Center moves up to #3 on TripAdvisor

TripAdvisor® is the world’s largest travel site. TripAdvisor offers trusted advice from real travelers. While the number of reviews of the Center is small, the ratings given by visitors has moved us to #3 of 8 Camp Verde area attractions. When you bring visitors to the Center, encourage them to give us a review.

Arizona Gives Day on March 20

Arizona Gives Day is a day for Arizonans to come together to make donations to as many nonprofits as possible in 24 hours. On March 20, 2013, from 12:00 am to 11:59 pm, supporters of Arizona nonprofits will go online, connect with causes they care about, and make tax-deductible donations. Supporters will search for participating nonprofits and simply click to donate. The donation stays local and helps our nonprofit community provide much needed services in the state of Arizona. On March 20 please consider going to http://azgives.org/ and make a contribution to the Center.

Two Magnificent Silent Auction Donations

The Center has received two very generous donations of items for a silent auction. World-renowned Sedona artist Joella Jean Mahoney, a Center member, has donated an original oil painting. The painting, entitled “Canyon View” in her Southwest Landscape series, is 17.5”x21.5”. Her work is internationally known through the Art in the Embassies Program, sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Her work has been in numerous exhibits including an annual New York show and 50-year retrospectives at the Kolb Museum, the West Valley Art Museum, and the Museum of Northern Arizona. The starting bid is $2,500. The painting is on display in the Center.

The next item is a “Jerome Unit” at Los Abrigados Resort & Spa. This is a one bedroom unit for up to four persons. It is a “floating” week to be used anytime during the year, not a specific week. It may be booked for any combination of days aggregating to seven days per year. An owner may rent additional time based upon availability. In addition, the week may be banked with another organization at another location in the exchange catalogue. The timeshare is worth $12,000. The annual fee for maintenance for 2013 is $880.43 and has been paid. The current owner will pay the transfer fee and all costs of drawing up the transfer deed, recording the deed, and submitting the transfer documentation to Diamond Resorts. The starting bid is $500.

The auction for these two items is open through March 30. Bids can be mailed to the Center, dropped off, or emailed to treasurer@verdevalleyarchaeology.org. Please put “Silent Auction” on your envelope or email Subject line.

2013 Verde Valley Archaeology Fair

The Verde Valley Archaeology Fair will be held on March 30-31, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the Camp Verde Community Center. We will have exhibits and demonstrations, as well as Archaeology for Kids activities. This year we will take advantage of our new location to hold archaeology lectures and workshops in our Learning Center. The International Archaeology Film Festival will feature films on Saturdays in March starting at 7:00 pm in the Camp Verde Auditorium Theater. The March 16 films are free.

The Center Joins Reciprocal Museums

The Center has joined the North American Reciprocal Museum program, a nationwide consortium of museum that offer its members at the $100+ level, admission and gift shop discounts at all 647 institutions. If you are a $100+ member and do not have the gold label on your membership card, please contact us and we will send it along.

Center Announces Executive Appointments

The Board of Directors has announced two executive appointments. Ken Zoll has been named the Executive Director. Ken will manage the Center’s day-to-day operations including docent training, fundraising and various administrative duties such as membership processing. Todd Bostwick, PhD, RPA, has accepted the position of Director of Archaeology. Todd will oversee all archaeological aspects of the Center and its programs including planning, implementing and supervising all field, research laboratory and curation operations. In addition, the Center will be hiring some part-time administrative assistants to keep up with the growing membership and program activities.
The first quarter of the new year has passed like a whirlwind. So much has happened to move the Center ever forward. The Board of Directors is solidifying some short and long term goals to insure our continued growth.

Of the many accomplishments so far this year, some particularly stand out. The Center opened a new exhibit in January to a packed crowd. The exhibit was a collection of items from the Honanki Site. These items have never been on display before and are very impressive. I would urge anyone who has not seen them to take the time to come and visit and bring your friends. As part of this exhibit the members were treated to a special “Member Only” opening with a narrative of the items by Peter Pilles, Coconino National Forest Archaeologist.

The Center is pleased to announce that the position of Executive Director has been filled by Ken Zoll. Ken has been the driving force behind the Center since its inception and has served as Treasurer. He will be replaced as Treasurer by Scott Newth. At the position of Director of Archaeology will be Dr. Todd Bostwick. Dr. Bostwick was instrumental in bringing the first Sinagua Symposium to the Verde Valley and putting the Center on the proverbial map as a recognized archaeological entity with the archaeological community. These two positions are a big plus as we embark on our endeavor to become an accredited institution.

The Center has offered many courses this quarter, that include, Flint Knapping, Mapping and Survey, Prehistoric Astronomy, and Pottery Analysis. The Center will continue to offer more. Besides the courses at the Center, a group of dedicated volunteers continue with the outreach program to our schools. It is exciting to see the response they are receiving from the children. The education we are providing goes to fulfilling our mission.

Our partnership with the Coconino National Forest continues. We have been tasked with the responsibility of surveying Wingfield Mesa. Peter Pilles and Travis Bone, the Coconino National Forest Archaeologists, gave us a class on Mapping and Survey and it was well attended. Our conference room was packed with enthusiastic members. We will begin our survey work shortly. The project is one that the Forest Service has been trying to get accomplished for many years. If you were not able to attend this class, we will have another in the future, so others can be involved with this project.

