

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association
Sue Fischer, editor
smfischer@me.com
512-581-1475



August 2025 CRIA Newsletter

From the President of the Board of Directors

Seeking Passionate and Dedicated Individuals to Join the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Board of Directors!

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) stands at the forefront of sharing the profound historical, cultural, and natural significance of Chimney Rock National Monument. As a vital non-profit organization, our mission is to educate the public, foster appreciation, and ensure the careful stewardship of this extraordinary ancestral Puebloan site and its breathtaking surrounding landscape. To achieve these ambitious goals, the strength, diversity, and dedication of our Board of Directors are absolutely paramount.



We have an immediate opening for a board position, offering an opportunity for someone to step in and begin contributing to our efforts right away. Furthermore, a valued member of our board will be concluding their term in October, creating a second significant opportunity for a new voice and perspective to enrich our strategic direction. These are not merely vacancies; they are invitations to become an integral part of CRIA.



Serving on the CRIA Board of Directors is a profoundly rewarding experience that offers a unique chance to directly influence the educational programming and interpretive efforts at Chimney Rock National Monument. Board members play a crucial role in shaping our strategic vision, overseeing financial health, guiding our outreach efforts, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of CRIA. It's an opportunity to apply your skills in a meaningful way, contributing to the ongoing success of a site that holds immense spiritual and historical importance.

Ideal candidates will bring enthusiasm and a collaborative spirit. Beyond specific professional backgrounds, we are seeking individuals who simply possess a deep love for Chimney Rock National Monument, a respect for its heritage, and a genuine desire to contribute to its future. Whether you are a

seasoned professional or an emerging leader, if you are looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community and to a nationally significant site, we encourage you to explore this opportunity.

If you are personally interested in volunteering your time and talents to become a part of the CRIA Board, or if you know someone within your network who you believe would be an excellent fit for our Board of Directors, please do not hesitate to reach out. We welcome inquiries and are eager to share more about the responsibilities, expectations, and the incredible rewards of board service. Prospective candidates for this role are not required to be current CRIA volunteers. The search for qualified individuals extends beyond our existing volunteer base, ensuring a broad and diverse pool of applicants.

For more information about these open positions, or to discuss how your unique skills could contribute to CRIA, please contact me, Jill Sutton, jpatsut104@gmail.com or text/call 719-581-0337. I would be happy to treat you to lunch and provide a detailed overview of board duties.

Jill Sutton, CRIA Board President

A Magical Peregrine Falcon Encounter Over the Fourth of July Weekend



Magical is just the way Juergen Goldmann described his amazing peregrine falcon encounter on July 6th. Juergen was acting as roving interpreter when a young boy from Austin and his family arrived at the top. The parents had mentioned to the Mesa Host that the boy was interested in birds and was hoping to see the peregrine falcons flying around. Shortly after they arrived up top, a Peregrine perched on the large rock beyond the fire tower foundation. The falcon sat there for several minutes while Juergen assisted

the young boy in getting a bit closer. The perched falcon screeched while several other falcons were flying around in the background. The parents were amazed by the connection between their son's interest and the falcon's behavior. It seems that Juergen continues to have the "magic touch" with our guests 😊. FYI, volunteers and rangers have noted that there are now four falcons flying around, so it appears our nesting pair of adults are well on their way towards completing their parental duties for the summer.



David Bouquet

Mark Your Calendar!



The fundraising committee has just announced that our fall fundraiser will be on Thursday, September 11th – just before our Major Lunar Standstill events on September 13 and 14. It will be held at the Liberty Theater. Special guest will be Anna Sofaer from Santa Fe showing one of her films and sharing an interactive model of her Sun Dagger site work. The evening will include cocktails and appetizers plus a variety of door prizes. More details coming but make sure you have it on your calendar **NOW!**

Denise Fisk
CRIA Fundraising Chairman

The CRIA Lecture Series

The CRIA Lecture Series continues in August featuring “**The Chaco Phenomenon**,” a captivating three-part program that explores the rise, influence, and legacy of the Ancestral Puebloan Chaco Culture - and its enduring connection to Chimney Rock National Monument. The free series will take place over three consecutive Fridays in August at **6:00 PM, at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**. Doors will open at 5:45 PM. Each lecture will feature a distinguished expert in Southwestern archaeology and anthropology.

Lecture 1: Chaco Canyon – Its Origins, People, and History: Friday, August 15 at 6:00 pm

Presented by **G.B. Cornucopia**, retired National Park Service archaeologist and long-time interpretive ranger at Chaco Canyon, this talk will trace the roots of the Chacoan culture, from its early inhabitants and monumental architecture to its peak influence and eventual decline. Cornucopia, a pioneer in Chaco's astronomy programs, brings decades of field experience and a passion for ancient skywatching traditions.

