



ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES

Volume No. 21 Issue No. 3

July, August, September, 2011

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 6, 7 PM

Presenter: Jim Britton

Topic: Homol'ovi State Park Stabilization Project

AzMNH Theatre, 53 N. Macdonald (Enter from First Street)

Jim has been involved in many stabilization projects throughout Arizona. He has had extensive experience doing prehistoric stabilization on coursed adobe and masonry structures. He did stabilization at Q Ranch Pueblo for many years, has been coordinating the stabilization at Pueblo Grande for 18 years, he is stabilization coordinator at Risser Ranch Ruin (Payson), and has helped at Mesa Grande.

Jim's power point presentation will discuss the recent stabilization work at Homol'ovi State Park in Winslow, Arizona. The Park was closed in February 2010, due to lack of State Park funds. The president of the Arizona Archaeology Society (AAS) attended a State Parks meeting and suggested that AAS could possibly do stabilization of the exposed features. Jim was asked to be involved and became the "Crew Chief" for the project, doing the documentation and crew coordination. Dr. Charles Adams (Arizona State Museum-Tucson) is the Project Director. This is a very high profile project involving Arizona State Parks, the Hopi Tribe, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Arizona State Museum, and AAS.

Jim will present history of the Park and the project showing "before" and "after" photos of the areas stabilized. These include the Homol'ovi II Great Kiva, Five Room Block, and the Small Clan Kiva. He will also show work done at Homol'ovi I. He will also discuss the reopening of the Park.



For photos of the Homol'ovi II Great Kiva project, see page 5

Also In This Issue:

Chair Chatter

Keeping up with SWAT projects 2

Museum Exhibits

Two new, exciting offerings 2

Suggestions, Please

We're asking you for newsletter ideas 2

Mesa Grande

Plans are ready for visitor center 3

Toltec School

Dedicated volunteers worked all summer 4

Pueblo Grande

Weathering Summer Monsoons 4

Homol'ovi Restoration

Photos of work in progress 5

Are You A Member?

Here's Your Chance to Join 6

Chair Chatter

Donna Bengé
Chairperson



SWAT Team members have been hard at work throughout the summer. Even the humidity and heat haven't deterred their progress. A number of members have continued to help restore the Toltec Schoolhouse for Colored Students in Eloy while others have been helping to create exhibits at the museum. The lab crew has taken a vacation while waiting for a time when we can remove artifact boxes from above the jail. We'll begin working again in September though.

There are many projects to look forward to for the coming year. For one thing we'll be finishing the schoolhouse by February 12, 2012, the state centennial. Also on that date, a new visitor center will be opening at Mesa Grande. The theme for the centennial in this city is "Mesa Takes Flight" so we are working on exhibits with that theme at the Arizona Museum of Natural History. In addition we have planned some very interesting programs for the membership meetings during the coming year. You are welcome to join us at the Toltec project or become a Mudslinger at Pueblo Grande and/or be a part of the lab crew.



Suggestions, Please

We are asking all SWAT members to express their opinions and suggestions.

For example:

- What type of articles would you like to read about in the newsletter?
- How do you rate the overall appearance and content of the newsletter?
- What sort of topics would you like to have presented at the meetings?
- List any ideas you might have that would make the newsletter and meetings more enjoyable.

Make your suggestions known by sending an email to Marie Britton (Editor) mbrit@cox.net or send it via the web page email contact.

New Museum Exhibits



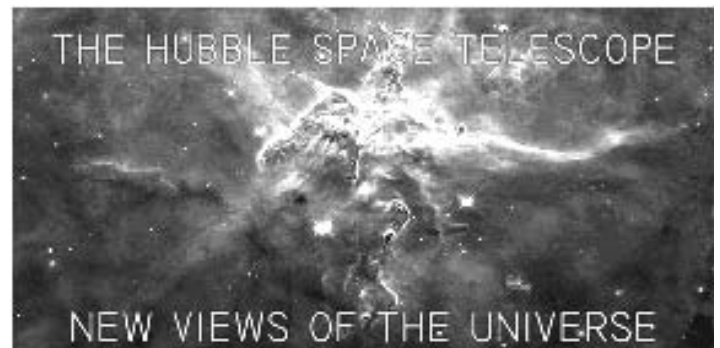
John N. Agnew, *Waiting for Rain*, acrylic, 20 x 30

Vanishing Circles: Portraits of Disappearing Wildlife of the Sonoran Desert Region

This exhibit is on display at the Arizona Museum of Natural History. The 59 works of art in the Vanishing Circles exhibition portray vulnerable, endangered, or extirpated species indigenous to the Sonoran Desert Region (which includes the Gulf of California) and landscapes that offer vital habitat for these and myriad other species. Although not all-inclusive, the artworks illustrate a range of species and classes in the animal and plant kingdoms that are literally losing ground-or water as the case may be.

