SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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The Society for California Archaeology Newsletter is a quarterly publication with information essential to California archaeology. Opinions, commentary, and editorials appearing in the SCA Newsletter represent the views of the authors, not necessarily those of the Board or Editors.

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On the cover: Photographs of the Sand Hill Bluff archaeological site (see article beginning on page 13).
Archaeology as Paleoecology
Jelmer Eerkens, President

As I write this column, many of us are spending the summer days of 2016 in the field on survey or excavation projects among California’s diverse environments. From the Pacific Coast, to our brackish and freshwater marshlands, to the mountains and deserts, California is world famous for our ecological diversity and natural beauty. Indeed, over 15 million person trips are made to California each year from outside the U.S., supporting a vibrant tourism industry and resulting in billions of dollars in tax revenue. Though many people come for business, or to take photos with Goofy and Mickey, millions come to visit our National, State, and County parks as well.

Movements to protect and preserve California’s diverse environments have been gaining traction over the last 50 years or so. Environmental changes, especially those that are attributable to human activity, can have serious consequences that often must be mitigated. Change is visible all around us, from short-term change due to housing developments to more long-term impacts from damming rivers, and from global-scale warming and increased atmospheric CO₂ to more local-scale spread of invasive species.

Archaeologists think a lot about the natural environment of a given region. Nearly every archaeological report contains a section with an “Environmental Background” that typically describes the local environment today, but also as it was in ancient times and how it has changed over thousands of years. As anthropologists, we know that humans and their environments are part and parcel of a co-evolutionary system with constructed niches that are entangled with one another, depending on your educational and theoretical background.

Regardless of the terminologies we use, archaeologists have a unique perspective on California’s landscapes, environmental change, and human-environment interactions. Surprisingly, those views rarely seem to make their way into decision-making when it comes to protecting and preserving those environments. Many government-sponsored activities endeavor to preserve the natural environment, and millions of dollars are spent annually on habitat restoration to achieve this end. The Sacramento Bee newspaper

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

recently highlighted several projects in the Sacramento Valley and California Delta aimed at restoring salmon habitat and tidal wetlands, to protect endangered Delta smelt, and to preserve our California marshlands.

It seems that most restoration projects aim to recreate some sort of envisioned landscape circa 1700s or 1800s, typically one that has been described in documents written by early Euroamerican settlers or traveling naturalists. However, we know that such accounts are often general in nature, lack detail, and are typically biased by focusing on key economically important species (those that were economically important to Euroamericans, of course) or by highlighting the bounty of an area in an effort to attract more settlers and create a larger economy. Thus, it begs the question: What criterion are we using to choose particular landscapes for protection, and do we really know what we are preserving?

One would think that archaeology has tremendous relevance here. If we are trying to restore an ancient habitat, what better source of information than data recreated from actual ancient habitats? Yet, archaeological data only occasionally contribute to such environmental restoration projects in a meaningful way. In talking with other scientists and managers, it seems that many are either unaware of the potential of archaeological data or think such information is not useful. I was recently speaking with a colleague who was studying the endangered Delta smelt. He was immediately interested when I told him that we sometimes find the bones of ancient smelt in middens, and he wanted to know if he could analyze some of the bones for his study.

Some of the disinterest in archaeology may also be due to a turf war in which granting agencies and/or reviewers of proposals may view, in a zero-sum contest, that such monies should go to ecologists, not archaeologists. From my own experience, my graduate students and I have occasionally applied for grants from agencies focused on habitat restoration, seeking funding for archaeological work that would establish baseline information on fish and other aquatic species in the California Delta. The response from reviewers has been that such work is not of interest because it is not relevant to the goals of habitat restoration and that we already know what the ancient environment was like. The implication is that: (1) there is a single and stable “natural” environment that we should be restoring; (2) humans were not important in the maintenance and/or evolution of such landscapes; and (3) we must study the ecology of species today to make such restorations.

Yet, new archaeometric methods have the potential to contribute all kinds of paleoecological data. Stable isotope and ancient DNA techniques can reveal a range of information about ancient environments and species. For example, isotopic signals in salmon otoliths can trace the migration history of individual fish, from the river system they were born in, to their swim out to sea, to their return. If we are restoring salmon spawning habitat, shouldn’t we know which rivers were the most productive in ancient times and restore those specific systems? Wouldn’t we want to know if this changed over time? We can do this through the use of archaeological data! Likewise, isotopic analyses of shellfish can reveal information about ancient water conditions, such as temperature and salinity. And since shells grow in rings, we can trace such conditions at a fine-grained scale over several years of time while the organism lived. If we are to restore tidal habitats today, wouldn’t we want empirical data about how those systems operated long ago?
Of course, I am an archaeologist first, and we should continue to protect sites and preserve cultural landscapes as well. We should continue to collect and analyze data about sites, features, and artifacts so that we can test our hypotheses about humans and their behavior. We should continue to inform the public about ancient life and the value of the past. Our data are so rich that we can do all these things and more. Unless we advocate for it and explain the relevance and breadth of archaeological data, other scientists and managers will continue to overlook the tremendous potential of our discipline. This demands that we be informed about what types of analyses are possible with artifacts and ecofacts, which means looking outside our discipline every now and again at the latest trends and thinking about how we can apply such research to our own work.

Land animal bones also record information about an individual animal’s diet, migration patterns, and environment. Several years ago, the media were abuzz with stories on a lone wolf that had migrated from the northern Rockies into California. Now there seems to be a whole pack of wolves in northeastern California, apparently the first California wolves that have been observed since the 1920s. If we hope to maintain wolf populations today, shouldn’t we know something about how wolves survived, bred, and migrated in ancient times? Again, archaeological data have much to contribute related to the ecology of ancient wolves and other canids.

