



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

November/December - 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6, 2014, Saturday – 2:00- 6:00 p.m. SAS Annual Meeting and “Perspectives on Betty Hope Plantation” by Bonny O’Neill at Carolyn & Gordon McGregor’s home

January 18, 2015, Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. – SAS Scholar Symposium at Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch 1212 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691

SACRAMENTO ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.’S ANNUAL MEETING

Featuring

**"Perspectives on Betty Hope Plantation
Excavation"**

by

Scholar, Bonny O’Neill, CSU Chico

Saturday, December 6, 2014

2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

at

**Carolyn and Gordon McGregor’s home
1334 Mission Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608**

At our annual meeting **Bonny O’Neill** a California State University, Chico recipient of 2014 scholarship majoring in Anthropology will be speaking on the Betty Hope Plantation Field School in Antigua. Last year at our October celebration of California Archaeology Month at Maidu Museum & Historic Site professor, **Georgia Fox**, CSU Chico spoke about the excavations at the Betty Hope Plantation that had progressed from the great house to the distillery and boiling house. This last summer Dr. Fox led further excavation of the site. The slave quarters were the target.

Bonny attended this field school and will present her experiences. Since Bonny studied the archaeology of cross-cultural contacts and the trans-Atlantic slave trade in Ghana at the University of

Ghana, Legon, she offers additional perspective. Bonny's goal is to become a professional archaeologist with focus on gender and feminism. We are pleased to have her share her learning experience.

The agenda for the event is as follows:

2:00 - Spirits, appetizers, and annual business meeting

3:30 – “Perspectives on Betty Hope Plantation Excavation” by Bonnie O’Neill

4:30 – Dinner, socializing, and raffle

Dinner will be provided by Carolyn McGregor and board members. The menu includes appetizers, main course: ham, escalloped potatoes, variety salads, rolls and dessert: home-made pies and cake. The cost of the dinner and contribution to our scholarship fund is \$15 per person. This fee includes one raffle ticket per person. Additional raffle tickets may be purchased as follows: 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.

In addition **students** who attend apply the \$15 charge to next year's membership and **no charge** will be collected for the dinner.

For Carolyn to manage her catering PLEASE provide your **RSVP** by December 1 to Carolyn McGregor at 916-487-6218 or sabrina53@earthlink.net.

Don't miss this annual meeting. Bring a friend.

ANNUAL SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM

By

2014 Scholarship Recipients

Kasey Cole

Jesica Jayd Lewis

Heather MacInnies

Sunday, January 18, 2015

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at

Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch

1212 Merkley Avenue,

West Sacramento, CA 95691

In 2014 Sacramento Archeological Society awarded six scholarships to support archeological/anthropological education. Antonietta Catanzariti was unable to use the award in 2014. If conditions in Iraq improve, she hopes to use it in 2015. Julia Prince's the stable isotope analysis of a sample population from the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center Cemetery for her thesis has been delayed; hence she will be presenting later in 2015 after the analysis is complete.

Three of the recipients will be speaking on the experiences made possible by the scholarships.

- **Kasey Cole** is a graduate student at California State University, Chico majoring in Anthropology. She intends to work in the field of Zooarchaeology. To strengthen her research and communication skills she attended the **Zooarchaeology and Field Ecology Field School** organized by Jack Broughton, Ph.D. from the University of Utah. This field school was an intensive four-week course located at Eagle Lake in Northern California.

- **Jesica Jayd Lewis** is a graduate student at North Carolina State University (NVSU) majoring in Ancient History with a minor in Classical Archaeology. Her goal is to earn a Ph.D. and teach and research history and archaeology professionally. This year Jesica participated in the **Palatine East Potter Project** (PEPP; Rome, Italy) and the **Najerilla Valley Research Project** (NVRP; Camprovin, Spain). Both projects will contribute to her research for her Master's thesis on cycles of economic complexity in marginal spaces of the Roman Empire.
- **Heather Macinnes** is a graduate student at California State University, Chico majoring in Anthropology. She plans to work as a professor of bioarchaeology and consult on forensic anthropology cases. She attended the **Aditu Servicios Arqueologicos Mortuary Archaeology Field School** in Uharte-Arakil, Navarre, Spain. This field school was involved with the excavation of a 12th century Romanesque church that was built on an earlier Roman Mansion. The main objective of the project was to learn about the medieval population of Navarre through the assessment of skeletal indicators of diet, pathology, and biological profile (age, sex, ancestry and stature).

Put January 18, 2014 on your calendar. These will be diversely interesting presentations.

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PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

"Examining Archaeology Looking in, Looking back and Looking under"



Dan with rock illustrations

On Saturday, October 18, 2014 Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. celebrated Archaeology Month with a tour and three lectures at the **Maidu Museum & Historic Site in Roseville, California**. This event **hosted by Maidu Museum** was well attended by approximately 60 individuals from our membership and the general public.

