



SCAN



THE SANTA CRUZ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017



TREES AND TROWELS: STUDENT EXCAVATION AT THE LOMA PRIETA MILL

BY LESLIE HOEFERT AND AMANDA JORGENSEN

Tucked miles deep within the towering redwoods of Nisene Marks Park, the remains of a century-old lumber mill and related structures lay hidden beneath fallen trees and thick undergrowth. Field director and SJSU archaeology professor Dr. Marco Meniketti has set out to uncover the forgotten footprints of the industrial powerhouse and recover lost information about the people who once resided there. The project has had three seasons of field-work, beginning in 2015 and wrapping up in the summer of 2017. Throughout the seasons, a multitude of San Jose State University students have flocked to the site, lending hands and trowels in an archaeological endeavor to reconstruct the past.

The Loma Prieta Mill was just one of the many logging institutions that cut thousands of trees to supply the San Francisco Bay Area with lumber. The Loma Prieta Mill site is an amalgamation of various sites that include the mill itself, what may have been a mess hall, and housing for the workers of the mill. The artifacts recovered at the mill can unlock information about the ways in which the mill operated and, more importantly, the ways in which workers lived and interacted with one another.



Students sketch the site before excavation. (Photos courtesy the authors)

The first day of field school was an on-campus instructional period, in which students were taught archaeological methods and techniques regarding the use of the tools we would need on the dig. This ranged from survey methods and excavation setup to artifact cataloging tips. Although an intimidating

mass of information, being able to get our hands on tools like the theodolite and stadia rod before actually needing to use them in the field, allowing us to gain valuable experience that cemented what we had learned from slideshows or lecture.



Students Rodrigo Martinez (left) and Gibran Adham conduct surveys to map the site.

We began each morning with a winding drive through the fog-filled forest, clutching our coffee as the uneven dirt road tossed the small car around. The next step of the daily ritual was to bathe ourselves in bug spray; San Jose city-slickers like ourselves were petrified of the clouds of mosquitos and risk of ticks that stalked the dig sites. Armed with anti-itch cream, trowels, and an eagerness to resume digging in our one meter by one meter squares, we would hike the rest of

the way to the Mill and jump right back into the action. Every day at noon the group would reconvene from our respective sites, scattered throughout the trees, to dine on sack lunches, juice pouches, and the group favorite: chocolate sandwich cookies. The break gave us an opportunity to not only discuss our progress but to also get to know each other and build connections with fellow students and future colleagues. The discussions had during lunch about possible directions to take in the occupation expanded each of our archaeological networks and was almost as invaluable as the field experience itself.

An important part of field school is getting experience in all aspects of field method. All students get the opportunity to perform all tasks at some point during the three week period. Surveyors trudged through the waist-high undergrowth, stepping over poison oak and getting tangled in thorny blackberry plants, while their eyes stayed focused on compasses. One lucky individual kept their arms busy with the stadia rod. Others kept an eye on the theodolite, shouting commands through a walkie-talkie at the other surveyors in order to keep a straight line. Tape measures and theodolites were used for the surveying tasks due to the inability of the total station to receive accurate GPS locations through the impenetrable treetop coverage. Another team, equipped with a bundle of neon pin flags and a metal detector, worked to locate premium digging locations and artifacts that may have been scattered across the hillside. Other students worked in pairs on a unit, shaving away layers of compact dirt and forest debris that hadn't seen the light of day for decades.



Students work in a group to excavate a unit.

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful location for our first experience in archaeological fieldwork. Despite the swarms of bugs and thorny bushes, we were able to finally practice real archaeology, away from the classroom and outside of research articles. This experience allowed us to fully understand the techniques and concepts we would need to know in order to chase a career in archaeology, while at the same time earning units towards our degrees. This field school allowed us, along with the other students, to determine if archaeology is something we'd like to pursue further or if we were more suited for a different type of anthropology. Luckily for the two of us, the three weeks at the Loma Prieta Mill site made us even more motivated to strive to become archaeologists and to uncover even more mysteries buried beneath the surface. ■

Root cutters proved to be the most valuable asset in both the digging itself and the art of straight sidewalls. The network of roots linking redwoods and other plants made for difficult digging and with only a few pairs of cutters, the most popular pair of students were those with the sharpest shears. One final pair of students sat behind a dirt and rust-covered folding table, cataloging and recording artifacts excavated from each unit, as well as organizing everything for future use. The hands-on experiences connected classroom material with real-life uses and provided familiarity with tasks that are common at excavations across the country.



