

Highlights from the 2023 Society for California Archaeology Conference

By David Nicholson, President, Janus - GIS & Graphics

The Society for California Archaeology held its 57th Annual Meeting this year from March 16th thru March 19th, at the Marriot in Oakland. This year's meeting was well-attended and almost back to pre-Covid levels of participation including eight workshops, twenty or so symposiums and paper sessions, and a number of additional forums, field trips and poster sessions in addition to the SCA's popular Silent Action and Banquet events.



The Book Room

Nearly twenty vendors packed the bookroom and the beer and wine pours at the Silent Auction were well-staffed with over 15 corporate sponsors. Over 50 students and members of the SCA volunteered their time to help put on the conference. This year's Silent Auction provided some of the best silent auction food in recent memory, a seemingly never ending supply of dim sum to pair with the never-ending supply of beer and wine from the SCA's many sponsors. Getting to the silent auction items though proved a challenge for many.

Saturday entailed an off-site CRM job fair with over twenty prospective employers cosponsored by the C. E. Smith Museum at California State University, East Bay (CSUEB), and the Archaeological Research Facility at the University of California Berkeley.

Adjacent to the job fair the C. E. Smith Museum at California State University, East Bay (CSUEB), held a Foodways Exhibit with an eye toward food justice and food sovereignty (<https://www.csueastbay.edu/museum/2023-sca-events.html>).



Students from California State University, East Bay at the Foodways Exhibit

In the spirit of this year's theme, the SCA's banquet forwent its traditional speaker presentation and instead was afforded the honor to witness a dance performance from dance leader Robert Geary and the Elem Xemfo (Elem Dance Group) from the Elem Pomo Nation in Lake County, California.



Elem Xemfo Dance Group from <https://twitter.com/metmuseum/status/1462944606962786306> ,

Photo credit: Metropolitan Museum of Art—see more: <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/jules-tavernier>

Award recipients this year included Tom Origer, Corinna Gould, Ken Gobalet, Beverly R. Ortiz, Jennifer Darcangelo, Tom Wheeler, Jill Eubanks, Tsim Schneider and Alexandria M. Firenzi. Brendon Greenaway is SCA President for 2023, with Anmarie Medin as Immediate Past President and Tony Overly as President-Elect.

The 2024 58th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, March 7-10, 2024 at the Riverside Convention Center. Visit www.scahome.org for more information.



Congratulations are in order.....

SCAS's former professional advisor Dr. Tsim Schneider received the SCA's Emma Lou Davis Mentorship Award at the recent SCA Conference in Oakland. Congratulations, Tsim!

The David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award went to Tom Origer, who spoke for us on December 8, 2022. Tom was one of the founders of the obsidian hydration lab (1977) at the Anthro Studies Center (ASC) at Sonoma State, and later started his own obsidian hydration business. The ASC is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.



Left: Julia Costello and John Johnson at the SCA Conference silent auction. Both will be speaking for SCAS in the near future. Julia just received a Lifetime Achievement" award from the Society for Historic Archaeology at their last conference. Photo courtesy of Rob Edwards.



Pictured right: Charlene Duval, long time SCAS member, research historian and 2023 recipient of the California Mission Studies Association Edna E. Kimbro Award. She also the Executive Secretary of the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History at San Jose State University. Congratulations, Charlene! Photo courtesy of Rob Edwards.



