

The Colorado Desert Archaeology

April/May 2023

Society Bulletin

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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.

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NOTES FROM THE PARK

Hayley Elsken

Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison

Spring has been trying to break through in the desert. Between the snow in the mountains and the wind and rain in the desert, it's been an interesting juggle fitting in field time.



I continue to work with the Kumeyaay, Cahuilla and Luiseño/Payómkawichum bands on a diverse group of projects. Most recently, the Colorado Desert and San Diego Coast District finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians. The official ceremony for the signing of the MOU took place at South Ponto Beach in Carlsbad with traditional birdsingers and drummers adding to the celebration. The MOU presents, in a legal document, a structure for better collaboration between parks and the San Luis Rey Tribe. It includes recommendations for interpretive programs to be led by tribal members at the park and training for staff and volunteers by tribal members. It also gives tribes as well better access to the parks by streamlining gathering permits for tribal members.

Now that spring has arrived I have also been processing Native Californian Gathering Permits for agave, some of which you might taste if you attended the agave roast at the Malki Museum.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

CALENDAR

COVID UPDATE

The mask mandate has been lifted.

LAB DAY

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LIBRARY

Open by appointment to CDAS members, otherwise closed until the end of October.

CDAS ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month:
 April 20, May 18
 3 to 4 p. m.
 Virtual, via Zoom or
 Zoom hybrid

NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

I would also like to welcome Miguel Mariscal and Andrea (Andie) Robinson to the Cultural Resource Team. They started on March 2 and have quickly integrated into work at the office. They are conducting an inventory of the artifacts in the BARC, as well as inputting and updating locations of the artifacts in the statewide collections database. They have finished adding all the artifacts from the Carrizo Stagecoach Excavation and will continue through the shelves at the BARC!



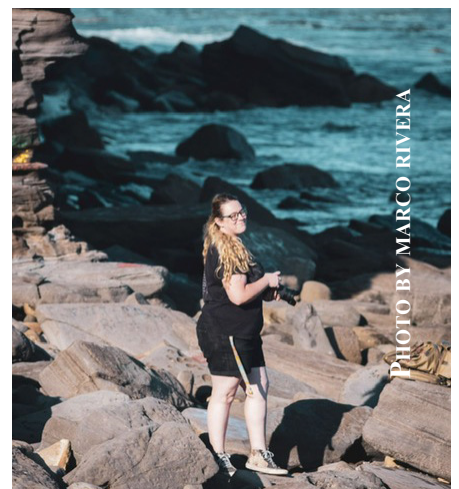
Spring comes to the desert

The Archaeological Conservancy visited Morteros Trail and Pictograph Trail in Little Blair Valley on their tour of San Diego County. I met the group of 30 or so at the trails and spoke to them about the Kumeyaay, pointing out archaeological features along Morteros Trail, including an Agave Roasting Pit, cupules, a rock shelter, and bedrock milling.

WELCOME NEW ARCHAEOLOGY STAFF!

New archaeology staff members Miguel Mariscal and Andrea (Andie) Robinson joined the Cultural Resource Team on March 2. We introduce Andie in this issue; Miguel will be profiled in the next bulletin.

Andrea “Andie” Robinson is a graduate of Arizona State University with a BA in Anthropology. She has been a frequent visitor to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and is gratified to now be part of the Park’s archaeology team. Outside of work, she enjoys playing video games, photography, camping, and traveling to national parks. She has visited 26 of the current 63 national parks! Eventually, she would like to become a curator of cultural resources, as well as an advocate for the inclusion of indigenous education in the public school curriculum.



Andrea “Andie” Robinson at Sunken City, San Pedro, CA

**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/
TRIBAL LIAISON
COLORADO DESERT DISTRICT

CDAS Advisory Group

The CDAS Advisory Group meets once a month during the season. Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month from 3 to 4 p. m. They are held via Zoom or Zoom hybrid and are open to all members. If you have any comments or suggestions and cannot attend a meeting, please contact:

**Advisory Group Coordinator and Arch Tech
Coordinator:** Pam Wiedenkeller
pwiedenkeller@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Brenda Wills
Brenda.s.wills@gmail.com

For a list of Advisory Group members,
please see Page 7.

CDAS BULLETIN

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COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA,
NOVEMBER 2018

PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

**FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP
COORDINATOR**



Pam Wiedenkeller
Advisory Group Coordinator

Hello CDAS Volunteers!

I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the park this spring! Whether you are visiting a site, surveying or just taking a hike, you can't help but notice the color green and an abundance of flowers!

Our arch tech teams have been busy working through the USGS survey boxes. Our two attempts to organize a weekend survey and overnight camp outing to Indian Hill were thwarted by high winds. The work needs to be done and how and when are still TBD.

Thanks to all who have zoomed in to our monthly membership meetings. If you did not see them live, you will find a link to the recordings in the members section of the CDAS Website: www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org I would especially like to thank Dr. Joan Schneider for her presentation, "Short History of Archaeology (and Archaeologists) in ABDSP," during the March 16th meeting.

