

# The Colorado Desert Archaeology

December/January 2023/24

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 Archaeology 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 Elsen

Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison

November has been a month of visitors! Dr. Tanzhuo Liu returned to ABDSP in November to look at desert varnish located in the southern areas of the Park. Dr. Liu has been testing the varnish on stone tools and the natural desert pavements to help understand the Park's geology and archaeology. He brought researchers from Purdue University to conduct beryllium-10 dating on the geologic formation which he will compare to the dates that he determined using varnish microlamination (vml) dating.



At the end of November, the park had visitors from both our sister park, Ikh Nart Chuluu Nature Reserve (Ikh Nart) in Mongolia, and the Living Desert. The Living Desert is a program that works on conservation projects in the Colorado Desert, Coachella Valley, and around the world. A group from the program, which included the natural resources staff, outside researchers, a veterinarian and a ranger, were visiting in Southern California and joined us at the Park. We had a great meeting! We look forward to beginning a new relationship with the Living Desert and continuing to work with staff at the Ikh Nart Reserve.

October and November were the months of survey, survey, survey! Thank you to everyone who assisted with any of the many surveys for soil test pits. Andie has been working away on finishing site recordings and records for her project. Thank you to everyone who has gone out in the field with her! It's fantastic to see the blanks in our data filled in with all the work.

## CALENDAR

### COVID UPDATE

The mask mandate has been lifted.

### LAB DAY

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

### LIBRARY

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 Call to confirm library is open.  
 (760) 767-4403

### CDAS ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month:  
 3 p.m.  
 Virtual via Zoom or  
 Zoom hybrid  
*Meeting dates will be:*  
 12/21, 1/18, 2/15,  
 3/21, and 4/18

### ARCH TECH CLASS

Friday evenings and Saturdays  
 Jan 19 - Feb 24  
 Register at:  
[www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org](http://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org)

### Extension of Volunteer Passes

Due to the delay in issuing 2023 volunteer passes, all 2023 Volunteer Statewide and District Passes that expire on Jan. 31, 2023 will be honored until March 31, 2024. This extension is to ensure that volunteers will get a full 12-months' use out of their 2023 passes. Please note, the deadline to finish recording California State Parks volunteers' 2023 hours in Better Impact and to submit required paperwork is **Jan 12, 2024**. (This also applies to cooperating associations and eligible nonprofit operators.)

## NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

The Native American Conservation Corps started training in mid-November. This will be our biggest crew yet with 12 individuals. The crew has one more week of training and then will be starting work in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to burn piles to reduce fuel, especially around newly planted trees.



Stan Rodriguez (center) demonstrating traditional Kumeyaay game to Paula Huls (left) and Hayley Elsken (right) at the CDAS Kickoff meeting

### AFTER HURRICANE HILARY



In August, Hurricane Hilary's downpours moved great amounts of sand in ABDSP, exposing buried artifacts. While out in the field for the first time since Hilary, eagle-eyed Neil Cadwallader found this beautiful, but small, drilled sherd lying next to an even smaller rim sherd with an unusually small neck radius. We would love to have seen this piece intact! The artifacts were lying on the surface in the middle of a wash that we have walked through several dozen times over the past few years. Good observation, Neil!

## FALL KICKOFF—OCTOBER 22, 2023

The annual CDAS Kickoff event was held Sunday, Oct. 22, at the beautiful Happy Days estate in Borrego Springs. Thanks to Pam Wiedenkeller for arranging the location and to Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship and the Padons for covering the cleaning fee. Pat Downing bravely planned this event while recovering from ankle surgery and oversaw its progress with her ankle elevated! Over 35 members attended and heard all the latest Park updates from Hayley. We also learned about upcoming surveys from Arch Tech Coordinator Pam.

Everyone enjoyed a lovely and abundant potluck lunch, while Emcee Scott McClintock raffled off fun door prizes. Thanks to Scott for donating maps of ABDSP and to Anza-Borrego Foundation for donating water bottles with a Park logo.

Pat also shared site steward updates. She will be offering another site steward training class in January, which has already been filled with 20 stewards. Eugenie shared info on Archaeology Day, as well as a discussion about the future leadership of CDAS. The event closed with Kumeyaay elder, Stan Rodriguez, teaching several traditional Kumeyaay games.

