



# INSIDER

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## PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

In the fall of 1769, Spanish explorers and missionaries from the Portola expedition first set foot on our small slice of California coastline. Their arrival marks the beginning of the written history of the area; but in fact, the true story of inhabitation on the Central Coast began thousands of years prior. Cambria, which is home today to roughly 6,000 people, was once a thriving community of as many as 30,000 Chumash native americans only one thousand years before the explorers' arrival.

The history of the Chumash people and their unique relationship to the natural resources of Cambria is long and fascinating. And much of this history is preserved as artifacts buried in soil, paintings left in caves, and grinding holes carved in rock outcroppings from generations of use. This history is being threatened by the pressures of increasing coastal development and vandalism. This is why Greenspace-The Cambria Land Trust is partnering with The Archeological Conservancy to protect areas of cultural significance right here in Cambrians' backyards.

The properties in question, located on Lodge Hill in Cambria less than a mile from the Pacific Ocean, are ones that archeologists say hosts a wealth of cultural resources that can give us insight into the past. A nearly 8,000 year old prehistoric settlement, occupied at times by Northern Chumash and Southern Salinian tribes, lies just beneath soil surface. First explored by Stanford researchers in the

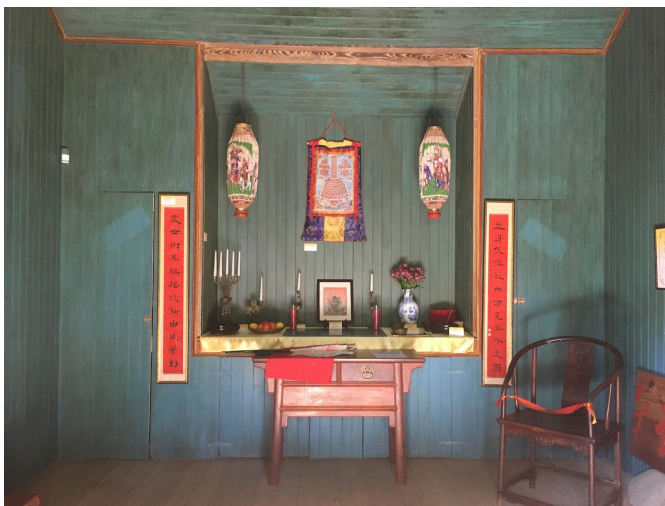
late 1978s, artifacts such as dietary bones, pipes, grinding stones and ornamental beads have been discovered. Other items, such as stone tools, shellfish fragments and projectile points help archeologists understand the diet of the people who inhabited the area and how they hunted. Several acres of the village site have already been lost to development, which makes the effort to preserve the remaining area all the more important.

If you would like to learn more about the effort to protect Wales Triangle as well as the knowledge that could be contained within, please join Greenspace's first installment of the 2019 Speaker Series, with guest speaker Cory Wilkins of The Archeological Society.

Preservation of open spaces in your community preserves cultural resources, protects scenic vistas, provides wildlife refuge, spiritual and economic well being, and ecosystem benefits. Did you know that in many instances it is less expensive for a community to maintain open space that naturally maintains water quality, reduces runoff, or controls flooding than to use tax dollars for costly engineered infrastructure projects such as water filtration plants and storm sewers? Do you enjoy the public benefits that open spaces provide in your neighborhood? Please consider joining Greenspace in our efforts to maintain the Wales Triangle property with your contribution to the Wales Triangle Campaign today.

# NEW DOCENT FOR THE CHINESE TEMPLE

In addition to protecting Native American cultural sites, Greenspace's mission has also strived to keep alive the history of the Chinese presence on the Central Coast. Part of this mission involves keeping open to the public the Chinese Temple at Greenspace Creekside Reserve on Center Street. To further that mission, Greenspace is excited to announce



the appointment of Cambria local, John Seed, as the new 'Chinese Temple Volunteer Curator.' John Seed comes to Greenspace after a long career as a professor of art and art history whose knowledge of Chinese artwork and passion for history made him the ideal candidate for the position. John says "this opportunity has a great appeal for me. Seeing the interior of the temple was a "must" when we moved here six months ago and Wayne [Attoe]'s gracious tour was a lovely experience." John will promote the temple to appropriate organizations, arrange for tours and plan events, and host speakers to help educate and inspire visitors to the site.

The temple at Creekside Reserve, which is one of the few remaining Chinese temples in

California, preserves the history of the nearly 200 Chinese immigrants who used to call Cambria home. The temple was inherited as part of a 1.6 acre open space purchase in 1999 by Greenspace. It was lovingly restored by experts from Ethos Art and opened to the public in 2008.

To tour the interior of the historic structure consider coming to one of the "open-house" dates in 2019, and meet Temple Curator John Seed! The Chinese Temple will be open for Earth Day on April 21st, on May 25th as part of the Historical Society Heritage Days, and on October 13th in conjunction with the Historical Society's Harvest Festival.

## SAVE THE DATES

**March 31, 2019** Cory Wilkins from The Archeological Conservancy joins Greenspace to talk about the need to preserve Wales Triangle

**April 21, 2019** Earth Day at the Greenspace Creekside Reserve

**May 25, 2019** Washburn Trail Walk with Dr. Galen Rathbun, Fellow and Research Associate at the California Academy of Sciences

**July 13, 2019** Art and Adventure Auction

*For more information, or to volunteer, contact Greenspace by email at [info@greenspacecambria.org](mailto:info@greenspacecambria.org) or by phone at (805)927-2866. Visit [www.greenspacecambria.org](http://www.greenspacecambria.org) to learn more about Greenspace's mission, programs, and properties.*

The North Coast area of San Luis Obispo County is a national treasure. Greenspace will protect and enhance its ecological systems, cultural resources and marine habitats through land acquisition, education and advocacy.