

# The Colorado Desert Archaeology

February/March 2024

Society Bulletin

## LAND

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, Cupeño, and Payómkawichum/Luiseño are the Original peoples of the Anza-Borrogo 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

**C**ongratulations to the new Site Stewardship class! I am looking forward to working with you all. Robin Connors is teaching an Arch Tech class in January and February, so there will be new Archaeology Technicians to join CDAS as well.



In the month of January, I presented to the new Botany volunteer class about the indigenous peoples of the Colorado Desert and then to the Visitor Center volunteers about the park's current relationship with tribes in the area. CDAS members, Andie and I have also been doing public outreach with schools. The Borrego High School Intern program has continued this year and students spent 3 days with the Cultural Department learning what a job as an archaeologist might entail. A second group of students will join us in March. Another school group came



PHOTO FROM BY ANDREA ROBINSON

*Arrow straightener with cross hatch incising found in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park*

## 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.)

### CDAS ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month:  
3 p.m.

Virtual, via Zoom  
*Meeting dates will be:  
2/15, 3/21, and 4/18*

### Save the Date!

Spring Potluck  
Saturday, March 23, 2 p.m.  
Rick and Paula Huls' House

## NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

through to learn about the archaeology of the area and were able to learn to identify the uses of artifacts, play a Kumeyaay boardgame and survey the Archaeology Garden. Thank you to Rick, Paula and Llouise for helping with these school groups! I wouldn't be able to wrangle all the kids on my own.

Andie has transitioned from the mountains to desert surveys as the weather gets chilly up in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. She will return to surveys in Cuyamaca in the Spring but is excited to survey in some of the Cultural Preserves in ABDSP, as well as some more isolated backcountry areas. If you are up for a five to seven mile hike to a remote area of ABDSP to explore a cultural site, get in touch with Andie!



PHOTO FROM BY ANDREA ROBINSON

*Interior of a rock shelter with a basin and rub on a flat surface at the entrance in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

## HOW CAN I HELP?

### Yes! How can I help?

When a CDAS member has an idea . . . for a gathering, a field trip, a continuing education class . . . it might seem daunting as to how to make it happen. But it doesn't have to be. Having someone to run the idea by, discuss possibilities and how to get it to happen is my role with CDAS now. I am here to help you with your idea.

Pam asked me to work with members to facilitate their ideas into action. We really want all members to feel free to express their ideas, and see if together we can make it happen.

Whatever it is, you don't have to start from scratch and on your own. Working together we can figure how, and what, and when, and who so that your idea can happen.

Contact me by email ([evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com)) or phone (858-395-0853) to let me know what you are thinking.

— Eugenie Newton

## 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)

### ANDREA ROBINSON

Archaeological Specialist  
[Andrea.Robinson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Andrea.Robinson@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 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

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COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA,  
NOVEMBER 2018

PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

# FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP COORDINATOR

## Pam Wiedenkeller



Hello CDAS Members!

The New Year is off to a very fast start with a new group of Site Stewards, new Arch Techs in training, and more surveys available than we have ever had before. I look forward to continuing to organize the monthly meetings and I will be able to do so thanks to Eugenie Newton. Eugenie has stepped up to help be the facilitator for all things CDAS.

The USGS surveys should be completed by early March. These surveys, which are being performed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, are mainly intended to help farmers, particularly in sustainable agriculture. Soil scientists have surveyed most of the land within the contiguous 48 states, classifying the soil into hundreds of different series and documenting vertical profiles. For us in Anza Borrego Desert State Park, we will get a better understanding of whether the soil in a particular area is residual (formed in situ from weathered rock) or depositional (soils transported from somewhere else). More information can be found at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

WHAT'S THAT? If you find something you would like to identify or just want to know more about, please send me pictures with a short description of where and when it was found. We'll include it in a future meeting and ask the pros to give us their opinion.

Happy Spring Everyone!

