Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

*N*ewsletter

www.sacarcheology.org. **May/June - 2014**

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1, 2014, Thursday - Scholarship Applications due
May 7, 2014, Wednesday – 7:00 pm Board Meeting Diane Rosales' home
May 9 thru 11 – 43rd Annual Stanford Pow Wow & Indian Market. Eucalyptus Grove at Galvez & Campus Drives 650 723-4078 or http://powwow.stanford.edu/home
May 14th -Native Plants and Native People: the Archaeology of Adaption. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Presented by S. Joe Griffin, McKinley Park Shepard Garden & Arts Center. Come back to a time when "native plants" were just plants, and human interaction with the environment of California was very different than today. Join archaeologist S. Joe Griffin for an exploration of how people and plants influenced one another through 10,000 dynamic years. 916 264-8800 orwww.sgaac.org
June 14, 2014, Saturday – 2:00 pm "Ancestors of Clovis People", Dennis Fenwick, Diane Sangster, and Michael Barham, Dennis Fenwick's home
August 19, 2014, Tuesday –1:30 pm Tour of Statewide Museum Collections Center, California State Parks, 4940 Lang Avenue McClellan, CA 95652

ECLECTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCHANGE

Ancestors of Clovis People

by

Dennis Fenwick, Diane Sangster, Michael Barham

Saturday, June 14, 2014

2:00 pm

at

Dennis and Marty Fenwick's home
2825 Butler Ct, West Sacramento 95691

Join fellow members of Sacramento Archeological Society in an informal exchange of information on the first people in North America. Dennis Fenwick, Diane Sangster and Michael Barham are intrigued by the theory that the European Solutrean people may have been a precursor to Clovis people in North America. Diane Sangster and Michael Barham attended the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in October 2013 and heard talks on the topic. The Fenwick's visited Gault site in Texas with Mike Collins and will have just returned from a tour of prehistory sites in Spain. Each presenter has read Dennis J. Stanford and Bruce A. Bradley's book, Across Atlantic Ice which documents the proposal that Clovis may have had a European ancestor.

The Solutreans lived circa 18,000 and 25.000 years ago during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) in southwestern Europe. They used flaked stone technologies that are remarkably similar to those of the Clovis in North America. For example the Solutrean laurel leaf and Clovis point manufacture are nearly identical. The evidence that a group of Solutreans came to North America and sourced the Clovis culture is substantial yet controversial.

Dennis Fenwick, Diane Sangster and Michael Barham will give presentations and participate in a panel discussion. The talks will include
"Spear Points and Mastodons - The Peopling of America" Diane Sangster and Michael Barham
"Evidence Linking Solutrean people with Clovis" Dennis Fenwick
The event will be an opportunity to socialize and learn about the possible ancestors of Clovis people. Don't miss it. Call 916/373-1465 for directions or more information.

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From the President's Desk – March 24, 2014

State Park Beginnings – Some Thoughts on the Legacy
John W. Foster

I'm just back from the 2014 SCA meeting in Visalia and it was really great. Over 700 people attended and over 300 at the banquet. It was a real treat to be engaged in California discussions once again. Time has favored me to assume the role of a geezer archaeologist from State Parks, but I'm not all that comfortable with it. I feel like people look out and think, "There goes that old dinosaur from the last century. He's not looking too spry. Wait, he's stumbling…he's down."

Well, I'm not down, but I want to give some random thoughts before they're forgotten.

I spoke at the State Park session on some Early Milestones in State Park Archaeology and spent quite a bit of the 15 minutes talking about the genesis of state parks in California. In case you didn't know, state parks are celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. In 1864 Abraham Lincoln signed legislation conferring 20,000 acres of Federal land in Yosemite and the Mariposa Big Trees to the State of California. This was the genesis of the park movement in the USA and the first State Park. In the 1880s the Feds took it back for the National Park System, but the park beginnings resulted in many California organizations banding together, raising funds and acquiring lands to preserve natural beauty and historic legacy.

Most people think the park movement was all about redwood groves and Sierra peaks. They figure Cultural must have been shoehorned in sometime in the 1970s with CEQA. But the truth is that historic preservation was a very important and vibrant part of the park movement in California. By the time the first state park was formally established in 1902 at Big Basin, groups were active in saving Columbia, La Purisima Mission, Fort Ross, Sutter's Fort, Marshall's Gold Discovery Site, Pio Pico's Adobe and Vallejo's Home. In fact, the "Survey of Historic Sites and Landmarks in California," compiled for the 1928 Park Bond campaign emphasized the need to preserve missions as well as "forts, monuments, ship landings and shipwrecks, buildings, mining towns, literary sites … Indian villages, pictographs, shell mounds, and caves." By the time Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. prepared the 1928 state park plan; he was convinced of the need to preserve monuments to the rich historical legacy of California as part of its state park system.

