

The Acorn

Newsletter of the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin

Preserving Native American Cultural Resources in Marin and Sonoma

*By Gae Canfield,
MAPOM Board member*

On March 31, 2009, MAPOM Annual Meeting warmly received a lecture by Nick Tipon, who as a tribal member and Committee Chairman of the Sacred Sites Protection Committee of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, has had vital experiences with many varieties of Federal, State, and local agencies.

During the last two years, in handling cultural artifacts within the traditional tribal home of the Miwok and Southern Pomo, he has found changes occurring in the laws and varying interpretations of them from various levels of government. Rather than the term "litigation" which is confrontational, the use of "consultation" is his preference in regard to working with these various agencies.

Nick showed a map of the tribal
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*Nick Tipon, Chairman of the Tribe's
Sacred Sites Protection Committee.*

Photo courtesy of Gordon Boinbridge



Tribal members celebrate with MAPOM director Betty Goerke, at the Chief Marin birthplace dedication ceremony this past May in Mill Valley. Additional pictures and Betty's impressions of this historic event inside. Photo courtesy of Alexander Coughlin

Birth of Marin's namesake marked in Mill Valley neighborhood

By Jim Staats, reprinted courtesy of the Marin Independent Journal

Tribal elders, historians, schoolchildren and the curious gathered in a Mill Valley neighborhood Friday (May 8, 2009) to celebrate the Coast Miwok leader who gave the county its name. They came to Locust Avenue, between Sycamore and Walnut avenues, to dedicate a metal plaque set in the sidewalk in the area believed to be the birthplace of Chief Marin nearly 230 years ago.

"Before cars and airplanes, this was a quiet village," said Betty Goerke, biographer of Chief Marin, who helped organize the dedication with the Mill Valley Historical Society. "Today, all remnants are gone, but we can remember."

The Coast Miwok native—known by the Miwok name of Huicmuse—was believed to have been born in 1781 in the neighborhood's former setting as an American Indian village, Anamas, lining marsh and bay lands.

Goerke, whose research for her 2007 biography on Chief Marin helped determine his origin, spurred city officials more than a year ago to mark the site after she learned that construction in the area would include a new sidewalk. She said the specific site, just outside the driveway of 44 Locust Ave., was traced back to shell mounds of discarded mussels, clam shells and other food remnants discovered in that nook of Mill Valley.

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MAPOM President's message

Recognitions and Opportunities

First, a big thank you to all who contributed to MAPOM's Annual Appeal. Your Annual Appeal donations helped us keep our operations and programs functioning. Thank you, too, to everyone who enrolled in and taught our classes and to all who purchased books and DVDs through MAPOM. These are vital ways to help MAPOM.

MAPOM has reached the stage in its growth where new paths must be found. We have been basically an all volunteer organization for nearly forty years. Co-founders Sylvia Thalman and the late Don Theiler devoted endless years building our fine organization. Sylvia still remains our inspiration and is beloved and respected by all. But today we have grown to the point where more help is needed.

We do have two part-time independent contractors that we appreciate greatly. Laura Lee Miller designs each issue of *The Acorn* and maintains our website. Janice Cunningham is our bookkeeper, co-coordinator of Skills Classes



and does our taxes. Both Laura and Janice serve on our board. We couldn't get along without them.

Our board of directors is central to the functioning of MAPOM. The following is just a sample of what our fine board achieves. I hope you will be as impressed and grateful as I am. Let me give you some examples.

Treasurer Gene Buvelot not only deals with all our finances, but his expertise and wisdom in a wide range of areas makes my job as president possible. My wife, Lisa Woo Shanks, frequently spends hours after a fulltime job working on MAPOM projects ranging from editing to the mailing list.

Vice President Chris Coughlin and his fellow board member Jenna Coughlin put on perhaps the best publicity campaign ever for MAPOM's Annual Meeting. Chris and Gordon Bainbridge also regularly supply fine photos for *The Acorn* and our archives. Gordon is also a key person in the maintenance of Kule Loklo, the reconstructed Coast Miwok village at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Betty Goerke is largely responsible for the remarkable and moving tribute to Chief Marin described in this issue. Fran Jaekle is our secretary who keeps detailed minutes and volunteers at many MAPOM activities. Gae Canfield also volunteers regularly and made the signs and carried sawhorses to guide everyone to the Annual Meeting. Kirsten Kvam seems to always come up with ways to be helpful, whether getting MAPOM our ISBN numbers for our publications or solving a need for a volunteer.

