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PCAS NEWSLETTER

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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OCTOBER PCAS SPEAKER

Dr. Donn R. Grenda

**Twenty Years of Research
along the West Los Angeles Coast**

Over 20 years of archaeological, geoarchaeological, ethnohistorical, and historical research by Statistical Research, Inc (SRI) along the west Los Angeles coast has produced a rich and detailed record of approximately 8,000 years of human adaptation to a dynamic coastal wetland and a diverse cultural environment. This record provides a unique perspective on Gabrielino/Tongva culture from its ancestral origins in the Millingstone period, to its development as a distinctive coastal culture in the Intermediate period, and finally its emergence as a complex culture during the Protohistoric and Mission periods.

In addition to information on the Gabrielino/Tongva culture, our historical research also uncovered interesting stories concerning the more recent development of the region. Major landscape-altering impacts were caused by ranchos, hog farms, the Los Angeles sewer system, the oil industry, the Howard Hughes Industrial Complex, residential expansion, and the long, on-going battle to control storm water.

The majority of SRI's research has been in connection with the Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project on the land below the Ballona escarpment. This massive project included a paleoenvironmental reconstruction, evaluation of more than 20 archaeological sites, data recovery at 5 sites (LAN 54, -62, -193, -211, and -2768), *(continued on p. 5)*

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, Dr. Donn Grenda, and PCAS members for dinner before the November 10th General Meeting. We will meet at 6 pm at Mimi's Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

ANNUAL AND ELECTION MEETING

Free and Open to the Public

November 10 - 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Donn R. Grenda

Topic: *Twenty Years of Research
along the West Los Angeles Coast*

Location: Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the causes or activities of organizations that use the District's meeting rooms which are made available for public use.

BOARD MEETING

All Members Welcome

November 17 - 7:00 pm

Location: Old Orange County Courthouse
PCAS Library, Ground Floor
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 October Speaker Notes
- 3 October Board Meeting Summary
- 3 PCAS Annual Meeting and Election
- 3 Rock Art Conference
- 4 PCAS Holiday Dinner
- 5 Book Review
- 5 PCAS Curation Workday
- 6 Dig This - Exhibits, lectures, and more
- 7 Marshall Duell Retires
- 7 Speaker Schedule

**Please attend the November 10th Annual
and Election Meeting - we need a quorum!**

OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

Twenty Years on San Nicolas Island: Wandering throughout the Holocene

Submitted by Megan Galway

Dr. René Vellanoweth of CSU Los Angeles spoke about his 20 years of research on San Nicholas Island. Most of this work was done by university field schools. He gave credit to Dr. Patricia Martz and Dr. Steven Schwartz for introducing him to the archaeology of San Nicholas. The island is about 9 miles long by 3 ½ miles wide and is one of the southern Channel Islands. Dr. Vellanoweth's work has focused on four sites—CA-SNI-14, -25, -40, and -551. Many sites on the island have been impacted by early sheep ranching and by US Navy activities.

Dr. Vellanoweth referred to his research model as historical ecology, the study of the interaction of humans with their environment. The Channel Islands are believed to have been occupied for 10,000 to 15,000 years, but evidence of early occupation is now under many feet of water. San Nicholas Island was believed to have been about 2.5 times larger during the late glacial period, and most recorded dates for the island are younger than 9,000 years. Soil erosion is a complication for site dating—artifacts found in old soil may date much younger than expected. The Middle Holocene (6,500–3,500 BP) is well documented, and Dr. Vellanoweth noted a previous focus on this period and the Late Period, with the years in between being ignored.

Dr. Vellanoweth discussed CA-SNI-40, which dates to 4,200 BP and featured a cemetery that was excavated in the 1950s. His team excavated the site's midden and found an unusual stratification. Black abalone shells were found side-by-side with red abalone even though they are considered to be 200 years older. This could possibly be explained by erosion cutting through the older midden, but it was a consistent phenomenon throughout the site. A road had capped and preserved a portion of the site. Excavations in this area produced artifacts such as bone fishing gorges, shale points, and albatross bones. The albatross (which weighs about 20 pounds and has a 7-foot wing span) is no longer found on this coast, but the remains of 15-20 individuals were found at the site. Clay-like areas were found associated with small shells generally found in kelp beds. Dr. Vellanoweth suggests that fish and shellfish were being wrapped in kelp and baked in a pit. The team also identified a type of *Olivella* shell bead specific to this site.

CA-SNI-25 was dated to the Late Holocene and produced a large number of abalone fishhooks. The team found a number of unusual artifacts which are now referred



Program Chair Joe Hodulik with October speaker Dr. René Vellanoweth.

to as sandstone saws. It is believed these were used in the manufacture of the abalone fishhooks as later analysis identified red abalone residue. Many shell beads and ornaments were also found.