This included, after corresponding with Dr. A.L. Kroeber of U.C. Berkeley, key Indian sites and cultural areas across the state. So human history belongs in parks and has since the beginning.

In every legacy there is some good and some maybe not quite so good. That's the case with archaeology and history in parks. John Muir and his colleagues had this wonderful vision and strong desire to preserve magnificent landscapes for their intrinsic beauty. The idea was revolutionary and uniquely American. Fantastic! But they also imposed an ideological separation between humans and the natural world – a legacy of thought from European heritage. They seem unaware that their Sierra wilderness that, upon viewing, caused the visionaries to experience heart palpitations -- was actually a landscape managed by native people since the dawn of time. Shaped with fire and horticulture, based on an ancient knowledge and experience, the earlier Californians had been actively managing their homeland for millennia. They saw no distinction between the human spirit and that imbued in the rocks, trees and animals. The human world and natural world were one. They tended the wilderness, as Kat Anderson so eloquently said.

So for those of us who worked on the heritage side of parks, it always seemed peculiar when park professionals looked upon a landscape and remarked that it would be improved if every trace of human endeavor was removed. Now there's a lot of clap-trap out there that should be removed, but ecosystems on this planet evolved with humans playing an active role. To deny that is silly. Further, the connection between California's rich environmental setting and the resultant antiquity, diversity and complexity of human experience – needs to be understood. The reason our state has the richest and most diverse state park system is the same reason it featured the most cultural diversity in pre-contact times. Resources are the key; so is their careful management by human hands. Our Euroamerican culture didn't invent resource management and stewardship. We are just discovering how extensively it was being practiced before our arrival.

I propose a simple guiding principle be added to the Muir and Olmsted vision on the occasion of the 150th State Park anniversary:

> "Humans have a right to a past. The important touchstones of that past need to be preserved, respected, studied and understood so people can appreciate their meaning and thus find value in the modern world."

A number of papers at SCA dealt with this subject. In the Sierra, detailed analyses of fire scars on trees have allowed the differentiation of human set fires from lightning ignitions over several thousand years. The former produces a more detailed botanical mosaic and richness – the ancient knowledge at work. Our SCA keynote speaker was Doug Bird, Senior Research Scientist in Stanford University's Department of Anthropology. He spoke about his long term research "Living Landscapes in Martu Country: Cultural and Ecological Heritage in Australia's Western Desert." A similar theme emerged. Exclusion of native peoples from their traditional management practices – hunting, foraging and tending the landscape – has led to resource degradation and catastrophic fires sweeping the continent in recent times. What was most amazing to me was the finding that hunting and controlled fire can produce more biomass including greater yield of sand monitors (a large lizard), than no management and "natural fires."

A few years before I retired, state government changed the name of the Resources Agency to the "Natural Resources Agency." Parks, as part of the Agency of course, advocated for the name change. So I wonder, "Where does that leave human heritage?" Is there an Unnatural Resources Agency? If so, I want to be in charge.

Stone Fish Trap at Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park.

These enclosures are still used to catch fish and propagate the species. The Ahjumawi are not only experts at catching fish; they also actively manage the fishery.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

ARIZONA ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

Twenty Sacramento Archeological Society Members stepped back in time to visit notable archeological sites in the Flagstaff and Sedona area on April 11 through 14. The main period of investigation through these sites was A.D. 700 to 1300 when a group of people identified as Sinagua farmed in the arid land and lived in pueblo structures. This people abandoned the sites about A.D. 1300.

We want to thank our guides for the fabulous information that they shared with us.

- Museum of Northern Arizona – Phyllis Wolfskill, Docent
- Palatki and V-Bar-V – Ken Zoll, Verde Valley Archaeological Center, 385 South Main Street, Camp Verde, Arizona 86322-7272
- Montezuma's Well and Tuzigoot - Skip Larsen, National Park Service

Museum of Northern Arizona

The first stop was the Museum of Northern Arizona founded in 1928 by Dr. Harold Sellers Colton and Mary Russell Ferrell Colton. We saw artifacts from the *Ethnographic*. (historic Native American) and *Prehistoric* Collections. The *Ethnographic* Collections contain significant holdings of baskets, katsina dolls, and jewelry. Smaller collections represent the material culture of the Navajo, Zuni, Hopi and Pai. The *Prehistoric* Collections focus on the ancient Puebloan cultures and include rope, arrow points, ceramic vessels, and many other types of artifacts of the Colorado Plateau. www.musnaz.org

