



# THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



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

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

### STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

- "Eastern New Mexico and its role in early debates on the first people in the Americas"  
By Brendon P. Asher, PhD  
Fri., Feb. 21, 11 to 12 p.m.  
ABDSP Visitor Center
- "The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis: New Evidence for Human Presence in North America 40,000—30,000 Years Ago"  
By Steven and Kathleen Hohen  
Fri., March 20, 11 to 12 p.m.  
ABDSP Visitor Center

### CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Fri., Feb. 21, 1:30 p.m.  
BARC Library

### ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

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

## INSIDE

- Arch Weekend Preview  
Page 5
- Annual Meeting Report  
Page 6
- Eastern New Mexico /  
First People Presentation  
Page 8
- Artifact Illustration Class  
Page 10

And more!

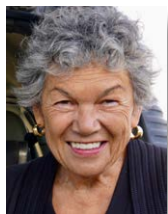


### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### John Downing

Our society started the new year with an informative and enjoyable annual meeting that was well attended. The highlight of the meeting, with the exception of the delicious desserts of course, were two presentations by site stewards Mandie Carter and Josh Breslow (Harper Flat) and Don Endicott (Jackass Flat & Arrowmakers). We were pleased to welcome six brand new members from our recent site steward training class.

As we begin this new calendar year, it is important for all of us to utilize the Better Impact system and enter our hours routinely and accurately. Entering your hours accurately by category is especially important as the data will be utilized for future management purposes. It is particularly important for site stewards to log their hours in addition to submitting monitoring reports.



### NOTES FROM THE PARK

#### Robin Connors

Hello All—  
As most of you know on Saturday, Jan. 18, a devastating fire burned the lower palm grove up the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail. Palm Canyon is now closed for an indefinite time to the public.

Hayley and I have visited the site twice, once to tour the site with the Headquarters Team, and once to check on any cultural resources that may be there.

You can certainly help out. The entrance to the canyon remains closed to the public, but folks are still trying to get up there, especially to view the burned palm grove. There are still burning materials and it is generally unsafe. What the Park needs is a cadre of volunteers who are willing to take a few shifts at trail head of the Canyon.

If any of you are willing to help out, we can arrange to set you up

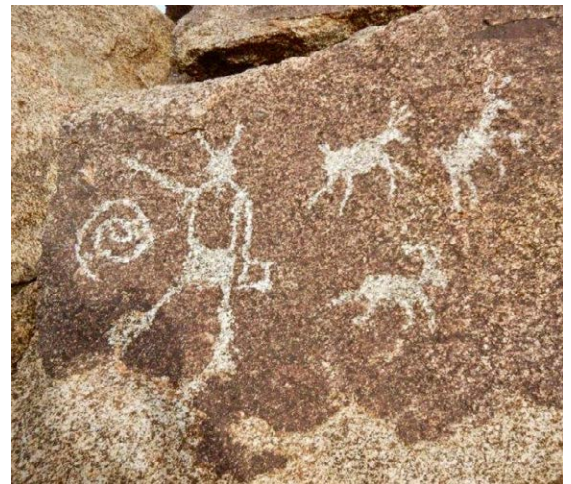


Don't forget to sign up for this month's continuing education class, Artifact Illustration with Donna Walker. Continuing education is free to our membership. Our society pays for this as a benefit to you in recognition of the many hours you contribute to the district archaeology program. So please take advantage of this excellent educational opportunity. The class is being held two consecutive days so that everyone has an opportunity to attend. Please see page 10.

The steering committee is now up to full membership with the addition of new member Lois Carlson — and we welcome back Chuck Bennett. All committee officers' terms have expired and new officers will be elected in our next monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21.

While I will be stepping down as chair, I will continue to serve my remaining two years term on the committee. I am looking forward to spending more time in the field this year! As always, steering committee meetings are open to all members.

— John Downing



The recently reported "discovery" of an ancient petroglyph panel in Plum Canyon proved to be a modern creation.

Photo by Robin Connors

with shifts or a shift. You will get volunteer hours for this, of course. Please contact me if you would like to pitch in.

