

COLORADO DESERT
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

KICK OFF MEETING

2024/25 SEASON



Come and enjoy a fun and relaxing day as we socialize, learn about the upcoming season plans, exchange ideas and information. Please bring a food item to share for our potluck luncheon.



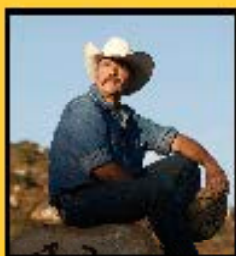
SUNDAY, 20 OCTOBER



11:00 AM



UCI Steele Burnand Conference Center, Borrego Springs



Special Guest Speaker Michael Wilken - Robertson

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias

Michael Wilken-Robertson will explore the Kumeyaay people's traditional use of native plants, offering insights into their cultural significance. Michael will bring a selection of artisanal items for sale.

Remembering John Case



We will conclude with a tribute to John Case, honoring his dedication and lasting impact on our community.

The Colorado Desert Archaeology

October/November 2024

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 Elskén

Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison

Dear Volunteers,

As we transition into the vibrant colors of fall, we're excited to share some updates on our recent activities and upcoming opportunities at our historic sites.



THINNING APPLES AND TRIMMING TREES AT THE HISTORIC APPLE ORCHARD

Last month, the natural resource staff and I gathered at the historic apple orchard in Palomar Mountain State Park for three days of orchard work. We focused on thinning the apple trees to promote healthier fruit production and remove weight from overloaded branches. The crew also brought out their chainsaws and pole saws to do some much-needed removal of dead branches. The orchard is not only a vital part of the pioneer history on Palomar Mountain, but also a beautiful landscape that draws visitors year-round. Thanks to Natural Resources crew who came out and worked hard to ensure these trees thrive!

MID-FALL APPLE PICKING EVENT

Keep an eye for the announcement for our Mid-Fall Apple Picking Day! I am working with the interpreter at Palomar Mountain to decide on the perfect day to pick apples. This is a fantastic opportunity for volunteers and the community to enjoy the fruits of our labor—quite literally! Join us for a day of apple picking, fun, and fellowship. Bring your family and friends, and let's celebrate the bounty of the orchard together. More details to come!

Continued on page 2

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.
(Ask Hayley to unlock library until further notice)

CDAS ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS
Third Thursday of the Month:
Next meeting on 11/21
3 p.m., Virtual, via Zoom

UPCOMING CDAS EVENTS:

Fall Kickoff Meeting 2024
Sunday, October 20

Archaeology Day
Saturday, November 2

NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

FUEL IGNITION PREVENTION AT HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN C STATE PARK

In addition to our orchard efforts, we have been actively working on fuel ignition prevention measures at the historic buildings in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. These structures hold immense historical value, and protecting them from potential wildfire damage is a top priority. State Park staff have been setting up plans for this year and next fiscal year to have much needed work done to creating defensible spaces around the buildings and make sure roofs and siding are not susceptible to ember casts getting into the building during a wildfire. Many thanks to all who have participated in these important preservation efforts!

WELCOME BACK, ANDIE!

We are thrilled to announce the return of our colleague, Andie Robinson, who will be leading surveys focused on areas affected by fire or prescribed burns. She will also be leading projects related to cannabis cultivation, which could be the after effects of illegal grows, or prevention projects, such as expanding access to remote areas of the park.

Andie's expertise will be invaluable as we assess and document the impacts of these environmental changes on our cultural sites. We encourage all volunteers to get involved in these surveys, as they are crucial for our ongoing preservation efforts.

Thank you for your continued commitment to preserving our heritage and the natural beauty of our parks. Let's make this fall a season to remember!

CDAS ON FACEBOOK

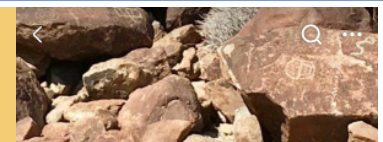
CDAS now has a new way for members to connect and communicate. We have initiated a private Facebook group, and it is now available to join. One of our members, Denise DeBreuil, has set up a member group and active CDAS volunteers are eligible to join.

