

President's Annual Report for 2017

The year of 2017 was a busy and productive year at the Center. Many things were accomplished.

We had several projects that involved field work. Some projects were completed and others are on-going. Among the projects was the preservation work at the Atkeson Pueblo. Several of our members were taught how to do preservation work. A large area was restored to its previous configuration, but much more work is needed. This will be an on-going project.

Other field work completed was the Homestead property was completely surveyed and showed some interesting results. We were able to identify several areas of artifact concentration, which are believed to have pit houses below the surface in those areas. The area for the interpretive garden was chosen. Gerry Quotskuyva will come up with the layout of plants with the approval of Dr. Bostwick. Center members then laid the waterline from the street to the garden. A shed was purchased for tools and placed close to the garden. The garden is financed by a generous donor in the amount of \$25,000.

The Center raised the money to be able to put in the waterline. The waterline was placed by Kinney Construction Company and Center members were again on hand to monitor for archaeology. Two pit houses were identified and the profile of them recorded as well as an extra-mural hearth.

The trail design was laid out and initial grading of the trail was performed. Center members monitored the trail grading and collected any artifacts uncovered. The Center had an ADA compliant specialist walk the path to make sure it would be compliant. The material for the trail construction was donated by the Yavapai Indian tribe. There are 3 areas that go through shallow washes and will need to have culverts placed. These were purchased and will be installed in 2018.

This October we completed an excavation for the Prescott National Forest. An arroyo had cut through a pit house and was washing it away. The Center did a recovery project to try and salvage any artifacts and gather information about the archaeological site. The excavation lasted 2 weeks. We had great help by our members to get this accomplished. I am happy to report that many items can be used for carbon dating were collected as well as pollen and flotation samples. When these are analyzed, we will make a report to the membership as to the results.

Our volunteers donated close to 10,000 hours which would amount to about \$22,000.

A major highlight was to have been chosen by the National Parks in our area to be their official non-profit partner.

Dr. Bostwick led an educational trip to the Yucatan and the Mayan Archaeological sites and a week-long trip to Chaco Canyon. The amount of research Dr. Bostwick did in preparation for this trip was amazing and all that were able to participate, learned an extraordinary amount regarding Chaco Canyon and its inhabitants.

The Cortez, Colorado field school was hosted by David Dove Principal Investigator at Mitchell Springs Site. As always those who participated had a very enjoyable time. We had two sessions in 2017. David

Dove will be at the 2018 Archaeology Fair to give a report on the excavation we have done there the last few years.

Lab work continued with a dedicated handful of volunteers under the watchful eyes of Dr. Todd Bostwick and Jo Parish. Lab work consisted mainly on projects concerning the Dyck collection. We were once again visited by Textile specialist Laurie Webster and Archaeobotanist Dr. Karen Adams. Dr. Adam continues work on DNA studies of the cotton and amaranth seeds. This work is ongoing. The big thrust in the lab now is to enter this information into the Museum software of Past Perfect.

An effort was made to update the exhibits on a regular basis, so members might be able to view some of the unique Dyck artifacts.

The educational outreach program to our schools under the direction of Jan Anderson and dedicated volunteers had a successful year doing over 20 presentations to fourth graders at various schools in the Verde Valley.

The Center library, continues to expand and become more organized under the supervision of Louise Fitzgerald and Tom Cloonan. The Digital Library is becoming more organized and a great resource for articles on the Verde Valley

The Archaeology Fair was held in March and was well attended. Ken Zoll put together some fantastic speakers and films. The Native American Artists at the Fair saw an increase in sales. The comments about the fair were all positive.

Our Executive Director was able to get several grants, including one of nearly \$24,000 for a new exhibit about the Yavapai and Apache Cultures. We work closely with them to bring this new exhibit to fruition.

Something new for 2017 was the collaboration of the Center with the Verde Valley Sinfonietta to bring Carlos Nakai and the famous Hoop Dancers to the Verde Valley at 2 separate sold out venues.

Our executive Director started a new program of Field Institute Classes where people will be brought to various Archaeological Conservancy Sites and the National Parks and given instructions on the archaeology of the various venues. In conjunction with this, a Ford Passenger Van was donated to the Center for use with the program. Ken Zoll has trained 10 guides so far to participate in this program.

We look forward to a very busy year.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2018

The Center will continue the work on finishing the Interpretive Trail. We hope to see the Garden planted and ready for its first harvest later in the year. All activities involving the movement of soil will be monitored by Center Volunteers.

We will continue the stabilization work at Atkeson Pueblo.

Our Executive Director will get the Field Seminar program off the ground.

Lab work continues with the Dyck Collection, but will also include some work on analyzing and cataloging the artifacts from the Hayfield Excavation that we did for the Prescott National Forest.

We will have International Field trips to Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador and at least two to Paquime in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Work on the new Yavapai and Apache exhibit will begin and be ready to showcase by November 2018.

Our plans include an Archaeology Fair in March to include films and lectures which have been scheduled.

A main goal will be to make any necessary improvements and get a final approval from Arizona State Museum to house artifacts from various archaeology firms and other institutions.

The Lecture Series for the year has been chosen and looks to be fantastic once again.

We will endeavor to do more field trips to local sites in the Verde Valley and attempt to do some 2-day field trips out of the area.

The main thrust for 2018 will be to raise money to pay off the note on the property. The Board of Directors will interview several firms that raise money for non-profits and to choose one that can help us raise the money. The Board will explore ways of increasing the storage space at the Center.

We are looking to a more productive year.

Dr. James Graceffa