



The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Summer 2025



Santa Cruz History Fair – Watsonville Buddhist Temple

May 17, 2025, Noon to 4pm

On a bright and breezy afternoon, local history aficionados turned out in great numbers for the annual Santa Cruz History Fair. This year, our hosts were the members of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. The location was unmistakable because of the bright red antique fire truck out front. At least 28 organizations participated in the fair, including SCAS. Kevin Hildreth, Sarah Brewer and Mary Gerbic set up the exhibit and engaged with the public. It was so busy, we weren't able to attend the presentations. This year the presentations were spaced throughout the fair, instead of at the end, as was done last year.

In the classroom attached to the gym, visitors heard presentations by Don Lauritson, Chair of the Historic Landmark Committee on Blue Plaques, Jessica Kusz, on the Castro Adobe restoration and the Edna Kimbro Archive-Center, and also from Jay Shinseki, Minister of the Buddhist Temple, who spoke about the history of the temple. (Below left: David Addison of the Santa Cruz County Library, one of the organizers, greets attendees.)





(Above) Kevin Hildreth and Sarah Brewer at the SCAS table. (Below) An exhibit of the newly created casts of SCR-177 artifacts, like those which will be displayed in the newly refurbished exhibit at Scotts Valley City Hall. (Photos by Mary Gerbic)





**Photos from
the Santa
Cruz County
History Fair.**



The Scotts Valley Display Project Update—July 2025



Sarah Brewer and Pat Paramoure work on the artifact exhibit box. Photo courtesy of Pat Paramoure.

Greetings everyone, This is an update of all that has happened since April 2025.

The Artifact Casts: We now have all three sets of casts, and we mounted our set in a display box, which was on display at the Santa Cruz County History Fair in May. Pat and Sarah built the box and labeled the artifact casts with their correct accession numbers.

Our Display Creators and Finishers: Andy Zavillos and Alicia Goode are working on the “pit” feature and other display items. We had planned to meet with them in May, but have decided that a mid June meeting works better

for all of us. Kevin paid Andy and Alicia’s invoice for half the estimated costs for their work. We have asked Amanda for an updated invoice as well.

Fishnet for the exhibit:

Mike Bonillas, a citizen of the Tamien Nation, is making a small piece of fishnet for us that will be displayed with the net sinker. Linda Yamane mailed him the materials he needed and by now he also has scale photo of the sinker.

Exhibit Links: Pat Paramoure, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez and others have contributed to a set of links which will be available on our SCAS website from a QR code in the Scotts Valley Display. There will be a number of reports listed, including the Sanchez-Rosencrance report, information about other eccentric crescent finds and an article by Rob Edwards. The page is a work in progress. We also hope to link to some videos by the Amah Mutsun, and on flint knapping.

The Exhibit text: We are continuing to work on the text for the exhibits. Afterwards, we want to share the draft text with the Amah Mutsun for their feedback.

References Cited

Rosencrance, Richard L. and Gabriel M. Sanchez
2025 Bifacial Technology at the Scotts Valley Site (CA-SCR-177) is Consistent with Early Lithic Technologies from the Far West. (Unpublished)

Report: SCAS Board Meeting Minutes Summary April-June 2025

By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary

April 2025

Financial Notes: Kevin reported that the financials for our fiscal year ending in March 2025 are in process. He also wants to revise how he displays our monthly financials so that we can more easily see which dedicated category of funds are being spent, and on what. This is more important now that we have funds set aside strictly for the Scotts Valley Display Project.

Kevin has renewed our business insurance. It costs more this year. He has decided to pay in installments on a monthly basis. We will look at other insurance companies for next year.

Membership Report: Branden told us we had four new individual member this month and no renewals.

Professional Advisor Updates: Nothing new this month.

Speakers and Venue: Kevin has signed the new agreement for using the RCNV's conference room. We will be paying \$100 (\$50/hr.) for May's meeting. We are actively looking again for less expensive meeting locations. This is twice as much as we were paying and for a small organization like ours, it is too much. We have been considering Peace United Church (they already have a Thursday evening event, so no luck), Loudon Nelson (\$27/hr.) but the four rooms have a 47-person capacity. We rarely reach that number. We are also still considering the Aptos Library as our preferred location. There is also the possibility of using the Library Annex at the Simpkins Swim Center.

