



Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, *in association with the Smithsonian Institution*

Newsletter

Issue #79, Spring 2018

Coming to a Museum Near You!
(or at least most of you)



Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition
Exploring Water's Cultural &
Environmental Impacts
June 2nd - July 15th

OK, we're a mining and history museum, so what's all this about water? Actually, Bisbee has a very personal history with water, as does everyone! Our history chronicles our long interdependence on water, beginning with water delivered to our homes and businesses by burros, to putting out our fires that plagued Bisbee in the early 20th century, to the water required by our copper mines from the late 19th- through much of the 20th-century, to the glass of water I drank this morning!

Water/Ways, an exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution, explores the relationship between people and water. *Water/Ways* is part of Museums on Main Street program, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils, and local host institutions to bring quality traveling exhibitions to rural America. The Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum will be hosting *Water/Ways* June 2nd through July 15th, the first showing in Arizona. During June, we have partnered with the University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension WaterWise program to create a suite of associated programs for our members and friends of all ages (*see insert*).

The Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum also has a very personal connection with this new, SITES traveling exhibit. Mary Bird, now Assistant Director for Programs, Smithsonian Exhibits, was the Senior Designer for our *Digging In: Bisbee's Mineral Heritage* exhibition! Mary, along with her design team: Lynn Kawaratani, Bonnie Kelso, Mary Weideman Quinn, and Rosemary Regan, brought our ideas and words to life! It was truly

amazing how Mary's initial sketches from our early consultant meetings morphed into the final exhibit! This is equally apparent, and equally amazing, with the concept drawing for *Water/Ways* done by Mary's Chief of Design, Eric Christiansen (*see next page*)! As your Museum Director, I can't convey how exciting it was to watch an exhibit being brought to life from ideas, words, and sketches!

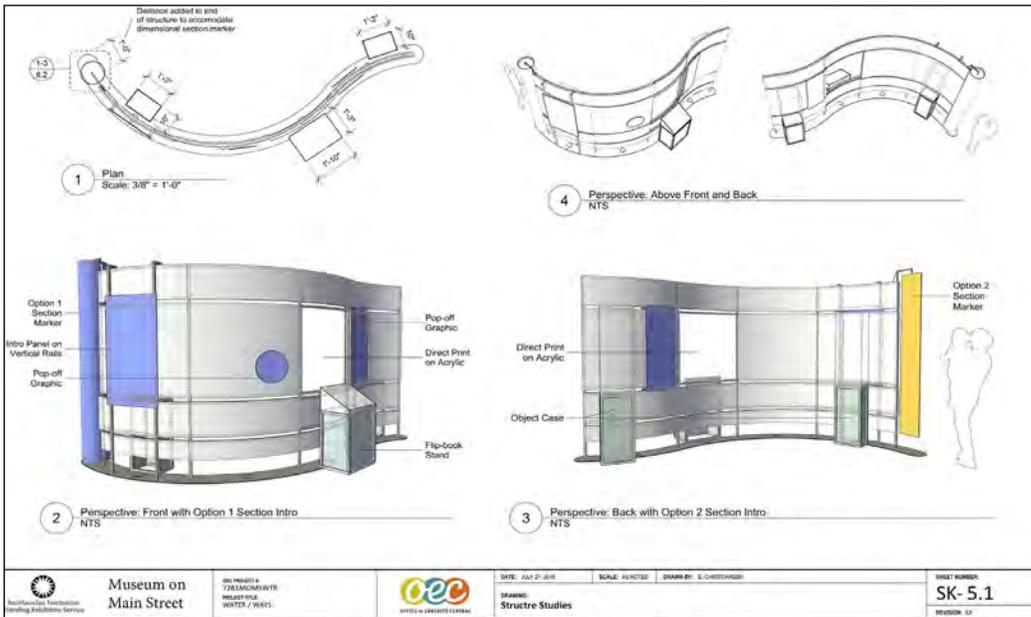
So... What's this Exhibit All About?

Robbie Davis, Smithsonian Institution & Museums on Main Street, provided a wonderful introductory text to *Water/Ways*. I have excerpted extensively from his musings both to introduce you to and to engage your curiosity in this upcoming exhibit.

Let's begin with: Our world is water, so are we! An essential component of life on our planet, water powers the environment's engine, impacting climate and helping to shape and sculpt the landscape. But water's impact on us is much more than just environmental. Water is an important element in American culture. Water carves out a place in our memories of where we live and we play.

Water also plays a practical role in American society. The availability of water had a significant impact on settlement and migration patterns. Access to water and control of water resources are a central part of political and economic planning.





