



**Verde Valley Archaeology Center, 2010-2014**  
by Todd W. Bostwick, PhD, Director of Archaeology

**Introduction**

The Verde Valley region of central Arizona has a deep and rich cultural heritage and contains numerous archaeological sites, including several National Monuments: Tuzigoot, Montezuma Castle, and Montezuma Well. In addition, there are well-known archaeology sites on Coconino National Forest land that can be visited by the public, including Honanki, Palatki, and the V-Bar-V Heritage Sites. Paleoindian, Archaic, and Formative period cultures once occupied the floodplain and mountains adjacent to the Verde River, representing more than 10,000 years of continuous use of this beautiful landscape. Yavapai and Apache people continue to live in the Verde Valley today, and The Hopi Tribe maintains important cultural ties to the region.

Over the years, dozens of archaeological sites have been excavated and thousands of artifacts have been recovered from public and private lands in the Verde Valley region. All of the items that have been removed from the area are housed in the Smithsonian Institution, Harvard's Peabody Museum, Chicago's Field Museum, the Museum of Northern Arizona, Arizona State Museum, Sharlot Hall Museum and at other university and governmental institutions located outside the Verde Valley region. Many more artifacts are scattered among private collectors and landowners. Each time an excavation is conducted, the recovered artifacts are sent out of the area because there is no accredited curation facility in the Verde Valley. There are also an unknown number of private collections owned by the families of pioneer ranchers that were acquired from

their property many years ago that, if studied, could add to our knowledge of the region's prehistory and Native American history.

In addition to the lack of an actual curation facility in the Verde Valley, there is a lack of adequate space and funding for the curation of objects and records in the state of Arizona in general, as reported in a 2006 document released by the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission Curation Subcommittee entitled *The Archaeological Curation Crisis in Arizona: Analysis and Possible Solutions*. Consequently, there is an obvious need for a curation facility in the Verde Valley that could serve as a repository for the region, as well as promote the preservation of significant cultural resources and provide opportunities for the public to learn about the incredible cultural heritage of central Arizona.

### **The Verde Valley Archaeology Center**

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC) was established in 2010 to address these issues as a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) public charity determined by the Internal Revenue Service. The stated mission of the VVAC 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."

The VVAC provides leadership to the regional community on the critical issues of understanding and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Verde Valley. One of the strong messages of the VVAC is its emphasis on protection and education. Although many sites on the National Forests and in the National Parks are protected, as time passes and as visitation increases, these sites will be increasingly impacted and damaged. Likewise, archaeological

resources on private land can be degraded by lack of care or understanding of their significance. Because archaeological resources are finite in number, they grow in cultural value through time. The longer archaeological features and artifacts are protected, the more the scientific potential of these elements increases with advances in scientific methods and techniques. To address these challenges, a strategic plan was prepared by the VVAC in 2012 that identified four strategic initiatives: (1) Preserve Ancient Sites, (2) Preserve Artifacts in a State-of-the-Art Environment, (3) Provide Educational Experiences, and (4) Promote Heritage Tourism. The strategic plan proposed engaging the community in preservation by providing exceptional service, stewardship, integrity, innovation, inclusion, and collaboration. Recently, the Town of Camp Verde requested the VVAC to be its official agent in all matters relating to archaeological preservation and interpretation.

### **VVAC Governance**

The VVAC is a well-structured organization representing a diversity of professionals, avocational archaeologists, Native Americans, and prominent local families and individuals. The organization has an Executive Director, Ken Zoll, who has an MBA and decades of high-level administrative experience with the federal government. An administrative assistant reports to the Executive Director. In addition, VVAC collections and all archaeological research projects are overseen by a Director of Archaeology, Dr. Todd Bostwick, who has 34 years of experience in conducting archaeological research in the American Southwest, including 21 years as the Phoenix City Archaeologist located at Pueblo Grande Museum.

The VVAC has a 13-member *Board of Directors*, including three individuals who have masters degrees in anthropology-archaeology (Mary Kearney, Kate Compton-Gore, and Kimberly Spurr). The President of the Board of Directors is Dr. Jim Graceffa, who has many

years of experience as an avocational archaeologist in central and northern Arizona. The VVAC also has an *Advisory Council* with a wealth of experience and knowledge:

- Steve Ayers, Town of Camp Verde
- Chris Coder, Yavapai-Apache Nation archaeologist
- Stewart Deats, EnvironSystems Management archaeologist
- Matt Guebard, National Park Service archaeologist
- Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Hopi Tribe Cultural Preservation Manager
- Peter Pilles, Coconino National Forest archaeologist
- Travis Bone, Coconino National Forest archaeologist.

### **VVAC Museum Facility**

The VVAC has grown tremendously during the first 3+ years of its existence, and currently has nearly 350 members. It is headquartered in a building on Main Street that is owned by the Town of Camp Verde, which entered into a contract with the VVAC for a long-term lease of \$1 a year. The VVAC raised the money, in kind donations, and labor to completely renovate the building into a museum and curation facility. This building is located near Fort Verde Historic State Park, and the VVAC works closely with Fort Verde staff on visitor programs. The VVAC building contains a secure collections room, a research laboratory, a lecture-meeting room called the Learning Center, and a variety of permanent and temporary exhibits. A children's area is currently being constructed. The museum also includes a book store that sells archaeology, anthropology, and natural history books.

Furthermore, the VVAC building houses a research library relating to the archaeology and anthropology of the Verde Valley region. All books, reports, and articles in the VVAC research library are cataloged into the Yavapai County Library System. Currently, more than 500 VVAC books have been cataloged, and the VVAC also maintains an electronic library (pdf files) which contains more than 85 archaeology reports and 300 articles.

Exhibits at the VVAC building focus on the Sinagua Culture, the history of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, and the science of archaeology. Artifacts are carefully labeled and displayed in cases, which are accompanied by large interpretive panels. Many of the artifacts on display were donated or loaned to the museum by local ranchers, archaeology contract firms, and government agencies. There is also an exhibit on Sinagua rock art, which includes amazing pictographs.

Other exhibits focus on recent archaeological excavations in the Camp Verde region, such as the Simonton Ranch Project. A special exhibit was prepared for VVAC by Peter Pilles on the excavations conducted at the Honanki cliff dwelling on the Coconino National Forest.

### **Collection Policies**

The VVAC has a detailed set of policies concerning collections acquisition, use, and care. These policies, and related forms, are posted on the VVAC website, [verdevalleyarchaeology.org](http://verdevalleyarchaeology.org).

The VVAC's acquisition policy is as follows:

#### **Criteria for Acquisition**

*Acquisition to the Center's permanent collections, whether by purchase, donation, or other means, shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:*

- *Items must be relevant to and consistent with the Center's mission.*
- *All items must have cultural, historic, scientific, research, interpretive or aesthetic value.*
- *All moral, legal, and ethical implications of the acquisition must be considered.*
- *The Center will not knowingly or willfully acquire items that have been collected contrary to international, national, state, or local laws and regulations, treaties, and/or international conventions.*
- *When items of cultural or spiritual significance to ethnic groups or religious communities are considered for acquisition, the Center will make informed judgments as to appropriateness for acquisition, with sensitivity to subsequent care and/or exhibition of such items.*
- *The Center will comply with and support the tenets of NAGPRA, the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and will work to insure its ability to provide tribes with pertinent information about its NAGPRA and NAGPRA related collections.*
- *The Center does not accept or collect human remains unless on a temporary basis under a State burial agreement in order to facilitate the Arizona State Museum repatriation process.*
- *The Center will draw on the expertise of other individuals for the evaluation of potential acquisitions when items fall outside the expertise of Center collections staff.*
- *Whenever possible, items will be documented or documentable, including, but not limited to, provenance, artist/maker, date, use, and intellectual property rights (copyright, trademark, etc.).*

*The appropriate collections staff must ascertain whether such intellectual property rights limit the use of an object.*

- The Center does not guarantee the exhibition of any item.*
- All donated items are accepted as free and unrestricted gifts, to be used at the Center's discretion. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Executive Director.*
- The Center must be capable of providing for the storage, protection, and preservation of items under conditions that ensure access and meet professional Center standards.*
- No item will be collected which constitutes a potential hazard to personnel, environment, facilities, or collections.*
- No judgments as to appraisal or valuation of donations or potential donations will be provided by the Center other than for internal use.*
- Accessioned items will have permanency in the collections as long as they retain their physical integrity, identity and authenticity, and remain consistent with the Center's mission and purpose.*

All VVAC acquisitions must be accompanied by a deed of gift, unless considered a formal loan, which then must follow the VVAC loan policies and procedures, posted on the VVAC website.

