



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

November/December - 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

SACRAMENTO ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.'S ANNUAL MEETING

Featuring
"Transport to Ancient Greece"
by
Veronica Lim and Patrica Roberts

Saturday, December 3, 2011

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

at

**Roger and Lydia Peake's home
2951 Redwood Ave.
West Sacramento, CA 95691**

Veronica Lim, junior at UC Berkeley and **Patrica Roberts**, senior at UC Berkeley who each received scholarships from SAS attended a field school in Nemea, Greece. They will be sharing their experiences in a presentation that transports us back in time. We will hear about the results of the excavation of the Temple of Zeus as well as the Christina basilica. Veronica will update us on international policy for cultural heritage sites and Patricia will discuss the digital management of archaeological data and 3-D documentation of the site. Their presentations should continue the tradition of quality by scholarship recipients.

Prior to the presentations and an Annual Meeting we will enjoy social interaction and "happy hour" starting at 4:00 p.m. and a pot-luck at 5:00 p.m. We ask attendees to bring their favorite dish to share and to contribute \$20 to our scholarship fund.

Don't miss this annual society "**Members only event**". For more information, contact Jan Johansen at 707-682-6031 or Roger Peake at 916-371-6391.

PREHISTORIC GREAT BASIN

Field School exploration

By

2011 Scholarship Winner

Ellie Maniery

Sunday, January 15, 2012

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

at

Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch

1212 Merkley Avenue,

West Sacramento, CA 95691

In 2011 three scholarships were awarded to support archeological/anthropological education. Two of the recipients are targeted to speak in December. The third, **Andrea ‘Ellie’ Maniery**, senior at University of Nevada, will talk on the prehistoric Great Basin on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

Put January 15 on your calendar and stay tune for more details.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

NORTH COAST ARCHEOLOGICAL/ANTHROPOLOGICAL TOUR

Thursday, September 29 – Sunday, October 2

A small group of seven members of the Society were well educated on the history and Native American culture of the inhabitants of the North Coast of California during the tour on September 29 through October 2. History of the area was first introduced on Thursday at dinner at the historic Samoa Cookhouse. The walls of the pseudo museum are donned with pictures from the lumbering and ship building era. Pictures of the massive redwood stumps covered with many people were amazing. Family style serving of simple fare brought back the ambience of the times.

On Friday Pam Service, director/curator/archaeologist set the groundwork for our visit to the area in a two hour tour of Clarke Museum. For centuries before settlers and gold seekers arrived the boundaries of future Humboldt and Del Norte Counties contained portions of the home territory of several tribes, notably the Wiyot, Yurok, Hupa, Karuk and Tolowa. The people were hunter/gathers who lived in permanent villages. Their partially subterranean houses were made from redwood planks that were stripped from not one, but several different trees to preserve the resource. A scale model of the house and sweat lodge were on display at the museum. Later on Sunday a full size model of each were viewed at Sumeg village in Patrick’s Point State Park. A dugout canoe was displayed in the museum. It was made by burning and hollowing a large redwood tree trunk to its heart wood. Typically these were stored on top of a sweat lodge when not in use.



Sumeg Village Sweat House



Sumeg Village Plank House



Sumeg Village Dance Pit

The highlight of the museum tour was the Native American Collection from Northwest California tribes. It is no wonder that the Smithsonian is covetous. The Native American basket collection is extensive. Baskets were essential to the everyday life of the Native Americans. Pottery was not in use. Baskets were used for a variety of purposes: cooking, carrying, storage, winnowing, hopper for grinding, hats, eel traps, etc. Cooking baskets were very tightly woven using materials such as willow that swells to hold water. The outside of the baskets were decorated in tribal designs using collected materials. Other available materials were used for daily use. Mussel shells were used by woman as spoons; men's spoons were carved from wood. Dentalia shells from British Columbia were trade currency. Tools were made from stone such as chert, sourced in Oregon and obsidian probably sourced from Mount Lassen.

Clarke Museum also features historical items from the period after the founding of Eureka in 1850. Early Spanish explorers and Russian fur hunters had touched Humboldt's coastline. Rancher Pierson Reading's discovered gold in the remote Trinity Mountains in 1848. Josiah Gregg led a months-long trek to find a route from the Trinity gold fields to the coast. As they navigated the last river arriving, near present town, Arcata, originally called Union, they were in discord. The river was aptly named Mad River. Soon fortune seekers flocked to the area by ship and over the mountains. Still, Humboldt County was not a major resource for gold. Timber, Humboldt's "red gold" became its valuable resource. The technology for this industry was innovative. At Fort Humboldt various lumber equipment such as the Washington Slackline Yarder were displayed. Along Humboldt Bay the remnants of a flourishing lumber industry was seen on the Madaket cruise.



