



ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 2

April, May, June, 2013

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 2nd, 7 p.m.

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

Speaker: Hugh Davidson, “Pozos de Sonoqui” Hohokam Site

Hugh Davidson will be giving a presentation about a Hohokam site in Queen Creek called the “Pozos de Sonoqui” Site. Preliminary findings and challenges facing good archaeology (and historic preservation) to advance local government projects. Today’s Pozos de Sonoqui excavation partially realizes the promise the site once displayed, but even a well-executed effort cannot mitigate the toll extracted by continual land development that compromised much of that original landmark character found here.

As an agency environmental analyst, Hugh Davidson serves as the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) cultural resource manager. Hugh’s primary responsibility is to advance agency projects through Arizona Antiquities Act, State Historic Preservation Act, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulatory compliance. As an architectural historian affiliate of Heritage Research Associates (Eugene) Hugh conducted surveys and authored Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation on Oregon highways and bridges. Hugh began his career in anthropology/archaeology (BA, MA) working in the Anasazi Southwest, Great Plains and Great Basin culture areas, to later specialize in preservation planning beginning with a Wyoming SHPO appointment and subsequent private and public sector jobs.

Also In This Issue:

Chair Chatter

Keeping up with SWAT 2

Achievement Award

Ed Mack Honored 2

Archaeology Expo

SWAT Plays A Big Role 2

Historic Preservation

June Event In Mesa 2

Pueblo Grande

Fighting Bad Weather 3

Toltec School

Work Inside and Outside 3

Milk Barn

Winter Visitor Volunteers 3

Make A Nomination

Mesa Preservation Award 3

Exhibits Crew

Animals Find A Home 4

“What Is It?”

New AzMNH Exhibit 5

She Dives Again

Preservation Foundation 5

Become a Member

Support SWAT 6

Is Your Membership Current? This May Be Your Last Issue! Renew Now — Back Page!

Chair Chatter

**Donna Benge
Chairperson**



If you missed the Arizona Archaeology Expo at the Horseshoe Ranch in Agua Fria, you missed a great day in a beautiful setting. A number of SWAT members helped and really enjoyed their time there. Thank you for your participation.

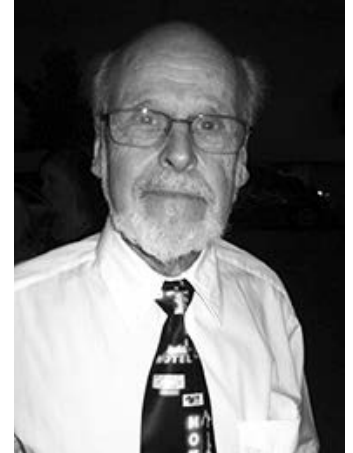
As the cooler season begins to come to an end so do some of our projects. We'll be working in Eloy at the Toltec School and at Pueblo Grande in May. Lab will continue though in the cool basement at the AzMNH.

We're excited to see visitors at the Mesa Grande Cultural Park. There have also been a number of interesting programs there. The park will close for the summer in the middle of May.



Ed Mack Honored For Outstanding Achievement

At the AZMNH Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Autumn Hall, Guild president, presented Ed with the Guild's "Outstanding Achievement Award." Autumn praised him for his amazing commitment of time, talent, and dedication to the museum for 18 years. In 2012, with 793 hours, Ed had the most volunteer hours.



Arizona Historic Preservation Conference

The conference is being held June 12 – 13 at the Hilton Hotel and elsewhere in Mesa. There will be many archaeology workshops as well as those dealing with historic preservation. To find out more about it and/or to register, go online to 2013 Arizona Historic Preservation Conference. When you go to that site, note that SWAT is one of the sponsors.

