In “Tending the Wild” – The Workshop, California Indian basket weavers will reveal little known techniques used for thousands of years by Native peoples to shape our state’s landscape. Audiences will gain a clearer understanding of the historic impact of Indigenous Stewardship Methods (ISM) on California’s natural environment and learn ways to effectively reintroduce California Indian environmental stewardship techniques.

“Tending the Wild” – The Workshop is based on the book of the same title by Ethnobotanist M. Kat Anderson. Led by Master Weavers, the Workshop will provide hands-on experiences for participants eager to learn more about the cultivation and preparation of plant materials used by California Indian basket makers, as well as cultural values embedded in their ancestral skill. A central topic of the Workshop will be the historic use of fire and periodic burning of undergrowth to optimize plant regeneration in traditional gathering sites.

The Workshop participants will learn to identify regional basketry plant materials, peel willow, split and trim redbud shoots and dig "white root."

The first two presentations of “Tending the Wild” - The Workshop will be at Pepperwood Preserve in Sonoma County on October 27 and 28, 2012. CIBA is currently seeking additional program venues in other regions.

Funding for “Tending the Wild” - The Workshop has been provided by a major grant from the Yocha DeHe Community Fund and other generous supporters of the Arts.

— Shirley Schaufel

The Indians’ preservation of the land and its products for the ten thousand or more years of their undisputed occupancy was such that the white invaders wrested from them a garden, not the wilderness it salved their consciences to call it.

— Almost Ancestors - The First Californians by Theodora Kroeber and Robert F. Heizer

Examples of basketry fibers soaking featured at CIBA Gathering 2011. Photograph ©2011 Matt Henderson Photography
balancing our lives through traditional practices basketweavers gathering

The Soboba Cultural Center held its third annual basketweavers gathering on April 28, 2012. This program is a joint collaboration between the Soboba Cultural Center, Soboba Environmental Department and Soboba Family Services. The Balancing Our Lives through Traditional Practices annual basketweavers gathering is geared toward teaching the participant weavers about the roles and responsibilities of young men and women growing up and learning to have respect for their self as well as respect for their partners. Basket workshop teachers interact with their students and discuss their experiences growing up in different family environments, being taught by their elders, grandparents, aunties and uncles how to respect men, women and the environment. In the past key note speakers have talked about California’s historical past and traumas caused by Southern California Native History, how our people still are affected by those traumas. The goal of this gathering is to empower the members of the local tribal community to live a healthier and happy lifestyle by incorporating traditional values and philosophies of our culture.

This year’s gathering had a total of 123 registered participants with several different basket workshops and techniques being taught by various tribal representatives, Board Members and members of the California Indian Basketweavers Association. Also represented at the basket gathering were members and display tables from Nex’wetem (Southern California Basketweavers Organization) and the Soboba weaving circle.

— Carrie Garcia (Luiseno/Cahuilla)
It has been some time since we've been able to produce a newsletter, but thanks to a grant from the California Arts Council, we are once again able to update you on CIBA activities through “Roots and Shoots”.

Let me start by thanking our Executive Director, Linda Navarro. Linda has worked tirelessly since coming to CIBA to organize the new office, update computer files, get up to speed on our grants and programs and help organize this year’s Gathering in Santa Ynez. Coming to an organization like CIBA without an experienced staff to assist you is a large task. Linda has met this challenge with enthusiasm and she deserves our respect and appreciation. Thank you Linda!

I would also like to thank Shirley Schaufel who served as interim Executive Director and continues to be a strong supporter of CIBA and is instrumental in guiding CIBA through several grants, programs and partnerships.

This year our Annual Gathering was hosted by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Their hospitality and graciousness went far above and beyond our expectations. From our first meeting with their council, it was obvious the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians place great value in their culture and traditions and they were eager to share them with the rest of us. Willie Wyatt, Tribal Administrator and Kathleen Conti, Director of Museum Programs, Research and Resources for the Santa Ynez band of Chumash Indians worked with us for months to coordinate the Gathering. Their patience and dedication helped produce one of the most memorable Gatherings to date. I’m sure those of you that attended the Gathering this year would agree that Santa Ynez is a very special place. The area was stunningly beautiful and that beauty was matched by the warm and welcome feelings of the Santa Ynez people. Thank you to the Santa Ynez Council, Staff, Cultural Presenters, and tribal members. You have made this year’s Gathering one that will be remembered by all.

