



Atkeson Pueblo Stabilization Project - Page 3

Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly

Protecting the Ancient Cultural Heritage of the Verde Valley

Spring 2017

Hopi Group Visits Center Property

A group from Hopi brought prayer feathers on January 14, 2017 and placed them at the VVAC site in Camp Verde as a blessing for the Center and its emergence on the site. The Verde Valley is an area important to Hopi culture and religion. They believe it is important for Hopis to stay connected with their ancestral homeland in the Verde Valley, for the area sites to be protected for future generations, and to help teach people the value of these sites. They say that carrying out their responsibilities at sites in the area is part of their agreement with the Creator. They view this prayer feather blessing and Hopi involvement with VVAC programs as a bridge between cultures.

Those in their circle hope that “the spiritual healing energy contained within our traditional ways will inspire and motivate all world peoples. The Spirit of the Natural Worlds must once again reach the hearts of the peoples of the Earth.”



1st Annual Natwanhoym Tunatya

The Center will host the 1st Annual Natwanhoym Tunatya Ancestral Sites of the Verde Valley field camp to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. The Natwanhoym Tunatya (*teach and farm together for the future*) mission is to create greater sustainability for the future by training Hopi youth in Hopi core values such as respect for all life, to work hard, give thanks for each day, be humble and practice reciprocity and good stewardship of the land and water. They also seek to develop cultural and economic skills such as farming, making Hopi art, Hopi language, learning about their ancestral heritage sites, and good stewardship of Hopi lands, including alternative energy. A group of elders and youth will camp on the Center’s property. The Center will provide classes and tours of rock art, as well as guiding them to some of their ancestral sites. Donations can be made to the Center to support this program.

National Park Service Stakes Trail



The Center has entered into an agreement with the National Park Service’s River, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. The RTCA can provide the following support to further the Verde Valley Archaeology Center goals:

- ① Assist in planning the process and identifying stakeholders, partners and their roles.
- ② Provide technical assistance for the design of the trail, interpretive signs and features.
- ③ Facilitate a collaborative design process and assist in design development.
- ④ Facilitate conversations to strive for connection between preserve and riverfront park plans, trail, and interpretive elements.
- ⑤ Help identify potential funding sources and assist with grant proposals.

The Center has decided to designate the area containing most of the pit houses as a Native American Heritage Preserve. The RTCA visited the site and assisted in determining the “pathway” that will go through the area. Locations for interpretive signs and benches were determined and marked. See the extended article on the pathway on page 6 and on the Center’s website under “Support - Our Future - Pathway Project.”

Our Pathway will be part of the overall Verde River program that has designated a variety of locations along the river as “String of Pearls” stretching from Clarkdale to Camp Verde.

BBC/PBS Special To Air



In 2014 the Center received a phone call from Bernard MacMahon, director of a project for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and Public Broadcasting System (PBS) station WNET. He had seen an article describing a 1956 film preserved by the Center and the Hopi Tribe. The film was restored with a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. The film, not seen in over 50 years, was of the Billingsley Hopi Dancers who were being considered for inclusion in a BBC/PBS series. The project is entitled **American Epic**. The series premieres on Tuesday, May 16, 23 and 30 on Public television stations across the country. The final episode on May 30 includes the story of the Hopi Billingsley dancers with film footage provided by the VVAC.



The mission of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center is to preserve archaeological sites and collections, to curate the collections locally, and to make them available for research and education; to develop partnerships with American Indians, cultural groups and the communities it serves; and to foster a deeper understanding of prehistory and American Indian history in the Verde Valley through the science of archaeology.

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President's Message

Dr. James Graceffa

2017 got off to a busy start, with architectural maintenance accomplished on the Atkeson Pueblo (see page 4 for more details), which was in dire need of stabilization because as you can see from the photograph, it was near collapse. Other walls not shown were also in need of immediate attention. This property is owned by the Archaeology Conservancy and is under the Center's supervision. Dr. Todd Bostwick and Walter Gosart are heading up the stabilization project. The members labored on the site for four days and accomplished some important work, but this will be a long-term project, lasting several years. Although we have temporarily stopped for the summer, we'll resume again in the fall. This is a tedious, labor-intensive project that couldn't progress without our dedicated members.



