



# Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

# CDAS BULLETIN

## FEBRUARY 2019

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR

[www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/calendar](http://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/calendar)

- **LAB DAY & LIBRARY OPEN**  
Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
BARC Library
- **CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
Friday, 2/15, 1:30 p.m.  
BARC Library
- **CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
"Ethnology—  
How to Avoid Interview Hacks"  
Saturday, 2/16, 9 a.m. to Noon  
BARC Library  
Please see page 9 for details
- **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no CDAS/Visitor Center speaker in February
- **FIELD DAY**  
Friday & Saturday, 2/8 and 2/9  
See *Better Impact* for details
- **ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND**  
Saturday & Sunday, 2/23 and 2/24  
Visitor Center. See page 3 for details

### STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee convenes once a month during the season (October through April). Meetings are open to all members. If you have any comments or suggestions and cannot attend a meeting, please contact one of the following members:

Chair: **John Downing**

714-615-2137

[johndowning2014@outlook.com](mailto:johndowning2014@outlook.com)

Treasurer: **Rick Huls**

[randphuls@gmail.com](mailto:randphuls@gmail.com)

Member: **Dennis Connors**

[dennis\\_connors@yahoo.com](mailto:dennis_connors@yahoo.com)

Member: **Suzanne Emery**

[powaywoman@gmail.com](mailto:powaywoman@gmail.com)

Member: **Gary Holmes**

[GHborrego@pobox.com](mailto:GHborrego@pobox.com)

Member: **Paula Huls**

[randphuls@gmail.com](mailto:randphuls@gmail.com)

Member: **Eugenie Newton**

[enewton8@gmail.com](mailto:enewton8@gmail.com)



### FROM THE CHAIR

#### JOHN DOWNING

Head's up for Archaeology Weekend: Members will be receiving a sign-up sheet for this event soon. Please volunteer for this our most significant public event of the season. We require 10-20 additional volunteers. It is very rewarding to share our knowledge of the park's cultural resources and the work that we accomplish. In addition, there will be guest speakers, the silent auction, an ice

cream social and field trips for us to attend.

Significant progress was accomplished in 2018. We were able to increase our active membership to 94 with four classes of site stewards and archaeology technicians. Additionally, our site steward program has increased a great deal in the number of sites being monitored and our members contributed 6,100 hours to the district.

Congratulations to every member who contributed to this effort.



### NOTES FROM THE PARK

#### ROBIN CONNORS

In January, we successfully presented an international conference on the early peopling of the Americas. It was well attended and we hope to participate in another in two years. The presenters were all up to speed on the latest evidence, with dates going back to 40-50,000 years in South America.

I did a presentation about rock varnish and I have to say that I was pretty nervous up there. We submitted one of the Begole artifacts and got a 17,500 BP date on the artifact.

We were pleased that Terry Fowler and her husband were in attendance and were happy to see our Bob Begole poster

— and to hear the many presentations about his sites and artifacts.

We did a survey in Harper Canyon with several members attending. Covering a lot of ground, we found a petroglyph on a boulder next to a rock shelter, as well as rock circles, lithic processing sites, and spent a wonderful day in the field.

We are continuing our collaborative work with the Paleo crew and we think we might be able to wrap it up fairly quickly. We have been going out every Monday and Thursday for several weeks in order to have three days in the lab or out on other Park business.

Hayley organized a survey in the Bow Willow area, anticipating perhaps covering 300 acres. With the help of

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**ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND**  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**FEBRUARY 23 & 24**  
*See page 3 for details*





*The distinguished presenters at the New Discoveries in the American Paleolithic conference* Photo by Sam Webb

several other archaeologists from the Southern Service Center, and the help of our volunteers, we were able to eke out almost 50 acres. The ground was absolutely littered with artifacts, and locating and recording the groups and individual artifacts took so much time. You all know how time consuming that can be! We will re-visit the sites in the future for another survey.

We were able to take the archaeology technician students out on a field trip to Indian Hill as their final class day. They couldn't have been to a better place to celebrate graduating from the program



*Smudging with sage before surveying*  
Photo by Robin Connors

and were thrilled to see the beautiful panels there with a desert potluck at the rock shelter.