In addition to policies, the VVAC collections are governed by a comprehensive set of procedures, many of which relate to the proper cataloging of artifacts and other objects in the VVAC's collection management program. This program is a customized version of *Past Perfect*, developed by VVAC staff specifically for the types of objects and materials acquired through local donations and by archaeological research conducted in the Verde Valley region.

### **Integrated Pest Control Management**

The VVAC facility has incorporated an integrated pest control management system into its policies and procedures to ensure the best environmental conditions for its collections. Insect traps have been placed in key locations within the facility, including near entrances, and regular inspections are made of those traps. A log is kept of the inspections, and traps are replaced when appropriate. Policies restrict food and beverage consumption to certain areas within the facility.

### **Public Programs**

In addition to the museum exhibits, the mission of the VVAC is realized through a range of far-reaching activities and programs, including lectures by well-known archaeologists and

Native American speakers, archaeology hikes and tours, children's programs in local schools, and annual Archaeology Fairs and Native American Art Festivals. These programs, and other VVAC activities, are announced in the quarterly newsletter and on the VVAC website. The newsletter contains recent activities, upcoming lectures, the President's Report, and short articles on current archaeology projects or issues.

For example, the Winter 2013-2014 issue of the newsletter mentions that the VVAC participates in the Reciprocal Museum Association, which provides free admission to 640 museums in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico for VVAC members who join at the \$100 level. This newsletter also describes the *International Archaeology Film Festival* to be held at the March Archaeology Fair in Camp Verde. Four of the films in this festival are about aerial surveys by United Kingdom archaeologist Ben Robinson, who is known as *The Flying Archaeologist*:

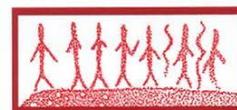
- *The Thames Secret War*
- *Hadrian's Wall: Life on the Frontier*
- *Norfolk Broads*
- *Stonehenge: The Missing Link*

The other two archaeology films to be shown at the Archaeology Fair Film Festival are:

- *Touchstone: The Rock Art of Coa Valley* (Portugal)
- *A Cultural Crossroads: Discovering Baca Mountain Tract* (Rio Grande Valley, Arizona)

Other popular Archaeology Film Festivals have been held by the VVAC, featuring a variety of films such as *In Search of the Great Hopewell Road*, *Historic Archaeology: Beneath Kentucky's Fields and Streets*, *Ramses II*, *The Sign on the Stone*, *The Great Journey*, and *The Secrets of the Pyramid of Djoser*. Another film shown at a VVAC Film Festival was *Twelve Canals*, which is a compelling portrait of the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land in Australia. Furthermore, at the March 2014 Archaeology Fair, Ken Zoll will present his own new documentary, *Sacred Shadows of Time*, on the archaeoastronomy of the V-Bar-V Heritage Site.

# Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly



Protecting the Ancient Cultural Heritage of the Verde Valley

Winter 2013-2014

## Reciprocal Museum Benefit



Were you aware that the Center is a member of the Reciprocal Museum Association? For members at the \$100 or higher level, we affix a gold sticker that provides free admission and gift shop discounts at over 640 museums in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In Arizona this includes: Museum of Northern Arizona; Heard Museum; University of Arizona Art Museum; Sedona Historical Museum; and, the Sedona Arts Center. The complete list of participating museums can be found on our website at the Join and Support/Membership page.

## Have you visited our YouTube Channel?

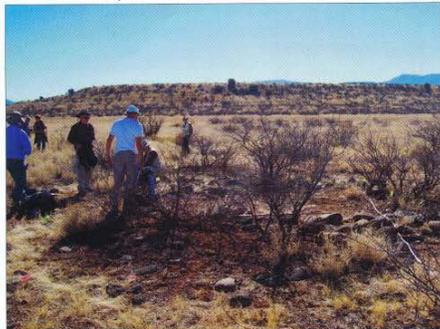


Yes, the Center has had a YouTube Channel almost from our beginning. It contains videos of past lectures. We have 118 subscribers and have had almost 12,000 views of our videos. If you visit YouTube, check us out and subscribe to our channel. We will be adding more videos during 2014 including Dr. Bostwick's talk on the Verde Salt Mine.

## Center Continues Wingfield Mesa Survey

The VVAC is aiding the Coconino Forest Service in surveying some land east of Camp Verde. Survey entails walking the land and identifying archaeological artifacts and sites. When the sites are identified they are mapped, artifacts analyzed and the site recorded. All this then goes into a nationwide data base.

This fits into a larger picture of the pre historic land use and aids in interpretation for the Forest Service Archaeologist. If you would like to help with this survey visit the Research Lab at the Center on Thursdays to talk to some of those involved.



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## Archaeology Trip to Peru

We finished out the year with some fantastic events. October ended with the Center's International Archaeology trip to Peru which was a great success. We started by visiting the site of Caral, discovered only 19 years ago. It is the oldest city in the Americas. Other highlights of the trip were the Nazca Line, Machu Picchu and Lake Titticaca. Stand by for some great lectures on Peru by Dr. Bostwick, who collected a wealth of information.



## You Can Help With Our Future Exhibits

To keep the Center fresh, we will be developing special short-term exhibits that will rotate about every four months. By the time you receive this issue, we will have set up a display on prehistoric pottery making techniques. This display will be in the Center through May. In June we will be opening a display in conjunction with CornFest that will be on prehistoric corn planting, both methods and types and uses of corn. Then in October we will open a display in conjunction with Fort Verde Days on prehistoric dogs.



You can help with these exhibits. For the corn exhibit we are looking for Native American art depicting corn plants. This can be pottery, katsinas, carvings or paintings. For the prehistoric dog exhibit we will need similar art objects depicting dogs. If you have any such items, and would be willing to loan the items to the Center on a short-term basis, please contact Ken Zoll in the Center office for more information.



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## Classes and Workshops

The VVAC also sponsors classes on a variety of subjects related to archaeology and cultural history of the Verde Valley. For example, *Yavapai People of the Verde Valley* was given in January 2014. This class was presented by Frieda Eswonia, a full-blooded Yavapai. Frieda was honored in 2007 as an Arizona Indian Living Treasure. Frieda's class included:

1. History and Legendary Origin of the Yavapai
2. Massacre at Skeleton Cave and others in the Area
3. Maps and Diagrams of the Yavapai Land areas
4. Stories of Inspirational Members of the Yavapai
5. The story of our "Exodus"
6. Current tribal government of the Yavapai-Apache Nation
7. Tragedy of Conquest and the Survival of the Yavapai
8. Present and Future Aspirations, Goals, Downfalls and Roadblocks that the Yavapai face.

Another VVAC class is *How Ancient Cultures Used Pigments and Dyes*, to be taught by Al Cornell on April 5, 2014. This class will include:

- How to collect and make high quality pigments and dyes
- How to make and use binders/vehicles and how these will vary depending upon the surface (wood, stone, skin, bone etc).
- Fabrication of support tools and items for the painting efforts.
- Demonstrations relating to the above, followed by a hands-on component, wherein the participants will have an opportunity to experiment painting on various surfaces.
- Learn how color discovered in ancient textiles, basket, pottery, and rock art give visual testimony that the application of dyes and pigments was an integral part of early human culture.

