



talking sun

Newsletter of the Smoki Museum of American Indian Art and Culture
August—September, 2007 • Volume 11 No. 4

by Goodie Berquist

Shortly after he was hired as Director of the Smoki Museum, J.T. Tannous met with landscape architect Barnabas Kane to discuss future plans for the Museum. Part of their discussion dealt with landscaping, particularly with the neglected area between the Museum and Pueblo buildings facing Arizona Avenue. Half a dozen years later, the dream of a Native American garden on that site is about to be realized!

Progress at Last!

the NATIVE AMERICAN GARDEN PROJECT

The goal of this project is “to design a living nature garden with trees and foliage which are native to the Central Arizona Highlands region. Interpretive signage will indicate the name of each shrub and tree, as well as how the plant was utilized by the indigenous peoples of this region over the centuries.” (Project Report, July, 2006)

Some of you may wonder why this project has taken so long. Two reasons: funding, and the need for three competitive bids required by the Board of Trustees. The estimated cost of \$35,000 will be met in three ways:

- 1.) a \$12,500 grant from the Kieckhefer Foundation,
- 2.) \$4,000 in donations from members and friends, and
- 3.) the remainder from the estate of the late Dorothy Chafin, a long-time Smoki member and Museum supporter.

Cindy Gresser, Board President and a general contractor, has agreed to oversee the work of Nature’s West Landscaping, a firm highly recommended by Museum friends and members.

You can see the project taking shape now with most of the project expected to be completed by the

**New Museum Director –
Ryan Huna Smith!**
**Welcome Reception Friday,
September 14** *see p.2*



The garden project early July, 2007.

time of our Annual Summer Navajo Rug & Indian Art Auction, July 27-28. Your tax deduction contributions will help to put new trees in the ground, provide for signage, and complete the flagstone labyrinth design. Help us build an attractive new resource for Prescott and the Museum! Call (928) 445-1230 or mail your donations to: Smoki Museum, Inc. P.O. Box 10224, Prescott, AZ 86304-0224.

Goodie Berquist is the Vice President of the Board of Trustees and Smoki Museum Research Associate.

director's corner

Announcing our new Museum Director – Ryan Huna Smith!



Ryan Huna Smith

By Linda Young

If the name sounds familiar it's because you've seen Ryan's work in the current exhibition at the Museum, *Flipped Traditional*. Ryan Huna Smith is a Chemehuevi/Navajo Indian painter and illustrator with a long list of artistic credits to his name. If you haven't seen the *Flipped Traditional* exhibit, get yourself to the Museum by August 26! Ryan's art will give you new perspectives on the definition of traditional Indian art. But not only is Ryan a talented and creative artist, he is also a capable, experienced administrator. Ryan brings twelve years of experience with the Upward Bound Program at Pima Community College in Tucson, the last eight years as the Program Manager where he managed the annual budget, grant writing, reporting, and staff supervision among other tasks. Ryan has also taught art at the college and other Tucson schools and organized the annual Native American Month events for Pima Community College. According to Ryan, "The Smoki Museum has great potential to be a renowned center of culture such as the Museum of Northern Arizona, the Heard Museum, and the Arizona State Museum to name a few. It is the main objective of the Museum Director to fulfill this vision." The Search Committee saw in Ryan the spark of creativity mixed with commitment that will make that vision a reality.

Ryan expects to begin his new position at the Museum the first week of September. Be sure to stop by the Museum and get to know our new Director. Ryan's charm, warmth, and sense of humor were major factors in his selection. The Museum is planning a Welcome Reception to introduce Ryan to the public on Friday, September 14, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Museum. Everyone is invited to the reception to welcome Ryan into the Smoki Museum "family".

Lastly, I want to give special thanks to the members of the Director Search Committee who gave countless hours of their time to review over twenty applications and interview seven outstanding candidates. The members include: Cindy Gresser, Board President; Goodie Berquist, Board Vice President; Kent Robinson, Board Treasurer; Nancy Cannon, Interim Director; Adam Mikos, Curator; Joan Mean, Volunteer Advisory Council Representative; and myself, Linda Young, Board Secretary.

Our Mission

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

Contact

www.smokimuseum.org
info@smokimuseum.org (928) 445-1230
147 North Arizona St., Prescott, AZ 86301
Regular hours: 10:00a.m.–4:00p.m. Tues-Sat
1:00p.m.–4:00p.m. Sunday (Open Year Round)

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Rosanda Suetopka Thayer, Hopi

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: www.smokimuseum.org



Smoki Museum Calendar April–May, 2007

Museum Hours: Tuesday—Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.,
Sunday 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., CLOSED Monday

Until August 26	Museum Hours	Ryan Huna Smith Exhibit “<i>Flipped Traditional</i>”
Tuesday, August 14	9:00 –10:00 a.m.	Organizational meeting for the Smoki Book Club : All readers interested in reading and discussing books about Indian art, history, or culture are invited. Call (928) 445-1230 for more information.
Tuesday, August 28 & September 25	9:00–10:30 a.m.	Volunteers Meeting: Interested in meeting new friends, giving your time and talents to the Museum, and learning about Indian cultures? Join us every 4 th Tuesday for coffee and doughnuts. Call (928) 445-1230 for more information.
Saturday, September 22	1:00–4:00 p.m.	Exhibition Opening Reception: Visions of a Vibrant Race: Revisiting the Legacy of Edward Curtis. The exhibition continues through December, 2007.
Tuesday, September 4	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting (all Museum members welcome)
Friday, September 14	4:00–6:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception for Ryan Huna Smith, Museum Director



Ryan Huna Smith
Exhibit
“*Flipped Traditional*”



On The Horizon

Mark your calendar for these great events!

