

Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

presents

8th annual

EASTERN SIERRA HISTORY CONFERENCE

Photo: Fall Colors near South Lake, Alexa Flower

October 27-29, 2023
Cerro Coso Community College | Bishop, California

8TH ANNUAL EASTERN SIERRA HISTORY CONFERENCE

Friday, October 27

8:30-9:00	Registration and Breakfast
9:00	Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Announcements
9:10-10:10	Why are We in a Valley? Contextualizing History in the Eastern Sierra. Ellie Neifeld, Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association
10:10-11:05	Mountain of Conquest, Mountain of Control: Mount Whitney and the Geography of Conquest and Control. Joseph Esparza, Montana State University
11:05-11:25	Morning Break- Refreshments
11:25-12:25	Women's Climbing History of the Sierra Nevada. Lauren Delaunay Miller, Journalist and Author
12:25 -1:05	Lunch
1:05-2:05	Two Worlds. Paul Stone, Paiute & Washoe Artist and Flutist
2:05- 2:55	The Walking Land Ethic. Jamie Hinrichs, Public Affairs Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
2:55- 3:05	Afternoon Break- Refreshments
3:05- 4:00	More than an Old Schoolhouse Full of Artifacts: How a Small Museum Tells the Story of the Mono Basin. Dave Carle, Author and Retired State Park Ranger
4:00	Closing Remarks and Author Book Signings

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Saturday, October 28

8:30-9:00	Registration and Breakfast
9:05	Welcome and Announcements
9:15-10:05	"I Do Hereby Locate and Claim All the Water." A History of Hydroelectric Systems in the Mono Basin. Robert B. Marks, Professor Emeritus of History and Enviro. Studies, Whittier College
10:10-11:00	Capturing the Spirit of the Old West in the Sierra Nevada. Sandy Powell, Photographer and Author
11:05-11:20	Morning Break- Refreshments
11:25-12:25	"There It Is...Take It!" A living history presentation on William Mulholland. David and Gayle Woodruff, Historians
12:30-1:00	Lunch
1:05-2:00	On the Edge at Deep Springs College: A (Sometimes Tortured) Story of Risk and Innovation in Higher Education. L. Jackson Newell, Former President of Deep Springs College, Professor at the University of Utah
2:05- 2:50	CPS Camp # 37: Conscientious Objectors in the Eastern Sierra during World War II. Richard Potashin, Historian and Retired Intepretive Park Ranger
2:55- 3:05	Afternoon Break- Refreshments
3:10- 4:00	Navigating Mono Lake's Evolving Water Saga. Nora Livingston, Mono Lake Committee
4:00	Closing Remarks and Author Book Signings

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Sunday, October 29

Field Trip Details

9:30a-12:00p

History and Hydropower in Lee Vining Canyon

Led by Janet and Dave Carle. This field trip will cover a variety of history topics in the canyon. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and be prepared to walk off trail.

1:30p-3:30p

Tour of Deep Springs College

Led by Deep Springs College affiliates and will include walking tours around the campus grounds (varied distances available).

Field Trip Locations

Lee Vining Canyon

This scenic canyon is directly south of Lee Vining and leads to the east entrance of Yosemite National Park. Within the canyon is a storied past of hydropower. Approx. drive time from Bishop: one hour.



Photo of Lee Vining Canyon By Famartin, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Deep Springs Valley

This isolated valley lies just east of Westgard Pass on Highway 168 and is home to Deep Springs College, a unique institution of higher learning. Approx. drive time from Bishop: one hour.



Photo of Deep Springs Valley By RyanMikulovsky at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, Via Wikimedia Commons

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Presenter Biographies

DAVE CARLE grew up in Orange County, California, received his bachelors degree at UC Davis in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and a masters degree from CSU Sacramento in Recreation and Parks Administration. He was a ranger in California State Parks for 27 years; including the Mendocino Coast, Hearst Castle, the Auburn State Recreation Area, and the State Indian Museum in Sacramento. From 1982 through 2000, at the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, he shared the unit ranger position with his wife, participating in the long effort to protect that Eastern Sierra inland sea. He taught biology and natural history courses at Cerro Coso Community College, served as President of the Mono Basin Historical Society, and is currently on the Society's Board of Trustees. Since January 2021 Dave has been the President of the California State Park Rangers Association. He has authored 15 non-fiction (natural and cultural history) books and two novels. www.davidcarlebooks.com

JOSEPH ESPARZA is a Ph.D. student at Montana State University. He studied history and geography at California State University San Marcos where he received his B.A. He later earned his M.A. in history at the same institution. His current research interests span Western U.S. environmental history, and historical and cultural geography, with an emphasis on the geographical imagination and place-making of mountain landscapes in the American West. His dissertation topic examines the creation of "landmark mountains" in the American West. Previously, Joseph worked as an educator for California State Parks, where he developed an interest in public history, particularly in cultural landscape interpretation and the digital humanities. In his free time, he cycles, runs, skis, and most importantly, is a peakbagger and mountaineer of Western mountains.

JAMIE HINRICHS has a Ph.D. in environmental history from the University of St Andrews (Scotland). Her dissertation examined the intersection of walking and preservation in England and Scotland, c. 1850-1950. Her presentation is a first step in her hope to expand upon her previous research, by examining how walking has shaped the land ethic applied to present-day national forest lands, especially those in the Sierra Nevada. Jamie works for the U.S. Forest Service as a public affairs specialist.

