



APRIL 2023

PCAS Newsletter

The Monthly Publication of the
Pacific Coast Archaeological Society

www.pcas.org

Volume 62 Number 4

ISSN 0270-6776

April PCAS Speaker

Dr. James E. Snead

Relic Hunters: Archaeology and the Public in Nineteenth-Century America

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

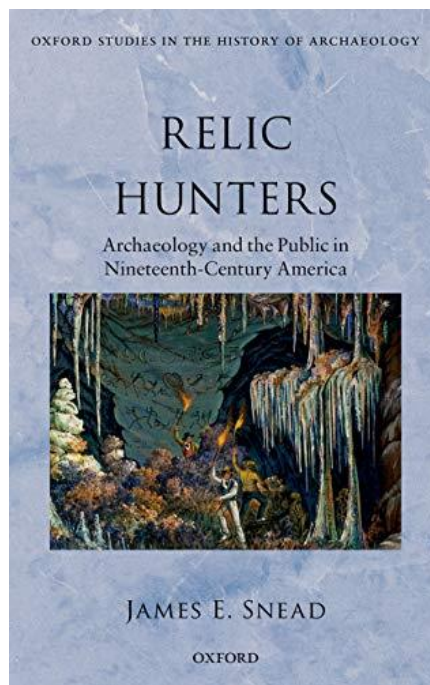
April 13, 7:30 pm. See p. 3.

Speaker will not be present at the in-person meeting.

The history of archaeology in the United States is often presented as a gradual improvement in method/theory, resulting in a better "academic" understanding of indigenous history. In fact, the process by which Euro-Americans "engaged" the material remains of the Native American past was complex, driven not by new ideas but by an increasing public interest in antiquities. *Relic Hunters: Archaeology and the Public in Nineteenth-Century America* uses rich archival sources to explore this process across the nineteenth century,



documenting how local antiquarian activity—including associations, museums, and collectors—was the principal force behind American archaeology in the era.



James E. Snead is Professor of Anthropology and Curator of the Archaeological Repository at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). He received his BA in Anthropology at Beloit College, followed by an MA and Ph.D. at UCLA. He has been awarded grants from the American Philosophical Society, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. Research interests include the history of archaeology, ancient roads, and the historical archaeology of the American West post-1850. His current writing project is "Mothers of American Archaeology: Women, Preservation, and Heritage in the Western United States, 1890–1920."

**PCAS Scholarship applications
are due by April 30.**

www.pcas.org/scholarship.html

March Speaker Notes

Paleoindian Land Use at Pluvial Lake Mojave in California's Mojave Desert

By Megan Galway

Dr. Edward J. Knell began by reminding us that he previously spoke to us about his work in the Lake Mojave region in 2010. Since that time, he has continued work in the area assisted by Jan Taylor who studied the paleovegetation, geologist Matthew E. Kirby, and Albert Garcia, a GIS specialist. The purpose of this study is to create a model of land use in the wetland habitats around pluvial lakes and to test this model in the Lake Mojave region.

Climate change over time led to fluctuating lake levels, which in turn affected the wetland habitats and resources around them. These factors then influence what Dr. Knell refers to as "Patch Productivity," the extent of available resources in a specific area which influences where and when people may live there. In the past the pluvial lakes in the Mojave Desert were full of water. The glacial conditions prior to 10,000 years ago caused the jet stream to split with half going to the north and the other half coming south over California and the American Southwest. This created a much wetter climate, and 25,000 to 8,000 years ago the Mojave River was filled with runoff from the San Bernardino Mountains and flowed into Lake Mojave.

The study was conducted from 2009 to 2017 with about 90 days of actual fieldwork over that period. There were 10 survey areas in all comprising about 5 square miles. Eight of these were shoreline surveys, and two were non-shoreline quarry sites. A total of 5,482 artifacts were analyzed in the field, of which 5,456 were chipstone. There were also pieces of groundstone and hammerstones. The area was heavily collected in the past, and Dr. Knell was able to study the 1930s Campbell collection, which includes Lake Mojave and Silverlake points, and the Brainerd collection from the 1950s.

