



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

Nov/Dec - 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 7, 2015, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - “Talking Stone and Sacred Stories” featuring two films and Dr. Garfinkel Gold at Maidu Museum & Historical Site, Roseville, CA

December 5, 2015, Saturday, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. – SAS Annual Meeting and guest speaker, Cory Wilkins Western Regional Director, The Archaeological Conservancy at Carolyn & Gordon McGregor’s home

January 15-16, 2016 – Maya Meetings, “Archaeology and History of Lower Rio Pasion Region”

<http://utmesoamerica.org/maya/>

January 17, 2016, 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.

*Co-sponsored by the Mythological RoundTable® Group of Sacramento,
a chapter of the Joseph Campbell Foundation*

Presents

TALKING STONE AND SACRED STORIES

Saturday, November 7, 2015

10:00 -11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by Maidu Museum & Historical Site

1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville, California 95661

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - SUGGESTED DONATION \$5

Program

10:00 a.m. - Tour of Maidu Rock Art

11:00 - Screening: **A WALK THROUGH TIME: A STORY OF ANDERSON MARSH**

11:30 to 1:00 - Lunch break (Bring your own lunch or get lunch in the area and enjoy museum)

1:00 p.m. - Screening: **TALKING STONE: ROCK ART OF THE COSOS**

2:00 to 3:00 - **Guest Speaker Lecture with Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold: “Stone Age Metaphors: Sacred Stories and Symbolic Songs of the Immortal Bighorn”**

[A WALK THROUGH TIME](#): A documentary on the rich history of native people and preservation of Anderson Marsh. The film runs through the 14,000 years that the Koi Nation occupied Anderson Marsh. It was directed by Dan Bruns, a nominated filmmaker from Chico and is entered in this year's American Indian Film Festival. Copies of the documentary will be available for a suggested donation (\$15).

[TALKING STONE](#): The largest concentration of rock art in North America is hidden away in the canyons of a top secret military base on the edge of the Mojave Desert. Created over thousands of years by a now vanished culture, it represents the oldest art in California. The leading expert on the rock art of the Cosos, Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold, has teamed up with the accomplished filmmaker, Paul Goldsmith ASC, to explore and explain this ancient and elegant rock art.



Guest Speaker - Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold

Ph.D., RPA; Principal Archaeologist; Pacific Rim and Western United States UltraSystems Environmental Inc. | WBE/DBE/SBE/WOSB

“Stone Age Metaphors: Sacred Stories and Symbolic Songs of the Immortal Bighorn”- The context for understanding the Native views of the bighorn sheep are many and varied. It appears that these animals were something more than a simple subsistence resource. Archaeological sites and specialized features with bighorn bones are documented in the Desert West and these prehistoric expressions are explored. A review of ethnographic accounts, native oral traditions and indigenous cosmology aid our understanding. Bighorn figurative sculptures and rock art are also a data set that helps us explore the religious and ceremonial significance of this animal to the aboriginal people of the Far Western United States.



SPEAKER BIO: [Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold](#) is a California and Great Basin anthropologist and archaeologist. Garfinkel is currently employed as the Principal Archaeologist for the Pacific Rim and Western United States for UltraSystems Environmental, Inc., a full service engineering and environmental compliance firm headquartered in Irvine California with branch offices in six locations throughout California. UEI is a 20 year old environmental compliance firm that provides the full spectrum of cultural resource management services.

Garfinkel is also founder and director of the California Rock Art Foundation, a scientific and educational non-profit corporation dedicated to the conservation and research of the rock art of Upper and Lower California. Garfinkel has authored five books including: [Archaeology and Rock Art](#) and the [Handbook of the Kawaiisu](#) and has formally published 50 scientific articles. He is the recipient of the 2008 and 2011 California State Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. See his [website](#) for related online articles and additional information.

Books and DVDs will be available for purchase

The event is **free**, but we would welcome small voluntary **donations** to be for the maintenance of the [California Rock Art Foundation](#) and [Sacramento Archeological Society's](#) Scholarship Fund.

Questions? Please contact John Foster at parkarky@yahoo.com or refer to [SAS website](#) or [Mythological RoundTable® Group of Sacramento](#).

Funding Provided By:
[Ultra Systems Environmental, Inc.](#) and the California Rock Art Foundation

***Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.'s
Annual Meeting***

Featuring
"The Archaeological Conservancy in CA"
By

Cory Wilkins
Western Regional Director
The Archaeological Conservancy

Saturday, December 5, 2015

2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

at

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

At our annual meeting we are pleased to have Cory Wilkins, Western Regional Director of The Archaeological Conservancy (TAC) speak on

- (1) General descriptions of all properties TAC currently owns in California and Nevada
- (2) A detailed discussion of TAC's most recent purchase, the **Siemer Preserve** on the edge of Big Valley and near Bieber, announced in TAC's attached Fall 2015 American Archaeology magazine at pages 48-9 by Deanna Commons.
- (3) Other properties in California and Nevada that TAC is currently considering purchasing.

The agenda for the event is as follows:

- 2:00 - Social hour.
- 3:00 - SAS Annual Meeting
- 3:30 - Presentation
- 4:30 – Dinner, socializing, and raffle

Dinner will be provided by Carolyn McGregor. The menu includes light snacks and wine for the social hour and a main course of ham, potatoes, green bean casserole, relish plate, rolls and a dessert. 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

Scholarship Recipients

Sunday, January 17, 2016

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at

Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch

1212 Merkley Avenue,

West Sacramento, CA 95691

In 2015 Sacramento Archeological Society awarded five scholarships to support archeological/anthropological education. Four of these individuals will be presenting at the Scholar Symposium on January 17, 2016. Naomi Martisius will delay her presentation since she will be out of the country continuing her dissertation work on bone tools made by Neandertals. Julia Prince, a 2014 scholarship recipient will be on the agenda. Julia Prince's the stable isotope analysis of a sample population from the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center Cemetery for her thesis was delayed. Now she is ready to present her results.

Five students will be speaking on the experiences made possible by the scholarships.

- **Allison Blair** is a senior at University of Nevada, Reno majoring in Anthropology and English. Her career goal is to become a National Park Ranger. To expand her experience she attended the Spike Island Field School in Cobh, Ireland during the 2015 summer. The island housed a prison from the 1800's. The school continued to search for missing convict burial grounds. Also excavations of a walled cemetery and the site of the original stockades were planned. This project should provide insights into Ireland's prison system.
- **Derek A. Boyd** is a graduate student at California State University, Chico majoring in Anthropology. During the summer of 2015 Derek spent a month in London collecting data for his master's theses. He analyzed patterns of trauma on human skeletal remains from two socio-economically disparate post-Medieval communities. At the Royal College of Surgeons in London he searched through historical documentation of pathology reports, patient records, and other miscellaneous items to gain an understanding of how trauma was treated in the post-Medieval period. We will be anxious to hear the results of his study.
- **Rachel Davies** graduated from California State University Sacramento. Her interest is in great basin Zooarchaeology. During 2015 summer she participated in the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter field school. Excavations from this site have produced findings that suggest Western North America may have been occupied by pre-Clovis people as early as 16,000 B.P. This last summer excavation began in the 7,600 old Mazama volcanic ash layer and worked down. We will be excited to hear of the findings.

- **Leah Hansard** is a graduate student at University of California, Davis majoring in Classics. She would like to become a curator of classical art and archaeology and lead excavations in the Mediterranean. As a second year participant at Poggio Civitate, she planned to work as a Trench Master-in-Training and deepen her archaeological skill. We will be interested to hear about the excavation.
- **Julia Prince** is a graduate student at California State University Chico majoring in anthropology. She received a scholarship from Sacramento Archeological Society in 2014 to be applied to her thesis research but was not able to complete the analysis before the last scholar symposium. She was studying the migration and acculturation that occurred in Santa Clara Valley between 1870 and 1935 by performing stable isotope analysis on a sample population from the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center Cemetery. This analysis was intended to provide her information on the types of protein sources, total diet and general indicator of immigration status. We are very interested to hear her assessment of the acculturation process for this region in this period of time.

Put Sunday, January 17, 2016 on your calendar. These will be diversely interesting presentations.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Sierra Rock Art Tour

On September 26 and 27, 2015 archaeologist, **Dan Foster**, lead a group of 33 rock art enthusiasts on field tours of rock art sites in the Soda Springs area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The following is a list of sites visited:

Saturday, September 26, 2015

1. CA-PLA-555, Log Cabin Creek Style 7 site
2. CA-PLA-26, Soda Springs (Chickering) Style 7 site
3. CA-NEV-4, Donner Pass Site

Sunday, September 27, 2015

1. CA-PLA-XXX, Bear Valley Cupules/BRM Style 1 site
2. CA-PLA-504, Bear Valley Style 7 site
3. NEV-426, Spaulding Ridge Style 7 site

In addition the attendees were honored by four evening presentations:

“Overview of Style 7 Rock Art by Dan Foster

“Migrations of the Great Mural Artists” by Jon Harman

“Western Message Petroglyphs” by Leigh Marymor

“Style 7 Petroglyphs in the upper Middle Fork of the American River” by Nolan Smith



The event was well organized, fully booked, and very instructive. Everyone who attended will understand the importance of bear tracks for Style 7 rock art. We express our special thanks to the owners and custodians of the private properties visited.

Texas Archaeological Tour of Pre-Clovis/Clovis/Paleoamerican Sites



From Monday, October 11, 2015 to Saturday, October 24th Archaeologist, Mike Collins, PhD (Research Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Texas State University, San Marcos and director of Gault School of Archeological Research (GSAR)) lead 13 Sacramento Archeological Society members on a fabulous tour of paleo-american sites in Texas. The tour started in Austin, TX and concluded near Houston, TX.

The sites visited included: Gault, Wilson-Leonard, Inner Space Cavern, Spring Lake, Knibbe Ranch, Richard Beene, Seminole Canyon, Arenosa Overlook, Eagle Nest, Bonfire (viewed from afar), Big Lake Playa, Scharbauer/Midland, Shifting Sands, Black Water Draw (New Mexico), Lake Theo, Alibates Flint Quarry, Miami, Plainview, Lubbock Lake and Horn Shelter. Unfortunately, McFaddin Beach dropped off the itinerary. Tropical Storm Patricia interfered.

Additionally, we visited Gault School of Archeological Research Lab, Center for Study of First Americans, and several official and private museums to view artifacts that came from these sites and private collections. We thank Mike Collins conducting the tour and the many experts that spoke with us on their expertise. It was truly step into the paleo-american period of history. Refer to www.sacarcheology.org for a photo gallery.

After this tour attendees are more familiar with Texas geology, effects of changing climate and the location of resources as they shaped the lives and communities of Paleo-indians. For example, ecotones, the areas that border two different geologic regions have been found to have been the homes of paleo-indian communities and are rich in archaeological artifacts. Gault is one such site located at the border between the Edwards Plateau and the coastal plain. Chert was abundant there and the location was a production community. We discovered that the people who used Clovis styled tools were generalized hunters not just bison hunters and that there are almost as types of paleo-lithic styles (Clovis, Folsom, Midland, Older than Clovis...) as there are archeological discovery sites.

Neolithic Burial Tombs and Centers in the British Isles

By Jan Johansen

Thanks to the organizational work of Ruth McElhinney, six Sacramento Archeological Society members had the privilege of joining members of the Council for British Archaeology for a tour of the Scottish Orkneys in August. The visitation of the Orkney monuments was led by archeologists associated with Orkney Archaeology Tours (www.orkneyarchaeologytours.co.uk) and included Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Pictish, Viking and more modern sites. In many cases we were “told the real



story”. In addition to daily tours, archaeologists gave evening lectures on Neolithic Orkneys, Vikings and Norse connections, prehistoric sea level research, and coastal erosion.

I was particularly fascinated by the burial and “ceremonial” sites. The first site that I entered was Maeshowe. It looked like a small hill or mound seven meters high. One could circumnavigate it in a ditch or henge or climb upon its layers of clay and stone if you were adventurous. At the entrance a triangular stone set in the wall could be moved to block the passage. To my surprise if you made yourself small by bending over you could enter the structure through a passage and after duck walking seven meters stand up straight in a relatively large central chamber. The room had a reconstructed roof that originally had been formed from large slabs of native slate material. A massive slab capped the structure. Small rooms that could have served as tombs were set in each of three sides. The tomb is thought to have first been in use around 2700 BC though work may have started around 3000 B.C. It was visited by Vikings who carved runic marks into the stone chamber walls to left behind as graffiti. Maeshowe is curiously positioned such that on the mid- winter solstice the setting sun shines from the horizon down the passage and onto the wall at the rear of the main chamber illuminating the entrance to the back cell. This could have signaled the beginning of the end of the cold winter period. Maeshowe was probably not just a tomb. It could easily have been part of a bigger religious landscape that over time has been buried and lost. Nearby are the Stones of Stenness, Ness of Brodgar, and Ring of Brodgar to name a few of the major monuments.

The Ness of Brodgar, a finger of land flanked by two lochs has been under excavation since a strange stone slab was discovered there in 2003. The site has been dated to 3300 B.C. We were fortunate to have Nick Card, the director of the excavation, lead the tour of the site. We viewed the ruins of multiple structures (1, 8, 14 and 10). I was impressed by how much has been uncovered and the beauty and scale of the stonework. The plentiful Orkney flagstone splits easily along horizontal planes and is simple for a craftsman to trim. Razor straight walls and internal partitions are characteristic of the structures. Over 600 of the uncovered stones had decorations. These decorations include deep carving, pecking and cup-marking. Structure 10, known as the temple is acknowledged by some as the finest Neolithic architecture of Northern Europe. It measures 25 meters long, 19 meters wide and has walls that are 4 meters thick. It was built around 2900 BC and used until about 2400 BC when it was mysteriously “decommissioned”.

Maeshowe and the Ness of Brodgar were not totally unique in structure and perhaps purpose. While visiting Ireland a few weeks later, we went to Newgrange in the Boyne Valley. Also constructed in 3300 B.C., it is a passage tomb similar to Mashowe, and was reconstructed with stone from the area. Human remains were found in the chambers and the sun’s rays shining through the passage light up the wall at the rear of the main chamber on the winter solstice just like at Maeshowe. We were told that if you want to see the solstice event you can put your name into a lottery. Good luck. The central chamber is not very large.



ELECTION OF 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the Annual Meeting the 2016 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	Dan Foster	Member at Large
Carolyn McGregor	Secretary	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
Diane Sangster	Treasurer	Jan Johansen	Member at Large
		Tom Johansen	Member at Large
		Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large
			Member at Large

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

"New Mystery for Native American Origins"

Two recent publications in *Science* and *Nature* introduce new questions as to the origin of Native Americans. Both detected in modern Native Americans a trace of DNA related to that of native people from Australia and Melanesia. The two studies differ in their analysis of how and when the relationship occurred. The *Science* team lead by David Meltzer at Southern Methodist University in Dallas "concluded that all Native Americans, ancient and modern, stem from a single source population in Siberia that split from other Asian around 23,000 years ago and moved into the now-drowned land of Beringia. After a stop of up to 8000 years they spread in a single wave into the Americas and then split into northern and southern branches about 13,000 years ago."

Geneticist David Reich of Harvard Medical School and leader of the *Nature* team suggests that this ancestry did not come directly from these populations, the team concludes, but through a now extinct population they call 'Population Y' that may have lived somewhere in East Asia and contributed genes to both very early Paleoamericans and to Australo-Melanesians. (Michael Balter, 2015-7-24, *Science*, p. 354-355)

"New Life for Old Bones"

DNA analysis has entered explosive growth due to improved techniques. Several articles highlight the revelations that are occurring in the field. These include "Revolution in Human Evolution", "Lost Worlds Found – Sugar cubes of buried soil reveal how ecosystems warmed after the last ice age" and "Breaking a Tropical Taboo – Most ancient DNA comes from frigid environs. Can new methods sample hot and humid locales?" (2015-7-24, *Science*, p. 358-373)