NORA LIVINGSTON (she/her) is the Mono Lake Committee Lead Naturalist Guide in Lee Vining, CA. She is a passionate naturalist who spent her childhood immersed in nature from day one. She leads field seminars and custom guided trips for visitors to the Mono Basin to inspire a deeper connection with and understanding of Mono Lake and its surrounding ecosystems.

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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. His most recent publications include “Dispossessed Again: Paiute Land Allotments in the Mono Basin, 1907-1929,” *Eastern Sierra History Journal* (2023), and “Before Mulholland: Land, Water, and Power in the Mono Basin, 1872-1923,” *Southern California Quarterly* (Summer 2023). He lives in June Lake with Joyce Kaufman and their black lab Seger.

LAUREN DELAUNAY MILLER (she/her) has dedicated her life to exploring the mountains of the world and telling stories of underrepresented communities. Her experience working for Yosemite Search and Rescue and climbing in the Sierra Nevada inspired her to compile the history of the women who had come before her. Her first book, *Valley of Giants: Stories from Women at the Heart of Yosemite Climbing*, has won numerous awards, including the 2023 Banff Mountain Book Competition for Climbing Literature. She is a graduate of the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, and her reporting has been featured in the *Dirtbag Diaries*, *Climbing Gold*, *National Geographic*, the *Washington Post*, *Alpinist*, and *National Public Radio*. She lives in Bishop, California, with her husband, rescue pup, and flock of six hens.

ELLIE NEIFELD (she/her) is the Lead Naturalist at the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association. Through leading free interpretive programs for children and adults, Ellie hopes to spark connections between people and the awe-inspiring public lands of the Eastern Sierra. Originally from Oakland, CA, she has a BA in Earth and Oceanographic Science from Bowdoin College and spent one year studying dendroclimatology at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research in Tucson, AZ.

L. JACKSON NEWELL has uniquely experienced Deep Springs as a student, cowboy, faculty member, trustee, president, and, most recently, college historian. He will speak to these questions and looks forward to responding to queries from the audience. An authority on the history and philosophy of higher education, and University Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah, he is the author of *The Electric Edge of Academe: The Saga of Lucien L. Nunn and Deep Springs College* (University of Utah Press, 2015).

RICHARD POTASHIN as a 35 year resident of the Eastern Sierra, became engrossed in the history of this region conducting oral history interviews for the Eastern California Museum. Later, he spent nearly ten years as an interpretive park ranger and oral historian for the National Park Service at Manzanar National Historic Site. And for the last twenty years he and his wife, Nancy, have documented the history and art left on aspen trees, (arborglyphs) by Basque and Hispanic sheepherders.

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Presenter Biographies

SANDY POWELL resides in the Eastern Sierra but spent her early years in the mountains of Northern Arizona where she was influenced by the cowboys and ranchers in a vastly undeveloped part of the country. She earned a degree from Cal Poly/Georgia Tech while also earning a minor in art, which helped her develop a “good eye” in her photography over the years. Today she is very passionate about documenting the ways of the Old West. She spends many nights on the trail, under the stars, while seeking photos of wagon drives, cattle ranchers, Pony Express riders, and mule-packers of the High Sierra. In her recently released book, *Cowboy Culture: Capturing the Spirit of the Old West in the Sierra Nevada*, the Old West comes alive through extraordinary photography and fascinating stories of the Sierra Nevada. Weaving the past with the present, the book unfolds with historic photographs alongside contemporary images to help tell the story. Along the way, she collected many stories about these remarkable folks who utilize these old western traditions. Her detailed research, writing, and exquisite photographs have appeared in many publications including *Western Horseman* magazine, *Draft Horse Journal*, *Range Magazine*, *Rural Heritage Publications*, *Cowboys & Indians* magazine, *Western Mule* magazine, and numerous art galleries.

PAUL STONE was born and raised in Bishop, California on the Owens Valley Paiute Indian Reservation. He is full-blooded Paiute and Washoe and his native heritage is a great influence in his works of art. On his father’s side, he is the Great-grandson of Tom Stone, Paiute chief & storyteller; grandson of Raymond Stone, world renowned sculptor, medicine man, & tribal spokesman; and Evelina (Anthony) Stone, who was a Woodfords, CA Washoe. On his mother’s side, Paul is the Great-great grandson of Captain John, past chief of Yosemite. He is also related to Wavoka and other great leaders. Paul is proud to carry on these traditions through his art work. Paul is a self taught artist and learns as he goes, and looks forward to learning many new types of media. Paul’s works can be seen in many local and regional galleries & museums, including the Smithsonian in Washington DC. When he performs on his flute, he also storytells about many true stories regarding him playing his flute to animals and their many varied responses! Stories include playing for coyotes, dragonflies, eagles, bears, antelopes, and many more.

DAVID & GAYLE WOODRUFF Local historian David Woodruff has a passion for the history of the Eastern Sierra and Western Nevada. He has lived up and down highway 395 and in Death Valley National Park. David and his wife Gayle are the authors of eight books on local history including their newly released “*Tales Along Lake Tahoe Shores.*” David and Gayle present over 70 living history, Chautauqua, and slide shows history programs a year throughout the Eastern Sierra and Lake Tahoe area. If not doing research or writing, you will probably find David and Gayle out hiking in their beloved Sierra Nevada Mountains.