



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

November/December - 2010

SACRAMENTO ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.'S ANNUAL MEETING

Featuring

"Strange but True: An Archaeologist's Tale"

by

Breck Parkman

California State Park Senior Archaeologist

Saturday, December 4, 2010

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at

The SAS Annual Meeting for 2010

Vallejo's Restaurant

1100 O St., #8

Sacramento, CA 95814

This year we are pleased to feature Breck Parkman as our guest lecturer at the Society's annual meeting. A long time employee of California State Parks, Breck serves as a Senior State Archaeologist. He is assigned to the Diablo Vista, Marin, and Russian River Districts. The several dozen State Parks that Breck works in are centered about San Francisco Bay. His office is located across the road from General Mariano Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe, a National Landmark constructed in the mid-1830s during the Mexican Republic Era. Breck has conducted fieldwork throughout California, in the Pacific Northwest, the Canadian Plains, the South Coast of Peru, and in Central Siberia. His research interests have taken him around the world, especially to the countries of the Pacific Rim. Breck is particularly interested in rock art studies, symbolism, and shamanism. Many of his publications concern these subjects. Other interests of his include such topics as Rancholabrean megafauna, paleoecology, Paleoindians, bedrock mortars, antlered dragons in New World mythology, Elizabethan California, the Russian American Company, antique silverware, the archaeology of the 1960s, the history and influence of the Beats, the life and craft of Bauhaus master potter Marguerite Wildenhain, and the sculptures of modernist Benny Bufano. Currently, Breck is involved in a multi-year research effort to identify what he believes to be mammoth rubbing rocks of the late Pleistocene. He is also working to record the archaeological history of a c. 1967-1969 hippie commune at Olompali State Historic Park and a c. 1961-1969 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve war games training site at Annadel State Park. At the annual meeting Breck will provide

an overview of archeology through a review of five or six of his past projects. I wonder which ones! This lecture will be entertaining as well as educational. For more information on Breck visit

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23542

Following Breck's presentation and a brief Annual Meeting **Vallejo's Restaurant** will offer a fine Mexican buffet banquet. The Mexican cuisine will include carnitas, chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, salad w/cheese, beans with cheese, roasted peppers, chips, tortillas, guacamole, sour cream, pico de gallo, tomatoes, onions, cilantro, red and green salsa. Complementary soda and ice tea will be served. Dessert will also be available.

Reservations are required by using the enclosed form by Friday, **November 19th**. The cost of the luncheon inclusive of tax and gratuity is **\$25**.

Don't miss this annual society "**Members only event**". For more information, contact Jan Johansen at 707-677-5171 or Roger Peake at 916-371-6391.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Marking on Stone: Rock Art in California and Beyond"

By

Dr. Donna Gillette

Professor, U.C. Berkeley

Saturday, October 23 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Maidu Museum

Indian Museum & Nature Learning Center

1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville, CA 95661

Dr. Donna Gillette, UC Berkeley, is speaking at the Maidu Museum and in Nevada City in honor of California Archaeology Month. We are pleased to have her presentations arranged by the Friends of Sierra Rock Art Association.

Web site: www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Phone Number: For museum and program information call (916) 774-5934

"Retrospective"

Bob Leach, SAS Member

November 11 through December 31, 2010

Thursday through Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm or by appointment

Park Gallery @ 2673 21st St. Sacramento

SAS member, Bob Leach will be having a retrospective of his career as an artist and teacher mid November 11th through December 31, 2010. The venue is the Park Gallery located at 2673 21st Street in Sacramento. The gallery faces Freeport Blvd. Mr. Leach's work will be available for your viewing pleasure and for sale. The gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Come and reflect back in time to the 1970's and beyond. Park Gallery contact number is 916-454-1407.

2010 Scholarship Winners Presentations

By

Gary Alexander

Allison Barden

Brandon Li

Preeta Malelu

Naomi Scher

Saturday in February 2011

Date, time and location to be announced

In 2010 five scholarships were awarded to support the archeological/anthropological education and graduate research. The recipients are targeted to speak on the areas of study that were made possible by the Society's scholarships.

- Gary Alexander, American River College - flint knapping workshop through the Center for American Archaeology
- Allison Barden, UC Berkeley - archaeological field school in Guam
- Brandon Li, UC Berkeley - archaeological field school in Japan
- Preeta Malelu, Sacramento City College - Yucatan Peninsula Field School
- Naomi Scher, Sonoma State University graduate student - thesis research for "A Geoarchaeological Assessment of the Potential for Buried Archaeological Sites in the Vacaville Area of Solano County, California"

Stay tune for more details.

Tour of Maya of Chiapas & Tabasco

February 9 - 19, 2011

Society members, Dennis Fenwick and his wife Martie enjoyed the Archaeological Conservancy sponsored Peru Tour so much that they are now joining Archaeological Conservancy tour of Maya in Chiapas and Tabasco, Mexico.

