March PCAS Speaker

Allen Dart

*Archaeology's Deep Time Perspective on Environment and Social Sustainability*

Free Zoom Meeting
March 10, 7:30 pm
Registration required
Please see instructions on p. 4

The deep time perspective that archaeology and related disciplines provide about natural hazards, environmental change, and human adaptation not only is a valuable supplement to historical records, it sometimes contradicts historical data used by modern societies to make decisions affecting social sustainability and human safety. What can be learned from scientific evidence that virtually all prehistoric farming cultures in the US Southwest eventually surpassed their thresholds of sustainability, leading to collapse or reorganization of their societies? Could the disastrous damages to nuclear power plants caused by the Japanese tsunami of 2011 have been avoided if the engineers who decided where to build those plants had not ignored evidence of prehistoric tsunamis? This presentation looks at archaeological, geological, and sustainable-agricultural evidence on environmental changes and how human cultures have adapted to those changes, and discusses the value of a “beyond history” perspective for modern society.

Archaeologist Allen Dart has worked in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975. After graduating from the University of New Mexico, he worked in that state for the Museum of New Mexico and the Bureau of Indian Affairs before relocating to Tucson and receiving his master’s degree from the University of Arizona. Mr. Dart is the executive director of Tucson’s Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, a nonprofit organization he founded in 1993 to provide education and research programs in archaeology, history, and cultures. He has received awards and honors from the National Park Service and several other organizations for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public.

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March Speaker Notes

Cultural Keystone Places and the Chumash Landscapes of Humqaq’, Point Conception, California

By Megan Galway

Dr. Torben Rick introduced us to the concept of Cultural Keystone Places and how this concept relates to the Chumash area of the central California coast around Point Conception. In 2017 the Nature Conservancy acquired 24,329 acres of this land, the Dangermond Preserve, which includes eight miles of coastline. In collaboration with the Conservancy and the Chumash people, the research agenda is to identify cultural sites and understand the past as it relates to the present and the future. People and land in the area, like many others, were affected by settlement, and Dr. Rick noted that archaeological studies are a vehicle to understanding pre-change ecosystems. Along with that understanding is the importance of current cultural knowledge.

View of the Dangermond preserve and western Santa Barbara Channel from Government Point.

This process is most effective in an area of long-term occupation, and the Chumash culture in the area is believed to extend back over 9,000 years. The historical ecology of an area is defined by geological, archaeological, and historical studies, and changes over time are noted. Ethnographic studies are able to show the connection of cultural identity to current day-to-day life.

Humqaq’, or Point Conception, is geographically unique on the California coast because its coastline runs east–west as opposed to most of the coast which trends south–east. This is also an ocean boundary zone where cold northern and warm southern currents meet and mix, leading to a greater diversity of marine and terrestrial life. This abundance led to a long-term cultural history. Chumash people today consider Point Conception to be a sacred place, the point of departure to the afterlife.

In 1988 a study of the central California coast by Glassow and Wilcoxon identified many early cultural sites, but none, or very few, around Point Conception. The study by Dr. Rick was to determine where and when people settled in the area and advise the Nature Conservancy on areas of special concern and needing oversight. From October 2019 to January 2022, a surface survey was conducted in collaboration with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. The survey covered the coastline to 1 km inland and included drone mapping of the area. Fifty-seven sites were identified, 38 of which had not been previously recorded. There were no excavations, but shell from eroding middens was carbon dated. Dates extended from 9,000 years ago to the nineteenth century. There appears to have been an increase in population during the last 2,000 years, but 11 of the sites produced dates of 9,000 to 4,000 years ago. The dates are typical of other sites in the Santa Barbara area, although there is some evidence of earlier dates including a chipped-stone concentric at Point Conception, typical of those dated to 12,000 years ago, and a site on Vandenberg Space Force Base dated to 10,725 years ago.

