



# AMERIND QUARTERLY



## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERIND FOUNDATION

SPRING 2005 (VOL 2, NO. 2)

### AMERIND EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### MISSION

*Established in 1937, the Amerind Foundation and Museum seeks to foster and promote knowledge and understanding of the Native Peoples of the Americas through research, education, and conservation.*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter L. Formo, Tucson (Emeritus)

Marilyn F. Fulton, San Diego

Wm. Duncan Fulton, San Diego

George J. Gumerman, Santa Fe,  
[gumerman@santafe.edu](mailto:gumerman@santafe.edu)

Michael W. Hard, Tucson,  
[mhardsr@aol.com](mailto:mhardsr@aol.com)

Michael B. Husband, Pennsylvania,  
[mhusband@heberlingassociates.com](mailto:mhusband@heberlingassociates.com)

Peter Johnson, Tucson,  
[pejohnson@sundt.com](mailto:pejohnson@sundt.com)

J. William Moore, Phoenix,  
[jwilliammoore@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jwilliammoore@worldnet.att.net)

Lawrence Schiever, Tucson  
(Emeritus)

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John A. Ware, Dragoon,  
[jware@amerind.org](mailto:jware@amerind.org)

*Letters to the director and the board members can be sent care of the Amerind, Box 400, Dragoon, AZ 85609.*

The Amerind Quarterly is produced seasonally by staff and volunteers of the Amerind. Barbara Hanson, editor/art; Maureen O'Neill, technical editor; C. Charnley, design and layout.

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

The Amerind Museum has always been a popular destination for school groups, but there was never an organized program that catered to the needs of school age children. It is likely that the most enduring message children took away from their visits to the Amerind was that museums are places where you don't run and you definitely don't touch! Over the past 18 months, Amerind staff and volunteers have put a great deal of energy into designing a hands-on educational experience for school children who, studies tell us, learn most effectively when they are actively engaged in the learning process through hands-on exploration, game playing, and puzzle solving. Our planning efforts were aided enormously at the beginning of this year by a \$12 thousand grant from the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative. Grant funds have enabled us to hire a part-time educational consultant, provide expense reimbursement for a volunteer education coordinator, and purchase much needed equipment and supplies.

The core of the program consists of a variety of hands-on activities that encourage children to learn and explore at their own pace. Children can piece together broken pots, grind corn on a stone metate, and try their hand at using a prehistoric atlatl (spear thrower). Program volunteers lead small groups of children and their teachers through the museum, engaging their interest with questions about the past, Indian life and culture, and the early settlers of southeastern Arizona.

Nothing brings the past alive more effectively than real objects, accurately and sensitively interpreted. When school children learn and read about the Apache in the classroom, a follow-up visit to the Amerind Museum gives them an opportunity to see a bow made by Geronimo, beautifully preserved examples of Apache clothing, footwear, musical instruments, basketry, ceremonial paraphernalia, and historic photos of Apache daily life. Learning about the history of their state and region helps

students appreciate the landscape of their home and its unique cultural, historical, and environmental values, and that knowledge creates better stewards of this remarkable land and its unique history.



Amerind's education program also seeks to encourage future generations of museum goers at a time when museum attendance is declining throughout the country. The average age of visitor to the Amerind Museum is over 65! Young people are not routinely coming to museums anymore, and we are facing a crisis of interest that may force many cultural institutions to close their doors in the not too distant future. Providing children with a positive museum experience will help to ensure that future generations of Arizonans will continue to support cultural institutions whose primary responsibility is caring for our state's heritage and important cultural treasures.