As fall begins to come upon us we may look back at a long summer and think we are ready for a little rest. Not so for you basket weavers. Get ready to gather your supply of Redbud, Red Willow, Bulrush and all those materials that make themselves available to us this time of year.

I wish for you a bountiful harvest of materials this fall.

Where has the time gone? It seems such a short time ago that I accepted the Executive Director position at CIBA (February 27, 2012) and now we are heading into the final quarter of 2012! It has been extremely busy around the CIBA office. The move from Court Street to Main Street, a significant downsize, has resulted in significant savings for the organization. Although space is limited and our storage unit is full, we are working to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in CIBA’s current contracts and grants as well as seek additional funds to expand current programs.

On June 1, a Letter of Intent was submitted to The Christensen Fund in San Francisco requesting an opportunity to submit a full proposal focused on expanding the Tending the Wild program. A proposal was prepared and submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts on August 9, 2012, in the amount of $35,000 requesting support for the 2013 Gathering and regional gatherings. A proposal was prepared and submitted to the James Irvine Foundation on August 10, 2012 in the amount of $30,000 for a 24 month Native Voices Outreach Program. CIBA should soon learn the results of a proposal to support the Collections Care and Management Project, submitted to the Alliance for California Traditional Arts.

The California Arts Council has awarded CIBA a new Statewide Networks Grant in the amount of $13,500. This grant covers costs associated with the CIBA newsletter and redesign of the CIBA webpage. An application was prepared and submitted to the Northern California Indian Development Council. The award in the amount of $10,000 enabled CIBA to fund costs associated with the 2012 Gathering.

In July CIBA was invited by the Southwest Indian Museum at the Autry Center in Los Angeles to join with Southern California basket weavers for a tour of their basket collection. CIBA Board Members Carrie Garcia and Raymond Patton, CIBA Director Linda Navarro and Lorene Sisquoc, Nexwe’tem Basketweavers, were joined by twenty tribal and family members for this day-long visit. We were able to provide a list prior to our arrival of weavers whose basketry items we were interested in seeing so that upon our arrival we would be directed to those areas where the baskets were stored. We were allowed to photograph the baskets and unfortunately there are so many baskets in the collection - more than 200,000 - that we could only see a small number of baskets in the time allotted.
opportunities for weavers

american indian arts marketplace at the autry 2012

The Autry Center in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, has invited CIBA to participate in its annual Indian Arts Marketplace on November 3 and 4, 2012. CIBA weavers and staff, along with members of Nex we'tem, the Southern California Basket Weavers Organization, will operate educationally oriented sales booths featuring California Indian basketry and demonstrations of weaving techniques.

The Autry Center, through this special invitation, is working to generate increased awareness and appreciation of the contemporary work produced by California Indian basket weavers.

The Autry Indian Marketplace will feature over 160 Native American artists and will present many activities for families.

Visit the Autry Center's website at theautry.org for event details.

marin show: art of the americas 2013

Beaded Plains cradleboards, mysterious Hopi Katsinas, powerfully decorated Southwestern pottery, fine California Indian basketry and intricate antique silver Navajo jewelry. If American Indian art objects appeal to you, the 29th annual Marin Show will provide an incredible learning experience.

The Marin Show – Art of the Americas, on February 22 – 24, is the largest event of its kind in the world, attracting over 5,000 visitors each year. Divided into two general areas, historic and contemporary art, gallery owners, collectors and artists fill both the Marin Center and the Ballroom of the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. More beautifully-displayed art is available at this Show than one could ever see by traveling to museums and buyers will find a wide range of prices.

In 2013 CIBA will again participate in the Marin Show. The large CIBA booth will feature educational materials, demonstrations of various weaving techniques, material preparation and the sale of basketry by CIBA members. If you are a CIBA basket weaver interested in participating in the CIBA booth at the Marin Show in February please call the CIBA office for event details.
Historic Agreement to Restore Karuk Cultural Site Signed
Karuk Tribe and Forest Service Agree to Use Traditional Management Practices to Restore and Maintain Sacred Landscape of Katimiin Thivthaam

Happy Camp, CA – Today the Karuk Tribe and the US Forest Service announced the signing of an agreement that will ensure that one of the Karuk Tribe’s most sacred landscapes will be restored using traditional land management techniques perfected by the Tribe over countless generations.

