



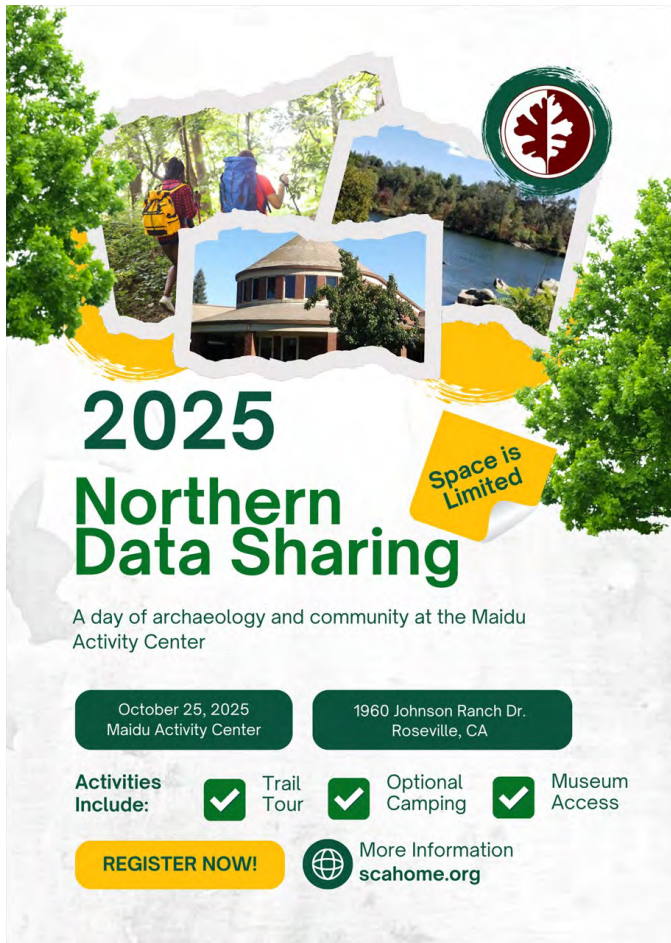
The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Fall 2025

October is Archaeology Month!



ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH
OCTOBER 2025





2025
Northern
Data Sharing

A day of archaeology and community at the Maidu Activity Center

October 25, 2025
Maidu Activity Center

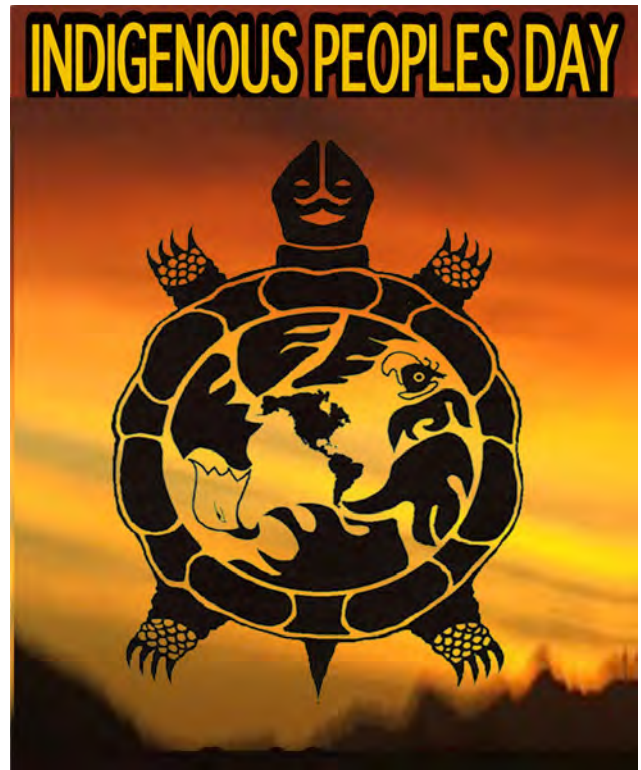
1960 Johnson Ranch Dr.
Roseville, CA

Activities Include: ☒ Trail Tour ☒ Optional Camping ☒ Museum Access

REGISTER NOW!

