

# Cultural Heritage **PAVILION**



**FRIDAY | September 22, 2023 | 10am - 2pm**

**56TH NATIVE AMERICAN DAY**

**Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty:  
Past, Present, and Future**




Photos: [Tara.Albertoni@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tara.Albertoni@waterboards.ca.gov) | 55th NAD 2023



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“To be the First people of America involved in maintaining a healthy, productive and sustaining environment. ‘Tending and caring for plants was a lifestyle chosen for food, shelter, travel, medicine, hunting and basketry. The knowledge to process all this is complicated and “personal”. Take serious note that this land was formed and shaped by generations of the homeland people’s hands. Please consider as you watch the native peoples share their skills, that they are concentrating and using materials that took time to gather, prepare then compose themselves to begin using and having discipline to use what they gather.”

Thank you

Maidu /Wintun/Hupa/Yurok  
descendant





# Cultural Heritage Pavilion

## Hosted by

### Cultural Heritage Pavilion Team

California State Water Resources Control Board

Elizabeth Herrera

Adriana Renteria

### Community Cultural Advisor

Sage LaPena, Nomtipom Wintu





# Teaching Tribal Members & Youth the Importance of Cultural Understandings, for Emotional, Mental, Physical & Spiritual Balance in Today's World & for the Future.

Barry Brenard and Ruth Wortman | Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria

## Bio:

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### Barry Brenard

Barry is a Tribal Elder and Cultural Coordinator and has been on Tribal Council. Barry's focus these past few years is reconnecting tribal members to the Inherent right to practice and develop cultural practices and ceremony. Barry has been clean and sober for 18 and half years and walking the Red Road and has been instrumental in bringing ceremony to his tribal heritage.

### Ruth Wortman

I am a cultural practitioner and coordinator at the Bear River Band, and a Tribal member. Over the last few years, I have been blessed to offer classes in regalia, drumming, beading, and salve-making, basketry, storytelling, and many others, and practice ceremony. I also enjoy the opportunity to take members to dances and other events, and on traditional gathering trips. Most recently, we held the first coming of age ceremonies in decades and are participating on a number of collaborative projects with State Parks, the BLM, Cal Poly Humboldt, and the NOAA. I also work as a cultural monitor on some days and hold a singing group with the youth council.





## Cultural Practice:

We take the Teachings from our traditions and ceremonies and help our Tribal members develop coping skills, awareness, and an understanding of the complexity of navigating in today's world in a good, good way. The Red Road asks that we be of service to others in our community and Ruth and I do this by learning all we can about Traditional Values and Beliefs and then teach them to our adult and youth community, as well as the non-Indian community. Being involved in all aspects of the community is what is making a difference in the world today for our People.





# Creating & Assembling “Top Knots”

Rudy Brown and Tim Snow | Habematoel Pomo of Upper Lake



## Bio:

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Rudy Brown is a citizen of The Habematoel Pomo of Upper Lake and has been working with our youth to coordinate and teach some of our ways to the young ones. He is a dancer and singer for our tribe. Tim Snow is also a member of the Habematoel, a cultural practitioner, and leader of our youth, as well as youth from around our area, teaching songs and dances. Both are instrumental in passing on knowledge of our culture and ways, including making our regalia, helping to preserve and indeed help it thrive.



## Cultural Practice:

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Both Tim and Rudy will show how “Top Knots” and forehead pieces are created and more importantly why they are made and their purpose. They will set up pieces in different phases of creation so visitors can see the entire process. They will describe the importance of ritual and singing medicine songs while doing their craft.