At the north end of Silver Lake, three main shorelines were identified, with the higher and older two (designated A and B) dating to the late Pleistocene-early Holocene, and these showed more evidence of habitation compared to the lower shore (C), which was more often underwater. The traditional concept that the lake level continued to become consistently lower as the climate became dryer was not born out by the study, and it appears likely that the water level continued to fluctuate until more recent times. However, habitation may have been disturbed by these fluctuations, and people were less likely to live close to the shore.



PCAS March speaker, Dr. Edward J. Knell .

The basic research question of the study was whether the Paleoindian population of the area employed a Wetland Transient Strategy (WTS) or a Wetland Stable Strategy (WSS). In other words, did they tend to travel across an area taking advantage of different (low patch) resource locations or were they more likely to remain in an area with more extensive (high patch) resources? The original model, based on paleoclimate, projected a lake level curve which was divided into 500 year time segments. From this the area of wetland habitat and resulting patch productivity was estimated. This in turn would suggest whether a WTS or WSS was more likely used. Unfortunately, this model was difficult to test in the Silver Lake study. The surface collection provided limited radiocarbon dates that could not readily be tied to specific lake levels. The model was simplified to one based primarily on point and artifact types, and this produced significant results.

It was proposed that more mobile (WTS) groups would employ more portable and multifunctional tools, many with retouched edges. The more sedentary (WSS) groups would stockpile raw material and would readily make new tools from this stockpile and thus would employ fewer retouched tools. Comparison of these artifacts indicated a dividing line between paleo and more recent cultures at the B shoreline which correlates with estimates of patch productivity based on lake levels.

Dr. Knell hopes to employ geochemical studies to determine the source of the artifactual materials and therefore determine the movement of these populations.

*This presentation and other PCAS lectures are available on the PCAS YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@pcas-acifccoastarchaeolo9403. We thank **Stephen Dwyer**, our Zoom host, for establishing and maintaining our YouTube channel.*

DIG THIS ...



Lectures

The Coastal Maritime Migration Hypothesis, by Dr. Jim Cassidy. A Living Room Lecture of the San Diego Archaeological Center, April 6, 6:30 pm PDT. Free. Information and Zoom registration: sandiegoarchaeology.org/maritime-migration.

The Hidden Treasures of Elephantine Island, by Dr. Verena Lepper (National Museums Berlin, Germany). An ARCE/Bowers Museum onsite lecture, April 15, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$15; Bowers and ARCE members free. Recorded lecture available one week after onsite event. Fee: \$10, Bowers and ARCE members free. Ticket purchase and information: www.bowers.org.

Rock Art of Australia: Part 1—The Country and the Art, by David Lee. A virtual lecture of the San Diego Rock Art Association, April 16, 4 pm PDT. Free. Information and registration: www.sandiegorockart.org.

The Big Reveal: Airborne Laser Scanning and the Archaeology of the Northern Maya Lowlands, with Dr. Ken Seligson (CSU Dominguez Hills). A lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter, Concordia University, DeNault Auditorium, 1530 Concordia West, Irvine, April 23, 2 pm. Fee: \$10, members and students free. Information: aia-oc.org/dates.

The Key Role of Natural History Collections in the Zooarchaeological Research: Tales of the Eider, Little Pocket Mouse and Chendytes lawi, by Dr. Aharon Sasson (San Diego Natural History Museum). A lecture of the San Diego County Archaeological Society, Los Peñasquitos Ranch House, April 25, 7:30 pm. Free. Information: sdcas.org.

Five Thousand Years of Ancient Egyptian Fashion, by Dr. Colleen Darnell (Egyptologist) with book signing. Bowers Museum, April 29, 1:30 pm. Ticketed onsite event: \$30, members \$20. Recorded screening available one week after onsite event: \$15, members \$10. Information and tickets: www.bowers.org.

Secret of Ancient Egypt—New Discoveries: An Evening with Dr. Zahi Hawass. US lecture tour in May and June. Fee: \$99+. Information and tickets: zahilectures.com.

Past PCAS lectures are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@pcas-pacificcoastarchaeology9403.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Panhe, a Native American gathering and celebration of protection and preservation, will be held at the San Mateo Campground, San Clemente, April 2, 10 am–4 pm. Free. Information: sanoparks.org.