**SUMMER
SAP
ARCHAEOLOGY
PROJECT**



**PARTNERSHIP
EDUCATION
STEWARDSHIP**

Archaeology Volunteers Needed! for the *Summer Archaeology Project 2023*

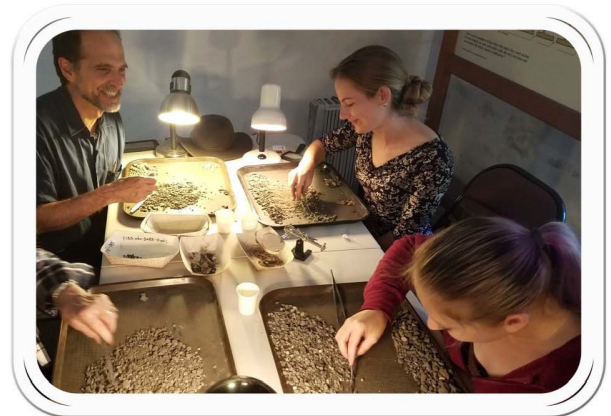


Volunteers will:

- Sort and process artifacts from a recent excavation
- Learn to identify artifacts
- Work in an archaeological lab setting
- Hear the latest California Mission Research from special guest speakers

Lab work will occur:

- At the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park
- Mondays during the summer
- 10am to 2:30pm



*To fill out an
application, scan
the QR code*



*For more information,
contact:*

santacruzmissionshp@gmail.com
(831) 425-5849



Report: SCAS Board Meeting Notes Summary Jan-Mar 2023

By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary

This is a summary of the discussions of the SCAS board, from January to March 2023.

January 2023

Storage of SCAS documents: A question came up about the storage of documents, ranging from Board meeting minutes, financials, the SCAN, and similar important information. Mary said that she has been archiving SCAS Board meeting minutes since 2018, organized in folders by year. She also has agendas, monthly financials, the SCAN and occasional documents like fliers. She backs them up each month to an external hard drive stored in a fire safe box. Sarah wondered if we could store our information on Google Drive. She has lost files that were stored on a hard drive. Rob said that his wife, Julie, lost many items stored in the cloud and is still trying to get her files back from the vendor. Mary suggested a dedicated Solid State Drive (no drive heads to fail) and said she would look into it. There's no reason we can't do both. It was decided that Mary should do this and report back.

Financial Management: Kären and Kevin will go to Bay Federal to set up online banking. Rob contacted Coyote Press and acquired the remaining copies of the 1990 Scotts Valley Site monograph. 38 copies at \$5.00 each. Kevin submitted a detailed report on the Scotts Valley Display Fund so we could see how the project is being funded. It was much appreciated. Rob is confident that we will meet our fundraising goal and thinks that SCAS should, in the future, do annual fundraising.

Membership: Branden reported that we have two new members—one family membership and one individual. We also had a senior renewal. He is working on cleaning up the membership list.

General Meeting Speakers: Pat said she had not added any new speakers to the lineup this month. We will hear from Michael Grone, State Parks Archaeologist, at the January 12, 2023 general meeting.

SCAN: Mary said that the winter SCAN has been published. She asked if anyone was going to the Society for California Archaeology Conference in March. She is not going. Would anyone be willing to write up a 1-2 page synopsis and supply a few photos?

Scotts Valley Display Project: Rob reported great news! We met our fundraising goal on Dec 31, 2022. An old friend of Rob's who is an officer in a local Rotary group was pleased to read in a *Lookout Santa Cruz* article, that we were at 90% of our goal, so he and his wife talked to Rob on Dec 31, and decided to donate the last 10% or \$2,000.00.

Rob also told us that the cabinet work for the display is complete. Linda Yamane will start on the artwork soon. Rob is interviewing someone who may be interested in doing the curation and exhibit design work.

Rob asked that if any of us had ideas to contribute to the themes for the display, now is the time to pass them on.

SCA: Kevin will renew our membership. He will send in our membership and the money and artwork for a quarter page ad in the meeting program. We generally do this every year as well as have an outreach and merchandise table in the bookroom. This is the first year since COVID in 2020 cancelled that year's conference that we are talking about attending the conference. Pat said she was registering and discovered that the hotel (in downtown Oakland) and parking is very expensive compared to past years. Ryan and Sarah, and probably Rob will attend. That is enough people to have a table in the bookroom so people can step out and

attend some of the talks. Rob also said he would contribute a quarter page ad about the Scotts Valley site asking people to donate. Kevin said he would submit the Scotts Valley artwork at the same time as the SCAS artwork. We will bring the newly acquired Scotts Valley monographs and sell them at \$55.00. That's a \$50.00 donation to the project and \$5.00 to cover our costs. Rob also said that he would send a copy of the monograph to our generous New Year's Eve donor.

