SCAN
SANTA CRUZ ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

Judi Cole Honored at June General Meeting

Judi Cole was presented with a plaque at the June meeting of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society in recognition and appreciation for her 18 years of service as the editor of the newsletter. Judi ran the newsletter from 1988 – 2009, including a three-year break to catch her breath. The Society for California Archaeology honored Judi's work in 1995 with an award to the SCAS for the best avocational newsletter of the year.

When asked how she came to be involved with the SCAS newsletter, or SCAN, Judi says it was very simple. Shortly after becoming a member of the society in 1988, Judi attended a board meeting and asked the most dangerous question one can ask in a volunteer society: "What can I do to help?" At the next meeting, she learned that she had been designated as the editor of the newsletter.

Judi describes her work with the newsletter as an ongoing learning process. She quickly learned how to design a newsletter and prepare it for printing. When she first started, Judi literally cut and pasted paper copies of member news items and articles from outside sources onto lay-out boards. The acquisition of a copy of Adobe PageMaker changed all that. Judi learned to compose the newsletter on a computer, which gave her a reason to expand her computer skills and opened new doors for learning about design.

The most exciting thing about the whole experience for Judi, however, was getting the chance to meet the authors of the articles she was reading at the SCA Annual Meeting and at other conferences. "I was a student," she said, "but once I became editor, I got to go to a lot of events and people knew who I was...I felt like a groupie the whole time!" She misses the days of being able to communicate with people she'd never have been able to meet otherwise. "Archaeology opened up my life."

Calendar

All General Meetings are held at Sesnon House Cabrillo College
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, California at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.
SCAS website -www.santacruzarchsociety.org

August 9	Board Meeting - 12:30-2:30 at the Ocean Honda Community Room, 3801 Soquel Drive, Soquel. All SCAS members are welcome. All board meetings will be held here until further notice. Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month.
September 13	Board Meeting - 12:30-2:30 at the Ocean Honda Community Room. All SCAS members are welcome.
September 16	**General Meeting** - Edward Von der Porten, maritime historian and archaeologist, as well as an expert in Chinese trade porcelain analysis from the Drakes Bay region, will be speaking on recent activities in maritime archaeology in Baja California and related topics.
October 11	Board Meeting - 12:30-2:30 at the Ocean Honda Community Room. All SCAS members are welcome.
October 16	SCA Northern Data Sharing Meeting at Chico State
October 21	**General Meeting** - Diane Gifford-Gonzales, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz, will speak about her zooarchaeological research on the early colonial community of Paa-ko/San Pedro, New Mexico in a talk entitled: "Archaeological Traces of the Earliest Colonial Period in New Mexico: Insights from Paa-ko."
November 8	Board Meeting - 12:30-2:30 at the Ocean Honda Community Room. All SCAS members are welcome.
November 18	**General Meeting** - Speaker to be announced.

Items to add? Corrections to make? Please contact us at editorscan@gmail.com.

Would you rather receive you newsletter by email rather than by USPS?
If so, send your preference and your email address to editorSCAN@gmail.com

Past newsletters can be viewed—in color!—online at:
http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/newsletters.html
Newsletters will be posted online four months after they are mailed out.

2010 Scholarships

SCAS Special Scholarship

Dawn Johnson has been dreaming of attending an archaeological field school since 1973 when, as an anthropology undergraduate at SCU Humboldt, she was denied admission to the that school's summer field program. Her professor told her that life in the field was too hard for girls and refused to accept her application. When no amount of logic or persuasion would change his mind, she went on a 6-month back-packing trip in the Scandinavian Arctic instead.

Time, work, and illness prevented her from taking advantage of other opportunities. However, this summer, with the help of a SCAS Special Scholarship to be applied to fees for the 2010 Cabrillo College Archaeological Field School, Dawn is now pursuing her longtime ambition.

"The school has really been a blessing and a great time, such a fulfillment and joy," she says with deep satisfaction. "Dusty [Dustin McKenzie, field school instructor] sets the mood, and crew morale is beautiful." The mood consists of discipline, a strict work ethic, and respect for the site and the people who have lived there, while maintaining the ideal that archaeology is fun.

The Ruth L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship

The 2010 recipient of the Ruth L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship of $300 is **Lauren Wysham**. This scholarship is awarded to students of Archaeology, Anthropology, or Early Childhood Education who will be transferring to a four-year school. She was described by Instructor Dustin McKenzie as a standout in all her classes, and she has recently been accepted into the Anthropology Department at UC Berkeley. She attended the 2010 Cabrillo College Archaeological Field School.

