



SCAS

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter—Winter 2019-2020

A 2019 SCAS Retrospective

2019 was a busy year for the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society. Here's a look back at some of these events.



The speaker for our February 2019 General Meeting had to cancel. UCSC's Professor of Anthropology Emerita Diane Gifford-Gonzalez stepped in at the last moment to speak on "Tales (and Tails) from the Bolcoff Adobe."

Pictured here are Dr. Tsim Schneider, Charr Simpson-Smith, Rob Edwards and Dr. Diane Gifford-Gonzalez.



On February 3, 2019 women from the SCAS met for an "Archy Lady Lunch" at the Crow's Nest Restaurant in Santa Cruz. Gathered here are (from the left) Judy Cole, Kären Johansson, Andrea Merkel, Charr Simpson-Smith, Lyn O'Niel, Annamarie Leon Guerrero and Pat Paramoure. (Photos by Mary Gerbic)



On March 9, 2019 Charr Simpson-Smith was awarded the Golden Shovel Award at the Society for California Archaeology's (SCA) Annual Meeting held in San Diego. This award is given to long time members of the SCA who have excelled in their contributions to California Archaeology through their field and/or laboratory work. Charr is a retired Cabrillo College educator and archaeologist. She was one of the developers of the Cabrillo College Archaeology Technology Program and passed on skills in cultural resources management, archaeological method, laboratory, and field work to the many students who passed through the program from 1990 to 2008. She was nominated for the award by local archaeologist Erik Zaborsky and the award was presented by one of her former students and archaeologist Annamarie Leon Guerrero.



The Society for California Archaeology Meeting in San Diego was a great success. Many people visited the SCAS table in the book room. Julie and Rob Edwards are shown at our table on the last day of the conference.

(Below left) Lyn O'Niel and Rob Edwards at the June 13, 2019 SCAS General Meeting, which also happened to be Lyn's Birthday.



Franklin
Point Field
Trip
July 13, 2019



Above, Franklin Point. Left and right, wildflowers seen along the trail to the point.



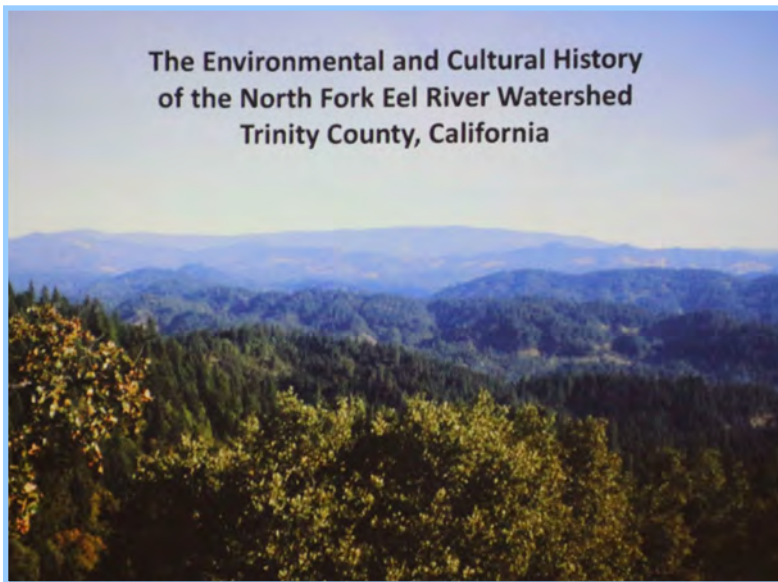
September 12, 2019 SCAS and Sacramento Archaeological Society Potluck at the Live Oak Grange

Fall General Meetings

This fall, we cancelled our October meeting due to the PG&E blackout. Austin Ringelstein will be with us in January 2020 instead. Our November and December meetings were well attended despite the cold and the holiday season. Here are some photos from these two meetings.



