



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

CDAS BULLETIN

MAY 2019

CALENDAR

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/calendar

• LAB DAY & LIBRARY OPEN

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
BARC Library

• CDAS / ABDSP SPEAKER —

Program TBD
Friday, October 18, 11 a.m.
ABDSP Visitor Center.

• CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, October 18, 1:30 p.m.
BARC Library

• CDAS KICK-OFF MEETING

Sunday, October 20, TBD
Location TBD

• CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Rock Art Conservation Management"
By Jeremy Freeman
Saturday & Sunday, October 26 & 27
Location and times TBD

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

Treasurer: **Eugenie Newton**

evnewton8@gmail.com

Secretary: **Paula Huls**

randphuls@gmail.com

Member: **Rick Huls**

randphuls@gmail.com

Member: **Gary Holmes**

GHborrego@pobox.com



FROM THE CHAIR

JOHN DOWNING

As the 2018/2019 season comes to a close, it is important that we reflect upon the past seven months and appreciate our accomplishments. While there is always room for improvement, our society has accomplished our mission and purpose very well. We all have earned the right to be proud of our work.

There will be additional opportunities to volunteer during the summer months. If you are interested in field work, keep an eye on Better Impact for projects in our higher elevation parks. Monitoring construction projects is one of these opportunities that will provide much needed assistance to Robin and Hayley.

You can assist our society by participating in necessary CDAS tasks and projects. For those of you who would like to help, but have limited time to contribute beyond your regular volunteer

duties, we have many small tasks or projects available. These tasks may require a few hours on a one-time basis or repetitive jobs requiring one to three hours per month. Examples are: membership committee (keeping a spreadsheet of membership details), continuing education/training (assist with planning and classroom logistics), or organizing a field trip. Please send me an email if you are interested.

Although the season has officially ended, planning is underway for upcoming events in 2019-2020. Mark your calendars for Borrego Days, Oct. 18-20; the CDAS Kick-Off meeting on Oct. 20, and a special two-day workshop on rock art conservation on Oct. 26-27. Details will be forthcoming.

Have a great summer!

— John Downing



NOTES FROM THE PARK

ROBIN CONNORS

On Friday, April 5, CDAS volunteers surveyed an area that had been a prescribed burn near the Lookout Road in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Prescribed burns clear areas heavily impacted by non-native plants with the intention of replanting native saplings.

After a burn, the reduced vegetation allows us to easily survey the landscape to locate artifacts and features that may have been covered by overgrowth. The survey was well staffed with Gary Holmes, Lance Deibler, Carol Mgrdichian Hampton, John Hampton, John Case, Chris Blake and Theresa and Dale Harrison.



Robin Connors and John Case at the CRSP Burn Survey

Photo by Chris Blake

Continued on page 2



CRSP Burn Survey in progress: L to R: Lance Deibler, Hayley Elsken, Gary Holmes and Dale Harrison

Photos this page by Chris Blake

NOTES FROM THE PARK *Continued from page 1*

Thanks to all of you for your assistance with this project and for surveying in the cold rain and wind.

As the season is winding down, we have fewer and fewer projects except for the routine monitoring projects and environmental reviews. We can always use help in the lab and library to staff for library days. We also have a slew of monitoring projects in May and would appreciate folks stepping forward to learn how to monitor. Training will be on a monitoring site and candidates should have some experience with working around a construction site. Stay tuned for that.

Hayley and I monitored an Eagle Scout project at Palomar Mountain State Park. The young man, assisted by two brothers and his grandpa, excavated and placed stair frames in the area below the American Flag platform.

We screened the dirt they excavated because there was a small lithic scatter located nearby. We found a few flakes, but nothing diagnostic.

— Robin Connors



A historic artifact



A mano is recorded

Robin Connors
Associate State Archaeologist
robin.connors@parks.ca.gov
760-767-5790



Hayley Elsken
Associate State Archaeologist
hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov
760-767-4403



Welcome!

