

CASSP

Help preserve the past

Heritage Hike to historic Wakamatsu Farm October 26, 2025, 9:00 am to about 1:30 pm

The lifestyles that supported local Native Americans for thousands of years were savaged by large, sudden increases in California population during the Gold Rush. A few years later, America opened Japan to foreign trade, which led to radical changes in their traditional lifestyles. In 1869, a small group of Japanese immigrants established a farm called Wakamatsu Silk & Tea Colony in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, where they came in contact with Native Americans and the dynamics of American expansion. The history of Wakamatsu Farm provides important lessons for cultural encounters today.

The California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) invites you to participate in a Heritage Hike on Sunday, October 26, at historic Wakamatsu Farm, which is owned and managed by the nonprofit American River Conservancy (ARC) in Coloma. We will tour the Farm and learn about its history and significance for Native Americans, Japanese Americans, and all Californians. Also, we will visit the Intertribal Tending & Gathering Garden, historic mining sites, and homestead sites.

The Heritage Hike is open and free to anyone interested in preserving California heritage. Space is limited, so you must register before the hike by sending an email with your contact



Wakamatsu Farm. Photo courtesy of the American River Conservancy.

information to bpadon@sitestewardship.org. CASSP will provide water and snacks for the morning tour. If you want, bring sandwiches for lunch, and continue conversations with the ARC guides and take the lake loop walk (1 to 1.5 hours).

The Society for California Archaeology (SCA) will present their Northern Data Sharing Meeting at the Maidu Activity Center in Roseville on Saturday, October 25. You may register for this free mini-conference at <https://scahome.org/event-6299854>.

CASSP trains and supports public volunteers to help preserve historical and archaeological resources, www.cassp.org. CASSP is provided by Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship, www.sitestewardship.org.