



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Rancho Cuyamaca State Parks / **OCTOBER 2019**

CALENDAR

LAB DAY & LIBRARY OPEN

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

CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, Oct., 18, 1:00 p.m.
BARC Library

STATE PARKS/CDAS SPECIAL PRESENTATION

"Military History of the Salton Sea and Borrego Valley"
Sun, Oct. 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Borrego Springs Branch Library

CDAS KICK-OFF MEETING

Sun., Oct. 20, 12:30 -3:30 p.m.
Steele/Burnand Research Center

CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Rock Art Conservation Mgmt."
Sat. & Sun., Nov. 9 & 10
See Better Impact for details

SITE STEWARD TRAINING

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 18 & 19
Location TBA

ARCH TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Fri. & Sat. Nov. 1 through Dec. 7
BARC Library and Field Sessions
Contact Paula Huls for information:
randphuls@gmail.com

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING

Sat., Jan. 25, 2020 TIME TBA

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

Sat. & Sun., Feb.29 and Mar 1, 2020
ABDSP Visitor Center
Details TBA



Special Report on
Ikh Nart, ABDSP's
sister park in
Mongolia
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

John Downing

The equinox has passed and Fall is here. Welcome back for a new season. I hope that all of you had a great summer and are ready to hit the desert as it begins to cool off. Pat and I had a fine summer, the highlight of which was spending three weeks in Northern Arizona and attending the American Rock Art Research Association annual convention in Flagstaff. We were joined by four other CDAS members, Chuck and Mary Bennett, Randy Redfern and Lisa Pridmore.

There were 27 different field trips to view remote rock art sites. Afterwards, we visited the Grand Canyon and were able to locate a little-known rock art site hidden beneath the south-eastern rim that was spectacular.

In addition to working in the field and in the lab — and stewarding sites — we have some interesting events planned for this fall, beginning with the Kick-Off meeting on Oct. 20. And our first continuing education class about rock art preservation will be held the weekend of Nov. 9 and 10.

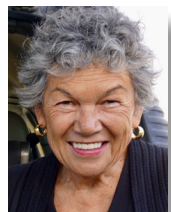
I look forward to seeing you at the Kick-Off meeting and in the field soon.

— John Downing



Tusayan pictographs overwritten with early Puebloan petroglyphs, Grand Canon (Note the game herd scene.)

Photo by John Downing



NOTES FROM THE PARK

Robin Connors

Greetings All — Thank you for your continued service here at the Park. A special thank you to our lab regulars, Astrid Webb and Llouise Jee, and to our field helpers, Lance Deibler and Mary Lou White, who braved the summer heat to join us for lab duty as well as some fieldwork.

We worked on updating the Old Kane Spring site. Llouise Jee helped with photos. Lance and Mary Lou volunteered to monitor a construction site in Cuyamaca and did a tremendous job. I appreciate the work from the steering committee over the summer. Planning for the season takes time and coordination and we appreciate these volunteer efforts. For those who were off to kinder climates, welcome back!

Hayley and I revisited ABDSP's Sister Park Ikh Nart in Mongolia and with the help of

CDAS members Lois Carlson, John Case, Susan Gilliland and Joan Schneider, surveyed hectares of locations in search of artifacts. We were assisting the research of PhD candidate Jennifer Farquhar from University of Pittsburgh.

Coincidentally, Jennifer was in my very first field class as an archaeology student in Santa Cruz. We are happily anticipating a visit from Ankhaa, a Mongolian archaeologist, in March of 2020.

Recently, two gentlemen from the Archaeological Conservancy, Cory Wilkins and Mark Michael, joined us for a tour of Mine Wash and the Morteros Trail. They plan to bring a tour of Conservancy members to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® later on in 2020. They offer tours to very prestigious sites across the country such as Chaco Canyon, so we are very pleased to be on their itinerary.

The park is installing a new interpretive sign at the entrance to Coyote Canyon that will

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**ANNUAL CDAS MEMBERS KICK-OFF MEETING:
SUNDAY, OCT. 20! DETAILS ON PAGE 3**

NOTES FROM THE PARK *Continued from Page 1*

include an introduction to the people and the cultural resources of that beautiful area. The sign will be placed along with interpretations of the paleontology and natural resources of Coyote Canyon. We are very much looking forward to the large panel being located under a large shady ramada. Thanks to Dennis Stephen, our interpretation manager, this will be a welcome addition to the interpretation of park resources.

As most of you know, the fall archaeology training for new arch techs will commence on Nov. 1 and continue through Dec. 7.

