



Verde Valley Archaeologist

A Quarterly Publication of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center

Conservation - Preservation - Education

Autumn/Winter 2019

10th VERDE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER Anniversary 2010 - 2020

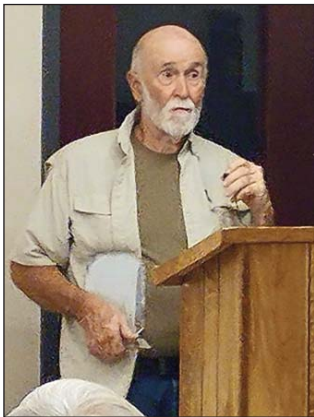
2020 Marks Our 10th Anniversary Year

2020 will be our 10th Anniversary year. We are planning several changes and events to mark this significant milestone in our development. Already you can see that we have an anniversary banner above. Likewise we have a new eNewsletter format. Other changes you will notice over the coming year will be a new look to our website and to the *Verde Valley Archaeologist*, revised membership application, as well as several special events. We hope you are as excited as we are about reaching this milestone!

2020 Annual Meeting on January 21

The Annual Membership Meeting of the VVAC will be held on January 21 starting at 6:00 pm (NOTE earlier start time) at the Camp Verde Community Library. After a short business meeting, including election of the Board of Directors, there will be a presentation by our Director of Archaeology, Dr. Todd Bostwick. He will discuss “Exploring the Chaco Phenomena: The Rise and Fall of the Chacoan Culture.”

Greeneltch Receives the Annual Sherman Loy Memorial Award



At the September 24 VVAC meeting, the annual Sherman Loy Memorial Award was presented to Ned Greeneltch. The Sherman Loy Award is given to an avocational archaeologist for outstanding efforts in the protection and promotion of the archaeological heritage of the Verde Valley. In 2004 the Arizona Site Steward program created a new “Middle Verde Region.” Ned took the helm of this new area with little training or assistance but he dove into the challenge. Within in a year he had the new region working efficiently. A few years later, Sherman Loy, who managed the adjoining region, retired and Ned took over that region as well, combining them into the current Verde River Region. This was a tremendous effort and one that would take an immense amount of time. This is one of the many reasons that Ned deserves this award plus the gratitude of all those who appreciate the protection of the prehistoric sites.

Grant from Arizona Lottery



The Center produces two free booklets for children visiting the Center. The “Tales of Ancient Arizona” is a storybook about the life of Sinagua children. We also produce “A Kids’s Guide to Archaeology.” This booklet is filled with puzzles and coloring pages about archaeology. Both booklets feature our own Dr. Art E. Fact.

The supply for both booklets was recently exhausted so a grant application was made and subsequently received from the Arizona Lottery for \$2,000 to do another printing of both booklets. They will once again be available in January. Free copies are also supplied to schools. See our other “Archaeology for Kids” activities on Page 3.

Arizona Site Steward Award



The Verde Valley Archaeology Center is the Regional Coordinating organization for the Arizona State Parks and Trails Volunteer Site Steward Program for the Verde River Region. The program monitors 85 sites for the Coconino and Prescott national forests, the

Archaeological Conservancy, and Arizona State Parks. The Center is also responsible for training the 71 current site stewards in the Region. The Center offers one or two classes for prospective site stewards each year and holds one regional meeting for all the site stewards. At the 2019 Annual State Site Steward Conference, held at the Grand Canyon on November 1-2, the State named Executive Director Ken Zoll the Regional Coordinator of the Year for the Center’s efforts in rejuvenating the program in the Verde River Region.





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.

President's Message

Dr. James Graceffa

Holiday Greetings

As I sit down to write this newsletter, another very busy and productive year is coming to an end. The activities sponsored by the Center included lectures, classes, field trips both local and International, special events, such as the Gala and the much enjoyed picnic plus, opportunities to be involved with lab and field work. I can promise you next year will be just as great for our members. Get involved. The Center is here to serve our members.

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center is starting its 10th year in existence. We received our 501c (3) non-profit status in October of 2010 and have not looked back. Some may remember the 650 square feet facility we occupied across the street when we first started. We outgrew that space in a very short time. Fortunately we were rescued by the Town of Camp Verde, which has gone out of their way to support the Center.

