

Winter Navajo Rug Auction

Saturday, March 14, 2009

It's time again for fast-paced action on 300 beautiful Navajo rugs at the Smoki Museum. This year's auction will be held Saturday, March 14, 2009, with a public preview from 10:00–12:00, and the auction starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Pueblo. While our volunteers efficiently organize the rugs from noon until 1:00, you can enjoy delicious Navajo tacos and complimentary beverages and be ready to take home a quality rug when bidding starts at 1:00.

A new feature this year is an invitation-only special preview party on Friday, March 13, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. Invitees will get the first look at the rugs to be auctioned the next day while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Auctioneer Bruce Burnham and crew will be on hand to help the invitees pick out their favorite rugs and get their questions personally answered by the experts in Navajo rugs. This is also a perfect opportunity to arrange for an absentee bid in the event you can't personally attend the Saturday auction. If you want to be on the invitee list make sure that your membership



is up to date by the end of January. Watch your mail for your invitation.

The value of quality Navajo rugs has escalated over the years, as demand remains strong and fewer weavers practice the art. However, the real value of a Navajo textile is the beauty of owning authentic Native American art that will be enjoyed and used by your family for generations to come. The Smoki Museum Navajo Rug Auction is a great

opportunity to find bargains on that perfect rug for your home.



Dave Polhemus receiving this year's Sun Katsina Award (*more about Dave on p. 6*)

IS THIS YOUR LAST TALKING SUN?

If your membership has expired this could be your last issue of the Talking Sun. In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs we will soon be deleting all non-current members from our mailing list. The Talking Sun gives you all the latest news and upcoming events at the Museum. But, more importantly, your membership supports the on-going programs and operations of the Museum. Membership in the Smoki Museum is still the best bargain around. For only \$25 a year you get free admittance to the Museum and a 10% discount everyday in the Trading Post. Plus you are eligible for special members-only sales and advance notice of Museum events you won't want to miss. So, when the membership renewal letter arrives in your mailbox please act promptly to renew your membership to keep the Talking Sun coming to your house.

Director's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

This past November, the museum opened the exhibit entitled "Season of the Yei Bicheii, featuring paintings by acclaimed Navajo artist Al Bahe. Al's paintings depict powerful images of Yeibichai and his Navajo heritage. Many positive comments have been received about this exhibit. If you have not had the opportunity to view this exhibit there's still time. Season of the Yei Bicheii runs through March 15, 2009. All paintings in the exhibit are for sale.

Our Native Harvest Fundraiser Dinner was held on November 15, 2008 at the Rowle P. Simmons Adult Center. Approximately one hundred people were in attendance. Food was catered by Perfect Events Catering, and featured Native American cuisine. Entertainment included World Champion Hoop Dancer Nakotah LaRance and his father Steve LaRance. Thank you to everyone that made a donation to our Silent Auction, to all the volunteers who assisted at the fundraiser, and the Fundraiser Committee. Great job!

The Christmas Indian Art Market was held on December 6 and 7, 2008. The weather was terrific this year; however, attendance and sales were low. The current economy has put a strain on everyone including artists that make a living selling art. I hope things pick up soon! I'd like to thank all of the volunteers and staff who helped before and during the market they include: Nina Lessard, Rebecca Leatherwood, Gary Baumert, Sara Werner, Dave Polhemus, Mary Ann Orban, Jim Christopher, Ron Robinson, Sue Wilson, Ginger Johnson, Dennis Steinberg, Jimmy Carlson, and Kevin Turner. Thanks to C&M Firewood in Chino Valley, The Prescott Resort, True Value Hardware, and the Sharlot Hall Museum for their support and assistance with the market. Our featured artist was Navajo Photographer Priscilla Tachenev. Other artists that participated in the market were: Ernest & Veronica Benally, Benson Halwood, Amos Hasken, Jessie Hummingbird, Marjorie Jensen, Phyllis & Raymond Rosetta, Pricilla Tachenev, Melvin John, Randy Hoskie, Rena Charles, Ramson Lomatewama, Virgil Nez, Marvin Redeye, Mr. and Mrs. Weaver Salina, Patrick Smith, Serena Mankiller,

Our Mission

The mission of the Smoki Museum is to instill an understanding and respect for indigenous cultures of the Southwest.

