

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association
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September 2025 CRIA Newsletter

From the President of the Board of Directors

August has drawn to a close, marking the end of an exceptionally busy month for our association. We've been diligently preparing for the highly anticipated Major Lunar Standstill events, with plans for two in September and one in October now nearing completion. The enthusiasm for these celestial gatherings has been overwhelming, evidenced by the fact that the first MLS event in September is already completely sold out! This incredible response truly underscores the community's interest in astronomical phenomena and our efforts to bring these experiences to everyone.



In addition to our astronomical endeavors, the fundraising committee has been hard at work, orchestrating a truly special event. They've organized a lovely fundraising evening featuring Anna Sofaer at the historic Liberty Theater. This promises to be an enlightening and engaging experience, offering both educational insights and, of course, plenty of fun. Events like these are crucial for supporting our initiatives and allowing us to continue providing valuable programs to the community.



On a personal note, and it bears repeating, I am profoundly thankful for the tireless dedication of all our volunteers. Their selfless commitment of time and energy is what truly allows our association to run smoothly and effectively. Without their unwavering support, much of what we accomplish would simply not be possible. Their contributions are the lifeblood of our organization.

Beyond the immediate happenings of our association, I recently had the privilege of listening to Robin Wall Kimmerer's insightful book, *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. Through her observations of harvesting serviceberries alongside the birds, she deeply explores the ethic of reciprocity that forms the very core of the gift economy.

Kimmerer compellingly asks: How can we, as a society, learn from indigenous wisdom and the profound lessons offered by the plant world to reimagine what we truly value? Our current economic system, she argues, is deeply rooted in principles of scarcity, intense competition, and the hoarding of resources. This paradigm has led us to surrender our intrinsic values to a system that, regrettably, actively harms the very things we hold dear.

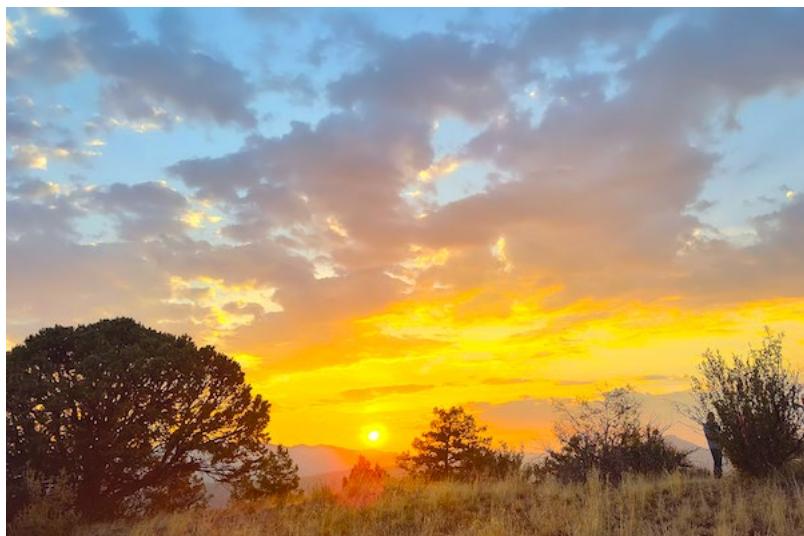


In stark contrast, the serviceberry's inherent relationship with the natural world beautifully embodies the principles of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude. This remarkable tree freely distributes its wealth – its abundant yield of sweet, juicy berries – to meet the diverse needs of its natural community. And, critically, this generous distribution ensures the serviceberry's own continued survival and flourishing. As Kimmerer eloquently explains, "Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency." This profound insight offers a powerful alternative to our conventional economic thinking, urging us to consider a more harmonious and sustainable way of interacting with each other and with the natural world.

Jill Sutton, CRIA Board President

Office Notes

Hi Volunteers,



We now have a date set for our Annual Meeting! It will be held Friday, October 24th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 434 Lewis Street, in Pagosa Springs. This event will be a potluck, so please bring a delicious main dish, side dish, or dessert. We will have an overview of the 2025 season, with Special Program numbers reported, volunteer hours and miles reported, and Volunteer awards.

We hope to see all of you there!

Please note that my working hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Tuesdays is the only day I am in the CRIA office from 9:00 to 3:00, and the other two days I work from home. The office is still open on Thursdays from about 10:00 to 3:00.

It is so wonderful to see the recent rain!

Kelly Ball, Office Manager

One More MLS Public Event: USFS and CRIA Agree to Host viewing on Saturday, October 11

in light of the strong public response to our September MLS events, USFS, CRIA, and our partners at Griffith and UC-Boulder have agreed to conduct one final MLS Viewing on Saturday evening, October 11. With the moonrise at 10:20 pm and a 75% illumination of the moon, we expect another sizable audience for what will be the final public MLS event in the current 18.6 MLS cycle.

CRIA Volunteers have really stepped up for the September 13 and 14 events such that we now have enough volunteers to support these two late night events. With the decision to proceed with the October 11 Viewing, we now seek CRIA volunteers to assist with hosting that event.



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 in their homes for two nights in September or October 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 ([99+ so far](#))

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



Saturday, October 11: [Soon to be announced](#) on [recreation.gov](#) and local media

7:30 pm: Volunteers arrive CRNM
8:30 pm: Gate Opens
9:30 pm: Program commences
10:20 pm: 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 CIRA volunteers. Please let Office Manager Kelly know how you can assist.

Tony Aldwell

Full Moon and Flute Music at Twilight



at 6:45pm.