Because Center members always step up and with everyone working together we have made tremendous strides. One particular member stands out. That is Ken Zoll, who volunteered to take the position of Executive Director at no pay and has worked endlessly to promote the Center.

Many good things have come our way in the past 9 years, including the generosity of Scott Simonton's donation of 9 acres plus 6 adjoining acres at a very reduced cost. With your help we are paying off the loan.

Now, once again the Center has outgrown our existing space and is in dire need of more room. More and more entities are approaching us to permanently house their collections. The Center operates strictly on donations. If we are to build a much needed new facility on the donated land, we need your support in our Capital Campaign. Please consider a pledge for future donations. No amount is too small. Every penny will help to fund the construction of the new facility that we will all be proud of.

I have been proud to serve as President since the Archaeology Center's inception in October 2010. I have always tried to fulfill the goals of the Center to Educate the public on the need to Conserve Archaeological sites and Preserve the artifacts so they might be studied and enjoyed by future generations. But now it is time for me to step down and let someone else lead the Center with new ideas and enthusiasm.

My wish is to remain on the Board of Directors and take on new responsibilities with various Committees and to stay on as the Lab and Field Coordinator.

I would like to thank all the Directors who have served on the Board through my tenure and to the volunteers that have stepped up and made my job so much more easy and fun. They were always there when I needed them no matter what the task. Including a list of your names would be too extensive for this message, but now is the time to tell you how much you are appreciated. There is no doubt your help will be called upon in the future!

With that, I will say farewell as your President,

Jim Graceffa

P.S. You will still find me on Thursdays and Fridays at the Center Lab.

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ARCHAEOLOGY FOR KIDS

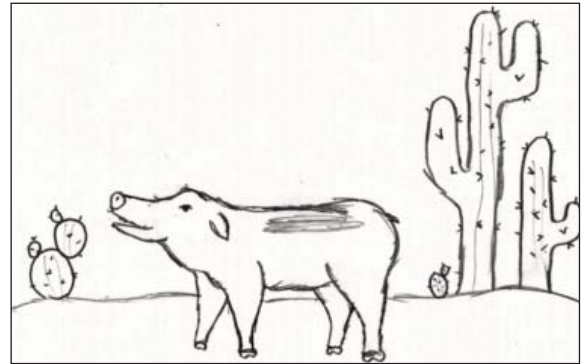
School Visits

The VVAC hosts school visits throughout the year. We were recently visited by a group from West Sedona School. In the lower image, docent Richard McGaugh talks about the Sinagua exhibit.

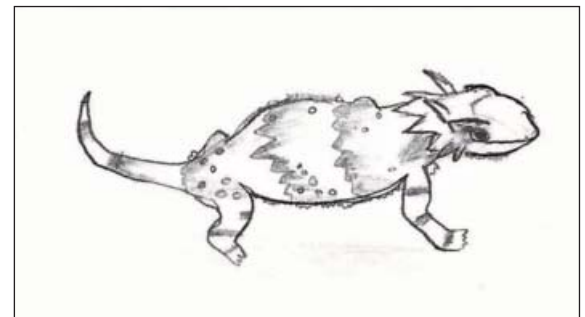


Native American Pathway Animals

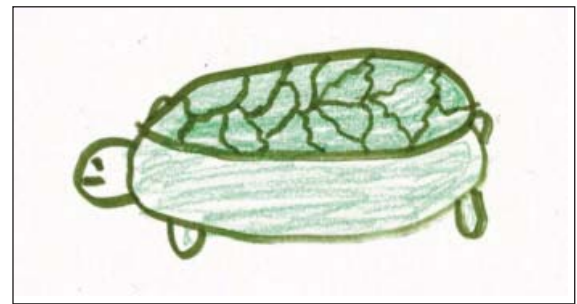
During the summer we invited kids to draw the animal sculptures along the Native American Pathway. Below are the winners, selected by the donors of the sculptures.



