



The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Summer 2024

California Native Homeland Festival, April 27, 2024, Exploratorium, San Francisco

By Mary Gerbic

On the morning of April 27th, I traveled to San Francisco to visit the California Native Homeland Festival, held at the Exploratorium. The festival was an all-day affair, starting with outdoor booths and exhibits. I was surprised that people just walked by, because there were three “seaworthy” canoes and one under construction, next to the sidewalk. The photo below shows two of them. The one on the right was constructed by George Bake (Hupa/Karuk) from a single fallen redwood tree. It is three years old. The canoe in the background was constructed of tule in Sonoma County and exhibited by Redbird Willie (Pomo/Wailaki/Wintu). He admitted it was a little beat-up looking. Tule canoes were not meant to last a long time, but this one is 1 1/2 years old, built in three weekends (excluding collecting and drying the tule) by about 25 people, in conjunction with the Alliance for Felix Cove (www.alliance4felixcove.org).

The day of its launch on Tomales Bay it took 50-75 trips so everyone could ride in the boat. I’m told that riding in a tule canoe is completely different than riding in say, a row boat or the

dugout next to it. Tule canoes are more flexible and move with the water.

On the next page is a spectacular *ti’aat* constructed of planed and steamed redwood boards. Next to it is another *ti’aat* under construction. These are two of the first sewn-plank canoes built by the Tongva people of the Los Angeles area. The Chumash have built several canoes (the *tomol*) and have paddled them to the Channel Islands. This is a new endeavor for the Tongva, their southern neighbors.



(L) Tule canoe from Sonoma County, (center) redwood dugout canoe from northern California. (All photos by Mary Gerbic)



Bow of the ti'aat. The stem is angular. Chumash tomols have rounded stem or prow.

In the afternoon panel discussions, L. Frank Manriquez (“L”) explained what she went through to learn how to build a sewn plank canoe. Even the “wing” seen on this side of this canoe has a specific purpose. She said that both men and women paddled these canoes. You could tell a woman’s paddle from a man’s by its shape. Women’s paddles are round and men’s are more triangular.

Research lead her to museums in Europe. Back in the day, people just came and collected Indigenous belongings. One of her slides showed a strange looking board, 8” long. This is a piece of siding from a canoe from one of these museums. She said the museums are helping her reconstruct the recipe for the tar, pine pitch and charcoal sealant used to fill the holes for the cordage that holds the canoe together. A special knot is used to secure the cordage. In the modern case, L has covered each knot with black tape.



Redbird Willie, George Blake and L. Frank Manriquez take part in a panel called “Water is Homeland: Traditional Boat Making”. Notice that the fragment has an irregular surface from the shaping of the wood with an adze.

L said that boat building is all about community. They had help from the Chumash and Hawaiians, and J.P. Harrington’s notes from the building of the first “modern” *tomol* in consultation with Fernando Librado and others. Other information and artifacts are scattered in museum archives in Europe. Years ago, when I was trying to write a college paper on Indigenous California watercraft, in order to find a picture of a Chumash paddle, I had to buy a book over the phone from the British Museum. How hard it must be to try to reconstruct parts of your culture lost for years, when clues may be anywhere, like a world-wide scavenger hunt. More than one panelist said it was good that aspects of their

culture were written down by early anthropologists so that they exist to be reconstructed today. Still, it is not as easy as it looks. The canoe was taken to a gathering in the Pacific Northwest. The *ti'aat* looked puny alongside the great dugout canoes of the Northwest Coast, but building the canoe has begun to spark the imagination of young people, and created interest in their traditional culture.

I also spoke with Dyann Eckstein (Chukchansi), who was exhibiting soap root brushes and how to make them. Because I have a large number of soap plants (*Chlorogalum*) growing in my yard, and I'm curious about how to make a brush, I hung out and took notes. Making a brush is not something you can do in an afternoon. You really must want to do this.



