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By Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star | [0 comments](#)



Cahuilla bird singers

Gerald Clark and the maidens with the Cahuilla Bird Singers perform the chants, songs and dances of their elders to tell the stories of their people's creation and migration.

YUCCA VALLEY - "Archaeology is the study of other people's trash," John Hale, "history nerd," will happily tell you.

Hale enlisted several local sponsors for his "ArchaeoPalooza" at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the Yucca Valley Community Center Saturday, Oct. 15.

There were crafts and games for kids at the museum. Adults were wowed by presentations on subjects such as Mojave Desert petroglyphs by authority Dr. David Whitley, stone tools from prehistoric Southern California by expert Dr. Micah Hale, international treasure theft by former FBI agent Lynn Richardson and the Morongo Basin's pioneering women archaeologists by Dr. Mark Basgall of California State University at Sacramento.

Keynote speaker Dr. Brian Fagan is professor emeritus of archaeology at California State University, Santa Barbara. His presentation focused on the relationship between the history of human civilization and its quest to manage water. "Village meetings regarding water involve storytelling, shouting, arguments, even fights, maybe just like the Yucca Valley town meetings," he quipped.

"Archaeology has relevance to our world today," Hale told the crowds of attendees. "By understanding where we came from, we can better plan where we're going to."



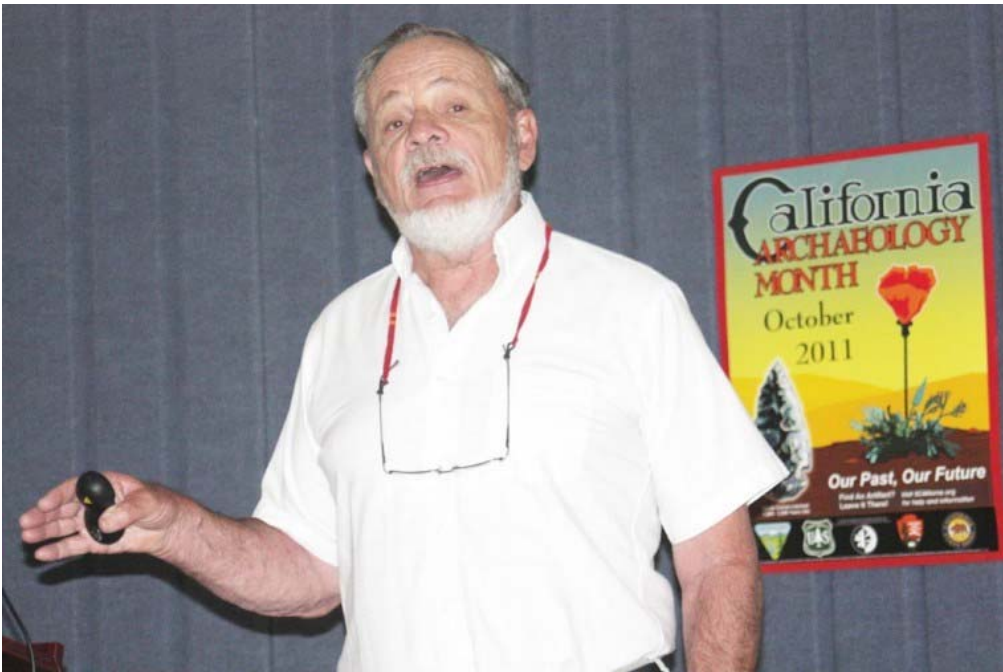
Chemehuevi beading

Mary Claw shows how the early Chemehuevi people used the traditional arts of beading and basket weaving.



Archaeologist's shop talk

Archaeologist John Hale, the cultural resource manager at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, cuts up with an audience member Saturday, Oct. 15.



Professor emeritus

Keynote speaker Dr. Brian Fagan talks about the relationship between human civilization and water management.