The authors, Amanda Jorgenson (left) and Leslie Hoefert excavate a unit.

THE SCAS FIRST ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH FILM FESTIVAL

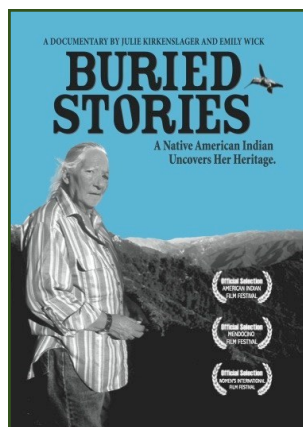


The film festival was held on Oct 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Live Oak Grange. Our professional advisor Tsim Schneider, got us started by introducing the first of three videos, which was a documentary of Cabrillo College's 2014 Archaeology Field School on Santa Rosa Island: **So What Did You Learn? Perspectives on the Importance of Field School**. Cabrillo



Dusty McKenzie fields questions from the audience.

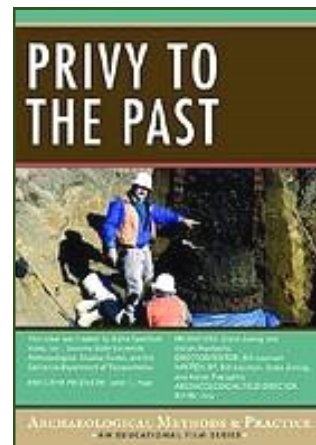
Archaeology professor Dusty McKenzie was on hand for questions and discussion. He talked about how he got his start in archaeology. The best part of field school for him was watching students excel.



Next up was the poignant story of Ella Rodriguez in **Buried Stories: A Native American Preserves Her Heritage. (2008)** The story is largely told by Ella herself, about being removed from her home at thirteen and taken to the Stewart Indian School (operating from 1890 to 1980) near Carson City, Nevada, of running away, just wanting to go home, and eventually learning about her heritage as she worked to protect it.

The final video was a story from Sonoma State College's Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) in Rohnert Park. **Privy to the Past (2007)**. During the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, a double-decker freeway, part of I-880 in West Oakland known as the "Cypress Structure", pancaked, killing 42 people and injuring others.

Afterwards, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) rebuilt the freeway farther west, to avoid cutting through residential neighborhoods. As part of the Section 106 compliance, Caltrans contracted with the ASC to perform an archaeological sensitivity survey. The ASC performed this work from 1994 to 1996, and found significant archaeological features in the path of the new freeway. This is the story of that process, and the excavations which followed. The film documents the methods archaeologists employ while they do background research, such as examining tax records, historical documents, insurance maps and oral history, to document the past. You can also read all about it in the ASC Publication [Putting the "There" There: Historical Archaeologies of West Oakland](#).



Comments about the festival were very favorable, and it's suggested that we have a film festival next year. If any of you have ideas for great little videos we can show (Please! No Indiana Jones) during Archaeology Month 2018, please pass them on to the SCAS board. 🌿