This is a private group page, and not open to or available to anyone who is not a CDAS member. All confidentiality about site locations, features, etc. must be observed in postings. This can be a place for members to interact, discuss, coordinate and share about being a site steward or archaeology technician in the Colorado Desert District.

If you want to join, click on the link below. Your active CDAS membership will be verified by Brenda Wills, CDAS Secretary-Treasurer. Once that has happened, the page will be available to you to connect with other CDAS members in the group. Click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/coloradodesertarchaeologysociety/?ref=share>

Enjoy!



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society >

Private group · 31 members



Joined ▾

Invite

Chats

About

Photos

Events

F

Write something...

Anonymous post

Feeling

P

Most relevant

Brenda Wills created a private event for the group.

Admin 3d · 🗨️



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
760-823-6053 hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

ANDREA ROBINSON

Archaeological Specialist
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

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

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COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA,
NOVEMBER 2018

PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP COORDINATOR

Hello CDAS Members!

Happy Fall to all of you. Our season has started and I hope you are ready to get involved. I am happy to say that this year we will finally complete the USGS soil sampling surveys and begin to focus on surveying and recording new discoveries. If you are an arch tech, please check Better Impact. I've already posted four surveys in October that need volunteers.

Our next monthly meeting will be in person at the Kickoff Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 20, in Borrego Springs. We will resume our monthly zoom meetings on Thursday, Nov. 21. I welcome your comments and suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered in a future meeting and any submissions for WHAT'S THAT! Also remember if you are a site steward, we'd love to see your site as a virtual tour. Contact Scott McClintock at palomartowers@gmail.com. He will make it easy!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Kickoff meeting or out in the field.

—Pam Wiedenkeller
Advisory Committee Coordinator



*Pam, completing 2017 New York Marathon
(See the member profile featuring Pam on page 8)*

KICKOFF MEETING!

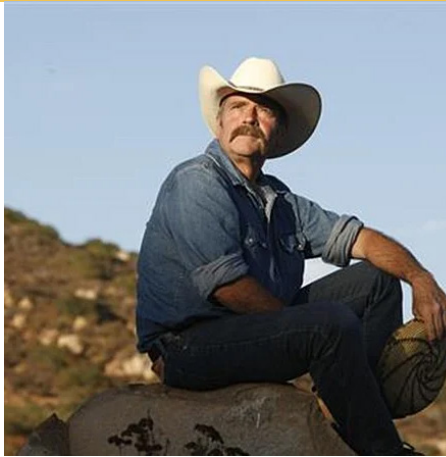
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Don't miss our exciting Kickoff meeting, Sunday, October 20, at the UCI Steele/Burnand Conference Center at 11a.m.! Please bring a dish to share for our potluck luncheon.

After lunch, our speaker will be anthropologist Michael Wilken. Michael's research and advocacy work with Native Baja Californians has explored traditional arts, ethnobotany, history, and cultural landscapes of the indigenous peoples of the northern Baja California region. Additionally, Michael's interest in native plants and the natural landscapes of the Californias has inspired him to investigate the ways humans have interacted with their environments, from the past to the present. The topic of his lecture will be "Kumeyaay Ethnobotany, Shared Heritage of the Californias." A selection of basketry and pottery, as well as Michael's book, *Kumeyaay Ethnobotany* (please see below for more information), will be available for purchase.

We will also hear news from the park and updates for arch techs and site stewards. After the meeting, we will have a short tribute to John Case.