Javelina by Haylie, age 11



Horned Lizard by Lucy, age 11



Desert Tortoise by Jenna, age 11

Project Archaeology Arizona



The *Discovering Archaeology in Arizona Project* program supports the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, and Science in Arizona. The program has developed “A Teacher’s Activity Guide for Fourth through Seventh Grades.” The interdisciplinary lessons within *Discovering Archaeology in Arizona* facilitate literacy instruction across the content areas while also promoting the development of critical thinking skills. Lessons include problem solving, scientific inquiry, observation-inference, cooperative learning, and citizenship skills as students learn about the people of Arizona’s past and present. This curriculum uses information about different groups of people residing in Arizona throughout history. Developing an understanding of the importance of stewardship of archaeological sites through the appreciation of the lives of people who previously occupied Arizona is the goal. Archaeology, an interdisciplinary field, provides a natural integration of science with language, arts, mathematics, social studies, and history. This program in Arizona will kick-off in March 2020. The VVAC intends to participate in this program and promote it within the Verde Valley.

LOOKING BACK TEN YEARS AND TO THE FUTURE THE HISTORY OF THE VERDE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER

Impetus for the Center

The Verde Valley chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) was established in 1975. In 2009, archaeologist Stewart Deats of EnviroSystems Management in Flagstaff was invited to give a talk on their recent excavation of the Grey Fox Ridge Development in Cottonwood. Stewart described the process and the discovery of one of the oldest pit house villages ever found and dated in the Verde Valley. He recounted the recovery of thousands of artifacts. During the Q&A he was asked about the disposition of the artifacts. He reported that the artifacts were to be sent to the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott as the closest accredited repository for such collections. It was known that artifacts had been sent out of the Verde Valley since the 1860s, but the fact that artifacts were still being recovered and sent out of the area concerned many in the chapter. Current and past officers of the Chapter met to discuss this and decided that the development of a local repository should be investigated.

Why A New Organization? The bylaws of the Arizona Archaeological Society were reviewed to determine if the concept of a local curation facility could be developed within that framework. It became clear that it would not for two reasons: 1) A chapter is an affiliate of the State organization so assets of the chapter ultimately belong to the State organization. This could ultimately result in assets leaving the chapter's original geographic area, thus negating the goal to retain artifacts locally; and 2) As an affiliate organization, the State's IRS and D&B numbers applied to all chapters and consolidated financial reports were submitted. This would have prevented the Chapter from applying for grants since individual IRS and D&B numbers and financial statements would be required.

Early Organization - In 2009, the AAS Verde Valley Chapter began to sponsor an annual Festival of Native American Culture with the goal of raising funds to start the Center. A separate account was maintained by the Chapter for these funds. By the summer of 2010, that account totaled \$3,160.92. This amount was transferred to the new Center in September 2010 to cover costs of incorporation.

When discussion began to form the Center, Steve Ayers (a chapter member and then a reporter with the Camp Verde Bugle newspaper) suggested that the Town of Camp Verde be considered as an initial location for the Center. Since the chapter had been meeting in Sedona since 1975, possible locations in Sedona were explored but no suitable or reasonably-priced location could be found. Steve Ayers brought Linda Buchanan, a Camp Verde resident and employee of Yavapai College, to a meeting to speak in favor of locating in Camp Verde. The fledgling organization was offered free meeting space at the Yavapai College Camp Verde Campus (since then closed) for meetings. The offer was accepted and Camp Verde became our "home."

The Center's Articles of Incorporation were prepared in August 2010 and were approved by the State of Arizona with a date of incorporation established as September 2, 2010. The original Board of Directors named in the Articles were: Steve Ayers, Linda Buchanan, James Graceffa, Sharon Olsen and Ken Zoll. Attorney Elizabeth McFarland, in the Village of Oak Creek, offered her services as our first General Counsel and as our statutory agent with the State of Arizona. Ms. McFarland drafted the Articles and the initial set of by-laws.

An application for tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service was prepared and submitted by Attorney McFarland after receipt of the approved Articles of Incorporation and minutes of the organizational meeting. Approval of the Center as a public charity under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) with Federal income tax exemption under 501(c)(3) was approved in an IRS determination letter dated October 28, 2010, with the exemption date of September 2, 2010.



Our Logo - One of the early decisions was to develop a logo for the Center. Since our mission is to preserve and tell the stories of the people who have made the Verde Valley their home for over 12,000 years, it seemed appropriate to incorporate an image that would express this. The image of the line of people, either walking or dancing, at the Palatki Heritage Site in the agave roasting pit area seemed to be appropriate.