More Information
scahome.org

Space is Limited



Saturday, October 11, 2025, MLK Civic Center Park, Allston Way, Berkeley, CA. | Free Admission



CELEBRATE AND HONOR THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THIS LAND

Gathering of
Ohlone Peoples

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 2025
10 AM - 3 PM

Featured Activities Include:

- Indigenous Foods and Teas
- Cultural Demonstrations
- Hands-on Activities & Games
- Sharing of Songs, Language, and Stories

Coyote Hills Regional Park
8000 Patterson Ranch Road,
Fremont, CA 94555

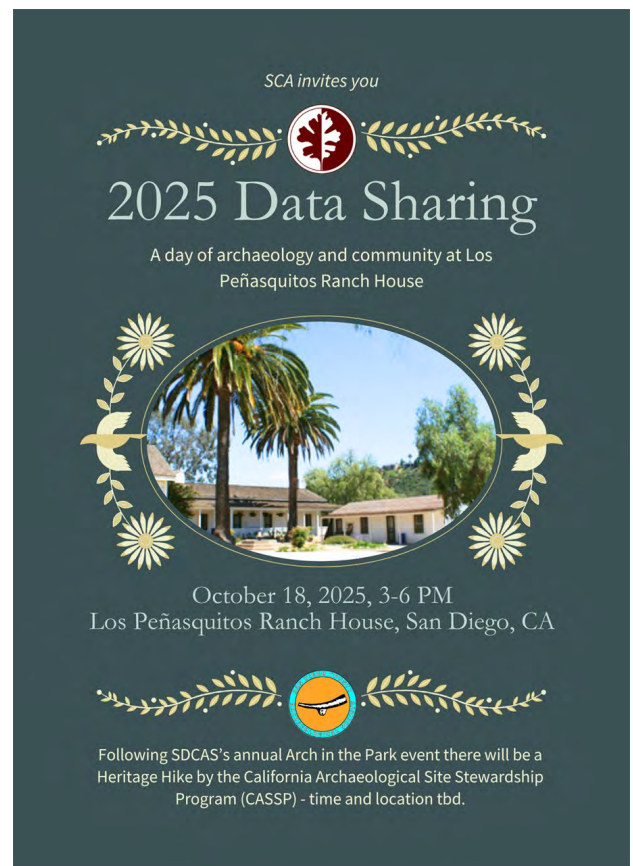
Accessible

Parking lot shuttles will be available

For more information, call (510) 544-3220 or email chvisit@ebparks.org
ebparks.org/parks/coyote-hills

East Bay
Regional Park District

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK • A STORY OF PEOPLE & PLACE



SCA invites you

2025 Data Sharing

A day of archaeology and community at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House

October 18, 2025, 3-6 PM
Los Peñasquitos Ranch House, San Diego, CA

Following SDCAS's annual Arch in the Park event there will be a Heritage Hike by the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) - time and location tbd.

Redman-Hirahara Revisited

Memories of the CCATP Field School 2005

by Mary Gerbic



Drawing of the Redman-Hirahara house by student Michelle Blake, dated 07/15/25. Photos by Mary Gerbic.

Sadly, the Redman-Hirahara Farmstead has been in the news lately. The Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission recommended to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, the removal of the house from the County's Historic Inventory, a process that will lead to delisting from the National Register of Historic Places.

There are plenty of sources about the history of the Farmstead and current events, but I want to tell you about the activities at the Redman-Hirahara Farmstead as it was 20 years ago, when the Cabrillo Archaeology Technology Program conducted an archaeology field school there.

What stood out after all these years?

This was my first year as a TA for Rob and Charr, and I felt very honored and excited to be chosen. I was looking forward to the 2005 Field School, as it represented another rung in my training as a future archaeologist, and frankly, I was excited about the house. I had driven past it for years and everyone I know who did the same wondered about it. It seemed so isolated and out of place.

One of the field students from 2005, Donielle Neddeau, emailed me recently with her thoughts about the school. She remembers "everyone buzzing with the excitement of learning and becoming archaeologists. I also remember thinking wouldn't it be great if this huge old house could be resuscitated from the momentum created by the excavation. It's so sad to see its glacially-slow death. I glance at what remains of the house and its disappearing carriage house every time I drive north on CA-1. It's nice to hear that the Redman-Hirahara House is getting some attention. Here's to enjoying its beauty while we still can."

Before field school, I read Dr. Edward Harris's *Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy* (1979). This is the method that we would be using while excavating around the Redman-Hirahara house. Unlike the methods that we used while excavating a pre-contact site on the Santa Cruz coast, this tool is meant to help the archaeologist maintain the "stratigraphic sequence" of everything found, from evidence of flooding, to former land surfaces, walls, post holes and rodent burrows, so that it can be described graphically in the sequence of occurrence. Dr. Harris built on well-understood theorems in Geology – the laws of Superposition and Original Horizontality. These principles were first documented in the 17th century to describe rock layers: which is the oldest and which is the youngest. Harris's Matrix is more detailed than that, but the concept is similar.

