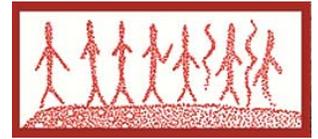


Verde Valley Archaeology Quarterly



Protecting the Ancient Cultural Heritage of the Verde Valley

Spring 2011

Center Signs Lease in Fort Verde Shopping Plaza

As President Graceffa describes in his Report on page 2, the Center has moved forward in the face of the rejection of the Town of Camp Verde's application for a Federal grant on behalf of the Center. The 650 sq.ft. office will provide room for artifacts, introductory displays, a reception desk and tables for lab analysis or classes. The space is currently being upgraded. The space is anticipated to be ready for a grand opening on Friday, May 6, at 5:30 pm, followed by a Opening Party. The Center will be open to the public from 5:30 to 8:00 and will feature a Silent Auction.



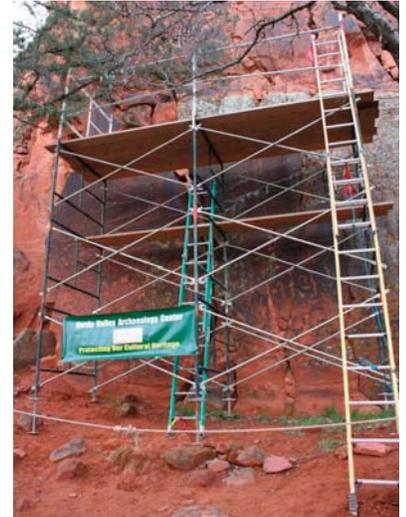
Center Continues Artifact Analysis Project

Center volunteers continue to analyze artifacts provided by the U.S. Forest Service. The artifacts will be transferred to the Museum of Northern Arizona or the National Park Service. Volunteers work on most Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in classrooms of Yavapai College, Camp Verde Campus. After June 30, when the campus is closed, this work will be performed in our new Center space.



Center Conducts Study at V Bar V Heritage Site

With permit in hand, the Center erected 30' scaffolding before the calendar petroglyph panel at the V Bar V Heritage Site. The scaffolding and labor were donated by Diamond Sky Construction of Sedona and Castle Masonry of Cottonwood. The project had specific goals identified in the permit request. The geologic features were examined by consulting geologist Paul Lindberg. Archaeological features were studied by Todd Bostwick, PhD, PaleoWest Senior Research Archaeologist. Recording of observations were made by Ken Zoll of the Center and John Ward of Trailhead Video. Many new and surprising discoveries were made. The results of the study will be published by the Center in September.



Scouting Archaeology Merit Badge Workshops



The Center has offered to conduct Archaeology Merit Badge workshops for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The exact details of the full-day workshops are currently being developed. Any members with scouting or teaching experience are encouraged to become involved in this project. If you are interested in receiving more information please send an email to center@verdevalleyarchaeology.org and show "Merit Badges" in the subject line.

Center Offered Historic Beaver Creek Building

As we went to press, we received word that the U.S. Forest Service has offered the Center the use of the historic Beaver Creek Visitor Center building on FR 618 near the V Bar V Heritage Site. The interior is in pretty good shape and needs minimal work but the exterior is in bad shape. Center President Jim Graceffa advised the Forest Service that the Center would like to use the space and will use the coming months to develop a work and use plan. Work would begin to upgrade and restore the space in the Fall.

Printing of this issue was generously provided by Arizona Public Service



President's Report

by Dr. James Graceffa

Back to Plan A

Plan B was to use the large grant that the Town of Camp Verde had applied for on behalf of the Center. In my last message to you I had described the grant we were hoping to get to leap frog us ahead with a large facility. Since the Town did not receive the grant, Plan A means moving forward with our original plan to start with a small facility on a tight budget as we develop our reputation and resources.