MAP GIVEAWAY AND OUTREACH AT THE CABRILLO FARMER'S MARKET, DECEMBER 2, 2017

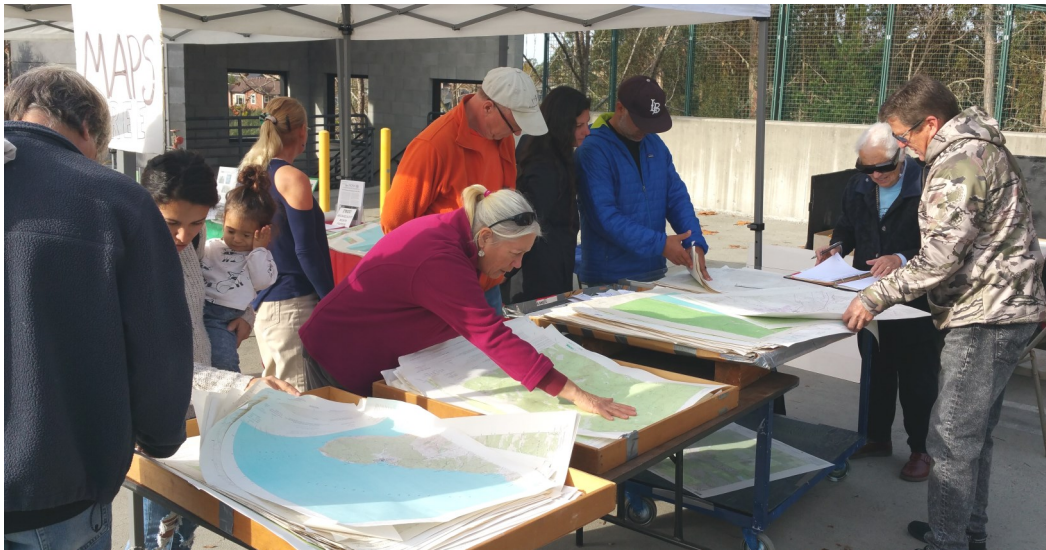


Thanks to all of you who turned out to help at the Map Giveaway at the Cabrillo Farmer's Market. We made \$128 in map donations and sold \$27 worth of merchandise. A lot of people stopped by to admire our new banner, and we had lots of questions about the society and our monthly speakers. For those of you who have not seen our new logo, banner and table runner, here they are! As Kären Johansson wrote, "how can you not admire them?"



The new banner and table runner.

Design concept by Mary Gerbic, artwork is by UCSC graduate student George Ann DeAntoni. Thank you both!



Here's some happy shoppers with their treasures.

There were many people looking for specific maps.

Photos by Mary Gerbic and Rob Edwards.

The early morning crew:

SCAS President Kären Johansson and our Professional Advisor Tsim Schneider with our new banner.



GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER, DEC 14, 2017:

MARK HYLKEMA:

"PERILS OF A LEEWARD SHORE: FRANKLIN POINT HISTORIC SHIPWRECK CEMETERY, AND AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK"

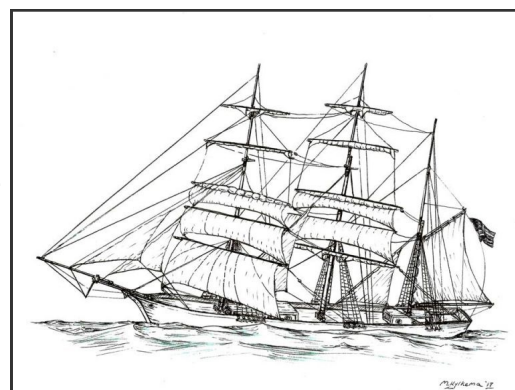


Mark Hylkema speaking at the Grange, Dec 14, 2017

We are so happy that Mark Hylkema could come to the Grange and speak with us again this year. He was last here in October, filling in for another speaker who was caught up in the North Bay fire evacuation. Mark is the Santa Cruz District Archaeologist for California State Parks. Mark has 37 years experience in archaeology, and earned his M.A. at San Jose State University. Mark is mostly known for his work in prehistoric archaeology, but when one works for State Parks, anything can come your way, and that is true for the story of Franklin Point.

Several times, starting in the 1980s, Mark was called out to Franklin Point because of the discovery of human remains eroding out of the sand. The vegetation was worn away by foot traffic, the wind deflated the site and exposed coffins and bones. Eventually, through multiple trips to the point to recover the remains, and archival research, Mark learned that there had been three wrecks at Franklin Point. The first was *Sir John Franklin*, a medium sized clipper ship in 1865, followed by the colliers *Coya* in 1866, and *Hellespont* in 1868, both on route from Australia carrying coal and passengers.

