

# Museum Happenings

## Moab Museum Collaborates with Utahraptor State Park to Curate Stories

by Moab Museum staff

On Monday, September 25, 2023, construction officials broke ground for the new Utahraptor State Park just north of Moab. While the ceremony took place, archaeologists were busy surveying for a future interpretive trail that will provide future guests with the opportunity to tour the area where Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Japanese incarceration barracks were utilized from 1933-1942.



From left to right: Josh Hansen, Utahraptor State Park Manager, Justina Parsons-Bernstein, Heritage and Interpretation Manager for Utah State Parks, Jonathan Till, Curator of Collections at Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum, and Tara Beresh, Curatorial and Collections Manager at the Moab Museum.

Justina Parsons-Bernstein, Heritage and Interpretation Manager for Utah State Parks, and archaeologists Jonathan Till, Curator of Collections at Edge of the Cedars State Park, and Tara Beresh, Curator and Collections Manager at the Moab Museum, identified historic archaeological

features, such as building remnants and foundations, and provided recommendations to State Park staff to route the interpretive trail around these features and thus avoid any damage. The team marked the trails route using pin flags, as well as surface artifacts which they later collected, recording the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM), coordinates for each. UTM refers to a rectangular grid system that is used on all standard military maps. Archaeologists use this system for site location as it proves superior in areas where townships and range grids have not been drawn.

The site, which is also referred to as “Dalton Wells,” has witnessed over 50 years of intermittent grazing since 1942, so artifacts are limited to what has not been trampled by livestock, pocketed by campers and collectors, or swept down the Courthouse Wash floodplain. Items collected include several CCC boot soles, historic bottle fragments, marbles, and food tins. On October 9, archaeologists Don Montoya, NAGPRA Consultant, and Beresh monitored volunteer workers as they cleared brush along the approximately 6’ wide trail route in preparation to lay gravel. The Moab Museum, serving as the nearest and most relevant Museum to the State Park, will be accessioning artifacts from the site, to then be placed on an extended loan back to Utahraptor State Park once the newly constructed facility is ready to exhibit them.

A New Exhibition Opens in February 2024



One item documented by archaeologists Till and Beresh: a Kohler electrical generator that supplied electricity to the site during the CCC occupation.

A temporary exhibition, curated by Moab Museum staff Tara Beresh and Mary Langworthy, is scheduled to open on February 17, 2024, and will highlight the World War II-era CCC Camp-turned-Japanese American incarceration facility at Dalton Wells. The exhibit will share stories from primary sources and specifically, descendants of Japanese incarcerates.

The Museum’s South Gallery will be divided in two to contrast the very different CCC and Japanese incarceration experiences at Dalton Wells. The two sides of the exhibit will meet in the middle around a reconstruction of a mess hall table, as the same mess hall tables that were used by CCC workers were used by incarcerates in the last year the barracks were occupied.

The Moab Museum is delighted to be collaborating with Utah State Parks, to share collections and photograph archives that will bolster this temporary “preview” exhibition

at the Museum, and then a permanent exhibition for future generations to appreciate at Utahraptor State Park. Josh Hansen, Utahraptor State Park Manager anticipates the facility will be open to the public within a year.

The Moab Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am through 5 pm. The current temporary exhibition, The People’s Tapestry: Weaving Tradition in Navajo Culture, will be on exhibit until February 9, 2024. For more information, please visit moabmuseum.org.

## Introduction to Weaving Class with Master Navajo Weaver Anita Hathale

The Moab Museum presents an Introduction to Weaving Class with Navajo (Diné) master weaver Anita Hathale. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn the entire process of creating a small weaving, from warping the loom to creating patterns to completing a project. The class is limited to 12 students and will be held from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 4 through Friday, December 8. The course fee includes a loom stand for each participant and weaving tools will be available for loan or purchase directly from the instructor.



About the instructor: Anita was born to the Water Flow Together Clan and was raised in the traditional Navajo way. When Anita first began weaving, she sought guidance from her father who would perform a Beauty Way Ceremony for her with a “rainbow prayer.” Anita now weaves up to 11 and

12 hours a day and her style has evolved from traditional patterns to her own original motifs. Anita is unique from other weavers for her open designs – large areas of one color. You can view more of her work via her Facebook page, entitled “Anita’s Navajo Rugs.”

With the course taking place in the Museum’s South Gallery, students may take inspiration from the stunning array of textiles on exhibit for The People’s Tapestry: Weaving Tradition in Navajo Culture, on display through the end of 2023.

Learn more and register at [www.moabmuseum.org/intro-to-weaving](http://www.moabmuseum.org/intro-to-weaving). The cost of the course is \$600/person.

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The Moab Museum is pleased to announce a semi-permanent exhibition entitled *Spirit & Grit*, which has recently opened at the Dead Horse Point State Park visitor center. *Spirit & Grit* tells the story of settlers who pieced together a hardscrabble living in early Moab, from the 1870s onward. Visitors to *Spirit & Grit* experience a window into the lives of some of these early settlers through this immersive satellite exhibit.

*Spirit & Grit*, an extension of stories told at the Moab Museum, was curated by Tara Beresh, Moab Museum’s Curatorial and Collections Manager, in collaboration with the Moab Museum of Film and Western Heritage (MMFWH) and with assistance from lifelong Moabite and local historian Mark Beeson. Featuring historic photographs, objects, stories, and a life-sized cow camp, the exhibition paints a vibrant portrait of ranch life in the area of Canyonlands at the turn of the twentieth century.

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Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum

Park Hours

(Mar-Nov): Open 7 Days a Week - **9am-5pm**  
(Dec-Feb): Open 7 Days a Week - **9am-3pm**

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Day  
New Year’s Eve/Day

660 West, 400 North, in Blanding, Utah.  
For more information please call the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum at (435) 678-2238

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