In Memory... Theresa Jackson (Washoe)
by Bev Ortiz

Theresa Jackson was one of those uncommon individuals who, having met someone only briefly, had an enduring impact. Kind, generous, and soft spoken, Theresa walked through life with grace and a quiet dignity. She devoted herself to working on behalf of the Creator, her family, and community, and the preservation of her Washoe people's traditions. As her sister JoAnn Martinez recalls of Theresa, “She was very close to her family, and she taught us about the spiritual side of life—taking care of the plants and to always respect the plants and the animals...She was a specially gifted person; one of those special people you meet along life’s way. She touched a lot of people. Many people came to her home for prayer. It was beautiful to see that. She made her house a special place. Her backyard was beautiful... I think she was just a chosen person. She had that special knowledge that not everyone has.”

Theresa Jackson was born on July 1, 1916, in Minden, Nevada, to Sadie Joe and William Smokey, both Washoe. She grew up on the Dresserville Reservation. Educated with other Indian children at a Douglas County school near the reservation, in about sixth grade Theresa was sent to Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada. Theresa’s friend Mary Lee Fulkerson, writing in a recent edition of the Great Basin Basketmakers newsletter, said of Theresa’s time at Stewart, “In spite of losing touch with her family’s tradition when required to study while ways at Stewart Indian school, Theresa never forgot her culture.”

Sad and lonely at Stewart, Theresa’s father soon brought her home, where she continued her lifelong passion for learning about and transmitting her culture to others.

As part of that sharing, Theresa taught basketry classes in the ‘80s at the Washoe Tribe’s Senior Center, along with JoAnn, Marie Kizer, and the late Elaine Christensen. As JoAnn explains, “We just started helping each other. What one didn’t know, the other knew how to do. That’s how we got started.”

Continued on pages 4-5
From the Director
Sara Greensfelder

As the year draws to a close (and by one widely-used calendar, the century and millennium as well) it seems a fitting time to take stock of where we've been and where we're headed, and to thank our many members and friends.

1999 was a year of reaching out for CIBA. Having arrived at a place in our history where we felt we had the strength and could muster the resources to share the uplifting experience of gathering together with hundreds of basketweavers from other states, we produced the Western Regional Gathering in June. From all the feedback received, it was indeed worth the time and effort. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this wonderful event!

In the coming year, we will be turning our attention to strengthening our internal structure, as well as working more closely with our own core constituency of California basketweavers. We have just opened a new office in downtown Nevada City, thereby bringing most operations together under one roof and providing better public access to CIBA. One of our goals for 2000 is to hire more staff, in order to spread out the work-load and achieve progress in all program areas. And under a grant received from the US EPA to research pesticide issues, CIBA will establish a presence in Northwest California.

Basketweavers of the area have expressed the desire that a new CIBA field office be established in Willow Creek to serve this function, as well as to carry out other CIBA programs and become a center where basketweavers can meet, exchange information and weave together. With the commitment and support of the CIBA board and local weavers, and successful fundraising, a model for offices in other regions of the state could be established through this exciting project.

As announced in the last newsletter, beginning in January, 2000, I will be taking a nine-month sabbatical. While I still plan to do some work for CIBA during this period, I look forward to a time of self-reflection and renewal, and maybe even a little adventure. It was during just such a period some 13 years ago that I first envisioned working with native basketweavers to help create a more supportive environment for their weaving activities.

Thanks to all who have contributed to and participated in CIBA activities in 1999—to all basketweavers, members, staff, volunteers and donors. While we acknowledged the funders of the Western Regional Gathering in the Summer issue of Roots and Shoots, we would now like to thank our other funders for the year: the Indigenous Communities Program of the Lannan Foundation, the Donor Advised and Honor the Earth Funds of the Tides Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, Fund of the Four Directions, Environmental Support Center and two funders who wish to remain anonymous. Thanks to Linda Yamane, for continuing to do a fine job of putting together our newsletter, and to News from Native California, for their excellent report on the Regional Gathering. And thanks to those basketweavers who have served CIBA as board members, past and present. Without your vision, dedication and sacrifice, we would not be the strong and growing organization we are today.

As we move to new locations and welcome new members and staff, I would also like to acknowledge the important role that my home community of the San Juan Ridge has played in contributing to CIBA’s growth and in sustaining my own vision and spirit. The Ridge’s North Columbia Schoolhouse Cultural Center hosted festivals in the 1980’s which brought together some of the basketweavers who were to play a key role in starting CIBA, and was the fiscal receiver for the initial gatherings and organizing activities leading up to CIBA’s formation. CIBA’s office has been located until now on the Ridge, and many community members have served CIBA as staff and volunteers. Thanks to all!

Under the able leadership of the board and acting executive director Steve Nicola, and with the help of staff and volunteers, I trust that CIBA will go far in the coming year. I may see you in my travels, and will return in the Fall. Best wishes to all for a peaceful and happy New Year.

Many thanks to those who helped CIBA this year by tabling events: Lois Conner Castro, Pauline Conner, Gladys McKinney, Florence Dick, Star Carroll-Smith, Jennifer Bates, Kimberly Steverson, Kathy Wallace, Sara Greensfelder, Joanne Campbell, Cassandra Hensher, Marty Falkenstein, John Sharp, and to those who helped with newsletter and other mailings: Michael & Kelley Garitty, Jana Stuart, Tove Killigrew, Susanne Smith, Mondy Kowal. Thanks also to Wilverna Reece, whose name we inadvertently omitted from the list of those who contributed a basket to this year’s Fundraising Drawing. Thank you to Dana Brown for donating a beautiful bronze sculpture, "In Honor of Basket Weavers," to CIBA's new office in Nevada City. Finally, a big thank you to Beate Moore for maintaining CIBA's web site.
Please Note CIBA Staff & Office Changes

For the duration of our Executive Director's nine-month sabbatical (beginning January 2000), Steve Nicola, CIBA's Resource Protection Coordinator, will serve as Acting Executive Director. Steve can be reached directly at <nicola@ciba.org>.

