



Archaeological Conservancy's Atkinson Pueblo

Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly

Protecting the Ancient Cultural Heritage of the Verde Valley

Summer 2014

Arizona State Museum Curator Visit



The Center received a grant to have a Conservation Assessment of our conservation efforts. We were very fortunate that Nancy Odegaard, PhD, was available to conduct this assessment on June 24 and 25. Dr. Odegaard is the Conservator and Head of Preservation for the Arizona State Museum in Tucson. We will receive the results of her assessment later in the summer which will be shared in the Fall edition.

Kate Compton-Gore Pico Wins NAWBO Award



Board Member Kate Compton-Gore Pico was the recipient of the annual Entrepreneurial Excellence Award for outstanding local business women in a nonprofit organization. The National Association of Women Business Owners - Sedona/Verde Valley Chapter hosts this annual event to recognize outstanding women and their contributions to the community. Kate was recognized for her

contributions in helping to establish the Center and its reputation within the community.

Members Conduct Hayfield Draw Survey

Director of Archaeology Dr. Todd Bostwick and a group of members participated in a survey of the Hayfield Draw site for the Prescott National Forest. The purpose of the survey was to determine the extent of the pit house village that was being eroded by an expanding arroyo. Based on the results of the survey test excavations will begin in the Fall to determine whether to just address the damage caused by the arroyo or to do a more extensive excavation.



Archaeology School Programs

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center's school program was created to inform and inspire local area children about the rich and unique archaeological and cultural legacy of the Verde Valley and to foster a sense of stewardship for that heritage. This past year the program was updated to be more aligned with fourth grade social studies curriculum. In February, promotional materials were presented to administrators and fourth grade teachers in most schools in the Verde Valley, and an Educators' Open House was held to encourage administrators and teachers to meet staff and to preview the program.

Since then, over three hundred students from Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Camp Verde and Rimrock have participated in the program, that consists of a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation followed by four hands-on activities. The program has been well received by teachers and administrators. Students have been excited to examine pottery and projectile points, draw their own pictographs, and grind corn on a metate. Throughout the presentation and activities, we stress the importance of protecting the fragile and irreplaceable remains of past cultures. A follow-up activity is also provided for teachers to use for review and discussion.



Jan Anderson reads to a group of Cub Scouts during Summer Camp

We look forward to serving even more Verde Valley schools in the 2014-2015 school year. Our challenge is to have adequate staff for the presentations, each of which requires a team of four presenters. Although many of our volunteers are retired educators, anyone with an interest in archaeology and in children is welcome to join us. A training session for volunteers and another Educators' Open House will be held in early fall. For more information, please contact Jan Anderson at 602-677-7070.



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

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President's Report

Dr. James Graceffa

EXCITING TIMES

Yes, these are exciting times for the Center. Most of you have heard by now, the Center has won the Governor's Award for non-profits organizations. Read more about it in another article of the newsletter.

The award was only the frosting on the cake. Among our other accomplishments was the hugely successful Archaeology Fair, with many visitors to the Center and many new members. Thanks to all who volunteered at the Fair and welcome to all the new members.

Even the rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of our first picnic. In fact the rain just allowed us to extend it for two days, even though we cancelled at the last minute, those who came were served and in good spirits. Everyone that attended had plenty to eat and was awed by Larry Watkin's Toad Acres. A big thanks to Larry and Susie for hosting the picnic and all those who generously brought all the side dishes.

Beautiful baskets were added to our Museum collection by a generous donation from Elizabeth Kendall. We now have some Hopi, Pai and Apache baskets on display and invite you to come and see them.

The Center Survey teams recently completed a survey for the Prescott National Forest and continue to survey for the Coconino National Forest. We completed a block of land they assigned us, but there is much more to do on that land and we will be at it for many more years. Those interested in participating in the surveys and haven't had the training will be able to take the survey class in September. Not to be left out, the National Park Service has an analysis project for us on some minor excavations they performed at Tuzigoot and Montezuma Well. Members who attended the Pottery Analysis class are now putting their skills to work by helping with this analysis project.