Please welcome our newly trained arch techs as they assimilate into the archaeology volunteer program.

We will be losing our Park Superintendent Gina Moran. Gina will be going to the San Diego Coast District as a Superintendent II. I offer you this challenge from Gina, "Do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better, do better."

I sincerely appreciate the efforts all of you put into the park as volunteers and your contributions to the archaeology program. Keep up the good work!

— Robin Connors



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION

The Colorado Desert District includes Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Palomar Mountain State Park.

COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

The CDAS mission is to assist park staff with the documentation, preservation and protection of the district's prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

Robin Connors

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CDAS 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: Chuck Bennett

desrtratz@aol.com

Member: Rick Huls

randphuls@gmail.com

SITE STEWARDS

Welcome back to the new season! We will be offering a Site Steward training class Jan. 18 and 19, 2020. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Site Steward, please have them contact me. I will send them information and an application form. Archaeology Technicians who would like to now take on a site to steward are welcome to attend for refresher training.

We have several experienced stewards who are in need of a partner to accompany them. If you have any interest let me know.

Pat Downing, Site Steward Coordinator
pdsnewmail@gmail.com



Set-up crew for the Sheep Canyon and Ocotillo Flats sites: (L to R) Hayley Elskén, Stephen Barnes, Astrid Webb, Lisa Pridmore and Randy Redfern.

Photo by Barbara Barnes

ARCH TECHNICIANS

Register now for upcoming classes

It's time to register for the California State Parks and Colorado Desert Archaeological Society's Archaeology Technician classes.

Volunteer classes will start Nov. 1 for five weeks and end on Dec. 7. Please note that there will be no classes on November 29 or 30 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

This course will consist of two sessions per week; Fridays will be in the classroom and Saturdays will be outdoors putting your newly acquired skills into practice.

Friday classroom sessions will start at 4:30 p.m. and finish by 7:30 p.m. at Park Headquarters in the Begole Archaeology Research Center (BARC) library located at 200 Palm Canyon Drive in Borrego Springs.

Saturday field sessions will start at 7 a.m. and end by 2:30 p.m. Locations and meet-up points will be provided during the Friday class sessions.

If you are interested in our Archaeology Technician training, **please contact Paula Huls via e-mail at randphuls@gmail.com.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Rock Art Conservation Management: Nov. 9 & 10

California State Parks and Colorado Desert Archaeology Society will host a special two-day workshop on Rock Art Conservation Management featuring renowned archaeologist **Jeremy Freeman on Nov. 9 and 10.**

Saturday's class will be a full day in the classroom and cover conservation concerns and agents of deterioration of rock art sites. On Sunday, you will go out in the field to collect conservation management data at an archaeological site.

During both days, discussions will include how to complete a conservation management condition assessment, assess the stability of the

rock art support, document transformational processes affecting the integrity of the panel, collect climatic data, monitor color, analyze the moisture content of the support, collect surface temperature and temperature variation, and use microscopic analysis. Jeremy will also cover acceptable treatment techniques, diachronic monitoring, and developing a conservation management plan.

Please register for this class via Better Impact. (You must sign up for each day). The cost is \$25 per CDAS member.

If you have further questions, please contact Paula Huls via e-mail at randphuls@gmail.com



Sunday, October 20, 2019



Find out what's happening this season at the annual CDAS Kick-Off meeting!

All CDAS members are invited to attend the official CDAS 2019/2020 Kick-Off meeting on **Sunday, October 20 at 12:30 p.m.** at the **UCI Steele/Burnand Research Center**. This annual get-together is a wonderful opportunity for you to reconnect with friends and colleagues — and learn what's in store for the upcoming season. It is a great time to share and compare your field experiences with fellow CDAS site stewards and archaeology technicians. Feel free to invite interested family members or friends as your guests.

The meeting will begin with a potluck lunch and chili cook-off, followed by info-packed presentations by Robin Connors, Hayley Elsen, and CDAS committee members about site stewardships, archaeology technicians, citizen science, Better Impact and lots more. Be sure to bring all your questions!

New this year: Preceding our meeting, California State Parks and CDAS will be sponsoring a special presentation on the military history of the Salton Sea and Borrego Valley by acclaimed educator and historian Sidney Burks. It is free and open to the public. It will be held at the new Borrego Springs Branch library. **Please see information below.** It promises to be an exciting and informative presentation.