First off, the plant must be respected and harvested at the correct time. One digs up a large root when the ground is hard, and presumably after blossoming is over and seeds are produced. The process of pulling it out of the ground leaves the roots behind, which is good. It will generate

another plant. The bulb is carefully cleaned, and the "hair" removed, taking care to keep it as it was grown. When it is dry, bind it with cord in the shape you want. The cleaned bulb is boiled like a potato and mashed into a smooth paste. She uses a blender to get a good result. Then, over



3-4 days, a layer of the mashed bulb (glue) is applied, one layer a day (see photo at left), until you have the result you want. Despite the potential mess and long process, I think I will give it a try this fall.

After the "Water" panel was over, we heard from the "Gatherers" (above). Those of you readers who heard Gregg Castro speak for us in March, know that (basket)weavers are

very concerned about the effects that Climate Change is having on the plants they care for and harvest, and the timing of harvest. Collectors must harvest at the proper time, when the plant is ready, and what they are seeing is that the landscape is changing. To get sedge and bracken root, one must be there when the soil is moist. What if it is not moist at the usual time? Some of their meadows are going away because small trees are “invading” the meadow. Each year more meadows are gone. The window when it is good to harvest is narrowing. They would like to see beavers back on the land but beavers don’t chew through very large trees. Forests are becoming so overgrown that gooseberry bushes are in too much shade and not producing fruit. We need fire on the land. Dyann said that she has been Lois Conner-Bohna’s student for 20 years. She and others like her count on learning from the older generation. Each year, she now knows to harvest whatever she uses even if she has enough for right now, because you never know if next year you will be able to get what you need. There seems to be no pattern to the change, so the basket weavers are alarmed and concerned. The ladies of the panel said they would like to collaborate with western scientists to understand what is happening to the land. They are asking for their “indigenous scientists” to work with “western scientists”. Each has something to contribute.

Meyo Marrufo (Eastern Pomo) spoke last. She has participated in training with the EPA as the California representative (an unpaid position). She maintains that agencies have to talk to the Culture Bearers of the Indigenous People. Management systems have to be based on factual observations and cultural practices. She wants to see Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) become policy. It is “place based” and is knowledge developed when the land and the water was cleaner and wetlands existed. It’s a completely different baseline than what western science now works from. She says that the “Great Change” is not what we (Indigenous) used to think it was—arrival of white people. Now the Great Change is Climate Change. She says we will survive, but we don’t know how. We count on our Culture Bearers. For those people who say our family has been here for 4-5 generations, she says “When do you stop being a visitor and start becoming stewards?”

Her speech made me think of the show on PBS “The History of the Future” with Ari Wallach, a futurist. One thing he and his interviewees kept saying, over and over is that you have to start thinking about the future you want and how to get there. What do you have to do now? You can’t wait until it is “the future” and be dissatisfied. It’s too late. So look at what used to be and think about what you want for the future. Future does not have to be dystopian or cruel, and probably we can’t put things back exactly the way they were, but we can imagine a better place, but we have to do it now, not in 2030.

Fortunately, more agencies and land managers are seeing TEK as essential to their management practices. For those who want to know more about TEK, see *Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability* by editors Melissa K. Nelson and Dan Shilling (Cambridge University Press). There is also a new exhibit at the California Academy of Sciences (*California State of Nature*), said to be worth seeing.

Santa Cruz County History Fair, May 19, 2024,

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. By Mary Gerbic

The day started off damp and overcast, but those people who braved the mist had a great time at the Santa Cruz County History Fair. SCAS was represented by Professional Advisor Sarah Brewer, Vice President Pat Paramoure, Treasurer Kevin Hildreth, and Secretary Mary Gerbic. Our table was situated under the eaves of the Adobe, for which we were grateful, given the damp weather.



