



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/Payókwichum, Cahuilla, and Cupeño/Kuupangaxwichem peoples

MARCH 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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

(Virtual and Interactive)

★ "Introduction to Historical Archaeology of the Colorado Desert District

By Steven Holm, Caltrans archaeologist

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

★ Personal Desert Field Safety

By Don Endicott

Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. to Noon

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Virtual and Interactive)

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

All members are invited to attend.

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

CDAS PUBLIC EDUCATION

(Virtual and Interactive)

★ The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis

By Steven and Kathleen Holen

Saturday, April 10, 2 to 3 p.m.

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"The Archaeology of Bear Ears, A Virtual Field Trip" will be presented exclusively to CDAS members on Tuesday, March 2, by Wanda Raschko, stewardship and monitoring archaeologist of Friends of Cedar Mesa. See story on page 3.

Photo courtesy of Wanda Raschko

Notes from the Park



Hayley Elsken

Associate State Archaeologist

The parks had some wintry weather at the end of January that left Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park covered in snow. I was up in Palomar Mountain a couple days later and was shocked by the accumulation of snow. Our project walk near Doane Pond turned into a wonderful hike through a winter wonderland. On the high peaks in the shade, there is still snow at some of the parks.

Recently, I have been meeting with multiple

bands of the Luiseño, Kumeyaay and Cahuilla tribes about projects throughout the parks.

The meetings have been very large with many interested parties. We are hoping to solidify relationships and be able to work together on a variety of issues on a regular basis. Many of these projects are related to park management, including reforestation and interpretation.

I have also been working with the most recent recipients of the Begole Archaeological Research Grant to set them up at sites for drone imagery and 3-D models. The recipients attended last year's Archaeology Weekend event and were inspired by the talks given by previous grant awardees, especially Chuck Bennett, who discussed his work with drones in the Park.

Continued on Page 2

Notes from the Park

Continued from Page 1

Since one of the geoglyph sites was last flown over in 2017, we went there to monitor it for changes and to get imagery for a 3-D model of the site.

Keep your eyes for open graffiti in the Park. In the last week, we unfortunately had three incidences of graffiti mimicking. Two of the sites copied designs of pictographs. One of our site stewards spotted a set, while a park employee and a visitor reported the two others. The park is working on cleaning up two of the graffiti sites, and I am preparing a mitigation plan for the third.

— Hayley Elskén



Example of graffiti recently found in the Park

Photos by Hayley Elskén

From the Chair



Lois Carlson

Still interesting times at CDAS! I guess it's like the rest of the world — adapting, cooperating, and working together to get through whatever it is we're going through. I so appreciate the great team of Steering Committee members we have now. Quite the diverse team . . . and

yet, the perfect blend of dedication and forward thinking.

A highlight of our February Steering Committee meeting was an initial introduction and review of the Land Acknowledgment Toolkit from CSU San Marcos and California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center, which highlights an awareness and sensitivity to the fact that we all live and work on lands of those who lived here way before us, and that those lands were taken without permission or regard for those who were here.

It's a sobering perspective, and one that requires some focus to integrate. I am finding that our work to preserve and protect this Park is even more meaningful with this in mind. I hope you all can make time to read the document and consider its implications on what we do going forward. Please join us in efforts to acknowledge those whose lands we occupy and work.

Thanks to John Downing and Susan Gilliland and their colleagues who are working to bring education and programs to CDAS members and the public, increasing awareness and knowledge about the history and amazing stories of our Park. Watch for flyers and check our website and tune in to the upcoming presentations.

This is the "season" of bright skies, clear desert views, ambient temperatures, and the right time to explore, document, survey and "get into" what we really have here. Hayley at the BARC remains so dedicated to the treasure of ABDSP, it's great to work with her and join her in the goals and management of this resource.

Join us anytime at our meetings, educational programs, volunteer opportunities and just desert life!

Thanks for your support!

— Lois Carlson



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 • 760-767-4403

hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

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

Vice Chair: Theresa Harrison — tfowlerharrison@gmail.com

Secretary: Llouise Jee — llwalking@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Webmaster: Eugenie Newton —

evnewton8@gmail.com

Member: John Downing — johndowning2014@outlook.com

CDAS Bulletin Editor: Laurie Brindle

bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

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

Virtual Field Trip

“The Archaeology of Bears Ears: A Virtual Field Trip”

A special presentation sponsored by CDAS

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 • 7 to 8 p.m.

All CDAS members are invited to join this virtual field trip to Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah and learn more about its amazing archaeology.