Annual Member Gala—October 28, 2007

Annual Wine Tasting—November 10, 2007

Tickets go on sale October 1, with a limited number being sold.

Christmas Indian Art Market—December 1, 2007

Members ONLY Sale — November 30, 2007

Common Threads Exhibit—Opening February, 2008

More events and info at www.smokimuseum.org

Be sure to sign up for our email notification list, too!

Email us at info@smokimuseum.org today to add your email to the list!

museum musings

Adam Mikos, Curator

Hello All-

Greetings from the Ivory Tower of Collections and Exhibitions (aka the NW corner of the library).

On the exhibitions front, we installed a small exhibit at the Prescott Public Library at the beginning of July. Following a last minute cancellation by another exhibitor our space allotment was nearly doubled, but the team was able to adjust and create a wonderful display. In the end I don't know how we would have made it all fit if they hadn't cancelled! Many thanks to Bill and Mary for their time and insight. The exhibit is up until August.

Our schedule of new exhibits for the museum is shaping up. Opening in September will be *Visions of a Vibrant Race: Revisiting the Legacy of Edward Curtis*. This show will combine original Curtis photogravures from our collection with photos taken at the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve's Youth Photo Camp. The title of the exhibit refers to Curtis's image "The Vanishing" (1904) which sublimely represents the common thought of his time, that the American Indian would soon be extinct. The aim of *Visions of a Vibrant Race* is two-fold; first to demonstrate that the Indian race has certainly not become extinct and secondly, to show Indian children using the very same medium as Curtis to give audiences a window into their own beauty and creativity. These characteristics are elements of a vibrant culture.

Following *Visions* will be a show on Hopi quilt making, set to open in February. Titled *Common Threads*, it will explore a beautiful world that is much less restrictive in its accessibility to non-Indian audiences. Also the show will hopefully form a bridge between the native quilting community and the many thriving Prescott quilting communities. To further this we are currently in the planning stages of a possible one week workshop program to be hosted here at the museum. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details or feel free to contact me if you are interested.

It looks like I have run out of room already! What about all the Collections news?!?! Well one last note that our training courses are going very well

and thanks to everyone for their interest. We will continue having them directly after the Exhibits Committee meetings. The schedule for make-ups of missed classes is being put together as you read this so if you have any input, send it my way. Kissing up to the teacher is always recommended and encouraged.



The Vanishing Race by Edward Curtis



Casa Grande Ruins, Arizona

I hope everyone enjoyed the Casas Grande lecture by Barbara Moulard. I know for myself, hearing her speak and explain the material was terrific. The relationship of using borrowed imagery to gain stature within a society is stunning. Especially when Ms. Moulard drew a parallel to contemporary American architecture, it also proved to be timeless. It takes a tremendous amount of understanding to be able to make it so simple for the rest of us!

Pila maya, Adam

From the Joanne Cline Research Library Ginger Johnson, Librarian

What's new in your Museum library?

The project of moving over 75 books from the Research section to the Circulating section was completed in July, and I hope that our membership will make good use of the expanded information now available.

For you archaeology buffs we have received a copy of Richard Woodbury's 60 Years of Southwestern Archaeology, and the three-volume report on the South Ridge (Prescott Valley) archaeology project. Also new are books donated by Gary Baumert: Edward S. Curtis – Coming to Light by Anne Makepeace, and If you poison us, Uranium and the Native Americans by Peter Eichstaedt, both topics we are hoping will be addressed by speakers in the coming months, The Encyclopedia of American Indian Contributions to the World, and Native Universe – Voices of Indian America, the inaugural book of the National Museum of the American Indian. And, we have received two books on the Havasupai: People of the Blue Water and Havasupai Indians, An Ethnology. We've also purchased a replacement copy of the Edward Curtis video, Coming to Light. These are very expensive, so hopefully this one will be faithfully returned after each use. Donations also include two DVDs, Incident at Oglala (Leonard Peltier) and Canyon de Chelly Through Navajo Eyes.

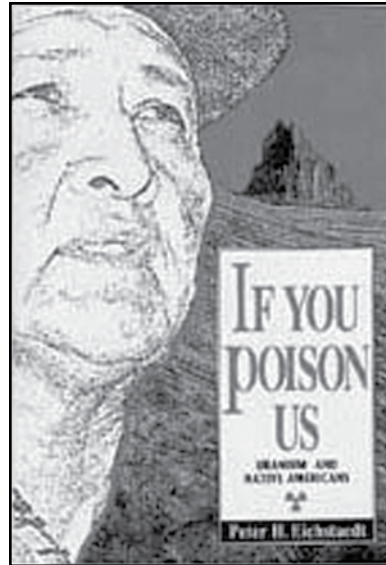
In parting, if you have a Wednesday afternoon free, we can always use your help, or just come by for a visit on Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

See you soon!