Pat, Mary and Kevin at the SCAS table. Photo by S. Brewer

At least 25 organizations were represented at the fair including the Aptos History Museum, Capitola Historical Museum, Friends of Cowell Lime Works, Redman Hirahara House, Santa Cruz MAH, Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park and Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

Activities included bone cleaning at the Santa Cruz Mission SHP table, a Faro game, tours of the Adobe and more. There was a food truck serving up tasty burritos and tacos, and snacks. At the end of the day were two notable events: a demonstration of Destreza sword fighting technique and a Dialogue on Inclusive Histories, sponsored by State Parks, and led by Stacey Marie Garcia of the International

Coalition of Sites of Conscience. The purpose of the event was to help us understand the ways we can interpret and tell stories about our past. This organization is notable and worth investigating. Space is limited in this newsletter, so here is one paragraph from their website: *“A Site of Conscience is a place of memory – such as a historic site, place-based museum or memorial – that prevents this erasure from happening in order to foster more just and humane societies today. Not only do Sites of Conscience provide safe spaces to remember and preserve even the most traumatic memories, but they enable their visitors to make connections between the past and related contemporary human rights issues.”* and the URL is www.sitesofconscience.org .

Visitors could also participate in a “Passport to the Past Scavenger Hunt” with participating tables.

The sword fighting demonstration was very informative. I did not know that there were manuals written about technique and etiquette for sword fighting, and that the techniques and goals

were very different in the various European countries. I came away thinking that if I had to duel, I'd want to fight under the Spanish method, rather than the French, as a Spanish dueler would be more interested in preserving honor by disarming me or maybe scratching me with the sword, but the energetic French dueler intended to kill me.



Dueling demonstration

Across from the SCAS table was the Redman-Hirahara table, with UCSC doctoral candidate and sometimes SCAS volunteer, Jacob Stone, ready to answer any questions about his dissertation subject: the Redman-Hirahara Farmstead. Both Pat Paramoure and I were participants at the 2005 Cabrillo College Archaeology Technology Program field school at the Farmstead, and we enjoyed seeing some of our favorite artifacts again, and knowing that Jacob was bringing the history of this site and its former owners and occupants to the attention of a wider audience. Congratulations, Jacob!



Stacey Garcia, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience



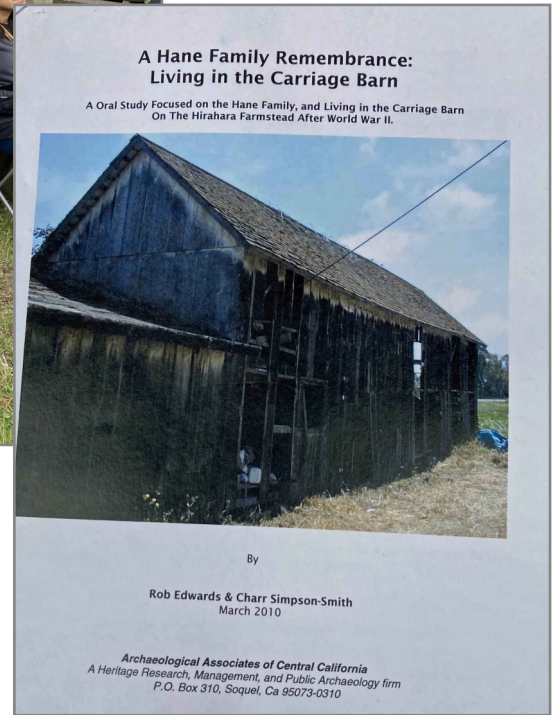
Try your luck at the Faro Table. (Unless noted, all photos by M. Gerbic)



(Left) Jacob Stone and the Redman-Hirahara Farmstead.

(Below) Oral history of the Hane Family after WWII.

(Lower right) A fragment of an Imari bowl excavated by CCATP students in 2005.



