



# THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



*Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks,  
which are located on the ancestral lands of the Kumeyaay, Luiseño and Cahuilla peoples*

## FEBRUARY 2021

### Calendar

#### LAB DAY and LIBRARY

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 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.

**Reminder:** The BARC library is open to CDAS members only. If you wish to check out a book, either stop by during library hours on Tuesday, or contact Hayley to schedule a pick-up time.

#### STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

On hold until further notice

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Virtual and Interactive)

Friday, Feb. 19, 1:30 p.m.

All members are invited to attend. Hayley Elsken will send the online link to members prior to the meeting.

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

(Virtual and Interactive)

#### ★ "Introduction to Historical Archaeology of the ABDSP"

By Steven Holm,

Caltrans Archaeologist

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

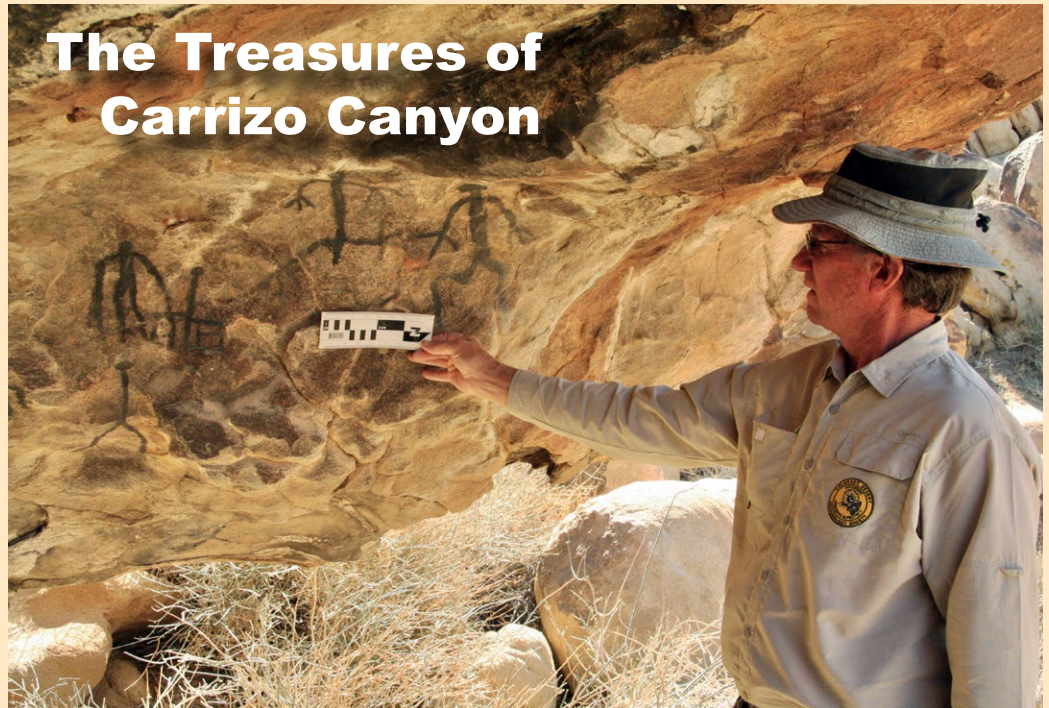
#### ★ Personal Desert Field Safety

By Don Endicott

Saturday, April 17, Time: TBD

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## The Treasures of Carrizo Canyon

**Carrizo Canyon Pictographs** CDAS Site Steward Scott McClintock holds a photo scale card up to the pictographs on a rock shelter in Carrizo Canyon. The site was featured in the keynote presentation during the CDAS Annual Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 23. See story on pages 3-5.

Photo by John Downing

## Notes from the Park



### Hayley Elsken

Hello All –  
With the lifting of the stay-at-home orders and the return to Purple Tier in San Diego last week, the archaeology program will

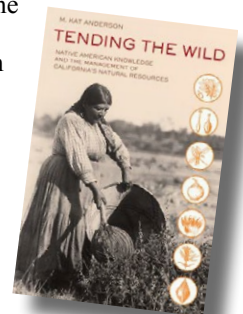
be able to resume some activities, including Lab Days.

Members will be able to return to the lab on February 2nd. COVID-19 BARC protocols, which were used to open in the fall, will remain in place. This means that space will be limited and volunteers must sign up for their spot on Better Impact before coming into the BARC.

Highlights of the protocols include: face masks must be worn, shared surfaces must be cleaned regularly and a 6-foot distance must be kept by all volunteers and staff.

Even though lab days and the BARC will reopen, I want to remind everyone that they do not have to participate in these activities and everyone needs to evaluate the risk for themselves.