Known history of the area includes three mission period villages and a building originally identified as a mission period winery and vineyard. This was later disputed, but Dr. Rick notes that recent excavations and mapping have verified it was a winery and constructed by Chumash builders. Villages in the area were affected by later development and ranching activities, and the Southern Pacific Railroad caused destruction to the landscape. Much changed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but the Chumash still maintain their traditions and interact with the landscape as they have done for many millennia.
DIG THIS ...

Exhibits

**Angkor: The Lost Empire of Cambodia**, the California Science Center. In conjunction with the exhibit, IMAX Angkor 3D is showing. Timed tickets required: [https://californiasciencecenter.org](https://californiasciencecenter.org).

Lectures

**Paso de la Amada: An Early Mesoamerican Ceremonial Center**, by Dr. Richard Lesure (UCLA). An Author Spotlight Inaugural Lecture of the Cotsen Institute, UCLA, March 1, 6 pm. Free. Information and Zoom registration: [https://ioa.ucla.edu](https://ioa.ucla.edu).

**Tracing California Indians beyond the Mission Period: A Northern Chamus Example and Early African American Settlers in the Santa Barbara Region**, by Dr. John Johnson. Zoom lectures of the Ventura County Archaeological Society, March 8, 7 pm. Register to receive link: vcas.arch@gmail.com. Information: [www.venturacountyarchaeologicalsociety.com](http://www.venturacountyarchaeologicalsociety.com).


**Living Room Lecture: Forensic Analysis of Moai Transport**, by Dr Frederick Best (retired, Texas A&M). An Archaeological Center of San Diego Zoom lecture, March 10, 6:30 pm (registration closes at 4 pm). Free; donations appreciated. Information and required registration: [www.sandiegoarchaeology.org](http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org). Past lectures are available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC1u18jko8JsS19NEicQ52eA/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1u18jko8JsS19NEicQ52eA/playlists).


**ARCE Online or In-Person: Visions of Ancient Egypt in Athenaeus’ Deipnosophistae**, by Dr. Carly Maris (University of San Diego). An ARCE/Bowers Museum lecture, March 12, 1:30 pm. Recorded lecture available for 24 hours. Fee: $13 in-person, $10 online; Bowers and ARCE members free. Information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org).


**Legends and Myths of the Americas: Cultural Stories from the Skies**, by Raoul De la Sota. Bowers Museum in-person or online lecture, prerecorded presentation viewable for 24 hours, March 20, 1:30 pm. Fee: onsite $15, members $10; online $10, members $5. Information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org).

**Across the Ocean Blue: Evidence for Precolumbian Voyages and Contacts**, by Dr. Alice B. Kehoe (Emeritus Professor, Marquette University). A Zoom lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter, March 20, 2 pm. To request registration, fill-out contact form at [www.aia-oc.org](http://www.aia-oc.org).

Classes, Meetings, and Events

**ArchaeoCon 2022**, presented by the AIA, will have virtual presentations and on-demand content, March 5. Cost varies. Information: [www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org).

**Archaeology Day 2022**, sponsored by the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society in partnership with the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, will have exhibits, kids’ activities, guided tours of the Archaeology Lab, virtual field trips, and an in-person field trip to Indian Wash Indian Village. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center, March 13. Information: [www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/arch-day-2022](http://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/arch-day-2022).

Visit [www.pcas.org](http://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 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.

PCAS Zoom Meeting

- Email a registration request by noon on Thursday, March 10, to membership@pcas.org.
- You will receive an email with a link to the Zoom 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 Speaker Calendar

April 14, 2022
Dr. Vance T. Holliday
*Tracking the First Americans*

May 12, 2022
Dr. Metin I. Eren
*Did the Clovis Culture Cause the Extinction of Elephants in Ice Age North America?*

June 9, 2022
Dr. Paul G. Chace
*Patriotic Footprints: Jose Antonio Ortega, Frontier Diplomat, with Maria Antonia Ortega de Carrillo, Frontier Presidio First Lady*

*No meetings in July and August*
# 2022 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

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

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www.pcas.org

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