WHAT'S THAT? Do you have any questions about an artifact or feature? If so, we want to hear from you! Send me pictures and descriptions and your questions and we'll ask our three archaeologists to share their thoughts. I enjoy learning more about what we see out in the field and hope you do, too. Please send your inquiries to me at pwiedenkeller@gmail.com. If you have anything you would like to share with our group, whether it be an outing, place to visit or interesting news article, please forward that as well.

Lastly, I would like to thank Lance Deibler, Mary Lou White, and John Case for their many hours of surveying. They have cleared the most USGS boxes and their willingness to take on the hard-to-reach places is admirable!



PHOTO BY SUSAN GILLILAND

Lance Deibler bushwacking his way through a USGS survey box

SITE STEWARDS

Coming Soon: The End of the Season!

By Pat Downing
Site Steward Coordinator



PHOTO BY SHERRY MITCHELL

Site Stewards never have an easy time getting to all of their photo stations—Stewards Chris Maust and Mike Hurley working at Jacumba.

The end of the desert season is fast approaching. However, the way our weather has been going, the heat may be delayed. Thank you to the many of you who have gotten out to your sites. And a reminder for those of you who have not, this is the time. If you need a partner for your visit, there is a list of substitute site stewards on the website in the Member section. If anyone else is willing to be added to this list, please contact me. It's a great way to see other parts of the park and meet other stewards.

We still have two sites in the south of the park needing stewards. Both are short hikes, but one takes a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Please contact me if you are able to take on an additional site or if you would like more information about these two sites.

Enjoy your spring!

SITE STEWARDS HARD AT WORK

Stewards Steve McMillan and Stephanie Rose return from their site at Middle Willows in early February. Clear skies, gentle breeze, 70 degrees, flowers blooming, Coyote Creek water level cooperating.

Could it get any better than this?

—Scott McClintock



PHOTO BY SCOTT MCCLINTOCK

CELL PHONE EMERGENCIES AND SAFETY

The cell phone is usually essential to what CDAS members do in the field. We depend on them for taking photos, shooting compass directions, and some use them for GPS coordinates.

But we often work in the backcountry, far from cell towers and where your phone might well show no “bars,” or no cellular service.

What then, would happen if you experienced an emergency while in the out-of-service area and needed to summon first responders?

Most cell phones have an “SOS” function, which is a quick way to call 9-1-1. If you are out of the service area for your cell service provider, this function will search around to see if a competing company’s signal is making it out to your location, and it will borrow their signal to dial 9-1-1 for you. This capability could be a life saver, but if you are not in the reach of any cell towers at all, the SOS function will not do you any good.

Some newer models, such as the iPhone 14 will transmit straight to satellites (instead of cell towers) for the SOS function, so that you can be virtually anywhere on the planet and that connection will be made, as long as you are not deep in a cave and have a straight shot into the sky.

The communications industry is on the cusp of producing palm-sized “dongles” that will bring satellite connections to late-model (2020 and on) phones via a Bluetooth connection. Your cellphone provider might be able to counsel you on what is available and compatible to your phone.

There are too many different makes of cell phones, and too many models of each to explain here how to activate the SOS function on your particular phone. So, it is recommended that you research your make/model to familiarize yourself how to use SOS. And, if your phone is getting old and nearing replacement, consider upgrading to a model with satellite SOS capability. It will cost more, but could potentially pay you back quite significantly.



Multiple phone models SOS activation:

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2018/12/05/sos-tips-utilizing-your-smartphone-emergency>

iPhone SOS activation:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT208076>

iPhone 14 satellite connection:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT213426>

MEMBER PROFILE: *KEN CATER*

*John and Bill Phillips at Hapaha Flat,
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

What a perfect fit Ken Cater is for site stewardship in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park! (ABDSP). Because his dad, Wes, was a state park ranger in several California state parks, Ken had the opportunity to reside in a dozen parks as a youth, including ABDSP in the 1950s and again in the 1960s. When his dad became the park superintendent, he lived in Palm Canyon.

Ken's desert experience continued into his adult years. After graduating from Borrego Springs High School and attending college, he became a state park ranger with positions in San Clemente State Beach and ABDSP. His resident outpost patrol station was in Split Mountain/Fish Creek. He later served as a probation officer in Orange County and El Dorado County.

Ken and his wife, Lynn, currently have homes in both Northern California and Borrego Springs. While spending time in retirement at his Borrego home, he learned of the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society (CDAS) Site Stewardship program and the need for monitoring in Fish Creek Wash and Pinyon Drop Off. Both of these remote areas had been part of his former ranger patrolling. Ken already had a knowledge of the local desert history when he signed up for the January 2022 Site Stewardship Training. He has added more archaeological and Native American cultural information of ABDSP to his large base of previous knowledge. One example that he mentioned was learning that broken pottery pieces are “sherds” not “shards.”

Ken's site-steward partner is Bill Phillips. The two have much to talk about on their long off-road 46-mile trek to the headwaters of Fish Creek Wash, including their shared experiences in criminal justice careers. Ken said that he is grateful for Bill's map reading and recording skills in the field as well as his written report submittals after their site visitations. Ken is also the proud owner of a new Ford Bronco that transports them on their stewarding adventures.



