



Colorado Desert Archaeology  
Society

# CDAS Monthly Bulletin

January 2018

## January Calendar

<http://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/calendar>

Every Tues 9am-3pm	Lab Day	BARC
Mon 1/01	CDAS Hours due	Astrid Webb astridwebb@cable usa.com
Fri-Sat 1/12- 13 7am - 3pm	Field Day Lucky 5	Robin Connors
Fri 1/19 1 pm	Steering Committee	BARC Library
Sat 1/20 10am - 3pm	<b>CDAS Annual meeting</b>	Steele Burnand

## CDAS Annual Meeting – Saturday January 20

Mark the date! Our annual meeting will start with a meet-and-greet with coffee and pastries at 9:30AM. The meeting starts at 10:00AM and will conclude at 3:00PM. This event has been moved to Saturday so many more of our members can attend. So set the date and join us for an informative and entertaining experience. Members and their guests are invited. Lunch will be provided. Watch for a complete agenda in a few weeks. The highlights include:

### Speakers:

**Robin Connors:** Colorado Desert District Archaeology Program  
**Dr. Joan Schneider:** Elizabeth Campbell: Her Major Contribution to Desert Archaeology  
**Haley Elsen:** Maintaining Site Location Confidentiality

### Open Forum & Panel Discussion:

The topics will be Site Steward Program and CDAS Operations. Bring your questions, comments, and ideas and present them to a panel comprised of: Robin Connors, Steering Committee members, experienced Site Stewards, and Pat Downing (new Site Steward Coordinator).

Steering Committee election results, recognition of outgoing and incoming committee members and more.

PLEASE RSVP: Pat Downing [pdsnewmail@gmail.com](mailto:pdsnewmail@gmail.com)

### Site Steward Interview:

Lance Deibler and Mary Lou White have jumped whole heartedly into CDAS and site stewarding! After attending an open house at the BARC, they completed a Site Steward class in December 2015, and the Archeology Tech course held the following spring. Joan Schneider invited class graduates to join the archeological team traveling that summer to Ikh Nart in Mongolia, a sister park to Anza Borrego. They took advantage of this opportunity, which fueled the flame of enthusiasm for protecting artifacts and features.

Lance & Mary Lou have lived in Julian for over 30 years. Mary Lou retired in 2015 as a rural environmental health specialist with the



### Your CDAS Steering Committee

The Steering Committee Meetings are held once a month during the season and are open to all members. Should you have any comments or suggestions for the committee and cannot attend please contact one of the following members:

Chair Julie Nyssen  
[janysen@gmail.com](mailto:janysen@gmail.com)

Vice  
Chair

Secretary Carol Black  
[cblackgolf@hotmail.com](mailto:cblackgolf@hotmail.com)

Treasurer John Downing  
/Editor [johndowning2014@outlook.com](mailto:johndowning2014@outlook.com)

714 615-2137

Member Mary Lou White  
[maryloulizard@gmail.com](mailto:maryloulizard@gmail.com)

760 765-2331

Member Gary Holmes  
[GHBorrego@pobox.com](mailto:GHBorrego@pobox.com)

Member Lisa Pridmore  
[lrpridmore@gmail.com](mailto:lrpridmore@gmail.com)

County of San Diego; Lance is self-employed as an upholsterer. Hiking, touring around in Lance's 1970 Jeepster Commando, and discovering the treasures of the desert and mountains have been their passion. Before becoming involved with CDAS, Lance was an "arm chair" archeologist. He has subscribed to and devoured journals for years. During his years as a commercial fisherman in Alaska, he would spend his free time exploring the nearby Aleut native village.

Mary Lou is currently a member of the CDAS Steering Committee. Lance is the site steward for Angelina Springs. This location was a strategic stopping point for fresh water for travelers between the mountains and the desert. Mary Lou usually accompanies him in the field and assists with the paperwork side. They have discovered a historical area that has very little previous documentation. So far, disturbances at this significant spot have been minimal. They enjoy teaming up with other site stewards, remediating sites, and expanding their knowledge of the secrets our region holds. They also said the relationships that have been made in CDAS are as precious as the cultural resources they aim to protect.

Sally Bickerton

### Volunteer needed:

A CDAS volunteer is needed to be the coordinator for the CDAS Public Education Program Committee. This committee is responsible for recruiting and scheduling of monthly public speakers. The coordinator is responsible for gathering a committee to perform the tasks relating to public education. A detailed list of the tasks for this committee can be found at the [end of this bulletin](#).

Steering Committee

### Notes from the Field:

Robin, Hayley and their intrepid crew braved a beautiful day in Little Blair Valley, the sun was shining, the bees were buzzing (and stinging) and the crew could not have asked for better scenery. Lance Deibler, Christiane Villescaz and Robin were the eagle eyes, surveying ahead and marking the artifacts and features. While Sam Webb, Astrid Webb, Dan Jellis and Hayley recorded the sites. Sam was our expert photographer, Dan the measuring wizard, Astrid the meticulous note taker. We had expected to go out and have short day, maybe record one or two sites. We were wrong. The crew ended up recording four sites and three isolates and finding a fifth site that they did not have time to record. It was an amazing day and no one is complaining that they may have to spend another day in Little Blair Valley recording more sites.

