



**EASTERN SIERRA HISTORY CONFERENCE**  
**Cerro Coso Community College**  
**Bishop, CA**

**October 28-30, 2022**

**Friday, October 28**

**8:00 a.m. Registration - Continental Breakfast Provided**

**8:30 Welcome and Announcements**  
**Jeff Gabriel**  
Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

**8:45 *National Consequences: Intimate Essays for a Planet in Peril***  
**Char Miller, PhD**  
Author W.M. Keck Professor, Pomona College

**9:45 *Lake Tahoe: The Fight for the "Jewell of the Sierra"***  
**Christian Filbrun**  
Ph.D. Student, University of Nevada, Reno

**10:45 Morning Break - Refreshments**

**11:00 *History of Fire Management***  
**Deb Schweizer**  
Public Affairs Specialist  
USDA Forest Service, Washington Office

- 12:00 p.m.**      **Lunch**  
*Special Presentation – Journey to Manzanar*  
**Neil Murphy**  
Student
- 1:00**              *Roadbuilding in the Backcountry: A Never-Ending Issue*  
**Jack Fisher**  
Retired Surgeon and Historian
- Bobby Tanner**  
Reds Meadow Pack Station
- 1:45**              *The Importance of trans-Sierra Networks in Indigenous Histories of California*  
**Andrew Shaler, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of History, Whittier College
- 2:30**              **Afternoon Break - Refreshments**
- 2:45**              *The History of Fishing in the Eastern Sierra*  
**Fred Rowe**  
Fish Biologist and Fly-Fishing Guide
- 3:30**              *Transcontinental Railroad – Chinese Workers Made It Happen*  
**Phil Sexton**  
Historian
- 4:15**              **Closing Comments**
- 4:30**              **Session Concludes**  
**Dinner on your own**

## **Saturday, October 29**

- 8:00**              **Registration - Continental Breakfast Provided**

**8:10**                    **Announcements (Field Trip Briefing)**

**8:15**                    ***The California Grizzly in the High Sierra: Evidence and Inference***

**Peter S. Alagona, PhD**

Environmental Studies Program, University of California,  
Santa Barbara

**9:15**                    ***Dispossessed Again: California Indian Land Allotments in the Mono Basin: 1907-1930***

**Robert B. Marks, PhD**

Professor Emeritus, Whitter College

**10:15**                    **Morning Break – Refreshments**

**10:30**                    ***Walker River and Walker Lake: The Pleistocene Meets the Anthropocene***

**Phil Garone, PhD**

Professor and Chair, Dept. of History  
California State University, Stanislaus

**11:30**                    ***Where 'Environment' and "Culture' Meet: Teaching with Historic Objects at the Walking Box Ranch***

**Deirdre Clemente, PhD**

Director of Public History  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**12:30 p.m.**            **Lunch Provided (Videos or movies played)**

**1:30**                    ***The Go For Broke Spirit: Remembering Those That Served***

**Shane Sato**

Photographer

**2:15**                    ***George Whittell Living History Story***

**Dave and Gayle Woodruff**

Historians

- 3:00**                    **Afternoon Break - Refreshments**
- 3:15**                    ***Mary Austin: The New Perspective***  
**Gail Swain**  
Actor and Historian
- 4:00**                    ***Repeat Photography in the White Mountains:  
Integrating Human and Natural History***  
**Daniel Pritchett**  
UC White Mountain Research Station (Retired)
- 4:45**                    **Closing Comments**
- 5:30**                    **Conference Dinner**  
TBD

## **Sunday October 30**

### **History Tours:**

#### **Tour One – Eastern California Museum**

**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

More details to follow.

#### **Tour Two – Laws Museum**

**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

More details to follow.

## **Speaker Bios**

### **Peter Alagona, PhD**

Peter S. Alagona is a professor in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His work explores what happens when humans share space and resources (their habitats) with other species: how we interact with non-human creatures, how we make sense of these

interactions, why we fight so much about them, what we can learn from them, and how we might use these lessons to foster a more just, peaceful, humane, and sustainable society. Most of his research has focused on human interactions with wildlife in North America. A second area of interest involves developing creative interdisciplinary, collaborative, and mixed methods for studying ecological change. He is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, the founder of the California Grizzly Research Network, and the author of more than six dozen publications, including *The Accidental Ecosystem: People and Wildlife in American Cities* (California, 2022).

### **Deirdre Clemente, PhD**

Deirdre Clemente is the director of public history and an associate professor of history at UNLV. Her local collaborations include the Liberace Foundation, the Nevada State Museum, and the Culinary Union. Her ongoing collaboration with the Walking Box Ranch, a historical property in Searchlight, Nevada, has garnered local, regional, and national attention. Clemente is a scholar of the American clothing industry and studies dress as social and cultural change. She has written two books and published in a range of journals. Dr. Clemente's work has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *GQ*, *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *Vogue*, and *Harper's Bazaar*.

