



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park / **DECEMBER 2020**

CALENDAR

LAB DAY and LIBRARY

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Library will also be open on
Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please note: Because only six people are allowed inside the Lab and Library at one time, all visits must be scheduled via Better Impact prior to your planned arrival.

STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

On hold until further notice

SITE STEWARD TRAINING

(Virtual and Interactive)

★ **“Archaeology Fundamentals — Part II”** By Hayley Elsken

Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 to 11 a.m.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Virtual and Interactive)

Friday, Dec. 18, 1:30 p.m.

All members are welcome. Please contact Hayley Elsken if you plan to attend and she will send you a link.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

(Virtual and Interactive)

★ **“Online Dating”**

By Dr. Joan Schneider

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 10, TBD

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING

(Virtual and Interactive)

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

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Double rainbow near the BARC on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Photo by Hayley Elsken



Intact ollas found near the BARC!

During the second half of the “How to Create a Primary Record” workshop held on Nov. 14, participants documented artifacts of their choosing using forms discussed in the morning session. Those who could come to the BARC discovered ollas (handcrafted and placed by instructor Susan Gilliland) nearby. See story on Page 5.

Photo by Mary Lou White

Notes from the Park



Hayley Elsken

During the last couple of weeks, I was able to head up to the mountain parks and was surprised to see that fall had arrived.

The mountain parks are turning a beautiful yellow and orange, including the trees in the Palomar Mountain apple orchard. The first frost came in early November to

Palomar Mountain and the irrigation system for the orchard was prepared for winter. The trees in the orchard are starting to lose their leaves and once dormant, will be ready to be pruned.

Between the virtual meetings, I managed to assist with a site steward set-up. It was a beautiful day to explore Indian Gorge where we saw multiple rock shelters, scattered pottery, bedrock milling and rock art. Outside one of the rock shelters, there were three bushes of Yerba Santa. Yerba Santa is a medicinal plant that has been used by indigenous people across California

Continued on Page 2

Notes from the Park



Hiking in Indian Gorge for a site set-up at the Sun Cave are (left to right) Hayley Elsken, Pam Wiedenkeller and Scott McClintock. Photo by Scott Hansen



Coming down the trail in Indian Gorge are (left to right) Scott Hansen, Hayley Elsken and Pam Wiedenkeller. Photo by Scott McClintock

Continued from Page 1

to treat colds, sore throats, congestion, aches and pains and as a general tonic.

It would be very handy to have this important medicine right outside your door!

Lab work continues: Llouise Jee has been busily verifying data collected during BLM archaeology surveys; Rick and Paula Huls are conducting an inventory of the BARC and adding data to the digital catalogue; Patty McFarland has been helping with site steward set-up paperwork and completing site records; Astrid Webb has been digitizing labels, accessioning new objects and organizing collections; and Susan Gilliland has been deep diving into the collections of William Wallace.

Virtual opportunities have abounded during the pandemic and CDAS has ramped up its offerings as well. Susan Gilliland had an informative class on how to complete a primary record. I conducted the first class on “Archaeology Fundamentals,” which covered the major historic contexts of the Colorado Desert District, starting with Native Californians and ending with outdoor recreation. The next class will be on Saturday, Dec. 5, and will focus on what types of artifacts and features can be found in the Colorado Desert District. January will offer another opportunity to increase your knowledge with a class by Dr. Joan Schneider on dating techniques used by archaeologists. Many other organizations like the San Diego Arch Center, Imperial Valley



Scott Hansen and Hayley Elsken take a break inside the Sun Cave. Photo by Pam Wiedenkeller

Museum, San Diego Rock Art Association and more have been offering lectures and classes. I encourage everyone to keep your eyes out for interesting opportunities and feel free to let me know, so I can share with other archaeology volunteers.

— Hayley Elsken

Please check your Better Impact security setting!

It's very important that your name shows up on Better Impact. This will allow you and your fellow volunteers to see who will be conducting volunteer work with whom. If you have not changed your settings, your name appears as “Anonymous” to Hayley and fellow volunteers. This can cause confusion and extra work if someone needs to contact you.

To change, go to My Profile > Contact Information. On this page you will see a box labeled “Privacy Settings”, please check the box for “I want other volunteers to be able to see my name in the list of scheduled volunteers.” Thanks!



Volunteers needed!

With Archaeology Weekend and the Silent Auction fundraiser canceled due to pandemic restrictions, the Steering Committee is considering options to these and other customary activities.