If you are getting bored in lockdown and want to check out a book, please feel free to come by during Library hours. I recently checked out *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of the California's Natural Resources* by M. Kat Anderson to read at home.



I really enjoyed how Anderson explained that California has never been an untouched and pristine wilderness, but rather a remarkably managed landscape curated by the native people.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Notes from the Park



Above and right : Examples of fire-affected rock features in the southern part of the Park that is scheduled for excavation.

Photos by Andrew Page

*Continued from Page 1*

Paperwork has loomed large the last month with putting together presentations for the CDAS Annual Meeting and school talks, annual reports and new project documents for the upcoming year. I did manage to visit the southern part of the Park and review the fire-affected rock features that are planned for excavation.

I am pushing off the starting date for the excavation from January and February of this year. Excavations often mean close quarters with your excavation partners and I do not feel

comfortable bringing groups of people close together at this time.

The excavation will still happen, but like with so many other projects and events of this season it will be postponed until fall.

As always, I appreciate everyone's patience and willingness to do what they can as we ride out this pandemic. It has brought me so much joy to see members step up in different ways when fieldwork has been limited and see how the Site Steward program has only continued to grow stronger.

— *Hayley*

## From the Chair



### **Lois Carlson**

**W**e successfully pulled off another virtual meeting. This time we used the Zoom platform for our annual meeting on Jan. 23. Thanks to the diligent investigative work of Steering Committee Member John Downing, the committee is now able to set up

and facilitate online meetings independently, thus reducing an organizational task of our park archaeologist. We thank all of you, our members, for your attendance and patience as we fine-tune our virtual skills — and learn how to communicate and interact together to fulfill our mission during these interesting times.

I'd like to extend a big welcome to our "new" Steering Committee, which includes two new members, Theresa Harrison and Llouise Jee. Returning members are Treasurer and Webmaster Eugenie Newton, John Downing and myself.

And a very fond send-off to Rick and Paula Huls, who after three years, may not be on the committee now, but are alive and well in the library and in our leadership circle. Thanks to them for their dedication and commitment.

During our next meeting, we will be settling in administratively, determining committee roles and prioritizing our next efforts. Among them is to acknowledge the original nations on whose land we live, learn and work.

The "Land Acknowledgment" concept gives recognition to those who lived and worked here before us. CDAS will consider how to integrate these concepts and practices as we go forward with our activities in preserving and protecting our Park. We will be discussing this at our February Steering Committee meeting.

Field safety is another priority, and there are several plans in place to be sure you can access the resources and be aware of the safety considerations of our work and adventures at ABDSP.

The monthly Steering Committee meetings are open to everyone. Plus, we will use our CDAS website to post and update activities, announcements, news and resources — especially until social distancing mandates are relaxed.

Thanks to you all for your participation and work. Contact us with your ideas and concerns.

— *Lois Carlson*

## CDAS Annual Meeting

# Full agenda presented at 2021 CDAS Annual Meeting

*Park updates, site steward news, field safety tips, the Archy Award and Carrizo Canyon pictographs among topics discussed at virtual gathering on January 23*

In spite of the pandemic, a lot is going on at CDAS. Thirty-nine members attended the society's Annual Meeting that was held via Zoom on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Hosted by Steering Committee Member John Downing, the meeting began with the acknowledgment that the Parks in the Colorado Desert District are located on the ancestral lands of the Kumeyaay, Luiseño and Cahuilla peoples.

### Hayley Elskén

Associate State Archaeologist Hayley Elskén was first up and provided news and updates from the Parks, including the current pandemic protocols.

Hayley said that the two grant projects scheduled for spring will be rescheduled for fall due to COVID-19.

One grant will fund a basket expert to evaluate the baskets that are stored at the BARC. The other grant funds the excavation of the fire-affected rock features found in the southern area of the Park. The pandemic has also delayed inventorying the Park and mapping its boundaries.

Hayley described the new Field Coordinator position that involves scheduling and handling of all CDAS field work. Since the meeting, Chris Blake and George Zelenz have volunteered to co-lead the effort.

Later in the program, Hayley talked about basic field safety and the simple precautions and equipment that everyone should take before setting out on a site visit or hike. Her PowerPoint presentation (with check lists) will be posted on the CDAS website.

She also presented the annual Archy Award to CDAS member Laurie Brindle for her outstanding volunteer service to the archaeology program last year.

### Pat Downing

Site Steward Coordinator Pat Downing introduced the most recent class of site stewards, who were trained early in 2020, but because of the pandemic, were not able to be assigned their sites until recently.

