

The Colorado Desert Archaeology

December/January 2024/25

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 Elsken

Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison

As winter settles in and we reflect on the past months, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your hard work and dedication to preserving our shared history and cultural heritage. This season has been a busy and productive one for our volunteer group, and I am proud of everything we've accomplished together.



Gratitude to the Kickoff Meeting Organizers

I would also like to extend our thanks to Pat Downing for organizing our Kickoff Meeting. This year's gathering featured a fantastic presentation on Kumeyaay Ethnobotany, which offered valuable insights into the traditional uses of plants by the Kumeyaay people and the deep connection they have with the land. In addition, Laurie Brindle led a wonderful tribute to John Case, whose passion for archaeology and preservation has had a lasting impact on our community. I loved learning more about John's life outside of archaeology and how it led him to the archaeology program. His legacy continues to inspire us as we move forward in our shared mission.



Neil Cadwallader introduces Kickoff speaker Michael Wilken-Robertson, author of *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany*

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NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

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 p.m.
Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon

CDAS ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month:
3 p.m., Virtual, via Zoom
Upcoming meetings:
12/19/24, 1/16/25

GOOD NEWS!

Andie Robinson has returned for the season. Welcome back, Andie!

A Heartfelt Thank You for a Successful Archaeology Day

First, a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped organize and participate in Archaeology Day, and special thanks to Eugenie Newton and Sally Bickerton! Your enthusiasm and commitment to public outreach were evident in every activity, from the hands-on learning opportunities for kids to the informative lectures that kept attendees engaged throughout the day. I was thrilled with how well the event turned out and how it helped bring our community together to celebrate the wonders of archaeology.



Eugenie and Sally at Arch Day, 2024

Archaeology Lab Tours with School Groups and the Naturalist Class

We've also had the pleasure of hosting several exciting tours of the Archaeology Lab this fall, introducing elementary students and members of the Naturalist Class to the fascinating world of archaeology and conservation. These tours have been an excellent opportunity to engage with young minds and share the hands-on work that goes into studying and preserving our region's archaeological resources. It's always inspiring to see the curiosity and excitement on the students' faces as they learn about the ancestors of the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla and what we can learn from objects left behind. We often get requests for tours and are on the look out for new tour guides! Look for upcoming Continuing Education opportunities to learn more about the BARC and how to lead a tour.

Another Season of the Native American Conservation Crew

The Native American Conservation Crew started fire training for the upcoming season of forestry work in Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. This initiative is a crucial step toward integrating Indigenous perspectives and skills into our conservation and archaeological efforts.. The training this week has been both rewarding and inspiring, and we are confident that this new team will make a lasting impact in the parks.

Lab Updates

The Lab crew has been hard at work! Jolie Maties continues to finish inputting the last group of drawers into TMS. Once that is complete, all the collections in the BARC will have been put into TMS with the correct locations! Rick and Paula Huls came back to a stack of new books for the library. They are working to create a list of Accession Numbers (numbers that group artifacts i.e. donated by the same person, collected from the same site at the same time, etc.) that can be used in TMS to group artifacts by Accession. Llouise continues to work towards the perfection of our data about archaeology sites, correcting mistakes, mapping sites that were left out of GIS system, and more.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the new year, we continue to be grateful for the incredible work of our volunteers, collaborators and supporters. Whether through educational events, hands-on conservation efforts, or community outreach, each of you plays an essential role in our shared mission. We look forward to what we can achieve together in the coming months!

Thank you for your continued dedication to the preservation of our cultural heritage. We wish you all a joyful and restful holiday season, and we can't wait to see you at our upcoming events and projects!

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

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TRIBAL LIAISON

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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

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COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA,
NOVEMBER 2018

PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP COORDINATOR

Hello CDAS Members!

The new year is approaching and our survey focus will shift to discoveries which will be posted on Better Impact. All arch techs are encouraged to get out in the field and help with discovery surveys. We will document and create primary records. This is a team effort and with your help we will be able to make progress on the backlog of discoveries.

By the end of December, Taylor and her crew from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will have completed taking soil samples from our park. Thanks to everyone who helped with USGS surveys and monitoring digs these past couple of years.



Pam (standing) with soil scientists. Taylor (left) is the primary soil scientist. Photo courtesy Pam Wiedenkeller

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I am looking for submissions for our meeting segment **WHAT'S THAT**. If you find something out in the Park that you find curious, unusual, interesting, or you just want to know more about it, please take pictures, jot down location information and forward to me. We will feature them in a future membership meeting.

Finally, please make sure to log all your volunteer hours including travel time in Better Impact. Also, while you are there, check to make sure your Bear In Mind Training is current. This training must be taken periodically. Go to My Profile, Training, select California State Parks – Colorado Desert District to see if your Bear in Mind training has expired. Thank you!

