



AMERIND QUARTERLY



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERIND FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2006 (VOL. 3, NO. 3)

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2006-2007 SEASON

Summer is a time for Amerind staff to reflect on past programs and plan for the coming season. The 2006-2007 season is starting to come together, and we would like to share some of the highlights. In many instances we have dates but not times, and places but not complete program information. Please take this opportunity to save the dates for programs you are interested in, and look for mailings with more detailed information as the events approach.

We have two art openings on the calendar in the coming season. On October 14, 2006, there will be a reception in Amerind's Art Gallery for the paintings of O'odham/Cheyenne/Sioux artist Mike Medicine Horse Zillioux (pronounced Zil-i-ox), whose exhibition "Multiple Reflections" has been in our changing gallery since June. Our second opening of the season will be on January 20 and will highlight the works of Tohono O'odham fiber artist Terrol Dew Johnson. Both openings will feature talks by the artists, as well as Native and non-Native guest scholars. Receptions following the gallery talks give Amerind members a chance to meet and talk with the artists and presenters. Please save the dates, and look for invitations in the mail several weeks before the events.

On October 25 we leave on our annual two-day fall membership trip to Casas Grandes and Mata Ortiz, where we will once again tour the prehistoric ruins of Casas Grandes (Paquimé) and spend an afternoon visiting the pottery studios and workshops of Mata Ortiz. This year's tour will be led by Carol Charnley,

Amerind's museum coordinator, and archaeologist Perrie Barnes, with guest lectures by Spencer MacCallum, who has worked with Juan Quezada and the potters of Mata Ortiz for nearly three decades. Side trips are scheduled this fall to the mission church at Janos, the reconstructed Convento Church and the Olivas family pottery workshop in old Casas Grandes, and historic Hacienda San Diego and Colonia Juárez south of Casas Grandes. Call Jill Williams at 586-3666, ext. 17, if you'd like to reserve a place on this popular trip!



Cultural Day Celebration,
March 18, 2006

Clockwise from above:
Mary Redhouse, Navajo;
Regina Siquieros, Tohono O'odham;
San Xavier Dancers, Tohono O'odham



The first weekend in November, master Hopi Katsina carver Wallace Hyeoma from the Hopi village of Shungopavi will be at the Amerind Museum to give a lecture and demonstration on Katsina

carving. We met Mr. Hyeoma on our Pueblo World tour last May, and his talk on the history of Katsina doll carving was one of the highlights of the trip, so we invited him to come

to the Amerind in the fall. The Amerind Museum Store will be stocked for Mr. Hyeoma's program with a large selection of reasonably priced traditional dolls provided by Tsakurshovi Trading Post on Second Mesa. You won't want to miss this inside story of Katsinas and Katsina doll carving, scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, November 4, in the museum's main gallery.

Amerind's annual Society for American Archaeology seminar will be held November 29 through December 3. The topic this fall is *Early Village Societies in Global Perspective*, and the Amerind will host 14 scholars from universities in North America, Europe,

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NATURE SIGHTINGS AT THE AMERIND