As indicated elsewhere in this newsletter, CIBA's headquarters office has changed its location, phone/fax, and email. See box below for current contact information. Sara Greensfelder can be reached at <sara@ciba.org>.

Our new Northwest Field Office is in the process of being established. We will announce the office location, phone and email address(es) in the Spring edition of Roots & Shoots. Please note the new listing of Northwest Field Office staff in the box below.

Welcome to all new CIBA staff members! And best of wishes to all of CIBA's staff, both old and new, as well as our hard-working board members. May good things result from our efforts in the coming year.

"Roots & Shoots" Delayed in Mail

We regret that the Fall issue of Roots & Shoots took a full month or longer to make its way through the mail to most CIBA members. This is the first time we have experienced such a delay in delivery. Our apologies to all.

Board Members Appointed

At the September meeting of CIBA's Board of Directors, two additional board members were appointed to fill vacant positions. Both are former CIBA board members. We are pleased to welcome back Cassandra Hersher (Karuk), who is currently living in Goleta while working on her Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara, and Lorene Sisquoc (Cahuilla/Apache), who lives in Riverside and works at Sherman Indian High School. Welcome! We hope the addition of these two Southern California representatives will give greater voice to southern weavers.

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Board of Directors
Jennifer Bates (Northern Mewuk)—Chairperson ▲ Lois Conner Castro (Mono/Chukchansi/Miwok)
Wendy Ferris-George (Yurok/Karuk/Cheremiko, Hoopa Tribe)
Don Hankins (Miwko-Plains Mewuk/Osage)—Secretary ▲ Cassandra Hersher (Karuk)
L. Frank Manriquez (Tongva/Ajachimen) ▲ Gladys McKinney (Western Mono)—Vice-Chairperson
Lorene Sisquoc (Cahuilla/Apache) ▲ Chuck Striplen (Mutsun Ohlone)—Treasurer
Kathy Wallace (Yurok/Karuk/Hoopa Tribe)

Headquarters Staff
Executive Director: Sara Greensfelder (on sabbatical)
Acting Executive Director/Resource Protection Coordinator: Steve Nicola
Resource Protection Associate: Vivian Parker
Administrative Assistant: Michael Garritty
Office Assistant: Shelly Rose Covert (Nisenan Maidu/Miwok)
Newsletter Editor: Linda Yamane (Rumsien Ohlone)
Northwest Field Office Staff
Pesticide Study Project Leader: Lori Harder (Yurok)
Database/GIS Specialist: Elaine Quituit (Robinson Rancheria Pomo)

Deadline for submissions for Spring Newsletter is February 1.
Call Newsletter Editor at (831) 394-5915 or e-mail: Rumsien@aol.com
Roots & Shoots is published quarterly: March, June, September & December
Theresa, with her profound spirituality, emphasized prayer, blessing, and respect in the gathering and use of basketry and other plant materials. “When we go out to get willows, we pray and thank the Creator. He’s made every living thing on earth. We pray for the water, the streams, before we take a drink. We wash our face...”

When we go into a new area, whenever we are going to get berries or material for basket weaving, we pray and thank the Lord for all His great works... “It’s a great thing to do.” Water signifies a life giving force, and thus, through prayer and subsequent washing of the face, “You receive a blessing.”

Theresa found great joy in working with willow and starting a basket. “I enjoy doing it. I don’t want to rush it and see how fast I can get it done... It just makes you feel good to work with willows... Everything works right if you do. You just take your time and enjoy.”

Theresa used willow, split three ways and sized through a can lid punched with holes, as a white background material in her baskets, while bracken fern and redbud provided black and red design material respectively. A third design material, “sunbunt willow,” was used for its brown color by earlier generations of weavers when they ran out of redbud, which was more difficult to get then. To create the latter, split willow “threads,” scraped of their bark, would be woven across so their shiny (rounded) sides faced out, “Then you just hang it out in the sun...until it colors it.”

The underground stem of bracken fern must be dug in the moist soil of high meadows. Theresa and her sister obtained permission from the Forest Service to gather bracken fern “root” near Lake Tahoe. Theresa dug it in the fall, when the leaves turned yellow and thus the plants had fully matured and the roots were at their strongest. Theresa would also return from her digging trips with some of the rich, black mud from the gathering site as well as water jugs filled with nearby stream water.

To clean bracken fern root, Theresa first removed its bark. This exposed light brown and flattened strands within the root, which Theresa would later dye black, size, and weave with. A sticky substance adheres to these strands and must be scraped off with a knife. After this, she dyed the strands black by placing them in the mud, which she had transferred into a five gallon can. Sometimes Theresa added acorn “peelings” into the mud with the cleaned roots. After at least two weeks soaking in the mud—which she kept moistened with the stream water whenever it began to dry out—the strands turned black; the longer in the mud, the blacker. Although she once experimented with using chlorinated water from the tap to keep the mud moist, Theresa found the dye did not set as well, and the black color had a faded appearance.

As the years have passed, willow shoots have become increasingly difficult to obtain. “They grow along the ditch banks—they don’t grow in the water. And the farmers are spraying their fields with chemicals, and
they irrigate, and all the water runs back into the ditches and the willows absorb it, and they're not healthy. When they're not healthy, then the bugs attack 'em, and they get brittle. So we're moving out further and further from the farming areas to get our willows. We sometimes go a hundred miles or more. But the willows don't grow at too high of an elevation, the kind that we use, so it's getting harder for us to find good willows...

