December Offers New Archaeological Excavation Opportunity for Volunteers

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center will excavate a portion of Torres Blancas Village, a prehistoric Hohokam settlement on the Santa Rita Springs development property in Green Valley, during its upcoming Silver Springs archaeological mitigation project. Members of Old Pueblo’s Archaeology Opportunities program may participate as volunteers in this dig and its postfieldwork studies.

The Silver Springs project’s volunteer-assisted excavations will be done on Thursdays through Mondays until December 22 and possibly later. Artifact cleaning and interpretive studies will continue through the spring of 1998.

The excavation project is being sponsored by Netwest Development Corporation of Tucson, which has awarded Old Pueblo Archaeology Center a sole-source contract to conduct archaeological data recovery excavations to help mitigate any impacts that construction of a retirement and assisted-living facility may have on this important archaeological site. Torres Blancas Village has been assigned archaeological site number AZ EE:1:194 by the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, and has also been called the Lakeside site.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center began studying this Hohokam village site in 1994 at the request of Dom Builders, the primary developer of the Santa Rita Springs property, after prehistoric artifacts were discovered on the property. In its early work at the site Old Pueblo excavated backhoe trenches to determine whether any buried archaeological features existed where an estimated 100

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December Archaeological Excavation Opportunity for Volunteers

(Continued from page 1) Hohokam pottery sherds and about 150 nondescript flaked stone artifacts had been found in an area measuring about 140 meters in diameter. To the archaeologists’ surprise, buried cultural features extended more than 100 m beyond the scatter of surface artifacts. These features included at least 30 prehistoric Hohokam “pithouse” structures, 4 human burials, and over 30 other outdoor roasting pits and midden areas.

As a result of the 1994 findings, Dorn Builders arranged for a portion of Torres Blancas Village to be donated to the Archaeological Conservancy, which is preserving the donated area for future archaeological research. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center conducted limited archaeological data recovery excavations in the donated portion of the site shortly before the Conservancy acquired it to obtain more detailed information about the Hohokam occupations at the site.

The remainder of the site outside of the Archaeological Conservancy’s preserve covers areas where developments are still planned, including the portion where Netwest will construct its new facility. In Old Pueblo’s 1994 archaeological test-trenching program and in additional explorations conducted in the Netwest project area earlier this year, 14 prehistoric Hohokam cultural features were identified. They included 7 probable pithouse structures, 6 outdoor pits, and 1 human burial. The pottery styles recovered from the test trenches suggest that the Hohokam made and used these features between A.D. 1100 and 1300, during the late Rincon and Tanque Verde phases.

The human burial in the Netwest project area was removed and studied briefly by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center before the skeletal remains and associated grave objects were repatriated to the Tohono O’odham Nation for reburial in a cemetery on tribal land. Old Pueblo also excavated one of the six outdoor pits in that area of the site in 1995, where Abrego Drive was built later.

The seven other pithouses and the other prehistoric outdoor pits in the Netwest project area are significant because they can provide important new archaeological information about prehistoric Hohokam subsistence, settlement, adaptation to the environment, trade and exchange patterns, and the Hohokam social system in the upper Santa Cruz River valley. Old Pueblo’s upcoming excavation project will attempt to recover information to address these research issues.

All of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Archaeology Opportunities members are welcome to participate in the Torres Blancas Village site excavations, but please note:

TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE TORRES BLANCAS DIG YOU MUST CALL OLD PUEBLO ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER AT (520) 798-1201!
Pictures from Previous Volunteer-Assisted Excavations in Green Valley

The artifact photographs in this issue of Old Pueblo Archaeology were made by professional photographer Ken Matesich for a publication entitled Archaeological Excavations at the Continental Site in Green Valley, Pima County, Arizona, in 1995.

Authored by archaeologist Jeffrey T. Jones and several other contributors, this volume was just published by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center this fall. It is the final report on a scientific study that Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) sponsored in order to preserve and interpret cultural information that had been buried in archaeological site AZ EE.1:32 (ASM), a significant prehistoric village that was partly within an area where TEP needed to expand one of its electrical power facilities.

