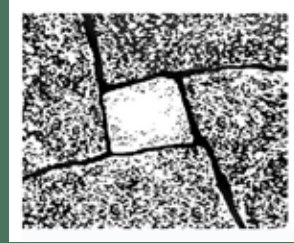


StonEtc...

THE STONE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



September 2026

Well, here we are in SEPTEMBER,
Where did the summer go?!

The main purpose of this brief NewsLetter is to deliver
updated info about STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2026.

To begin, there will only be the Symposium. No Workshop(s)
In the interest of brevity, I'll defer explanation.

Paul Lindhard and his enterprise, Art City Studios,
a resource for stone art and stone artists in Ventura,
have been involved in every Workshop and Symposium
the Stone Foundation has had in Ventura.

This year, despite the absence of the Walling Workshop,
its involvement is even more integral to our Symposium:
The quonset hut across the street from Art City
(let's call it the Art City Auditorium) will be available to us
—as the STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2026 venue!

Our daily gatherings for lunch and the program of presentations
that follow lunch, and the evening sessions that follow dinner
and Friday's communal dinner, will all take place there.

It's casual and friendly, not a corporate conference center.
A keg of Rocknockers' Ale will be on tap for lunch, for when the
afternoon session ends, in the evenings after the dinner break,
and at the Communal Dinner.

Arrange to be in Ventura on October 19 for the Rocknockers
Rendezvous at the BellRinger Pub on Main street to register and
socialize with other Stone Foundation members.

A detailed schedule will be made available soon.

It will follow the plan formulated at earlier Ventura Symposia:

Folks can do as they wish in the mornings.

- Balance and build with beach stones at Surfers' Point.
- Practice your Lithibolos technique with others (such as Tomas)
at the Art City Lithibolos Course.
- If the trip out to Santa Cruz Island can be arranged. . . ?
- Rent a bike and scoot around.
- Walk up to Grant Park, visit the Stone Foundation projects
- If you have a car, you could visit the hot springs in the
mountains behind Ventura.

At noon we will gather at the Venue for lunch.

Following lunch there will be a series of presentations.
After a 2-hour break for dinner—more presentations
and discussions, story telling, etcetera

STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2026 will be the last Symposium
that I organize. (*yeh, I know, I've said that before, but this time. . .*)

Throughout the Symposium there will discussion about the
future form and function of the Stone Foundation, including
STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2028, and hopefully decisions will
be made on those issues at the General Membership Meeting,

Keep well and keep up the good work



Tomas Lipps, Founder
& Fearless Figurehead
The Stone Foundation

Please make space on your calendars for this Gathering of the
Stone Tribe. Arrange transport and lodging, come to Ventura, en-
joy yourself, meet old and new friends, say hello and goodbye
to Tomas and Mimi.