—Pam

## 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)

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO DR. JOAN SCHNEIDER

CDAS's beloved mentor, teacher, and retired ABDSP archaeologist, Joan Schneider, has been named the recipient of the 2024 David A Frederickson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for California Archaeology. This award is given for cumulative contributions to California archaeology that have spanned a lifetime. Joan is certainly well qualified! Among her State Parks accomplishments, she was instrumental in establishing the ABDSP Cultural Preserves and developing a cultural preservation program at Ikh Nart, our sister park in Mongolia. Even after she retired from State Parks she has generously taught continuing education classes for CDAS and consulted on major issues.

Joan will be presented the award on Saturday, March 9, at the Awards Banquet of the Annual Meeting at the Riverside Convention Center. Reservations for the meeting and the banquet are open through the Society for California Archaeology website. Join others in celebrating Joan!



— Susan Gilliland

### 2024 SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

#### ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE



**Where:** Riverside Convention Center  
Riverside, California

**When:** March 7-10, 2024

*Registration deadline is February 16, 2024*

<https://scahome.org/ANNUAL-MEETING>

### CDAS SITE STEWARDS AT SCA

Site stewards Sue Hagen and Howard Clark will be presenting a poster at the 2024 Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting as part of the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) 25th anniversary symposium. Their poster focuses on stewardship activities at two sites in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park that Sue and Howard have had the opportunity to steward: Mine Wash and Hellhole Canyon.

Mine Wash is an interpreted site and has many visitors, some of whom leave fire rings or artifact collections and draw on rocks with charcoal. Hellhole Canyon, on the other hand, is near a well-traveled trail, but the locations of the archaeological sites in the area are not shared with the public. The hikers who visit this area generally do not stray off the trail, and Sue and Howard have yet to find any impacts to the site. Their poster will share the experience of stewarding two very different sites through a series of photographs. CDAS is proud to have representation at the SCA Annual Meeting.

— Sue Hagen and Howard Clark

## SITE STEWARDS

### Welcome new Site Stewards!

Please give a hearty welcome to 18 new Site Stewards: Ron Bain, Tom & MaryAnn Bennett, Mary Duffy, Matt Jones, Patty Kast, Katheen Krogh, MJ Lewis, Bud Phillips, Craig & Jackie Plummer, Laurie Publicover, Linda Rasmussen, Heidi Rodarmer, Ken Schupp, Marci & Ray Trussell and Fran Wade.

Our training kicked off in the Borrego Spring Library on Saturday with Hayley spending the morning on the history of the Colorado Desert District along with an overview of features and artifacts. The afternoon was spent on how to visit their site and tackle the paperwork. Avenza and GPS training went well. Many thanks to John and Pam for their help. With threatening weather forecasts on Sunday, the library let us keep the keys so we could use the space (when the library was closed) if the weather did not cooperate. Sunday found us back in the library doing virtual site visits, more Avenza training and BARC tours. Special thanks to Scott Mc Clintock, Sara Jones and the wonderful Borrego Springs Library staff.

Each of the new stewards has now been assigned a site and is in the process of learning about their site and visiting with their mentors. Hopefully, you will have an opportunity to meet each of them at our March Potluck.

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



*Hayley Elskan teaching new site stewards at January 13 workshop*

## CDAS POLO SHIRTS ON THE WAY



Thanks to Neil Cadwallader, Kathy Pratchner and Scott McClintock CDAS is finally getting new polo shirts for our members. With a little nudge from Pat Downing, Neil swung into action. He contacted a vendor he has worked with previously to find out if a polo shirt in our “CDAS blue” color with an embroidered logo patch could be made at an affordable price. And, yes it can be done!

Neil submitted the order for 47 polo shirts recently. All members had been contacted by email to send in their size order if interested in having a shirt. Thirty CDAS members responded and Neil confirmed each email order. Also, an additional seventeen shirts were added to the order to have available for sale later.

