

The Colorado Desert Archaeology

September 2023 Kickoff Edition

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.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Calendar
- 3 Annual Kickoff Meeting
- 4 Advisory Group Coordinator
- 5 Archaeology Day
- 6 Site Stewards
- 7 In the BARC Library
- 8 Basic First Aid Workshop
- 9 Member Profile: Brenda Wills
- 10 Summer Solstice 2023

NOTES FROM THE PARK

Hayley Elsen
Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison

I am so happy to announce that the BARC inventory, conducted by Andie and Miguel, Archaeological Specialists who worked from March to June last year, is a set-of-drawers away from being complete. There is still work to be done to enter the last couple of banks into TMS, the online museum catalog.



A couple of volunteers have offered to finish the inventory and TMS entry. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to me. The project requires a commitment to come into the BARC three to four times a month on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Andie will be returning to the Park in the fall to help with a new project—finishing incomplete site records that were started ten to twelve years ago. The Park has the GPS data for these resources, but no photos or complete descriptions.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)



PHOTO BY HAYLEY ELSKEN

ABF and Parks booth at the Viejas Earth Day event

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:
3 to 4 p.m.

Virtual, via Zoom or
Zoom hybrid

*First Advisory Group meeting
will be **November 16, 3 p.m.***

Save the Dates!

Fall Kickoff Meeting

Happy Days Estate

Sunday, October 22, 2023

(see page 3 for details)

Archaeology Day

ABDSP Visitor Center

Saturday, November 4, 2023

(see flyer on page 5)

NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED



Water helicopter circling over the Wilson Fire in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Over the summer, the Park has had a couple close calls with wildfires. One fire at Palomar Mountain State Park was less than an acre and another fire in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was 20 acres. CalFire has done a spectacular job with fire suppression and working with the Park to avoid use of heavy equipment when safe to do so. The Park also prepared Resource Advisors (READs) for the possibility of the Bonny Fire near Anza moving into Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. READs assist firefighters in avoiding cultural, natural, and facility resources while completing their objectives on the fire. READs also help with the repair of any damage done during firefighting, like the repair of handlines. These small events have allowed the State Park READ team to feel very prepared if a larger deployment comes.

Archaeology Day on November 4!

Mark your calendar for this year's not-to-be-missed Archaeology Day on Saturday, November 4. There will be many special opportunities for the whole family. From cultural site field trips Saturday afternoon and Sunday, to a new virtual field trip video produced by CDAS members, from pottery making for kids, to traditional Poyómkawichum games, to name a few. The flyer on page 5 in this issue has more details. Of course, we also need your help to set up, greet visitors, and oversee events. Please contact Eugenie, evnewton8@gmail.com to volunteer.

CDAS ANNUAL SEASON KICKOFF MEETING



PHOTO FROM HAPPY DAYS WEBSITE

**Join us in-person for the CDAS Annual Season Kickoff Meeting!
When: Sunday, October 22, at 11 a.m.**

Where: The Happy Days Estate

Come and enjoy a fun and relaxing day as we socialize, learn about the upcoming season plans, and exchange ideas and information. Please bring a food item to share for our potluck lunch. We have full use of the Happy Days Estate for the day. Happy Days, perched on a hill just south of Borrego Springs, is the former estate of the Copley family.

<https://www.borregoexperience.com/happy-days-estate-3>

We have use of the house, pool, jacuzzi, and the grounds. More details will follow later in September.



PHOTO FROM HAPPY DAYS WEBSITE

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
760-767-4403 hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

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

CDAS BULLETIN

Co-Editor: Barbara Barnes
whitesagecafe@aol.com

Co-Editor: Sally Bickerton
sallybic@cox.net

Co-Editor: Sherry Mitchell
sherry.rokarty@gmail.com

Co-Editor: Theresa Harrison
tfowlerharrison@gmail.com

COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA,
NOVEMBER 2018

PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP COORDINATOR



Pam Wiedenkeller
Advisory Group Coordinator

W

elcome to a New
CDAS Season!

As we start to transition from our summer break to fall, it's a great time to share ideas about content for our future meetings. What are YOU interested in hearing or learning more about? Is there a special place that you would like to share with our group? Did you go to a cool archaeology-related site or event over the summer? Do you have specific questions for the advisory group or for Hayley?

What did you think about the most recent meeting format and content? What did you like or not like? It's important to me to hear from you. The meetings are for all CDAS members and are meant to keep you engaged.

I encourage you to send your ideas, questions, comments or whatever you would like to share to me at: pwiedenkeller@gmail.com.

