



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



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

CALENDAR

LAB DAY & LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 1:00 p.m.
Virtual classroom. Details TBD

STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

Postponed until Fall 2020

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Postponed until Fall 2020

INSIDE

- From the Chair *Page 2*
- Tribute to Becky Rusk *Page 3*
- ABDSP Volunteer Awards Gala Event Photos *Page 4*
- Construction Site Monitoring Class Report *Page 6*
- CDAS Member Profile: Lois Carlson *Page 7*
- A Moment of Reflection by Sam Webb *Page 8*



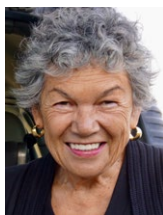
Ocotillo in the rain
Photo by Laurie Brindle

Notes from the Park



Two spectacular ollas were originally found and photographed during an annual sheep count in Borrego by Patrick D. "Mr. Patrick" Yrarrázaval-Correa. It took two subsequent searches to find them again and document their exact location in the Park.

Photo by Patrick D. Yrarrázaval-Correa



Robin Connors

As most of you know, we are living in "interesting" times. The Park is doing its very best to try to control the possibilities for contamination and possible contagion by COVID-19. This has led to some big changes over the last couple of weeks. Events for any amount of people over nine persons have been canceled. All campgrounds are closed, including primitive camping. State Parks released a press release on March 29, 2020 saying that all State Parks are closed to vehicular access.

This means all day-use parking areas will be closed. The situation is constantly changing, so please feel free to contact Hayley or me with any questions or concerns about going out into the field. We will try to keep everyone as updated as

possible as we get instruction on what activities will and will not be allowed. Thank you for your patience.

We are all working together to protect each other and ourselves by following the recommendations to prevent transmission; wash hands often, cough into a tissue and throw it in the garbage, don't touch your face, stay more than six feet apart, disinfect surfaces frequently, and if you feel sick or are at risk, stay at home.

Sadly, the Society for California Archaeology annual meeting was postponed, and that is one of our favorite events of the year. Better safe than sorry.

The month started out busy, with monitoring jobs for a fire line in Cuyamaca and some other simple tasks. Of great interest: two ollas were found by sheep counters and were relocated and photographed. Location data were collected and recorded. They're still out there, beautiful artifacts that we find that are so difficult to leave behind.

Continued on page 2

Notes from the Park

Continued from previous page

Our wonderful Volunteer Gala was well attended and although a couple of folks were not handed their pins, the pins are here along with the gratitude for the hours of work put in for the Archaeology Program. Congratulations to John Downing for his Diamond Pin (over 1,500 hours) and John Case for his Ruby Pin (over 500 hours).

Thank you all for the beautiful plaque that Chuck Bennett created. Your support through the years was essential. The plaque will be hung in a place of honor in my house.

Hayley has been busy catching up on the paperwork for the Bow Willow surveys. We have had to discontinue the surveys until further notice, but the landscape and artifacts will stay there until we can get out again and continue our work.

Lab has also been very quiet, as we had to cancel our Tuesdays. At this point, we cannot bring any volunteers inside the Lab until the stay-at-home orders are removed.

I have been working on my old files, stacks of things “to read,” sorting out books on the bookshelves, working on the Archaeology Tech Class materials and along with Hayley, disinfecting every surface in sight. We’ve been working together to effect a smooth transition and we know that with your help, it will happen.

Please be safe, stay healthy and keep in touch with each other — the CDAS community will remain strong together.

— Robin Connors



The handcrafted plaque, created by CDAS Steering Committee Vice Chair Chuck Bennett, was presented in appreciation to Robin Connors by CDAS during the ABDSP Volunteer Gala

Photo by Robin Connors

Something new for the CDAS Steering Committee

At the Feb. 21, 2020 Steering Committee meeting, a motion was made and carried to split the role and responsibilities of the position of chairperson.

This would be a trial experiment to validate the rotation of chair among the members of the Steering Committee.

There will be no changes to the bylaws until a determination has been made by the steering committee if this is a viable and effective method.

Below is the upcoming schedule for the rotating chair position:

April through September:

Chuck Bennett

October through December:

Rick Huls

January through March 2021:

Lois Carlson

April through September 2021:

TBD

From the Chairman



Dennis Connors

Hello fellow CDAS members! I'm Dennis Connors, current vice chair of the CDAS Steering Committee.