The survey and surface collection on our property is now complete, again, thanks to our industrious members. Even though the area had been surveyed previously, and some professional contract firms gathered artifacts, it seems that we do not currently have access to those collections. Therefore, our own analysis of the artifacts we collected will be of great importance in understanding the site. From preliminary observation, we discovered that there were numerous sherds from the Phoenix Basin area and some very early Tusayan White Ware (Kana-a-Black on White type) that dates from A.D. 800-950, suggesting evidence of early pithouses and a probable Hohokam component. We will know more once the actual analysis of the artifacts begins. Currently, there is no time frame because so much work remains to be done on the Dyck collections.

The lab continues its work most Thursdays and Fridays, with the prime emphasis on cataloguing and recording the Dyck collection. This can be tedious, but our loyal volunteers remain focused on data entry of more than 13,000 artifacts, with accuracy as the guiding principle. Jo Parish, who heads up the lab work, makes sure everyone's work meets the highest standards. This will be of tremendous help to any researcher coming to the Center in the future.

Melody Nowaczyk, who had been leading our Lithic Analysis of the Dyck collection, has trained several members in this process. Although this procedure has a fairly stiff learning curve, we have some dedicated, tenacious volunteers. And finally, in the area of discovery, we anxiously await Dr. Bostwick's final report on the flaking of stone at the Dyck Cliff Dwelling.



Continued on page 3





Center members enjoy discovery in new places, as well as in Camp Verde. The Center-sponsored trip to the Yucatan in February, led by Dr. Bostwick, was a rousing success. One highlight was his lecture on Mayan foods, which he will hopefully present to the Center members at a future date. Excellent accommodations and food added to an all-around superb experience.

Our Executive Director is hard at work with the National Parks' representative to lay out the interpretive trail at the Homestead Site, with interpretive signage along the one-third mile length. He is also collaborating with the Hopi on a Native Garden, which will surely please and impress those who visit.

Our Fair was again a huge success. The many visitors were impressed with our docents' enthusiasm as well as with the exhibits. We are so grateful for the many members who contributed their time and energy.

For the rest of the year, we will have our summer Field Schools and then more lab work. If you haven't attended a Field School and would like to discover exactly what archaeology entails, please consider attending. Each one lasts only four days and although it's hard work, it is also very rewarding.

More field trips are being planned for the fall, including some international trips in 2018. Our Gala is in the planning stages, should be great fun, and again, we count on your attendance to make it successful. We will be asking for silent auction items, so if you can contribute, please bring the item to the Center. All items are tax deductible.

And lastly, we have more fine speakers lined up, starting with the special Sherman Loy Memorial speaker in September, Matt Guebard, speaking about "New Discoveries At Montezuma Castle," followed by speakers in October and November, all held at the Cliff Casino Lodge, below the new hotel.

Remember, we always need help and appreciate all volunteer efforts. Please consider volunteering – we can always find a job for your talents and interests.



Menu

Salad

Dutch Oven beef, potatoes, Anasazi beans and cobbler
Iced tea, lemonade, water

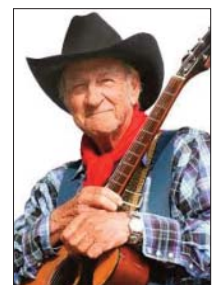
\$75 per adult - \$50 per child under 13
Tickets available online

Cash wine bar by Clear Creek Vineyards

Join us for an enjoyable summer evening Chuckwagon Dinner, Wednesday, June 21. Gate opens at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm and talk at 7:00 pm.

The M Diamond Ranch is located south of Sacred Mountain, the location of the sunwatchers who created the V Bar V Calendar. Archaeoastronomer Ken Zoll will describe his discovery of the Sinagua sunwatcher station at Sacred Mountain and the sun shrines along the Mogollon Rim. See our website for details and directions.

Music by Alvie Self. A versatile and excellent guitar player, Alvie was inducted into The Western Swing Music Association Hall of Fame and is an honored member of the Rockabilly Hall of Fame.





