2017 Field School

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center has held summer archaeology excavation field schools at the Champagne Springs or Mitchell Springs sites in Colorado since 2011. In 2017 there will be two field school sessions. The exact dates will be announced later in January.

The Colorado field schools are open to all. Members are given preference by early notification before a general announcement. No experience is necessary. Participants are paired with someone with experience. All materials are supplied, unless you have your own that you would like to bring. Participants 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. Lodging can be had at Dove Creek, CO or Monticello, Utah, 25 miles away. Dry camping is available at the site. Porta-potties and potable water is made available at the site. This can be a great experience for those who have never had the experience to excavate.

Atkeson (aka Oak Creek) Ruin Stabilization

The Archaeological Conservancy is the owner of six archaeological preserves in the Verde Valley. The Center has an agreement with the Conservancy to act as the local manager of the properties. This involves monitoring the site, repairing the surrounding fencing and gates, and to assess the condition of each site. The Atkeson property at the confluence of Oak Creek and the Verde River has the largest pueblo wall in the Verde Valley. It is a Tuzigoot Phase structure of the Southern Sinagua. In the course of monitoring the site it became apparent that the elements have not been kind to the structure. With the support of the Conservancy, the Center will undertake a stabilization project in early 2017.

Adopt-a-Highway

The Center participates in the Arizona Adopt-a-Highway program with a semi-annual clean up of a one-mile stretch along Highway 260 east of Camp Verde. The mile is opposite Verde Lakes and below the Clear Creek ruins. Many thanks to our volunteers who completed the one-mile roundtrip clean up in just two hours. They were Bob Whiting, Jim Worthington, Lynette Kovacovich, Tom and Cathy Weimer, Lee and Jean Silver, Jeannie and Keith Greiner, Jim Graceffa, RJ Smith, Ken and Marcia Lee, Ken Zoll. The next clean up is scheduled for May 11.

Winter Solstice at V bar V

Our Executive Director, Ken Zoll, provided a capacity crowd of over 150 with an overview of the solar calendar at the V bar V Heritage Site on December 21, the Winter Solstice. Despite the cloud cover the crowd stayed to the end to learn of the calendar.

New Year Estate Planning

It’s the start of a new year and along with starting a new diet, now is a good time to review your estate plan. Having an updated estate plan ensures your wishes are carried out regarding your property, family and self in the event of your death or incapacitation. Consider joining the growing number of members who have included the Center in their plan.
President’s Message
Dr. James Graceffa

We count our blessings as another productive year comes to an end for the Center.

Many projects continue to move forward, especially cataloging of the Dyck artifacts. Of special interest is one particular discipline, the analysis of the lithic/debitage, which is comprised of the chert and obsidian flakes left over from making points, knives, drills, etc. Cataloging these artifacts can be very difficult because many aspects of a single flake of stone must be inspected and recorded. Special thanks goes to Melody Nowaczyk for the many hours of work in developing a catalog card and teaching several members how to analyze the lithics (a flake of stone created by man). Each piece of flaked stone is examined under a microscope and all the attributes are recorded. This tedious work is accomplished under her watchful eye and will take months to complete as we are only about 60% done. The Center is so fortunate to have many dedicated members who enjoy learning and working on these important projects.

Field trips are starting to take shape, with six or seven planned for the first part of the year. We are looking to do multi-day trips out of the area because participation has always been enthusiastic. Some will involve camping and others will be a combination of camping and hotel. Please send us your ideas for new and interesting trips.

A year at the Center is never complete without the stellar work of our education outreach volunteers. The programs they present are given only for a few hours a month during October, November, January, February, and March. Since it is a main plank of our mission, the work is of great importance. In 2016, volunteers visited fourth graders, but demand far outpaced our resources. Jan Anderson heads up this valuable program and will train all interested individuals.

I’d like to conclude with a description of one of the highlights of the year, re-enactment of the “Long Walk,” re-created by Yavapai and Apache youth in our area. The original forced walk in 1875 was 180 miles to the San Carlos Reservation in the dead of winter, not on roads but through rough terrain. These young people are attempting to trace the same path of their ancestors, walking and camping along the way. Upon their return, we will once again visit with them and learn about their journey.

And with a final look toward the future and specifically, 2017, we now have the funds to put in the water line at the Homestead Site, so that project will be completed by Spring. THANK YOU to all who donated toward that effort; unfortunately, there is never an end to the work that awaits us. Our sights are set on the next big project – paying off the note for the six acres adjacent to the nine acres donated by Mr. Scott Simonton.

