

The Colorado Desert Archaeology

April/May 2025

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.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Calendar
- 3 Advisory Group Coordinator
- 4 CDAS Decals Available
- 5 Spring Potluck and Awards
- 7 Medicinal Plant Walk
- 8 Site Steward Report
- 8 From the Field
- 9 Arch Tech Coordinator
- 10 Book Review
- 11 Member Profile: *Neil Cadwallader*
- 12 Southern California Archaeology

NOTES FROM THE PARK

Hayley Elsen

Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison

Celebrating a Season of Hard Work & Dedication

As the desert starts to heat up volunteer work starts to move to the mountains, the hustle and bustle of the Archaeology Society calms down for a couple months. I want to acknowledge all the hard work accomplished during the 2024-2025 season. A special thank you to those who dedicated their time to the Soil Test Surveys and Discovery Surveys. You've helped uncover important findings that will guide future conservation efforts, and your hard work has not gone unnoticed. The organization and execution of Archaeology Day was phenomenal and a great way to educate the public, as well as volunteers who assisted at other outreach events such as Arch in the Park. I am so thankful for the tireless work of the site stewards who visit their sites every season to keep me updated on any concerns or changes at the site. Thank you all for everything you do. It was so nice to celebrate everyone's hard work at the Volunteer Potluck.



Arch Tech Class: A Milestone Reached

February saw the completion of the classroom portion of the Archaeological Technician (Arch Tech) Class. Eighteen dedicated individuals have successfully finished this rigorous portion of the training, and we're excited to see them take what they've learned and apply it in the field.

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 p.m.
Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon
*(Call to confirm library
is open)*

CDAS ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month:
3 p.m., Virtual, via Zoom

**Last meeting of the season:
April 17**

NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

Our volunteers have already begun assisting with surveys, helping to uncover and protect valuable cultural and historical sites. Their enthusiasm and commitment to archaeology are essential to our mission.

Apple Tree Pruning: A Winter Tradition

While the apple trees are dormant this time of year, it's still been a busy season for orchard maintenance. As part of our ongoing conservation efforts, we have been hard at work pruning the apple trees. This task, though quiet in the winter months, is vital to the health of the trees and ensures that they'll continue to flourish in the spring.

Fire Preparedness at the District

Andie this season has spent countless hours developing a new READ binder. This binder will be an essential tool for READs (Resource Advisors) and first responders during fire season, ensuring that both natural and cultural resources are protected during emergency situations. Andie's work on this project has laid the groundwork for an invaluable resource that will make a lasting impact for years to come. The binder can be used by Resource Advisors and CalFire to identify areas with sensitive resources and use that information to make informed decisions about fire suppression tactics.

As we close out this season and celebrate all the accomplishments, we're already looking ahead to the next. Thank you to everyone who has contributed this season. Your efforts are what make our program so successful! Let's continue the work and the tradition of protecting our shared heritage!

EDITORS' NOTE: WE WELCOME YOUR ACTIVITIES!

THE CDAS BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED ONLINE IN FIVE ISSUES,

SEPTEMBER THROUGH APRIL/MAY.

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

SALLY BICKERTON AT: SALLYBIC@COX.NET

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE 2024/25 SEASON! THE BULLETIN WILL RETURN WITH THE FALL KICKOFF ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER. HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL!

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 Wiedenkiller
pwiedenkiller@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

500kV POWER LINE THREAT TO ANZA-BORREGO AND PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

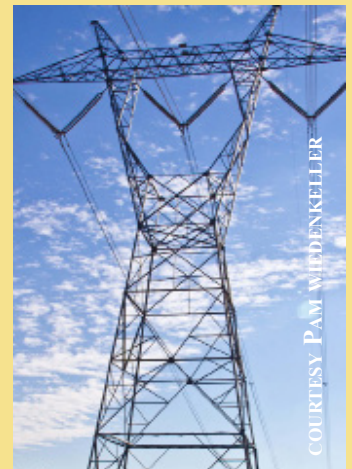
At our February monthly meeting, we had the opportunity to hear from Bri Fordem, executive director of the Anza-Borrego Foundation, about the proposed 500kV transmission line that could have a significant impact on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Palomar Mountain. This project, part of California's push for renewable energy infrastructure, would stretch from Imperial Valley to San Onofre, with potential routes cutting through the park's protected lands.

