



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

CDAS BULLETIN

APRIL 2019

APRIL CALENDAR

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/calendar

- **LAB DAY & LIBRARY OPEN**
Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
BARC Library
- **GPS Class —CDAS members only**
Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
BARC Library. Please see Page 7
- **CDAS / ABDSP SPEAKER —**
“Geoglyphs in the Desert”
by Anne Morgan
Friday, April 19, 11 a.m.
ABDSP Visitor Center. Please see Page 5
- **CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE**
Friday, 4/26, 1:00 p.m.
BARC Library

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

Vice Chair: **Dennis Connors**

dennis_connors@yahoo.com

Secretary: **Paula Huls**

randphuls@gmail.com

Member: **Rick Huls**

randphuls@gmail.com

Member: **Gary Holmes**

GHborrego@pobox.com

Member: **Eugenie Newton**

evnewton8@gmail.com

FROM THE CHAIR



JOHN DOWNING

After a busy January with the symposium and annual meeting, then February with Archaeology Weekend, March was a quiet month for CDAS. But not for the park and city of Borrego Springs with the tremendous flower bloom (and butterfly migration). Thanks to all members who volunteered to staff the flower booths.

On Tuesday, April 9, the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is holding their annual Volunteer Gala and awards ceremony. While this gala is certainly a party, it isn't formal but a “come as you are” event where ABDSP shows its appreciation for all volunteers and YOU are invited! State Parks staff provide and serve us dinner. But space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as you can and order your dinner. See Page 4 for details.

The CDAS Steering Committee has an opening for one additional member. This position has a short term and will only require five meetings. If you would like to get more involved and learn how our society is organized without making a long-term commitment, this is your



Photo by John Downing

opportunity. If you are interested, contact me at: johndowning2014@outlook.com

There are also positions available that require lesser commitment. One-time tasks or positions that only require a few hours per month during the season. An example is field trip organization. If you have an idea for a field trip and can help organize the event, please contact membership chair Pat Downing at: pdsnewmail@gmail.com.

And last, but certainly not least, congratulations to Sam and Astrid Webb for being honored by the Society for California Archaeology with the 2019 Helen C. Smith Award for their outstanding leadership in the field of cultural resources management. We certainly treasure the Webbs and are so appreciative of their decades of service.

— *John Downing*

NOTES FROM THE PARK



ROBIN CONNORS

Thanks to volunteers from both Paleontology and Archaeology, we have finished the excavation attempting to associate mammoth fossils with archaeological finds. We are now in the process of capping the mammoth fossils and we will re-bury all from the back dirt of the excavation. We expect to be able

to do the back-dirt-fill of the excavations in about two weeks. We need all the help we can get!

In other great news, the whole state-park-wide group of state-employed archaeologists met in our little town. This was a week-long training to bring all up to speed on all of the new regulations, techniques and new approaches to our work.

Continued on page 2

We were in the classroom and out in the field, recording previously unknown sites in Coyote Canyon and updating the historic Civilian Conservation Corps structures in the 90's loop campground. These areas included the Caretakers Residence, the stone bathrooms and a stone constructed campsite.

In April, we will be conducting a post-burn survey in Cuyamaca on the 5th. Please look for the activity in Better Impact. The terrain should have very visible features and perhaps artifacts.

We are discussing a memorandum of understanding with the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians. We will be talking about tribal use of State Park property for gathering traditional plants, holding ceremonies and other opportunities for use in the parks. We are so pleased to be developing a good relationship with the people whose ancestors occupied the same lands we now steward.



Archaeology and paleontology volunteers at the excavation site attempting to associate mammoth fossils with archaeological finds. From left: Mario Morales, Native American Monitor, Robin Connors, Gary Holmes, George Abrams and Sandra Keeley. Missing from picture: Bob Keeley. Photo by Bob Keeley.



Rear original door on back porch of Caretakers Residence Photo by Rick Fitzgerald

We have a couple of projects at Palomar Mountain State Park. An Eagle Scout is constructing an accessible platform for the American flag near the entrance kiosk at the park. We do have some artifacts located nearby, so particular care will be taken to avoid any artifacts or features. Native American Monitor Mario Morales will be working there with us as we monitor the work.

The other project is monitoring the repair of a stone foundation built by the Civilian Conservation Corps back in the early 1930s. We are always there to protect and preserve and have offered our assessment of the project to minimize any radical reconstruction that might take away the integrity of the historic resource.