The 1995 Continental site excavations by Old Pueblo produced a wealth of new information on the Classic period Hohokam occupation of the middle Santa Cruz River basin in south-central Arizona. Nine Hohokam habitation structures were excavated at this site by archaeologists, assisted by many avocational archaeology volunteers. Seven of the houses had burned down while they were still in use, and the Hohokam never retrieved many whole artifacts that were still on those house floors. Among the archaeological discoveries, therefore, were many storage pots with preserved foods and other botanical materials.

These painted and plainware pottery jars and bowls were recovered from three of the Hohokam pithouses that Old Pueblo Archaeology Center excavated at the Continental site in 1995.

Archaeology Opportunities:
Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s membership and volunteer program

is for people who wish to participate in archaeological excavations and other aspects of scientific cultural research, or for those who simply wish to support archaeology education programs. By taking part in field research, members get to discover ancient artifacts and cultural features, learn proper archaeological record-keeping and sketching methods, and participate in postfieldwork analyses, artifact processing and cataloging, and database utilization.

Membership benefits include opportunities to participate in Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s excavations, field surveys, and other research programs, 20% discounts on Old Pueblo’s publications, other items, and course offerings, subscription to the Old Pueblo Archaeology quarterly bulletin, and invitations and discounts for field trips and other archaeology events.

Persons who complete a basic three-day Sabino Canyon Ruin field school program automatically become Archaeology Opportunities members for a full year. A yearly fee option for enrollment and membership renewal is also available as indicated here. The back cover of this issue includes an enrollment form.

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First-Ever Guided Tour to Be Offered at Roadrunner Vista Site

On Saturday, January 10, 1998, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center offers the first-ever guided tour of a dig at the Roadrunner Vista site, AZ EE:7:261 (ASM), near Huachuca City. Located on a terrace overlooking the Babocomari River, this site has been under excavation by archaeologist Allen Denoyer since late 1995 under the sponsorship of the landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Peterson of Sonoyta.

"The site was occupied around the 1100s to 1200s by the Babocomari culture," said Mr. Denoyer. "It shows the transition from pit house into cobble reinforced, adobe-walled pit-

rooms connected with compound walls. The ceramics are bichromatic Babocomari that show stylistic similarities to both Encinas Red-on-brown and late Sedentary period styles in the Tucson Basin." Denoyer has excavated and recorded about half of the site's estimated 30 prehistoric structures.

The tour will begin at 10 a.m. and last till about noon. Be ready to hike up a fairly steep hill, wear shoes that completely cover your feet (no sandals), and bring at least 1 quart of water apiece. If you bring your lunch we can eat together al fresco after the tour ends.

This tour is free for Archaeology Opportunities members, $10 for non-members.

Call (520) 798-1201 for reservations and directions to the tour meeting place.

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Prehistoric carved wooden artifacts are rare in Arizona Hohokam sites, but the upper photo here shows one that was found at the Continental site. One member of the Tohono O'odham tribe commented that it is shaped just like the tips of wooden drumsticks that are used in ceremonies on the San Xavier Indian Reservation south of Tucson.

In the lower photo are two polished stone planes from the Continental site. The left one exhibits another rarity - a 800-year-old preserved resin. This material's position at the end opposite the blade and its flattened appearance suggest it was applied to pad the user's hand while planing a wood surface.
Upcoming Tours & Digs at Tucson’s Sabino Canyon Ruin

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center is offering guided tours and archaeological dig opportunities at the Sabino Canyon Ruin from December through March. Excavations at this site that was a vibrant Hohokam Indian village between A.D. 1000 and 1350 have recovered thousands of pottery, stone, bone, and seashell artifacts and have revealed prehistoric pithouses, apartment-like housing compounds with adobe and rock walls, ancient canals, and even a dog burial.