Continued on Page 2

## ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND 2020 Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 29 & Mar. 1

See Page 5 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](mailto:robin.connors@parks.ca.gov)  
760-767-5790

**Hayley Elskén**

Associate State Archaeologist  
[hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto:johndowning2014@outlook.com)

**Vice Chair: Dennis Connors**

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

**Treasurer: Eugenie Newton**

[evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com)

**Secretary : Paula Huls**

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

**Member: Chuck Bennett**

[desrtratz@aol.com](mailto:desrtratz@aol.com)

**Member: Lois Carlson**

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

**Member: Rick Huls**

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



A distant shot of the newly "pecked" images in Plum Canyon.

Photos by Robin Connors

**NOTES FROM THE PARK** *Continued from Page 1*

This month I traveled through a portion of the Carrizo Impact Area with a group from the Army Corps of Engineers. They are initiating planning for munitions removal, a long-term plan that may take a few years. I was saddened to see so many off-road vehicle tracks crisscrossing the area, first saddened for the folks who might run into unexploded ordnance, and then for their effect on the fragile desert landscape. I noted very few cultural resources in the small area we were exploring, but did see some heavy artillery and 50-caliber bullet casings.

Hayley and I received a report from a hiker that he had discovered a petroglyph panel in Plum Canyon and sent us a picture of an anthropomorph with two deer and a sheep.

Knowing that no petroglyph or pictograph in the ABDSP ever had these motifs, we climbed up to the location of the panel and determined that they were modern. There was no desert varnish in the grooves and cleared areas of the petroglyph, so we knew that these were newly "pecked." In addition, the motifs were made by a very experienced artist who did not make an attempt to portray the animals in the traditional manner.

The anthropomorph looked like some Great Basin petroglyphs, but again, was not representative of our usual rock art.

I sent a photo to Ken Hedges and he agreed that they were very modern.

This is another form of graffiti and we will need to somehow repair the damage, perhaps with a paint that matches the rock varnish.

— Robin Connors



Above and below: The Army Corps of Engineers plans to remove munitions from the Carrizo Impact Area, which include heavy artillery and 50-caliber casings.



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

## More Notes from the Park

# Mainly lithics found during recent surveys of ABDSP

Surveys in the southern part of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park began on Jan. 8. We have had crews out there for three Wednesdays so far and every one of them has been a great success. Thank you to the archaeology technicians who have made it out into the field so far: Andrew Page, Mary Lou White, Lance Deibler, John Case, Dan Jellis, Paula Huls, Rick Huls and Alec Sonnier.

The area of the park that the survey is focused on consists of gravel terraces, which are full of lithic material, including cores, flakes and tools. Surveys were conducted in this area in the spring of 2019 with the help of the Southern Service Center Archaeologists from San Diego.

During the 2019 survey, we confirmed that this section of the park has a large amount of lithics over an extensive area. But due to time constraints, we never found the boundaries of the site.

The goal of the surveys we are conducting now until spring is to try and find the extent of the lithic production area as well as the density of the site. To accomplish this, we created a grid of 100x100-meter squares across the geologic formation where the lithics have been located and are surveying every other square to cover a greater surface area.

Survey results so far have been mainly lithics. We have recorded choppers, scrappers, gravers and hammerstones, as well as fire-affected rock features.

Surveys will be on hiatus from Feb. 1 to 16, but we will be out in the field again on Feb. 23.

— Hayley Elsken



Hayley Elsken inspects a sample found during a recent survey. Also pictured: Paula and Rick Huls. Photo by John Case

### Reminder:

*Surveys will be every Wednesday until the weather gets too hot (likely mid-April).*

*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 100x100-meter 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. 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.*



Cobble Scrapper

Photo by Johnathon Pooler



Chopper

Photo by Andrew Page



Perforator/Drill/Graver: all names used for the same types of tools

Photo by Johnathon Pooler

## Site Steward News

# CDAS welcomes 20 enthusiastic new site stewards

By Pat Downing

Take a picture perfect Anza Borrego weekend and pair it with 20 enthusiastic new site steward candidates and you have a recipe for a lot of fun — as well as intensive learning.