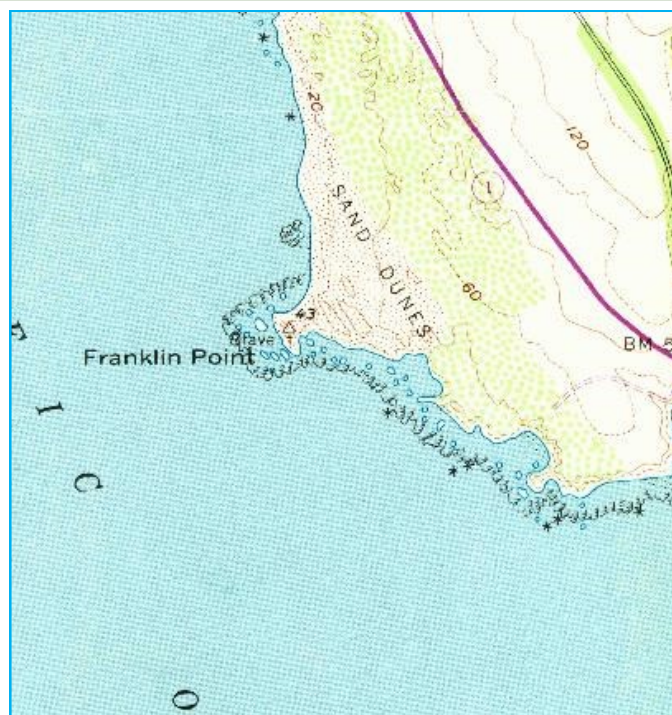
All three ships miscalculated their location in the fog, and their crews were unable to prevent their ship from running onto the rocks. Nearly all aboard all three vessels died in the wrecks. Mark read witness accounts of each wreck to us, and it was heartbreaking. Ships boats floated away, people drowned, or were battered by the rocks and debris as the ships quickly broke up, and others died trying to swim to shore in the cold water. North Coast farmers went to the shore and tried to rescue people and goods from the surf. They took care of the survivors and buried the dead on the point. These were the days before rail, paved roads on the coast, or telephone. To notify authorities, someone had to ride to San Francisco.



Sailing-on-Windward-Tack. Drawing by Mark Hylkema, represents what the *Sir John Franklin* might have looked like.

It was in response to these wrecks that the Pigeon Point Lighthouse was built in 1871-1872, and the fog signal erected at Año Nuevo Point. Franklin Point was named for *Sir John Franklin*.

In 2002, Mark was able to acquire funding for a forensic examination of the collected human remains prior to reburial at Franklin Point. There was some disagreement between the scientists as to the age of some remains of the crew. Most were, in general, healthy, without lesions or signs of arthritis, which one might expect given the hardships of their lives. Their upper bodies showed biomechanical stress due to hard labor. They had dental caries and far more lead in their bones than would be considered safe today. The lead was



Franklin Point. Excerpted from USGS Topo Franklin Point, CA 1955. Note the “Grave” above the word “Point”.

most likely ingested with their canned food. In those days, cans were constructed with lead solder.

At the time of the wrecks, there were a number of farmers, mostly dairymen, living on the coast. It was the home of Mr. Gushee, at what is now Cascade Ranch, where the survivors of *Sir John Franklin* were taken. The dead were buried dressed in what they were wearing, in coffins made of old-growth redwood boards milled 3/4” thick. The coffins were fastened together with square nails. The only lumber mill on the coast at the time was at Gazos Creek, and that’s where the wood must have originated. The captain and upper class passengers were taken away to be buried in more formal cemeteries elsewhere.

To protect the reburials from future exposure, Mark commissioned the construction of a boardwalk and two platforms so that visitors could walk to the point without damaging the vegetation. Under one platform are the dead, and the other platform has a bench, where one can sit and contemplate the ocean.

Mark’s presentation represents his considerable research into the historical, cultural and landscape context of these unfortunate events. He is publishing this work in the newly revived California State Parks Publications in Cultural Heritage (https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29395). An earlier publication about Año Nuevo can be found there, and downloaded as a .pdf but you’ll have to check back later for the “Perils of the Leeward Shore”. 🌿

ON VIEW:

At the de Young Museum, SF: Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire, Sept, 20, 2017 through Feb. 11, 2018

At the Legion of Honor, SF: The Gods in Color: Polychromy in the Ancient World, Oct 28, 2017—Jan 7, 2018.

At the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA): Ancient Bodies: Archaeological Perspectives on Mesoamerican Figurines—Art of the Americas, Level 4, July 1, 2017 – Feb. 4, 2018. Also at the Hammer Building, Level 2—Chinese Snuff Bottles from Southern Californian Collectors—Oct 29, 2016—Jan. 21, 2018.