# ON THE ROAD WITH THE AMERIND

## PAQUIMÉ AND MATA ORTIZ

The Amerind Foundation had its first ever membership tour in November of 2004. Co-sponsored with Cochise College, Rebecca Orozco, Director of the Southwest Learning Center at the College, led 26 of us on a cultural exploration tour to Paquimé and Mata Ortiz. The two-day trip unexpectedly turned into a three-day excursion when inclement weather descended on us and the roads out of town were closed due to snow! Luckily, we were with a wonderful group of agreeable and fun travelers who just took it in their stride when they were told they had to check back into the hotel for an

additional night! Becky was a terrific tour guide who kept everyone informed and entertained with tales of Mexico's history. She was ably assisted by Todd Pitezel, a graduate archaeology student at the University of Arizona. Mercedes Jimenez, director of the Museo de las Culturas del Norte, came out on a snowy Sunday morning to lead us around the spectacular Paquimé ruins excavated by the Amerind (under Charles Di Peso) in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Our visit to the village of Mata Ortiz found renowned potter Juan Quezada at home so he was able to give us a lecture and demonstration in the courtyard of his home/gallery.



## TOUR TO THE MIMBRES

The culture of the Mimbres people, who occupied parts of southeastern New Mexico 800-1200 years ago, was the focus of our spring membership tour April 2-4. Due to extensive pot-hunting and the nature of the rock used for building material in the Mimbres Valley, the architecture of the Mimbres sites may not be as impressive as sites in the Four Corners area, but the art depicted on the world-famous Mimbres pottery is truly exceptional. Under the leadership of noted Mimbres authority, Dr. Jerry Brody, and his wife, Jean, an ethnobotanist, participants became very involved in the natural, cultural, and spiritual world of the Mimbres. Mimbres settlement sites, rock art sites and two museums with impressive collections of Mimbres pottery were on the agenda for all, and a trip to the Gila Cliff Dwellings was also an option. Participants spent two relaxing nights at the Nature Conservancy's Bear Mountain Lodge in Silver City, New Mexico, adding a bit of birding and hiking to their agendas.



## THE AMERIND LIBRARY



Amerind's research library is a hushed and beautiful retreat featuring red oak trim, iron railings, and an eye-catching circular staircase. Also notable in this age of the computer are the wooden card catalogues which are still in use. Three floors of the Fulton-

Hayden Memorial Library and Art Gallery house some 30,000 volumes, as well as journals, manuscripts, and microfilms, utilized by both Amerind staff and a growing number of visiting scholars. The collection focuses on the anthropology and history of the American Southwest and northern Mexico.

The Foundation's first drive to create a substantial research library began in the mid 1950s, when publication exchanges with other institutions were initiated. At that time the library collection was housed in the newly constructed storage wing of the museum, a space that is now a laboratory area. Staff members recognized the need for a larger and more professionally

organized library on campus to address growing research problems and because of Amerind's relatively isolated location.

In May 1959 preliminary plans were developed for a proposed new library and art gallery building. Construction began that fall (erroneously stated as 1956 in previous newsletter), and in May 1960 Amerind board members and their spouses toured the newly completed library.

The original cataloging system was based on Library of Congress numbering, following subject headings used by The Peabody Library of Anthropology at Harvard University. In the year 2000 a cataloging project was started to build an electronic database, also in machine-readable format, based on Library of Congress subject headings. Work on this formidable task continues as time allows for our dedicated part-time librarian, Celia Skeeles, and her volunteer assistants, Janet Miller and Sally Newland.

Future plans for the library will involve access to resources on the world wide web. In the meantime, though, it is somehow reassuring to see staff and visitors continuing to utilize those traditional card catalogues. Though our library collections are non-lending, we encourage use by researchers. Call to make an appointment.