Katlin Rupert will be speaking for us next week over Zoom. The June meeting will also be over Zoom only.

SCAN: Mary is actively working on the spring issue. She asked for more information about the SCA Conference because due to health issues, she was unable to attend.

Website Committee: Julie Edwards may have a lead on a group that does web services for non-profits.

Scotts Valley Display Project: Al Schwitalla will not part with the artifact molds. If we need more copies we can contact him, but we understand he may not be able to make them in a timely fashion. Andy Zevallos and Alicia Good are painting the blank artifact replicas. They brought a few that had been painted to the last SVDP meeting. They looked good. We will use the painted copies in the display. The other two sets will go to SCAS and to UCSC for a teaching collection.

Linda Yamane is still interested in creating a mural for us.

Outreach: We have reserved a table at the Santa Cruz County History Fair, on May 17, 2025. We will be able to sell merchandise at the fair. The event runs from noon to 4pm at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. Now that we have the SVDP replica artifacts, we want to bring them to the fair in a display box. Pat said she has an artifact labeling kit so we can put the correct accession numbers on the replicas.

May 2025

Financial Notes: Kevin wants our feedback on the new look and organization of the financial report.

Kevin has spoken to the person in charge at the Aptos Library. She said partnerships are still up in the air, and will get back to Kevin. We also looked at the Live Oak Grange again. They charge \$35/hr. which is better than paying \$50, and they are in mid-county.

Membership Report: Branden said that we had two senior renewals and he purged nine people from the membership list who have not paid dues in two years. Our membership stands at 83.

Professional Advisor: Nothing new this month.

Speakers and Website: Breck Parkman will be speaking for us over Zoom in June. That's it for this spring. Pat is lining up speakers for this fall.

SCAN: Mary has had a couple complementary comments about the spring SCAN, which was just mailed. The summer issue will be out in mid-July.

Scotts Valley Display Project (SVDP): Our next meeting is May 30 at Scotts Valley. Amanda and Andy will be bringing the groundstone exhibit with them. Pat said that Mike Bonillas is working on the fishing net sample. Sarah and Diane want Robbie (our webmaster) to set up a page that will hold links to further information, which can be accessed by a QR code in the exhibit. One outstanding item for the project is: what is the name of the person who found the crescent? None of us know.

Sarah has a shadowbox we can use to display the artifacts we want to take to the History Fair. She and Pat are getting together this weekend to set this up and get accession numbers on the replicas.

June 2025

Financial Notes: This month, Kevin paid our business insurance installment, rental for our PO Box, and meeting rental for May. We are working on finding a new venue for our monthly meetings that doesn't cost as much. The arrangement with the Resource Center For Non Violence is not working out due to lack of technical support, and the doubling of the hourly rate. We are considering the Live Oak Grange again. The rental cost has risen modestly and the location is better for most members. However, we may have to choose a different day of the week, as Thursdays are reserved by another group. There are other locations still under consideration.

Membership Report: Branden reported two renewals this month, one senior and one individual.

Speakers and Website: Pat Paramoure is actively seeking speakers for this fall. Twenty five people have signed up for next week's all-zoom meeting.

SCAN: Mary is actively working on the SCAN before she goes on vacation. She will report on the History Fair and updates for the Scotts Valley Display Project.

Outreach: The Santa Cruz County History Fair was a success. We spoke with many other groups displaying there and had a large number of people come by our table.

Scotts Valley Display Project (SVDP): The meeting on May 30 was cancelled and rescheduled for June 20. We are working offline in email to polish text and set up the webpage that will be accessed with a QR code.

At the next meeting, we expect our partners to bring the groundstone exhibit, the painted artifact replicas and set up the shelves. We also want to paint the interior of the display case. Amanda Boesen will be bringing paint chips for colors she thinks will work.

Other Business: We are seeking individuals who would like to run for office. The offices on the ballot this year are Vice President and Treasurer. Notifications of the election will be going out soon.

We have also set a date and time for the annual SCAS Board "Retreat" meeting in August.