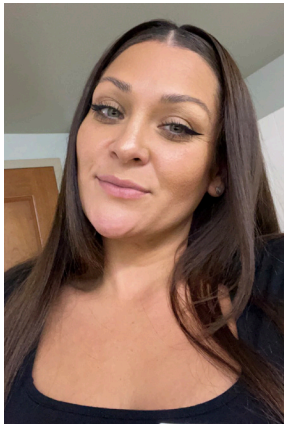






# Acorn Cooking Basket & Acorn Cooking Process

Stephanie Clark | North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California



## Bio:

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Stephanie Clark is North Fork Mono and is enrolled in the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California tribe. She spent most of her youth with her elders trying to learn about her culture as much as possible and has been practicing her culture for the last 20 years. Stephanie is currently the Chairman of the Heritage Committee for her tribe. She travels all around California to share her cultural traditions through teaching and presentations and even visits the local schools to educate the children

from K-12th grade. You can also find her every year at the California Indian Basketweavers' Association (CIBA) teaching a traditional basket practice to the natives that attend the event. She is currently enrolled in the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival Master - Apprentice program to learn the Mono Language as an apprentice. She currently resides in North Fork, California where she started her own business named - Keep It Alive 559. She teaches how to make all types and styles of beading, baby baskets, the fish trap basket, baby rattles, bird traps, soaproot brushes, the acorn cooking stick and the acorn cooking basket.

## Cultural Practice:

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Acorn was the staple food for the Natives across California, it is why we are here today. I would love to demonstrate how to make the acorn cooking basket and show to the best of my abilities how to cook the acorn in a half hands on/picture and video display.





# Language Revitalization

Leland Kinter | Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation



## Bio:

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Leland Kinter has more than two decades of leadership experience with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Treasurer Kinter is passionate about Yocha Dehe's efforts to preserve its native Patwin Language. Having earned an American Indian Languages Credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, he leads an innovative teaching program for adults and children that combines technology, social interaction and inter-generational communication. He believes language is a critical component to

the resurgence of the Tribe's culture and that learning Patwin will help the Tribe's youth connect more directly with their heritage.

## Cultural Practice:

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Language is the beating heart of our identity and crucial to the survival of our culture. But for generations, our words and syntax were outlawed. Criminalizing the Patwin language was central to the strategy of challenging our people's existence.

By 1997, with only one documented fluent speaker of Patwin, our language was listed as one of the most at-risk languages in the world by the United Nations Atlas of Endangered Languages. That one fluent speaker—the late Bertha Wright Mitchell (1936-2018), affectionately known to many as Auntie Bertha—is responsible, more than any other single person, for enabling us stay connected to our language and our culture today.





# Basket Knowledge Through Our Language

Jennifer Malone | Wukchumni



## Bio:

I am a Wukchumni elder, language teacher, basketweaver, beader and ceremony face washer for our people. I learned from my mother, Marie Wilcox. I am vice chair for California Indian Basketweavers' Association. I have been teaching our language for 20 years and weaving for 30 years. I am very active in the community sharing our culture.

## Cultural Practice:

I would like to share my knowledge learned from my mother, deceased, Marie Wilcox. Marie Wilcox was the last fluent Wukchumni language speaker. I am an elder of our tribe, committed to educating the public that we are still here through basket demonstrations and hands on weaving presentations. We are creating a documentary to preserve our ways for future generations and support my mother's dream to keep our language alive. I am working to preserve and promote our Wukchumni ways but most of all to educate communities that we are still here.





# Traditional Tule Boat Building

Ron Montez Sr. | Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians

## Bio:

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I am a Tribal Elder and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians. I am a Tribal Historian, Cultural Practitioner, Language Keeper, Singer for cultural dancers.

## Cultural Practice:

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We will share a brief history of the Pomo Indians living in Lake County California around Clear Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the State of California. We will also provide a demonstration of the building of a traditional Tule Boat used by the Pomo Indians for various cultural practices.



# Tribal Games

Wilton Rancheria Cultural Preservation Department | Wilton Rancheria

## Bio:

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- Language and Crafts Education of Miwok indigenous culture.
- Preservation of gathering areas.
- Protection, education, and promotion of Miwok heritage at Wilton Rancheria.

## Cultural Practice:

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Wilton Rancheria will be demonstrating a traditional interactive Walnut dice game and highlighting how they are made, Hand Game display along with Tule Doll making demonstrations.