"They come back every year, but they don't always come back in a good state. They bush out. We have to have the straight shoots, and we don't gather 'til fall after the leaves are gone. That way we can tell if a willow is straight and true. With the leaves on there you can't... So you think there's a good patch of willows over there, and you get over there and it's not very straight. Well, if you find a good strong willow, a straight willow, you know it's pretty healthy. And we test it before we cut it... We bend it. If it breaks, it won't make good thread. If it doesn't break, that's good willow. It's strong willow. It makes good thread. And when you're weaving it doesn't break as easy as the weak... the bad willow.

"We have to be very careful that we don't pick an area where they've been sprayed, because it's dangerous. You have to have one [third of the willow shoot] in your mouth when you're splitting, making your thread... You can smell the chemicals. And then the leaves are all wilted and the plant is dying..."

"There's so many areas any more where people are moving in, posting "no trespassing" signs. People come in and they'll buy out a big area... Even along the roads sometimes, people don't want you to cut willows in our area... There's a place in Coleville where just one rancher lets us come in. There are a few people, not too many, who are friendly and kind, and they'll allow you to come in and cut on their property... We went to one park and we saw this stand of willows, and we asked if we could come in and the ranger said, "Yes. You can cut a few, just don't make big holes in the area there," as if you were gonna get a pile right here and make a huge hole... They were good looking willows, too, not too far from the road. We thought we could go here and pick some. Forget it. The man said, "Don't make a hole." [laughs] [Added JoAnn, "We could have told him, 'Well, what are you talking about? ...Our people were the first caretakers of the land.' [laughs] But we didn't. We just walked away.""]

"Another place... there was a lot of willows there, and there were houses over here, and here. So we went in there, and we cut some one year, then we came back a second time, and they were still pretty good... Here comes this guy walking over here. 'You're on private property,' he said. We just looked at each other. He didn't like the idea of us cutting... I don't understand why people feel like you're destroying a plant, or why they say you can't cut here... I don't know why people have that feeling or attitude that you're up to no good, or why do they feel that we have no rights to be even on the side of the road.

"There's one area which was off of the road, and there was good willows there—nice in the spring. ...The next time we came back, it was all cut down. Now it's all gone...

"There's a few ranchers that are good. They're friendly, and they invite us to come in. And there was one person in Coleville where this man would call us and tell us, 'Got good willows this year.' So we'd go up there. He has a big collection of baskets, and I think he got interested in the work the people do."

As with the cleaning of bracken fern root, piñon pine nut gathering can be a sticky process: "The burrs [cones] are pitchy, and you get your hands pitchy, but the nuts are good... We find good dirt. Soft dirt, and then rub our hands. It takes [the pitch] off..." To gather pine nuts, the Washoe usually brought the burrs down from the trees individually, by bending the branches with a hooked pole, then plucking off the burrs by hand with a twisting motion so the branches would not break. At this time, the burrs are wide open and most of the pitch is gone.

As JoAnn explained, "The Washoe make the hooked pole from a good sized piece of willow. They create the hook from a smaller piece of willow wrapped to the pole with deer hide or, as is common today, baling wire. Once down, they hold each burr, one at a time, over a burden basket, then hit it with a stick about the size of a hammer to knock out the nuts. They usually support the burden basket, which is cone shaped, by standing it in a nearby sagebrush bush.

Theresa preferred an alternative method of gathering which solved the pitch problem entirely—picking individual nuts, the biggest she could find, off the ground. Once the burrs have fully opened in the trees, "We have these long poles, and sometimes the men help us knock them [the pine nuts] down," Theresa told me. The men aim the pole at the burrs, and pine nuts as well as many burrs rain down as they work. Once the pine nuts have been knocked down, Theresa explained, "...We crawl around on the ground and pick them up one by one."

Theresa roasted the pine nuts before shelling them, using live coals in a winnowing tray. She moved the basket in a circular, rolling manner, up and around, until roasting was complete. If done skillfully, the basket will not burn. Theresa then placed the nuts on a board and cracked them with a special stone that fit comfortably in her hand.

As with basketry plants, Theresa had great concerns about the future health of pine nut groves, where off-road vehicles have begun to scar the hills: "It makes you sad to see that—up and down, fast as they could go up the hill. Make trails here and there."

Theresa likewise had strong concerns about the future of other plants, especially those used medicinally. "We've lost so much of our medicines any more... It means nothing to the modern world, but it hurts us... They tear up the land.""
Kathy Wallace
Yurok/Karuk/Member of Hoopa Tribe

I started weaving when I was 30. Having lived in different parts of California, I wasn't near any teachers until then. I had taken a workshop at D-Q University with Lee Marshall and Josephine Peters, and that hooked me—I knew that's what I wanted to do. But it wasn't until we moved up north to Eureka that I was able to really take it up. My daughter, Melissa, went to Indian preschool and Susan "Tweet" Burdick was her teacher. Once a week, in the evening, she taught basketweaving to the mothers. That got me started gathering the materials, and became really good friends and found out we're relatives.

I've been weaving ever since. Later, Sharon Tate became the teacher. I've gotten help over the years from a lot of basketweavers, including my aunt Vivien [Hailstone]. After years of weaving and gathering, I eventually took over my Aunt Vivien's basketry class at D-Q U when she wanted to retire. I teach the class in the spring semester so we can gather some of the main materials needed to start a basket—the sticks and roots. It's an introduction to the twining method, northern California style. I take the students gathering and teach them about basketweaving in general and the problems basketweavers face today.

In my many years of being on CIBA's board, I've done a lot of lecturing and given workshops trying to get the word out about CIBA—what we do, the problems that weavers face and how other people in agencies can help. I work with land management, ecology, and restoration related groups, and these people are excited to learn and often say that they intend to go back to their areas and contact local Indian people to become involved in projects.