Museum of Northern Arizona

Anthropology Section

Walnut Canyon National Monument

Archaic peoples probably occupied the canyon seasonally for thousands of years. Starting about 1400 years ago Sinagua people appeared. They first built one-room pit houses near their fields where they employed dry-farming techniques to grow corn, squash, and beans. Dwellings sheltered by overhanging cliffs in the canyon were development from about A.D. 1125 to 1250. By A.D. 1250 they moved to new villages a few miles southeast along Anderson Mesa. It is generally believed that they were eventually assimilated into Hopi culture.
We were able to walk along the pueblo dwellings in the canyon and observe pit houses on the plateau.

Walnut Canyon

Walnut Canyon Pueblo

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

In about A.D 1065 Sunset Crater erupted and disrupted life in immediate area. "The lava flows and erupting cinders that followed forced these farmers to vacate the rocky lands they had cultivated for 400 years. A few generations later, at Wupatki and nearby Walnut Canyon, families returned to grow crops for another 100 years in the shadow of Sunset Crater."*

*Wupatki and Sunset Crater Volcano National Monuments, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior Brochure

Lava Flow from Sunset Crater

Sunset Crater with Spatter cone

Wupatki National Monuments.

Before about A.D. 1150, this area remained a crossroads between established groups of Sinagua, Cohonia, and Kayenta peoples. In a warm and dry period, dense populations flourished in the Wupatki area. By A.D. 1180 thousands of people were farming on the Wupatki landscape. By A.D. 1250, when the volcano had quieted, pueblos stood empty, the people of Wupatki had moved on.

The Wupatki landscape contained homes ranging from one story, single-family structures to the approximately 100 room Wupatki Pueblo, and a multi-level, high-rise with about 100 rooms.

We explored the Wukoki Pueblo, Wupatki Pueblo and Lomaki Pueblo. It is amazing to find the ruins in such good shape after more than 700 years of weathering and vandalism.

Wukoki Pueblo

Wupatki Pueblo

Wupatki Pueblo with SAS group

Lomaki Pueblo

Palatki Heritage Site.
Cliff dwellings of the Sinagua were built in the Verde Valley between A.D. 1100 and 1400. The visited pueblo consisted of a complex of 20 rooms. Approximately 40 to 80 people lived at Palatki. They grew corn, squash, beans, and cotton.

The exceptional rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs) includes art created over 6000 years. The pictograph figures can generally be attributed as follows: archaic (geometric designs), Sinagua (red), Pai (white, yellow, black). Shadows on a wheel figure were shown by Ken Zoll to mark solstice and equinox.

Palatki Pueblo

At Palatki Ken Zoll pointing to pictrographs

SAS group looking at pictographs at Palatki

Palatki pictographs

Astronomical figure

Multiple pictographs

Honanki Heritage

Honanki meaning “Bear House” in the Hopi language is located in the Verde Valley near Palatki site. Honanki site has both pueblos and pictographs. One set of rooms is located in a large alcove and have been reconstructed over time. There were more than 60 ground floor rooms and another row of rooms in front of what is visible today, bring the total to 72 rooms. The Sinagua and ancestors of Hopi lived here from about A.D. 1130 to 1280 based on tree-ring-dating from a wooden beam in the ruin. Later Yavapai an Apache people lived here. Pictographs dating between 1400 and 1875 CE can be attributed to these two groups.

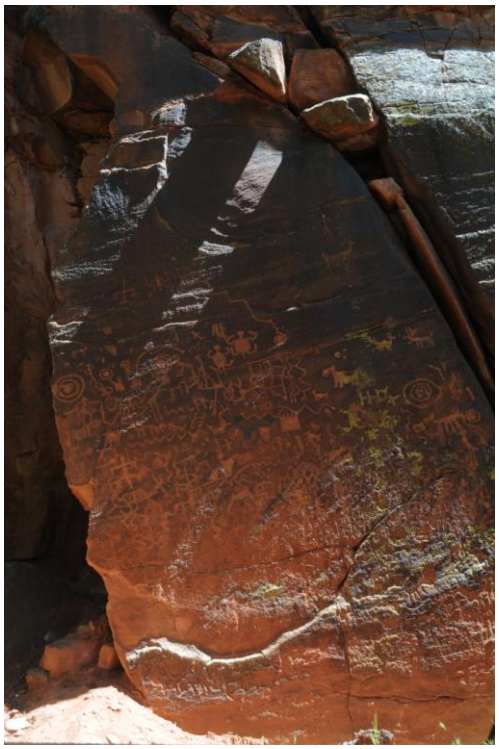
Honanki pueblo

Honanki pictographs

V-Bar-V Heritage Site.