— by Sally Bickerton



*CDAS members enjoying the Kickoff meeting*

PHOTO BY SALLY BICKERTON



PHOTO BY SCOTT MCCLINTOCK

*A gorgeous morning, starting down Montezuma Grade in October. After the summer hiatus, it's great to get back to work!*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:pwiedenkeller@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Brenda Wills  
[Brenda.s.wills@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.s.wills@gmail.com)

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COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA,  
NOVEMBER 2018  
PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

**WHAT WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO DO?**

Earlier this year CDAS volunteers decided to try a different way of organizing our volunteer group. We agreed to have an advisory group this year made up of volunteers working on member-initiated activities and projects, as well as members-at-large who want to participate on their own. We meet monthly to discuss what we are doing and to get input. Also, we have the "What's That?" and videos about our different sites to keep us learning.

Do we want to continue the CDAS Advisory Group? Member discussions at the Kickoff meeting in October and the Nov. 17 members meeting were very positive about our current setup. Members said they liked the flexibility, member participation and communication.

Is this what you think? Pro or con, let us know. How about being backup for Pam as coordinator and Brenda as secretary-treasurer? Can you help with that? You can email Eugenie Newton at [evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com) with your thoughts and questions.

Just as important, is there something you would like CDAS to be doing that it isn't?

Do you want an in-person member gathering after the first of the year? Is there a continuing education topic you would like? What ideas do you have to make those things happen? Send your ideas to Eugenie or Sally Bickerton ([sallybic@cox.net](mailto:sallybic@cox.net)).

Soon!!

— Eugenie Newton

**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](mailto:SALLYBIC@COX.NET)

## ARCHAEOLOGY DAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Archaeology Day was a big success, thanks to all the CDAS volunteers, the many exhibitors and presenters, the videos, BARC tours, and field trips! Hayley and the Visitor Center staff were also invaluable. Saturday was a warm day, but the visitors didn't seem to mind. The Visitor Center staff estimated that about 700 people entered the building, about 60 percent more than an average fall Saturday.

Many thanks to Eugenie and her planning committee: Sally and John Bickerton, John Downing, Brenda Wills, Eli Vasquez and Pam Wiedenkiller. Of course, its success was also dependent on the work of many others. Laurie's signs were so helpful, and who else would be out at 7:30 a.m. to put them up? Paula and Rick Huls and Susan Gilliland gave tours of our amazing BARC.

At the Visitor Center, Scott's team kept the videos rotating in the theater. The kid's tables were always busy, with lots of potters working with clay, and they ran out of rocks to paint by about 2:00 p.m. Our exhibitors educated visitors about archaeology, CDAS, native California plants, Payómkawichum games, local museums, college programs, and drone use. And having indigenous artists share their expertise in basket weaving (Eva Salazar) and traditional storytelling (Ami Admire) was truly special. I admit, the drone presentation was above my head, but so interesting. How many tried some of the sage tea?



*Young potters busy with clay at one of the Arch Day kids' tables, supervised by Mandie Carter and Linda Mercurio*

— by Sally Bickerton

### Archaeology Day Field Trips

The field trip portion of Archaeology Day went very well. We guided 44 visitors to four different archaeological sites: Mine Wash Village, Clark Dry Lake Petroglyphs, Ehmuu-Mortero Trail, and the Pictograph Trail. Field trip participants were enthusiastic about the opportunity to visit the sites and learn about the Park's prehistoric occupants. The Mine Wash field trip had two special participants: Bud Getty, past naturalist and manager of ABDSP in the 1970s and author/publisher Diana Lindsay.



*Sunday field trip to Ehmuu-Mortero Trail, led by Eli Vasquez, Brenda Wills, and John Downing*

Eight CDAS members led and participated in the field trips raising \$460 for the society's account. Leaders were Chris Blake, Neil Cadwallader, John Case, Robin Connors, John Downing, Scott McClintock, Eli Vasquez and Brenda Wills.

