

The Acorn

Newsletter of the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin

Graton Tribe Celebrates 15 Years of Restoration

By Chris Coughlin, MAPOM Vice-President

Fifteen years after an Act of Congress restored federal recognition to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR), the North Bay tribe is thriving and offering important services and support to its Tribal Citizens. The December 27, 2000 legislation also provided for the restoration of land to this landless tribe. The Tribe is a federation of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo groups recognized by the US Congress. The Federal restoration and recognition has allowed the FIGR Tribe to provide health and welfare services to Tribal Citizens as well as other Native people in Sonoma and Marin Counties.

One of the primary services managed by the Tribe is the Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program. Tribal TANF programs support and enhance the cultural, social, emotional and educational needs of Native youth, families and the communities in which they live. Other programs include employment, education, wellness and justice assistance. These services have been extremely successful in supporting Native American people in the North Bay.

In 2004 the tribe formed a language group of Tribal citizens who are dedicated to learning the Coast Miwok language. As part of their efforts the tribe applied for and received their first ANA Language Grant and published a Coast Miwok dictionary for the tribe. It is based on recordings from Sarah Smith Ballard, one of the last fluent Coast Miwok speakers.

MAPOM has a longstanding relationship with the Graton Rancheria Tribe. Sylvia Thalman, one of MAPOM's co-founders, was instrumental in providing genealogical

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Exciting New MAPOM BOOK: Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon

MAPOM's new book, *Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon*, by Ralph and Lisa Woo Shanks introduces us to the fascinating Native American basketry of this important region. This contribution is important since developing an understanding of California and Oregon native cultures includes learning about and appreciating this fine basketry.



A beautiful twined Achumawi burden basket from Northeastern California

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MAPOM Will Be at the American Indian Art Show/Marin

This year the largest Native American art show will once again be held in San Rafael. The show is held in the Marin Civic Center exhibit hall and in the adjacent Embassy Suites hotel. The dates are February 19 through 21. MAPOM will have its table at the show with all of our fine books available for sale. MAPOM Board members will be at the table and we look forward to seeing you. Please do come by and browse and say hello.

MAPOM President's Message

Ralph Shanks, M.A.

As MAPOM looks forward to this new year in 2016 we have a full schedule of our classes presented in association with College of Marin Community Education. Our California Indian Skills classes are scheduled throughout the year so you have many opportunities to join us.

We also have a fine selection of California Indian books available to you. Some of our books were written by MAPOM members and all are quite interesting and valuable.

MAPOM will be at the Marin Show in San Rafael again this February 19-21. This is the largest and best Native American art show in the country. It includes a strong representation of cultural pieces from Native California. We plan to have our table of books there staffed by MAPOM board members and look forward to seeing you.

MAPOM will again co-sponsor the Big Time festivities at Point Reyes National Seashore with the

National Park Service. This is usually held the third Saturday in July. The event features California Native American dancing, artists, crafts booths and, of course, our MAPOM table with books and DVDs.

On the morning of Big Time, MAPOM holds a class in the Red Barn with an array of speakers talking on California Indian subjects. As the class time approaches you can sign up for this class through College of Marin Community Education. After the talks, Big Time will have started and you can make it a full day Point Reyes if you chose. Please join us at these events and do consider some of our classes and books!

Finally I want to thank all of you who donated to our Annual Appeal. The Annual Appeal makes our classes and other work possible. Your kind contribution is deeply appreciated. Thank you so much!

Miwok Dedication

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research and records when the Tribe was seeking restoration. Sylvia co-authored Interviews with Tom Smith and Maria Copa with Mary E.T. Collier, The Coast Miwok Indians of the Point Reyes Area, as well as several scholarly papers on Miwok genealogies and records of internments. She also transcribed and organized many old Miwok baptismal records, all critical in the federal recognition process. For her efforts, the tribe designated her an Honorary Elder of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

After her passing in 2012, Sylvia's extensive collection has been gifted to the FIGR Tribe by her husband Bob Thalman. The Tribal Archivist will begin the process of documenting and preserving these important research papers.



The Acorn is produced and distributed annually by the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. MAPOM is a volunteer based, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and welcomes new members and public input. We also encourage members to join our Board of Directors and help our ongoing mission to educate with MAPOM programs such as the California Indian Skills classes, and through our publications.

Annual MAPOM membership fees are \$10 for seniors, full-time students, \$20 for individuals, and \$25 for families. The Acorn is received as a membership benefit. For more information and to join MAPOM, visit our website at www.mapom.org, or call (415) 899-9494.

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Native American Studies at College of Marin

By John Littleton

The Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin (MAPOM) in partnership with the College of Marin and Point Reyes National Seashore has created a unique curriculum entitled the California Indian Studies Program. Our classes provide traditional skills, lectures and field trips taught by both Native instructors and those with expert backgrounds. Here is the schedule of upcoming classes in 2016.

Overview of California Indian Culture and History with Betty Goerke and John Littleton. Saturday, January 30, 9:00-1:00 at the College of Marin.