We are currently considering a virtual cultural symposium on archaeology and alternative fundraising methods. If you have an interest in, or experience with these activities, we invite you to join us in exploring these possibilities. Please contact:

Rick Huls, Steering Committee Chair
206-276-8844
randphuls@gmail.com



RICK HULS

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

Just wanted to send along a holiday article; you know the one that gushes with emotion, sends warm wishes and includes a reminder that we have a bigger group than you, we do better a job than you, and that the kids are freakin' geniuses.

Wait a second, that's not this holiday article. That's a description of the holiday brag letters we all get. The brag letters, tucked inside Christmas cards, filled with ridiculous claims.

I vow to spread holiday cheer by telling the truth. CDAS has had one heck of a year.

We have had some losses: two board members resigned; treasured CDAS volunteer Suzanne Emery passed away on October 11; and Associate State Park Archaeologist Robin Connors retired in April after five years.

Our park was shut down for several months this year. The funding for state parks has been cut due to lack of income for the state. Because of Covid-19, we have had to cancel Archaeology Weekend and the FUNdraiser (Silent Auction).

BUT ...

We are still here. We have a group of wonderful people leading CDAS (Eugenie Newton, Pat and John Downing, Lois Carlson, Laurie Brindle, Hayley Elsken, Continuing Education Subcommittee: Susan Gilliland, Joan Schneider,

Patty McFarland and Barbara Barnes).

We have had great start to the 2021 season. The Park is open, although with restrictions. We had a great class led by Susan Gilliland (of course, we started at the beginning with primary school) and two more will be coming later this season. Remember that we need to keep our skills sharp and need to attend two continuing education classes each season. We had a great Kick-off meeting that really got a large number of people together (virtually).

We are refocusing our efforts to help Hayley to accomplish her goals for the park archaeology department. She could use your help with many different projects. Lab day is restricted to six people, but we have not maxed out yet. Sign up in Better Impact for Tuesday Lab Day (there are new rules but I am sure you can do it, if Paula and I can).

Our site stewards are back in the field fulfilling our goal of documenting, preserving and protecting CDD's treasured cultural resources.

Field days will be coming up and they sound very interesting. Hayley will make these work days available in Better Impact. Remember, there is no carpooling, so we'll all need our own desert-capable vehicles.

Wait a second, this is a holiday brag article! You are all good-looking, wonderful people and all your children are above average.

This is my last article as Acting Chair of CDAS. Many thanks to the CDAS Steering Committee for all the support and positive energy (especially my partner, Paula).

— Rick Huls



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

HAYLEY ELSKEN Associate State Archaeologist

hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov 760-767-4403

2020/2021 CDAS Steering Committee

The Steering Committee convenes once a month during the season (October through April). Meetings, which are virtual, 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: Rick Huls — randphuls@gmail.com

Secretary: Paula Huls — randphuls@gmail.com

Treasurer/Webmaster: Eugenie Newton — evnewton8@gmail.com

Member: Lois Carlson — loiseleanor@gmail.com

Member: John Downing — johndowning2014@outlook.com

CDAS Bulletin Editor: Laurie Brindle
bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

Become a leader in CDAS!

Your Steering Committee is a band of committed park volunteers who assist Hayley Elsken, our Park Archaeologist, with her role in preserving and protecting the vast resources of the Colorado Desert District.

Please consider becoming a Steering Committee member! It is fun and challenging and no previous experience is necessary. Just bring your passion for the Park, your creativity and a willingness to help ensure the viability of our organization!

Nominate yourself, and/or a colleague and your dedicated nominating committee will take it from there.

The Steering Committee meets virtually on the third Friday of the month from October through May. You can attend from anywhere to help plan programs, events and membership communications.

Nominations will be open from Dec. 2 to 28.

Please contact us with your nominations ASAP so we can start preparing introductions for the election in mid-January! Send your nomination (and questions) to Lois Carlson at loiseleanor@gmail.com or Sally Bickerton at sallybic@cox.net.

Step up now, we need you!

Lois Carlson and Sally Bickerton

CDAS Continuing Education

“Online Dating”

A special virtual presentation on how to tell archaeological time by Dr. Joan Schneider

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 9
Possible field trip on Sunday, Jan. 10

Join archaeologist Joan Schneider in a day of exploration of how to tell archaeological time and how reliable methods can be distinguished from those that are still experimental.

You will learn when to believe media reports and when to read more critically. Some materials will be made available in advance of the class to those who register.

