



Alan Cruikshank

# River of Time Museum

Fountain Hills & Lower Verde River Valley  
MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Debbie Skehen, Editor

Wayne/Anne Wicklund, WebWolf Internet Services



September/October 2015

## Dates of Interest

**Sept. 16**

Dinner Discussion  
FH Community Center  
6-9 pm

**Sept. 18**

Museum Closes  
For Renovation

**Oct. 16**

Museum opening event  
For RoTM Members

**Oct. 17**

Museum re-opens  
Standard Hours resume

**Nov. 17**

Dinner Discussion  
FH Community Center  
6-9pm

# 150 Years of Fort McDowell From Sabers to Slot Machines September 16 6-9pm

When Camp Mc Dowell was established in 1865 no one could have predicted that this small military post, initially set up to protect travel routes from Apaches, would evolve into one of the most thriving and self-sufficient Native American communities in the entire United States. The post was named for an incompetent general, manned by underpaid and undernourished troops, had only one military chaplain during its existence (who was cashiered for mental issues), and featured a hospital with a roof that once collapsed on bedridden soldiers. Despite these traumas, it was an important post and today lends its name to our neighboring Yavapai community.

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Leonard Marcisz noted Historian and President of the Arizona Historical Society, will speak at the upcoming River of Time Museum Dinner Discussion. President Marcisz will discuss the latest historical research and discoveries about Ft. McDowell including the Stoneman Road Compendium, a collection of resources released by the McDowell Sonoran Field Institute, a program of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

**Everyone is invited!**



For over ten years, the RoTM has offered society dinners at a consistent price. Due to increasing costs we need to revise our ticket pricing.

Members: \$20  
Non-Members: \$25

Reservations are required and can be made by phone: [480-837-2612](tel:480-837-2612) or online: [www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org)

### MENU

Mixed Salad and Dressing, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Wild Rice, Dinner Rolls and Butter, and dessert.

## River of Time

**Tues - Fri Hours TBD**

**Sat 10-4 pm**





## On the Director's Desk by Luke Bate

Ah Summer, a quiet time in Fountain Hills with the museum open only two days a week. Sounds relaxing, perhaps even idyllic. A time to reflect and take it easy.

Too bad nothing could be further from the truth.

This summer the board has been planning the future of the River of Time, with a little help from me. In the immediate future we are about to start a brand new season managing our usual level of activity with some substantial changes to our exhibits and operations. Looking further out, we want a River of Time that meets the long term needs of the Lower Verde River Valley. This will help us focus our energy and activity on building up the museum, both figuratively and literally.

In our immediate future we are preparing for some really fantastic things. On October 17 we will reopen a renovated River of Time Museum with a revitalized on-site and virtual experience for our visitors and our members. The museum will have new interactive exhibits that will explore the historic and ongoing role of water in the development of the lower Verde River Valley Communities. We are updating our Archaeology and Geology sections with hands on activities featuring items uncovered from our reorganized artifact collections (another big summer project), with new content and images about the recent archeology work done at Adero Canyon and visits to the Four Peaks and Dixie mines. Finally, if we have enough support from the volunteer team, we would like to expand our hours of operation from 10-4 every day that we are open. This would really increase our level of accessibility to the general public providing more opportunity to see our great facility.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century a museum's virtual experience has to be as engaging as its physical one. To meet that need we are launching a new River of Time Museum website. In addition to creating a tool that will more effectively help us promote our programs and resources, the goal is to produce a tool of convenience. Virtual visitors can reserve and pay for admissions, process memberships, and buy tickets to events in a secure and simple way. We can also get more direct feedback from the community which will help us to shape and build support for the long term vision. That leads us to the obvious question, what is the long term vision?

At the start of the summer the board considered the following question: "Where do we want to be in five years?" The five year plan is an industry standard for museums, and it's especially important for us because of where we are located. December 10, 1970 is when the town's namesake fountain was first turned on and is considered to be the founding day for Fountain Hills. In five years the town will celebrate fifty year anniversary of its founding. and this anniversary provides an opportunity to really build awareness for the town and the River of Time. The concept for what we might do in 2020 (some might call it a 2020 vision) is in its very early stages and we're not going to tell you too much about it, at least not right now. Fear not we'll be announcing this new initiative in conjunction with the reopening in October, and you might get a teaser at the September dinner!

Luke



**SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS**

**President**

Debbie Skehen

**Executive Director**

Luke Bate

**Vice President**

Anne Wicklund

**Secretary**

Lorena Wigginton

**Liaison to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation**

Dr. William Myhr

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Ruben Balderas

Alan Cruikshank

Jean Linzer

Art Tolis

Gerard Bisceglia

Arlie Denomme

Sandy Myhr

Jane Wingert

Niobe Borman

Boe James

Lee Robinson

Kit Wyper

Teena Borman

Aggie Kramer

## From the President's Desk by Debbie Skehen



I hope you were among the many who attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Italian Dinner – all reports from volunteers and attendees were positive – many reported that it was more fun this year and every single auction item found a new home! As we tally up the receipts and pay the bills, we now know that we raised more money this year than in previous years. Making this happen involves a huge number of volunteers and donors who support our regional museum with their time, talents and resources. We live in such a wonderful community made up of people who not only care, but who step up and make things happen. Thank you all – and now on to the new season!