For the chili cook-off and potluck: Please bring your favorite chili for a fun-filled competition — or a dish to share. **NOTE:** Although the Steele/Burnand facility will be occupied until noon, the kitchen and refrigerator will be available for us to store food, crock pots, etc. beginning at 9 a.m. Please call or text Dennis Connors for information at **831-515-9129**.

Borrego Days: Our Kick-Off meeting and presentation coincide with the Borrego Days Desert Festival, which marks the official beginning of the California desert season. The town goes all out celebrating with a parade and a two-day festival in Christmas Circle. California State Parks and CDAS members will march in the Parade and staff an informational booth at the festival on Saturday, Oct. 19, as well as provide tours of the BARC.

We will need many volunteers to help with all the weekend activities, which on **Saturday** include the parade, the booth at Christmas Circle and tours of the BARC. On **Sunday** we will need people to help with the presentation at the library and the kick-off meeting at the Steele/Burnand research center. Please contact Dennis Connors for these fun and fulfilling volunteer opportunities at **831-515-9129**. **We hope to see you there!**

California State Parks & The Colorado Desert Archaeology Society
proudly present

The Military History of the Salton Sea & Borrego Valley

SUNDAY, OCT. 20, 2019

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • FREE Admission • Open to the public
• Borrego Springs Branch Library, 2580 Country Club Rd.

Learn about the hotbed of local military activity in and around the Salton Sea and Borrego Springs before, during and after WWII. And get ready to have some local myths debunked!

Noted educator and historian Sidney Burks will give a special two-part presentation on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the new branch library. The event coincides with the annual Borrego Days Desert Festival.

Richly illustrated with vintage photos and postcards, Mr. Burks' presentations will cover the significant activity that has left a lasting impact on the area.

Admission is free and open to the public.*

*** Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.**



PBY over the Salton Sea

Photo courtesy of the Palm Springs Air Museum

Arch in the Park

Volunteers are also needed for "Arch in the Park," San Diego County Archaeological Society's acclaimed annual event at Rancho Peñasquitos on Saturday, Oct. 19. Two or three volunteers will staff our table, hand out literature, and introduce attendees to CDAS, ABF and State Parks volunteering. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m..

This is an entertaining and interesting event featuring archaeology in San Diego County, volunteering, California Archaeology Month and International Archaeology day.

Please contact John Downing for information at 714-615-2137.

<https://sdcas.org/upcomingevents/2019/10/19/arch-in-the-park>

CHUCK AND MARY BENNETT

By Sally Bickerton

Long time Borrego Springs residents and amazing ABDSP volunteers and enthusiasts, Chuck and Mary Bennett, have truly been crucial in “building” CDAS and the Archaeology Department in the Park. Chuck, a retired engineer, and Mary, mother and homemaker, first started volunteering in the Park in 1985, building bighorn sheep guzzlers, helping with trail work, and building a pupfish pond.



Mary and Chuck Bennett at their Borrego home
Photo by Laurie Brindle

They raised their family in Poway, before spending 18 months in Tucson, and then making the move to Borrego in 1994.

After learning of CDAS, they took Dr. Joan Schneider’s first volunteer training class in 2001. At that time, Cultural Resources had only a small area in the Stout building, which is immediately behind CDD headquarters. Today it houses the Park’s paleontology and botany operations, as well as its library.

Fundraising efforts began slowly, with the goal of building a new, more spacious facility dedicated to local archaeology and the Colorado Desert District.

As Anza-Borrego Foundation president in those years, Chuck was the person pioneering Borrego archaeologist Bob Begole called to say that he would fund an archaeology building — if Chuck could ensure that it would get built.



Chuck and Mary Bennett at a milling feature near Cuyamaca
Photo by Sam Webb

After meetings with Park personnel, Mary and Chuck were both very involved in the building’s energy-efficient design and construction – from stacking straw bales, plastering, painting and finally, moving in!

In 2006, Mary and Chuck both received the Directors Gold Medallion Award from California State Parks. Chuck was honored for his leadership in “making the Begole Archaeological Research Center a reality.” Mary was honored for leading a team that transcribed the diaries of Ed Davis, an early desert traveler and friend of Native Americans. The microfilm copies in the lab were hardly readable, so the group transcribed them.

This culminated in the Bennetts and a group from CDAS taking a trip to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian to photograph Davis’ artifact collection.

Mary and Chuck have been involved in many site surveys and digs over the years. Chuck also spent 15 years as a site steward of five sites in Harper Flat. He enjoyed hiking this remote and beautiful area of the park. Because it is so remote, Chuck witnessed few problems at the sites.

