



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Rancho Cuyamaca State Parks / **JANUARY 2020**

CALENDAR

LAB DAY & LIBRARY OPEN

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
NEW: Library will also be open on Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
BARC Library

STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATION "Ethnobotany"

By Suzanne Emery
Fri., Jan. 17, 11 to 12 p.m.
ABDSP Visitor Center

CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Fri., Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m.
BARC Library

NEW SITE STEWARD TRAINING

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 18 & 19
Steele/Burnand Research Center

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING

Sun., Jan. 26, 12:30 p.m.
Steele/Burnand Research Center

CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Artifact Illustration Classes"
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 17 & 18
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
BARC Library

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 29 & Mar. 1
ABDSP Visitor Center
and the BARC Library and Lab

INSIDE

- Artifact Illustration Class
Page 2
- CDAS Annual Meeting
Page 3
- Archaeology Weekend
Preview Page 3
- Ethnobotany
Presentation Page 6

And more!



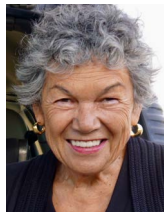
FROM THE CHAIRMAN

John Downing

Welcome back from the holiday season. Pat and I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and wish you the very best in the year to come.

As we enter the second half of the 2019/2020 season, we have quite a lot happening. Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 8, a survey project will start in the Bow Willow area. On Jan. 26, we will hold our annual meeting. It will be a casual afternoon event this year and include a dessert 'potluck.' All members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

Then during the weekend of Feb. 15/16, there will be a continuing education class on artifact illustration. Conducted by Donna Walker, the class is an excellent introduction to the skill of accurately drawing artifacts. This one-day, hands-on class will be repeated on Sunday to allow more members to attend. See page 2 for more information.



NOTES FROM THE PARK

Robin Connors

This month went by too swiftly! The holidays just sneaked up on us and we were inundated with things to do.

Most of what I did was mundane compared to the prescribed burn I participated in on Cuyamaca Peak along the Lookout Fire Road. We had crews from Cal-Fire, La Jolla Reservation, as well as an intrepid crew from the Colorado Desert District. At times it was hot and smoky and at other times it was just smoky.

The idea for a prescribed burn is to burn away unwanted shrubs and undergrowth and replant it with young trees. We have a very knowledgeable Reforestation Specialist here at Headquarters, Lisa Gonzales-Kramer. She made sure logistics were covered down to the smallest detail.

I was there to monitor the two archaeology sites up in that particular area. Both sites were bedrock milling, but the site spread down to the

Continued on Page 2

Later in February, we have our important public outreach event, Archaeology Weekend, as well as our only fundraiser, the "FUNdraiser/Marketplace." This year's Archaeology Weekend theme is "Current Archaeology in the Colorado Desert District." Four Begole Grant recipients will discuss their recent research in the Colorado Desert. More details are available at <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-weekend/>

The steering committee is pleased to announce that some of the positions listed in last month's bulletin have been filled. Membership Chair: Dennis Connors; Archaeology Weekend Committee Co-Chairs: Chuck Bennett and Rick Huls; Field Trip Leader: Rick Huls. Rick has volunteered to organize a visit to the Coso Mountains to view this spectacular petroglyph site.

The Membership Data Coordinator position remains open. We encourage members to assist us in the coordination of society activities.

I look forward to visiting with you at the annual meeting and in the field in 2020.

— John Downing



Firefighters executing a prescribed burn at Cuyamaca Peak along Lookout Fire Road Photos by Robin Connors

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING / DESERT POTLUCK
Sunday, Jan. 26 • 12:30 to 3 p.m.

UCI Steele/Burnand Research Center

See Page 3 for details



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

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

Hayley Elsken

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



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



Reforestation Specialist Lisa Gonzales-Kramer, third from right, is using a drip torch to ignite the area to be burned. She is in charge of our reforestation project here in the Colorado Desert District. Photos by Robin Connors

NOTES FROM THE PARK *Continued from Page 1*

road with artifacts and midden soil previously recorded. The artifacts were not relocated due to a long accumulation of duff. I am happy to say that the fire did not affect the area where the majority of the cultural components were grouped around the milling sites.