Coming up in February, we expect to wrap up the Paleo project, which will free us from a big time commitment. On February 5th, we will be meeting with staff to get ready for the wildflowers — we anticipate a pretty good season.

We have the Indian Gorge survey on Feb. 8 and 9. We're happy to have a real ethnographer on hand for our continuing education classes. One of the important aspects of archaeology and anthropology is to understand how to talk to the "old timers," or to others whose information is of great value to us.

We're very excited about Archaeology Weekend — we have some great activities and I'm sure our presenters will offer thought provoking and entertaining programs.

Don't forget to donate some awesome silent auction items.

Please check for opportunities on Better Impact and don't forget to log all of your hours on the site.

— Robin Connors



*Harper Canyon Survey* Photo by Robin Connors



*Archaeology technician students at Indian Hill rock shelter*  
Photo by Robin Connors

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760-767-4403

## ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND: Saturday & Sunday, February 23 & 24

### Donations are still needed for CDAS auction

It's not too late! There's still time to donate items that you're tired of, don't use, or just don't want anymore to the CDAS Annual Silent Auction. This is our only fundraising event of the year.

Please bring your gently used items to the BARC Library on **Tuesdays, February 5th and 12th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Your item may be just what someone else needs or wants!

Also, don't forget to spread the word to local artists or businesses. A donation from them will not only be greatly appreciated but will be acknowledged on a board in the Silent Auction room (BARC Library) and in the CDAS newsletter.

The Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, February 23rd during Archaeology Weekend. Thank you for your efforts and contributions!

— **Paula L. Huls**  
Silent Auction Committee  
e-mail: [randphuls@gmail.com](mailto:randphuls@gmail.com)

### Helping hands also appreciated

We also need people to help with setting up (and closing) the silent auction exhibit hall, moving furniture and tables before and after the event, and as well as monitoring the auction.

One or two pick-up trucks for transporting heavier items would be greatly appreciated.

*If you'd like to join in the fun, please contact Rick or Paula via e-mail at [randphuls@gmail.com](mailto:randphuls@gmail.com)*

## Excitement grows as event draws near

### ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

*"Celebrating Cultural Heritage of the Colorado Desert"*

**Friday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m.**

*Set-up at Visitor Center*

**Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.**

*Speakers, Activities at*

*Visitor Center & BARC Tours*

**Sunday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m.**

*Field Trips*

All CDAS members are encouraged to attend this educational and entertaining outreach event. It's a great way to meet your fellow members as well as share your knowledge of the desert with visitors.

We will have hands-on activities for children and adults, noted speakers\* and activities with a focus on Kumeyaay prehistoric culture, and tours of the BARC.

Honored members of the PaiPai people from Baja will be here again this year with wonderful, one-of-a-kind hand-crafted items to sell.

A collection of many treasures can be found at the silent auction on Saturday — bid early and bid often!

Saturday will conclude with an old-fashioned ice cream social at the BARC.

Visitors (and CDAS members) can also learn more about desert archaeology by signing up for escorted hikes scheduled for Sunday morning.

We will need a significant volunteer presence to assist with the many tasks. Members will receive a mailing soon with a sign-up sheet for volunteering.

Come and join the fun!



**At the last Archaeology Weekend event:** Children watch CDAS steering Committee member Dennis Connors demonstrate how to make a pot before they were each given clay and tools to make their own. Ably assisting Dennis was Ava Ciaramella Webb.

*Photos by Laurie Brindle*



*PaiPai artisan from Baja gladly shared her dollmaking techniques with attendees.*

*\* 2019 Featured speakers include:*

- **Eleanora (Norrie) Robbins, PhD**  
*Desert varnish experiments in the Anza Borrego Desert*
- **David Goscienski, MD "Stone Age Doc"**  
*How the Cahuilla and Kumeyaay maintained good health*
- **Steven Freers, author**  
*"Rock Art of the Colorado Desert"*
- **Abel Silvas, Juaneno/Gabrielino/Diegueno**  
*Native folklore and storytelling*

## BETTER IMPACT REMINDER

One of the final steps to becoming a volunteer at CDD is to create an account on Better Impact, the State Park's online volunteer timesheet program.

