



PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

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DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Anabel Ford

January 12, 2017

Using Cutting-Edge LiDAR Technology at El Pilar, Belize/ Guatemala, in Discovering Ancient Maya Sites—Magic Wand or Fabulous Tool?

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing method capable of penetrating overlying vegetation and forest canopies, imaging at very high spatial resolutions and with extraordinary accuracy. This is especially important for archaeology in areas with lots of trees. LiDAR proved fantastic for revealing the imposing structures and good for identifying most small houses, but all potential site locations must be validated in the field. As it turns out, LiDAR provides distinct advantages, for example for topography, but field surveys are required and the results need the archaeologist for the final interpretation of the data.

Dr. Ford has tracked the economic and spatial patterns of the Maya of El Pilar. Her current fieldwork is the LiDAR validation and archaeological survey of the site.

ANABEL FORD is director of the MesoAmerican Research Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara and President of the nonprofit Exploring Solutions Past: The Maya Forest Alliance. She earned her MA and Ph.D. in Anthropology at University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research focuses on the ancient Maya landscape, combining archaeological settlement survey with traditional ecological knowledge. Recognized for uncovering the ancient Maya city of El Pilar and inspiring the creation of the binational park on the border of Belize and Guatemala, she has been awarded Fulbright Scholarships and the Rolex Award for Enterprise.

Thursday January 12, 2017 *FREE* lecture at 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Irvine Ranch Water District's "Community Meeting Room", 15500 Sand Canyon, Irvine
(Please see website PCAS.org for *directions* and more information)

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