



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

May/June - 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1, 2015 – Scholarship applications due

May 2, 2015, Saturday, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Flintknapping Workshop, led by Susan Gleason, Archaeologist, Phoenix Obsidian Designs at Roger & Lydia Peake's home

June 27, 2015, Saturday, 4:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Eclectic Archaeological Exchange, "Easter Island", Martie Fenwick at Carolyn McGregor's home

Aug 10-15, 2015 -- Orkney Islands Tour

September 25-27, 2015, 9:00 – 5:00 - Sierra Rock Art tour, start from Rainbow Lodge, Soda Springs, contact John Foster, parkarky@yahoo.com for more information

October 11- 26, 2015 – Paleo-American and Clovis Tour, Texas, contact Dennis Fenwick, dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com for more information

November 7, 2015 – Rock Art: A Walk thru Time, at Maidu Museum and Historic Center 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive Roseville, California 95661 contact John Foster, parkarky@yahoo.com for more information

December 5, 2015 – SAS Annual Meeting

Flintknapping Workshop

Saturday, May 2, 2015

2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Roger & Lydia Peake's

2951 Redwood Ave. West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dr. Susan Gleason

Archeologist, Phoenix Obsidian Designs

Experienced Lithic creator and instructor, Susan Gleason will teach Society members flint knapping techniques with obsidian. This will be an opportunity to enjoy hands on time with obsidian.

Dr. Susan Gleason earned her doctorate in Anthropology from the University of California, Riverside in 2001. Her dissertation, "In search of the Intangible: Geophyte Use and Management along the Upper Klamath River Canyon" reflects her research in topics on prehistoric technologies including flintknapping. Flintknapping is a process of making stone tools. Her research has also focused on ethnobotany or how people interact with plants. As an artist, she has developed unique arrowhead jewelry and created a line of educational materials.

Her business, Phoenix Obsidian Designs, produces tools to assist archaeologists and other educators to teach about prehistory. In addition to educational tools, the company produces museum quality replicas of archaeological artifacts for a variety of uses. Phoenix Obsidian Designs provides a line of supplies to support experiments in prehistoric technologies. Producing educational materials is the focus of her business.

Dr. Gleason has had a wide variety of field and laboratory experiences and as a consultant, contractor, and scientific illustrator. She has given numerous lectures and demonstrations with an emphasis on flintknapping and lithics. She is or has been a curator and collections manager. She has numerous publications and reports to her credit; and has presented a variety of papers on topics in archaeology and ethnobotany. And, she has been professionally recognized with a variety of honors and awards.

Reservations for this event are **required** so that Susan knows how many tools and how much material to bring. **Please contact Roger and Lydia Peake at rapeake@att.net to reserve your flintknapping spot** by Monday, **April 27th**.

Fees: **\$10.00** cost of the workshop is the teaching cost and includes whatever take-home "points" that are made by participants. Each participant pays this cost. A **\$30.00** cost includes the tools she provides for each participant's use (e.g. leg protection etc.) **AND** the teaching cost. So, she is selling the tools used by each participant for \$20.00. The "tools cost" is voluntary and would be paid by each participant who chooses to keep the tools.

Since we will be working with sharp objects, **leather gloves, eye protection**, and a **heavy towel** to protect legs and arms are a must. **Slip-on shoes**, rather than boots or walking shoes for ease of removal should slivers end in side are recommended. Regular glasses are adequate. Goggles are optional. **Long pants** and **long sleeves** are also necessary protection. Susan will furnish the obsidian.

Bring your favorite dish for a **pot luck dinner** after the workshop at about 4:00 p.m. Plates, utensils, napkins, and glasses etc. and some beverages will be provided by the hosts. Invite your friends to participate and join the society. **This is a member only event.** Questions? Contact Roger and Lydia Peake at rapeake@att.net

Eclectic Archeological Exchange

Saturday, June 27, 2015

4:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Carolyn & Gordon McGregor's

1334 Mission Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

Martha Lewis

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Member

"EASTER ISLAND"

The mysteries of Easter Island have captivated scholars for more than a century. The image of eerie, gigantic stone statues standing guard over a windswept speck of volcanic rock in the South Pacific thousands of miles from the nearest land has fueled speculation from Captain Cook to Thor Heyerdahl to Jared Diamond.

When did the first people arrive on Rapa Nui, the Polynesian name for Easter Island? How did they manage their resources on a windy, cool, low lying, triangular-shaped island? What are "Moai" and how and why were they made? Were the Peruvian Inca involved in the building a couple of the many walls



(foundation for the Moai) on Easter Island? Did the inhabitants engage in vicious warfare between lineage communities that contributed to their “decline”? And, what really caused the decline?

Martie will comment on these questions using archeological evidence that has attempted to piece together the Easter Island story. Don’t miss this fascinating talk.

