



*The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Summer 2023*

*In Memoriam: Rob Edwards*  
*October 6, 1938-May 17, 2023*



Robert Lynn Edwards, beloved partner, adored father, brother, uncle, and friend; archaeologist, anthropologist, teacher, mentor, community organizer, and resident of Soquel, died of complications from congestive heart failure on May 17, 2023. Always a big man, he was light on his feet when dancing and always ready with a pun delivered with an innocent expression and laughing eyes.

Rob graduated from Mission High School in San Francisco, where he met Julie Olsen (they went to the Junior Prom together – but not the Senior Prom!!). After high school, he served in the Marine Corps and upon his return married Julie in 1961. Together, they put each other through college while raising their beloved children, Rebekah and Toby. Rob earned degrees at San Francisco City College, San Francisco State College, and the University of California at Davis, setting the foundation for what would become his lifelong dedication and passion for archaeology.

Soquel became the family's home in 1971 when he and Julie were both hired at Cabrillo Community College. Rob served on the Faculty Senate and was a key organizer and negotiator for the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers. He loved teaching Anthropology – convinced that it opened students' minds to the great diversity and great sameness of all human beings.

At Cabrillo, Rob built a nationally recognized Archeological Technology program that became known for outreach into the community, high professional work standards, and for Rob's commitment to working in concert with communities whose history archaeology explored and recorded. Rob was a powerful teacher known for his focus on the ethics of archaeological work, his insistence on detailed, accurate, field notes – and for his wicked sense of humor. He took his role as a mentor seriously, and many of his Cabrillo students went on to become working archaeologists. He was deeply committed to public education, utilizing the press, radio and Wikipedia to share information about archaeology – particularly about Santa Cruz County.

He founded the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society as a way of bringing recent research into the community.

Deeply respected as a professional archaeologist throughout California, Rob consistently advocated for shifts in archaeological practices to better respect and incorporate participation by indigenous communities. Rob was a founder and president of the Society for California Archaeology. At the time of his death, he was working on an exhibit about a 10,000-year-old site in the City of Scotts Valley.

Rob and Julie led tours that provided many Santa Cruz residents with opportunities to explore and learn about the history and cultures of Mexico, China, Peru, England, and the American Southwest as well as tours that focused on contemporary theatre, music, and museums of New York City.

Rob is survived by his wife, Julie Olsen Edwards, his children Rebekah Edwards (Encian Pastel) and Toby Edwards, his large extended Olsen family, his niece Karen Koelling and many beloved friends and colleagues.

A celebration of his life will be held at Cabrillo College on Sunday, October 15, time and venue TBD. Please check back later on SCAS's website or Facebook page. Updates will also be available at <https://obituaries.tridentsociety.com/obituaries/11295462>

If you would like to honor Rob's memory by contributing to a memorial scholarship in his name to enable a California Community College student to attend an archaeological field school, you may donate here: [cfsc.org/robedwards](https://cfsc.org/robedwards).



## Highlights from the Santa Cruz County History Fair, May 13, 2023 at the Felton Community Hall



Twenty five organizations took part in this year's Santa Cruz County History Fair.



SCAS President Kären Johansson, Professional Adviser Sarah Brewer and Newsletter Editor Mary Gerbic pose with our table. (Photos courtesy of Mary Gerbic)



**Organizer Lisa Robinson welcomes us to the fair.**



**Laura DeAngelis recites the Land recognition.**



**Julie Sidel representing State Parks.**



**Julie Sidel, Cynthia Matthews, Andrea (Watsonville Library), Charlene Duvall and Nicole Morelli discuss an exhibit.**



Deborah, Juliette and Enrique from the Capitola Historical Museum.