On November 14, 2019, Tom Keeter, Archaeologist for the US Forest Service (retired) shared with us about his many years working in the Six Rivers National Forest, along the North Fork of the Eel River (southeast and inland of Eureka, CA) When Tom arrived in the forest in the late 1970s he went to work surveying land which was scheduled for logging. He thought the area looked a lot like a wilderness—few towns and people, but then he noticed the dying oaks among an even-age Douglas-fir forest.



Time did not permit Tom to present everything he's learned since then, but he encouraged us to visit his website www.solararch.org and read his many papers and presentations. Tom lives off the grid in Three Rivers, Tulare County, CA. Pictured (right) Tom Keeter and SCAS Acting President Kären Johansson.





Above, David De Vries and SCAS Vice President Pat Paramoure.

On December 12, 2019, we were pleased to hear from David De Vries, owner of Mesa Technical, a consulting business.

Using a chalk board and some large format color photos (at right, the soil profile in a redwood forest), Dave demystified soil science jargon and told us how small scale observation and hands on testing of soil on a site can answer questions important to archaeologists such as: Is there stratigraphic integrity? Are there buried soils? Is this a midden? How did the soil form?

The NRCS soil survey maps can help, but only on a general scale, as they were developed originally for agricultural and other uses and lack the detail an archaeologist may need on a site.



In the News

In *Nature Communications* December 17, 2019, researchers have analyzed a wad of birch pitch “chewing gum” apparently spit out by a woman in Denmark about 5700 years ago. Surprisingly, the researchers were able to recover the woman’s complete genome, as well as evidence of the Epstein-Barr virus (Mononucleosis) and other bacteria. They also learned that the dark-skinned, dark-haired, blue-eyed member of a hunter-gatherer group had most recently consumed a meal of duck and hazel nuts. For more information see the following links:

www.sciencenews.org/article/dna-5700-year-old-gum-may-reveal-ancient-woman-appearance or

www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-13549-9 (Open Access)

In *PLOS One* December 18, 2019, a group of researchers investigating a Neolithic settlement off the coast of Israel reported finding a seawall, Tel Hreiz was occupied about 7500 to 7000 years BP, and was one of a number of coastal farm villages. The seawall, built of large boulders, was apparently constructed to hold back the Mediterranean, but eventually the wall was overcome and the village abandoned after a few hundred years. At the time, sea level was rising four to five centimeters a year. The village is now under four meters of water. The researchers were able to access it with scuba gear after winter storms when the sand was washed away. For more information see the following links:

www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/12/7000-year-old-wall-was-earliest-known-defense-against-rising-seas-it-failed or

journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0222560 (Open Access)

One of **Science News**’ top 10 stories for 2019 is the story of the group of mysterious ancient people called Denisovans: how we are beginning to learn more about them. There is so little information, and so much yet to learn about the Denisovans. Like Neanderthals, traces of their DNA is found in some human populations today.

In 2016, two small fragments of a skull were discovered in Denisova Cave, Siberia. In March, we learned that the fragments have been identified as Denisovan, based on Mitochondrial DNA. These are the first known skull fragments from a Denisovan.

Also, announced this year, the skeleton and head of a Denisovan girl was reconstructed using the DNA extracted from a pinky finger bone, found in the same cave in 2008. It is estimated that she lived 50 thousand years ago.

See: www.sciencenews.org/article/mysterious-denisovan-hominid-fossils-dna-top-science-stories-2019-yir

www.sciencenews.org/article/first-fossil-denisovan-skull-cave-siberia (March 29, 2019)

In the News...continued

meeting.physanth.org/program/2019/session09/viola-2019-a-parietal-fragment-from-denisova-cave.html

www.sciencenews.org/article/ancient-dna-reveals-first-glimpse-what-denisovan-girl-looked-like (Sept 19, 2019)

Last year, a report from Max Plank Institute, Germany stated that DNA from a different set of fossil finger bones from Denisova Cave, also from a young female who, in this case probably lived 90 thousand years ago, had been sequenced. This individual appears to have had a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father.

