City news.

A group of students from Loa-based Aspen Academy, a wilderness therapy group, contacted authorities after finding an ancient pot under an overhang in Garfield County. Craig Harmon was the person contacted. He said the pot was about 7 inches in diameter and about 3 ½ inches deep (Figure 17).

Craig is contacting Native American Indian tribes (Paiute and Zuni) on what to do with the pot. It is now being held in a vault in Richfield.

Congratulations to the student group for contacting authorities. Craig is now earning his salary for trying to figure out what to do with the find. This is Craig Childs' "Finders Keepers" come to life.



Figure 17

The entire article is on the next page.

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## Bowl

Continued from A1

A.D. 1100 to 1200 by members of the Fremont culture who populated much of Utah at the time.

The wilderness therapy group discovered the bowl while trekking about 300 yards downhill from a settlement site, but Harmon has no idea how it ended up under the rock overhang in a remote and rugged area of the county.

"We'll probably never know how it got there," he said.

Harmon contacted Utah's Paiute tribe and the Zuni tribe in New Mexico for advice on what to do with the bowl, which is now secured

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*It's especially commendable in light of what happened in Blanding a couple of years ago."*

### CRAIG HARMON

Archaeologist with the field office of the BLM in Richfield, referring to the incidents of several residents of the southeastern Utah town for looting artifacts and selling them on the black market.

in a vault in Richfield. He also sent letters to six other Southwestern tribes asking for their input.

The bowl could end up in a museum, or even may be returned to where it was found.



Courtesy photo

# Discovery is ancient but looks brand-new

**Garfield County** » The nearly 1,000-year-old clay bowl was found under a rock overhang.

By **MARK HAVNES**  
The Salt Lake Tribune

Exquisitely shaped nearly 1,000 years ago by Utah inhabitants from gray clay and decorated with bold geometric patterns in black paint, an ancient bowl has been discovered in pristine condition in southeastern Utah.

Participants in Loa-based Aspen Academy, a wilderness therapy group, contacted authorities after making the remarkable find earlier this month under a rock overhang in the northwest region of the Henry Mountains in Garfield County.

"There's not a chip or scratch on it," Craig Harmon, an archaeologist with the field office of the Bureau of Land Management in Richfield, said of the bowl, which is about 7 inches in diameter and 3½ inches deep. There are "just some little hairline stress fractures on the rim from drying. I'm just amazed it's in such good condition."

He believes the bowl, which exhibits Puebloan characters, was made around

Please see **BOWL, A6**



Courtesy photo

This bowl, about 7 inches in diameter and 3.5 inches deep, was found April 11 by students and staff of Loa's Aspen Academy.

Students and staff members who found it did exactly what everyone should do when they find an artifact on public land, BLM spokeswoman Erin Darboven said.

"It's especially commendable in light of what happened in

Blanding a couple of years ago," Harmon added, referring to the federal indictments of several residents of the southeastern Utah town for looting artifacts on public land and selling them on the black market.

"I don't know who they are [the individuals who found the bowl], but if I did, I'd want to shake their hands," he said.

Gil Halloway, Aspen Academy director, said his staff is trained to report any artifact discoveries to authorities.

"We're very proud of them for resisting taking the artifact and leaving it where it was and reporting it to authorities," he said. "This was something significant."

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## Rare artifact found

Participants in a wilderness therapy group earlier this month found a bowl in pristine condition under a rock overhang in Garfield County.



The Salt Lake Tribune