Since our January meeting, the committee has been trying to determine who among us would take the chairperson position after John Downing's two-year term expired in January.

As you can imagine (and John and past chairs can attest), it is a huge responsibility that requires extensive planning and time commitment throughout the year.

For the past two meetings, I have been acting chair, which the vice chair is required to do according to CDAS bylaws. No one person on the committee was able to commit to a two-year term as chair. The committee struggled with this situation and discussed it in depth.

As the meetings continued, it seemed as if the committee was operating successfully on a temporary leadership basis and progress on many fronts was being made.

The consensus and conclusion of the committee was that, in lieu of one person occupying the office for the entire two-year term, the position should be shared among designated committee members in a rotating fashion for a trial period of time.

The CDAS operational year was split up into three time slots: January through March, April through September, and October through December.

My stint as chair has been completed and Chuck Bennett will take the reins for the summer. After Chuck's term, Rick Huls will take over the October through December time period.

Following Rick, Lois Carlson will take over for the spring. This rotating concept has had the benefit of helping us to be much more collaborative and supportive of each other. It has also helped us focus on our processes and the requirements of our meetings.

In this challenging time, we are all focused upon our friends and loved ones. As a grim year looms before us, the steering committee sends its best wishes to you all. Stay safe.

—Dennis Connors



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

“To keep you current as we explore the past”

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

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org

In Memoriam



Becky at Archaeology Weekend 2019
Photo by Laurie Brindle

Rebecca “Becky” Rusk, a longtime Park volunteer, recently passed away from breast cancer. Her volunteer service began with her first Bighorn Sheep Count in 1980 and she continued to attend this annual event through 2019.

Becky also served as a campground host at Tamarisk Grove Campground for three seasons. She attended the Archaeological Technician class taught by Dr. Joan Schneider and was active for several years working on surveys, site restoration, assisting on Archaeology Weekend and as a site steward. Her sparkling personality, wit and willingness to help with any task will be missed.

REST IN PEACE BECKY

— *Chuck Bennett*



Right: Becky with fellow bighorn sheep counters
(From Left: Bill Parker, Becky, Chuck Bennett and Mark Jorgensen.
Photo by Sam Webb



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.

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APRIL 2020 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:

Chairman: Chuck Bennett desrtratz@aol.com

Vice Chair: Lois Carlson loiseleanor@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Dennis Connors dennis_connors@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Rick Huls randphuls@gmail.com

Secretary : Paula Huls randphuls@gmail.com

Treasurer: Eugenie Newton evnewton8@gmail.com

Member John Downing johndowning2014@outlook.com

2020 Volunteer Awards Gala

ABDSP volunteers honored at Gala Awards Dinner

CDAS members were well represented on the roster of this year's ABDSP volunteer awardees. The gala, held on March 10 at the RoadRunner Clubhouse, was a great opportunity to relax, enjoy delicious food and have a good time with our colleagues from the archaeology, paleontology and botany departments, as well as the Visitor Center.

A total of 33,026 hours was donated this past year to help preserve and protect the beauty of the Park — and to help educate the public about its cultural treasures.

ABDSP staff donned aprons to serve a tasty three-course meal catered once again by Kendall's restaurant in the Mall.

Emcee duties were performed by Senior Park Aide Abby Barker. CDD Park Services Manager Terry Gerson and Anza-Borrego Foundation President Bri Fordem also provided remarks.

State Park Interpreter II Sally Theriault presented pins to mark hours of service, as well as two photography awards to Sam Webb. Sally, along with State Park Archaeologist Robin Connors, presented California Poppy Awards for exemplary service.

Near evening's end, CDAS member Chuck Bennett presented a plaque that he had crafted to Robin for her remarkable contributions to the Park. Robin retires at the end of April.

CDAS awards included:

- **Diamond Pin** (1,500+ hours) was awarded to John Downing
- **Emerald Pins** (1,000+ hours) were given to Paula Huls, Rick Huls and LLouise Jee
- **Ruby Pin** (500+ hours) was presented to John Case
- **Sapphire Pins** (250+ hours) were given to Laurie Brindle and Jean Paul Carrere
- **100+ hour Pins** were earned by Jim Bryant, Neil Cadwallader, Scott McClintock, Martin Rubalcava and Christine Vellescaz.