### *On the Road with the Amerind, continued*

#### TOUR OF TWO SAN PEDRO SITES: REEVE RUIN AND DAVIS RANCH A SPECIAL TOUR FOR CASAS GRANDES AND SAN PEDRO CLUB MEMBERS



and Reeve sites and a nearby tenth century Hohokam ballcourt. Participants ate a gourmet picnic lunch under the shade of an old cottonwood tree at the historic Belford Ranch House, along the San Pedro. Our visit to archaeological excavations that figured prominently in Amerind's research history was arranged as a "thank you" to our members for their financial support. Our next Casas Grandes and San Pedro Club tour is planned for Sunday, November 13, so please mark that date on your calendars. Details of tour destinations and activities will follow.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> thirteen of our Casas Grandes and San Pedro Club members were offered a day-long van tour of the Davis Ranch Site and Reeve Ruin in the San Pedro Valley north of Cascabel. The sites were excavated in the 1950s by the Amerind Foundation—under the direction of Charles Di Peso—and the excavations broke important ground by documenting a 1300 A.D. migration of Pueblo people from the Four Corners into southern Arizona. The tour, ably led by Dr. Patrick Lyons of the Center for Desert Archaeology in Tucson, visited the Davis



*Everyone agreed that the Hohokam ballcourt was "spectacular!"*



Drive toward the Amerind from either direction on Interstate 10 and watch the dramatic change in the landscape, not just a sudden uplift of the stunning pink boulders of Texas Canyon, but the transition in the plants outside your speeding vehicle. The level grasslands dotted with yucca and mesquite to the east or the barren slopes of creosote and mesquite to the west suddenly give way to a much more varied and lush array of plants. It is this location in the Little Dragoon Mountains of southeastern Arizona that makes the Amerind property a place of flourishing plant diversity. The three factors at work here are geography, topography and elevation.



Oaks, agaves and sotol are some of the plants that prefer the slopes and rocky hillsides. All were important sources of food, fiber and building materials for indigenous people.



Desert honeysuckle, a vital hummingbird flower, blooming during the spring migration.

The Amerind property sits on a high plateau located between the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, so the flora includes species from both those plant communities – including foothills palo verde (*Cercidium microphyllum*) and catclaw (*Acacia greggii*) from the Sonoran and the beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*) and sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*) more characteristic of the Chihuahuan desert. Being this far south we even see a few plants of tropical origin that reach their northernmost limit here. Two examples are desert honeysuckle (*Anisacanthus thurberi*) and coralbean (*Erythrina flabelliformis*), a plant with stiking pods of scarlet beans and large, soft leaves that look out of place in a desert environment. You'll find coralbean growing close to the rocks, often right out of the rocks, to take advantage of the heat retention of the granite.

The varied topography enables plants with differing soil, mineral and water requirements to grow here. Plants of the desert grassland community, such as fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), soaptree yucca (*Y. elata*) and various species of Grama grass grow on the more level sites. Along the washes and near old stock tanks there are stands of netleaf hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) and an occasional Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*). The slopes and rocky hillsides provide habitat for the plants of the oak woodland and foothills communities, where several species of oak (*Quercus spp.*) and pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*) form dark evergreen swaths in between the colorful boulders. Also found among the rocks, where they catch more rain runoff, are other foothills plants: littleleaf mulberry (*Morus microphylla*), western soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*) and California buckthorn (*Rhamnus californica*).



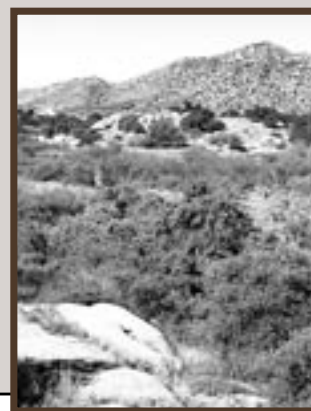
Elevation makes perhaps the biggest contribution to plant diversity here, ranging from 4600' to 5500' above sea level. In southeastern Arizona that is a range of significant transition between floras, being at the low end of elevation for many woodland and grassland species and the high end for many desert and riparian plants. The manzanita, sotol, buckthorn and oak usually reach the lowest elevation of their range around 4000' – 5000', while that is the high end for foothills paloverde, catclaw acacia, Mexican elder and creosote (*Larrea tridentata*). Our larger trees, such as cottonwood (*Populus sp.*), one-seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) and netleaf hackberry, grow up to around 6000', not too much higher than here.



