



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

March/April - 2010

“Archaeology Movie Night”

(Board Meeting & Potluck)

Friday, March 26, 2010

6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

at

**Dennis Fenwick and Martha Lewis' Home
2825 Butler Court, West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-1465**

Join SAS for a fun and educational evening viewing of movies on archaeology subjects. Arrive at **7:00 p.m.** with your favorite dish to share for the **potluck dinner**. Prior to the potluck, the **SAS Board of Directors will meet** at **6:00 p.m.** SAS Members are encouraged to participate in the Board Meeting. After the **potluck, between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m.**, settle in to watch the following films:

“Poverty Point Earthworks” in Louisiana dating to 1750 BC

are the oldest of their size in the Western Hemisphere. Next to the Western bank of the Mississippi River from **1750 BC to 1350 BC**, they constructed semicircle mounds on which they build houses, a tall large mound that appears to be an eagle, and smaller mounds. They also started using clay pottery for the first time in the area making pottery balls to cook. (22 minute VCR, 1999.)

“Cahokia Mounds” in Illinois, East of St. Louis

were occupied from about **400 AD to 1400 AD** and are the **largest earthworks in Ancient America**. They constructed a **Woodhenge** for a giant solar calendar. **Cahokia was larger** than London, Paris, or most European cities of its time. The culture grew as a result of the arrival of **corn** from Mexico as they **adapted corn to the colder climate** of Illinois. (1 hour VCR, 2002.)

“Ancient Indian Rock Art of Arizona”

explores 6 different regions in Arizona with archeologists and Native Americans. Together they share the meanings of these symbols, shed new light on the ancient people who created them, and suggest how they can be protected. Several of the sites are otherwise hard to get to. (40 minute DVD, 1994.)

OPEN EXCLUSIVELY TO MEMBERS OF SAS

"Marsh Creek – Ancient Stratigraphy at a Windmiller site"

Saturday, April 10, 2010
9:00am to 3:00p.m.

Meeting place: Nugget Market, West Sacramento
Easy Hiking Difficulty

Join Archaeologists **Rick Fitzgerald and John Foster** at the **Marsh Creek Windmiller** site in **Contra Costa County** near Brentwood. This site along a major creek that flowed into the delta in earlier times, which is on State Park land not yet open to the public, contains stratified series of archaeological deposits dating **7000 to 3000 years old**. It includes an important Windmiller period deposit, which is the subject of intense analysis to determine more about this enigmatic culture. The site profile is visible from down-cutting by the creek. A short hike (5 to 10 minutes) up a creek bed will offer a splendid viewing of items in the bank of the creek that were associated with an ancient village. State Park Senior Archaeologist, Rick Fitzgerald, an expert in prehistoric archaeology and part of the NSF-funded team that has been studying the site will discuss the ongoing research to shed light on this vanished culture.



Event will begin promptly at **9 a.m.** at the **Nugget Market in West Sacramento** (intersection of Jefferson Bl. and Lake Washington).

Participants may wish to arrive earlier for coffee and can purchase lunch supplies. Following a brief introductory talk, John will lead a carpool caravan from the Nugget to the site (about 1 ¼ hours). Actual hiking time will be 5 to 10 minutes from where we park the vehicles. Bring hiking shoes/boots, hat, water, sack lunch and camera.

To register for this tour or to obtain directions contact John Foster at 916/967-6607 or by Email at parkarky@yahoo.com

The activity is limited to 26 participants so please sign up early!
OPEN EXCLUSIVELY TO CURRENT MEMBERS OF SAS

"Tour of pre-Clovis Paisley Oregon Caves and Modoc County sites"

Thursday, June 24, 2010 - Monday, June 28, 2010
Cave Tour - Friday, June 25@ 1:00 p.m.

Join SAS on a special tour of pre-Clovis Paisley Oregon caves. Archeologist, Dennis Jenkins who has been leading excavations of Paisley cave for 4 years, will be leading the tour coincident with his fifth and last excavation from June 22 and ending on July 30. Finds include human dried excrement that, from DNA testing, reveals the oldest evidence of humans in North America dating to 14,300 years ago. This is 1200 years before the Clovis culture. The cave tour (or tours if there are more than 20) is **scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.** June 24th and 28th are targeted travel days.