The crews were all very cooperative and we were greatly assisted by our Burn Boss, Frank Padilla.

The result of the burn was that the area from the roadside up to the very thick growths of Ceanothus burned well, but the Ceanothus was difficult to burn. This has resulted in a thick perimeter of burned areas that can be planted with young trees. Except for a few pockets where the crews were able to get into the thick growth, it covered about 60 percent of what was originally planned. Nonetheless, the fire was considered a success, it will make room for many more beautiful little trees to be enjoyed far into the future.

Thank all of you wonderful volunteers for what you do for our Parks. It takes a special



Heavy smoke makes the job increasingly difficult.

person to want to give back to the natural and cultural resources by donating their time and efforts to document, preserve and protect.

— Robin Connors

Continuing Education

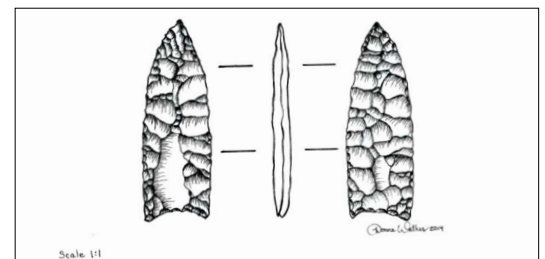
Sign up now for artifact illustration classes

The second in our series of CDAS Continuing Education classes this season, Artifact Illustration, will be offered on **Saturday, Feb. 15** — and again on **Sunday, Feb. 16** — at the Begole Archaeological Research Center Library. Each class will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. with a one-hour lunch break.

Both artists and non-artists will be able to complete a drawing during the step-by-step class. Handouts with sample drawings and measuring techniques will be provided.

The instructor for this class will be Donna Walker, a contract artist with 15-plus years of experience.

You may sign up for either the Saturday or



Sunday class on Better Impact or contact Chuck Bennett at desrtratz@aol.com. Each class is limited to 15 students, so sign up early to get your choice of days. For more information, please visit: <http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org/members>

Mark your calendar!

CDAS Annual Meeting / Dessert Potluck

Sunday, Jan. 26 • 12:30 to 3 p.m.

UCI Steele/Burnand Anza Borrego Research Center

Special Presentation:

“Out in the Field — CDAS Site-Steward Adventures”

All CDAS members are encouraged to attend the 2020 Annual CDAS meeting scheduled for **Sunday, Jan. 26**. In addition to hearing pertinent news and updates from the Steering Committee, Robin and Hayley, you will meet the newly elected Steering Committee members. A Park representative will address the closure of Rockhouse Canyon Road, which has affected access to ABDSP areas north of there.

There will be a special presentation by two CDAS site stewards, who will talk about their experiences and challenges in the field — and offer tips and encouragement to our group.



Ample time has been allowed for questions and answers, as well as casual conversations with your friends and colleagues over a bounty of delicious desserts and treats! Much can be gained by sharing first-hand accounts of archaeology in the Colorado Desert District *in person*.

Please bring a dessert (or a savory appetizer if you prefer) to share. Coffee, water and soft drinks will be provided.

For information, please contact CDAS Membership Chair Dennis Connors at dennis_connors@yahoo.com.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Excitement builds as Archaeology Weekend nears

Feb. 29 & March 1, 2020

2020 theme: “Current Archaeology Research in the Colorado Desert District”

Mark your calendars for Archaeology Weekend, the signature annual event of CDAS. The goal is to educate people about the cultural resources of the CDD and to show how to preserve and protect them. Held at the ABDSP Visitor Center and the BARC, the two-day event also promotes ongoing CDAS programs.