Our Saturday classroom experience at the UCI Steele/Burnand Research Center began with Robin giving an overview of archaeology in the Colorado Desert District.

I covered types of sites and access and the various paperwork forms involved, while John explained GPS basics needed and CDAS information.

We had some afternoon excitement as our ranger did not show up to speak, but Kathy Dice was able to show us the photo of the blazing fire in Palm Canyon that was using all available resources. At the end of the class, those who were interested were given a tour of the BARC by John.

Sunday was the day for fun. The students accompanied John and me on an actual site visit to Chuparosa. Our group was made up of several professional archaeologists, current arch students, a cultural anthropologist, a former park superintendent and very interested lay persons.

Everyone was open to asking questions and sharing their knowledge. It made for a lively exchange and a great learning experience for everyone including John and myself.

All of the class have chosen a site or sites they would like to steward, so our set-ups will take us a long way toward covering more of our outstanding sites. We do still need partners for several stewards, so if anyone is interested, please send me an email at [pdsnewmail@gmail.com](mailto:pdsnewmail@gmail.com)

Please join me in welcoming:

*Ivan Castro  
Craig Champion  
Howard Clark  
Kathy Dice  
Mike Downs  
Lauren Downs  
Sue Downs  
Kris Greenwood  
Sue Hagen  
Scott Hansen*

*Shane Harris  
Jeff Haslett  
Sara Jones  
Laurie Mauser  
Patty McFarland  
Randall McFarlane  
Kathy Provoast  
Elaine Tulving  
Alan Tulving  
Pam Wiedenkeller*



The layout of the site and ground rules are explained at the start.

Photo by Pam Wiedenkeller



John Downing demonstrates the correct way to pick up an artifact.

Photo by Pam Wiedenkeller



The class observes John Downing evaluating a depression in a boulder.

Photo by Pam Wiedenkeller



New CDAS site stewards and Pat Downing (center in turquoise) gather Sunday morning at Chuparosa.

Photo by John Downing

California State Parks & the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society proudly present

# Archaeology Weekend 2020

## • Feb. 29 & March 1 •

• Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday / 9 a.m. to noon Sunday



Baja  
potter  
Daria  
Mariscal

Archaeology Weekend is almost here! We hope all members will attend CDAS' signature annual event and take advantage of the activities offered.

We welcome our talented artisan friends from Baja California, who are returning this year. They will demonstrate ancient pottery and basket-weaving techniques — and bring beautiful items for sale.

Attendees can learn about current archaeological research in the Park, make a clay pot to take home

and/or join CDAS trip leaders on hikes to popular local archaeological sites.

Great shopping opportunities abound at the FUNdraiser/Marketplace. Saturday concludes with the Sweet Tradition Social Hour at the BARC.

Volunteers are needed both days. If you can help or want to donate an item to the FUNdraiser, please contact Rick Huls at [randphuls@gmail.com](mailto:randphuls@gmail.com)

See you there!

[anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-weekend](http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-weekend)

## Schedule of Events

### SATURDAY, FEB. 29

#### VISITOR CENTER

9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

• **Guided tours of the Archaeology Lab & FUNdraiser/MARKETPLACE** conducted by Colorado Desert Archaeology Society volunteers. Groups depart from the Visitor Center front door approximately every half hour.

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Native American Basket, Craft & Pottery Display and Sale.** Pai Pai, Kumiai, Kiliwa, and Cucapa potters and artisans from Baja California will show their work and demonstrate their craft-making.

• **Pottery Making Demonstration & Kids' Activities.** Includes clay grinding, paddle-and-anvil construction techniques. By CDAS Archaeology volunteers. (Clay will be available for spectator participation.)

• **"Uses of Native Plants for Food, Medicine and Construction by Kumeyaay Tribes."** A demonstration table will feature various plants and their uses. By CDAS volunteer Suzanne Emery.

