



Lynne Engelbert & Piper

Adela Morris & Jasper.

Karen Oeh

**ICF is awarded the National Historic Preservation Award**

**Daughters of the American Revolution**

Adela and I were invited by Karen Oeh (pronounced "A") and her mother, Diane, to give a presentation about ICF and what we do. Karen was one of the archaeologists we worked with on the Camp Fire response. We showed up at the appointed date and time at the Forum in Cupertino, CA, a lovely retirement community.

We were greeted by several dozen members of the Los Altos chapter of the [Daughters of the American Revolution](#) (DAR) who were eagerly awaiting our presentation and meeting Jasper and Piper. Adela and I gave the same presentation I gave at the Royal Geographical Society in London, with a bit more detail. Jasper and Piper did a short demonstration, finding and alerting on several sources hidden around the room. There were a lot of ohs and ahs, and wonderful questions.

Afterward ICF was awarded the National Historic Preservation Award by the DAR. It took us a couple of days to realize what a big deal being nominated and receiving this award is. ICF was nominated for this award by Karen Oeh and Dr. Lorna Pierce, "our" forensic anthropologist. While Adela and I received certificates, this award was in recognition of the work ICF, as an organization, is doing.

From the DAR website:

**Historic Preservation Recognition Award:** The Historic Preservation Recognition Award recognizes and honors an individual or group that has done recent remarkable volunteer work at the community level. The award recognizes achievements in all areas of historic preservation: buildings, landmarks, monuments, cemeteries, historic districts, statues, museum collections, manuscripts, documents, and archival materials. It also includes writing or compiling and publishing books on historic preservation projects, historical properties, genealogical and court house records, and photography collections; as well as compiling oral histories; and serving as historical guides, interpreters or docents.

The Institute for Canine Forensics is deeply honored to receive this award.

*Lynne Engelbert*





## **Funerary Customs**

### Cremation

Most archaeologists believe that cremation was first used during the stone age, about 3000 BCE.

Cremated remains are also known as "cremains"

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## **Locating Native Cremains**

We all have times, places, and events that remain in our memory for a long time. The field school of 2008 at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park conducted by Lynn Gamble is one I will never forget.

There were several things that stand out for me, first because of our relationship with Carmen Lucas we were given the incredible opportunity to work our dogs on a known historic / prehistoric native site (location unknown to us) to see if the dogs could identify the cremated human burials that had been identified in the 1970's.

The second thing that was very memorable was Carmen conducting a blessing ceremony and encouraging people to act with respect to the ancestors. I have had the good fortune to be part of several other blessings by Carmen, but I think some of the students were not prepared for the intense atmosphere that is created when people come together to respect the elders.

The third thing that was very memorable was after being lead down a long dirt road to get to the site the long line of cars was stopped by a large tree that had fallen across the road. There was no way to turn around or to go another way. Some of the students took this as a challenge and I don't know how, but they were able to remove the road block... although it took several hours.

I guess there is a more important memory. Lynn and Carmen gave the dogs a very large area to search and said somewhere on this site there are buried cremains, and this is a test. No pressure here... ok lots of pressure.

You can click on the link below and read Lynn's paper about this rich cultural site, what was found at the field school and how our dogs found the cremains.



### ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE KUMEYAAY:

Contributions to the Prehistory of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, San Diego, CA

~Adela~



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Training on Historic and Natural Modern Burials  
Changing Funerary Customs

There are a variety of different options when it comes to modern burials. Green or natural burials emphasize simplicity and environmental sustainability. The body is not prepared with chemicals such as embalming fluids. It is simply placed in a biodegradable coffin or shroud and interred without a concrete burial vault. The grave site is allowed to return to nature. The goal is complete decomposition of the body and its natural return to the soil.

### **Purissima Creek Cemetery**

We are fortunate to have a cemetery near Half Moon Bay in California that includes both historic, as well as modern natural burials. Some time ago I went looking for the local pioneer cemetery, as we use them to train our dogs to find historic burials. The area was so dense with poison oak and berry vines I could not locate the cemetery. A few years ago Ed Bixby, the owner of a natural cemetery in New Jersey, purchased the historic cemetery and started clearing the overgrown vegetation so people could visit. He then got the permits from the county and started natural burials.

Purissima Creek cemetery is an extremely valuable training opportunity for us. We do not completely understand all the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that surface from human burials, but we are clear they can not be duplicated in a made-up training scenario. We must train on old burials (or new ones) for the dogs to understand how the scent surfaces. By training on modern burials, we've found the dogs pick up the scent more easily and then can translate that training into historic burials. The advantage of modern green burials is that we can be assured the scent is not compromised by preservation chemicals. The combination modern natural burials and historic ones in one place present us with a rare training opportunity.

You can read more about natural burials and the Purissima Creek Cemetery in the links below.

