



Verde Valley Archaeologist

A Quarterly Publication of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center



Ribbon Cutting at New Building

The Center began a regular schedule starting March 5. The Center is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Noon to 4:00 pm on Sundays, with last admittance at 3:00 pm, and closed on Mondays. Admission fees are \$10 for those 18-64, \$5 for those over 64, and free to children and teens under 18. Members are always free.

The “official” Grand Opening ceremonies were held on March 19-20. It is estimated that almost 300 people came in on March 19 and another 150 on Sunday. Many came to see the building, listen to the series of lectures that were being held, while some came to look through the Native American artist exhibits in the parking lot. The weekend was considered a very successful opening of the Center.



On Saturday the festivities continued into the evening with world hoop champion Tony Duncan and his family entertaining the audience at the Phillip England Center for the Performing Arts with his signature hoop dancing and storytelling. Thanks to the hard work of members Colleen and Kris Baldwin, this was followed on Sunday afternoon with a Grand Ole Opry style concert by 20 local musicians as a benefit concert. Both events were well received by an enthusiastic audience.

Since the Grand Opening, visitor numbers have been increasing as word of the Center has spread on social media.



Member Behind-the-Scenes Tour

The Center has extensive cultural and fine arts holdings, but only a small portion is on display. Starting the **First Wednesday** of June, and every month thereafter, we are scheduling a Members-Only behind-the-scenes tour of the Collection Center to see something beyond the average tourist offering. Besides viewing collections, you will find out about their life behind the scenes – how artifacts are processed into the collection and what current projects are underway or planned. You can also find out how to care for your own family heirlooms.

No reservations are necessary. The First Wednesday tours will usually be led by Director of Collections Jeff King. The Collection Center will be open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for these monthly member-only tours.

Letter from the President



Greetings!

We did it! The Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum is now open to visitors six days a week. We had our soft opening Thanksgiving weekend with minimal exhibits on display. Since then we have had a members-only opening for the Dyck Retrospective on March 4 with our Grand Opening the weekend of March 19-20.

The Dyck Retrospective was the result of several months of work by our Deputy Director, Monica Buckle, working with the Paul Dyck Foundation Research Institution of American Indian Culture.

It featured loaned Paul Dyck paintings from the Tucson Museum of Art, the Scottsdale Museum of the West, the Dyck Foundation and a private collector. In addition, the Dyck Foundation contributed memorabilia which is on display.

The Grand Opening coincided with Camp Verde's Wine and Pecan Festival. Hundreds of people came through the museum. It was great exposure resulting in many new memberships and donations. The Native American market outside the museum featured Hopi and Yavapai Apache jewelry, pottery and weaving artists.

Another new and exciting offering of VVAC will be the Storytellers Cinema showcasing Archaeology and Indigenous Films every October in association with International Archaeology Day. We are soliciting short films to be screened and selected for this coming October.

Behind the scenes, the lab volunteers under the supervision of archaeologist Kathryn Turney, curator Jeffrey King, and Jim Graceffa, are enjoying their new space.

Visit our website to see all of the activities currently being offered. There are lectures on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. You can attend in person or on Zoom. Future lectures will be recorded and put on YouTube. Several classes are also scheduled for the next couple of months: Rock Art of the Verde Valley, Archaeology of Sedona and the Verde Valley, and Ancient Astronomy of Arizona. In addition, guided hikes are scheduled every month.

A call was put out for volunteers willing to act as greeters and docents. Many people responded and have gone through orientation. More are needed to stay open six days a week and allow staff to focus on making our museum even better!

As you can see, staff at VVAC have been VERY busy. They have put in long hours putting together the exhibits, planning events, and being in the Center to meet and greet visitors. We are getting a steady stream of visitors and membership is up close to 30% over a year ago. We are so grateful to those of you who have stood by us these past couple of years and those of you who have been generous donors. We could not have done it without you. Now that we are open, we continue to need your support for our daily operations. Going from 3,000 square feet to over 10,000 and adding staff to support our volunteer Executive Director costs money. There are many ways to provide support – donations are always welcome; naming rights are still available; sponsor a brick for our Donor Patio; tell your friends about us; write reviews on Tripadvisor and Google; select us as your charity on Amazon smile; renew and upgrade your membership!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Cheri Meyerhofer



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NATIVE AMERICAN GARDEN & PATHWAY

Spring Garden

Rob Estrada

Spring is the most active time of the year for any gardener, and the activities at the Verde Valley Archaeology Ancestral Garden are no different. This year we had to contend with new construction on the parcels adjoining our land on Homestead Parkway, the development of a new dry farm project, the addition of three new volunteers, and a spring frost in the middle of April.