Frank Perry—Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District



**SUMMER  
SAP  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
PROJECT**



**PARTNERSHIP  
EDUCATION  
STEWARDSHIP**

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

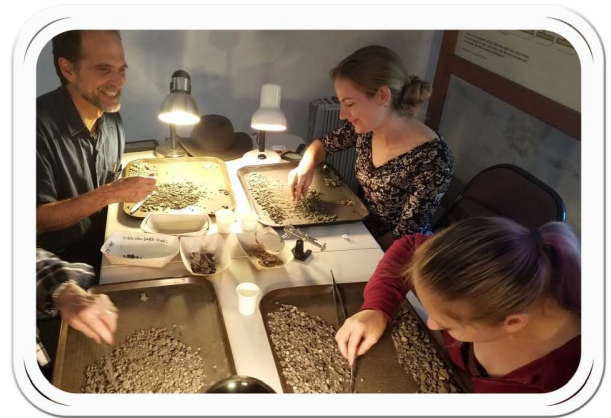


### *Volunteers will:*

- 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](mailto:santacruzmissionshp@gmail.com)  
(831) 425-5849



## **Report: SCAS Board Meeting Notes Summary**

By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary

### **April 2023:**

Financial Notes: Kevin reported that we had received an additional \$800.00 for the Scotts Valley Display Project. Mary Gerbic was reimbursed for the external Solid State Drive she purchased. It will be used to provide a backup location for important SCAS documents. Kären ordered SCAS buttons to give away at the History Fair.

Membership Report: Branden reported that there were three senior renewals and two individual renewals this month. Our total membership stands at 115.

Speakers and Website: Pat reported that she has the information for the May speaker, and hasn't added any new speakers to the lineup. While at the March SCA Conference, she met "a bunch of people" who might present for us. One is a professor at Foothill College. She has scheduled him tentatively for September.

Kären is still collating information for the website redo, and will pass it on to Robbie and Brian (web designer we are working with). Branden thought he could do a "mock up" of the new front page. We discussed using QR codes to link to our website.

SCAN: Mary thinks the summer SCAN will be out in July. The spring SCAN was published last week. She has contacted Taylor & Francis again about reprinting a book review of Edward Von der Porten's book, *Ghost Galleons*. She last contacted them in November, and hadn't heard back. She also mentioned that Tsim Schneider's new book was reviewed in the latest (SCA) *California Archaeology* journal. Given the lack of response from Taylor & Francis (CA's publisher) over the *Ghost Galleon*, she wasn't sure it was worth contacting them again about Tsim's book. She will report on the Santa Cruz County History Fair in the next SCAN.

History Fair: Sarah, Mary, Branden and Kären will be at SCAS's table at the History Fair. Kären will go to the warehouse to pick up the necessary items. She and Branden had done inventory on our material on the last visit. Mary will bring her camera to the fair and take pictures.

Scotts Valley Display Project: Rob probably doesn't have much to report so he was not at this board meeting. Progress has been slow since the storms in January.

Charitable Donations: Kevin has been on the Johnson & Johnson web site and registered us as a charitable organization. We have received large donations through J&J's charitable division lately. Kären has discussed how non-profits (larger than us) receive charitable donations. They have software for this, consolidate donations and send the donation to the non-profit as well as handle all the paperwork to be sent to the donors (for tax reasons) so the non-profit doesn't have to.

Scholarships: As of this meeting, Kären had no new information about Cabrillo scholarships, but at the time these notes were transcribed, she learned that Dusty McKenzie at Cabrillo has suggested three names.

In-Person Meetings: Kären spoke with Jessica Goodman of the Santa Cruz Library and learned what we must do to become a "community partner", which allows us to not only use library meeting rooms, but do so after library hours. We meet the qualifications. We would like to start booking rooms as soon as possible.

## **May 2023:**

Financial Notes: Kevin reported that we had \$70.00 in membership income this month, had \$30.00 in promotional expenses and renewed our P.O. Box for the year (\$216).

Membership Report: Branden reported that there was one senior renewal, two individual renewals and a new student member this month. We now have 116 members.

Speakers and Website: Pat is trying to line up Sam Connell of West Valley College to speak for us this fall, Jim Delgado won't be able to speak in October, so he may speak for us in January 2024. Pat asked if we would be going back to our previous time of 7:30 for in-person meetings, or stay with 7:00 pm. Our first fall meeting is supposed to be in-person only, and we would go to hybrid (in person and on Zoom) after that.

For the website, Branden mentioned using the small version of our logo on all web pages besides our home landing page. Mary asked if the small logo met with everyone's approval. Did we need to consult with local tribes about using the crescent design. The artifact is so old, it's not clear who it might be affiliated with in particular, as the design was used in the western US wherever there were wetlands 8 to 10 thousand years ago.