Soaptree yuccas prefer the level, grassy sites. A good source of fiber as well as soap.

These trees and shrubs mentioned in this article represent only a small fraction of the many species here, including cacti and grasses, flowering perennials and annuals too numerous to mention. They put on a delightful display of color much of the year and attract a wide variety of

birds, butterflies and mammals year round and, along with the world class museum and art collection, enhance the Amerind visitors' sense that they have come to a very special place in southeastern Arizona.



# THE PLANTS OF AMERIND



*A small copse of soapberry trees in the rocks near the Amerind office. The translucent berries provided soap and shampoo and the leaves an anti-inflammatory.*

When you park in front of the museum, the first thing you see is Amerind's beautiful, old Spanish Colonial buildings, their pink stucco echoing the color of the surrounding boulders. You enter the museum through a shady courtyard of trees and shrubs, all from Europe and Asia, planted many years ago. Outside of that courtyard, however, and in front of the Art Gallery, is a large expanse of bare dirt, broken only by a few yuccas and oleanders (another plant from Asia). To provide a more aesthetic and welcoming entrance for visitors the Amerind is planning a landscape project which will create a harmonious interface between



*Banana yucca (Yucca baccata): Extends up to higher elevations than the soap tree and is found on the hillsides here. Seeds, flower buds & fruit pods all used as food.*

the existing architecture and the unique natural surroundings. A well-designed landscape that incorporates the splendid wealth of plants native to this area can provide four-season interest with varieties of textures, colors and forms. Trees, shrubs, perennials and ornamental

grasses will be chosen which have staggered seasons of bloom and attractive off-season elements such as fall foliage color or winter fruits and berries. The use of native plants that are drought-tolerant, adapted to local soils, resistant to local pests and disease, and not in need of extensive pruning will reduce the necessary tasks of maintenance. Native flora will also attract butterflies and birds, an enhancement for visitors.

We will be exploring a system of water catchment from the extensive roof area over the museum and art gallery to provide some of the water for the plants. In addition, various mulches can be used in some areas to decrease evaporation. Some plants will need no supplemental watering after the initial establishment period, but the plants that do will be watered by underground drip irrigation which provides water directly to the roots, reducing evaporation and using significantly less water than other methods.

Hardscaping will be incorporated within the planting areas to direct foot traffic that now cuts randomly across the dirt from the parking area. Flagstone or brick paths will enable visitors to get closer to the plants and will allow wheelchair access to the gardens. Landscaping the large areas that are now bare will reduce the problems of dust, mud, erosion and drainage. Also included will be naturalistic placement of large, local boulders, benches and low-voltage lighting.

Perhaps one of the greatest values of such a landscape would be as an integral part of the education mission of the museum. Most of the species that grow on the Amerind property were used in some way by Native Americans for food or medicine, fiber or building material. Signs would inform the public about the plants and printed brochures would provide information on the uses and importance of plants to local indigenous peoples. This outdoor "living exhibit" would add a wealth of possibilities to our school group programs and could also become a showcase of options for ecologically-appropriate landscaping.

*Thickets of hackberry, buckthorn and mulberry follow the course of a wash. Resources of food for both people and wildlife.*



*Coralbean pod with seeds. Roots used for gastrointestinal and urinary aids. Apaches make jewelry from the bright red "beans."*



## LOOKING FOR SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS:

*We have a preliminary landscape design and willing volunteers ready to take shovel in hand...all we need now are the resources to get the job done. Would you be willing to help with solicitations for plant and hardscape donations or discounts and with fundraising for this important project? Please call Maureen O'Neill at the Amerind, 520-586-3666 x10, to help make Amerind's landscaping dream a reality.*