# Karuk Tribe Basket Weaving Demonstration, Native Plants, Baskets, Regalia & Pine Nut Displays in the Karuk Language

Dixie Rogers | Karuk Tribe

## Bio:

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Dixie Rogers is a respected Karuk basket weaver and regalia maker from the upriver Klamath Basin. Dixie comes from a family of notable weavers from whom she learned her art. She studied both weaving and apprenticed in Karuk language with her grandmother, Ramona Starritt. Dixie began her weaving training as a child, studying the detailed, distinct designs in her family's basket collection, much of which can be seen by the public at the Clark Museum in Eureka, CA today. Dixie works with traditional native plants for her basket weaving, including willow and hazel sticks, willow, spruce and pine roots, maidenhair fern, woodwardia fern, alder bark, wolf moss, and porcupine quills, which she gathers, cleans, processes and sizes for each basket. For her baskets, Dixie returns to the exact ancestral sites where her grandmother and generations of her family gathered basket materials on the Klamath and Salmon Rivers in Northern California. Dixie has exhibited work, taught basketry techniques, and consulted on collections at the De Young Museum, the Autry Museum of the American West, the Crocker Museum, California State Parks Basketry Collection, Clark Museum, CA Native American day, CA Native Ways, CIBA, the Exploratorium, the Maidu Museum, the Tuolumne Indian Market, Yolo Ave Gallery, the World Breast Cancer Conference, UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, DQ University, Mills College, Follow the Smoke, and at home for the Karuk Tribe. She has served on the board of the California Indian Basketweavers' Association and on the Native American Steering Committee for the Tending and Gathering Garden at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve. She has received three Alliance for





California Traditional Arts awards, for a baby basket in 2014, an acorn cooking basket in 2016 and a master artist for a baby basket in 2018. She has received a Native Cultures Fund Grant in 2018 for a Traditional Karuk Ceremonial dresses and regalia.

## Cultural Practice:

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Our Karuk cultural traditions have been passed down for generations. Out of respect for our ancestors it is important for me to pass down these cultural traditions for future generations. To keep these cultural traditions alive and to educate the public that we continue to practice our beautiful native culture.

I will do a demonstration of the traditional Karuk Tribes basket weaving, Native plants used in basketry, Regalia and Pine nut displays in the Karuk Language

My booth will have Karuk baskets, native plants, pictures for identification of native plant used in basket weaving, regalia necklaces and doll in regalia, books on basketry and Karuk language. The following displays will include labels in the Karuk language.

1. Several Regalia necklaces including the native materials used: clam, abalone, olivella, and dentalium shells, Pine Nuts, cedar berries and beargrass.
2. Pine Nut display including tree identification and how to process the pine nut into a traditional bead to make our traditional dresses and regalia necklaces.
3. Karuk Basket Weaving demonstration using the closed twine technique and designs. Display will include baskets, the following native plants: willow and hazel sticks, willow, spruce and pine roots, maidenhair fern, woodwardia fern, alder bark, wolf moss, and porcupine quills. Which we gather, clean, process and size for each basket.

Members of my family will be helping in my booth. My mother Claudette, son Anthony, granddaughter Cali Rogers and Trinity Patton Hayfork Wintu.





# Bear Grass Braiding

Jessie Rouse | Illmawi of the Pit River Nation, Iam Hupa,  
& Wintu



## Bio:

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My name is Jessie Rouse and I am a Medicine Maker, Bear Grass Braider, Pine Nut enthusiast, and a Pit River Baby Basket Maker. I also cut and create with abalone shells. It would be an honor to do a Bear Grass Braiding demonstration.

## Cultural Practice:

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I will give a demonstration of Bear Grass braiding, along with sharing the importance and significance of Bear Grass in cultural knowledge. I will have Bear Grass braid starters for those who would like to try and braid.







# Water Advocacy, Cultural Uses of Tule, & Traditional Tule Boat Display

Shingle Springs TEK Department | Shingle Springs Band of  
Miwok Indians

## Bio:

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The Shingle Springs Band TEK Department was established to help revitalize and teach cultural activities, traditions, and lifeways. Passing down indigenous knowledge is the cornerstone of our work. TEK is all encompassing; from regalia making, basketry, ceremony & song, to land stewardship, protecting our waterways, ecosystems, and restoring natural/cultural resources in our ancestral homelands. We believe all things are interconnected and that we have a responsibility to protect and preserve.