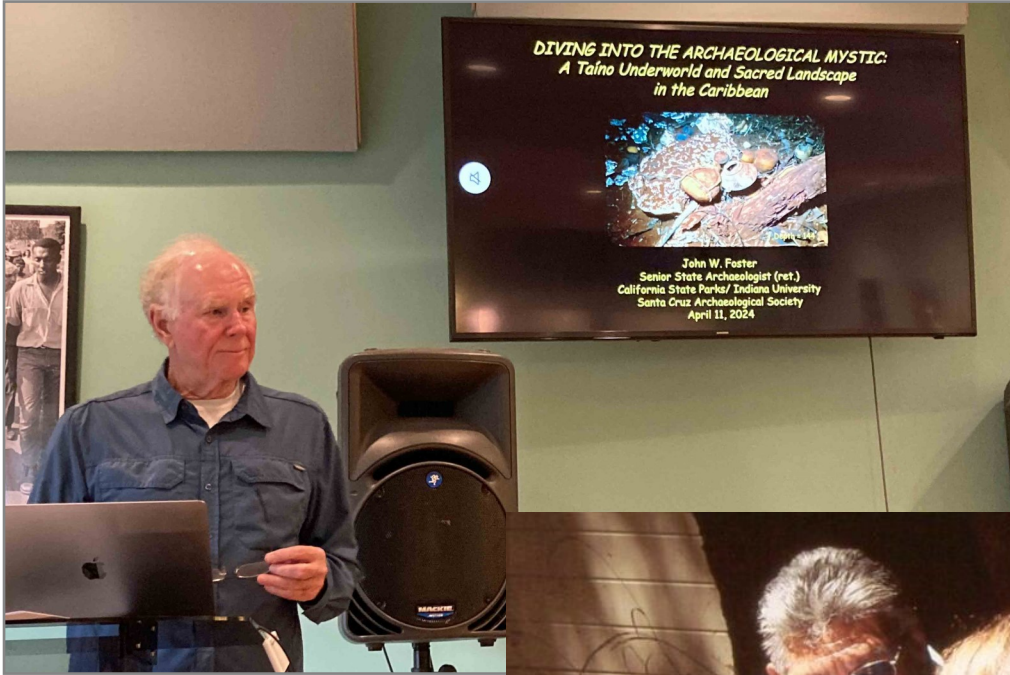
Happy purchasers of SCAS t-shirts.

I lost all my chips at the Faro table, but now I know that this was the game of choice during the California Gold Rush, not Poker.

There were many more tables and exhibits I can't possibly cover here. Don't miss next year's fair. The location will be announced next spring



Recent Speaker Events



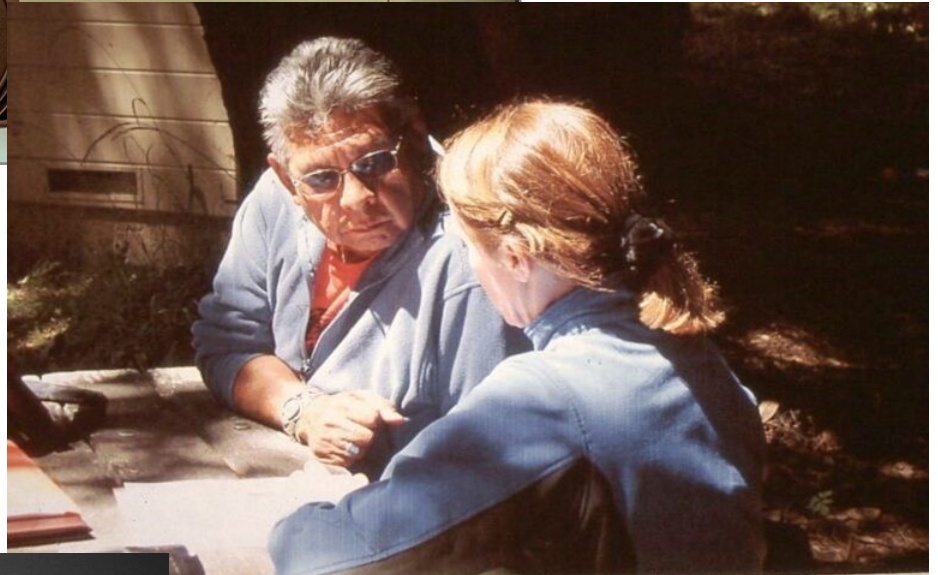
April 11, 2024

"A Taíno Underworld and Sacred Landscape in the Caribbean."