Special thanks to Jaime Purinton (ABF) and Eugenie Newton for organizing our online registration efforts, as well as the Greeting Booth Team of Bill Phillips, Pat Trussell and Pat Downing for signing up nine additional visitors on Archaeology Day. It was certainly a team effort.

— by John Downing

# IMAGES FROM ARCHAEOLOGY DAY



**ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE DESERT**  
 Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**ALL-DAY ACTIVITIES**

- Eva Salazar, Kumeyaay basket sales
- Traditional games & plant medicines by Itaxum Pomkwaa
- Paddle-anvil pottery making & rock painting
- Native plants for food, medicine & construction

**HOURLY GUIDED TOURS**  
 Begole Archaeological Research Center  
 (Sign up at the Welcome Table)

Morning: 9:15 a.m. / 10:15 a.m. / 11:15 a.m.  
 Afternoon: 12:15 p.m. / 1:15 p.m. / 2:15 p.m. / 3:15 p.m.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** (Visitor Center Discovery Room)

11 a.m. — Juncus basket weaving demonstration by Kumeyaay basketweaver Eva Salazar  
 1 p.m. — Payómkawichum Storytelling by Ami Admire  
 2 p.m. — "Drone Use in Archaeology" by Kris Reinicke

**VIDEOS OF ABDSP ARCHAEO SITES** (Visitor Center Theater)

"Mortero Trail": 9:30 a.m. / 11 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. / 2 p.m.  
 "Watcher of the Desert Sun": 10 a.m. / 11:30 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 2:30 p.m.  
 "Ocotillo Spoke Wheel Geoglyph": 10:30 a.m. / 12 p.m. / 1:30 p.m. / 3 p.m.

**WEEKEND IN-PERSON FIELD TRIPS**  
 Saturday, Nov. 4, "Mine Wash Village": 1–4 p.m.  
 Sunday, Nov. 5  
 "Clark Lake Rock Art": 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
 "Mortero Trail": 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
 "Blair Valley Pictograph Trail": 1–5 p.m.  
 Same-day registration is limited. Fee: \$10 adult, \$5 child. Please visit the Welcome Table for more information.



Thanks to photographers Barbara Barnes, Sally Bickerton, Chris Blake, Laurie Brindle, and John Downing

## SITE STEWARDS

I wish all of our site stewards (arch techs, too) the very best of the upcoming holiday season. A great time to get out in the desert and visit your site. We are offering a site steward class January 6 and 7. The class is full for new members, but if anyone wishes to join us for a refresher for the classroom portion on Saturday, please contact me.

We had a very serendipitous site visit, detailed below, that shows one of many reasons why it is important to notify Hayley and me prior to your site visit.

Mandie and Josh had notified us of their impending site visit, and since I knew their route, I was able to ask them to check on a previous impact to another site to determine if it had been repaired. Last spring, stewards reported that the sign preventing vehicle access to their site had been removed, along with the post holding it. Campers were driving into the site and camping there. Unfortunately, as Mandie and Josh checked on the impact, they saw the sign had not yet been replaced. As they traveled farther on their route, they encountered a State Park vehicle. The Park employee was replacing signs, but the one in question was not on his list to be replaced. Mandie was able to mark the location on his map, and when they returned hours later, a new sign was in place protecting the site. Thank you, Mandie and Josh!



*Mandie Carter and Jeff Breslow celebrate Thanksgiving with their old friend El Jefe*

*Pat Downing*  
[pdsnewmail@gmail.com](mailto:pdsnewmail@gmail.com)

## ARCH TECH UPDATE

Hello CDAS Members!

This month I want to focus on arch techs...During our USGS surveys we get out in the field and go to places we might not normally go. Along the way, we sometimes find cultural resources and a few other things. I'll let the pictures tell the story.