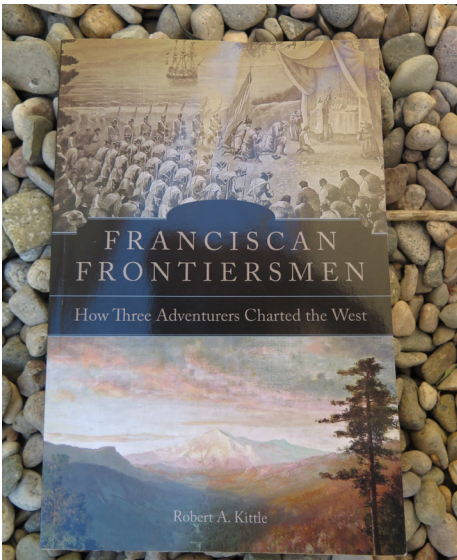
Neil will receive the shirts in early February. Then Neil, Scott and Kathy will contact CDAS members to make arrangements to receive their polo shirt and pay for it. The cost to members is \$25.00. Payment must be made by check (preferable) or cash. We will be unable to mail the shirts. Please make your check out to: “ABF” with the check notation “CDAS polo shirt”. That note makes sure your check is correctly credited to CDAS.

We will let you know when we have our polo shirts!

— *Eugenie Newton*

## IN THE BARC LIBRARY

### THREE BOOKS: EARLY SPANISH HISTORY, LOCAL BACKSTORY, AND A BIOGRAPHY

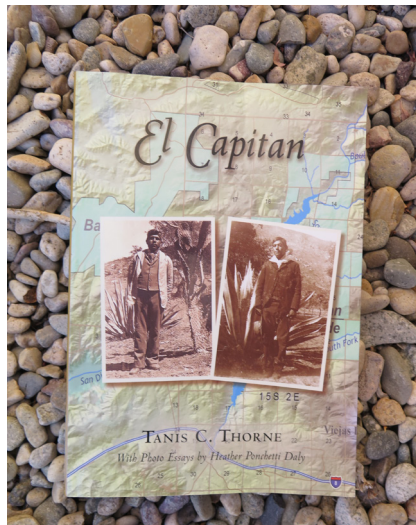


Robert A. Kittle's *Franciscan Frontiersmen, How Three Adventurers Charted the West* contains the accounts of Font, Crespí and Garcés. This book tells the back history giving unfolding events historic context that are missing in the trio's journals.

The Spanish opinion of the time was that their superior, cultured life and religion based on the one true church was being brought to miserable heathens thereby saving them and their souls. The Franciscans counted their success in the number of souls baptized. These two very different cultures and lifestyles collided in the treks through unknown and challenging environments and encounters with local inhabitants. Kittle's research uses multiple alternate sources including letters and reports to superiors, and illuminates personalities, opinions, and policy. Orders from military and religious superiors could be counterproductive, and administrative goals and regulations were made without considering supplies, distances or even personnel needed for success or enforcement.

Kittle's focus on Font, Crespí and Garcés also names many who interacted and corresponded with them, including Palóu, Anza, Fages, Serra, their superiors in Mexico and Spain,

and the many Native American tribes, while they explored, established missions and communities. Kettle sets the context and history unfolds, beginning with Crespí in 1769, and then the organization of Font and Anza's overland expedition of 1774 accompanied by Garcés. The interwoven story continues as the events overlap. Comprehensible historic context is the best part as none of these journeys occurred in isolation. Each interaction led to the next, whatever the outcome. Garcés was killed and Font and Crespí died in their beds, but that is not the end of this chapter in California history.



*El Capitan* by Tanis C. Thorne is the blow-by-blow account of land occupation, theft, reassignment, and denial. El Capitan is in San Diego County, but Thorne references duplicate maneuvers in the Palm Springs area, reminding us that the events described were acceptable and standard for that era.

Thorne introduces the area and the inhabitants. She describes mission secularization in the 1830's, when mission land often became a private land grant (Agua Caliente and Valle de San José were part of the Warner Grant). She then progresses to

California 1850's statehood, political maneuvering and later the non-ratification of treaties that left Native Americans without rights to land or water. El Capitan, located in the perfect place for a dam to hold water runoff from Lake Cuyamaca, would be the solution to San Diego's growing water requirements. The Ipai and Tipai of El Capitan and Conejos knew the Cuyamacas and traveled there during their seasonal gatherings.