California Historical Society Oct. 13, 2017—Feb. 18, 2018 Alexander Hamilton: Treasures from the New York Historical Society and Meanwhile out West: Colonizing California, 1769-1821.

WOMEN'S WORK: LABORING IN THE FIELDS AND GRINDING GRAIN LED TO ARM STRENGTH GREATER THAN IN MODERN FEMALE ELITE ATHLETES.

EXCERPTED FROM *SCIENCE ADVANCES*, *THE GUARDIAN* AND NPR: GOATS AND SODA, NOVEMBER 29 2017

We've known that there were always working moms, but during the early days of agriculture, women had arms stronger than female elite athletes today. It was once believed that with the advent of agriculture, women did indoor domestic tasks, not heavy labor in the fields. Previous studies of men from early agriculture to present have shown a decrease in strength among the sedentary, but the changes in women's bones was poorly understood.

According to a new Cambridge University study, reported in *Science Advances* on November 29, 2017, the long upper arm bones (humerus) and shin-bones (tibia) of European women who lived from 7500 years ago to Medieval times, were examined and compared to modern women in Cambridge, U.K.

Early women had leg strength comparable to today but their arms were 19% stronger than modern young female elite athletes: rowers, footballers and runners, and up to 30% stronger than modern sedentary women. By Medieval times, arm and leg strength were comparable to today, probably reflecting technological changes which made farm work easier. The researchers noted that the effects of heavy manual labor possibly began in childhood, so children were probably also working in the fields.

What were women doing in ancient times? Probably similar activities to modern subsistence agriculturalists: planting, weeding, harvesting, carrying heavy baskets and bales, pottery making, tending animals, tending house, cooking and processing food for storage, grinding grain, and raising children.

You can read the original article on *Science Advances*, or visit <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/nov/29/prehistoric-womens-arms-stronger-than-those-of-todays-elite-rowers> or NPR's <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/11/30/567262912/working-moms-have-been-a-thing-since-ancient-history> for two different takes on the Cambridge research.

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.

January 11, 2018	John Pryor, Ph.D. CSU Fresno
February 8, 2018	Margie Purser, Ph.D. Sonoma State University
March 2018	No General Meeting this month. SCA meeting in San Diego
April 12, 2018	Sarah Peelo, Albion Environmental
May 10, 2018	Lee Panich, Santa Clara University
June 14, 2018	George Ann DeAntoni, UCSC Graduate Student

Get outside and visit your Santa Cruz County State Parks!

[Mission Santa Cruz](#), [Henry Cowell Redwoods](#) [Big Basin](#)

[Wilder Ranch](#) , [Natural Bridges State Beach](#) , [New Brighton State Beach](#)

[Seacliff State Beach](#), [The Forest of Nisene Marks](#)



SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY SCA 52ND ANNUAL MEETING,

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, MISSION VALLEY 2270 HOTEL CIR N,
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108. THURSDAY, MARCH 8-SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2018

COAS, HERITAGE AND OTHER NEWS

Committee of Affiliated Societies (CoAS):

There are now 31 members of the Council of Affiliated Societies within the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). These are avocational societies like ours which are concerned about heritage issues at the national level. The SAA created CoAS to provide a forum and clearinghouse of information for us to share our experiences without jeopardizing our non-profit status. As CoAS members, we can also participate in the larger dialogue along with the professional organizations. On the SAA website (www.saa.org), you can find the CoAS page, and also a page where you can read about issues that are in the forefront of SAA's advocacy. The SAA offers a convenient page where you can write to your elected official.

What is CAH? CAH's purpose is to band with other professional organizations to pool resources, and speak with one voice on issues of cultural heritage and law. Their stated mission is to advocate for these issues with anyone anywhere on the political spectrum. They employ a nonpartisan lobbying firm to increase our visibility in Washington D.C. (See: <https://heritagecoalition.org/about-us/>)

The SAA, along with the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), The American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) are the founding members of CAH and fund the lobbying effort. There are other CAH members, including our state-wide organization, The Society for California Archaeology. All of these groups can also (of course) be reached through Facebook and Twitter.