Other VVAC classes have included Flintknapping and Ceramic Analysis. A popular workshop sponsored by the VVAC was a lecture and fieldtrip on the geology of the Verde Valley by well-known geologist, Wayne Ranney. Two different sessions had to be scheduled to accommodate all the members who were interested in attending.

## Speakers Bureau

A variety of lectures are provided on a regular basis at different venues in Camp Verde and Sedona to allow participation from different communities. Sixteen of the VVAC public lectures have been filmed by Trailhead Videos and posted on *YouTube* for viewing by a worldwide audience. These include the following lectures:

- Paul Lindberg: "*Geologic Features of Archaeological Sites in Northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau*"
- Peter Pilles: "*Discoveries from Honanki*"
- Dave Dove: "*Update on the Excavations at Champagne Spring Ruins*"
- Dr. Bill Lipe: "*Before Lake Powell - Memories of Glen Canyon*"
- Dr. Todd Bostwick: "*Cumming's Excavations at Tuzigoot*"
- Dr. Todd Bostwick: "*The Verde Salt Mine*"
- Stewart Deats: "*Archaeological Excavations in Camp Verde and Clarkdale, Arizona*"
- Dr. Stephen Lekson: "*A History of the Ancient Southwest*"
- Ken Zoll: "*Prehistoric Astronomy of Central Arizona*"
- Dr. Jim Graceffa: "*Ceramic Analysis Survey Study*"
- Peter Pilles: "*Avocational Archaeology in the Verde Valley*"
- Dr. Ron Krug: "*Paleo and Archaic Projectile Point Distributions on the Coconino National Forest*"
- Joe Vogel: "*Aerial Archaeological Photography*"
- Jerry Ehrhardt: "*Soldier and Indian Trails of the Verde Valley*"
- Jerry Ehrhardt: "*Sycamore Canyon Full Coverage Survey*"
- Bern Carey: "*Deadman's Frontier Zone Project*"

Other speakers who have given presentations, but were not filmed, include Dr. Brian Fagan, Dr. David Wilcox, Dr. Laurie Webster, and Wendy Hodgson of the Desert Botanical Garden.

The March 2014 speaker was Don Keller of the Museum of Northern Arizona, who gave a presentation on "*Glimpses of Big Island Archaeology, Hawai'i.*" At the March 2014 VVAC Archaeology Fair, Dr. Bostwick will give a presentation on "*Mystery of the Nazca Lines: Enigmatic Images of the Peruvian Desert*" based on the VVAC's recent tour of Peru. At last year's VVAC Archaeology Fair, Dr. Bostwick gave a presentation on the archaeology of the Minoan Civilization on the island of Crete in Greece. These talks show the range of archaeology topics that the citizens of Central Arizona can enjoy in Camp Verde and Sedona.

## **Archaeology Fairs and Native American Arts Festivals**

The VVAC organizes an annual Archaeology Fair and a Festival of Native American Culture, both of which have been very successful. Native Americans from throughout the central and northern Arizona region, and beyond, participate in these Fairs and Festivals. People who attend these events learn about native crafts, arts, music, dance, and food, as well as the science of archaeology and how it contributes to a better understanding and appreciation of ancient, historic, and modern cultures of the Southwest. Simulated archaeology digs are set up for the children and adults who attend the events. Children of the Native American vendors often participate in the simulated archaeology digs and other children's activities.

Tables with exhibits and demonstrations provide information about archaeology and Native peoples of the Southwest. The VVAC Archaeology Fairs also include information booths for other organizations that have similar goals of preservation and education, such as the National Park Service, Arizona State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Archaeological Society, Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, Crossing Worlds Hopi Foundation, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Verde Greenway, Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute, and others.

Both of the VVAC Fairs and Festivals have been well attended. Attendance at the VVAC Festival of Native American Culture has ranged from 750 to 1,000 people at each of the four Festivals (2010-2013); altogether, 3,550 people have attended the Festivals. The two VVAC Archaeology Fairs (2012-2013) have been attended by a total of 1,750 people.

## **Archaeology Programs in Schools**

Introducing elementary students to the field of archaeology, and helping children understand the importance of the region's cultural heritage, is an essential component of the

mission of the VVAC. Therefore, the VVAC has a popular archaeology program that is presented to 6<sup>th</sup> through 8th grade students in the Verde Valley. The following sessions, involving more than 650 students, have been given to local schools in 2012 and 2013:

<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>No. of Sessions</b>	<b>No. of Students &amp; Teachers</b>	<b>Date</b>
Camp Verde Middle School	6th	8	250	March & Feb. 2012
Summer Hood Home School	Children	1	25	March 2012
Chester Newton Montessori School	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8th	1	34	March 2012
American Heritage Academy	6th	1	9	Nov 2012
American Heritage Academy	6th	1	9	Dec 2013
Cottonwood Middle School	6th	6	186	March 2013
Oak Creek Elementary School	6th	1	29	March 2013
St. Joseph Catholic School	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4th	1	33	April 2013
Verde Valley Guidance Clinic	8 to 12 years old	2	28	June & July 2013
Cottonwood Library	Children	1	14	July 2013
Camp Verde Library	Children	1	30	March 2012
Camp Verde Library	Children	1	15	July 2013

For 2014, the VVAC archaeology school program is being redesigned for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in order to expose even younger students to the excitement and importance of archaeology.

### **Archaeology Hikes**

On a monthly basis, except for the hot summer months, the VVAC offers a variety of interesting hikes to archaeological sites that are located on public and private land, with permission granted by the land owners. The hikes are very popular, and often demand exceeds

the limited group size of 20 people. Recent hikes went to Clear Creek Ruin, Big Cornville Ruin, Atkeson Pueblo, and Red Tank Draw.

A strict site etiquette is followed during the hikes, providing an opportunity to teach people about how their actions can adversely impact archaeological sites. This etiquette is posted on the VVAC website:

### **Site Etiquette**

*The Verde Valley contains some of Arizona's greatest archaeological sites. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this site etiquette guide that will facilitate an enjoyable visit for you, AND for others who follow you. Archaeological sites are the remains of a long occupation of prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic cultures. **They are a fragile and non-renewable resource.** You are responsible for the stewardship of these ruins, both for public enjoyment and education, and for preserving their scientific values.*

*The following guidelines will help you minimize impacts to archaeological sites and prevent our site stewards from reporting incidents:*

- 1. Walls are fragile and continually deteriorating. **That is why they are called “ruins.” Climbing, sitting or standing on walls can damage them. Also, picking up or moving rocks alters the walls forever.***
- 2. Artifacts, where they lay, tell a story. Once they are moved, a piece of the past is destroyed forever. **Digging, removing artifacts, or piling them up changes what can be learned from these pieces of the past.***
- 3. Cultural deposits, including the soil on an archaeological site, are important for scientific tests and are used in reconstructing past environments. For instance, from such information we can learn what kinds of plants were used by the past inhabitants. **Please carry out any trash (especially organic remains) you may have while visiting a site.***
- 4. Fragile desert plants and soils that are part of archaeological sites are destroyed when you stray from the trail. Also, snakes and other small desert animals make their homes in the bushes and under rocks and in burrows . . . you may disturb them. **Please stay on trails ... they are there for your protection and the protection of fragile cultural remains.***
- 5. Fire destroys prehistoric organic materials, ruins the dating potential of artifacts, and damages or even destroys rock art. **Absolutely no fires, candles, or smoking should occur at archaeological sites.***
- 6. Oils from even the cleanest hands can cause deterioration of prehistoric drawings and ruin the dating potential for future scientists trying to unravel the meaning of symbols painted and pecked on stone. **Please refrain from touching rock art.***
- 7. Graffiti (drawing/painting, scratching, and carving) is destructive and can destroy rock art, as well as deface wooden/stone buildings. **Graffiti destroys rock art as well as other values.***

