



Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly

Images of the John Heath Ruins



Protecting the Ancient Cultural Heritage of the Verde Valley

Winter 2014

Dyck Collection Viewed by Members

The Center hosted a special exhibit and talk by Dr. Todd Bostwick on some of the Dyck Collection artifacts in December for our Life and Patron Members. Almost seventy members attended. Many of these items will be shown by Dr. Bostwick at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

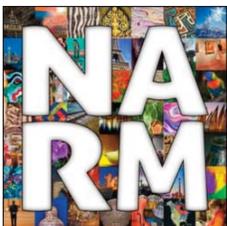


Executive Director Recognized at Gala



At the Poco Diablo Resort Gala, Executive Director Ken Zoll was surprised to receive an *Excellence in Leadership* award. Dr. Todd Bostwick presented the award noting that “It was Ken’s vision four years ago that laid the foundation for the creation of the Center. Since that time he has led the Center to attract over 370 members, to develop a professional museum and curation center that received a “highly qualified” rating from the Arizona State Museum, and was the recipient of the 2014 Nonprofit Award in Public Archaeology from the Governor’s Archaeological Advisory Commission.”

Center Renews NARM Membership



The Center has renewed its membership in the National Association of Reciprocal Museums program. Center members who are at the \$100 level or higher receive a sticker on their membership card to provide free or reduced admission to over 500 institutions. See the full list of museums at www.narmassociation.org.

Center Resumes School Visits



In addition to the Children’s Archaeology Discovery Area in the Center, our school program visits 4th grade classes. The team has visited eleven classes so far this school year:

- ☀ two presentations at Beaver Creek Elementary
- ☀ five presentations at Camp Verde Elementary
- ☀ two presentations at Big Park Community School
- ☀ two presentations at American Heritage Academy

The team hopes to do at least another six to eight classes in March and April. The team is also working with the Red Rock State Park to do a half-day trip that includes a "DIG" at their educational facility.

The presenters have been: Elizabeth Dean, Jeannie Greiner, Carole Dvorak, Jan Anderson, Jean and Lee Silver, and Ellie and Fritz DeBo. The school program is an important part of the Center’s mission. Additional volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to participate please stop by or email the Center.





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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Kenneth J. Zoll, MBA

Director of Archaeology

Todd Bostwick, PhD, RPA

Office Manager

Ann Rasor

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Verde Valley Archaeology Center, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

385 S. Main St.
Camp Verde, AZ 86322-7272
(928) 567-0066

www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org
center@verdevalleyarchaeology.org

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2014 End of Year President's Message

Dr. James Graceffa

What a year! My head is still spinning from all the wonderful things that happened for the Center this year.



First, among the many, was winning the 2014 Governor's Archaeological Advisory Committee Award for nonprofits. This is unprecedented for such a new organization.

Second, receiving approval to be able to accept collections from Federal, State and private lands by staff of the Arizona State Museum was another major accomplishment. This was the purpose in establishing the Center. To have achieved this in four short years is really amazing.

Third, the donation from the Paul Dyck Foundation of artifacts and plant materials that exceeds any collections previously found from the Verde Valley was a huge vote of confidence in the Center's ability to preserve and safeguard such a unique collection.

Finally, a huge thank you to Scott Simonton who will be donating nine acres to build our new facility with the opportunity to purchase an additional six acres at a reduced price for our archaeological park. We have our work cut out for us if we are to match and exceed these accomplishments in the coming year. We will only be able to accomplish this with the continued help of our dedicated and supportive membership.

Now to bring you up to date on the past fall activities. Mary Kearney did a great job bringing us classes in faunal analysis taught by our own Kim Spurr and Kate Compton-Gore. Dr. Bostwick lectured on analyzing prehistoric corn, squash and bean seeds. Al Cornell's class on cordage was so popular that we had to have a repeat the next day. Mary Kearney has a great line up of classes for the Spring (listing on page 4), so take advantage of them. Check the events calendar on the website.

Analysis of the Dyck Collection continues. Volunteers have done an amazing job, while learning along the way. Some of the foremost weavers and archaeologists are helping. Dr. Laurie Webster, a renowned textile expert and weaving expert Louie Garcia have visited the collection and added to our knowledge (story on page 4). Dr. Karen Adams, paleo-botanist from the University of Arizona in Tucson is helping with the plant material. Dr. Bostwick is in the process of editing a 500-page report on the Dyck Collection which we will offer for sale to our members.