The August programs went very well. Full Moon was on the 9th and Flute Music at Twilight was on the 23rd, and both of those evenings turned out to have great weather and views. We also had good attendance to both programs. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

The September Full Moon program is on Sunday, September 7th. The program is at 6:30 pm, moon rise at 7:30 pm. The final Full Moon is Monday, October 6th, program at 5:45 pm and moon rise

The final Flute Music program is on Saturday, September 27. This program runs from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

I will be sending out more info to the volunteers who have signed up to help. All volunteers are welcome.

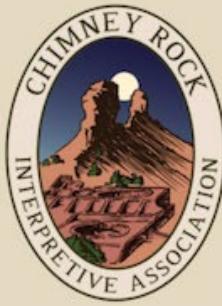
Susan Yalom sueyal@yahoo.com cell: 970-731-1091

School Week in October

There are 3 school groups coming in October. On Wednesday, October 8th, there is a group of 4th graders coming from Park Elementary in Durango. On Thursday the 9th, there is a group of 6th graders coming from Mountain Middle School in Durango. There is also a small group of 6th, 7th and 8th graders coming on Friday, October 10th from Ignacio. I will send more details to the volunteers who have helped with School Week. All volunteers are welcome to help.

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

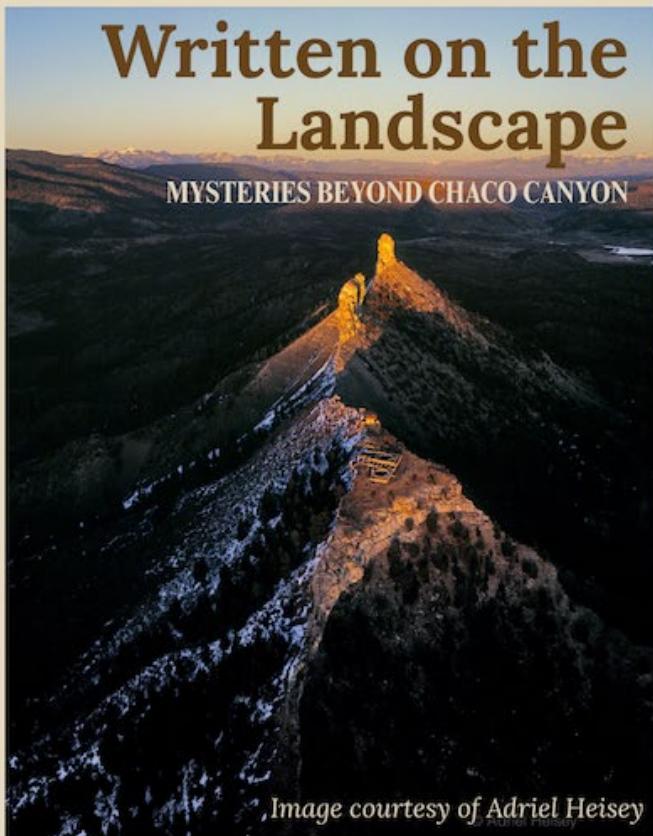




CHIMNEY ROCK INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION



MOVIE FUNDRAISER



**Thursday
September 11
2025**

5:00-6:30PM

Light Appetizers Provided
Cash Bar at Caldwell's Bar
Silent Auction Bidding

6:30-7:30PM

Movie - *Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon*

7:30-8:30PM

Sun Dagger Explorer Demonstation
and Q & A with Anna Sofaer

8:30PM

Silent Auction results announced

TICKETS: \$30 PER INDIVIDUAL / \$50 PER COUPLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PAGOSAMOVIES.COM

LIBERTY THEATRE: 418 PAGOSA ST, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147

Buy your tickets NOW and mark your calendar!

Forest Service

Hello CRIA,

Cody and Anita called in the Little Devil fire to Durango Dispatch last month, as we saw it blooming from the Fire Tower base at Chimney Rock. It was quickly extinguished, but several other fires have started in the area since then. Even with the recent rainfall, it's crispy out there, so please be careful! As of August 8, we are in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, across the entirety of the San Juan National Forest. Stage 2 Fire Restrictions prohibit igniting, building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal barbecue, or grill, except if using a device solely fueled by liquid or gas that can be turned on and off in an area barren or cleared of all flammable materials within three feet of the device. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, is also prohibited.



Major Lunar Standstill livestream events start in a few short weeks! We're excited to invite back our friends from Griffith Observatory, CU Boulder, and Stonehenge. The events are sure to be enlightening and engaging.

Thanks, as always, for your partnership.

**San Juan National Forest
Forest Service**

Did You Know?

Native American cultures hold the moon in high regard, viewing it as a powerful celestial body with spiritual and practical significance. Many tribes associate the moon with keeping time, seasonal changes, and important events, using its phases to guide planting, harvesting and ceremonies. Moon names, specific to each tribe, often reflect events in the seasonal cycle,

such as the arrival of specific plants or animals, the weather or agricultural activities. Some names describe what is observed in nature during that particular time. For example, the Tewa speaking Pueblos have names like “Planting Moon” or “Seed Moon” for spring and a “Harvest moon” or “Corn Moon” for autumn. The Zuni have a “Cold Moon” in December; it is “the sun has traveled home to rest” moon. The Towa speaking Jemez names for full moons are not available to the public. The Jemez Pueblo has a deeply traditional culture and do not allow their language to be transcribed or publicly shared. This includes names or cycles tied to their ceremonial calendars. Many of the Native American moon names found in popular almanacs are Algonquin in origin and were often adopted or altered by early colonial settlers and are not reflective of the spiritual and seasonal calendars of the Southwestern Pueblos.

