



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park / **JANUARY 2021**

CALENDAR

LAB DAY and LIBRARY

PLEASE NOTE: Lab and Library days will be suspended temporarily in accordance with current Park COVID-19 regulations.

STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

On hold until further notice

CONTINUING EDUCATION

(Virtual and Interactive)

★ "Online Dating"

By Dr. Joan Schneider

Saturday, Jan. 9

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. See Page 4

★ "Introduction to Historic

Archaeology of the ABDSP

By Steven Holm,

Caltrans Archaeologist

Saturday, Mar. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING

(Virtual and Interactive)

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Virtual and Interactive)

Friday, Jan. 29, 1:30 p.m.

All members are invited to attend.

Hayley Elsken will send the online link to members prior to the meeting.

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What do a layer cake and the archaeological record have in common?



Find out the similarities during the upcoming Continuing Education class "Online Dating — How to Tell Archaeological Time" on Saturday, Jan. 9, by Dr. Joan Schneider. Designed for all CDAS members, including Site Stewards, attendees will learn valuable and fascinating information that will increase observation skills in the field and beyond. Please see Page 4 for details.

Illustration from Ryzon Baking Book by Marion Harris Neil, 1917

Notes from Outside the Park



Hayley Elsken

Over the holidays, I took a two-week vacation and therefore don't have too many updates from the Park itself. Park staff continues to work mostly from home, and the district office is limiting staff and volunteers on site to do their part to stop the spread of COVID.

Site Steward work is essential and will continue with stewards following the COVID Field Protocol as they visit their sites.

My family and I went on a self-contained RV vacation to national parks in Utah. It was an amazing experience and we often had the parks to ourselves. At Capitol Reef National Park, we were the only campers in the campground and were treated to fabulous views of the Milky Way at night.

At Bryce and Arches national parks, we were graced with snowstorms that covered the red sandstone formations. In total, we visited Zion, Bryce, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Arches national parks, and Dead Horse Point State Park.

I am looking forward to working with each of you in the New Year and hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

— Hayley Elsken

See Hayley's photos on Page 2



Mark your calendars!

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 2021

See Page 5 for details.

Notes from Outside the Park

Continued from Page 1



Photos by Hayley Elsen

Clockwise from top left: Sunset at Arches National Park, Ute petroglyphs at Arches National Park, Bryce National Park and Canyonlands National Park



From the Chair



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:** Lois Carlson — loiseleanor@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Paula Huls — randphuls@gmail.com
- Treasurer/Webmaster:** Eugenie Newton — evnewton8@gmail.com
- Member:** Rick Huls — randphuls@gmail.com
- Member:** John Downing — johndowning2014@outlook.com

CDAS Bulletin Editor: Laurie Brindle
bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.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.



Lois Carlson

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is an honor to welcome in the New Year as acting chair of the CDAS Steering Committee. As with everyone else, I am curious as how this year will unfold for the Parks and CDAS.

There has been great commitment of our members to the Park and its archaeological sites during these COVID-19-driven restrictions. The determination and focus of many have been strong.

Pat Downing has done a remarkable job coordinating and expanding the site steward program. There are now 69 active stewards who monitor 65 sensitive sites within the Colorado Desert District. Observing pandemic protocols, stewards were able to log multiple visits in 2020.

Work in the lab at the BARC is continuing only under special arrangements with Hayley, since the current Park regulations state only one person (or family unit) in the office area at a time. Members continue to move through the times, and the Park.

January has several opportunities for you. On Saturday, Jan. 9, Dr. Joan Schneider will teach “Online Dating — How to tell Archaeological Time,” the second of this season’s Continuing Education classes. *See Page 4.*

AND we will be holding the annual online election to fill vacancies on the CDAS Steering Committee. We have several accepted nominations and are preparing the ballot for you to vote so they may begin their terms.

Our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 23, will happen virtually and will feature important Park updates, informative presentations and a review of valuable references and resources on our website. *See Page 5.*

Please tell us what you would like to see in the year ahead. Simply email me or any of the Steering Committee members listed on this page. 2021 has big opportunities for new thought and creativity as we meet the world’s parameters for safety and distancing and keeping with our mission.

We’ll see you at the Annual Meeting which will help us stay current with CDAS activities, Park conditions and management, and to welcome our new Steering Committee members.