Arizona Archaeology Expo

On March 16, SWAT members gathered at the parking lot of the museum early in the morning and trekked to Agua Fria National Monument. After entering the gate and driving 5 or 6 miles on a dirt road in a picturesque desert setting, they gazed from a hill down to the Agua Fria River. On the other side was the Horseshoe Ranch, now a part of the monument. In front of a large ranch home is a large area of lawn and trees. In this location 38 organizations were setting up tables and tents to teach people about archaeology. Beyond that area to the east of a barn was a field where cattle were grazing. This was where SWAT was supposed to setup the atlatl/spear activity as well as the rabbit hunt. Before we could set up there, the cattle had to be driven out to another area.

In the meantime, we created the SWAT "booth" close to what had been a home for ranch hands. Those who helped including Marissa Cullum, Joyce Wahlquist and



**Marissa and Kathleen staff the
SWAT information booth**

Donna Benge Photo

her sister, Kathleen Krider, Jana Williams, and Marie Britton had a relaxing day of visiting with the 800+ who came to the expo. Each person also had a chance to explore the expo and/or go on field trips. Donna Benge helped Girl Scouts who were visiting earn their archaeology badges. Wilson Allen and Jim Britton were in charge of the activities in the field. Jim told each rabbit stick thrower that they would win a prize if they hit the metal rabbit sitting on top of a small dirt pile. When asked what the prize was he said "you have the cow paddy of your choice." He actually had two winners! The first winner picked a nice dry one and presented to his girlfriend. Her comment was "you will have to give me a diamond ring before I accept that." They all had a good laugh. Everyone was happy to be a part of the experiences on such a pleasant day in the beautiful setting.

Pueblo Grande Stabilization

By Jim Britton

“THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY” Weather can be described with these adjectives. During the past three months we have experienced it all. In “UGLY” January the stabilization workday had to be cancelled due to a morning temperature of 28 F. In “GOOD” February, the temperature got up to 75 F and we were able to begin erosion repair caused by 2.43 inches of rain that had fallen since our last workday. Then came “BAD” March, when on Friday before our workday it rained and rained. The ground surface was so saturated and it was impossible to drive the Gator vehicle and work in those muddy conditions.

During the February workday, nine Mudslingers were able to repair many eroded basal courses on walls of the platform mound and three rooms. Sediments were removed from 12 drop boxes. These boxes are connected to pipes that drain water runoff from the mound top so that it won't run over the wall faces and erode them. We were unable to repair all damage caused by the 2.43 inches of rain. So in April we will continue with those repairs and others caused by the March rain.

Our next workday is scheduled for May 18. If you would like to help the PGM Mudslingers, call Jim Britton (480)827-8070 for more information concerning the schedule and starting times.

Toltec School

Work continues on the first Saturday of each month. We've had to do some paint repair work on the south side of the one room schoolhouse and on the east door of the larger school. A crew has been diligently working on the bathrooms in the school removing flooring, stuccoing holes in the walls, and scraping away paint. A plumber has been doing repairs and Dick Myer's son has installed electrical conduit in the rooms. The stalls have been professionally painted and will be put back in place later. We will work the first Saturday in May before taking a break for the summer.



Jim Britton and Sue Bondzeleske repainting trim on Toltec Schoolhouse

Donna Bengé Photo

Milk Barn At Park Of The Canals

In late February, Pat Kelly, Jerry Howard, and Jim Britton met at the Milk Barn. Pat, a winter visitor, wanted to help do some wood work. He determined the required lumber, nails, screws, etc. needed to replace the two exterior doors. While he was doing that, Jerry and Jim worked on the corrugated tin roof. Last December,

several tin sheets had been replaced, but two of them needed to be trimmed off at the bottom edge. At that time we did not have the equipment to do the cutting, so we completed the job this day

In early April Pat and Jim purchased the lumber and supplies and began the door frame installation. We will finish the door frames and start on the south and west windows of the old original portion of the structure in the near future.

If you would like to help with this project contact Jerry Howard at jerry.howard@mesaaz.gov or Jim Britton at jabritton@cox.net.



