



ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 3

July, August, Sept., 2013

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 3rd, 7 p.m.

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

John Hohmann will be giving us an update on the projects over the last few years at Q Ranch. The Arizona Archaeology Society began holding field schools at the Q in 1990. John has been the Project Director since then. In the past our SWAT group has helped with particular aspects of excavation and stabilization. Also, a number of members have worked individually at the site during weekend or longer work periods. The Q Ranch has both prehistoric and historic components. The ranch was established by Jesse Ellison who moved his family from Texas in 1841. He was involved in the Pleasant Valley War between the Grahams and Tewksburys. The prehistoric component consists of two Pueblos. The total room count is approximately 220 and was occupied from AD1265 to AD1380. It is a very interesting site and those of you who have heard John talk know it will be an interesting and informative presentation.

Also In This Issue:

Chair Chatter

Keeping up with SWAT 2

Stoner Award

Jim and Marie Britton Honored 2

New Lab Schedule

Friday Meeting Time 2

Pueblo Grande

Stabilization Resumes 3

Toltec School

Work Awaits Cool Weather 3

Doubly Honored

Two Awards for Mesa Grande..... 4

Mesa Grande

Winter Hours Announced 4

What Is It?

New AzMNH Exhibit 5

Exhibits Crew

Many Projects Under Way 5



Are You A Member?

Members of SWAT receive a 10 percent discount when they shop in the Arizona Museum of Natural History Store. Use the form on the back page to join or renew your membership.

Chair Chatter

**Donna Bengé
Chairperson**



Hopefully you have had an easy going pleasant summer. But we're about to gear up again for exciting SWAT work days and meetings. John Hohmann is always a really good speaker so don't miss the October meeting.

Thanks to Ed Mack we have a new audio system in the theatre so everyone will have a good experience listening to the speaker. And remember those wires we had to trip over that went from the wall to the computers? They are now arranged under a stage and we have a new podium perfect for holding a laptop for the Power Point presentations.

We will have a new lab meeting time and will be busy almost every Saturday with various stabilization projects. If it's not too terribly hot, we will meet at the Toltec School in Eloy to continue the restoration of that building on September 7. On the second Saturdays, you will find us at Mesa Grande working on erosion problems and mixing mud in a new mixer to work in various areas. Beginning on September 21, we'll again be slinging mud at Pueblo Grande. We will continue working on the rock milk barn at the Park of the Canals on September 28.

Please join us at any or all of these experiences!



SWAT Lab Meetings Have New Schedule

On Wednesday evenings Jerry Howard will be teaching a Mesa Community College lab course in the museum lab. We have changed our SWAT lab meetings to Fridays from 1 to 3 pm. We know this will be a hardship for some, but the majority found it was a good time.

In the meantime, Jerry and a crew have cleaned out the room and moved many boxes to the basement area in the Federal Building. We'll have more space to move around now! Presently we will be continuing with analysis of Mesa Grande sherds.



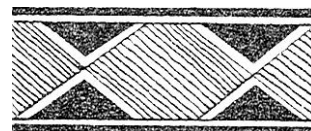
Jim And Marie Britton Receive Stoner Award

At the Pecos Conference in Flagstaff on August 10th, Jim and Marie Britton were honored to receive a 2013 Victor R. Stoner Award. This award is presented by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society for Outstanding Contributions to Public Archaeology or Historic Preservation in the southwest over an extended period of time. Both have been leaders in both aspects.

They have been very active with SWAT projects over the years and are contributing members of three chapters of the Arizona Archaeological Society: Phoenix, Payson, and Queen Creek. They have been active throughout the state with not only SWAT and AAS but the San Tan Historical Society, Q Ranch, Friends of Kentucky Camp, and Northern Gila County Historical Society. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. Jim has coordinated and supervised the stabilization at Pueblo Grande for 20 years. They have made major volunteer contributions for many groups over the years and worked on projects for the NPS, BLM, USFS, AZ State Parks, AZ State Land, Cities of Phoenix and Mesa, and several private owners.

They are members of 15 organizations related to archaeology and preservation. Both have received SWAT Volunteer of the Year awards, and they have each received the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission Awards in Public Archaeology for their efforts to educate the public about the protection and preservation of Arizona's archaeological resources.

Congratulations to both for receiving the coveted Stoner award!



Pueblo Grande Stabilization

By Jim Britton

Stabilization as it relates to archaeological sites can be defined as *“the practice of employing those construction methods, materials, and techniques used to minimize the deterioration of a structure, thereby accomplishing the objective of preservation. In the case of ruins stabilization, this involves placing the structure in a structurally sound condition while preserving its current appearance.”*

The portion of this definition that presents a real challenge is the word “materials.” Typically it includes clay soil, sand, and possibly an amendment.

There are various types of amendments or additives such as cement and several copolymers that have been used by various agencies. The first question to answer is which of these will be most compatible to the wall matrix of the existing structure at a reasonable cost. The amendment we use at Pueblo Grande is a copolymer called SoilShield-LS. We combine it with water to form a



Damage such as this awaits
PGM Mudslingers

solution that is added to the soil and sand when mixing the mud. The challenge is to determine the proper ratio of SoilShield to water. If the solution is too strong the adobe walls of the ruin will not be able to “breathe.” In other words, moisture may be trapped and cause the wall to deteriorate behind the repair causing the new application of mud to fall off sometime in the near future.

Of course it can get even more complicated since the ratio of sand to clay soil must be determined. Too much sand and you have a weak mortar and the rain will wash it off, too much clay soil and you get shrink cracks. It is much more involved than what can be discussed in this article, but perhaps this information about the “materials” can help you understand that a lot of experimentation and luck is required to be successful when doing stabilization work.