#### DISCOVERY ROOM AT ABDSP VISITOR CENTER

**"Current Archaeology Research in the Colorado Desert District: Begole's Grant Contribution"**

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. "Obsidian Sourcing, Protein Residue analysis for Cuyamaca Ovals" by Begole Grant awardee Kent Manchen

10:30 – 11:30 am "Research on the Harkleroad Native American Ceramic Vessel Collection, San Diego Museum of Man"

by Begole Grant Awardee Susan Hector, PhD

1 – 2 p.m. "Chronological Placement of Circular Rock Features and Rock Cairn Sites Using OSL Dating Method" by Begole Grant Awardee Joan Schneider, PhD

2 – 3 p.m. "Aerial Photo Documentation of Archaeological Features Using Quadcopter Drone-Mounted Camera" by Begole Grant Awardee Chuck Bennett

#### BARC LIBRARY

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **FUNdraiser/MARKETPLACE**

A wonderful variety of quality items will be offered in a special silent auction. Visitors may place bids, or purchase items immediately at the buy-now price!

Bidding closes at 4:30 p.m. Winning bids announced at 5 p.m. (Winners need not be present). Funds raised are used to help preserve and protect the Park's cultural resources.

4 – 5 p.m. **FREE Sweet Tradition Social Hour** will conclude the Saturday's activities at the BARC. Everyone is invited to enjoy Root Beer Floats or Hot Chocolate and cookies — depending on the weather!

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

#### VISITOR CENTER

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Native American Basket, Craft & Pottery Display. Items will be for sale.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

• **Pottery Making Demonstration & Kids Activities.**

Includes clay grinding, paddle-and-anvil construction techniques. By CDAS Archaeology volunteers. (Clay will be available for spectator participation.)

• **"Uses of Native Plants for Food, Medicine and Construction by Kumeyaay Tribes."** A demonstration table will feature a variety of plants and their uses. By CDAS volunteers Dan Jellis and Pam Blake.

#### FIELD TRIPS TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Each trip is limited to 20 people and there is a \$5 fee.

You may register online at <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/sun-mar-1-field-trips-events/>

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **"Yaqui Pass Hunting Blind"**

Lines of rock cairns have been recorded in several areas in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The stone-cairn line features are sometimes associated with rock walls, either natural or built, which may represent hunting blinds. The stone features are within or adjacent to areas known to be regularly used by groups of bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). This field trip will visit one of these sites. Participants will meet at the Mall parking lot adjacent to the Post Office where carpooling will be arranged. We will drive to the Yaqui Pass area. Trip leader will be Joan Schneider, PhD, a retired state park archaeologist and Begole Grant recipient.

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. **"Mine Wash Indian Village"**

CDAS archaeology volunteer Suzanne Emery will lead a special tour through the Mine Wash Archaeological Village Site. This village was occupied and used extensively by the Kumeyaay People around 1000 years ago and again during the 1600s. During our walk over the relatively gentle open desert, we will observe a variety of features associated with seasonal habitation, food gathering and food preparation. Archaeological features we will see include bedrock milling and grinding, as well as examples of the mysterious pecked cupules found throughout the region. Participants will meet at the Mall parking lot adjacent to the Post Office where carpooling will be arranged. High clearance vehicles are necessary for this trip.

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. **"Morteros Site"**

Join CDAS volunteer archaeologist Sam Webb for a behind-the-scenes tour of this Kumeyaay seasonal village. Learn how agave was harvested and then cooked in roasting pits. View the many rock art paintings, cupules and bedrock milling features located at this undated village site. Participants will meet at the Mall parking lot adjacent to the Post Office where carpooling will be arranged. We will drive to Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve.



# CDAS Annual Meeting

## What happened and what's ahead

*Progress and plans shared with CDAS members at January meeting*

By Sally Bickerton

The CDAS Annual Meeting, held at the UCI Steele/Burnand Research Center, drew a large crowd this year. About 35 members were welcomed by Chair John Downing. He thanked the Steering Committee members for helping guide the group through the recent years of amazing growth and expansion. By moving meetings to weekends, publishing a monthly bulletin and holding intensive training programs, participation has grown.

Eugenie Newton, nominating committee chair, announced the results of the Steering Committee election. She welcomed Chuck Bennett for another term and Lois Carlson to a first term on the Committee. Eugenie, changing hats to treasurer, also presented a chart of money spent during the 2018-19 year, and the projected 2019-20 budget. She pointed out that most of our income comes from the annual Archaeology Weekend auction. Arch Weekend is also our largest expense.