Contact

<http://www.smokimuseum.org>
info@smokimuseum.org (928) 445-1230
147 North Arizona St., Prescott, AZ 86301
Regular hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
1:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Sunday (Open Year Round)

Board of Trustees

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Memberships

Student \$20
Individual \$25
Family \$35
More membership levels and additional information available by calling the Museum during regular hours or going to the website: <http://www.smokimuseum.org>

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Smoki Museum Calendar January – February – March, 2009

January 5–16	Museum CLOSED	Re-opens for public on January 17.
Tuesday, January 6	5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting (all Museum members are welcome)
Sunday, January 11	Noon	Volunteer Potluck and infamous White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a dish to share and a gift or gag item under \$10 if you want to "play."
Monday, January 12	2:00 p.m.	The Smoki Book Club discusses "Sun Chief," edited by Leo W. Simmons.
Monday, January 26	10:00 a.m.	New Volunteer Get Together. Check out the volunteer opportunities at the Museum and meet staff and other volunteers. Free tour, coffee and treats.
Tuesday, January 27	9:00 a.m.	Volunteer Meeting in the Pueblo
Monday, February 9	2:00 p.m.	Smoki Book Club discusses "Listening Woman," by Tony Hillerman.
Tuesday, February 24	9:00 a.m.	Volunteer Meeting in the Pueblo.
Tuesday, March 3	5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting (all Museum members are welcome)
March 2–11	Call 928– 445–1230	Consignments for Navajo Rug Auction taken at Oggs Hogan.
Monday, March 9	2:00 p.m.	The Smoki Book Club discusses "The Shadow Catcher: A Novel," by Marianne Wiggins.
Friday, March 13	3:00–5:00 p.m.	Invitation-only special Navajo Rug preview. Check out 300 Navajo rugs while enjoying complimentary hor d'oervres and beverages. Talk with experts about those special rugs you have selected to bid on tomorrow.
Saturday, March 14	10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.	Public Preview of Navajo Rugs to be auctioned. At 1:00 p.m. The Winter Navajo Rug Auction of 300 rugs begins in the Pueblo. Auctioneers are R.B.Burnham. Navajo tacos and frybread starting at noon with complimentary beverages served.
Tuesday, March 24	9:00 a.m.	Volunteer Meeting in the Pueblo.

On The Horizon • Southwest Indian Art Festival on the Museum grounds, May 30–31, 2009



Smoki Volunteers Honored

We often say that the Smoki Museum volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization, but we seldom have an opportunity to show our appreciation for all the work they do. Last year our volunteers logged 6,900 hours, the equivalent of donating \$125,000 if we had paid them by the hour! Once a year we make an official recognition at the Annual Meeting of those volunteers that have gone above and beyond in their service to the Museum. 2007 Volunteer of the Year Joan Mead presented the following award on October 26.

“People join volunteer groups for many reasons: a desire to serve, a love of a particular subject matter, a push through the door by a friend, an interest aroused after a ‘Welcome Tea.’ But for me the reason I volunteer has always been the people..always the people. And at the Smoki Museum, I’m in people heaven.

- There’s Gary, who wants us to think he is an Indian warrior, but at heart he is the gentle cuddly bear.
- There’s Linda, the scrapbook queen. Ask her about her Cricut automatic lettering machine.
- There are Goody and Nancy, my dearest friends since the first day I moved to Prescott, and who you all know, led me here to the Smoki Museum.
- There’s Lynn, who in her other life is a composer of lovely music.
- There’s Charlie, the Keeper of the Collections.
- There are the rest of you—interesting—complicated—caring and unique.

And then there’s little Peggy, the miniature giant. We met when I was in the middle of a crisis during preparation for a rug auction.

Rug consignments were piling up at Ogg’s Hogan, and I couldn’t catalogue them fast enough. Adam saw the dilemma and sent Peggy to help out. She organized the cataloging, worked long hot hours with me in Jeff’s back room with the tilting poker table and the stuffed lion, and helped put the rug auction back on the right track.

In addition she makes coffee before meetings, organizes volunteer schedules, and works at the front desk.

In all her help, she is precise, careful, and always willing to ‘go over it just one more time.’ And most of all, she is dependable to a fault, loyal, and committed. A museum cannot ask for a better volunteer: dependable, loyal, committed.

In addition, and I don’t know how to say this without sound schmaltzy she is an admirable woman, always true to her beliefs and values, and here is where it gets schmaltzy, she’s oh so easy to love. To Peggy Clement “Our Volunteer of the Year.”

2007 Volunteer of the Year Linda Young presented the second award: “The second Volunteer of the Year is an example of someone who does a tremendous amount of work for the museum, behind the scenes. This individual is not seen working at the front desk or Trading Post, or leading tours. But this volunteer is:

- A financial contributor to the Museum,
- A money raiser whose grants have put a new roof on our buildings, constructed and landscaped the Garden, and fixed the walls,
- An electrician, something I didn’t realize until recently,
- A trustee, one who has served in leadership positions as Secretary and Treasurer,
- A prognosticator who recognized financial crisis looming on our horizon, conducted an extensive analysis,

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Donald Nelson Wins Az Culture Keepers Award

