



# ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 1

January, February, March, 2013

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

In The Theater of The Arizona Museum of Natural History  
53 N. Macdonald (Enter from First Street)

**Speaker: Donna Benge**

### Looking Back And Looking Forward

The Southwest Archaeology Team has been working for more than 45 years to preserve the past! Has it really been THAT long? Partnering with Dr. Jerry Howard, Donna Benge will review the fascinating journey that SWAT members have taken in their efforts throughout Arizona to help preserve sites, both prehistoric and historic. The journey began in the late 1970's, and we are still a very active group. But what have we been doing all this time? Come, take an exciting trip back in time and find out through photographs about our many endeavors. For newcomers, it will be an enlightening experience, and for those of you who have been members for quite some time, it will be exciting to recall our history. Maybe we might even recognize you in some of the photographs!

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## Are You A Member? Join Today! See Back Page!

# Chair Chatter

**Donna Bengé  
Chairperson**



The big news for the new year is that Mesa Grande now has a Visitors' Center and is open to public four days a week. Around the path at the mound are nine stations that tell the story of the site including four points of view: the present archaeology, the past history of the site, nature nearby, and archaeologists of the past. The Mesa Grande Cultural Park will now be open each week from Thursday through Sunday except during the hot summer months. No fee if you are a member of the Arizona Museum of Natural History. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Visitors' Center Opening on January 19.

We had a great potluck celebration in December when Jerry Howard was presented a SWAT plaque for his years of service to our organization. We also got to learn about various archaeology sites in Turkey in a presentation by Todd Bostwick.

Our projects continue to keep us busy from Eloy to Phoenix to Mesa, and the lab crew is always working on one task or another. Please join us in one or all of our many opportunities. And don't forget to renew your membership!



## Remembering Debbie Canright

Debbie Canright, a former Chair of SWAT and recipient of the 1995 Volunteer of the Year Award, passed away on November 13, 2012. She participated in numerous projects including excavation and stabilization. As a meticulous excavator, her notes were always superior. She was a very active member of our group until about twelve years ago when she became too ill to participate. Debbie was also an avid reader and gave all of her archaeology books and notes to SWAT. These are really appreciated.

## SWAT Award

At our December meeting Dr. Jerry Howard, the AzMNH Curator of Anthropology, was presented with a plaque honoring his many years of service to SWAT.



Jerry began working with a small group of east valley volunteers at an excavation project on McClintock Road south of Broadway in Tempe in the late 1970's. That became the nucleus of what later became SWAT. Some of that same group of people, under the leadership of Sam Baar, began working at the Park of the Canals and then the Rowley Site excavation. Jerry has continued to help us with projects all these years including the Pew site excavation, the Serrine House renovation, and the stage stop and schoolhouse stabilizations at the Verdugo site plus a number of other projects. Through all this time, he has worked to get Mesa Grande preserved. He was instrumental in helping to get the city to buy the property and now finally to have an official Visitors' Center and opening of the Mesa Grande Cultural Park to the public. We have really appreciated Jerry's efforts and help throughout the last 35 years. Thanks, Jerry.

## SWAT Exhibits Crew

Tim Walters and Ed Mack spent many hours to build the unique desk top for the Mesa Grande Visitors' Center. When you visit, be sure to take a close look at it. Jim Britton is continuing to work on a faux rock wall that will be a barrier for a future javalina exhibit. Others worked on the exhibition hall for the NASA space station now showing. The crew is currently working on a future exhibit near the lower mountain pond. It will give the public a look at underwater creatures of the deep. A very interesting concept will be used to display the creatures.

## Study Group

**By Ellen Martin**

The group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in the AzMNH Annex. We are presently discussing the book "Earl Morris and Southwestern Archaeology" by Florence C. and Robert H. Lister. Next we will be reading and discussing "First Inhabitants of Arizona and the Southwest" by Byron Cummings. Both of these books were written in the 1950's and 60's. If you are interested in joining the group, please talk to Ellen Martin at our next meeting, or email: e13martin@hotmail.com.

## Pueblo Grande Stabilization

By Jim Britton

Since the last newsletter the Mudslingers have only worked one day. That day was in November when 13 volunteers applied mud to various rooms on top of the platform mound and in the northwest corner of the compound. Also, soil sediments were removed from drop boxes and erosion cuts in the slopes next to the mound were filled.

No workday was scheduled for December. If it had been scheduled it would have had to be cancelled due to the weather. Then in January, we had another problem with "Mother Nature." Work was scheduled for January 12 and it had to be cancelled due to extreme cold temperatures. Remember, the morning was below freezing. Even though we have a dedicated crew, I assumed no one would want to thaw out the water supply in order to mix mud.

Our next workday is scheduled for February 16. In March, we will be working during Pueblo Grande's Ancient Technology Day on March 9th. We will be demonstrating stabilization techniques for the visiting public. If you would like to help the PGM Mudslingers, call Jim Britton (480)827-8070 for more information concerning the schedule and starting times.