Every field school attendee was given a handbook containing everything the student needed to know before beginning the excavation, with a calendar, map of the site and list of homework assignments. The handbook was prepared by Rob and Charr, with input from The Redman Foundation (Dale Skillicorn, President), a non-profit, which owned the farmstead.

At the beginning of the class, there were 26 students, two Principal Investigators, and a handful of Crew Leaders: Excavation Leaders Kelly Larson and myself, Data Control and Wet Screen Leader Carolyn Vankol, and Landscape Vegetation Inventory and Public Education Leader Roger Findley. For three weeks, Monday through Friday we were to meet shortly before 7 am and finish up at Cabrillo by about 5:15 pm. It was a full day. For the team leaders, our work was not over. Each evening we read and evaluated our crew's field notes,

taking into account especially good notes, and encouraging corrections when the information was incomplete or hard to follow.

Each morning the team leaders received instruction on the day's tasks from Rob and Charr. We gathered our necessary equipment, all locked away at night, and our crew and explained the day's tasks. Then we went to work. While this was going on, Rob also led classes in surveying using a traditional transit for groups of the students. The students participated in a formal survey of



July 1, 2005, Rob Edwards addresses the 2005 Field School students.

the site so that we could place everything in its proper geographical location on paper.

My memories ranged from mundane to unexpected. I remember how much work it was and how tired I was at the end of the day. I enjoyed the interaction with my fellow TAs, Rob and Charr, and the students. Some students were standouts who had the potential to go far in archaeology.



Due to the prevalence of gopher activity at the site, and the friable nature of the soil, the trench walls were often in danger of collapse. Dry screeners often saw a "topo" poke its shiny head out of the ground to observe the activity. Sometimes the gophers left "gifts". One morning, we found a large olivella shell on top of a pile of gopher back dirt.

Gopher activity led to a bit of embarrassment when some of my students discovered some old wood panels that they placed around the sides of Unit 1, outside the living room so that their weight would not collapse the unit walls. Problem solved, right? Oops. An architectural historian came by to observe our progress and the expression on his face went from interested to shock. What my crew had found was wall paneling removed from inside the house for safekeeping, and we were using them as excavation aids. Some plywood sheets were found for us, and the wall paneling returned to storage.

I was also gratified by the number of interested residents who came by to see the "dig" in progress. One older gentleman in particular who showed up in the first days, galvanized Rob and Charr. I am sorry I didn't catch his name, but I overheard him say that we should be looking at the barn as well as the house and arbor. In the



days after WWII, when Japanese-Americans were returning to the Watsonville area, he lived in the barn with his family.

The Hiraharas had not only purchased the house years before, they arranged for their house and land to be cared for while they were interned during WWII, and were able to return to live in it again. For those who did not have homes, the Hiraharas turned the old barn/carriage house into four apartments with sliding doors, wallpaper and room numbers above the doors. This information changed everything. In our minds, the house went from “Redman House” to “Redman-Hirahara House”.

July 1, 2005. A close-up view of the very significant barn at the rear of the house.

the Register of Historic Places, I saw that the outbuildings at the farmstead said to be in poor condition, with little information known about their use. They were deemed “non-contributing”. Now we had solid information about the barn’s importance to Pajaro Valley history and the Japanese-American community. I do not think the non-profit was happy about this because they were planning to demolish the outbuildings.

Charr took it upon herself to do the standing historical archaeology for the barn structure. It needed a serious cleaning out and I did not envy the students who were helping her. Transients had been living in the structure and trashed it.

I went through the structure with Charr, and saw not only old-fashioned wallpaper and a linoleum floor, but also Japanese text – newsprint I thought – under the wallpaper. The sliding doors were “barn-style” that seem to be fashionable these days, and numbers above each door.

On July 11, the first day of our field school, reporter Roger Sideman and photographer Tarmo Hannula visited our field school, interviewed Rob Edwards and took photos. The article, published July 28, 2005 in the Register-Pajaronian, reported on the work being conducted on the 1897 barn by the students. They found evidence that the barn temporarily housed four Japanese Families, according to Rob Edwards. A front page photo shows the wallpaper and Japanese text underneath. Rob asked the reporter to print his phone number so that local Japanese-Americans willing to help with the historical interpretation of the site could call him.