Prehistoric pet? Dog burial found in O.C.

By Pat Brennan

Reprinted from The Orange County Register

June 10. 2010

It might have been a treasured pet, or the victim of traditional destruction of property after its owner's death. The reason for its burial remains a mystery.

But 18 centuries ago, someone carefully positioned the body of a small dog in what was likely a shallow grave in the marshlands of Laguna Canyon, then turned over a stone grinding bowl to cover the animal.

Four years ago, the dog's burial place was discovered by archaeologists keeping watch for artifacts during the widening of Laguna Canyon Road.

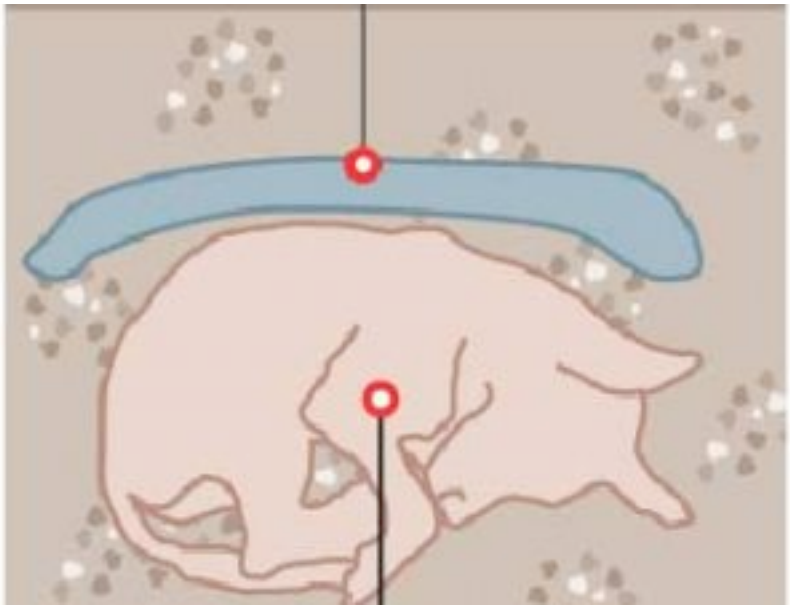
The dog was a techichi, or "small Indian dog," of a type that was about the size of a terrier and that is now extinct. But the scientists involved in the discovery know little else, including why it was buried at all.

"It might have been just a pet burial," said Paul E. Langenwalter II, a research archaeologist who teaches archaeology at Biola University. "But it could be destruction of property. It was common to kill the dog along with burning or destroying any other personal property upon the death of the owner."

The dog would have had erect ears and tail and stood about 15 inches high at the shoulder. A radiocarbon date places it at about 1,790 years ago, Langenwalter said.

Ancient pet burials are uncommon, he said; fewer than 10 have been found in Orange County, an area rich in Native American artifacts, and only a few dozen are known statewide.

Even more intriguing are the positioning of the dog and the placement of a "cairn" — a rock marker, in this case a large acorn grinding-bowl or metate — on top of it.



"The cairn is rare, and the burial position — having been folded sideways — is entirely new to archaeological knowledge within California,"Langenwalter said.

While dog burials are usually associated with Native American villages, the area where the dog was found likely served only as a frequently used campsite.

http://www.ocregister.com/news/dog-252748-burial-href.html

UC-Santa Cruz scientist coordinated project that reveals Neanderthal-human liaisons

By Lisa M. Krieger
Reprinted from the San Jose Mercury News
May 7, 2010

Neanderthals vanished from the world thousands of years ago. But before they perished, they consorted with early humans — and left behind traces of themselves in our genes today.

In an international project coordinated by computer whiz Ed Green, newly arrived at UC Santa Cruz, scientists have decoded the DNA of Neanderthals, our heavy-bodied cousins.

Their long-awaited discovery, published in Friday's issue of the journal Science, reveals Europeans and Asians share 1 to 4 percent of their genetic material with Neanderthals — proof of liaisons between creatures who shared space only briefly, and long thought to be strangers.

"It's fascinating to think about: Early human ancestors came into contact with Neanderthals and produced offspring, and we see the remnants of that in the genomes of many people today," said Green, 37, who worked on the project with pioneering paleogeneticist Svante Paabo at the Max Planck Institute in Germany but moved to Santa Cruz a month ago, where he will continue the Neanderthal research.