8. *Pets damage sites by digging, urinating and defecating in them. They can destroy fragile cultural deposits and frighten other visitors and native animals. **Please do not bring pets onto archaeological sites.***

*Finally, be aware of your surroundings when you are outdoors. Avoid driving or riding your bicycle through sites; pitching your camp in a site; dismantling historic buildings for firewood or any other use; and, camping, or making campfires, in historic buildings.*

*All archaeological sites on public (federal and state) land in Arizona are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and state laws that prohibit digging, removing artifacts, damaging and/or defacing archaeological resources; these laws provide for both felony and misdemeanor charges with jail time, confiscation of property, and large fines. Arizona state law also protects graves (human remains) and grave goods located on state and private land.*

*If you see people vandalizing sites, please report it as soon as possible to the public land manager (e.g., the Forest Service, the Arizona State Land Department, etc.) or their law enforcement entity.*

*By following these simple guidelines, **YOU** can help preserve these unique and fragile remains of **OUR** American heritage. Remember, **THE FUTURE OF THE PAST DEPENDS ON YOU!***

### **Archaeology Excavation Fieldwork Opportunities**

Each summer, VVAC members are given the opportunity to participate in excavations with David Dove at the Champagne Springs Pueblo site in Southern Colorado. Mr. Dove is the son of Donald Dove, one of the founders of the Arizona Archaeological Society. VVAC members can choose from one to four weeks of systematic excavations at this important and unusual site. David Dove is well-respected and recently received a History Colorado State Historical Fund grant to conduct petrographic thin sections and Neutron Activation Analysis on context-dated San Juan redware sherds in order to identify trade patterns among a set of prehistoric sites located in the San Juan River region.

### **Summer Internship Program**

Each summer, up to two interns are selected to assist the VVAC in the analysis and classification of artifacts provided by the Coconino National Forest and other institutions for

accession to a curation facility. The interns also assist in staffing the VVAC's exhibit area during hours open to the public, and help with the development of new exhibits. Several previous VVAC interns have come from Beloit College in Wisconsin, where the Logan Museum of Anthropology is located.

During the course of the internship, interns learn to identify artifacts common to Central Arizona, including flaked stone and ceramics. VVAC staff instruct the interns on archaeological laboratory procedures such as basic artifact analysis, digital photography and digital storage requirements. The interns are also introduced to current legal and ethical issues in archaeological curation. Objectives of the Internship are:

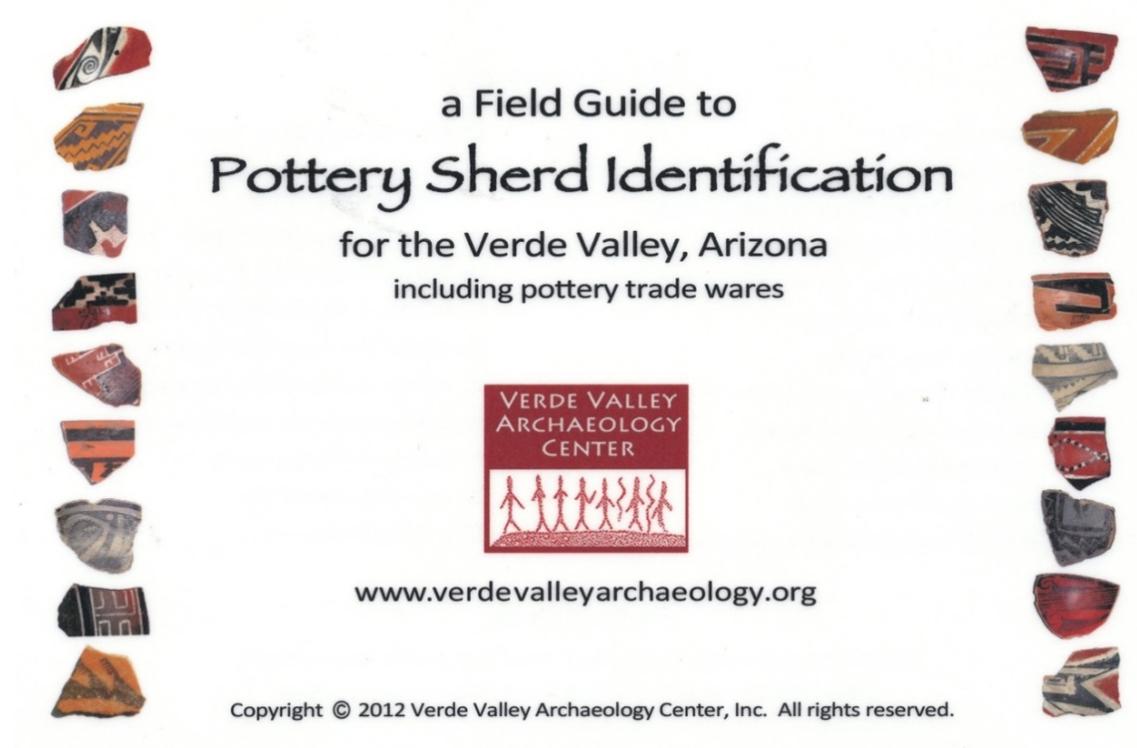
- Evaluate general condition of the assigned collection
- Conduct physical inventory of collection objects to verify and annotate provided catalogue and associated documents
- Catalogue collection according to standardized nomenclature
- Organize collection by site number and material class
- Replace original boxes, bags, bag labels, and object labels with archival-quality materials
- Store documents in appropriate archival-quality containers

Interns also have converted archaeology reports in the Coconino National Forest Supervisors Office to pdf files and copies of the reports are placed into the VVAC research library.

### **Archaeological Research and Preservation Projects**

The VVAC serves a very important role in supporting historic preservation agencies and organizations that manage archaeological resources located within the Verde Valley, and providing archaeological services to private land owners when appropriate. This support includes field work and laboratory analysis. In order to ensure that field work and analyses are consistently and systematically conducted in professional manner, a series of analysis workshops have been conducted to VVAC personnel and a set of field work manuals have been created for use in the field. For example, workshops on ceramic analysis have been given by Dr. James

Graceffa, and workshops on ground stone and flaked stone analyses have been presented by Dr. Todd Bostwick. Dr. Graceffa has also prepared a manual for identifying ceramics in the laboratory and in the field. He is currently working on another manual for the identification of projectile points in the Verde Valley. In addition, two field manuals, each with multiple forms, have been prepared – one for field surveys and the other for field excavations. The field survey manual is designed for public land and is 28 pages in length; the field excavation manual can be used for all projects and is more than 65 pages in length (pdf copies of the two manuals are provided on a cd with the photographs that accompany this submittal).



Projects for which the VVAC has provided experienced volunteers and professional support include those conducted for the Coconino National Forest, Prescott National Forest, Arizona Public Service, The Archaeological Conservancy, Museum of Northern Arizona, and the

National Park Service. For example, VVAC members have contributed thousands of hours assisting Peter Pilles of the Coconino National Forest with analysis of ceramic, flaked stone, and ground stone artifacts collected from sites within the Forest. In 2011, VVAC volunteers provided 3,196 hours to the Coconino National Forest Artifact Preparation Project. Last year, VVAC members volunteered a total of 1,039.5 hours to the Coconino National Forest (CNF).

VVAC volunteers also are assisting the CNF with the archaeological survey of Wingfield Mesa south of Camp Verde. This survey has raised the awareness of local citizens about the importance of preserving archaeological sites, especially after the local newspaper, *The Bugle*, printed a story about the survey. The VVAC Executive Director, Ken Zoll, has researched the discovery of a meteorite that was found in a prehistoric context within Wingfield Ruin and will publish a professional paper on his study. This meteorite is curated at Arizona State University (ASU) and they have agreed to loan it to the VVAC for an exhibit later this year.