During the new moon of March, I decided to begin sowing an early plot of corn to get a lead on the possibility of an early monsoon season. We covered the plot with plastic sheeting to avoid losing the sprouts to the likelihood of nighttime freezing temperatures in March. Our friends at Verde River Growers delivered three large Single Seed Junipers to the property the following week. With the new, housing development next door, it became apparent that there would be a need for additional screening from the backyards of the new residents. The Junipers would add that additional privacy for both properties. Ray Floyd, the president of 'The Old Guys,' organized a crew of eight of his community volunteers, along with a loader loaned to us by the City of Camp Verde. 'The Old Guys' spent the entire morning planting the three large trees, which was quite a labor-intensive project.



This spring, our visitors will see an authentic Indigenous, dry farm located on two quadrants of the Northern portion of the Homestead property. We have been most fortunate to receive the consulting from **Ahkima Honyumtwea**, from the Third Mesa of Hopi. Ahkima prides himself on implementing the traditional



dry farming techniques passed down to him through many generations of his ancestors. Along with our new volunteers, **Matt and Courtney Schneider**, **Derek Nadvornick**, and **Donna Ullner**, we cleared and thinned two groves of mesquite trees. After Courtney finished using a rustic plowing device, Ahkima proceeded to sow



Rob Estrada and Ahkima Honyumtwea stand in the newly cleared plot for a traditional dry farming garden.

white corn kernels traditionally by burying eight to twelve kernels a foot deep and about a yard apart. While clearing the brush, Matt Schneider discovered a fine example of a small game, obsidian point, with an intact stem. Over the following week, I planted five rows of lima beans. We began propagating Hopi Melons consistent with the method used at Third Mesa by germinating the seeds in small pots before transplanting them to the field.

Most importantly, educators and horticulture enthusiasts will no longer need to travel three hours and obtain a tribal escort to see an example of dry farming, which will now be available right here in the Verde Valley.

Unfortunately, I decided to remove the plastic sheeting from the irrigated corn a mere five days before we suffered a late frost in the middle of April. Some of the indigenous flowers that seeded naturally and a third of the corn succumbed to the frigid temperatures. We have since replanted these plots.



THE YAVAPAI - APACHE NATION

The Yavapai-Apache Nation has been represented on the Verde Valley Archaeology Center's Advisory Council since 2011. We are pleased to dedicate this issue to the history of the Nation. The text in these pages is taken, with permission, from "A Short History of the Yavapai-Apache Nation" written by Vincent Randall, Apache Cultural Director and Christopher Coder, Tribal Archaeologist.

The modern Yavapai-Apache Nation is the combination of two distinct Tribal People: the northeast Yavapai (also known sometimes as the Yavape'), some Wikkapaya, Tolkapaya, and Kewevkapaya People, and the Dilzhe'e Apache often referred to in books and movies as Tontos or Tonto Apache. Both ancestral tribes lived in the Verde Valley and the surrounding country for centuries. The Dilzhe'e lived mostly east of, and the Yavapai mostly west of, the Verde River, but they overlapped on both sides when they needed to. Along the river, Yavapai and Apache families shared resources and even intermarried.

There is lots of talk about who was here first. Technically, Yuman-speaking people, like the Yavapai, the Hualapai and the Mohave have been in the desert Southwest for thousands of years, and the Apaches for not quite as long. But it really does not matter too much because both tribes were in this region for so long that it is considered the original homeland for the Yavapai and Dilzhe'e Apaches alike.

Because both tribes have been here for so long, there are no stories about coming from other places. All people move around when they are forced to for a lot of different reasons: drought, invasion, lack of resources or simply believing the

grass is greener over there. Their ancestors were so successful right here in this country that they stayed until being forced to go to San Carlos in 1875 after centuries of living successfully in the Verde Valley and surrounding country.

Both groups lived with a light hand and silent step on the landscape, leaving barely a trace for anyone to find later. Families and groups of families (bands) moved seasonally following the resources in a pattern that had been successful for centuries. Here is where the agave is best in the spring, here is where the acorn is ready in August, here is where the pinyon and deer are in October, here is where we camp in winter, here is where we go for the summer after we plant the corn and melons, etc.