This well-preserved site includes more than a thousand individual petroglyphs (Beaver Creek style) on 13 panels. Unlike many rock art sites, petroglyphs here comprise only one style and do not include early Archaic Period or later Yavapai and Apache art.

Ken Zoll has discovered that shadows on the rock panel of petroglyphs highlight astronomical events such as solstice and planting time. For more information see “Sinagua Sunwatchers”, Kenneth Zoll, VVAC Press, Camp Verde, 2008.



V-Bar-V petroglyph with early shadow

Later shadow on petroglyph panel

V-Bar-V SAS group in front of petroglyphs

Montezuma Castle.

The Sinagua are credited with above-ground masonry dwellings when they moved south into the Verde Valley around A.D. 1100. The castle was constructed and occupied from about A.D. 1200 to 1450 and has been extensively reconstructed. Starting around A.D. 1100, the Sinagua built the large, multi-room complexes in the Verde Valley, including Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, Tuzigoot, the cliff dwellings around Sedona, and Walnut Canyon (near Flagstaff). After about 300 years of habitation, the sites were abandoned between A.D. 1400 and 1450, a period that marks the collapse of major civilizations in the American southwest.

Montezuma's Castle

Montezuma's Castle lower pueblo

Montezuma Well

The "well" is a cenote (sinkhole) that is replenished with natural water flow of 1.5 million gallons per day. On the rim of the "well" are cliff dwellings; the "well" is habitat for five unique species found nowhere else on earth. The "well" area includes a pit house.

Montezuma's Well

Montezuma's Well Pueblo

Skip Larsen describing of Montezuma's Well

Montezuma's Well Cave at Water Level

Tuzigoot National Monument

Tuzigoot which is Apache for "crooked water" is the remnant of a Sinagua village built between A.D. 1000 and 1400. It sits on a long ridge in an oxbow of Verde River. The original pueblo was two stories high with 87 ground-floor rooms. Entry was by ladders through roof openings. The site was excavated in the 1930's and reconstructed as shown today.

Tuzigoot Pueblo

Group exploring Tuzigoot

MEMBER'S CORNER

Many of our members enjoy their own archaeological adventures. Please share them with us. Document your experiences and send them to Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net for publishing.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are due **May 1, 2014**. Again there has been significant interest. Recipients will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

"Selling America's Fossil Record"

Paleontologists fear that a growing commercial fossil industry is swallowing up U.D. fossils and the data they hold. Heather Pringle, 2014-1-24, Science, pages 364-367.

"Ancient Infant Was Ancestor of Today's Native Americans"

Michael Balter, 2014-2-14, Science, pages 716-717.

"In 1968 a boy's skull was found in Montana on Anzick family land with a host of Clovis tools. Recently a family member sequenced the child's nuclear genome and found that the child is directly ancestral to today's native peoples from Central and South America. This discovery brings question to the Solutrean hypothesis, which postulates that ancient migrants from Western Europe founded the

Clovis culture. It also undermines the theory that today's Native Americans descended from later migrants rather than the earlier Paleoindians.

"A Genetic Atlas of Human Admixture History"

Garrett Hellenthal et. al., 2014-2-14, Science, pages 747-751.

"We have developed an approach that exploits the genomic structure of admixed populations to date and characterize historical history, constructed by using genetic data alone and encompassing over 100 events occurring over the past 4000 years." This approach reveals "admixture to be an almost universal force shaping human populations".

"Welcome to Beringia"

Heather Pringle, 2014-02-28, Science, pages 961-963.

"A flurry of studies suggests that instead of being simply a bridge from Asia to the Americas, Beringia may have beckoned the ancestors of the first Americans to linger".

"Kurdistan Offers an Open Window on The Ancient Fertile Crescent"

Andrew Curry, 2014-04-04, Science, page 18-19.

A new wave of archaeological research in Iraqi Kurdistan is moving. "Since 2007, we have opened the gates for all foreign archaeologists", states Abubakir Zaindin, head of KRG's General Directorate of Antiquities. "Just since 2012, more than a dozen excavation missions led by foreign scientist have begun." "Íraqi Kurdistan is at the heart of the Fertile Crescent, the region where farming and settlement first arose, stretching from the Mediterranean across modern-day Turkey and through Iraq to the Persian Gulf. Some of history's greatest civilizations reigned over the rolling hills and valley of Iraqi Kurdistan"