

Center on Sedona History Walk



Steve Segner, owner of the El Portal Hotel, has been given the go-ahead from the City of Sedona to create a “History Walk Through Time” along Highway 89A. The walk will consist of 25 plaques on the history of Sedona, along a stretch of about 2.5 miles, with support from the Sedona 30 nonprofit organization. Each plaque is also underwritten by individuals. The Verde Valley Archaeology Center

plaque is at the west end of the walk, near the Cedars Resort and was sponsored by Leroy and Sammy Townsend.

The Center plaque presents the archaeological and environmental timeline of the Verde Valley. It is essentially the same display that is in the Center but was enhanced with larger images.

Library Exceeds 750 Volumes

VVAC houses a research library relating to the archaeology and anthropology of the Verde Valley region. All books, reports, and articles in the VVAC research library are cataloged into the Yavapai County Library System. Currently, more than 750 books have been cataloged. VVAC also maintains an electronic library (pdf files) of more than 85 archaeology reports and 300 articles. Members may check out items. The public can reserve a time to visit the Library and read specific items.



Meteorite Exhibit Opens

The Camp Verde Meteorite exhibit, in cooperation with Arizona State University Center for Meteorite Studies, opened on March 1. The exhibit will continue through August 30. A talk on meteorite uses among ancient Native American cultures will be held in the Center’s training room on May 24, June 28, July 26 and August 30. Each talk begins at 2:00 pm and will be filled on a first-come basis.



Community Champion Award



For 29 years, the Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce and the Verde Independent newspaper have honored citizens and organizations who continually raise the bar on improving the quality of life in the Verde Valley. These annual awards are known as the Verde Valley Community Champions. The 2015 Tourism Champion award was a tie between the Clarkdale Copper Museum and the Verde Valley Archaeology Center. We are very pleased to have received this award as it is a recognition by the Verde Valley community that our efforts in preservation is appreciated and shared. This is a group award that is shared by all of our dedicated volunteers!

Native American Crafts in Gift Shop

One of the artists in our American Indian Art Show was a weaver for pueblo ceremonials. When his customer cannot pay he will take their handmade jewelry in trade. We are helping him out by offering his traded items for sale in our gift shop. The items have been selling briskly!





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.

Executive Director & Editor

Kenneth J. Zoll

Director of Archaeology

Todd Bostwick, PhD, RPA

Board of Directors

Dr. James Graceffa, President

Kimberly Spurr, M.A., RPA

Vice-President

Lynette Kovacovich, Secretary

Craig Sigler, CPA, Treasurer

Kate Compton-Gore, M.A.

Keith Greiner

Bud Henderson

Mary Kearney, M.A., RPA

Stanley Loft

R. Scott Newth, MBA, CFA

Lee Silver, M.Ed.

RJ Smith

John Ward

Robert Whiting

Advisory Council

Steve Ayers

Town of Camp Verde

Chris Coder

Yavapai-Apache Nation

Stewart Deats

EnviroSystems Management

Matt Guebard

National Park Service

Leigh Kuwanwisiwma

The Hopi Tribe

Peter Pilles, Travis Bone

Coconino National Forest

Verde Valley Archaeology Center, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

385 S. Main St.
Camp Verde, AZ 86322-7272
(928) 567-0066

www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org
center@verdevalleyarchaeology.org

Volume 5, Number 1
© 2015 Verde Valley Archaeology Center

A Word from a Board Member

Keith Greiner

In the absence of our President James Graceffa who is on an extended vacation, we are pleased to have comments from a member of our Board of Directors for this issue.

As usual, this past quarter has continued an active season, beginning in January with the election of the Board of Directors and selection of officers. The addition of **Scott Newth** to the Board at the April Board of Director's meeting brings our Board to 14 members. The only change to our set of officers was the election of **Kim Spurr** to the position of Vice President.

The School Outreach Program has concluded bringing archaeology to fourth graders in Camp Verde, Cottonwood and the Village of Oak Creek through twenty classroom presentations. Led by **Jan Anderson**, who has developed a support team of presenters, the material complements the fourth grade curriculum. With comments from teachers to VVAC presenters, such as "...please be sure and come back to visit us again next year," it is an indication of the success of this program.

This year's Archaeology Fair (see page 5) was a categorical success with local attendees from Arizona, as well as those escaping from the severe winter in the rest of the country. Throughout the Fair, attendees also visited the Center where it was a continuous buzz of activity throughout the two days. The Camp Verde Meteorite exhibit also provided additional interest during the Fair and continues to do so. The exhibit, on loan from Arizona State University, arrived at the Center at the beginning of March and will continue through August. A monthly talk on the uses of meteorites among ancient Native American Cultures is being offered by Ken Zoll through August. See our website for dates and times.