Our first meeting will be in person on Sunday, October 22, at Happy Days in Borrego Springs. Make sure you have this on your calendar! Future meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

I know I asked a lot of questions, but it is most important to welcome you back!

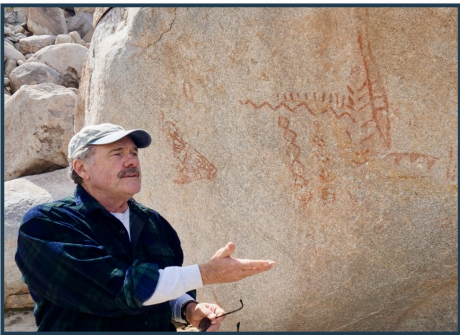
— Pam

Please note: Recordings of CDAS Advisory meetings are available on the CDAS website—
<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/>
Log on to the Members page to access.

Archaeology Day

November 4, 2023

*Connecting people to the past**



Presented by the
**Colorado Desert
Archaeology Society**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, Nov 4th

**Anza-Borrego Desert
State Park Visitor
Center**

**SCA Archaeology Month
Theme*



Explore a variety of activities for the whole family!

- Local Indigenous Artists: Eva Salazar, Kumeyaay Basketweaver, sales and demonstration; Ami Admire, Payomkawichum, Storytelling; Traditional Games and Plant Medicines by 'ataaxum Pomkwaan
- Demonstration of native plants and their uses
- Paddle-anvil pottery making and rock painting activities for kids
- Guided tours of the Begole Archaeology Research Lab and Library
- In-person field trips Saturday & Sunday to Mine Wash, pictograph and petroglyph sites
- Presentation on 'Drone Use in Archaeology'
- Exhibits by Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretative Center, Imperial Valley Desert Museum San Diego Archaeological Center and others

More information at <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/arch-day-2023/>

SITE STEWARDS

I sincerely hope each of you has had a great summer! We'd love to hear more about your travels, whether they be archaeology related or otherwise. It's now time to start thinking and planning for the CDAS 2023/24 season. Don't miss the Kickoff meeting on Sunday, October 22, at the beautiful Borrego Springs former Copley Estate: "Happy Days."

My questions for you . . . Do you need help meeting the two visits a year requirement for your site? Do you need a new partner? Are you no longer able to visit your site? I need to assess steward commitments at this time, and I need your input to plan for the upcoming season.

I participate in the National Archaeological Site Steward Network. Many of you have joined our two virtual conferences in the past several years. They have launched a Facebook page to collect and share activities by various site steward groups. You might want to take a look at National Archaeological Site Stewardship Network and follow their page.

I'll see you at the Kickoff meeting!

— Pat Downing

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!



*This year Netflix released an hour and a half documentary called **Unknown: Cave of Bones**. The film follows archaeologists into a cave in South Africa and their processing of 250,000 year-old skeletal remains—human predecessors who left evidence of very human practices. It is sometimes eerie and just a bit creepy, but will hold one's archaeological attention.*

— Scott McClintock

IN THE BARC LIBRARY

AN EPIC READ ABOUT THE LEAKEY FAMILY

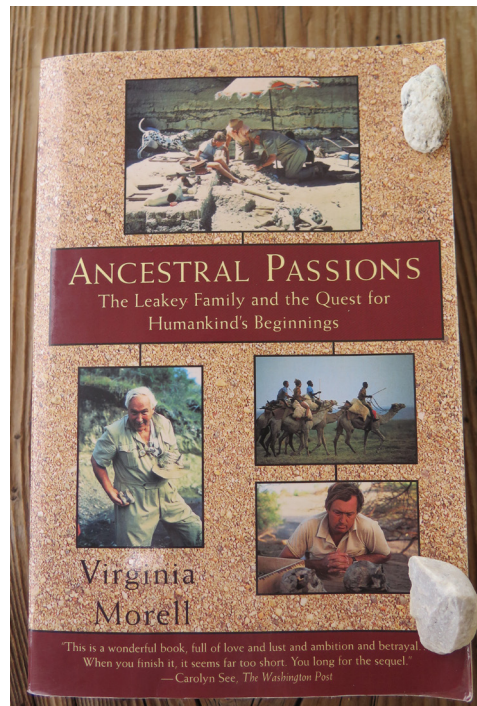
Virginia Morell's *Ancestral Passions, The Leakey Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings* is not only a family history, but an archaeological and social history.