The Katimiin Cultural Management Area (KCMA), near present day Somes Bar, CA, is where the Tribe’s Pikyawish, or World Renewal, ceremonies are concluded each year. For years the Tribe has struggled to have the lands surrounding the ceremonial site managed in a manner consistent with cultural traditions. That struggle is now over.

According to the Agreement, “...the Tribe and the Forest Service can move forward in the management of Katimiin Cultural Management Area in a way that is consistent with both Karuk cultural environmental management practices and the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which is administered by the Six Rivers National Forest.”

According to Karuk Chairman Russell Attebery, "this Agreement will allow us to revitalize this sacred landscape through ceremonial burning and other practices. We hope this endeavor will lead to a more strategic approach to resource management based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge on a larger scale.”

The Tribe and the USFS believe that traditional management on a large scale could help prevent catastrophic wildfires, as well as facilitate understanding and cooperation between distinct cultures, communities, and the natural environment.

According to Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor, “This is the culmination of a lot of hard work and effort on behalf of both forests and the Karuk Tribe. We are pleased to be able to work alongside the Karuk people in this culturally important area of the forest. We are looking forward to restoring not only the lands, but strengthening our relationship with the Karuk Tribe. This MOU hopefully will serve as the flagship for other agreements between the USFS and the Tribe.”

— Craig Tucker

Collections Care and Management Project Preserves Baskets

CIBA’s Collections Care and Management Project will provide improved housing, documentation and insurance coverage for 56 California Indian baskets donated to the organization over the past 20 years. Recently, the Collection was appraised and professionally photographed. Details concerning the artist, condition, history and materials of each basket will be incorporated in a CIBA Collection Catalog. Funding for this ongoing Project has been provided by Yocha DeHe Community Fund and the Alliance for California Traditional Arts.

Soon the Collection will be rehoused in museum quality storage cabinetry. Selected baskets will become part of a small traveling exhibition that will serve as a community resource. Other baskets, especially those that have sustained damage, will be used as important teaching tools. CIBA has received many requests for the exhibition of its Collection. Up until now, however, the Collection was uninsured and this prevented public use of the Collection as an educational resource.

Sherrie Smith Ferri, (Dry Creek Pomo) Director at the Grace Hudson Museum, is serving as Project Consultant. Under her guidance CIBA is developing a Collections Policy that outlines the steps required to preserve this wide variety of historic basketry for future generations.

Benjamin F. Benson, Cultural Resource Manager at Pepperwood Preserve in Santa Rosa, provided professional appraisal of the Collection. This process was treated as an important learning opportunity for CIBA staff and several Board Members who participated in the work.

— Shirley Schaufel
The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians hosted the Annual Gathering at their tribal headquarters at the Santa Ynez Indian Reservation in Santa Barbara County on June 22-24, 2012. The Tribe and Administrative staff welcomed CIBA to Chumash country with prayers and songs and provided CIBA weavers and members of the public with wonderful food and the sharing of Chumash culture through their basketweaving and traditional songs and dances. A group of twenty-three Chumash weavers joined the Association and participated in the weaving circles.

Weaving Circles led by eleven member-master weavers, were conducted for CIBA member weavers and their families on the opening day of the Gathering. Twelve master weavers provided weaving demonstrations for CIBA membership and the general public. A total of 630 attendees enjoyed the CIBA 2012 gathering over the three day event. Arts and crafts vendors as well as food vendors were on site providing culinary and American Indian made basketry, jewelry, and craft items.

Member weavers entered fifty-one basketry items in the Weavers Showcase. The showcase was beautifully created with the assistance of Carrie Garcia, CIBA Vice-Chairperson; Jan Timbrook, Santa Barbara Museum; and John Pinson, Photographer. CIBA members volunteered their time to insure the safety and security of the showcase entries.