Poppy Awards



The California Poppy Awards are given for "Exemplary Volunteer Service to California State Parks." Recipients are:

- Rick and Paula Huls for bringing a "diverse skill set and honest willingness to contribute to the mission of our state parks"
- Pat Downing for her "outstanding work recruiting and training volunteers to work as archaeological site stewards"
- Mary Lou White and Lance Deibler for attaining "excellence through your work in surveying, excavation and monitoring"
- Dan Jellis for his expertise and diligence in updating trail maps for Park visitors



Diamond Pin
(1,500+ hours)
John Downing

Photo by Pat Downing



Emerald Pin recipients (1,000+ hours)



Ruby Pin
(500+ hours)
John Case

Photo by Laurie Brindle



Sapphire Pin recipients (250+ hours)

Page photos by Sam Webb



Paula Huls, Robin Connors and Rick Huls



Robin Connors and Pat Downing



Dan Jellis and Sally Theriault



Mary Lou White, Robin Connors and Lance Deibler

2020 Volunteer Awards Gala



Sally Theriault pronounced Sam Webb "Stellar Photographer" with the Golden Camera award — and the Naturalist Award. Photos by Laurie Brindle



ABDSP staff get ready to serve dinner at the Volunteer Awards Gala.



Left: Robin Connors receives a plaque crafted by CDAS Vice Chair Chuck Bennett on behalf of CDAS in appreciation of her outstanding work as ABDSP archaeologist. Robin will retire at the end of April.

Below: CDAS members at the brightly decorated tables at the RoadRunner Club.

Photos by Sam Webb



CDAS members learn how to monitor archaeological sites during construction

By Lois Carlson

On March 19, archaeology technician volunteers attended a class to learn how to monitor construction sites. Robin Connors, State Park Archaeologist, presented a thorough overview of the responsibilities of being a construction site monitor.

Construction monitoring is one of the cultural resources management services we can provide to comply with federal and state historic preservation laws and is a vital service when construction and utility crews disturb ground in archaeologically sensitive areas.

With all the digging and heavy equipment on the site, it is possible that features or artifacts may be uncovered. To ensure those areas remain undisturbed, construction may be halted until an evaluation of the findings is completed.



Social distancing was strictly observed in the classroom and outside at all times.

Photo by John Case

Ten arch techs attended the class, which was conducted at the BARC, and arrangements were made so that students could access the class online via ZOOM meeting software. Thanks go to Susan Gilliland for making this possible.

Class content included: ground worker safety around heavy equipment

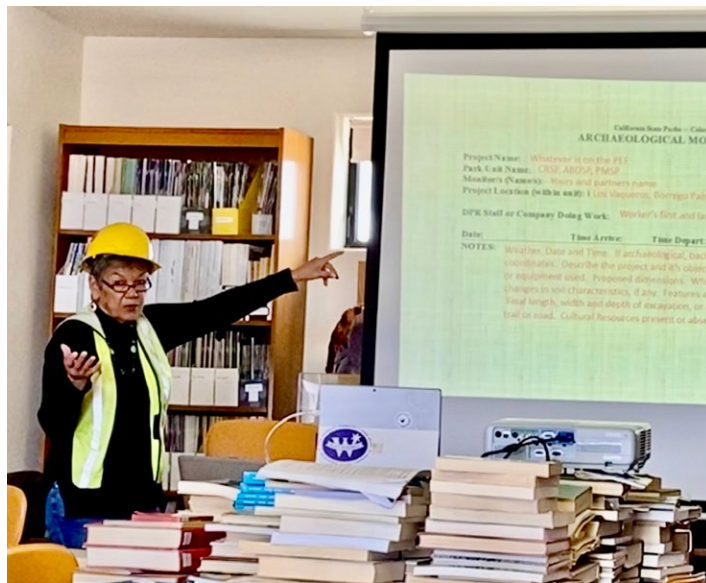
(excavators, augers and graders), soil stratigraphy and soil colors, communication with the construction crew, personal protective equipment (PPE) and preparing for the visit.

Duties of monitoring a construction site include: being familiar with heavy equipment, obtaining the PEF (Project Evaluation Form) and reviewing the scope of the work and location, obtaining site records, collecting and packing your tools, documenting findings with photos and GPS points, and submitting the Archaeological Monitoring Form after the visit.

The class concluded with a demonstration by State Park heavy equipment operator, Adam Asche, who shared his commitment to safety and the preservation of cultural resources.