We hosted a special preview of the artifacts from the Dyck Collection for our Life and Patron members (story on page 1). Dr. Bostwick gave a short explanation of the artifacts displayed. All who attended were amazed at what they saw and were proud to be associated with the Center.

The Center is so lucky to have such dedicated members. Thank you for your membership. All of you are important to the growth of the Center. I would be remiss if I did not give special recognition to all our volunteers who make the difference.

It has been my honor to serve the Archaeology Center as President for the past year. My thanks to the Board of Directors for such great support and for the hard work of Dr. Todd Bostwick, our Director Archaeology and Ken Zoll, our Executive Director.

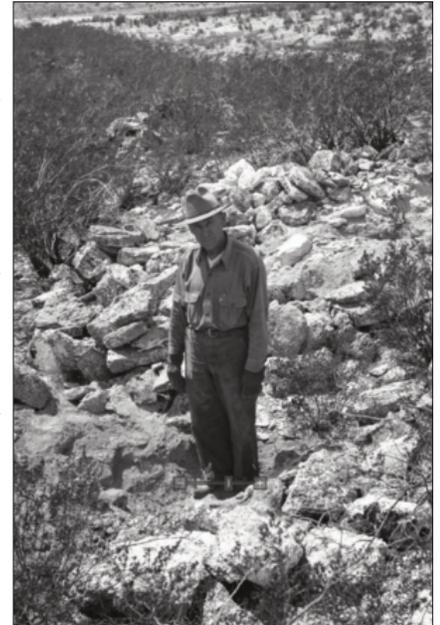


In 1915, George Dawson, “an amateur collector of Indian relics” uncovered a stone-lined cist in “a ruin along Clear Creek east of Camp Verde.” It was described as “a little pocket in the earth walled and covered over with flat rocks.” Dawson recounted that he thought it was a child’s grave. Covered in about 15-18 inches of loose dirt he found a “feather cloth” and inside the cloth was a large “oak leaf-shaped” object that was eventually determined to be a nickel-iron meteorite.

In 1935, Dr. Henry Nininger (1887–1986), a self-taught meteorite scientist and collector, heard about the item. He visited the location of the find with Mr. Dawson in the 1930s. Dr. Nininger recounts how they “reached the crumbled walls of a small room, in the corner of which there was a slight depression and several flat stones protruding from the drifted dust and debris.”

The exact location of the ruins where the meteorite was discovered had been a subject of speculation for many years. It was variously described as being “near Road Forks, 6 miles below Verde.” Camp Verde was referred to as “Verde” for many years. Dawson only referred to the location as “east of Camp Verde along Clear Creek.” Dr. Nininger identified the location as “some 9 miles east of the Camp Verde post office, a small mesa stands about 100 feet above one of the boulder-strewn washes which are tributary to the Verde river,” but the roads are different today for tracking mileage and the post office is in a different location from 75 years ago.

The leading candidate location for many years was the Wingfield Mesa ruin. It fit the “6 miles below Verde” description and it is about 100 feet above Clear Creek. However, Peter J. Pilles, Jr., Coconino National Forest archaeologist, suspected that it was farther east in a ruin referred to as the “Garden Site” and later renamed the John Heath Ruin. To resolve the location of the meteorite find, Jim Graceffa, Steve Ayers, Bud Henderson, Ken Zoll and Ned Greenelch hiked to John Heath. Ned did an Internet search before starting out and located a photo of Dr. Nininger taken in the 1930s standing in the excavation. We were able to locate the spot in which he was standing in the photo and could confirm, based on the surrounding landscape, that the John Heath Ruin was the location of the discovery. Mystery solved!



The site was extensively surveyed and recorded in 1985 by Shelby Coody. Shelby surveyed many sites in the Verde Valley. The drawing to the left is one of many drawings that he made. An arrow points to the location of the meteorite find in a room off a small plaza facing sunrise.

Subsequent studies confirmed that the Camp Verde meteorite is a coarse octahedrite from the Canyon Diablo fall, east of Flagstaff, that created Meteor Crater about 50 thousand years ago. When the first cattlemen settled in the plains this feature was then known as Coon Butte or Crater Mountain. It consists of a deep bowl-like pit in the desert about 1,333 yds. across, surrounded by a rugged ridge of uplifted sediment rising from 39.9 to 66.7 yds.