We have been fortunate to lease space in Camp Verde in the same shopping plaza for our initial office. We will shortly be able to have some place to greet people with displays and information about our area and its prehistoric heritage. Also, when we leave the space at Yavapai College, now being used for our lab work, we will be able to continue this work at our new facility. The new facility will take some work to get it up and running. To that end, on March 31st a flock of our members descended on our new facility to donate their hard work and materials to insure we are on track for our opening. On behalf of all our members I would like to thank them: Dave Freeman, Ron Krug, Bud Henderson, Keith Greiner, Sharon Olsen, Norm Olsen, RJ Smith, Andrew Goetting, Curt Randall, Ken Zoll and Joy Henderson for her cupcakes. We plan to be ready to have a Grand Opening on May 6 with special guests and demonstrations.

We notified the members and business community in March of some items we need to furnish the space. Please check our wish list on the website for items still needed. If you can help with any item (or cash) it will be greatly appreciated and all donations are tax deductible. Along this line, I would like to thank Chris Coder and the Yavapai-Apache Nation for the several display cases and artifacts, Peter Pilles of Coconino National Forest for shelving, Kathy Davis of the National Park Service for the use of some of the historic display cases from the Tuzigoot National Monument museum, and member Robert Burt for several prehistoric artifacts for display.

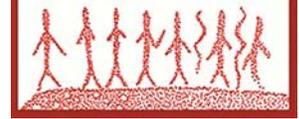
I was pleased at the support we received from the public at the Camp Verde Wine, Pecan and Antique Festival and at V Bar V Days. People were positive towards our goals and looked forward to our upcoming events. We recently led two field trips that were well received and hope to have more in the future. Our second lecture took place on March 22 at the Clarkdale Campus of Yavapai College. Our guest speaker was Lyle Balenquah, a Hopi archaeologist who described his studies of the migration of the Sun Forehead Clan. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The question and answer period that followed was very informative and interesting. Our outreach efforts continue with talks at the Hike House in Sedona and before the Camp Verde Kiwanis. We will also be the nonprofit member focus of the April 14 Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce Mixer.

Center projects continue with the cataloging of artifacts for Peter Pilles. Some articles we are handling will go on display at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot and the others to be accessioned into the Museum of Northern Arizona. People who have participated thus far have had a great learning experience. This project is open to all members, so please think about getting involved. We also are starting a Survey and Mapping Project for the Forest Service in the near future.

Our official volunteer status has been granted by the Forest Service and we are a step closer to be able to give Field Seminars. Also, this summer we hope to have classes available at our facility. Please visit our website (www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org.) on a regular basis to see what is new.

As with all non-profit organizations, continuing energies must go into fund raising. In these tough economic times we appreciate all the support from our members. We hope you will continue to support our fund raising efforts. With your help, I am certain we can achieve our goals.

VERDE VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGY
CENTER



The mission of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center is to preserve archaeological sites and collections of the Sedona/Verde Valley area, and to promote their educational, scientific and cultural use

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Comments and suggestions welcome.

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The Archaeological Record *Wingfield Mesa Ruins*

Wingfield Mesa Ruins were first described and recorded by Dr. E. A. Mearns, U.S. Army, Camp Verde, in the *Popular Science Monthly* for October 1890. Later, the Cosmos Mindeleff expedition in 1891 detailed the site, including the drawing to the right. His records noted: "The ground plan is peculiar. The rooms were arranged in four rows, each row consisting of a line of single rooms, and the rows were placed approximately at right angles to one another, forming the four sides of a hollow square. The rooms are generally oblong, of the usual dimensions, and as a rule placed with their longer axes in the direction of the row. Several rooms occur, however, with their longer axes placed across the row. Thirty-eight rooms can still be traced, and there is no likelihood that there were ever more than forty, or that any of the rooms attained a greater height than one story. The population, therefore, was probably never much in excess of fifty persons, or ten to twelve families."

