



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



The Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, Cupeño, and Payómkawichum/Luiseño are the Original peoples of the Anza-Borrego Desert, Palomar Mountain, and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks. These traditional homelands in the Colorado Desert District are rich with their heritage and cultural tradition. The Colorado Desert Archaeological Society acknowledges these places as the Peoples' homelands and offers gratitude for their stewardship of these lands from time immemorial through the present and into the future.

APRIL 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.

CDAS PUBLIC EDUCATION (Virtual and Interactive)

★ The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis
 By Steven and Kathleen Holen
 Saturday, April 10, 2 to 3 p.m.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (Virtual and Interactive)

★ Personal Desert Field Safety
 By Don Endicott and Hayley Elskén
 Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. to Noon

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (Virtual and Interactive)

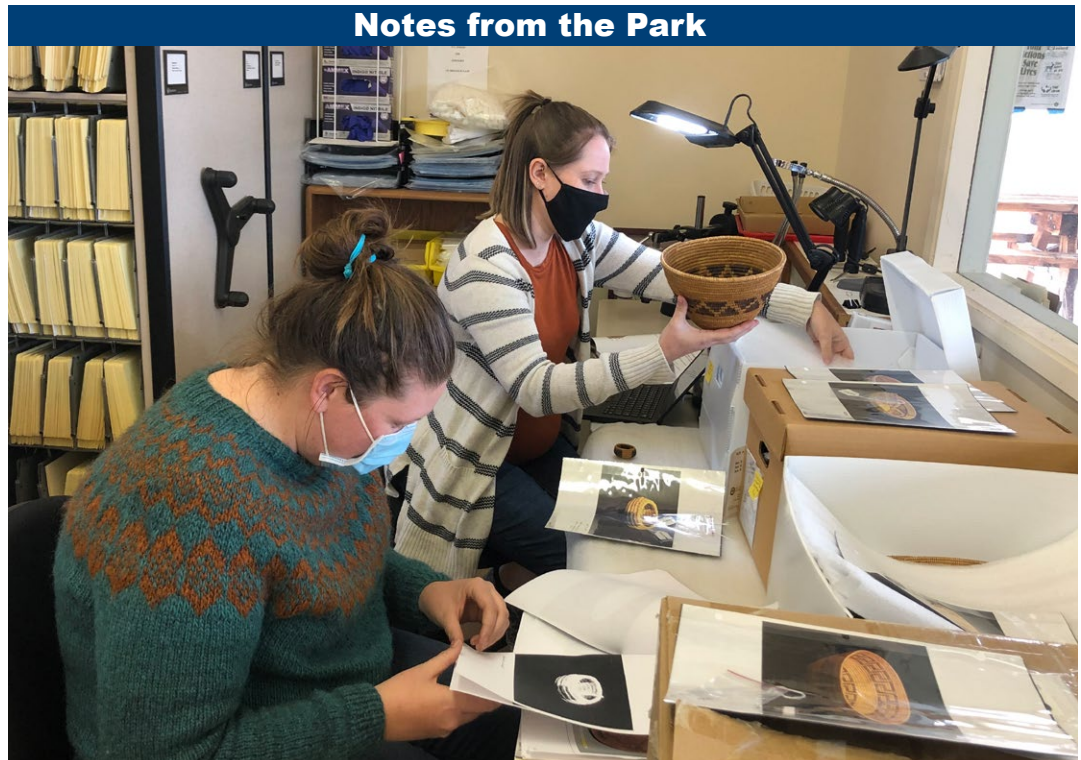
Friday, April 16, 1:30 p.m.
 All members are invited to attend.
 Hayley Elskén will send the online link to members prior to the meeting.

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Notes from the Park



Basket evaluation — Heather Martin (right), an archaeologist from the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility near Sacramento, traveled to Borrego to evaluate the CDAS basket collection that is on display in the BARC. Associate State Archaeologist Hayley Elskén reviews examples of distinguishing characteristics that can reveal a basket's provenance.