Part of it is realizing that the landscape used to be managed, it wasn't wild—it was a carefully managed environment. When the modern wilderness areas were set aside, they let the land go wild, which has made it unhealthy. The interaction of people with the landscape—with the plants, the animals, the earth, the water—is very, very important and it needs to be done in the correct manner. I emphasize the importance of how we used to manage the land, and if they would allow us to do that again it would make for a healthier land.

It's been hard convincing people that we aren't going to damage plants by gathering them. Sometimes the process we have to go through to get a permit to gather in a park can be very discouraging. At one state park, just two years ago, it took 19 phone calls, two days, and a two-hour personal interview explaining what we were going to be doing and assuring them that we would not be harming the plants. After all that, the permit was only good for three months. Things have improved some, and this year at the same park I was able to fax my request and receive my permit by return fax the same day. This time it only took five phone calls. But the permit is only valid for 6 months, so we have to continually go through these tedious processes just to get our materials. And we have to go through the same thing each time our personnel changes, which can sometimes be quite often.

It's a lot of work educating people, but basketweavers have to do it. I'd just as soon be gathering and weaving than talking to people answering the same questions over and over. But if I don't do it, that means somebody else has to. And I feel that as long as I'm on CIBA's board, that's my job. My job is to do this so that the other basketweavers can continue to weave and gather without being interrupted.

Developing a network is really important, it's getting the public and agencies connected with basketweavers. Basketweaving is a way of life, and it involves so many different aspects of our lives—it's not just "a nice little craft or hobby." I want other people to really appreciate what basketweavers do and to appreciate the baskets. When they learn how much work it takes, they can appreciate baskets in a new way. Then when they see a basket, they can look at it with new eyes. I think it's great!

As a basketweaver, I feel I have a responsibility to pass on this tradition, especially to someone in my own family so that they in turn can pass it on to the next generation. My daughter Melissa, now an adult with children of her own, is a budding basketweaver who will probably become a better weaver than I am because she has a real talent for using her hands.
In Memory...

Helen Routh

It is with sadness that we announce the October 4th death of CIBA member Helen Routh (Wukchumni/Tachi), aged 69, of Visalia. In addition to her membership in CIBA, she was a member of the Venice Hill Valley Tribes Chapter of the California Indian Education Association and an active volunteer in her community.

She is survived by two daughters, Margaret Hernandez of Tulare and Rosie Garcia of Exeter; three sons, Leslie Garcia of Farmersville, David Routh, Jr. of Visalia and 1st Sgt. Andrew Routh of Fort Benning, GA; a sister Melchor Garcia; four brothers, John Garcia, Howard Garcia, Joe Garcia, and William Garcia; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Helen's daughter, Margaret Hernandez, writes: "I would like to let you know how much Mom enjoyed and believed in CIBA. Because of battling lung cancer through chemotherapy and radiation, Mom missed the 1998 CIBA Gathering. It was a real disappointment...."

"In April 1999, Mom was diagnosed with brain tumors. The best we could look forward to was maintaining her quality of life. Despite a rigorous routine of radiation, we started making plans to attend the 1999 CIBA Gathering. It was a goal she set that, come hell or high water, she was going to achieve.

"By the time our departure date arrived, Mom felt she was able to attend the Gathering at Reno. We travelled with other family members Jennifer Malone, her mother Marie Wilcox...and Naomi Sparkman. We had such a good time together. I learned a lot at the Gathering, but mostly I enjoyed the atmosphere of family and camaraderie that flowed through the Gathering.

"It causes my heart a little to know that Mom was able to participate in what she felt was a very important and meaningful sharing of knowledge. This was the last trip Mom made and I know she carried the memory with her to the last. We spoke several times of the people we met and talked to at Reno. This trip greatly added to Mom's quality of life with good and lasting memories for both of us. And for that I thank CIBA and all the CIBA members who touched my mother's life."

Staff Sought for Annual Gathering

We are seeking a Gathering Co-Coordinator, a Showcase Curator (previous curatorial or exhibit experience preferred) and a Showcase Coordinator for the June 2000 Gathering in Reno. If you are interested in any of these part-time paid positions, please contact the CIBA office soon.

CIBA Office in Need of TV-VCR & Shelving

CIBA's new office is in need of a combination TV-VCR to show the CIBA video, and deep-shelved, free-standing storage shelving units. If you are able to help with either of these, the CIBA office would appreciate hearing from you!

Weavers Sought for Participation in Exhibit

The West County Museum, Sebastopol, a small history museum, wishes to present an exhibit of Native American culture April, 2000. Part of the exhibit might contrast historical and contemporary basketweaving. Weavers are sought who are interested in displaying their work. The building is alarmed, and cases secure. Docents are trained volunteers. If interested, please contact Evelyn McClure, West County Museum, 261 S. Main, Sebastopol, CA 95472; 707/829-1757.
New Ohlone Basketweavers—
Thanks to Fund for Folk Culture Grant

Linda Yamane.

This summer, I taught Ohlone basketry to Delia Casados and Rosalie McCracken, two members of the Costanoan-Rumsen Carmel Tribe, based in Chino, CA. This was made possible by a grant applied for by the Tribe and funded through the California Folk Arts Regranting Program, a program of the Fund for Folk Culture in partnership with The James Irvine Foundation. For both women, this was their first introduction to our basketry, and though the travel between Monterey and Chino was wearisome for us all, our efforts were rewarded by the knowledge they gained to carry on this tradition of our ancestors; the sense of friendship and community that was strengthened, and the opportunity to take time out and be close to the earth.

Gathering bulrush in Santa Cruz.