In 2016, Chuck received a Begole grant to explore the use of a drone to document cleared circles, ground figures, intaglios, and other site features. He is the most



Mark Jorgensen with Chuck and Mary as they both receive the Directors Gold Medallion Award from California State Parks in 2006

Photo by Sam Webb

recently elected member of the CDAS Steering Committee, having served in previous years. Just this year, Mary was honored as ABF Volunteer of the Year!

Chuck keeps busy and uses his creativity as a woodworker to build furniture and cabinetry, as well as wood sculptures. Mary has a 48-inch loom, on which she weaves both wearable and utilitarian items, from scarves to place mats. Both display and sell their work at the Borrego Art Institute.

Chuck said they have had “an extremely rewarding time” as CDAS volunteers and leaders, and both hope to continue to be active participants. It certainly has been extremely rewarding for ABDSP to have them as volunteers!



The late Bob Begole presents Mary and Chuck with a special award for managing the construction of the BARC in 2005.

Photo by Sam Webb

NOTES FROM MONGOLIA



Storm clouds swirl over the line-up of gers, tent-like structures where visitors stay at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve.

Photo by Lois Carlson

Ikh Nart Nature Reserve captivates ABDSP team with its rich history, culture

By Laurie Brindle

This summer, six adventurous representatives of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park traveled nearly half way around the globe to the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia to continue the archaeological and cultural management work begun by Dr. Joan Schneider in 2009.

Located in the remote East Gobi Desert, Ikh Nart was named a sister park to ABDSP in 2008. Mark Jorgensen, then superintendent of ABDSP, along with the governor of Dalanjargalan Sum who manages Ikh Nart, signed the official agreement to foster relationships between the two parks. Former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger formally acknowledged the bond.

The parks were selected because of their similarities, in terms of biodiversity, species (Borrego's bighorn sheep and Mongolian argarli are examples), environmental protection, and park management strategies and challenges.

For the last 10 years, international groups of volunteers and scientists have helped the Ikh Nart staff explore, evaluate and promote the park's abundant resources through landscape assessment, conservation training, educational outreach, and archaeological excavations and inventory surveys. ABDSP has also provided financial support for local management efforts, which include research, cultural research resource protection and law enforcement.

Part of the work and the Sister Park relationship is to bring our Mongolian counterparts to ABDSP and other places in the

USA. In March of 2020, Mongolian archaeologist Ankhaa will be visiting us here in Borrego.

This year, our representatives were assisting Jennifer Farquhar, a doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh in a program well-known for its Central Asian expertise. Her research plan was to survey "... four key environmental zones within Ikh Nart to characterize land-use practices over time."

Day-to-day life at Ikh Nart required adjustments. In addition to the 15-hour time difference, our crew had to quickly adapt to the lack of modern conveniences. They filtered drinking water, took "solar" showers and learned to live without the Internet and cell phones. Accommodations were the iconic circular "gers," (AKA yurts) that are adorned with brightly colored weavings and rugs. The gers were heated by dung-burning stoves that vented through the top of the tent-like structures. The park's kitchen staff prepared two delicious hot meals daily along with a packed lunch. Wine and beer could be purchased, which contributed to evening conviviality.

Soon after our group arrived, archaeological work began. Breakfast was served at 7 a.m. and survey teams were in the field until 4 or 5 p.m. Transportation to the day's sites were vintage high-clearance 4WD Russian vehicles that provided some E-ticket thrills as they traversed the bumpy terrain.

But this was all taken in stride as the survey work commenced. Enthusiasm grew as the amount and quality of artifacts were found, as well as getting to know the warm and generous local people. Plans to return to Ikh Nart next year have already begun.

We've asked the following ABDSP participants for their most memorable experiences. Here is what they had to say:

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NOTES FROM MONGOLIA

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Joan Schneider, PhD

I think that the most memorable experience this past summer, at least for me, was not having to make all the day-to-day decisions about logistics, keeping everyone on track, and just being a member of the team working for Jennifer. In all the past years, I had so much responsibility that it was difficult to really enjoy Ikh Nart until everyone was out of the field safely and the work was completed — then a huge sigh of relief! Our much-improved accommodations this year made it particularly enjoyable for me. Contributing something to Jennifer’s dissertation research was terrific in that she got started at Ikh Nart a number of years ago under my direction. Now she is to be a PhD!!! It was also a pleasure to work again with Robin and to work with Hayley for the first time. Let’s hope that our work in our sister park can go on for many years. Next summer the National Science Foundation will support the research focused on the circumstances promoting a transition from hunter-gatherer lifeways to pastoralism — which Mongolian cultural heritage is based on, even today.



