

Field Surveys of Hilltops and Valleys of the Mogollon Rim Country, Middle Verde Valley by Jerome Ehrhardt

Abstract: In the lower southeast quadrant of the Verde Valley, between the westward flowing waterways of West Clear Creek and Fossil Creek, relatively few archaeological field surveys had been conducted before our hilltop surveys. For example, the areas that were surveyed were primarily right-of-way corridors for AZ State Route 260 and the Arizona Power Systems electrical line; a few recreational trails, roads to water tanks and some areas that were to be fenced or cleared by chaining for cattle grazing leases. Within this area of over 100 square miles, there were about 225 known sites before we began our surveys; since CY 2004, we have added over 500 more archaeological sites to the Forest Service inventory, providing opportunity for about 50 AAS members to contribute to this project.

A Settlement Pattern Analysis of Yavapai and Apache Archaeological Sites in the Verde Valley Area, Central Arizona by Linda and Ted Neff, Peter J. Pilles, Jr., and Ron S. Krug

Abstract: Ethnohistoric accounts, historic records, and the archaeological record indicate the Yavapai and Northern Tonto Apache lived a mobile lifestyle during Protohistoric time (approximately A.D. 1300-1850) across the diverse environment of the Verde Valley area of Central Arizona, just south of the Colorado Plateau. Due to their subtle, portable, perishable, expedient, and reused material traces across the landscape, archaeologists struggle to merely identify protohistoric sites much less distinguish between the Yavapai and Apache with their partially overlapping territories and similar lifestyles. Yet limited site recordation and excavation by archaeologists with a keen eye have revealed that diagnostic archaeological signatures such as rock clearings, rock rings, modified Puebloan masonry, roasting pits, rock shelters, rock art, utilitarian pottery wares, projectile points, and ground stone are present that indicate continuous occupation in the Verde Valley area during the Protohistoric period. Our poster presents the results of a settlement pattern analysis focused on Verde Valley area terrain within the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. Using the Forest's archaeological databases and other data sources, we explore the Yavapai and Apache settlement pattern in relation to major drainages, environmental zones, Puebloan archaeological sites, and trails.

The Value of Legacy Data: The Paul Dyck Collection by Todd Bostwick

Abstract: Excavation of archaeological sites is a destructive process and is currently justified only if the site is under imminent danger of being damaged or destroyed by construction, vandalism, or other human or environmental forces. This ethical principal has made legacy collections, or those that have been excavated or collected in the past, all the more valuable as a source of data to better understand past cultures. In 2014, a large collection of archaeological materials that were professionally excavated from a privately-owned cliff dwelling located northeast of Montezuma Castle was donated to the Verde Valley Archaeology Center. These materials, which consist of more than 35,000 artifacts, were never analyzed and remained unknown to most people. Named after the owner of the cliff dwelling, the Paul Dyck collection has now been analyzed and a report about them is nearly completed. This poster summarizes some of the results of those analyses and discusses their importance to Sinagua prehistory.

Replicating a Prehistoric Masonry Room at Tuzigoot National Monument by Matt Guebard and Lucas Hoedl

Abstract: This poster will highlight a recent project to plan, build and test a 1:1 scale replica of a prehistoric masonry room. Located at Tuzigoot National Monument, the replica room has provided insight into how prehistoric builders would have planned and implemented complex construction projects. Additionally, our efforts have resulted in estimates of the materials, labor and environmental impacts associated with the construction of large masonry structures.

Mapping the Hackberry Basin Racetrack Site Complex by Donald Keller

Abstract: Hackberry Basin, a rugged pocket of volcanic landscape southeast of the Camp Verde, AZ, contains archaeological sites included in the "Middle Verde Confederacy settlement system," including the large defensive hilltop site Doren's Castle and adjacent plaza occupied ca. AD 1200-1350. In contrast, south of Doren's Castle, seven smaller architectural sites surround a large "racetrack" feature running 325 meters, with a width between 8 and 14 meters, descending for about 15 meters along a relatively flat and open ridge. The complex comprises the long track feature itself, four single or double room features, three multi-room sites, a

ceramic sherd cluster/garden area, and a small hilltop pueblo with a commanding view of the whole boulder-edged track feature. Limited ceramics indicate occupation of this complex between AD 1050 and 1250, with Winslow Orange Ware at the hilltop pueblo extending use to ca. AD 1300. Mapping of the overall complex enables a view otherwise unattainable due to its extent, covering vegetation, erosional gaps, and looting impacts. This racetrack is one of the northernmost of over forty similar cultural features known or suspected in the central Arizona uplands, the majority being located southward in the Perry Mesa area with dating there mainly in the fourteenth century. These distinctive linear features may have been formal arenas for intercommunity competitive racing events, in places where the better-known kiva and ballcourt ritual structures are not found.

Salvage Excavations of Pithouses at the Hayfield Draw Site on the Prescott National Forest in the Middle Verde Valley by James Graceffa, Keith Greiner and Todd Bostwick.