Healthy and Happy New Year from all our Board members and a gratitude-filled stocking to each and every supporter of the Center.
Research published in the Fall, 2016 edition of *Kiva* uses Native American oral histories to investigate the abandonment of Castle A, a pueblo ruin located 400 feet west of the Montezuma Castle cliff dwelling. The *Kiva* paper builds on a hypothesis first published in the Fall, 2015 edition of the *Journal of Arizona Archaeology*, in which newly acquired archaeomagnetic dates along with ceramic data, osteological data from human remains, and an interpretation of stratigraphic evidence was used to argue that Castle A was abandoned following a large and destructive fire. The archaeological evidence suggests this event occurred in the late 14th century and included arson and physical violence.\(^3\)

Native American oral histories collected from members of the Hopi Tribe and the Yavapai-Apache Nation recount the same violent event represented in the archaeological record. These stories suggest that a land dispute caused ancestral Yavapai and Apache people to band together and attack Montezuma Castle and Castle A, which at that time was inhabited by the ancestral Hopi. As the oral histories recount, the attack caused the Castles’ inhabitants to abandon both sites and forced them on a migration path which eventually ended in the village of *Songoópavi*, located on the Hopi Mesas.

These stories describe the attack as a siege, where ancestral Hopi people were trapped inside Montezuma Castle. According to the story, the attackers were positioned below the cliff dwelling, shooting flaming arrows up in an attempt to catch the cliff dwelling on fire. Although there is little archaeological evidence for the use of flaming arrows, the oral histories match well with other forms of archaeological evidence suggesting that fire and violence occurred at the site. Oral histories help to humanize the attack by identifying the groups involved and providing a kind of eyewitness account.

Although oral histories have sometimes been dismissed by archaeologists as “unreliable” or “inaccurate” records of the past, previous research has shown that these stories are a legitimate record of Native American history. As such, they contain important information about the lives and experiences of ancestral people. In the last 25 years, archaeologists have come to increasingly rely on oral history as a way to supplement traditionally collected archaeological data. Although the Castle A story is a rare and somewhat spectacular example of this, it illustrates the way in which partnerships between tribal people and archaeologists can yield detailed and accurate interpretations of the past.

Oral histories also suggest that ancestral Yavapai and Apache people were in the Verde Valley earlier than archaeologists had previously thought. For example, archaeologists have generally believed that the Apache arrived in what is now Arizona after the Spanish *entradas*. This is based on a lack of Spanish written accounts describing Apache people, as well as a lack of artifacts identified as Apache in origin. The problem with this argument, however, is twofold. First, Spanish written accounts of Native Americans are often inaccurate. Second, archaeologists don’t really know what ancestral (prehispanic) Apache sites or artifacts might look like. Recent research into the origins of Athapaskan groups (including the Apache) have suggested that there is growing archaeological support for an earlier arrival. Not surprisingly, many Apache oral histories suggest that their origins in the American Southwest predate the arrival of the Spanish.

If ancestral Yavapai, Apache, and Hopi people were living together, then the Verde Valley was a multicultural and multilingual place. This raises interesting and important questions about how people from different cultures interacted with one another in the prehistoric Verde Valley. It also raises interesting questions about how dramatic events, like the one at Castle A, influence perceptions of prehistoric and modern group identity.

In conclusion, the *Kiva* article provides an interpretation of a dramatic event at Castle A and Montezuma Castle, but represents only one brief moment in the history of each site. Currently, there is no additional evidence to suggest that large-scale violence occurred anywhere else in the Verde Valley. As such, readers should be careful not to use the results of this study as proof of widespread violence or warfare throughout the Valley. Perhaps future research will help to place these events into a larger context. This research also reasserts the close connection that Hopi, Yavapai, and Apache groups have with the local landscape and archaeological sites throughout the Verde Valley.


\(^2\) Archaeomagnetic dating (AM) is a scientific technique that can determine date ranges associated with fire events in the archaeological record. At Castle A, AM produced results suggesting that Castle A burned in the interval from A.D. 1375-1395.