CIBA is very appreciative of the volunteer services rendered by the Tribe, its Administrative Staff, its Board of Directors, and the nineteen tribal partners who chose to donate funds necessary to the success of Gathering 2012. We thank each of our partners individually for their donations: Mechoopda Rancheria; Cahuilla Band of Cahuilla; Robinson Rancheria; Berry Creek Rancheria; Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla; Dry Creek Rancheria; Elk Valley Rancheria; Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla; Rincon Band of Luiseno; Ione Band of Miwok; Bishop Paiute Tribe; Soboba Band of Luiseno; Jackson Rancheria; Redding Rancheria; Black Oak Casino; Trinidad Rancheria; and Smith River Rancheria. We also thank our funding agencies for their support: California Arts Council; Alliance for California Traditional Arts; Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation; and Northern California Indian Development Council. We could not have done it without you!

— Linda Navarro (Cahuilla/Shasta), Executive Director
Weaving Classes at Gathering 2012
Photograph ©2012 Linda Navarro (Cahuilla/Shasta)

Chumash Dancers from left to right: Carmen Sandoval, Kathleen Marshall, Nakia Zavalla, Tom Lopez, Lisa Romero, Gina Mosqueda Lucas at Gathering 2012
Photograph ©2012 Linda Navarro (Cahuilla/Shasta)
It was a beautiful day at Kaweah Oaks Preserve with many members of the public in attendance. The event began with a prayer from our Elder Marie Wilcox and with drumming the traditional songs for our people by the Four Directions drum group. We had six youth to teach for the day.

Donovan Treglown, 18, Wukchumni, taught Tule decoy ducks made from Tule reeds. There were a lot of people that enjoyed this class and Donovan said he had a great day, and would demonstrate any time we needed him. Kerry Colley, 20, Wukchumni, enjoyed showing the community how to make a Tule mat. Many participants completed them easily and said that they would use them. Kerry did a great job.

Destiny Treglown, 14, Wukchumni, said she wanted to preserve our culture by showing attendees how to make Pine Needle baskets. Many people attended this class. Sean Good, 16, Yowlumni, showed the public how to make a Seed Gatherer from our traditional materials. He described the materials and seasons to gather. Joseph Treglown, 19, Wukchumni, had a great day showing the people how to make our Traditional Clapperstick made from Elderberry trees. He had so many students that he had to go and gather more sticks which allowed him to show his students how to give an offering of tobacco for everything creator gives us.

Delia Moreno, 16, Tachi, enjoyed showing the community how to make a water tight Coil basket made from our materials from this land. Our ancestors gathered materials here and it felt good to be there where they once gathered.

Our youth taught each group a phrase in our Wukchumni Language. I feel that they all did a great teaching session and made the Grandmas proud. Thank you to CIBA for supporting this event.

— Jennifer Malone (Wukchumni/Tachi)
inside ciba: grants and programs

Non-profit organizations, such as CIBA, exist for a reason; they exist to fill a need in the community. CIBA, as required of all non-profits, has a Vision. For CIBA, the Vision is to increase the number of active weavers by preserving, perpetuating and promoting California basketry traditions.

Doing the work required to achieve this Vision is costly.

For the past two years CIBA has worked to decrease the amount of money spent on overhead and to increase the amount of money spent on programs for its constituency. This change was brought about by moving the CIBA office to a smaller space (a savings of $12,000 each year,) by reducing the position of Executive Director to part time, by partnering with other organizations, and by focusing on grant writing. A federal program, Experience Works, provides an Office Assistant, Esther Baez, in exchange for training provided by CIBA Director Linda Navarro. This reduces CIBA's overhead by another $20,000. Naturally, as new CIBA programs are developed, the need for additional staffing increases in order to implement the new services to the community. At this time CIBA is somewhat understaffed.

Funding groups (that support non-profits through grants) look closely at this ratio that compares overhead expenditures to program expenditures. They would like to see their awards benefit the largest numbers possible and to be assured that funds are being used carefully for the benefit of the larger community, not primarily administration.