Carolyn will be providing a delicious Italian dinner. Invite your friends to join our organization. Please RSVP to Carolyn at sabrina53@earthlink.net
Questions? Please contact Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net

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PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Eclectic Archeological Exchange

“HITTITES”

On March 20th at the Peake’s residence with an audience of over 20 people Paul K. Davis presented a scholarly review of the Hittite civilization in his talk, “The Ancient Hittite Empire”. He identified who they were and outlined their discovery, realities, and legacies. From 2000 B.C. to 700 B.C. the Hittites based in modern Turkey were a formidable political force in the Middle East, contemporary with Assyria and Egypt. Their capital was Hattusa which is near present day Bogarzkoy. Their civilization spanned the Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age.



The Hittites became accomplished in the processing and use of iron. Between 1500 and 1200 BC they had a regular smelting industry. Among other things Hittite chariots made use of iron in spoked wheels. They had a formidable army that effectively used chariots and trained horses. Both iron processing and improved horse training were Hittite legacies. Another legacy was written agreements. For example, they established a treaty with Egypt during the reign of Ramses II that resulted in 80 years of détente with Egypt.

Hittite written language was a combination of Babylonian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphics. Some symbols expressed meanings and some symbols were used as sounds. The glyphs were read left to right or right to left. To date there remain a vast number of untranslated clay tablets. More linguistic work remains to be done.



MEMBER'S CORNER

From the SAS President's Desk:

John W. Foster

3-23-15

I'm just back from the Society for California Archaeology's 49th Annual Meeting in Redding. I was privileged to chair the State Park session covering a wide variety of research, interpretation and conservation subjects. These included Hippy Archaeology, Fort Ross landscape reconstruction, Public Interpretation of Chumash Painted Cave, Año Nuevo Archaeology, a buried feature from Big Sycamore Canyon, Hidden Towns at Plumas-Eurea, Fostering Stewardship at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, the Submerged F4-U Corsair at Crystal Cove and Majolica at Rancho Petaluma. The session was concluded with a magnificent film, "A Walk Through Time." This focused on the ancient past at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park at Clear Lake, and how fortunate we are to have it preserved. Dino Beltran of the Koi Nation and archaeologists Greg White and John Parker did a great job explaining the special character of this place and why it is so deserving of careful stewardship. This is a moving and powerful film – the best one I've seen in quite some time.

Watching "A Walk Through Time" brought back many fond memories. Anderson Ranch was the top property on our Cultural Resources acquisition list for over a decade, but State Parks seemed to always find other priorities to fund and purchase. Finally, local folks led by John Parker nominated a large archaeological district of 43 individual sites to the National Register and that helped bring focus to the preservation efforts. They took legislators out to see the ancient sites and hear from Koi representatives of the need to preserve their heritage lands. Parker took his cause to the Lake County Supervisors, the State Historical Resource Commission and to every State Park meeting he could. It was a long struggle and John Parker is to be remembered for advocating many years to see it happen.

I was on the planning team and remember how difficult a sell it was. Parks was focused on small historic areas, buildings, gold-rush towns and this was different. It contained a historic ranch complex, but what made it spectacular was a demonstrated 12,000 year history of human occupation in the Clear Lake basin. The archaeological deposits, ancient mortars, petroglyphs and sacred places mark a legacy unsurpassed anywhere in North America. This was very special, but had to be seen by an eye turned to looking through the ancient past at a landscape without modern buildings or features. It has tule marsh habitat, Clear Lake shoreline and Garner Island. Finally the folks at State Parks saw the light and embraced Anderson Marsh. On September 23, 1982 the state acquired 700 acres of what was to become a 1,000 acre park dedicated to the preservation of ancient heritage. It was the first park acquired for its archaeological heritage and the largest acreage classified as "State Historic Park" for its remarkable density of archaeological deposits.

That was a big victory for preservation in State Parks and helped recognize the need to preserve traces of California's ancient past. As I watched "A Walk Through Time," I couldn't help but smile and think about how great it was to play a part in it. Future generations will benefit because of that effort.

Renewal of Annual Memberships

Have you renewed your membership? 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 \$_____

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“Getting a grip”

“The evolution of the hand particularly the opposable thumb was key to the success of early humans. Without a precise grip, involving forceful opposition of thumb with fingers, tool technology could not have emerged. Skinner *et al.* analyzed the internal bone structure of Pliocene *Australopithecus* hands, dated at 3.2 million years old. Internal bone structure reveals the patterns and directions of forces operating on the hand, providing clues to the kinds of activities performed. Modern human-like hand postures consistent with the habitual use of tools appeared about half a million years earlier than the first archaeological evidence of stone tools.” (AMS, 2015-01-23 *Science*, p. 384)

“Human-like hand use in *Australopithecus africanus*”

“The distinctly human ability for forceful precision and power "squeeze" gripping is linked to two key evolutionary transitions in hand use: a reduction in arboreal climbing and the manufacture and use of

tools. However, it is unclear when these locomotory and manipulative transitions occurred. Here we show that *Australopithecus africanus* (-3 to 2 million years ago) and several Pleistocene hominins, traditionally considered not to have engaged in habitual tool manufacture, have a human-like trabecular bone pattern in the metacarpals consistent with forceful opposition of the thumb and fingers typically adopted during tool use. These results support archaeological evidence for stone tool use in australopithecids and provide morphological evidence that Pliocene hominins achieved human-like hand postures much earlier and more frequently than previously considered.” (Skinner, et al., 2015-01-23 *Science*, pp. 395-399)