Evidence from the crater established that Native Americans not only visited the site, but had lived at the crater. Four ruins were mapped on the south side of the crater by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1891-92. “Camp sites” with abundant pottery sherds and flint chips with some arrow points were found on the plain to the north of the crater.

Dr. Lawrence Garvie, Research Professor at the ASU School of Earth & Space Exploration, has studied the meteorite and has confirmed that its chemistry is identical to other Canyon Diablo meteorites. But how did a 135 pound meteorite make its way 100 miles from Meteor Crater to Camp Verde without the use of wheeled conveyance or beasts of burden over mountainous trails? It is not inconceivable that it could have been carried but Dr. Garvie believes that it is more likely a fragment of the original 300,000 ton meteorite that separated from the main mass as it broke apart in the atmosphere and landed closer to Camp Verde. This is possible since Canyon Diablo meteorites have been found in an area covering 70 sq. mi. from the crater.

In cooperation with the Arizona State University Center for Meteorite Studies, the Center will have the actual Camp Verde Meteorite on display beginning March 1 for six months. The kickoff lecture by Dr. Garvie will be on March 3 with monthly talks on the meteorite throughout the run of this special exhibit.

The Turquoise Circle



The Summer edition of the *Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly* featured a story on the prehistoric sites on the Simonton Ranch in Camp Verde. At the October Gala, we were able to announced the pending donation/purchase of 15.28 acres of land that contain at least eight pit houses dating as early as A.D. 650. The majority of this property will be donated, with the Center paying only \$250,000. Mr. Simonton will carry the note for this purchase price; however, the Center will need to have at least \$25,000 to meet the closing and title insurance costs.

To raise these funds the Executive Committee created the **Turquoise Circle** to recognize those who make a tax-deductible contribution of at least \$2,500 to help us meet these and future property development costs. As we went to press, members had contributed \$22,500 toward this goal. Some members have contributed amounts of less than \$2,500 with a pledge to eventually make up the difference to the \$2,500 minimum. If you would like to make a donation or want more information, please call Ken Zoll at 928-593-0364. ANY tax-deductible donation to this effort will be much appreciated.

We received the following message in a letter from Turquoise Circle members Bob and Estelle Jonas, West Milford, NJ:

"I was bitten by the Arizona bug after working with Peter J. Pilles Jr. at the V Bar V Ranch where we documented the petroglyphs on these canyon walls back in 1998. My wife, Estelle, has also become intrigued by this culture and their legacy. Although already Life Members, we feel this is the next step in showing our support for your fledgling organization which is doing such fine work, both in the field and laboratory."

Winter and Spring Bring A Full Calendar of Events

Class: Pottery Types of the Tonto National Forest

with Tonto N.F. Archaeologist J. Scott Wood
Saturday, January 24, 9:00am – 3:00 pm
Verde Valley Archaeology Center



Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up Crew

Wednesday, January 28. Meet at the Center 8:30 am



Lecture: Navajo (Diné) Identity

by Dr. Kerry Thompson
Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 pm
Cliff Castle Casino Hotel,
555 W Middle Verde Rd., Camp Verde

Class: Traditional Methods of Working Wood, Bone or Antler

Saturday, February 28
9:00 am to 3:00pm
Verde Valley Archaeology Center



Return of the Camp Verde Meteorite
Special Exhibit Opens March 1
Member-Only Preview February 28

Exhibit opening lecture
by Dr. Laurence Garvie
Center for
Meteorite Studies
March 3 - 7:00 pm
Phillip England Center
for the Performing Arts



International Archaeology Film Festival

Friday/Saturday, March 27-28, 7:00 pm
Phillip England Center for the
Performing Arts, Camp Verde



Verde Valley Archaeology Fair

Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29, 10 am to 4 pm
Camp Verde Community Center, 395 S. Main St.

**Verde Valley
Archaeology Fair**

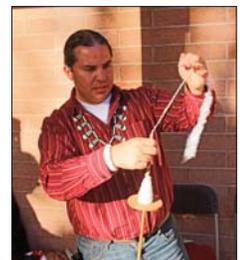


Invitational American Indian Art Show

Saturday/Sunday, March 28-29, 10 am to 4 pm
Camp Verde Community Center, 395 S. Main St.