She reported that 19 of the 20 new stewards have completed their set-up/initial visit to their sites. Several have taken

multiple sites. There are now a total of 72 CDAS active site stewards and 66 sites, 63 of which are monitored.

Pat announced a change in policy regarding artifact piles. Originally, they were a "Level 2" impact requiring an Impact Report be filed. They have now been reduced to a "Level 1."

This means they may just be noted on the Site Monitor Report in the narrative, and noted with a "1" in the Level box on the form. A new Site Action Guidelines form reflecting this change can be found on the CDAS website in the members section.

### Lois Carlson

Steering Committee Chair Lois Carlson presented the newly elected Steering Committee members: Llouise Jee, Eugenie Newton and Theresa Harrison. All three bring valuable skills, experience and enthusiasm to the committee.

### Rick Huls

January marks seven years of volunteer service for CDAS by Rick and Paula Huls, who have just concluded their three-year terms on the Steering Committee. To observe the occasion, Rick presented a collection of photos taken during their tenure. The images featured dedicated CDAS colleagues in the field and at various events. It also showcased the variety and scope of activities and opportunities at the Park. It was one of the meeting's highlights.

Rick encouraged members to find ways to be of service to CDAS and the Park. By doing so, you will help Hayley — and support the vital work being done to preserve and protect the rich cultural heritage of the Colorado Desert District.

### John Downing and Scott McClintock

For the keynote presentation, Site Stewards Scott McClintock and John Downing gave a well-researched and beautifully illustrated account of the pictographs at Carrizo Canyon. Kudos to Scott and John for a great conclusion to the productive and well-attended CDAS Annual Meeting.



Screen shots taken during Rick's Annual Meeting presentation

*More Annual Meeting coverage*



## Congratulations to the newly elected Steering Committee members



**Theresa Fowler Harrison**

In January, 2018, I completed the Archaeological Technician course taught by Robin Connors and offered by ABDSP. I created

the online exam for the course that year, in part as a review for myself and as a help to Robin. During the next year, I worked with Hayley Elsken surveying different sites, including following a burn in Cuyamaca and other Anza Borrego sites. The pandemic has impacted all of us, so my hikes during 2020 are all local, within Cuyamaca and our home on North Peak. My husband and I recently agreed to serve as site stewards at a Cuyamaca site.

I am a retired high school biology teacher, working part time for the Educational Testing Service. I write questions and curriculum for the advanced placement test in biology, which is also why I volunteered to craft test questions for Robin. My interests in archaeology stem from my hikes during my youth, growing up in La Jolla, and working as a lifeguard in Cuyamaca camps.

My B.A. is from UC San Diego, credentials from UCLA, and M.S. from CSU Monterey Bay.



**Louise Jee**

After growing up in Oakland, CA, and teaching in East Oakland, I “ran away” in 1977 with my new husband, Ranger Fred Jee. We lived at Fish Creek Outpost

Ranger Station. Area Manager Bud Getty discovered my mapping skills, and soon had me volunteering, working on property acquisitions throughout ABDSP.

I graduated in the first Volunteer Class for the Visitor Center in 1979, and the CDAS Field Tech class in 2018.

After time out for kids and school, I was back in the park in 1994 to work on the ABDSP Resource Inventory, now mapping with GPS and computers instead of pen and ink. I retired in 2017 from being the Colorado Desert District “where wolf,” keeping track of where it is, what it is, how it can be impacted, and more. This involved all sorts of geographical data: paleontological, botanical, biological, cultural, natural, and infrastructure – roads, trails, campgrounds, and even SDG&E’s boxes and power poles. Assisting with three unsuccessful OHV law suits against the Coyote Canyon Closure and the rejection of the Sunrise Power Link project by SDG&E honed my research skills.



**Eugenie Newton**

I have been a Site Steward volunteer for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park since 2011. My sites are in the southern part of the park, which has been a favorite

camping area of mine for years. My volunteer duties for CDAS include serving as treasurer for the Steering Committee and maintaining our website. I developed the CDAS website in 2016 and it is a fun project.

CDAS serves a really important role in the Park by providing Hayley Elsken, the sole Park archaeologist, much needed support. We all know the park is huge and the resources to protect it are few. What we do as stewards and archaeology technicians plays such an important role in protecting the priceless cultural resources of ABDSP.

I enjoy using my site steward experience, my deep interest in archaeology and the cultural resources of our Park, as well skills developed from many years of corporate and small business experience for this CDAS team effort.



Laurie Brindle  
Photo by John Case

## CDAS Archy Award presented to Laurie Brindle

By Hayley Elsken

During the Annual Meeting, the Archy Award was handed out to Laurie Brindle for her astounding service to the archaeology program in the last

year. Laurie has always been a star of the archaeology volunteer program, but this year her talents really shined! She has planned multiple meetings during her years at CDAS and this year has become versed in virtual meetings.