We also had our first Docent Training class which was a big success. We will be having more docent training classes and I urge you to become involved. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and if you are not volunteering now I encourage you to take the time to offer your service. Training will be provided in any number of programs. Just come in and talk to one of the members volunteering at the Center and let them know you want to become involved and you will be contacted.

As always I want to thank each and every one of you for making the Center a success. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions and comments to improve the Center.

Archaeology Fair and Film Festival Volunteers Needed

The Center will host our annual International Film Festival on the first four Saturdays of March, and the Verde Valley Archaeology Fair on March 30-31. Volunteers are needed for both events. If you can spare a few hours, contact us at center@verdevalleyarchaeology.org.
As part of various events to usher in the Millennium, the U.S. Congress authorized the “Save America’s Treasures” grant program to fund repairs and improvements to “nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites.” One of the first 15 grants awarded was to the Coconino National Forest to stabilize and interpret the cliff dwellings of Honanki.

Archaeological research in the Red Rocks country near Sedona began in the late 1800’s by Dr. Jesse Walter Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institution. Using Hopi words he named Honanki (Bear House) and Palatki (Red House), even though the Hopi have no specific traditions or names for these two sites. He first visited Honanki in 1895-96 and did the first excavations here in 1913. Fewkes predicted the tourism to come when he stated: “This place, I have no doubt, will sooner or later become popular with the sightseer, and I regard the discovery of these cliffs as one of the most interesting of my summer’s field work.” Honanki originally stood two stories tall in places and has about 40 ground floor rooms. As one of the largest sites of its day (A.D. 1150-1300), this time period is referred to as the Honanki Phase of the Southern Sinagua occupation of the Verde Valley.

Honanki is significant because:
- It is one of the largest cliff dwelling in the Verde Valley, second only to Montezuma castle in size.
- It is the premier, definitive example of the Honanki Phase of the Sinagua of the Verde Valley.
- It has the largest and most diverse collection of prehistoric pictographs in the Verde Valley. Over 2,000 elements document almost every stage of human occupation of the Verde Valley from perhaps as early as 11,500 B.C.
- It is associated with one of the most legendary and controversial figures in Southwest archaeology, Dr. Jesse Walter Fewkes, who first described and mapped the site in 1895.
- The preservation of perishable artifacts, as seen in the Center’s exhibit, is outstanding.

The preservation of perishable artifacts, in the Center’s newest exhibit, is remarkable. More examples of prehistoric cordage, basketry and weaving textiles have been recovered from Honanki than from any other site in the Verde Valley. Since all of such objects are composed entirely of perishable plant and animal materials, few textile and basketry materials have survived. At Honanki, for example, only about 120 textile fragments were recovered. Consequently, relatively little is known about the development and changes in perishable technologies through time. Our understanding of prehistoric Pueblo textiles and basketry is almost entirely based on materials found in dry caves, only a few of which have ever been scientifically excavated. Peter J. Pilles, Jr., Coconino National Forest Archaeologist who directed the project, has prepared the Center collection and the Forest Service has provided it to the Center for exhibit as a temporary loan.

Currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service under the Red Rock Pass Program, the site is open to the general public for visits seven days a week (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take Hwy. 89A through West Sedona and continue past the last traffic light for five miles. Just past mile marker 365, turn right onto Forest Road 525. Follow Forest Road 525 for 9.5 miles. There is no drinking water at the site, and usually no interpreter.
The Verde Valley Archaeology Center would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous support received in the past 12 months:

**Patron Members and Gifts of at least $1,000**
- Dr. & Mrs. A. Dean Campbell
- James and Diane Graceffa
- Ken Kämmerle and Linda Guarino
- Stan and Sue Loft
- Joella Jean Mahoney
- Scott and Daniela Newth
- Sharon and Norm Olson
- Jo Parish
- RJ and Jeanne Smith
- Larry Watkins
- Ken and Nancy Zoll

**Business Members**
- The Horn Saloon ($1,000)
- Tours of Jerome ($500)

**Gifts of at least $500**
- Michael and Lydia Baumann
- Todd and Heidi Bostwick
- Robert and Jane Everts
- Bill and Justine Kusner
- Paul and Phyllis Lindberg
- C. A. McDonald Family

**Life Members and Gifts of $350 to $499**
- Sally and Thom Alcoze
- Barbara Cregier
- Frank and Karen Geminden
- Bruce & Patricia George
- Kris Van Gorkom

**Patron Members and Gifts of at least $500**
- Robert Jonas
- Mike Lamb
- Kristine Moehringer
- Robert Whiting
- Bob and Debbie Wych
- Kurt Starbuck and Roberta Stockman
- Marshall and Jane Whitmire
- Kathy and Peter Wege
- Rick and Julie Zabor

**Coming Events**

- **March 19** - Quarterly Meeting and Presentation - 7:00 pm
  Speaker Andy Seagle who will talk about the discoveries in Tim's Cave.
  Location: Sedona Campus, Yavapai College.

- **April 21** - Archaeology Sunday - 2:00 pm
  Dr. Ron Krug will talk on "Before the Sinagua: Paleo- and Archaic-Indian Occupation of the Verde Valley."

- **May 21** - Quarterly Meeting and Presentation - 7:00 pm

**Become a member** to help protect the ancient cultural heritage of the Verde Valley. Visit us at www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org to join online or download an application, or stop by the Center.