### **Christian Filbrun**

Christian Filbrun holds a Master of Arts from California State University, Stanislaus. He is a PhD student in his third year and the Harry Reid Fellow at the University of Nevada, Reno. As the Harry Reid Fellow, he conducts research in former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's political papers and writes and presents on topics of public interest from the papers. He is supported by the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he is a Rosenbloom Fellow. His dissertation, tentatively titled "Nourishing Nevada: A New Environmental History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," explores the environmental ethics of Nevada in the 1980s and 1990s following the Sagebrush Rebellion. He examines the use of Sagebrush Rebellion rhetoric to shape environmental conflicts and the change of attitudes and ethics towards public lands, the federal government, environmental regulations, and resource management in Nevada and the U.S. West.

**Jack Fisher**

Jack C. Fisher MD is Prof. Emeritus of Surgery, UC San Diego and former Head of its Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Following retirement, he earned an MA in U. S. Political and Economic History from UCSD. *Stopping the Road: The Campaign Against Another Trans-Sierra Highway* is his third historical narrative, a labor of love for the Eastern Sierra.

**Jeff Gabriel**

Jeff Gabriel is the executive director of the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA). In his current position, he is responsible for all aspects of the ESIA organization from long-range planning, budgeting, daily operation, supervision of personnel, marketing, and public speaking to working closely with the organization's official public land agency partners (U.S. Forest Service, U.S. National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management). Gabriel was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas and has a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology and political science from Kansas State University. He also has a master's degree in Public Administration with a specialization in agricultural policy from Kansas State University.

**Phil Garone, PhD**

Philip Garone is Professor and Chair of the Department of History at California State University, Stanislaus. He teaches environmental, Western, and California history, and his research focuses on water issues in California and the Great Basin. His book, *The Fall and Rise of the Wetlands of California's Great Central Valley* (University of California Press, 2011), analyzes the ecological transformation of the Central Valley from wetlands, riparian forests, and native grasslands to agriculture, and subsequent efforts to restore significant parts of the valley's natural habitat. He has also completed an environmental history of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the California Delta Protection Commission and has published articles on long-term drought and climate change in California and the ways in which climate change is affecting the management of U.S. public lands. He is currently working on a project about the ecological and human history of the terminal lakes of the Great Basin from the Pleistocene to the present.

**Robert Marks, PhD**

Robert (Bob) Marks is Professor Emeritus of History and Environmental Studies and is the author of numerous books and articles on Chinese and world environmental history. Since retiring after 41 years on the faculty of Whittier College, he has been working on an environmental history of the Eastern Sierra, starting with the Mono Basin. The first two articles in that project, "Sheep Replace Pronghorn: An Environmental History of the Mono Basin" and "Mr. Clover Goes to Washington: Land, Water, and Fraud in the Mono Basin, 1910-145" have been published in the *Eastern Sierra History Journal*. He lives in June Lake with Joyce Kaufman and their black lab Seger.

### **Char Miller, PhD**

Dr. Char Miller is the W. M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pomona College. His most recent books include *Gifford Pinchot: Selected Writings* (2017), *Not So Golden State: Sustainability vs. the California Dream* (2016) and *America's Great National Forests, Wilderness, and Grasslands* (2016). Other works include the award-winning *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism* (2004), *On the Edge: Water, Immigration, and Politics in the Southwest* (2013) and *Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot* (2013). Co-author of *Death Valley National Park: A History* (2013) and co-editor of *Forest Conservation in the Anthropocene: Science, Policy, and Practice* (2016), Miller is a Senior Fellow at the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and a Fellow of the Forest History Society.

### **Neil Murphy**

### **Daniel Pritchett**

Daniel Pritchett was born in Staten Island, New York in 1953. After attending Deep Springs College, he received a BA in Early Music from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. In 1993, Mr. Pritchett received a MA in Ecology and Systematics from San Francisco State University. Since 1997, he has been a staff member of the University of California White Mountain Research Station (now Center). Daniel has authored and co-authored several scientific papers.

### **Fred Rowe**

### **Shane Sato**

Shane Sato is a publicity photographer specializing in portrait photography. He has been photographing Japanese American veterans for almost 25

years. During that time he was amazed to hear about all the remarkable stories that few have ever heard. "My family never talked about this history" Sato stated. "I started this project because I felt it needed to be done, as I wanted to photograph these men and share the stories that must be remembered for the next generation. The Nisei almost universally never talked about their war and camp experiences, so I felt it was necessary to share what they could not." With this series, he wanted to be able to embrace their "Go For Broke Spirit" and show the emotions they may have not been able to fully express themselves.