“Who are the Tibetans”

“Archaeological sites dot the Tibetan Plateau, showing that people arrived more than 30,000 years ago and may have been year-round residents by 6000 years ago. More than 3800 neolithic sites record the spread of farming.” “Linguistic suggest that the Tibetan and Chinese people share a common, but more distant root. By comparing features such as sound, dialects, and word order, William Shi-Yuan Wang, a linguist at City University of Hong Kong, constructed a family tree in 1998 that places the Tibetan-Chinese split at about 6000 years ago.” Researchers found “Tibetan-specific sequences on the Y chromosome and in mitochondrial DNA that are absent or occur at very low frequencies in other Asian populations. Based on known mutation rates, Su suggests that the sequences began evolving 30,000 to 20,000 years ago, among early nomads who had settled on the plateau.” They “found signs that Tibet’s population grew fourfold between 10,000 and 7000 years ago. Those arguing for a close kinship between the Tibetans and the Han may be at least partly right Su says, ‘The data point to a second wave of migration, probably of Han Chinese into Tibet.. gave rise to present-day Tibetans,’”(Jane Qiu, 2015-02-13 *Science*, pp. 708-711)

“Indo-European languages tied to herders”

“The Corded Ware people, ancestors of many modern Europeans, have genetic links to Yamnaya herders, who swept westward from the steppes about 4500 years ago. The Yamnaya may have spoken the mother tongue of Indo-European languages.” “Proto-Indo-European (PIE) is the ancestral tongue from which the more than 400 Indo-European languages sprang.” Based on DNA gathered from dozens of ancient skeletons across Europe and Asia a study indicates “a migration of herders from the steppes of today’s Russia and Ukraine about 4500 years ago significantly shifted the genetic makeup of today’s Europeans.” The researchers further suggest “that these herders, the Yamnaya people, spoke either PIE or an early for of Indo-European language and brought it to central Europe.” (Michael Balter and Ann Gibbons, 2015-02-15 *Science*, p. 814-815)

“How wheat came to Britain”

“Wheat reached Britain from the Near East at least 2000 years before the arrival of wheat farming.” Note the map on page 946. (Larson, 2015-02-27 *Science* pp 945-6)

“Early wheat movement into Britain”

The transition into the New Stone Age, or Neolithic period, in Great Britain and Europe was characterized by a change from hunter-gatherers to farmers. However; the early stages of this transition are not well understood. Smith *et al.* studied archaeological remains at an 8000-year-old site that has been underwater ever since the Neolithic (see the Perspective by Larson). The finds include evidence of wheat (or a relative of wheat) 2000 years before the first documented farmers in Britain. It seems that trade may have preceded the adoption of farming.” (LMZ, 2015-02-27 *Science*, p 961)

“Sedimentary DNA from a submerged site reveals wheat in the British Isles 8000 years ago”

(Oliver Smith, 2015-01-23 *Science*, pp. 384)

“Direct evidence for human reliance on rainforest resources in late Pleistocene Sri Lanka”

“Human occupation of tropical rainforest habitats is thought to be a mainly Holocene phenomenon. Although archaeological and paleoenvironmental data have hinted at pre-Holocene rainforest foraging, earlier human reliance on rainforest resources has not been shown directly. We applied stable carbon and oxygen isotope analysis to human and faunal tooth enamel from four late Pleistocene-to-Holocene archaeological sites in Sri Lanka. The results show that human foragers relied primarily on rainforest resources from at least ~20,000 years ago, with a distinct preference for semi-open rainforest and rain forest edges. *Homo sapiens*’ relationship with the tropical rainforests of South Asia is therefore long-standing, a conclusion that indicates the time-depth of anthropogenic reliance and influence on these habitats. (Roberts, et al., 2015-03-13 *Science*, pp. 1246-1249)

“Early *Homo* at 2.8 Ma from Ledi-Geraru, Afar, Ethiopia”

“Late Pliocene fossiliferous sedimentary record and the environmental context of early *Homo* from Afar, Ethiopia”

“Our understanding of the origin of the genus *Homo* has been hampered by a limited fossil record in eastern Africa between 2.0 and 3.0 million years ago (Ma). Here we report the discovery of a partial hominin mandible with teeth from the Ledi-Geraru research area, Afa Regional State, Ethiopia, that establishes the presence of *Homo* at 2.80 to 2.75 Ma. This specimen combines primitive traits seen in early *Australopithecus* with derived morphology observed in later *Homo*, confirming that dentognathic departures from the australopith pattern occurred early in the *Homo* lineage. The Ledi-Geraru discovery has implications for hypotheses about the time and place of origin of the genus *Homo*. (Villmoare et al. and DiMaggio et al., 2015-03-20 *Science*, pp.1352-1359)