Message from the SHPO—Jim Garrison

We are sad to inform you all that Jo Anne Medley, a fourteen-year veteran of the State Historic Preservation Office staff, passed away on, August 4, 2010. We will all miss her deeply not only as a professional colleague but as a good friend and wonderful individual.

Over the years Jo Anne has been involved with all aspects of cultural resource preservation and mitigation and was the key SHPO staff person on major compliance projects including the Welton-Mohawk transfer of Bureau of Reclamation property to the local irrigation district, many projects involving the State Land Department such as the development of Anthem, North of Phoenix, the Desert Ridge Project in Scottsdale and the La Osa vandalism investigation in Pinal County. She also has been reviewing all State Parks projects and during the housing boom, all of the Army Corp of Engineers 404 permits. More recently she was consulting with most of the units of the National Park Service in Arizona, with the effects of cell-tower construction across the state and with local compliance issues including the Las Capas (or Layers) Project in Tucson.

Beyond her direct compliance work Jo Anne was our long time liaison with the Arizona Archaeological Council, a key presenter in SHPO 106 Training Workshops and a critical voice in our computerization efforts.

Archaeology was actually Jo Anne’s second career follow her twenty-plus years working as a Registered Nurse. Going back to school Jo Anne earned her Master of Arts in Anthropology from Arizona State University in 1990 and quickly became a regional expert on flotation analysis and botanical, pollen and faunal sampling.

Jo Anne was always up for a good book or a good meal at the Barrio Café. Even in our sadness we celebrate her life, her friendship and her dry sense of humor.

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SITE STEWARD WEBSITE UPDATE

Since we went live with the new website data entry system, we have 18 regions reporting. A total of 13,955 hours have been reported from October 2009 to September 2010. 560 sites have been visited and 132 vandalism reports have been filed.

Regions not yet trained to report in the new system are: Yuma, Sierra Vista, Safford, Williams, Tucson and Patagonia/Green Valley. The Tucson and Patagonia regions will start reporting in the system this October. I am working to train the remaining regions in the next several months. I hope to have every region using the system by December.

Not every volunteer in every region is using the system. If you are not familiar with it, or have not talked with your Regional Coordinator about it, please give them a call.

I would also like to remind everyone to only file ONE vandalism report for a site visit, even if you have several stewards on the trip. Everyone files an activity report, but only one person files the vandalism report.

I want to thank all the Regional Coordinators who have been working diligently to get everyone comfortable with using the new system, and for the time they have spent checking site lists and working through problems. Completely changing established reporting procedures with sporadic support is difficult, but everyone has cheerfully tried their best and I really appreciate everyone’s efforts.

Nicole Armstrong-Best
Announcements

We would like to welcome the following new regional coordinators for the site steward program.

Kristen McLean & Greg Davies are the new RCs for the Central Region.

JJ Golio, Lori Greenstein & Jo Brookshire for the Salt River Region

Beth Krueger is managing the Lower San Pedro Region.

Ned Greeneltch is also taking on the Red Rock Region as well as handling Middle Verde. Go Ned!

Former Cultural Resources Manager for Arizona State Parks, Marilyn Mlazovsky, passed away on August 15, 2010. Marilyn was an archaeologist with over 25 years experience. She came to Arizona from the US Forest Service in California and Utah where she had managed the USFS Heritage and Paleontology programs. Marilyn also worked with the USFS International Forestry Section on a multi-disciplinary team in Micronesia. She was a great fan of the Phoenix Symphony and can be remembered with donations to that organization.

Ann Valdo Howard

ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE AWARENESS MONTH (March 1 – 31)

THE ARCHAEOLOGY EXPO (March 26 – 27)

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce that the theme for the 2011 celebration of Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month (AAHAM) is:

“Arizona Through Time: Stories of Stone”

In addition, there will be an Archaeology Expo this year! It will be held at the Deer Valley Rock Art Center, Phoenix, on March 26 – 27 (Saturday and Sunday).