Abstract: In the Fall of 2017, the Verde Valley Archaeology Center conducted salvage excavations of three deeply buried pithouses on Prescott National Forest in the Middle Verde Valley. These pithouses were exposed in a 10-foot deep arroyo cutting through a buried pithouse site near Hayfield Draw. This arroyo was undergoing active erosion and one of the pithouses contained a floor assemblage that was washing away with every rainstorm. The depth of the floors created unique challenges and a wooden scaffolding had to be constructed from which excavations could take place into the side walls of the arroyo. Analyses of the materials that were collected are currently underway. This poster summarizes what has been learned thus far about these ca. ninth-century pithouses, whose artifacts include a small Hohokam-style slate palette.

Application of Advanced Digital and Image Processing Techniques for Archaeological Site Photo Documentation and Evaluation by Spence Gustav

Abstract: The Red Rock District of the Coconino Forest has a high concentration of archaeological sites. It also is the most visited forest area of all US Forest Service managed lands in the USA. Degradation and loss of site information by natural forces appears to be accelerated by vandalism, graffiti and site destabilization with increased visitation. The first step in minimizing this degradation is knowing what is there, including accurate location information and site documentation. A Sedona Friends of the Forest volunteer team has been studying and documenting as many sites as possible in the district via ever increasing technical photographic techniques to provide an accurate record of what is in place and to provide material for archaeology researchers in the future. For each site, comprehensive, high resolution photo documentation is supplanted with Dstretch color manipulation, 3D photographer models, Reflectance Transformation Imaging modeling, and reporting of site current "conditional status". The use of trained volunteer teams, has resulted in a larger number and variety of sites being recorded than would typically be possible with in place Forest Service or academic reviews. This multi-year project has resulted in over 500 sites being documented and multiple new sites and information being identified via modern technology not available in the recent past.

Changing Patterns of Resistance and Conflict in West-Central Arizona, A.D. 1100-1425, by David R. Wilcox

Abstract: The results of a "Hilltop Survey" in all of west-central Arizona from the late 1990s to 2010 is summarized chronologically. Distributional and line-of-sight studies in the Greater Prescott area in collaboration with avocational archaeologists there and the Sharlot Hall Museum revealed strong patterns supporting several interpretations of hilltop sites, including defensive and communication strategies. The coalescence of populations into larger and larger sites that began to happen throughout the North American Southwest is then tracked in the Greater Verde Valley to AD 1425. AAS members from the Verde Valley, Yavapai, Desert Foothills and Rim Country chapters have all contributed mightily to this research.

Mapping Doren's Castle, a Butte-Top Pueblo Fortress at the center of the Greater Hackberry Basin Settlement System, Middle Verde Valley, Arizona by David R. Wilcox, Donald Keller, and Jerome Ehrhardt

Abstract: In 2014, Donald Keller led the mapping of the Doren's Castle, NA3604/AR-03-04-01-100, a commanding butte-top pueblo located at the north end of Hackberry Basin in the southeast part of the Middle Verde Valley. Using a laser-based total station system, 424 three-dimensional control points were carefully chosen and recorded with teammates David R. Wilcox, Jerome Ehrhardt and members of the Verde Valley

Chapter, AAS. Keller processed the numbered control points in an ArcMAP software program at the Museum of Northern Arizona, generating a control point array which was then printed and used back in the field to visually and manually fill in the significant details of in situ architectural stone, wall lines, and topographic contours. This was subsequently reentered in the ArcMAP program to continue producing the final scalable map in full color and texture. The large site proved to have 50 ground-floor rooms and an impressive defensive wall system, with a plaza and ceremonial complex in the saddle a steep and dramatic 200 feet below. Doren's Castle appears to be the central node in the greater Hackberry Basin settlement system and, ceramically, appears to date to about AD 1200-1350, as do three other smaller butte-top pueblos in the larger surrounding settlement system.

The Ceramic-Dating of the Salome Butte-Top Pueblo, NA19,286/AR 03-04-01-254, Middle Verde Valley, Arizona by Keith and Jeannie Greiner, Jerome Ehrhardt, and David R. Wilcox

Abstract: Located at the great bend of Fossil Creek where it could interdict human access from the south headed to Hackberry Basin to the north, the Salome Butte-Top Pueblo has an estimated 40 ground-floor rooms and line-of-sight relationships that ties it to sites in Hackberry Basin. Led by Keith and Jeannie Greiner, a systematic in-field recording of all sherds was conducted in 2015, both those on the pueblo and others on the flanks of the butte. An impressive assemblage of diagnostic sherds was recorded that included late black-on-whites, four+ types of Winslow Orange Ware, Awatovi Black-on-yellow, and many other diagnostic types, including St. Johns, Show Low and Fourmile polychromes, all whose known ceramic dating from nearby Colorado Plateau sites suggests a ceramic cross-dating for the Salome site of AD 1200-1350.

Quid Queries: Agave and Yucca Quids from Honanki by Walter Gosart

This poster is a review of some of the previous research on quids and how they are not simply spit-balls of chewed agave fibers. During the examination and curation of the perishables from the excavations at Honanki (NA1255) a more thorough look was prompted by the natural curiosity of the AAS volunteers. Three new variants of the typical quid were identified in addition to the standard spitball. One was in fact yucca, as evidenced by the terminal spine, while two appeared to represent a storage method for processed fibers.