Another discovery was announced this year in *Nature*. This time it was the lower jaw bone of a Denisovan, found in Baishiya Karst Cave on the Tibetan Plateau. Although the bone was found in 1980, it was only analyzed recently. The announcement by the Max Plank Institute said they were unable to extract DNA, but identified the bone as Denisovan based on shape and protein structure. The individual lived approximately 160 thousand years ago, and this is believed to be the oldest hominin found at high altitude (3,280 meters). Denisova Cave in comparison, is about 700 meters above sea level.

www.archaeology.org/issues/323-1901/features/7206-russia-neanderthal-denisovan-hybrid

www.nature.com/articles/s41586-019-1139-x.epdf (A Late Middle Pleistocene Mandible from the Tibetan Plateau)

www.sciencenews.org/article/jawbone-shows-denisovans-lived-tibetan-plateau-long-humans



Denisova Cave, Siberia. The cave has been occupied over time by Denisovans Neanderthals and modern humans. Photo courtesy Демин Алексей Барнаул/Wikimedia Commons ([CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)) Photo taken in 2008.

In the News...continued

From *Science* Magazine, December 2, 2019: The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) has voted to let the board bar sexual harassers and other individuals guilty of misconduct from meetings, and may revoke their membership. This vote is in response to the presence of Davis Yesner, convicted of sexual harassment and banned from campus by the University of Alaska, Anchorage, who registered for, and was allowed to attend this year's SAA meeting in Albuquerque New Mexico. Some of his accusers were also present at the meeting and reported the situation to the SAA's board.

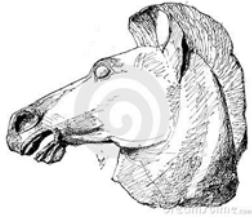
Two proposals were put forward, one by a working group and the other by the board. The board's proposal to allow the board to ban attendance and revoke the membership of those convicted of sexual harassment, bullying and other misdeeds passed. The working group's measure, which had stronger language, and would have banned such individuals without the board's intervention was voted down by the membership.

www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/12/archaeology-society-votes-let-board-ban-sexual-harassers-meetings

Those interested in the Society for California (SCA) and gender equity may want to read the December 2018 issue of *California Archaeology* in which several articles touch on these issues, which were addressed in a symposium at the annual SCA meeting held at Tenaya Lodge in March 2017.



A trio of Brown Pelicans over Franklin Point, July 13, 2019



Ancient History



Tefertillers Receive Award!

(From the SCAN Vol. 16, No. 3 1987)

The Cabrillo College Archaeological Program is pleased to announce the selection of Ruby and "Jim" Tefertiller of Santa Cruz to receive an award in recognition of their especially significant contribution to the preservation of the archaeological record of the heritage of California. Ruby and Jim have permitted and assisted in the excavations of the "Lost Adobe" of the Santa Cruz Mission, carried out by Cabrillo College student archaeologists under the supervision of Rob Edwards. The Advisory Committee presented the award at the Tefertiller residence, 117 School Lane, Santa Cruz.

For the Computer Savvy (SCAN Vol. 16, No. 5 and 3 1987)

We've just received word from the Archaeological Society of Virginia about a newly formed computer network called ASVNET and ESAFNET. You can access nearly one million words in nearly 150 files on worldwide archaeology on such topics as prehistoric and historic, underwater, Roman and Greek, Mesoamerican, how-to, Egyptian, Paleo-Indian and more. This is a free service to anyone who is interested in archaeology via your computer and telephone. All you need is a computer, communications software, and a telephone modem. A *what, now? Weren't those the days!*

(From the SCAN Vol 16, No. 1, 1987)

A new newsletter, *News from Native California*, begins publication this spring. According to press release from Heyday Book, the *News* will cover a wide range of issues, events, history, traditions & research related to California's Native Peoples. For more information, or if you wish to subscribe, write to Heyday Books, P.O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA, 94709.