## 2013 Arizona Archaeology Expo

This year the expo will be held Saturday, March 16 at the very interesting site of Horseshoe Ranch. It's located in a beautiful setting by the river in the Agua Fria National Monument. Not only will you enjoy the scenery on your way to the area, but there will be numerous tours to various sites in the area; including the Badger Springs Petroglyphs, La Plata Pueblo, the Brooklyn Petroglyphs site, and the Teskey Home site. There are petroglyphs right behind the ranch, so that also will be another site to visit. At the ranch will be many booths and activities including lectures in the ranch barn as well as entertainment there. There will be many hands-on activities, and Hualapai, the tame wild burro, will be attending with his living history re-enactor Tom Taylor. Fry bread as well as other food will be available.

SWAT will have an information table to advertise the Mesa Grande Cultural Park as well as our SWAT group. We will also be in charge of the rabbit hunt and the atlatl (spear) throw activities. Because the expo is rather far away this year, we will be carpooling from the AzMNH early in the morning of March 16th. We'll return that evening to the museum. If you would like to help, please sign up at the February meeting or contact Donna at 480-969-0578 or dbenge1@cox.net.

## Toltec School

On the first Saturday of each month, you'll find a crew working in Eloy on Toltec Road at the historic Toltec School.

Right now we're refurbishing the restrooms. This isn't the most exciting job but will be rewarding when finished. The stools have been removed and cleaned by Dick Myers, Ed Mack, Dick Myers and KJ



Ed Mack, Dick Myers and KJ Schroeder using a torch to remove linoleum at a January work day.

Schroeder using a torch to remove linoleum from the bathroom floors and will then continue in the foyer, classrooms and stage.

## SWAT Lab

By Donna Bengé

We've finished putting all of the Rowley Site sherds into archival bags so our next step will be to put them in new boxes and arrange them on the shelves at the refurbished storage area in the Federal Building across the street from the museum. We'll need to get all the boxes over there first though, and that will be a major project. In the meantime, we are going to be doing some sherd analysis. Contact Donna Bengé if you would like to help in the lab at dbenge1@cox.net.

## Milk Barn At Park Of The Canals

Work will resume on the building on February 29 at 8 a.m. If you would like to help with that project, please contact Jerry Howard at jerry.howard@mesaaz.gov or Jim Britton at jabritton@cox.net and they will give you more information.

# Mesa Grande Cultural Park

What a fantastic Grand Opening! On Saturday January 19th, over 1000 people attended the Opening for the new Visitors' Center! At 8:30 am, there was a Native American Blessing, several short speeches, and then ribbon cutting. This was followed by a free pancake breakfast provided by the Mesa Grande Community Alliance. Visitors were treated to self-



guided tours of the site, reading about the mound at each of the nine kiosk stations. SWAT volunteers were posted near the stations to answer questions – and there were many. At each station four interpretations were shown in a revolving display which included a view from the archaeologist's standpoint, surrounding nature, the history of the Hohokam as applied to the area, and a history lesson about former archaeologists who visited the site in the past. At 10:00 a.m. the Salt River Traditional Dancers entertained everyone.

Many SWAT members helped with the activities including atlatl (spear) throw, rabbit hunt with throwing sticks, bracelet making with pump drills, hands-on pottery making with Glenn Dotson, and Cano showed and discussed his home made artifact collection. There was also an information table manned by our volunteers. We all had a great time interacting with the visitors and were excited to finally have the site open to the public with interesting interpretations at kiosk stations.

The new Visitors' Center is a very unique building designed by historic architect Ron Peters. Ed Mack and Tim Walters designed and constructed the kiosk stations as well as the desk top inside the center which is made of metal and molded concrete. If you haven't yet had a chance to see the new Cultural Park, be sure and visit. It's now open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 – 4, on Saturdays 11 – 4, and on Sundays from 12 – 4. Admission fees are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Those who have AzMNH family memberships are free.



**Top: Visitors climb the mound trail.**

**Above and left: Pottery making and pump drills kept youngsters happy during the day.**

**Below: Salt River Traditional Dancers.**



# Grand Opening Celebration



At left: participating in the Mesa Grande Opening Day Ceremonies were Dr. Jerry Howard, archaeologist, Dr. Tom Wilson, AzMNH Director, Jona Ray from Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC), Dave Richins, Mesa City Council, Richardo Leonard, (SRP-MIC) and Alex Finter, Mesa City Council.



Above: Visitors enjoying a pancake breakfast that was part of the celebration.



Left: Cano shows and explains his display of artifacts.



Above: Visitor Center desk designed and built by Tim Walters and Ed Mack.



Right: Visitors at a kiosk station on the trail.

New  **Membership Application** Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  Family (\$20)  Individual (\$15)  Student (\$10)

Family Member Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Areas Of Interest

I Want To Help With

- Calling Committee
- Education/Teaching Programs
- Excavation
- Lab Analysis
- Stabilization
- Survey

I Want To Learn More About

- Excavation Techniques
- Historic Preservation
- Stabilization Techniques
- Survey Techniques
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Return This Form To: Southwest Archaeology Team  
PO Box 5368, Mesa, AZ 85211-5368

# Southwest Archaeology Team

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## Southwest Archaeology Team

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Ancient Echoes is the  
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a cooperative agreement with  
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