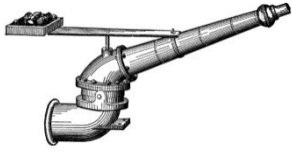


KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE



Newsletter on the gold mining and ranching heritage of Kentucky Camp, AZ

June 2024

Friends of Kentucky Camp Receives US Forest Service Recognition

The Friends of Kentucky Camp have been recognized by the Coronado National Forest for contributions and stewardship of the site in 2023.



The glass saguaro memento and certificate will be on display in the Kentucky Camp Headquarters building office. The Friends of Kentucky Camp and the US Forest Service make great partners!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE

FKC Receives Recognition	1
Gold Processing Building Gets Mud	1
Headquarters Building Update	2
Santa Rita Abbey Featured in "Final Vows"	3
IMPORTANT → Membership Renewal	4

Gold Processing Building Gets Mud

One of the key historical features of Kentucky Camp is the set of four standing adobe buildings. A fifth building, the barn, is well on its way to dissolving back into the earth due to the action of rain and wind. In order to keep the remaining four adobe buildings in habitable condition, they require a periodic application of "sacrificial" mud coating.

This sacrificial coat doesn't add any structural integrity in its own right. But it does provide the rain and wind something else to eat away at rather than the original load-bearing bricks.



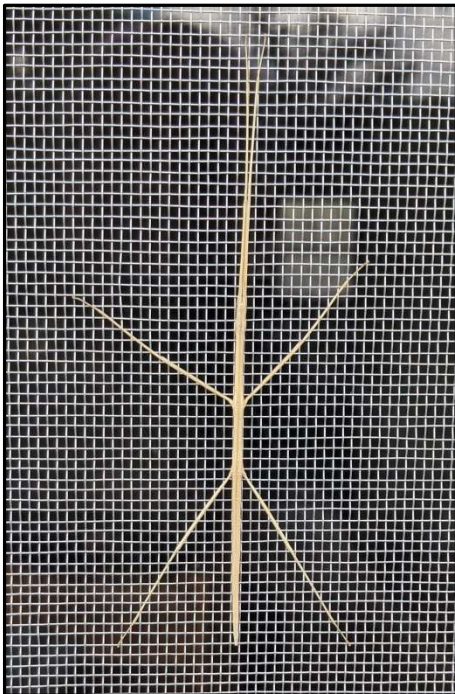
The mudding team prepares a batch of adobe mud for application to the Gold Processing Building. From l-r: Kathy Makansi, Chris Schrager, Steve Waylett Tristen Griffin, Jonnie Knighton-Wisor, Max Forton, Kaleigh Perry

On March 13, we conducted a special work detail to refresh the weather-beaten southeast wall of the Gold Processing Building. The team was comprised mainly of seasonal Coronado National Forest employees that wanted to get experience with the adobe patching process. Chris Schrager provided his usual excellent pre-project training and the mud was soon flying.



Sacrificial mud being applied to the southeast wall of the Gold Processing Building.

Application of the sacrificial coat is an ongoing process: it can only be applied in thin layers in order to dry properly. Then, additional layers are applied over and over until the original surface level has been obtained. It's an ongoing process to keep up with Mother Nature!



A stick bug hides in plain sight on a screen door.

Headquarters Building Update

The main Headquarters building at Kentucky Camp is getting attention on several fronts. Work on the original kitchen is proceeding, albeit slowly. Cracks and channels in the interior walls are getting filled. New doors have been ordered and received. One of these doors will be installed on the doorway between the kitchen and the dining room. Another will be used to replace the aging door into the kitchen pantry.



Drying adobe mud makes interesting patterns.

The outdoor sink adjacent to the Headquarters building has become a priority for repair. The adobe brick pedestal has become very cracked and worn down. The sink is loose on the pedestal. Plans are underway to replace the adobe bricks and include a broader concrete top apron around the sink. The overall level of the sink will be raised for easier access. This work along with the re-plumbing work done previously will make for a much more reliable and usable water supply.



John Weiss and caretaker Mark Doll discuss sink repair options.

Back in January, the site was gifted an old piano from Don Marion. The piano is mostly period-correct for the site. It's missing some keys and woefully out of tune but we've had several visitors sit down and "tickle the ivories". See the video of the piano install by clicking on the "Images/Videos" link on our Home Page at Kentuckycamp.org. (3 minutes long)



Mark Doumas, Don Marion, Mark Doll, Ron Parrish and Chris Schrager install the donated piano in the front room of the Headquarters building.



John Weiss fits a newly-crafted threshold board into a doorway.