In addition to the cave visit, one or more of the following sites in Modoc County area near Alturas will be visited:

- **Geyser and hot springs filled swimming pool** at Hunter's Hot Springs Resort, 18088 Highway 395 North, Lakeview, Oregon 97630, 800-858-8266, 541-947-4242
<http://www.huntersresort.com/> This motel is near the Paisley Caves.
- **Obsidian** collecting sites northeast of Davis Creek.
- **Petroglyphs** northeast of Lava Beds National Monument, with its lava caverns.
- Tule Lake **Relocation Center** (detention camp) near Lava Beds.
- **Petrified wood** sites.
- Surprise Valley **Hot Springs** Resort, Cedarville, CA 530-279-2040 877-927-6426
<http://www.svhotsprings.com/main.html>
- Others as suggested. **More details to follow!**

For additional information on the Paisley Caves, see the article entitled, "Researchers, led by UO archaeologist, find pre-Clovis human DNA – Discoveries by Dennis Jenkins from Oregon's Paisley Caves validate claims made years ago by UO anthropologist Luther Cressman"

<http://pmr.uoregon.edu/science-and-innovation/uo-research-news/research-news-2008/april/researchers-led-by-uo-archaeologist-find-pre-clovis-human-dna/>

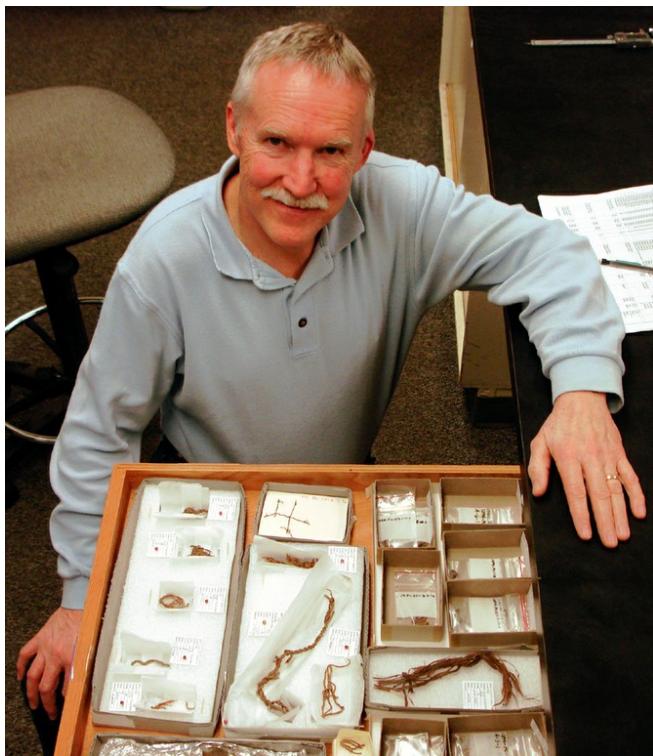
A partial text from "Discoveries by Dennis Jenkins from Oregon's Paisley Caves validate claims made years ago by UO anthropologist Luther Cressman" follows on the next page.

This activity is limited to two groups of 20 participants so please sign up early!
Individual donation of \$5 suggested to support 2009 SAS scholarship award.

Donations may be in person or sent to
Sacramento Archeological Society, P.O. Box 163287, Sacramento, CA 95816

OPEN to SAS and Fossils For Fun Members

For early registration or questions, email Dennis Fenwick at fenwick_lewis@msn.com.



Dennis Jenkins in his University of Oregon lab, displaying a drawer full of artifacts, including ropage and threads, found in the Paisley Caves. "To find these threads was just incredible," he said.

(Photo by Jim Barlow)

EUGENE, Ore. -- (April 3, 2008) -- Human DNA from dried excrement recovered from Oregon's Paisley Caves is the oldest found yet in the New World -- dating to 14,300 years ago, some 1,200 years before Clovis culture -- and provides apparent genetic ties to Siberia or Asia, according to an international team of 13 scientists.

Among the researchers is [Dennis L. Jenkins](#), a senior archaeologist with the University of Oregon's [Museum of Natural and Cultural History](#), whose field expeditions over two summers uncovered a variety of artifacts in caves that had caught the scientific attention of the UO's Luther Cressman in the 1930s.