CDAS New Members 2018-2019

ARCH TECHS

- Barbara Barnes
- Steve Barnes
- Jeannie Beck
- Chris Blake
- Lois Carlson
- John Merlei Cassell
- Kathy Collins
- Becki Farris
- Carol Hampton
- John Hampton
- Dale Harrison
- Teresa Harrison
- Diana Langley
- Jolie Matteis
- Patty McFarland
- Linda Mercurio
- Andrew Page
- Louis Piazza
- Josh Powell
- Richard Shepard
- Pat Trussell

SITE STEWARDS

- Josh Breslow
- Laurie Brindle
- Neil Cadwallader
- Mandie Carter
- Chris Clark
- Marv Coppess
- Chris Coppess
- Richard Gilb
- Pam Gilb
- Mike Hurley
- Steve Lacy
- Mark O'Connor
- Dave Pitt
- Mitch Provoast
- Steve Scarano

BETTER IMPACT

How to make your profile visible to other volunteers

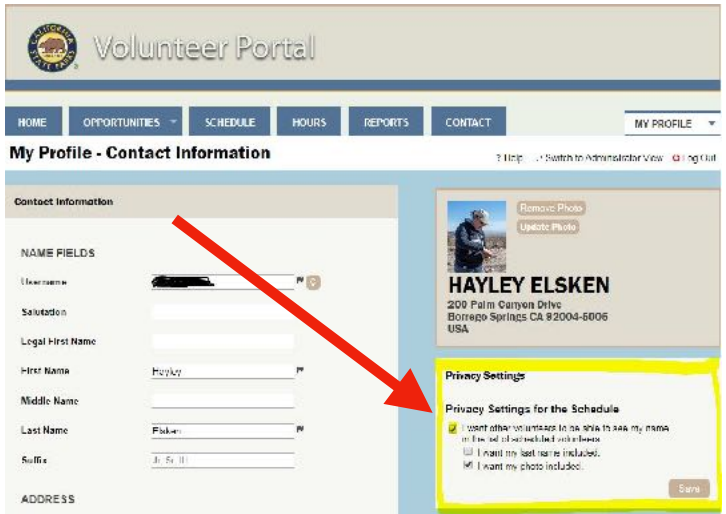
When signing up for activities on Better Impact, one can see who else has signed up for the activity, but the default setting on Better Impact makes people appear as anonymous unless they change their profile. Here are the steps to allow others to see if you are signed up for an activity:

1. Log in to Better Impact.
2. Click the "My Profile" tab on the right side and from the list click "contact information."
3. In the right column, there is a section called "Privacy Settings." Click the box next to "I want other volunteers to be able to see my name in the list of scheduled volunteers."
4. Click "Save."

There are more options to allow fellow volunteers to see your last name or photo, but I leave these options up to you.

If you have any questions about this or Better Impact, please feel free to email me at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

— Hayley Elsken



Still haven't signed up?

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 Elsken with any questions at 760-767-4403.

SITE STEWARD NEWS



New site stewards Richard and Pam Gilb on their site set up in Culp Valley. Photo by John Downing

Colossal earthen artworks fascinate audience at April lecture

Author Anne Morgan discussed extensive photo collection of Southwestern desert geoglyphs and current theories as to their origin and meaning at monthly CDAS/ABDSP presentation

Anyone attending Anne Morgan's talk on geoglyphs at the Visitor Center left having learned a great deal about this Native American artwork.

Anne is the former head archivist/curator at the Imperial Valley Museum in Ocotillo, CA. She is also the co-author of the recently published book, "Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest — Earthen Artworks as Viewed from Above" with



ABOVE: Anne Morgan, co-author of "Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest — Earthen Artworks as Viewed from Above" with Harry Casey, discusses a geoglyph near Blythe, California. Photo by Laurie Brindle

BELOW: Steering Committee member and Public Education Coordinator Gary Holmes introduces Anne Morgan at the April lecture held at the ABDSP Visitor Center. Photo by San Webb



Harry Casey. The book features aerial photographs of desert geoglyphs taken by Casey over a 35-year period.