## Cultural Practice:

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We will have materials relating to the Delta and water advocacy, cultural activities using Tule, such as basket weaving and cordage making demonstrations. We also will be bringing a traditional tule boat to have on display.





# Cultural Bearer & Elder in the making

Sewa Marsha Valencia | Southern California Yaqui

## Bio:

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My name is Sewa Valencia. I have served the community as a cultural bearer, elder in the making, offering ceremony, woman's circles, drum medicine, and storytelling to the youth and women in our community. My cultural history originates from my elders and community leaders. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California.

## Cultural Practice:

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We are a woman's inter-tribal circle that gathers around the ceremonial drum for the sole purpose of healing bridging the gap between cultures.

Through the pulse of one drum, we serve the community through ceremony, teachings, and sharing in each other's culture and understanding and practices. Because we're intertribal, we get the opportunity to learn from many elders from different tribes, different nations and we share in each other's ways through woman's circles, through sweat lodge, through ceremonial traditions, and by serving our community.

For more information: Instagram: [windsofthesouth.love](https://www.instagram.com/windsofthesouth.love)



# Soap Root Demonstration

Theo A. Whitehurst | Wailaki - Round Valley Indian Tribes



## Bio:

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Theo Whitehurst is cultural facilitator and Round Valley Tribal Member specializing in cultural topics and activities that promote environmental sustainability, traditional ways, and respect for land using Native American traditional and modern practices. The knowledge gained from nearly 12 years working with the US Forestry and Environmental Protection Agency programs are incorporated into all of Theo's teachings and demonstration classes

## Cultural Practice:

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Theo has been working with local people from his tribe and the neighboring Pomo tribes, with whom he maintains a strong connection through participation in ceremonial and cultural activities. He has been teaching about the harvesting, gathering and use of the "Soap Root" for food preparation for over ten years, and has led demonstrations for tribes, schools, youth camps, and at the personal requests of various organizations. Theo will share the following information regarding Soap Root:

- The history of the Soap Root brush
- How to identify the root, discussing the various species and uses of the Soap Root
- Harvesting and gathering techniques
- How to clean the fibers
- How to create glue from the inner bulb
- How to use the materials to make a complete brush





# Cultural Food Practices

Lila Azbill | Manchester Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians

## Bio:

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Čamé,

My name is Lila Lawson-Azbill and I am a Central Pomoan Native from Manchester Point Arena. I was born and raised in Sonoma County, growing up being raised by my grandparents. I remember traveling to Mendocino County almost every weekend in order to hunt, fish, and gather our native food for the weeks to come. My grandfather, Howard, and his sister, Mary, instilled in us our cultural ways and traditions that my family still holds strong today.

## Cultural Practice:

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Show traditional practices for gathering tono (seaweed) how to properly clean, dry, and store as well as traditional practices our boys use when net fishing for ša (surfish).



# Rawhide Work – Lost connection with all the elements animals give

Eugene Albitre | Diegueno



## Bio:

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Gene Albitre has been active all his adult life in the Native American culture. He has been a Monitor and Consultant to protect Cultural Sites; was president of the Native American Heritage Preservation Council of Kern County for 20 years; put together numerous Activities and Ceremonies; was a Historian and Spiritual Leader at North Kern State Prison for 12 years. Gene has worked with animal skin for over 50 years.

## Cultural Practice:

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Loss of the connection in all the elements that animals give: hair, bones, antlers, horns, fat, meat, hide, hooves, and toes. As we have moved forward in our daily lives, the connection, has been forgotten or unable to be passed down. Will present the process of harvesting and processing all the different parts of different animal's properties and their many different uses. Look up: Traditional Rawhide, Gene Albitre.



## Thank You

State Water Boards for publishing this booklet  
State Water Boards | Graphic Design+Photography-Tara Albertoni  
Native American Day Artist| Eric Wilder/Kashaya Pomo



## Have a Cultural Practice to Share?

If you are interested in participating as a Cultural Practitioner in next year's Native American Day, please email the State Water Board's Tribal Liaison at [tribal-liaison@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tribal-liaison@waterboards.ca.gov).



## See You Next Year

California State Capitol  
Friday, September 27, 2024

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