Better Impact is used to post upcoming opportunities, like field days, classes, CDAS steering committee meetings (open to all members), etc. Once you create an account and are approved, you will be able to see and sign up for all

upcoming activities. All hours must be reported on Better Impact, this is how we report hours to the state for State Park passes, do our own in-house record keeping, etc. Everyone must have their own account.

Please use the link below to sign-up: <http://bttr.im/l0fq2>

Please contact Hayley Elsken with any questions at 760-767-4403.



# Annual meeting highlights CDAS progress, programs, protocols and plans for upcoming year

*Presentations on Kumeyaay history and cosmology, Native American birdsongs, plus archaeology at our sister park in Mongolia capped a successful day*



John Downing welcomes CDAS members.

Photo by Sam Webb

Last year was a very good year for CDAS, as reported by Steering Committee Chairman John Downing at the annual meeting on January 26, held at the architecturally stunning UCI Steele/Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center.

John heartily welcomed members before giving the treasurer’s report and steering committee election results. Dennis Connors became a new member and John was re-elected. George Zelenz was thanked for his volunteer work and for submitting his name for consideration.

Gina Moran, the Colorado Desert District Park Superintendent, announced that the park is now fully staffed with rangers and that they are carefully planning for the upcoming flower season, which could be another Super Bloom.

Archaeologist Hayley Elsken provided a fascinating account of her 14-day trip to Ikh Nart, the ABDSP sister park in Mongolia. She described the important and rigorous excavation work being done, how welcoming the local people were, as well as excursions atop camels and horses. Her photos also showed colorful nearby towns and the beautiful countryside. She plans to return this year.

Later in the program, Hayley talked about the importance and advantages of using the Better Impact website — from signing up for events and activities to efficiently recording volunteer hours.

Robin Connors mesmerized the audience with the recording of a Cahuilla “birdsong,” which is a collection of oral memories and cultural connections to places and people who lived thousands of years ago. The

*Continued on page 5*



Michael Connolly Miskwish — author, historian and member of the Campo Band, Kumeyaay tribe — gave a riveting keynote presentation.

Photo by Laurie Brindle



Colorado Desert District Park Superintendent Gina Moran

Photo by Sam Webb



Left to right: John Downing, Robin Connors and Pat Downing

Photo by Sam Webb

LEFT: Delicious potluck lunch — Left to right: Mary Lou White, Michael Connolly Miskwish, Lance Deibler, Jean Paul Carrere and Gary Holmes

Photo by Sam Webb

**Annual Meeting.** *Continued from page 4*

repetitive rhythms and words of a birdsong combine to tell stories and convey wisdom through future generations. They are highly developed linguistic links to the past. While the words and meaning of birdsongs are often unknown, Robin stressed that it is not up to archaeologists to interpret them — only to collect and preserve them.

After the lunch break, keynote speaker Michael Connolly Miskwish's presented volumes of Kumeyaay history and culture. He began with an archaeological overview, including a profile on Malcolm Rogers, who first concluded in the 1940s that there were three local cultures: the Paleo Indian, the La Jollan and San Dieguito. His groundbreaking work was subsequently taken away from him and later misinterpreted. Miskwish said that archaeological paradigms can be so entrenched that any contrary theory can be disparaged — the Cerutti Mastodon research is an example.

Miskwish focused on what he calls the time of the Sh'Mulls, or pre-contact. He emphasized the sophistication and complexity of the Kumeyaay culture as evidenced by their effective care of the land and its resources, charting of the constellations and solstice markers, and how they maintained physical and spiritual health. And so much more was covered to the delight of CDAS members. It was fitting conclusion to an informative and enjoyable meeting.