Lest I start receiving angry emails pointing out my oversights (of which I am sure there are many), there are notable examples where archaeological data from California have made contributions to conservation biology, such as the work with Northern fur seals, Channel Island foxes, and Pacific red snapper, among others. But my sense is that we can do much better in promoting broader conservation and restoration causes. This would also deepen the perceived public value of protecting and preserving archaeological sites as non-renewable sources of paleoecological information.

Native species, such as this Sacramento pikeminnow from Putah Creek, are the subject of much ecological research (photograph provided by Jelmer Eerkens).

At Putah Creek, Jelmer Eerkens examines invasive species with his daughter, Janna (photograph provided by Jelmer Eerkens).
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Meeting Opening
Introduction of new Executive Board members: Steve Hilton, President-Elect; Susan Stratton, Northern Vice President; Adam Gutierrez, Secretary.

2016 SCA Annual Meeting Recap
At the 2016 Annual Meeting, there was some concern about the availability of audiovisual projectors for the sessions. It was suggested that the onus be put on the session chairs to obtain the AV equipment for future meeting. It was noted, however, that this would be a burden for session chairs and that changing projectors in the short time between sessions would create logistical problems. The buses for the Silent Auction were not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, causing problems transporting people there. This issue will be addressed when booking transportation for future auctions. There were also problems at the Silent Auction due to food and drinks being left on the tables with the auction items. A comment was made that the food portion of the Silent Auction may have been too small for the cost of the ticket and the vegetarian food options were limited. The banquet went well, especially considering that the keynote speaker was taken ill and in surgery at the time of the banquet. People enjoyed the open mic aspect of the banquet.

Student Affairs Committee
Kaitlin Brown proposed an SCA membership survey that addresses gender in archaeology, to be directed by Amber VanDerwarker at UC Santa Barbara. The survey is intended to lead to a symposium and journal article. The Executive Board supports the survey and will research the best way to distribute it. Melanie Beasley reported that the osteology workshop at the annual meeting was successful, with a high attendance of Native Americans. Melanie also proposed a name change for the Student Affairs Committee, and after some discussion it was suggested that it be changed to the Student Members Committee.

Jelmer Eerkens moved to change the name of the Student Affairs Committee to the Student Members Committee. Maggie Trumbly seconded the motion. Motion passed. Vote: Yes 7, No 0.

Melanie reported that the Student Luncheon at the meeting was also a hit, despite a few problems. Melanie suggested a student travel award to help students attend the meetings.

California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program
Beth and Chris Padon are grooming replacements (Karen Lacy and Michael DeGiovine) to take over CASSP in the next two to three years. CASSP will begin to take on more responsibilities in the coming years. Mark Hylkema related an incident from Palm Springs where tribal land adjacent to private land was damaged by a homeowners’ association. CASSP may take on a role in these types of fringe areas.

Native American Programs Committee Update
Gregg Castro requested the Board’s feedback of the Native American meet and greet that was held during
this year’s meeting. While there were a few issues (e.g., some confusion about the room location), Mark Hylkema viewed it as a success and believed the sharing of personal space was a key aspect. Everyone else on the Board agreed.

The non-alcoholic beverages at the Silent Auction were well received. Next year the NAPC will work with Breck Parkman to hold a youth panel (ages 9 to 11). The panel on skeletal remains and Native American concerns was quite good. It was also beneficial to hear archaeologists discussing their concerns about treatment of burials. Gregg suggested finding a way to identify session papers during the submission process that could be sensitive regarding discussions and/or images of human remains, perhaps with a check box in the abstract. In addition, session organizers could monitor what papers they have and post appropriate signs at the door.

Program Standards and Ethics Committee

Trish Fernandez reported that the Archaeological Resources Committee drafted the White Papers, but hit a wall with the interpretation of the Committee by the Office of Historic Preservation. They have since provided guidelines for minimum qualification standards that have been approved and released in a newsletter. The Committee will next review the Code of Ethical Guidelines to see if it can be pared down and if all is still applicable. They would like to provide member assistance in areas of education outreach, resumes, technical writing, report guidance, monitoring as mitigation, and historic plans. Trish suggested a webinar for continuing education through various organizations, to be sponsored by the SCA. She also suggested the creation of a non-profit arm of the SCA that provides field experience sessions.

Data Sharing Meetings

The Northern and Southern Data Sharing meetings are both planned for October 2016. Barbara Tejada is in charge of the Southern Data Sharing Meeting, and Susan Stratton is in charge of the Northern Data Sharing Meeting.

Mark Hylkema moved to adjourn the Executive Board meeting, and Barbara Tejada seconded the motion. Vote: Yes 7, No 0.

Society for Historical Archaeology Liaison Report

Karen K. Swope, Society for Historical Archaeology Liaison

The new thematic issue of *Historical Archaeology* (Vol. 50, No. 1) presents Current Research into the Archaeology of American Landscapes. The issue contains useful comparative data for archaeological landscape approaches and topics, providing California site examples.

Recent SHA blog posts of interest include items on urban public archaeology, social media practices, the potential use of counter-maps, and considerations for drone use in public outreach. You can access many more recent posts in the blog archives at [http://www.sha.org/blog/](http://www.sha.org/blog/).

Watch for updates about the 50th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, to be held in Fort Worth, Texas, on January 4-8, 2017. The theme of the conference is “Advancing Frontiers: Where the Next 50 Years of SHA Begin.” Conference details may be found at [https://sha.org/conferences/](https://sha.org/conferences/).
2017 Annual Meeting: Call for Papers and Update
Adie Whitaker, Greg Burns, and Kristina Roper

T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ONCE AGAIN! WE are excited to announce the Call for Papers for the 2017 SCA annual conference. The 51st Annual Meeting will be held at Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp, California, from Thursday, March 9, through Sunday, March 12. The following is a brief update on conference planning to date, as well as the formal call for papers.

