2016 Field School Concludes

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center has held summer archaeology excavation field schools at the Champagne Springs or Mitchell Springs sites near Cortez, Colorado since 2011. There were three sessions this past summer and plans are developing to hold two sessions in August 2017. The Colorado field schools are open to all members. No experience is necessary. Participants are paired with someone with experience. All materials are supplied. Excavation involves the recovery of several types of data from a place where there is evidence of past human activity. These data include artifacts, features, and ecofacts (evidence for the local environment and resources being used such as snail shells, seeds, and butchered bones). Watch our Calendar of Events for information on the 2017 excavations.

Roman Ruins of Germany River Cruise

Dr. Todd Bostwick hosted a river cruise of the Rhine, Main and Mosel Rivers seeing fortress towns, castles and Roman ruins. AmaWaterways donated $500 per cabin towards the Capital Campaign Fund for this cruise. Couples taking advantage of this benefit cruise, pictured below, were Todd and Heidi Bostwick, Justine and Bill Kusner, Chuck and Chalyce Murray and Sharyn and Bill Feldmeier.

Dr. Charles E. Rozaire, 1927-2016

Dr. Charles Rozaire (Curator Emeritus of the Los Angeles County Museum) passed away this past March. In the late 1950s, Paul Dyck became concerned that the rockshelter on his property would be pot hunted due to development in the Rimrock area. During an exhibit of his paintings of Plains Indian Chiefs at the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, Paul met Dr. Rozaire. Paul asked Dr. Rozaire if he would be interested in conducting excavations of the rockshelter.

In 1961, Dr. Rozaire drew up an agreement between the Southwest Museum and Paul Dyck that stated that they each would receive half of the artifacts recovered from excavations. A letter written by Dr. Rozaire to Paul Dyck in December 1961, thanked Paul for showing him the rockshelter and tentatively set a date to undertake excavations. Dr. Rozaire stated that the purpose of the initial excavation was to “get a better idea of the site, materials, depth, cultural and historical problems.” The Dyck rockshelter excavations proved to be so interesting and the deposits so extensive that Dr. Rozaire conducted excavations over the course of seven seasons in 1962, 1968 (two seasons), 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1972.

It was Dr. Rozaire’s intention to analyze all the artifacts from his excavations after the last field season, but due to other commitments he was unable to do so. In 2006, Paul Dyck passed away at age of 88. In 2014, John Dyck, son of Paul Dyck, came to the Center to inquire if we would be interested in having the Dyck Rockshelter artifact collection and site records. We readily agreed and the work of Dr. Rozaire and his colleagues is now in our possession. Dr. Rozaire regretted never completing his final report but was able to visit the Center to provide us with additional insights. Before his death, Dr. Rozaire contributed $10,000 to the Center’s Capital Campaign for the entry garden which will bear his name when completed.
President’s Message

Dr. James Graceffa

I would like to dedicate my message to all of our volunteers, without whom the Center could not be a success. There is not one aspect of the Center’s function that does not benefit from our volunteers. To name them all would fill this entire space. I want them and all our membership to know how much we appreciate them. Those of you who are not participating in the volunteer opportunities are urged to come to the Center and inquire how you can get involved. Any and all talents are needed.

After a vigorous season of Field Schools for many of our Center members we now settle down to a very busy Fall season of lectures, more curation tasks, field survey work and classes. Next year we will only have the opportunity to participate in two field schools and it might be our last chance to excavate in a truly informative Anasazi site, so make sure you watch the Center newsletters and website for the announcement to be able to participate.

As with every September we kick off our lectures series with the Sherman Loy Memorial Lecture and award. This year the award goes to two people who have dedicated numerous hours in furthering the preservation and education of Archaeology in the Verde Valley. The recipients are Bill and Joan Sexton. They are Life Members and have donated numerous volunteer hours to the Center.

Our Gala this year will be fun with an Indiana Jones theme and entertainment by the Susannah Martin Quartet. As a special treat we have a special guest speaker Filmer Kewanyama, a Second Mesa Hopi. This is our major fund raiser for the year and count on everyone’s support to make it a success. If you have not purchased your tickets to the Gala, please think about attending. If you cannot attend you can still bid for our auction items on line. To see the items and bid on them go to www.biddingforgood.com/vvac.