I'm very pleased that I've been invited to speak at the 2019 Desert Conference in Zzyzx. I'm sure you're all familiar with Zzyzx. The spelling alone would be enough to avoid it!



Stone Ramada Campsite 116 Photo by Rick Fitzgerald

That's my news for March, and my planning for April. More to come when we implement these plans! Thank you for all of your good work!

— Robin Connors

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SITE STEWARD NEWS



Site stewards Mitch Provoast, Mike Hurley and Scott McClintock work on the Split Rock site set-up. Also assisting were Chris Blake and Neil Cadwallader.

Photo by Neil Cadwallader



Site Stewards Scott McClintock and Neil Cadwallader discovered their Palomar Mountain site is best stewarded in the summer when you can see the features.

Photo by Neil Cadwallader



New Arch Techs Linda Mercurio and Pat Trussell assisted John and Pat Downing on a recent site visit. The flowers were so thick they had trouble seeing the artifacts!

Photo by Pat Downing

Stewards needed for 11 sites

Are you trained as a CDAS site steward? Would you like to take on a site or an additional site?

Due to new sites being added and retirement of some existing site stewards, we currently have 11 of the 58 sites we monitor in need of stewards.

We have set up 12 sites so far this season, with three more scheduled, but are still looking to complete our list.

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If you can help out, I will send you a list of the available sites, their descriptions and driving/hiking requirements. Thank you!

— Pat Downing
pdsnewmail@gmail.com

FIELD SURVEY NEWS



ABOVE: Participating in the Vallecito Creek historical site survey on March 8 & 9 were: (Back row from left:) Andrew Page, Lance Deibler, Astrid Webb, Randy Redfern, Teresa and Dale Harrison, Lois Carlson and two esteemed guests from the San Diego County Archaeological Society. Front row from left: Paula Huls, Gary Holmes, Robin Connors, Hayley Elsken and Jim Bryant.

LEFT: Robin Connors and Lance Diebler inspect artifacts while surveying the Indian Gorge survey site in February.

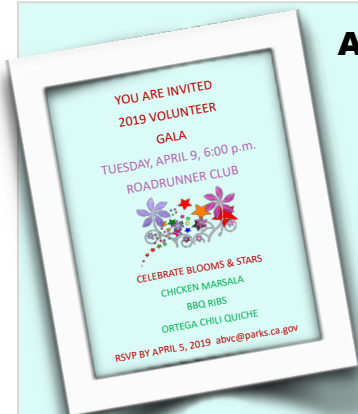
Photos by Rick Huls

Attention CDAS — You are invited to the 2019 volunteer gala!

You are cordially invited to celebrate all Park and Anza-Borrego Foundation Volunteers at a recognition dinner on April 9, held at the Roadrunner Clubhouse at 6:00 pm. There is no cost to you; Park and ABF staff will be serving a catered dinner to the volunteers.

Please let us know your meal choice (chicken, ribs or quiche) if you will be attending, by signing up at the Visitor Center, by emailing AnzaBorrego.VisitorCenter@parks.ca.gov, or by phoning the Visitor Center at 760-767-0334, by April 5. Space is limited.

Sally Theriault, State Park Interpreter II
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park 760-767-4205 or -0334



Flying high for desert geoglyphs

Featuring Anne Morgan

FRIDAY, April 19 • 11 a.m.

ABDSP Visitor Center, 200 Palm Canyon Drive

— Open to the public —

Anne Morgan, former head archivist/curator at the Imperial Valley Museum in Ocotillo, CA, will be our featured speaker for April. Anne will talk about geoglyphs — those earthen artworks on the desert floor that can be seen from above, but often invisible from the ground.



Human figure geoglyph near Blythe, California

While at the museum, Anne became involved with geoglyphs and met Harry and Meg Casey. Harry, who was born into a farming family east of Brawley, had always been interested in flying, photography, and desert archaeology — especially geoglyphs.

Photos courtesy of Sunbelt Publications, Inc.

From his beloved Piper J-3 Cub aircraft, he had photographed nearly 10,000 of those geoglyphs throughout the region over 35 years. Beginning with nothing more than topographic maps, 35mm film cameras, and his Piper Cub, Casey documented these geoglyphs before natural erosion and human intervention could destroy them. Many, though, have since disappeared or been heavily damaged.