The theme for next year is “Sharing the Past.” This theme highlights the core tenets of our Mission Statement, which affirms that the SCA is “a nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to research, understanding, interpretation and conservation of the heritage of California and the regions that surround and pertain to it.” Sharing the Past is meant to convey the dissemination of archaeological information to each other and to the public, but also to recognize that there are many stakeholders involved with archaeological practice in California working together to protect and learn from the state’s cultural resources. In keeping with the theme, we would love to have a diversity of sessions on various ways that archaeologists can collaborate with Native Americans, other scientists, and public agencies, as well as fresh and innovative archaeological findings and studies.

We are open to novel session topics or formats. If you have any ideas about getting away from the standard 15-minute talk format, we would love to talk to you about them and figure out how we can make them happen.

Please feel free to discuss your ideas with us or any Board member at the Northern and Southern Data Sharing meetings in 2016. We are also available through e-mail: Program Chair Adie Whitaker at 2017_programchair@scahome.org, or Local Arrangements Chairs Greg Burns at grburns@ucdavis.edu and Kristina Roper at kroper@wildblue.net.

2017 Plenary Session
The Plenary Session will be held on Friday morning, March 10. We are busy working on some great and interesting kick-off presentations focusing on the prehistory and history of the central Sierra Nevada region. The plenary will also include presentations of some of the 2017 awards, which are typically given at the Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

Prepare to Submit
The SCA seeks submissions of symposia, forums, workshops, and contributed papers or posters for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Guidelines for submissions are on the SCA website at https://scahome.org/2017-submission-guidelines. The submission system will open in early October 2016, and the deadline for submissions is Friday, November 11, 2016.

As a reminder, professionals and students contributing to the program must be SCA members in good standing. Membership for 2017 will be verified in January prior to inclusion of any participant in the program. If you have questions about or anticipate special needs for a symposium, forum, or workshop you intend to propose, please contact Program Chair Adie Whitaker at 2017_programchair@scahome.org.

2017 Venue and Events
The 2017 venue is the Tenaya Lodge at the gateway to Yosemite National Park. The lodge is an all-season resort offering not just beautiful surroundings but “fun for all interests and ages, from spa treatments to mountain biking to ice skating.” All of the rooms have been recently refurbished and all guests have access to the saunas, steam rooms, indoor pool, and hot tubs.

The venue is so awesome, in fact, that we have decided to stay right there for the Reception and Silent Auction on Friday evening. You will need to get your fix for sitting on a school bus for an hour in the dark somewhere else this year.

The meetings will kick off with several workshops on Thursday, March 8, that include a radiocarbon calibration and interpretation workshop, the ever-
AVID NICHOLSON’S 2016 ARCHAEOLOGY Month poster contribution, titled “Tools of the Profession,” is an inspiration for the SCA’s Golden Year celebration. How do you plan to use your Tools of the Profession to educate the public during October? Will you give a presentation, design an exhibit, lead a hike, create a workshop, or conduct experimental archaeology? Will you develop a collaboration with other organizations for a daylong event or walk into a classroom, alone, a rock star? The Tools of the Profession include knowledge, outreach, advocacy, and stewardship.

The challenge for 2016 is for you to assist me in generating 50 California Archaeology Month events to celebrate the SCA’s 50th Year. Don’t leave your Tools of the Profession at work, bring them home and share. Thank you!

Students and others are encouraged to participate as conference volunteers for a variety of positions (e.g., registration table, room monitoring, audio-visual support). Look for more information from us soon about volunteer sign-ups, silent auction donations, and sponsorships. See you at Tenaya!

The Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite in Fish Camp, California, site of the 2017 SCA Annual Meeting.
This summer, CASSP has been very busy. We thank all the agency archaeologists and the volunteer site stewards who work throughout the state to protect sites on public lands. We have heard from several archaeologists that the program continues to help agencies meet their mandate to monitor the sites within their resource areas. And we have heard from many site stewards that they enjoy visiting their assigned sites and learning more about the local history and prehistory. They like giving back to their community. Thank you!

To these site stewards, please remember that we need a record of your volunteer hours for the grant match 2015-2016 by the end of September 2016. You may report your hours (including agency, date of visit, hours, and general location) to bpadon@discoveryworks.com. Thanks again.

We also want to share the good news that SCA members Karen Lacy and Michael DeGiovine are sincerely interested in being the next coordinators for CASSP. This year they have attended CASSP workshops to learn how they are organized and hopefully they will start conducting them next year. We will continue to enjoy our contact with agency archaeologists and with site stewards and we want to stay involved. We look forward to assisting Karen and Michael while they take on the major tasks of the workshops. Please welcome them to CASSP. Karen and Michael can be reached at karen.elizabeth.lacy@gmail.com or mdegiovine@gmail.com.

This year we reached near capacity attendance at all of our workshops. In December 2015, we started with a well-attended site stewardship class at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. State Parks Archaeologist Robin Connors teamed with archaeologists from Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, Tricia Dodds and Jim Cassidy, to host this CASSP training session. In April 2016, BLM Archaeologist George Kline hosted the volunteer training at the BLM Palm Springs Field Office, also with a near capacity group. In late April, Los Padres National Forest Archaeologist Renee Barlow held a CASSP workshop for the Santa Lucia Ranger District. In May, Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office joined together to host an advanced workshop in rock art recording and site documentation. USFS Archaeologists Jacquie Beidl, Ashley Blythe, and Krystal Kissinger, as well as BLM Archaeologist William Kerwin, conducted this workshop along with site stewards and rock art specialists David Lee and Charlotte Anderson. In June, USFS Archaeologist Alex Verdugo held site steward training for the Hume Lake Ranger District. Following that session, Linn Gassaway, the Heritage Program Manager/Forest Archaeologist for Lassen National Forest, and BLM Archaeologist Marilla Martin teamed up to host their volunteer training at the USFS Supervisor’s Office in Susanville. Amy Girado, BLM Archaeologist, hosts our last workshop for this year on September 10 and 11 at the BLM Bakersfield Field Office, and it is already full! Total attendance this year will be over 150 trained volunteers.