One of the most exciting finds at the house happened in Unit 2, (Kelly Larson) at the back porch of the house. A large, beautiful porcelain bowl was found, broken and upside down. It resembled, Japanese Imari Ware, but was probably a copy, doubtless an heirloom. It was sad to see it broken like that, but we were glad to have found it.



July 18, 2005. Megan Gordon-Gilmore, Michelle Blake and Jeanette Boggess dry screening at Unit 1.



July 27, 2005. Kelly Larson holding fragments of the colorful bowl found in Unit 2.



One of the students, Pat Paramoure, said that she remembered the bowl, and also that the house

was so close to the Pajaro River that the residents must have seen floods on a regular basis, because layers of flood silt appeared in the unit. In her email to me she also said that "... we cleared all the vegetation off the lath house and found a bunch of bottles, only to come back the next day to find them gone."

Other interesting finds included an intact amber glass hip flask from about 1920, with the stopper alongside it, found in the unit outside the living room.

After the excavation class was completed, we posed for team photos on the front porch and around back with the house and garage behind us. In a week's time, reconvened for our Laboratory class, where we examined artifacts we had excavated at the Redman-Hirahara house the previous month. Then, when all photos, augering and stratigraphy diagrams were completed, we filled in the four units.

We held our class in Cabrillo's Horticulture Lab, which was very nice – lots of room to spread out – and on breaks, I visited the Salvia Garden just up the hill.

At the end of our lab class, after the students were awarded their certificates, we reconvened at the Bangkok West restaurant for a fine lunch before going our separate ways.



July 19, 2005. John Ellison wet screening.



August 25, 2005. Students backfilling Unit 1.



August 15, 2005. Charr Simpson-Smith explaining soil sample colors to Pat Paramoure (L to R), Andrea Merkel, Sandra Oh and Eryn Supple.



August 15, 2005. Rachel Rivera and Ray Iddings working on their trays during the CCATP Lab class.



August 25, 2005. Lunch at Bangkok West.



July 27, 2005. The Cabrillo Archaeology Technology Program Summer Field School 2005

Report:

SCAS Board Meeting Minutes Summary – August and September, 2025

By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary

August Retreat 2025

Financial Reports:

Kevin provided the financials for the previous fiscal year and the breakdown of inflows and expenses. This was a very enlightening report. Overall, our shortfall for the year was far less than we expected. Most of our expenditures were for the Scotts Valley Display Project, which come from a separate account.

Our income for last year came from: Merchandise Sales (43%), followed by Membership Dues (41%) and Donations 13%. Our Largest expenses were: Business Insurance (22%) a significant increase over the previous year. Venue Rental (14%) is also now more expensive, the SCAS newsletter printing and mailing (which has also increased) and Zoom license (5%). Other expenses were one-time events such as restocking our t-shirt supply (18%) and plastic boxes to store them in (paper boxes fall apart after time) (2%). Other Society expenses are: PO Box rental, sales tax, credit card fees, web hosting and email, and government filing fees.

We are close to breaking even, but we need to look for ways to reduce expenses. If we do not have merchandise sales, we don't have enough income to offset necessary expenses.

Speakers and General Meetings:

Pat is arranging speakers for this coming year, but there is a problem. We cannot afford to keep renting the RCNV hall. The prices have doubled and we get little technical support. We have been looking for a new venue, but if we move, it may be necessary to change our meetings to a different night. We have agreed that our first meeting of the year will be over Zoom.

We have narrowed down our venue search to London Nelson, but would have to change our meeting day to Wednesday. We are also considering moving back to the Live Oak Grange. Kevin has tentatively booked the Grange for the third Wednesday of the month. Second Thursday night is no longer available. Cathy asked why we stopped meeting in the Natural History Museum. We moved years ago because Rob Edwards could book the Sesnon House free of charge. That is no longer true. They now charge more than we can afford. Aptos Library, an ideal location, is on the back burner because the library system still hasn't decided how to handle after hours meetings.

Outreach:

We are considering some fall events. We would like to have a table at the Cabrillo Farmer's Market some Saturday when school is in session. There are other events such as the Amah Mutsun workday at Pie Ranch, First Friday through the Museum of Art and History. All of these events need to be staffed with 2 or more people. Who could we call upon among our members to help us with this?