An opening reception for Vanishing Circles will be held on Friday, September 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Live animals and plants will be on view. Light refreshments will be served.

Images in the exhibition are from the Vanishing Circles Collection of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Vanishing Circles: Portraits of Disappearing Wildlife of the Sonoran Desert Region is a traveling exhibition of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson.



This new exhibit explores the incredible new images and knowledge as a result of the Hubble Space Telescope. The telescope helps us understand the deepest mysteries of the cosmos, such as how old is the universe? How big is it? Where do planets, stars and galaxies come from? This is a must see exhibit.

Mesa Grande Construction

**Dr. Jerry B. Howard and
Dr. Thomas H. Wilson**

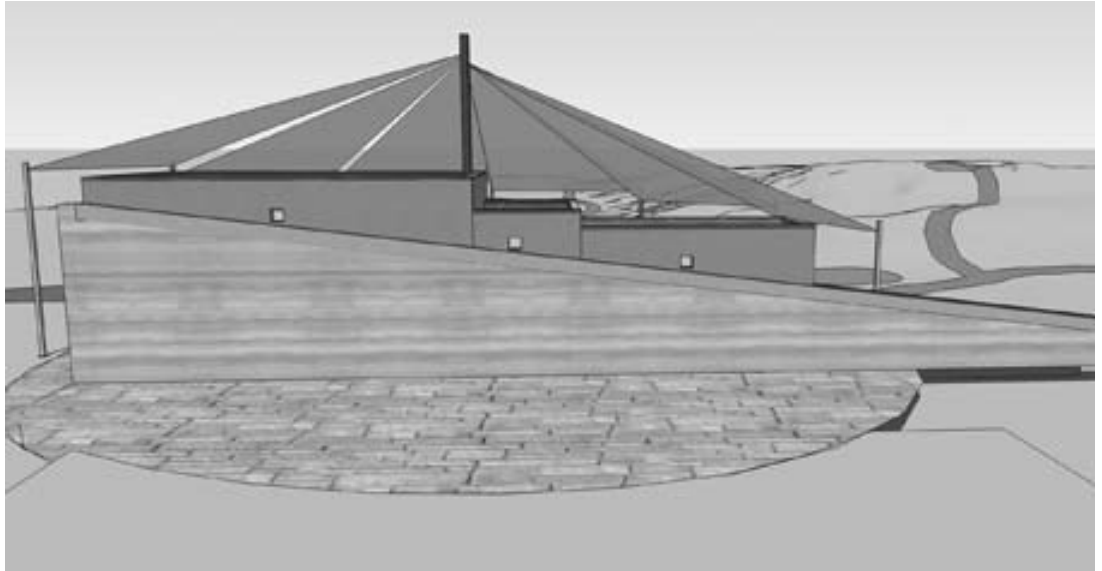
We are moving ahead rapidly with the construction of the visitor's center at Mesa Grande! W.H. Pacific, our architectural firm, finished conceptual plans (drawings of what the building will look like) which were presented to the city Design Review Board. This is a group of people who review architectural design, landscaping and infrastructure for projects being done in the City of Mesa. We presented the plans to them at our first meeting with the board and received several comments from them. Following procedure, we worked on meeting their recommendations and returned with a final plan that was then approved by the board.

We also met with the Mesa Grande Community Alliance and other neighbors living near the mound. They asked questions and gave us additional comments and suggestions. It was a positive meeting for all.

The conceptual plans are presented in the following illustrations. The building is roughly 1200 square feet (cabin or small house size). A main architectural element is two "rammed earth walls" that taper off in the distance. Rammed earth uses soil, like adobe, that is rammed or compacted together. The use of different soils can produce the "look" of natural stratigraphy. It is very attractive.

Other features of the building include:

1. A welcoming counter to greet visitors.
2. A semicircular "gathering place" where visitors or



classes can gather and read basic information on the Hohokam.