Sadly, in June we learned that Charlotte Anderson Lee, rock art specialist, archaeologist, and site steward, passed away. She and her husband, David Lee, had served as site stewards since 2000 and coordinated the other volunteer site stewards for the BLM Bishop Field Office and for the Inyo National Forest for many years. At least twice a year, Charlotte and David hosted evening gatherings for site stewards and agency archaeologists at their home, where Charlotte provided delicious meals and support for the volunteers. On March 10, 2013, at the SCA Annual Meeting in Berkeley, Charlotte and David received SCA Presidential Commendations for their many years as site stewards and for recording over 5,000 rock art features in the Bishop area. David and Charlotte recently published Rock Art East of the Range of Light (2016, Learning to Listen Press, Bishop, CA), a comprehensive description of their archaeological work on the Volcanic Tableland. She brought joy to her work and to others, and she generously gave her time to her community and to the preservation of archaeological resources. Contributions in Charlotte’s name can be made to your local National Public Radio station.
This summer brought retirement for Leslie Steidl, State Parks archaeologist in the Northern Buttes District. Leslie has been involved with site stewardship since 2001. Her first training workshop was held at the Enterprise Rancheria in Oroville. She has since grown the number of site stewards and increased their activities to protect sites for several state parks in the district. She was also instrumental in bringing law enforcement officers into CASSP (as trainers and stewards) and in changing stewardship training from one to two days. On July 29, we attended her retirement party at the Thermalito North Forebay State Park near Oroville. More than 30 people came to wish her good luck and to thank her for all that she has done for archaeology and the State Parks community. Her District Superintendent, Eduardo Guarache, awarded Leslie a congratulations plaque and we gave her a new site steward hat. We are pleased that Leslie plans to join the Lake Oroville site stewards. Happy Trails, Leslie!

At the training workshop at Anza-Borrego, site steward Suzanne Emery introduced her assigned site to the workshop participants before we viewed its features and artifacts (photograph provided by Beth and Chris Padon).

Before visiting sites in Palm Springs, participants were briefed about the site visit form (photograph provided by Beth and Chris Padon).

The advanced training workshop in Bishop for the Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office reviewed rock art documentation and field survey techniques. Site stewards Dawn Johnson and Charlotte Anderson Lee stand before some petroglyphs on the Volcanic Tableland (photograph provided by Beth and Chris Padon).

Northern Buttes District Archaeologist Leslie Steidl (third from left, sitting) is surrounded by site stewards at her retirement lunch in July (photograph provided by Beth and Chris Padon).

After visiting a site in the Sequoia National Forest, participants wrote their observations on the site visit form before moving to the next site (photograph provided by Beth and Chris Padon).
Stabilizing the Sand Hill Bluff Archaeological Site (CA-SCR-7)

Mark Hylkema, Santa Cruz District Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison, California State Parks

The Santa Cruz District of California State Parks has been working to stabilize a very significant coastal archaeological site. At the same time, they are also engaging in high-level archaeological research and entering into a Native American partnership that may soon see adjacent farm lands become a place for Native American cultivation of traditionally used plants. While there is much to write about this project, this article is singularly focused on the methods being used to stabilize the site, and hopefully others may find the applications useful.

The Sand Hill Bluff archaeological site (CA-SCR-7) is located within the Coast Dairies portion of Wilder Ranch State Park on the Santa Cruz coast. It is a well-known and important site (Moratto 1984:244-245) that was nominated to the National Register in 2004 (Hildebrandt et al. 2007) due to its contribution to the early development of local archaeology, and because it represents a massive and well-dated ancestral Native American site that spanned the middle Holocene. Recognizing the significance of the site, State Parks acquired the property in 2003.

The site rests on a 50-foot high sand dune on the edge of a marine terrace of hard rock geology that rises some 80 feet above the Pacific Ocean, and is otherwise surrounded by tilled agricultural fields. An extensive layering of midden deposits is visible throughout the large dune complex, and significant numbers of flaked stone artifacts have been found in the fields directly adjacent to the dune. The sand dune appears to have been truncated by rising sea levels that occurred between the early and middle Holocene, and the stratigraphic relationships visible in the cut profile on the seaward side of the dune inform us that the site was once on the leeward side of a terrain that has long since disappeared into the sea. The remaining dune, with alternating layers of midden profiled on the exposed seaward side, exhibits intervals of dense cultural deposits and anthropogenic soils, from the very upper crest of the dune down to the bottom toe of the slope that grades over the vertical cliff and into the nearby sea. The dense upper midden, visible at the top of the dune, has consistently dated between 3,200 and 6,200 BP. It appears as a meter thick, dark-colored, ashy sand matrix packed solid with a variety of dietary shell, charcoal, faunal remains, cooking stones, and chipping debris. An eroded debris field skirts the base, exposing masses of cultural material.

SCR-7 has long been a favorite target for artifact hunters who regularly prowl the adjacent agricultural fields where many hundreds of chipped stone artifacts have been removed after seasonal rains wash the plowed fields surrounding the mound. Long before I joined State Parks in the spring of 2000, I had met two different collectors who, in their younger years, had recovered large numbers of projectile points and bifaces from the SCR-7 fields. Fortunately, they allowed me to document their finds, which were described in my 1991 Master's thesis. After joining State Parks, I contacted the collectors and was able to recover all of the artifacts, which consisted of several hundred projectile points and bifaces. These artifacts have contributed to the development of a culture chronology for the region.
now referred to as the Sand Hill Bluff Phase, which has been radiocarbon dated between about 5,500 and 3,000 BP (e.g., Hylkema 1991, 2002; Hylkema and Cuthrell 2013; Milliken et al. 2007).