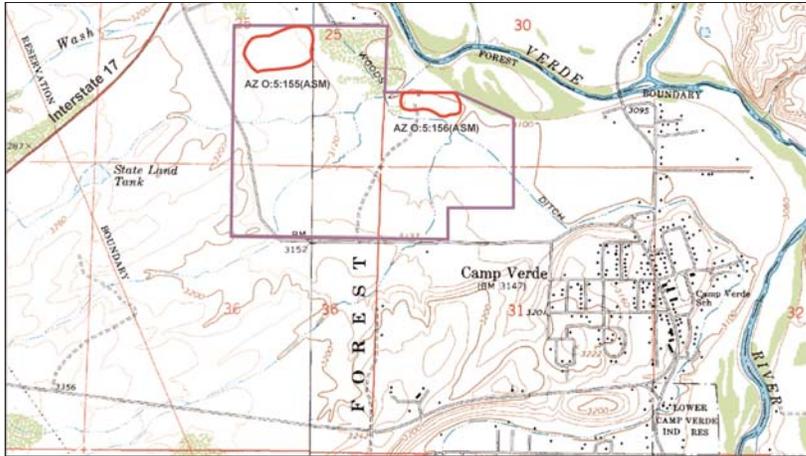
And last but not least, the Center received a very large collection of provenienced artifacts by the Paul Dyck Foundation. These artifacts were excavated in the 1960's by the Southwest Museum and Los Angeles County Museum. It is truly a prize, as some of the artifacts are rarely seen items. When a plea went out to our members for archival supplies they responded with enthusiasm and generosity. Another public thank you to all who responded. The collection is in need of tender loving care as it was not previously archived properly. Some preliminary purchases of archival materials have been made, but it will be some time before we will know the extent of the types of archival materials needed. You will be hearing more about the collection as time goes by. We will have our first preview of some of the artifacts this fall at our Gala Dinner and later in rotating exhibits at the Center.

So you see, as we head into summer we have plenty to look forward to and I haven't even mentioned the Field School in Colorado. These are always fun and full of discovery and camaraderie. Anyone who really wants to get the feel for down and dirty archaeology should come join us. Center members are extremely lucky to be able to do this at such large and interesting sites and at an inexpensive cost. Go on line now and register. There will be 3 four day courses, one in July and two in August.

I would like to end this message with a request to our members to please let us know how the Center can enhance your membership experience. There are many volunteer opportunities, so come and get involved. No experience necessary, just a desire to have some fun, learn about archaeology and do it with other great volunteers.



Many of you have seen the exhibit in the Center entitled “Prehistoric Life in Camp Verde.” This display and the exhibits are from the Simonton Ranch properties west of Camp Verde along Highway 260 and going back to the Verde Ditch. The archaeological work in this area was initially required to satisfy the requirements of the Clean Water Act permit through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office provided cultural resource review of the project.



The area was first surveyed by Southwestern Environmental Consultants (1998) on a reconnaissance level. This survey recorded two sites, one a sprawling site covering much of the northern half of the project area, and a small historic trash scatter near the center of the property. SWCA, Inc. Environmental Consultants (1999) then conducted archaeological mapping, surface collection, testing (through trenching) and limited excavations. They began by collecting a representative sample of prehistoric surface artifacts in the areas that may be impacted by future development. They then refined the nature and extent of subsurface archaeological features to develop a strategy for either preserving buried cultural resources or mitigating any potential impacts to the

sites. Isolated rock features potentially related to prehistoric agricultural practices were excavated. They concluded that the earlier large site was actually two separate sites with one in the northwestern portion of the property (AZ O:155 ASM) and the second just north of the Verde Ditch (AZ O:156 ASM).

Site AZ O:155 measured 1,410 ft. by 885 ft. The site had extensive prehistoric and historic artifact scatter and a pit house village dated to A.D. 1050 to 1150. A total of 18 pit structures, 5 pits, 1 hearth, and 3 ash lenses were found. Radiocarbon dates from one pit house indicate an earlier component dating to between A.D. 540 and 765. Soil samples for macrobotanical, pollen and phytolith (minute mineral particles formed inside a plant) analyses were collected from all hand excavation units and from features exposed in backhoe trenches that exhibited the potential to yield productive samples. Charcoal samples were also collected for radiocarbon dating when appropriate materials were encountered. SWCA recovered 4,484 ceramic sherds.