35% Concept Drawings by Eric Christiansen, Chief of Design, Smithsonian Exhibits... see how these played out on page 3!

Americans are connected to water in ways we may not always realize. And, since water is a shared resource, water connects everyone. *Water/Ways* reveals the central nature of water in our lives.

Water/Ways has five primary themes, incorporating a number of interactive and digital stations. To introduce the exhibit, we once again share with you excerpts from the exhibition. *Water/Ways* reveals the central nature of water in our lives and how we, as Americans, use water: how water is represented in our society; how water unites communities; how conflicts over water emerge and how communities resolve them; how water affects the way we live, work, worship, create, and play; and how we care for water and sustain it for the future.

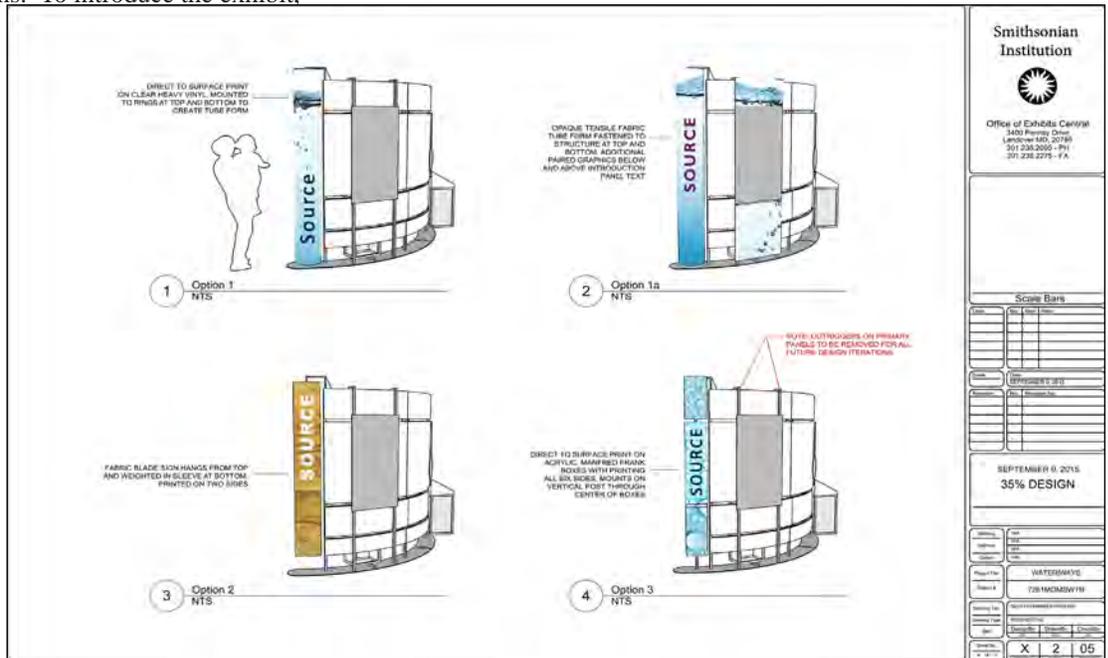
Introducing the exhibition is the statement: **Water is life.** Water is crucial in determining where we live and work and what we eat and drink. It is an essential biological and natural resource that people struggle to access and to control. It allows us to connect with people in other parts of the world, yet it blocks our paths. Water shapes human culture - our way of life. Our world is mostly water. About 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by water. Water is pretty much all around us (although slightly less so in landlocked Arizona). Although water is one of the most plentiful substances on Earth, only 3% of that water is freshwater, and much of that inaccessible.

Water is the source of our very lives. It is at the source of things we encounter every day. It shapes our land, forms our communities, and inspires our culture. The ebb and flow of water creates and destroys the land we inhabit. Water, no matter how gentle it might look on the surface, is one of the world's most powerful natural forces - one that has the ability to give shape and form to the landscape around us.

Home is where the water is. Access to water determines where and how we build our communities and structure our lives. Water inspires our art, music, dance, and literature. Ask yourself: what

would you lose if you did not have water?

Water is a core factor in our relationships with the world around us. The ebb and flow of water both connects and divides us. Historically, access to water made it easier to travel, migrate, or trade with others. Water was the fastest pathway to other places. Today, waterways still serve as highways, moving people, cargo, and ideas. Water is also a natural border, and it makes a logical political (or international) boundary. It can also be significant as a cultural or symbolic border.



For those traveling by land that same water may be a barrier. Ask yourself: what are the ways that water forms connections and divisions in our community?