Anne began curating those 10,000 images and soon developed a partnership with the Caseys, resulting in the publication of the book, “Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest — Earthen Art as Viewed from Above.”

Anne will discuss geoglyphs on Friday April 19 at 11 a.m. in the Discovery Room at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center.

— **Gary Holmes**

This lecture is one of a monthly series sponsored by CDAS and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center.

PLEASE NOTE: *There is a new park policy that people attending the speakers program at the Visitor Center are no longer exempt from the \$10 per vehicle fee to enter. So be sure to have your Volunteer Card with you if attending.*



Featured speaker Anne Morgan



Harry Casey and his Piper J-3 Cub aircraft

MARCH SPEAKER

Kudos to Mark Jorgensen for his outstanding presentation on bighorn sheep during last month’s CDAS/ Visitor Center presentation. He kept his audience at rapt attention with animated stories from his five decades of studying and tracking the iconic desert bighorn sheep. Thank you, Mark!

LEFT: Mark Jorgensen talking about desert bighorn sheep

RIGHT: CDAS Steering Committee member and Public Education Coordinator Gary Holmes introduces Mark Jorgensen.



Photos by Sam Webb

BUZZ MUSHET

By Sally Bickerton

A very interesting book could be written about Buzz Mushet's life on the Banner Queen Ranch, but this month's interview will focus on Buzz's many years as a CDAS Site Steward.

A little background must be included, though. Gary Mushet, called Buzz from his youth, grew up on the Banner Queen Ranch, which his parents bought in 1940 and created into a Guest Ranch.

Celebrities, including Bing Crosby, frequented the Ranch. A Native American, Leandro Wood, lived in a cabin on the Ranch prior to their purchase, and continued to live there until his death. Buzz and his brother often hiked around with him, finding mortars and other artifacts.

Buzz married Dorothy in 1956, and spent three years in the Army, becoming an air traffic controller. He turned down job offers at Lindbergh Field, choosing to return to the Julian area and the Ranch. He bought the Chevron gas station in town, and raised his children at the Ranch.

Though he and Dorothy now live in Julian, his daughter and her family still live on the Banner Queen property. You can find Buzz and Dorothy at the Art Gallery next to the Ranch, on Hwy 78 west of Scissor's Crossing, most weekend afternoons.

Buzz now spends many hours each year stewarding the Scissor's Crossing area sites he has had since the early 2000s.

He also stewards a site in Cuyamaca, and its discovery is what led to his involvement with CDAS. He took photos of the Cuyamaca site he saw after the Cedar Fire, and showed them to then Colorado Desert Archaeologist Joan Schneider. She introduced him to Mel Sweet and Sam Webb, and Buzz soon attended one of the Padons' Site Steward training programs at ABDSP.

Over the years, Buzz has seen some digging and screening in the Scissor's



Longtime site steward Buzz Mushet pointing out the row of cupules near deep mortars on a boulder on Banner Queen Ranch
Photo by Sally Bickerton

Crossing site, and signs that a metal detector was in use, as metal cans were dug up. The area is now fenced off, which helps protect the sites. He continues to visit and monitor his sites regularly, as well as explore the beautiful mountains and valleys nearby.

His family property contains many signs of native occupancy, including a large boulder just across the road from the Art Gallery.

Many years ago, his dad rescued a large mortar, broken off from it by a road crew, and it sits outside the door to the Gallery, cemented together by his father.

Ironically, Buzz shared that just after the last big storm, a road crew bulldozer again damaged the boulder, knocking off another chunk, with its equipment!

Thanks, Buzz, for continuing to preserve cultural sites on both private and public lands.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

“GPS Skills (intermediate) – Improving Geolocation Skills for Site Stewardship and Field Archaeology”

Instructor: Don Endicott

Date: Saturday, 13 April • Location: BARC Library

Duration: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with one-hour lunch break

Register for this class either by Better Impact or by sending an e-mail to Paula Huls at randphuls@gmail.com

SYNOPSIS

This class will focus on helping you improve your skills for using GPS handheld devices to reliably navigate in the field and how to precisely determine and record geographic locations of archaeological features and artifacts. In the morning session we will have a short review of geographic coordinate systems and how the Global Positioning System operates and is used to facilitate field navigation. We will then do a quick inventory of the GPS units or cellphone applications which class participants are presently using to assess current comfort levels in basic use for site stewardship or archaeology technician field work.