This reminded Kären of a conversation board members had with an individual at the SCA meeting about the issue of "cultural appropriation" and our stamps. Years ago, we bought rubber stamps to sell at events, and have bought more since. They are popular. However, we have a design which this person identified as Esselen and she had issue with the fact that we had this design and the label was misspelled. It was spelled like the Esalen Institute and as a member of the Esselen tribe she was upset about it. Kären wants to address this person's complaint. Pat said she would talk to tribal members she knows and see if the person was open to a call from Kären so they could discuss this. Kären thinks we have other images in the form of stamps that we have used for decades. Do we need to track down every tribe and consult with them? How do we know which tribe to contact? We want to be open about this.

SCAN: Mary is still on track for a summer SCAN in July. She reported on a short discussion she had with Kären off-line about how we could highlight interesting books in the SCAN for our membership. Most of us have been out of school a while and find writing formal book reviews a bit intimidating. What about this: for each highlighted book, just write a couple sentences about what the book was about, and what made the book interesting and recommended. They don't have to be newly published books. Pat thought it was a good idea. Maybe we could have a section on books say once a year. Summer would be a good time to do this, as it is when news outlets and bookstores do it for summer reading.

History Fair 5/13/23: Sarah, Mary and Kären were in attendance. Branden was unable to join us. We had many visitors to our table, and we sold \$59 worth of merchandise and gave away pens, stickers and buttons. Two monographs of the Scotts Valley site sold. We could have sold two more monographs and some t-shirts (we didn't have their color in the correct size). We are low on t-shirts and are planning to order more. Proceeds for the monographs go to the Scotts Valley Display Project. Kären was particularly happy to meet representatives of the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. They have a museum at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, which has exhibits of farm life in the Pajaro Valley. They also have collected oral histories for years. Lately they have begun recording on video, and are also moving into recording oral history about maritime communities. They presently have three Ph.D. Candidates from UCSC working in their archives. A current project is to interview two of the Hirahara sisters who are now in their 90s (Redman-Hirahara House connection).

We were approached by some people at the History Fair to ask if we did presentations. We have in the past, maybe we should revive that initiative.



In-Person Meetings: Kären said that the Library likes us and wants us to use their rooms....HOWEVER, they are revamping their “Partnership Program” and until they make their changes, we are in waiting mode. They are not taking any new Partners at this time. Aptos Library will be opening this fall. Branciforte is now open. Kevin gave Kären a tour before opening, and she says it’s beautiful. It also has only 15 parking places in a very densely populated neighborhood. Using this library might require members to walk a bit.

Kären wondered if we should use the Grange as a backup. We thought in the past that their Wi-Fi is weak but it is centrally located with lots of parking. Since 2020, they may have updated their facilities. What about the London Nelson Community Center? Sarah will check with the MAH, Kären with London Nelson. Branden looked up London Nelson on line and they charge \$27/hr. for non-profits. We need two hours. The Grange used to be \$35/hr. but that was 2019-2020. Mary noticed a new “dish” on their roof, so maybe they have upgraded their Wi-Fi. Check with them as well.

We need to decide on a meeting time and date for the fall meetings. We will discuss in email. Attached to those issues is notifications on our website, in the SCAN and revamping our membership form.

## **June 2023:**

This was a somber meeting. First topic discussed was the passing of Rob Edwards and what we knew of his family’s plans. Pat is close to the family and will be our liaison. Kären crafted a letter to the membership and Branden mailed it out to everyone. Kären very much appreciated all the feedback she got after this.

Some mundane details had to be discussed. How will we get into the Cabrillo warehouse where our papers and merchandise are stored? Pat has the key. As long as one Cabrillo employee has a key, this is OK. We are not excluded. Kären informed the Society for California Archaeology as Rob was an active member, past president and well known among the membership.

Charlene Duvall spoke about setting up a scholarship in Rob’s name. Julie Edwards also specifically mentioned it and Mary asked, in light of some things Julie said, if it was possible to set up the scholarship independently, that is, not associated with a specific institution, so that scholarship recipients could use it where it was needed. Yes. We need to do some research on how to handle scholarships, though. It was recommended that the scholarship go towards funding field school for archaeology students. Often, students who are self-funded or otherwise low income need to work during the summer and can’t afford to spend money on this very important hands-on training. For years, the Cabrillo Archaeology Technology Program (CCATP), provided this training, and was a well known resource, training Cabrillo Students, CSU and UCSC students and others, but this program no longer exists.