The intricate methods engineered to relieve the Capitan Grande Indians of their traditional home and to carefully neglect including the neighboring Conejos village in negotiations or agreements is horrifying. This greedy tale is illustrated with before and after photos of relocation, houses and gatherings and a series of maps that identify which sections are assigned by year and later removed. Do not neglect the appendices as they are astounding. Nobody lives at Capitan Grande Indian Reservation currently as part of it is flooded by El Capitan Reservoir.

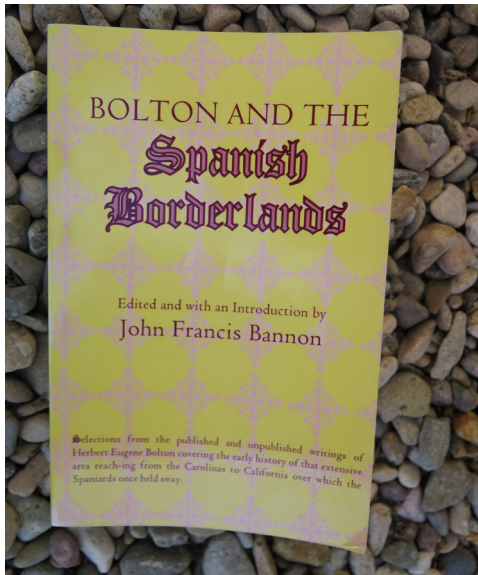


John F. Bannon, in *Bolton and the Spanish Borderlands* provides a succinct biography of noted historian Herbert Eugene Bolton, a source in many California histories. Bolton (1870-1953) did his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and then earned a doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. Hired by the University of Texas in 1901, Bolton discovered parts of U.S. history that were ignored by leading American historians of the day. Bolton's Texas location led to Mexico where he found a treasure trove of original Spanish documents, diaries and archives, and his Spanish Borderlands history was underway.

In 1908, Stanford University enticed Bolton from Texas, and then U.C. Berkeley stole him away in 1911 with a promise of complete access to and

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## IN THE BARC LIBRARY - CONTINUED



to enlarge the Bancroft collection. Bolton's seventeen papers follow his biography, finishing with a list of almost all his titles. By the time you have read the seventeenth, they seem repetitious, but each is finely tuned to a specific audience with tighter focus on a specific topic or point of view. Spain had missions and forts from Florida to California, including the Carolinas, Georgia, and Missouri. All are described in a flowing sequence of interactions between local inhabitants, occupiers, politicians, diplomats, and nations. Bolton challenged the English/French colonial history of his time and encouraged his students and listeners to read the original source documents in Spain, Mexico and elsewhere. Chapter 16, "Escalante Strikes for California" is the 1939 National Park Service presentation where Bolton provided a concise argument and history for the establishment, with suggestions for interpretation, of the Spanish period for the entire park system.

— by *LLouise Jee*

## FROM THE FIELD



PHOTOS BY SCOTT MCCUNTOCK



*WELCOME TO THE HILL: Site Stewards Jeff Haslett and Ron Bain take in the astounding rock art while training for duty at Indian Hill in January.*



## Remembering Sam Webb

*We bid a fond farewell to one of Borrego's most influential and productive archaeology volunteers*

By Laurie Brindle and Sally Bickerton

Sam Stewart Webb passed away on Dec. 4, 2023, leaving a stunning legacy of dedication and hard work to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of the Colorado Desert District. He was 84.

Sam and his beloved wife, Astrid, who passed away in 2021, became Borrego residents in 1988 and retired here permanently in 1997. In 1999, they signed up for the ABDSP's Visitor Center training. The couple received their initial Archaeology Field Technician training the following year. Next they became California Archaeological Site Steward Program (CASSP) trained stewards.