The [Paisley Caves](#) are located in the Summer Lake basin near Paisley, about 220 miles southeast of Eugene on the eastern side of the Cascade Range. The series of eight caves are westward-facing, wave-cut shelters on the highest shoreline of pluvial Lake Chewaucan, which rose and fell in periods of greater precipitation during the Pleistocene.

The team's extensively documented analyses on mitochondrial DNA -- genetic material passed on maternally -- removed from long-dried feces, known as coprolites, were published online April 3 in Science Express ahead of regular publication in the journal *Science*.

"The Paisley Cave material represents, to the best of my knowledge, the oldest human DNA obtained from the Americas," said [Eske Willerslev](#), director of the Centre for Ancient Genetics at Denmark's University of Copenhagen. "Other pre-Clovis sites have been claimed, but no human DNA has been obtained, mostly because no human organic material had been recovered."

Archaeology Info/News

Visit <http://www.cyberpursuits.com/archeo/> to glean information on archaeological sites and projects in specific geographic regions and specific disciplines such as underwater and marine archaeology. There are pages which can lead you to reference material, academic departments, libraries, museums, publications, organizations, and other endeavors. Enjoy!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Get Ready
Due May 1, 2010

The Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. (**SAS**) is seeking applicants for one or more scholarships. **The total funds available are about \$1,500.** The scholarships may be in lesser amounts, so that more scholarships may be awarded. Should several worthy applications be received, funding in excess of \$1,500 may be available.

Scholarships will be considered in archeology and related fields for undergraduate and graduate students. Examples for which scholarships may be awarded, but are not limited to, the following:

- participation in a field school
- obsidian hydration dating
- a special project
- a special need for project related materials and/or equipment
- tuition for a field school

Requirements:

- Scholarship Application Form
- An explanation of about 200 words that describes your proposal.
- An itemized budget
- One copy of your transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Is the application complete?

2. Does proposal promote the training of archeologists?
3. Does proposal support the collection and dissemination of archeological data?
4. Does proposal promote accessibility of archeological data to the public?
5. Is it likely that the project will be completed in 12 months?

This year's deadline for applications is **May 1, 2010**. All application materials must be **postmarked** by this date. Successful applicants will be eligible to receive an honorarium of up to \$100 once they present their project results in a public presentation sponsored by SAS.

If you have questions, contact Jan Johansen, Past President at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net or 530/756-6970. Please mail the completed application to:
**Jan Johansen, Board Member
Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
505 Cleveland Ct.
Davis, CA 95616**

Membership

Welcome two new members bringing the society's membership total to **44**.

1. Robert F. McGee – New York City
rfdmcgeenyc@aol.com
2. Richard M. Perry – military member from Sacramento
richard.m.perry@usace.army.mil

Mark Your Calendars

March 17- 20, 2010, SCA Annual Meeting, Riverside Convention Center www.scahome.org/meetings_events/index.html

March 25-28, 2010 - Dillard Flintknapping Workshop

March 26, 2010, Friday – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., Board Meeting at Fenwick's home

March 26, 2010, Friday – 7:00 – 9:00, Archeological Movie Night at Fenwicks's home

April 10, 2010, Saturday – 9:00 – 3:00, Marsh Creek – Tour of Ancient Stratigraphy at Windmiller site, led by Rick Fitzgerald and John Foster, Contra Costa County near Brentwood.

April 22, 2010, Thursday – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Board of Directors' Meeting location TBD

May 1, 2010 Scholarship applications due

May 6-8, 2010 - 9th Annual ISHI Gathering and Seminar, contact Lucy Sperlin, 530-533-9418 for details

May 23-30, 2010, Yampa River Tour, tactours@nm.net

May 31 – June 4, 2010 - Annual Flintknapping Workshop with Tim Dillard at Center for American Archeology.

<http://www.caa-archeology.org/forms/>

June 24-28, 2010, Tour of pre-Clovis Paisley Oregon Caves and more

July 9-23, 2010 – Peru Tour, tactours@nm.net

Note: SAS sponsored events are highlighted in blue.



A Non-Profit Corporation

P.O. Box 163287

Sacramento, CA 95816-9287