Attendees will also find out:

- Why desert environments the world over challenge archaeologists who try to determine ages of archaeological sites and materials.
- How simple methods of observation can help determine age.
- How the existing data and analyses carried out by other archaeologists can be used to determine age.
- How chemical and physical analyses can determine age.
- How Earth’s magnetic fields and astronomical data can be used to determine age.
- Why the solar radiation that changes crystal structures in surface rocks on a daily basis can be used to determine age.
- What portions of the historical record can sometimes be used to determine archaeological age.

The class will be given via Zoom 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, with two breaks and a 45-minute lunch break. Volunteer hours can be accrued.

There may be the availability of a virtual and/or actual field trip on Sunday, Jan. 10, to an area of Grapevine Canyon where actual radiocarbon research is in progress.

This presentation is free to all active members of CDAS in good standing.

**Please register by Monday, Jan. 4, 2021
on Better Impact or contact Hayley Elsken
hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov**

*NOTE: If you do register, but then are unable to attend,
please notify Hayley immediately. Thank you.*



A rock circle from the Lower Borrego Valley
Photo courtesy of Dr. Joan Schneider



Archaeologist Dr. Jerry Schaefer stands at the opening of a fish trap on one of the shorelines of Ancient Lake Cahuilla in Imperial County.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Joan Schneider



Dr. Joan Schneider at the door of her ger in southern Mongolia
Photo courtesy of Dr. Joan Schneider



Rock alignment at the south rim of Afton Canyon (view to the south) in the Mojave Desert
Photo courtesy of Dr. Joan Schneider

CDAS members learn how to create a Primary Record during virtual workshop

By Laurie Brindle

Any doubts that CDAS members would sign up for an all-day, *virtual* continuing education class have been laid to rest once and for all.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, 18 members watched their computer screens as past CDAS Steering Committee Chair and Archaeological Collections Specialist Susan Gilliland clearly explained the importance and process of creating a primary record during the morning session of the class.

A primary record is the basic documentation for recording a previously unknown archaeological site or an isolate.* It is required to ensure that sites in the Colorado Desert District will be properly described and placed in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Susan opened her class by acknowledging the legacy of the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla peoples who have occupied the land for millennia, and the need to preserve and protect their history and cultural resources within the Park. But, she said, we need to document before we can preserve and protect.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park currently holds archaeology site records for more than 7,000 cultural properties. Conservative estimates as to the total in the park are at least 27,400. That's more than 20,000 still unrecorded.

By using a series of well-organized and succinctly worded slides, Susan



One of the many ollas placed near the BARC for attendees to observe and document using the official primary record form. The ollas were handcrafted in the Kumeyaay style by instructor Susan Gilliland. Photo by Mary Lou White

outlined the process, including reviewing the required form (DPR 523a) and the necessary terms used. We all must speak the same language.

Susan also covered what's needed to document a site. In addition to a partner, always bring a notebook, pencil, GPS and/or a smart phone, camera and/or a phone, extra batteries, tape measure, scale with North arrow, compass, personal gear, water and snacks.

Susan's slide show was enhanced by new software that placed her live video image next to each bulleted slide as she discussed it, as if she were at a podium talking directly to her audience.

After the morning session and lunch break, participants then went "out in the field" to practice observing and recording an artifact. Members who were in Borrego came to the BARC and found various ollas strewn about. Those who were not in Borrego were advised to find a sample artifact in their backyard.

Working in teams, participants carefully observed, measured, sketched, plotted and described the characteristics of their finds as necessary for the form.

It was an excellent exercise that showed how critical it is to accurately record as much information as possible during one's visit.

By having more people trained to create primary records, CDAS members will be able to help Hayley, our lone archaeologist, with the Herculean task of continuing to document CDD's cultural resources.

Many thanks to Susan for her professional, thorough and very enjoyable presentation. We really appreciate all the planning and work that went into it.

The event was an good example of how much can be accomplished with the help of technology — even during a global pandemic.

**An isolate is one, two or more artifacts, which are portable objects modified or used by humans.*

Second Archaeology Fundamentals class for site stewards scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5

The second of two online classes tailored for site stewards working in the Colorado Desert District will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5. The hour-long session will begin at 10 a.m. and be held virtually.

Conducted by Associate State Archaeologist Hayley Elsken, the class will focus on the artifacts and features of the CDD. After a quick discussion on the differences between artifacts and features, the class will learn about

common artifacts and features found in the park, as well as tips and tricks to identify what is natural and what is man-made. The class will also cover what makes an artifact diagnostic and what information to gather from different artifacts and features.