VVAC volunteers assisted Dr. David Wilcox and Bern Carey of the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) with the survey of Deadmans Mesa, preparing detailed maps and assisting with the identification of ceramic types. VVAC volunteers also have assisted with setting up a type sherd collection for the education program at MNA, and helped Dr. Kelly Hays-Gilpin with her inventory of over 2,500 slides and documents in the Widdison rock art photograph collection.

VVAC volunteers, under the direction of Dr. Bostwick, have undertaken the mapping of Atkeson Pueblo/Oak Creek Ruin, on behalf of Jim Walker, Southwest Regional Director of the Archaeological Conservancy, which owns the property. A comprehensive report on the site, including the cavates that are associated with the well-preserved pueblo, is being finalized by Dr. Bostwick. This report provides a history of research and stabilization activities on the pueblo and is the only report written about the site since Jesse Walter Fewkes' brief description in his 1912

Bureau of American Ethnology report. Future work at this site will consist of repointing some of the eroded but still-standing walls with mud to help stabilize them.

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March 8, 2014

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## Surveying Wingfield Mesa

Avocational archaeologists celebrate Archaeology and Heritage [Awareness Month](#) with [land surveys](#), annual Archaeology Fair



Bill Helm  
Staff Reporter

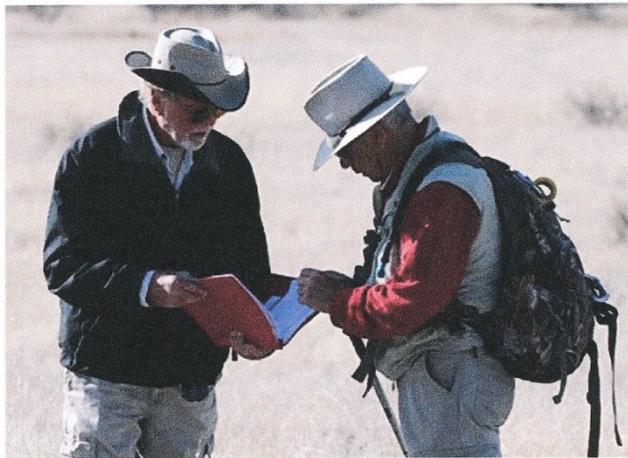
CAMP VERDE - Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month was initiated in 1983 by what is now the Arizona Archaeology Advisory Commission.

Each March, Arizona celebrates its archaeological history with one-of-a-kind activities, hikes, lectures and special presentations.

One of those unique events is this year's Spring Heritage Pecan & Wine Festival, scheduled for Saturday, March 29, and Sunday, March 30. The weekend celebration will include the Verde Valley Archaeology Fair and [American Indian Art Show](#), [Verde River Runoff](#), as well as the Pecan & Wine Festival.

Verde Valley Archaeology Center members recently surveyed the Wingfield Mesa ruin, located south of [Clear Creek](#) behind the Verde Lakes subdivision in Camp Verde. The purpose of the survey, said VVAC Secretary Bud Henderson, was "to attempt to add definition to previous surveys."

Previous [surveys](#) were completed prior to the advent of [global](#)



Avocational archaeologists George Dvorak, left, and Jim Graceffa prepare to survey the Wingfield Mesa Ruin in Camp Verde. VVN/Bill Helm



Members of the [Verde Valley](#) Archaeology Center recently surveyed the Wingfield Mesa ruin, located south of Clear Creek behind the Verde Lakes subdivision in Camp Verde. The purpose of the survey, according to VVAC secretary Bud Henderson, was "to attempt to add definition to previous surveys." VVN/Bill Helm

## Spring Heritage Festival

[positioning systems](#), also known as GPS units. The locations found on site cards and maps, according to Henderson, are oftentimes "erroneous."

This year's Verde Valley Archaeology Fair is part of Camp Verde's Spring Heritage Festival, which also includes the Pecan & Wine Festival and the Verde River Runoff. For information, check the websites at <http://visitcampverde.com> and [www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/fair](http://www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/fair)

On Feb. 21, about one dozen VVAC members, also known as avocational archaeologists, returned to Wingfield Mesa to look for elements of site recognition. Structural remains "would indicate architecture and habitation; field outlines would suggest agriculture; pottery sherds, stone flakes, ground stone or tools would be identified as man made artifacts; and art forms (such as rock art) are cultural features associated with human activity," Henderson said.

George Dvorak and his wife Carole have been VVAC members for more than four years and have been participating in the center's surveys for a year and a half. Weather plays a role in how often the center's members do these surveys, Dvorak said.

"We mainly work in the fall, winter and spring. But not in the summer," Dvorak said. "The amount of area we cover in a day depends on how large a team we have and what we come across. The sites on Wingfield Mesa are from 1100 to about 1300 [A.D.]. Some of these sites were surveyed in the early 1900s. As we continue this grid search, besides surveying these older sites, we are finding new sites and gardens.

"The sites we find on Wingfield Mesa are mainly small one-room areas, with short walls," Dvorak said. "In these small sites, one finds very little broken pottery, only a small container was carried for water for a day's visit."

As a member of the VVAC Board of Directors, R.J. Smith has been an avocational archaeologist in the Verde Valley for nine years. According to Smith, the VVAC works with Coconino National Forest Archaeologist Peter Pilles to help protect and preserve the sites that remain.

Pilles and Red Rock Ranger District Archaeologist Travis Bone "have provided special training to our members who allow us to do a block survey of the mesa to relocate the sites using the GPS system and mark their exact location," Smith said.

Once a site is located, some of the avocational archaeologists draw a site map. To assure comprehensive survey coverage, Smith said, "we walk transects of the area in groups of four to six people following a GPS track or a compass heading. We might walk all day and never find anything, but some days we have several sites to record. If we find a site late in the day, we mark it using GPS and will return to record the information later."

To be better prepared for this detail-oriented task, members of the survey crew received classroom and field training in each element of site survey and recording.

While some of the avocational archaeologists work on the site map, others analyze and record pottery sherds. These small artifacts, Smith said, are marked with a pink flag, "which is removed after it has been analyzed insuring that it is disturbed as little as possible. All this information is then sent to the archaeologist, becoming an updated record of the entire mesa."

"Those in charge will evaluate the results later and see if this is a site that they wish to excavate," Dvorak said. "All of what we record is lying on the surface. What we have done in the past year may not be described or presented during this year's Archeology Awareness Month, but in the future this information may be included in a seminar, or lecture, or report."

According to Smith, the Wingfield Mesa survey will likely take several years to complete. When the avocational archaeologists have concluded the survey, "this new information will help to more easily monitor this area." This survey work, according to Smith, never leads to excavation.

"We do very little excavation in our local area," Smith said. "If any needs to be done, it would probably be salvage excavation on property where a new building or other new use is being planned which will disturb the area and possibly any artifacts which may be present."

Though avocational archaeologists are, by definition, amateurs, many have a great deal of experience with surveying.

"With Archaeology Awareness Month, I would like for people to know that if they should find an artifact, please don't move it," Smith said. "Take a picture and if possible a GPS reading and come to the [VVAC] or local authorities so that it can be handled properly and all the information can be preserved."

VVAC volunteers, also under the direction of Dr. Bostwick, have conducted archaeological testing at the Otten Pueblo/Sugarloaf Ruin for The Archaeological Conservancy and Arizona Public Service (APS) for the relocation of an APS power pole line located in the middle of the site. This project was featured in the Fall 2013 issue of The Archaeological Conservancy magazine, *American Archaeology*.