Dr. Joan Schneider
Photo by Susan Gilliland

Susan Gilliland

It’s been a privilege to participate in four archaeology field seasons at Ikh Nart. They’ve all been fascinating, and I’m so grateful for what I’ve learned and what I’ve been able to contribute through the years.

This season we surveyed using a new land-use analysis method that tested the boundaries of my comprehension of how to do archaeology in the field. Just when I thought I might understand things a bit, something new came in to topple my assumptions. That was a big challenge for me and an opportunity to explore new ways of thinking.

Additionally, I relished returning to familiar places and seeing old friends. Our Mongolian archaeologist partners, Tsedo and Dalantai, are fun and inspiring to work with. I also truly enjoyed the great camaraderie our team of volunteers shared this season. Among many other things — the freezing cold mornings, broken down Russian vans, climbs up granite cliffs with purple iris blooming below, and surveying on hands and knees — all topped off with a cold beer before dinner made for a memorable field season.

Who wants to go next year??



Susan Gilliland
Photo by Dr. Joan Schneider

Robin Connors

Our Mongolia trip was truly a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the archaeology of the East Gobi Desert. The comparison between the two parks is interesting; the bighorn sheep of course, the vipers, the many beautiful species of birds. We do not have camels here except as fossils, or huge herds of horses, goats, sheep, and gazelles on this beautiful landscape. The archaeology is amazing, with lovely micro-blade cores, micro-blades, and even some paleolithic artifacts. There were potsherds from the many cultural phases, each a glimpse into a people following their herds and establishing their dynasties.

Following the award of a grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding and the sponsorship of the American Center for Mongolian Studies in Ulan Bataar, we were able to pay for our trip with the grant money. This generous grant allowed us once again to work with two of our Mongolian archaeologist friends, Dr. Tsedo and Dalantai. With Dalantai and Selenge translating, I was able to visit with two groups of schoolchildren, talk to the Assistant Park Director Anand, and to our cultural ranger, Choi. This helped us reinforce the connections we have, though a world apart.

Our dedicated crew worked well together, laughed together and many friendships were made. This was my third trip to this beautiful land, full of wonderful people and I hope to return again and again.



Robin Connors Photo by Susan Gilliland

John Case

I was warned that this was going to be hard work. “Ahh,” I said to myself, “it can’t be that hard.” Oops.

Each eight-plus-hour day started with an incredible, sometimes precarious, bumpy off-road journey in a Russian-made high clearance 4x4 van, passing by and through giant herds of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and smaller herds of camels and horses. Scattered sporadically throughout the park were individual gers with corrals. These were home to local herder families. I found the current occupants of this land as fascinating as those 2000- to 4000-year-old artifacts left behind by nomads who once roamed this land.

We documented lots of artifacts and evidence of many past cultures, including not only stone and ceramic artifacts, but also burial sites (some looted), petroglyphs and pictographs.

Past and present – it was all fascinating! And it was hard work!



John Case Photo by Susan Gilliland

NOTES FROM MONGOLIA

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Hayley Elsen

During the survey, we focused on small one-acre areas scattered throughout the park in different environmental zones for a random sample of types and density of artifacts. This meant that on our way to the hectares, we often saw artifacts and features that were fascinating, but would not contribute to the overall study. On one such walk to our hectare, I kept seeing large basalt chunks of rock that seemed to have the right form to be tools, but were too weathered to have distinct diagnostic characteristics, such as defined flake scars with platforms, bulbs or negative bulbs. These were outside the survey area, so at this point we did not have to make a decision on whether they were tools. We surveyed our hectare and did not come across any of the basalt rocks in the hectare. We passed by the not-quite-natural-looking basalt rocks on our way back to the van and it turns out I wasn't the only one eyeing these rocks and thinking they looked a lot like tools.



Hayley Elsen Photo by Susan Gilliland

Robin and I picked up a couple for close inspection and Dalantai, one of the amazing Mongolian archaeologists, came over and confirmed our suspicions that these were, in fact, weathered basalt tools, possibly from the Paleolithic. In our next hectare, about a kilometer west, we found even more tools — this time inside the hectare, which gave us the chance to get a close look and collect several samples.

These tools were an extreme shift in style from the small

microblades, scrapers, arrowheads and blade cores made from cherts, jaspers, chalcedonies, and other cryptocrystalline silicates. It was a shock to the systems to have to switch from looking for flakes that may be only a couple millimeters in size to 10-15 cm tools.