The first class, held on Saturday, Nov. 7, covered the basic history of the area, including timelines of prehistoric and historic existence. Hayley also talked about lifestyles of the Kumeyaay

and Cahuilla, including historic activities such as ranching, military and homesteading. Homesteading features and artifacts are often found in the field.

Archaeology Fundamentals, Part II Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 to 11 a.m.

Hayley will email all members a link to the class the day before. Members should also sign up on Better Impact. Questions? Contact Hayley at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

CDAS Site Stewards

A note from Pat Downing, Site Steward Coordinator

Lots of great work is being done by our Site Steward teams with many site visits occurring. We've done set-ups for five new steward teams this month, with more to come. Please remember to copy me on your report submission emails as I am doing the filing of all reports for Hayley into the State Parks secure drive.

NOTE: Don't miss part two of Archaeology Fundamentals training on Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 to 11a.m. (See previous page)

Pat Downing
pdsnewmail@gmail.com
714-321-3955



(Left to right) Archaeologist Marla Mealy with new site stewards Kathy and Mitch Provoast at their site set-up in Cuyamaca. Photo by John Downing



Site stewards Marv Coppess, Randall McFarlane and John Case check out a site in Cuyamaca. Photo by Don Endicott



(Left to right) Site Steward Patty McFarland with new site stewards Kathy Dice and Laurie Mauser at their site set-up in Glorieta Canyon. Photo by John Downing



John Case walks (carefully) on a fallen tree in Cuyamaca. Photo by Don Endicott



Mitch and Kathy observe rock formations at their site. Photo by John Downing

Member Profile

DON ENDICOTT

By Sally Bickerton

Don Endicott, a 10-year Site Steward, volunteer naturalist, author, and hiker extraordinaire, has many talents and has generously shared them with CDAS over the years.

Don often visited archaeological sites throughout the Southwest on family vacations in the 1960s, which sparked his lifelong interest.

Don moved to San Diego after graduating from UC Santa Barbara in 1972, where he started serious archaeology field work with a Chumash rock art project. He also has graduate degrees from SDSU and MIT.

Don worked as a civilian research engineer and executive in the field of Navy Communications and Network Technologies in San Diego.

Don and wife Marilyn married and raised their family in San Diego. During his first years there, he began hiking and encountering archaeological sites



Don on a recent hike in Cuyamaca

Photo by Sally Bickerton

After retirement, Don discovered a second career as a volunteer naturalist, with a strong interest in archaeology. Buzz Mushet, longtime friend and fellow site steward, encouraged him to contact Park staff about becoming a site steward.

He attended the California Archaeological Site Steward Training Workshop in January, 2011, and soon was an active steward of several sites. Don also completed the Archaeology for Citizen Scientists six-week course in 2014 with Dr. Joan Schneider.

Don is an Interpretive Guide at Mission Trails Regional Park and a public educator for the San Diego Natural History Museum. A member of the San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife "Bat Team," he helps document rehabilitation and releases of injured bats and does public outreach presentations that include live "ambassador" bats. He presents three different talks on bats, mountain lions, and peregrine falcons throughout the county, including in ABDSP, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Mission Trails Regional Park, Cabrillo National Monument and Agua Caliente County Park. He was honored as the ABDSP Volunteer Naturalist of the Year in 2018.

As mentioned, Don has been an active CDAS member. He has led hikes during Archaeology Weekend and throughout

the year. He is a former CDAS Steering Committee member, and has created and taught both GPS and desert safety classes for CDAS members.

He currently site stewards a large site on Jackass Flat (Cahuilla village of Ataki) and has assisted Sherry Mitchell at her site in Jacumba. He also stewards the Arrowmakers site and does a site patrol of several sites along Cold Stream Trail and the Green Valley area with Sally and John Bickerton in Cuyamaca.

Don stays busy with his growing interest in bats, conducting research and doing bat echolocation recordings. He also contributes to surveys and monitors nesting sites of peregrine falcons. His ongoing archaeological activities



Don on the east summit crest of Carrizo Mountain

Photo courtesy of Don Endicott

include field visits to rock art and archaeoastronomy sites, interests that go back to the early 1970s.

He is a Ham Radio operator, and enjoys bicycling, kayaking, and camping.

Though he and Marilyn discussed moving closer to their son's family as they are now proud grandparents, we are fortunate that they are still in San Diego County and he continues to contribute so much time and energy to CDAS!



Don receives the ABDSP Volunteer Naturalist Award from State Park Interpreter II Sally Theriault in 2018.