(SCAN Vol 16, No.5, 1987)

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of ROCK ART is scheduled for Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia from August 29 through September 2, 1988. This program will include dating methods, rock art, and art history, pictures and human behavior, computerization and standardization, conservation, rock art and ethnography, regional studies, etc. All scholars and students working on any aspect of rock art are invited to propose papers or sessions. Applications and further information may be obtained from AURA, P.O. Box 216, Caulfield, South 3162, Victoria, Australia. *[Modern day inquirers should visit www.ifrao.com.]*

(SCAN Vol 16, No. 11, November-December 1987)

Another Mission Fiesta Day and SCAS Was There

SCAS again put together a booth for the Mission Fiesta Day celebration which keeps our record of participation at 100%. This event is becoming a real fixture in our local October schedule. This year the board decided to focus on one booth and combine education with low-key fund raising, which proved to be a happy choice for the booth workers. Many thanks to the following, most of whom put in two shifts: Judy Husted, Bonnie Keeshan, Joe Carroll, Becky Allen, Kevin Hildreth, David Calleri, Karen Loeffler, Julie Huddleson, Donna Zack, Robin McHugh, Gail Harlamoff, Karen Hildebrand, Cherie Walth, Kate Harper, Greg Keryk, and Chuck Smith.

On the education side, we had screening of dirt from a recently disturbed local site, while sales got a boost by featuring the new California Indian Rock Art Tee-Shirts (designs by our own Karen Loeffler, based on traditional California Indian Rock Art motifs) as well as stationary with rock art designs, posers and books. Everyone had a wonderful time, celebrating our local heritage. If you missed out this year, please join us next year.

Upcoming Events and Exhibits



Society for California Archaeology 2020 Annual Meeting,
Thursday, March 12—Sunday, March 15, 2020
Riverside Convention Center
3637 Fifth Street
Riverside, California 92501

California Historical Society – San Francisco

From the Gold Rush to the Earthquake: Selections from the Collection

From the Gold Rush to the Earthquake: Selections from the Collection presents highlights from the California Historical Society's holdings of paintings, photographs, manuscripts and ephemera. Focusing on key topics in California's late-nineteenth-century history, the exhibition features selected works from the Gold Rush, the exploration of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and coastal regions, the rise of agriculture and industry in the state, San Francisco's Chinatown, and the city's devastating 1906 earthquake and fires. — Now on display October 26, 2019-March 29, 2020.

Upcoming Exhibition: The Life and Work of Mabel McKay

The *Life and Work of Mabel McKay* tells the story of a renowned basket weaver, healer, and culture bearer. Mabel McKay (1908-1993) was a member of the Long Valley Cache Creek Pomo tribe from Northern California, and was the last speaker of her language. She was also the last of the Pomo dream doctors, and healed both Native and non-Native patients through traditional medicine. She became widely recognized as one of the greatest basket weavers of the 20th century, and traveled great distances to teach others and share her cultural traditions. McKay lived through almost the entirety of the 20th century, a time period that was often difficult to be California Indian and a woman. Featuring intricately woven baskets, historic photographs, media, and more, this exhibition celebrates her legacy.

For hours and directions see: californiahistoricalsociety.org/visit/#directions

Asian Art Museum—San Francisco—On View Nov. 26, 2019-March 22, 2020

Lost At Sea: Art Recovered from Shipwrecks. For more info: <http://www.asianart.org/exhibitions/lost-at-sea>

California Missions Foundation

37th Annual California Missions and Presidio Conference

February 14-16, 2020 in the Monterey area at various locations, For more information

<http://californiamissionsfoundation.org/conference/>



Open House at the Castro Adobe

January 25, 2020, February 09, 2020 and March 3, 2020. Events start at 11 am, parking is limited. www.thatsmypark.org/parks-and-beaches/castro-adobe-state-historic-park/

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 9, 2020	Austin Ringelstein, UC Santa Cruz
February 13, 2020	TBD
March 2020	No meeting this month. See you at the SCA meeting!
April 9, 2020	Katie Vallaire, LSA

Archaeological Society Business

SCAS Officers and Contact Info

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Please share any archaeological interests or experience: