



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org.

March/April - 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 2, 2019, 12:00 – Potluck and Board Meeting at Peakes
- March 7 - 10, 2019 - **SCA Annual Meeting** at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815
- March 16, 2019, Saturday, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. – **SAS Eclectic Symposium “Italian excavation”** by **Kim Frasse**, **“Plant remains from Oak Flat, CA-SBA-3931, an interior habitation site in Cuyama Valley”** by **Gloria Howat Brown**, and **“A Journey through Baja: Ancient Rock Art, Gray Whales, Murals and Sculptures”** by **Bill Drake** at North Highlands – Antelope Library, 4235 Antelope Road, Antelope, CA 95843
- April 5, 2019, 10:00 - 12:00 - **Statewide Collections Museum Center Tour**, 4940 Lang Avenue, McClellan, CA 95652
- April 30, 2019 – **Scholarship Applications due**
- May Board Meeting TBD
- July 6, 2019, Saturday, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. – **Eclectic Archeological Exchange**, contact Carolyn McGregor’s at sabrina53@earthlink.net for more information.
- July 15-19, 2019 - Oregon Archeological and Rock Art Tour
- September 11, 2019 – September 13, 2019 – **Santa Cruz Tour** highlighting Sand Hill Bluff shell midden, Franklin Point ship wreck, Cowell Lime Kilns on the UCSC campus and Chitactac site near Gilroy.

See calendar in www.sacarcheology.org for complete calendar

SAS Eclectic Symposium

Saturday, March 16, 2019

1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

at

North Highlands – Antelope Library
4235 Antelope Road
Antelope, CA 95843

Open to the Public

We are pleased to feature three varied topics at the symposium: Roman archaeology, ethnobotany and rock art in Baja.

Program

1:00 **Introduction**

1:15 - **“Italian excavation”** by **Kim Frasse**

2:15 - **“Plant remains from Oak Flat, CA-SBA-3931, an interior habitation site in Cuyama Valley”** by **Gloria Howat Brown**

3:15 - **“A Journey through Baja: Ancient Rock Art, Gray Whales, Murals and Sculptures”** **Bill Drake**



Kim Frasse

After Kim retired from a career as language teacher for 27 years in LA, he moved back to his hometown, Sacramento five years ago. One of his goals in retirement was to get more seriously involved in archaeology, which has always been one of his passions since his youth. His connection with it was through reading and the many places he has visited on extensive travels around the world, but his volunteer work in Tuscany last summer was the first opportunity he had to finally get his hands dirty on an excavation site. In his professional life, he taught French and English as a Second Language in a high school in LA, and he also taught abroad in France and Mexico through the Fulbright Exchange Program. He has an M.A. in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley, and he currently teaches French conversation classes at the Alliance Française in Sacramento.

Gloria Howat Brown

Gloria is a graduate student at California State University, Sacramento. She received her BA in Anthropology at California State University, Sacramento in 2015. She is passionate about ethnobotany. Her thesis topic is “Starch grain analysis of ground stone on the central coast of California”. She has been interning in the Far Western Archaeobotany Laboratory. She will talk about her analysis of plant material with Far Western while she was an archaeology technician with the Plumas National Forest.

Bill Drake

Bill is the co-founder of Friends of Sierra Rock Art (FSRA). He has studied rock art and ancient cultures in the western United States, Central America, and Mexico and has done numerous presentations on these subjects for state park docents, school children, and the general public for over the past 25 years.

For more information contact Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net.

Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting

at

Thursday, March 7, 2019 to Sunday, March 10, 2019

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento, CA 95815

The meetings will kick-off with workshops on Thursday, March 7 including Material Culture in Historical Archaeology, Rock Art Conservation, Obsidian Hydration, Clovis Identification, Underwater Cultural Heritage Resources, Legislative Awareness, and a full day of Osteology.

Saturday night will feature the Awards Banquet, with keynote speaker Dr. Amy Gusick, Associate Curator of Anthropology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. Dr. Gusick's cutting-edge research uses both terrestrial and underwater archaeology to study maritime adaptations, early human coastal migration and settlement, and the effects of environmental stress on Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene human groups along the Pacific Rim. Her talk will integrate this year's conference theme and her own work, drawing from examples of research conducted by women towards advancing our understanding of maritime adaptations.

<https://scahome.org/sca-annual-meeting/2019-annual-meeting/>

SAS California Archives Tour

Friday, April 5, 2019

10:00 – 12:00

at

4940 Lang Avenue, McClellan, CA 95652

We are pleased to announce a tour of the California Archives on Friday, April 5th and are honored to have Rick Fitzgerald, Senior State Archaeologist, Director of the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility host a tour. The majority of the collections are historic materials from Old Town Sacramento, Old Town San Diego and other important historic state parks. There also are many interesting prehistoric collections including one from the Witt site. Although this collection is small, it includes crescents. Interesting artifacts from the shipwreck *Pomona* are also housed in this facility. Come and see California artifacts and hear stories about the archives as told by an expert.

This tour is no charge to Society members and a \$5/person for non members.

For more information contact Doug La Rocca at doug714@wavecable.com.

SAS Oregon Archeological Tour

July 15 - 20, 2019

We are working with Dr. Pat O'Grady, University of Oregon, to plan an archaeological tour in Oregon to visit sites of very early human inhabitation. The target sites include:

Dietz Clovis 35LK1529 (13,500 bp)

Fort Rock Cave (15,000 bp)

Sage Hen Gap (17,400 bp)

Rimrock Draw Rockshelter (18,300 bp)

Sheep Mountain 35HA3667 (20,000 bp)

The approximate ages of the sites are in parenthesis and are mostly based on C14 dating done by Thomas Stafford:

Additional attractions on the tour include **Harney County Historical Museum** and **Petroglyphs** of southern Oregon.

Please reserve the week of July 15th. More information on the tour will be forthcoming.

Santa Cruz archaeological pre-history and historical tour

on

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 to Friday, September 13, 2019

We are pleased to have a guided archaeological pre-history and historical tour of the Santa Cruz area on Wednesday, September 11 through Friday, September 13, 2019

The itinerary is as follows:

Wednesday, Sept 11

1:00 – 2:00 -- Meet in Santa Cruz for an orientation by Mark Hylkema (Santa Cruz District Archaeologist & Tribal Liaison California State Parks)

2:00 - 5:00 -- Tour selected sites in the SC area such as mid-Holocene age midden at Sand Hill Bluff and the Cultural Preserve at Wilder Ranch State Park guided by Mark Hylkema. Other possible destinations may include the Mission Santa Cruz State Park and a little further south on highway the newly restored Castro Adobe (Rancho San Andres State Park).

Thursday, Sept 12

8:00 – 9:00 -- Meet at motel for briefing on logistics/carpooling

9:00 - 5:00 -- Tour selected sites including Franklin Point shipwreck cemetery and the middens at Año Nuevo State Park guided by Mark Hylkema. Bag lunch in the field.

Friday, Sept 13

8:00 – 9:00 - Meet at motel for briefing on logistics/carpooling

9:00 - 1:00 – Tour selected sites including Cowell Lime Works District, located on the lower campus of UCSC by Patricia Paramoure, Santa Cruz Archeological Society (SCAS) and the Chitactac site by Robyn Houts (SCAS)

Patricia Paramoure is very familiar with the Cowell Lime Works Historic District site since this was her thesis site. She has also consulted for the district, and taught 4 field school sessions there.

For more information here are links: [Sand Hill Bluff: Ancestral Home of the Ohlone Año Nuevo SP](#)

It is not too soon to register for the Santa Cruz archaeological tour. A registration fee of \$20 per person reserves your spot. Attendance will be limited. Applications will be first come first served basis. Membership in either Sacramento Archeological Society or Santa Cruz Archeological Society is required. You may use our web site <http://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/> to renew and make payment using a **credit card or PayPal**. Alternatively, 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

Participants will be responsible for making their own lodging, transportation, food arrangements. We suggested that you make your own lodging reservations **as soon as possible**. September is a popular time in Santa Cruz. Reservations can be canceled if your plans require.

There is a camping option for this tour. Mark will be able secure a camping reservation at Rancho Del Oso (Big Basin by-the-Sea). If you are interested in camping, contact Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net. If there is enough interest, Johansons will coordinate camping with Mark.

For the non-campers, the following motels are suggested.

1. **Comfort Inn**, 110 Plymouth St., Santa Cruz (reservation phone 844-544-4168) A double room for 2 nights should be about \$287 plus taxes and misc fees. Included are continental breakfast, wifi and free parking. Also offered is a 24-hour prior cancellation policy. Note-there are 2 Comfort Inns. The one on Plymouth Street is being booked first. [Comfortable & Relaxing Stay in Santa Cruz | Best Hotels in Santa Cruz | Comfort Inn Santa Cruz](#)
2. **Comfort Inn**, 314 Riverside Ave., Santa Cruz, 95060 This Comfort Inn seemed to have better reviews than the Comfort Inn on Plymouth but rates may be higher priced.
3. **Mission Inn**, 2250 Mission Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The free breakfast at the Santa Cruz Mission Inn includes eggs, waffles, cereal, and oatmeal. Fruit, bagels, toast, and yogurt are also available. Guests can also enjoy various breakfast beverages. \$139/

MEMBER'S CORNER

Members

We are sad to report the loss of Jim Huffman after his battle with cancer. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. On a positive note we cordially welcome Dan Cross and Marcia Cary as new members.

Dennis Fenwick has been supporting the research of artifacts from the Witt site in central California. Most recently he has engaged Richard Hughes to conduct non-destructive Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence [EDXRF] on the 30 obsidian and chert points from Jerry Hopkins and the McKinney brothers' collection. This is the same set of materials that Jennifer Thatcher performed Obsidian Hydration (OH) measurements to determine their geological source(s). Upon the conclusion of Richard's analysis Tom Origer in Sonoma County, CA will be requested to make additional OH age calculation for the 30 points. To support this research and obtain more information please contact Dennis Fenwick at dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com.

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 promptly paying your **2019** 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

You may now use our web site <http://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/> to renew and make payment using a **credit card or PayPal**.

Alternatively, 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 2019

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

"Dating of hominin discoveries at Denisova"

"Denisova Cave sheltered hominin at least 200,000 years ago, and excavations there have illuminated our understanding of early hominins in Asia. New dating analyses now refine this knowledge" (Refer to the following articles). On the basis of human DNA identified at a site call Ust'-Ishim, it is estimated that *H. sapiens* reached Siberia at least 46,880 to 43,200 years ago. This raises the possibility that our species contributed to the deposits of tooth pendants and bone points in the Initial Upper Paleolithic at Denisova". (Robin Dennell et al., *Nature*, V. 565, 2019-1-31, pp. 571-572)

"Age estimates for hominin fossils and the onset of the Upper Paleolithic at Denisova Cave"

"Denisova Cave in the Siberian Altai (Russia) is a key site for understanding the complex relationships between hominin groups that inhabited Eurasia in the Middle and Late Pleistocene epoch. DNA sequenced from human remains found at this site has revealed the presence of a hitherto unknown hominin group, the Denisovans, and high-coverage genomes from both Neanderthal and Denisovan fossils provide evidence for admixture between these two populations. Determining the age of these fossils is important if we are to understand the nature of hominin interaction, and aspects of their cultural and subsistence adaptations. In this article archaeologists present 50 radiocarbon determinations from the late Middle and Upper Paleolithic layers of the site. They also report three direct dates for hominin fragments and obtain a mitochondrial DNA sequence of one of them. They apply a Bayesian age modeling approach that combines chronometric (radiocarbon, uranium series and optical ages), stratigraphic and genetic data to calculate probabilistically the age of the human fossils at the site. Their modeled estimate for the age of the oldest Denisovan fossil suggests that this group was present at the site as early as 195,000 years ago (at 95.4% probability). All Neanderthal fossils—as well as Denisova 11, the daughter of a Neanderthal and a Denisovan—date to between 80,000 and

140,000 years ago. The youngest Denisovan dates to 52,000 – 76,000 years ago. Direct radiocarbon dating of Upper Paleolithic tooth pendants and bone points yield the earliest evidence for the production of these artifacts in northern Eurasia, between 43,000 and 49,000 calibrated years before present (taken as AD 1950). On the basis of current archaeological evidence, it may be assumed that these artifacts are associated with the Denisovan population. It is not currently possible to determine whether anatomically modern humans were involved in their production, as modern humans-fossil and genetic evidence of such antiquity has not yet been identified in the Altai region”. (Katerina Doukwas et al. *Nature*, V. 565, 2019-1-31, pp. 640-644)

“Timing of archaic hominin occupation of Denisova Cave in southern Siberia”

“The Altai region of Siberia was inhabited for parts of the Pleistocene by at least two groups of archaic hominins—Denisovan and Neanderthals. Denisova Cave, uniquely, contains stratified deposits that preserve skeletal and genetic evidence of both hominins, artifacts made from stone and other materials, and a range of animal and plant remains. The previous site chronology is based largely on radiocarbon ages for fragments of bone and charcoal that are up to 50,000 years old: older ages of equivocal reliability have been estimated from thermo luminescence and palaeomagnetic analyses of sediments and genetic analyses of hominin DNA. In this article they describe the stratigraphic sequences in Denisova Cave, establish a chronology for the Pleistocene deposits and associated remains from optical dating of the cave sediments and reconstruct the environment context of hominin occupation of the site from around 300,000 to 20,000 years ago.” (Zenobia Jacobs et al. *Nature*, V. 565, 2019-1-31, pp. 594-599)

“Late Middle Pleistocene Levallois stone-tool technology in southwest China”

Levallois approaches are one of the best known variants of prepared-core technologies, and are an important hallmark of stone technologies developed around 300,000 years ago in African and west Eurasia. Existing archaeological evidence suggests that the stone technology of East Asian hominins lacked a Levallois component during the late Middle Pleistocene epoch and it is not until the Late Pleistocene (around 40,000-30,000 years ago) that this technology spread into East Asia in association with a dispersal of modern humans. In this article authors present evidence of Levallois technology from the lithic assemblage of the Guanyindong Cave site in southwest China, dated to approximately 170,000-80,000 years ago. To their best knowledge this is the earliest evidence of Levallois technology in East Asia. Their findings thus challenge the existing model of the origin and spread of Levallois technologies in east Asia and its link to a Late Pleistocene dispersal of modern humans.

The Guanyindong Cave assemblages consist of flakes, flake breaks, retouched pieces, cores, chunks and debris. The raw materials are predominantly chert. On the basis of the detailed analysis of 2,273 stone artifacts, they found evidence of Levallois concepts in 45 specimens including 11 cores, 30 flakes and 4 tools made on Levallois flakes. Levallois concepts at Guanyindong Cave first appeared in a group dated to MIS 6 (approximately 180 – 130 ka), a period contemporary to the period during which Levallois technology was widely adopted in African and Eurasia. The earliest age of the Guanyindong Cave lithic assemblage postdates the

earliest modern human fossils in Africa by 300-200 kyr and the Levant by around 177-194 kyr, but predates any existing evidence of modern human beyond this region during MIS5 (around 130-80 ka), especially in south and southwest China” (Yue Hu et al. *Nature*, V. 565, 2019-1-3, pp. 82-85)

“Light Skin may be legacy of Native American ancestors”

“New gene variant undercuts simplistic assumptions about skin color and ancestry in Latin America.”

For 500 years, people have assumed the variant palette of skin colors in Latin America was due to the meeting and mixing of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans during colonial times and later. “Now, a new study from five Latin American countries undercuts the simplistic racial assumption often made from skin color. An international team discovered a new genetic variant associated with lighter skin found only in Native American and East Asian populations. That means that in Latin America, lighter skin can reflect Native American as well as European ancestry.”

Kaustubh Adhikari (University College London) and Mendoza-Revilla (Pasteur Institute in Paris) discovered a new genetic variant linked to skin tone. One variant was on MFSD12. Tishkoff (University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine) recently linked reduced expression of this gene with darker skin in African (*Science*, 17 November 2017, p. 867). The new MFSD12 variant, however, is associated with lighter skin and might instead enhance the gene’s express, Adhikari and Mendoza-Revilla report in *Nature Communications*. This variant was found only in Native Americans and East Asians. People at high latitudes in Europe and East Asia seem to have independently evolved lighter skin to produce vitamin D more efficiently with less sunlight. (Lizzie Wade, *Science*, 2019-1-25, p 333)

“U-Pb-dated flowstones restrict South African early hominin record to dry climate phases”

“The Cradle of Humankind (Cradle) in South Africa preserves a rich collection of fossil hominins representing *Australopithecus*, *Paranthropus* and *Homo*. The ages of these fossils are contentious and have compromised the degree to which the South African hominin record can be used to test hypotheses of human evolution. However, uranium-lead (U-Pb) analyses of horizontally bedded layers of calcium carbonate (flowstone) provide a potential opportunity to obtain a robust chronology. Flowstones are ubiquitous cave features and provide a palaeoclimatic context, because they grow only during phases of increased effective precipitation, ideally in closed caves. The article shows that flowstones from eight Cradle caves date to six narrow time intervals between 3.2 and 1.3 million years ago. They used a kernel density estimate to combine 29 U-Pb ages into a single record of flowstone growth intervals and interpret these as major wet phases, when an increased water supply, more extensive vegetation cover and at least partially closed caves allowed for undisturbed, semi-continuous grow of the flowstone. The intervening times represent substantially drier phases, during which fossils of hominins and other fossil accumulated in open caves. Fossil preservation, restricted to drier intervals, thus biases the view of hominin evolutionary history and behavior, and places the hominins in a community of comparatively dry-adapted fauna. Although the period of cave closure leave temporal gaps in the South African fossil record, the flowstones themselves provide valuable insights into both local and pan-African climate variability” (Robyn Pickering, et al, *Nature*, V. 565, 2019-1-10, pp. 226-229)



The Dirt – A podcast for all ages and backgrounds about archaeology, anthropology, and our shared human story
<http://thedirtpod.com>

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