John W. Foster, California State Archaeologist [ret.]

May 9, 2024

"Towards a Socially Just Heritage Management: Tribal Cultural Landscape (TCL) Methods, a Kashaya Pomo Example." Katherine Dowdall and Otis Parrish



June 13, 2024

"Collaborative Paradigms: Enhancing Tribal / Archaeologist Partnerships in Cultural Heritage Protection."

Quirina Luna Geary, Chairwoman, Tamien Nation.

Photo of John Foster by Mary Gerbic. Other photos courtesy of the speaker(s).

Report: SCAS Board Meeting Notes Summary – April–June 2024 By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary

April 2024

Financial Notes: Kevin presented two sets of financials this month. We close our fiscal year in March. He also reported that our business insurance was up for renewal and our current insurer is no longer writing policies for small non-profits, so Keith has been working with a broker to find another company. The cost of insurance has more than doubled and he will pay the invoice in full.

Membership Report: Branden reported that we had one senior renewal, two student renewals and two new members. We have many members who have not renewed their membership and we think it is because people now prefer to do this online, and we have had problems with our Pay Pal account.

Speakers and Website: Pat has booked Quirina Geary, the Tamien Nation Chairperson, to speak for us in June. She hopes Jacob Stone will present for us in September. He is finishing up his doctoral dissertation on the Watsonville Redman-Hirahara Farmstead, and the experiences of returning Japanese-Americans after WWII. A couple of us were part of the CCATP field school at the farmstead in 2005, and look forward to hearing what Jacob has to say.

SCAN: Mary said that the spring SCAN is out. With all our interesting speakers and a wealth of spring activities, she will probably have more than enough material for the summer issue.

Santa Cruz County History Fair: Those of us working at the fair will meet beforehand to discuss shifts and collect outreach material from the warehouse. Kären has a copy of the flier for the History Fair but didn't receive it in time for it to be in the spring SCAN.

Scotts Valley Display Project (SVDP): We are trying to set a time when our curator Amanda Boesen and David Farquhar the cabinet maker can meet with us at Scotts Valley City Hall. Sarah has a copy of Amanda's invoice to date.

Past and Continued Business: The Castro Adobe tour is coming up. We decided to open up the tour to non members, because the tour is on a Thursday and many members may not be able to attend.

May 2024

Financial Notes: Kevin paid our Insurance invoice in full. He doesn't anticipate any major expenses in the coming months. He said he must supply the Secretary of State with the name and address of a person who will act as our "Agent of Service of Process". Up until now, that person has been Rob Edwards. Pat volunteered to be the agent for the rest of her term on the board,

Membership Report: Branden said we had one senior renewal and three individual renewals this month. We also have one new lifetime member-Peter Von der Porten. Thank you, Peter.

Adviser Updates: After some trouble at the previous meeting, Sarah reported that there were no hiccups at the May talk.

Speakers and Website: Jacob Stone will be our September speaker. We don't have an October speaker yet, but Kent Lightfoot will speak for us in November. In December we will probably hear from Samantha Schell of Pacific Legacy.

The website committee has not met. They are having problems—not hearing from the designer, so they have decided to find another one. Pat suggested we work through Cabrillo College.

Outreach: There was much discussion about the History Fair and what we should and should not bring. We are a bit sensitive about displaying anything of Indigenous origin. We have decided not to sell the rubber stamps, but what about our basket t-shirt? Kären thought it would be a good idea at some time in the future to sit down with local tribal repre-

sentatives and discuss issues around our use of indigenous motifs. Mary thought that most tribal representatives are extremely busy fielding requests from agencies and CRM firms, and so we will be very low on their priority list. Interestingly, we will have had three prominent Indigenous speakers at our meetings this spring, and so we will probably learn a lot of what we want to know from what they want to tell us, just not all at once.