Site AZ O:156 measured 1,132 ft. by 377 ft. Both prehistoric and historic artifacts were present on the surface. The initial survey identified three artifact concentrations along with three subsurface features (two pit structures and a midden). After the subsequent survey by EnviroSystems, the total findings were 7 pit structures, 7 pits, and 2 roasting pits. Cultural artifacts and charcoal were present. A total of 213 sherds were recovered. The prehistoric structures dated to between A.D. 1000-1050. A radiocarbon date obtained from a roasting pit produced a date in the A.D. 950 to 1040 range. The historic artifacts included clear, brown and purple glass, yellowware, whiteware, porcelain sherds, metal cans and wooden boards with wire nails.



Site AZ O:155 (ASM)

In 2006 EnviroSystems Management, Inc. conducted burial investigations and limited archaeological data recovery excavations of the sites. EnviroSystems concentrated on relocating some of the known features and investigating areas of the sites that had received little prior work. The most significant, extensive, and likely to contain burial materials (such as pithouses and middens) were targeted for investigation. One inhumation and three cremations were found at Site AZ O:155, and four cremations were discovered at AZ O:156. The four Native American tribes claiming cultural affinity to the area: the Yavapai-Apache, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian, the Hualapai, and the Hopi, were consulted concerning the human remains and associated funerary goods that were encountered. The Yavapai-Apache Nation assumed the lead responsibilities for implementation of the agreement among the consulting tribes. Reburial took place after the transfer of custody. A short ceremony was performed by the Yavapai-Apache Nation representatives.

A total of 92 pieces of shell were collected from AZ O:155 during the burial investigations. These items consisted of 18 Glycymeris bracelet fragments, five mostly complete spire-cut Olivella beads, 69 unworked Anodonta shells, and freshwater mussels likely obtained from the Verde River. Glycymeris is most likely obtained from the Gulf of California. Olivella is a marine snail and, depending on the particular species, could originate from either the Pacific Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico. Both types of shell are frequently discovered in southwestern prehistoric contexts and are believed to have been extensively traded.

Prehistoric Economy

Ground stone artifacts and pollen provided information about the prehistoric subsistence of the people who lived at the site. The ground stone recovered indicate that substantial food processing occurred. The presence of well-worn metate fragments and the roughening of the surface of many artifacts through pecking indicated that the inhabitants used their ground stone artifacts repeatedly, suggesting the prolonged occupation or continued reoccupation of the site. Flotation samples, corn pollen and the associated rock features (check dams, water retention and diversion rock features) suggest that domesticated plants dominated the diet of the prehistoric inhabitants.

Interestingly, the prehistoric inhabitants appear to have maintained economic ties with the Hohokam at a time in the mid-twelfth century when most of their neighbors in the Verde Valley were developing economic links to the north. This is supported by the relatively high frequency of Hohokam sherds at the AZ O:155 site, while the inhabitants at AZ O:156 had a relatively high frequency of northern ceramics.



AZ O:155 ceramic artifacts: (top left to bottom right) Gila Red, Gila Variety spindle whorl, Verde Brown spindle whorl, indeterminate Salt-Gila Buff Ware pendant, Gila Plain, Gila Variety spindle whorl, Verde Brown spindle whorl (unfinished), and human figurine torso.

The Process of Archaeology: *Flotation Samples*

In each issue of the *Archaeology Quarterly* we present an archaeological site within the Verde Valley. During each discussion there is usually a reference to a technique used to better understand the site. In the description of the Simonton Ranch site, there is reference to the collection of “flotation samples.”

The aim of flotation is to recover animal bone, seeds, and other small cultural remains lost in the normal screening of soils from archaeological sites. Some large macrofloral remains such as corn, charcoal, large seeds, and other plant material do not require flotation to remove them from sediment and can be submitted as single specimens for identification. Smaller faunal (animal) and floral (plant) materials is trapped in soil and is sometimes hard to distinguish in a dry sieve. When the soil is loosened with the help of water these materials separate from the soil and suspends in the water. Some materials are so small that most mesh sieves holes are too big. The standard mesh will sometimes not capture seeds and other small materials. Floating of the material that has already been sieved can yield some missed materials.

The flotation process takes samples using a “bucket” method. One to two liters of each sample is added to approximately 3 gallons of water, then stirred until a strong vortex formed. The floating material (light fraction) is poured through a 150 micron mesh sieve. Additional water is added and the process repeated until all floating material is removed from the sample (a minimum of 5 times). The material which remains in the bottom (heavy fraction) is poured through a 0.5 mm mesh screen. This process is repeated for each one to two liters of sample until the entire sample is floated. The floated portions are allowed to dry, then examined under a binocular microscope at magnifications of 10-70x.