Two dog burials were excavated in this area. One was a double burial, and the other contained the remains of three dogs. The double burial contained dogs less than a year old, while the other burial held three older males. The latter remains displayed healed traumatic injuries as might be found in working or hunting dogs. Chemical analysis indicates the dogs ate a 100 percent marine diet, so were either being fed by humans or scavenging from them. It was noted that analysis of the island foxes from the same period showed a combined marine and terrestrial diet, a further indication that the dogs were living in close association with humans. These burials, along with artifacts such as a quartz crystal point and ochre, were found within a 3-meter radius and returned similar dates, indicating this may have been a single ritual event.

San Nicolas Island's final and most famous Native occupant was Juana Maria, who lived alone on the island from 1835 to 1853. Her life was documented in Scott O'Dell's *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. An 1871 survey of the island described an "Indian cave," where over 200 artifacts were found including redwood boxes, basketry water canteens, and a highly decorative fishhook. Some of the artifacts appeared to relate to Russian fur trappers and Kodiak Islanders who visited the island to hunt sea otters. Dr. Vellanoweth suggests that Juana Maria may have gathered these artifacts and curated them in two redwood boxes found in the cave. A recent survey may have identified the cave, and after excavation, a single artifact was identified as a pepper sauce bottle of a style manufactured in the mid-1800s.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Submitted by Megan Galway

President **Scott Findlay** called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Old Orange County Courthouse, Santa Ana, California. Board members present: **Bob Brace, Megan Galway, Joe Hodulik, Hank Koerper, Steve O'Neil, and Kathleen Shada**. Members present: **Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, and Sherri Gust**.

The September 2011 minutes were approved. The treasurer's report and expenditures were approved.

The server for digital storage of PCAS records has been put online and access permissions will be defined within the month. Records, such as membership lists, newsletters, financial reports, and board minutes will be archived on this server, along with digital copies of the *PCAS Quarterly*. The Holiday Dinner potluck information will be included in the November newsletter. Members will be asked to RSVP to Sherri Gust and tell her what dish they plan to bring. November is the 50th anniversary of the founding of PCAS, and a year of celebration will begin at the November meeting with a 50th birthday cake. We will also design a special commemorative banner for the newsletter for the next year.

PCAS will have its regular table at the Rock Art Symposium in San Diego on November 5th. The Board approved the purchase of a computer remote control to be used in association with our digital projector at monthly meetings. We have received a donation of books and artifacts from the estate of Malcolm Farmer. The artifacts are non-provenienced or replicated and suitable for outreach activities. Some of the books and papers have educational value and may be offered to various universities. Eleven scholarship applications, of generally high quality, were received by the extended deadline. The Board accepted the Scholarship Committee's recommendation on the winning application. The winner's name will be announced at the November meeting and in the December newsletter.

Curation work on ORA-83 (the Cogstone site) continues. **Joe Hodulik's** donation/award table generated \$111 in October! PCAS Quarterly Volume 45, Numbers 3&4, will be published in November. There will be no field trip in November due to the Rock Art Symposium and impending holiday season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

PCAS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The 2011 PCAS Annual Meeting and Election will be held on November 10, 2011, 7:30 pm, at the Irvine Ranch Water District, Irvine.

A quorum of members is necessary for the election to take place. You must be physically present to vote. Our by-laws prohibit proxy voting. **Please plan to attend!**

PCAS members will elect three Board Members to 3-year terms. The Nomination Committee has recruited three candidates (see below) to stand for election. Their full biographies were printed in the October *PCAS Newsletter* (available at www.pcas.org). Before the election takes place, additional nominations may be made from the floor by any member present with the prior consent of the nominee. If there are more than three nominees, Directors will be elected by secret ballot. Although ballots will be distributed as members arrive, please be aware that additional names may be placed in nomination, and voting will not take place until after floor nominations are closed.

The nominees are:

Linda Christison received her MA in anthropology from CSUF in 2000. She volunteers at PCAS curation and at outreach events.

Gail Cochlin is a past Board member. She actively participates in PCAS curation and outreach.

Sherri Gust is a Registered Professional Archaeologist and a Qualified Principal Paleontologist. She serves as *PCAS Newsletter* editor and *PCAS Quarterly* Coeditor.

JOIN US AT ROCK ART 2011

PCAS members will attend the day-long Museum of Man's 36th Annual Rock Art Symposium, November 5 at the Otto Auditorium in Balboa Park. During breaks and lunch, PCAS will man a *PCAS Quarterly* sales and information table.

The symposium registration form is available online at www.museumofman.org. Registration begins at 8 am, but preregistration is recommended (registration form can be faxed). Plan to join PCAS members for dinner in San Diego after the conference.