by Barbara Hanson

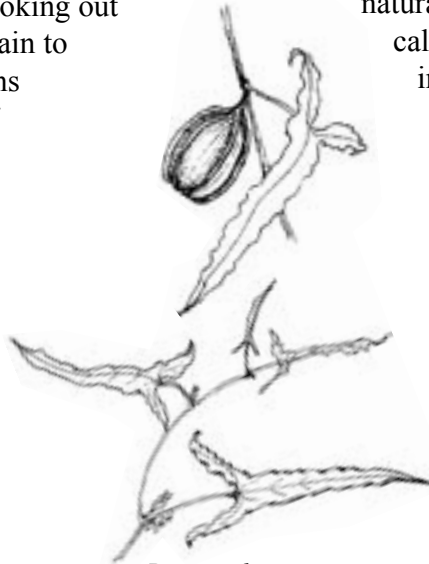


On my morning walks I've been admiring an unusual sight that is a perfect visual metaphor for the year we've been having – an extremely dry winter followed by a spectacularly rainy summer. The road I walk is lined with the lush green of vines covering armatures of dead shrubs – blue morning glories and scarlet creepers blooming on dry stalks of desert broom or manzanita that died during winter's drought. Three months ago I stood looking out across parched hillsides, hoping for rain to bring leaves back to the gray skeletons of the oak trees. Now the alchemy of desert rain (nearly 9" in the month of July alone) has turned the oaks glossy green again and created a riot of growth. But some shrubs, even those well-adapted to dry climates, like snakeweed and desert broom, were already too stressed by winter's drought to make it to monsoon season. The grasses and many annual herbs, however, are taller than we've seen here in quite some time and all the vines add to the humid jungle feel of the summer's heat. Gourd vines hang their round fruits like ornaments from mesquite branches, wild grape and milkweed vines climb overhead on last year's dry yucca stalks.

But my attention lately has been captured by a vine much harder to find than the exuberant morning glories. Last year a friend pointed out *Aristolochia watsonii*, the only desert species of a tropical family, a plant quite inconspicuous because of its dull color and low, spreading habit. Once I had it identified for me, its memorable appearance of dark, reddish-brown leaves in a sharp arrowhead shape, unusual flowers and balloon-like fruits enabled me to find several plants along the road. This is a vine fascinating for its illustration of the connections between people, plants and insects. The different common names of "pipevine," "birthwort" and "snakeroot" are clues to these stories.

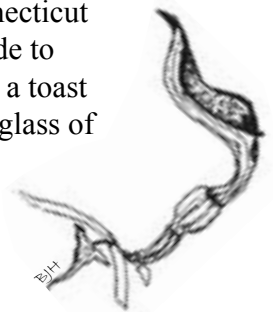
Aristolochia, more commonly pipevine, is the only food of the larval stage of the Pipevine Swallow-

tail, an elegant black butterfly with electric blue markings on the back and orange spots underneath, which swarms in large numbers over our mimosa tree in early summer. It is late summer before I see the caterpillars that are the central characters of this tale. All caterpillars are voracious plant eaters, increasing their size many times over in the short season between hatching from eggs the butterflies lay and going into pupation to begin the cycle all over again. Over millions of years of natural selection plants have developed chemicals to keep from being eaten by these feeding-machines and the caterpillars, in turn, have evolved resistances to certain chemical compounds, being able to incorporate toxins into their bodies that protect them from predators but do not harm the caterpillars. Being the same color as the leaves, the pipevine caterpillars blend in with the plant except for rows of bright red spikes announcing their poisonous nature to any curious predator.



Pipevine leaves and seed pod

As caterpillars became more and more resistant to plant chemicals, plants evolved increasingly complex toxins in a plant/insect "arms race." These are often the same chemicals that people find useful for many different purposes. Most of our pharmaceuticals are derived from these plant compounds and many of our favorite chemicals as well, such as nicotine, caffeine and tannins. David L. Wagner, an ecologist from Connecticut who has just completed a field guide to caterpillars, suggests that we drink a toast of thanks to them when we pour a glass of wine! But, of course, being chemicals that evolved as poisons, they are often toxic to humans as well. The names "birthwort" and "snakeroot" give hints at some of *Aristolochia*'s medicinal uses, but the accompanying side effects can be extremely unpleasant. So I just enjoy the colorful butterflies and caterpillars and admire this fascinating plant whenever I can find it – without tasting!



Pipevine flower

and the Near East who will be presenting papers on their field projects in early villages on five continents. A public lecture Friday evening will present the highlights of the symposium. Speakers and times will be announced well in advance, but please save the evening of Friday, December 1, so that you don't miss this important lecture.