Pat Downing announced that 20 eager and enthusiastic new Site Stewards completed their training in January. They have chosen sites, and are looking forward to getting "set up" at their sites this winter and spring.

Mandie Carter and Josh Breslow gave a great slide presentation of their year as site stewards in Harper Flat. (You can read more about this couple on page 9.)

Don Endicott shared some of the highlights of the site he stewards in Jackass Flat, the former Mountain

Cahuilla village of Ataki. Especially impressive was a time-lapse video Don made on the summer solstice that showed the shadow of the sun lining up exactly with an arc of cupules. Don also presented photos and a drone video that chronicled the damage and restoration efforts at a Cuyamaca Rancho State Park site on Arrowmaker's Ridge.

Archaeologist Robin Connors then thanked CDAS members for all the work they do to support State Parks. She shared that the recent Palm Canyon fire was devastating, and that help was needed to monitor the trail (Contact Robin or the Visitor Center if you can help.)

Robin reported that if you see "Keep Out" signs along Rockhouse Canyon Road, they refer only to the private property on either side of the road. Park visitors have the right to use the road to access parklands.

She stated that a class in how to formally monitor work in the park would be offered soon, as she and Hayley can't always be at every location they are needed to oversee digging and construction. She also said Tuesday's Lab Days are productive and fun and to please stop in - treats are provided.

Robin stressed that Better Impact is an important tool we all need to use, both for recording hours and to stay informed of opportunities and events.

The meeting ended with a wonderful assortment of refreshments to enjoy.

Thanks to Dennis Connors for organizing this event!



John Downing



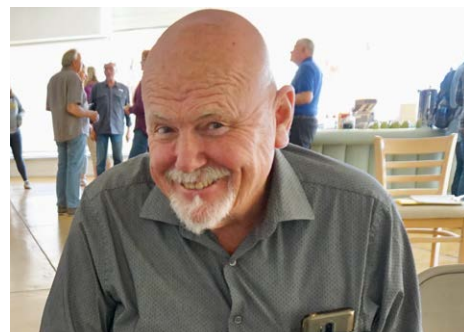
Eugenie Newton



Robin Connors



Pat Downing



Dennis Connors



Members listen to presentations at the CDAS annual meeting held at the UCI Steele/Burnand Research Center on Jan. 26.

# CDAS Annual Meeting



Jean Paul Carrere and Virginia Perrine



Mary Lou White and Lance Deibler



Mandie Carter and Josh Breslow  
(Marv Coppess and LLouise Jee in foreground)



Lisa Pridmore and Rick Huls



Marv Coppess, Pat Downing and John Case



Dan Jellis



Pam Wiedenkiller and Patty McFarland



Suzanne Emery and Jeff Haslett



L to R: Lois Carlson, Paula Huls and Eugenie  
Newton expertly manage the kitchen clean-up.



LLouise Jee and Hayley Elsken



Laurie Mauser and Sherry Mitchell



Lois Carlson and Chuck Bennett



Stephen and Barbara Barnes



Don Endicott and Kathy Dice



Paula Huls and John Downing

## California State Parks/CDAS monthly presentation



**Brendon P. Asher, PhD**

### “Eastern New Mexico and its role in early debates on the first people in the Americas”

**By Brendon P. Asher, PhD**

- 11 a.m., Friday, Feb. 21
- ABDSP Visitor Center Discovery Room
- Open to the public

**B**rendon Asher, PhD, is Director of the Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark and Museum in Portales, New Mexico.

The early 1900s were a pivotal time in North American archaeology as scholars struggled to grasp how long humans had occupied the New World. This talk will focus on the discovery of the Folsom and Clovis sites in eastern New Mexico.

These two sites caused a critical rethinking of the antiquity of human presence in North America and unequivocally demonstrated for the first time human occupations on this continent over 10,000 years ago.

The historical significance of these discoveries will be highlighted, and past and ongoing research projects at the Clovis type-site will be reviewed.