Pat Kelly and Jim Britton installing new door frame at Milk Barn

Donna Bengé Photo

City of Mesa Historic Preservation Board

Nominations for awards in Historic Preservation for individuals or projects meriting recognition in Mesa are now being submitted. Go to the City of Mesa website under Historic Preservation to find the application form.

AzMNH Monday Exhibits Crew

Jim and Ron have been busy building a stone wall which separates the visitors from a taxidermied javalina in the Sonoran desert area on the museum upper level. This vicious looking javalina is guarding her two babies. They just completed building a base for a black bear perched above the upper pond. Nearby at the top of dinosaur mountain is a taxidermied big horn sheep. These three animals were donated to the museum.

Others working on Mondays have been doing heavy duty work cleaning out areas and moving exhibit cases for new exhibits. Work continues on the new prehistoric sea area, and all the worn and dirty puzzles have been cleaned and refurbished.



**Top: Completed javalina display.
Below: Black bear above pond.
Left: Big horn sheep**

Jim Britton Photos



New Exhibit: "What Is It?"

As stated in the opening of a popular TV show, "you never know WHAT is going to come in that door!" Certainly this applies to a museum where objects of the unusual, exotic and the mysterious are often carried or dragged in the door. Museum patrons and curators alike are often heard to exclaim "What is it???"

The newest exhibition being developed by the museum, the "What is It?" exhibit, gives visitor's the chance to put themselves into the shoes of museum curators and figure out what some of the more unusual objects from the museum collections are. The museum presents these rare, unusual and often "extinct" items for visitor's to examine. They are then presented with three possible answers and challenged to identify what the objects are and what they are used for.

More seasoned visitors (OK, I will say it, the old folks) may readily identify some of these objects because they used them when they were younger. One example is the now beautifully restored phone booth

now featured in the museum lobby. But younger visitors may never have seen a phone booth and certainly never used one. Why bother with a booth when now you can simply whip out your cell phone and call anywhere in the world from where you are standing! Think about the evolution of the phone itself, from old crank models with calls that went through an operator, to rotary dial phones, to the cell phone and now the smart phone.

Objects with the same functions change through time and often the earlier versions look mysterious to us today.

The "What is It?" exhibit is actually making a return trip to the Arizona Museum of Natural History. This exhibit was done well over a decade ago and was very popular with visitors. At that time, visiting groups of family and friends huddled together to see who could identify each strange object. The hope is that this exhibit will rekindle that group dynamic and be as popular as ever!

Historic Preservation Foundation

SWAT made a donation to support the repair and installation of the iconic historic neon motel sign of the Diving Lady. At a gala event on April 2nd, Mesa Mayor Scott Smith was there to turn on the lights at dusk. However, after the countdown, no lights came on. Larry Graham of Graham's Neon who restored the ladies was called upon to fix the problem. He stepped forward carrying a very large fake wrench. After another countdown, the Lady was spectacularly diving again. The lighting failure was a joke. Food was served and a harmonica group played songs from the late 1950's. Over 300 people were on hand to enjoy the event.

Funds are still needed to complete paying for the project, so if you would like to donate, please send checks to the Mesa Preservation Foundation at P.O. Box 539, Mesa, Arizona 85211-0539 or go to their Facebook page and pay by Pay Pal. The foundation would be grateful for any help!

Another project of the foundation has been the preservation of the Buckhorn Baths property. The City of Mesa is now negotiating to buy that land.



She dives again! Historic neon motel sign is back in action.

Donna Bengé Photo

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

SWAT, Inc.,
PO Box 5368, Mesa, AZ
85211-5368

www.southwestarchaeologyteam.org

Officers

Chairperson

Donna Benge (480) 969-0578

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Alex Howard (480) 254-2501

Sylvia Lesko (480) 497-4229

Bert Strobl (480) 220-0986



Southwest Archaeology Team

Arizona Museum of
Natural History
53 N. Macdonald
Mesa, AZ 85201

Ancient Echoes is the
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