



SCAN



THE SANTA CRUZ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019



CHARR SIMPSON-SMITH RECEIVES THE GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD AT THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY



On March 9, 2019, retired Cabrillo College educator and archaeologist Charr Simpson-Smith was awarded *The Golden Shovel Award* at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology. The Golden Shovel Award is a special presidential commendation given to longstanding members of the Society who have made significant contributions to California Archaeology through continued efforts in the field and/or laboratory. Simpson-Smith was nominated for the award by local archaeologist Erik Zaborsky, and the award was presented by another former student and archaeologist, Annamarie Leon Guerrero.

Charr Simpson-Smith was nominated for the award for her years of work with the Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program, and for passing on her knowledge of cultural resources management, archaeological method, laboratory, and field skills to the many students who passed through the program.

Charr received her AA from Cabrillo College and earned a BA at UCSC. She served as president of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society (SCAS) in 1981 and 1982. Her leadership included signing the legal suit against the city of Scotts Valley after the mayor bulldozed CA-SCR-177 a 9 to 10 thousand year old site, for a parking lot. During that time, Charr, along with SCAS members, Kate Harper, Janice Singer, Charlene Duvall, and Professional Advisor Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, coordinated one of the most massive archaeological volunteer efforts of the time, which required extensive coordination -- as over 150 archaeologists per day, for four days, gave their time to salvage what was left of the site. Largely because of Charr's efforts, the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society received the *Helen C. Smith Award* from the SCA in 1995, for individual or societal avocational achievement.

Charr was instrumental in helping to develop the widely praised vocational Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program (commonly known as the Arch Tech Program). Charr was on the faculty of the "Arche Tech" program for 18 years, from 1990 to 2008, and served as Director during Rob Edwards' sabbaticals. Charr was also a forerunner of the application of GIS to the field of archaeology and taught it to Cabrillo students in the 1980s, when it was not as commonly used.

Charr retired from the Arche Tech program in mid-2008. Her retirement has not been the end of her contributions to public outreach and education, or to the field of archaeology. In 2012, Charr launched a

public outreach program to engage third through fifth grade teachers and their students in Santa Cruz County. The program introduced local archaeological resources, which enlivened and deepened the California history curriculum with careful emphasis on the full humanity of Native Peoples of the area. And, for several years, Charr volunteered at the Northwest Information Center, in Rohnert Park, CA, the repository for archaeological and cultural resources information for most of northern California, using not only her GIS and archival skills, but also her experience from the years when Cabrillo College actually served as an Information Center. In her retirement, Charr has also become an accomplished oral historian. She conducted a complex and rich oral history of Aki Hane, a Japanese American elder who returned to Watsonville after WWII, and with Ruby Tefertiller, who grew up on Santa Cruz's "Mission Hill", on the property where the "Lost Adobe" of Mission Santa Cruz excavations took place from 1981 through 1984.