Balance between understanding the natural world and what was needed to survive out on the landscape was the formula for success. Even though families moved with the seasons, the People were rooted to particular places on the landscape by clan affiliations. These connections came down through the mother and the father's line and were reinforced by alliances with other families when help was needed. Everybody knew where they came from, who they were related to, and who they could count on.

The Elders knew where the plant medicines were, they knew the best locations for the right stones for tools, and they had other critical knowledge such as where to find salt, where the best mineral paints and pigments were, or where a special event had happened years before and the lesson that it told. In those days, daily life out on the landscape was school and the Elders were the teachers.

There was no messing around about knowledge then. You either learned what you were taught so you could have the skills to raise your own family, take care of the elderly and feed them, or you didn't learn. In which case you either starved or were exiled because you served no purpose to your People. It was not an option to be lazy. Everybody had to participate in their own survival and help their relatives when called upon. Everybody depended upon everyone else being responsible. If one person did not hold up their end, then everyone in the family suffered.

Personal discipline was critical to the survival of everyone. Life was good, but hard. There were rules for sure, but they were not written down, only spoken. People were tough, mentally and physically, because they had to be. They are very



Yavapai and Apache Original Homelands



THE YAVAPAI - APACHE NATION

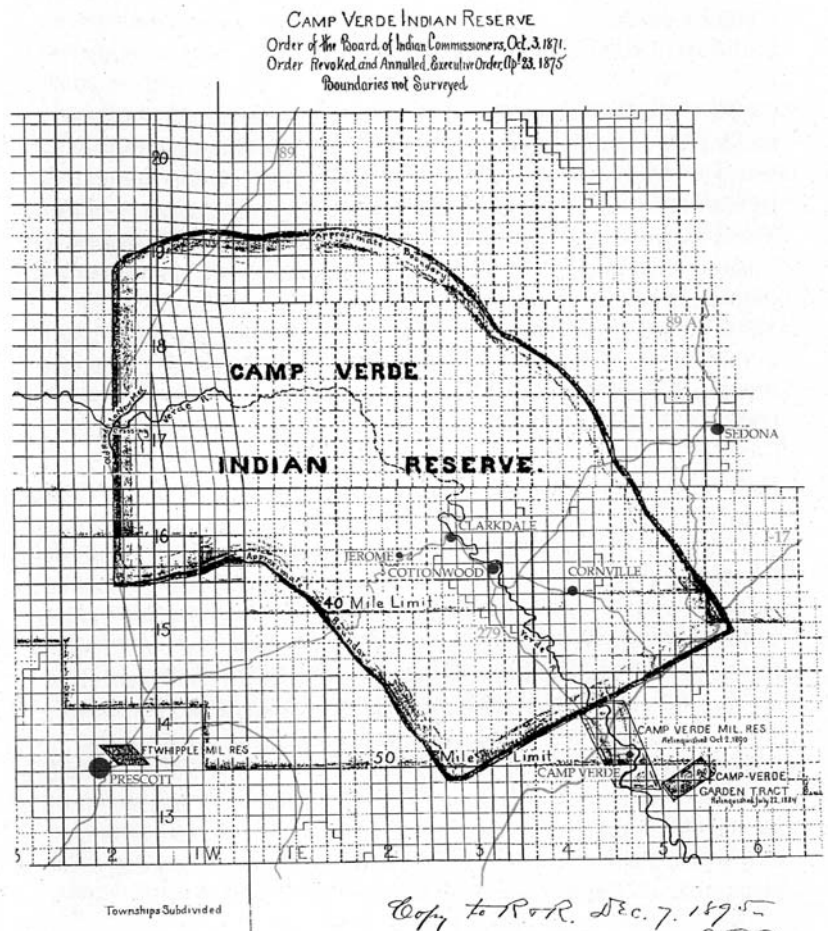
proud of the ancestors; they were independent, they survived for centuries on an unforgiving landscape. They could take care of themselves and their children without the help of any outside agencies.

The Spaniards moved north out of Mexico and crossed into Arizona just after 1540 and for more than 300 years, they dominated the trade and warfare in the region. But most of this influence was to the south around Tucson, east toward Pueblo country, and farther west. The Spanish had very little to do with central and northern Arizona, spending most of their time and energies in the better watered areas of New Mexico, along the Rio Grande and coastal California. So the Dilzhe'e and the Yavapai never felt the direct effect of Imperial Spanish rule even though the Spanish crown claimed all of their original homelands as part of their empire.