Dear Members,

This message is to let you know that elections for two positions on the Board will take place later this year, during our annual meeting in October.

The positions are Vice President and Treasurer.

As described in our bylaws:

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall arrange all the Society's programs, oversee advertising and press releases, and perform the duties of the President when the President is unable to do so because of illness or absence, and shall assist the President in the performance of that office as needed.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall deposit all monies received by the Society in Corporate bank account of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society, Inc. S/he shall keep proper books of all accounts containing entries of all such matter or things as are usually entered in the Chart of Accounts, and shall furnish from time to time detailed statements as required by the Board of Directors.

Both positions offer opportunities to assist the Society in fulfilling its role in promoting the interests of Archaeology in Santa Cruz. Experience gained through being either the Vice-President or Treasurer can be applied in other job titles, enhancing career opportunities outside, as well as within the field of Archaeology for those willing to commit several hours a month in performing these tasks outlined above.

Currently, the treasurer has yet to commit to running for a sixth-term. Anyone interested in either position is encouraged to contact us to find out more regarding what is involved.

Kevin Hildreth - Treasurer - Santa Cruz Archaeological Society.

Upcoming Archaeological Events in California



SCA Data Sharing Meetings are free and students are welcome. The Northern Data Sharing date is not yet available. Stay Tuned.

Oakland Museum of California:

February 7, 2025—February 1, 2026

Ancestral Visions: An Installation by Chelsea Ryoko Wong

Paintings and the fashions that inspired them. A family journey.

Castro Adobe Open House

August 16, 2025 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Reservations at: <https://thatsmypark.org/event/castro-adobe-open-house-6/2025-08-16/>

What do the SCAS Officers Do?

Here are two more board positions. The first was written by Sarah Brewer, one of our professional advisors, and the second by our current treasurer, Kevin Hildreth. The office of Treasurer is up for vote this fall. If anyone of you would like to run for this office, please contact us at contact@santacruzarchsociety.org

DUTIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR

When I was asked if I was interested in the role of the Professional Advisor by my predecessor, he informed me that the Board is highly organized (and educated!) and that they did not require much in the way of “advice”, but mainly needed help setting up the Zoom meetings and uploading the speaker events to our YouTube channel. So while I do offer my professional opinion on occasion, and sometimes even get to chime in about subjects such as cultural resources regulations or answer emails from community members about artifacts they have found, my primary role is tech support, setting up Zoom meetings, troubleshooting technology for the speaker meetings, uploading presentations to YouTube, setting up Google Drive folders for the Board Meetings, and other such tasks. My duties can be summarized through the following scenes from Indiana Jones and Jurassic Park, hehe.

What I think I do:



What I actually do:



SCAS Treasurer Job Description

Weekly:

- Pick up mail from the Soquel P.O. Box.
- Scan and save (for records and printing) new and renewed membership forms for deposit back-up and send/deliver original forms to Membership Chair for database update.
- Hold all incoming society newsletters – to be reviewed by the SCAS Advisor, President, and/or Newsletter Editor at the monthly Board Meeting.

Monthly:

- Pay bills and reimbursement expenses, as needed. Expense reimbursements paid directly to the Treasurer need to be signed by the President. Checks exceeding \$100 require two signatures: President and Treasurer.
- Enter checks and deposits (primarily membership income and donations) into Quicken accounting software.
- Reconcile monthly Bay Federal bank statement, which includes Primary Checking, Savings, and the Research Fund Checking .
- Prepare, present, and distribute financial reports at the monthly Board Meeting: Account Balances, Income Statement, and Monthly Transaction Detail.
- Back-up Quicken files.

Annually:

- Prepare Fiscal Year-End reports for the period April 1st through March 31st. Present and distribute reports at the April Board Meeting. Upon receiving Board approval, the Fiscal Year-End reports will be submitted for publishing into the next SCAN.
- Work with the President to prepare an estimated budget for the new fiscal year – to be presented at the April Board Meeting.
- File the Statement of Information to the California Secretary of State by June 30th on even numbered years.
- Prepare and submit Federal and State Non-Profit tax returns, by August 15th.
- File the Annual Registration Renewal Fee Report to Attorney General of CA (Registry of Charitable Trusts), by August 15th.