The Archaeological Conservancy

Preserving the past...for the future.

The Archaeological Conservancy is the only national, nonprofit organization that identifies, acquires, and preserves the most significant archaeological sites in the United States. Since its beginning in 1980, the Conservancy has now preserved more than 500 endangered sites in 43 states across America. These preserves range in size from a few acres to more than 1,000 acres. They include the earliest habitation sites in North America, a 19th-century frontier army post, and nearly every major cultural period in between.

In 1984, the Archaeological Conservancy negotiated a long-term option to purchase the dwelling at the confluence of the Verde River and Oak Creek. The site has gone by many names including Aztec Ruin and Oak Creek Ruin. The spectacular Tuzigoot Phase dwelling was once mistakenly thought by early settlers to have been built by the Aztecs. The Conservancy eventually named it the Atkeson Pueblo on Oak Creek after a major donor.

The ruin, with its dramatic eight foot high standing wall segment represents one of the best examples of a free-standing pueblo, not within a cliff overhang as is the case with Honanki, Palatki and Montezuma Castle. In addition to 35 masonry room outlines visible on the surface, a community room has been identified along with a large circular depression which may have been a kiva or perhaps a water storage reservoir. Carved into a thick sandstone layer located just below the edge of the bluff overlooking Oak Creek are as many as 15 interconnected caves which may have served as habitation or food storage rooms.

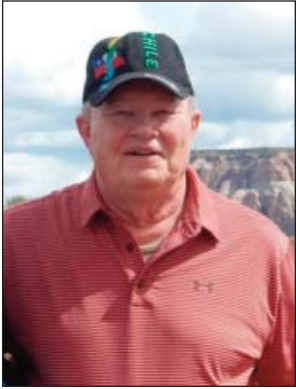
The Verde Valley Archaeology Center is the manager of this and five other properties in the Verde Valley that are owned by the Conservancy. As the manager, the Center maintains the perimeter fencing, provides site steward oversight, and makes recommendations for any stabilization needed at the sites. The walls of Atkeson Pueblo were showing their age and the effects of the elements. A stabilization project was authorized and funded by the Conservancy.

The stabilization project began this past winter and will resume in the autumn. During the winter phase, about 4 cubic yard of native soil was used. The mixture of 15 screened shovel full of native soil from the site is mixed with one shovel full of red soil imported from the red rock area near Sedona. That mixture is then mixed with water by the person working the wall according to the consistency he or she thinks works best for them. A window frame of treated Douglas Fir was pre-constructed before bringing it to the site. Photos are taken before and after each work day of the wall area that will be worked on that day. The project will be a multi-year project.

We are very grateful that during this phase, 26 members donated 455 hours of labor.



Meet Our New Board Members



F. Dennison (Dennis) Shaw, Jr.

Dennis has over 30 years of experience in diversified financial institution commercial lending, commercial work out, credit policy, consumer credit cycle management, project management, sales management, financial management, operations and large loan restructuring through senior positions with Citibank, Wells Fargo, Consumer Finance Company & HUD. He was an Assistant professor Michigan State University. He has a Ph.D. from Purdue University, Finance/Statistics, MBA from Purdue University, BS from Tufts University in electrical engineering. He is fluent in Spanish. His community activities have included: Vice President Board of Directors, Smoki Museum, Prescott, Board of Directors: Minnesota Literacy Council, Executive Committee and Chairman Finance Committee; Board of Directors, Minnesota Institute for Disabilities Studies, Atlanta SIDS Institute, Finance Committee Chairman; United Way: Minneapolis: Business Line Coordinator, Atlanta: Chairman Citicorp Campaigns. He is looking forward to helping grow the VVAC.