Fortuitously, the recent severe drought in California has provided State Parks with an opportunity to reset the agricultural boundaries around the site, and we have extended a protected easement into the fields where some 22 acres will no longer be subject to discing, precluding surface visibility of the remaining artifacts. However, the public continues to find their way to the iconic and topographically distinct dune feature, and their presence has taken a toll on the fragile exposed surface of the upper midden.

This past June, students and archaeological specialists from UC Berkeley partnered with State Parks and the Amah Mutsun Tribe to conduct limited archaeological studies on the dune site, as well as the surrounding fields. Rob Cuthrell and Kent Lightfoot have determined that the site retains multiple layers of midden within and adjacent to the larger exposed upper midden, revealing a remarkable record of distinct cultural events spanning the middle Holocene. The research effort is currently focused on recovering paleobotanical residues from multiple well-dated contexts, and future *SCA Newsletter* articles may elaborate on this special undertaking.

Although the area is closed to the public, wanderers climb to the top of the dune to get a commanding view of the coastline, and in their haste to scramble up they erode the intact midden in the process. To address this ongoing problem of public visitation at the exposed midden side of the dune, I received two State Parks grants to stabilize the site through two approaches. The first involved the construction of a pedestrian boardwalk trail around the inland side of the dune to re-route people who might be tempted to scramble up the exposed seaward profile. The second method was to overlay a fabric of chain link cyclone fencing on top of the midden, anchoring it down to prevent vandalism and planting native coastal species between the chain links to revegetate the exposed surface and create a barrier to the fragile structure of the mound.

The pedestrian boardwalk was completed in 2006 and extends more than 180 feet. It consists of a rail fence that encompasses the perimeter of the sensitive portion of the site and delineates a closed area that State Parks rangers can use to enforce public exclusion. However, the boardwalk is not regularly maintained and, as a result, excessive vegetation encroaches every year. Fortunately, State Parks has benefitted from the dedication of organized volunteers who patrol the site each year while assisting with the supervised removal of invasive plants. One group deserves special recognition here: the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA), Silicon Valley Chapter, which annually contributes dozens of volunteers as well as materials to help improve the boardwalk trail, which will soon be connected to a proposed longer coastal trail system.

The second site stabilization method was also made possible through contributions of the IFMA volunteers. Their professional relationships include building contractors and landscape architects who have access to people and materials. Recently, IFMA accommodated my request for used cyclone fencing and delivered a truckload of it, which was placed on top of the midden that was exposed and profiled on the seaward side of the dune. Through donated fencing and low-cost ground anchors, State Parks utilized the services of the district’s trail crew and the California Conservation Corps to provide the necessary labor to install the fence.
Our method for constructing the fence was to stitch the various sections of fencing together with quarter-inch steel cable to create a large mat that could be customized to fit the contours of the dune slope. To prevent mischievous people from lifting up the fence, stainless steel “duckbill anchors” were used. These anchors are relatively cheap and have a steel cable with a loop attached that can be intertwined with the cyclone fence. They also have a small pocket sleeve depression where a rebar stake can be placed to drive the anchor down into the ground with a mallet. The rebar can then be pulled out, leaving the duckbill and the taut cable embedded into the subsurface. These anchors have a pivoted arm (hence the name duckbill) that rotates horizontally and will set the anchor if someone tries to pull up the cyclone mesh with its attached anchor cable. The fence fabric can easily support people walking on it. In addition, sand will merge with the fencing and funnel through it, lessening some of the aesthetic impacts.

To my surprise, the installation was done during two visitations that took only a few hours each time! Afterwards, native plants selected by our District Natural Resources staff and raised at our nursery in Half Moon Bay, were inserted between the chain links. As an experiment, several plant species were selected to see which ones would fare best on the arid sand dune slope that is perpetually exposed to the open Pacific Ocean. Only about 20 percent of the seedlings have survived to date, but we will continue the replanting effort until we succeed.
The Santa Cruz District has also engaged with the California native stewards, sponsored by the local Amah Mutsun Tribe, to participate in the revegetation effort and to patrol the site regularly. More importantly, the State Parks District is also engaging the tribe in a conversation about reusing the now fallow agricultural fields for native agriculture and traditional plant propagation without plowing or discing. This portion of the fields consists of about 22 acres, so the possibilities are very attractive to the tribe. This too will be the subject of future articles as the vision evolves.

In closing, I thank Dr. Rob Cuthrell of UC Berkeley, along with the Amah Mutsun Tribe, for their efforts last July in constructing a retaining wall along the upper exposed midden after sampling the exposed face. With support from the Amah Mutsun Tribe, the UCB team, IFMA volunteers, and State Parks staff, CA-SCR-7 is now in much better shape to endure the many public and climatic challenges yet to come.

References

Hildebrandt, William R., Deborah Jones, and Mark G. Hylkema

Hylkema, Mark G.


Hylkema, Mark G., and Rob Q. Cuthrell

Milliken, Randall, Richard T. Fitzgerald, Mark G. Hylkema, Randy Groza, Tom Origer, David G. Bieling, Alan Leventhal, Randy S. Wiberg, Andrew Gottsfeld, Donna Gillette, Viviana Bellifemine, Eric Strother, Robert Cartier, and David A. Fredrickson

Moratto, Michael J.
YES, THERE ARE TWO JOHN FOSTERS IN California archaeology. I am the northern guy. I am also the Parks guy and the sometimes underwater guy. In that capacity, I offered the idea to Jill Gardner, the SCA Newsletter managing editor, of an occasional column (which I have dubbed Older Than Dirt) with thoughts that might otherwise appear in the global wasteland of Facebook. My plan is to share stories about archaeology and State Parks, looking forward and back from the viewpoint of a retired archaeologist. It is not my goal to be political, but I do reserve the right (with Jill’s approval) to poke fun at the idiocy of certain ideas and situations whenever the occasion arises. I will touch on things beyond archaeology, but those subjects will tie back to the past in some way. Otherwise, I don’t have an axe to grind, dog in a fight, or score to even. I hope to range far and wide in this column. Some of my stories will be about California; some might include experiences from elsewhere. I will do most of the writing and I will try to get things right, but these are stories and intended to entertain. If the truth gets bruised a little, so be it. On occasion, I might have a guest author weigh in, but it will be mostly me. So, off we go.

