

Friends of the Well Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 08, 2009

Attendance: Kayo Parsons-Korn, Bob Burke, Bella Donna, Jill Dubicsh, Toni Ryan, Fred Shute, Kathy Davis, Matt Guebard, Sharon Olsen, Linda Redmon, Claudia Richardson, Deb Decovis

Meeting called to order 6:35pm

Business meeting-Kayo

- No quorum, Maggie, Jeannette, and Kayo will review minutes at a later date
- Bank Account update: Fred's check for irrigation supplies for Hopi Garden and the service fee went, leaving a balance of \$187.11.
- Two memberships to be deposited in the amount of \$53. Both on old dues structure.
- Maggie, Jeannette, and Kayo-executive committee will ratify the amount of \$20/Individual, \$30 Family/ for membership fee. Membership card will be given to new members. Name, number, and valid from...to one year later, will be on card. Will also note a member from original date.
- Keven Dahl-speaker next month (November 12th) to talk about native seeds to plant now. Published a book, "Native Harvest."
- Bob also has a speaker for the November meeting.
- December is the annual meeting. Looking for four board members, let Kayo know at 567-5699 if you are interested. Sign in sheets at door.

Presentation by Matt Guebard, Park Archaeologist on Montezuma Well:

10,000 years of cultural use

Amazing place, around for thousands of year for water resources. Well dumping water into Beaver Creek, attracting animals and plants to riparian area. Good for crop irrigation. Usage has changed over time but water main attraction to area. Different people over 10,000 years.

Archeologists organizing time periods, don't necessarily represent tribes. Collection of similar artifacts.

Paleoindian Period-earliest period in SW. 12,500 years ago or so. Projectile points, (called Clovis points) spear points, adaptation for hunting animals that are now

extinct. Last period of glaciation. Cooler and wetter world. AZ not a desert, more of a grassland. Elephants, camels, horses. At the castle, there are footprints of these animals.

Short faced bear, dyer wolf, cave lion –animals that existed then. Dangerous creatures.

Archaic Period (B.C. 7000-A.D. 1) after glacier. Different projectile points. Few other artifacts.

Squaw Peak phase (A.D. 1-600) Verde Valley only. Type sites-represent area well. Swamp site-well. Breternitz defined the Squaw Peak Phase by: Shape and size of pithouse, bell shaped storage features, no ceramics. Circular, lots of storage pits, domesticated crops storage. Finding basket maker items. Standardized period of time.

Four pithouses at Well. Only the larger one has been excavated. One near parking lot filled in.

Camp Verde Phase (A.D. 900-1150)-Dr. Dave in photo, excavated pit house site. House built in pit, similar to those found in Phoenix area. Impressed with size. One of few places outside of Mesa Verde with a pithouse to see today.

Presence of distinctive red ceramics

Intrusive whiteware ceramics from the Colorado Plateau

Similarity to dated Hohokam pithouses in PHX.

Construction of irrigation ditches

Traffic from both sides, lots of trading. Red due to firing technique. Represents Sinagua culture.

Start to see construction of irrigation ditches, waffle gardens, specialized features to channel water from monsoon season. Domesticated crops-corn, bean, cotton, squash-investment in agriculture. 1125 at Well. In PHX, irrigation occurred earlier. One interpretation is the Hohokam came up and helped to build the irrigation ditches, most extensive builders of canals.

Photos of Hohokam ceramics, many were found in the area of the Well. Some believe they were here, others believe they were influenced by Hohokam. Clay figurines.

Honanki/Tuzigoot Phase (A.D. 1125-1400)

Defined by architecture. Most of what you see at the Well is defined by this period. Pueblos. Map of large pueblos shown. One up to 3 stories, 17-20 rooms, people living there for a long time, due to water sources, ability to irrigate. Photos back to 1898 show wall standing. Larger room than in any of the three parks, like a kiva. Some kind of community structure, used for ceremonies or community planning. Sites heavily looted by the Back family, used the stones for their own purposes. Owners of the land, people could pay a nominal fee to take a rowboat ride, dig up a mummy, take home a pot.

Mustard family (broccoli, etc) can absorb arsenic from water, some plants take it into the leaves that are not edible. Native people knew what plants could be grown-squash, tubers. Not drinking water.

Rock shelter site, probably a living/storage area on outside and inside Well. Sensitive sites, plans to stabilize them, not available to public now. Swallow cave, poisonous gas, bats, dangerous.

Above ground masonry architecture

Distinctive whiteware ceramics

Distinctive polychrome ceramics

Association with hilltop and defensive sites

Tuzigoot has been called a defensive site-people had already been living there for 400-500 years. May have just been the way the sites were built.

Examples of ceramics shown. Thought is that none were made in Verde Valley but traded. Black, red, and white from east central AZ. Flagstaff black and white from Holbrook. Polychrome from Show Low, Pine Top. Natural resources here were salt, azurite, agave, used for trades. Hopi have historical accounts of people coming here for these resources.

Yavapai/Apache Period-Yavapai are from California, Colorado area. In area since maybe 1400's. Apache, like Navajo, coming in around 1400-1500's, after Spanish

contact. Specific ceramic from Yavapai. Yavapai and Apache still on land. Yavapai folks have many stories about the Well, sacred place. Left little impact on landscape. Intentional to leave little behind. Occasionally find ceramics, generally hard to find evidence of their presence. More oral traditions that tell about them.

Thought to have used structures that were there.

Back Family Ranch-using sites in same ways as Yavapai/Apache. Modified rockshelters into a blacksmithing area or pigpen, used for their own purposes. Had a larger house on homestead claim, burned in 1929, rebuilt next year. Smokehouse part of original 1907 landscape.

Stored trash along Well left for historical purposes. Back family profited from Well before it became a National Monument. Took people out in rowboats, told about sites on land.

Recent cultural resource projects

Total station mapping of archeological sites at Montezuma Well

Stabilization of archeological sites with standing architecture at Montezuma Well

Effort to keep accurate records, visually compatible, use original techniques and materials. In phase of understanding the condition of sites, what stage of deterioration.

Machine that creates 3 dimensional maps used, map sites every 2-3 years

40 sites, doesn't include all. Just big impressive sites.

Presentation-Deb

First Bloom program. Collaboration with National park foundation, National parks

Year long program, for 4-6th graders

Boys and Girls Club from Prescott and Yavapai/Apache Nation Youth

Bringing to learn about the garden, native plants

Get kids involved in nature, take them out to the national parks.

Grant to bring volunteer groups in to work with the kids. Will meet once a month on the second Saturday of each month, 10am-12noon, to determine what they will do at the garden site. Volunteers welcome.

Yavapai/Apaches had a blessing at the garden. Pasture restoration site. Setting up year long list of activities i.e. collect seeds, watch butterflies, bird survey. Kids will journal, plant plants, empty 2 liter bottles needed. Will plant seeds or cuttings. Native pollinator plants. Will work with Native Elders for guidance.

Website for First Bloom. Pollinator garden. 30 feet on both sides, 150 feet long, walkway down the middle. Will have a wet side (desert willow), other side xeric. Will be a maintained site. Coming in to the well, walkway towards pasture, stakes mark the area. Historical, used by Native Americans, lessons will be taught. Verde High has a class willing to help.

Native crop gardens

Pollinator crop garden

Vegetable garden

Wanted to have educational walkway.

Meeting adjourned.