She was instrumental in planning

and promoting Archaeology Weekend last year – which CDAS was fortunate to be able to host prior to the pandemic shutdown.

In a time where we could not meet in person, Laurie has made sure CDAS members stay well informed with announcements for classes. She edits and produces the Bulletin, which has become an amazing and vibrant publication with Laurie constantly coming up with new content ideas. She encourages other members to contribute stories and photos and often writes an article or two herself for each issue.

Thank you so much to Laurie for all she has done for CDAS!



The permanent “Archy” award, which is a magnificent wood burl with honorees’ names engraved on brass plates, resides in the BARC library. Each honoree receives a smaller engraved burl. Virginia Perrine received the first “Archy” in 2019.

Photo by Hayley Elsken

## Keynote presentation: Exploring Carrizo Canyon

By John Downing and Scott McClintock

Our presentation at the Annual Meeting was about the archaeological sites, including some beautiful rock art, in the Carrizo Canyon.

Joining me with this report was Scott McClintock, a three-year site steward who stewards four sites. Scott also contributes considerable time and energy assisting Pat Downing, our site steward coordinator, scouting potential sites and conducting site set-ups.

The sites at the head of the canyon have been stewarded for many years by Don Liponi, who took a special interest in the rock art located there. Scott's and my visit last month was to investigate and evaluate the sites for future stewardship.

Carrizo Canyon is home for many prehistoric and post-contact sites, including seasonal camps, roasting pits, rock shelters, cleared circles, bedrock milling, lithic and ceramic artifacts, and rock art including pictographs and petroglyphs. There are also historic sites from the ranching era and railroad building.

Sites in this area were first mentioned by Malcolm Rogers almost 100 years ago. When investigating the site records and steward reports in the BARC, it was interesting to read Rogers' field notes written in his own hand. They read: *"...Bedrock metates and mortars present. Occupation scattered for a mile but not intense. Across the wash and on the opposite side from the camp and slightly down stream is a large rock shelter with mortar holes in front of it. The roof of this shelter is covered with pictographs that came down as to one wall. Many of the under-pictos (sic) could not be made out as they were*



The pictographs on the ceiling of the rock shelter at Carrizo Canyon are brilliantly illuminated by the sunlit rocks below. Photo by John Downing



The artifact found with edges modified by chipping and then made smooth by grinding. Photo by John Downing

*too faint. The black seems to be all graphite paint and the yellow ochre. They are all done in black with a few yellow ones. Mostly realistic but a few geometric ones are present. Some superimposed work present (black on black)."*

While there, we found an interesting and unique artifact. Members of an archaeology technician class had found one like it previously at a site in Pinyon Wash. We found three of these at the Village site without looking very hard.

The artifact is an oval-shaped stone, roughly 9 by 6 inches, about an inch thick. Its edges had been modified by chipping and then made smooth by grinding. We corresponded with Dr. Joan Schneider about them. She stated that people often overlook these objects and referred us to a published document on similar prehistoric ground stone implements by Richard Woodbury. We think it is reasonable to believe that these are an adaptation of stone cooking slabs which have been found at sites in Western Arizona and other sites in the Southwestern U.S., Mexico and Central America. However, the artifacts we are finding are perhaps too small for cooking. What they were actually used for remains unknown.

Please watch for artifacts like this when working in the field. If you should find one, please follow the protocol for a diagnostic artifact. Photograph, with scale if possible, and note the GPS coordinates.

If you don't have a GPS with you include topographic features in the photo and write a description of where it was located. Please copy John Downing ([johndowning2014@outlook.com](mailto:johndowning2014@outlook.com)) when you submit your report. Thanks!

# CDAS members learn how to tell archaeological time

*Dr. Joan Schneider explains dating methods during scholarly presentation*

By Laurie Brindle  
Slide illustrations courtesy of Dr. Joan Schneider

By using a sumptuous layer cake as an analogy, Dr. Joan Schneider got our attention. Then she kept it all day during her in-depth, two-session virtual presentation, "Online Dating, How to Tell Archaeological Time," on Saturday, Jan. 9.

The sweet treat visuals may have been the hook for a potentially dry topic, but Joan skillfully kept interest up by explaining why archaeologists want to date their sites, what various dating methods are used, and how to tell reliable methods from those that are still experimental.

Joan, former Associate State Park Archaeologist for the Colorado Desert District (2001-2011), researcher and author, said that if you know when an artifact was created, you will have better understanding of the people who lived at the site you are stewarding.

