



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

FEBRUARY 2021

Also available at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

MONTHLY MEETING
FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2021, 6:30 PM
GATHER BY ZOOM INVITATION

CATASTROPHIC FIRES, COLONIALISM AND INDIGENOUS LANDSCAPE PRACTICES

The Relevancy of Cultural Burning in Rethinking the Stewardship of Public Lands in California

Kent G Lightfoot PhD, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

California is currently facing a crisis of catastrophic wildfires. While the causes are many, a crucial factor was Euro-American colonialism that prohibited Indigenous landscape practices and ushered in more than a century of fire suppression.

This lecture outlines the historical roots of the fire crisis in California and discusses the role that collaborative eco-archaeology with tribes can play in rethinking our current stewardship of public lands. It highlights an on-going research program that examines the scale and chronology of Indigenous landscape management practices in Central California prior to fire suppression policies. A collaborative team of scholars from the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, California State Parks, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz are implementing an inter-disciplinary approach for the study of Cultural Burning using ecological, archaeological, and anthropological data sets.

Our ultimate goal is to consider how eco-archaeological research can provide useful information for the contemporary management of public lands, such as enhancing the richness and diversity of native species, improving the health of biological communities, and minimizing the risks of catastrophic fires. The research team is exploring how lessons from the past can directly contribute to the development of new protocols for the contemporary management of public spaces that are rooted in the deep history of tribal practices.



Dr. Kent Lightfoot is Professor in the Anthropology Department at the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the Berkeley faculty in 1987. He received his BA from Stanford University and his PhD from Arizona State University. He has undertaken archaeological work in New England, the American Southwest, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Pacific Coast of North America. His recent investigations have focused on the archaeology of colonialism, the shell mounds of the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and indigenous landscape stewardship practices along the central coast of California.

EXPLORATION TO FIND ONE'S PASSION

Diana Pickworth PhD, FN'01

The Explorers Club Global Exploration Summit (GLEX) in Lisbon, Portugal was dedicated to inspire the public to protect our planet, reconnect with nature and preserve its most pristine habitats. It was there that I was inspired by the wonderful speakers to create "Acorn Explorers", a project to encourage adults to communicate their own passions to some young person.

Growth involves both teaching and exploration. Exploration is how small children first learn. Then comes the importance of parental expectations and familial tendencies. Revealing one's own excitement in an activity can encourage the child to think about such things. One current example is an awareness of climate change; the need to protect the planet can be instilled in a child at an early age. It is critical that the young person be given the freedom to discover things for him/herself, as opposed to being taught. This is accom-

plished by communicating the passion of one's own choice of profession, and give them the courage to explore change and to learn their own particular passions.

Dr. Pickworth talked about her experience with her own grandchild, Thaddeus, taking his interest in a skeleton costume for halloween and sharing with him her thirty-year passion for archaeology and her three years of excavation at Ninevah, Iraq, including, among other things, the skeleton of the ancient warrior at Ninevah, Iraq, pictured herewith.

The speaker challenged her audience be on the alert for a child who might benefit from encouragement or help along the path for subjects of interest and career development.

Dr. Pickworth has several publications currently appearing in archaeological journals.



NARWHAL: REVEALING AN ARCTIC LEGEND

John Wilken – SM'18



This talk by John Wilkin SM'18 fitted in nicely with that of Diana Pickworth because it told of the early exposures that he had to situations that became of strong interest for him. With a father who was a Fitzgerald Marine Reserve docent, he was exposed to and developed an abiding interest in the marine environment from the age of 4. Whale watching at Moss Landing as a teen and the Monterey Aquarium were important. With his sophomore studies on a scholarship in aquatic biology at UCSD and his role as a docent at the Scripps Reef, he was selected by the National Eagle Scout Association for participation in an expedition to the town of Pond

Inlet on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. The objective of that project was to obtain samples of biological tissue from a narwhal, an aquatic mammal with a hollow spiral tusk several feet long, in support of a genome project.