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Things are happening at the River of Time this summer. We are refocusing our exhibits on the issues of water availability and sustainability in our desert. New exhibits are appearing and others are being modified. This is a huge story to tell – but our regional history repeatedly links the occurrence of life to the presence of water as people have affected the water and the water has affected our lives.

The museum will be closed beginning September 18 to install these changes. A grand reopening in mid-October will be scheduled. We are extremely grateful to EPCOR, CAP, SRP, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Fountain Hills Community Foundation, and the Arizona Historical Society for their financial assistance with this renovation. Watch for announcements to come.



# Membership Report for 2015 by Debbie Skehen

## New Memberships

Karen D. Baker, Tyson Robinson and Jennifer Trebon

\* Denotes Life Members

### Wrangler Level:

\$1500- or more

Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation

Jim & Sharon Morgan

Friends in the Hills

\*Debbie Skehen

### Adventurer Level:

\$1,000-1,499

\*Alan & Diane Cruikshank

\*Fred & Barbara Hansen

Hosea & Lily Harkness

Phil's Filling Station

### Pioneer Level:

\$500-999

Gerard & Anne Bisceglia

\*John & Linda Kavanagh

Stephen & Kathleen Kelbley

Sami Fine Jewelry

Jim & Roberta Urban

Wayne & Anne Wicklund and Snow

### Wagonmaster Level:

\$250-499

Karen D. Baker

Richard M. Carrabine

Carl & Eunice Feinberg

Franklin & Gloria Hardman

Robert & Barbara Hegwood

Elert & Chris Johnson

Aggie Kramer

Bill & Sally Mantle

Sternfels & White, PLLC

Dori Wittrig

### Pathfinder Level:

Virginia Abbott

& Peter Clarkson

Russ & Rosemary

Bonaguidi

John & Sharon Brodhun

Dan Bros

\* Gerry & Marge Colbert

Bonnie Coolum

Richard & Doris Dale

Martin & Barbara Dawson

Harold & Arlie Denomme

Walt Dunne, Jr.

Robert & Mary Alice

Fanslau

Tom & Carol Frederick

Jeff & Marla Fryer

Bruce & Cassie Hansen

Robert & Barbara

Hegwood

Pat Hemmer

John & Beverly Hepburn

Charles & Marilyn Humes

Betty Isaacson

Stephen & Diane Jones

Ed & Dolores Kehe

Jon & Diana Klesner

Gwen Laske

Don & Lisa Lawrence

Marvin & Darline Leader

Jean Linzer

Ed & Kathy Madden

Paul & Cora Messinger

Elizabeth Matej-Horchem

Velma Monks

Peter & Leatrice O'Reilly

Don & Judy Peters

Jack & Monique Reynolds

\*Dave & Edith Roberts

Lee & Jane Robinson

Pat Solski

Joe & Nan Sommer

David & Ruth Springob

Val Stasik

Earl & Ann Stavely

Bob & Susan Titus

Bob & Joyce Walters

Carl & Judy Weir

Tom & Pat Wells

Dave & Jane Wingert

Kit Wyper

# Partnership Profile

When you become a member of the River of Time you also enjoy the membership benefits for the other institutions in the Arizona Small Museum coalition. We want our members to know all the great things happening at their partner museums, so they can visit and take advantage of the free admission and 10% off in the gift shop at all four locations. In order to do this we are introducing this new section in the newsletter to feature our partners and what they are doing.

## The Superstition Mountain Museum in Apache Junction

Superstition Mountain Museum, 4087 N. Apache Trail (SR88) in Apache Junction, AZ

[www.superstitionmountianmuseum.org](http://www.superstitionmountianmuseum.org).

480-983-4888.

Perhaps nowhere in the entire United States is there an area full of legend, history and intrigue as the rugged 160,000 acre Superstition Mountain range in the Tonto National Forest in Central Arizona. Archeological evidence indicates people were here some 9000 years ago. Later inhabitants included the Salado, Hohokam and Apache Indians, followed by Spanish explorers and Mexican Gold Miners. Early American trappers and adventurers migrated to the area and were soon followed by cattlemen and farmers. Eventually, the U.S. Cavalry was sent in to establish forts to protect this rapidly growing population. As modern times approached, men and women began searching for what they believed was the richest gold mine in the world – the Lost Dutchman.