She began the presentation by citing the two types of dating: Relative and Chronometric. Relative dating places an artifact in the order that it was created, either before or after a documented event, an association with a known land form or possibly an extinct flora or fauna.

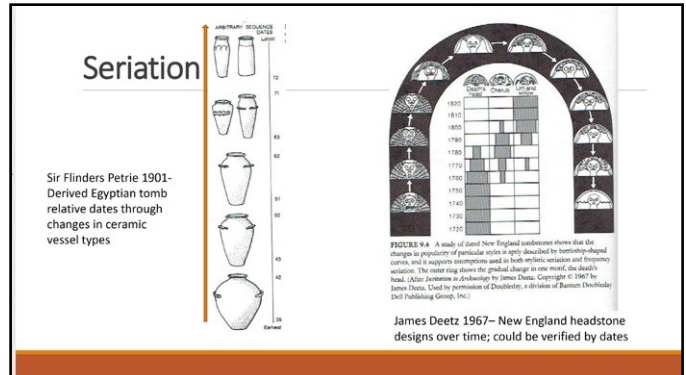
Chronometric provides an actual calendar date and uses geophysical and geochemical methods. Dates are expressed as Before Present (BP) or AD, BC, CE (Common Era) or BCE (Before Common Era). The dates should always include an error factor or a range of calendar dates. Written documents of the historical period and time-diagnostic artifacts (such as projectile points or beer can types) also help place sites within a time frame.

Layer (stratum) 1: 2000 years (natural stream clay)  
 Stratum 2: about 500 years (Cahuilla midden)  
 Stratum 3: about 15 years (gold mill operation)  
 Stratum 4: 25 years (agriculture)  
 Total time to lay down the strata: about 2,540 years

Each layer took about 5 minutes: total time to lay down layers and icing between the layers is about 30 minutes

The layer cake reference comes into play when explaining stratigraphy, the basis of archaeology. It is the law of superposition: the bottom layer was first laid down, the next level was laid down after the bottom level and so on. The highest level is the youngest and the lowest level is the oldest. Of course, if the layers have been turned over (Joan's pineapple upside-down cake illustrated this concept quite nicely) or a layer washed away, that requires further investigation, which is where chronometric dating is used.

If there is no stratification, seriation is used. Seriation is putting things in relative order without dates. It is recognizing trends which are not typically start-and-stop. Joan mentioned



fashion, vinyl records, recording tape, and memory sticks as examples of modern items that are slowly introduced, increase in use, and then gradually fade away as a new ones replace them. The style progression of Egyptian ceramic vessels is another example of seriation.

Joan described additional methods of dating, which range from observing the landscape (lake shores, river terraces and alluvial fans, etc.), to laboratory methods, such as radiocarbon, potassium-argon/argon-argon, obsidian hydration, dendrology/tree ring identification.

Having covered the technical side of the dating process, Joan brought the conversation back to archaeology in the Colorado Desert District. She acknowledged the dating challenges here, which include artifacts near the surface, very few buried or stratified sites found or excavated, the lack of regular precipitation, and the effects of wind and flooding.

However, there are methods that we can use to date local sites. By noting the presence or absence of certain artifact types such as ceramics, shell beads, points (cottonwood triangular or desert side notched) or bottle glass, cans and buttons. An association with the Lake Cahuilla shoreline would be valuable.

In conclusion, Joan said to be aware of experimental and failed methods that have not been proven accurate. She ended with a "virtual field trip" to a Borrego site and showed current research in progress.

CDAS is extremely fortunate to be able to present such a distinguished speaker as Joan. We thank her for her time and sharing her vast knowledge and experience with CDAS members.

USING THE LANDSCAPE FOR DATING

- Lake Shores
- River terraces
- Alluvial fans
- Ocean terraces
- Underwater sites
- Glacial landscapes

## Continuing Education

# “Historical Archaeology in the Colorado Desert”

*A special presentation by Steven Holm,  
Associate Environmental Planner in Archaeology at Caltrans*

**Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Via Zoom**

**Just what is historical archaeology? Why is it important?**

**What should I know about historic artifact identification?**

Holm will provide us with information about and pictures of specific types of artifacts and features.

**What does historical archaeology look like in this area?**

Holm will emphasize historical archaeology in the Colorado Desert District and the site types we might expect to find locally.

CDAS members provide support to our archaeologists in all aspects of documentation, preservation, and protection of cultural resources in the Colorado Desert District of California State Parks. Although we tend to focus on pre-historic cultural resources, our parks are also extremely rich in historical archaeology.

Steven Holm, associate environmental planner in archaeology at Caltrans, will be teaching a one-day Zoom class on historical archaeology for CDAS members on Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holm has a master’s degree in historical archaeology from the University of Idaho and has worked in the field, in the



Steven Holm, associate environmental planner at Caltrans obviously has a great sense of humor.

lab, as an instructor, and since 2016, for Caltrans.