A link to the Zoom event will be re-sent to members on Tuesday morning, March 2. If you have any questions, please contact Hayley at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

About the speaker

Wanda Raschko is the stewardship and monitoring archaeologist for Friends of Cedar Mesa, a non-profit organization working to protect the lands and resources of Bears Ears National Monument and the surrounding region. Prior to joining Friends of Cedar Mesa, Wanda worked locally as the Bureau of Land Management’s Palm Springs field office archaeologist. During this presentation, Wanda will discuss the overall chronology of the Bears Ears’ area and delve deeper into specific aspects of its stunning archaeological record.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Raschko

CDAS Public Education



Steven Holen (left) breaking an elephant bone in Africa

Photo courtesy of Steven and Kathleen Holen

The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis:

“New Evidence for Human Presence in North America 30,000 to 40,000 Years Ago”

Presented by
STEVEN AND KATHLEEN HOLEN
Center for Paleolithic Research

SATURDAY, APRIL 10
2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom

This virtual presentation will be open to the public. Participation via Zoom will be limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Stay tuned for sign-up information.

Continuing Education

“Historical Archaeology in the Colorado Desert District”

*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?**

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



Artifacts found in the Colorado Desert District that are housed in the BARC Library.

Photos by Susan Gilliland



Steven Holm really gets into his field work.

Photo courtesy of Steven Holm



Steven Holm

Photo courtesy of Steven Holm

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 beginning with the Anza expedition.

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, from 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 lab, and as an instructor. Since 2016, he has worked for Caltrans. Holm will explain what historical archaeology is, why it's important, and what to know about historic artifact identification. He will talk about what historical archaeology looks like in our area.

He will provide us with information about, and pictures of, specific types of artifacts and features. He will emphasize historical archaeology in the Colorado Desert District, as well as the site types we might expect to find locally.

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 no later than Thursday, March 4, via Better Impact or contact Hayley at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

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

Continuing Education

“Desert Safety and GPS Skills Refresher”

*Improving Geolocation Skills for
Site Stewardship and Field Archaeology*

Saturday, April 17, 2021 9 a.m. to Noon

Presented by

Park Naturalist Don Endicott and Associate State Archaeologist Hayley Elsen

The first hour of this Zoom class will address Desert Safety and how to prepare for, and respond to, circumstances that may arise during archaeological field work. Topics will include safety practices and things to carry with your field kit. Communications options for remote areas of the Park will also be covered.

After a short break, the remainder of this workshop will focus on helping you improve your skills for using GPS hand-held devices and how to precisely determine and record geographic locations of archaeological features and artifacts. We will have a short review of geographic coordinate systems and how the Global Positioning System operates and is used to facilitate field navigation.

Normally the next segment would be tailored for hands on exercises to practice GPS fundamentals. However, due to the Zoom format, this session will be more of an interactive demonstration on how to perform these basic functions.



Good safety skills are critical when out in the field.

Photo by Laurie Brindle



Hayley surveying in Bow Willow

Photo by John Case



Don Endicott hiking in Cuyamaca

Photo by Sally Bickerton

Perhaps at a future date we can schedule additional hands on field exercises.

Next Hayley Elsen will give a presentation introducing the Avenza cellphone application and method for accessing and using archaeological position data in the field, such as photo station reference locations during site monitoring visits.

If time allows, we will explore GPS data management methods using a Windows laptop. A selection of PC applications for viewing and managing GPS data will be illustrated.

What to have with you during the Zoom session:

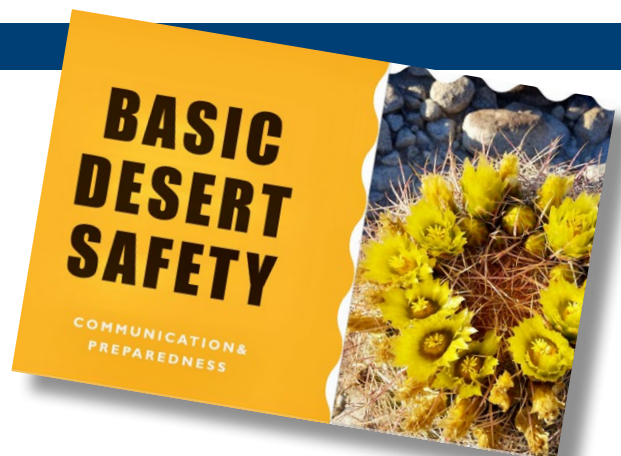
Your GPS hand-held and its printed manual or your cellphone with GPS navigation application and manual.

Register via Better Impact or contact Hayley at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

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

Desert Safety Tips

- **Make a Plan** – Create an itinerary of where you plan to go
- **Share your Plan** – Text or call someone who is not in your group and let them know where you plan to go, how long you plan to be gone and when you plan to return. Another idea is to leave a note on your dashboard of where you plan to go, expected return time and an emergency number.
- **Notice when you have cellphone service** and when you are out of range. Try to always know where the nearest cell phone service is and be aware that it could be far away at our parks.
- **Always have SURCOM number handy: (951) 443-2964**



Site Stewards

CDAS Site Steward Update

By Pat Downing, Site Steward Coordinator

Site impact reports are important! We have experienced many impacts at our sites recently, both minor and major. Here are my tips for following the proper procedures in reporting an impact.