On display for the first time at the Center's Fair booth was a conceptual drawing of the future Center (see page 4) as it would sit on the Simonton Property which created a great deal of interest. In preparation for the acquisition of the Simonton property for the future Center, a property line survey was completed with the help a team of bushwackers and our own civil engineer **Frank Lombardo** and geologist **Paul Lindberg** who completed the technical work. We are looking forward to the next steps in completing the acquisition process which is progressing nicely.

Thanks to the efforts of **Dr. Todd Bostwick** and **Dr. James Graceffa** in developing such a comprehensive itinerary, those who were able to join us on the trip to Belize, visiting 15 Mayan monumental sites spanning the Late Preclassic to the Terminal Classic, will of course say that this trip was the highlight of the season. The trip included a visit to a living Mayan village where much in the way of lifestyle has not changed significantly since pre-Columbian times. The cell phone however is now ubiquitous throughout the region, perhaps the modern equivalent of the glyph stele. Also, the timing of Dr. Jaime Awe's talk in mid-March, "Mayan Cities and Caves of Belize," was the perfect prelude to the trip. Photos of the trip can be found on the Center's Facebook page.

As other projects wind down for summer, work continues on the Dyck Collection, deep in the cataloguing phase. Over 9,000 artifacts thus far have received object numbers in the cataloguing process.

As we transition into summer, once again preparations are underway for another season of excavations at Mitchell Springs in Southwest Colorado. All three sessions have been sold out. Participants will include individuals from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Maryland and Virginia.



The Hart Well Canyon Preserve, west of the Palatki Heritage Site, was a 50-acre gift of Robert & Mary Kittredge to the Nature Conservancy in 1986, with the intent that the wildlife habitat of the secluded canyon be protected in perpetuity. Mr. Kittredge did not want widespread public to access the property out of concern for vandalism and damage to the canyon's habitat and unique cultural values. The Conservancy is committed to honoring the donor's intent. Access to the canyon's archaeological features through the Conservancy's property is granted on an occasional basis.

The sandstone-cliffed juniper woodland canyon is used by globally threatened raptors. It was also home to the Sinagua beginning about A.D. 1100. Although the date of arrival is debated, the Yavapai and the Apache frequented the canyon as evidenced by their rock art.

Jesse Walter Fewkes first described the rock art in the Hart Well Preserve in "Antiquities of the Upper Verde River and Walnut Creek Valleys, Arizona" which appeared in the Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1906–1907. At that time the canyon was known as Black's Canyon. He reported that the "small cliff-house at the entrance to Black's Canyon, on the west side, is one of the interesting forms of cliff-houses in the Red Rocks, differing from any yet described in the Verde region. The ruin spans a narrow crevice, resting partly on the top of a detached boulder and partly on a ledge under the wall of the cliff above; in other words, the house is situated in part of a recess out of which the boulder has fallen. Many pictographs, consisting of zigzag figures, dots, and parallel lines, resembling 'counts' and rude faces, occur in the neighborhood of this ruin; these are not pecked in the rock surface, as are most ancient Pueblo pictographs, but are painted in white, red, or other pigments." Fewkes appears to have followed the practice of the time of referring to all Native Americans as "Apache" when he continued that "Most of the cliff-dwellers' pictographs are incised, while those made by Apache are painted." It is now known that these images, shown above, were Yavapai.



Yavapai pictograph described as "dancing human figures with elaborate headdresses"



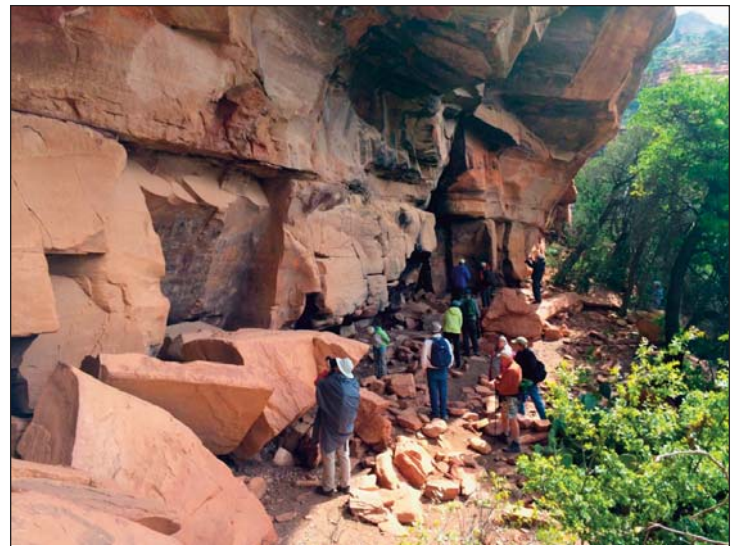
Portion of the "Great Serpent" showing the triangles and rattle

Snyder, he described that at the opposite end of the image was a "very un-snake-like head with four large fat fangs."