SHPO will be sending out participation forms in late September for the AAHAM statewide Listing of Events brochure and for the Archaeology Expo. We hope you all participate!

For more information, please contact Ann Valdo Howard, Public Archaeology Programs Manager, SHPO, at 602-542-7138 or ahoward@azstateparks.gov.

ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HOMOLOVI PROJECT

The Arizona Archaeological Society took on an ambitious new project; maintaining the ruins of the prehistoric villages at the closed (but soon to reopen) Homolovi Ruins State Park. Working with archaeologist, Chuck Adams, PhD, of the Arizona State Museum, AAS members are completing plans to maintain previously stabilized standing walls at the park, several of which are in urgent need of repair. Fieldwork was scheduled for two weekends, September 18 & 19, and 25 & 26. The work, under the general technical supervision of Dr. Adams, was planned and organized by Tom Woodall and Walter Gosert of Northern Arizona Chapter, and Jim Britton, of Phoenix Chapter, all AAS Certified Stabilization Instructors, and all of whom have done extensive stabilization work and taught field schools at Elden Pueblo in Flagstaff, and Q Ranch near Young among other places. Continued Page 4.
This was an important project for the AAS and for the Homolovi Ruins! It provided fieldwork opportunity for our members, which is a rare commodity these days. It will show the public, and the Arizona State Government, that Homolovi is a valuable asset that deserves preservation and protection, and it demonstrated the AAS’ capabilities.

Ron Robinson, AAS Chair

WELCOME TO NEW ARCHAEOLOGIST IN SHPO

Jim Cogswell has recently joined the SHPO staff as a Planner/Archaeologist. He has worked for environmental consulting firms in Arizona for seven years before accepting his new position. Jim received his Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1998 from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he also worked in collections management at the American Archaeology Division and in the Archaeometry Laboratory at the Missouri University Research Reactor. Jim also received an M.A. in Anthropology from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and has worked on archaeological projects in the Midwest US and southern Italy. His research interests focus on pottery technology.

When not working at SHPO, Jim enjoys gardening, fishing, camping, travel, and other outdoor activities. He is also a decent cook who does the dishes, which his wife, Susan, appreciates.
REGIONAL NEWS

Region 37 Lake Havasu

Site stewards and BLM volunteers have to deal with downed fences in a couple sites where people are trying to access the Colorado river. One site at Topock is a favorite fishing place for some, and we have dealt with downed & cut barbed wire fencing for several years. It was finally decided that we should not worry about the trail at the bottom of the bluff, although the area is posted “NO OHV”. Instead, we hope to concentrate on the mesa top, where we’re hoping to protect an anthropomorphic geoglyph from off-roads. Posts have been installed as barriers wherever folks have tried to drive up in OHV’s. At the another Fort Mohave site, a final decision on how to deal with the downed fencing is still in the works. This will probably be a continuing challenge to our region’s sites, since several are along the popular Colorado River corridor.

Jenny Anderson, Regional Coordinator

Region 11 Hassayampa

It has been brought to my attention that some of our Site Stewards have discovered corridors on the back roads that are being used as illegal immigrant “waypoints,” where they are re-supplied with food, water and clothes. Many of these back roads are close to or on the way to archaeological sites that we monitor as Site Stewards. The smugglers are breaking off road reflectors and placing them on berms next to the highway and close to a wash to signal where the “waypoints” are located. In the washes, hidden by mesquite thickets, are back-packs with food, water and even guns. There have been over a dozen of these “waypoints” found in the Wickenburg area and are in current use. The Sheriff’s Department has been advised of each of these active sites and we, as Site Stewards, need to keep our eyes open and avoid these areas. Be careful where you park your cars. If you do see anything of this nature, please report it to the Sheriff’s Department. We don’t want to compromise our safety.

Shelley Rasmussen, Regional Coordinator
I would like to support the Arizona Site Steward Program by making a contribution of $__________.

Please make your check payable to the “Arizona State Parks Foundation.”

Mail to:
Arizona Site Steward Program
Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007