The resilience of the Nisei, whether they were fighting on the battlefield or imprisoned in the camps, the inner strength or "Gaman" they showed, was unyielding. Sato published a set of coffee table books "The Go For Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage and The Go For Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy" featuring poignant images of men who fought for America even while America put their families and loved ones in prison. These hardcover books contain portraits of 160 Japanese American WWII veterans and unveil the wide range of feelings the Japanese Americans must have experienced after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Sato artistically captures these men's emotions—expressively photographed in a way not many have seen. His ability to bring out personality in what are usually stoic subjects is touching.

The story of the WWII Nisei is inspiring... and each portrait is accompanied by candid photos and a short story—usually a personal one, whenever possible. Without writing a history book, Sato "talks story" to share the lives of the Nisei with future generations so that their accomplishments and history are not forgotten. "The Go For Broke Spirit" is not just a glimpse into Japanese American history, but a triumphant story of American history.

Shane and his wife live in the Arts District in Los Angeles, California

### **Deb Schweizer**

Deb Schweizer is currently Public Affairs Officer for the Washington Office, Fire and Aviation Management. She worked for the Inyo National Forest for nine years. Prior to her time in the U.S. Forest Service, she worked for the National Park Service in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as a Fire Communication and Education Specialist (Fire Comm Ed) and with Yosemite National Park as a Fire Comm Ed, a Media Relations Specialist, and with Yosemite Search and Rescue. She has been a PIO with incident management teams. She is passionate about restoring natural fire in the landscape, when



safe, and can still be found seeking sequoia seedlings after a fire passes through a grove. Her thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail (Sunstroke '93) was a formative moment that sent her into land management and conservation.

### **Phil Sexton**

Currently an historian/consultant with the 1882 Foundation working with them to further a National Historic Landmark designation for the Chinese RR workers camps at Donner Pass, occupied during construction of the Central Pacific Railroad, 1865-1867. He leads on-site tours of the proposed NHL, continues research on the subject, and is a subject matter specialist for the UC Davis History Project. From 2020-2022, Executive Director of the N Lake Tahoe Historical Society in Tahoe City CA. Phil is considered by many to be very knowledgeable about the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad over the Sierra and today concentrates on the history and stories of Chinese RR workers who made up 90% of the labor force during construction. He has spoken extensively about this history to various audiences including a transcontinental railroad symposium at the Smithsonian Institute in 2019, UC Davis, 2019, National Cowboy Museum, Colorado State RR Museum, Golden CO 2019, Oklahoma City, 2017, and was a (minor) member of the Chinese RR Workers in North America Project at Stanford University between 2014 and 2019. He's appeared in several documentaries.

### **Andrew Shaler, PhD**

Andrew Shaler is Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Whittier College. He received a Ph.D. in Native American History from the University of California History, with the dissertation "Mariposa and the Invasion of Ahwahnee: Indigenous Histories of Resistance, Resilience, and Migration in Gold Rush California." His in-progress book project explores the indigenous histories of the greater Yosemite region in the nineteenth century.

### **Gail Swain**

Gail grew up in South Dakota, where she attended the University of South Dakota, completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre. A retired teacher and then process Engineer for AT&T, widowed in 2003, she moved to Bishop, CA, to be near her daughter and family who live in June Lake.

Gail has been a part of numerous Playhouse 395 productions in Bishop, as well as Mammoth Repertory Theatre and Sierra Classics Theatre. Her last role in Bishop was part of the cast for the 2022 staged reading of "Love,

Loss, and What I Wore." In Mammoth, the 2022 summer Shakespeare production of "Measure for Measure."

Gail is currently the president of the Eastern Sierra Artists Non-profit, which includes C5 Studios and the Bishop Mural Society; Membership Chair for Altrusa International of the Eastern Sierra, Leadership and New Club Building Chair for District Eleven of Altrusa International, and a member of the Altrusa International Membership Committee; President of American Association of University Women California Online Branch; and an Inyo County Master Gardener.

Since moving to the Eastern Sierra and reading, "A Land of Little Rain," as well as many of Mary Austin's other books, autobiographies, and biography, "Earth Horizon," Gail is still learning about Mary.

### **Bobby Tanner**

### **David and Gayle Woodruff**

David and Gayle Woodruff are the authors of seven books on Eastern Sierra and Death Valley history. Their passion for all things Eastern Sierra is unbridled, having presented over 60 Eastern Sierra history programs for a variety of organizations in 2022 alone. David has been a lecturer, presenter and tour guide for over 28 years and produces a daily radio podcast on Eastern Sierra history for KIBS radio, the Sierra Wave, Bishop. You will usually find David & Gayle out hiking in the Lake Tahoe area or researching new history projects. David also volunteers as a docent for the El Dorado National Forest Interpretive Association at the Carson Pass Information Station, at Carson Pass.