Yavapai College Space - The first project undertaken by Center volunteers was to analyze artifacts provided by the U.S. Forest Service from years of surface surveys. The artifacts were analyzed and recorded in a database. They were then transferred to the Museum of Northern Arizona or the National Park Service. Volunteers worked on most Thursdays and Fridays in classrooms of Yavapai College, Camp Verde Campus. The campus was to be closed on June 30, 2011, so new space had to be found.



First Office - At about this time, the Superintendent of the Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments called to advise that the Tuzigoot Museum was being remodeled and that five of the historic display cases were going to be declared surplus and sent to the National Park Service (NPS) storage facility in Tucson. The cases were offered to the Center on a “long-term loan.” In order to not miss such an opportunity, the Center rented a storage unit to hold these displays until needed. Three other NPS display cases were being discarded, along with some front desk furniture. All of those items were given to the Center and taken to storage.



The Center located space in Camp Verde and signed a month-to-month lease in the Fort Verde Shopping Plaza at 348 S. Main St., Suite 6B, effective April 1, 2011. The 650 sq. ft. space was rented for \$200 per month, plus utilities. The space was repainted and a new water heater, toilet and sink were installed by volunteers.



Contact was made with the Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN) to discuss our plans and to request its support and participation on our Advisory Council. The Nation approved of our intentions and agreed to be on the Advisory Council. We were taken to a storage room with several large boxes and were told that they contained many artifacts that individuals and estates had given to the YAN. However, since they were neither Yavapai nor Apache items, they were offered to the Center on a “long-term loan” as long as an inventory was provided. The YAN also provided three upright display cases that were no longer needed. The inventory was completed, and these items became the start of the Center’s collections.

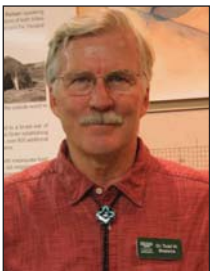
The space allowed us to bring four of the Tuzigoot displays and two of the YAN displays out of storage. The cases were set up with artifacts from the YAN collection. The Grand Opening was held on May 6, 2011, with over 200 in attendance. Behind some of the Tuzigoot front desk furniture was room for two tables used for meetings and for artifact analysis. It became clear at an early stage that this space was not going to be sufficient for too long.

Main Street Move - In early 2012, the Center was approached by the Town of Camp Verde concerning a town-owned building at 385 S. Main St. The space was leased to the Chamber of Commerce to operate the Town’s Visitor Center. The Town wanted to take over the responsibility of managing the Visitor Center and move it to the building housing the historical society. However, the Town did not want to terminate the Chamber’s lease if the building would be left vacant. After consultation with the Board of Directors, it was decided to pursue a lease for this space that would provide VVAC with 3,300 sq.ft. of space.



On May 2, 2012, the Camp Verde Mayor and the Town Council voted unanimously to enter into a 10-year lease with the VVAC for the town-owned building. This vote and lease provided the Center with a much larger facility, a Main Street location, as well as a sense of permanency. It also demonstrated the Center’s commitment to the Town of Camp Verde. The partnership between the Town and the VVAC permitted the Center to work together to not only enhance its mission but to help expand business and tourism opportunities. The space at 348 S. Main was closed in July 2012 and VVAC began to remodel the new space. The new building required extensive modifications. The VVAC had to remove four doors and doorframes and replace them with steel frames and solid core doors for added security. An alarm system was installed, and a second restroom was added. The entire interior was repainted and the carpets cleaned. All of this work was accomplished with volunteer contributions and labor. On November 2, 2012, VVAC officially opened its new and expanded facility with a members-only preview. The new Center opened to the public on November 3 with expanded hours.

Dr. Todd Bostwick Becomes Director of Archaeology - With the new facility, it became clear that the Center needed to acquire the services of a professional archaeologist to direct our curation, exhibit and educational efforts. Dr. Todd Bostwick is one of the most respected names in Southwest archaeology, holding both a Masters in Anthropology-Archaeology and a Ph.D. in History from Arizona State University. He served for 21 years as the City Archaeologist for the City of Phoenix at Pueblo Grande Museum. Shortly after his retirement from the City of Phoenix, Dr. Bostwick was contacted to join the Advisory Council. He readily agreed and was later offered the position of Director of Archaeology, which he also accepted. His duties include: planning and supervising all field and lab operations; developing policies to conform to the highest standards of ethical, intellectual, and scientific rigor and validity; and overseeing collections, curation and display activities..