The public guided tours that will be offered on December 6 and January 3, (Saturdays), February 8 (Sunday), and March 7 (Saturday) -- at 10 a.m. each day -- are fund raisers for Old Pueblo’s nonprofit research and education programs at the ruin. Professional archaeologists directing the tours show and describe examples of artifacts that have been recovered as well as several excavated Hohokam pithouses and above-ground adobe structures, and offer interpretations of ancient Hohokam life in the Sabino Canyon area.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center members can go on the Sabino Canyon Ruin tours for free with advance reservations. From nonmembers a donation of $10 per adult and $2 per 6- to 12-year-old is requested. Children under 6 can go on the tour free. Kids under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

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Prehistoric stone ax heads recovered from the Continental Hohokam site in Green Valley (upper photo) are of the ¾-grooved type. Fragments of a somewhat enigmatic artifact, an artiodactyl (probably deer or antelope) shoulder blade (scapula) with multiple, parallel notches cut into one margin of the blade, are shown in the lower photo. A significant amount of polishing was observed between the notches on this piece, leading the osteologist who reported on it in Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s final Continental site report to suggest that notched artiodactyl scapulas were used as comb-like tools for separating plant fibers to prepare them for use in textile making.
Sabino Canyon Ruin Tours

(Continued from page 5)

Sabino Canyon Ruin dig sessions are scheduled for December 6, 13, 14, and 27, January 3, February 8, and March 7. These sessions are field school classes in which proper archaeological excavation and laboratory techniques are taught by archaeologists. Each one-day dig/lab session begins at 8 a.m. and runs till 1:30 p.m., and costs $69 per person.

The meeting place for the Sabino Canyon Ruin tours and digs is NOT at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center/tram area, so call Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at 798-1201 for reservations and meeting place directions.

Gourmet Archaeology Session
April 24-26 at Q-Ranch Pueblo

On April 24, 25, and 26, 1998, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) will offer a 3-day-weekend dig expedition and Sunday field trip at Q-Ranch Pueblo. Located 150 miles northeast of Phoenix near Young, Arizona, this ancient Mogollon pueblo ruin is accessible to passenger cars and indirectly via White Mountain Passenger Lines coaches running from Phoenix to Show Low.

The dig will be a “Gourmet Archaeology” field school package that includes three epicurean meals per day prepared by Jonathan Rogers (renowned among southwestern archaeologists for his gourmet cooking at Q-Ranch) and accommodations at Q Ranch Lodge, the Rogers family’s comfortable two-story ranch house right next to the pueblo. After the evening dinners, dig expeditioners can relax in the warmth of the lodge’s great fireplace, reminisce about the day’s dig discoveries, and learn more about the region’s fascinating prehistory and history with the session archaeologist, Allen Dart.

Minimum enrollment for the three-day dig is 7 people. The $465 fee covers all needed dig equipment, three nights lodging, nine delectable meals, and membership in the Arizona Archaeological Society. Single-occupancy rooms at the lodge are available for $20 extra per night.

For more information and a map call (520) 798-1201.

Arizona Humanities Council
Offers Free Archaeology Presentations

The Arizona Humanities Council, our state’s affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, makes high-quality educational and cultural activities available to Arizona nonprofit organizations through its Resource Center. The Resource Center’s Speakers Bureau provides knowledgeable scholars in archaeology, art history, comparative religion, ethics, history, and other aspects of the humanities for free public presentations to nonprofit groups.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Executive Director, Allen Dart, was recently added to the AHC Speakers Bureau, and is now available to make two these slide- and artifact-illustrated presentations about southern Arizona archaeology through this program. One is entitled “Arts and Culture of the Prehistoric Hohokam Indians” and the second is “Prehistoric Pottery of the Hohokam Indians in Tucson.”

If you would like to schedule one of Allen Dart’s talks for your group, please call him at (520) 798-1201 in Tucson to arrange a date, then confirm the agreed-upon date with the AHC.

To receive a free Arizona Humanities Council 1998-99 Resource Center Program Catalog call Rick Noguchi in Phoenix at (602) 257-0335, extension 27. Groups wishing to schedule a speaker should make arrangements with the Arizona Humanities Council at least six weeks ahead of the program date.
The Continental site pithouse in which this stone mortar was found did not contain any pests. A stone pestle that is compatible with it, shown above, was found in another house.