The PGM Mudslingers have not seen any action since May due to the hot summer months. One summer storm dropped over 1 inch of rain, so we have work to do. Our next scheduled workdays are September 21 and October 19. If you would like to be a PGM Mudslinger, call Jim Britton (480)827-8070 for more information concerning the schedule and starting times.

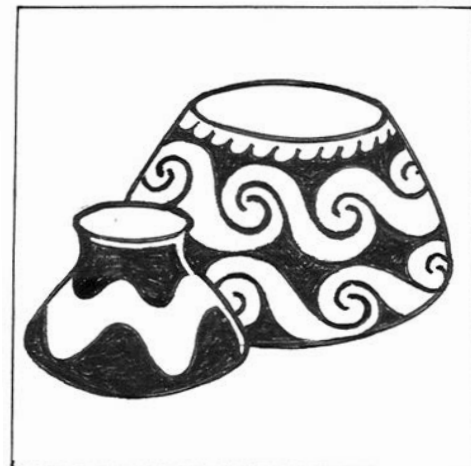


Sue Bondzeleski working at Toltec School.

Toltec School Work Will Resume

When we worked last May at the school, we continued to rehabilitate the restrooms and began working on re-finishing the stage that is on the south side of the schoolrooms. We also found that the sun has been damaging the paint on the south side of the schoolhouse that we completed in February of 2012. We’ll be working on that problem again this fall.

We hope to begin work again on September 5th if it isn’t oppressively hot, as it is quite uncomfortable in the building when we’re working hard.



JB. made

Mesa Grande Cultural Park Receives Two Awards

By Donna Benge

In June the Arizona Museum of Natural History/Mesa Grande Cultural Park received awards from the City of Mesa Historic Preservation Board and the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission Award in Public Archaeology. Both were nominated by the Southwest Archaeology Team.

Mesa Grande was a Hohokam platform mound community between approximately 1100 and 1450 A.D. It originally included a large village and served as a social and political center dominating the large scale irrigation canals on the south side of the Salt River. Pima legends designate it as a brother to Pueblo Grande.

Many in the past have worked to have the site preserved and in 1978, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. After a campaign begun by the Southwest Archaeology Team to have archaeologists from all over the state write letters to convince the City of Mesa of the significance of the site, it was purchased by the city in 1987.

However, without interpretation, the mound has had little meaning for the general public until the area was opened as the Mesa Grande Cultural Park in January of this year. Nine interpretation kiosks have been placed along trails explaining the site in terms of Archaeology Today, The Hohokam, Old Explorers, and Looking Closely (explaining what is seen close by). A unique unobtrusive Welcoming Center, designed by historic architect Ron Peters, includes a small exhibit. Parking spaces for 16 vehicles have been constructed. From October through mid-May, the site is open for visitors from 10 to 4 Thursdays through Fridays, from 11 to 4 on Saturdays and from 12 to 4 on Sundays. Education opportunities for both adults and children can be arranged as can guided tours. Special programs are also available to the public.



Tom Wilson and Jerry Howard receiving the Award in Public Archaeology

Along with the City of Mesa, major contributors for this project include the Arizona Museum of Natural History's Dr. Thomas Wilson, Museum Director and Dr. Jerry Howard, Curator of Anthropology. They have persisted for a number of years in getting grants and funding for the major step of opening the cultural park. Other staff members and exhibition volunteers have also helped to bring the park to fruition as did members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community.

This important part of prehistory is now being shared with the general public so is a new heritage destination rather than "that pile of dirt" on the corner of Date and 10th Street in Mesa. It is now economically viable for the city as well as the museum. SWAT member volunteers have continued to be active at the site and are excited to have been a part of finally having it designated as Mesa Grande Cultural Park.



A new sign will greet visitors to Mesa Grande Park

Mesa Grande Reopening For Fall On October 3

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Mesa Grande mound site, it will reopen October 3rd. General public admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children.

Hours of Operation after October 3rd

Thursday and Friday	10 am to 4 pm
Saturday	11 am to 4 pm
Sunday	12 noon to 4 pm

What Is It?

New Exhibit Poses Puzzles At AzMNMS

AzMNH's newest exhibit brings you objects odd, mysterious and extinct. Unusual objects made by man, modern and prehistoric, as well as those created by nature have been brought out of the collection vaults for you to view. When you visit this exhibit you will be challenged to identify these rare objects. Some may stir memories from years past and recall objects whose forms and functions have evolved. Others may contain clues to their use.

Each object has three possible identifications. The challenge is for you to tell which one is correct. This fun new interactive exhibit opened in mid-May. Come and find out how many objects you can identify correctly.



Can you properly identify these two objects? Make your best guess and check your accuracy the next time you are in the museum. There's no prize for being right except bragging rights.

Exhibition Crew Stays Busy With Varied Projects

We have all been working on various projects.

Ed Mack has constructed a metal pedestal on which are placed casts of bones that have been excavated in Arizona by the paleontology crews.

Others crewmembers are working on exhibits in the downstairs hallways. We'll let you know when they are completed! You will want to see these special new exhi-

bitions.

Donna is working on a new plesiosaurus 9-foot-long two-layer puzzle – the creature's bones and body which will be sculpted.

From Monday to Monday, you never quite know what you will be asked to do so it's always very interesting.

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

Vice-Chairperson

Kathleen Krider (480) 926-6690

Secretary

Richard Brown (480) 964-8011

Treasurer

Jim Britton (480) 827-8070

Directors

Carla Booker (480) 730-5171

Joe Burkett (480) 949-0477

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



Address Correction Requested