- 1) Follow exactly the directions found in the Site-Action-Guidelines-rev-1/30/2021 in the members section of the CDAS website. <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/> **Do not** go into the field without this document. It tells you exactly what to do and which forms to file for each level of impact.
- 2) Email the required forms and photos in a separate email from your site monitoring report. Copy Hayley and me. This makes it easier for Hayley to follow up.
- 3) In case you missed it, artifact piles are now a Level One and do not require an Impact Report. They are dispersed and reported in the narrative for the visit on the Site Monitoring Report.

— Pat
pdsnewmail@gmail.com



Tres deseperadas en el desierto: L to R: Pam Wiedenkeller, Kathy Dice and Patty McFarland at a site set-up in Pinyon Wash Photo by Pat Downing



John Bickerton stands next to a large pile of bailing wire near Campbell Ranch in Borrego, which was operational in the early 20th century. Photo by Sally Bickerton



Pam Wiedenkeller photographs a rock shelter in Culp Valley Photo by Pat Downing



Diana Langley set up a photo station at her site in the south of the Park. Photo by Pat Downing



Sally Bickerton documents a scattering of cow bones left from ranching days near Campbell Ranch in Borrego. Photo by John Bickerton

THERESA HARRISON

By Sally Bickerton

Most of us have not had the chance to get to know Theresa Fowler Harrison, one of our brand new CDAS Steering Committee members. Theresa and her husband, Dale, completed the Archaeology Technician course in 2018, not long before the world changed so drastically for us all. She brings many talents to CDAS! We thank her for serving on the Steering Committee.

Theresa grew up in La Jolla and attended schools locally, including UCSD, where she received two bachelor degrees, one in English and one in biology. While a college student, she worked both as a San Diego City beach lifeguard — and as a camp lifeguard in Julian during the summers. She went on to earn her teaching credentials at UCLA and a Master of Science degree at CSU Monterey Bay.

Throughout her career, Theresa has integrated her two majors as both a high school and college teacher, and as a grant writer. She has also written both curriculum and exam questions for the Educational Testing Service in Advanced Placement

biology. Theresa currently serves on the Dan McKinney YMCA Board and the San Diego County YMCA Board of Governors.

Theresa and Dale taught sciences at the same high school in the Monterey-Salinas area for more than 36

Canine companions join Theresa at the peak of Mt. Ollasson in Monterey County.

Photo by Joanne Williams

years. That is where they made their home and raised three daughters.

After retirement, San Diego County and our local mountains called to them and they moved to North Peak, which is above Lake Cuyamaca. A very active couple, they enjoy hiking and biking, as well as cross-country skiing and stand-up paddle boarding. On one of their hiking trips in ABDSP, they saw a flyer for the Arch Tech class and “the rest,” as they say, “is history.”

The Harrisons completed the course with former Associate State Archaeologist Robin Connors in 2018.



Theresa hiking Ghost Mountain in Borrego

Photo courtesy of Theresa Harrison

As Theresa writes test questions professionally, she offered her services to Robin for the course exam. (Those of you who took the course the last two years can thank Theresa for those questions!) Dale and Theresa enjoyed performing site surveys that first year with Associate State Archaeologist Hayley Elsken, before the Park halted work due to the pandemic.

They are looking forward to soon becoming site stewards for sites in Cuyamaca and Jacumba.

Again, our thanks to Theresa for stepping forward and giving her time, energy, and expertise to the Steering Committee!



Husband Dale and Theresa in front of their home in Cuyamaca

Photo courtesy of Theresa Harrison



Theresa at the base of a Mayan ruin in southern Mexico
Photo by Joanne Williams



Horseback riding in Honduras

Photo courtesy of Theresa Harrison

Remembering Daniel McCarthy

Daniel McCarthy leaves remarkable legacy of preserving and advancing regional cultural heritage

By Dr. Joan S. Schneider

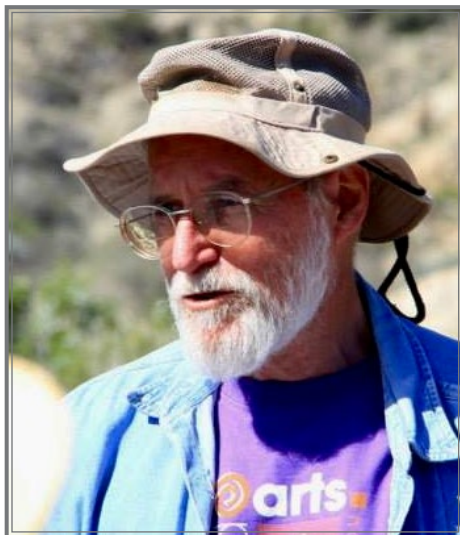
Daniel F. McCarthy, a noted archaeologist, rock art expert, and ethnobotanist, passed away in February.