This mine was made famous by Jacob Waltz, known as “the Dutchman”, who took the secret of “his mine” to the grave in 1891. Even today, treasure hunters scour the mountains searching for the Lost Dutchman Mine, but now they share the region with campers, hikers, horseback riders and conservationists in what has officially become the Superstition Wilderness Area.

### **Special upcoming events:**

#### **\*Apache Collection by DeGrazia**

The Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum is proud to announce that famous Southwestern artist Ettore "Ted" DeGrazia's original "Apache Collection," a retrospective of DeGrazia's paintings depicting Native American Apaches, is currently on display in the museum exhibit gallery and will be on loan from the DeGrazia Foundation throughout the 2015-2016 season. In celebration of this exhibit, his son Domingo DeGrazia and his Spanish Guitar Band will perform a FREE concert at the museum on Friday, Oct. 23, 2015 at 4 p.m.

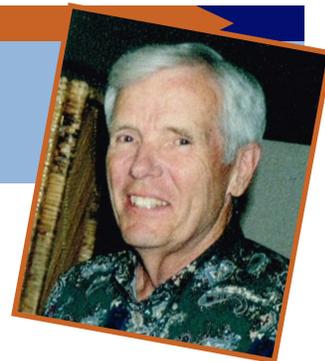
Concert attendees should bring a lawn chair as the concert will be in the amphitheater. Admission fee to the Exhibit Gallery is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children 17 and under free.

#### **\*Flintknapping Class**

Learn how to make stone tools with multi-talented teacher and author Jon Boyd on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015, at the from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Cost of the class is \$25 per person and class registration is required. Class instructor with broad experience in outdoor skills and tracking.

**Please contact the museum for more information or to register for the events.**

## *From the River Bank Store By GERRY COLBERT*



The summer is just about over and we want to thank all the loyal customers who stopped in the store during the last three months.

The Museum will be closed for four weeks starting the middle of September and of course the store will also be closed during that time. This gives us a great opportunity to restock, rearrange, and update the displays. Upon reopening, the store will be fully stocked for your browsing. You'll have an opportunity to purchase one of those unique items that we carry in the store! When you stop in be sure to check the gallery because some items for sale have been moved into that area.

October is certainly not too early to think about your holiday shopping, which is another good reason to stop in shortly after reopening.

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Arlie Denomme, the Chair of all of our Holiday activities at the museum, has already begun planning for the 2015 Holiday Mart! The red and green and glitter is being sorted as items are cleaned, polished and made ready for sale.

Arlie asked that we let everyone know that items donated for sale are welcome at any time. From now until September 18, the museum is open on Friday from 1-4 pm and on Saturday from 10-4 pm. After the 18<sup>th</sup>, if you have something to drop off, please call in advance so someone will be there to accept your donations (837-2612). Once the museum reopens with full winter hours, items can be dropped off from Tuesday through Friday from 1-4 pm and Saturday from 10-4 pm.

More news about the Holiday activities will be listed in the November I Legacy newsletter.

## *From the Docent's Den By Jane Wingert*



The docents are excited about another busy winter season at the museum! Many of us have either been gone for the summer or in and out of town! I want to thank those who have worked this summer! Many of the docents also volunteered for the Annual Italian Dinner.

There are many new things for the docents to learn with the changes that have been going on at the museum. They are learning quickly and should be ready to handle the winter crowd.

We will have our first meeting after summer on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 at the museum! This will be a planning meeting. I already have several suggestions about trips we should take, but am looking for more ideas and some educational opportunities.

If you know of anyone who would enjoy joining our ranks please let me know or have them come to the meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Here we go again for another great winter season!



**THE RIVER OF TIME WILL  
BE CLOSED FOR  
RENOVATIONS BEGINNING  
SEPTEMBER 18 !**



**THE RIVER OF TIME WILL RE-OPEN  
FOR A SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY EVENT ON  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 16**

**WE RE-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 17**





**THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER  
FOUNTAIN HILLS AND LOWER  
VERDE RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

**12901 N. La Montana  
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268**

Phone: 480-837-2612  
Email: [info@riveroftimemuseum.org](mailto:info@riveroftimemuseum.org)



*The River of Time Museum is certified  
by the Arizona Historical Society*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!**

[www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org)



**NEW MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION**

General Individual Membership \$25 / Year	<b>PATHFINDER</b>	\$100 - \$249
General Family Membership \$35 / Year	<b>WAGONMASTER</b>	\$250—\$499
I would be interested in contributing On a higher financial level or a gift endowment or major bequest.	<b>PIONEER</b>	\$500—\$999
Please Contact Me [ ]	<b>ADVENTURER</b>	\$1000—\$1,499
	<b>WRANGLER LEVEL</b>	\$1,500 OR MORE

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed or

Please Charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/AMEX

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

• The IRS has designated this Society and Museum as a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Donations are tax deductible to donor. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.