Our team brought the tools back to camp and had in-depth discussions over our dinner with the rest of the group about the age, use and biases to assume that tools that are “crude” and large in form are older. “Crude” tools are similar to expedient tools which are useful, easy to knap on the fly since they don't follow any specific form and are usually created to perform a certain task at that moment. We found these tools on the surface mixed with microblades and pottery from different periods, so there was no way to positively date these tools as Paleolithic or simply more modern expedient tools.

Hopefully, more research will be done in the future to be able to find “crude” tools in contexts that can be dated, so we can understand how old these forms of tools really are.

This was one of many favorite moments from the trip, since it made me check my own academic biases and think critically about the use of expedient tools.



Team members relax after a long day in the field.

Photo by Susan Gilliland

Lois Carlson

So... what a privilege to participate in this passion for discovery of past Gobi life.

Walking hectares methodically, purposefully, scientifically; flagging ceramics and lithics; qualifying and quantifying data, joining dedicated archaeologists and students from Mongolia and China, who by finding artifacts can glimpse insights into Gobi life thousands of years ago.

Teaming up to survey land, locating the northwest corner and walking the hectares sounds straightforward, but for me, whose GPS and compass skills are non-existent, is not as simple as it seems. Took a few days and several frustrating directional errors to finally get a small grip on the routine. But after that, and taking advantage of my team members' experience . . . it got fun. The heat, the wind and the weather were dynamic as the season changed to full on summer. Herds of camels and sheep and goats are everywhere, along with the families that herded them by horseback or motorcycle.



Lois Carlson (left) and Dr. Arlene Rosen with camel friend

Photo courtesy of Lois Carlson

Our gers were spacious and comfortable and I soon learned to duck in the doorways and filter our drinking water. Other cool chores included untangling flags and tape at the end of the day, labeling and bagging artifacts, negotiating seats on the Russian off-road vans, and greeting the local camel herd each morning. Food was great, lots of meat and potatoes with candy bar chasers which I could use to negotiate favors.

For me, mostly living in the moment and showing up for the work of the day,

and growing friendships of our team colleagues, was priceless.

Besides technology and personal convenience, I suspect the day-to-day life of those Gobi dwellers of the past has similarities to ours; food, shelter and safety, and caring for and protecting their families and community.

The opportunity to be in that space, for me, was priceless.

In the eye of the camel, the wool of the sheep, the mane of the horse, the meat of the cow, the milk of the goat and the vodka of Chenggis Khan lies life; now and then.

NOTES FROM MONGOLIA

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Bactrian camels of the Central Asian Steppes have two humps compared with single-humped dromedary camels. *Photo by John Case*



ABOVE: An ornate ger interior with the central dung-burning stove



BELOW: Artifacts are carefully gathered and sorted. *Photos by John Case*
Hayley Elsken and Robin Connors *Photo by John Case*



Choibaslam ("Choi"), cultural ranger at Ikh Nart *Photo by John Case*



ABOVE: One of the Russian vans taken to the survey sites

BELOW: A labeled bag of artifacts *Photos by Susan Gilliland*



The first of two teams to assist Jennifer Farquhar this summer with her work at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve

Photo courtesy of Susan Gilliland

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NOTES FROM MONGOLIA

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Artifact found during survey
Photo by Lois Carlson



A double rainbow spans the horizon of the Gobi Desert.

Photo by Lois Carlson



Dalantai, Mongolian archaeologist
Photo by Susan Gilliland



Petroglyphs seen on a rock cropping in the Gobi Desert Photo by John Case



LEFT: Tasty meals included combinations of meat, potatoes, carrots, cabbage and pickles. Mongolian beer was popular.

Photos by John Case



Rough roads and loose seats cause Mongolian archaeologist Dr. Tsedo and Hayley Elsken to brace themselves on the way to survey sites.

Photo by John Case



Dr. Joan Schneider inside one of the richly decorated gers. This was Dr. Schneider's tenth trip to Ikh Nart Nature Reserve. Photo by Susan Gilliland



Herds abound inside Ikh Nart Nature Reserve

Photo by John Case



The second team to assist Jennifer Farquhar at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve

Photo courtesy of Lois Carlson

CDAS team seeks to locate USGS soil testing sites to protect cultural resources in Cuyamaca

By Mary Lou White

I think most would agree that a day in the field doing survey is better than a day spent indoors. Fresh air, enjoying physical exertion and sharing time with friends and colleagues is a primary reason we participate with CDAS. Finding cultural resources becomes a bonus! We recently had the opportunity to have a couple memorable field days.