Award Nominations Sought

The Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission will sponsor the 12th annual “Awards in Public Archaeology” as part of the March 1998 Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month celebration. These awards are presented to individuals and programs that have contributed time and energy to promoting the protection and preservation of Arizona’s nonrenewable archaeological resources and educating the public about them.

The awards can be presented to people, groups, or programs worthy of recognition for public service efforts to help protect or preserve archaeological sites or raise public awareness of the sensitivity of archaeological sites.

Nominations are due by January 12, 1998. For a nomination form call Allen Dart at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, (520) 798-1201, or Ann Howard at the State Historic Preservation Office, (602) 542-7138.

Coming Events

Dec 6, 10 a.m.: Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Sabino Canyon Ruin guided tour, Tucson (p. 5).
Dec 7-21 or later: Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s volunteer-assisted excavations at Torres Blancas Village site in Green Valley (p. 1).
Jan 2-4: “Indian America” New Years Competition pow-wow and Indian Craft Market, Rillito Raceway Park, River Road & 1st Ave., Tucson; $1,500 contest money, 40 authentic Indian crafts booths, traditional Indian foods, drum contest.
Jan 3, 10 a.m. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Sabino Canyon Ruin guided tour, Tucson (p. 5).
Feb 8, 10 a.m.: Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Sabino Canyon Ruin guided tour, Tucson (p. 5).
Feb 12, 9-10 a.m.: “Arts and culture of the Prehistoric Hohokam Indians” slide-illustrated talk by Allen Dart, with artifact display Green Valley Community Church, 300 W. Esperanza Blvd. in Green Valley, AZ. Madonna Moess, (520) 625-4712.
Mar 7, 10 a.m.: Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Sabino Canyon Ruin guided tour, Tucson (p. 5).

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center
Thanks These Recent Supporters

Donors & Grantors: The Archaeological Conservancy, Isabel Brooks, Mrs. Richard Cooer, Donna Cozeltich, Bob & Deanna Dayhoff, Phil & Lou English, Milton Frank, Mrs. & Mrs. Max I. Miller, Jan Paulsen, John & Helen Schaefer, Old Vail Middle School, Resurrection Lutheran Church T.O.Y Club, Patty & H. S. Russell, William “Scotty” Scott, Velma L. Shoomaker, Susan Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Stan Smith, Alice & Donald Somrak, Jim Trant, Jim Trimble, Charles H Way, Howard & Pitro Zirkle, & persons who went on Sabino Canyon Ruin tours.


Volunteers: Special thanks this month to R. Brooks Jeffrey for providing information on Josiah floorer-designed structures from the Arizona Architectural Archives, U of A College of Architecture. Other recent volunteers include Lynne Attardi, Cleo Hutchison, Jean Paul Masuda, Karen Kasten, Carol Richardson, & Cindy Zambroz (Our apologies if we’ve overlooked anyone).

Archaeology for All!

Everyone Can Participate in Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s Public Programs

The OPEN1 Dig: Kids and adults can dig to discover pottery and other artifacts buried in OPEN1, a realistic full-size model of a prehistoric Indian pit-house village ruin. Sessions include outdoor archaeological excavations and indoor Native American craft activities, for ages 5 to adult, every Saturday. $10 per session, or special December price $30 for four consecutive sessions (can continue into following month).

Sabino Canyon Ruin: 1, 2, or 3-day archaeological field school sessions are offered at Tucson’s Sabino Canyon Ruin, the site of a prehistoric Hohokam Indian village that was inhabited between A.D. 1000 and 1350. With guidance from archaeologists, participants learn to identify Pre-Columbian artifacts, architectural features, and other evidence of prehistoric occupations. Introductory one-day (5-hour) basic dig sessions are open for registration every Saturday, and non-weekend sessions can be arranged for groups; minimum class size is three people.

Advance reservations are required for all dig sessions. Group rates are available for all programs. Call (520) 798-1201 for more information or to make reservations.
Plummet-shaped stone artifact and pottery polishing stone from the Continental site in Green Valley. See page 3.