[Purissima Creek Cemetery](#)

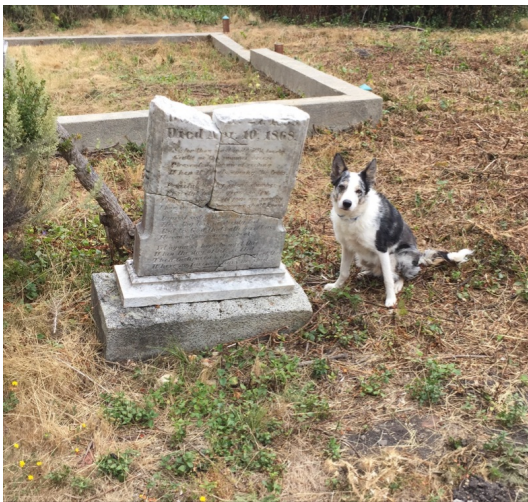
[Green Burial Council](#)

[The Natural Burial Cemetery Guide](#)

~Adela~



Annie alerts at a natural burial from 2019.



Left: Jasper alerts on a historic burial

Right: Jett alerts on a one year old natural burial.



Left: Cedar (Peg's new puppy) imprints on a natural burial

Right: Sophie alerts on a natural burial

# American Archaeology Magazine Fall 2109

Click on the link below to read the article.

## Recovering Ashes from Ashes

Several raging wildfires have recently struck California, destroying the homes and possessions of hundreds of people. As terrible as these losses are, for some people the greatest tragedy is losing the previously cremated remains of loved ones, which mingle with the ashes from the fire and are seemingly impossible to recover. But a group of archaeologists, assisted by specially-trained dogs, are doing just that.

By Gayle Keck

You can read the rest of the article on [our website](#)

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## AKC US Detection Dog Conference



## My Take-Home Points from the 3rd AKC US Detection Dog Conference

August 27 – 29, 2019

Intro: Why is this conference happening?

Homegrown terrorism and mass shootings have sadly become everyday news in the United States. As a result, the demand for explosives detection dogs as a deterrent against such crimes is on the increase with one major problem: there

are not enough dogs to meet the growing need. The US Government purchases 80 to 90% its working dogs from Europe, but there are fewer dogs available from overseas as those countries face their own rising terrorism threats.

The AKC Board of Directors established the AKC Detection Dog Task Force in 2016 to help with this national security issue. The Task Force, headed by AKC Executive Vice President Mark Dunn, has interviewed key stakeholders involved in explosives detection including people from academia, government, military, policing, training and breeding. Subsequently, the AKC has launched several initiatives focused on Government Relations, Networking/Education and Breeder Outreach.

Government Relations – There are many obstacles that stand in the way of U.S. breeders being able to easily sell dogs to the government for detection work, including low market price for top working and field line puppies and complicated government vendor contracts that make it difficult for individual breeders.

The AKC Government Relations team, led by Vice President Sheila Goffe, has made strides in bringing these issues to the attention of lawmakers.

AKC Government Relations provided recommendations in the [2018 National Defense Authorization Act](#) (H.R. 2810) to support using and developing additional sources for high quality domestically-bred working dogs. HR 2810 also requires the Department of Defense to provide reports on specific aspects of military working dog evaluation, procurement and breeding programs. This includes comparative costs of foreign versus domestically-bred dogs, availability of domestically-bred dogs, and non-classified requirements for “green” (minimally-trained) dogs.

### [AKC Detection Dog Conference](#)

Susanne Martin, MD

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Susanne is a member of the ICF team and worked as the ship physician on the trip to find Amelia Earhart in 2017 with National Geographic. In addition, she is also the President of Monterey Search Dogs and works a certified live find dog. She is a Board Member and Health & Genetics Chair of the Kooikerhondje Club of California. She established a Canine Health Information Center Criteria for health testing the dog breeds in USA. She was awarded from the AKC a breeder of merit of the Nederlandse Kooikerhonde( an old and rare Dutch breed of dog). And she is a breed judge in the USA and Europe. Her interest in this conference comes from striving to improve working lines of dogs and to learn more about health and training.



ICF firmly believes that to create the best Historic Human Remains Detection Dogs, we must be on top of the latest developments in the dog world. That includes: training techniques, K9 health advances / issues, the research going on in breeding and dog selection. But most of all , we need knowledgeable people to help us grow. And Susanne is a great example of that.

She promises me that her next puppy will be a specialist HHRD dog with ICF. We can't wait!

~Adela~

Check out our past issues on  
our website -

[CLICK HERE](#)



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**(650) 503-4473 | [info@ICFK9.org](mailto:info@ICFK9.org) | [www.ICFK9.org](http://www.ICFK9.org)**

We are happy to talk with you about your project and  
how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials.

Call, email, or check out our website.

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