Harnessing the Power of Water. We not only drink water - we put it to work. We search for ways to control water and the energy it possesses. According to the US Geological Survey, Americans withdrew 355 billion gallons of water for use each day in 2010. Massive dams don't just corral our drinking water; they can also generate power.

Miles upon miles of canals and irrigations ditches water our crops.

We use water to make goods like paper and computer chips, to keep lawns green, and for cooking and cleaning.

You've probably had a glass of water to drink today, taken a shower, or washed some dishes. We use water in our homes every day. For most Americans, however, water is so easy to get and use that we don't even think about it. Agriculture is one of the greatest consumers of water; and much of our water goes into making and powering the machines and tools we use each day!

Water is a finite resource. Our environment does not create water - it recycles it. We must take steps to ensure the quality and reliability of our current water sources. We need to find ways to recycle water and make untapped water sources useful. Even though we have the recipe - two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen - we cannot safely make our own water. Population growth is altering access to water supplies in the future.

Scientists continue to study how climate changes could affect water supplies in the future. Americans are making great strides in cleaning up water supplies, but pollution remains a problem. Think about how our water cycle works. What we discard will eventually be in someone else's water. The water we use for drinking and washing comes through our taps from the world around us.

Each of these themes finds a home in our shared heritage! Join us in June and July to experience *Water/Ways* on a very personal level. And... join us for the suite of programs we are offering, firmly bringing Bisbee into our national story!

Carrie Gustavson



Water/Ways exhibition panels during its installation in Sanibel, Florida [Photos courtesy of Carol Harsh, Director, Museums on Main Street]



If you miss the Bisbee Water/Ways Kick-off, this exhibit will be traveling around Arizona and perhaps you can visit it at another venue. Go to <http://waterwaysaz.org> for more information on this fun and exciting exhibit!

Water/Ways Local Programming

Insert page -1-

Water is an important part of everyone's life and we are excited to explore what it means culturally, socially, and spiritually in our own community. Complementing the *Water/Ways* exhibit we are offering the following programs for adults, families, and kids! All programs are free. Please note, however, that several programs are suited to smaller audiences and have a limited number of spaces available. These programs will be filled on a first come-first serve basis.

Water Conservation through Xeriscaping

Date and Time Saturday, **June 9th**, time 9:00 (participation limited, first come-first serve)

Venue or Location: Goar Park, Bisbee Historic District

Community Partners: Cochise County Master Gardeners

Description: An interactive xeriscaping workshop for adults based on horticultural information appropriate for Cochise County environments.



How Bisbee's Wastewater Treatment Facility Works to Secure our Water Future

Date and Time: Tuesday, **June 12th**, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Venue or Location: Copper Queen Library

Community Partners: City of Bisbee Administration, City of Bisbee Public Works Department

Description: Faced with the environmental hazard of raw sewage moving from Naco, Sonora, northward, this presentation will interweave the potential of enhancing Bisbee's San Jose Wastewater Treatment Facility to accept and treat this hazardous flow and reuse the A+ quality effluent to recharge the Naco aquifer, the source of Bisbee's drinking water, and support the flows in the San Pedro River. Presented by Robert Smith, City Manager, City of Bisbee

Bisbee's Long "Bromance" with Water

Date and Time Tuesday, **June 19th**, 5:30 – 7:00

Venue or Location: Copper Queen Library

Community Partners: Copper Queen Library

Description: A presentation of how Bisbee's 140 years of social and community history intermingled with its water history - its interactions, its impacts, and its creativity. Presented by Amanda Hetro, Curator of Education & Collections, Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum.

Water Reclamation Meets Bisbee's Copper Mining History

Date and Time: Tuesday, **June 26th**, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Venue or Location Name and Full Address: Copper Queen Library

Community Partners: Freeport Minerals Inc., Copper Queen Branch

Description: For the last decade, Freeport Minerals Inc., Copper Queen Branch, has been working on environmental reclamation of lands impacted by Bisbee 100 years of mining history. This presentation will take an in-depth look at Bisbee's reclamation activities, in particular those dealing with storm-water runoff and sulfate plume mitigation.

Presented by Robert Quintanar, Site Manager, Freeport Minerals, Inc., Copper Queen Branch



Water/Ways Mini Film Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, **June 30th** 4:00 – 8:00 pm

Venue or Location: Bisbee Royale, 94 Main Street

Community Partners: The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's WaterWise and Energy Smart Program, the Bisbee Royale
Description: The WaterWise Film Festival features films and documentaries on water management, water scarcity, and the economics of water for sale.