In 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and official ownership of the ancestral lands passed to the American Federal government. Once again, other people in other places were extending their control and their vision over the Yavapai and Dilzhe'e cultures without consultation or input from them. That same year, gold was discovered in California which brought the "forty-niners" by the thousands across Arizona on routes to the gold fields. They brought with them European diseases, encroached on treaty lands, killed wild life they did not need, and claimed land around springs and creeks for their livestock. Many of these fortune seekers ran out of supplies and patience or simply broke down and just stayed in Arizona. By the mid-1850s, settlers were steaming into the territory and the friction and violence began across Apache country to the south and east before finally encompassing the entire region.

In 1852, the Treaty of Santa Fe stated that the Apache lands of Arizona would be left alone and the Dilzhe's were guaranteed peace and safety in their own country. The government did not know who the Yavapai People were at that time and no treaty was ever made with them. The government later reneged on the Treaty.

In 1863, gold was discovered on Lynx Creek in Prescott right in the middle of the old Yavapai Homeland. This discovery marked the beginning of the end for traditional Yavapai culture in the region. Within two years, Yavapai People were being hunted down in their own country. Between 1863 and



1875 the Yavapai and Dilzhe'e were subjected to constant and brutal wars of conquest by the American government.

By 1871, the federal government believed they had central Arizona under control. President Grant established a series of "Military Reserves" for all of the various tribal people who had "come in" or surrendered. The Rio Verde Reserve consisted of 900 square miles along the Verde River. The Rio Verde Reserve was established for the Apaches that surrendered east of the river, and a separate parcel was set up at Camp Date Creek near Prescott to hold Yavapai. During the first two years on the Reserve, many died of influenza, malaria, whooping cough and other introduced diseases. The army would find out who the spiritual leaders were and take them out at night into the desert and shoot them so that there would be nobody to pass on the old knowledge and songs.

Next Issue:

The Exodus to the San Carlos Reservation
The Return Home
The Nation Today



HAPPENINGS AT THE VVAC

Monica Buckle

Since officially opening the museum doors to the public there has been much excitement in ways of events and programming. The new VVAC features state-of-the-art facilities to provide the Verde Valley and Sedona communities, as well as visitors to the region with enriching and engaging experiences.

Commencing the new VVAC was the opening reception of Paul Dyck: A Retrospective a comprehensive exhibition representing the paintings and personal memorabilia of the acclaimed painter Paul Dyck. It was a wonderfully attended occasion with several guests who personally and professionally knew Paul Dyck. The Paul Dyck Foundation Research Institution of American Indian Culture was there to support as well.

Then, at the end of March, VVAC inaugurated the museum with its official Grand Opening. A weekend of celebrations that featured a ribbon cutting ceremony with VVAC's Board of Directors, lecture symposium, a Native American artist market, an archaeology cinema, a hoop dance performance by award winning artist Tony Duncan and a Grand Ole' Opry benefit concert. With that said, the highlight of the Grand Opening was seeing the museum abuzz with visitors and everyone enjoying themselves.

This past April, VVAC hosted a Sedona Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau mixer event in conjunction with the Town of



Sedona Mayor Moriarty and Camp Verde Mayor Jenkins at Sedona Chamber Mixer

Camp Verde. The event was a tremendous success with both Mayor Jenkins of Camp Verde and Mayor Moriarty of Sedona in attendance. The Sedona Chamber was instrumental in bringing Sedona community leaders and prominent Sedona business owners to the museum. It was a tremendously fun event, and the catering was provided by Moscato Italian Restaurant. Native American flute artist, Aaron White performed adding to the event's ambiance.

VVAC is continually seeking new avenues of promotion and furthering our mission of conservation, preservation and education. Also in April, The Archaeological Conservancy spent several days filming at



Executive Director Ken Zoll being filmed at the Ottens Pueblo by the Archaeological Conservancy

at their sites: Ottens and Atkeson pueblos. The Archaeological Conservancy also filmed at our new museum. The film crew sent a drone up to film aerial shots of the dwellings to provide viewers with an immersive experience. It was wonderful collaborating with the film crew and both Ken Zoll and Rob Elliott, a dedicated VVAC volunteer and an Arizona and Utah Site-Steward, were involved with the filming. The footage is still in the post-production phase; however, on The Archaeological Conservancy's YouTube channel there are a few sneak peek videos of the Oak Creek Dwellings sites. One video features a squadron of javelinas trotting along Oak Creek at Atkeson Pueblo.