Green is credited with helping save a project that once seemed in peril. Three years ago, to much fanfare, the Planck team announced that they could sequence Neanderthal genome. But then they were startled to discover that the ancient bone fragments contained less material than they thought. To make matters worse, the material was highly contaminated with the DNA of microbes and modern humans.

Educated in computational biology at UC-Berkeley, Green quickly invented a new method of analysis — writing software to better detect Neanderthal DNA — that allowed the project to proceed. He also coordinated the design and logistics of the sequencing project.

"Ed brought the quantitative and algorithmic horsepower needed to interpret the Neanderthal data," said David Haussler of UCSC, where Green now works as an assistant professor.

The possibility of cave-based canoodling has long tantalized scientists.

It's long been known that humans and Neanderthals shared common roots, in an ancestor that inhabited Africa around a half million years ago. But this creature's progeny parted ways. Pre-Neanderthals traveled north to Europe and Asia. Pre-humans stuck around Africa a while longer, eventually venturing out to the rest of the globe.

"Then Neanderthals died. They went extinct," Green said. "It's a mystery. Exactly what happened is lost to history, probably forever."

Did they ever cross paths? No one knew.

Archeologists have found evidence they may have shared space, although not necessarily at the same time. In limestone caves at Mount Carmel, Israel, there's proof that early humans lived there about 100,000 years ago. Then Neanderthals appear to have moved into the caves about 80,000 years ago, perhaps escape a cold spell in Europe.

We're considered separate species — and it's easy to believe that our relationship was uneasy. Ecologists speculate that early humans may have "outcompeted" the Neanderthals, or so changed the environment that it became inhospitable to our cousins.

Dr. Paabo, world-reknowned for decoding ancient DNA, turned to genetics for any clues.

With Green, his team conducted a detailed analysis of extracted DNA from the shin bones of three Neanderthal females who lived in Croatia about 38,000 years ago. The bones appear to have been deliberately crushed, suggesting cannibalism.

Then they compared this Neanderthal genetic sequence with the genomes of five living humans from different parts of the world. UC-Berkeley geneticist Rasmus Nielsen played a major role in this part of the project, scanning long strands of modern DNA for what he knew were "ancient" segments, where Neanderthal material might reside.

The genomes of humans and Neanderthals are 99.84 percent identical.

Interestingly, the scientists found that Europeans and Asians share DNA with Neanderthals — but Africans do not. This suggests that humans bred with Neanderthals after leaving Africa, but before migrating into Asia and Europe. Even modern residents of Papau New Guinea carry Neanderthal DNA.

Science can't recreate the circumstances of our coupling.

But the most likely scenario, they say, is the movement of a few Neanderthals into a small group of modern humans. If this interbred population suddenly expanded, the Neanderthal DNA would have spread widely.

"Neanderthals are not totally extinct — but in some of us live on a little bit," said Paabo.

Green, now assistant professor of biomolecular engineering in the Baskin School of Engineering, will continue to search the Neanderthal genome to better understand human evolution.

"I want to find regions of the genome where important episodes of evolution have happened," he said. The genome of our vanished cousins could reveal key differences in traits such as cognition, skull structure, energy metabolism, physiology and skin morphology.

"They were so similar to us, and we shared much of our time on Earth with them. Then they went extinct," he said.

"It's fascinating to think there are now ways to learn from them."

http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci_15033246?nclick_check=1

2010 Cabrillo College Archaeological Field School

The 2010 Cabrillo College Archaeological Field School, led by Dustin Mckenzie, the Archaeology and Anthropology instructor at Cabrillo College, took place at Henry W. Coe State Park from June 14 – July 9 in the field, and continued in the lab July 12 – 16. The crew camped at the Dowdy Ranch Visitor Center from Monday to Friday each week.

Henry Coe, the second largest state park in California, is located east of Gilroy and consists of 87,000 acres of rolling oak woodland, steep canyons, and rough rocky outcrops. The park presented a great opportunity to fill in some gaps in the archaeological record. Little archaeological work has been performed in the park due to its isolation, and most of that was done in the 1960s and 1970s.