Linda Guarino

Linda first became fascinated with archaeology during a visit to Mesa Verde at the age of 8. This was further piqued by reading National Geographic Magazine as a teen. She was discouraged from pursuing archaeology in college, however, because she was told that it was difficult to get a job in the field. While researching other options, she discovered the world of viruses and the emerging field of molecular biology. Eventually she established her career as a Professor at Texas A&M University where she conducted research on the biotechnology and biochemistry of viruses. Linda retired in 2008 to join her husband who was building their dream home in Flagstaff. They became interested in the history of the area and have participated in many VVAC activities, including excavations, field surveys, hikes and international travel. When not emerged in archaeological pursuits, she enjoys gardening, botany, hiking, and travel.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCURSION

AUGUST 6-10, 2017

\$ 125 PER PERSON INCLUDES ALL ENTRANCE FEES

MAXIMUM OF 20 MEMBERS



Join us to visit the cooler White Mountains area (average August high of 84 degrees) to explore the Casa Malpais National Historic Landmark Site with its large room block, great kiva, astronomical “observatory,” and rock art. We will also visit the Petroglyph Island at Lyman Lake State Park. Other site visits are being planned.

Registration is open on the Center’s Event Calendar.



ACCOMMODATION CHOICES



Best Western Sunrise Inn - Eagar. Special Guestroom Rate \$98.74 plus tax includes breakfast buffet. Reservations must be made before Thursday, July 6, 2017, for special rate.



56 available camping/RV sites. 38 hookup sites (13 include sewer) and 18 non-hookup sites. Visit their website at azstateparks.com/lyman-lake for reservations and pricing.





The Past Is Our Future

The development of our Camp Verde property is moving forward with two projects that are currently underway.

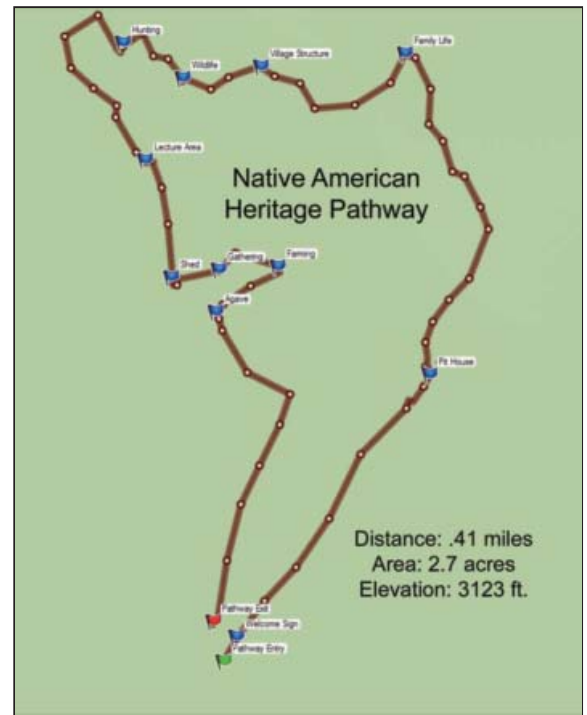
Native American Heritage Pathway Project

As mentioned in previous editions, the Center received a grant from the National Park Service (NPS) River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to develop a trail through the pit house area of the property. The trail and parking area were staked in March. Over the next several months, the vegetation will be cleared and the soil prepared for the development of a five-foot, handicapped-accessible, trail. The trail will be part of the larger development of trails and access points along the Verde River from Clarkdale to Camp Verde.

Each segment of the system is identified as a portion of the “Verde River String of Pearls.” The entry sign to the Pathway is shown below. In addition, the Pathway will have a series of interpretive signs and benches for the following points of interest: Pit House; Village Structure; Family Life; Wildlife; Hunting; and Gardening. Thanks to the generosity of the members identified in this section, the benches and interpretive signs are fully funded and will be fabricated over the summer.

With the installation of the water line in September we will be able to provide irrigation to the Native American Garden area. The Verde Valley Ancestral Garden Association plans to do a small winter planting and then the full planting next March.

With additional grants for materials, it is hoped that the trail and parking area can be constructed by the end of 2017.