Holm will include discussion and encourage questions during the class.

So, look forward to a lively and informative day which will expand our understanding of all historical archaeology in our parks.

Register soon via Better Impact or contact Hayley Elsken at [hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov](mailto:hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov)

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



Steven HOLM Photos courtesy of Steven Holm



Don Endicott on a hike in Cuyamaca  
Photo by Sally Bickerton

## Save the Date!

### SATURDAY, APRIL 17

## “PERSONAL SAFETY IN THE DESERT”

*A special Continuing Education class for all CDAS members presented by award-winning Park Naturalist,*

**DON ENDICOTT**

*Details to follow*

## CDAS Site Steward News



Graffiti found on boulder



After a quick brush



Restoration complete

Photos by Hayley Elsken

# It's a dirty job! But our site stewards are ready for it

By Pat Downing, Site Steward Coordinator

The long Thanksgiving weekend found us camping in Blair Valley. On Wednesday morning, John and I took a hike up the Pictograph Trail to the drop-off with fellow site steward Pam Wiedenkiller and her husband, Bruce Salerno. As we started on the trail, we noticed that someone had drawn in charcoal on a boulder near the trail. It was a perfect hiking day and we enjoyed the views from trails end at the drop-off.

On our return, we noticed a pictograph like figure on a boulder near the trail end. By Friday, Pam had occasion to hike the trail again and two more graffiti pictographs had been added.



Some of the graffiti found on the Pictograph Trail  
Photos by Shane Harris (left) and Hayley Elsken (right)

I consulted with Hayley who was going out to Blair Valley that week for other reasons. She agreed to remove the graffiti that she could. In reviewing the subsequent photos she sent, the two graffiti areas she removed were in addition to what we had seen. It was multiplying!

Site stewards to the rescue. Stewards Shane Harris and Sara Jones were heading to Blair Valley the following weekend to visit their Ghost Mountain site. They agreed to hike the Pictograph Trail to the drop off, and to follow Hayley's instructions: remove all the graffiti they could find. This proved to be five more

instances than were there on Pam's last walk-through.

The following week, Lance Diebler was out to trim a bush (with Park Naturalists permission) that was brushing against the pictograph. The good news is that he hiked the entire trail and found no graffiti, only the charcoal of fire stain on a rock near the trail end, which he removed.

### So what do you do if you find charcoal graffiti?

If it is in your site, or close to archaeological resources, let Hayley know via your impact report and photos. If it is in any other area, you may clean it up following Hayley's instructions. Please do send before-and-after photos and the location.

To clean up the charcoal, you do need some tools. It's best to have a stiff paint brush and follow along on the lines of the charcoal to dust off the thick layers. I used a 3-inch paint brush that was cut down about one inch from the handle to make it stiffer. Then I usually have a little bit of water in a bucket with a drop of Dawn dish soap and give the charcoal line a quick scrub and then dump clean water over it. Supplies: Stiff paint brush, old toothbrush, Dawn, water and bucket.



## 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)



## CDAS Member Profile

# EUGENIE NEWTON

By Sally Bickerton

The focus of this month's CDAS profile is our webmaster and treasurer, Eugenie Newton. A Site Steward for more than 10 years, she has long had an interest in anthropology and archaeology.

She was born in Coronado, and as her father was a naval officer, also experienced living in Japan, the Philippines, and several other U.S. cities. She is married to Joanne Odenthal, who is active in the ABDSP Botany Society as well as accompanying Eugenie on her site visits.

Eugenie worked in corporate human resources after college, but as the years passed, she realized that the work did not provide the career satisfaction she desired. After receiving an AA in Holistic Health, she started a private practice in therapeutic massage and then taught massage therapy, ending up as the school's Executive Director. And after retirement, she began taking classes in archaeology at Palomar College, which included both academic and field training in excavation, surveying, and lab work. She proudly received an AA in Archaeology in May, 2019.



Eugenie and Joanne at Monument Valley  
Photo courtesy of Eugenie Newton

Her lifelong interest in archaeology was re-kindled in the 1990s when she took a camping trip to Chaco Canyon. Wandering the great houses, kivas, and cliffs inspired her to wonder how she had not previously known about this magnificent and fascinating place!



Eugenie screening soil at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center near Cortez, CO  
Photo courtesy of Eugenie Newton

She read all she could about Ancestral Puebloans, and later volunteered for a week's archaeology excavation at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado – another revelation!