### Testing at Ottens Pueblo on Sugarloaf Mountain

SOUTHWEST—This summer, Todd Bostwick, director of archaeology with the Verde Valley Archaeological Center (VVAC), led a small testing project at the Conservancy's Ottens Pueblo preserve on Sugarloaf Mountain in Arizona's Verde Valley. Arizona Public Service, the electric utility serving the area, plans to relocate four or five power poles located on the eastern side of the hilltop containing the pueblo to a location further east that is also owned by the Conservancy.

VVAC volunteers dug four test units into the relocation area, discovering a dispersed scatter of flaked stone, broken ground stone, and small ceramic sherds. Four obsidian artifacts are being analyzed for their source of origin. Analysis of the other recovered artifacts will begin this fall.

"The area we dug was below the main pueblo where the new power poles are to be relocated," Bostwick said. "We did not find any features, but did recover a number of sherds and flaked stone. I am very pleased that, despite it being extremely hot and humid, the VVAC volunteers were very dedicated and completed their work as scheduled. It was also a pleasure to work with Jon Shumaker, APS archaeologist, who provided the VVAC with lots



Verde Valley Archaeology Center volunteers excavate a test unit.

TODD W. BOSTWICK

of support and donated some supplies for the project." The excavation units were subsequently backfilled.

The Conservancy acquired the 54-room pueblo in 1991 with the assistance of an Arizona Heritage Fund Grant administered by Arizona State Parks. Ottens Pueblo is one of the largest pueblos in the area. It is located on a steep mesa and it was occupied by the Southern Sinagua people during the Tuzigoot phase (A.D. 1300-1450), when they aggregated into multi-storied

pueblos, many of which were located close to permanent water sources or on hilltops.

The project, a partnership between APS, VVAC and the Conservancy, is the result of efforts by APS staff archaeologist Jon Shumaker to eliminate potential impacts of future power line maintenance by moving some five poles that currently cross the site to a more suitable location adjacent to an existing road. Any future maintenance would then be done from the road.

As part of the research done at Ottens Pueblo, Dr. Bostwick located eight un-cataloged photographs in the Arizona State Museum archives that were taken of the ruin by James W. Simmons in the 1930s. Jon Shumaker, APS archaeologist, sponsored the acquisition of copies of those photographs for APS, the Archaeological Conservancy, the VVAC photograph archives.

A third project in which Dr. Bostwick is directing VVAC volunteers is the Hayfield Draw Sinagua pithouse village site on the Prescott National Forest (PNF) near Cottonwood. This project is to assist Jim McKie, PNF archaeologist, and Jon Shumaker of APS, with the comprehensive mapping of the site, followed by the excavation of several pithouses that are eroding out of a deep arroyo that has cut through the site. APS has a power line located within the site and therefore also is assisting with this mapping and salvage excavation project.

Another PNF project in which the VVAC is assisting Jim McKie is the Verde Salt Mine, located in Camp Verde. This project involves the interpretive development of this famous historic and prehistoric salt mine. The mine is experiencing unauthorized visitation, artifacts are disappearing from the site, and some places within the site are potentially hazardous. VVAC volunteers will conduct an archaeological survey of the site, and will assist with the interpretive narrative created for the signage. The Town of Camp Verde also is actively involved and is providing the PNF with financial assistance for the interpretive facilities that will include an improved parking lot, fencing, a restroom, a marked trail, and signage. Dr. Bostwick has given several public programs about the history of the mine that have been very popular (one program in Camp Verde was attended by more than 200 people).

Finally, VVAC volunteers also assisted Dr. Bostwick in a small testing project in front of the Administrative Building at Fort Verde Historic State Park. This testing project was conducted for Arizona State Parks as mitigation for the installation of a new drainage system.

## **VVAC Archaeology Press**

The VVAC has initiated an archaeology press, called Occasional Papers, in order to publish important research projects undertaken in the Verde Valley region. The first publication that has been printed is *A Geological and Archaeological Study of the Solar Gnomons at the V-BAR-V Heritage Site*, by Todd W. Bostwick, Paul Lindberg, and Kenneth J. Zoll.

## **Verde Valley Archaeology Conference**

The VVAC is committed to the dissemination of archaeology information to both the public and the professional community. Consequently, in the Fall of 2012, the VVAC partnered with the Arizona Archaeological Council (AAC) to hold the first ever archaeology conference on Verde Valley archaeology. At this conference, more than 20 papers were presented at a venue in Camp Verde, with an attendance of more than 200 people.

This conference was co-chaired by Dr. Bostwick and Stewart Deats, and had multiple sponsors, including the National Park Service, Museum of Northern Arizona, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Natural History Association, and eight private consulting firms. More than a dozen of the papers presented at the conference have been submitted to the *Journal of Arizona Archaeology* for publication.

## **Grants Awarded**

The VVAC has been awarded several cultural and preservation grants, three of which are listed below:

- ***City of Sedona Grant*** (\$3,000) for the VVAC Festival of Native American Culture at Tlaquepaque.
- ***National Film Preservation Foundation Grant*** (\$6,500) to preserve the film *Lost Ceremonies of the Hopi Cliff Dwellers* (1958), an introduction to Hopi history and culture created by Milo Billingsley with footage of his Hopi Dance Troupe.
- ***Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Grant*** (\$7,190) from the National Institute for Conservation-Heritage Preservation.

## **Letters of Support**

Nine letters of support for the VVAC have been provided by the Camp Verde Mayor and City Council, the Museum of Northern Arizona Anthropology Chair, the Prescott National Forest archaeologist, the Coconino National Forest Red Rock District Ranger, the APS archaeologist, the Archaeological Conservancy, the current and retired Superintendents of Tuzigoot and Montezuma National Monuments, and the Camp Verde Library Endowment (see copies below).

## **Summary and Conclusion**

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center has made a substantial and positive impact on the public's appreciation of the incredible archaeological and Native American heritage of the central Arizona region. Local communities and government agencies have embraced the organization and its mission, which is reflected in its nearly 350 members. The Town of Camp Verde has come to realize the value of archaeological resources and has engaged in their protection in ways previously unimaginable, and is currently in discussions about the use of a prime piece of Town property located near Interstate 10 that will be used for the development of a future state-of-the-art archaeology museum and repository. Local ranching families who in the past have not trusted federal agencies have become more interested in the archaeological sites on their property, and are becoming amenable to the idea of donating their collections to the VVAC. In addition, the VVAC is providing experienced volunteers to government agencies who need help with analyses and fieldwork, especially crucial when government staffs are being reduced and financial resources for cultural programs are scarce. Finally, the VVAC's dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers are ambassadors for the preservation and study of Arizona's cultural heritage, reaching out to citizens of all ages about the importance of protecting Arizona's finite archaeological resources.



# The Archaeological Conservancy

1717 Girard Boulevard NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106-1718  
(505) 266-1540

January 21, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to support the nomination of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center for an Arizona Governor's Award in Public Archaeology for 2014.

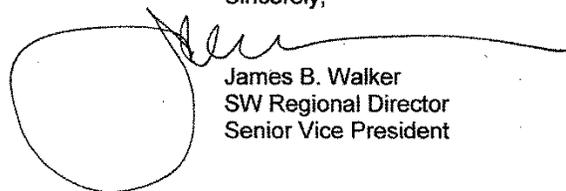
The Archaeological Conservancy has been working closely with the organization and its volunteers for a number of years. The Conservancy has established 5 archaeological preserves in the Verde Valley and we rely on the center and its volunteers for numerous stewardship duties ranging from conducting tours and site monitoring to fence repair.

The Center has accomplished two very important goals through its public presence in Camp Verde:

1. **Promoting and nurturing interaction between professional and avocational archaeologists.** The interaction and cooperation of these two groups is vital not only to the future of professional archaeology, but more importantly to the identification and long term protection of Arizona's cultural resources.
2. **Projecting a strong positive public image of archaeology to the public.** The center has developed a series of events and public outreach programs through their main street facility in Camp Verde that are designed to excite and educate the public about archaeology and the importance of cultural resource preservation. We firmly believe that public education is the most effective tool in the preservation toolbox.