Many CDAS members, past and present, likely remember Daniel from the agave harvesting and cooking (and eating) projects that he led for our membership in the early 2000s. Daniel not only taught us, but also helped rejuvenate these traditional practices with present-day tribal people of the area.

What most CDAS members do not know is that Daniel was responsible for most of the rock art records we have for ABDSP. In the 1970s, Daniel was hired as a California State Parks seasonal employee for a number of years, expressly to find and record rock art in ABDSP. He did the same kind of work at Joshua Tree National Monument for the National Park Service. He was a young guy at that time and extremely nimble and got to places you wouldn't believe!

Daniel made three-dimensional replicas of some of the most prominent rock art panels in ABDSP using flexible casting materials on the rock surfaces and then reproducing the actual pictographs by painting them on the casting (before we all knew that this process caused some damage).

The replicas were displayed in the ABDSP Visitor Center. Daniel's most recent project was recording the numerous



Daniel McCarthy

Photo courtesy of Britt Wilson

petroglyphs and pictographs at Coyote Hole canyon, in the town of Joshua Tree. Coyote Hole is now being protected by the Native American Lands Conservancy.

Daniel never interpreted rock art; he felt that only those that created it knew their meanings.

Daniel also recently co-authored and published a book, *Medicinal Plants Used by Native American Tribes in Southern California*, available through the Malki Museum Press. He had a great deal of ethnobotanical experience and knowledge, gathered through his

many years of working with and for tribal peoples of the area, especially the Cahuilla and Serrano (Serrano are the people of the San Bernardino Mountains).

Daniel was my fellow UCR graduate student, colleague, Riverside neighbor, friend, and resource for more than 36 years.

My very first archaeological field experience was shepherded by Daniel. He took very long strides when surveying and it was difficult to keep up with him.

He came to my rescue when I needed his expertise on a difficult project. He loaned me books and reports from his personal library—documents that were unavailable elsewhere (even the UCR library).

Daniel always saw the need to get things done: rock-art recording before that form of expression was gone; mapping trails and ground figures before they vanished; teaching Native Americans archaeological field skills, indexing regional professional journals that had never before had an index; studying plants that were valued by native peoples; demonstrating string figures to kids; and feeding his people.

He welcomed hard work and did everything with his whole being. Please join me in remembering him and his work.

Joan S. Schneider



Harvested agave plants roast in pits

Photo by Dr. Joan S. Schneider



Agave leaves drying in the sun

Photo by Dr. Joan S. Schneider

Field Surveys

Attention, all Arch Techs! Help CDAS and have some fun during COVID-19 restrictions



Astrid Webb

Story and photo by Rick Huls

Attention, all Arch Techs! Want to help CDAS and have a good time in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park during pandemic restrictions?

How about going out and doing a field survey? Hayley has a number of sites that need some boots and eyes on the ground.

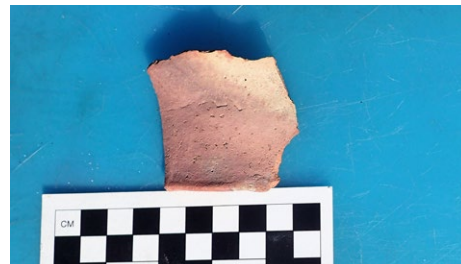
Some of the information is more than 50 years old since it was last recorded.

Astrid Webb, Paula Huls and I took on such a project. It was a lot of fun; being outside, exercising our tech skills and re-discovering artifacts (photos below).

So, grab an arch-tech buddy who is willing to go into the desert with you and sign up for a site with Hayley!



Paula Huls



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

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:

"Polynesian Contact with the Americas — An Update"

By Dr. Terry Jones

Thursday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Cost: Pay what you wish

• Virtual Exhibits/Blog:

• *"New Acquisitions — Virtual Exhibit"*

• *Audio and Video Tours*

sandiegoarchaeology.org

San Diego County Archaeological Society

• Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 8 a.m. to

Saturday, March 6, 5 p.m.

• Virtual Lecture: TBD

Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

<https://sdcas.org>

Society for California Archaeology

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting,

March 4 to 6, Keynote Speaker: Chip

Colwell, author of *Plundered Skulls*

and *Stolen Spirits: Inside the Fight to*

Reclaim Native America's Culture

<https://scahome.org>

All CDAS members are encouraged to contribute photos, events, items of interest, or "Tales from the Trail" to our monthly bulletin. Perhaps there is an archaeology topic that you would like to know more about? If so, please contact Laurie Brindle at bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

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