Wilkin presented the varied situations he encountered: the remoteness and difficulty of access, the habits of the local native residents, the potential desecration of the local environment by mining and the importance of the jobs it provided, the latest technology used by the hunter/fisherman to put food on the table, and the openness and friendship of the locals.



And, of course, the dissection of a migrating narwhal to obtain the various organs and tissue samples being sought for scientific study. Shown is a specimen of foetus taken from the narwhal which had been pregnant. In the question period, Wilkin revealed that this experience had led him to expand his curriculum to include studying to become a nurse.

EXPLORERS, SERENDIPITY AND THE FRICK MUSEUM.

Anders Jepsen FN'03

Before I came to Berkeley, between my last two field seasons as a geologist in the Canadian tundra, I carried out a study of arctic exploration techniques at the mineralogical institute in Stockholm. That took two months, taking me from a diamond drilling site in southern Sweden all the way north to the giant iron mine at Kiruna, well above the Arctic Circle. That left me with five more months before I was to return to my job looking for gold in Canada. I was in Europe and I had a car, what to do? Visit new friends in Norway and Holland? Spend Christmas with family in Denmark? Ski in the Alps? Check out Paris?... and how long would my money last?

Now, it had been rumored that any Canadian with a college degree could get a job in London as a temporary school teacher. So, after Christmas and a sojourn skiing in Austria with Swedish friends, I headed for England and found a job as a teacher at a Middlesex County Council special "fresh air" school for children who needed special attention at Henley-on-Thames. That school



was in Park Place, a villa built by Lord Hamilton in 1726 and where Lady Hamilton may have lived before she ran off with Admiral Nelson. There was a lovely garden, many acres of lawns and a mansion that had gone to seed where 75 students, their teachers and staff lived.

What a job to stumble into! I had tried the London County Council calling them every day for a week without success before someone suggested trying the Middlesex County Council. I called them and was immediately told that they had an opening but that, alas, it was in Henley, 40 miles from London. Since I had a car, that was no problem; I went there the next day, met with the headmaster and got an immediate job offer. I moved in two days later. That's serendipity.

Why was there an opening at Park Place that I could fit into? There were three classes of 25 students each. The teacher of the youngest group: 11- and 12-year-olds, had been accused of

indecent assault by an older boy and suspended by the headmaster pending an investigation. Since it was the headmaster who was filling in for him, I was an answer to his prayers. And so I spent 3 months at Lady Hamilton's old homestead, teaching retarded 11- and 12-year olds how to spell and count, and using it as a base for exploration all over England and Scotland on weekends. Probably the only reason that I didn't stay in Europe forever was that I had committed to the next summer of exploring back in Canada, during which I discovered the ore deposit that later became the Lupin gold mine, but that's another story.

What does this have to do with The Explorers Club? A few years ago, while waiting for the Friday night cocktail party at ECAD, Kathy and I visited the Frick Museum which is on the same street and a block away from the national headquarters of The Explorers Club. As I wandered through the exhibition I came



upon a portrait of an attractive female painted by a noted artist of the 1700s named Romney. The accompanying text reported that she was the mistress of Lord Hamilton who had subsequently bequeathed her to his 4th son who later married her. It was Emma, my Lady Hamilton!

And what about Park Place? The internet reports that it has been refurbished and sold several times since I lived there. The most recent sale of Park Place was to a Russian oligarch for 140 million pounds, the highest price ever paid for real estate in Britain.

HONOR ROLL
Paid Up Dues 2021

MEMBERS

Members
Allan, James
Akey, Katherine
Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Amaral, Julia
Austin, Jenifer
Ballou, Philip
Berg, Barbara
Boothe, Joan
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, Thom
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Dana, Don
Dietz, Thomas
Diggles, Michael
Dolan, Thomas
Durbin, Thomas
Estey, Sue
Eustace, (Robert) Alan
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Friedman, Lincoln
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Higgins, Robert J.
Horne, William
Hutchison, Alan
Jepsen, Anders
Kvenvolden, Keith
Lapham, Ellen
Laverty, Laurence
Miller, Gregory
Nishimine, Kendall
Prigoff, Jim
Ross, Sandra Miller
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Bob
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Winter, Mordechai
Worden, Simon
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Boothe, Barry
Brandt, James
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Dolan, Kathy
Durighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Friedman, Christen
George, Mimi
Grubbs, Melodie
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Johnson, Fred
Judd, Kathy
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassie
Nikas, A. James III
Oesterle, Matt
Patterson, Tom
Phillips, William
McKinley III
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy

FROM THE CHAIR – February 2021

For those who believe in the forecasting abilities of Punxsutawney Phil, we might be in for another 6 weeks of winter. The rainfall continuing into February is a good sign and until we have the much-touted herd immunity, the rain will not be a major barrier to other activities.

Until we can get out in the field, we have more great programs to keep you engaged and thinking about the broad range of exploration provided in NorCA and beyond. This month, Kent Lightfoot will be talking about indigenous land stewardship and fire management practices. In March, Deana Weibel, our Minnesota based chapter member, will take us onto a different journey of stewardship -- looking at the religious and spiritual motivations of space exploration. In April, we'll meet two of our Explorers50 members, Brandi DeCarli and Scott Thompson, co-founders of Farms from a Box.



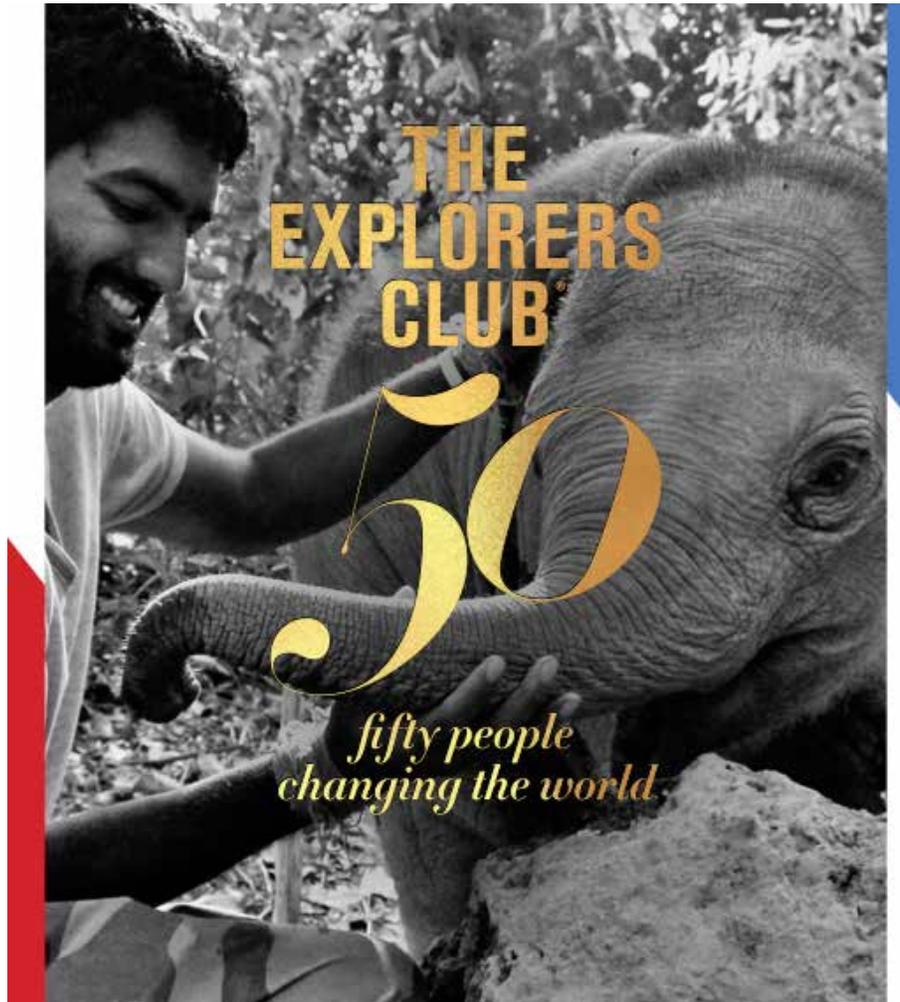
May will be our Chapter annual meeting in which we (i.e. you) will elect new officers for 2021 - 2023. More information will follow soon. Right now, Joyce Chang, Secretary and Anna Freitas, Treasurer, have said that they are interested in continuing with those duties. My term as Chapter Chair will expire so we need a new chair. Typically, the vice-chair role is a transition spot into the chair role and Tom Dolan, vice chair, is interested in being considered for this position. Following that process, we'll need a new vice-chair. Following the by-laws and past practice, the Board will put forth a slate of officers at the May meeting. Members and fellows interested to get more involved with the chapter will have an opportunity to self-nominate or recommend others for officer positions, both to the Board or before the vote at our annual meeting.