In 2001, the Webbs conducted their initial CDAS site stewardship survey in Blair Valley at the Pictograph Rock, which was the first assigned site stewardship at the Park. Eight months later, they started monitoring the Morteros Trail area.

Over the following years, Sam and Astrid volunteered thousands of hours for seemingly countless projects and events, which included the initial surveying of the eight cultural preserve areas (and fabricating and installing the signage), lugging straw bales for the building of the BARC, participating in a CDAS car patrol program at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park after the devastating Cedar fire in 2003, as well as cleaning up after flash floods.

Sam also chaired Archaeology Weekend for 14 years, edited the CDAS F.Y.I. newsletter (precursor of today's Bulletin), and took volumes of photos for CDAS and the Park. He claimed he had filled 450 CDs with photos and estimated that they hold "thousands and thousands, etc., etc., etc. of photos."

The Webbs' labors and dedication have been recognized by multiple prestigious organizations, such as the Society of California Archaeology, California State Parks and the SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence). They were also named honorary mayors of Borrego Springs in 2004.

Sam was memorialized on April 5, 2024 by his family, friends and colleagues at St. Barnabas Church in Borrego. Stories shared at the service were enlightening, heartwarming, and at times, quite hilarious. We learned that Sam also joined multiple community efforts to protect, preserve and enhance the Park, including preventing power lines from being erected through the Park, eradicating invasive mustard weed, and establishing ABDSP as a dark sky community. We also learned about the deep love he had for Astrid and his family, as well as what a mischievous prankster he was. Sam will be missed – and always remembered.

Sally Theriault, former ABDSP State Park Interpreter II, presents Sam with the "Stellar Photographer" award in 2020.



Sam taking photos during Archaeology Weekend 2017



Astrid and Sam at the "Ice Cream Social," part of the 2020 Archaeology Weekend event

Photos this page by Laurie Brindle

For more about the Webbs, please see the following issues of the Bulletin in the Members section of the CDAS website:

[anzaborregoarchaeo.org](http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org)

May 2019 (Profile of Sam and Astrid)  
October 2021 (Astrid Webb's tribute)



## Remembering Sam Webb



When Joan Schneider commented to Sam that there was an absence of him in all the photographic records for which he was responsible, he responded with the above photo. Featured are CDAS members on the Arizona Petroglyph Field trip in April 2010.

Photo courtesy of Joan Schneider

### BY JOAN SCHNEIDER, PhD

As I review all my photos from my years as Associate State Archaeologist in the Colorado Desert District (2001-2011), I note that there is a decided absence of photographs of Sam, who was a vital part of those days and the myriad of activities in which CDAS took part. Why, of course, it is because Sam was always the one behind the camera and not in front of it!!

Sam's expertise with the camera and graphic production was indispensable! Whenever there was a need, Sam was there with his expertise, creativity, and production. Sam's answer to me about his absence from all the photographic records for which he is responsible is the photograph above from 2010. I can still hear him saying to Astrid: "Hon, look this way." Astrid would just roll her eyes.

When I arrived in Borrego Springs in 2001, Sam and Astrid were the first people I met, introduced to me by Mark Jorgensen. They had been trained by Rae Schwaderer and, with a few other volunteers, were anxious to revive CDAS activities after Rae left for a position further north. Soon an ambitious and enthusiastic group

were newly trained and CDAS embarked on what must be called a landmark ten years – new funding from Sacramento brought long-delayed projects to the forefront and CDAS jumped right in with Sam and Astrid always a major presence. The new BARC was built and equipped. Those were exciting times.

One of my favorite memories of adventures with Sam and Astrid was a helicopter flight into the middle of Coyote Canyon where we were set down beside what is known as "Monkey Hill." We visited recorded sites there, updating site records made long ago, and gathering new data. The helicopter was supposed to pick us up about 3 p.m. at the place where we were left off earlier in the day. The time came and went; it was really hot; we sat by the side of the stream with our legs in the water, trying to get some shade. By 5 p.m., we were sure that we had been forgotten and we started planning to spend the night. We all took things as they came. We figured that someone might miss us by the next day. We had water.