Your input and perspective are needed as we go forward.

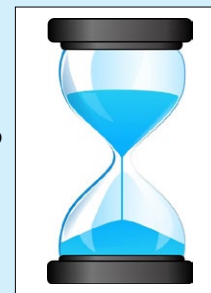
— Lois Carlson

Why keeping Better Impact hours up to date is important

Hours in Better Impact are important for a number of reasons. The most important is these hours are reviewed in early November for the year to determine who has enough hours to get a free pass to parks, district-wide or statewide, depending on the number of hours.

The Better Impact hours are used to determine voting members of CDAS who elect the Steering Committee. The hours are also used in an annual

report of hours and activities that are sent up to executive staff at Park Headquarters in Sacramento to review the VIPP (Volunteers in Parks Program). Please keep your hours up to date! Remember to log hours for CDAS meetings, trainings and paperwork as well as fieldwork.



— Hayley Elsen

Online Dating — How to tell Archaeological Time

*A special virtual presentation
by Dr. Joan Schneider*



**SATURDAY, JAN. 9
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

*Find out what a layer cake and the
archaeological record have in common!*



Site Stewards are encouraged to attend.

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.

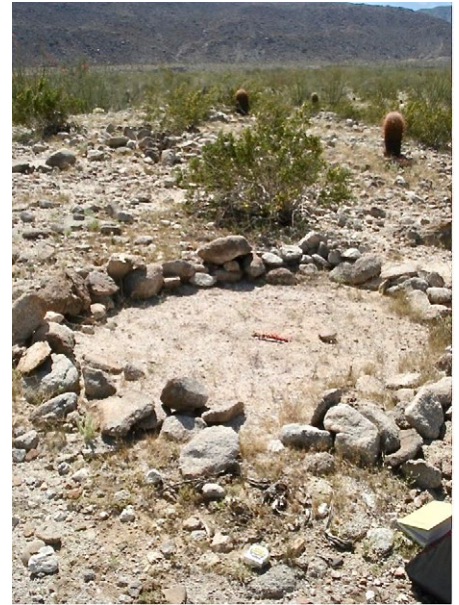
You will learn when to believe media reports and when to read more critically. Some materials will be made available in advance of the class to those who register.

The class will be given via Zoom on **Saturday, Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, with two breaks and a 45-minute lunch break. (There will not be a Sunday field trip as previously mentioned.)

Volunteer hours can be accrued. This presentation is free to all active members of CDAS in good standing.

TOPICS COVERED

- 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



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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

Sign up 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.*

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Virtual Presentation: "Introduction to Historic Archaeology
of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park"*

*Instructor: Steven Holm, Caltrans Archaeologist
Details to follow.*



The pictographs at Carrizo Canyon will be topic of the keynote presentation at the CDAS Annual Meeting.

Photo by John Downing

CDAS Annual Meeting to feature Park updates, plans and special presentations



You are invited! All members are encouraged to attend this informative and important virtual event



**Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Find out what's in store for the upcoming year.
Meeting topics will include:**

- Park news and updates
- Current COVID-19 protocols
- Site steward news and updates
- Field safety tips
- Archy Award presentation
- Announcement of newly elected Steering Committee members
- Keynote Presentation: Carrizo Canyon pictograph site
- Questions and answers

**Hayley will send the online link to members prior to the meeting.
Hope to "see" you there!**

January 2021 Report

By Pat Downing

CDAS Site Steward Coordinator

John and I recently did a site set-up at Mine Wash with new stewards Sue Hagen and Howard Clark. After the set-up was completed, we headed back. Sue and Howard, however, decided to stay for further exploration.

After a while they had a surprise visitor — a bright young boy who looked to be about six years old. He alerted them to an artifact pile near the entrance to Mine Wash. He also wanted to take them to meet his grandmother.

So they followed him a short distance to meet her. The young man's grandmother turned out to be none other than archaeologist Dr. Joan Schneider! Joan is the author of numerous books and papers, as well as former Associate State Park Archaeologist for the Colorado Desert District.