Class: Pueblo Cotton Spinning Techniques

With Louie Garcia, Tiwa/Piro Pueblo
Saturday/Sunday, April 17-18, 9 am to 3 pm
Verde Valley Archaeology Center



Annual Benefit Picnic at Jackpot Ranch

Saturday, April 25, 10:30 am
2025 Reservation Loop Rd,
Camp Verde
www.jackpotranch.org



Verde Valley Archaeology Fair and Invitational American Indian Art Show

Camp Verde Community Center - 395 S. Main Street
 March 28 and 29 ☞ 10 am to 4 pm

Archaeology Exhibits and Demonstrations



Excavation Tools & Techniques

Prehistoric Astronomy

Pottery Identification

Stone Tools and Lithics

Rock Art of the Verde Valley

U of A Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research

Archaeology Book Sale



ARIZONA SCITECH
SIGNATURE
event

Free Admission

Free Lectures

Featured Artist

March 28 - 11:00 -- Ela Czyzowska-Wisniewski, PhD, University of Arizona

Tree-Ring Research and Mediterranean Dendroarchaeology

Noon -- Ken Zoll -- *Return of the Camp Verde Meteorite*

1:30 -- Erik Berg -- *The Eagle and the Archaeologists:*

The Lindberghs' 1929 Southwest Aerial Survey

March 29 - 11:00 -- Eric Polingyouma -- *The Hopi Migration Project*

1:30 -- Alan Dart -- *Set in Stone but Not in Meaning: Southwestern Indian Rock Art*



Featuring Weaver

Luis Garcia

Tiwa/Piro Pueblo

New Mexico

Over 30 Native American invited artists based on the quality and uniqueness of their art.

Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, New Mexico Pueblos

Invitational American Indian Art Show and Sale

INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY FILM FESTIVAL

Phillip England Center for the Performing Arts -- 210 Camp Lincoln Rd, Camp Verde

March 27 and March 28 ☞ 7:00 pm ☞ \$10 (\$8 Members) at the door

March 27 7:00 pm



Agave Is Life unveils the 10,000 year-old story of mankind's symbiotic relationship with the agave plant with stunning aerial footage, ancient festivals, and mystical rock art. Narrated by Edward James Olmos, with original music by Alcvin Ryzen Ramos, it promises to enlighten, delight, and surprise. Part of this documentary was filmed in the Verde Valley.

Co-Directors David O. Brown and Meredith L. Dreiss will follow with a Q&A session

March 28 7:00 pm



The documentary feature film **Dance of the Maize God** enters the world of the Mayan vases to explore the royal life and rich mythology of the Maya, as well as the tangled issues involved in the collection and study of Maya art. The story is told by villagers, looters, archaeologists, scholars, dealers and curators. For each, these vases have a radically different value and meaning.

Filmmaker David Lebrun will follow with a Q&A session.



Our Fair is part of the annual Camp Verde Heritage, Pecan and Wine Festival on March 28-29