— *Laurie Brindle*



*Suzanne Emery introduces Michael Connolly Miskwish.*

*Photo by Sam Webb*



*Sally Bickerton, Pat Downing and Susan Gilliland check in attendees.*

*Photo by Sam Webb*



*Hayley Elsken points out rock art examples in Ikh Nart in Mongolia.*

*Photo by Laurie Brindle*



*The CDAS annual meeting was held at the UCI Steele/Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center, a classic example of Mid-Century architecture.*

*Photo by Sam Webb*



Steven R. Holen, PhD, at the New Discoveries in the American Paleolithic conference held January 10-12 at the Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center

## Conference draws world-renowned scientists to Borrego

Getting to the core of excitement at a Paleolithic conference can be a bone-chilling and shattering experience. Putting 150 paleontologists, geologists, park rangers and archaeologists in the same

room stirs up amazing statistics, chemical data and challenges. As it should.

CDAS support was broad, ranging from Robin Connors' presentation on desert rock varnish, to funding assistance, and sweat and muscle with various aspects of set up for the three-day event, which began with a meet and greet poster session Friday evening, Jan. 10, 2019 at the Steele/Burnand Desert Research Center.

The event's topic of "Pre-16,000 BP Archaeological Record," started our region's 130,000-year-old mastodon bones at the Cerutti Site near State Highway 54 in San Diego. Many sessions were devoted to associated tools and the hominids who may have used them for processing animal bones. Amazing comparisons were provided by researchers from across the US and several countries, including Canada, France, Brazil and Australia, Argentina, and Uruguay. The major sites included mammoths in Kansas and Nebraska, Canada, northeast Brazil, Texas, and Bow Willow here in Anza Borrego State Park.

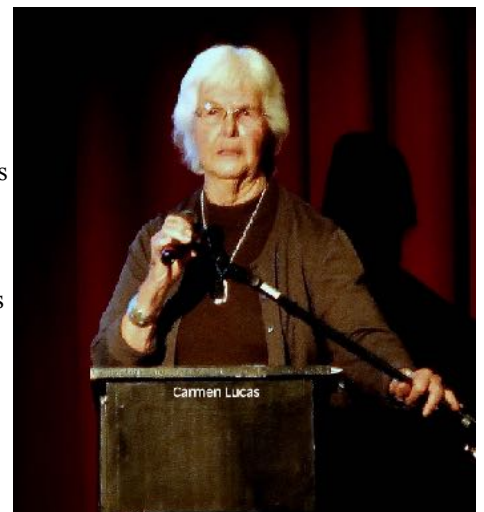
Chemistry has been a major factor in evaluating the age of items located near these Mammoth remains: from delicate



The presentations were held at the Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center.



Robin Connors welcomes attendees at the Meet & Greet and Poster session on Friday.



Kwaaymii elder Carmen Lucas

**PALEOLITHIC** *Continued from page 6*



*Joan Schneider, PhD, Chuck Bennett, Mike Wells and Mary Bennett*

extraction of material used for IRSL (luminescence); to U238, U234 and Thorium230; and biotic or abiotic reactions in carbonate and manganese layers for Varnish Microlamination (VML); with collagen presence in the bone being a useful start. Even sea level changes figure into paleontology, much to the delight of one attendee, geomicrobiologist Eleanora (Norrie) Robbins, PhD. From desert varnish of ferromanganese in the Borrego Desert to the carbonate collars on materials from the terraces and drainage pathways of the Sweetwater River and its Cerutti Mastodon site, she noted the impact of microorganisms on both mineral formations.

Prime among the participants were organizers Steve and Kathleen Holen of South Dakota's Center for American Paleolithic Research, who are looking for a full range of behavioral and technological indicators of human presence, focusing on bone modification. The conference was blessed by the presence of Kwaaymii elder Carmen Lucas. Ruth Gruhn, who long ago discovered the Monte Verde site in Chile with her husband Alan Bryan, received a standing ovation as she walked to the stage.

**Photos by Sam Webb**



*Looking at the crowd from the outside in at the UCI Steele/Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center*

This Park's own Paleontology Society contributed broadly in conference support and participation. Organization and long-term planning was provided by the Anza-Borrego Foundation and archaeologists Hayley Elsken and Robin Connors, fulfilling a mission of the California State Parks.