Also, this October we are planning to open a new temporary exhibit of Ancient Adornment with many items donated by Doug Bell of the pioneer Bell family of the Verde Valley. This will be a wonderful insight to the jewelry worn by the early inhabitants of the Verde Valley. Watch for your invitation to the Members-Only Preview, which is one of the many benefits of supporting the Center.

November is Native American Heritage month and the Center has numerous speakers lined up to highlight the month. There will be something for everyone so tell your friends and make them aware of the many benefits of belonging to the Verde Valley Archaeology Center.

I realize I mentioned the waterline in the last newsletter, but I feel it is important enough to mention again. I want to thank all of you who have donated already, but we still need help raising the funds to put it in. We have made a good start but are a long way off. Please consider a donation or a pledge to be paid over an extended time. We can now arrange for monthly payments to make it easy on everyone’s budget.

As this message was to be dedicated to our volunteers, I would like to close with one more shout out and hurrah to our volunteers.
The Archaeological Record

Ancient Adornment

The Center opens a new exhibit with a Members-Only Preview on October 3 and to the public on October 4 on Ancient Adornment. The Center has had a small collection of beads and pendants, but with the recent donation of the Bell Family Collection containing many interesting items of adornment, a special exhibit was developed.

Personal adornment has been a human trait well into ancient times. Ornaments in a great variety of shapes and materials have been found on many prehistoric sites of the American Southwest. It is evident that early Native Americans were quite familiar with the use of beads and pendants for adornment and as a medium of exchange or trade.

Turquoise has been dominant in jewelry finds; for example, several thousand pieces were found in Chaco Canyon. However, it is not the only important jewelry find. The spiny oyster shell (Spondylus) originates in only one area of the Western Hemisphere — off the coast of Baja California. This shell has been found in abundance in archeological excavations of the Ancestral Puebloans, Mogollon, and Hohokam. These finds not only prove prehistoric man’s interest in, and use of, jewelry, but it reveals important economic information. It shows the existence of long-distance trading in their lifestyle.

The most common articles for adornment are beads. Beads are defined as centrally-perforated material intended to be strung with others and worn as beads strung together were worn as necklaces, bracelets, anklets, and sometimes even earrings. It is sometimes difficult to differentiate a bead from a small pendant but the general differentiation is that the perforation of a pendant is not centrally located, as with most beads. Most of the beads in our collection are Olivella shells from the Pacific coast. Native people of central and southern California used the shell of this species to make decorative beads for at least the last 9,000 years. Such beads have been discovered in archaeological contexts as far inland as Idaho and Arizona.

The necklaces shown to the left are made with Olivella shells which were used extensively as beads. By grinding off the smaller sharp-pointed end on sandstone, a thread or sinew could be pushed through the shell lengthwise. In this manner several strands could be formed and arranged in a necklace. Sometimes both ends of the shell would be worn down or cut off so that only the middle section formed the bead as in the top necklace shown below.

In the image to the right are several stone and shell pendants. Often the beadmaker took advantage of the natural shape of the stone or shell and drilled it without any attempt at shaping. However, as can be seen in the three stone examples, these were shaped into square forms, the purpose of which is unknown.

The center of clam shells were removed and the edges smoothed to form bracelets or rings. This engraved bracelet is mostly likely Hohokam. A similar engraved bracelet was found at Tuzigoot (Jernigan, E. Wesley. 1978 Jewelry of the Prehistoric Southwest. School of American Research, Santa Fe).

The frog is probably Hohokam and is Glycymeris shell; it represents the desert frogs that emerge from the earth during summer thunderstorms, giving them a magical association with water.

This long slender shell is a Turritella and is also common among the Hohokam (it originates from the Rocky Point region). The shell has been drilled to be used as a pendant.

The top necklace consists of 208 small disk beads of Olivella shells. The bottom necklace has 25 Olivella shells. Both were restrung with Yucca thread.

The most common shells from the Pacific and the Gulf of California were Clam (usually Glycymeris or Laevicardium), Olivella, Abalone and Conus. From these were manufactured pendants, beads and bracelets. From various colored stone (especially slate, silicate, gypsum and turquoise) they made beads and pendants. The time and labor spent in producing these items show how fond even these early people were of personal adornment, or how willing they were to spend several days to make a necklace or charm.