3. A 30 foot pole supporting "canvas" shade structures over the gathering area.
4. Men's and Women's rooms.
5. A storage area.

One new addition to the project came in the timely donation of a life size, 6 foot tall (with the base) bronze statue of a Hohokam Man. This is a significant piece, which will be a center piece for the gathering place. It was commissioned by Dennis and Mary Pollard of Scottsdale who generously donated it to the museum. It can currently be seen on the stair landing overlooking the Southwest Gallery at the Museum.

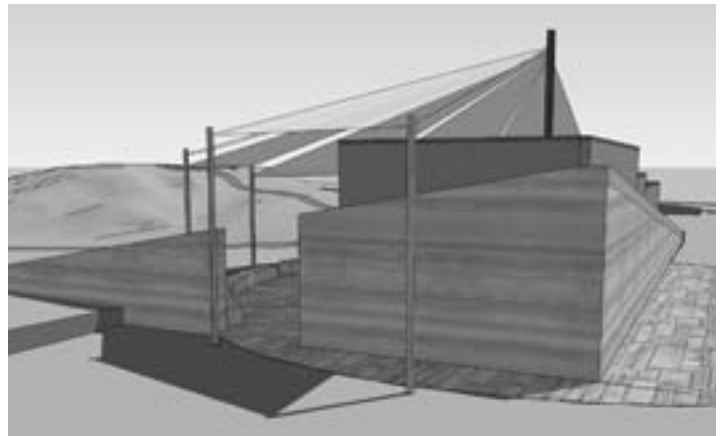
The construction of the visitor's center at Mesa Grande is the City of Mesa's only Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. We hope to open the center on February 11th, 2012, the Arizona Centennial. The building plan is currently being reviewed by the City of Mesa's Engineering Department. The next step will be to secure a contractor to build the facility.



SWAT Lab Update

by Donna Bengé

We'll resume work at the lab on September 7. We meet outside the back gate of the Arizona Museum of Natural History at 7 p.m. each Wednesday evening. If you are interested in becoming a lab team member, please contact Donna Bengé at dbenge1@cox.net or 480-969-0578. We will be rebagging artifacts, washing and analyzing sherds, and doing some organizing.



Toltec School Renovation

By Donna Benge

Great progress has been made since the last time you read the newsletter with crews working throughout the summer. The building is now well insulated so with fans and a swamp cooler, we have been able to continue to make progress each month. SWAT members have completed installing new exterior siding and interior dry wall. Joint compound has been applied to the Drywall seams and nail indentions, and these areas have been sanded and are ready to be painted. The wainscoting was washed with a Murphy's oil solution then shellacked. Ceiling panels have been installed using a new mount to lift the panels in place.



Richard Brown, Jim Britton, KJ Schroeder and Dick Myers use a new mount to hold panel to ceiling. Fans and a swamp cooler helped keep volunteers comfortable.

In the meantime, Dick Myers arranged to have new doors and windows built. The windows on the west side and the two doors are now in place. The larger windows on the north, east, and south sides will be installed within the next few months. The exterior has been painted antique white with red trim on the eaves and corners. Window trims and doors are

painted green. The electrical work is almost finished.

If you would like to help with this project, please contact Donna for more information at 480-969-0578 or email at dbenge1@cox.net

Pueblo Grande Stabilization

By Jim Britton

The summer monsoon season has been relatively kind to the prehistoric components of Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park. But there still is a lot of work to be done by the PGM Mudslingers. We will continue recapping walls, replacing mud mortar around wall stones, and repairing basal erosion in the coming months.