Geoglyphs, she pointed out, are designs or images created by scraping the desert floor clean. However, sometimes details such as fingers and toes would instead be tamped into the ground by foot. There is a related type of ground art called "rock alignment," that involves the precise stacking of rocks to create an artwork.

Sizes of "earthen art" (what archaeologists call it) can vary from as little as 3 feet to more than a thousand feet long — 40 times life-size. And she reminded everybody that today our best views are from high overhead, but Native Americans did all this from ground level — with only some of their artwork perhaps visible from above, such as looking down on a lower mesa.

Many of these artwork patterns are thought to have had greater detail in years past, but are no longer discernible due to weathering and other factors.

Anne said that much of earthen art is almost incomprehensible to us — and its origins, meanings, and purpose will likely never be understood.

But, she added, archaeologists and anthropologists who study the Aborigines in Australia — who to this day create similar earthen artwork — are working to obtain some hints about what our artwork here in the Southwest could relate to.

Some very basic similarities that she mentioned are humans always being shown from the front, animals from the side, and reptiles from above, and of course, those who study earthen art would look for much more complex similarities — and their meanings — from the Aborigines.

In this area, human figures are virtually always positioned with their feet towards water or what would have been water in past eras — or at least towards a lowland area, she said.

Oval or oblong patterns along the Colorado River are thought to be dance

patterns created over many years. And she mentioned they are often in conjunction with human and other recognizable figures nearby.

Our Southwestern earthen artwork seems to fall between 300 and 8,000 years ago as determined by a modified Carbon 14 technique she described that was developed in the early 1990s by Dr. Ron Dorn, Professor at Arizona State University, Phoenix.

The process is based on the theory that subsurface rocks would only begin to be coated in desert varnish after being unearthed during the building of a geoglyph.



Audience members lingered after the lecture to ask questions, review copies of Anne's book and to catch up with friends.

Photo by Laurie Brindle

Underneath that desert varnish are minute amounts of organic material that can be analyzed using "accelerator mass spectrometry" (AMS) to date what has been sealed under those layers of desert varnish.

While Anne conceded that analyzing the meaning of earthen art can be very difficult, some attempts are being made to group it into broad categories.

She mentioned possible ceremonial representations, artwork related to the shamans, celestial observations, and (along the Colorado River) territorial markings — perhaps the original "no trespassing" signs.

Anne's talk was very well attended with a very good question-and-answer session afterwards. — Gary Holmes

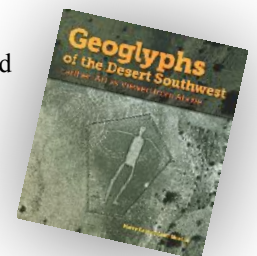


Image courtesy of Sunbelt Publications, Inc.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

ABDSP honors its volunteers at annual Awards Gala event

CDAS members were among those honored at the annual ABDSP Volunteer Gala and Awards event. Held at the Roadrunner Clubhouse on April 9, the event recognizes individuals who have donated substantial time and services to the State Park in a multitude of ways. Volunteers from the Archaeology, Paleontology and Botany departments, as well as the Visitor Center, donated a phenomenal 28,000 hours in 2018 to help preserve and protect the Park — and educate the public as to its many wonders.

Colorado Desert District Service Manager Terry Gerson represented CDD Superintendent Gina Moran as emcee of the evening's festivities.

- Mary Bennett received the coveted volunteer of the year award for her extraordinary contributions to the Anza-Borrego Foundation.

- Sam and Astrid Webb were recognized as members of the elite 5,000-plus volunteer hours club.

- Part of the Emerald Pin group, who donated 1,000 hours or more, were CDAS members Tony DeLorenzo, John

and Pat Downing, Rick and Paula Huls, Dan Jellis, Suzie Jones and Becky Rusk.