Adam hauled in a John Deere track excavator to show the various digging techniques involved during construction activity. After unloading it from the flatbed trailer, he demonstrated his considerable skill and control of the powerful machine.

Attending the class were: Lois Carlson, John Case, Rick and Paula Huls, Lance Deibler, Eugenie Newton, Jolie Matteis and Andrew Page and Mary Lou White.



State Park Archaeologist Robin Connors discusses procedures and responsibilities of construction site monitoring.

Photo by Lois Carlson



Above: State Park heavy equipment operator Adam Asche unloads the track excavator at the BARC to demonstrate how the machine is used at construction and utility-digging sites.

Photo by John Case

Below: Adam Asche discusses his commitment to safety and the preservation of cultural resources at the construction monitoring class.

Photo by John Case



LOIS CARLSON

By Sally Bickerton

Lois Carlson, the newest CDAS steering committee member and recently appointed vice chair, is also the site steward for Hellhole Canyon. She is a life-long Californian who was born in Berkeley and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from CSU Chico and her Masters in Education degree from Pepperdine University.

After receiving her RN degree, she entered the Navy and spent three years at Philadelphia's Naval Hospital at the end of the Viet Nam War.

After this life-changing experience, she moved to San Diego and taught at the Naval Hospital Corps School. Lois achieved the rank of Captain and worked for many years as a nurse, manager, and educator at various locations, while remaining in the Navy Reserve.

Some of her favorite military exercises included Cold Weather Survival, Combat Casualty Care, and several weeks at Twentynine



Lois Carlson at her site set-up for Hell Hole Canyon in December 2019. Photo by John Downing

Palms in August with the Marines – which sparked her love of the desert.

Lois shared that she has been visiting the Anza-Borrego desert for years, and was even

the school nurse in Borrego Springs for a time. She has lived in both Ranchita and Julian, as well as now having a home in Borrego Springs. Besides riding her horse “Trooper” and mule “Honey,” she enjoys hiking, yoga, music, and traveling with her husband.

After hearing about the opportunity to become an archaeology volunteer in ABDSP in the fall of 2018, she soon completed a class taught by State Park Archaeologist Robin Connors.

She enjoyed learning about the desert from a different point of view – from that of those who lived here long ago and left evidence of their existence.

Lois has continued her archaeological training, learning about field surveys, recording features, completing reports, and using GPS – all which have been unique experiences for her. The mentoring and ongoing

commitment of her CDAS colleagues have been very contagious – though that may not be the most politically correct term at this time!

She is now the site steward for Hellhole Canyon, and has completed the initial survey with John and Pat Downing. She looks forward to becoming



Lois rests for just a moment after working all day at the Archaeology Weekend FUNdraiser on March 1.

Photo by Laurie Brindle

more familiar with the role of site steward. She said that the site is near a well-traveled trail, but fortunately most of the main features are off the beaten track.

As a newbie on the CDAS Steering Committee, Lois said she is grateful to CDAS for supporting her with her upcoming duties and responsibilities.

Thank YOU, Lois!



CDAS Steering Committee Vice Chair and Site Steward Lois Carlson with her prized horse “Trooper,” in Borrego Springs Photo courtesy of Lois Carlson



“Trooper” the horse and “Honey” the mule Photo courtesy of Lois Carlson

A Moment of Reflection



Ancient Indian Trail in the Santa Rosa Mountains

Photo by Sam Webb

Additional Resources

Due to the COVID-19 situation, most of the organizations below have postponed their upcoming events. Please continue to check their websites for updated information.

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

California Rock Art Foundation
www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum
www.ivdesertmuseum.org

Malki Museum
<https://malkimuseum.org>

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

San Diego County Archaeological Society
www.SDCAS.org

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

Attention Site Stewards!

This is just a gentle reminder to please make sure you log all your hours for your site visits and your paperwork submissions. It is important to CDAS that we are recognized by Parks for all of the volunteer hours our dedicated volunteers perform.

If you are having Better Impact issues please contact Hayley at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

If for some reason you don't have a partner for future visits, you will find a resource of people who have volunteered to be substitute Site Stewards on our website. Please visit

<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/>

Pat Downing

WE WANT YOUR NEWS, PHOTOS & STORIES!

If you have events, items of interest and/or photos that you would like included in future publications of the CDAS Bulletin, please send them to CDAS Bulletin Editor Laurie Brindle at CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

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