Retirement allowed her the time to follow her interests by completing the California Site Steward training course in ABDSP in 2010. Meeting the Park archaeologists and CDAS crew, and learning of the many cultural resources in the Park inspired her active participation in the organization. She also completed the Citizen Scientist class taught by Joan Schneider in 2012.

Eugenie, besides being an active Steering Committee member, stewards several sites in the south part of the Park. She has long enjoyed camping in the area and says "protecting these sites feels like taking care of my desert home." There has been vandalism at the sites, ranging from trash to re-arranging of artifacts to paint on a bedrock milling feature. As she states, "Really, you brought spray paint out to the desert and did this?"

Being with like-minded people and sharing an interest in learning about those who lived here in the past is what Eugenie enjoys the most about CDAS. She loves to imagine "Who were the women and men who lived in and traveled through the desert for thousands of years? Who worked in this mortar? Who made this scraper? What was it like for you here?"



Eugenie presenting the CDAS financial report at the January 2020 CDAS Annual Meeting  
Photo by Laurie Brindle

## Book Review

# Ethical, moral issues of archaeology examined

*“Finders Keepers - A Tale of Archaeological Plunder and Obsession” by Craig Childs*

By Paula Huls

Books have a way of impacting the reader on many levels - through the use and rhythm of words, the images and emotions evoked by words and sometimes, the words motivate the reader to change an opinion, perspective or action.

This book does all these things.

The author presents the challenges that today’s archaeologists and advocates face in the realm of morals and ethics.

Craig Childs exposes some very difficult questions: Is it always “right”

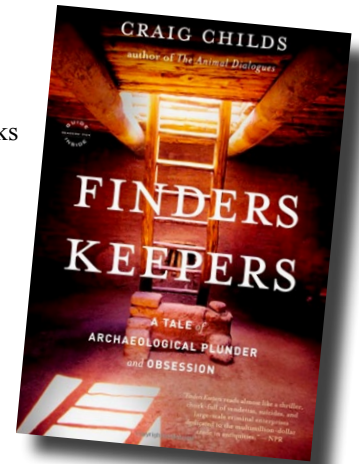
to preserve and protect? What about the dilemma of private collections at any cost (money or otherwise)? Is there truly an “owner” of the past? Who speaks for the cultures that are no longer here?

Under the guidance and tutelage of three archaeologists, I’ve learned to look at our world differently, to look beyond the instant gratification of sole possession of an item, to appreciate that an object was purposely created and then placed within the landscape.

In reading this book, my grasp and understanding of cultural landscape have deepened. It is very clear, at least to me, that the cultural landscape loses something when an item is removed and “we” lose the connection to the past.

I highly recommend this book because it asks those hard questions, gives you information, and then lets you, as an individual, answer the questions.

This book is available for CDAS members to check out in the BARC library.



## CDAS Tip



The sighting of a mortar on an overlook above Hell Hole Canyon was an added perk while the Huls hiked the Culp Valley Loop Trail. Photo by Rick Huls

## First Day Hike

By Rick Huls

Ever heard of the “First Day Hike?” This is a program sponsored by REI to inspire all of us to get outside on the first day of the New Year as a way to set the tone for the year.

In the past, it was really easy to follow through with this commitment in Borrego. The State Park led a hike on the first of January every year. BUT not this year!

Park staff did give some suggestions and routes. Well, we took one suggestion; “The Culp Valley Loop Trail.” It usually is 2.4 miles, but we went past Pena Springs to an overlook above Hell Hole Canyon to make our goal of walking three miles per day. This park is truly amazing for an archaeologist.

What sweet rewards we can reap, even when we are not planning on anything! See what we “found.” (Photo at left)

## *Do you have stories to tell? Or photos to show?*

All CDAS members are encouraged to contribute photos, events, items of interest, or “Tales from the Trail” to our monthly bulletin. Perhaps there is a topic that you would like to know more about?

If so, please contact Laurie Brindle at [bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org](mailto:bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org)

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

*We look forward to hearing from you!*



**Document. Preserve. Protect.**

# Steps you can take to stay safe out in the field

By Laurie Brindle

The well known “Be prepared” motto is not just the for the Boy Scouts. It is a common-sense approach to life in general, but it is particularly apt for anybody who seeks to explore and enjoy our beautiful State Parks.

As magnificent as the scenery can be along the trails, there are also serious risks with venturing out on isolated rocky and slippery trails. Your personal safety is paramount while planning an adventure.