There will be pottery, craft and basket displays and demonstrations, as well as ethnobotany and artifact exhibits. Tours of the BARC and the exciting FUNdraiser/Marketplace (See page 4) will be offered every half hour.

Special hands-on activities for children and adults, including making clay pots in the ancient tradition are planned.

On Saturday, four Begole Grant Awardees will give presentations about their current research projects. On Sunday, the public is invited to sign up for one of three hikes to local archaeological sites, led by with CDAS members. Feature sites include Yaqui Pass Hunting Blind, Mine Wash Indian Village and the Morteros Site.

All CDAS members are encouraged to attend this important outreach event. We always need volunteers. If you can help, please contact event Co-Chair Rick Huls at randphuls@gmail.com

For a complete list of activities, please visit <http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-weekend/>

From Archaeology Weekend Co-Chair Rick Huls —

A group of CDAS volunteers are working on Archaeology Weekend and have gathered a number of times so far. Quite a few things have been accomplished.

We still have a lot to do, though. We get together at 1 p.m. every Tuesday in the BARC Library to discuss how things are going.

If you would like to join us, you are welcome to stop by and add your input.

We are running this, as AW Co-Chair Chuck Bennett has said, as “a gathering — NOT a sub-committee.” So you can come by if you like. We welcome everyone who is interested in the annual signature event of CDAS.

We have a number of people who have said “yes” to helping, but we can always use more! Many hands make light work!

Click here for the full schedule of AW events: <http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-weekend/>



Members of the PaiPai people from Baja at the 2019 Archaeology Weekend
Photo by Sam Webb



Don Endicott leads a tour of the BARC last year.
Photo by Sam Webb

Archaeology Weekend

Sneak peek! Great items arriving for the CDAS

FUNdraiser/Marketplace!

Do you have something you would like to donate?

The only CDAS fundraising event of the year is off to a great start! With a new name, and the wonderful items that are being donated, we hope to reach a larger audience with exceptional shopping opportunities. All moneys raised will go to programs and activities that help preserve and protect the Park's cultural resources.

We have received some outstanding items for the FUNdraiser/Marketplace!

Take a look at the beautiful woman's jacket with the Great Bear Spirit-inspired design, or the striking sunset colors of the handmade lap quilt, or the handcrafted bear made of wood with turquoise beads (a Chuck Bennett original).

Makes your hearts and wallets sing and twitch? If you have gently

used, quality items just sitting around collecting dust, why not add them to our FUNdraiser/Marketplace?

We are trying something new this year: Gift baskets. We'd like to have a "Get Fit" basket, so if you have gently used exercise equipment or DVDs, please consider donating.

If you have spare tools, we could put together a "Handy Helper or Man's" basket. We'll gladly accept items every Tuesday in the BARC Library from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Thank you for contributing to our FUNdraiser/Marketplace!

For further information or questions, please contact Rick or Paula Huls at randphuls@gmail.com.

— Paula Huls



Great Bear Spirit-inspired woman's jacket



Wood bear with turquoise beads by Chuck Bennett



Handmade lap quilt

Photos by Rick Huls

Better Impact

Better Impact helps us communicate better

By Hayley Elsken

Having an up-to-date Better Impact account is more important than ever. Robin, Hayley and the CDAS Steering Committee will be using Better Impact to communicate with members about volunteer opportunities, events, important park announcements and more. Please make sure the email associated with your Better Impact account is your preferred email for communications from the Park.

Please log on to your Better Impact page and make sure to update your contact information. From the homepage, click on "My Profile" in the upper right-hand section of the screen and from there click "Contact Information."

If you have any problems with Better Impact, whether it's logging in, inputting hours, signing up for activities or something else, please feel free to email me at any time at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov.

Wednesday Survey Days: Register through Better Impact

Surveys will be every Wednesday starting Jan. 8 until the weather gets too hot (likely mid-April). The focus of the surveys for the 2020 field season will be in the southern section of Anza Borrego Desert State Park near Bow Willow.