## ... NATURE SIGHTINGS AT THE AMERIND

by Barbara Hanson



I am standing in the supermarket, reaching for the container of Metamucil and suddenly I think, “Hey, I could pick that plantain growing around our house instead of buying this.” Purslane, *Plantago purshii*, a fuzzy annual, grows in abundance on dry ground all over the Amerind but is easy to overlook. Less than 8” high, it appears to have no blossoms at all, but look closely to find its tiny, white flowers resembling orchids. Rub the leaves in your hand and feel the slippery, mucilaginous texture. Drop a tablespoon of seeds into a glass of warm water and when it forms a gel, drink it as a laxative. Just like Metamucil. In fact, the psyllium that Metamucil is made from is a relative of plantain. Native peoples have known about this as well as many other uses for the various species of plantain – not only as a gastrointestinal aid, but for treatment of insect or snake bites, arthritis pain or headaches, bringing down a fever or inducing a baby to start walking. It’s even used as a psychological aid to make a person “more agreeable.” So many uses for such a small, unassuming plant!

Look up plantain in a flower identification book and it will probably be described as a “weedy” plant. One of the definitions of weed is “a plant that is not valued.” But look up plantain in an ethnobotany book and you’ll find pages of uses by dozens of tribes. What we may consider a “weed” is so often a valuable plant to other people. Nearly every species of plant here on the Amerind has been used in some way by people for generations, as medicine, food, dye, fiber or building material.

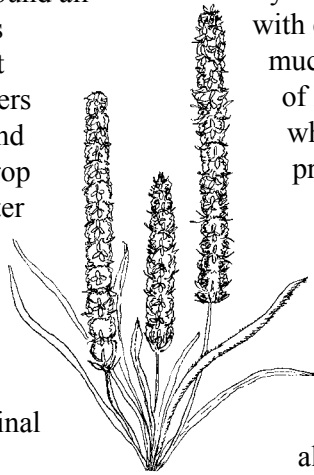
In the pharmacy section I’m surrounded by a dizzying array of compounds advertised to cure whatever ails me. And yet I’ve heard there is not a single medicinal use of a North American plant “discovered” by modern science that Native Americans didn’t already know about. I’m always fascinated to imagine just how all this knowledge was accumulated, especially since so many of the useful compounds are what we call “poisons,” being part of a plant’s chemical defenses. How does one figure out that pricking the skin over rheumatic joints with a thorn from graythorn (*Ziziphus*) releases an analgesic to help the pain? Or imagine the first people to try plants from the nightshade family, *Solanaceae*, named for the

poisonous alkaloid *solanine*. How long did it take to learn that the tubers we call potatoes could be made edible but that the sprouts and leaves would make you sick? Or that the Datura plant could provide a powerful narcotic for toothache or arthritis but it could also kill you? How did anyone discover that eating wolfberries (*Lycium*) with clay would detoxify the bitter alkaloids? So much of learning how to use plants safely consists of knowing which parts of the plant to use, at what stage in the growing cycle and how to prepare them properly.

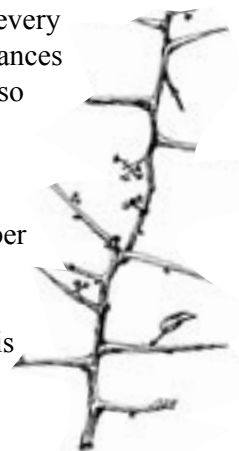
Wandering over to the produce section I’m struck by the consistency of the offerings. I see the same fruits and vegetables in the same places week after week. It’s still too early for tomatoes to be ripe where I live and yet there they are in the supermarket every month of the year. And of course there are all those plants—bananas, avocados, rice—that couldn’t grow here at any time of year.

Gathering plants from the wild was obviously more work, involving travel over great distances and a wealth of knowledge about where and when to find the right foods throughout the different seasons. And yet, even with the ease of shopping at a supermarket, I wonder if early gatherers actually enjoyed a wider variety of foods than I do. Certainly they were more intimately aware of the bounty that the plant world provided every day of their lives. We still use plant substances all the time but have distanced ourselves so much from the sources that we’re often unaware of them. Here in Arizona we see agave plants around us and many people know that prehistoric peoples used the fiber but how many of us know that over half of the sisal fiber used for rope today still comes from agave? We know that agave is used to make tequila, but how many of us are aware that it is also one source of today’s steroid drugs?