The necklaces shown to the left are made with Olivella shells which were used extensively as beads. By grinding off the smaller sharp-pointed end on sandstone,
THE CENTER MARKS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH A SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES
Sponsored by the New Cliff Castle Casino Hotel and with grants from Arizona Humanities

All lectures are free and open to the public starting at 6:30 pm, and will be held in the Cliff Castle Casino Hotel Conference Center

November 1  Yavapai Apache Nation Cultural Office. This lecture opens our month-long observance of Native American Heritage Month. The opening presentation will be by the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

November 10 Rising from Invisibility: Indigenous Arizona Women in Charge of Themselves
Dr. Laura Tohe (Dine) was born in Fort Defiance, AZ and is Tsenabahinii (Sleeping Water People clan) and born for the Tódích’íinii (Bitter Water clan). In many Southwestern matrifocal cultures, Indigenous women’s lives are modeled after female heroes and sacred women who exemplify and express courage and kinship values. This talk presents how Indigenous women have contributed in significant ways, not only to their tribal nations, but also to many aspects of contemporary American life.

November 15 Plants, Inspiring the People: Reflections on Hualapai Ethnobotany of the Grand Canyon
Carrie Cannon is a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma and is also of Oglala Lakota descent. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, and an M.S. in Resource Management and works for the Hualapai Tribe of Peach Springs, AZ. The ethnobotanical story of the Hualapai Tribe begins with the plant knowledge the people have inherited from their great grandparents who lived entirely off the land. Information presented will examine the crucial role that plant resources have played in Hualapai culture; knowledge that has been fine tuned and perfected over millennia.

November 22 Himdak doo IIna: A Way of Life. How Societies Shape Culture
Royce Manuel (Akimel O’odham) specializes in the revival and teaching of artistic traditions and indigenous knowledge. Debbie Nez-Manuel (Diné) has a Masters in Social Work from Arizona State University. Tribes in Arizona often illustrate their balance between patriarch and matriarch societies through symbolism. Illustrating with the Man in the maze and the Navajo basket designs, they will unfold the meaning of these common designs.

November 29 Boarded Up: Social and Historical Interpretations of the American Indian Boarding School Era
Dr. Evangeline Parsons Yazzie is a Professor Emerita at Northern Arizona University. This presentation will impart a social interpretation of how life among Indian Nations began to change due to the plight American Indian people were forced into in the name of education. Children were taken by force, placed in a boarding school, kept there for several years, and were not allowed to speak their language or practice their culture. The presentation is from an American Indian perspective.
Our lecture series is open to the public. Admission is free to members. A $5 donation by nonmembers is suggested. All lectures start at 6:30 pm and are at the Cliff Castle Casino Hotel Conference Center unless indicated otherwise.

**Sherman Loy Memorial Award Presentation**

Sherman Loy (1926-2011) was the scion of two pioneer families - Schuerman and Loy. He was a dedicated volunteer with many organizations including the Site Steward Program. He was an early supporter of the Center and one of its first Life members. The annual Sherman Loy Memorial Award is given to an avocational archaeologist for their outstanding efforts in the protection and promotion of the archaeological heritage of the Verde Valley. The recipient is chosen based on their contribution to our knowledge of archaeology, active participation in the preservation or protection of archaeological sites, presentation of educational lectures or discussions, published books or articles, or who has worked closely with organizations that contribute to the science of Anthropology.

*Following the award presentation:* 

**Droughts, Floods and Freezes: The Role of Climate in the Human History of the American Southwest**

*Dr. Carla Van West* has more than 35 years’ experience in the archaeology of the U.S. Southwest and uses innovative approaches to link Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology with paleoclimatic data for locations in southwestern Colorado.

**Ancient Woodworking, Animal Use, and Hunting Practices in Southwestern Utah**

*Dr. Laurie Webster* is an anthropologist who specializes in the perishable material culture of the American Southwest. *Chuck LaRue* is a wildlife biologist and naturalist who has worked extensively with birds on the Colorado Plateau and other areas of the Southwest. They will discuss some of what they have learned about the use and manufacture of perishable technologies and how their work has broadened our understanding of Basketmaker and ancestral Puebloan societies in ways that the study of more durable artifacts cannot.

**A Game for the Gods: Mesoamerican Ball Courts in Arizona and Central America**

*Dr. Todd Bostwick*, our Director of Archaeology, will present current ideas about Hohokam ball courts and their importance in facilitating trade and resolving social conflicts in prehistoric Arizona. Photographs taken by Dr. Bostwick will be shown of ball courts in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and Arizona.

