



# e-MIDDEN

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Central Oregon

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September-October 2020

## NEWS BULLETIN:

**Sadly, we have been forced to cancel all Field Trips for this year due to the COVID restrictions.**

**We optimistically look forward to resuming normal operations next Spring/Summer.**

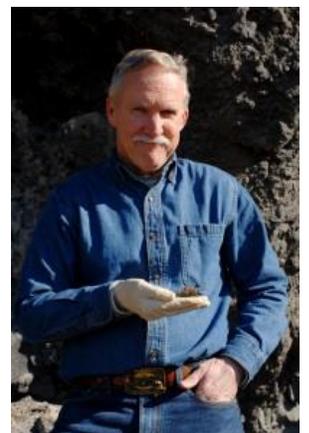
**Also due to COVID restrictions, we will now be holding General Meetings via Zoom Video Conference.**

**Be sure to monitor your email for more information on how to access each meeting.**

***F***or our first ever Zoom presentation:

We look forward to welcoming back **Dr. Dennis Jenkins** who has spoken to our congregation on several occasions!

Dr. Jenkins will be providing us with an update on his incredible work right here in Central Oregon. His presentation, titled: ***“15,000 Years of Oregon’s High Desert Archaeology”***, documents our current understanding of the archaeology of Central Oregon’s high desert.



Drawing from 30 years of excavation, survey, and laboratory analysis, Dr. Jenkins will walk us through a fascinating and colorful slide presentation of the cultural ecology and evolutionary development of prehistoric societies as documented by the scientific analysis of archaeological materials he has recovered from sites in the Fort Rock and Summer Lake basins and other places in Central Oregon.

Dr. Jenkins specializes in prehistoric archaeology of the Great Basin, having worked closely with Drs. Claude Warren (Mojave Desert), Margaret Lyneis (Anasazi), and C. Melvin Aikens (Northern Great Basin). He served as the Fort Irwin Archaeological Project Field Director in Barstow, California between 1981 and 1985.

He came to the UO to pursue a doctorate degree under the direction of professor Aikens in 1985 and received his PhD in 1991. Dennis is a Senior Research Archaeologist for the Museum of Natural and Cultural History. He has taught and directed the UO's Northern Great Basin archaeological field school since 1989.

His research focuses on the first colonization of the Americas, obsidian sourcing and hydration, prehistoric shell bead trade, and settlement-subsistence patterns of the Northern Great Basin. He has conducted more than 100 site investigations throughout his career, publishing 7 books, 33 chapters, articles and reviews, >30 reports and contributions to reports, and given >50 papers at professional meetings.

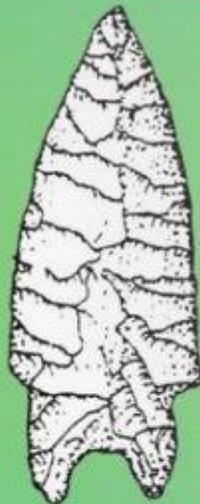
He directs the Paisley Caves Archaeological Research Project in central Oregon where the UO field school recovered the oldest human remains (14,000 year old DNA in coprolites) in North America. He has co-authored 3 articles in Science and his work has been profiled in more than 50 newspaper and magazine articles. He has appeared in 8 television documentaries, filming for History Channel, National Geographic, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and Canadian Broad Casting.

Financial, professional, and material support for his research has been provided by the National Science Foundation, University of Oregon, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Sundance Archaeological Research Fund, University of Nevada, Reno, Keystone Research Fund, Oregon State University, Bureau of Land Management, and private donations.

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The ASCO Outreach Committee has designed a fantastic new bookmark for us. The finished product will be disseminated at our next event, expectantly in the very near future...

**If you find me ...**



**Imagine my story.**  
(I could be thousands of years old!)

**Respect my makers.**  
(I was important to people of the past.)

**Take a photo of me.**  
(Show my picture to an archaeologist.)

**Leave me where I lie.**  
(My location is important to my story.)

**Honor people of the past -- help protect archaeological sites!**

Terms to Know:

Archaeology - the study of people of the past from the artifacts they left behind

Artifact - anything made or changed by people

Rock Art - images pecked or painted on rock by people of the past

For more information:

Archaeological Society of Central Oregon

[www.ascoinfo.net/](http://www.ascoinfo.net/)



## Archaeological Programs of Interest:

The High Desert Museum has officially reopened after a period of closure due to COVID. We can once again enjoy their fabulous exhibits and wildlife representing Central Oregon history, culture, and natural wonders.

You will certainly enjoy visiting The Museum of Natural and Cultural History's website at: <https://mnch.uoregon.edu/museum-home>. There is an incredible virtual page, "Museum from Home", where you can view museum galleries, participate in games and programs, and peruse educational materials all online. New activities are posted regularly.

Check out OPB.org for local archaeology-related news, as well as COVID-19 alerts, closures, and re-openings: <https://www.opb.org/news/>

Also, check out PBS.org for a wide array of free streaming videos covering a multitude of topics: <https://www.opb.org/news/>

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Please remember to visit us online at the ASCO website for changes in our Calendar, as well as background information about the ASCO Stewardship Program, Field Trips, and past copies of the eMidden: [www.ascoinfo.net](http://www.ascoinfo.net)

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## 2020 MEMBERSHIP

ASCO membership is for the calendar year, January through December. Benefits include many excellent Speakers, Workshops and Field Trips, and Stewardship opportunities. These activities are available to members for a \$20 membership fee. New members and guests are always welcome at General Meetings. For new membership, or to renew for 2020, please use the application form posted online or pick one up at the next General Meeting. Only ASCO members in good standing are eligible to participate in Workshops, Field Trips, and the Stewardship Program. Please note that we cannot offer membership to individuals under the age of 18.

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