As president, I spend many hours each week coordinating activities, answering MAPOM inquiries, dealing with our publications (*The Coast Miwok*

Indians of the Point Reyes Area is currently being reprinted), working with finances and many other items.

It should be obvious that MAPOM needs more help. If you are interested in being trained as a monitor for our Skills Classes, we need you. You can earn free Skills Class enrollment through monitoring. You may also be interested in attending a board meeting for consideration for board membership. Either is a rewarding opportunity. Please let me know of your possible interest by dropping a note to MAPOM, PO Box 481. Novato, CA 94948.

— Ralph Shanks, M.A.

New MAPOM Director

The MAPOM Board of Directors would like to welcome Jenna Coughlin as their newest member and at age eighteen, she



is also the youngest to serve on the Board.

Jenna is in her second year at College of Marin where she enjoys taking history courses, especially

Native American Studies taught by Betty Goerke. She has assisted with special events, publicity, video taped MAPOM's annual meeting and monitored an Indian skills class at Kule Loklo. Born and raised in Marin, Jenna loves to swim, hike and play drums from around the world. She is a Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) tribal member and has participated in many Tribal activities.

MAPOM President Ralph Shanks cited a recent study, which showed that boards benefit from having younger members' perspectives. "Young people benefit from the experience of working with highly experienced board members. I wish I had such an opportunity when I was Jenna's age as I think I would have benefited greatly from it".



The Acorn is produced and distributed semi-annually by the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. MAPOM is a volunteer based, non-profit 501(c)(3) 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 and first-time MAPOM 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 Sylvia Thalman at 415.479.3281.

MAPOM Board of Directors Officers
Ralph Shanks, M.A., President
Chris Coughlin, Vice President
Frances Jaekle, Secretary
Gene Buvelot, Treasurer

Laura Lee Miller, MAPOM News Editor / Designer



MAPOM Reprints The Coast Miwok Indians of the Point Reyes Area

MAPOM is pleased to announce the reprinting of Sylvia Thalman's excellent book, *The Coast Miwok Indians of the Point Reyes Area*. The book, aimed at a younger audience, is a good resource for teachers and anyone else to introduce others to Coast Miwok culture. It has Sylvia's well-written text, including plant names, a traditional creation story and a description

of village life, plus lovely illustrations by artist Ed Willie (Pomo, Wailaki, Paiute).

In 1992, shortly after *Interviews With Tom Smith and Maria Copa* was published, the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) hired Sylvia to write, and Ed to illustrate, a short version. Together they produced *The Coast Miwok Indians of the Point Reyes Area*.

PRNSA formerly published this title but graciously transferred the copyright to MAPOM. We thank PRNSA for their kindness, and MAPOM president Ralph Shanks for making it possible.

Outstanding Indian Basket Exhibit at SFO

Woven Legacies: Basketry of Native North America, comprising of nearly 100 Indian baskets, is on exhibit now in the International Terminal main hall at San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The exhibit features beautiful and rarely seen baskets from the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology (PAHMA) at UC Berkeley. This fabulous collection includes baskets from California and across the nation.

Hearst Museum research anthropologist and MAPOM member Ira Jacknis played a key role in bringing this exhibit to the public.

The exhibit is free and open 24-hours a day through September 2009. "It is not to be missed," encourages MAPOM president Ralph Shanks.

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 2008 appeal letter (donations received to date).

DEER (\$1000 or more)

Jody Horst
Sylvia Thalman

QUAIL (\$200 or more)

Betty Goerke
Philip Schneider

ACORN (\$100 or more)

Patricia Cummings
Winston Montgomery

BASKET (\$75 or more)

Judith Bishop
Tim Campbell
Gae Canfield
Suzanne McMeans
Mark Rudo
Ralph & Lisa Shanks

ARROWHEAD (\$50 or more)

Eugene Buvelot
Warren Gold
Malcolm Margolin

BOW AND ARROW (\$25 or more)

Miho Aida
Jean Berensmeier

Patricia Bowers

Fred Canillo

Diane Einstein

Ira Jacknis

Charles Johnson

Charles Kennard

John & Gloria Lannom

Judith Lowry

Wallace Murray

Kenneth Peek

Gregory Louis Piatt

Manuela Rohr

Sally Sherlock

Scott Taylor

On May 8, 2009, nearly two hundred gathered for a joyous and educational ceremony to recognize Chief Marin's birthplace.