It begins with Louis Leakey's British parents being assigned to Kenya as missionaries in 1902. The 554 pages, an epic read, take you on a first-hand, century-long journey through changes in culture, opinions, government, politics and academia. Louis' father noticed and objected to the British taking 'uninhabited' occupied indigenous land and awarding it to European settlers because they would put it to "better" use and for productivity. This informed Louis' understanding of rights regarding competing cultural groups, a continuing thread through the history.

Louis, born 1903 and raised in colonial Kenya, attended village schools that included natives and locals. This likely prepared him for the way he explored and studied the world. He had figured out how to make stone tools before he went to England for his secondary education.

Transferring and adapting to "home" in Great Britain in his teens did not come easily. Conforming to the formal secondary British Public (private/Eton, e.g.) school system, or later to the University of Cambridge, was a challenge. Despite this, he graduated from St. Johns in 1926 with double firsts: summa cum laude. Louis was awarded a research fellowship and his investigation in Africa commenced. His fascination with the natural world and ability to dive in and explore was neither standard nor accepted education at that time.

Louis traveled between Europe and Africa almost annually, presenting findings and discoveries, and drumming up financial support



for the next year's dig/survey/exploration project area. More exciting finds generated better publicity and funding opportunities.

In 1927, Louis married his first wife, Frida, a skilled archaeological illustrator who joined him as he continued his discoveries in East Africa. Her contributions in the field were often overlooked. They had two children, Priscilla and Colin. Louis and Frida grew apart and divorced in 1936.

Louis traveled back to Europe and presented findings and papers to museums, scientific societies and universities. There, he met Mary, who became his second wife in 1937 and renowned co-researcher for the next several decades. The couple had three children, Jonathan, Richard and Philip. Divorce was not acceptable or sanctioned in the era of 1934 (the Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson were contemporaries) and led to problems, including scrambling for funding as social acceptability was

one of the keys to funding.

Morell's description of the evolving scientific techniques is pertinent to current "best practices" for archeology. Stratigraphy was a new concept in the early 1900s and became an important dating clue. Highly detailed notes and sketches created in situ became critical, especially after the iron stakes were removed (they made good spears for the native hunters) from two sites with highly significant specimens that could not be re-located because a camera failed and there was no sketch map.

The specific location of the specimens, a mandible and a fragmented skull cap, could never be anchored in time or place. This missing locational data of the sites and specimens created a significant and years long dispute among the leading archaeologists of the day over the origins and descent of man: from one or many. Louis, and his son, Richard, maintained that it was not a single, but a multiple genetic descent, as with other species that had successes and failures in development.

Fascinating parts of the book are the evolution of archaeological thought and acceptance of what we now consider common: mankind originated in Africa and evolved. This book is a history of archaeology as well as of the family who led us forward. Instead of reading the entire book, 554 pages, select a chapter and browse to grasp the interwoven threads of history.

This is a book worth diving into, but it is long and very involved in national and academic politics, history and family. And to top it all off, Louis was perhaps one of the first to encourage women (Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey) to go into research, when the world was all about men.

— by LLouise Jee

CDD RANGERS PROVIDE BASIC FIRST AID INSTRUCTION

Story and photos by Laurie Brindle

CDAS members joined state park employees for all-day class on August 2

“Pretend this stuff is Ebola.”

This memorable instruction was heard during one of the hands-on exercises during the Basic First Aid class held at the ABDSP Visitor Center.

Taught by the affable and knowledgeable team of State Park Peace Officer Rangers Carina Hammang and Joshua Ertl, the class covered a tremendous amount of information, including Basic First Aid protocols for cases of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, burns, reptile/insect bites, bandaging wounds, bee stings, extreme cold, choking, broken bones and more.

Carina and Joshua kept things lively by sharing their field experiences and creative hands-on lessons. During the Ebola exercise, shaving cream was squirted onto our gloved hands. We then had to remove our gloves without contaminating ourselves. Despite a how-to demonstration, the white stuff was on arms, clothes and on the floor. More practice needed!

Seven class members became a human “chain of transmission,” showing step by step how microorganisms can be transmitted. Teams researched and gave illustrated presentations on common afflictions and injuries — and resulting symptoms and treatments.

CPR instruction for cardiac arrest emergencies was saved for last, which included learning how to use a defibrillator machine known as AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Training mannequins were given to groups to practice administering chest compressions and breaths to the beat of “Staying Alive” by the BeeGees.

Rattlesnake bites were a timely topic. Basically, get help immediately. Patients should try to remain still and calm in order to reduce the risk of venom spreading throughout the body. Write down the time of the bite — and take a photo of the snake if possible. This is critical for determining correct medical treatment. If there’s no cell coverage at your destination, carry a state park radio or a phone with satellite access. Joshua added that if you are bitten by a rattlesnake in the ABDSD, you’re going to get “helicoptered” to a hospital ASAP.