*Pam Wiedenkiller
Advisory Group Coordinator*

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**CDAS DECALS
AVAILABLE!**



TO GET YOURS, EMAIL SCOTT McCLINTOCK:

PalomarTowers@gmail.com

A \$5 DONATION IS APPRECIATED

SITE STEWARD REPORT

SITE STEWARD CHANGES

If you missed the Fall Kickoff Meeting, you missed the good news. We are trying to simplify site steward reporting and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring efforts while reducing administrative burdens. For your first visit of the calendar year, there is no change. The Monitor Report, Photo Stations Report and photos for each photo station are to be submitted. For each subsequent visit during the year, only the Monitor Report is required. Please walk your entire site as you would when taking photos, but photos only need to be submitted if there is an impact to report or diagnostic artifact to document. This adjustment not only reduces the workload for site stewards but also encourages more frequent visits to sites. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.



*Pam Wiedenkiller and Pat Downing
at Archaeology Day, 2024*

I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and hope you can spend some time in our beautiful desert.

— *Pat Downing*

FROM THE FIELD



A lenticular cloud hovering over Borrego Valley on Archaeology Day, 2024

PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

FALL KICKOFF MEETING, OCTOBER 20

—Sally Bickerton



CDAS members gather at Steele-Burnand Desert Research Center

More than thirty CDAS members and guests gathered at the Steele-Burnand Desert Research Center on October 20th for the CDAS Fall Kickoff. After enjoying a shared meal, Michael Wilken-Robertson, author of *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany*, talked about his work with many Kumeyaay elders of Baja California and their stories and traditional uses of native plants from the coast, valleys, and mountains of Northern Baja.

Michael, an anthropologist and ethnobotanist,

has spent his career studying the interaction between plants and people, and supported their cultural continuity. He also brought pottery and baskets from San José de La Zorra artisans that were available to purchase.



Michael Wilken-Robertson

The program was followed by a business meeting, with State Park and volunteer updates. Hayley shared that the state has again instituted a hiring freeze and budget cuts will occur this coming fiscal year. Fortunately, grant funding will cover special projects including funds for Andie Robinson to return and help with surveys of Coyote Canyon. Hayley is also working on writing Land Acknowledgements for each Colorado Desert District park, in collaboration with local indigenous groups.



Lance, Laurie, and Mary Lou

John Downing recognized volunteers for their many hours spent in the local state parks. Many earned pins acknowledging 100-3,000 volunteer hours. Pam gave arch tech updates and Pat summarized the year's data on site stewards. Both their Bulletin columns have important information for volunteers.

The afternoon concluded with the group remembering longtime CDAS member, John Case, who passed away in May. His partner, Laurie Brindle, shared a slide presentation looking back at his life and his love of the deserts and mountains of California, and his many hours as a CDAS volunteer. The day ended with an apple cider toast to John.



John Case remembered

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

—Eugenie Newton



Early morning view of Archaeology Day setup

CDAS had a good day Nov 2nd, celebrating Archaeology Day 2024. Visitor Center staff told us they counted around 800 visitors for the day. Archaeology Day is a major and important educational event about our desert cultural resources presented by CDAS every year in the fall.

Visitors learned about our desert cultural resources with exhibits, videos, field trips, and tours of the BARC lab and library. We were pleased to host Eva Salazar, Kumeyaay basketweaver, and Ami Admire, Payómkawichum, with native plants and remedies,

again. Kids (and adults) had fun with pottery making and rock painting. Numerous other exhibitors such as the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Barona Cultural Center and Museum, San Diego Archaeological Center, Palomar College, and the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretative Center also participated.

What made the day successful was you! Our CDAS volunteers who showed up beforehand to do publicity, arrange for exhibitors and indigenous artists, corral tables and supplies, show videos, greet visitors, set up, explain desert archaeology, and take it all down.

One of my favorite parts of Archaeology Day is the camaraderie of being with our CDAS group. We are an interesting group of folks and we pitch in well together to get things done.

Thank you!!

Eugenie



Event speakers Olivia Chilcote, Eva Salazar, and Ami Admire



Pottery making table for kids (and adults)



Mine Wash field trip

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY PHOTO PAGE



Thanks to photographers Barbara Barnes, Sally Bickerton, John Downing and Eugenie Newton

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Several organizations offer programs that may be of interest to CDAS members. Please check the websites below for upcoming events. If you know of other programs that CDAS members might enjoy, we would love to share the information in future bulletins—please send us the details!

AGUA CALIENTE CULTURAL MUSEUM
<https://www.accmuseum.org>

WARNER-CARRILLO RANCH
For more information, contact the
San Diego Archaeological Center
<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org> or *SOHO*
at <https://www.sohosandiego.org/main/aboutsoho.htm>

MALKI MUSEUM
<http://malkimuseum.org>

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY
SOCIETY**
<https://sdcas.org>

CALIFORNIA ROCK ART FOUNDATION
<https://www.carockart.org>

**BARONA CULTURAL CENTER AND
MUSEUM**
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

IMPERIAL VALLEY DESERT MUSEUM
<https://www.ivdesertmuseum.org/events/news>

**SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA
ARCHAEOLOGY**
<https://scahome.org>

SAN DIEGO ROCK ART ASSOCIATION
<https://www.sandiegorockart.org>



PHOTO FROM WEBSITE

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

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:

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