- Ruby-pin honorees (500-plus hours) included Sally Bickerton, Lance Deibler, LLouise Jee and MaryLou White.

- Contributing 100 or more hours and earning a pin was CDAS member Jean Paul Carrere.

Attendees were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by Kendall's Cafe, and graciously served by Park staff.

Entertainment included a humor-infused video that conveyed the Park's appreciation of — and thanks to — the volunteers. Guests also received a handy insulated lunch bag with the Park logo as a gift. It was a very enjoyable evening!

— *Laurie Brindle*



Photos by Sam Webb



CDAS MEMBER PROFILE

SAM & ASTRID WEBB

By Sally Bickerton and Laurie Brindle

Quite simply, Sam and Astrid Webb are pillars of the Borrego Springs archaeology community.

They have been residents since 1988 and retired here full time in 1997. Since then, the couple has made extraordinary contributions to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park — and to CDAS.

Their continual efforts over the years were recognized recently by the Society of California Archaeology. The Webbs received the Society’s prestigious Helen C. Smith Award, which is given to a society, group or individual who has shown outstanding leadership in the field of cultural resources management.

In 2005, Sam and Astrid each received a Superior Achievement Award, the highest volunteer award given by California State Parks.

Astrid was recognized as “An exceptionally talented volunteer, fundraiser and indispensable organizer” who donated more than 2,000 hours working on multiple archaeological projects, including completing work in Ocotillo Wells, computerizing antiquated site records and organizing Archaeology Weekend. She also set “a graceful example for fellow volunteers.”

Sam was honored for donating nearly 2,700 hours to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, thereby enhancing the Park’s



Sam and Astrid Webb in front of the Visitor Center on April 19, 2019

Photo by Laurie Brindle

mission and contributing to the success of the Archaeology Program and the Visitor Center through his photography, organizing and fundraising skills and projects ranging from Archaeology Weekend to clean-up after flash floods.

The Webbs moved to Borrego Springs after living in Corona, CA, for 25 years

to escape “gloomy overcast skies, congested traffic, noise, etc.”

“Borrego Springs provided an escape from those things — and still does today,” they said.

Once here, Astrid felt they should get involved with local activities, so they signed up to the Park’s Visitor Center training in 1999. In 2000, they received their initial Archaeology Field Technician training from Archaeologist Rae Schwaderer. A year later, they became CASSP trained site stewards.

The Webbs conducted their first CDAS site stewardship survey in Blair Valley at the Pictograph Rock in 2001, (this was the first assigned site stewardship area in the park), followed eight months later by the Morteros Trail site. They have been regularly monitoring these two sites and a few others in Blair Valley for more than 17 years.



MORTEROS ('EHMUU) INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Dedication Ceremony - April 15, 2012






Astrid Webb, Shot Linton, Sam Webb cutting ribbon to officially open the Morteros ('Ehmuu) Trail.

A clipping from the CDAS F.Y.I. newsletter (precursor to the CDAS Bulletin)
Photos were provided by The Borrego Sun.

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CDAS MEMBER PROFILE



Colorado Desert Archeology Society volunteers installing Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve signs - Jan. 10, 2012

Installing the signs for Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve. Clip from the CDAS F.Y.I. newsletter Jan. 10, 2012. Left to right: Roger Riolo, Chuck Bennett, Sam and Astrid Webb, and Joan Schneider

SAM AND ASTRID *Continued from Page 6*

During those years, there were impacts at both sites. Luckily, they were able to resolve the impacts with no permanent damage to any feature except one, which involved the dismantling of a rock cairn by someone looking for a geocache.

After that incident, geocaching was prohibited within our Park, and it is now California SP policy that it is not allowed where it will affect natural, cultural and historical resources.

Some of Sam and Astrid's non-site-stewardship activities have included the Carrizo stage station and Garra execution site excavations in 2001-3.