Carina and Joshua stressed that if you encounter an emergency, first evaluate the situation and your own safety. Call 911. Then help if you can. Only administer aid that you are qualified to give.

Joining me in the class were fellow CDAS volunteers Neil Cadwallader, John Case, John Downing, Ryan Eble, Don Endicott, LLouise Jee, Scott McClintock, Kathy Pratschner, and Heidi Rodarmer.

Many thanks to Carina and Joshua for the outstanding class!



Instructors Carina Hammang and Joshua Ertl are both State Park Peace Officer Rangers in the Colorado Desert District.



Doug Booth, Worker 1 ABDSP Maintenance Crew, practices wrapping a wound on the arm of Don Endicott.



LLouise Jee and John Case team up to practice CPR procedures.

FIRST AID RESOURCES

◆ Check out the first-aid information on the CDAS website in the members section:

<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/>

◆ Write down Important Numbers!

Current Ranger Contact:
Call SURCOM 1-951-443-2964

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

MEMBER PROFILE: *BRENDA WILLS*

PHOTO BY DEREK WILLS

Trailhead of Morteros—Oliver, Juniper, and Brenda Wills

Benjamin Franklin once said, “If you want something done, ask a busy person.” In CDAS, we might ask Brenda Wills—arch tech, site steward, and CDAS Secretary-Treasurer since the 2022/2023 season.

Brenda grew up in the Spring Valley/Lemon Grove area of San Diego where she continues to reside with her husband and two children. For as long as she can remember, Brenda’s been interested in anthropology and archaeology. In middle school, she worked on an “about me” project where she cut out photos from National Geographic and said she would be an anthropologist when she grew up. She earned a B.S. in anthropology from the University of La Verne with a career goal of museum work. Several internships and work experiences (at San Bernardino County Museum, San Diego Natural History Museum, Museum of Us, and volunteer/work at San Diego Archaeological Center) hadn’t brought Brenda to her goal, so she decided to change her career path to education.

This change led to a job at San Diego State University where, because of her abiding love of anthropology and archaeology, she completed a master’s degree. The focus of her studies was bioarchaeology with her master’s thesis being a population inventory and analysis of a collection housed at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology on the UC Berkeley campus. During these years, she also volunteered at the Liberty Station State Parks office. Her path detoured for a while as she began raising her family, but when her children got a bit older and in school, she knew it was time to get back to anthropology and archaeology.

In fall 2021, Brenda completed the CDAS Arch Tech training program and soon after became a site steward. She currently stewards three sites with Eli Vasquez—Morteros, Pictograph, and Smugglers’ Canyon in Blair Valley. Sam Webb guided their set-ups. Brenda said, “It was a joy to walk around Morteros with Sam; we always think of him when we walk by his ‘heart’ rock.”

Brenda and Eli do find impacts—motorcycle tracks and trash because the trails are so popular, as well as issues like the numbers on the Morteros interpretive trail being moved around. Once they even found initials carved in boulders on the Pictograph Trail. Thankfully, with the help of Pam Wiedenkeller, they were able to remove the damage. Brenda is grateful for her work with CDAS—she finds getting into the field, hiking, and seeing the local archaeology to be sustaining.

In addition to Brenda’s CDAS commitments, she is currently working full-time as SDSU’s Assessment and Accreditation Analyst. She is also a union representative for the CSU Employees Union, and a staff senator for the University Senate. During her time off, she loves being with family and gardening.



PHOTO BY DEREK WILLS

Oliver, Juniper, and Brenda

— by Sherry Mitchell

SUMMER SOLSTICE 2023



On June 21, during the seasonal hiatus, Chris Maust and a few other site stewards got up in the middle of the night and beheld the sunrise as it aligned with the summer solstice spoke of the mysterious “Ocotillo Spoke Wheel” geoglyph observatory, just outside of the Park boundary. Chris’ stunning photographic skills “shine” once again!

For more information about the “Ocotillo Spoke Wheel” feature, its controversial origins, virtual field trips to established sites, and other CDAS goings-on, be sure to log in to the Thursday afternoon Zoom meetings.

EDITORS’ NOTE: WE WELCOME YOUR ACTIVITIES!

THE CDAS BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED ONLINE IN FIVE ISSUES,
SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.

ALL CDAS MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE NEWS, STORIES, AND
PHOTOS. PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO SALLY BICKERTON AT:

SALLYBIC@COX.NET