Professor, author and MAPOM director Betty Goerke speaks of the village once at the site (top, at right)

Bronze plaque set in sidewalk to honor Chief Marin, at site of his family village (bottom).

Photos courtesy of Alexander Coughlin



Chief Marin dedication

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"Chief Marin was a man with great courage and many skills," said Goerke, noting even those he opposed were enamored of the man, including General Mariano Vallejo who in 1850 named the county after the rebellious tribal leader when California became a state.

Marin, whose baptised name of Marino was later shortened, was considered a skilled boatman valued for his knowledge of local tides and a rebel whose tussles with Spanish military sent him twice to prison at the Presidio.

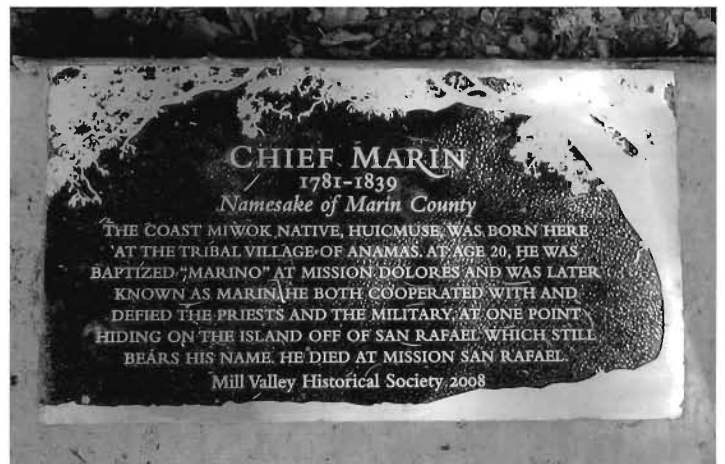
The chief died in 1839 and is buried in the Mission San Rafael cemetery off Fifth Avenue.

Greg Sarris, tribal chairman of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, used the occasion to speak in harsh terms of the conflict Marin was born into that, he said, has continued for generations.

"This gesture today is important in recognizing the man," Sarris said, before also giving credit to Goerke's research efforts "to help keep us from being invisible." Sarris presented her with a Pendleton wool blanket given to tribal elders.

Mill Valley resident Doug Sanders, who moved into his home a couple doors down from the new marker three years ago, said he didn't know much about the history of the area, "so I learned some things today."

— *Marin Independent Journal* © 2009



MAPOM congratulates Betty Goerke for her lifetime of dedication and research toward knowledge of the Coast Miwok. Below Betty shares her impressions of this most memorable day.

Chief Marin would have been proud. A total of 180+ neighbors, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) tribal members, dignitaries, Park School 3rd graders, and former College of Marin students, gathered to commemorate Chief Marin right in the middle of the street near his natal village.

The master of ceremonies was Tim Amyx of the Mill Valley Historical Society. Dignitaries included the tribal council of FIGR, MAPOM president and vice president Ralph Shanks and Chris Coughlin, our former vice president Wallace Murray, Colleen Hicks of the Marin Indian Museum, Malcolm Margolin publisher of Heyday Books, the vice mayor of Mill Valley, representatives of the Mill Valley Public Works department, Miley Holman



Tribal Chair Greg Sarris and Betty Goerke (top). Greg Sarris distributes information about the Coast Miwok (middle). MAPOM officers Ralph Shanks and Gene Buvelot greet Joanne Campbell, behind them are Heydey Publisher Malcom Margolin and Tamalpais Walking artist Tom Killion (bottom).

archaeologist at the village site, an editor of UC Press, a number of authors including artist Tom Killion who, along with Gary Snyder, authored the new book *Tamalpais Walking*, and at least one out-of-office politician. Chief Marin, a master politician himself, would have okayed the guest list.

The event was the installation of a plaque about Chief Marin, designed and cast over a year and a half ago, waiting for the moment when the cement could be poured for the sidewalk and when two 3rd grade classes would be able to participate. After Amyx introduced the dignitaries, Annie Swoveland, who had been the monitor at the construction site at Chief Marin's village, was joined by two other tribal members, Jeannette Anglin and Terrie Passantino in *a prayer in Coast Miwok that they had written for the occasion.*

Next was the presentation of the plaque, but there couldn't be a traditional unveiling, because the neighbors kept removing the covering to show each other what was underneath. All of their comments have been very positive.

Underneath the boughs of an oak tree the plaque describes and honors Chief Marin, as seen by its photograph on the facing page.