Bean Creek Project: Rob recommended we keep this project on hold. The road to the site is not very good and we should wait till the rains have slowed down so we can assess the site and see if it is worth surveying.

Website: Pat is going to contact Robbie and ask for a few fixes.

Future In-Person Meetings: Keep this on the agenda. We haven't decided on which library to use. Capitola looks promising, but the blind corner on Wharf Road and steep entrance might be a problem. Live Oak Library is more centrally located and has lots of parking. We don't have to decide for a few months yet. We can reserve a room four times a year on one library card. Most of us have cards so this is no issue.

New Business: Julie Edwards has offered to work with us on a membership drive. We think it would be more effective when we are back to in-person meetings.

February 2023:

Financial Information: We have continued to receive much appreciated donations for the Scotts Valley Project. This will help us fund flyers and education material for teachers. Rob has used the fund to pay for a consultation with a curator. Kären and Kevin have set up online banking with Bay Federal.

Outreach: Rob was willing to be a speaker at a future Rotary meeting, but thought it would be better to wait until April, when he had more to report. Branden will also arrange to speak for the Freedom Rotary, probably in April. He would like to use some of our outreach materials like those we take to the Farmers Market and other sites.

Membership: Branden reports that we have two new individual members and one new family membership. Our total membership is 113.

General Meeting Speakers: James Flexner of the University of Sydney Australia will be speaking for us on March 9. Our April speaker will be Julia Costello. Pat is looking for a June speaker before starting on the fall lineup. A possibility is Jim Delgado of SEARCH, Inc. He is an underwater archaeologist.

SCAN: Mary is not yet actively working on the spring issue yet. She asked again if someone going to the SCA conference would write up a page or two and submit some photographs. She's flexible. Ryan and Sarah will be presenting at the conference on a project Dudek did for the Caltrail Electrification Project on the San Francisco Peninsula. The project area is 50 miles long. The area they looked at was heavily disturbed. After the 1906 earthquake, people just pushed debris into the bay, so there is an amazing array of artifacts.

Crescent Logo: Earlier last year, a possible website developer suggested we not put our new logo on every web page, and we should develop a smaller version to use on subsequent pages. Mary whipped up a little logo using just the crescent design from our full logo. That was well received, but Kären asked if we should ask descendent communities if our use of the crescent is OK with them. Rob thought that as the crescent is about 9,000 years old, it's hard to tie it to any modern people. However, he has a meeting soon with Val Lopez of the Amah Mutsun, so if there is an appropriate moment, he will bring it up, and also speak with Linda Yamane. He thinks it's important to ask rather than appropriate.

Scotts Valley Display Project: Rob says he is finding this project to be very stimulating. Most of the latter part of his career was focused on historical archaeology. He is learning how significant CA-SCR-117 is to the study of the oldest California and western US archaeology.

Rob reported that he was setting up a meeting with Val Lopez at his request. Val Lopez is very concerned about how we will interpret the people who lived at the site. He reiterated that they should be seen as people not generic “hunters and gatherers”. Rob agrees about the “tone and focus of the human story.”

Linda Yamane has unfortunately suffered serious storm damage to her yard and studio and has also suffered an injury (not related to the storm event) and this will probably delay the completion of the mural.

We have a curator: Amanda Boesen. Rob says he is happy with her. He also said that she condenses down his text for the exhibits by over half. He thought that having a QR code on the exhibit text would allow us to provide more information and have this on our web site. Does anyone know how to create QR codes? Yes, several people said they could help with that.