The project area contained several previously recorded sites consisting of both prehistoric and historic components. The prehistoric sites contain materials that may have been deposited as much as 6000 years ago up through the period of contact. The historical component consists of an earthen dam called Will's Pond, and the Orren Dowdy Home-site. Orren Dowdy's name first appears on record in 1873. He was established a homestead or small ranch in an area along the Orestimba Creek a few years before his brother Perry established the larger and better known Dowdy Ranch to the south.

The various stages of the investigation were planned in order to address the principle research question of this project: what did the people living here eat?

The students spent their first day with a long hike to learn the lay of the land. Over the next few days they performed a gang survey, covering an area approximately two miles long and one mile wide walking in 10 meter transects. During the course of the survey, they re-recorded the two historical sites, expanded the boundaries of the previously-recorded prehistoric sites and

found that some of them actually overlap, and recorded one new prehistoric site.

Based on the findings of the survey, they chose an excavation site and placed ten .5m x 1m shovel test units (STUs) which were dug using 20cm levels, most of which were excavated down to basement or sterile soil. Some of the STUs were closed when they got too deep to continue digging safely, even though they had not reached sterile soil. The materials from these units were screened through 1/4" mesh and artifacts were picked out of the screens for rapid recovery to get an overall picture of deposit density.

With the information from the STUs, they established the locations of six 1m x 1m control units with the intent to maximize the recovery of faunal remains. The control units were excavated in 10cm levels down to sterile soil or bedrock wherever possible. The soil from the control units was screened through 1/8" screens and was wet-screened back at the lab.

The students recovered high densities of bone with which to begin a dietary reconstruction. Many artifacts were collected along with the faunal remains: several intact projectile points, including Desert Side Notch Points and Contracting Stem Points; chert and obsidian debitage; and three types of *Olivella* beads: saucer beads, which dominate the collection, as well as rectangular and spire-lopped beads; one bead may have been needle-drilled. Some materials from the collection will be submitted to outside specialists for several types of analysis: obsidian hydration and sourcing, C14 analysis, and flotation (a method for separating very small organic artifacts or ecofacts from a soil sample—water is added to the sample, and the pollen, bone fragments, seeds, and other small items float to the top).

Frank, Daniel, and Paul, members of the Amah Mutsen Tribal Band of the Ohlone Nation, were on site on a rotating basis as Native American monitors during the entire excavation phase of the investigation. The job of a monitor is to ensure that the wishes of the tribe will be carried out regarding any culturally sensitive material that is found during an archaeological

investigation. Frank, Daniel, and Paul were extremely valuable crew members who were always available to answer questions and to share information about the tribe and their culture.

It wasn't all hard work in the hot sun. A number of guest speakers and specialists visited the field school to share skills and to offer their expertise in areas such as field technique and career advice. For example, Tim Gross demonstrated flint-knapping, and Mark Hylkema discussed various themes in Central Coast archaeology. The students were responsible for several assigned readings during the course of the field school and participated in regular Thursday night discussions. And still, there was time for fun. There was a swimming hole to cool off in on the way back to camp. They tie-died tee-shirts and put on variety shows. And the food! According to Dawn Johnson, the cooking put Chez Panisse to shame—kebobs, curries, barbeque and more, all expertly prepared and delicious. On Tuesday of the last week in the park, Mike Newland, staff archaeologist from the Anthropological Study Center at Sonoma State University cooked dinner for the whole crew featuring tri-tip steaks and a mozzarella-tomato-basil salad. Some of the crew enjoyed the park so much that they elected to stay at the campground through the weekend and go exploring.

SCAS members Rob Edwards, Pat Paramoure, and Cat Nichols visited the field school on Tuesday, July 6. Crew Chief Annamarie Leon Guerrero took them on a tour of the excavation. The students and crew graciously interrupted their excavations to explain what they were doing and why, and to talk about their experiences. Dusty brought out many of the artifacts they'd recovered to share and discuss. The visitors joined the crew for lunch and conversation under a huge spreading oak—"the lunch tree"—across a small meadow from the excavation.

Instructor Dustin McKenzie, SCAS members Cat Nichols, Rob Edwards, student and SCAS member Dawn Johnson, and SCAS member Pat Paramoure

Dusty would like to thank the Society for its contribution in support of the field school. The money has gone toward the purchase of tools, including Marshalltown trowels and tape measures for each student and some new picks for the school, as well as toward food.

To learn more about the project area, the procedures, the findings, and the students, go to http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org and click on one of the links to the SCAS blog site which can be found at the bottom of the Home page and on the Links page. There you will find pictures and blogs written by the students and crew chiefs. For information about Henry W. Coe State Park, please go to http://www.coepark.org/.