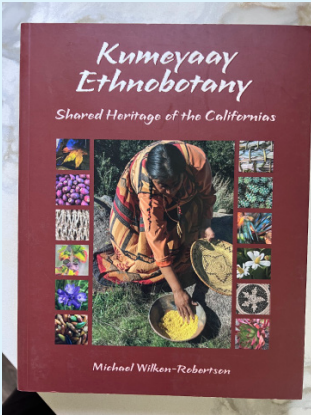
This is the Sunday of Borrego Days, so come for the weekend and enjoy a Borrego style celebration, <https://borregodays.com/festival-events-schedule>. After several years of hiatus, there will again be a parade on Saturday morning, along with entertainment and food in Christmas Circle.



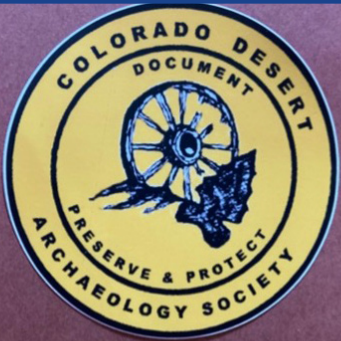
Michael Wilken

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias

by Michael Wilken



For thousands of years, native peoples have made their homes in the coasts, valleys, mountains and deserts of northern Baja California and southern California. Through lifetimes of interactions with native plants in the diverse landscapes of the region, they have continuously refined their botanical knowledge, passing it on from generation to generation. Today, some Kumeyaay people in the far-flung ranches of northern Baja California still regularly practice the skills necessary to transform native plants into food, medicine, arts, tools, regalia, construction materials, and ceremonial items, among others.



CDAS DECALS AVAILABLE!

TO GET YOURS, EMAIL SCOTT McCLINTOCK:
PalomarTowers@gmail.com

A \$5 DONATION IS APPRECIATED





Archaeology Day is on the Way!

Sunday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Visitor Center
(see *Archaeology Day flyer on page 6*)

We would like your help to make it a fun day for our visitors.
We are asking for CDAS members to volunteer to:

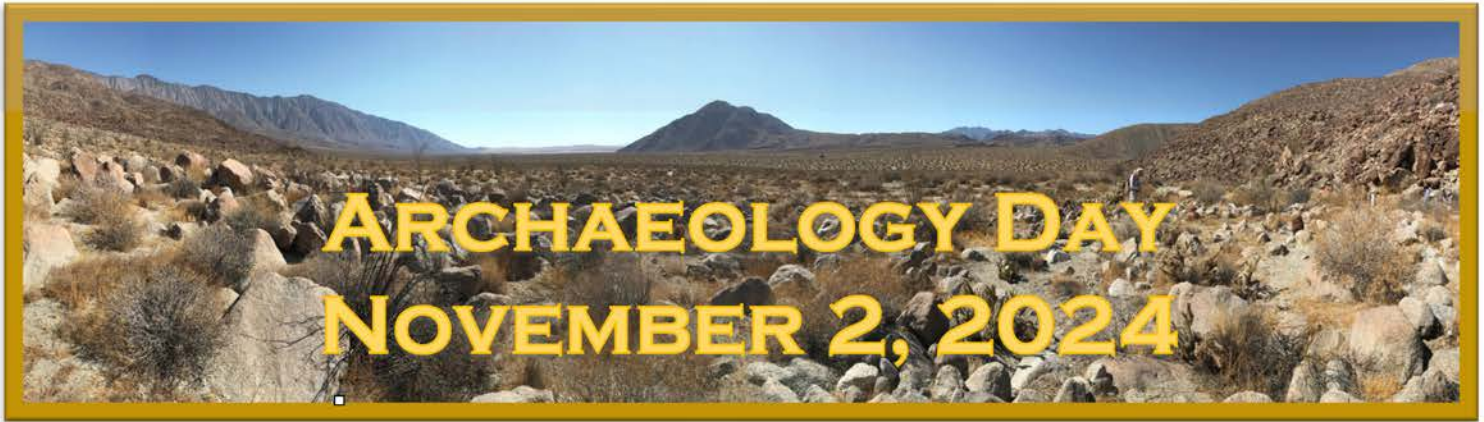
- Greet visitors and tell them what is happening and when
- Escort folks to the BARC for tours
- Assist with the presentations and videos
- Help the kids (and parents) have fun making pottery and painting rocks
- Share about cultural resources in the Park and more.