*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.*

## Ethnobotany presentation includes hands-on learning

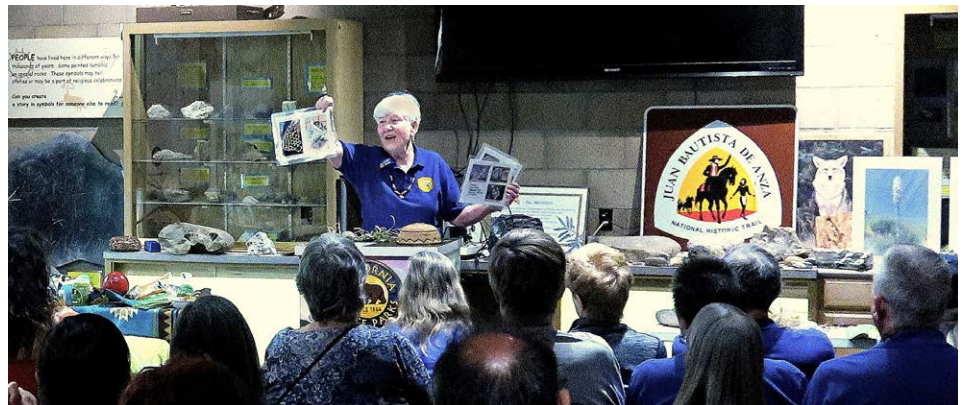
**D**uring our January program, Suzanne Emery once again taught us about the desert when she said, “If you know how to survive, you can thrive.”

With a tabletop covered with plants and tools, she demonstrated how many of the common desert plants were used to sustain the Kumeyaay lifeway.

From edible samples of chia and ground mesquite (tastes like cinnamon) to extracting fiber from agave leaves to make string, twine and even rope, she educated us about what was common knowledge to Native American ancestors. Many of those who attended gained a hands-on knowledge of how to make agave twine bead necklaces and bracelets.

Thanks once again Suzanne for a wonderful experience.

— *John Downing*



Suzanne Emery discusses the various native plants found in the surrounding desert. Photo by San Webb



Agave fibers are pulled from the leaves and scraped to create strong twine and rope.

Photo by Laurie Brindle



Suzanne Emery (center) instructs Eugenie Newton (left) and Paula Huls on the finer points of stringing beads using agave twine.

Photo by Laurie Brindle

## CDAS Member Profile

# MANDIE CARTER & JOSH BRESLOW

By Sally Bickerton

Josh Breslow and Mandie Carter, site stewards of the Harper Flat area since completing their training in 2018, are hiking enthusiasts.

The couple live in San Diego and are engaged. Josh is a programmer, working for UCSD School of Medicine, and Mandie currently works in residential property management, as well as working on her degree in anthropology.

Mandie shared that though she grew up in Coachella Valley, she didn't visit Borrego Springs until 2003. Josh first visited ABDSP about 15 years ago and "fell in love with it immediately."

They have been hiking and exploring the area since, and have enjoyed using Google Earth and Google to find more areas to discover.

On a hike in Blair Valley several years ago, Mandie spied a box containing a memorial to a young child. That prompted her to report seeing it to the State Park, where she met and spoke with Robin Connors. Robin's inspiring response, along with Josh and Mandie's next desert hike to the Indian Hill rock shelter, "sealed the deal." She decided to go back to school and study anthropology.

In 2018, Mandie and Josh contacted CDAS Chair John Downing and expressed their interest in getting involved. John and wife Pat both made them feel very welcome. The Downings encouraged them to consider stewarding in the Harper Flat area, as it is a challenging hike to reach (and requires younger legs than some of us possess!).



Mandie Carter, John Downing and Josh Breslow at the CDAS annual meeting on Jan.26

Photo by Laurie Brindle

Josh said that they went out to explore the area on their own prior to their set-up visit. After some hiking around, they sat down for a snack, only to spot an amazing artifact right in front of them in nearby bushes.

This jaw-dropping experience led them to decide that Harper Flat was "definitely welcoming them by sharing one of its hidden secrets."