We will be continuing the survey of the plateau containing Pleistocene fossils and surface tools. This site is expansive and therefore will be surveyed in one-acre squares across the plateau in order to find the boundaries of the site. The walk to the survey area has one short-steep hill and then it flattens out to level elevation gain, but uneven ground surface. Walking to the survey area from the car may be up to a mile.

Please use Better Impact to sign-up for the surveys. There are some Wednesdays I am out of town and we will therefore not be having the survey.

There will be no surveys on Feb. 5 or Feb. 12.

I will send out a confirmation email at the end of my workday (3:30 to 4 p.m.) on Tuesday for the survey the next day using the Better Impact list.

This will include any weather updates, changes in the field, supplies needed for the day, etc. If only one person has signed up for the survey at 3:45 p.m. the day before, the survey will be CANCELED. Please sign-up by mid-day Tuesday.

Archaeological Surveys can only be attended by CDAS members who have attended and passed the Archaeological Technician course. If you are a site steward interested in becoming an Archaeological Technician, classes may be offered next fall depending on interest.

— Hayley Elsken

Site steward news



Left to right: CDAS site stewards Pam and Richard Gilb inspect a possible rock shelter on a recent site set-up in Culp Valley with the assistance of CDAS Steering Chair John Downing.

Stewards needed to monitor CDD sites as well as to accompany others on visits to existing sites

There are still many sites that need stewards to monitor. Also needed are volunteers to help other stewards monitor existing sites.

We will be holding a training class for new site stewards on **Saturday, Jan. 18**, but if any CDAS member wishes to attend the class as a refresher, please feel free to contact me at pdsnewmail@gmail.com

— Pat Downing

Photos by Pat Downing



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



CDAS Archaeology Technician and Site Steward Lois Carlson inspects some bedrock milling on her Hellhole Canyon site set-up.

California State Parks/CDAS monthly presentation

“Ethnobotany in the Colorado Desert”

By Suzanne Emery

- 11 a.m., Friday, Jan. 17
- ABDSP Visitor Center Discovery Room
- Open to the public

The State Parks and CDAS are pleased to present Suzanne Emery as the featured speaker for January program. The topic will be “Ethnobotany in the Colorado Desert.”

Suzanne will talk not only about the



Suzanne Emery at the 2017 Archaeology Weekend event
Photo by Laurie Brindle

great variety of plants, trees, shrubs and flowers found in the surrounding Anza-Borrego Desert, but how they have been used by native peoples as food, medicine and construction for millennia.

She will bring plant samples to the class for discussion, as well as several agave leaves to demonstrate how they can be transformed into sturdy strands of twine that native people used to craft pack-nets, rope and even shoes — or use the root as a bucket.

Don't miss this educational and entertaining presentation.

Please arrive early, because seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

About the speaker:

Suzanne Emery has had many titles, including scholar, teacher, newspaper reporter, CDAS site steward, avid student and promoter of Kumeyaay culture, avocational ethnobotanist and certified interpretive guide.



Suzanne Emery Photo courtesy of Suzanne Emery

Suzanne became a CDAS site steward in 2010 and currently monitors the Mine Wash archaeological site. She has shared her extensive knowledge of native plants and their uses with visitors and CDAS members for years during Archaeology Weekend. She has been active at the Kumeyaay Ipai Interpretive Center in Poway for 15 years and enjoys taking classes at Kumeyaay Community College.

This presentation is one of a monthly series co-sponsored by CDAS and California State Parks.

Please note: The \$10 parking fee will be waived if you place your current Volunteer Card on the dashboard of your car.

“We Are Birds” documentary film shown at December presentation

The award-winning documentary film, “We are Birds — A California Indian Story” by Albert Chacon, was the second public outreach film presented this season by State Parks and CDAS. It documents the Cahuilla social movement for the People’s own Native history, and introduces that culture to a broader audience. Non-native peoples of Southern California are largely unaware of the native cultures and customs in their area, including song and dance traditions.