Help is needed for set up on Friday, Nov. 1, in the late afternoon, and assisting the whole or part day on Saturday, Nov. 2. All CDAS members received an email at the end of September with info about volunteer assignments and times.

Please send your response on how you can help to Eugenie Newton.
Email at evnewton8@gmail.com or call at 858-395-0853.



Thanks to Arch Day 2023 photographers Sally Bickerton, Laurie Brindle, Chris Blake, and Barbara Barnes



Presented by the
Colorado Desert Archaeological Society

9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center



FREE EVENT!

A day of fun for the whole family!

Special Events



11:00 am Eva Salazar,
Kumeyaay, basket
weaving demonstration.



12:00 pm Olivia Chilcote,
PhD, Luiseño/Payómkawichum,
author of *Unrecognized in California*.



1:00 pm Ami Admire,
Payómkawichum,
Storytelling.

- Local indigenous artists:
 - Eva Salazar, Kumeyaay Basketweaver, basket sales
 - Traditional Games and Plant Medicines by 'ataaxum Pomkwaan
- Native plants and their uses with Kuymeyaay-Ipai Interpretative Center.
- Exhibits by Barona Museum & Cultural Center, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, SD Archaeological Center, Anza-Borrego Foundation, and Palomar College.
- Paddle-anvil pottery making and rock painting activities for kids.
- Video "field trips" to La Rumarosa in Baja and Morteros Trail in Blair Valley.
- Guided tours of the Begole Archaeology Research Lab and Library.

In-person field trips

- Saturday, Nov 2nd - 1:00-4:00pm to Mine Wash Village
- Sunday, Nov 3rd to Blair Valley cultural sites: 8:30am-12:00pm to Morteros Trail and 1:00-4:00pm to Pictograph Trail. *Tours limited to 14. Pre-registration required; open after Oct 13. Fee \$10 adult/\$5 child.*

Visit <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-day-2024/> for more info.

SITE STEWARDS

Welcome, Site Stewards, to a new and exciting season!

Over the past several years, we have gathered together the forms, instructions, and information to try to make your site visits and reporting easier. These documents and training information reside on the CDAS website, anzaborregoarchaeo.org, in the Members section. If you have forgotten the password for this section, just look at the photo. Here you can find every form you could conceivably need for a site visit, and instructions. Two optional forms I recommend you always carry with you are the Site-Action-Guidelines showing actions and forms needed for impacts, and the Reporting Diagnostic Artifacts. A good time to review these is prior to your first site visit of the season. I'm here to answer any questions you may have!

Reminder: Please log all hours in Better Impact. Our society needs to show the impact we have on the Park.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at the Kickoff meeting Sunday, Oct. 20!