Delia: When we went to get the bulrush, we get in there and got them out with gloves on, then we cut off the runners and put the little bulbs back in so they could grow again. I brought home a bucket of the black sand and water from the lagoon and put my bulrush in there, like Linda showed us, and the pieces are beautiful and black now!

Rosalie (left) and Delia (right), learning to gather willow.

Delia: It was so wonderful for me to do something like that and to learn our culture. I had never worked with the sedge, so it was really something to learn how to handle it and how it was all going into the basket, and to see the way it grows—the way Great Spirit has put things and planted it for our people, for all people, to live by. And to be able to have the baskets to use.

Gathering sedge at Fort Ord BLM lands.

Rosalie: I knew that you make an offering when you pick or gather, out of respect or appreciation. But when Linda taught us not to leave the ground disturbed, to return it back the way it was, that was something new to me. It was something I hadn’t thought about, unless you’re taught. After we take what we need, it needs to be repaired and taken care of and put back the way it was so it can stay healthy. I appreciated learning that. It goes along with the rest of our life.

Like the way I was raised, when I was little, my mom would tell us before we went in, “When you go in, you look around, and when you leave, you leave it like that or better.”

Delia: We learned how to dig and clean the sedge. It was kind of hard, but after it’s all cleaned, and you see how it’s going to come out in your basket, you feel so wonderful. You feel so proud, and you want to show everybody.
Rosalie: First, we had to overcome our fear of ticks! But, seriously, I was in awe to be able to learn the things that my ancestors knew, had known for hundreds, thousands of years. Thinking, "Gosh, here I am doing what they did and that none of my family has done for a couple of hundred years." It's great to have the opportunity to start it again, to continue on now after so long.

Delia: We learned about gathering the willow—how to tell if it is a good willow for weaving. Now we have to find the materials down here—we're looking for willow. I think we're going to have a hard time finding the sedge. I've been looking near the rivers, but I haven't found anything. We're going to have to find some sedge place.

Rosalie: We need to remember how the sedges grow, where they grow, what kind of soil, so that maybe hopefully we can bring them back to where we live. Because it's almost impossible for us to get up there to Monterey to get the materials—money-wise and time-wise. But if we can find them or establish them down here, that will be great.

Rosalie McCracken beginning her basket.

Rosalie: Weaving feels so natural—the technique and just the way it feels in my hand, like it belongs there. The sedge feels good in your hands. My basket is coming along pretty fast—it's about the size of the palm of my hand now!

Rosalie: The second time we went digging, after I learned that, I said "Thank you for helping me today." 'Cause I was finding all of these big long pieces, and I really needed them, and I was so grateful. When I said that prayer of gratitude, it seemed like I was getting even more. I guess it heard my prayer and responded by, "Here, you need this. Here." You know, like you would do for anybody else if they came up and said they needed something, you would give it to them. That's why I fell so strongly as I was leaving it, because I didn't know when I was going to be back again. It could be years, who knows. So I took a little bit of extra time to leave my thanks there, to clean up a little bit and leave my offering. I felt so good after I left that sedge bed. Almost like not wanting to leave. (Except for the ticks—then I could leave!)

Delia Casados weaving.

Rosalie: I'm writing down everything I can remember, and I'm going through my notes, and I went back and tried certain things again to be sure I remember so that we can teach some of the others in our tribe who want to learn.

Rosalie: It feels good to have something in common with someone who's so far away, it brings us together. And it brings us closer to our ancestors and the land.

Delia's basket grows!

Delia: It's just amazing to me, when I sat there with the basket in my hand after we wove a teeny bit of the basket, it made me feel so good.
Forest Service Planning Regulations to Change
Closer Collaboration with Native Americans Proposed

Federal rules governing how the US Forest Service (USFS) prepares “master plans” for managing national forests will soon change. Every national forest has a land and resource management plan that serves as a “blueprint” to guide its programs and activities. However, most plans in California were prepared 10 or more years ago, following regulations adopted in the 1970s, and are out of step with current forest management principles. CIBA resource protection program staff are reviewing recently proposed changes to the way these plans are prepared. The proposed regulatory changes are based on findings of a panel of experts appointed to review the current regulations and suggest improvements, some of which could benefit Native Americans.

The rule revision is timely, not only in light of changing conditions, but also because all national forests soon will need to begin revising their plans, which, by law, they are required to do every 15 years. The proposed rule will set new standards designed to make the revision process more efficient and science-based, with decisions based on feedback from on-going monitoring of management activities. Emphasis is placed on ecological, social, and economic sustainability. Ecological sustainability is given top priority, recognizing that all other uses of the land are tied to the ecological health of the land. However, many believe the regulations are flawed. Critics claim that the new rules grant too much discretion and require too little accountability from forest managers. The new rules also call for each forest to utilize local forest advisory groups to assist in development of the plans. Some critics are concerned that this might result in special interest groups having undue influence on forest management decisions.

The proposed regulation change contains a new section on USFS interactions with American Indian tribes and Alaska natives. This section requires that identification of tribal concerns and participation by tribal representatives occur throughout the planning process. This seems very encouraging, and we welcome this as a step in the right direction. We will review the proposed regulations carefully, and will be submitting comments by the January 4, 2000 deadline. Anyone interested in reviewing the draft rules can find them at their local USFS office or on the Internet at www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa.rule. Directions for submitting comments are included. For more information contact CIBA’s Resource Policy Analyst, Vivian Parker, at 530/478-5660.