I really loved my career at State Parks. I was hired by Fritz Riddell in 1975 and for the next 35 years, considered myself lucky to be there and do the work. We had a lot of gifted archaeologists, but Fritz decided I would be the one to carry much of the administrative load. I didn’t mind; I was good at it. That job entailed selling the cost of doing CRM to a skeptical and sometimes recalcitrant bunch of Parks managers. Fritz was a master in this specialty. He had a way of using humor to jolly up the tight-fisted budget executives and I tried to learn from that approach. I would also try to get budget staff (the appointed executives were always too busy) out in the field to see the historic sites, archaeological complexes, and cultural landscapes where Parks money was being spent. Most of the time this interaction led to a greater awareness and appreciation of CRM needs.

Occasionally, I longed for that sense of excitement that came from actually doing archaeology and not just talking about it, so Fritz encouraged me to find a niche. He wanted me to scratch that (n)itch. My Parks colleague, Dr. Jim Barry, a man of Miwok heritage and a senior State Parks resource ecologist, was working with an interdisciplinary team to develop a system of California underwater parks that would encompass offshore, lake, and riverine habitats. They needed cultural representation, so I volunteered and became his dive buddy. I went to Scripps Institute in San Diego to become certified as a National Association of Underwater Instructors diver, joined the State Parks dive team, and taught myself how to conduct archaeology in an underwater environment. Programs in underwater archaeology have never been available in California, so I had little choice but to learn it on my own. Later, I met Charlie Beeker from Indiana University Bloomington at a Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference, where we shared the goal of extending cultural parks into the aquatic realm.

I was subsequently invited to Indiana University to speak about California underwater archaeology and was then recruited to become adjunct (aka volunteer) anthropology faculty at the University. That opportunity turned into a 20-year part-time teaching and research gig in the Caribbean. I also served on the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology and as the Underwater Program Chair for the 1986 and 2006 SHA meetings. In other words, I jumped into the underwater role and gave it everything I could when time allowed.

Every student who majors in anthropology has to grapple with two penetrating questions: “What do anthropologists do?” and “Oh, so you don’t look for dinosaurs, have you ever found anything good?” My dad answered the first one for me. I was home from UC Santa Barbara on a break and announced my change of major to anthropology. Later that evening, Dad was entertaining one of his work colleagues from Hughes Aircraft and I overheard the following:
Guest: “So what has Johnny decided to major in at Santa Barbara?”
Dad (short pause): “He tells me he’s going to major in anthropology.”
Guest (longer pause): “So, what do anthropologists do, exactly?”
Dad (very long pause): “It seems they teach others how to be anthropologists!”

Nailed it! So, how do you answer the other inevitable question: “You’re an archaeologist? Have you ever found anything good?” As for me, I try to work in the story below.

I had done a lot of excavations over my many years as an archaeologist, but this one was different. In 2010, I was working underwater in the Dominican Republic with a team from Indiana University. We had been made aware of this site by an experienced Dominican shipwreck specialist who was very concerned about its preservation. We surveyed the area from the boat with a magnetometer and then we focused testing in the cove’s shallow regions where coins and artifacts were occasionally exposed in storm events.

I was using a dredge that vacuumed a growing sand hole in the shallow inlet. The water was crystal clear and excitement was in the air. Local experts said this was the location of a 1725 shipwreck, and while nothing was visible on the sandy bottom, the evidence was buried about one meter down. We used a portable magnetometer and underwater metal detectors to flag targets buried in the sand. Then the dredge was employed.

Our search was for remains of the Nuestra Señora de Begoña, a Spanish frigate going from Venezuela to the Canary Islands when she ran into a big storm. The captain diverted to Santo Domingo, but the vessel was sinking, was low in the water, and could not make it into the Ozama River across a sand bar. Finally, the captain chose to wreck the ship where the passengers could be saved at the little beach now known as La Caleta, the only place you could possibly get to shore safely in a raging storm.

So when I took over the dredge, there was a feature being exposed with cannon balls and other iron objects. A sandfall cascaded into the deepening unit as
be seen. But the laboratory has thousands of silver coins. We argued that the clump should perhaps be preserved as an intact feature to help tell the story of the Begoña. Okay, the technical director, Francis Soto, decided; the “Foster Clump” was saved!

You see, Nuestra Señora de Begoña was owned by the governor of the Canary Islands, and when the survivors were greeted by Spanish authorities in Santo Domingo, it was discovered that the ship carried a large contraband cargo of unregistered coins. This led to a trial of the vessel’s captain for silver smuggling. This was unfortunate for Captain Garces de Salazar, but a blessing for archaeologists as the trial records have preserved a thorough description of the event, the registered cargo, the names of the crew and passengers, and contemporary salvage recovery. The salvage was only partly successful, but 21,000 pesos in silver were recovered. Only 8,761 pesos were registered as formal cargo. Oops!

The shape of the “Foster Clump” (as I insisted it be called) is important. It appears as though the coins were concealed in a canvas bag or perhaps the false bottom of a small barrel. The shipwreck itself has yet to be excavated, but the site has become a “Living Museum of the Sea” in La Caleta National Park, where it is preserved and interpreted in place while awaiting future research.

Guest: “Foster, you’ve been digging around in other people’s trash for 40 years. This is the first good thing you’ve ever found.”