We look forward to a long and mutually fulfilling affiliation with the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and its volunteers.

Sincerely,



James B. Walker  
SW Regional Director  
Senior Vice President

Preserving the past...for the future.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

*United States Department of the Interior*

*NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments  
527 S. Main St.  
PO Box 219  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322*



H30

January 9, 2014

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of a Governor's Award in Public Archaeology nomination for the Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC). Since its creation, the Center has been an important partner with the National Park Service. On a day-to-day basis, VVAC refers visitors to all three park units. Our participation within their "Sinagua Circle" encourages visitation, but also helps to place National Park Service archaeological sites within a broader interpretive context. Similarly, the National Park Service has benefitted from many of the VVAC's public archaeology events. Our participation in the Archaeology Fair and the Verde Valley Archaeological Symposium are especially important.

Our Cultural Resource Division has also benefitted from this partnership. VVAC student interns and volunteers have assisted the park with archaeological documentation, architectural stabilization and artifact analysis. The organization even alerted us to possible looting and illegal activities on park lands.

The VVAC fosters an awareness and appreciation for archaeological sites in the Verde Valley. For this reason, I fully support the Verde Valley Archaeology Center's nomination for the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Fire Cloud  
Superintendent



## Museum of Northern Arizona

February 7, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the nomination of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC) for the Governor's Archaeological Commission Awards in Public Archaeology in the Private, Non-profit category.

The Center's goals closely parallel those of the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA). The Center has developed a cadre of volunteers who, though they may not carry professional degrees in anthropology or archaeology, have availed themselves of educational opportunities in the field and used their knowledge and expertise to support institutions such as MNA as skilled and dedicated volunteers.

As the Commission is well aware, volunteers are a godsend to public archaeology and especially to this institution. While we can, and do, put a financial value on the work of volunteers, we would be hard pressed to assess the true impact the VVAC and its members have made at MNA. A brief introduction to some of their efforts on our behalf:

- Survey of Deadman's Mesa with Dr. David Wilcox and Bern Carey. During this survey, the volunteers located numerous previously unrecorded prehistoric sites, prepared detailed maps and identified associated pottery sherd collections to establish temporal timeframes for each site.
- Analysis and identification of unprovenienced pottery sherds under my supervision with a goal of developing type sherd collections which will be used as an educational collection, available to all visitors and volunteers who wish to learn the pottery wares, types, and chronologies of Arizona and New Mexico.
- Inventory of the Widdison Rock Art photo collection, a recent acquisition that includes over 25,000 slides and associated documentation. This collection will form the foundation of a rock art archive and research center at MNA. In summary, I heartily endorse the nomination of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center for this award.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kelley Hays-Gilpin".

Kelley Hays-Gilpin, PhD, RPA

Edward Bridge Danson Chair of Anthropology

3101 N. Fort Valley Road • Flagstaff, AZ 86001 • 928/774-5211 ext. 267 • FAX 928/774-1527  
www.musnaz.org • Email: khays-gilpin@mna.mus.az.us



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Prescott National Forest

2971 Willow Creek Rd.  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
Phone: (928) 443-8000  
Fax: (928) 443-8208  
TTY: (928) 443-8001

File Code: 2360

Date: February 14, 2014

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of the Verde Valley Archaeological Center (VVAC) being considered for the 2014 Arizona Archaeology Advisory Commission Award in Public Archaeology. To be sure, the Prescott National Forest (PNF) has benefitted greatly from VVAC's involvement with several projects that have been accomplished on the Forest as well as projects that are ongoing.

One of the most important sites that the VVAC has taken a central role with is highlighting the importance Verde Valley Salt Mine. The Salt Mine has been recognized, thanks in no small part by the continuing efforts of the VVAC, as a locally and regionally significant prehistoric and historic property. In particular, the VVAC has championed the site through presentations, site visits, and working with local and federal governments. Their ongoing effort to offer interpretive opportunities speaks to their dedication for public outreach.

Another project that the VVAC has helped with is the preservation of an eroding pithouse in the Hayfield Draw area of the PNF. The site has long been a concern of the PNF because it lies in an area that is actively eroding, thereby putting at risk not only one pithouse but possibly several others as well. The VVAC has come alongside the PNF to assist in salvaging cultural materials that have been eroded from the site, and then taking the collected materials providing lab and analysis support. Because the site continues to be threatened, the VVAC and PNF are working together to look at ways to preserve the site and the information it contains.

The VVAC also have played an important role in the preservation of sites in the PNF by monitoring archaeological properties, such as the well-known Brown Springs Ruin. The PNF relies on volunteers such as the VVAC to help better preserve and manage these resources.

We are very fortunate to have the VVAC so actively involved with the archaeology of the Verde Valley. They have essentially filled a gap by providing continual public outreach, education, and preservation in one of the most archaeologically important areas in Arizona. As such, it is my sincere hope that you give strong consideration to the VVAC as the recipient of the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology for 2014.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. MCKIE  
Forest Archaeologist



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Red Rock  
Ranger District

P. O. Box 20429  
Sedona, AZ 86341  
Phone: (928) 282-4119  
Fax: (928) 203-7539

File Code: 2360

Date: March 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for awarding the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology to the Verde Valley Archaeology Center. The VVAC offers a variety of services and opportunities to their membership and the public. They provide critical support to the Coconino National Forest Heritage Program in several ways. Their members are always willing to help with whatever unusual request the Forest Service has for them, including organizing two survey crews to help locate the source of and search for any other skeletal remains associated with a prehistoric skull that had recently been placed near a hiking trail. They help monitor several sites in the Verde Valley. Their members have taken on the considerable challenge of resurveying the high site density area surrounding Wingfield Pueblo to resolve decades of overlapping survey and duplicate site recordings.

One function that really sets the VVAC apart from most other volunteer organizations is their capacity to analyze collections. The Center has a large cadre of highly trained artifact analysts who have taken on analyzing and cataloging the excavated materials from Honanki, V-V, Elden, and other prehistoric sites on the Forest. It is unlikely that this huge backlog would have ever been evaluated without their assistance. Their members' skills at ceramic analysis are particularly helpful. Several individuals have spent years becoming experts in Southwestern ceramics and hold regular classes to train other volunteers. In addition to having already analyzed boxes and boxes of excavated sherds, the Center also compiled a ceramic type collection for the Red Rock Ranger District to be used by Forest Service and contract archaeologists.

The VVAC operates a public education center that benefits tourists and the local community. The Center offers a venue for the display of artifacts from local contexts and provides interpretation of the culture history of the Verde Valley to both locals and tourists. The Center has helped to grow culture tourism in the local economy, both through the operation of its own public facility and by educating tourists about other cultural opportunities within the Verde Valley. They direct visitors to the many state and federal interpreted sites and local museums that can provide the experience individual visitors are seeking.

Finally, the VVAC is able to provide cultural resource ethics messages and promote stewardship in a way that state and federal agencies cannot. Because of its grassroots nature, the Center has legitimacy with local residents who typically distrust bureaucratic agencies. The Center has been able to recover artifact collections removed from public lands and is working to obtain others that would otherwise be unknown to researchers. The long-term benefit of this effort may be much greater than we can foresee.