\$25,000 - Native American Garden - Donalyn Mikles

\$5,000 - George and Pat Witteman

\$1,000 - Interpretive Signs

- Mary Byrd
- Carole and George Dvorak
- Joe and Sonya Landholm
- Ruthmary Lovitt
- Dean and Kathi Olson
- Dr. and Mrs. Dennison Shaw, Jr.
- Larry Watkins
- George and Pat Witteman

\$500 - Park Bench

- Nils and Janet Anderson
- Todd and Heidi Bostwick
- Mary Byrd in memory of Harris Byrd
- Mike and Barbara Cadwell
- Susan and Avrum Cohen
- Bridget Highfill
- Stan and Sue Loft
- Dean and Kathi Olson
- Michael Pollard and Susan Wiseman
- Lee and Jean Silver
- Jim and Elaine Worthington

Water Line Construction Project



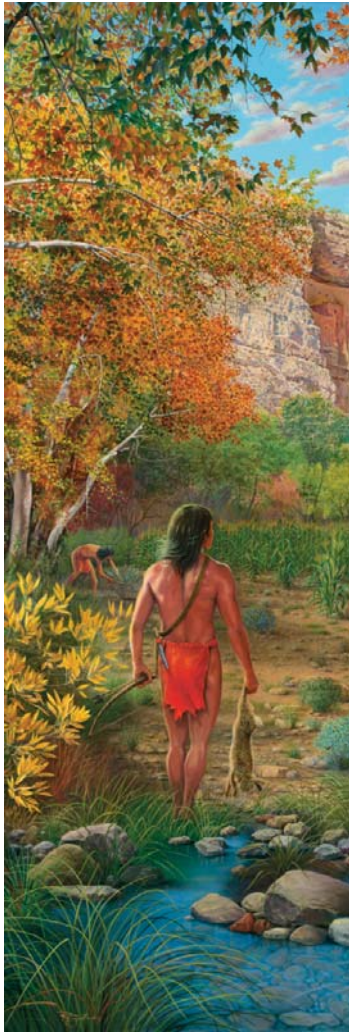
Thanks to the generosity of our many members to the Capital Campaign and to the Water Line Project, our goal has been reached. The total cost for installation of the water line is \$98,842.74. It is estimated that installation can be done in September. Delays have been encountered for various permits, including a burial agreement with the Arizona State Museum since it is possible that the construction will intersect a pit house that may or may not include a burial.

- Mike Bencic & Cindy Parker – Two Feet
- Ron & Suzanne Burkey – One Foot
- Tom & Lucie Burris – Forty Feet
- Kathy Davis – Ten Feet
- Bruce & Patricia George – Four Feet
- Keith & Jeannie Greiner – Twenty Feet
- Frank Grinere – Two Feet
- Bill & Lynette Kovacovich – Twelve Feet
- Bill & Justine Kusner – Twenty Feet

- Ken & Marcia Lee – Four Feet
- Ruthmary Lovitt – Two Feet
- Tom Mathieu & Coco Januschka – One Foot
- Ray & Mel Nowaczyk – Two Feet
- Sharon & Norm Olsen – Two Feet
- Dean & Kathi Olson – Two Feet
- Ron Rummell & James Hose – Two Feet
- RJ & Jean Smith – Forty Feet
- Kimberly Spurr & David Purcell – Four Feet

- Scott Simonton – Four Hundred Twenty Feet
- John & Diane Simpson – One Foot
- William & Elizabeth Sweeney – Five Feet
- Cathy & Tom Weimer – Two Feet
- Robert Whiting – Five Feet
- Maurine & Warner Wise – Twenty Feet
- Elaine & Jim Worthington – Two Feet
- Ken & Nancy Zoll – Fourteen Feet





