

From Paleoindian to Purtymun: 12,000 years of Rock Art in the Verde Valley by Peter J. Pilles, Jr.

Abstract: Throughout human history, people have produced petroglyphs and pictographs to mark their presence on the landscape. One such area is the Verde Valley of central Arizona, a veritable open-air museum where thousands of rock art elements have been documented. Although dating these enigmatic images is still problematic, when compared against a cultural sequence that has been demonstrated by changes in material culture, some of which can be confidently dated, a tentative sequence of rock art styles can be proposed for the Verde Valley. Based primarily on super-positioning of rock art elements, these styles illustrate the complete sequence of human occupation in the Valley. Beginning with a faint scratched style attributed to the Clovis, other styles are attributed to the Western Archaic, Southern Sinagua, Yavapai, Western Apache, Navajo, and Euro-American traditions. Examples of these styles, the super-positioning that supports the sequence, and similar styles from other parts of the Southwest will be the topic of this presentation.

It's Not what you find, it's what you find out by Jerome Ehrhardt

Abstract: In 2003, aerial reconnaissance observations along the Mogollon Rim in the area just south of Camp Verde, AZ, found numerous and previously unknown prehistoric hilltop pueblos. Dr. David R. Wilcox of the Museum of Arizona (MNA) and Peter Pilles, Coconino Forest Service (CNF) Archaeologist, asked that the Verde Valley Chapter field record these newly discovered hilltop structures for the CNF and MNA archives. Measured plan drawings were made of each hilltop structure, ceramic and lithic artifacts were recorded, and uniquely, the identification of the line-of-sight (LOS) view shed between these prehistoric structures, and the surrounding hilltops was noted. Hundreds of previously unknown structures and sites were found during surveys near the hilltops were also recorded, and possible prehistoric trails in this area were investigated.

The Dyck Cliff Dwelling: A Southern Sinagua Habitation Site Overlooking Beaver Creek in Central Arizona by Todd Bostwick, Ph.D.

Abstract: In 2014, a large number of prehistoric artifacts from a Sinagua cliff dwelling located on private land north of Montezuma Castle were donated to the Verde Valley Archaeology Center (VVAC) in Camp Verde. The nine-room site was excavated in 1962 and 1968-1971 by Charles Rozaire, a professional archaeologist from southern California at the request of the landowner, Paul Dyck. The artifacts were never analyzed and a report was not written, however, and the artifacts and original field notes and photographs remained in storage for more than 45 years. This presentation will discuss the results of the recent analysis of the incredible collection of elaborate wooden artifacts, beautiful cotton textiles, and well-preserved food remains recovered during the excavations.

Investigating the Defensibility of the Montezuma Castle Cliff Dwelling by Matt Guebard

Abstract: As the name implies, Montezuma Castle has long been considered a defensive site. The cliff dwelling's placement in a high alcove above Beaver Creek seems to give it a strategic advantage over the surrounding landscape. Despite this, archaeologists have often argued about the "defensive potential" of the site. This talk will discuss recent attempts to further investigate the defensibility of the Montezuma Castle cliff dwelling using Native American traditional knowledge, archaeological data, architectural analysis and experimental archaeology.