— Pat Downing

FROM THE FIELD

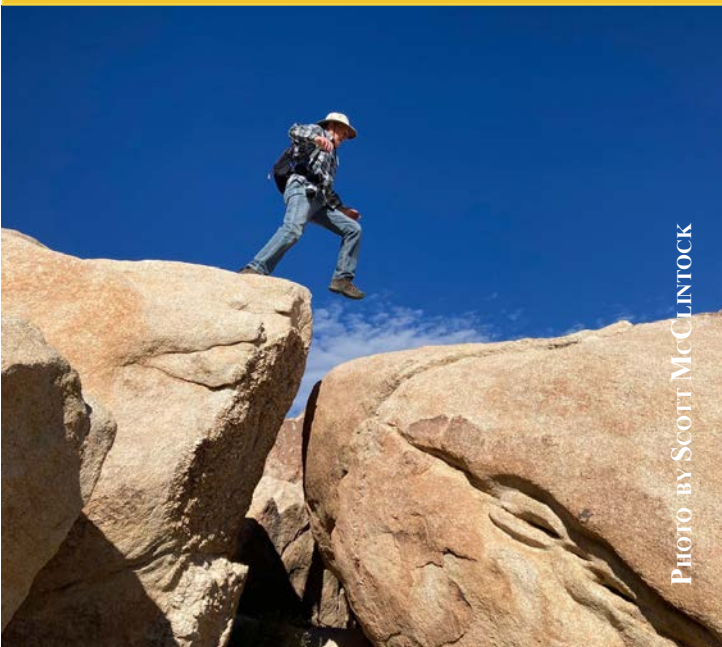


PHOTO BY SCOTT McCLINTOCK

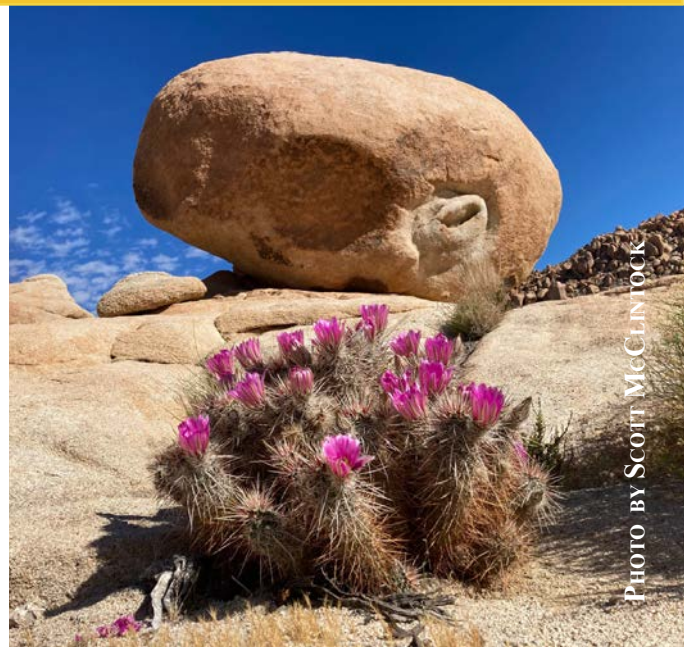


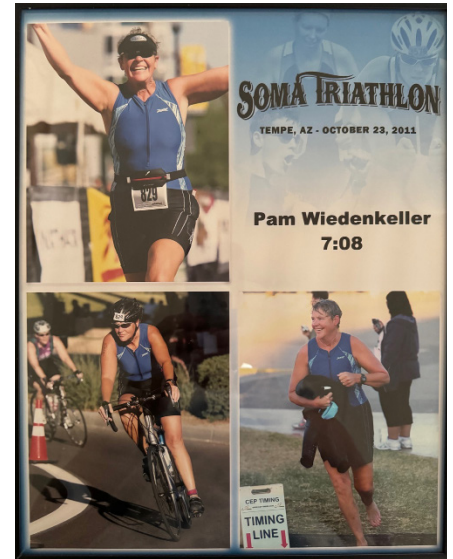
PHOTO BY SCOTT McCLINTOCK

*Left: Site Steward Jeff Haslett makes the leap to the next photo station at Indian Hill.
Right: Mid-April blooms adorn one of the astounding yonis at Indian Hill.*