Foster: (long pause) ……

For more information on this project, please visit the following website:

https://www.academia.edu/9270986/Talegas_and_Hoards_The_Archaeological_Signature_of_Contraband_on_a_1725_Spanish_Merchant_Vessel
Apply Now!

$1,500.00

Cash Award for Student Research

James A. Bennyhoff Memorial Fund

The Society for California Archaeology (SCA) invites interested undergraduate and graduate student members to submit research proposals. The award is intended to support original research on the prehistory of California and the Great Basin.

- Up to $1500.00 CASH!
- Up to 50 obsidian source identifications (donated by Richard Hughes, Geochemical Research laboratory)
- Up to 100 obsidian hydration readings (donated by Origer’s Obsidian Laboratory)
- Up to four AMS dates (donated by Center for Accelerated Mass Spectometry [CAMS] Facility, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory)

Deadline to apply is January 9, 2017, but don’t delay!

CONTACT
Pat Mikkelsen, Committee Chair at
pat@farwestern.com
ACRA News

The American Cultural Resources Association, also known as ACRA, is a national business association whose goal is to support the needs of the diverse cultural resource management (CRM) community. ACRA's member firms employ thousands of CRM professionals nationwide, working in archaeology, anthropology, historic preservation, architectural history, and historical and landscape architecture. The SCA has had an association with ACRA since its inception. This September, ACRA will be holding its annual conference in Palm Springs (see flyer on page 21), and we hope to see many SCA members there.

ACRA has a strong interest in ensuring agency compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, especially through its Government Relations Committee. Many of its members work with agencies to support their compliance efforts. ACRA responds to legislative issues on your behalf (are you a member yet?), and has recently commented on the proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reissue and modify its nationwide permit policies (https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/01/2016-12083/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits).

Looter of Native American Artifacts Pleads Guilty

An article published in the August 15 issue of the Los Angeles Times noted that a man pleaded guilty to two felony counts connected with the looting of Native American artifacts from public lands, including some from Death Valley National Park. The individual agreed to pay nearly $250,000 to cover the costs of curating and storing approximately 20,000 artifacts that federal agents found in his home. The case was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You may read the entire article at http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-doctor-looting-artifacts-20160815-snap-story.html.

Arroyo Sequit Revisited: A Clarification from Michael Sampson

The 2016 article entitled “Arroyo Sequit Revisited” by Richard Ciolek-Torello and Donn R. Grenda in California Archaeology (Volume 8, Issue 1) provides a nice summary of archaeological research that has been conducted at CA-LAN-52, an important coastal site located within Leo Carrillo State Park. The article touches on a project I directed at the site between 1986 and 1990, the ultimate purpose of which was to enhance the protection of this highly significant cultural property. This project involved a variety of work, including a review of previous archaeological research at the site, backfilling of pothunters’ holes, construction of a staircase over the site and onto the adjoining beach, building a fence to keep people away from the site, and revegetation of the western end of the site to stabilize the loose, sandy midden soils. Park visitors had denuded and degraded this end of the site at the time my onsite work began.

As part of my project, I arranged for funding for a few radiocarbon dates and obsidian studies on site collections that were obtained during excavations in the 1950s and 1960s. Such analyses had not been conducted previously. The article by Ciolek-Torello and Grenda stated incorrectly that no obsidian source determination analyses had been conducted; I had indeed contracted for that analysis in 1987. I was well aware that obsidian hydration data must be complemented by source data. These two authors cannot be faulted, though, as contractors to State Parks were not provided these data. If the reader is interested, 25 obsidian samples that were submitted originated from the Coso Volcanic Field; one sample came from Casa Diablo.

I offer this clarification to correct the record, but this matter also demonstrates the importance of record keeping and labeling of archaeological collections and reports in order to ensure that such collections and the knowledge they represent are maintained appropriately and fully for the future. The report for my work at CA-LAN-52 was prepared with a word processing program that is long outdated and was stored on floppy disks. Paper copies of old reports can be scanned, but we can only hope that all parts of these reports were archived as part of the scanning process. Researchers who have no firsthand knowledge of a specific project can only work with the data that are maintained and are made accessible to researchers and stakeholders. In the future, those archaeologists with the firsthand knowledge will be gone.
The American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) is the nation’s cultural resources management (CRM) trade association. In addition to lobbying for CRM and historic preservation on Capitol Hill, ACRA holds annual conferences with training and networking opportunities. This year, ACRA will be meeting in beautiful Palm Springs, California. Ample networking opportunities will be provided as you greet old colleagues and make new business partners. Sessions this year revolve around the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Ranging from an update on the current status of preservation law to interactive discussions about how CRM professionals and academic institutions can work together to ensure preservation success in the next 50 years, the program encourages dialogue and networking among regional and national preservation practitioners. Register for the conference and make your hotel reservations now!

Register today and lock-in the low conference hotel rate of $119 per night at the beautiful Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel!

Visit http://www.acra-crm.org/2016conference to register and for more information.

Questions?
Contact Kerri Barile (kbarile@dovetailcrg.com)

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22nd Annual Conference
September 15-18, 2016
Palm Springs, California

From Midcentury to Modern: 50 Years of CRM

Conference Schedule

**Thursday, September 15**
- Welcome Reception

**Friday, September 16**
- Preservation Politics Roundup: The NHPA at 50 Years and Section 106 after Election Day
- Creative Mitigation is Smart Business: Historic Floyd Bennett Field
- ACRA Luncheon: Come Hear What our Committees are Doing
- Mobile Technology and Heritage Tourism: A Case Study of the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project
- Keeping Your Employees Safe: Recent Changes and Trends in OSHA Regulations Related to CRM
- The CRM Industry at 50: Retrospect and Prospect from Boomers to Gen Xers

**Saturday, September 17**
- 50 Years of Working with the Academy: The Past, Present, and Future of CRM Education
- Just What Makes a Property Traditional?
- Traditional Cultural Property Bus Tour: A Trip to Palm Canyon
- Landmarks and Legends: Bus Tour of Palm Springs History and Architecture
- “Thanks for the Memories:” A Social with the SHPO (Keynote Speaker: Julianne Polanco, CA SHPO)
Fourth Annual Western Bioarchaeology Group Conference (WeBiG)
October 7-8, 2016
Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA

What is WeBiG? An annual gathering of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty who work on bioarchaeology at institutions located in western states. WeBiG provides networking opportunities and the exchange of research ideas to further collaboration among bioarchaeologists.