Photo by Susan Gilliland



Hayley Elskén Associate State Archaeologist

The first field day of the season was completed on February 24. John Case, Rick Huls, Paula Huls, Jean Paul Carrere

and Lance Deibler came out to help survey and record the site with the assistance of one of the site's stewards, George Zelenz. I visited the area again on March 25, this time joined by Robin Connors, George Zelenz, Pam Wiedenkiller, Lance Diebler, Chris Blake, John Case and Christiane Villescaz, and

completed the recording of sites in the area. Special thanks to Chris Blake and George Zelenz for stepping up and acting as Co-Field Coordinators and making these site visits happen.

This site was a habitation area with a variety of feature types. We recorded agave roasting pits, rock shelters, cleared circles, rock-lined circles, and bedrock milling, including slicks, mortars and battered boulders. Pottery, lithics and groundstone were located across the whole site with a concentration of artifacts and midden soil surrounding the main rock shelter. On the first visit, we recorded 41 features. On our second visit, we recorded an additional 28 for a total of 69 features at the site.

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- ★ The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis — Saturday, April 10 Page 3
- ★ Desert Field Safety/GPS Skills — Saturday, April 17 Page 4

From the Chair



Lois Carlson

Spring greetings from your Steering Committee, and thanks to those of you who have attended our virtual meetings this season. Your presence is an encouragement to “zoom on” as we move through this time of distance and safety guidelines.

CDAS members continue to observe the Park’s pandemic protocols and parameters — thanks to Hayley regularly notifying us of all the openings and changes. There is a “hint of hope” in the air that programs and activities may slowly start to resume.

Thanks to Continuing Education Committee Chair Susan Gilliland and her team: Dr. Joan Schneider, Barbara Barnes and Patty McFarland for three outstanding programs for members this season. The final program for the season (on desert safety and GPS skills) is scheduled for April 17. (See page 4)

Steering Committee member John Downing has been busy re-establishing the CDAS Public Education programs virtually. On Saturday, April 10, Steven and Kathleen Holen will present exciting new evidence for “The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis” via Zoom. The public is invited to attend. There is no admission charge, but registration is required. (See page 3)

We are also working toward being able to host more attendees during our Zoom presentations, and plan to incorporate social media to reach a broader audience so all can have the opportunity to tune in and learn more about the incredible history and riches of the area.

We continue our work in integrating the Land Acknowledgment Statement, knowing that the indigenous People who occupy these lands deserve our remembrance and respect. For me, this enhances our mission and preservation activities and gives them all an added dimension of depth and meaning.

Enjoy the coming of summer!

— Lois Carlson

Notes from the Park



Masked up and ready to work: Left to right: John Case, Jean Paul Carrere, Paula Huls, Hayley Elsken, George Zelenz and Lance Deibler

Photo by Rick Huls



Lance Deibler (left) and Jean Paul Carrere explore the rock shelter on the slope of the hill.

Photo by Rick Huls

Continued from Page 1

The BARC got a visit from Heather Martin, an archaeologist out of the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility (SACRF), who completed her graduate work in the analysis of Native American baskets.

Heather came down to look at the six baskets that are in the BARC. Who knew there was so much you can learn from a basket? Heather was able to identify whether the weaver used their right or left hand, whether they looked at the inside of the basket or outside as they weaved,

what material was used and more. All of this information helped Heather come to conclusions on the origins of the baskets. One of the baskets even has a weaver’s mark on the bottom that could potentially be traced to the exact maker of the basket. The baskets from the BARC have quite a history!

To learn more about the baskets, basket analysis and basket care, stay tuned for a class from Heather next season.

— Hayley Elsken

“The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis”

Exciting New Evidence for Human Presence in the Americas
40,000 to 30,000 Years Ago

BY STEVEN and KATHLEEN HOLEN
Center for American Paleolithic Research

Saturday, April 10 • 2 to 3 p.m.

*Presented online via Zoom • Open to the Public
Free admission • Registration Required*



Steve Holen (standing) breaking elephant bone in Africa.

Photos courtesy of Steven and Kathleen Holen



Kathleen Holen

During this CDAS Public Education presentation, archaeologists Steven and Kathleen Holen of the Center for American Paleolithic Research will discuss “The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis,” which suggests a human movement into the Americas sometime between 40,000 and 30,000 years ago from Siberia.