Thank You Smoki Museum

Due to the efforts of Janet Shaw, and our Trading Post, the Prescott High School European Concert Band had a small Navajo katsina to give to some families in Wangen, Germany. 23 host families that had the students in their homes for 3 nights while the tour was in Wangen.

A big thanks from the whole tour group and especially the 44 current students and alumni, who all paid their own way to play in 7 concerts in Germany and Italy.



PHS European Concert Band, led by Band Director Dan Bradstreet, playing in Wangen, Germany. The town wall in the background dates to the 1500's.

trading post report

Janet Shaw, Trading Post Manager

When I am working in the Trading Post, I will point out new items to our volunteers. More times than not I hear, "Gee, how did I miss that!" This Trading Post Report I plan to point out new items to you, just in case you might have missed them.

Because of limited space, I rotate books that I order. Presently, our cookbook area has been (pardon the pun) beefed up. I've reordered some old favorites such as American Indian Cooking by Carolyn Niethammer, Hopi Cookery by Juanita Kavena and Southwestern Indian Recipe Book: Apache, Pima, Papago & Navajo by Zora Hesse. I am very excited to try the recipes in the new The Art of American Indian Cooking by Yeffe Kimball and Authentic Indian Mexican Recipes.

I am always interested when a new book on Hopi crafts comes on the market. I was thrilled to order Hopi and Pueblo Tiles by Messier. How many of you quilters are aware that we have Hopi Quilting: Stitched Traditions from an Ancient Community by Carolyn Davis? This is a book that our volunteer quilters can't stop talking about! You may wish to purchase this book to be prepared for our February, 2008 exhibit on Hopi Quilting. Watch our future newsletters for details.

Our Edward S. Curtis photogravure exhibit opens in September but with a different twist. Check out the Trading Post book section for books and DVD's to support this exhibit. A new book entitled Edward S. Curtis, The Women joins many of your old Curtis favorites.

Many of our visitors and members are interested in miniatures and doll houses. We have tried to accommodate them with our selection of miniature baskets and Navajo silver miniatures. However, have you seen our great miniature hogans? They are Navajo made with hand carved sticks and mud roof to form the traditional Hogan. The roof comes off and the inside is completely furnished with Navajo made traditional items. What a piece of folk art! With the purchase of our very informative book Hogan: The Traditional Navajo Home by Scott Thybony, you would have a great educational gift for any miniature or doll house lover.

The Trading Post Team has been ordering many additional new items. Come in for a visit and if I am there I would love to point out something you might have missed!



A miniature Navajo hogan with removable roof is a new item.





volunteers and support

Volunteers Extraordinaire

The retirements of long-time volunteers Eleanor Pugh and Betty Guyer were cause for a pot-luck picnic on June 14. About forty volunteers, most of whom had been trained, mentored, and befriended by Eleanor and Betty through the years, came to celebrate and thank these two wonderful ladies for all their contributions to the Smoki Museum. Stories were told and the feast, as usual, was enjoyed by all. As befits the "Queen Mother of the Smoki Museum" Eleanor graciously accepted a royal sash and stunning hat decorated with the notes and well wishes of the attendees. Eleanor and Betty will be greatly missed around the Museum.

Many thanks to Joan Mead for organizing this celebration.



Eleanor – "Queen Mother of the Smoki Museum"

Join Our Team

Currently the Museum is looking for help with many different teams , please call (928) 445-1230.

Volunteer Profile: Ray Carlson

By Lynn Bischoff

What an interesting conversation I had with Ray recently! Beneath his very unassuming manner there resides a man of multiple talents and the most amazing intellectual curiosity.

After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Ray spent 25 years teaching at Dalhousie University, a prestigious scientific university in Halifax, Canada. Because Ray holds degrees in Social Work as well as in Mathematics, he was able to combine these areas by focusing on the research and statistics aspects of social work. His early research included studying which social programs were effective and which were not. Later he focused on the quality of expertise, specifically how to train people to be effective in their work. It was during this period that Ray spent a great deal of time creating computer programs to train people as well as to measure workers' effectiveness.

Ray and his wife, Bonnie, moved to Prescott in 2002, leaving the world of academia behind them. They have three daughters, one who has remained in Canada, one that works in Hollywood movie

productions, and one who is a reporter. Ray enjoys singing in the choir at the Methodist church, and he is also a member of the Computer Society and Prescott Sun-Up Rotary.

I was interested to learn more about Ray's interest in native culture. Anyone who has seen his Power Point presentation on local petroglyphs is aware of how thoroughly Ray researches his subject. Not surprisingly, he brought his interest in native culture and native issues from Nova Scotia. While there Ray was hired as a consultant to the Native Council to help evaluate their programs, and this resulted in an increased respect for their traditions. Thank you, Ray, for the countless hours you have given to our Museum.