I spoke to the 3rd graders who were well primed: they had already been on a field trip to the Marin History Museum, and had learned about Chief Marin from their teachers. This was followed by Sarris who *spoke passionately about the injustices once inflicted on the*

native peoples. The only surprise of the day occurred when Lorelle Ross, vice chair of FIGR, wrapped a Pendleton blanket given to tribal elders around my shoulders. I was delighted and felt truly honored.

Sarris concluded by passing out a small book with puzzles, a basket cutout and a charming illustrated story drawn and put together by the talented Erik Wilder, Kashaya Pomo, who is working with FIGR.

The audience stayed on the street for another hour talking and enjoying the happiness of the event.

—Betty Goerke, Professor of Anthropology College of Marin, Author of *Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel and Legend*, MAPOM Board of Directors, Marin Museum of the American Indian (MMAI) Board of Directors

MAPOM guest lecture

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areas, which emphasizes watersheds and shows tribal considerations for the placement of villages and other aspects of living conditions such as sacred and ceremonial areas, and gathering areas. Plant and animal life necessarily contributed to the choices of living, gathering, and hunting throughout this extensive area of tribal lands which included Southern Sonoma County and all of Marin County, along with three islands near the shoreline of Marin.

At the present time, different tribes have differing attitudes about their cultural artifacts. The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria wishes to see objects found above ground to be allowed to remain where they are found. Middens and sites of

“The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria wishes to see objects found above ground to be allowed to remain where they are found.”

former villages should be preserved and their presence not made public. A map of such locations can be found in the Information Centers but it is only available by appointment to scholars and those with official business. The Tribe recognizes these special places as having spiritual significance and believes that man should not disturb them, though it is recognized that they are ever changing, as time and natural events occur, such as animal burrowings, or streambed movement affecting a site.

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria now has about 1100 members since they were restored in 2000, with a Tribal Council of 7 members. An obsidian blade was recently found in their recognized tribal area which dates back over 11,000 years. Nick explained that artifacts, as exhibited in museums tell only a little about the people who made them and their collective life. To them, everything living was spiritual (had a spirit), including plants and animals and all were significant and of equal value. In the past, Tribal elders preserved the culture in which life itself, as experienced from day to day, was spiritual. Now in the present, with such losses as language, and with old songs and dances no longer known, the tribe must patiently wait for new doctors (shamans), who will find a vision or voice to teach new spiritual principles. This may happen soon or perhaps in many generations to come.

Between the various laws that now apply to conserving and returning artifacts, few have real “teeth” in them. It is recognized that museums and other public and private institutions possess artifacts from the heritage of the Miwok and Pomo people. The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria believe that these sacred objects belong to them and should be returned. However, between the choice of “control” or “possession” they prefer

“control”... meaning that they wish cultural artifacts to be cared for respectfully by the institutions where they are held, at this time.

The Coastal Commission is the agency that has the most power to help see that flora and fauna traditionally used by the tribe, such as basketry materials, are conserved and made available to the tribe. Nick explained that the most effective way for young Tribal members to safeguard their environment is to become involved in the field of Environmental Planning.

The flow of the seasons created the Indian’s calendar. Prayers were said and rituals observed to help keep the balance of nature. Seasonal rounds were made to wherever plants were available. Nick mentioned three plants that were of particular usefulness to the tribe. Showy Indian Clover, which has become almost extinct. (A few plants were found recently, but they are very hard to propagate.) Dogbane has many uses, but especially in producing rope. Soaproot—used to stun fish—can also be baked, with a sweet taste, quite edible. The roots are used to make brushes for cleaning baskets in the making of acorn meal and other food preparation. A recent Marine Life Protection Act did not include cultural resources but this may be rectified.

Nick’s experience has taught him that working with many agencies requires finding the right people you can work with in a particular department of government and help develop trust between the agencies. He explained that historically there was a point when native people felt the need to protest and use demonstrations but a new time has come where it is best to: Respect Yourself, Teach the Youth and have Respect for Traditions.

Nick is the representative of a sovereign Nation, which brings a different slant than a position with a State or Federal office and sometimes the government agencies forget that! It is now important to meet with City Planning Commissions and

“they wish cultural artifacts to be cared for respectfully by the institutions where they are held.”