They have continued to be awed by the beautiful area, which includes pictographs, petroglyphs, boulders with cupules, and signs of flintknapping. (Those of us who attended the Jan. 26 CDAS meeting will have heard more about these sites.) They have also enjoyed learning more about the flora and fauna of the valley. Sighting a bighorn ram skull, baby desert tortoise and crows with their fledglings are just a few of their highlights.

They have seen some impacts in the area – the typical mylar balloons (they removed 13 their first season!) and some artifact stacking. At first, they saw many mountain bike tracks in Pinyon Wash, which was mentioned as a route on a mountain bike online forum. Happily,

since that information was removed, they have seen fewer tracks.

Josh says that the obvious perk of being a site steward is getting to hike and explore. But both of them appreciate the friendships they have made and getting to know like-minded people. Josh's final comment – "You haven't really lived until you've been struck in the calf with a Cholla ball." Ahh, the desert!



Josh and Mandie at their Harper Flat site

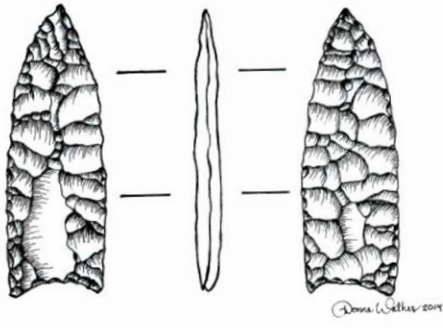
Photo by John Downing



Ouch! A cholla ball finds its mark.

Photo by Mandie Carter

## Continuing Education



### Last chance to register 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](mailto: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>

Coming Saturday, April 4

### “Creating a Primary Site Record: In the Field and Office”

This one-day class, taught by past CDAS Steering Committee Chair, Susan Gilliland, will give you tools to collect and record the data needed to document a new archaeological site with a Primary Record. Archaeologists use this fundamental skill to ensure a site is properly recorded and placed into the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

One of the primary goals of the CDD Cultural Resources program is to survey and record new cultural sites. Learning how to identify, document, and record an unknown site, and then knowing it's on-the-map and on-the-radar for protection, is one of the most satisfying things we can do as CDAS volunteers.

To register, contact Chuck Bennett by email at [desrtratz@aol.com](mailto:desrtratz@aol.com). If you have any questions, you may contact Susan Gilliland at [shgilliland@mac.com](mailto:shgilliland@mac.com)

For more information about the class, please visit <http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org/members>

### WE WANT YOUR NEWS, PHOTOS AND STORIES!

If you have events or items that you would like included in future publications of the CDAS Bulletin, please send them to Laurie Brindle at [CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org](mailto:CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org)  
**COPY DEADLINE:** The 25th of each month, September to April  
 The Bulletin publishes October through May.

## Regional Events & Resources

### Barona Cultural Center and Museum

#### “Kumeyaay Ethnobotany”

Thursday, February 6, 6 to 8 p.m.

Barona Community Center • Free admission

#### “Projectile Point Knapping”

Saturday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Barona Cultural Center and Museum \$30

<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](http://www.carockart.org)

### Imperial Valley Desert Museum

#### “Ocotillo Blooms” Celebrating the desert bloom

Sunday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission

#### “Visiting Lecturer - Carole Zeigler”

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free admission

#### “Indigenous Cultures Day”

Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission

[www.ivdesertmuseum.org](http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org)

### Malki Museum

#### “Morongo History and Sovereignty”

Friday, Feb. 21, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

#### “Acorn Processing”

Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$20 per person

<https://malkimuseum.org>

### San Diego Archaeological Center

#### “Shrouded Heritage, Island of the Blue Dolphins” by Thomas Holm

Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m.

\$2 Admission • Free admission for members

#### “Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest”

Friday, March 27, 7 p.m. Free admission

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

### San Diego County Archaeological Society

#### “La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border”

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

[www.SDCAS.org](http://www.SDCAS.org)

### Society for California Archaeology

<https://scahome.org/>

#### “Annual Meeting”

Thursday to Sunday, March 12 to 15

Riverside Convention Center

California State Parks and the Botany Society present

### “Chasing Centuries: The Search for Ancient Agave Cultivars Across the Desert Southwest”

A presentation by author Ron Parker

10 to 11 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 9



UCI Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego  
Desert Research Center