Scotts Valley Display Project:

Sarah Brewer reported that we have hit a "hard stop" in our work on the Project. We are very close to finishing the project. Text and exhibits were close to completion and ready for review by the Amah Mutsun. We were hoping to have everything (except a new mural) installed before the end of the year. However, NAGPRA laws have changed, effective Jan 1, 2024. UCSC is now claiming ownership of all of the artifacts previously displayed in Scotts Valley, and insisting on their "return" to their curation facility. We will need to meet with UCSC, and someone, not clear who at this point, will do tribal consultation with all recognized tribal representatives in this area before the project can continue. The project began before the changes to NAGPRA, and we had been working with the Amah Mutsun since the beginning. Two members of other Ohlone tribes are intending to contribute to the display. It is a sticky situation, and none of us understand how we will be able to proceed.

In the meantime, the artifact replicas will go in storage. We will consolidate everything in our possession into a secure, locked facility until we have more information. SCAS will contact the Native American Heritage Commission to get a list of tribes/people with whom we need to consult. We are very disappointed, but this is now the law and we will have to accept that the process of completing the display will take much longer than anticipated.

Upcoming Election:

Ballots will be distributed to members by September 8 in anticipation of the election Oct 8, when ballots will be counted. Cathy Phipps is running for Treasurer.

September 2025

Financial Notes:

Kevin provided financials for June, July and August 2025. He is using a new format which we find easier to read. Summer is a slow time for us, so there was little activity except for the payment of anticipated expenses. We also paid the final invoice for the completion of the "pit" feature for the SV Display.

Membership Report:

Branden reported one individual renewal this month. Membership stands at 83.

Adviser Updates:

Sarah Brewer stepped down as our Professional Advisor on 8/25/25, due partly to conflict of interest. The company she and Ryan work for have contracts with UCSC, and because of the current situation with the Scotts Valley Display Project, she decided it was best to resign. Ryan will be stepping down after our October Board Meeting on October 1. We thanked Ryan for his service.

We would like to replace Sarah and Ryan as Professional Advisors. We anticipate the next advisor will be in more of an advisory role, but we would welcome their help if they chose to be more active in the Society. If anyone knows of potential professional advisors, please send their names to a member of the Board.

SCAN:

Mary has now taken on more responsibilities as the Chair of the Scotts Valley Display Project, replacing Sarah. She will try to have the SCAN ready before the end of September, but regrets that she may not have the time to write the articles she was planning for this issue.

Outreach:

We are still looking into a table at the Farmer's Market at Cabrillo. Ryan has been in contact with that market and will ask about fall availability. After that we will need to follow up with them.

Scotts Valley Display Project:

Before the September Board Meeting, Kevin sent a letter to all the Board members, summarizing the events that have happened since the Retreat, and asking them to make sure to attend.

Mary continued the discussion with an update to the letter and some context. We are seeking advice on how to continue and there will be no further activity on the Project until we know how we can proceed. The discussion brought up several important issues, such as how to inform the donors that the Project is on indefinite hold.

Other Business:

We are reaching out to Trudy Haversat about Coyote Press. We are considering buying more Coyote Press inventory for sale.



2025—2026 Speaker Lineup

We hold “hybrid” meetings: in-person and over Zoom (RSVP). **Starting Nov 6, our new venue will be the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge 150 Jewell Street, near Highway 1 and Ocean Street.** For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

Oct 9 Meeting will be held over Zoom only.

Nov 6 Speaker TBD. **The talk will be in-person and on Zoom from the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz**

Dec 4 Speaker TBD. The meeting will be held at the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge

Jan 1 2026 – No meeting—New Years Day

Feb 5 Speaker TBD

Archaeological Society Business

SCAS Officers and Contact Info

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Position is vacant.		
Vice President	Pat Paramoure	patsunicorn@sbcglobal.net	831-465-9809
Treasurer	Kevin Hildreth	kevinhildreth59@gmail.com	831-431-6905
Outreach Coordinator	Kären Johansson	johansson.outreach@gmail.com	831-247-3063
Secretary	Mary Gerbic	mgerbic@yahoo.com	831-331-7173
Membership Coordinator	Branden Melendez	brandenmelendez1@gmail.com	
Professional Advisor	Ryan Brady	SCASproadvisor@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Mary Gerbic	editorscan@gmail.com , mgerbic@yahoo.com	831-331-7173
Webmaster	Robert Gleaton		

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



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Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please share any archaeological interests or experience:

College or University Affiliation _____

*Mail completed application with dues to: SCAS Membership, P.O. Box 85, Soquel, CA 95073, or visit our website:
<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/join>*