Hayley Elsken



Dan Jellis, Astrid Webb and Hayley Elsken survey in Little Blair Valley

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## **Congratulations Robin!**

Our District Archaeologist Robin Connors is receiving the California State Parks Olmstead Award for Leadership and Vision. This award is presented once a year by the Director of California State Parks. Robin will be receiving the award at the Director's ceremony in Sacramento January 18th.

Terry Gerson, District Services Manager describes Robin's accomplishments. "Hired October 1, 2014, Robin went to work building the district's cultural resources management program. As the lone archaeologist, Robin tenaciously motivated, inspired, and trained a large and robust team of volunteer citizen scientists to help her carry out the mission.

I am delighted that Robin's ability to create a shared vision and lead people in the field of Archaeology is being recognized statewide through the Director's Award Program. Please share the good news."

## **Thank you Mike & Julie**

Mike and Julie Nyssen hosted a very successful CDAS Holiday party potluck in their lovely Borrego Springs home. If you missed this fun event see Sam's photos in this bulletin.

## **Three new Steering Committee Members Needed**

We will have three (3) positions coming open on the Steering Committee for next year. Each of the available positions are for a three year term of office.

Electronic voting will begin January 5th, 2018 and close January 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. To be eligible to vote CDAS members must have submitted their 40 hours to Astrid prior to the end of the year or completed 2 site stewardship visits during the year. Active members will be notified by email from ABF with a link to vote .

Carol Black

## **Visitors from Boston**

Dr. Curtis Runnels, his wife Priscilla and graduate student, Justin, joined us from Boston for a week. Dr. Runnels is a Paleolithic expert and chair of the Archaeology Department at Boston University. Dr. Curtis Runnels heard about Robert Begole last summer after visiting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park with the Paleontology Department. While exploring the park he noticed hundreds of stone tools and being a lithic expert, he examined them. He was fascinated with the flakes, debitage and tools from the beginning and Robin Connors told him about the tools that Robert Begole had collected.

Although, Dr. Runnels could not stop by to look at the tools in



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person, he asked if Robin could send him some photos. Gary Holmes photographed many of the tools and Julie Nyssen organized and catalogued the tools into neat drawers at the Begole Archaeological Research Center (BARC) using Robert Begole's notes. Dr. Runnels couldn't have been more excited about what he saw in those photos and hypothesized that the tools were ancient (50,000+) due to the type of technologies that were used. His main focus has been stone tools in the Mediterranean and Europe. He saw many of the same technologies here in Anza Borrego that he had seen in Europe, Africa and Asia from the Early Stone Age (2 million to 280,000 years ago) and the Middle Stone Age (280,000 to 25,000 years ago).

Dr. Runnels decided he needed to come back to Anza-Borrego and look at these tools in person. He and his crew spent a little over a week out in the field exploring sites where Begole had collected stone tools and examining tools inside the BARC. He then finished out his week here with a fascinating presentation, part of the *Anza-Borrego: In Focus Series*, about Paleolithic technologies from around the world and compared those to the technologies he was seeing used in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

The second part of the presentation was a flint knapping demonstration and a hands-on examination of tools that Begole collected. Dr. Runnels expressed his admiration for the eye that Robert Begole had in picking out these tools in the field. By the end of his time here, he felt that there are possibilities for more research into these tools and the geologic context they come from. He hopes to come back to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to further help prove that humans have been in North America for tens of thousands of years.

Hayley Elskan

### **Reminder CDAS Hours due:**

Please send your 2017 hours report to Astrid Webb  
[astridwebb@cableusa.com](mailto:astridwebb@cableusa.com)

### **Public Education Program Committee Tasks:**

1. Schedule monthly public programs at the Visitor Center October through May.
2. Schedule dates with ABDSP Visitor Center for use of facilities.
3. Book speakers. Topics should be relative to local area or conditions. Maintain contact with organizations whose purpose is the protection of cultural resources through newsletters, websites, and meetings. Suggested contacts: IVDM, CVAS, SCA, SDAS, CAASP, Museum of Man, SD Rock Art, local tribes, State/National Parks, etc.
4. Design flyers. Need titles, description of presentation and photos for publicity from the speaker. Print and distribute copies to local business, hotels, PO, Library, etc.

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5. Send digital copies to ABF, CDAS Website, VC, The Bridge and the Bulletin.
  6. Make arrangements for travel, lodging, meals if needed. Provide tech support.
  7. Request stipend from ABF if offered.
  8. Introduce speaker at program. Send Thank You notes.
  9. Find volunteers for other park outreach such as Junior Rangers.

## **Sponsored by other groups:**

### **Society for California Archaeology**

March 8-11 Annual Meeting

San Diego Crown Plaza Hotel

<https://scahome.org/sca-annual-meeting/2018-annual-meeting-2/>

### **Imperial Valley Desert Museum:**

Saturday January 13 "La Rumorosa" Presentation and Book Signing with Don Liponi

<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org>

### **California Rock Art Foundation:**

CRAF offers field trips of interest for rock art aficionados.

Upcoming trips are to Little Lake and Little Petroglyph Canyon in the Cosos

<http://www.carockart.org/events.html>

*Photo Credits: Sam Webb*