Description of Tour of Maya of Chiapas & Tabasco

When: February 9 - 19, 2011

Where: Mexico

How Much: \$2,795 (\$375 single supplement)

This new tour takes us to some of the more out-of-the-way, but spectacular, Maya ruins in southern Mexico that flourished between A.D. 300 and 900. We begin in the tropical lowlands and end in the fabulous highlands of Chiapas among the modern Maya people. We'll see tremendous pyramids, unbelievable sculptures and murals, and modern arts and crafts. Our guide will be noted **Maya scholar**

Dr. John Henderson of Cornell University.

Wednesday, February 9 - Join us in Villahermosa. We'll stay in this tropical city for two nights.

Thursday, February 10 - Visit to the major Olmec site of **La Venta** with its great earthen pyramid.

The Olmec laid the foundations for the later Maya development. We will also see giant Olmec heads and other stone monuments at **La Venta Park** in Villahermosa.

Friday, February 11 - Comalcalco is the furthest west of all the Maya centers and uniquely built in the Maya style without stone, using fired bricks instead. Stucco sculptures and many buildings are well preserved. We then drive to Palenque for two nights at the Misión Park Inn with its fabulous landscaped grounds.

Saturday, February 12 - Palenque, set in a tropical forest on the edge of the mountains, is the most beautiful of the Maya centers. Here Pacal the Great (A.D. 615 to 683) and his sons built some of the finest Maya buildings including the Palace and the Temple of the Inscriptions where Pacal is buried.

Sunday, February 13 - Bonampak is located deep in the forest of the Lacondon Maya. Here, the greatest surviving Maya murals dramatically depict life of the Maya royalty in the 8th century. We will spend two nights at the rustic Escudo Jaguar lodge on the banks of the Usumacinta River, the border with Guatemala.

Monday, February 14 - After a short boat trip on the Usumacinta River, we arrive at **Yaxchilán**, one of the loveliest Maya sites on a big oxbow of the river. It is perhaps best known for its dramatic stelae and door lintels, many of which portray the tenure of King Bird Jaguar IV (A.D. 752 to 772) and his family.

Tuesday, February 15 - We return to Palenque, where the afternoon is free to revisit the ruins or enjoy the crafts of the village.

Wednesday, February 16 - We leave the tropical lowlands for a long climb into the Chiapas Mountains to the large Maya center of **Toniná**. The site is dominated by its acropolis, which rises in terraces and buildings some 233 feet up the side of a steep hill. After more climbing, we reach San Cristóbal de las Casas, which is nestled into a beautiful mountain valley. We'll spend two nights at a charming colonial hotel.

Thursday, February 17 - We spend the day exploring the fascinating colonial-Indian town of San Cristóbal, including the cathedral that was begun in 1528 and the many markets, where traditional crafts abound.

Friday, February 18 - We visit the charming Tzotzil Maya villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán, where traditional Maya culture still thrives. They wear traditional dress, practice a fusion of Catholic and Maya religion, and are well known for their exquisite textiles. Late in the day we'll take a short ride to Tuxtla Gutiérrez for the evening.

Saturday, February 19 - Return home from **Tuxtla Gutiérrez**.

After the scheduled tour ends, Dennis and Martie plan to continue to Oaxaca to see some of the 11 nearby sites. Both the Oaxaca sites and the sites in TAC's tour, along with others, are discussed in Joyce Kelly's book, [An Archeological Guide to Central & Southern Mexico](#).

For information on **Maya of Chiapas & Tabasco** tour see

<http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/Chiapas.html>

TAC's home page: <http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/aawelcome.html>

All current tours: <http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/tour.html>

TAC also has a tour to **Belize and Tikal**. For more information, see

<http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/BelizeTikal.html>

A request for a Tour Reservation form can be made on TAC's web site at

<http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/sendinfo.asp> The deposit is \$250 per person. TAC's address also follows:

The Archaeological Conservancy
5301 Central Avenue NE, Suite 902
Albuquerque, NM 87108-1517
(505) 266-1540
email: tacinfo@nm.net

Society for American Archeology's (SAA) Meeting

March 30 to April 3, 2011

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archeology will be held in Sacramento, CA on March 30-April 3, 2011. This is the biggest gathering of archaeologists in the world, and they will be coming here!! So whether you are interested in Egypt, Mexico, Peru, the Maya or California -- it will all be discussed.

Here is a link to the SAA website for more details:

<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/AnnualMeeting/VolunteerApplication/tabid/190/Default.aspx>

By volunteering 2 - 4 hr. shifts, you can get in to see and hear the papers. There will also be events, tours, etc.