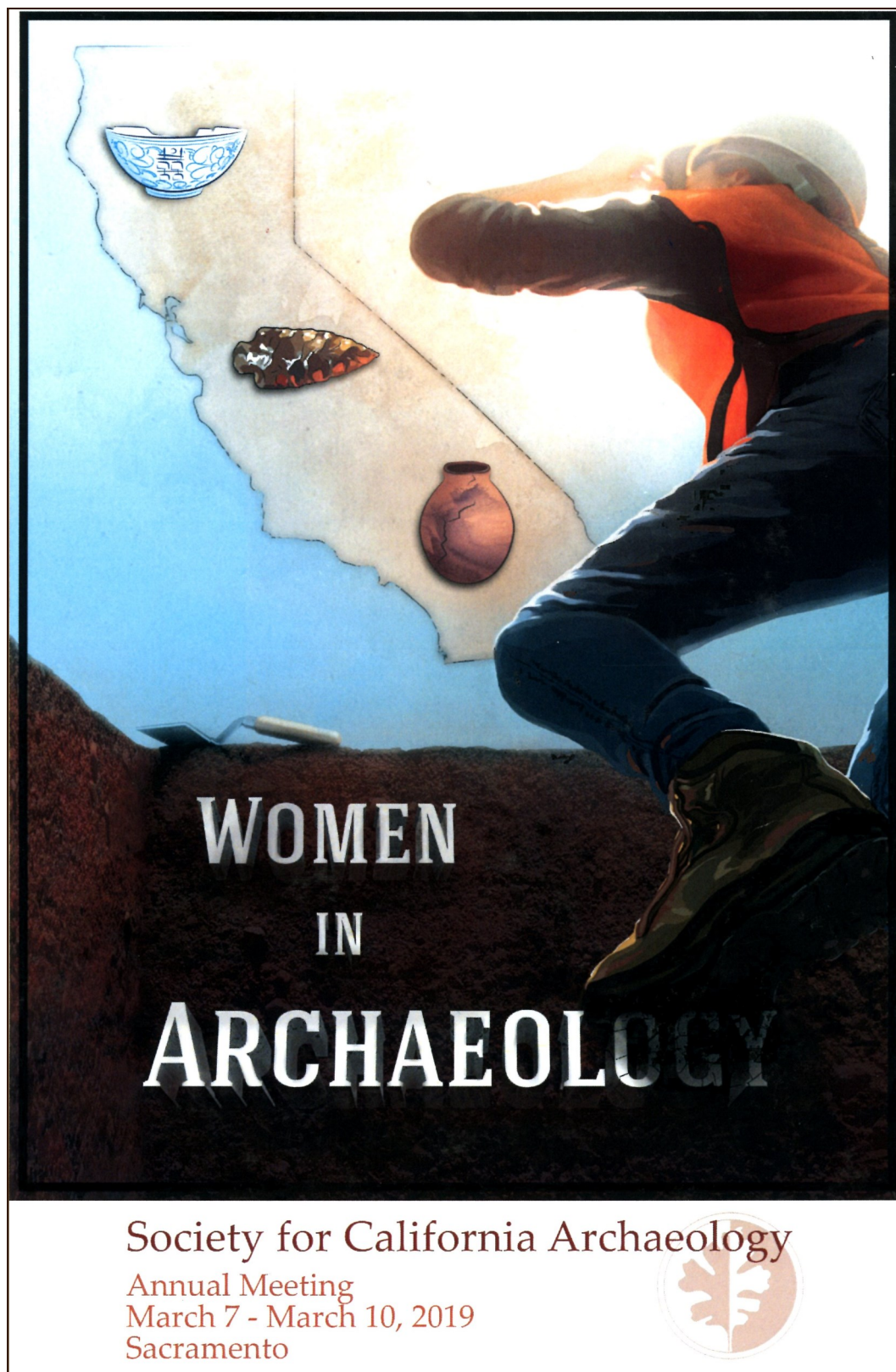
For over forty years, Charr has been a respected archaeologist, teacher, organizer, pioneer and mentor to young archaeologists—a true inspiration within the archaeological community of California. 🌿



Charr Simpson-Smith, Rob Edwards, and presenter Annamarie Leon Guerrero share a laugh after the awards ceremony. Congratulations Charr!

NEWS FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

BY MARY GERBIC, SCAS EDITOR



The theme of this year's conference was "Women in Archaeology", but it was not limited to just the contributions and accomplishments of female archaeologists in California over the years, but also a discussion of gender in archaeology and related themes such as age, class, ethnicity and power structure, and how this has affected archaeology as well as cultural roles past and present.



A new project was added to the program this year as well: Women In Archaeology—Oral History Project. Dana Shew and Annemarie Leon Guerrero interviewed women, especially founders, about their experiences from the early days, before CRM archaeology took hold along with hardhats, instead of cutoffs and tank tops.

Here are some highlights of the conference as I experienced it. A number of local archaeologists took part in activities and talks. Besides Annemarie doing oral history and presenting on the work at Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center, our Professional Advisor, Tsim Schneider spoke about Tom's Point, Tomales Bay, and was on a discussion group panel. SJSU Professor and Archaeologist Marco Meniketti was an instructor in a workshop on "Underwater Cultural Heritage Resources Awareness," as well as bringing everyone up to date in a talk about the Loma Prieta (lumber) Mill. Dr. Meniketti has presented at past SCAS General Meetings about the mill.