Smoki Museum Trustee Donald Nelson was recently awarded the Arizona Culturekeepers Award, given to those who have made a positive impact on Arizona's history, culture, environment or economy. The Culturekeepers Award is sponsored by the Barry Goldwater Center for the West, State Historian Marshall Trimble, and the Kierland Resort & Spa. Donald's broad ranging efforts to bridge the cultural divide between Hopi and anglo societies were cited in receiving the award. The Smoki Museum is honored to have Donald as a Trustee and long-time advisor who has helped train volunteers and docents, and led educational tours to Hopi, Hualapai, White Mountain Apache, and other areas of the state. When the Museum established our Native Garden Donald gave us seeds from his family and own garden. He also gave us the benefit of his experience in raising traditional plants and taught us how they are used and prepared. Donald professes to being surprised at receiving the award, but his many friends at the Smoki Museum are not. We can think of no one more deserving. Congratulations, Donald!



World Champion Hoopdancer Nakota Larance with his father, Steve Larance, performed at the Native Harvest Dinner, November 15, 2008.

Smoki Volunteers continued

and gave us fair warning and sage advice for how to avoid disaster. Not that we are out of the woods just yet, but at least we know where we are headed. For this he endured the slings and arrows of those of us who hated the message. But many of us, and that certainly includes me, are grateful to the messenger. Kent Robinson is our 2008 Volunteer of the Year."

Kent Robinson and Peggy Clement are our Volunteers of the Year

The Board of Trustees at its discretion may select an individual to receive the Sun Katsina Award, given for long-term service to the Museum that rises above and beyond the call of duty. The recipient for 2008 has been an active volunteer since 2000. He has been a trustee, a docent who regularly leads tours and outreach presentations, a mentor of new volunteers, an advisor who gives clear and forthright advice, the organizer of our first Southwest Indian Arts Festival, a frequent go-to guy to fix things that go awry around the Museum, of which there is never a shortage. This individual has many community and philanthropic interests, but the Sun Katsina Award is especially meaningful to this docent who has a special interest in understanding katsinas. The 2008 Sun Katsina Award goes to Dave Polhemus.

Dave was not present at the Annual Meeting to receive his Sun Katsina because he and Gwenneth were in New Orleans building a house for someone who lost theirs in Hurricane Katrina. That is the kind of guy he is. He puts his beliefs into action every day of his life. We are all very privileged to know him. The attendees at the Annual Meeting were all sworn to secrecy until the Award could be presented to Dave at the Native Harvest Dinner.



Trading Post Notes

*Janet Shaw,
Trading Post Manager*

Trading Post team members spent many collaborative and productive hours assembling 40 gorgeous Christmas Wreaths for sale in the gift shop. Hopi artist Stephanie Lomatawama made several dozen split-twig figures for the project from twigs gathered in a special spot on Hopi, and Cindy Gresser created the beautiful bows which adorn the wreaths. Many wreaths were snapped up at the Members Sale, but several are still available for purchase.

Cure Found For Post-Holiday Blahs

Don't let winter weather and after-holiday bills get you down. Do you need some excitement? Want to learn about the history of Prescott and the people that inhabited this area long before us? Do you love exploring art and different cultures? Would you like to meet new friends and greet old friends at fun events? Or, perhaps you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share to support a wonderful old museum. Whatever your interests, needs, time, or skills the Smoki Museum has a place for you.

Smoki Museum volunteers do important work greeting visitors, running the Trading Post, planning and implementing events, fund raisers, and exhibits, inputting data, operating the library, researching, maintaining the facilities, leading tours, etc. Best of all they have fun while they are doing something good for the Museum and the community. There is no better time than now to find out where you can fit in at the Smoki Museum. New Volunteer orientation programs will begin in January, starting with a get-together on January 26 at 10:00 a.m. for people interested in checking out the volunteer opportunities at the Museum. Join us for coffee and treats, take a guided tour of the Museum, and meet other volunteers. Just give us a call (928-445-1230) to sign up or get more information. It is just what you need to cure your post-holiday blahs and winter doldrums!

A variety of new and exciting gift items were purchased and consigned for this Holiday Season. Members had the first opportunity to view and purchase them at the November 21 Members Only Holiday Sales event, a special evening combining shopping, socializing, and bountiful refreshments. Mata Ortiz pottery, Navajo rugs, Tohona O'Odham basketry, Christmas cards, Goat Milk soaps, Javalina cookie cutters, plush and ceramic javalinas, jewelry of all sorts, Navajo folk art, and an amazing array of handcrafted ornaments are only some of the wonders awaiting your holiday shopping experience. Come and enjoy! Member discount applies!

Directors Corner continued

Duane Tawahougva, Ron Toahani Jackson, Jerome and Elsy Whitehorse, Stephanie Lomatewama, and Horace Kayquoptewa.

I look forward to planning programs, events, and exhibits at the museum for the upcoming year. Our Sundays at the Smoki Lecture Series will tentatively begin in January. No date has been set for our speaker in January; therefore, check our website at www.smokimuseum.org under Events for updates. The annual Winter Navajo Rug Auction will be held on March 14, 2009. For more information call the Museum at (928) 445-1230.