CIBA's Northwestern Field Office Taking Shape

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the staff of CIBA. Lori Harder (Yurok) and Elaine Quitquit (Robinson Rancheria Pomo) have been hired as project leader and database/GIS specialist, respectively, on a research project to address pesticide-related issues in northwestern California. The project is funded by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (see NL #28). A resident of Klamath, Lori is completing a BS degree in Native American Studies with a minor in Environmental Ethics at Humboldt State University (HSU) in Arcata. She has worked as a fisheries technician for the Yurok Tribe, and as a cultural interpreter ranger for Redwood National Park. She has also been active on the Yurok Tribe work group overseeing the pesticide sampling study being carried out by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (see NL #23). Elaine also is a student at HSU, working toward a BS degree in Natural Resource Planning, and she is also a student assistant/receptionist at HSU’s Center for Indian Community Development, and has had summer experience with the Mendocino County Intertribal Repatriation Project and with the Indian Programs Office of EPA. She also is a member of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and the president of its HSU chapter. “We’re really excited at the prospect of Lori and Elaine joining our staff,” said Steve Nicola, CIBA’s resource protection coordinator. “Their work is going to help us determine how we can better address pesticide use issues in the area.”

Lori and Elaine will report to work in January at a new Northwestern California Field Office in Willow Creek, located about 45 miles west of Arcata at the junction of state highways 96 and 299. In September, the Board of Directors gave the okay to locate an office in the region to better serve the needs of the many basketweavers in the area. A steering committee of local board members and basketweavers is helping to guide the process. The EPA-funded project staff will be the first to occupy the office. Eventually we hope to have a full-time on-site coordinator to oversee the EPA project and other activities carried out under other CIBA programs. CIBA board member Chuck Stripen is serving as interim field office coordinator until funds can be raised to hire permanent staff. For more information contact Chuck at 707/839-3647, or Steve Nicola, at 530/478-5660.
Multi-Forest Management Plan Under Attack
Large-Scale Herbicide Use Not Disclosed

A US Forest Service (USFS) plan to greatly increase logging in the name of “forest health” could result in massive increases in herbicide use in three adjoining national forests in northeastern California, according to a CIBA analysis. Legislation passed by Congress in November of 1998, the Hergen-Reinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act, mandates that the USFS implement a proposal that would dramatically increase logging over approximately 2.5 million acres on the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, and the Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. The proposal was originally designed as a way to increase logging revenues for the local economies in these areas, but was promoted by its Congressional sponsors as a forest health prescription, designed to utilize logging to reduce potential fire threats from excessive build-up of forest vegetation. After almost a year of planning, the USFS issued its final plan and decision notice for implementing the plan in August 1999.

Under the present proposal, 300,000 acres can be thinned or clearcut over the five years of the plan. Unfortunately, the plan fails to ensure that fire will be used to burn out the dense undergrowth, after trees have been logged, and it appears that herbicides may be the method of choice for maintenance of the so-called “Defensible Fuel Protection Zones” or DFPZ’s that will be cut. CIBA brought this up during the draft stage of this project. The USFS responded to our comments in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), claiming that herbicides are an option authorized under a 1989 document that analyzed the use of herbicides for reforestation (tree farms). We maintain that reforestation is not the same as long-term maintenance of fuelbreaks, which would require repeated applications of herbicides.

In October, at least eight different environmental groups or individuals appealed the final decision to implement the five year project. Although CIBA was not part of any of these appeals, we provided information to several appellants on the issue of herbicides. We believe that there is a serious potential for increased use of herbicides as a result of this project. Other issues of concern to appellants are the widespread fragmentation of forests that will result from cutting 40,000-60,000 acres of DFPZ’s each year for five years, and small clearcuts on 8,700 acres annually for five years. Without a widespread program of prescribed burning in these areas, it is likely that small, brushy vegetation will contribute more fire hazard than ever to these areas, and they will be hotter and drier due to the lack of shade from forest canopy. This is a big experiment, and appears to be driven more by economics than by forest health concerns. We plan to follow any projects that emerge as a result of this legislation carefully, in order to argue for the use of prescribed burning instead of herbicides to control unwanted vegetation.

A final decision on the appeals by the Regional Forester is expected before April 2000. For more information, contact CIBA’s Resource Policy Analyst, Vivian Parker, at 530/478-5660.

National Forest Aerial Hexazinone Use to Resume

A six-month ban on aerial application of hexazinone in national forest lands in California has been lifted by the US Forest Service (USFS). In June, Regional Forester Brad Powell had suspended aerial applications of the herbicide (commercially sold in pelletized form as Pronone 10G or 40G) on national forest lands in California pending investigation of an application error on the Stanislaus National Forest (SNF) (see NL #28). Hexazinone pellets had been accidentally dropped from a helicopter into Rose Creek and several tributaries, and a long delay in reporting the incident gave the impression to some of an attempted cover-up. Powell lifted the suspension on December 3, but issued a list of four conditions to be met before the chemical could be applied from aircraft.

The conditions are designed to reduce the risk of hexazinone getting into surface water. They specify that it be used “only where essential,” and that it will not be applied by air where the terrain is “broken up” into small blocks of numerous sensitive areas, such as streams, springs, or sensitive plant or wildlife populations. An additional 10 recommendations from the team that reviewed the incident include measures to control and oversee the process whereby projects using the chemical are planned and implemented. While we are disappointed that Powell did not permanently ban aerial hexazinone application, we believe that strict adherence to the new restrictions will greatly reduce or eliminate its future use. Basketry and other culturally important plants, in our view, must be considered as “sensitive plants” and their habitats as sensitive areas. Therefore, we will work in the months ahead to convince the USFS of that and to assure that basketry plants and gathering areas remain off-limits to hexazinone.

More detailed information on the investigation and findings can be obtained from the Regional Forester’s office at 707/562-8737.
CIBA PRODUCTS California Indian Basketweavers Association

CIBA logo basket by Denise Davis appears on the t-shirt and tote bag, with the CIBA name below. Basket colors are straw yellow, black, background is maroon & black.