The Holens propose that human populations from northern Siberia

were able to disperse across Siberia and Alaska and down the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, using an interior corridor that was open before about 22,000 years ago.

The “Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis” was first published in 2013 using data from the Great Plains of North America. Since that time, there is exciting new evidence from South America to support this hypothesis. The Holens will

update the North American evidence and provide an overview of the discoveries in South America.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to hear directly from the Holens about their most recent research that continues to challenge current theories about when Humans first came to North America.

A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

Deadline to register is Friday, April 9. To register, please click on the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd--grz4oGtdcaTsuTMhtVcPSH4YsT5RZ>

“Desert Safety and GPS Skills Refresher”

Improving Geolocation Skills for Site Stewardship and Field Archaeology

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

Presented by

**Park Naturalist Don Endicott
& 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.

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.



Don Endicott hiking in Cuyamaca

Photo by Sally Bickerton



Hayley surveying in Bow Willow

Photo by John Case



Good safety skills are critical when out in the field.

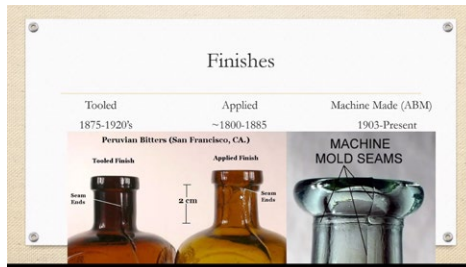
Photo by Laurie Brindle

Historical Archaeology explained at all-day workshop

Steven Holm, Associate Environmental Planner in Archaeology at Caltrans, talked about the process of “getting to the people behind the artifacts” during lively and in-depth presentation

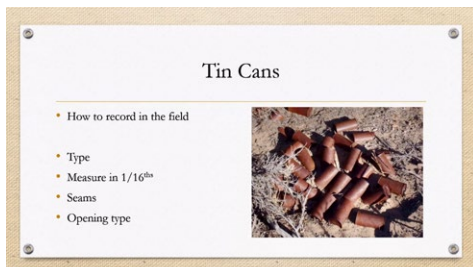
By Barbara Barnes
Photo illustrations courtesy of Steven Holm

After the CDAS workshop on Historical Archaeology, I hustled to my refrigerator to examine a bottle of IPA. Sure enough, it was just as workshop instructor Steven Holm had described—the seam in the bottle climbed from the base to the lip and then over, without a break. A simple detail but it confirmed, had I not known already, that the bottle in my hand was a modern product, made by a machine.



Throughout the workshop this message came through, “If you can see and understand details, an artifact can tell its story.” Steven Holm, Associate Environmental Planner in Archaeology for Caltrans, led us through a day of seeing and understanding, and told some stories of his own as well.

So, what is Historical Archaeology? Here in California, it is defined by an event in our history—the arrival of European settlers, missionaries, and with them writing. If Prehistoric Archaeology is the study of material culture before European contact, then Historical Archaeology is the study after contact. (It is also generally the study of material culture more than fifty years old.) Holm expanded that definition as follows: Historical Archaeology is “archaeology that is informed by written records (and



oral traditions) to help contextualize artifacts and features,” the goal being to “get to the people behind the artifacts.”

Before tackling the details of artifacts, Holm described what the process of Historical Archaeology involves—a sequence of surveying, excavating, curating, and analyzing.

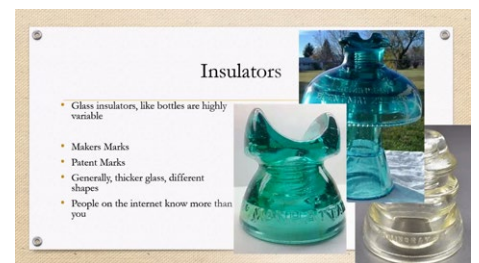


Historical Archaeology has the advantage of written records for reference. Sanborn Fire Insurance, General Land Office, and old topo maps, as well as diaries and journals, are tools that can provide clues on where to survey. Technologies such as Magnetometry and Ground Penetrating Radar can generate images of what lies beneath the surface, such as an old trail or fence line, in a not-destructive way. Excavation, if called for, is usually done on a small scale — usually in one meter by one meter excavation units.