Introductory Flintknapping with Ken Peek. Saturday, March 5, 9:00-4:00 at Kule Loklo in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Traditional Storytelling, Tule Crafts and Cultural Wisdom with Sky Road Webb and Alicia Retes. Saturday, March 19, 9:00-4:00 at Kule Loklo.

Petroglyphs and Miwok Cultural History with Betty Goerke. Saturday, April 23, 9:00-1:00 at Ring Mountain in Tiburon.

Weaving A Pomo Style Coiled Willow and Sedge Basket with Ed Willie, Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22, 9:00-4:00 at Kule Loklo.

Annual Big Time Lectures. July 16, 9:30-12:30 in the Red Barn at the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Basket Weaving with Julia and Lucy Parker, Saturday-Sunday, September 17-18, 10:00-4:00 at Kule Loklo.

We believe this effort to offer California Indian cultural practices to the wider community provides an invaluable opportunity to absorb some of the traditional knowledge that sustained Native People here for thousands of years. If you would like more information regarding the program contact the College of Marin at: 415-485-9305 or www.MarinCommunityEd.com (click on: **DOWNLOAD A CLASS SCHEDULE**)



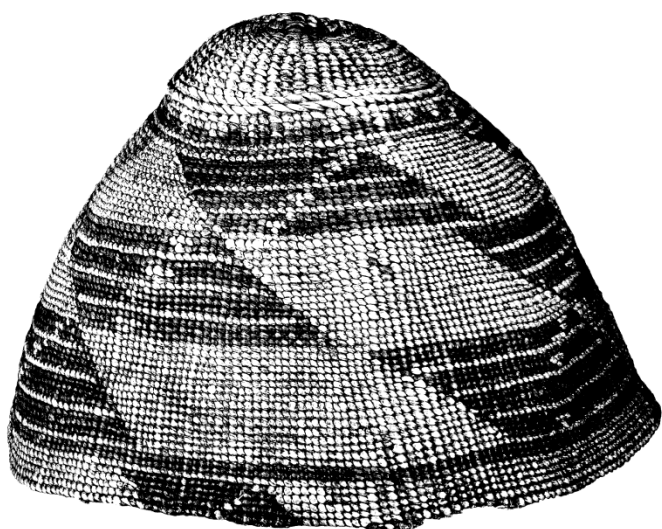
photograph by Erik Gordon Bainbridge

MAPOM instructors Sky Road Webb and Alicia Retes singing at Kule Loklo's annual Big Time Festival last July

Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon

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Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon is a beautiful full color book illustrating and carefully describing the baskets of the Yurok, Wiyot, Hupa, Karuk, Wintu, Wailaki, Cahto, Yana and many other native people in California as well as the Klamath, Modoc, Wasco, Tututni, Kalapuya, Tillamook and others in Oregon. The basketry for nearly all of the tribes is being described fully for the first time.



The earliest documented Yurok basket. This lovely twined hat was collected at Trinidad Bay, California in 1793 by the Vancouver expedition.

In California and much of Oregon the art, lifeways and survival of native cultures depended on basketry. For example, most native foods were gathered, processed, stored and eaten using baskets. Readers can learn about the native baskets and their many innovative uses. Baskets range from beautiful hats and trays to rugged utilitarian baskets for carrying salmon and firewood. Basketry was the heart of native material culture in our region.

Baskets were not only utilitarian, but were usually works of art as well. Even work baskets usually had subtle variations in weaving that made them more

attractive and stronger. Most baskets were meant to be beautiful as well as functional and the artistry illustrated here is impressive and memorable. This is a book to cherish.

The book is hardcover with dust jacket, 152 pages. *Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon* can be ordered for \$40 from MAPOM, P.O. Box 481, Novato, CA 94948.



Klamath and Modoc baskets were made by the native people along the California-Oregon state line. This beautiful hat is made of tule, the most important plant material in this region. The dark design is done in mud dyed tule. The light color diagonal design is dyed (with lichen) porcupine quill.

Please note: *Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon* is one of three wonderful books in the *Indian Baskets of California and Oregon Series*. All three of these books are now available from MAPOM. The first two titles are *Indian Baskets of Central California* (covering the greater Bay Area and into the Sierras) and *California Indian Baskets* (covering southern California). For these wonderful books please check our website at: mapom.org



A lovely Northwestern California weaver shows the complexity of creating a twined basket. She wears a traditional woman's cap and has baskets beside her. The weavers are great artists contributing to the cultural richness of our nation.

MAPOM membership renewal form:

Your annual MAPOM membership renewal is due now.

MAPOM annual dues are:
(check one)

- Individual: \$20
- Family: \$25
- Full-time student: \$10
- Senior: \$10

MAPOM is a volunteer based, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is funded entirely by your contributions.

Dues amount you are paying:..... \$

Optional additional contribution:..... \$

Total amount included:..... \$

Please print your name, address, and email:

Name: _____

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Cut out this form and mail it with your check or money order to:

MAPOM
PO Box 481
Novato CA 94948

Thank you for your generous support!!



PO Box 481, Novato CA 94948

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Thank you to these generous donors to MAPOM

The Board of Directors of MAPOM would like to thank the following for their very generous donations in response to our 2015 appeal letter (donations received so far):

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