Solid State Document Storage: Mary sent email with quotes and other information re. the purchase of a solid state drive for document storage. Rob motioned to allow Mary to purchase something between \$150 and \$250 excluding tax as proposed by Kären. It was agreed. Mary will watch for sales of devices from well-known and reputable suppliers. She is looking for a 2T device.

Future In-Person Meetings: No we have not decided on a venue except that it would be at a local library. If we want after-hours access, we must join the library’s Community Partnership program. Kevin thought this would not be a problem for us. Jessica Goodman is the coordinator of such services.

March 2023

Financial Notes: Kevin reported that he is working on sorting out last minute inflows and will issue a final version of the financial report later. Our fiscal year end is March 31. However, he said that we received an additional \$875.00 in donations to the Scotts Valley Display Fund, had \$1,234.62 in sales from the SCA conference and paid \$60.35 in printing expenses for the SVDP. Also, we paid \$88.89 for printing and mailing the winter SCAN.

Membership: Branden said there were two senior renewals and a new student member. The student joined at the SCA conference. Our membership stands at 114.

General Meeting Speakers: Pat has found a speaker for June. We will be hearing from John Johnson of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. His topic will be *Chapters from Chumash History*—two recent studies from archived records where people of the past were tied to living descendants. Pat also gave us an update on Jim Delgado of SEARCH, Inc. When she last spoke to him, he was scheduled for back surgery, which went well and he is on his feet. He is “penciled in” for October.

Website: Pat, Branden, Robbie and Kären have formed a committee to work on changes to the SCAS website. Kären says she has input from the committee and will be collating it to give to our web designer.

SCAN: Mary set a deadline for submissions of April 10. She is still hoping for something from SCA conference attendees. Rob sent her a couple blurbs and a photo. No one else took photos of our table. Pat had a friend who kept a running Facebook page of the conference. She will ask him if he’d share some of his information and photos.

Outreach: Branden said that his planned talk at the Fremont Rotary has been postponed until June. The Rotary is very busy with relief efforts in the Pajaro Valley.

Post-SCA Conference Rundown: As reported earlier, we made \$1,282.62 at the conference selling items as we have done in the past. What was the most popular? Bumper stickers and trowel earrings. We sold 14 pairs of earrings at \$25.00 each. Rob sold four copies of the Scotts Valley report.

Our attending members said there were not many vendors in the bookroom. Our sales were much higher than our past average. One of the vendors reported that she had record sales like us.

Scotts Valley Display Project: Rob reported that work has slowed considerably. The acrylic artifact copies were taking longer than expected, and Linda Yamane had a couple unfortunate incidents (reported last month).

While at the SCA conference, Rob met with Amanda Boesen, our designer. Rob asked Kevin for another breakdown of SVDP donations .

Scholarships: Kären is having difficulty reaching Dusty McKenzie to confer over scholarships. It is hard to stay in touch with him. Kären thinks the decisions may have already been made for this years scholarships, but she will be persistent and try to find out the status from Dusty.

Solid State Drive: Mary purchased a 2T solid state drive on sale, and also got an extra cable for it, and a carrying case, as we anticipate that it will travel to the warehouse and other locations as we scan old SCAS documents. She has already backed up her SCAS files to the device. It is kept in a fire-safe storage box.

Future In-Person Meetings: Kären will be contacting Jessica Goodman soon about reserving a room for September. We still have a couple months to decide which library.

San Lorenzo History Fair: This event will happen at the Felton Community Hall on Saturday, May 13 from 1-5 pm. There will also be four history lectures at the Felton Branch Library. We have decided to set up an outreach table. Mary and Sarah have expressed an interest in helping out at the table. It will be a mostly informational event, with some giveaway items. We may take some merchandise to sell, but that is not the focus.