Fiscal Year 2016 Financial Report

For the past two fiscal years, the Center has used an outside accounting firm to complete our Internal Revenue Service (IRS) nonprofit reporting Form 990. The IRS Form 990, completed by all nonprofits, must allocate annual expenses into three categories:

- Program Expenses—expenses directly related to carrying out the nonprofit’s mission and that result in goods or services being provided—for example, expenses to teach a class
- Administrative Expenses—expenses for the nonprofit’s overall operations and management—for example, legal services, accounting, insurance, office management, auditing, human resources, and
- Fundraising Expenses—including costs for publicizing and conducting fundraising campaigns, maintaining donor mailing lists, conducting special fundraising events, and any other activities that involve soliciting contributions

Together, administrative expenses and fundraising expenses make up a nonprofit’s “overhead” or “operating expenses.” The IRS does not require that nonprofits spend any particular portion of their income on each category. It just wants nonprofits to report how they spend their money. There is no single formula or ratio all nonprofits use to determine how much of their total budget should go to operating expenses. But the commonly accepted rule most follow is the less spent on overhead, the better. Charity rating organizations grade nonprofits partly on how much they spend on these expense categories. For example, it is considered reasonable for most charities to spend up to 40% of their budget on operating expenses—in other words, at least 60% should go to programs. For FY 2016, the Center spent 36% of revenues on operating expenses. As a new organization we spend more on fundraising than desired, but that should decline as our financial footing increases.

The Center has posted the IRS Form 990 on the website for FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016 for public inspection. The Center did not reach the income level between FY 2010 and FY 2013 to require a full IRS Form 990. If there are any questions concerning the Center’s financial condition and reporting, please contact Executive Director Ken Zoll.
UPCOMING LECTURES

January 17
Cliff Castle Hotel
6:30 PM

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 Hobokam 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.

February 14
Cliff Castle Hotel
6:30 PM

Investigating the Role of Xunantunich Within the Socio-Political Landscape of the Late Classic Maya Lowlands
Dr. Jaime Awe will discuss ongoing investigations by the BVAR Project at Xunantunich, Belize and highlights several new discoveries that were made during the recent field season. Besides a large royal tomb and caches of eccentric flints, the new finds included two hieroglyphic panels that implicate four Classic period Maya cities.

March 18

10:00 AM - Governor Goodwin’s and Woolsey’s Expedition through the Verde Valley to the Salt River
Gerry Ehrhardt will discuss the 1864 expedition of King S. Woolsey and Governor Goodwin following Indian trails to the Verde Valley with 80 miners. Their objectives were to find a central location for the new capitol of the Arizona Territory, fight Indians, and at the same time prospect the country that they passed through.

Noon - The Verde Salt Mine: Ancient and Historic Salt Mining in Camp Verde
Dr. Todd Bostwick will describe the history of a famous salt mine in Camp Verde, Arizona, where prehistoric Sinagua tools used for mining salt were discovered in the 1920s by historic miners deep inside tunnels dug into a thick, fresh-water salt deposit.

2:00 PM - Reconstructing the Lupanar: Form, Design and Operation of Pompeii’s Brothel
Michel Zajac describes how, despite being the only universally-recognized building for prostitution from the ancient Roman world, the purpose-built brothel (lupanar) of Pompeii remains a misunderstood structure. Through examination of the archaeological evidence, he will reconstruct the lupanar as an economic enterprise embedded in a larger urban fabric, generating a more comprehensive illustration of this unique construction.

March 19

10:00 AM - Grand Archaeology: Excavation and Discovery along the Colorado River
Ted Neff will describe the archaeological excavations that took place between 2007 and 2009 along the Colorado River at nine archaeological sites that were being impacted by erosion and could not be stabilized in place. The excavations represent the results of the first major excavations in nearly 40 years in the Grand Canyon.

Noon - The Cavates of Cosmos Mindeleff: Smithsonian Architects Victor and Cosmos Mindeleff and the Study of Pueblo Architecture, 1881-1900
Dennis Gilpin will discuss how in 1881 the Smithsonian Institution sent 21-year-old architect Victor Mindeleff to the Southwest to study Pueblo architecture. For the next 15 years, Victor and his younger brother Cosmos would continue to examine ancient and existing Pueblo architecture in the Southwest.

2:00 PM - The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project
Dr. Jaime Awe returns to continue his presentation on the discoveries of recent field seasons of the Mayan culture found in Belize.

April 11
Cliff Castle Hotel
6:30 PM

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.
Ninth Annual American Indian Art Show

2017 Theme: Emerging Artists

Navajo - Hopi - Zuni - Yavapai - Apache
New Mexico Pueblos

March 18-19, 2017

Camp Verde Community Center

Also that weekend

Camp Verde Pecan and Wine Festival

Verde River Runoff
The Past Is Our Future

Native American Heritage Preserve

As mentioned in previous editions, the Center has received a grant from the National Park Service (NPS) River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to develop a connector trail linking the Center’s pit house village trail to the future Camp Verde Riverfront Park at the end of Homestead Parkway. The NPS will also assist in identifying funding opportunities and facilitate collaboration with partners for interpretive sign planning. The proposed 1,000-foot trail and parking area will be staked in February. Through additional grants it is hoped that the trail and parking area can be constructed by the end of 2017. With the installation of the water line next Spring, we will be able to provide irrigation to the Native American Garden that will be started in March 2018 by the Native American Ancestral Gardens Association. Thanks to the generosity of many members, the park benches and interpretive signs are fully funded.