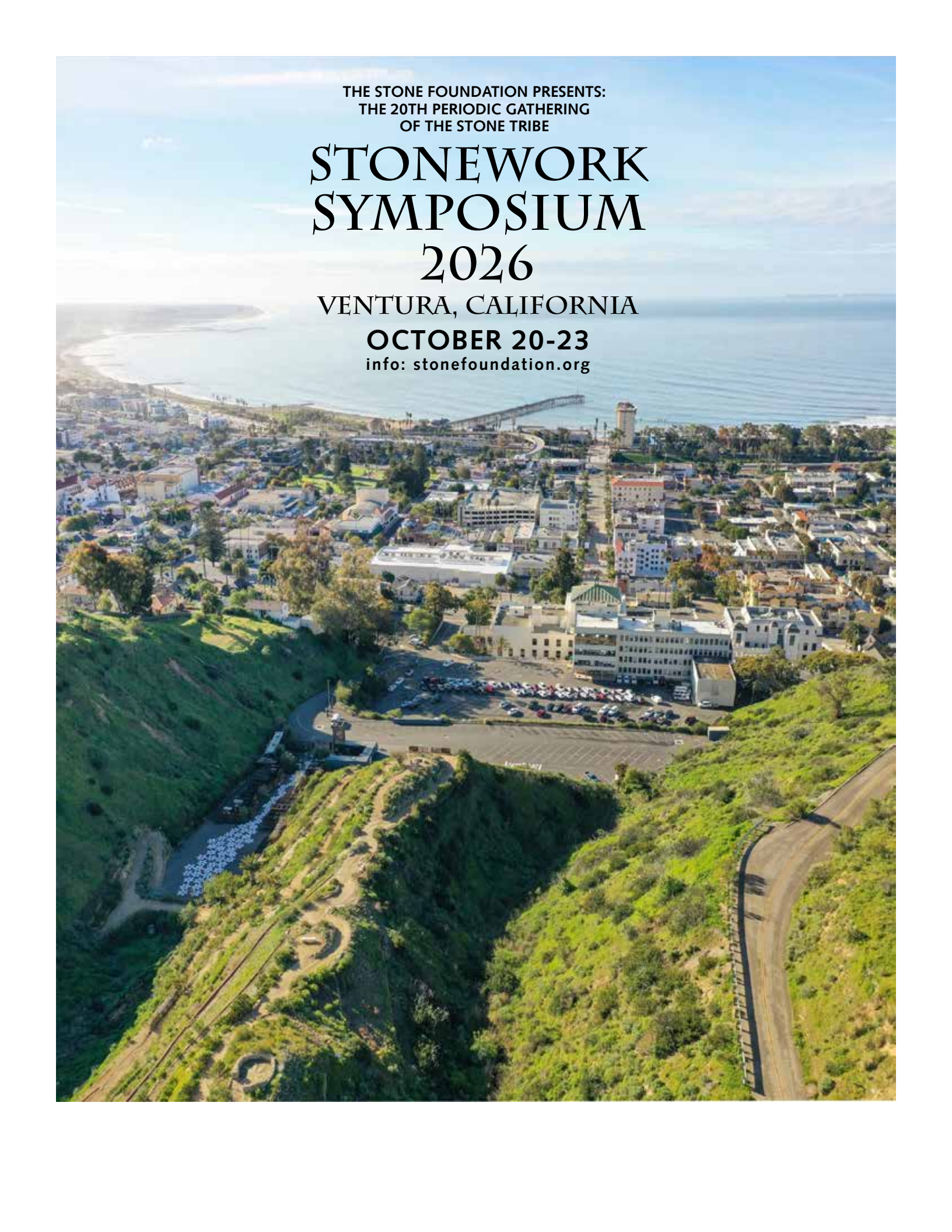
ALSO:

If you intend to come, let me, Tomas, know I'd like to publish the
names of folks who will be there, or hope to be there,
Maybe on the website.

re Presentations: We have invited some interesting guest speak-
ers and—as we began to do during the early Ventura Sympo-
sia—we encourage Stone Foundation members to give brief
presentations of their own work (show 20 or fewer images and
answer questions about them). That way we get to see what our
fellow masons, wallers and artists are doing, and show what we
ourselves have been up to.

PLEASE do this, SEND 20 OR FEWER IMAGES to [tomas@stone-
foundation.org](mailto:tomas@stone-foundation.org).

Thanks

An aerial photograph of Ventura, California, showing the city, coastline, and hills. The city is built on a hillside, with a large parking lot in the foreground. The ocean is visible in the background, with a pier extending into the water. The sky is blue with some clouds.

THE STONE FOUNDATION PRESENTS:
THE 20TH PERIODIC GATHERING
OF THE STONE TRIBE

STONENETWORK SYMPOSIUM 2026

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 20-23

info: stonefoundation.org



We've had three memorable SYMPOSIA at Ventura, in 2010, 2011 and 2018. It's a very special somewhere where we feel comfortable being, a small, classic, friendly California beach town. In '10 and '11 we built two impressive legacy projects in a park on the hills overlooking the town and the coast which can be visited.