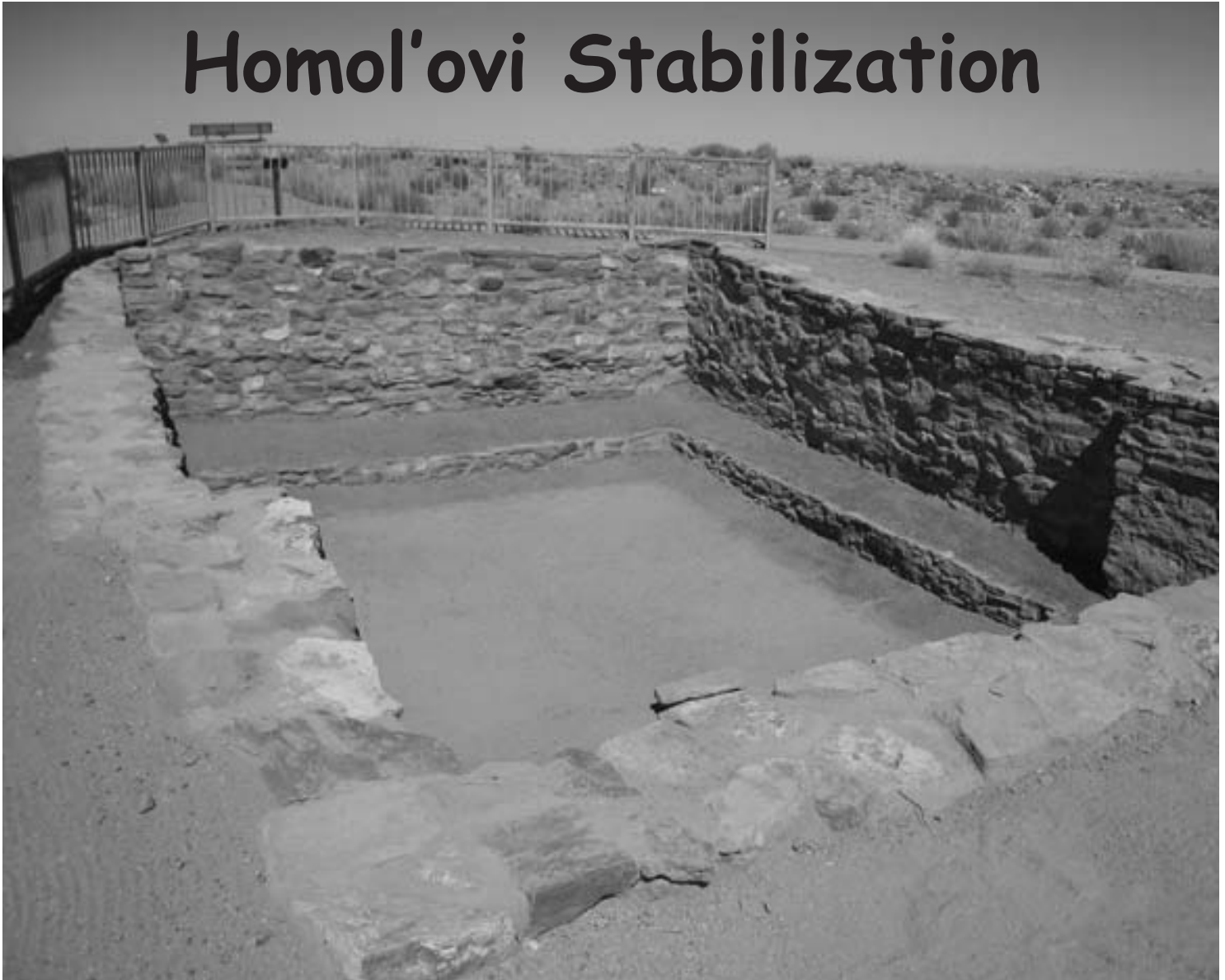
Our next workdays are scheduled for September 10, October 22, and November 12. The October 22 workday will be special. That is because it is National Archaeology Day. Throughout October and on October 22 in particular, the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and its 108 local societies throughout the United States will be presenting and participating in archaeological programs. Their Central Arizona (Phoenix) Society has asked the

Mudslingers to provide their organization and the public an opportunity to participate in doing prehistoric stabilization. They will also tour the Museum, the platform mound, and the trail to the pit house and compound villages and ball court.

If you would like to help the PGM Mudslingers, call Jim Britton (480)827-8070 for more information and for starting times.



Homol'ovi Stabilization



The Homol'ovi II Great Kiva stabilization will be part of Jim Britton's presentation at the Oct. 6 Members' Meeting. Above is the kiva after renovation. Below, Chad Meunier and Jim Britton working on the kiva. Right, one of the work teams.



Become Part Of SWAT!

If you have not joined the Southwest Archaeology Team yet, we invite you to do so. 2011 memberships being accepted now.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Date Sent: _____

This is a: New Membership Renewal Membership

- \$20 - Family Membership
- \$15 - Single or Individual Membership
- \$10 - Student Membership

Return to: Southwest Archaeology Team
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Southwest Archaeology Team

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Ancient Echoes is the
newsletter of the Southwest
Archaeology Team, which is in
a cooperative agreement with
the Arizona Museum of
Natural History



Address Correction Requested