Pat pointed out that we have been selling the “basket t-shirts” for longer than she’s been a member, and no one has ever complained about them. However that was before COVID and changes to CalNAGPRA. Did we ever have permission to use this image? Yes, actually. There were a series of posters created in the 1980s by an Indigenous artist, and the basket is in two of the images. We received permission from him at the time. Nobody remembers who he is, but his name is on the posters, and we will retrieve that information when we go to the warehouse to gather the outreach materials this month.

Kevin mentioned that someone had sent him a package of six old SCAS t-shirts. He wants to hold onto them or sell them. They are rare now—example “Raiders of the Lost Adobe”.

Speaker’s Meeting in June: This June is the official 50th anniversary of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society. Should we celebrate at the meeting? Yes. Bring cupcakes for sharing after the speaker.

Castro Adobe Tour—June 27, 2024: This event will start at 10 am and last until 2 pm. We will have a tour of the archive and archaeological materials. This is a special viewing. Regular tours do not include this. Bring a bag lunch.

June 2024

Financial Notes: Kevin is in the process of closing out FY23. He has several financial tasks to be finished by the end of June. He also reported on the “Agent of Service of Progress”. Pat had volunteered to be this person. However, Kevin found that for \$50/year, we can have a company handle this service for us. An advantage is continuity in case we receive any official mail. Kevin thought this was the best one of those he looked at, so the Board voted to use the service.

Member Report: Branden reported that we had a new student member, an individual renewal and an individual upgrading to a family membership. He has also removed from the membership roll all those who were repeatedly contacted to renew their membership and haven’t responded in two years. We went from 122 members to 106. There are still 49 members in arrears, but more recently. Some of these people are probably students who gave us their school email accounts, and now that they have graduated, the accounts have been closed. If they are still in the area, they can, of course, rejoin with new email addresses.

Speakers and Website: Pat has one more speaker confirmed. Samantha Schell of Pacific Legacy will be speaking in February 2025. She is trying to find people for October and December, and proposed showing a movie in October.

The SCAN: Mary has noticed that postage keeps going up and up. We are facing a five-cent increase in July. How many people must receive the SCAN as a paper copy? How many do we actually mail? We don’t intend to stop printing the SCAN, but why waste money, even a few dollars, because we aren’t taking care of “return to senders”? Could we convince some institutions who receive complementary copies to receive them as email? Its a topic for the Board retreat.

Scotts Valley Display Project: We have set a date of June 21 to meet with Amanda Boesen, our display designer, in Scotts Valley. David Farquhar can’t make that date, but will swing by soon to take a look at one of the plexiglass doors which is bowed and does not track well.

Past/Continued Business: We are still looking for candidates for President. If anyone knows of a promising candidate, please contact the Board. We will continue to work on the Pay Pal/Website price discrepancy. Kevin and Robbie haven’t been able to find a time when they are both free. We will also continue to more widely publicize our monthly speaker meetings.

New Business and Next Meeting: Karen wants feedback from the Board about topics for the Board Retreat in August. We usually discuss issues in depth that we are unable to cover in our regular meetings. Topics that have been mentioned: Financial outlook for SCAS. What can we do to raise funds? SCAS response to CalNAGPRA. Continue to develop a good working relationship with local tribes. We might consider participating in tribal workdays and other events. These could be great events for our members.

2024 Speaker Lineup

We hold “hybrid” meetings: in-person and over Zoom (RSVP). In-person attendance is at the Resource Center For Nonviolence at 612 Ocean Street in Santa Cruz. For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

- Sep 12 Jacob Stone
- Oct 10 TBD
- Nov 14 Kent Lightfoot
- Dec 12 TBD

Archaeological Society Business

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