CIBA TOTE BAG
100% durable natural cotton canvas bag (will shrink if washed) with hefty handles. 18 inches wide and over 18 inches deep. Flat 6 inch wide bottom. $11/13

CIBA T-SHIRT
Preshrunk 100% organic cotton shirts come in large, X, XX and XXX-large. Color: natural. $14/16/18 Specify "Basket T-shirt"

CAPS
Everybody loves these cotton caps with the CIBA logo embroidered on the front and "CIBA" on the back. Size adjustable. $13/15

BANDANA
100% cotton bandana beautifully depicting 12 classic coiled baskets from the Sierra Nevada region, plus 3 images of hands weaving & text, in shades of brown. Very popular at our Gatherings. $5

BOOK: WEAVING A CALIFORNIA TRADITION
Written by Linda Yamane and illustrated with photographs by Dugan Aguilar, Lerner Press. This book follows Cary Tex, 11-year old W. Mono girl, through the process of making a basket and entering it in the Basketweavers Showcase at the 1994 California Indian Basketweavers Gathering. Hard cover only. $16

CATALOG: THE FINE ART OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY
114 page catalogue for 1996 exhibit of the same name. Introductory articles and color photos of 62 baskets with commentary by basketry experts and Native Californian artists and scholars. Published by Crocker Art Museum in conjunction with Heyday Books. $21.50

CIBA VIDEO
From the Roots: California Indian Basketweavers
In their own words, basketweavers speak of the baskets, the plants and the importance of basketweaving, as well as the challenges they face in carrying on the tradition for future generations. Topics include Basketweavers Gatherings, CIBA, work with agencies and museums, issues of access and pesticides. VHS Format 26 minutes, color. $20/22

CIBA VIDEO
From the Roots: California Indian Basketweavers

BASKETS

CARDS
Photos by Richard Simpson of Maidweaver Lizzie Enos' baskets and hands and Dugan Aguilar's "Roundhouse and Clouds" and portrait of Amanda Carroll (Yurok), taken at the 1993 and 1995 California Indian Basketweavers Gatherings. 5" X 7"; blank inside; envelopes included. Sold individually or in sets of 4 (one of each card).
NEWER CIBA PRODUCTS...

T-SHIRTS
We have reprinted this popular t-shirt design, with artwork by David Ipiha, in three color combinations, with "California Indian Basketweavers Association" below the image. When ordering please specify color, size, and "Face T-shirt." $14/16/18

Sage shirt w/burgundy ink (M, L, XL, XXL)
Natural shirt w/burgundy ink (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)
Turquoise shirt w/blue ink (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)

WESTERN REGIONAL INDIGENOUS BASKETWEAVERS GATHERING REPORT
A special report on the Western Regional Indigenous Basketweavers Gathering held June 17-20, 1998 at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno, Nevada, sponsored by CIBA. Produced by the staff of News from Native California. $3

Events/Classes

▲ Through May 14
Weavers of Tradition: California Indian Basketry
Monterey Museum of Art, 559 Pacific St., Monterey. Hrs: Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-4 pm, 3rd Thurs. until 8pm. This exhibit features baskets from Monterey Bay area collections, as well as baskets representing six generations of weavers in the families of Vivian Hailstone & Kathy Wallace (Karuk/Yurok/Hoopa Tribe), and Kimberly Stevens & Jennifer Bates (Northern/Sierra Mewuk). $3 admission. 831/372-5477.

▲ January 1-February 14
What is Precious

▲ March 18
Meeting of the California Indian Arts Association:
"Juanena Use of Plants" by Steve O'Neil
Call 714/256-1260 for time & location (S. California).

▲ April 15
Meeting of the California Indian Arts Association:
"Cradleboards of the Western States" by Justin Farmer, Dieujeña Basketweaver
Call 714/256-1260 for time & location (S. California).

PRICES all prices include tax

▲ T-shirts (specify)
M/L XL XXL
members: $14 $16 $18
non-members: $16 $18 $20

▲ other products
caps tote bags sets video book catalog directory report bandana
$10 $11 $1.75 $6 $20 $10 $21.50 $4 $3 $5
$15 $13 $1.75 $6 $22 $16 $21.50 $4 $3 $5

▲ shipping & handling
$10 and under: $2 $20.01-$30.00: $4
$10.01-$20.00: $3 $30.01-$40.00: $5
Add $1/shipping & handling per additional $10

Make checks payable to CIBA, P.O. Box 2397, Nevada City, CA 95959
Questions? Call (530) 478-5860

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California Indian Basketweavers Association
CIBA Vision Statement

The purpose of the California Indian Basketweavers Association is to preserve, promote & perpetuate California Indian basketweaving traditions. CIBA accomplishes this in the following ways:

- By promoting & providing opportunities for California Indian basketweavers to pursue the study of traditional basketry techniques & forms & showcase their work
- By establishing rapport & working with public agencies & other groups in order to provide a healthy physical, social, cultural, spiritual & economic environment for the practice of California Indian basketry
- By increasing California Indian access to traditional cultural resources on public & tribal lands & traditional gathering sites, and encouraging the reintroduction of such resources & designation of gathering areas on such lands
- By raising awareness & providing education for Native Americans, the public, public agencies, arts, educational & environmental groups of the artistry, practices & concerns of Native American basketweavers
- By promoting solidarity & broadening communication among Native American basketweavers and with other indigenous traditional artists
- By monitoring public & private land use & encouraging those management practices that protect & conserve traditional Native resources
- By monitoring & discouraging pesticide use in traditional & potential gathering areas for the safety of weavers, gatherers & others in tribal communities
- By doing all of the above in a manner which respects our Elders & Mother Earth

Membership

There are two categories of membership in CIBA, please select one below. Persons who are of California Indian descent and practice traditional California Indian basketry are eligible to join as Voting members. Anyone else who supports the purposes of CIBA is invited to join as an Associate member. Annual memberships begin from the date dues are received. Checks should be made payable to “California Indian Basketweavers Association” or “CIBA”.