Madaket



Washington Slackline Yarder at Fort Humboldt



Mercer-Fraser Co Pulp Mill

Miners and early settlers usurped or destroyed the resources on which the native populations depended. Conflict led to massacres, the establishment of Fort Humboldt and forced resettlement. In 1853 Yontocket, a site of the center of the Tolowa's world dating back to the pre-contact era, located near the Smith River was attacked because town folk in Crescent City believed that a white woman had been attacked by natives. All were slaughtered. Suntayea Steinruck, the current Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer led us to this place. She was the daughter of a person who escaped death by breathing through a reed under water below the village. Not only did she tell this story she relayed countless stories about the past and present day culture of the Tolowa. We were touched by her singing of a song that her

brother had created. The many Native American tribes in this area spoke different languages. Some were derived from Algonquin and others from Navajo.



Yontocket Trail



Slough below Yontocket



Yontocket

In 1853 Fort Humboldt was established to mediate between settlers and Native Americans to resolve conflicts. When the federal troops departed for the Civil War, the fort was manned by local recruits, and then prominent local citizens formed a self-proclaimed militia. This militia took justice into their own hands. On February 26, 1860 another massacre of over 100 unarmed natives occurred. One of the five massacre sites was located on Indian Island in Humboldt Bay. Pam and the guide on the Madaket relayed the story. Again town folk attacked during a festival killing all. The centuries old site which we viewed from the Madaket tour has been given back to the Wiyot nation for restoration.



Fort Humboldt



Fort Humboldt - Ulysses S. Grant Sign



Indian Island

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS & REFERENCES

“3-D software helps identify sex and ancestral origin of human remains with greater speed and precision”

Distinguishing between male and female human remains can be tricky especially when partial skeletons are found. Ann Ross, a forensic anthropologist at North Carolina State University and colleagues have developed a new computer program to help researchers make distinctions based on skulls.

Nuchal crest: this area where the muscles from the back of the neck attach to the base of the skull is smooth and rounded in females but hooked and protruding in males.

Jaw: a female jaw is often smaller than males' and either pointed or rounded; whereas a male's is broader and squarer. [Read more here.](#)

<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW/Message/Topic/14397/News/3-d-software-helps-id-sex-and-ancestral-origin-of-human-remains-w-greater-speed-and-precision>

<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW>

“Tar Shrank Heads of Prehistoric Californians over Time?”

A long term health decline including a gradual shrinking among prehistoric Indians in California, i.e. Chumash of the Channel Islands, may be linked to their everyday use of tar, which served as “super glue, “waterproofing” and even chewing gum.

<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW/Message/Topic/14269/News/tar-shrank-heads-of-prehistoric-californians-over-time>

“Maya village buried by volcanic ash 1,400 years ago discovered”

Excavation of a Maya village, Ceren near San Salvador, buried by volcanic ash 1400 years ago revealed a road paved with white lime plaster but without the typical lining of stones. Read more here.

<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW/Message/Topic/14280/News/maya-village-buried-by-volcanic-ash-1-400-years-ago-discovered>

“Maya Royal Tombs Found with Rare Woman Ruler”

A woman ruler’s skeleton—her head placed between two bowls—is one of two royal burials recently found at the Maya ruins of Nakum in Guatemala. Read more here

<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW/Message/Topic/14018/News/maya-royal-tombs-found-with-rare-woman-ruler>

Archaeological Headlines - <http://www.archaeology.org/news/>

Archaeology Expert - An Extensive Guide to Archaeology - <http://archaeologyexpert.co.uk/>

Society for Historical Archaeology Current Project List - <http://www.sha.org/projectstest.cfm>

Archaeological News - <http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW>

ELECTION OF 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the Annual Meeting the 2012 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	Tom Johansen	Member at Large
Carolyn McGregor	Secretary	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
Jan Johansen	Treasurer	Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
		Diane Rosales	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new members: David Loera and Alison Harvey davidloera@surewest.net. Hope to see you at the annual meeting.

RENEWAL OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Since January 1 is approaching and all memberships except those who join recently (after September, 2011) are renewed at this time, please support the society by paying your 2012 dues by **January 1, 2012**. Remember your dues 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

Please make out your check to “**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**” and mail it 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.

Annual Dues for 2010

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

_____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Student/Limited Member	\$15	_____	\$_____
Individual Membership	\$30	_____	\$_____
Family Membership	\$40	_____	\$_____
Sponsor	\$100	_____	\$_____
Scholarship Donation		_____	\$_____

Total enclosed \$_____

Mark Your Calendars

December 3, 2011, Saturday – “Transport to Ancient Greece”, Veronica Lim and Patricia Roberts and SAS Annual Meeting at Roger and Lydia Peake’s home

January 15, 2012, Sunday – “Prehistoric Great Basin”, Andrea Maniery

April 14-15, 2012 - Colorado Desert Archaeological Society's weekend