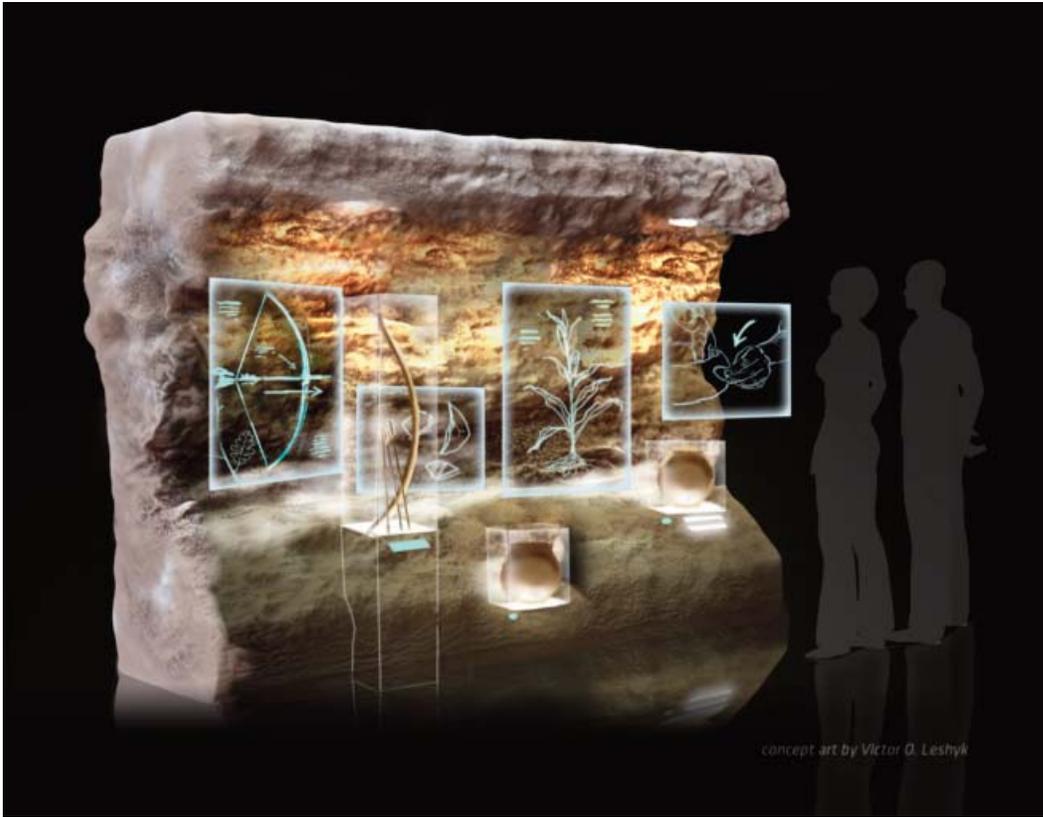
Dyck Collection Textiles Examined

Textiles of the John Dyck Collection were recently examined by Dr. Laurie Webster, an anthropologist and a specialist in Southwestern perishable material culture. She is a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History and the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Also examining the textiles was one of her students, Erin Gearty, and Pueblo weaver Louie Garcia and his wife Paula Domingo of the Tiwa-Piro Pueblo in New Mexico. They will be returning for further examination in the near future. Louie will be our Featured Artist at our Native American Art Show and will be giving a two-day workshop in April on Pueblo cotton spinning.



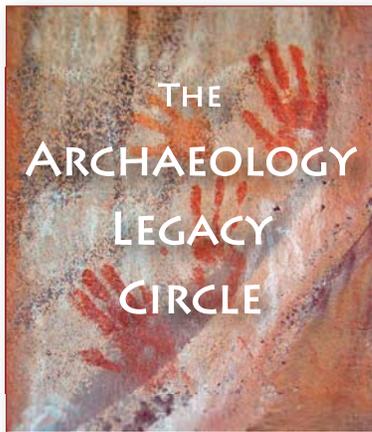
These are two examples of some of the best multi-colored textiles in the Dyck Collection. They are about 800 years old.

Photos by Dr. Todd Bostwick



Ever since the Dyck Collection was announced, the most common question is: “When will you exhibit some of the items?”

We are working on an exhibit design that will do the collection proud. Our long-range plan is to have a 14-foot replica rockshelter wall constructed in the Center as shown in the drawing to the left. This “wall” will have niches with lighted display boxes that can be easily removed to periodically change the exhibits. This design was presented by artist Victor Leshky of Sedona. Victor has developed exhibits for the Petrified National Park, the Museum of Northern Arizona, Sharlot Hall Museum, and the Natural History Museum of Utah, among others. We have received a project estimate and are currently seeking grants and/or sponsors. Until funding is received we are working on a temporary exhibit.

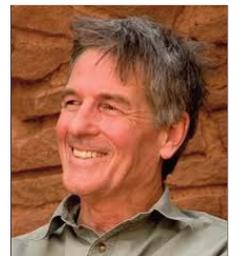


MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE HERITAGE OF THE VERDE VALLEY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. THE ARCHAEOLOGY LEGACY CIRCLE HONORS INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH EITHER BEQUESTS OF FINANCIAL PLANNING VEHICLES OR HAVE ESTABLISHED A NAMED ENDOWED FUND. OUR LEGACY MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM OPPORTUNITIES TO DEEPEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER AND MUSEUM THROUGH INVITATIONS TO SPECIAL EVENTS.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2015 Archaeology Gala

October 24, Sedona Poco Diablo Resort

Our guest speaker will be **Scott Thybony**. Scott is an anthropologist by education and a writer by profession. His commentaries are heard regularly on KNAU Public Radio.