Caltrans and catch what is in the works before the shovel hits the dirt. These agencies are now required to submit plans and get a letter of approval from the tribe in accord with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Changing Attitudes: the philosophy of the tribe is to make clear to others the Tribe’s needs. “We want the public to know we are still here.” Posters and signage in National and State Parks should show the current interests of the tribe. For example: the tribe is much concerned about salmon. “Can and will they survive and return as in the old days?” Nick mentioned, with appreciation, that a “fish person with the State” and several young archeologists were attending our meeting to hear him speak, indicating their common interests in the environment.

Remembering Bill Mulloy

MAPOM flintknapping instructor



Photo courtesy of Point Reyes National Seashore Archives

MAPOM was deeply saddened to receive the news that Bill Mulloy, a fine flintknapper and MAPOM instructor, had passed away. Below are excerpts from the obituary his wife Carolyn wrote for him.

William H. Mulloy, fondly called Billy or Bill, 60 years old, passed away in Ukiah, California on Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Bill lost his life to cancer that he fought for two years. By his side were his son William, friends Steven Mickens, Mary Robbert and his wife Carolyn Mulloy.

Bill was born in Quincy, MA, raised in Braintree, MA and resided in Arcata, CA. He entered the US Navy when he was 19 years of age and received a National Defense Service Medal, serving his country for four years. Bill earned an Associate in Arts Degree with a major in Social Science from the College of Marin in May 1977 and a Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Sonoma State University in June 1980. Bill worked for Carlson Wireless Communications since 1991. He was an accomplished machinist, a trade he learned in the Navy. Friend and CEO Jim Carlson writes: "Bill was a most loyal friend and teammate at work and would always give more than he had to his friends."

Bill's passion in life was archaeology and anthropology and he always was grateful to Betty Goerke who he strongly felt was his mentor. Betty writes: "Bill was first a student of mine in the 1970s at College of Marin. His passion for archaeology was evident in those early years, and it was with a great deal of satisfaction that I followed his successes after that period."

"In the years that Bill did flintknapping demonstrations at Point Reyes National Seashore I would send my College of Marin students to him for instruction and they would return with their points and blades, so pleased at his instruction and patient teaching. Bill also came and demonstrated stone tool making either in my classroom when the weather was bad (we laid down a big tarp on the classroom floor) or outside in the outdoor classroom just off the lab. He was always well organized, good humored and safety conscious, all necessary qualities when you're working with your hands and volcanic glass, and it won't do what you want!"

"Bill also did demonstrations at the Trade Feast each September at the Marin Museum of the American Indian, and at Indian festivals at Point Reyes, where he was continuously helpful and respectful to visitors who would ask him the same questions again and again. I must say that he always greeted me warmly and affectionately."

Bill shared his gift of flintknapping with the world, authentically reproducing arrow points, spear points, knives, drills, darts, blade cores, pressure flaking tools, scrapers, chipping tools, and teaching kits for museums around California and as far away as England. Some of the museums where his work can be viewed include the Museum of Anthropology, at University of California, Berkeley; Los Altos History Museum, CA; Grace Hudson Museum Native American Education Program, Ukiah, CA; and the National Maritime Museum in England.

MAPOM co-founder Sylvia Thalman shares: "Bill was my friend for almost 30 years. He was always kind and competent and interested in local archaeology, particularly in flint knapping (making blades and arrow points from obsidian and other stone). He taught me how to do this, too, and on one occasion, guided me while I skinned an elk!"

"Bill's classes were always very detailed. He started out with a lecture about obsidian and its properties in detail, and then guided his students through the basics and into more detailed work.

"Even after he was quite ill, Bill continued to be gracious and interesting. Although he was in a good deal of pain, he didn't complain. I am greatly saddened by his death. He will be missed by many."

Bill sought comfort and peace with the Lakota Spirituality. He found strength, love and walked in balance with the sky and earth in harmony. Bill's favorite sayings were keep the faith as well as Murphy's Law.

Bill requested that no funeral or service be held. He requested to have one third of his ashes scattered on the graves of his father, mother, and sister by his family on the east coast. He asked his son, William, and Carolyn, mother of their son, to scatter his remaining ashes in the Pacific Ocean or a major tributary thereof. Memorial donations may be sent in William H. Mulloy's name to the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin.