We also heard from Sara Peel, Linda Hylkema, Lee Panich, and John Ellison on Mission Santa Clara de Asís and Alec Apodaca on Mission San José. Former CCATP student Kari Lentz lead a symposium on "Approaches to the Archaeology of Death in Historic Era California". Mark Hylkema presented on the Frank-



Kären Johansson, Mary Gerbic, Pat Paramoure and Michael Boyd at the SCAS table.

lin Point Historic Shipwreck Cemetery. He has also spoken to SCAS on this subject within the last year. I apologize if I missed anyone. As usual, there was more going on than any one person could take in, with multiple very interesting seminars and symposiums running at the same time. Fortunately, the conference rooms were stacked side by side and on two floors, so session hopping was not difficult.



(Above) Marco Meniketti and Thomas Layton in the Book Room.

(Below) Donna Gillette at the California Rock Art Association table.



SCAS had a very good location in the center of the Book Room; back to back with Sonoma State, next door to California Rock Art Association, and right across the aisle from our friends at the Institute for Canine Forensics. Two of the Forensics crew, Jet and Piper, were happy to take it all in, and pose for pictures. One thing about the book room: eventually everyone you want to see will come through. SCAS did fairly well with merchandise sales, with a gross total of \$642.75 in 2 1/2 days.

After a morning at the SCAS table in the Book Room, I started with General Session 1: Past and Present Experiences of Gender and Ethnicity. I chose this session because the papers promised coverage of topics highlighting the role of women from prehistory to the present. The first paper, by Alexandra Greenwald, was on the relative efficiencies of California basket cradle technology vs. the baby sling, as it affected maternal foraging efficiency. Considering that babies in cradleboards had natural diaper material inside and the mother could set the baby down (baskets with a fork stick to

drive into the ground, or hang from a tree), or pass the baby off to a helper. This kept the both of the woman's hands free while she worked. Susan Talcott, Jelmer Eerkens and Eric Bartelink's paper was on the evolution of male vs female diets in Central California". They didn't present any information showing that there was a difference in gender diet in their study area, but they explained how one would go about determining diet using



Trudy Haversat and Charr Simpson-Smith pose for pictures after the awards banquet.

were children. Few women were unmarried, but a few were widows. There was more freedom at the edge. The caste system of Spanish Mexico had broken down here, although having actually been to Spain at some point gave a woman high status. San Diego was not like many of the other Spanish missions: there were no Indian barracks here. Soldiers married Indian women from Baja California and Sinaloa primarily, but the 1790 census shows that there was one local Indian bride. Carrico told the story of Sinusin Clara Leyva Bustamante (~1764-1806) who married at 15 to Leyva and had 1 son, 7 daughters although only one outlived her. Leyva was murdered. She then married Bustamante and had four more children, and moved to San Juan Capistrano. She was listed in the census as an “india” but also as a “gente de razon”.

In “Boca’s Hidden Lives” Leo Demski outlined life at the confluence of the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers. This was lumber company town, but with time, ice harvesting and beer brewing became important. This is the origin of the California Lager, revived by Anchor Steam Co. They also had a fancy hotel for visitors—vacationers they hoped to lure to town for fishing. Boca never had more than 200 people and about 14% were women. Victorian mores helped obscure women, especially married women, in the historical record.

Marco Meniketti presented next, telling us more about “Immigrant Labor in Early California Timber Industry: A Case Study at the Loma Prieta Mill”. The Loma Prieta field school has ended, and some of us who have

stable isotopes. When a researcher looks at bone, there are two methods yielding different information. Bone apatite (the bone itself) records isotopes for a person’s entire life, as the bone is being remodeled during the individual’s life. Bone collagen on the other hand, records the last 5-10 years of protein diet. One can also determine the trophic level of the food consumed, and how much of the diet was marine-based and how much was terrestrial in origin.