Snyder noted, as did Don Weaver in his 1986 study of the pictographs of Palatki, Honanki and Hartwell Canyon, that on the floor below the Great Serpent was the remnants of a circular wall about twenty-five feet in diameter. There are no reports that this structure was ever excavated. Snyder reported many Sinagua-style pottery sherds, chert chips, a metate fragment and scattered corncobs. He suggested that this structure may have once been "a crude copy of an Anasazi kiva."

There is also a huge agave roasting pit in the area. Its size is typical of later Yavapai roasting pits and, as is often the case, may have been built atop earlier and smaller Sinagua roasting pits. The prevalence of the structures, roasting pit and varied pictographs shows that this canyon was used by the Sinagua and the Yavapai for many years.

The Kittredge Ruin mentioned by Fewkes was excavated in 1949. The pictographs in the excavation report were briefly described and it was pointed out that some of the pictographs were actually inside rooms. One of the most striking pictographs at the north end of the canyon is that of the "Great Serpent." It is about six feet above the canyon floor and measures thirteen feet long. The body is about eight inches wide and is decorated with a sawtooth design of buff and white triangles that terminate in a series of dark red segments that may represent a set of rattles. In a 1976 article by Ernest



John and Lisa Ward led several member hikes to Hartwell Canyon

OUR FUTURE IS PROTECTING THE PAST



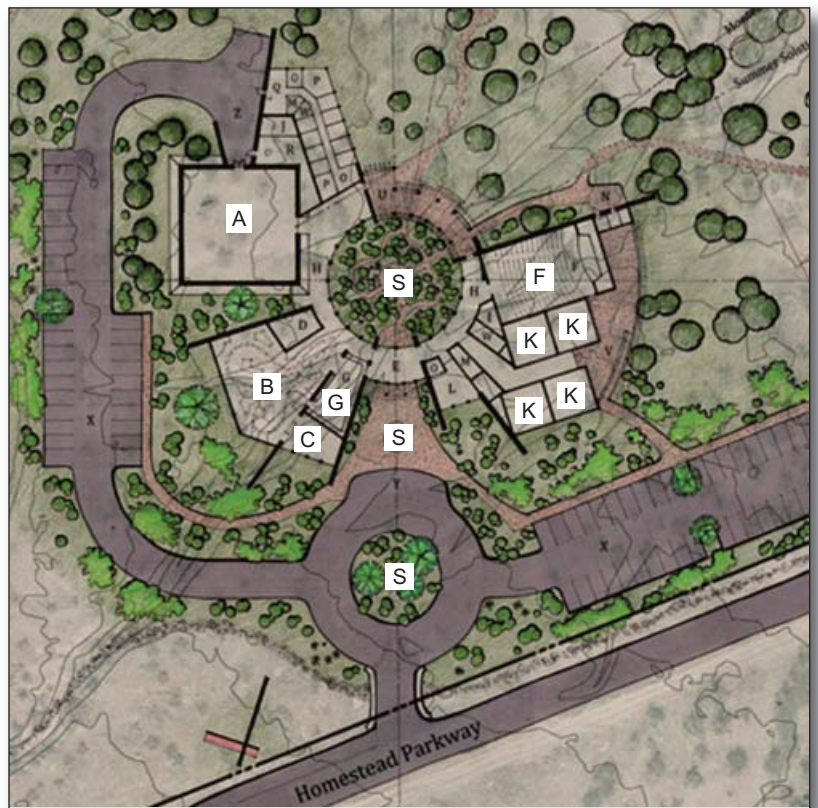
Accredited Collections Repository
 State-of-the-Art Museum
 Children's Archaeology Discovery Area
 200-seat Auditorium and Stage
 Technology-enhanced Classrooms
 Conference Center
 Archaeological Interpretive Trail and Park

By the time you read this, we expect to have signed, or are about to sign, the papers to acquire the 15.28 acres of Simonton Ranch property. The site concept plan for the entire parcel as developed with the Design Group Architects of Sedona is shown above. A close-up of the buildings is shown to the right. A large version of the plan is on display in the Center next to the *Prehistoric Life in Camp Verde* display.