Early on the first morning, Steve Holen's first slide introduced the importance of Native American impact and received the blessing of Native American Monitor, Kwaaymii elder Carmen Lucas, "We have been here since time immemorial. Artifacts are the tools we have used to process our resources. These objects have meaning to us beyond the mundane. This research is a reflection of who we are."

This builds on a previous quote by Ms. Lucas, who said, "We just have to figure out how long always is."

— *Suzanne Emery*



*Briana Puzzo of the Anza Borrego Foundation and author Diana Lindsay*



*Terry and Dick Fowler (Terry is Robert Begole's daughter.)*

## SITE STEWARD UPDATE



New site stewards Josh Breslow and Mandie Carter on their site set-up in Harper Flat

Photo by John Downing

### New CDAS site stewards gear up for active year ahead

After training 43 new CDAS site stewards in 2018 we have had a busy year and 2019 will be even more so in completing all the site set-ups.

Special thanks to John Case, John Downing, Hayley Elsken, Russ Johnson, Scott McClintock, Mitch Mossay, Lisa Pridmore and Randy Redfern for mentoring new stewards and doing new site set-ups.

If you have a pending site visit and would be willing to take a new steward along, please contact me:

[pdsnewmail@gmail.com](mailto:pdsnewmail@gmail.com)

Following are our statistics from 2018 as compared to 2017.

Thank you to all of you for making your visits and writing excellent reports. We are truly increasing our protection of the cultural heritage of our beautiful park!

*Pat Downing, Site Steward Coordinator*

#### SITE STEWARD STATISTICS

	12/31/2017	12/31/2018
Physical Locations Stewarded .....	45	58
Actively being stewarded (visited within the past year).....	18	38
Set ups pending.....		10
Sites needing stewards.....	27	10
Active Stewards.....	28	60

### **Volunteer Resources**

Don't miss the new section on our website "Resources for Volunteers." <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/>

There you will find :

- 1) **Archaeology Pictionary Glossary 2018-01**  
A list of simple definitions for terms used by Southern California archaeologists modified for Colorado Desert District purposes
- 2) **Better Impact Instructions**



### **Additional Resources**

**California Rock Art Foundation**  
New Moon Great Murals Pack Trip  
Baja, Mexico March 6-13, 2019\*  
<https://www.carockart.org/field-trips.html>

**Society for California Archaeology**  
Annual Meeting  
Thursday, March 7 to Sunday, March 10, 2019  
<https://scahome.org>

**Imperial Valley Desert Museum**  
<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org>

**San Diego County Archaeological Society**  
<http://sandiegoarchaeology.org>

**Barona Cultural Center and Museum**  
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

**Malki Museum**  
<http://malkimuseum.org>

CDAS Continuing Education Class

### **ETHNOLOGY**

### **“How to Avoid Interview Hacks”**

**Presenter: Jan Naragon**

**Saturday, February 16th, 2019**

**9 a.m. to noon**

Learn another aspect of archaeology/anthropology/ Ethnology is the study of contemporary cultures, in order to develop a theoretical framework for analyzing human society. To fit pieces together for a more complete picture of a culture, we need to learn how to interview or ask questions that draw information. The class will cover the following:

- 1. Introduce ethnology & ethnographic interview data & what can be done with it
- 2. Discuss some likely scenarios for needing ethnographic data in CDAS
- 3. Informal & unstructured interview situations
- 4. How to get quality responses to your questions
- 5. Barriers & how to minimize them
- 6. Data storage & analysis

*Reserve a spot today by e-mailing Paula Huls at [randphuls@gmail.com](mailto:randphuls@gmail.com) or register via **Better Impact!***

### **We want your news!**

If you have events or items that you would like included in future publications of the CDAS Bulletin, please send them to Laurie Brindle at [CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org](mailto:CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org)



## **Colorado Desert Archaeology Society**

**“To keep you current as we explore the past”**

*Be sure and visit our website often for past CDAS bulletins and helpful information!*

**[www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org](http://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org)**