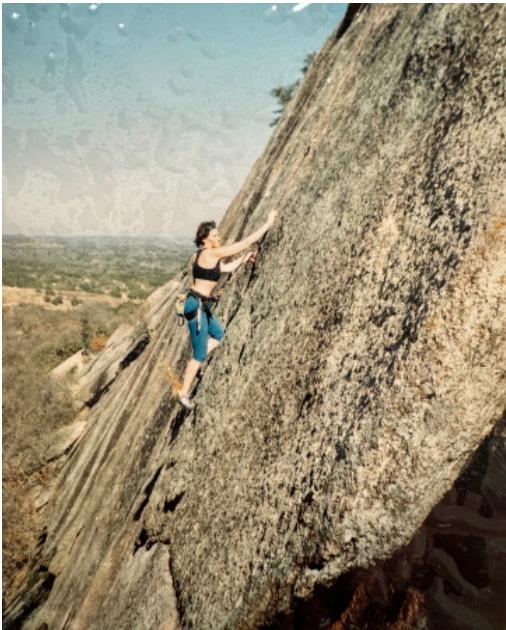
MEMBER PROFILE: *PAM WIEDENKELLER*

I became involved with CDAS because of my dear friend Pat Downing. I kept hearing her stories of archaeological sites in the desert and since I loved exploring the desert, I listened. Pat talked me into taking her Site Steward Training and I was hooked. I currently have three sites. I went on to take the Arch Tech class with Hayley. I am now the Arch Tech coordinator. In that role, I assist Hayley with scheduling surveys and completing paperwork. I am also the Advisory Committee Coordinator with my primary role being to organize our monthly membership meetings. What I do for CDAS taps into my love for exploring and the awe I have for the people who came before.

I grew up on the east coast, mostly in New England. I don't have any background or prior experience in archaeology. Everything I know I have learned during my volunteering at CDAS. That is probably why the monthly meetings are half administrative and half educational. There is so much to learn!



Pam, completing half ironman



Pam rockclimbing

I think the strengths I bring to CDAS are more organizational. My career was in marketing for a small surgical instrument company. When the company was sold, I helped a friend start his own surgical instrument company. When that ran its course, I started my own company distributing surgical instruments. I ran a small business with my ex-husband Bruce for 15 years and was lucky enough to sell and retire just before COVID.

My favorite site? The next new discovery! I love wandering and finding previously unrecorded sites. My favorite discovery? The huge deposit of obsidian flakes in the Eastern Sierra that I recently talked about.

My other hobbies include gardening, camping, hiking and spending time with my partner, John Peterson, and my dog. I am also interested in sculpting and painting.

Something about my past... I spent five years rock climbing and winter backpacking. Both gave me a different perspective on the level of pain a body can tolerate and recover from! I also challenged myself to train for—and complete—a half ironman. And I am proud to have completed the NYC Marathon in 2017, even though I don't consider myself a runner.

I live in Borrego Springs full time, but escape during the summer. It's a great excuse to go exploring other parts of the country!



Winter backpacking

IN THE BARC LIBRARY

RINGS OF FIRE

How an Unlikely Team of Scientists, Ex-cons, Women and Native Americans helped win World War II

BY LARRY J. HUGHES

In the opening chapter, author Larry J. Hughes reveals the problem: WWII gunners are unable to fire on rapidly moving airplanes or incoming missiles with accuracy or reliability.

Hughes continues with an intriguing and far-reaching solution that begins with Edwin Land, who later founded the Polaroid Corporation. Land thought calcite, a common mineral with optical characteristics, might have possibilities to solve the problems.

Of special interest: The rich mineral deposits in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park play a part in this fascinating story.

Hughes traces the investigation of calcite's capabilities by weaving through a long list of scientists, developers, promoters, miners, military and other government agencies. All are focused on solving the accuracy issue — or at least getting a paycheck for digging when jobs were scarce.

Land and fellow investigators noticed that specific calcite crystals have a polarizing capability that when processed, refined and used as a lens, project a bullseye of colored concentric rings if aimed at the sky. Known as Polaroid's "Optical Ring Sight" (ORS), it would effectively create a target effect, giving gunners significantly better aim. The ORS idea is presented, argued, discussed, refined and tested.

With acceptance came orders for supply of ORS for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. The next problem was finding a source of correct suboptical calcite. Hughes tells of deposits in Iceland, Montana, Mexico, and California, and gives details on mining adventures.