VVAC is already making good use of our new meeting room/classroom space. This past April was start to our in-person education programs, archaeology and rock art courses instructed by, Ken Zoll. Every month for



A full room for a class on the archaeology of Sedona and the Verde Valley

the next several months, Ken will teach informative classes that are specific to the archaeology, rock art, and ancient astronomy of the Verde Valley region. The classes also provide excursions to local archaeology, rock art and archaeoastronomy sites.

Not only is our new museum and conservancy sites getting attention but so is our parking lot. VVAC's parking lot has space to accommodate up to 50 cars and one of our members, Jim Warren and his wife Linda Warren so generously hosted a classic car show. There were over 30 classic and vintage cars on show making it a fun April Saturday morning while drawing many spectators.



Classic Car Show in VVAC's front parking lot

VVAC welcomes event sponsorship, fundraising and collaborations with our members. If you have suggestions, please feel free to reach out. The more involved our members are the greater our organization will become. I would also like to thank VVAC's incredible volunteers and how each and every one of you contribute greatly to the operation of this organization.



GRAND OPENING

TAYLOR CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE ROOM

Yes, another Grand Opening Celebration. This time for the Taylor Children's Adventure Room. Final touches on some of the activities in the room are being readied for our first guests on Saturday, May 28 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The main feature is our custom-designed, augmented reality sandbox that combines the classic feel of a playground sandbox with the advanced technology of augmented reality and provides a one-of-a-kind experience. The custom-made table is filled with sand and a projector mounted to the ceiling displays an interactive archaeological excavation onto the sand. A motion sensor attached to the projector detects any movements and changes to the sand, and the projection will react in real time and display artifacts at various depths. Augmented reality layers teach the children about the stratification layers of artifacts from the more recent one near the top, while the oldest are the deepest. Children are provided with a plastic trowel and brush to find and carefully reveal the artifacts.

Also in the room is a Pueblo model. Children are asked to be an archaeologist to make observations of what they see and to record data. Upon the completion of a worksheet, they will be awarded a Junior Archaeologist badge.

The day will also include face-painting, live Scarlet Macaws, an ice cream truck, metate corn grinding, and a Scavenger Hunt to seek out artifacts in the museum.



DR. ART E. FACT
WILL HOST THE
GRAND OPENING
OF THE
CHILDREN'S
ADVENTURE
ROOM

Meet Our New Office Manager



Meet Rachel Wilkin, our new Office and Marketing Manager. Rachel was born and raised in the suburbs of Upland, California with her parents, older sister, and two small dogs. She attended the University of Redlands from 2016 to 2020, where she earned a double major, with a B.S. in Global Business and a B.A. in Environmental Studies. While at Redlands, she was active on campus with Outdoor Programs and led backpacking trips to the likes of Havasu Falls, Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite, and Grand Staircase-Escalante. This organization helped develop her leadership skills and nurture a meaningful relationship with the natural environment. She held

multiple internships through college with environmental-focused non-profits, such as the Sierra Club and Joshua Tree Residential Education Experience.

Rachel moved to the Verde Valley in the Fall of 2020 while trying to navigate post-graduation and entering the workforce amidst a global pandemic. She got a job working at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, looking to gain experience in protecting natural resources and educating people on public lands. While working for NPS Rachel learned about the fascinating history of Hisatsinom peoples and found purpose in highlighting the stories of indigenous peoples. She even had time to wrangle a few rattlesnakes! She started volunteering for VVAC in July of 2021 and knew this organization would allow her to grow personally and professionally while working towards something greater. Rachel is excited to be a part of the VVAC family and is looking forward to helping the organization grow in the future. Please welcome Rachel and say "Hi."



Rattlesnake wrangler Rachel at the Castle



With the acquisition of the new Center building, our continued financial stability becomes an even more important goal. The Verde Valley Archaeology Center has established **The Archaeology Center Endowment** with the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) Nonprofit Fund.

The Nonprofit Fund is a convenient, flexible tool for nonprofit organizations. A nonprofit organization qualified in the state of Arizona, such as the VVAC, may establish a nonprofit fund at ACF. These are component funds of ACF and are under the legal and fiduciary control of ACF. The VVAC may accept gifts from individual donors and then transfer those gifts to the Fund established under these terms and held at ACF. Please consider a contribution to the Endowment Fund online, by mail, or as part of your estate planning. Visit our website for more information. Thank you!

www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/endowment



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