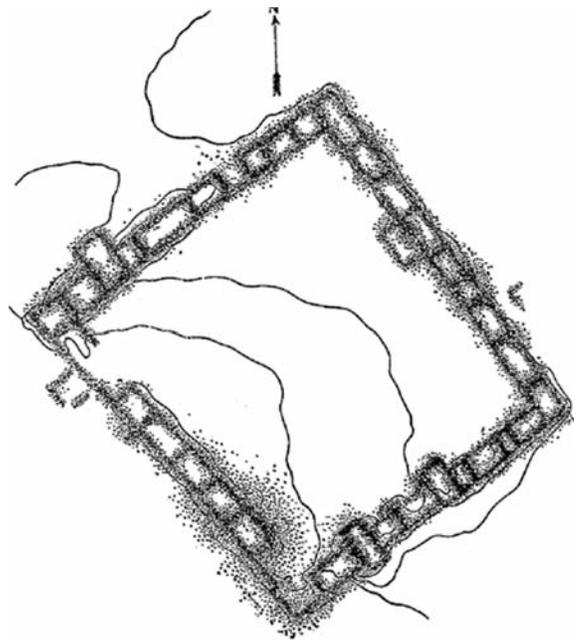
The site was visited and recorded over the years by various researchers in 1928, 1939, 1954 and 1987. Today, the outline of the structure can still be clearly seen.



Photo by Joe Vogel

Dr. Charles Adams in his book *The Origin and Development of the Pueblo Katsina Cult*, notes that several elements of architecture and village planning changed in the Southwest about the time, and in the areas of the development or appearance of, the katsina cult. For the period 1250 to 1450 A.D., every major site of the Puebloan people exhibits large multi-storied dwellings. Associated with the appearance of large sites was the development of enclosed plazas. The Wingfield site is very unique in that it is the only enclosed plaza site in the entire Verde Valley.

There is scant evidence of the katsina cult in the Verde Valley. There are a few rock art images of katsinas in the Sedona/Verde Valley area. A unique pottery type known as Hopi Yellow Ware has been recorded at Wingfield. This style was produced on the Hopi Mesa from about 1275-1575. The katsina cult developed in the 1300's and early 1400's and this pottery style is believed by some to be related.

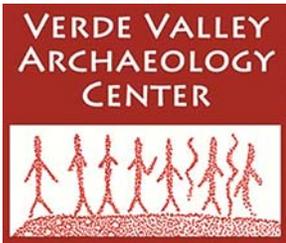


One of the very unique discoveries associated with the site was the **Wingfield Mesa Ruin Meteorite**. About 1915 "an amateur collector of Indian relics" uncovered a stone cist in the "northeast corner" of the ruin, which is still visible today. Covered in about 15"-18" of loose dirt he found a "feather blanket" and inside the blanket was a large "oakleaf-shaped" object. It was eventually determined that it was composed of nickel-iron – in fact, a meteorite. Dr. Nininger, the founder of the ASU Center for Meteorite Studies, heard about the item. He purchased it in 1939 for \$75. The meteorite weighs 135 pounds and is about 24" long, about 12" in width, with a maximum thickness of about 5.5." It is currently in the vault of the Meteorite Center. Subsequent studies confirmed that it is probably a fragment from the Canyon Diablo (east of Flagstaff) fall that occurred 20 to 25 thousand years ago. It is believed to have been transported to Wingfield Mesa in the 10th or 11th centuries A.D. Transportation of a 135 pound object over 60 miles, requiring significant effort, suggests it was for ritualistic purposes.

The treatment of this object is extremely similar to the discovery of a meteorite in a stone-cist at the Winona Ruins east of Flagstaff. This meteorite was also believed to be part of the Canyon Diablo meteorite fall. The Hopi have legends of clan migrations that were triggered or accompanied by the appearance of fireballs, meteor showers, comets, eclipses and nova events. Southwestern cultures, like many around the world, viewed the sky as a separate but connected "upperworld" filled with mysterious beings. The fact that meteorites, falling from the sky, were viewed as part of that supernatural world should not come as a surprise.

Future issues will highlight similar little known archaeological sites in the Verde Valley. Let us know if you have any suggestions or would like to contribute an article.





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Become a member *to help protect the ancient cultural heritage of the Verde Valley*

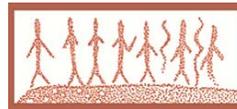
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VERY IMPORTANT

Members frequently receive information about archaeological sites that are considered sensitive and protected. By submitting this application, you agree to adhere to all objectives of the Center and the Antiquity Laws of Arizona and the United States especially the objective that discourages "exploitation of archaeological resources" particularly for direct or indirect personal gain or recognition.



Please mail your application and check to:

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P. O. Box 3474
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Thank you!