Resources:
Johnson, Dawn. July 6, 2010 conversation.
Leon Guerrero, Annamarie. July 12 & 13, 2010 conversations.
McKenzie, Dustin. July 6, 2010 conversation.

Archaeologists discover 2,700-year-old tomb in Mexico

Tomb of dignitary inside pyramid in southern Mexico may be oldest such burial documented in Mesoamerica

Associated Press in Mexico City
Reprinted from www.guardian.co.uk
Tuesday May 18, 2010

Archaeologists in southern Mexico have discovered the 2,700-year-old tomb of a dignitary inside a pyramid that may be the oldest such burial documented in Mesoamerica.

The tomb held a man aged about 50, who was buried with jade collars, pyrite and obsidian artifacts and ceramic vessels. Archaeologist Emiliano Gallaga said the tomb dates to between 500 and 700BC.

"We think this is one of the earliest discoveries of the use of a pyramid as a tomb, not only as a religious site or temple," Gallaga said.

Pre-Hispanic cultures built pyramids mainly as representations of the levels leading from the underworld to the sky; the highest point usually held a temple.

The tomb was found at a site built by Zoque Indians in Chiapa de Corzo, in southern Chiapas state. It may be almost 1,000 years older than the better-known pyramid tomb of the Mayan ruler Pakal at the Palenque archaeological site, also in Chiapas.

The man – probably a high priest or ruler of Chiapa de Corzo, a prominent settlement at the time – was buried in a stone chamber. Marks in the wall indicate wooden roof supports were used to create the tomb, but the wood long ago collapsed under the weight of the pyramid built above.

Archaeologists began digging into the pyramid mound in April to study the internal structure – pyramids were often built in layers, one atop another – when they happened on a wall whose finished stones appeared to face inward. In digging last week, they uncovered the 4 x 3 metre tomb chamber about 6 or 7 metres beneath what had been the pyramid's peak.

The body of a one-year-old child was laid carefully over the man's body inside the tomb, while that of a 20-year-old male was tossed into the chamber with less care, perhaps sacrificed at the time of burial. The older man was buried with jade and amber collars and bracelets and pearl ornaments. His face was covered with what may have been a funeral mask with obsidian eyes. Nearby, the tomb of a woman (left), also about 50, contained similar ornaments.

The ornaments – some imported from as far away as Guatemala and central Mexico – and some of the 15 ceramic vessels found in the tomb show influences from the Olmec culture, long considered the "mother culture" of the region.

The find raised the possibility that Olmec pyramids might contain similar tombs of dignitaries, especially at sites such as La Venta. Olmec pyramids, while well-known, have not been excavated, in part because the high water table and humidity of their Gulf coast sites are not as conducive to preserving buried human remains.

"The Olmec sites have not been explored with the depth they deserve," said Lynneth Lowe, an archaeologist at Mexico's National Autonomous University who participated in the dig. "It is possible that this type of tomb exists at La Venta."

Despite the Chiapa de Corzo tomb's location, experts said it is not clear the later Maya culture learned or inherited the practice of pyramid burials from the Zoques, or Olmecs.

"While I have no doubt it relates to Olmec, there is no tie to Maya at this time per se," said archaeologist Lisa Lucero of the University of Illinois, who was not involved in the Chiapa de Corzo project. "There are scholars who would like to see Olmec-Maya connections so they can show direct ties from Olmec to Maya, but this would be difficult to show with evidence at hand."

http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/may/18/archaeology-pyramid-tomb-mexico-olmec

Announcements by Email

Occasionally, SCAS Vice President Karen Johansson will send out email notices to society members with announcements about upcoming speakers at SCAS meetings or about archaeological opportunities that arise between newsletters. If you would like to receive these notices, please email Vice President Kären Johansson at johans161@gmail.com.

We have a blog!

We have a new feature at the SCAS website. The site is now hosting a blog page. The initial idea for a blog was presented by Annamarie Leon Guerrero, a crew chief for the 2010 Cabrillo College Archaeological Field School, who thought that it would be a great way for the students to connect with SCAS members. Students wrote about their experiences—what they are doing, what they are learning, and how they pass the time once the units are put to bed for the day. Stella D'Oro, our Webmistress, has put together a beautiful blog page.