*Ryan Ebel checks out a slick with several manos.*



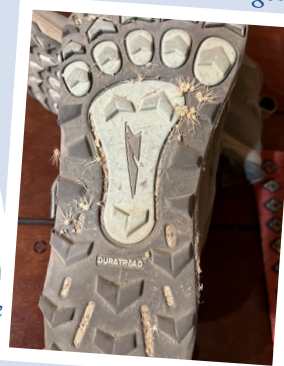
*Lance Deibler helps redirect a tarantula away from the road. He's also picking up litter as he goes.*



*John Case and Mohamad Yassin examine a bedrock milling feature.*



*Pam, Mohamad, Lance, Heidi and John happy to complete the two-day survey in Blair Valley*



*Thank goodness for hemostats!*

*Pam Wiedenkiller, Arch Tech Coordinator*  
*Photos by Pam*

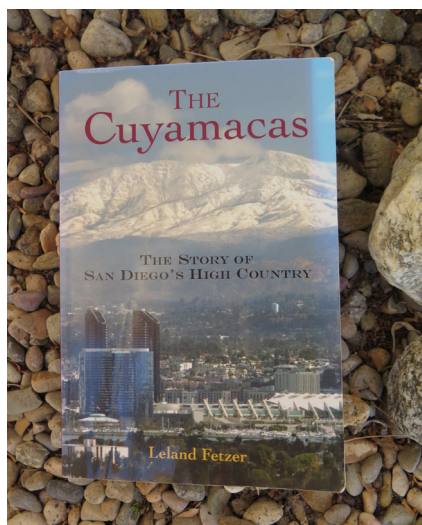
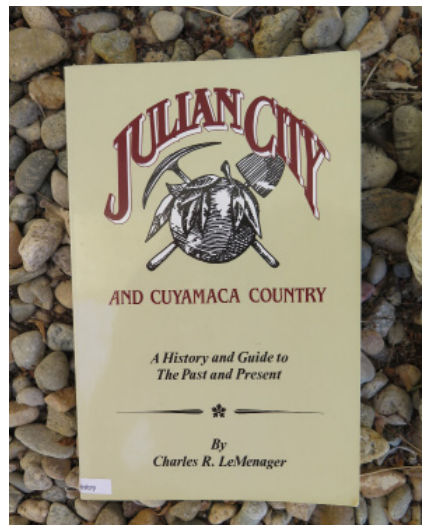
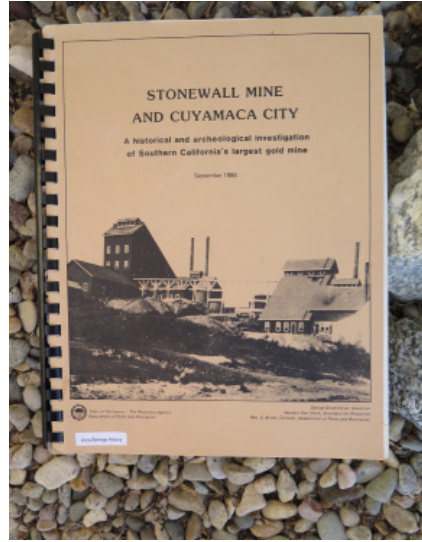
## IN THE BARC LIBRARY

### THREE BOOKS ON CUYAMACA HISTORY

The BARC Library has many resources describing Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Three books provide nutshell histories.

First, H. John McAleer's *Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City, 1986*, a historical and archaeological investigation of Southern California's largest gold mine, contains analysis and mapping of the significant history and geography of the northeast 'thumb' of the park that was done before the advent of GIS (Geographic Information system). Nicely illustrated with vintage photographs, this report is an intense read that discloses land grabbing, water rights, mining history and city building under benevolent ownership. In this archaeological report, the first part recounts Cuyamaca's known history. The second part describes in detail the resources discovered in the mine and city area.

Two other books delve into the broader concept of "Cuyamaca,"\* but with different perspectives. Charles R. LeMenager's *Julian City and Cuyamaca Country* provides a fascinating and detailed report of San Diego County's only gold rush town from 1869 to the present, as well as the history of neighboring Cuyamaca that includes prehistoric, Mexican and early American periods, and contemporary times. Notable personalities and their actions are vividly portrayed on the pages to give historical context and perspective to Julian and its surroundings that we know today. Mines, miners, landowners, and more are all fodder for a very lively storytelling. Fascinating snippets about individuals and places add spice to the mix for some interesting reading.