In January we launch a "moving" lecture series on borderlands history and archaeology. These monthly lectures, cosponsored by Cochise College, will move around the county to Cochise branch campuses in the winter and spring. The first installment will be at Cochise College, Sierra Vista, on January 24, and from there the series will move to Willcox on February 20, the Bisbee-Douglas campus on March 19, and finally to the Benson campus on April 23. Lecture topics, speakers, times and locations will be included in our fall newsletter and posted on Amerind's website, but be sure to save the dates now. These lectures will be free to the public.

On February 10 we will hold our third annual Native Voices Program at the Amerind. The program this year will be hosted by Dr. Laura Tohe (Navajo) of Arizona State University, who will be joined by four or five other Native authors who will read from their original works. The goal of Native Voices is to bring together established authors and promising students to read or perform their original essays, poetry, or performance pieces. For many of us on staff, Native Voices is the highlight of the season, and we encourage all our members to attend this reading by some of the outstanding writers in the Southwest today.

Spring programs at the Amerind include basket making and textile weaving workshops on March 25 and March 31; a "Then and Now" exhibition of Native

American artists in the museum galleries on March 24; our annual Seven Generations program coinciding with International Earth Day on April 21 and 22; a two day "mini-symposium" on early pithouse villages in the greater Southwest in mid-April; and the second half of our Pueblo World tour, tentatively scheduled for May 20-26, focusing on the Pueblos of the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico. More details will be provided on our spring event calendar. As always, we appreciate all that our members do for the Amerind, and we hope you enjoy the programs and events we've planned for you this coming season.

AND A LOOK AHEAD...
TO AN UPCOMING WORKSHOP!



BASKET WEAVING with Matilda Saraficio and family, Tohono O'odham basketweavers. Sat., March 31, 2007.

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 _____
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This is a **GIFT** membership at the _____ Level
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Please check this box if you do NOT want your name shared with our partner organizations.



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bahti@theriver.com
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meliful@earthlink.net
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mhardsr@aol.com
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pejohnson@sundt.com
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 (520) 219-4828 (fax)
rgmaxfield6@comcast.net
- J. William Moore, Phoenix
williammoore@qwest.net
- Lawrence Schiever, Tucson
 (Emeritus)
- Dan Shilling, Phoenix
danshilling@cox.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John A. Ware, Dragoon
jware@amerind.org

Letters to the director and 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. John Ware, content; Barbara Hanson, editor and drawings; C. Chamley, design and layout; Jonathan Williams, photography (except where noted).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THE AMERIND

- October 14, 2006, 1:00 p.m.**
 Exhibit Opening
Multiple Reflections - the Art of Mike Medicine Horse Zillioux
- October 25-27, 2006**
 Tour to Casas Grandes (Paquimé) and Mata Ortiz in Chihuahua, Mexico
- October 27, 2006 Birds and Botany**
 Nature walk for members, with Barbara Hanson and Alan Blixt. Bring binoculars and meet at the museum entrance at 9:30 a.m.
- November 4, 2006**
 Hopi katsina carver in the Museum Presentation and demonstrations
- November 6, 2006**
 Volunteer Open House
- November 29 - December 3, 2006**
 Society for American Archaeology seminar. Public lecture December 1st
- December 9, 2006**
 Amerind Board Meeting
- December 10, 2006**
 Special event for San Pedro and Cochise Club members
- January 20, 2007, afternoon**
 Exhibit Opening, *Terrol Dew Johnson, Fiber Artist*
- January 24, 2007**
 Amerind Lecture Series, Cochise College, Sierra Vista campus
- February 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m.**
 Native Voices
- February 20, 2007**
 Amerind Lecture Series, Cochise College, Willcox campus
- March 12, 2007**
 Volunteer Appreciation
- March 19, 2007**
 Amerind Lecture Series, Cochise College, Douglas campus
- March 24, 2007**
 Past and Present— Native Artists in the Museum
- March 31, 2007**
 Basket Weaving Workshop
- April 21, 2007, 2:00 p.m.**
 Seven Generations
- April 23, 2007**
 Amerind Lecture Series, Cochise College, Benson campus
- May 20-26, 2007**
 Pueblo World Tour II (Eastern Pueblos)

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