Robin and Hayley asked Lance and me to join them on a project in Cuyamaca that involved a lot of hiking – especially off trail with some possible bushwhacking.

USGS is proposing to dig 1.5-meter holes for soil mapping over a large area. It was deemed prudent and necessary to check out the intended locations before work began because they either bordered on known archaeological sites or were in areas that had not been surveyed since the 1970s.

Hayley did a lot of planning before we set foot on a trail. She divided the work into three days of survey based on relative proximity of the 30 proposed bore holes and topography. Areas that exceeded a 30-percent slope were automatically rejected for our field review since Native Americans would not have settled on such steep terrain. Google Earth indicated that some places might be in heavy vegetation. It was determined we would hike as close as possible to the marked point and adjust as needed.

Each day involved about six miles of hiking and up to 75 “floors climbed” (per my health data app).

On Day One, the four of us (Robin, Hayley, Lance and Mary Lou) got an early start. We chose the furthest outlying area that involved the most strenuous hiking. Might as well get it behind us — right?!

There were five locations we wanted to check out on that first day. It started well with no cultural resources found. Granted, the grasses were dense and high (yes, we wore snake gaiters!), but there were some rodent clearings that could be easily observed.

As we progressed to the next proposed position, it became apparent that the project engineer had probably never really been on site. All the proposed dig sites were likely selected in the office. We made our best attempt to bushwhack through dense, sharp foliage.

At one point, we were crawling on our hands and knees to try and penetrate the brush. An executive decision was made to abandon our review of some of the intended spots and direct the project manager to indicate how they were going to access the location. Day One was concluded.

Day Two was a few days later. Robin was not able to join us due to a conflicting commitment. Again, we got an early start but were quickly delayed. Locks on the access road had been

changed since we were last there and apparently there was a communication glitch. The combination code wasn't shared with everyone who needed it. After some running around and phone calls, we got the numbers and were able to drive up to the trail head. The day was already proving to be hot and there was a 30-percent chance of thunderstorms around 3 p.m. We were hoping to get in and out while weather was cooperating. Based on the first day's work, Hayley said we would skip any location that involved crawling to access.

We again took the approach of getting the most difficult locations out of the way early. The trail hiking was beautiful and scattered clouds kept it relatively comfortable. That didn't last long enough. We needed to get across a stream so diverted cross country from the trail.

Lance did a reconnaissance and found a possible area to cross that was the least steep with a fairly shallow water flow and less stinging nettle to avoid. Using the Avenza mapping program, we located our survey area and found

lithics, including wonderstone. Lance found a boulder in the dense grass with grinding features — a new site to be recorded!

We were encouraged but now had to figure out how to get back across the stream, avoiding sharp wild rose bush thickets and nettles. Mission accomplished!

After hiking another 20 minutes, we found a shaded spot to enjoy our lunch before continuing on. Breaks are terrific, but there is a loss of momentum. Our packs seemed to have gotten heavier during our short respite. We continued on to the next location. Once arrived, we were on the trail looking down into a ravine at our intended target. No way in Heck were we going there!



Mary Lou White in the aftermath of a powerful thunderstorm during a quest to locate USGS soil testing sites in Cuyamaca State Park

Photo by Lance Deibler

NOTES FROM THE FIELD



The day started out beautifully with sunshine and blue skies, but it didn't last.
Photo by Lance Deibler

Cuyamaca — Continued from Page 10

We weren't sure how the geologist had planned to get down there either. As coincidence would have it, we encountered a solo hiker in the vicinity. After a few moments of chatting, we discovered this was the guy from USGS who had picked the proposed sites for soil mapping; it was his first day out there. It confirmed our suspicion that the map had been prepared entirely from the office.

We discussed difficulty of getting to some of the locations. He agreed to modify the plan to allow for reasonable access. We parted ways and headed to our last point to be field checked. We were dripping with perspiration but not for long. The thunderstorms arrived early and with a loud boom. I was regretting holding onto aluminum hiking poles (lightning rods??).

The sweat was soon washed away with a torrential downpour. At least we were cool! This field day was concluded, but we needed to make the three miles back to where the truck was parked. The rain lightened up and it was actually a pleasant walk. By the time we got back to the vehicle, the rain had stopped but we were

soaked and tired. It would be great to get home to shower, put on dry clothes and have a good meal. Alas, that was to be delayed.