Allegorical in nature, bird songs are said to be originally composed by the Creator and sent via a bird to people on earth to help them live together harmoniously. The songs convey ancient stories and beliefs and are passed down from generation to generation.

“We Are Birds” focuses on this movement as experienced by a variety of Elders, Bird Singers and Dancers, and other cultural preservationists. Their stories delve into the heart of what bird singing is, how it has changed, and why it is important that the “Bird Lives On.”

The project started off as a report on Bird Singing for the classroom, but has expanded to become a “visual anthropology project.” It involved multiple reservations to provide a more comprehensive picture of Bird Singing today.



“We Are Birds — A California Indian Story,” a film by Albert Chacon, was presented on Dec. 20 at the ABDSP Visitor Center theater.

Photo by Sam Webb

This methodology has become a long-term, engaged involvement with the Native community that continues today.

The film was shown in the ABDSP Visitor Center theater. The event was well-attended and concluded with a Q & A session.

— Rick Huls

TALES FROM THE TRAIL



John Case returns the hiking pole to Dr. Reena Deutch after it was discovered during a site visit to Jackass Flats. It had been missing for nearly a year.

SOLVED! The case of the missing hiking pole

Story and photo by Laurie Brindle

While hiking in Jackass Flats nearly a year ago, Jan. 25, 2019 to be exact, Reena Deutch, PhD, lost her hiking pole. It wasn't just any pole, it was one that she had carried for years. It held a lot of memories and she wanted it back.

Reena, an outdoors leader, historian, lecturer and naturalist who organizes excursions in Anza-Borrego, posted a notice on cork boards around town. No response. The pole was history.

Fast forward eleven months. CDAS Site Steward/ Archaeology Technician/ABDSP Naturalist Don Endicott, CDAS Archaeology Technician and Site Steward John Case, and CDAS Site Steward Sherry Mitchell hiked into Jackass Flats to monitor the site.

While there, Don spotted a bent and scratched up Leki hiking pole that looked like, well, someone's trash. John offered to carry it out and properly dispose of it.

Eerily, Don contacted John a week later and asked if John still had the pole because somebody was looking for one that they had lost in the area.

"Uh oh," John thought. "What did I do with it?" He remembered seeing it while unloading his gear at his trailer in Borrego, but had no memory of it after returning to his house on the coast.

"I thought I might have thrown it out because it was pretty beat up and difficult to adjust," he said. The only hope was that he had stashed it in the shed at his Borrego trailer.

Returning to the desert weeks later, John walked straight to the shed. There it was — the missing pole.

John contacted Reena with the news. She was very happy and a pick-up time was scheduled. In the hands of its rightful owner, the battle-scarred and well-traveled pole was ready for its next hiking adventure.

Regional Events & Resources

Barona Cultural Center and Museum

<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

California Rock Art Foundation

"The Great Murals of Baja California — Sierra de San Francisco"

Three trips scheduled in March 2020: 1-8, 12-19, 22-29

www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum

<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org/>

Malki Museum

<https://malkimuseum.org/>

San Diego Archaeological Center

"Shrouded Heritage, Island of the Blue Dolphins" by Thomas Holm

Saturday, February 8, 11 a.m.

\$2 Admission • Free admission for members

"Watershed Explorers Hike"

Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Free Admission

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

San Diego County Archaeological Society

www.SDCAS.org

Society for California Archaeology

<https://scahome.org/>

"Annual Meeting"

Thursday to Sunday, March 12 to 15

Riverside Convention Center

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One of the best ways to learn more about archaeology and Colorado Desert District is to join one (or more) of the many ongoing CDAS programs and activities. Benefits also include making new friends, many of whom have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field. One position is currently available:

Membership Data Coordinator 1 to 2 hours per month

Maintain and update membership list in Excel. Provide data for activities as needed, such as: voting list, communications, etc.

Contact Pat Downing: pdsnewmail@gmail.com

Site Steward Resources

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

<http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org/members>

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, September to April
The Bulletin publishes October through May.