Just before sunset, the helicopter arrived and we were back in civilization after a 5-minute flight. It was a pretty scary experience.

Sam always delighted in knowing the "real data" when someone else expounded on a subject about which they had minimal knowledge – but he was always very careful to check "the facts" with me. He became incensed when "incorrect" statements were made! I loved him for that. He never let anyone get away with anything and he let you know about it!

Sam and Astrid became very close friends over the many years we worked together under the banner of CDAS and ABF. I often stayed at their home on my trips to Borrego Springs after I retired from my position.

Sam and Astrid were my research associates on several projects funded by the Begole Archaeological Research Grant. Sam took professional quality photographs of artifacts for me for some of the papers that I published.

Sam was so very proud of his family and the family's history as pioneers in the Coachella Valley. He took me on a tour of his hometown once, pointing out all the places important to him.

With love and many memories of happy times, I send the Webb family my condolences on their loss.

## Remembering Sam Webb

### MARK JORGENSEN

*State Park Superintendent III (Ret)*

As the State Park Resource Ecologist and then Park Superintendent, I always admired both Sam and Astrid for their dedication to the Park and the people at Anza-Borrego. Sam donated more than 10,000 hours of volunteering—that's 5 1/2 years of working full time at a job where his only pay was a pat on the back and a once-a-year volunteer bash. He always appreciated that I bestowed a 10 percent raise each year on his salary of "zero."

Every event, work project, retirement, or celebration meant that Sam was there with his camera, and we could expect some photos within a few days—often already framed. Sam gave of himself not only at the visitor center and the Archaeology Lab, but he also created the self-guided trail at The Morteros in Blair Valley and wrote the brochure for it. Generations of visitors will learn about the life ways of the Kumeyaay people because of the legacy Sam Webb left behind.

Sam has gone off to be with his life partner, Astrid. We appreciate the quality time we had with both of them and now they both live on in our memories here in Borrego Springs—their small town where they were Honorary Mayors—and a place they will never be forgotten. Thanks for the good years, Samuel.

### HAYLEY ELSKEN

*Associate State Archaeologist/Tribal Liaison  
in the Colorado Desert District*

When I first started at the Colorado Desert District, after a welcoming from Robin Connors, it was immediately followed by a welcoming from Sam and Astrid to the archaeology program. I started in May 2017 after the "Flowergeddon" events of Spring 2017, when Archaeology Weekend 2017 had to be canceled and moved to the fall. And as much as I am sure it added to stress of planning the event, I am so grateful that I was working at the Park when it occurred. It was the last Archaeology Weekend with planning led by Sam Webb. It was a celebration of CDAS's 21st birthday and the 17th annual Archaeology Weekend event. It was a wonderful occasion with Rae Schwaderer, the state park archaeologist who saw the need for CDAS, giving a presentation on how this all started — and others talking about CDAS history over those 21 years. And when I arrived at the event, you could tell why Sam was referred to as Mr. Archaeology Weekend as he walked around the Visitor Center making sure everything was running smoothly.

In 2017, Sam Webb passed the torch of Archaeology Weekend to other members after 14 years of planning the event. I am glad I got to see the event before he retired, because Sam certainly knew how to organize a party!



At the ground-breaking ceremony for the BARC. From left: Sam Webb, Sue Wade, Jim Dice, Bob Begole, Mark Jorgensen, Chuck Bennett and Kirk O'Brien  
Photos this page courtesy of Ellen Sweet

### ALAN SCHMIDT

*General Contractor for the construction of the BARC*

I first met Sam and Astrid while building the Begole Archaeology Research Center when I was the general contractor.

I was very moved by the respect and attention in the way in which Sam and Astrid and others related to cultural artifacts. They would pick up something and describe it and then put it back exactly like they found it. Clearly, they had a special talent for discovery.

I soon became a volunteer and worked on several projects with Sam and Astrid.

One of the projects was to fabricate and install the kiosks for the cultural reserve signage.