Artifacts, when encountered, are measured in imperial units, inches and feet, which are units meaningful to those who lived in the region. In curating, Holm says that not every piece need be collected, samples are enough. And finally, there’s analysis of what has been discovered, its goal to better understand the culture that was there.

But back to artifacts. Holm shared a guide, available online, which summarizes key features in identifying bottles, cans, ceramics, and almost every other historic artifact we might encounter. It’s an invaluable reference; the web address is listed at the end of this article. Given Anza Borrego’s historical heritage—Spanish, Mexican, and American exploration, mining and homesteading, mail routes and stage



lines—evidence of these cultures is still here, from bottles to dishes to chimney bricks to pipes for smoking to tin cans to nails to horseshoes. And whether broken, worn, or rusted, the pieces can almost always yield some bit of information about the people who left them. If we have the good fortune of finding one of these artifacts, Holm recommends recording it—photographing, measuring, sketching it in relationship to its surroundings, taking a GPS reading—then leaving it.

Continuing Education Recap

Continued from Page 5

We can later check with CDAS experts or consult the Internet, where, Holm says, accurate information is available.

Finally, he reminded us that in the real world of fieldwork, we may find that a single site contains both prehistoric and historical artifacts. As an example, he described how a modern freeway might be a palimpsest, the new road built on traces



of an ancient path. “The paved road for our car follows the route of a stagecoach which follows the path of an ancient Native American trail.” In that blending of uses

and users, there is potential for a range of artifacts spanning the lives of generations. So, if we find potsherds, glass bottles, and horseshoes together, we take note and record what we find. By knowing as much as we can about each of the artifacts we come across, we might gain a better understanding of those who lived here before, and maybe of ourselves as well.

Many thanks to Steve Holm for donating his time and expertise on March 6 to the continuing education of CDAS members, and to Susan Gilliland and the rest of the Continuing Education committee for planning such valuable opportunities to learn and grow.

Quick Historic Artifact Identification Guide: https://www.academia.edu/43369267/Quick_Historic_Artifact_Identification



Steven Holm

Found In Julian



Photo by Lance Deibler

When Mary Lou White and Lance Deibler moved to their home in Julian almost 30 years ago, they found a treasure trove of artifacts, including many historic bottles and cans. Pictured is a sampling of their collection.



Photo by Jay Manning

A parliament of owls

Longtime CDAS site steward Alan Schmidt and his wife, Alby, were visiting the Bailey Cabin site in February and spotted about a dozen long-eared owls at dusk flying low over mesquite trees.

“The following morning as I was walked the last 100 yards to the Bailey cabin, I spooked about two dozen owls out of a mesquite tree,” Alan said. “In my past 15 years of stewarding the Bailey site, and especially while spending many weeks building the protective roof structure during the same time of year, we never encountered so many owls. So this time was a very special treat.”

While on his visit, Alan had the pleasure of meeting photographer Jay Manning, who also had witnessed and the rare occasion — and graciously offered to share the above photo with CDAS members.

Thank you, Alan and Jay, for the exciting owl report!



**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 Recap



A site in Bears Ears that was occupied primarily during the Pueblo I and II periods

All photos and illustrations courtesy of Wanda Raschkow

“Rising from the southeastern Utah landscape and visible from every direction are two twin buttes so distinctive that in each of the native languages of the region their name is the same: Hoon’Naqvut, Shash Jaá, Kwiyagatu Nukavachi, Ansh An Lashokdiwe, or ‘Bears Ears.’”

By Laurie Brindle

On Tuesday evening, March 2, CDAS members went on a virtual tour of the breathtakingly beautiful and profoundly sacred Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. Wanda Raschkow, stewardship and monitoring archaeologist for Friends of Cedar Mesa, gave the well-attended Zoom presentation.

Using a series of stunning photographs and bulleted charts, Wanda described the magnificent geography, the paleontological resources that are among the richest

and most significant in the U.S., and the diversity of topography, soils and micro environments. She also talked at length about the extraordinary archaeological and cultural record.