Finally, I want to extend a sincere thank you to our former Curator Adam Mikos for all the work he was done here at the museum. Adam moved to Oregon this past November. I wish him all the best.

Here's to a prosperous New Year!

Sincerely

Ryan Huna Smith
Director

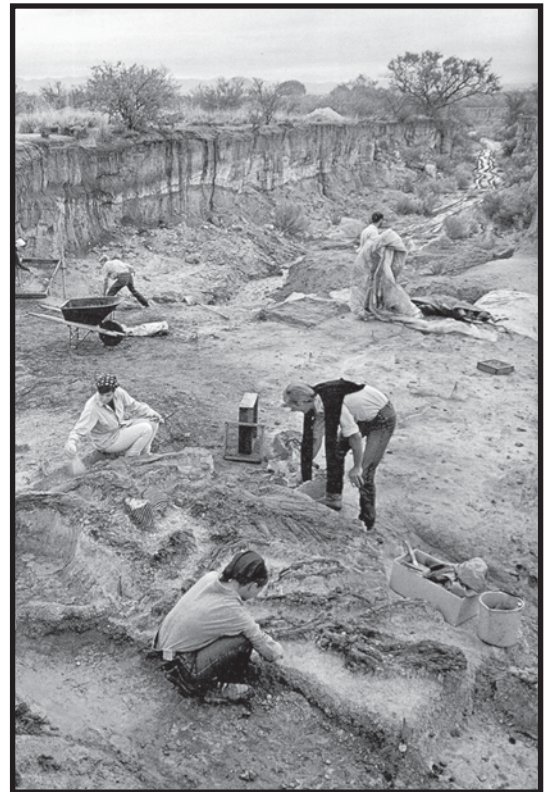


Archaeology and Historical Preservation Awareness Month Activities Planned

The Smoki Museum has in past years participated in Arizona Archaeological and Historical Preservation Awareness Month activities. Again this year we will be teaming with the Yavapai Chapter, Arizona Archaeological Society to provide a program for the public designed to stimulate interest and enthusiasm in archaeology and associated subjects. The “main event” of this year’s activity will be on March 28, and will feature a lecture in the Pueblo by a nationally recognized scientist.

One of the key sites studied is the Murray Springs site

Scientists for many years have puzzled about the apparent sudden end of the Pleistocene period (ice age) 10,000 years ago and the extinction of many species including the Clovis hunters’ big game; the mammoth, mastodon, horses, camels, and many other North American species. One of the key sites studied is the Murray Springs site (a Clovis site in southeast Arizona). Geologists, Archaeologists, and finally astronomers have expended many years of research and no small amount of debate on the subject. Central to late findings is the discovery of a ‘black mat,’ a thin layer of extraordinary material that lies like a thin felt cover in a number of widely separated sites with Clovis evidence below it but not above. One of the researchers involved in this effort is Ted Bunch, a Prescott resident, NAU adjunct professor and retired NASA geologist who with a team of other researchers has postulated that the ‘black mat’ was deposited over much of North America after a major comet impact in North America which ended the Clovis culture and changed the earth’s climate, which had been growing increasingly warmer, to one noticeably colder and dryer.



Mammoth excavation at Murray Springs.

Some of our members were present at the Pecos conference, a gathering of southwest Archaeologists held last August in Flagstaff where the research team presented their latest findings and opened the floor to critique by other scientists which proved to be lively to say the least. If the theory is true, what are the implications for our current understandings of climate change and archaeology? And why, even after extensive searching, haven’t the researchers been able to find the crater resulting from such an impact? These are a few of the questions that Ted will attempt to answer.

Other events for the Prescott area, which will include field trips to local sites, are being planned. Watch for further information.



Smoki Museum

American Indian Art and Culture

PO Box 10224, Prescott, AZ 86304-0224

www.smokimuseum.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Rug Auction
 Saturday, March 14, 2009, with a
 public preview from 10:00-12:00,
 and the auction starting at 1:00 p.m.
 in the Pueblo.



Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ e-mail _____

Membership Levels
 (Benefits and more member levels, see: <http://smokimuseum.org>)

- \$20 Student
- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$60 Patayan
- \$125 Mogollon
- \$250 Hohokam
- \$500 Kokopelli

Yes, I'm interested in volunteering at the Smoki Museum.
 Currently the Museum is looking for help with the following events or teams: Grants Team, Education Team, Marketing Team, Library, and Visitor Services. And many more opportunities exist! To inquire about these opportunities or others, please call (928) 445-1230.

Send form with check made out to Smoki Museum.
 Mail to: Smoki Museum, P.O. Box 10224, Prescott, AZ 86304-0224

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