We met on numerous occasions as a total of 18 holes were required for the nine signs. The park's gas-powered auger was necessary for the digging. I enlisted Eric, my strong son, to handle the drilling. Eric was willing and able; however he can be very withdrawn and suffers from depression and anxiety.

Sam would drive the Begole Mobile, a 4x4 Toyota SUV that Bob Begole donated, along with Astrid, Joan Schneider, and the power auger. Eric and I followed them to the sites. Once a location was established, Eric would muscle the auger and dig the holes. This was done over a period of many days.

Sam and Astrid took a special liking to Eric and befriended him. They were supportive and kind and had many pleasant conversations with Eric. They were very kindhearted.

Subsequently every time I saw Sam and Astrid, they inquired about how Eric was doing. I would tell Eric and it meant a great deal to him as well as to myself.



Sam moving hay bales during the construction of the BARC

## Remembering Sam Webb

### JOHN DOWNING

Past Chair CDAS Steering Committee

### PAT DOWNING

CDAS Site Steward Coordinator

Pat and I first met Sam in Blair Valley at the kiosk parking area at the Morteros archaeological site one Saturday morning in early January 2014. We had seen a listing for guided tours of this site on the Visitor Center web page. Besides stewarding that site with his wife Astrid, Sam gave these tours for many years. He gave an informative tour of the site and must have noticed that we had more than a passing interest in its archaeology.

At the end, he suggested that if we wanted to learn more, we could take the upcoming class and join CDAS. He was a good salesman and we took the class.

One thing that I admired about Sam was his ability to make Archaeology Weekend happen. In Steering Committee meetings, he was always well ahead of things, starting the event's planning many months in advance. Sam was a great organizer and delegator.

Although Sam was a very busy volunteer at the Visitor Center, and was actively involved with CDAS and other groups, he also found time to participate in an early citizen science astronomy program at home on his computer.

After coordinating every previous Archaeology Weekend since 2004, Sam had decided to take a well-earned rest. Even after he "retired" from the committee, he was always available to assist and offer advice.

In 2018, I visited Sam and Astrid at their home to discuss managing the event. On the wall of his office, there were numerous awards — and certificates of participation from the SETI Institute, of which he was very proud.

Citizen science in archaeology and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, what breadth of interests!

### PATTY McFARLAND

CDAS Arch Tech & Site Steward

I will always remember the pleased look in Sam's eyes as he caught me in one of his pranks — again!



From the left: Pat Downing, "Super Mentor" Sam Webb, Brenda Wills, and Eli Vasquez at the Morteros Trail site  
Photo by John Downing

### BRENDA WILLS & ELI VASQUEZ

CDAS Archaeology Technicians and Site Stewards

Eli and I wanted to share our condolences to the family of Sam Webb. We were very fond of him after our meeting and hike around the Morteros site, when Sam transferred the site to us to steward in January 2022. He gave us a tremendous amount of background information about what he had seen over the years working the site, and also an overall feeling of respect and awe for looking after the trail.

Sam's knowledge and care for Morteros came through many times that day. One particular event sticks in our minds: he brought us to a peculiar shaped rock, maybe about half-way through the day, and asked us what we thought of it. Eli and I were of course trying to place it archaeologically, but after a moment or two Sam said it's just a heart-shaped rock!

Sam said he would joke with Astrid as they went through the trail that he was going to paint the rock red for her one day.

Eli and I always think of Sam when we walk by that rock in our visits. We didn't have a photo of the rock available to send, but there is a photo of us from that day in the March 2022 CDAS bulletin. We wanted the family to know that Sam had an impact on us, and we are so glad to have met and spent time with him.

### From the archives ...



Astrid Webb, Shot Linton, Sam Webb cutting ribbon to officially open the Morteros ('Ehmuu) Trail.

A clipping from the CDAS F.Y.I. newsletter (precursor to the CDAS Bulletin). Photos were provided by the Borrego Sun.

*Editors' Note: We would like to thank Laurie Brindle for putting together this beautiful remembrance of Sam Webb.*