Go to http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org and click on the link to the SCAS blog site at the bottom of the Home page or on the Links page.

Archaeology on the Radio

Since October of 2007, Staff Archaeologist Michael Newland Anthropological Study Center has been contributing radio commentaries on the intersections between archaeology and everyday life to the *Perspectives Series*, broadcast weekly from KQED Public Radio in San Francisco. The focus of Perspectives is on California in general and the Bay Area more specifically. Mike works with Perspectives editor Mark Trautwein and the KQED recording personnel for each piece. Find links to Mike's commentaries at http://www.sonoma.edu/asc/outreach/commentary.html.(Source: http://www.scahome.org/news_announcements/index.html)

Upcoming Events

Ohlone Day 2010

Saturday, September 11
Henry Cowell Redwoods SP
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the Ohlone People of the past with those of the present at Ohlone Day. You will see traditional dancers and Ohlone demonstrators will share traditional basketry, songs, stories, tools, musical instruments, soap root brushes, language and history. You can throw an atlatl, make a tule craft, play Ohlone games, and try your hand at fire-making. The main entrance to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park is located off of Highway 9 in Felton. For more information, please call (831) 335-7077.

Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art and Poetry from Native California

An Exhibit at the the de Saisset Museum at Santa Clara University
October 2 - December 5, 2010

Like the state of California itself, California native peoples are remarkably diverse with more than 300 languages and distinct geographical centers shaping communities, traditions, ideologies, and ceremonies. Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art and Poetry from Native California brings together California Native artists and poets in an extraordinary multimedia exhibition. Based on the publication by Heyday Books, The Dirt is Red Here: Art and Poetry from Native California, this exhibition shares the lives, stories, songs, and dances of the artists. Organized in four thematic sections, Sing Me Your Story illustrates how culture, history, ancestry, and story have shaped each of us, regardless of our heritage.

The contemporary works of these Native California artists, inspired by a mix of past and present, honor their cultural heritage and bring forward a truly indigenous California existence.

For more information, go to http://www.scu.edu/desaisset/exhibits/Sing-Me-Your-Story.cfm

Upcoming Event AND Volunteer Opportunity

The Northern Data Sharing meeting sponsored by the Society for California Archaeology is coming up! The meeting will be on October 16, 2010 at Chico State. SCAS will have a table at the meeting to publicize the society and to do some fund-raising by selling T-shirts and other archaeologically-themed items. As the date draws nearer, we will start planning carpools and scheduling volunteers for the table.

For more information about the meeting, or if you have a paper or poster you would like to present, please contact Adie Whitaker at adie@farwestern.com.

SCAS Board Members 2010

Lyn O'Niel	President	president@santacruzarchsociety.org
Kären Johansson	Vice President	johans161@gmail.com
Cathy Phipps	Treasurer	archecat@comcast.net
Ellen Albertoni	Secretary	ellena92002@yahoo.com
Pat Paramoure	Membership	patsunicorn@sbcglobal.net
Cat Nichols	Newsletter Editor	editorSCAN@gmail.com
Rob Edwards	Professional Advisor	RobEdwardsAACC@gmail.com

Please join us in our efforts to preserve the Past for the Future

◯Individual $20 ◯Students & Seniors $15 ◯Family $25 ◯Lifetime $400 ◯Institution $25

◯New Member ◯Renewal ◯Gift Membership (from)_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Archaeological interests or experience: _____

_____

_____

You would prefer to receive your newsletter by: ◯ postal service ◯ email

Mail to: SCAS
P.O. Box 85
Soquel, CA 95073

Nominations Extended to August 15

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society is accepting nominations for the 2010 election for the Society's Offices of President and Secretary. The nomination period has been extended to August 15, 2010.

Requirements:
Nominees must be members of the Society in good standing who are willing and able to devote the time and energy required of the positions. Officers:

- serve for a term of two years
- attend monthly board meetings
- attend General Meetings
- plan and help with various new and ongoing projects throughout the year

If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, or know of someone who might be interested, please submit name, phone number, and a brief paragraph indicating the position sought and describing your interests to: SCAS, P.O. Box 85, Soquel, CA 95073.

Detailed descriptions of the duties of each position are available. Contact SCAS President Lyn O'Niel for information. Ballots will be mailed to members on August 15. Please vote and mail in your ballot postmarked by September 13, or bring it to the September 16 General Meeting.

~ SCAN ~
Santa Cruz Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 85
Soquel, CA 95073