**New Discoveries in Belize Archaeology**

*Dr. Jaime José Awe* is a Belizean archaeologist who specializes in the ancient Maya. He is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University, and the Director of the Belize Archaeological Reconnaissance Project. Dr. Awe will give a presentation on the 2016 field season which he describes as "particularly exciting with the discovery of two hieroglyphic panels and a large tomb at Xunantunich." He will talk about these new discoveries and their ongoing Belize research.

The 2017 Verde Valley Archaeology Fair has again been selected as a Signature Event of the 2017 Arizona SciTech Festival. The Fair will feature archaeology-related lectures, archaeology documentary films, demonstrations and classes. Visit the Archaeology Fair website page for details as they are announced.

**The Significance of Prehistoric Cotton in Central and Northern Arizona**

*Kim Spurr* is Archaeology Division Director at the Museum of Northern Arizona and Vice-President of the VVAC. For more than 25 years, Kim has worked as a professional archaeologist in the American Southwest and the western U.S. She will discuss how prehistoric agriculture in the Southwest is typically equated with corn, beans, and squash. Another important crop was cotton, which provided both food and fibers for weaving. She will highlight cotton textiles from the VVAC's Dyck Rockshelter collection, as well as providing a broad background on the uses and cultural significance of cotton in the Southwest.
Annual International Archaeology Day Gala
A Benefit for the Verde Valley Archaeology Center

Saturday, October 15, 2016
Sedona Poco Diablo Resort
1752 Arizona Hwy179

6:00 p.m.  Cocktails with *The Music of Indiana Jones*  
(from the years of the films - 1935-1939)  
by the Susannah Martin Quartet  
Susannah Martin - Vocals; Steve Sandner-piano/vocals;  
Steve Douglas-acoustic bass; Chris Counelis-saxophone

Silent Auction  
Vintage Native American Jewelry, Paintings, Quilt, Pottery and more  
All items will be available for bidding at BiddingForGood.com/vvac starting October 3 and at the Gala

7:00 p.m.  Dinner Choices:  
Oaxaca Stuffed Chicken Breast  
Herb Crusted Pork Loin  
Grilled Vegetable Napoleon  
*See website for full menu descriptions*

Special Guest Speaker:  
Filmer Kewanyama, Smoki Museum Board Trustee

8:30 p.m.  Music and Dancing Continues

$125 ($65 tax deductible)  
Includes two drink tickets  
*Tickets now available at BiddingForGood.com/vvac*  
or by returning the invitation card

A Very Special Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors

Dr. F. Dennison and Janet Shaw
The Past Is Our Future

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC) has acquired 15.28 acres of the Simonton Ranch in Camp Verde that contains at least eight undisturbed ancient pit houses estimated to date from about A.D. 650. The property has been appraised at $1.37 million. Mr. Scott Simonton of Gilbert, Arizona, donated $1.12 million toward this acquisition. The remaining $250,000 is covered by a note that is payable in 2020.

You can see the conceptual plan by the Design Group Architects of Sedona in the Center or on our website. The total estimated cost for this effort, including the land acquisition, is $15.5 million which includes a $2 million Reserve Endowment Fund.

Turquoise Circle Members

$2,500+ to Capital Campaign

$25,000 - Native American Garden - Available
$10,000 - Courtyard Garden - Tom and Janet Taylor
$10,000 - Entry Garden - Dr. Charles Rozaire
$500 - Theater Seat (200)
Linda Guarino & Ken Kaemmerle
Richard Henderson
Bridget Highfill
Stan and Sue Loft
Dean and Kathi Olson
Michael Pollard and Mary Wiseman
Lee and Jean Silver
Jim and Elaine Worthington

$500 - Park Bench (Sold Out)
Nils and Janet Anderson
Todd and Heidi Bostwick
Mary Byrd in memory of Harris Byrd
Mike and Barbara Cadwell
Susan and Avrum Cohen
Bridget Highfill
Stan and Sue Loft
Dean and Kathi Olson
Michael Pollard and Mary Wiseman
Lee and Jean Silver
Jim and Elaine Worthington

$500 - Theater Seat (200)
Linda Guarino & Ken Kaemmerle
Richard Henderson
Bridget Highfill
Stan and Sue Loft

$250 - Conference Chair (300)
Ron and Jan Brattain
Stewart Deats and Janet Hagopian
Bob and Estelle Jonas
Paul and Barbara Schnur
Craig Swanson
Jim and Elaine Worthington

Progress on the development of the Center’s Homestead Property is moving along as anticipated. Part of the donation agreement requires the Center to extend the water line along the property - a 1300’ extension. The Center contracted with an engineer and the plans have been completed and approved. While the preliminary estimate at the time the property was acquired was $75,000, the water company increased the size of the mainline from 8” to 12”. This increased the cost to put in the line with bids ranging from $98,000 to $105,000.