Lecture 2: The Chaco Culture – Its Influence, Outliers, & Decline: Friday, August 22 at 6:00 pm

Join **Tori Myers**, Executive Director of the Salmon Ruins Museum, as she delves into the geographic and cultural reach of the Chacoan world. Myers will discuss the intricate network of outlier communities such as Chimney Rock, as well as the social, religious, and linguistic ties that bound them to Chaco Canyon. Her work emphasizes both scientific archaeology and the storytelling power of artifacts and cultural memory.

Lecture 3: Chimney Rock – The Ultimate Outlier: Friday, August 29 at 6:00 pm

Presented by **Dr. Susan Ryan**, Executive Vice President of Research at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, this lecture focuses on Chimney Rock itself — its villages and associated structures and artifacts, cultural identity, and the role it played within the Chacoan sphere. Dr. Ryan's work highlights the broader implications of archaeological study in understanding community formation and the relationship between people and the environment.

The lecture is free so be sure to tell your family, friends and neighbors. Please help support the Methodist Church's Food Pantry by bringing some non-perishable packaged or canned food goods as a donation.

Ernie Otoole, Organizer

WRAP UP OF YOUTH WORKSHOPS



CRIA's final two youth workshops were held on July 8 and 22. On July 8 our topic was nature and how to capture that through nature journaling and included a hike on the nature trail. We had a special guest: Arleen Prochaska (left) from pagosaweather.org. She had our young people looking at the clouds to see what kind of influence they had on nature. Then we split our group of 13 in half with Gloria helping them make clay ocarinas (whistles) while Joanne's group made Styrofoam prints about nature. Our last workshop was held on July 22nd with a

whopping 16 young people in attendance! This workshop focused on the lives of our ancient Puebloans and after a hike of the Mesa Village and lunch, we had a special guest who drove in from Farmington to be with us. Tully Hayes (right), professional sand painter, attended our Life at Chimney Rock Festival and was asked if he would consider showing off his skills at a youth workshop and helping our young people create their own sand painting. He kindly said yes! And so sand paintings were made by all. Then at the end of the workshop, in accordance to Navajo custom, the group made a large sand painting on a tablecloth while singing as each person added sand to the work of art. From all the teachers at the Youth Workshop Program we wish you all a good rest of your summer!



Denise Fisk
Program Organizer

CRIA Volunteers Needed for MLS, September 13 and 14



The current Major Lunar Standstill cycle will close at the end of this year. To ensure this special lunar phenomena is available for public viewing, CRIA and the USFS have agreed to host two MLS events in the CRNM Amphitheater on the nights of September 13 and 14. Similar to what we did at last year's MLS events, we need CRIA Volunteers at the site to assist with entry, parking, and seating our guests. Astronomers from Griffith Observatory in Los

Angeles and Fiske Observatory at UC-Boulder will again be with us to inform our guests about the unique aspects of the MLS, as well as to capture the image of the moon rising between the pinnacles and transmit it to the amphitheater. Any volunteers willing to accommodate the visiting experts from the observatories for two nights would also be welcomed.

Saturday, September 13: Already sold out!

8:30 pm: Volunteers arrive CRNM
9:30 pm: Gate Opens
10:45 pm: Program commences
11:29 pm: Moonrise

Sunday, September 14

9:30 pm: Volunteers arrive CRNM
10:30 pm: Gate Opens
11:45 pm: Program Commences
12:30 am: Moonrise

As these events will be the final public ones during this 18.6 year MLS cycle, we want to make them the best we can and can only do so with the full support of our great CRIA volunteers. Please let our Office Manager Kelly know how you can assist.

Tony Aldwell



Full Moon and Flute Music at Twilight



The July programs went very well. Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the programs.

The August Full Moon is Saturday, August 9. The program is at 7:45 and moon rise is at 8:45.

The August Flute Music at Twilight is Saturday, August 23. The program is from 6:00 to 8:00.

More details will be sent to those on the volunteer lists for those programs. All volunteers are welcome.

Susan Yalom sueyal@yahoo.com cell: 970-731-1091

Did You Know?

Not all grizzly bears are the same. Coastal grizzly bears (see photo) are referred to as Brown Bears, although they are the same species (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) as the inland grizzly, which are referred to as Grizzly Bears. Brown Bears are generally larger and darker in color than Grizzly Bears because of differences in diets. Brown Bears eat a considerable amount of coastal sedges (grass-like vegetation), along with a little clam, until the salmon run in late summer. Grizzly bears are also omnivorous but prefer mammals and will even take down moose. Brown Bears tend to congregate in larger groups and are semi-social while Grizzly Bears are solitary. Brown Bears are found in the Katmai and Lake Clark National Parks while the inland Grizzly inhabits more mountainous regions. Kodiak bears are a subspecies (*U. a. middendorffi*) because they have been isolated on Kodiak Island for so long. They are also the largest, with males weighing over 1,000 lbs and are the most aggressive toward humans, largely because they are very carnivorous.