Richard Carrico presented on “Los Mujeres de Presidio de San Diego”. The Presidio, which was on the hill above Old Town San Diego, is gone now, replaced in about 1927-28 by a museum. However, there are still burials in the Campo Santo. Given that San Diego was “the edge of the civilized world” in 1769 and after, the surprising ratio of males to females was about 50:50, and about half the population



SCAS member Beth Armstrong dishes up snacks with a trowel at the Silent Auction.

been following developments were interested to hear that the commonly used photo of the Loma Prieta mill didn't match the mill as found during the field school. It was clearly the same location. The first mill was built in 1891 and dismantled in 1898. A new mill was built in 1906, just in time to be destroyed by the San Francisco Earthquake.

The mill workers were divided into typical work groups. Inside the mill were Italians. Portuguese, Swedes, and Norwegians were lumbermen in the forest. Railroad work and cooking was handled by the Chinese. There



An unusual auction item: a tule boat constructed using both traditional materials and tools.

was very little evidence of ethnicity in the archaeology, but they did find evidence of class. There was evidence of married women, and children (a doll) and one bottle with embossed kanji script. The diet was homogeneous and consisted of the popular consumer products of the time. If you want to see a mill somewhat like the Loma Prieta mill with its two 60" sawblades, visit the Sturgeon Mill in Sebastopol. This is a steam-powered mill, open some weekends to the public (visit www.sturgeonsmill.com).

Saturday morning, I attended Symposium 7, highlighting paleoethnobotanical research in California. This symposium consisted of four topics, with two

speakers and two discussants each. The discussants were not necessarily archaeologists or people whose research was in California. It appeared that the organizers had planned this in order to develop a broader context for work conducted in California. A challenge for paleoethnobotanical researchers is the limitations of what they can find. It is hard to find household data, and it tended to be multigenerational. This is limiting because the decision making for a family was at the household level. Not everybody was a hard worker, there may have been slackers, but you can't see them in the archaeological record. However, they were able to show village vs seasonal use, the type of seeds that were primarily used and the prevalence of acorn geographically. Some areas did not have good acorns, but geophytes (small bulbs and corms like "Blue Dicks") were tended and roasted for food. On the Channel Islands, for instance, these geophytes were heavily used for their carbohydrate content — a complement to marine protein. The islands were not devoid of resources as they appear now that they have been severely degraded by European plants, animals and overuse.

Part of this discussion centered on the use of certain terminology by archaeologists and other scientists which can be misleading to some, and insulting to others. For this seminar, the loaded term was "proto-agriculture". What does this mean? Are we expecting that after some number of years, Native Californians would eventually develop agriculture? Does it mean that their intentional horticultural practices weren't as good as agriculture, or that they were "practicing" and hadn't gotten it right yet? It seemed that the consensus in the room was that Native Californians were meeting their needs through their landscape practices. Don't forget that management was not just for food, but also for tool making, medicine, care of the landscape, and other uses. No one presented hard evidence for the development of full-fledged agriculture in this symposium except in two regions described in the talks. Can we cooperatively create some terminology which has precise meaning to scientists and indigenous people without being insulting?

One discussant suggested that we can decolonize California Archaeology. Another said that plants and humans are in a relationship where each provides for the other. Paleoethnobotany has the potential for bringing scientists and native communities together to share knowledge. At the end of the symposium, Kent Lighfoot and Valentin Lopez, chair of the Amah Mutsun, discussed “so what?”. It was important for the Amah Mutsun to overcome their suspicions about archaeologists and botanists so that they could become partners. In this time of climate change, and a growing feeling that agencies and others are not managing the land effectively, a new vision of stewardship, tribal knowledge, talking, and praying are needed.

We need to get the public to understand that people have been interacting with the landscape for thousands of years all over the state, and the tribes in particular, want to bring back cultural burning. The idea of fire creates anxiety, even in cities now that we realize that we are not safe even on the far side of a 6-lane freeway. And it’s not just the public who need to understand. Many ecologists are skeptical of native land management, that it couldn’t have happened on a scale that indigenous people maintain is the case. What are we going to do with the excess carbon in the atmosphere? Indigenous people have suggestions, and want to be part of the solution.