Which brings me to remind all members, including site stewards, not to miss an excellent opportunity to join Joan for her class, "Online Dating — How to tell Archaeological Time" on Saturday, Jan. 9, and learn about various dating methods. *Please see Page 4.*

Other Site Steward news: George Zelenz, Pam Wiedenkeller and John Downing were up early on December 21st to view the winter solstice sunrise from a site in the Mine Wash area. Yes, the sun did rise and it appeared at a 'notch' on a ridge as viewed from a cleared circle. All report that it was a great day for a dawn hike and the sunrise was beautiful.

It's worth repeating that we now have 69 active site stewards monitoring 65 areas in the CDD. And there are several interesting sites available! Please consider taking on an additional site. Contact me for more information.

Keep up the great work!

Pat Downing

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714-321-3955



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



George Zelenz and Pat Wiedenkeller at sunrise on the winter solstice in the Mine Wash area

Photo by John Downing



Pat Downing (left) helps Sue Hagen and Howard Clark on the site set-up of Mine Wash.

Photo by John Downing



Site stewards John Case and Jean Paul Carrere on a site visit to petroglyphs near Clark Dry Lake

Photo by Laurie Brindle

Honorary Member Profile

‘EMUU

Story by Sally and John Bickerton

Photos by Sam Webb

This month’s Site Steward profile features an elusive CDAS member many have seen around the park, but perhaps have not been properly introduced to. ‘Emuu*, as he is known, comes from a well-established desert family, whose ancestors go back many generations.

Unfortunately, his family has diminished in number through the years, but he is hoping that they will continue to live and flourish in the desert region in the future.

‘Emuu was born and grew up in the Borrego area, and has hiked more miles than most of us, often using the many old Cahuilla and Kumeyaay trails throughout the hills and valleys and up to the higher elevations.

As he has traversed the park, he intimately knows the location of many cultural sites — rock shelters, rock circles, agave roasting pits, groundstone mortars, and flintknapping sites, as well as the best watering holes. He thinks of himself and his relatives as caretakers of them all!

He can often be spotted along Coyote Creek, in Palm Canyon, Indian Cove, or even along Montezuma Grade, especially in the Fall when out and about more frequently. He is also better adapted to the summer’s heat than most of us, though he limits his wanderings to early mornings and late evenings on the hottest days.



‘Emuu stands vigilant as he surveys the Borrego Valley below.

His hobbies include sparing with other males, gathering and eating wild grasses and shrubs, and enjoying the glorious sunset views of the desert.

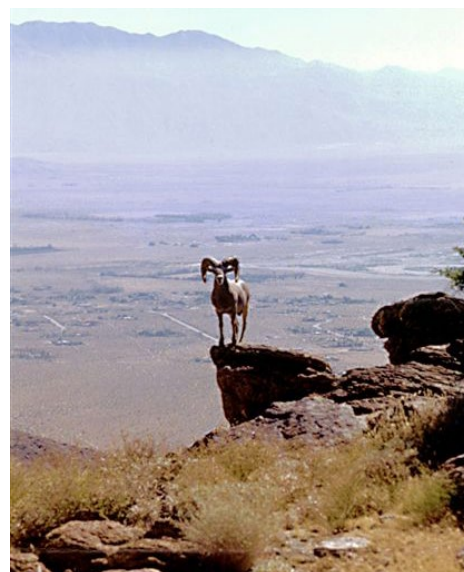
‘Emuu is a proud member of CDAS, and knows the importance of preserving the past, to better understand the future.

He would like to stress that everyone needs to work together to preserve and protect our shared environment and its cultural resources as we also prepare for the unknowns of the future.

** Thanks to the Barona Cultural Center for providing one spelling of the Kumeyaay word for bighorn sheep.*



Fellow male bighorn sheep congregate on a rock cropping in the rugged landscape.



‘Emuu demonstrates his sure-footedness on a boulder’s edge.

CDAS Photo Gallery



Full rainbow over Indian Head as seen early morning on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020

Photo by Lisa Pridmore

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 and 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

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:

- "Ironworking in Togo"
Archaeological Research in the Bassar Region 2013-2020

By Dr. Philip de Barros
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m.
Cost: Pay what you wish

Virtual Exhibits/Blog:

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

San Diego County Archaeological Society

Virtual Lecture

- "Where's the Loo and Where Can I Get a Drink?" *An analysis of private latrines and public water fountains in Pompeii*

Speaker: Kate Trusler
Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Register by 5 p.m. on Jan. 26
<https://sdcas.org>

Society for California Archaeology

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