---

I am a California Indian basketweaver. As a Voting Member of CIBA, I hereby verify that I am of California Indian descent & that I make baskets using California Indian traditional techniques & materials.

Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

I would like to join at the rate indicated below. Check one: New Renewing

- $10 basic/1 year
- $35 supporting

- $20 basic/2 years
- other/$_

- $30 basic/3 years

- $30 enclosed for _ yrs. at above rates.

---

I support the purposes of the California Indian Basketweavers Association and would like to join as an Associate Member at the rate indicated below. Check one: New Renewing

- $20 basic
- $10 student/low-income
- $35 supporting

- $100 supporting
- $250 supporting
- other supporting

- $50 supporting

- $____ enclosed for ___ years at above rates.

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All members please complete the following: Name ____________________________

Tribe(s), if any ____________________________

Address ____________________________ zip ________________

Phone (____) ____________________________ Skills/Time I could offer the CIBA: ____________________________
New & Renewing CIBA Members

This is not a complete CIBA membership listing—it reflects new & renewed memberships since our Fall newsletter.

Voting
Valerie Dorame Arias, Tongva
Domingo Belardez, Juaneño
Susan Campbell, Maidu/Pit River
Delia Casados, Costanoan-Rumsen
Carmel Tribe
Ernestine De Soto, Chumash
Lorna Dexter, Karuk/Yurok
Mary Eslick, Yurok
LaVerne Glaze, Karok/Yurok
Lori Harder, Yurok
Elizabeth Jackson, Modoc/Hupa
Florence Lofton, Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians
Rosalie McCracken, Costanoan-Rumsen Carmel Tribe
Gladys McKinney, Mono
Marty Meeden, Paiute/Washoe
Angela Monguia, Chumash/Luiseño
Cheryl A. Seidner, Wiyot
Ora Short Smith, Karok/Yurok
Joan M. Smith, Diggera
Renée Stauffer, Karuk/Yurok
Marie Wilcox, Wukchumni

Associate
Mary Bates Abbott
Dennis & Fredericka Altermott
Ann Alton, Eastern Band Cherokee and Muskogee*
Bonnie Alvarez, Karuk
Betty Anderson
Barbara Barr
Martha Barton*
Bonna Benedetti-Flynn
Betsy Bertrando
Louise Birk
Judith Bishop*
Lillian Bloom
Margot Bohanon, Mt. Maidu
Donna Boxman
Anne Bredon*
Dana Brown
Bill & Mary Cain*
Carey Caldwell*
California Academy of Sciences, Anthropology Department*
Star Carroll-Smith*
Ginger Chew
Carolyn & Sharon Cole*
Mary Collier
Joan Dayton
Kathleen d'Azevedo
Mike & Jenni Dixon*
Rebecca Dobkins*
Janet Eidsness
Ethnic Studies Library, UC Berkeley
Carol Fields*
Jann & Michael Garritty
Laura Goodhue*
Sara Greensfelder
Suzanne Griset
Charlotte Harbeson
Michele Hament
Norma Nicol Hamilton
Lawrence M. Hayhurst
Heard Museum Library
Cata Herndon*
Marillyn Holmes
Alice Howman
Delores L. Ingwerson
Maurice Johnson*
Laura Kadlecik*
Rick Kampa
Sharon Kay, Aleut/Tlingit
Alice Koch
Helen Koenig
KD Kurutz
Gyongy Laky
Diane LeResche*
Donna Lindquist
Barbara Marcos*
Malcolm Margolin*
Raymond Marks*
Dyan Mart*
Robyn Martin
Teresa Martin
Carl Mautz
Susan Maxwell*
Daniel McCarthy*
Nancy Dolores McCoy*
Fran McTamany
Kathleen Mitchell
Janet Moore
Nevada County Library
Judy Nichols*
Steve Nies
Doug Perske*
Mr & Mrs James Phillips*
Barbara La Pan Rahm & Gini
Maullair*
Emily Rader
John Rauzy
Isabel Rorick, Haida
Martha Rosenthal
Charlene Ryan, Soboba Band of Mission Indians
Gail Ritter
Barbara Robidoux, Eastern Cherokee-Tsalagi

Christy Rocca*
Natalie Schaefer
Dr. Alan R. Schroedl
Judy Schulman
Sigrun Seifert
Heather Singleton
Sherry Smokey
Kate Stafford
Laurel Isola Stewart
Joyce Stilwell
Mary K. Temple*
Holly Tornheim*
Fred Tortora
Nancy Turner
Helen Valborg*
Nancy Valente*
Gwen Walter*
Larry Wendel & Elena Capella*
Valerie Whitworth*
Ken Wilson
Laurie Yoder

*denotes Supporting Member
CIBA Gathering 2000
June 23-25
Rancho San Rafael Park
Reno, NV

The year 2000 CIBA Annual Basketweavers Gathering will be held at Rancho San Rafael Park (the same location as our 1999 Regional Gathering!) in Reno, Nevada from June 23-25. It is our intention to work with Nevada basketweavers and tribes to produce a joint California/Nevada Indian Basketweavers Gathering, and a meeting with some Nevada representatives is scheduled in December. If you think you could contribute to planning the Gathering, in California or Nevada, please contact the CIBA office.

We Look Forward to Seeing You There!

\[\text{CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETWEAVERS ASSOCIATION}\]
PO Box 2397, Nevada City, CA 95959

Return Service Requested

Has your membership expired? Check mailing label for expiration date.
If your name is circled in red, this will be your last newsletter until we receive your membership renewal.
Moving? Please send us your new address to avoid delays & added expense to CIBA.