In total, the VVAC donated 1,039.5 hours and drove 6,694 miles in their volunteer efforts for the Coconino National Forest in 2013. The Forest Service values this contribution at \$20,270 based



Caring for the Land and Serving People

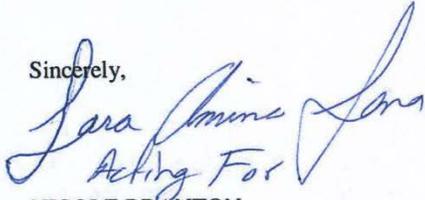
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on a volunteer rate of \$19.50. While the dollar equivalent of the efforts of VVAC members can be calculated, the real value of their contribution and the work the Center does is much greater than numbers can portray.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Anne Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Acting For  
NICOLE BRANTON  
District Ranger



# Town of Camp Verde

## Gateway to the Verde Valley

◆ 473 S. Main Street, Suite 102 ◆ Camp Verde, Arizona 86322 ◆

◆ Telephone: 928.554-0000 ◆ Fax: 928.567.9061 ◆

◆ [www.campverde.az.gov](http://www.campverde.az.gov) ◆

January 27, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor and Council for the Town of Camp Verde we would like to write in support of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in Camp Verde for the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology.

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center is located in an area which is rich in prehistoric and early Native American History. Many families of the early settlers to this area had private collections of some very delicate and informative artifacts that the Center has acquired and put on display for the public to view. Not only the benefit of being able to share these items, but they are now able to preserve and properly identify the age, origin and probable use of such items. Within just a few miles of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center we have Montezuma's Castle National Monument, Montezuma's Well, Fort Verde State Historic Park, many well know Native American caves, dump sites and wall formations that are not National Monuments. Also the Verde Valley has found Mastadon bones that are considered by most archeologists to be the indicator artifact of America's earliest human habitants.

Camp Verde prides itself for being the oldest settlement in the Verde Valley and the geographic center of the state. As our slogan states we truly are "The Center of it All". Having the Verde Valley Archaeology Center here only enhances our community in preserving our culture and heritage.

This organization not only partners with the community activities and other organizations in making our festivals and events popular all around the globe, they are also busy planning and implementing a host of their own fun and educational programs.

They are such a viable asset to this geographic area and we are honored to support this organization for such a distinguished award.

Best Regards,

Mayor Charles German

Vice-Mayor Jackie Baker

Councilor Bruce George

Councilor Carol German

Councilor Brad Gordon

Councilor Jessie Jones

Councilor Robin Whatley



Handicap Relay: 711 or Voice: 1-800-842-4681 TTD: 1-800-367-8939





P.O. Box 53933  
Phoenix, AZ 85072

March 3, 2014

To Whom This May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Verde Valley Archaeological Center's (VVAC's) nomination for the 2014 Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission's "Award in Public Archaeology" in the category of "Private, Non-Profit."

VVAC's stated mission 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."

It is both my experience and opinion that not only are they succeeding in fulfilling this vision—they are continuously striving to reach beyond it.

Archaeology is a three-legged stool consisting of academia, cultural resource management (CRM) professionals, and avocationalists. The academic and CRM folks have it easy—they get paid to do this stuff. Avocationalists do archaeology for the love of the thing. They do it because their passion for the past goes far, far beyond simple remuneration. They do it because something in their DNA drives them to know and to understand who we were, who we are, and who we will someday be. VVAC has shown that one does not need a paycheck in order to play a valuable, vital role in 21<sup>st</sup> century archaeology. VVAC has accomplished much to highlight and protect the archaeology of the Verde Valley region, and I believe these efforts deserve recognition.

Arizona Public Service Company has recently partnered with VVAC on a pair of important projects.

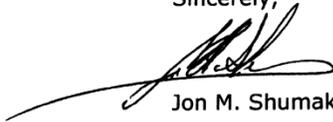
One involved VVAC volunteers performing archaeological testing for new power pole locations in advance of removing and relocating an old power line from within an Archaeological Conservancy property in Cornville to a location adjacent to an existing road that is both less culturally sensitive and that will allow for all future line maintenance to be done entirely from the road. This win-win-win project, a partnership between APS, VVAC, and the Archaeological Conservancy, went smoothly and well in spite of withering summer temperatures.

Another ongoing project involves monitoring and a proposed data recovery/stabilization project at the Hayfield Site, located on Prescott National Forest land near Camp Verde. Site Stewards from the VVAC have monitored the site for several years. There are at least two pit houses at the site (which is crossed by a power line) that are threatened by a deep arroyo that cuts through the site. Plans are currently under development to conduct data recovery and stabilization activities through a partnership between the Prescott National Forest, the VVAC, and APS and utilizing VVAC volunteers for the crew.

Continued on next page

The invaluable contributions of "citizen scientists" are becoming more and more recognized by professionals in numerous scientific fields. The VVAC has demonstrated in just a few short years just how much can be accomplished by volunteers with a clear passion and solid leadership. I heartily support VVAC's nomination for this award, and wish them luck in their future archaeological endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Shumaker, Archaeologist

**Archaeological Services  
Natural Resources Department  
Arizona Public Service Company  
P.O. Box 53933, M.S. 3372 s  
Phoenix AZ 85072-3933  
602-371-5298 Office  
602-677-1747 Cell  
602-371-5241 Fax**

January 28, 2014

Kathy M. Davis  
PO Box 1671  
Camp Verde AZ 86322

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support for the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology nomination for the Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC). It was my pleasure to work with VVAC since its inception, which occurred when I was superintendent of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. The VVAC was an important partner with the National Park Service (NPS) and that relationship continues to grow. Even before VVAC was established, founding members and National Park staff worked together, examples include presentations by members to staff and visitors, and collaboration on archaeological artifacts and questions. The monuments are part of the Sinagua Circle, which encourages visitation and enriches the visitors' experiences.

During the process of renovating the Tuzigoot museum, which was finished in 2011, we donated to VVAC, on a permanent loan basis, some of the historic exhibit cases made in the 1930s by students from Clarkdale, Arizona. Currently, VVAC uses these for artifact displays and interpretation. The Cultural Resource Division, NPS, has used VVAC student interns and volunteers for assistance with architectural stabilization, artifact analysis, and archaeological documentation.

The VVAC has an excellent reputation in the Verde Valley and beyond. It brings past and contemporary archaeology alive through many presentations, seminars, festivals, and other activities. It hosts Native American art and traditional skills events for local residents and visitors. The Center brings appreciation and awareness of Verde Valley archaeology.

I fully support the Verde Valley Archaeology Center's nomination for the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology.



Kathy M. Davis  
Retired Superintendent  
Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments



CAMP VERDE LIBRARY ENDOWMENT

P.O. BOX 2009  
CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA 86322  
An IRS 501 c 3 tax exempt Organization

January 21, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member previous President of the Camp Verde Library Endowment board of directors, I would like to write in support of the nomination of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center located in Camp Verde, for the Governor's Award in Public Archaeology.

Having established residency in Camp Verde in early 1951, I have had opportunity to observe many changes over the years. We have experienced many organizations which were established and were active within our community and served specific purposes and for shorter terms. I am pleased with the focus of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and its being located in an area rich in archaeological history makes it even more relevant and valuable today.

I have watched the growth of this organization since its locating in Camp Verde just a few short years ago. Not only has the organization grown in size it has increased in its intensity, participation and professionalism through wise recruitment of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers; professionals in their own right. The Verde Valley Archaeology Center has embraced the Town of Camp Verde and its culture. They have also participated, planned and hosted events for the direct and indirect benefit of Camp Verde. I have experienced firsthand, how their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in various community events has been absolutely contagious!

Their invitations to the community to come observe and learn about the organization and share in its vision for the future and growth of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and its increasing impact upon visitors and residents alike have been well attended and successful in stimulating interest and increasing awareness. Especially noteworthy is the fact they are bringing Archaeology alive through their Center, its displays and creating awareness of the richness and value of Ancient Cultures through their educational outreach to local schools in the area. They accommodate public and private schools as well as provide for home schooled students. Therefore, I take great pleasure in endorsing their nomination for this prestigious award.

Best Wishes,

Charles C. German  
Past President & Member