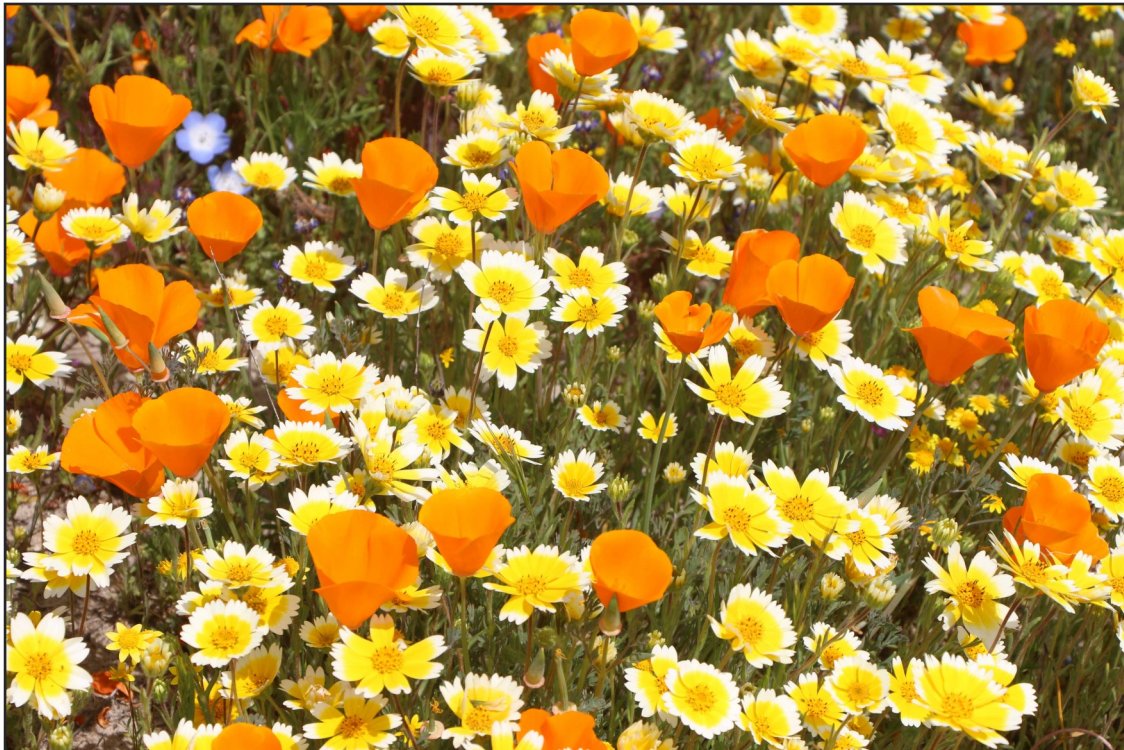


Photo by Mary Gerbic

Santa Cruz County History Fair

Movie Cast and Crew, 1921, San Lorenzo Valley Museum Collection



Hosted By
San Lorenzo Valley

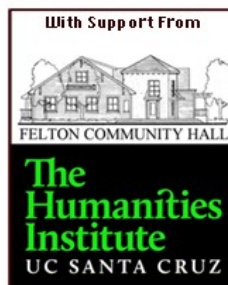
MUSEUM

May 13, 2023, 1-5pm

Felton Community Hall

6191 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018

Admission Free



Celebrate Santa Cruz County's diverse history by connecting with local historical & cultural organizations & groups.

Enjoy hands-on activities, artifacts, photographs, publications, & more. Between 20 & 30 local museums, historians, historical societies, & other groups will have displays & activities.

2023 Speaker Lineup

Until further notice, SCAS General Meetings will be held online. For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

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

RESERVATION ONLY & SPACE LIMITED, WITH PREFERENCE TO CURRENT SCAS MEMBERS.

- April 13 Dr. Julia Costello
- May 11 Kaitlin Brown, CSU Northridge
- June 8 John Johnson, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
- No meetings in July and August

Archaeological Society Business

SCAS Officers and Contact Info

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<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/join>*