The Chapter Board met on February 7th. Some of the discussion was about the merchandise we can provide to members. Tumblers with the Chapter logo are available, and we're working on other items. We are also getting started on field trips -- the stay-at-home situation will change eventually, and we'll be ready. Dr. Paul Freitas was developing a field medicine class when Covid19 changed all our plans. We hope to get that restarted later in 2021. If you have other ideas for field trips, send them to director Jimmy Friedman.

At the Board Meeting, Lee Langan and I reported on some of what is happening at HQ. Richard Garrriott is the President Elect and he should become President at the HQ annual meeting, April 10th. All Explorer Club members will be sent a ballot for the election of the class of 2021 - 2024 Club Directors and will have the opportunity to vote for five of them; results will be announced at the Annual meeting. Work is proceeding on the HQ building to upgrade the electrical system, remove asbestos and the boiler that are in the basement, make the elevator safer, and other repairs. The Explorers50 were announced and Lee Langan prepared a beautiful book that covers the group. Four of the group are in NorCA -- Anders Jepsen, FN'03, Jim Prigoff, ME'67, Brandi deCarli and Scott Thompson (our April speakers). This year is the 40th anniversary of women being admitted to the Club. There will be monthly programs to recognize women's many, many contributions to exploration. Finally, there might be a mid-summer, outdoor ECAD this year. Grace Farms, in New Canaan, is being considered as a meeting site.

That's it for chapter and club news. Explore safely and bring back good stories.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93



EXPLORERS 50

The Explorers Club has announced its initiative to recognize “fifty explorers changing the world that the world needs to know about.” Conceived out of the Board and senior-management discussions on diversity, equity and inclusion, the idea is to acknowledge members and potential members who are active in endeavors less recognized than the “famous firsts” so frequently touted by the Club. We know every member is an explorer, but we are being proactive to reach out across the world to expose lesser-known explorers. The call to suggest folks was made in September, and some 400 were submitted; with some difficulty these were culled to fifty.

I was called upon to edit a volume introducing this group and the rationale behind the effort. The result is on our website as a PDF, and a printed copy is being printed. Copies will be sold in TEC Outfitters shop and given to the awardees/honorees.

As I wrote in the Winter Log, the EC50 are a very diverse group. Gender: 22 women, 28 men. Ethnicity: Indo-Asian, 9; Black, 14; Hispanic, 4; Indigenous, 6; White, 17. Exploration focus: Anthropology, 9; Other Sciences, 15; Health, Sustainability, Conservation, 13; Arts and Photography, 7; and Education and Advocacy, 6. Of course each is an advocate and conservationist, each documents with imagery, each respects science and is data driven.

Our chapter has reason to be particularly proud as four of the fifty are Northern California Chapter members (or soon will be.) Jim Prigoff is recognized for his efforts to recognize street art. Anders Jepsen for his effort to use drones and magnetometers to locate land mines and roadside explosives. New members Brandi Decarli and Scott Thompson have founded Farm From a Box, organized to provide everything needed to support 2.5 acres of agricultural growth, in a single container than can be shipped anywhere where water can be accessed.