Under consideration since the 1930s and at the recommendation of five native tribes (Ute, Hopi, Zuni, Navajo and Ute Mountain Ute), Bears Ears was established as a national monument in 2016 that covered 1.35 million acres.

In 2018, it was reduced in size by 85 percent to 228,784 acres that are no longer

connected. What was especially painful, Wanda said, was that so many areas dense with archaeological sites were not included in the new designation. Efforts to reverse the change are ongoing.

Beauty and unusual features are everywhere at Bears Ears, Wanda said, from jaw-dropping cliff dwellings to multitudes of artifacts to footsteps carved into rock along a steep cliff ridge to ensure a safe passage. She also noted the rich inky blackness of the night sky.

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The twin buttes that inspired the same name in each of the Native languages of the region, “Bears Ears”

Photo by JT Thomas

Virtual Field Trip Recap

Continued from Page 7

Wanda first talked about the great variation in environment at Bears Ears with elevation ranging from 4,000 feet at the town of Bluff, adjacent to the San Juan River; to 6,000 feet on the Cedar Mesa uplands; and over 9,000 feet at the Bears Ears themselves. Vegetation varies from desert scrub, pinyon juniper forest, and to ponderosa pine and aspens at the highest elevations. Archaeology is abundant on terraces, mesas, and within the dramatically steep canyons.

The archaeology of Bears Ears was presented chronologically, beginning with the **PaleoIndian** period. (11,000 BCE - 6000 BCE) Inhabitants at this time were hunter/gatherers in small mobile groups.

During the **Archaic** period (6000 BCE - 2000 BCE), there was a greater focus on plants and small game, which were hunted using dart points (atlatl).

Inhabitants in the **Early Agriculture** period (2000- 500 BCE) used poles, brush and mud to build houses in open ground. Some grew corn, but didn't rely on it.

The **Basketmaker II** (500 BCE - AD 500) period is characterized by the introduction of maize agriculture, continued decrease in mobility, and living in rock shelters (early) and pit houses (late). The **Basketmaker III** period (AD 500 - AD 750) saw the introduction of ceramics, the use of the bow and arrow, and increased dependence on domesticated plants.

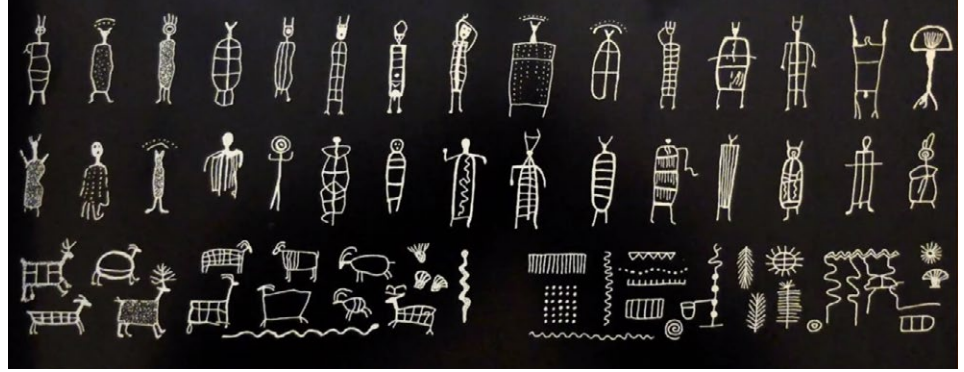
Above-ground structures and larger populations were seen in the **Pueblo** periods. In **Pueblo I** (AD 750 - AD 900), there was rapid demographic and organizational change, above-ground masonry and jacal structures, and villages with 50-plus surface rooms.

In **Pueblo II**, (AD 900-AD 1150), there was continued demographic and organizational change, communities of dispersed clusters of habitation sites, and great kivas —central features for surrounding communities. Corrugated ceramics were introduced. Chaco Canyon and the Bluff Great House were of this period.

In **Pueblo III** (AD 1150- AD 1290), there was gradual movement from surface sites to cliff dwellings and an occupation shift from Chaco to Mesa Verde. The Cave Towers and Moon House are examples of this period.

The emergence of modern pueblos is seen in the **Pueblo IV** period (AD 1290 - AD 1690). Settlements were established along the Rio Grande and Hopi Mesas.