CIBA has designed three new programs that have received substantial funding. A major grant from the Yocha DeHe Community Fund will support “Tending the Wild” – The Workshop, a Collections Care and Management Project and “Native Voices,” an Educational Project. The Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) also contributed ($7,500 in 2011) to the Collection Care and Management Project that will improve the overall care of CIBA’s Basketry Collection. These three new programs are designed to expand CIBA’s services and result in increased income. If CIBA is to grow and continue to provide enriching experiences, such as the annual Gathering, it will be important to develop successful “income streams” in addition to grant awards and membership contributions. In the current economy there is considerable competition for grant money and CIBA’s membership, although 6% higher this year, is low in revenue production. Gathering 2012, CIBA’s cornerstone program, requires $35,000 to produce, but generates about $11,000 in actual revenue through the Raffle and Merchandise Sales and tribal donations.

Partnerships with groups in the California Indian community, such as the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians that hosted Gathering 2012, are critical to CIBA’s future. Individual tribes provided over $8,000 this year to help cover Gathering expenses such as Honorariums for Basketry Teachers. The Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC) provided an additional $10,000 for the event through a Community Services Block Grant—Mini-grant. Increasingly, the Native community is providing major support for CIBA programs.

The California Arts Council (CAC) is a strong supporter of CIBA, as well. Funding from this state agency ($13,500 in 2012-2013) will enable CIBA to produce, once again, a printed newsletter and to make improvements to the website. Newsletter production is very expensive and many groups have eliminated them altogether in favor of internet production. But since a large percentage of CIBA members do not use the internet a printed edition will continue to be produced.

New programs are great. But implementing them effectively is difficult for CIBA with such a small staff. Eventually, funds will be needed to add a Project Manager position to the staff without upsetting the important ratio between programs and overhead. It is a difficult balance. CIBA, however, is moving towards becoming a more resourceful, responsible non-profit agency that is capable of providing enriching programs in the areas of Art and Culture, Education and Natural Resources related to California Indian basketry traditions.

— Shirley Schaufel

“Native Voices” education program underway

“Native Voices” is a two-part program underway at CIBA. “Native Voices” was designed for adult learners in response to tribal requests for assistance in rekindling community interest in traditional basketry. Collaboration with tribal groups who request support for basketry instruction will include site visits and selection of a local tribal liaison who will partner with CIBA weavers to reinvigorate or establish “Weaving Circles” in the tribal community.

The second part of the program, “Little Grizzlies,” provides educational programs to California Indian Education and other school groups. While tribal communities and California Indian youth are the primary target audiences of this project, the program is an opportunity for all school groups and arts organizations to learn about California Indian culture directly from California Indians. By providing information and instructional resources from a tribal perspective CIBA can promote inter-cultural communication and help expand the ways in which California school children learn about the diverse histories and culture of California Indians. Project funding provides training, honorariums and limited travel reimbursement for a small pool of selected weavers who enjoy sharing information with others about California Indian culture.

As part of “Little Grizzlies,” CIBA will engage an Education Specialist to explore various techniques and content with weavers and to familiarize participants with California Education Standards. Curriculum for school age children will focus on expanding knowledge concerning California’s natural resources and respect for our state’s diverse biological environment.

CIBA encourages weavers to contact Executive Director Linda Navarro to discuss details of “Native Voices” and “Little Grizzlies.” Organizations interested in participating in new CIBA programs should call the CIBA office at 530.668.1332.

— Shirley Schaufel
Quilting, like basket weaving, brings people together to socialize, provide encouragement and to share knowledge. When well-known Hayfork quilter, Mayme Patton, was asked to create a quilt for the CIBA Raffle at Gathering 2011 she turned to her husband, Raymond (Nor Rel Muk-Wintu) for guidance. As a weaver, artist, collector and long-time member of the CIBA Board of Directors, Ray was eager to create an appropriate design.

“I said it would have to be a basket design from where I live in Northern California. I was hoping we could come up with a Wintu design. I was working on pencil sketches of basket designs for a CIBA project and I knew that the Sucker Tail design should be included because that is the most often used basket design of the Nor Rel Muk.”

“Both directions of the bird migration, however, are big events to Native Americans in the Northern Sacramento Valley. The Flying Geese design is used by most of the weavers in this area, as well, to represent the migration of geese in flight.” In the final decision, Ray and Mayme settled on the Flying Geese design for the quilt.