We drove out the access road and were just 0.8 miles from the highway when our passage was blocked. A huge, rotted oak tree had fallen across the road during the storm. There was no getting past or around it. Hayley made phone calls to try and get Park Maintenance staff out there with big chain saws. After a relay of calls, the right people were located and deployed to our assistance. Fortunately, we had cell coverage and adequate battery life on



Surprise! A fallen tree blocks the exit road after the storm.
Photo by Lance Deibler

the phone. The radio wasn't picking up a signal — perhaps because of the hollow we were in. We waited about an hour, sharing stories of our travel adventures and the rest of the food in our packs.

After an hour, two Park Rangers arrived on scene. They couldn't really do anything except provide encouragement and be a back-up source for reliable communication. Shortly behind them,



Chainsaws to the rescue! *Photo by Lance Deibler*

Shay McGhee, Park Maintenance Supervisor, and his aide pulled up with two 36-inch chain saws. After donning appropriate safety equipment, they got right down to the work of cutting up the tree and clearing the road. Everyone pitched in to move the wood out of the way. Hooray — we were on our way home and it was just barely 4 p.m.! As we drove back to get our car, we reviewed what went right and what could have been improved upon.

Hayley decided we would delay finishing this project until all threat of thunderstorms was past. That was a huge relief as this tired body needed a rest day. But we look forward to getting back out there soon and having more fun in the field with archaeology!



Despite being drenched by a thunderstorm and delayed by a huge fallen tree, the intrepid and skillful team of Mary Lou White, Lance Deibler and Hayley Elsken were smiling at the end of the day.
Photo by Mary Lou White



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



Know your acronyms!



By Laurie Brindle

As a relative newcomer to the local archaeology community, I have often been confused by frequently used expressions and obtuse acronyms.

No sooner did I learn why it's the *Colorado* and not *California* desert, than I realized there were multiple entities with very similar names. I had to keep track of which groups are a society, a center or association. And which names include the noun "archaeology" and which use the adjectival form "archaeological."

Inquiring minds need to know these things.

So if you also struggle to keep these things straight, may I present the following list in alphabetical order. Of course, these will be just SO obvious to many readers, but please indulge those of us who are still learning.

ABDSP Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

One of three parks in the Colorado Desert District. See below. The building is the ABDSP Visitor Center.

ABDNHA Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association

You will hear this referred to as "Ab Nuh," with the emphasis on the first syllable.

ABF *Anza-Borrego Foundation, which is the official nonprofit partner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

BARC Begole Archaeology Research Center

Named after Borrego's pioneer archaeologist, Robert Begole

CDAS Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

Let's hope everyone knows this one!

CDD Colorado Desert District

Includes Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Palomar Mountain State Park. It is part of California State Parks and Recreation.

SCA Society for California Archaeology

Based in Chico, the SCA promotes archaeology in California.

SDAC San Diego Archaeological Center

Located on San Pasqual Road in Escondido, SDAC is a curation facility and museum.

SDCAS San Diego County Archaeological Society

Based at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House, AKA the "Adobe." It is the site of the annual "Arch in the Park" event.

STEELE/BURNAND (Yes, I know this is not an acronym)

The full name is the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center; University of California, Irvine. Set up on a hill in a stunning mid-century building that was once a country club, it is where many CDAS events are held.

Regional Events & Resources

Barona Cultural Center and Museum

"Walter Echo-Hawk Lecture"

Monday, Oct. 7, 2019 — 6 to 8 p.m. Early registration recommended
"Beading Class" Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$25
"Box Traps Class" Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 — 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$25
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

California Rock Art Foundation

www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum

"IVDM BeerFest!" Saturday, Oct. 19 — 5 to 9 p.m. \$35

"Impossible Railroad: Centennial Celebration"

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019 — 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., FREE event.
<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org/>

Malki Museum

<https://malkimuseum.org/>

Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 2 – 3, 2019
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

www.rpfestival.com/

San Diego Archaeological Center

"Kumeyaay Ethnobotany"

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019, 6:30 PM

Free admission, donations are appreciated

"A Life in San Diego Archaeology" by Dr. G. Timothy Gross

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 — 12 to 3 p.m. (Presentation at 1 p.m.)

Free admission

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

San Diego County Archaeological Society

"Celebrating the Art in Archaeology:" (Multi-day event. See website)

"Arch in the Park" Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.SDCAS.org

SDRARA Symposium

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019 San Diego, CA

<https://www.sandiegorockart.org/symposium.html>

Society for California Archaeology

October is archaeology month

<https://scahome.org/>

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.

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

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COPY DEADLINE: The 25th of each month, September to April (Bulletin publishes October through May)