The next segment will be tailored for hands-on exercises to practice fundamentals such as marking accurate positions using the correct coordinate system and datum, finding a location when coordinates are provided, and marking site perimeters. We will team up in groups of two or more participants, generally those using the same GPS devices or cellphone types (i.e. iOS or Android). These team exercises will be conducted outdoors while in the vicinity of the BARC. Duration of the exercises may vary depending on proficiencies.

Following the skills exercises, Hayley Elsken will give a presentation introducing the Avenza cellphone application and a proposed method for accessing and using archaeological position data in the field, such as photo station reference locations during site monitoring visits.

Following a lunch break, we will explore GPS data management methods using a Windows laptop. Transferring data between a GPS device and a computer will be demonstrated along with an outline of file management techniques for storing, managing, and accessing GPS data. A selection of PC applications for viewing and managing GPS data will be illustrated. This will be an interactive session, so please feel free to share with other participants how you perform these functions now.

As time permits, we will return outdoors for additional practice and to answer any follow-up questions regarding use or configuration of your GPS.

What to bring:

- 1) Your GPS handheld and printed manual or cellphone with GPS navigation application and manual.
- 2) Notebook, pen or pencil
- 3) Lunch, hat and sunscreen

— Paula Huls

“Rock Art Conservation Management” October 26 & 27, 2019

SAVE THE DATE!! Jeremy Freeman will conduct a class on Rock Art Conservation Management the weekend of October 26 and 27. Saturday will be a classroom session and Sunday will be out in the field applying what was learned on Saturday. Stand-by for more details!

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**

Regional Events & Resources

Malki Museum

“Agave Harvest”

Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7
\$10 donation

“Agave Tasting”

Saturday, April 13. Free admission,
\$10 donation per plate of food.

Reservations recommended

<http://malkimuseum.org/agave-harvest-and-roast/>

California Rock Art Foundation

<https://www.carockart.org/field-trips.html>

Society for California Archaeology

<https://scahome.org>

Imperial Valley Desert Museum

“Indigenous Cultures Day”

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ocotillo, CA Free public event

<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org>

San Diego Archaeological Center —

“Finding Your Next Job in Archaeology”

April 27, 10:30 a.m. Free seminar

“SDAC Annual BBQ”

April 27, 12 to 3 p.m. Purchase tickets

<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/category/events-and-more/>

Barona Cultural Center and Museum

“Ribbon Cutting of Barona’s

Little Free Library” 2:45 p.m.

<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

San Diego County Archaeological Society

www.SDCAS.org

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

COPY DEADLINE:

The 25th of each month — Sept. to April
(Bulletin publishes October through May)

TAKE NOTE



Congratulations! Sam and Astrid Webb were honored recently with the prestigious 2019 Helen C. Smith Award from the Society for California Archaeology. The achievement award is given to a society, group or individual who has shown outstanding leadership in the field of cultural resources management. The award of \$200 is to be used to advance the recipient's efforts to build links between professional and avocational interests. Sam and Astrid were nominated by Joan Schneider and Robin Connors.

Photo by Rick Huls

Have you visited the Begole Archaeology Library lately?

The Begole Archaeology Library is located next to the Begole Archaeology Research Center (BARC) building on the approach road to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center. A wide array of archaeology, Anza-Borrego and



California history, desert environment and geology, native arts and crafts books are part of the library collection. There are also book sections devoted to the Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, Hopi and Navajo people. Books from collections

of George Jefferson and D.L. True are included. Many archaeology magazines and journals make up the BARC collection. Journals include the Pacific Coast Archaeology Society, Historical Archaeology Journals, Journal of San Diego History, and American Antiquity among others.



Parting shot — Rick and Paula Huls just before they drove away for the summer to continue their work with Habitat for Humanity. They are scheduled for seven "builds" starting in Ft. Myer, Florida and ending up in Hobbs, New Mexico. We look forward to their return in October.

Photo by Sam Webb



Bighorn sheep guru Mark Jorgensen stands beside the BARC sign after he kindly painted it and gave it a new coat of varnish. Thank you very much, Mark!

Photo by Robin Connors

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/10fq2>

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



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

"To keep you current as we explore the past"

Be sure and visit our website often for past CDAS bulletins, resources, photos and additional helpful information!

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org