YOU CAN HELP! ONLY 1,161 FEET TO GO!

BUY A FOOT for $50! Have your name on a section of pipe before it is buried! Here is your chance to be part of history – a sort of buried time capsule with your printed name or your own signature! Your foot of pipe can be bought online by going to our VVAC Store on the website or you can mail a check to the Center. Here are the members who have purchased one or more feet as of September 15.

Mike Bencic and Cindy Parker - Two Feet
Ron and Suzanne Burkey – One Foot
Tom and Lucie Burris – Twenty Feet
Kathy Davis – Ten Feet
Keith and Jeannie Greiner - Twenty Feet
Frank Grinere – Two Feet
Bill and Lynette Kovacovich – Two Feet
Bill and Justine Kusner – Twenty Feet
Ken and Marcia Lee – Four Feet
Ruthmary Lovitt – Two Feet
Tom Mathieu and Coco Januschka – One Foot
Ray and Mel Nowaczyk – Two Feet
Sharon and Norm Olsen – Two Feet
Dean and Kathi Olson – Two Feet
Kimberly Spurr and David Purcell – Four Feet
John and Diane Simpson – One Foot
Cathy and Tom Weimer – Two Feet
Maurine Wise – Twenty Feet
Elaine and Jim Worthington – Two Feet
Ken and Nancy Zoll – Twenty Feet

Sponsor a Foot

Bill and Justine Kusner – Twenty Feet
Ken and Marcia Lee – Four Feet
Ruthmary Lovitt – Two Feet
Tom Mathieu and Coco Januschka – One Foot
Ray and Mel Nowaczyk – Two Feet
Sharon and Norm Olsen – Two Feet
Dean and Kathi Olson – Two Feet

Other Contributions
Anonymous (3)
Laura and Andy Beeler
Melissa Bowersock
Ron and Jan Brattain
Marian Brookman
Bern and Linda Carey
Gay Chanler
Robert and Audrey Erb
Carol German
Mary Huntley
Charles Kaluza
Ruth Kiessel
Frank and Carol Lombardo
Ruthmary Lovitt
Thomas Mantovani
Thomas Marshall
John and Elizabeth Oakes
Jon and Teri Petrescu
Peter J Pilles, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Dennison Shaw, Jr.
Donna Shoemaker
Jo Ann Sawyer
Margaret Wallace
Greg and Amy Welden

Volume 6, Number 2 • Autumn 2016
ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA
October 15, 2016
Poco Diablo Resort
Tickets available online

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

Thanks For Your Support
The Verde Valley Archaeology Center would like to thank the following for their generous support of our General Fund in the past 12 months

Business Members and Sponsors

Gifts of $60,000
Donalyn Mikels

Gifts of at least $1,000
Todd & Heidi Bostwick
Al & Ruth Cornell
Jim & Diane Graceffa
Bill & Justine Kusner
Jon and Terri Petrescu
Charles Rozaire
Dennis & Janet Shaw
Craig & Sue Sigler
Ken & Nancy Zoll

Gifts of at least $500
Spence Gustav
Ken & Marcia Lee
Tom Mathieu & Coco Januschka
Ray & Mel Nowaczyk
Mark & Kate Pico
Stanley & Anne Rulapaugh
William & Elizabeth Sweeney
Warner & Maurine Wise
James & Elaine Worthington

Other Contributions of Cash or Supplies
Anonymous (3)
Jan & Nils Anderson
Dave & Cindy Bancroft
Laura & Andy Beeler
Ron & Suzanne Burkey
Jack Duffy
Richard Henderson
Ruthmary Lovitt
Sharon Olson
Jo Parish
Dick & Judy Williams

Employee Matching or Retiree Volunteer

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