2015 Colorado Excavation Field School Sessions Announced



The 2015 Excavation Field Schools will be held at the Mitchell Springs site in Cortez, Colorado. This is a large Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) site with many unique features. The dates of the three four-day sessions are:

Session 1 - July 31- August 3, 2015
Session 2 - Aug. 14 – 17, 2015
Session 3 - September 11 – 14, 2015



No experience is necessary. You will be paired with someone with experience. All materials will be supplied, unless you have your own that you would like to bring. You should be in good health as the activity is mildly strenuous. The weather can be hot, in the high 80's, so appropriate clothing, sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water is a must. An orientation session starts at 8 am on the first day of each session.

There will be camping at the site with water and porta-potty available or you can stay at an area motel. The member cost is \$125 per session, or \$300 for all three sessions -- a \$75.00 saving. Non-member cost is \$175 for one session or \$350 for all three (which includes a year membership). Registration is now available online on our website under Events. No refunds but you can substitute another individual. For further information contact Dr. Jim Graceffa, 928-301-5214, dr.jvg1@gmail.com.

Faunal Osteology Class



Members attended two terrific workshops this past Fall. Faunal Osteology, taught by archaeologists Kim Spurr and Kate Compton-Gore, gave an introduction to identifying animal bones that are commonly found in archaeological contexts.

A workshop given by Al Cornell on the ancient uses of fiber to make cordage covered the types of plants, trees and animal fibers that make the best fiber and cordage. He also demonstrated several manufacturing techniques.

Fiber and Cordage Class



Northern Arizona University Du Bois Center
www.azpreservation.com

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center is a Sponsor and Presenter. Registration is now open.

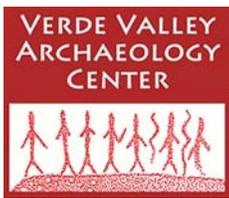
Archaeology Sessions:

- Recent Middle Archaic and Early Agricultural Period Research in Southern Arizona
- Tribal Values and Cultural Landscapes
- Backtracking: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on the Upper Queen Creek Basin
- Grand Canyon Pathways: Past, Present, and Future Directions
- The Dyck Rockshelter Collection: A Private Landowner's Preservation of Arizona's Ancient Heritage
- Picture Canyon National and Cultural Preserve: History, Community Involvement, Acquisition, Management = Success

General Historic Preservation Sessions:

- Grant Writing Boot Camp for Historic Preservation
- Reuse of Arizona's Red Light Districts
- Constitutional Law for Historic Preservationists
- Drivers for Re-establishing Resilient Communities: Phoenix's Warehouse District - A Case Study
- 1956 Grand Canyon TWA-United Airlines Aviation Accident Site
- Rehabilitation of the Mid-Century Modern Painted Desert Community Complex at Petrified Forest National Park





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On The Cover This quarter’s header images are of the John Heath Ruins east of Camp Verde. The site was originally called the “Garden Site” because of extensive agriculture in the surrounding areas. This site is also significant because it was the location of the discovery of a 135 lb. meteorite, buried in a feather blanket, in a corner cist of an east-facing room. See the article on page 3 for details.

Become a member *to help protect the ancient cultural heritage of the Verde Valley. Stop by the Center or visit our website at www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org to join online or to download an application.*

Thanks For Your Support

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous support received in the past 12 months

Business Members



Life Members and Gifts of \$350 to \$499

Ken and Bonnie Bigolin
Ron and Jan Brattain
Mike and Barbara Cadwell
Henry Damon
Dennis and Kelley Gilpin
Robert Harrison
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Wendy Leigh James
Harold Keister and Linda Kanzleiter
Ken and Marcia Lee
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Mary and Leonard Ontiveros
Susan Will

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John and Cindy Dyck
Keith and Jeannie Greiner
Richard “Bud” Henderson
Eliza Kennedy Kendall
Joseph and Lynne Montedonico
Ann McGowan-Tuskes and Paul Tuskes
Robert Whiting
Ken and Nancy Zoll

Turquoise Circle Members

Anonymous
Anonymous
James and Diane Graceffa
Bill and Justine Kusner
Bob and Estelle Jonas
Craig and Sue Sigler
RJ and Jeanne Smith
Kim Spurr
George and Pat Witteman