Leland Fetzer wrote *The Cuyamacas, the Story of San Diego's High Country* because he wanted to pick up a book that had the entire story in one place, and not finding one, he wrote one. Fetzer describes the land and the first people and continues through the 1770s with the Spanish explorers and conquest. Settlers, gold discovery, city building and water schemes follow. He ends with the fires that devastated so much of the state park in 2003 and 2007. Mountain lions and bears, also a part of the Cuyamaca history, are presented here.

All three publications offer a precise description of thought and behavior regarding land, water rights and ownership from first contact to about the 1950s, but each adds additional information. McAleer focuses and expands on a narrower period of time. LeMenager highlights influential personalities, and Fetzer brings readers to the present with the devastating Cedar and Pines fires that burned much of San Diego's backcountry.

\*Mary Elizabeth Johnson, author of *Indians of the Cuyamaca Mountains*, writes that the name Cuyamaca is "...evidently a Spanish corruption of the Indian words *Ah-ha' Kwe-ab-mac'* (water beyond), a name used by the Indians, first to designate a location high on the middle mountain, but afterward applied to the entire group."

BY LLOUISE JEE

## MEMBER PROFILE: CHRIS MAUST



PHOTO BY PARK VISITOR

*Chris with his wife, Svetlana, in Zion National Park*

One of CDAS' newer and talented members is Chris Maust. He completed the Arch Tech Training in December 2021 and Site Steward Training in January 2022.

Chris grew up in central Pennsylvania, went to college in western Pennsylvania, and spent eight years in Ocean City, Maryland. He moved with his wife to Ocean Beach in San Diego six years ago. He went to college for general "media" and landed a job in web development; however, his real passion is photography. You may already recognize him as an Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) award-winning photographer. Chris won First Place and Best of Show honors in 2022, as well as an Honorable Mention. In 2023 Chris again won two Blue Ribbons. (For more details of these awards, see Laurie Brindle's article in the April/May 2023 CDAS Bulletin.)

His interest in archaeology and rock art began when he came across the photography of Wayne Suggs, from Las Cruces, New Mexico, who has an entire series of beautifully photographed petroglyphs. Chris noticed that both the petroglyphs and the photographs of them had an aura of mysticism and beauty that captivated him. While driving across the country to San Diego, he finally saw his first pictographs and has been hooked on rock imagery ever since.

Chris began reading all the books he could about indigenous history, especially local to San Diego County and Southern California. To get a more in-depth perspective and meet like-minded people, he applied for the Arch Tech training program. After completing the Arch Tech course, he learned of the Site Steward Program and immediately signed up.

Chris feels extremely fortunate that he was assigned two sites to steward with quite a large and impressive array of rock art. He feels that both the pictographs and petroglyphs at those sites are some of the most impressive within the Park boundaries. The sites are at the southern end of the Park, a bit off the beaten path. Due to their remoteness, he and his partner, Mike Hurley, usually find few disturbances except for footprints and an occasional sherd pile.



PHOTO BY MIKE HURLEY

*The artist at work*

What Chris likes best about CDAS is the community, and the opportunities and experiences it provides. He enjoys hiking out to see impressive rock art. One especially memorable event was waking up at 3 a.m. to see the sun rise on summer solstice and then working a full day afterwards.

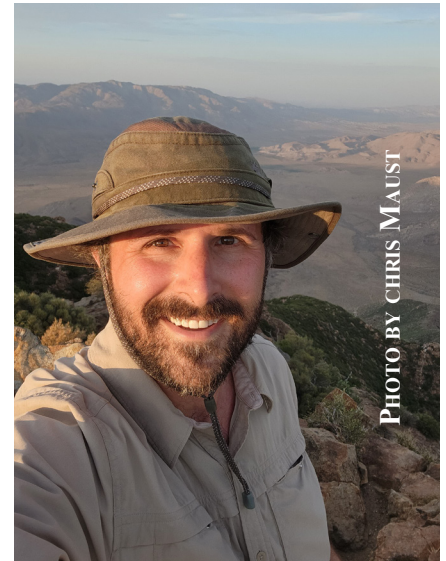


PHOTO BY CHRIS MAUST

*Chris on Garnet Peak in the Laguna Mountains*

—by Sherry Mitchell