The event was kicked off with a walking tour of the Maidu Historic Site lead by **Dan Foster**, archaeologist who with his brother, John recorded the site in 1983 (Foster and Foster, 1983) when it was surrounded by grassland and not houses. Dan pointed out to the group boulders that contained “rock art” documented by Payen (1959). He picked up soil from middens that had been exposed by gophers and showed bedrock mortar sites. Approximately 200 mortars have been identified at the site. Finally on the east end of the site Dan identified deep grooved “rock art” on boulder grouping. The function of these grooves remains an unresolved question. The stroll through the oak forest land with basalt boulders and a brook was very peaceful and pleasant. One could imagine village life here. After the tour Dan gave a presentation where he talked about rock art styles and showed pictures of rock art from various California sites.



Group at boulders



Dan showing midden



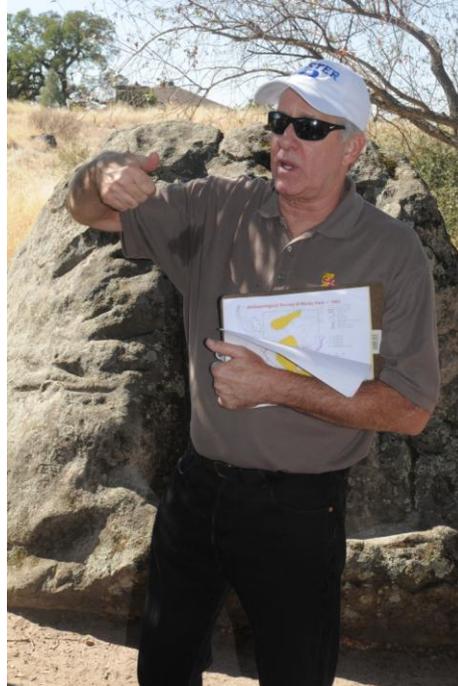
Observing bedrock mortars



Group walking through Maidu site



Rock art grooves



Dan explaining grooves

Next on the agenda was a talk by archaeologist, **Gerrit Fenenga**. He gave a comprehensive review of the contributions of California archaeologists in the early 1900's to the field of archaeology. Archeologists namely Jeremiah Lillard, Francis A. Riddell, Franklin Fenenga, A., R. Beardsley, and R. F. Heizer set the stage for orderly investigation of the prehistory. They established classification

schema, standardized methods, and offered the cultural horizon concept for viewing archaeology. After systematic investigation of the central California regions of San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Delta two papers, “An Introduction to the Archeology of Central California” (Lillard, Heizer and Fenenga, 1939) and “Archaeological Horizons in Central California” (Heizer, 1939) laid the foundation for the organization of central California prehistory and introduced the concept of cultural horizons. A Manual of Archaeological Field Methods first authored by R. F. Heizer and published in 1949 is in its 7th Edition. It has been the leading guide for instructors and students in archaeology courses and field schools. This comprehensive guide provides an authoritative overview of the variety of methods used in field archaeology. Gerrit did a fabulous job relating the history of California prehistory investigation and Californians should be proud of the contributions that these local archaeologists made to the discipline.

The third speaker was archaeologist, **John Foster**. He reviewed his experiences as an underwater archaeologist. He highlighted several underwater investigations:

- Emerald Bay Underwater Park in Lake Tahoe where you can see a sunken “miniature fleet”
- Brig *Sterling*, sailing ship that sank in 1855 in the Sacramento River off J Street
- *Montebello*, a Union Oil Company tanker that was sank by a Japanese submarine on December 23, 1941 off the coast of California near Cambria
- Ahjumawi Lava Springs Park, the location of stone fish traps
- Cedros Island area in Baja where Ming porcelain from a Manila Galleon probably sunk during a storm was found. Neither the ship nor its pieces were ever located.
- 1699 Captain Kidd’s pirate shipwreck in Dominican Republic which has been made into a Living Museum of the Sea
- *Nuestra Señora de Begoña*, a 1725 Spanish Merchant Ship wrecked at La Caleta de Caucedo in the Dominican Republic

John’s most exciting find from these underwater adventures was a clump of silver coins. These coins had been stashed in a canvas bag on the *Nuestra Señora de Begoña*. Elements had destroyed the bag and the coins had congealed into a mass. After investigation it was found that they were minted in the new world and were undoubtedly contraband.

We want to thank the Carolyn McGregor for organizing, creating, and serving the delicious refreshments.

ELECTION OF 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the Annual Meeting the 2015 Board of Directors will be elected. Additional officer participation is always welcome. Please make recommendations to John Foster parkarky@yahoo.com. The 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
		Diane Sangster	Member at Large

MEMBER'S CORNER

Renewal of Annual Memberships

All memberships are renewable on January 1 annually except for those who join recently (after September of the previous year). Please support the society by paying your **2015** dues. **Remember your dues make scholarships possible.** We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students.