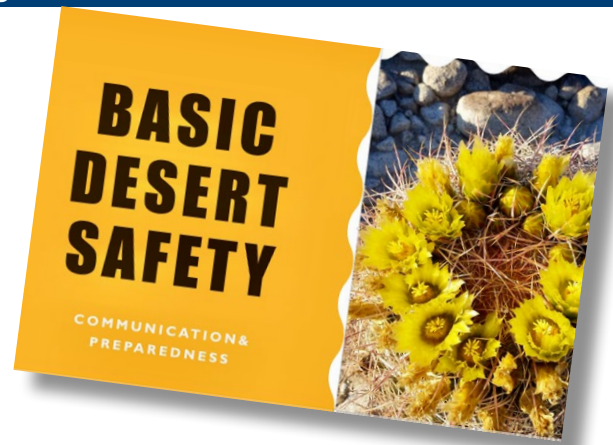
During the recent CDAS Annual Meeting, Hayley talked about basic ways you can prepare for unexpected challenges while on a site visit — or on a pleasurable hike with family or friends.

To help you stay safe, there will be a regular safety feature in upcoming bulletins and Hayley’s PowerPoint presentation has been posted on the members page of the CDAS website.

<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/members/>

Be sure to mark your calendars for Park Naturalist Don Endicott’s virtual presentation, “Personal Safety in the Desert” on April 17. Don will discuss what he has learned during his decades of navigating rugged environments — from scaling peaks to hiking miles of pristine wilderness.

If you have any questions, please contact Hayley. (See below)



### PREPARE YOUR KIT –

Organize your bag with the necessities Recommendations:

- First Aid Kit
- Cellphone (w/ SURCOM # programmed in)
- Headlamp/Flashlight w/Extra Batteries
- Food and High-energy Snacks
- Whistle
- Sun Protection (Hat, Sunscreen, Lip Balm, Sunglasses)
- Water
- Layered Clothing
- Cactus Spine Remover Kit: Comb/Tweezers/Pliers
- Prepare yourself – make sure you are feeling healthy, hydrated and fueled before you head out. If you are feeling unwell, don’t put yourself (and others) in a risky position – cancel and reschedule.

**Have this number with you!**  
**SURCOM: (951) 443-2964**

### PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE –

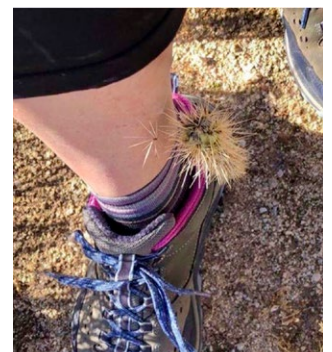
It’s easy (and common) to get stuck in sand in Borrego. Recommendations:

- Tool Kit
- Extra Fluids (oil, coolant, gas, water)
- High-lift Jack
- Sand Boards/Mats
- Tow Rope/Strap/chain
- Shovel
- Spare Tire
- Signal Device (Mirror, Flares)
- Duct and Electrical Tape

### Common occurrences ...



Watch out for those sharp rocks!  
Photo by Scott McClintock



Combs can be helpful in removing pesky cholla balls.  
Photo courtesy of Mandie Carter



**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](mailto: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](mailto:loiseleanor@gmail.com)
- Vice Chair:** Theresa Harrison — [tfowlerharrison@gmail.com](mailto:tfowlerharrison@gmail.com)
- Secretary:** Llouise Jee — [llwalking@yahoo.com](mailto:llwalking@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer/Webmaster:** Eugenie Newton — [evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com)
- Member:** John Downing — [johndowning2014@outlook.com](mailto:johndowning2014@outlook.com)

**CDAS Bulletin Editor:** Laurie Brindle  
[bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org](mailto:bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org)

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

## CDAS Photo Gallery



View of the snow-covered Santa Rosa Mountains as seen from the BARC on January 25, 2021

Photo by Hayley Elsen

## Regional Museums and Archaeology 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](http://www.carockart.org)

### **Imperial Valley Desert Museum**

Closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus.  
[www.ivdesertmuseum.org](http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org)

### **Malki Museum**

Closed until further notice due to COVID-19.  
[malkimuseum.org](http://malkimuseum.org)

### **San Diego Archaeological Center**

#### **Virtual Lectures:**

- "Ancient Maya Cave Rituals"  
By Dr. Jon Spenard  
Thursday, Feb. 18, 630 p.m.  
Cost: Pay what you wish

#### **Virtual Exhibits/Blog:**

- "Visions: Rock Art Around the World"
  - "Audio and Video Tours"
- [sandiegoarchaeology.org](http://sandiegoarchaeology.org)

### **San Diego County Archaeological Society**

<https://sdcas.org>

### **Society for California Archaeology**

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, March 4-6,  
Keynote Speaker: Chip Colwell, author of *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits: Inside the Fight to Reclaim Native America's Culture*  
<https://scahome.org>