Capital Campaign Contributors

(As of January 1, 2017)

Pledges

$50,000 - Ken and Marcia Lee
$10,000 - Robert and Sara Whiting
$25,000 - Native American Garden - Available
$10,000 - Courtyard Garden - Tom and Janet Taylor
$10,000 - Entry Garden - Dr. Charles Rozaire
$5,000 - George and Pat Witteman

$1,000 - Native American Heritage Preserve

Interpretive Signs (Sold Out)
Mary Byrd
Carol and George Dvorak
Joe and Sonya Landholm
Ruthmary Lovitt
Dean and Kathi Olson
Dr. and Mrs. Dennison Shaw, Jr.
Larry Watkins
Ken and Nancy Zoll

Turquoise Circle Members

$2,500+ to Capital Campaign
Anonymous (2)
Louise Fitzgerald
James and Diane Graceffa
Bill and Justine Kusner
Bob and Estelle Jonas
Jo Parish
Craig and Sue Sigler
RJ and Jeannine Smith
Kim Spurr and David Purcell
Tom and Janet Taylor
Gerald and Janet Walters
George and Pat Witteman
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 - Park Bench (Sold Out)
$500 - Theater Seat (200)
$500 - Conference Chair (300)

$250 - Theater Seat
$250 - Conference Chair

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
Jim & Diane Graceffa
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

Water Line Project Donors

Mike Bencic & Cindy Parker – Two Feet
Ron & Suzanne Burkey – One Foot
Tom & Lucie Burris – Twenty Feet
Kathy Davis – Ten Feet
Bill & Justine Kusner – Two Feet
Bill & Lynette Kovacovich – Two Feet
Bill & Justine Kusner – Twenty Feet
Ken & Marcia Lee – Four Feet
Ruthmary Lovitt – Two Feet
Tom Mathieu & Coco Januschka – One Foot
Ray & Mel Nowaczky – Two Feet
Sharon & Norm Olsen – Two Feet
Dean & Kathi Olson – Two Feet
Ron Rummell & James Hose – Two Feet
RJ & Jean Smith – Forty Feet
Kimberly Spurr & David Purcell – Four Feet
Scott Simonton – Three Hundred Twenty Feet
John & Diane Simpson – One Foot
William & Elizabeth Sweeney – Five Feet
Cathy & Tom Weimer – Two Feet
Robert Whiting – Five Feet
Maurine & Warner Wise – Twenty Feet
Elaine & Jim Worthington – Two Feet
Ken & Nancy Zoll – Three Feet

Water Line Construction To Begin

Thanks to the generosity of our many members to the Capital Campaign and to the Water Line Project, our goal has been reached. Construction of the line is expected to begin in February or March 2017. This is a major step forward toward the development of the Homestead Property!
Thanks For Your Support

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center would like to thank the following for their generous support of our General Fund in 2016

Business Members and Sponsors

Gift of $60,000
Donalyn Mikles

Gift of $5,000
Spence Gustav
& Vicky Garrard

Gift of $2,500
Jim & Diane Graceffa
Kathy & Peter Wege

Gifts of at least $1,000
Anonymous (2)
Todd & Heidi Bostwick
Al & Ruth Cornell
Bill & Justine Kusner
Joe & Sonya Landholm
Jon & Terri Petrescu
Charles Rozaire
Dennis & Janet Shaw
Craig & Sue Sigler
Ken & Nancy Zoll

Gifts of at least $500
Tom & Lucie Burris
Gay Chanler
Robert Harrison
Ken Kaemmerle
& Linda Guarino
Ken & Marcia Lee
Paul Lindberg
Frank & Carol Lombardo
Ray & Mel Nowaczyk
Dean & Kathi Olson
Mark & Kate Pico
Stanley & Anne Rulapaugh
William & Elizabeth Sweeney
John & Sue Tietsort
Paul Tuskes
Warner & Maurine Wise
Robert Whiting
James & Elaine Worthington

Other Contributions of Cash or Supplies

Anonymous (3)
Jan & Nils Anderson
Dave & Cindy Bancroft
Laura & Andy Beeler
Ron & Suzanne Burkey
Cristy Clouse
Jack Duffy
JoAnn Forristal
Chris & Earl Glenn
Richard Henderson
Patricia Jeskey
William Kern
John & Deborah Losse
Ruthmary Lovitt
Tom Mathieu
& Coco Januschka
Peggy Miles
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