The **Historic** (AD 1600- AD 1950) period saw the arrival of the Ute and Navajo tribes and Mormon settlers. Ranching, mining and exploration mark this period, along with the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps.



ABOVE: Representational rock imagery from the Archaic period in the linear Glen Canyon Style 5 BELOW: Rock imagery from the Basketmaker period were primarily representational, featuring static, broad-shouldered humans, handprints, fingerprints, birds and other animals. Menstrual aprons, animal hide bags, body adornment and other items are also portrayed.

Images courtesy of McCreery, Patricia and Ekehart Malotki Tapaveni: Rock Art Galleries of the Southwest 1994



A granary tucked away in a canyon on Cedar Mesa

Wanda concluded her presentation by encouraging us to experience the magnificence of Bears Ears and to visit the website at www.bearsarsmonument.org for further information.

We sincerely thank Wanda for her thoughtful, informative and compelling presentation, and to CDAS Site Steward Coordinator Pat Downing for arranging the program. It was a very memorable evening.

Wanda Raschko is the stewardship and monitoring archaeologist for Friends of Cedar Mesa, a nonprofit 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



Site Steward News

Site Steward Tip

Having trouble taking notes in the field during your site visit? Finding that you don't remember many of the details when you write your report? Don't want to mess with paper in the field?

Several of our site stewards record their comments in the field on their phone.

Steward John Case takes each photo station photo on his phone, then records a short video about the photo station.

He does advise that sometimes it's a bit difficult to understand if there is a lot of wind.

Pat Downing



CDAS Site Steward Laurie Mauser sets up a photo station in Culp Valley.

Photo by Pam Wiedeneller

Borrego Springs High School students learn interpretive and guide skills

By Pat Downing,
Site Steward Coordinator

Students from Borrego Springs High School visited Mine Wash Feb. 11 and 12 to learn about the area's cultural heritage.

After a Zoom presentation by Hayley Elsken, Associate State Archaeologist, the field orientation of exploring Mine Wash was led by John Downing, former Steering Committee Chair. John reported that the students seemed most interested in the large number of cupules found in the Mine Wash rock shelter.

Nineteen Borrego High students are a part of a unique yearlong class following the curricula for National Association for Interpretations (NIA) Certified Interpretive Host (CIH) and Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG).

The class is organized by Dave Duncan, a CDAS site steward, who is an NAI instructor, and Martha Deichler, Community Liaison for the Borrego Springs Unified School District. Dave describes the class as an introduction to the natural and cultural resources of the area.

The Interpretive Host portion of the class teaches customer-service skills, and the Interpretive Guide portion deals more



Past CDAS Steering Committee Chair John Downing discusses the rich cultural heritage of the Colorado Desert District with students from Borrego Springs High School.

Photo by Pat Downing

directly with the role of interpretation in guiding visitors to natural and cultural sites.

The class will provide the professional credentials for the student to pursue employment in the field. Dave states that the class has also produced significant growth in communication skills for the students.

In addition to the cultural heritage portion, the students have been a part of many presentations and guided walks by State Park employees, including State Park Interpreter II Sally Theriault, Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter, District Interpretive Specialist Dennis Stephen, and State Park Interpreter I Lydia Stinson.

Archaeology Publications

For those of you who enjoy archaeology publications, here is a recommended article 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.

“The Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene Record in the Northwestern Great Basin: What We Know, What We Don’t Know, and How We May Be Wrong”

https://www.academia.edu/31136534/The_Terminal_Pleistocene_Early_Holocene_Record_in_the_Northwestern_Great_Basin_What_We_Know_What_We_Dont_Know_and_How_We_May_Be_Wrong?email_work_card=view-paper

(Note: You will need to create a free [academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu) account to access articles)

We want your news and photos!

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.



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** 760-767-4403
Associate State Archaeologist •
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

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:**
 - “The Fishing Link”
By Dr. Mark Sutton
Thursday, April 22, 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

• **Virtual Lecture for May:** TBD
Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
<https://sdcas.org>

Society for California Archaeology

<https://scahome.org>

Photo by Laurie Brindle