Flotation samples commonly contain both charred and uncharred macrofloral remains. At most sites, only charred macrofloral remains are considered prehistoric. This is because few seeds live longer than a century, and most live for a much shorter period of time. Most uncharred seeds will not survive through common archaeological time spans. It is presumed that once seeds have died, decomposing organisms act to decay the seeds. Sites in caves, water-logged areas, and in very arid areas, however, can contain uncharred prehistoric remains. Interpretation of uncharred macrofloral remains to represent presence in the prehistoric record is considered on a sample-by-sample basis. Extraordinary conditions for preservation are required.



Center Receives Governor's Award

Arizona is a national leader in the development of Public Archaeology and Heritage Tourism programs. The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission has played an important role in the development of Arizona's multi-component, award-winning educational programs in archaeology. The legislation creating the Commission was signed into effect by Governor Bruce Babbitt on March 26, 1985. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the State Historic Preservation Office on a variety of archaeological issues important to Arizona.



As part of Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month each year, the Commission recognizes individuals and/or programs that have contributed time and energy to promoting the protection and preservation of, and education about, Arizona's non-renewable archaeological resources. The Commission presented its 28th Annual Award in Public Archaeology for a nonprofit organization on June 13 to the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in recognition of our public service and education endeavors. Pictured here, Bryan Martyn, Executive Director of Arizona State Parks presents the award on behalf of the Governor to President Jim Graceffa and Director of Archaeology Dr. Todd Bostwick. This is a very significant award recognizing all the hard work by our many volunteers. Everyone should take great pride in this accomplishment. The award is proudly displayed at the entrance to the Center.

Benefit Picnic



Many thanks to member Larry Watkins for his generosity in hosting our First Annual Picnic at Toad Acres. Despite the lousy weather on Saturday, some intrepid members showed up and were able to take advantage of the grounds during a break in the weather. Many more arrived for the rain-day on Sunday. This was not just a fundraiser, but an opportunity for members to meet one another in a very casual way. We will definitely do this again next year and hope that more members can join us .

Sacramento Group Visit

Members of the Sacramento Archeological Society came to Arizona on a field trip to visit notable archeological sites. At the request of the Forest Service, Ken Zoll acted as guide to the group for a visit to the Palatki and V Bar V Heritage sites. Several of their group later visited the Center and become members. The Society made a generous donation to the Center in appreciation of the tours. This was a delightful and very knowledgeable group.



Summer Camp Visitors



For the second year in a row, we hosted two groups from Arizona Outdoor Experiences. These young people come from the Phoenix area and stop at the Center for an overview of archaeology on the way to their Christopher Creek campsite. They are always engaged and attentive groups.

Center Receives Grant

Just as this issue was being finished, the Center received notice that the Yavapai County Community Foundation has awarded the Center a grant in the amount of \$1,000 for the printing of the two booklets that have been developed for the Children's Archaeology Adventure area. The grant will be awarded at a luncheon on July 25 in Prescott. The two booklets include a booklet of stories about Sinagua children and a *Kid's Guide to Archaeology* activity book. These two booklets will be given to each child that visits the Center beginning in September. More on this grant and the booklets, along with details of the Grand Opening of the Children's Archaeology Adventure area, will be in the Autumn issue of the *Archaeology Quarterly*.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual major fundraising event will be a Gala Benefit at the Sedona Poco Diablo Resort on Saturday, October 18. This dinner event will include entertainment, a limited-item Live Auction and a presentation by Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official historian. Marshall will talk on the Verde Valley in Arizona history. Watch for your personal invitation in the mail later this summer. Details of this special Gala Benefit event will be provided in the Autumn issue of the *Archaeology Quarterly*. Please save the date!





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On The Cover Our new format includes a header photo of an archaeological site in the Verde Valley. This quarter's image is of the Atkinson Pueblo owned by the Archaeological Conservancy. The Center is the local manager of the six properties that it owns in the Verde Valley. At ten feet tall, the Atkinson Pueblo along Oak Creek has the largest standing pueblo wall in the Valley.

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

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

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