PCAS HOLIDAY DINNER

Join us!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
6:30 PM
THE DUCK CLUB*, IRVINE**

3rd Annual Potluck (no additional cost)

This year's dinner speaker is Dr. Robert M. Yohe II:

Back on the PaleoIndian Map: A Reassessment of the Owl Cave Site in Southern Idaho

Lecture at 7:30 pm - free and open to the public

1. Bring a dish to serve six people.
2. The Duck Club does not allow alcoholic beverages.
3. Space at the Duck Club is limited - sign up early.
4. Bring your food in a disposable container if you want leftovers donated.



Categories of food to bring:

- Appetizers
- Entrées
- Side Dishes
- Desserts

CRM Firms

Help out by sponsoring a spiral cut ham, turkey, roast beef, etc.

Sign up at the November meeting or by emailing Sherri Gust, Newsletter@PCAS.org, and let us know what you are bringing.

* Directions to the Duck Club are available at www.pcas.org (click on Latest News on left menu) and will be in the December PCAS Newsletter.

Book Review

Submitted by Sherri Gust

Ceramic Makers' Marks

Erica Gibson
Sonoma State University
147 pp. November 2010

Ceramic Makers' Marks is a reference guide compiled by Erica Gibson, the Archaeological Lab Director for the Anthropological Studies Center at Sonoma State University. The catalog is comprised of almost 350 marks used by 112 manufacturers from the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries. The makers' marks are in order alphabetically by the manufacturer name and include information such as origin; dates in use; ware types and descriptions of the marks. Photographs of printed marks accompany the descriptions and line drawings accompany impressed marks.

This guide is, without a doubt, extremely useful. The information (some of it updated from earlier guides) is concise and the photographs and illustrations are clear, especially with the accompanying descriptions. In addition, Gibson comments on using elements such as the words "England," "Trade-Mark," and "Made in England" and the use of the British Registry Diamond as dating tools.

What I find to be the most useful aspect of *Ceramic Makers' Marks* is the set of indices at the end. These allow for searches by City; County/State, Element, Mark Type, Word, and Maker. As is so often the case when analyzing ceramics, only fragments of makers' marks are frequently recovered or impressed marks can be nearly impossible to make out. Using the indices, one can take whatever elements of the mark that can be observed and narrow down a maker. When all you're working from consists of a partial word and a globe printed in blue, it is significantly more efficient than looking through each page of a reference book in an attempt to match up marks accurately.

The only real drawback is that the guide is not comprehensive. The vast majority of manufacturers represented are British, with a few French, German, and American marks included. Gibson's explanation for the omissions is that most of the ceramics recovered from archaeological deposits are British in origin. During the mid to late 19th century, British ceramics were preferred, were inexpensive, and were exclusively produced for American markets. The lack of American marks is somewhat disappointing. By the end of the 19th century and especially progressing

into the 20th century, American ceramics manufacturers became significantly more recognized and their wares more widely distributed. Especially in California, as sites quickly turn 50 years old and gain historical status, more American ceramics are recovered. Indeed, a guide to American ceramic makers' marks based on Gibson's format is much-needed.

November Speaker *(continued from p. 1)*

and mission records and historical research. Other SRI projects that have contributed to our understanding include data recovery at 4 sites on top of the escarpment (LAN-63, -64, -206, and -212), data recovery in Marina del Rey (LAN-47) and at the east end of Playa Vista (LAN-60), and research on the Redondo Beach area and Malaga Cove for a fiber optic project. Each of these projects has allowed us to tell the story of the past from a different perspective.

Donn Grenda is an archaeologist with experience in both prehistoric and historical archaeology. He has undergraduate degrees in economics and anthropology from the University of Redlands, a master's degree in anthropology with a specialization in historical archaeology from the College of William and Mary, and a doctorate in anthropology with a specialization in prehistoric archaeology from the University of Arizona. Dr. Grenda's research interests include California prehistory, historical archaeology, coastal-inland settlement patterns, prehistoric economies, hunter-gatherer studies, and sociopolitical evolution. He is the president/CEO of Statistical Research, Inc., an archaeological and historical consulting firm with offices throughout the western United States, and is on the board of directors of Nexus Heritage, an archaeological and heritage resources consulting firm based in the United Kingdom. He is also a member of the California State Historical Resources Commission. This commission decides which properties meet the criteria for listing in the national and state registers of historic places. Dr. Grenda has taught classes in archaeology at the University of Redlands and California State University, San Bernardino. He has served or is currently serving on the board of directors of a number of non profit organizations and has authored, coauthored, and edited many important papers, reports, and books.

OCTOBER CURATION WORKDAY

When: November 12, 2011

Time: 1 pm

Where: Red Car Building

Everyone welcome!