Ray began by making a small scale sketch of the pattern and then enlarged it by calculating the size of each quilt block. Finding the ideal fabric to represent the colors of a basket, Bear Grass for the background and Redbud bark for the design color, was a considerable challenge. Like basketry, selection and gathering of materials is critical to the creation process.

“The smaller flying geese represent geese that are farther away. Two smaller groups of flying geese are located where the quilt would be pulled over two pillows. As you stand at the foot of the bed, there is a flock of geese flying away from you to the North. Hence the name of the quilt, “Geese Fly North.”

Mayme Patton’s quilt created quite a stir at the Ione Gathering. People were buying handfuls of Raffle tickets in hopes of winning the quilt. Mayme and Ray Patton hope it is well loved.

— Raymond Patton (Nor Rel Muk-Wintu) & Shirley Schaufel
If you have never been to the Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum in Tahoe City on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, you must take the 1.5 hour ride east from Sacramento for a visit. It will be a very rewarding experience. In 1992 the Gatekeeper's Museum built the cabin style facility to house the world class collection of over 800 utilitarian and fine baskets from 85 tribes throughout California and western North America. Each year in late September the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society and the Gatekeeper's Museum sponsor a Basket Weavers Gathering and Indian Market. The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society website will have a calendar of events that will include the dates for next year’s event—watch for it!

Native weavers and artisans gathered on September 22 and 23, 2012, for a weekend of weaving and sharing of their traditional cultures. A number of CIBA member basket weavers participated in the Market and demonstrated their traditional weaving styles. CIBA Executive Director, Linda Navarro, marketed CIBA promotional items and manned a table that generated interest in the upcoming “Tending the Wild” — the Workshop, and in CIBA membership.

Jennifer Bates and Kimberly Stevenot presented “Nuts to Soup” the processing of acorns from the raw nut that is gathered each year to the finished soup. A local youth group performed traditional dances and invited everyone to join in on the Round Dance. A great time was had by all on the beautiful shores of Lake Tahoe.

— Linda Navarro (Cahuilla/Shasta), Executive Director

CIBA’s partnership with Pepperwood Preserve on the Tending the Wild — The Workshop program has been a very positive experience for everyone involved. We wanted to talk more about the mission of Pepperwood because we think its a true asset to our community.

Pepperwood is a community-supported ecological institute that conducts applied research and provides educational programming with the singular goal of conserving the San Francisco Bay Area’s natural heritage for generations to come. Dedicated to the protection of the region’s rich biodiversity represented within its 3,200 acres, Pepperwood provides unique open-space access to nature lovers, students of all ages, volunteers and scientists from the Bay Area and beyond.

The preserve is an important native species refuge and a home to over 750 species of plants and 150 species of birds, reptiles and mammals representing California’s coastal, interior, northern and southern climates. Pepperwood staff and researchers from some of the world’s finest institutions collaborate to advance science-based conservation strategies and increase our understanding of regional ecosystems.

Pepperwood offers a wide array of opportunities for public engagement via the Dwight Center for Conservation Science, a 9400 square-foot green facility featuring classrooms, laboratories and space for visiting scholars. In addition to field trips for elementary and middle school students, Pepperwood hosts a variety of adult education classes, public hikes, lectures and an annual Wildflower Festival.

Pepperwood hosts quarterly meetings with its Kanamota Friends Council, an advisory panel facilitated by anthropologist and Pepperwood Cultural Resources Coordinator Ben Benson that was created to foster open communication between Pepperwood and local indigenous communities, to ensure appropriate management of cultural resources on-site and to foster collaborative projects that advance mutual program goals.

Founded in 2005 by Jane and Herb Dwight, the Pepperwood Foundation owns and operates the preserve and the Dwight Center. A supporting organization of the California Academy of Sciences, Pepperwood is also closely partnered with the Santa Rosa Junior College.
Three positions on the CIBA Board of Directors are due to expire in January 2013. Those positions are currently held by Carrie Garcia, Raymond Patton and Diania Caudell. If you are interested in applying for a position on the CIBA Board of Directors, call the CIBA office to request an application. Applications are due November 15, 2012. Balloting will take place from November 20, 2012 through December 20, 2012.