Be sure to read the latest (Fall 2017) CoAS newsletter. SCAS submitted an article about our Society authored by Rob Edwards and Mary Gerbic. You may enjoy reading about us in another publication, but don't miss out on reading about other CoAS members. Plenty is going on elsewhere, which may inspire us here on the Central Coast.

The newsletter can be found at: [http://ecommerce.saa.org/SAA/SAAdocs/CoAS/Fall%202017%](http://ecommerce.saa.org/SAA/SAAdocs/CoAS/Fall%202017%20Newsletter.pdf)

WHAT IS THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY?



What is the Society for California Archaeology (SCA) and why should you know about it? If you are a student of archaeology or a professional, you should not only know about this organization but you should also become a member. People who are interested in archaeology, avocationalists, tribal members and teachers are also welcomed.

The SCA is a non-profit organization, founded in 1966, which supports research and education about California's past, and also about the regions surrounding California, because prehistory and history did not take place within neat political boundaries.

To accomplish their stated goals, the SCA sponsors a state-wide meeting in March, alternating between northern and southern California. This coming year, the meeting is in San Diego from March 8-11, 2018. Associated with the meeting are workshops and field trips. There are also two smaller scale meetings (free) in the fall, in northern and southern California. The SCA also sponsors October as Archaeology Month in California. They collaborate with and invite the participation of archaeologists from surrounding US states, Mexico, and Native Americans.

The SCA also has many resources for students, including scholarships as well as (continued on p.11)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS

SCAS Officers and Contact Info

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Kären Johansson (acting)	johans161@gmail.com	831-316-7127
Vice President	Pat Paramoure	patsunicorn@sbcglobal.net	831-465-9809
Treasurer	Kevin Hildreth	kevinhildreth59@gmail.com	831-431-6905
Outreach Coordinator	Kären Johansson	johans161@gmail.com	831-316-7127
Secretary	Open		
Membership Coordinator	Kevin Hildreth (acting)	kevinhildreth59@gmail.com	831-431-6905
Professional Advisor	Tsim Schneider	tdschnei@ucsc.edu	
Newsletter Editor	Mary Gerbic	editorscan@gmail.com, mgerbic@yahoo.com	831-331-7173

MEMBERSHIP: WE HAVE 119 MEMBERS, WITH 33 IN GOOD STANDING AND 67 NOT IN GOOD STANDING (PLEASE RENEW!). THERE ARE 19 LIFE OR COMP MEMBERS.

ELECTION RESULTS: PAT PARAMOURE HAS BEEN ELECTED TO A NEW TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT AND KEVIN HILDRETH IS OUR NEW TREASURER. CONGRATULATIONS PAT AND KEVIN!

WHAT IS THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY, CONTINUED

special sessions on field schools, graduate student research, poster sessions (potentially a less stressful way of getting your research out there), roundtables and lunches. All of these are a great way of meeting professionals whose papers you may have read and cited, as well as creating friendships and networking for jobs. Although the meetings and membership are inexpensive when compared to the national organizations, there are ways to reduce your expenses further by volunteering for six hours at the meeting, completely offsetting the cost of admission. This is also a great way to meet other students and professionals.

The SCA also sponsors the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) which is a volunteer program which trains individuals to work with professional archaeologists to help protect cultural resources by monitoring and recording sites all over the state. Several members of SCAS are also long-time CASSP volunteers. They visit sites from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, to old mining sites and shell mounds of the East Bay to our own north coast of Santa Cruz.

The SCA also cares about the effects climate change is having on our cultural resources, and launched a study in 2011 to survey California's coastlines. You can learn more about this effort and all other initiatives mentioned in this article by visiting SCA's web page at scahome.org.

Check our past SCAN issues for information about past SCA events. The 2017 SCA meeting was featured in the Spring 2017 issue of SCAN, and the Winter 2015 issue features the Northern Data Sharing meeting held at Big Basin State Park. 🌿

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



Join us in our efforts to study and preserve the
Past for the Future ...

☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Students \$15 ☐ Seniors \$15 ☐ Family \$25
☐ Lifetime \$400 ☐ Institution \$30

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift Membership (from) _____

Name: _____

Street Address / Apt. #: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please share any archaeological interests or experience:

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