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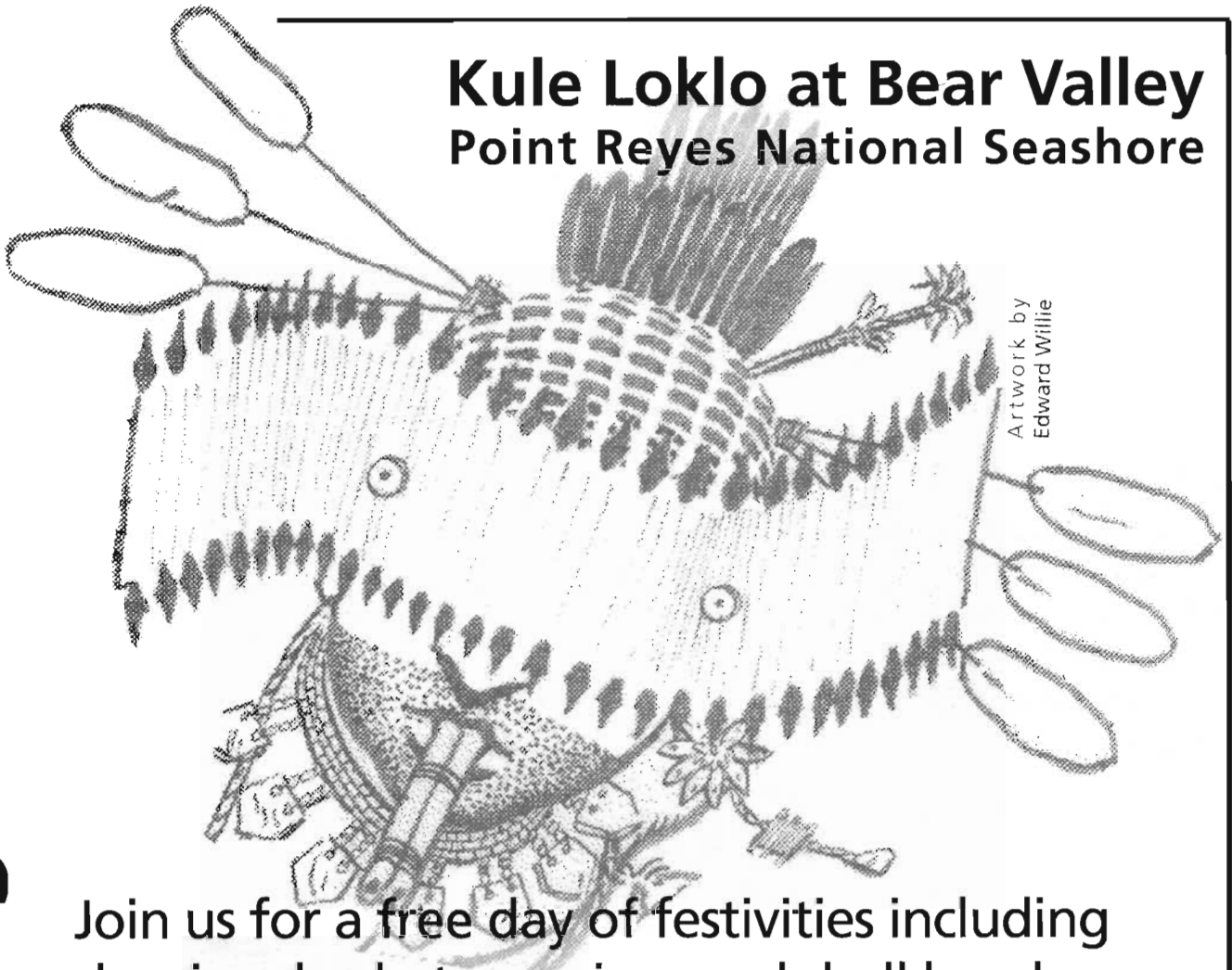


MAPOM's California Indian Skills Classes students make close twined baskets from wetland rush, at Kule Loklo in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Instructor Charles Kennard's weekend class is for both beginning and experienced weavers. For more information on fall and spring classes, visit www.mapom.org

Photos courtesy of Suzanne McMeans

29TH Annual Big Time Festival

Kule Loklo at Bear Valley Point Reyes National Seashore



Artwork by
Edward Willie

Join us for a free day of festivities including dancing, basket weaving, and shell bead making.

Traditional California Indian crafts for sale.

Children's activities throughout the day.

Bring a picnic and enjoy the day with us.

Sponsored by:
The Miwok Archeological
Preserve of Marin (MAPOM)
& The National Park Service
More information at:
www.info@mapom.org
www.nps.gov/pore
(415) 464-5140

Interested in being a
vendor for this event?
Contact Loretta Farley
at (415) 464-5140.

Saturday, July 25, 2009
10:00 am to 4:00 pm