New research is showing that grasslands can be an incredible carbon sink, especially in natural coastal prairies where there are many species growing together. Even if grass burns, the bulk of the carbon is stored deep in the soil, and perennial bunchgrass like the native grasses on the California coast, resprout from their roots. Much of California’s vegetation is fire adapted, or fire tolerant. Some species will not reseed without fire. For instance *Sequoia* need frequent burning of the forest litter so that their tiny seeds can reach mineral soil and sprout. The blue-flowered *Ceanothus* shrubs so common on our coast also regenerate vigorously from seed after a fire. The symposium ended on a hopeful note. We can collaborate, and land managers in government agencies are now willing to talk about traditional methods.



Sally Ride’s flight suit on display at the California Museum

This is only a tiny part of what happened at the Society for California Archaeology conference. There were also numerous posters, in a dedicated room this time. There were roundtables, committee meetings and lunch for students and professionals, a book signing, workshops, the 2nd Annual Archaeology Games, an awards banquet (see page 1 of this issue) and of course, the Silent Auction. This year, there was a tule boat built with traditional tools, and a couple surfboards—one for auction and the other for a raffle. The Silent Auction was held at the California Museum in downtown Sacramento. There was much to see. After placing bids, one could explore wonderful photography of the Sikh community in California, and see exhibits on the notable women of California. Displays included Sally Ride’s jumpsuit, Billy Jean King’s tennis dress, Barbara Boxer’s boxers, Nancy Pelosi’s whip, Kristi Yamaguchi’s figure skates, and exhibits highlighting the lives of Dolores Huerta, Josephine McCracken and Julia Morgan, among others. Next year’s SCA meeting will be held in Riverside, California. 🌿



Here are a few photos from two of our most recent General Meetings.

In January, archaeologist Jason Field spoke about “The Doghole Ports of Big Sur”. He is a Carmel, CA native, and this talk was a summary of his thesis research at Sonoma State University. He is pictured with our acting president, Kären Johansson. (Photo by Pat Paramore)

In February (no photo), Dr. Diane Gifford-Gonzalez stepped in at the last minute and delivered a talk called “Tales (and Tails) from the Bolcoff Adobe”, and brought us up to date on research conducted at the adobe in Wilder Ranch SP. As a zooarcheologist, Dr. Gifford-Gonzalez was focused mostly on what the skeletons of rodents could tell us about past land management practices but she also spoke on the ongoing botanical research.



In March, the week after the SCA meeting, Tom King spoke at the Museum of Art and History in downtown Santa Cruz. He is an author of several books on Cultural Resources Management, but also for his work with TIGHAR (The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery), with whom he is no longer affiliated, and several books on the search for, and fate of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan.

This evening Dr. King spoke on a question important to archaeologists: the use of fiction as a research tool in archaeology.

The middle photo is of Tom King and long time SCAS member Dawn Johnson, who has traveled to Nikumaroro with Dr. King. (Photo by Mary Gerbic.)

Below, the audience listens attentively to Dr. King as he begins his talk. (Photo by Tsim Schneider)



UPCOMING EVENTS



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FIELD TRIPS IN 2019!

SCAS IS PLANNING FIELD TRIPS TO **CHITACTAC ADAMS PARK** AND **FRANKLIN POINT** IN AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK THIS COMING YEAR. DATES ARE NOT YET SET. DON'T MISS THESE FUN EVENTS!



Santa Cruz County

History Fair

Displays, Demonstrations, Old Photos
Activities for all ages

Learn about historic local industries, archaeology, early settlers, genealogy, Indigenous Peoples, how to do historical research, and much more!

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Capitola Community Center at Jade Street Park, Capitola

Free Admission



THE *art* OF NATURE

Science Illustration Exhibition

MARCH 30 - JUNE 2, 2019

SCAS GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

General Meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz Live Oak Grange Hall at 1900 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

This building is on 17th Avenue between Capitola Road and Mattison Lane.

April 11, 2019	Adrian Praetzellis, Head of Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University (Retired) - "Archaeology of the Despised: Blacks, Jews, Chinese"
May 9, 2019	Desiree Vigil, Native American Monitor, Ohlone Tribe
June 13, 2019	Breck Parkman, Retired, California State Parks
No general meeting in July or August. See you in September.	
September 12, 2019	The Sacramento Archaeological Society will be visiting with us. More details later.
October 10, 2019	TBD
November 14, 2019	Tom Keeter, USFS, retired

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS

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