ARCHAEOLOGY INFO/NEWS

Recent articles that may be of interest:

www.sciencemag.org Science Vol. 329, 24 September 2010 "Eastward Ho!"

Review of data supporting colonization of the Americas. "The record of sites in this region (northeast Asia) should ... form a basis for evaluating the subsequent crossing into Alaska. Sites older than 40,000 years appear only in southern Siberia. Japan, Korea and much of the rest of Eurasia up to the western edge of Beringia contain sites at least as old as 30,000 years. Afterward, there seem to have been a lull in expansion northward, coincident with the coldest temperatures and peak glacial expansion of the last Ice Age. ... The data support an overall slow rate of expansion of about 0.16 m/year and imply that North America was colonized only after the last glaciation."

www.sciencemag.org Science Vol. 330, 1 October 2010, "Archaeologist See Big Promise in Going Molecular", p 28.

The article presents three innovative approaches to the use of molecular biology. First since seeds may still harbor RNA, even though RNA is more fragile than DNA, preserved RNA in seeds could be a boon to studies of ancient plant domestication. "Sarah Fordyce reported that they have been able to sequence many RNAs, including the messenger RNAs made when genes are transcribed, from Chilean and North American maize seeds that are more than 700 years old." Second, protein collagen which can apparently survive longer (for millions of years) in a bone than RNA or DNA is different between species. Analysis of collagen sequence of extinct species for which no DNA has been isolation could be used to identify animals in an evolutionary tree. Finally plant contents of ancient pills can be identified by using DNA analysis thus suggestion a new direction in drug discovery.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new members: Gloria Howat and Paul Brown, gloriahb@comcast.net and Thomas Warriner, warriner@dcn.davis.ca.us. Hope to meet you at the annual meeting.

RENEWAL OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Since January 1 is approaching and all memberships except those who join recently (after September, 2010) are renewed at this time, please support the society by paying your 2011 dues by **January 1, 2011**. Remember your dues help make **scholarships** possible.

The annual dues are:

Student/Limited Member	\$15
Individual Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Sponsor	\$100 - 499 (individual) \$500 - 999 (business)
Patron	\$1000

Membership Benefits

Individual and Student Limited: One-year subscription to SAS Newsletter

- Members-only meetings
- Members-only fieldwork
- Field trips
- Special Lectures
- Classes and events sponsored by SAS

Family: All of the above for each Family Member
One SAS Newsletter per Family Membership

Sponsor: All of the above plus prominent mention in the SAS Newsletter and event programs for one year

Patron: All of the above plus autographed book from keynote speaker, as applicable

To minimize administrative costs please remit the payment with the **attached form**.

Please make out your check to “**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**” and mail it either early with your annual meeting reservation to or separately before January 1 to:

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 163287

Sacramento, CA 95816-9287

Thank you in advance for your prompt payment. We really appreciate your support.

Election of 2011 Board of Directors

During the Annual Meeting the 2011 Board of Directors will be elected. Additional officer participation is always welcome. Please make recommendations to John Foster parkarky@yahoo.com. An early slate of the board is:

Candidate	Office	Candidate	Office
John Foster	President	Dennis T. Fenwick	Member at Large
Lydia Peake	Vice-President	Jan Johansen	Member at Large
Carolyn McGregor	Secretary	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
Diane Rosales	Treasurer	Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
		Diane Rosales	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large

Sacramento Archeological Society

Annual Meeting Reservation Form / Membership Renewal Form

Please send your annual meeting reservation as soon as possible and no later than Friday, November 19, 2010. Membership renewal is due January 1, 2011.

Make checks payable to "**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**" and send it to

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P.O. Box 163287

Sacramento, CA 95816-9287

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Annual Meeting

of attendees

Luncheon \$25 _____ \$_____

Luncheon total \$_____

Annual Dues for 2010

Name(s): _____ Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Student/Limited Member \$15 _____ \$_____

Individual Membership \$30 _____ \$_____

Family Membership \$40 _____ \$_____

Sponsor \$100 _____ \$_____

Dues total \$_____

Total enclosed \$_____

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Mark Your Calendars

October 23, 2010, Saturday, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, “Marking on Stone: Rock Art in California and Beyond” by Dr. Donna Gillette

November 10, 2010, 7:00 Board Meeting at John Foster’s home

Nov 11 to Dec 31, 2010, “Retrospective”, Bob Leach’s exhibition at Park Fine Arts

December 4, 2010, Saturday, SAS Annual Meeting, “Strange but True: An Archaeologist’s Tale” by Breck Parkman

February, 2011, Scholarship Presentations by Gary Alexander, Allison Barden, Brandon Li, Preeta Malelu, Naomi Scher

March 20 to April 3, 2011, Society for American Archeology’s(SAA) meeting in Sacramento

Note: SAS sponsored events are highlighted in blue.

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A Non-Profit Corporation
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