Malki Museum Agave Roast and Tasting will be held April 8, 10 am–3 pm, Malki Museum, 11795 Malki Road, Morongo Reservation, Banning. Lunch served at noon, \$10 donation per plate, reservations recommended (951-849-7289). Free native plant talk at 2 pm. Information: malkimuseum.org/agave-harvest-and-roast.

The San Diego Archaeological Center Annual BBQ will have food, music, atlatl throw and bow-and-arrow stations, archaeology-themed photo booth, and a silent auction. April 29, 12–3 pm. Cost \$35, members \$30, youth (ages 12 & under) \$15. Information and ticket purchase: sandiegoarchaeology.org/annual-bbq.

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

In-Person Meeting

Location: IRWD Community Room
15500 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.

Zoom Meeting

- Email a **new** Zoom registration request by **noon on Thursday, April 13**, to membership@pcas.org. You will receive an emailed link to the meeting.
- Guests (non-PCAS members) are welcome with registration.
- When the presentation starts, please **mute your microphone and turn off your webcam**.

PCAS host **Steve Dwyer** will open the Zoom meeting at 7 pm to allow time to resolve any technical problems prior to the beginning of the PCAS General Meeting and lecture at 7:30 pm.

PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit 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.

Sign up for Ralphs Community Rewards

PCAS thanks Ralphs and all our participants for this opportunity to earn a donation of at least 1 percent of your Ralphs' purchases. Go to www.ralphs.com and sign in or create an account.

1. On the "My Account" page, scroll to Community Rewards. Link your card by searching for "Pacific Coast Archaeological Society" or inserting the PCAS organization number, QT023.
2. Call 800-443-4438 for assistance.

Thank you for supporting PCAS!

PCAS Speaker Calendar

May 11, 2023

Lauren Biltonen, Aimee Montenegro, and Paul Langenwalter

Archaeological Investigations at CA-ORA-423, a Multicomponent Site in the Lower Aliso Creek Drainage, Orange County, California

June 8, 2023

Dr. Nathan Nakatsuka

Genetic Evidence for Ancient Population Shifts and Migrations in Central and Southern California

No meetings in July and August.

2023 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
*Vice-President	Steve O'Neil	vicepresident@pcas.org	949-677-2391
*Secretary	Gail Cochlin	secretary@pcas.org	714-745-0815
*Treasurer	Rene Brace	treasurer@pcas.org	714-544-6282
Curator		curator@pcas.org	
*Field Trips	Stephen Dwyer	fieldtrips@pcas.org	714-969-1911
*Historian/Librarian	Jane Gothold	historian-librarian@pcas.org	562-947-6506
*Voting Member	Dorothy DeGennaro	ddegennaro@pcas.org	
*Voting Member	Irene Foster	ifoster@pcas.org	714-828-0942
Archivist	Gail Cochlin	archivist@pcas.org	714-745-0815
Donation-Awards Coordinator	Joe Hodulik	donation-awards@pcas.org	949-300-1864
Historian/Librarian	Jane Gothold	historian-librarian@pcas.org	562-947-6506
Membership	Megan Galway	membership@pcas.org	714-539-6354
Native American Liaison	Steve O'Neil	nativeamericanliaison@pcas.org	949-677-2391
Newsletter Editor	Rene Brace	newsletter@pcas.org	714-544-6282
Programs	Joe Hodulik	programs@pcas.org	949-300-1864
Publicist	Joe Hodulik	publicity@pcas.org	949-300-1864
<i>Quarterly</i> Co-Editor	Steve O'Neil	publications@pcas.org	949-677-2391
Refreshments	Gail Cochlin	refreshments@pcas.org	714-745-0815
Scholarship	Megan Galway	scholarship@pcas.org	714-539-6354
Zoom Coordinator	Stephen Dwyer	zoomhost@pcas.org	714-969-1911

*PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2023 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

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

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

Subscription Only

Scholarship Fund

Active Member – \$45

Quarterly – \$40

Donation \$ _____

Family Membership – \$50

Newsletter – \$20

Supporting Member* – \$55

Donor Member* – \$75

Lifetime Member* – \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

www.pcas.org

Join online:

www.pcas.org/membsr.html

Or return with payment to:

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926