The Scotts Valley Display Project: Rob was heading this up. Who will pick up where he left off? We have a potential candidate who may be willing to take up the project. This will be discussed over our summer hiatus and more will be known after our August board retreat.

We as a board, decided that Rob’s passing would be noted in the summer SCAN but we would collaborate on a more comprehensive memorial to him in the fall issue which will be available in October.

At present (as the SCAN is being prepared) we know that there will be a memorial for Rob in a few months, possibly October, but the date and venue is not yet known. The membership will be informed as soon as we know.

Financial Notes: There was little to report. It was mostly mailing expenses.

Membership Report: This month, there were two individual renewals and one new individual member. We have 118 members. One of our new members did not supply a street address or email. We are trying to contact her so we can send her the SCAN.

Speakers and Website: Pat reported that Sam Connell will be speaking for us in September. We don't have a venue at present. Using the library is not possible at the moment. Jim Delgado will be speaking in January.

The website committee was sidetracked last month and plan to get back to work soon. Branden asked that we send him more photos, of higher resolution, for the website. Mary found many photos and sent them, as well as separate files of all the icons in our logo. All of this was emailed to Branden.

SCAN: Mary is redoing her plan for the summer SCAN and will try to get it out in July. Fall SCAN deadline for submission is Sept 12. In order to facilitate collaboration between all members of the board on a memorial article for Rob, Mary will set up a document where she can track changes and allow wider participation.

Outreach: Kären met with Kiersten Elzy-Lovig, the Director of Development and Community Engagement for the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (SCMNH). The museum is now an independent non-profit, separate from the city, and has developed a different way of engaging with the public, and would very much like to work with us and collaborate. In the past, we had a close relationship with SCMNH, and for a while, conducted our monthly meetings there. It could be a good interim meeting place for us now. Most recently, the museum was gifted with a mastodon tooth found on Aptos Beach (was in the Sentinel). It is now in the hands of researchers who are hoping to learn something from it.

Continuing Business: The venue for fall meetings is not yet decided. Given the situation with the library, the venue may change monthly. We will go back to 7:30 meeting times, to accommodate dinners, travel, etc. for members.

New Business: This fall, we will be electing a Vice-President and Treasurer. The incumbents will stand for office again, but if any member is interested in running for office, they should contact Kären Johansson (see page 11).

Branden will be speaking at the Freedom Rotary meeting June 20.



Sagebrush Mariposa Tulip  
Photo by Mary Gerbic

## *2023 Speaker Lineup*

We are planning to meet at 7:30 this fall, first in-person and then “hybrid”, with in-person and Zoom attendance possible. 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.**

- Sept 14 7:30 pm Sam Connell, Foothill College (location TBD)
- Oct 12 Event to be announced
- Nov 9 7:30 pm, Kristina Roper Graber, Cal State Fresno
- No meetings in July and August

## *Archaeological Society Business*

Nominations are being accepted through the end of August for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer. Ballots will be distributed in September and results will be available after the October General Meeting. If you are interested in running for office, and want more information, please contact one of the officers listed below.

### ***SCAS Officers and Contact Info***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Kären Johansson (acting)</b>	<b>johansson.outreach@gmail.com</b>	<b>831-247-3063</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Pat Paramoure</b>	<b>patsunicorn@sbcglobal.net</b>	<b>831-465-9809</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kevin Hildreth</b>	<b>kevinhildreth59@gmail.com</b>	<b>831-431-6905</b>
<b>Outreach Coordinator</b>	<b>Kären Johansson</b>	<b>johansson.outreach@gmail.com</b>	<b>831-247-3063</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Gerbic</b>	<b>mgerbic@yahoo.com</b>	<b>831-331-7173</b>
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	<b>Branden Melendez</b>	<b>brandenmelendez1@gmail.com</b>	
<b>Professional Advisor</b>	<b>Sarah Brewer and Ryan Brady</b>	<b>SCASproadvisor@gmail.com</b>	<b>831-227-6301</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Mary Gerbic</b>	<b>editorscan@gmail.com, mgerbic@yahoo.com</b>	<b>831-331-7173</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Robert Gleaton</b>		

Santa Cruz Archaeological Society  
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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.santacruzarchociety.org/join>*