They participated in the initial surveying of the eight Cultural Preserve areas designated in 2012 and the installation of signage. These areas included Cuyamaca Los Caballos (pre-and post the 2003 Cedar fire), Piedras Grandes and the Hawi-Vallecito Cultural Preserve.

After the fire, they participated in a CDAS car patrol program at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, watching out for



Sam and Astrid carry the "Pull the Mustard" weed sign in the 2010 Borrego Days parade. (CDAS F.Y.I. newsletter clip) Photo was provided by The Bridge.

pothunters wanting to take advantage of the burned away vegetation that had hidden many sensitive cultural sites (98% of the Park burned). They conducted multiple post-burn surveys, and helped recover the many cultural artifacts from the Dyar House Museum building that was severely damaged in the fire.

Sam and Astrid also helped with the installation of the straw-bales and construction assistance at the BARC in 2005. Astrid is now referred to as "mother" for her ongoing BARC responsibilities.

The Webbs found time to join other community groups, such as the Borrego Springs Civic Foundation and the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group. For all of their service to the community, they were selected as the Honorary Mayors of Borrego Springs in 2004.

Other listings on the Webbs' lengthy collective resumé include Sam's chairing the annual CDAS Archaeology Weekend event for 14 years, editing the CDAS F.Y.I. newsletter (which preceded today's CDAS Bulletin), volunteering in the Visitor Center and last — but certainly not least — being the official ABDSP and CDAS photographer.

Sam says he has filled 450 CDs of photos, and can only estimate that they hold "thousands and thousands and thousands, etc. etc. etc. of photos."

(For those of you who are curious, Sam's cameras of choice are his Canon G5X and a Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS50.)

The Webbs have two children, Wendy and Randy, two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. CDAS is a family affair as young Ava Ciaramella now joins her grandparents at the annual Archaeology Weekend by assisting other children at the craft and display tables.

When asked if they have any advice for new CDAS members, they replied, "Participate and keep it fun!"



Honorary Mayors Sam and Astrid in the 2004 Borrego Days Parade as reported by the Borrego Sun

Thank you, Sam and Astrid for all that you have done for CDAS — and for mentoring and inspiring us all.

About the Webbs ...

"I will always remember those weekly trips down south to the Imperial Valley Desert Museum in the back of their car with Sam driving, the car blaring classical music as we rocketed down the road. Astrid would on occasion say 'hon' as we sped south. It was exhilarating yet magical when we arrived. And at the end of the day, we got to do it over again only this time headed north to Borrego. I learned to know every turn, every straight stretch and still today, I can drive it with my eyes closed. Thank you Sam, thank you Astrid!"

Another memory....working in the BARC. 'Astrid, how do I..., where do I..., can you...?' and she was always willing, able and ready to help, answer, show and tell me what I needed and wanted to know. Astrid is the repository of all knowledge in regard to how things work. What a rock she is — she grounds us with the common sense. Sam, you are a lucky man. His dad knew this and told him so every day until he passed."

— Carol Black

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Photo by John Downing

“Rock Art Conservation Management”

Oct. 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!

Site Steward Resources

Be sure and check out all the helpful information and forms on the CDAS website for site stewards.

<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/> There you will find:

REPORTS:

- Site Steward Guidelines
- How to Submit a Site Report
- Photo Station Set-Up
- Tips for emailing Site Steward Photos and Reports

MANDATORY FORMS

- Photo Station
- Steward Monitor Report
- And more!

You can also view past CDAS Bulletins and Steering Committee minutes.

Regional Events & Resources

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

California Rock Art Foundation
<https://www.carockart.org/field-trips.html>

Society for California Archaeology
<https://scahome.org>

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

San Diego Archaeological Center —
<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/category/events-and-more/>

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

San Diego County Archaeological Society
www.SDCAS.org

CDAS KICK-OFF MEETING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

*Get ready for the 2019-2020 season —
Details will be announced soon!*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! OCTOBER 18-20, 2019

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)



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