DIG THIS...



Exhibits

Adventures in Photography: A Century of Images in Archaeology and Anthropology, organized by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, will present 64 vintage photographs. San Diego Museum of Man, November 11-January 13. Information: www.museumofman.org.

Lectures

Rock Art - Archaeology of Consciousness, by CHIP, will present a shamanistic look at rock art. Coachella Valley Archaeological Society, Cathedral City Community Center, 37-171 West Buddy Rogers, November 1, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Star Trek: Going Boldly to the First Alleged Supernova Rock Art, by Dr. Ed Krupp (Griffith Observatory Director). A Rancho Mirage Public Library Lecture, 71100 Hwy 111, Rancho Mirage, November 3, 7 pm. Free. Information: 760-341-7323 or www.ranchoiragelibrary.org.

Baboons, Stable Isotopes and the Location of Punt, by Dr. Nate Dominy (UC Santa Cruz), an ARCE lecture. Bowers Museum, November 12, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: <http://arceoc.org>; www.bowers.org or 714-567-3677

New Perspectives on Aphrodisia, Turkey, by Harry Mark, an AIA, Orange County Chapter, lecture. DeNault Auditorium, Grimm Hall Concordia University, Irvine, November 13, 2-4 pm. Fee: \$5; members free. Information: aia-oc.org.

Aztec Human Sacrifice and Ritual Cannibalism, by Karleen Ronsairo. A Lunch Time Lecture of the San Diego Archaeological Society, November 18, noon. Free with admission. Information: 760-291-0370 or www.sandiegoarchaeology.org.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Rock Art Symposium 2011, sponsored by the Museum of Man, will be held at the Otto Center, San

Diego Zoo. November 5, 8 am - 5 pm. Fee: \$50; \$40 for students, members. Call for papers until October 30. Information: www.museumofman.org/rock-art-symposium.

An Evening of Indian Storytelling and Song, by Jacque Tahuka-Nunez (Acjachemen descent), November 9, 6:30 pm, UCR Palm Desert Campus, Building B, Auditorium, 75080 Frank Sinatra Dr, Palm Desert; and ***A Taste of Native Cuisine***, by Chef Paul Woods of the Spa Resort Casino, November 19, 8:30 am-noon, adjacent to Camelot Theatres, 2300 E Baristo Rd, Palm Springs. Both are Spirit Keepers Programs of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. Free. Information: 760-778-1079 or www.accmuseum.org.

The 17th Annual Symposium of the Coachella Valley Archaeology Society will consider *Difficult Times: Adaptive Strategies*. Pollock Theater, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, November 12, 9 am-3:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Class 1: Pottery in Archaeology: Past and Present, by Dr. Margie M. Burton, will present an overview of pottery technology and a hands-on lesson. San Diego Archaeological Center, November 12, 10 am-1 pm.

Class 2: Kumeyaay Pottery workshop at KIIC, by Martha Rodriguez, will involve making pottery from raw clay. Kumeyaay Ipai Interpretive Center, Poway, February 28, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Fee: \$100; members \$75. Information: acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org or 760-291-0370.

Websites

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.

PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a non-profit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.

MARSHALL DUELL RETIRES

Best wishes to Marshall in his retirement after 23 years of service to the Old Orange County Courthouse where PCAS maintains a library!



From left, PCAS member Pat Hearle, Scott Findlay, Marshall Duell, and Old Courthouse Museum Society President, Jane Norgren, at Marshall's retirement celebration, October 5.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

December 8, 2011 (Holiday Dinner)

Dr. Robert M. Yohe II

Back on the PaleoIndian Map: A Reassessment of the Owl Cave Site in Southern Idaho

January 12, 2012

Bernie Jones

Orange County Rock Art

February 9, 2012

Dr. Nancy Desautels-Wiley

Bolsa Chica Archaeology, Part V

March 8, 2012

Dr. Nancy Desautels-Wiley

Bolsa Chica Archaeology, Part VI

April 12, 2012

Dr. Jill Gardner

2011 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

| <u>Office</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Email</u> | <u>Phone</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
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| *Historian/Librarian/Archivist | Jane Gothold | librarian-archivist@pcas.org | 562-947-6506 |
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| Website | Rene Brace | info@pcas.org | 714-544-6282 |

*Denotes PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2011 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive my Newsletter by email. Please be sure email above is legible.

I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics _____

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member - \$45
- Family Membership - \$50
- Supporting Member* - \$55
- Donor Member* - \$75
- Lifetime Member* - \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* - \$37
- Newsletter* - \$18
- Student Associate - \$10 (email Newsletter only)

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

Return form with payment to:

PCAS Membership
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926

www.pcas.org