*Ken at Inspiration Wash,
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

— by Sherry Mitchell

MEMBER SPECIAL EVENT

CDAS members tour San Diego Archaeological Center

On Saturday, April 1, 21 CDAS members attended a special tour of the San Diego Archaeological Center in Escondido. The center, close to the historic San Pasqual Battlefield, is both a nonprofit curation facility and a museum where visitors can learn “how people have lived in San Diego County for the past 12,000 years.”

CDAS member Jim Bryant coordinated the tour, as well as generously providing a delicious lunch.

Jim, thematically attired for the occasion, welcomed our group and said that one of his goals is to help the multiple local and regional archaeology organizations become more familiar with each other’s work — and to encourage collaborations. Our tour fit the bill.

We are very grateful to Jim for arranging the informative and enjoyable event, and to everyone at the center who shared their time and expertise, including SDAC Executive Director Stephanie Sandoval, Past Executive Director Cindy Stankowski, Collections Manager Jessica McPheters, Collections & Library Technician Suzanne Moramarco, Public Archaeology Coordinator Vanessa Chappins, Development & Marketing Director Danté Farenga, and Volunteer/SDAC Board Member Jim Royle.

Attending the CDAS tour were: Laurie Brindle, John Case, Robin Connors, Lance Deibler, Kathy Dice, Scott McClintock, Linda Mercurio, Cole Metzger, Eugenie Newton, Adam Niesley, Joanne Odenthal, Kathy Pratschner, Kathy and Mitch Provoast, Patrick Trussell, Christiane Villescaz, Mary Lou White, Pam Wiedenkiller, Brenda Wills, Kathy Wollman and Mohamad Yassin.



CDAS Member Jim Bryant arranged the informative tour at the San Diego Archaeological Center for CDAS members and generously provided lunch.



Linda Mercurio and Lance Deibler view large ollas in the SDAC curation center.



“Donut stone” display at the SDAC museum



SDAC Exec. Director Stephanie Sandoval



L to R: Kathy Pratschner, Robin Connors and Eugenie Newton in the SDAC curation center



Past SDAC Exec. Director Cindy Stankowski discusses possible prehistoric migration paths.



Attendees enjoyed a tasty lunch alfresco at the San Diego Archaeological Center.

Story and photos by Laurie Brindle

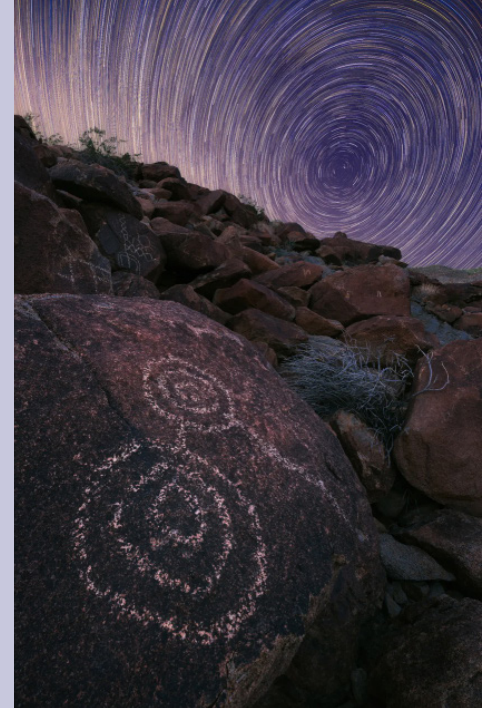
TWO BLUE RIBBONS AWARDED TO CDAS SITE STEWARD CHRIS MAUST



“Shamanic Visions” by Christ Maust

CDAS Site Steward Chris Maust received two first-place blue ribbons in the 2023 Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest in February. Presented by the Anza-Borrego Foundation in partnership with the Borrego Art Institute and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the contest is designed to showcase the stunning natural beauty of the desert—and the many ways people see and experience its unique and diverse features.

The contest, which is open to the public, is divided into six categories. Chris earned top honors in the landscapes category for “Shamanic Visions,” and in the nightscapes category for “Shamanic Tunnels.”



“Shamanic Tunnels” by Chris Maust

This is the second year that Chris has been honored for his outstanding photos. In 2022, he won first place—and the coveted best of show award—for his landscape photo, “Yoni Explosion.” He also was awarded an honorable mention for his black-and-white photo, “Kumeyaay Morteros.”

Congratulations, Chris!

— by Laurie Brindle

PALM CANYON



Sally Bickerton took this photo of water rushing through Palm Canyon on the weekend of March 4 and 5. Sally and her husband, John, said it was amazing to see the stream running full through the campground then disappearing into the sand a half mile further!

**EDITORS' NOTE:
WE WELCOME YOUR
ACTIVITIES!**

ALL CDAS MEMBERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO SHARE NEWS,
STORIES, AND PHOTOS IN
OUR BIMONTHLY BULLETIN,
PUBLISHED OCTOBER THROUGH
JUNE

PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO SALLY
BICKERTON AT:
SALLYBIC@COX.NET