Special Functions:

- Keep a SCAS cash box stocked with \$70.00 in small bills – provide for special functions, as needed.
- Prepare a financial report for special functions, i.e. SCA merchandise sales, etc. Present at the next Board Meeting
- Other duties as requested by the Board.





Ancient History



Here is an excerpt from the very first Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter, Vol. 1, Number 1, July 1972

Here it is—our first newsletter! SCAS is taking shape and gathering friends weekly —much interest and enthusiasm was generated by SCr-20, and the Laguna Creek site survey trip. Our treasurer, Starr Gurcke, has a treasury to preside over, and our secretary, Jean Stafford, has received copies of by-laws and well-wishes from the San Luis Obispo and Sacramento groups. These topics will be discussed at our next general meeting, July 28.

We owe a great deal to our professional advisor, Rob Edwards, whose expectations of a coordinated effort by professionals, students, and amateurs to recognize and preserve Santa Cruz area prehistory, we hope to fulfill. Charles Prentiss and the Santa Cruz City Museum, whose support and facilities were freely given for classes and artifact processing, deserves our thanks and appreciation. One aim of SCAS is to work in a supportive role with the museum in bringing order to the California Indian collection. The museum has an ambitious project with an exciting concept planned for fall. Many new cases will be added, and the focus will be on the interrelationship of biological, kinship, religious and mythological systems. What happens to a culture when these systems become unbalanced will be portrayed. The opening of the new exhibit is planned for the spring of '73.

We have much work ahead of us, and a necessity to define long-range and immediate goals. It is sincerely hoped that none of our members and friends lose their enthusiasm during the fumbblings to get started—we need support to complete our efforts to survey existing and rumored sites, interview the growing list of people with artifacts or knowledge of them, chase down rumors and **educate the public**. So, let's begin! *Micki Farley, President*

FIRST MEETING

The evening of May 30 witnessed the coming together of many faces for our first formal SCAS meeting. Included were students from Cabrillo College and community members who had either attended Rob Edward's recent Community Services course on Archaeology for the interested at the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum, or had expressed and interest in local archaeology.

Informal discussion on the archaeological interests of the various individuals provided the group an opportunity to become better acquainted. Some of the topics under discussion included inquiries Cari Snyder and Micki Farley had made into the existence of caves along Escalona Drive in Santa Cruz; the possibility of reconstructing kinship relations of the local Costanoans from records kept at the Santa Cruz Mission; coordinating our activities with those of the Santa Cruz Museum, whose staff has been most cooperative; and locating and cataloging private local collections.

Starr Gurcke had brought artifacts from the surface of SCr-20 on Beach Hill which were turned in for cataloging. Announcement was made of this exhibit prepared by Cabrillo College students covering the historical archaeology of the Zayante Villa Site which opened in June and is now continuing in the newly restored Octagon Building at Front and Cooper Streets.

Rob Edwards invited anyone interested to attend a Cabrillo College two-week course in archaeological excavation which was to begin the following Monday at a site in Bonny Doon. The property owner, Mr. Allan Brown, was present and his remarks on artifacts that had been previously found at the site evoked considerable enthusiasm.

The above discussions underlined the wide range of interests in the group and its enthusiasm to tackle the many jobs awaiting us. They also pointed up the need for better organization such that individual efforts will not be duplicated and group goals can be realized in a coordinated and systematic manner. We had received a copy of the by-laws of the San Luis Obispo society and are awaiting replies to our inquiries from other societies. We hope these will provide a guide for drawing up our own organization. A meeting was set for July 28 for this purpose.

2025 Speaker Lineup

We are planning to meet at 7:30, “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>

- Jun 12 Breck Parkman, California State Parks (ret) **We will not be meeting at the RCNV—online event only.**
- July and August 2025—No meetings—see you in September!

Archaeological Society Business

SCAS Officers and Contact Info

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Vacant Position		
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	Sarah Brewer and Ryan Brady	SCASproadvisor@gmail.com	831-227-6301
Newsletter Editor	Mary Gerbic	editorscan@gmail.com, mgerbic@yahoo.com	831-331-7173
Webmaster	Robert Gleaton		

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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.santacruzarchociety.org/join>