National press is building on this initiative, and it will continue. Awardees will be given exposure throughout the year. And, there is good reason to believe this may become an annual tradition...there are many under-exposed explorers that need recognition.

Lee Langan MED'9

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Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
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 510-459-0858
 Vice Chair: Tom Dolan MN'14
 tdolan@outdoorstorms.com
 Secretary: Joyce Chang MN'17
 Treasurer: Anna Freitas MN'17
 Treasurer@explorersnorca.org
 Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
 Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
 ajviking@aol.com
 925-322-8893

2021

January 22 Diana Pickworth & John Wilken
 Explorations (2) Zoom
 February 26 Kent Lightfoot
 Fires & indigenous land use practices Zoom
 March 26 Deana Weibel
 Motivations for robotic space exploration Zoom
 April 23 Brandi DiCarli & Scott Thompson
 Farms from a box Zoom
 May 21 Bonnie Tsui & ANNUAL MEETING
 Why we swim Zoom

2019

September 27 Robert Anderson
 Material Science & Forensic Engineering Creola
 October 25 Michelle Westmorland
 Headhunters Revisited Dolan
 November 22 Dr. Barbara Bekins
 Windows into Subduction Dolan
 December 15 Holiday Party
 Home of Rick and Aldeana Saber

2020

January 24 Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg
 Easter Island Dolan
 February 28 Dr. Robert Griffith
 Endangered Rhinos Dolan
 March 27 Cheryl Leonard
 Found Objects and Music RESCHEDULED
 April 24 Dr. Paul Auerbach
 Enviromedics RESCHEDULED
 May 24 Dr. Sandra Cook
 Foreign Devils on Silk Rd RESCHEDULED
 May 22, 9:30 AM: Roz Savage
 The Gift of Solitude ZOOM Presentation
 May 29, 7:30 PM ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING
 June 5, 8 PM. Elliot Jessup
 24 hr Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim. Zoom
 September 20 Explorers Club Chapter VP
 Intro to Northern California Chapter Zoom
 September 25 Liz Taylor and Sylvia Earle
 Mission Blue- Hope Spots. Zoom
 October 30 Mimi George
 Vaka Taumako Project Zoom
 November 20 Cheryl Leonard
 Found Objects and Music. Zoom
 December 13. Holiday Party
 Zoom

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe MN'07
 Lesley Ewing FN'93
 Lee Langan FN'99
 Anders Jepsen FN'03

Alan Nichols FN'84
 Bob Schmieder FE'86
 Rick Saber MN'01
 Stephen Smith FN'96

Elected Directors

Sandra Cook MN'16
 Paul Freitas MN'10
 Jimmy Friedman MN'19
 Kimberly Chambers MN'16

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

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 vicechair@explorersnorca.org

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 secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
 fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter tries to record all of our dinner meetings. Videos of recent speakers' presentations are available on the Chapter Website.

DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE CHAPTER?

There are lots of tasks that come up during the course of a year: speakers, meetings, field trips, membership, newsletter, etc. A good place to get started is by volunteering to serve on a committee. Talk to any of the Chapter Officers or Directors for more information.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 2021 DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. Dues are now due for 2021. New members who signed up in the 4th quarter of last year are covered for this year.

Sirdars have annual dues of \$50.00. In addition to their national dues, Explorer Club Members have optional dues of \$25.00. Dues can be paid by check payable to The Northern California Chapter of The Explorer's Club or by paypal. If you use paypal, there will be a \$2.00 fee for the service. If you pay by check, please mail your check to Anna Freitas, 161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Please note that Northern California Chapter dues can be tax-deductible depending on your individual tax situation.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS?

Suggestions are being sought for field trips to be planned for the next year. If you have any ideaa be sure toshare them with Jimmy Friedman who is the Chapter Director charged with organizing them. Email: sfaikido@gmail.com

ECAD 2021

ECAD 2021 is being planned now, with one option to be an outdoor event somewhat later in the summer. Check the main website for more details closer to Summer 2021.