Please visit the WeBiG website for all details concerning lodging, wine tour, and conference information at: sites.google.com/site/westernbioarchaeologygroup/home.

What is this year’s theme? Our 2016 theme is COMMUNITIES. Bioarchaeologists have historically addressed elements of human behavior and lived experiences at the individual or group level. These investigations allow for comparisons within and among groups; however, within the last few years this focus has shifted to treating these groups as communities. This approach allows for the analysis and interpretation of shared group identity and relationships between individuals. Bioarchaeologists are increasingly incorporating the research questions and interests of descendant communities in collaborative research to create richer narratives.

Who are the speakers this year?

Patricia Lambert, Ph.D., Utah State University (plenary speaker)
Brenda Baker, Ph.D., Arizona State University
Lori Hager, Ph.D., Pacific Legacy, Inc.
Ann Kakaliouras, Ph.D., Whittier College
Marin Pilloud, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno
Caryn Tegtmeyer, Graduate Student, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Where will the conference be held? In 2016, WeBiG will be held on the campus of Sonoma State University, located in Rohnert Park, California. The conference is sponsored by the Sonoma State University (SSU) Anthropology Club, the SSU Department of Anthropology and the SSU School of Social Sciences. Highlights will include a tour of SSU’s Anthropological Studies Center and the opportunity to go on a wine tour!

Hotel Information. WeBiG attendees can reserve rooms for $125 plus 14% tax per night at the Best Western Inn in Rohnert Park. Reservations must be made over the phone by calling the hotel directly at (707) 584-7435. Use the group code B00Y16 and refer to the WeBiG Conference. Make your reservations soon, before the block of rooms sells out! If enough attendees stay here, we will arrange a shuttle for transportation to Sonoma State. For other hotel options, visit http://www.sonoma.edu/visit/local.html and click on any of the “Some Hotels” links.
2016 SCA Northern Data Sharing Meeting

The 2016 SCA Northern Data Sharing meeting will be held on Saturday, October 1, in the Floriculture Building at the Amador County Fairgrounds, located in Plymouth (AmadorCountyFair.com). We are still looking for paper presentations that are 15 to 20 minutes long. The data sharing meetings are a good opportunity to present current research in an informal, friendly setting. Following the presentations on Saturday, for those staying to enjoy the wine country, we will have an informal gathering at the Amador Brewing Company located at 9659 Main Street, Plymouth.

Paper presentation submittals will be accepted until September 21. Please include your name, title, affiliation, and brief abstract to Susan Stratton, SCA Northern VP, at su.def.sfnul@nottartsknasus. If you are interested in camping, please submit that information to this email address as well. To receive updates, please check out the SCA website (https://scahome.org/future-meetings) and Facebook page. It is suggested that you make reservations early, as this weekend (October 1 and 2) is also Amador County Wine Country’s Big Crush event (http://amadorwine.com/event/big-crush-harvest-festival/).

Presentations will begin on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the main hall at the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center, with coffee and pastries provided in the morning and a catered lunch in the courtyard. Papers will last 15 to 20 minutes, and student presentations are particularly encouraged! Remember, the data sharing meeting provides a friendly, informal venue for sharing and receiving feedback on your most recent research!

Join us back at the campground on Saturday night for a campfire and potluck BBQ (BYOB) and catch up with colleagues under the desert stars! There will be field trip opportunities within the park on Sunday morning (stay tuned for details!), or you can explore California’s largest state park on your own. If you are interested in confirming camping or other lodging options, wish to present a paper, or have any questions, please contact Barbara Tejada, SCA Southern VP, at barbara.tejada@parks.ca.gov. Check out the SCA website and Facebook page for updated information.

2016 SCA Southern Data Sharing Meeting

The SCA, California State Parks, and the Anza-Borrego Foundation are proud to collaborate on the 2016 Southern Data Sharing meeting on Saturday, October 29, at the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Participants are welcome to arrive on Friday afternoon, October 28, for group camping at the Borrego Palm Canyon campground. We have three group camping sites reserved, with parking for up to 18 vehicles. Any additional vehicles will be charged $8.00 each per night.

For those who prefer indoor accommodations, the Research Center offers four efficiency apartments for $35.00 per night for one person or $50.00 per night for two people, as well as 24 dorm beds with shared bathrooms that are available for $20.00 per night per person. Nearby, in-town accommodations in Borrego Springs include the Palm Canyon Hotel and RV Resort.

Presentations will begin on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the main hall at the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center, with coffee and pastries provided in the morning and a catered lunch in the courtyard. Papers will last 15 to 20 minutes, and student presentations are particularly encouraged! Remember, the data sharing meeting provides a friendly, informal venue for sharing and receiving feedback on your most recent research!

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California Council for the Promotion of History

For more than 30 years, the CCPH has presented its annual conference for professional development opportunities, along with chances to network with friends and colleagues. The 2016 meeting will be held at California State University, Sacramento, on October 21 and 22, 2016. The preliminary agenda for the conference can be found at http://media.wix.com/ugd/7f2c7a_31edc1ed8a5f41cf8e4f4800afe648504.pdf. For more details about the conference or proposals, please contact Anne Lindsay at anne.lindsay@csus.edu, and include CCPH 2016 in the subject line.