Environmental River Walk of the San Pedro River

Insert page -2-

Date and Time: **July 7th**, 8:00 meet at the San Pedro House

Venue or Location: San Pedro House, 9800 E. Hwy 90, Sierra Vista, San Pedro Riparian Conservation Area (participation limited, first come-first serve)

Community Partners: Friends of the San Pedro River, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management, Nature Conservancy

Description: An interpretive river walk focused on local water concerns, where our water comes from, and the value of the river to the community and beyond. This walk will reveal the physical impacts of the drying river due to recent climate change and development and their impact on its natural history.

Water Conservation for Kids # 1

Date and Time: Wednesday, **June 13th**, 9:30 (participation limited; first come-first serve)

Venue or Location: Bisbee Boys & Girls Club

Community Partners: The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's WaterWise and Energy Smart Program, the Bisbee Boys & Girls Club

Description: An interactive workshop for kids on how they can be involved in water conservation. This workshop will focus on making water chains to reduce erosional impacts of roof water on building foundations.

Water Conservation for Kids # 2

Date and Time: Wednesday, **June 20th**, 9:30 (participation limited; first come-first serve)

Venue or Location: Bisbee Boys & Girls Club

Community Partners: The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's WaterWise and Energy Smart Program, the Bisbee Boys & Girls Club, the City of Bisbee

Description: An interactive workshop for kids on how they can be involved in water conservation. The outdoor workshops will focus on rainwater harvesting and making contemporary 'Papago' ollas.

Water Conservation for Kids Exhibit

Date and Time: **August**

Venue or Location: Bisbee Community Pool, 1 Higgins Avenue, Bisbee

Community Partners: The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's WaterWise and Energy Smart Program, the Bisbee Boys & Girls Club

Description: Exhibit of photographs from the Water Conservation for Kids workshops with the explanatory text provided by the kids.



My Favorite Bisbee Water Story!

Nestled mile-high in the canyons of the Mule Mountains, Bisbee is a town that copper built. Hastily constructed miners' shacks perilously clung to the canyon sides. Water was delivered right to your door! In 1898, Mr. Hogan wrote: "you might call it just a burro town at that time, because that was the only way that we had of getting water; it was delivered on burros to us.

Mr. Brophy (born in Bisbee in 1894) describes his uncle's water-delivery service: "the main transport in Bisbee when I was a very little boy were burros and that was a common sight. Some of the burros had canvas sacks slung over on each side. My uncle started the first water company, which later became the Bisbee-Naco Water Company. He had a well up in Tombstone Canyon so the water was then transported by burros in water sacks. In those days, John D. Rockefeller was beginning to build his fortune. His name was synonymous with the five-gallon oil can and every house had two to three five-gallon oil cans. The water was taken from the burros and put into these cans and people used it as they needed it.

Adapted from 'Water Delivery in Early Bisbee,' by Amanda Hetro, 2017



**Heritage Keeper
Members**

Chris & Gretchen Bachman
Dee Braman
Justice Financial
Denise Hoyos
Jack Ladd
The Warne Foundation

**Bisbee Council on the
Arts & Humanities
Endowment**

Alice Metz
Sylvia Iriarte & John Albert
Riddle
Joy & John Timbers
Les Johnson
Renetta Gerdes-Saba

Thank You!

A Challenge to our Members from Denise Lundin,

Board Member for 19 years, Past President, & Clerk of the Superior Court, Cochise County (ret.)!

Greetings from Phoenix & Flagstaff (depending on the weather)!

As some of you know, I'm a bit of an Arizona Court History buff - I love to research and give presentations whenever I can. Recently I needed access to *Bisbee Daily Review* newspaper articles from the early 1930s and discovered that the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum does not have a complete set of microfilm, nor is all of it available online.

It was easy for me to walk over to State Archives in Phoenix to get what I needed, but it just seems a shame for this great museum not to have its own complete set. I'm planning on donating the \$350 it takes to copy the reels from 1923 - 1933 from State Archives. I'm issuing a challenge to the membership to fund the remaining years missing from the museum's holdings. They still need 1971 - 1978 and 1983 to the present at a remaining cost of \$750.

So - who's up for a challenge? The *Bisbee Daily Review's* articles are a wonderful resource in taking us back in time - great photos, articles, and graphics. Give Carrie a call if you think you can help.

All the best, *Denise*

**Water/Ways, a Smithsonian Traveling
Exhibit, is coming to Bisbee in June!**

Smithsonian Institution **az HUMANITIES** EXPLORE. SHARE. EXPERIENCE. **ASU** Arizona State University



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