

Rim Country Chapter and San Tan Chapter

The Rim Country Chapter (RCC) the San Tan Chapter (STC) have partnered to provide members with activities during this difficult time. The STC has specifically invited RCC Members to attend Zoom presentations with a variety of interesting and informative speakers. The RCC has been organizing Day Hikes specifically inviting the STC Members to participate. Due to conditions and host site requirements, the number of participants on field trips is limited and sometimes broken into two groups. Some field trips are being repeated due to interest. Announcements of field trip sign-ups and of Zoom meeting sign-ins are sent out by both chapter presidents to members.

Recent March Events:

Mar 10 San Tan Zoom Meeting: Dr. Chris Loendorf, Senior Project Manager at the Gila River Indian Community, presented on **Blackwater Village at the Turn of the 20th Century: Akimel O'Odham Perseverance and Resiliency.**

Blackwater Village was an Akimel O'odham (Pima) community on the Gila River near Pueblo Grande in the late 19th Century. In recent times part of it was surveyed and excavated since a Gila River Indian Community building was going to be constructed on the site.

Dr Loendorf discussed the transformation of Akimel O'odham houses from prehistoric times and through the 1800s. He described how the people retained many traditional ways through this period, how they selected new materials and technologies from Euro-American travelers and immigrants that were consistent with their traditions, and how they adapted new ideas into their culture. The abundant presence of charred traditional crop remains indicate that some historians' claims that the Akimel O'odham had abandoned them for European crops is mistaken.

Among the artifacts found on the floors of historic homes excavated were a few articulated parts of a Joselyn Civil War Carbine, a complete loaded 56 caliber cartridge for the weapon, and a US military general service uniform button. Since this weapon and ammunition was available only through the US Army, these artifacts indicate that some community members probably were members of the First Arizona Volunteers who assisted the US Army in ending Apache raids.

Mar 20 & 21 Field Trip: RCC Board Member Brent Reed organized and managed this Field Trip. Interest was so great that a second duplicate trip was added. Participants from AAS Rim Country, San Tan, and Phoenix Chapters filled out 16 for the first day and 18 for the second. Former Tonto National Forest Archaeologist Scott Wood did a fabulous job of interpreting this very interesting and vast site for us. He led the field Trippers around this Pre-Classic Hohokam site to view "ball courts," trash middens strewn with potsherds, irrigation canals, roasting pits, and other features while delivering an entrancing narrative of the site, its history, and the life of the early Americans who lived there.



An Azatlan Irrigation Canal Scott Wood Displays a Piece of Melted Clay from an Agave Roasting Pit



Viewing an Azatlan Agave Roasting Pit

Upcoming April Events:

April. 14th 7:00 pm San Tan Chapter Zoom Meeting: Niccole Villa Cerveny , Ph.D., professor of geosciences and sustainability at Mesa Community College, will present on **Comparison of Rock Art Stability Climate Impact in American Southwest and Hisma Basin of Jordan.**

Dr Cerveny will highlight petroglyph sites in the Southwest in comparison to 2000+ year old rock inscriptions in Jordan. She will contrast between the challenges of our desert geoheritage and the Wadi Rum Desert in the Hisma Basin of Jordan, where similar rock types and climate impact petroglyphs. Utilizing the Rock Art Stability Index, field researchers can quantify the threats to our cultural heritage. Lessons from both locations are informative to decisions and management for protecting rock art.

Niccole Cerveny specializes in geomorphology, conservation of cultural resources, and undergraduate research. She obtained her doctorate from Arizona State University. Her research ranges from studying climatic relationships through quartz grain decay to conservation and preservation of rock art. Her work has been published in scholarly journals including Heritage Management, Journal of Geomorphology, Geoarchaeology and Weatherwise.

San Tan Chapter President Marie Britton will send out an email containing the link for the Zoom meeting and it will be forwarded to Rim Country Chapter Members.

April 23 Globe-Miami Cultural Sites Field Trip: In Globe, we will visit the Besh Ba Gowa excavated and partially restored ruin, with adjacent museum and prehistoric cultural garden. We will also visit the nearby Gila Pueblo remains at Gila Community College. The two sites were contemporary and appear to have been competitive over water in prehistoric times with a violent end. Besh Ba Gowah, a 200-room prehistoric Salado masonry pueblo, was occupied from 1225 A.D. to 1400 A.D. The pueblo is located atop a broad ridge overlooking Pinal Creek. It features an interesting long defensive entry corridor. Excavated items in the museum include much prehistoric pottery and many stone and woven artifacts. The Gila Pueblo is not far upstream.

We will follow with a visit to the Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum in Miami. It is dedicated to preserving and presenting the culturally diverse history, the human experience, as well as exploring the natural environment unique to the Globe-Miami region of Arizona. The exhibits are voluminous and well displayed. Cultural exhibits include Native American, Mexican, and Slavic local peoples. There are also exhibits on historical local industries of Mining, Ranching, and the McKusick Tile Works. Additional exhibits highlight Minerals & Geology and Military heritage.

The unique McKusick Tile Works historical exhibit covers the development and equipment for ceramics and features ceramic tiles depicting the flora and fauna (particularly birds) of the area and the Southwest as well as other ceramic creations by the McKusicks.

Apr, May, Jun: Goat Camp: Dates have been set for spring Excavation and Laboratory sessions at the Goat Camp site near Payson. Contact Scott Wood for details (jscottwood@aol.com).

Membership: Chapter Membership ensures that you will receive emails alerting you to meetings, field trips, and other events. Contact San Tan Chapter (Queen Creek) treasurer Jim Britton, email jabritton@cox.net (480-390-6038), or Rim Country Chapter (Payson) treasurer Dennis DuBose, email dadubose@gmail.com for membership information.

--- Dennis DuBose