The formal Capital Campaign will kick-off at our **5th Anniversary Celebration and Gala Benefit** on October 24.

Key to Main Plan Elements

- A - Collections Repository
- B - Museum Exhibits
- C - Children's Archaeology Discovery Area
- F - 200 seat Auditorium
- G - Gift Shop
- K - Classrooms/Conference Center
- S - Sculptures



The Turquoise Circle



The Summer 2014 edition of the *Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly* featured a story on the prehistoric sites on the Simonton Ranch in Camp Verde. At the 2014 Gala, we were able to announce the pending donation/purchase of 15.28 acres of Simonton Ranch that contain at least eight undisturbed pit houses dating as early as A.D. 570. The majority of this property will be donated, valued at \$1.3 million, with the Center paying \$250,000. Mr. Simonton will carry a 5-year note for the Center's purchase price.

The Center's Executive Committee created the **Turquoise Circle** to recognize those who make a tax-deductible contribution of at least \$2,500 to help us meet the closing costs and to apply toward the Promissory Note. As we went to press, members had contributed over \$25,000 toward this goal. Some members have contributed amounts of less than \$2,500 with a pledge to eventually make up the difference to the \$2,500 minimum. If you would like to make a donation or want more information, please call Ken Zoll at 928-593-0364. ANY tax-deductible donation to this effort will be much appreciated.



2015 Annual Verde Valley Archaeology Fair and Invitational American Indian Art Show



The 2015 Verde Valley Archaeology Fair set new attendance records with over 2,500 people passing through the Community Center, the lecture room and into the Center. The five lectures held during the two days were filled to capacity. Likewise, the evening archaeology films with the filmmakers were well attended.

Based on the feedback, plans for the 2016 Fair are already underway with more films and more lectures. We will also offer some short 2-hour classes. The 2016 dates for the Fair and the adjoining Pecan and Wine Festival have been adjusted to account for Easter Sunday. The 2016 dates will be March 19 and 20.

A very hearty and warm THANK YOU to our many volunteers. The event would be impossible without your help!! The images below, courtesy of our Director of Archaeology Todd Bostwick, provide some highlights of this successful event.



The Center's entrance display attracted much attention.



The children's area was active and enjoyed by many.



Featured Artist Louie Garcia demonstrated cotton spinning



Director Bud Henderson provides information to the many visitors to the Center during the Fair.

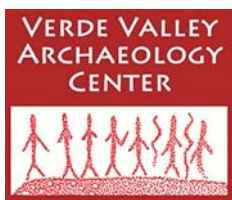


The flintknaper explains his craft to a visitor.



Director Keith Greiner explains the pottery display to a visitor.





385 S. Main Street
Camp Verde, AZ 86322-7272

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CAMP VERDE, AZ
PERMIT NO. 15

On The Cover This quarter's header image is from Hart Well Canyon west of Sedona, between the Palatki and Honanki heritage sites. Access to the pictographs is through the Nature Conservancy's Hart Well Canyon Preserve. The canyon is the site of Sinagua and Yavapai rock art. See the article on page 3 for details.

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

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

Business Members



Life Members and Gifts of \$350 to \$499

Ron and Jan Brattain
Jim Collette
JoAnn and Larry Forristal
Robert Harrison
Wendy Leigh James
Harold Keister and Linda Kanzleiter
Ken and Marcia Lee
Bonnie Moore
Thomas and Cathryn Noble
Mary and Leonard Ontiveros
Gerry Quotskuyva
Dan and Janet Wheeler

Patron Members and Gifts of at least \$500

Nils and Jan Anderson
Lynette and Bill Kovacovich
Tom and Peggy Likens
Carolyn and Gordon McGregor
Marie Palowoda
Jon and Terri Petrescu
Anne Rulapaugh
Jerry and Janet Walters
James Worthington

Gifts of at least \$1,000

Todd and Heidi Bostwick
Ron and Suzanne Burkey
Thomas and Lucie Burris
John and Cindy Dyck
Keith and Jeannie Greiner
Richard "Bud" Henderson
Eliza Kennedy Kendall
Joseph and Lynne Montedonico
Robert Whiting
Ken and Nancy Zoll

Turquoise Circle Members

Anonymous
Anonymous
James and Diane Graceffa
Bill and Justine Kusner
Bob and Estelle Jonas
Craig and Sue Sigler
RJ and Jeanne Smith
Kimberly Spurr
George and Pat Witteman



Employee Matching Grants or Retiree Volunteer Grants