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Calcite Mine road, running north off of S-22 [established in 1968] leads to one of the first places mined in 1943. At that time, the trek was north or south, along old Highway 99, now 86, on the west

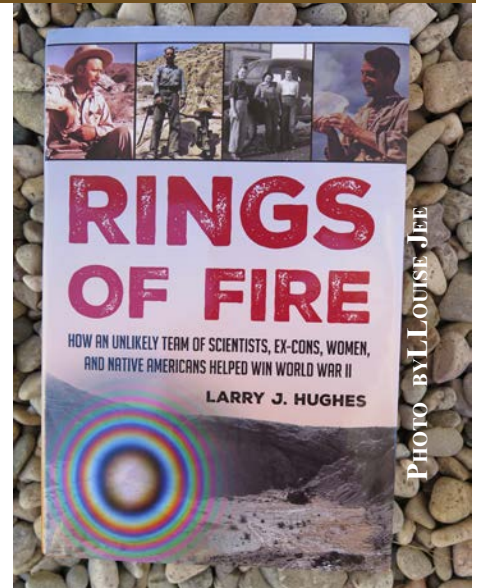
side of the Salton Sea to the junction with Palm Wash.

After about ten or more miles of jouncing westward up Palm Wash, you arrived at Camp Wilson, the established camp with a cook, tents and other amenities. The military provided drivers for escorting the processed crystals to shipping points east, including the Polaroid facility in Cambridge, Mass. They returned to Camp Wilson after garnering provisions at the closest military training center. The actual mine was up at the top of the rise, where the current road ends, and spread over a large area. In 1943, there was no road and photos in the book show where Camp Wilson was.

Hughes describes recruitment of miners, and the calcite mine's use of local labor, finding them at the surrounding Indian Reservations. Histories of individuals and the cultural interactions between them are carefully related.

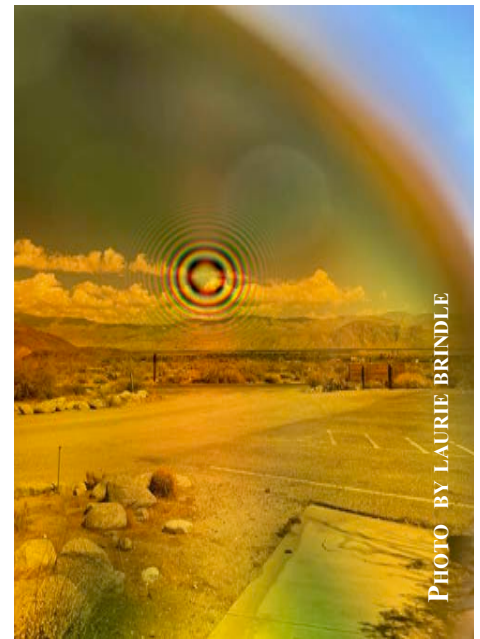


Hayley holds the Optical Ring Sight.



The story of calcite continues northward to Montana, and then on to Mexico with the same attention to details of obstacles and success. Securing the correct quality of calcite was difficult, and processing it into an ORS more so. The story winds through miners turned soldiers in Europe and the Pacific, and then the eventual discovery of a manufactured substitute. The five appendices give details on calcite crystals, production, ORS uses and more.

Note: We have an Optical Ring Sight at the BARC!



The image seen when it's held close to your eye.

REVIEWED BY LLOUISE JEE

FALL ARCHAEOLOGY: *OUT AND ABOUT*

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!

Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO)

Warner-Carrillo Ranch Information

Contact the
San Diego Archaeological Center
<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org> or *SOHO*
at <https://www.sohosandiego.org/main/aboutsoho.htm>

Fall at the Malki Museum
Saturday, October 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Malki Museum
<http://malkimuseum.org>

Arch in the Park
Saturday, October 19
San Diego County Archaeology Society
<https://sdcas.org/arch-in-the-park>



Here are some additional websites to check throughout the upcoming months:

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>

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