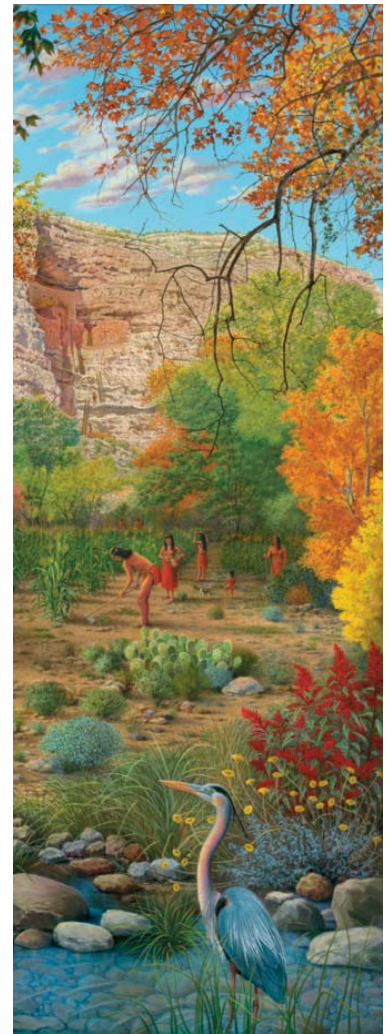
The Past Is Our Future

The Center has made tremendous progress in its development, due entirely to the support received from our many generous members. Here are some of the highlights:

- ⊙ Incorporate - September 2, 2010
- ⊙ Open at Fort Verde Plaza - April 1, 2011
- ⊙ Remodel and move to Main Street - November 2, 2012
- ⊙ Receive Governor's Award in Public Archaeology - 2014
- ⊙ Arizona State Museum reviews Center as "highly qualified" - 2014
- ⊙ Paul Dyck Collection donation received - 2014
- ⊙ Grey Fox Collection donation received - 2015
- ⊙ Close on Simonton Ranch land donation - July 16, 2015
- ⊙ Turquoise Circle donors cover closing costs and taxes - 2015
- ⊙ Donations cover \$98,843 waterline project - 2017
- ⊙ Donations cover Native American Heritage Pathway project - 2017

Now comes the BIG challenge - raising the funds for the new campus buildings. Again, thanks to the members shown below, we have begun this effort. But the big push for the Capital Campaign will begin with this year's International Archaeology Day Benefit at the NEW Cliff Castle Casino on October 21. This event will unveil new incentives in naming rights and other giving opportunities. These will be announced in the Autumn edition of the Archaeology Quarterly.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who have made our progress to date possible.



Capital Campaign Contributors

(As of May 1, 2017)

Pledges

\$50,000 - Ken and Marcia Lee **\$10,000** - Robert and Cora Whiting

\$10,000 - Courtyard Garden - Tom and Janet Taylor

\$10,000 - Entry Garden - Dr. Charles Rozaire

Turquoise Circle Members

\$2,500+ to Capital Campaign

Anonymous (2)	Craig and Sue Sigler
Louise Fitzgerald	RJ and Jeanne Smith
James and Diane Graceffa	Kim Spurr and David Purcell
Bill and Justine Kusner	Tom and Janet Taylor
Bob and Estelle Jonas	Gerald and Janet Walters
Jo Parish	George and Pat Witteman

\$500 - Theater Seat (200)

Linda Guarino & Ken Kaemmerle
Richard Henderson
Bridget Highfill
Stan and Sue Loft

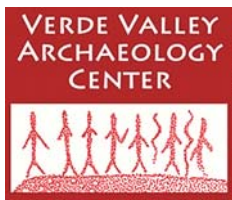
\$250 - Conference Chair (300)

Ron and Jan Brattain
Stewart Deats and Janet Hagopian
Bob and Estelle Jonas
Paul and Barbara Schnur
Craig Swanson
Marshall and Jane Whitmire
Jim and Elaine Worthington

Other Contributions

Anonymous (3)	Jim & Diane Graceffa	John and Elizabeth Oakes
Laura and Andy Beeler	Robert Harrison	Jon and Teri Petrescu
Melissa Bowersock	Mary Huntley	Peter J Pilles, Jr.
Ron and Jan Brattain	Charles Kaluza	Dr. and Mrs. Dennison Shaw, Jr.
Marian Brookman	Ruth Kiessel	Donna Shoemaker
Bern and Linda Carey	Frank and Carol Lombardo	Jo Ann Sawyer
Gay Chanler	Ruthmary Lovitt	Margaret Wallace
Robert and Audrey Erb	Thomas Mantovani	Greg and Amy Welden
Carol German	Thomas Marshall	





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