This Giant Whip Scorpion was spotted on the Arizona Trail at Kentucky Camp. It is an Arachnid, but is only distantly related to true Scorpions. Despite its ferocious look, it has neither a venomous sting nor bite.

"Final Vows", a Documentary

On the drive into Kentucky Camp, about a mile up Fish Canyon Road, you'll see a simple sign that says "Abbey". This is the home of the Santa Rita Abbey, a cloistered order of Cistercian monastery nuns.

Each monastery of the Cistercian order supports itself by a small industry. The Santa Rita Abbey makes whole wheat altar breads and sells them to parishes across the country.

Some of our Kentucky Camp caretakers have attended the abbey's community liturgy or simply enjoyed quiet time in the monastery church.

The abbey is the subject of a new documentary by Victoria Westover named "Final Vows".

The documentary highlights how nuns take a vow that binds them to remain in the community for life. They candidly share their joys and struggles. The film is also a meditation on aging and caring for others that asks viewers to consider if this lifestyle offers any wisdom for their own lives.

The film debuted in February at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and will be released in the fall by First Run Features. A screening at the Fox Theater in Tucson is also expected. A trailer of the documentary is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMFxvOkmnJY>

The abbey maintains a website here:

<https://santaritaabbey.org/>



Membership Renewal

Don't miss out on the fun, the excitement, the Chronicle, and the opportunity to participate in Kentucky Camp's future! Renewing your membership is a simple way to support our ongoing rehabilitation efforts at Kentucky Camp and represents our primary source of funding. Student, Individual and Family memberships are very reasonably priced. If you'd like to give at a more substantial level, consider a Supporting or Contributing membership..... Or, even a Lifetime membership! Remember, Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: your membership fee may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.

To see if your membership is current, look at the mailing label on the front of this newsletter. If it says "Renew in June of 24" then your membership has expired and it's time to renew. (If your mailing label says "Renew in June of NA", then you are a lifetime member or have received a courtesy copy.) If your renewal year is in error, contact John Weiss at 520 323-0358 or jweiss25@cox.net.

TWO Ways to Renew:

1) Renew online at the Friends of Kentucky Camp website:

<http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>

Choose "Support Kentucky Camp". Using the online renewal process, you can also choose to have your newsletter delivered electronically versus hard copy.

2) Renew using the traditional mail-in form on the next page.

IMPORTANT!

If you prefer to renew your membership using the traditional mail-in form, please detach (or copy) this page and return to the Friends of Kentucky Camp asap:

Friends of Kentucky Camp
c/o John Weiss
4259 E. Paseo Grande
Tucson, AZ 85711

Membership Renewal

Enclosed is a check for \$ ____ made payable to Friends of Kentucky Camp for membership through June 2025.

Please circle:

Student (\$5)	Individual (\$10)	Family (\$15)	Contributing (\$25)
Supporting (\$50)	Lifetime (\$200)		

(If a mailing label is on the back side of this and your address has not changed, there is no need to fill this part out.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Did you know that Kentucky Camp has a Facebook Page? Search for us at:
@FriendsofKentuckyCamp

Friends of Kentucky Camp

4259 E. Paseo Grande
Tucson, AZ 85711

Web Site:

<http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>

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Newsletter Submissions:

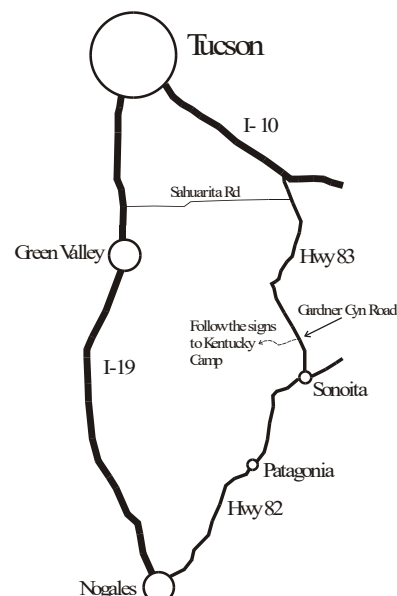
jweiss25@cox.net

Board of Directors:

President	Mark Doumas	520 990-8152
Vice Pres.	Pete Van Cleve	520 378-1955
Secretary	John Weiss	520 425-0023
Treasurer	Ron Parrish	520 247-7004
At-Large	Kathy Makansi	520 247-5719

Forest Service Liaison:

Chris Schrager	520 820-8448
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**Memberships:**

Student (\$5) Individual (\$10) Family (\$15)
Contributing (\$25) Supporting (\$50) Lifetime (\$200)

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