Ventura has a lot going for it:

- Lots of great restaurants..
- A promenade along the sea shore where folks walk and, during a certain week in October, they can watch the crazy Rocknockers at play, balancing and building beach stones.
- In '11 the Forest Service kindly took us out to one of the Channel Islands, Santa Cruz (which has a very interesting stonewall, built long ago under the direction of a wayward Englishman). The trip out and back was cool and we returned in time to gather for lunch and the programme of presentations that followed. We're hoping they'll do that again.

• We've got a good place, or places, for the Lithic Olympic Games; for the Lithobolos (stone-ball bocce) match in particular. This will be held at Art City Studios which is where the game was (re)born in 2002 (it actually originated in the 2nd century BC during the Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage). This game will be fiercely contested and interesting to watch. Symposium participants who wish to compete will have the opportunity to practice at Art City in the mornings and improve their chances on Friday the 23rd.

• Lodging: Our host hotel for the 2018 Symposium, the Clock Tower Inn, has a new owner and discounted rooms now cost much more than before: \$135! That's more affordable if two persons share a room and its cost. If you wish to share a room with another participant contact tomas@stonefoundation.org and he'll arrange that. There are less costly—but less convenient alternatives—motels, and B&Bs, but renting a car (or a bike) would probably be necessary. A few folks will be able to camp at Art City, contact Tomas about this.

• Presentations: We have invited some interesting guest speakers and—as we began to do during the early Ventura Symposia—we encourage Stone Foundation members to give brief presentations of their own work (show 20 or fewer images). That way we get to see what our fellow masons, wallers and artists are doing, and show what we ourselves have been up to, and get feedback.

• Please note: In the past participants tended not to register in advance, and would just show up at the Rocknockers Rendezvous the night before and register and pay then. Please don't do that. Register in advance. Or, if you intend to come or hope to come, please let Andrea Hurd know: andrea@mariposagardening.com. This will help us with our planning.



THE STONE FOUNDATION & STONEXUS PRODUCTIONS PRESENT
STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2026
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA OCTOBER 20-23
ROCKNOCKERS RENDEZVOUS OCTOBER 19

Name _____ Occupation _____

Company, if any _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____ Email _____

INVOLVEMENT WITH STONE: (check all that apply)

☐ Stonemason	☐ Architect	☐ Sculptor	☐ Engineer
☐ Dry Stone Waller	☐ Landscape Architect	☐ Contractor	☐ Instructor
☐ Restoration Mason	☐ Landscape Designer	☐ Supplier	☐ Hobbyist
☐ Novice Mason	☐ Sculptor	☐ Historian	☐ Aficionado
☐ Contractor	☐ Letter Artist	☐ Quarrier	
	☐ Carver	☐ Geologist	Other _____

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FEES

_____ STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FEE: Members: \$360 (unchanged since 2000) Non-members: \$460
(Registration fees are waived for spouses of Symposium attendees but there will be a \$60 charge for lunches, etc.)

- *To become a Stone Foundation member: <https://www.stonefoundation.org/> (Membership)*
- *Registration fees will be waived for overseas participants.*
- *A limited number of scholarships will be made available to those who would otherwise be unable to attend.*

_____ SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 (For local residents, specify which day or days.)

_____ DONATION FOR FRIDAY NIGHT COMMUNAL DINNER, Amount _____

Checks, bank drafts or money orders should be made payable in US dollars to The Stone Foundation.

Send to: The Stone Foundation, 116 Lovato Lane, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Attendees may also pay in cash or check when they register. Sorry, we cannot process credit cards at this time, but payments in any amount can be made to the PayPal account of Stonexus Productions.

\$ _____ TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED

_____ Check here if you will share a Short-Form, 10 MINUTE presentation.

We encourage EVERYONE who works with stone to participate in this.