Back home at the Amerind, I take a walk to sample the graythorn berries which are growing plump now, full of linoleic acid, the same nutritious fatty acid found in peanuts. And I’m thinking I might try those thorns on my sore thumb joints sometime.



Plantain



Graythorn



This summer, just two years after establishing Amerind’s first ever membership program, we are expanding the program with a new membership category and initiating Amerind’s first planned giving program. I’ll be sending out detailed information on both new programs later in the summer, but let me give you a preview of what will be arriving in your mailbox soon.

The Amerind membership program has grown rapidly, exceeding all our expectations. Members in all giving categories now number just over 550, and a direct mail campaign planned for this summer will, we hope, increase our rolls by a few hundred more. This summer we are initiating a corporate membership program called Amerind Business Partnerships. For an annual tax-deductible contribution, Amerind Business Partners will have an opportunity to sponsor Amerind exhibitions and other programs and, at the same time, advertise their company, reward their employees, entertain their clients, and support one of southern Arizona’s outstanding cultural institutions. If you know of a business in your community that would be interested in becoming an Amerind Business Partner, I hope you will tell them about this new support opportunity and encourage them to join.

We will also be launching a new planned giving program this summer, called the Amerind Legacy Society. Over the years, friends of the Amerind have remembered the foundation in their estate plans. Each year, however, bequests are received from individuals to whom we never had an opportunity to extend our thanks for their generosity. Membership in Amerind’s Legacy

Society will allow you to direct your gift or bequest to a particular program or activity of your choice, including the Amerind Endowment Fund where the interest from your bequest will continue to support the activities of the Foundation far into the future. Your membership in the Legacy Society will also allow us to show our gratitude for your gift during your lifetime. When literature arrives in the mail about our Legacy Society, please consider becoming a member. No “minimum gift” is required, and your bequest will provide you with the satisfaction of knowing that your generosity will be providing for the continuity of Amerind research and education programs for generations to come.

*John Ware, Director*



***If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us!***

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*Yes, I want to become a member!*

*Please enroll me at the level checked.*

- Individual                    \$30
- Family                            \$40
- Cochise Club                    \$100-\$499
- San Pedro Club                \$500-\$999
- Casas Grandes Club        \$1,000 or above

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make payable to Amerind Foundation)  
 I prefer to charge my        VISA            Master Card  
 Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



This is a **GIFT** membership at the \_\_\_\_\_ Level  
 My name \_\_\_\_\_  
 My address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



**THE AMERIND FOUNDATION**  
**PO BOX 400**  
**DRAGOON, AZ 85609**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Dragoon, Arizona  
Permit No. 3

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THE AMERIND

**NOTICE:** Beginning June 1, 2005, the Amerind Museum and Art Gallery will be open throughout the year Tuesday - Sunday. Closed Mondays and major holidays.

**September 18, 2005**

Lecture by Dr. Ware, 1:30 p.m.  
Carr Center at Carr Canyon  
Sierra Vista, AZ

**November 12, 2005**

Amerind Board Meeting

**October 13 - 17, 2005**

SAA Advanced Seminar:  
"Archaeology on the Trowels' Edge"

**November 13, 2005**

Casas Grandes and San Pedro Club  
members' tour

### TO OUR MEMBERS...

*The Amerind's "busy" season has gone away like the snowbirds returning to their homes in cooler parts of the country. And vacationers, for some reason that those of us who live here year round can't quite understand, don't seem to want to be in southern Arizona during the summer months. This gives us time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to begin planning for our next season and beyond. In the summer issue, you will see a schedule of upcoming programs, tours, and workshops. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or comments to share with us as we go into our planning sessions, please let us know.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL US AT 520-586-3666  
OR VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.AMERIND.ORG**