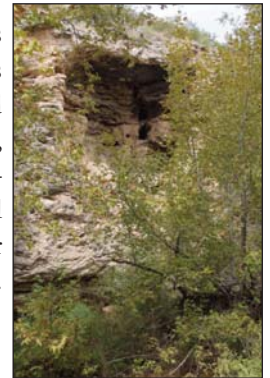
Governor’s Award - The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission (Commission) is a statutory board that advises the State Historic Preservation Officer on issues of relevance to Arizona archaeology. Each year the Commission presents “Awards in Public Archaeology” to individuals, organizations, and/or programs that have significantly contributed to the protection and preservation of, and education about, Arizona's non-renewable archaeological resources. The 2014 winner of the Governor’s Award in the non-profit category was the Verde Valley Archaeology Center, recognized for its work in artifact preservation, site preservation with the Archaeology Conservancy and for providing support for volunteer efforts and public education programming that aid in the preservation of Arizona’s heritage resources.

Conservation Assessment - In 2014, the Center received a grant from the National Institute for Conservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to conduct a “conservation assessment” of its facilities, policies and practices in the treatment of artifacts and museum management. Dr. Nancy Odegaard was contracted to conduct this assessment. Dr. Odegaard was the lead conservator and head of the preservation division at Arizona State Museum in Tucson. She was also a professor in the University of Arizona's School of Anthropology and Department of Materials Science and Engineering. They worked with a group of VVAC volunteers shown in the image on the right.



Dr. Odegaard was accompanied by Arizona State Museum Conservation Lab Coordinator Gina Watkinson, a Post Graduate Fellow from the University of Delaware and a Graduate Intern from the University of California – Getty. This team spent two days with the Center’s team conducting a general conservation assessment of the Center’s collection, environmental conditions, policies and practices. The final report of the assessment was received on August 15. Dr. Odegaard noted that the “professionalism in the activities of the museum staff is very evident.” The report concludes that the Center “is well qualified to be an archaeological collections repository for Federal, State, Town or private collections in Arizona." This was a major accomplishment for such a new organization.

Paul Dyck Cliff Dwelling Collection - In 1960, Dr. Charles Rozaire of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles was invited by artist Paul Dyck (1917-2006) to excavate a rock shelter site on his Rimrock property. Excavations took place in 1962, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 by Dr. Rozaire with the assistance of college students and volunteers. More than 40,000 well-preserved artifacts were recovered including; pottery, textiles, wooden objects, stone tools and a wide variety of plant and animal remains. The Dyck family contacted the Center in April 2014 concerning the items collected during this excavation. Since 1962, the items had been in a storage unit in Paul Dyck’s Rimrock studio. President Jim Graceffa and others visited the collection to assess their condition. After several discussions, the Dyck family offered the entire collection to the Center for storage, study and exhibition. The items were then inventoried and moved to the Center.



Grey Fox Collection - As described earlier, the excavation of the Grey Fox Development and resulting artifact collection was the impetus to start the Center. With the receipt of the “qualified” report from Dr. Odegaard, EnviroSystems was contacted to determine the status of this collection which was still at EnviroSystems but ready to go to Sharlot Hall. EnviroSystems and Sharlot Hall agreed to release the collection to the Center in May 2015. This marked a major milestone in the Center’s development and a recognition of what we had achieved in our short history.

Simonton Ranch - In addition to the Grey Fox Ridge Development, EnviroSystems also investigated property in Camp Verde known as the Simonton Ranch prior to a planned residential development. During the investigation, two prehistoric sites were discovered. Both sites had limited excavations and the artifacts were removed and sent to Sharlot Hall Museum. In the final report EnviroSystems noted that within the Whitehawke Parcel, north of the proposed Homestead Parkway, were six relatively undisturbed pit houses and another feature of unknown type that would benefit from additional study.