Those who wish to do so should send 20, or fewer, images to tomas@stonefoundation.org.

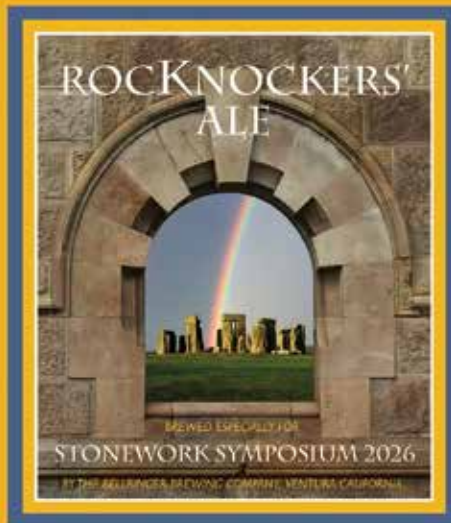
A good way to do that is via wetransfer.com. It's effective and it's free.

_____ Check here if you wish to compete in the LITHIC OLYMPICS

NOTICE:

The SYMPOSIUM will begin after lunch on the 20th, so please plan to arrive on the 19th and gather with us after 6:00 in the BellRinger Pub for the ROCKNOCKERS RENDEZVOUS to register if you have not already done so by mail, and socialize with your fellow rocknockers.

Lunch will be provided at noon in the Symposium venue. Those who have not yet registered previously can do so then. The program of presentations will commence after lunch.



SYMPOSIUM *is a Greek word; it means Drinking and Conversing.*

photos, below:

Lithobolos at regional gathering, 2011
Barre, VT. and below that, at Symposium;
XVIII, Barre VT.

below, right: Wheelbarrow Steeplechase,
2011, Ventura CA.

bottom: At SYMPOSIUM XII.
in Asheville. NC.

THE LITHIC OLYMPICS



At STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2006 in Hood River, Oregon we had a picnic/barbecue along the Columbia River and played *bocce* and *petanque* (the French version of *bocce* played with steel balls.) Later we competed to guess the weight of an empty beer keg. This competitive activity was fun and led to the idea of an athletic 'meet'—stonemasons vying in games of skill and strength related to stone and stonework.

The next Symposium was on the Island of Mallorca, Spain. In the course of researching the origins of *bocce* and *petanque*, discovered that both games were originally played with stone balls(!) and ordered two dozen from China. They were unfortunately delayed in customs and did not arrive until it was too late to use them there so they were shipped on to Barre, Vermont where the next Symposium was to occur. In the course of the Dry Stone Workshop in the week preceding the Symposium a stone-walled *bocce* court was built wherein the first games of what we called LITHOBOLOS were played.

Lithobolos (*litho*-stone, *bolos*-ball) was a Greek word given to a war machine, a catapult that hurled stone balls, huge ones intended to wreck fortifications as well as smaller anti-personnel projectiles. The Romans adopted the machines and they were used extensively in the Punic Wars waged against Carthage (264 BC to 146 BC.) History tells us that between battles the Roman soldiers used the smaller artillery balls in a game that they invented: a object ball was thrown and players then threw other balls in an attempt to come closest to it. The game has evolved over the ages. Stone spheres, replaced by wood and metal ones, reappear in *Lithobolos*. The standard *lithobolos* ball is 5 inches in diameter, made of granite, has a bushed (rough) texture and weighs about 6 pounds. If there are 2 players, each throws 3 balls; if 4 players, each throws 2. There will be balls available for sale in Santa Fe, but those interested can make their own. If you wish to purchase balls prior to the Symposium to practice with and improve your chances in the tournament, contact Paul Lindhard, 805-653-6380.

Other games will include the always popular Wheelbarrow Steeplechase (see photos) the (stone)Shot-Put, Eye-Balling, Levering and Cairn-Building—great fun for participants and spectators.

T L