Photo courtesy of Don Endicott

in ABDSP and the surrounding areas. If you know Don, you know that he is an avid hiker and has climbed nearly every high point in San Diego County, as well as many others throughout Southern California and the Sierras.



Don and wife Marilyn

Photo courtesy of Don Endicott

Regional Museums and Arch Centers

Although many of these outstanding organizations are temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus, their websites have a wealth of information and beautiful photography. We encourage you to visit them often

Barona Cultural Center and Museum

The museum re-opened on Oct. 8. COVID-19 protocols will be in effect to guarantee visitors' safety. Hours: Thursday and Fridays, Noon to 5 p.m.. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

California Rock Art Foundation

For status of their November Cultural Adventure tour to Baja California Sur and the Spring tours, please visit:
www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum

Closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus.
www.ivdesertmuseum.org

Malki Museum

Closed until further notice due to COVID-19.
malkimuseum.org

San Diego Archaeological Center

Virtual Lectures:

- "Avian Remains at the Presidio — The First Chicken Burrito"
By Aharon Sasson
Thursday, Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m. / Free Admission
- "A Day in the Life of a Renaissance Physician"
By Dr. Philip Gascinski
Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m./ Cost: Pay what you wish
- "Ironworking in Togo"
Archaeological Research in the Bassar Region 2013-2020
By Dr. Philip de Barros
Thursday, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m. / Cost: Pay what you wish

Virtual Exhibits:

- "Visions: Rock Art Around the World"
 - "The Wonderful World of Rock Art"
- sandiegoarchaeology.org

San Diego County Archaeological Society

Virtual Exhibit

- "Celebrating the Art in Archaeology" Virtual Art Show
Through Dec. 31
<https://sdcas.org/art-show>

Society for California Archaeology

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, March 4-6, Prepare to Submit
<https://scahome.org>

We want to hear from you!

Do you have photos, events, items of interest, or "Tales from the Trail" that you would like included in future publications of the CDAS Bulletin? If so, please send them to Laurie Brindle at bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

COPY DEADLINE: the 20th of each month, September to April. The CDAS Bulletin publishes October through May.

Archaeology Publications

For those of you who enjoy archaeology publications, here are some recommended offerings from CDAS Steering Committee member John Downing. If you have articles that you would like to share, please send them to John at johndowning2014@outlook.com for inclusion in future issues.

NOTE: You may need to create a free academia.edu account to access articles.

Cultural Network Analysis of Spanish Colonial Settlement Patterns in San Diego, California

By Michael Prouty

Utilizing a historical anthropological approach, this study examines these Spanish and Mexican Period cultural networks and compares them to the traditional Native American settlement networks that formed prior to contact. An analysis of ethnographies, historical journals, autobiographies, archaeological literature, and reports of previous archaeological investigations of Late Prehistoric, historical Native American, and early Spanish and Mexican Period archaeological sites establish a baseline for settlement patterns that developed during each of these time periods.

https://www.academia.edu/16132128/Cultural_Network_Analysis_of_Spanish_Colonial_Settlement_Patterns_in_San_Diego_California?auto=download&email_work_card=download-paper

Journal of Archaeological Science Sourcing sandstone cobble grinding tools in southern California using petrography, UePb geochronology, and Hf isotope geochemistry

ABSTRACT: Procurement strategies for grinding tool lithic material among mobile societies are thought to rely on opportunistic selection of resources locally available at habitation sites and along migratory routes. In San Diego County, California, non-local appearing quartzarenite cobble handstones were identified in the ground stone assemblages of some hunter-gatherer archaeological sites dating from ca. 7000 years ago. Due to the nature of the cobble material, both natural and cultural processes may have played a role in the spatial distribution of the artifacts recovered by archaeologists. In this study we employ three techniques to investigate the geological origins and source location(s) of the quartzarenite cobbles: thin section petrography, UePb geochronology, and Hf isotope geochemistry. Results confirm the Neoproterozoic-lower Paleozoic age of the cobbles, while metamorphism of southern California basement rocks of similar age indicates that the cobbles must have been transported into the area, probably during Eocene times. People collected the cobbles from source locations and carried them at least 4 e10 km and possibly farther. We consider the diagnostic value of the three techniques for characterizing resource distributions of sedimentary cobble material and related procurement strategies, and more broadly, their global applicability for sourcing other archaeological materials made of sedimentary and metasedimentary rock.

https://www.academia.edu/14702473/Sourcing_sandstone_cobble_grinding_tools_in_southern_California_using_petrography_U_Pb_geochronology_and_Hf_isotope_geochemistry?email_work_card=view-paper