In early 2013, Scott Simonton, the owner of the property, was contacted to seek permission to excavate the features before any development was undertaken. Over the ensuing months, a legal document was developed to cover the excavation and



to ensure that there would be no costs or liability for Mr. Simonton. In October 2013 Mr. Simonton visited the Center to discuss the document. During the visit Mr. Simonton offered to donate “up to six acres” of the property to the Center that contained most of the features. To pursue this possible donation, however, Mr. Simonton asked for a “conceptual document” as to what the Center would do



with the property. The document was developed with the help of the Design Group Architects of Sedona who had donated their services. A conceptual plan for the six acres, plus the adjoining 9.28 acres to house a future archaeology campus, was developed and submitted to Mr. Simonton. At first taken aback by the plan that exceeded his initial offer, he eventually realized the potential of the plan, and negotiations began for the entire 15.28 acres.

Negotiations with Mr. Simonton and the Town of Camp Verde proceeded through much of 2014 including meetings with the surrounding property owners. Meetings and hearings were also held with the Town's Planning and Zoning to change the zoning from residential to commercial to accommodate the Center. As negotiations continued, Mr. Simonton agreed to donate Parcel A (9.28 acres appraised at \$800,000) free and clear and to donate/sell Parcel B (6.0 acres appraised at \$570,000) for \$250,000 with Mr. Simonton carrying the note for this amount for five years. The title transfer papers were prepared and title was received on July 16, 2015.



Native American Heritage Pathway - The first development of the property was the design of a walking path. The Center received a grant from the National Park Service River, Trails and Conservation Program in 2016 that provided expert assistance in determining the location of the pathway. The pathway is part of the Verde River "String of Pearls" system that is being developed to run along the river. Once the trail was laid out work began with the help of member volunteers and the Camp Verde "Old Guys." Gravel for the trail was donated by the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The National Park Service also assisted in the design of the interpretive signs that dot the trail. Shortly after the trail was completed, several members donated park benches, the interpretive signs and animal sculptures to be placed along the trail.



Native American Traditional Use Garden - With the trail being completed our next goal was to develop a garden of items that would have been grown by local Native Americans. Under the direction of Gerry Quotkoyva and Kayo Parson-Korn the garden planted in 2018 with the help of several volunteers. The distinctive stone pillars of the fence and the custom-made steel gate provide an impressive look to the space.



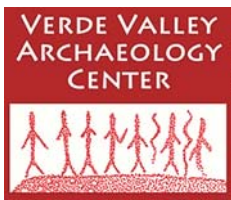
Water Main Installed - Part of the land donation agreement of the Simonton Ranch property required the Center to extend the water line along the property - a 1300' extension. The engineering was completed and all permits were received. The cost of the line was \$98,842.74. This amount was raised entirely by member donations. Because the route of the waterline was within the boundaries of the archaeological site, the trenching needed to be monitored. During the course of the trenching two additional pit house structures were discovered. They were measured, photographed, and recorded after which trenching for the water main continued. Thanks to the Camp Verde Water Company and Kinney Construction Services, the installation was completed in September 2017.

Yavapai-Apache Museum Display - In 2017 the VVAC was awarded a Museums for America grant for \$23,983 from the Institute for Museum and Library Service to expand the display on the history of the Yavapai-Apache Nation within the Verde Valley. Working with the cultural directors of the Apache and the Yavapai the display was completed in late 2018. This was our first attempt at an interactive exhibit using iPads. The exhibit also opened with the loan of baskets from the Sharlot Hall Museum and the Yavapai-Apache Nation..

Reflections

Few believed that the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum would become a reality. Professionals advised us of the difficulty of creating a new museum and repository in the current economic environment. This task would be doubly difficult, we were told, by relying almost exclusively on volunteers. But the founding members had a vision and a commitment to make it happen. We were constantly encouraged by the growing membership base, now at over 1,000, and the generosity of those members. The steady flow of grants, although modest by most museum standards, showed confidence in our proposals and ability follow through.

Updating our history on the advent of our 10th Anniversary Year does not tell the whole story - not every difficulty or discouraging setback would fit within these four pages. Suffice it to say that they were overcome (to a greater or lesser extent) as we focused on the end goal of building a new museum and repository to tell the story of the people who made the Sedona/Verde Valley their home for over 12,000 years, to protect the ancient sites, and to preserve the artifacts of this ancient history within the area. THANK YOU all for your continued support and encouragement over these past ten years.



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