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

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 2015

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

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

Total enclosed \$_____

New Members

Welcome **Kate Harper** and **Douglas and Sami La Rocca** as new members. Hope to see you at the December annual meeting.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“RIP for a key Homo species?”

“Researchers consider killing off a claimed common ancestor of Neanderthals and modern humans.” *Homo heidelbergensis*, is a species defined by a single lower jaw found in 1907 near Heidelberg, Germany and nothing quite like it has been found since. To keep a species alive both a jaw and skill are needed. (2014-07-11 *Science*, p. 129)

“Spelunking for Pleistocene fossils”

An international team of scientist rappelled 26 meters into Natural Trap Cave, a sinkhole in Wyoming’s Bighorn Mountains. The cave contained wolf, lion, camel, bison, and other animal fossils dating back to the end of the Pleistocene, about 11,600 years ago. “So far, the researchers have collected long bones and teeth for DNA analysis and radiocarbon dating to shed light on extinctions at the end of Pleistocene Ice Age and on the evolutionary history of “enigmatic” species such as the American camel and lion and a cheetah-like American cat.” (2014-08-08 *Science*, p. 605)

“Mummification’s origins pushed back”

In prehistoric Egypt between 4500 and 3100 B.C.E. the hot, dry desert did the work of mummification by desiccating bodies naturally. Artificial embalming using resins has been thought to begin around 2200 B.C.E. Researchers from United Kingdom and Sidney reported in PLOS ONE that the origin of artificial mummification was probably 1500 years earlier. By examining funeral wrapping dating to between 4300 and 2900 and excavated pit graves in cemeteries dating to between 4500 and 3350 in the Badari region in Upper Egypt they identified embalming agents. (2014-08-15 *Science*, p. 717)

“Early Levallois technology and the Lower to Middle Paleolithic transition in the Southern Caucasus”

This article notes that “Stone age technology developed independently more than once.” Its abstract states: “The Lower to Middle Paleolithic transition (-400,000 to 200,000 years ago) is marked by technical, behavioral, and anatomical changes among hominin populations throughout Africa and Eurasia. The replacement of bifacial stone tools, such as hand axes, by tools made on flakes detached from **Levallois cores** documents the most important conceptual shift in stone tool production strategies since the advent of bifacial technology more than one million years earlier and has been argued to result from the expansion of archaic *Homo sapiens* out of Africa. Our data from Nor Geghi 1, Armenia, record the earliest synchronic use of bifacial and Levallois technology outside Africa and are consistent with the hypothesis that this transition occurred independently within geographically dispersed, technologically precocious hominin populations with a shared technological ancestry.” (2014-09-26 *Science*, by Adler, pp 1574, 1609-13)

“Mysterious dinosaur a swimmer?”

Dinosaurs are often appreciated for their size and oddity. In this regard, the North African carnivorous theropod *Spinosaurus*, with its huge dorsal sail and a body larger than *Tyrannosaurus rex* has long stood out. This species also stands out because of its history. The unfortunate loss of the type specimen during World War II left much of what we know about *Spinosaurus* to be divined through speculation and reconstruction. Ibrahim *et al.* now describe new fossils of this unusual species. They conclude it was at least partly, aquatic, a first for dinosaurs. - SNV” (2014-09-26 *Science*, by SNV, p 1574)

“Semiaquatic adaptations in a giant predatory dinosaur”

“We describe adaptations for a semiaquatic lifestyle in the dinosaur *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus*. These adaptations include retraction of the fleshy nostrils to a position near the mid-region of the skull and an elongate neck and trunk that shift the center of body mass anterior to the knee joint. Unlike terrestrial theropods, the pelvic girdle is downsized, the hindlimbs are short, and all of the limb bones are solid without an open medullary cavity, for buoyancy control in water. The short, robust femur with hypertrophied flexor attachment and the low, flat-bottomed pedal claws are consistent with aquatic foot-propelled locomotion. Surface striations and bone microstructure suggest that the dorsal "sail" may have been enveloped in skin that functioned primarily for display”. (2014-09-26 *Science*, by Nizar Ibrahim, pp 1574, 1613-6)

“Neanderthal artistry”

Could Neanderthals have created cave art? The debate goes on. “Archaeologists working at Gorham’s Cave, a former Neanderthal haunt on the coast of Gibraltar, have found a cross hatched pattern etched into the hard rock floor. The deep incision lay under archaeological layers dating back at least 39,000 years – but containing stone tools that only Neanderthals made” (2014-09-05 *Science*, p. 1104)

“Three-part ancestry for Europeans”

Modern Europeans have thought to have descended from hunter-gatherer 45,000 years ago and an early farmer who migrated to the continent about 9000 years ago. A new study of ancient DNA now includes an Asian nomad who came to Europe only about 4000 or 5000 years ago from northwestern Asia. (2014-09-05 *Science*, pp. 1106-7)