Bri outlined the concerns surrounding this project, including:

● **Environmental and Cultural Impact:**
The construction of massive transmission towers would disturb wilderness areas, archaeological sites and sensitive habitats in one of the most biodiverse regions in the state.

● **Regulatory Challenges:**
Legislative efforts to streamline environmental reviews for projects like this could limit opportunities for public input and weaken protections for public lands.

● **Long-Term Consequences:**
While the line is intended to support California's clean energy goals, its placement raises critical questions about balancing infrastructure expansion with preserving natural and cultural resources.



COURTESY: PAM WIEDENKELLER

Transmission line similar to those that could impact Anza-Borrego

The project is still in its early stages, with formal public comment opportunities expected in the future. In the meantime, the Anza-Borrego Foundation is actively engaged in discussions with stakeholders to advocate for the park's protection.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Reminder to Volunteers

As volunteers representing Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, we are asked not to voice personal opinions about this project while in our official capacity. However, as private citizens, you are encouraged to stay informed and express concerns through appropriate channels when the opportunity arises.

For updates and ways to stay engaged, you can visit the Anza-Borrego Foundation's website: www.theabf.org.

To hear Bri Fordem's entire presentation from our February Meeting, visit the CDAS website <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/> for meeting recordings. Click the arrow to start the recording of our February meeting. Bri Fordem is the first guest speaker. While her presentation is focused on Anza-Borrego, the same line threatens to go up and over Palomar Mountain.

As our season comes to a close, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your time, effort, and dedication to CDAS. We simply couldn't do what we do without you.

There's so much to be grateful for—and even more to look forward to. Now it's time to set our offseason goals! Mine is to create a draft of our very own CDAS Volunteer Manual. What's yours? Maybe you'll send in a new What's That? submission or share a discovery you made while exploring our amazing park.

Whatever you choose, I hope it brings you joy and refreshes your spirit. I'll be looking forward to reconnecting with you in the fall.

Wishing you all the best,

Pam Wiedenkiller
Advisory Group Coordinator



**CDAS DECALS
AVAILABLE!**



TO GET YOURS, EMAIL SCOTT McCLINTOCK:

PalomarTowers@gmail.com

A \$5 DONATION IS APPRECIATED

SPRING 2025 POTLUCK AND AWARDS

MARCH AWARDS MEETING AND POTLUCK

by Kathy Pratschner

Thirty-five CDAS members and friends enjoyed a delicious lunch at Pat and John Downing's home on Saturday, March 8. Scott McClintock opened the meeting that followed the lunch, and thanked them for generously opening their home to us. The views of Palomar Mountain dusted with snow from their back yard were gorgeous. Eugenie Newton then gave a summary of the native plant walk that was led by Ami Admire, Payomkawichum plant gatherer, on the Rincon Reservation prior to the lunch. See Page 7.

Associate State Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison HayleyElsken stated that state parks are not impacted by the federal government cut-backs. Governor Newsom has asked California agencies to consider hiring laid off Federal employees for available positions.

Parks have cut some positions, but the hiring freeze has been lifted for other positions. Several California Department of Parks and Recreation officials are scheduled for a tour and meeting of our district on March 25 and 26.

Hayley also reported that the Sentenac survey is done. Coyote Canyon remains closed and a private company will be used to complete an archaeology survey prior to plans for any re-route of the road. In Tribal news, an application to rename Stonewall Peak to the native name has been submitted. Fuel reduction work is scheduled at Palomar in the coming months.

Pat Downing provided a site steward update and welcomed the 18 new stewards to the program. She also thanked all site stewards for their work. Pam Wiedenkeller welcomed the new class of arch techs, who now are scheduled to complete a survey with Hayley and begin working with more experienced arch techs in the coming months. She congratulated Eugenie for participating in the most surveys last year, at seven. A total of 28 arch techs participated in field work during the 2024 season

John Downing and Patty McFarland handed out volunteer hour pins to many members. Those that received awards for 1,000 hours or more are:

- 1000: Patty McFarland, Pam Wiedenkeller**
- 1500: Lance Deibler, Eugenie Newton**
- 3000: Paula Huls, Don Endicott**
- 4000: Llouise Jee**

Hayley presented the Archy and Rising Star awards, as reported on pages 6 and 7. It was a wonderful way to end to a beautiful day.



MANY THANKS TO PAT AND JOHN DOWNING FOR HOSTING THE SPRING 2025 CDAS POTLUCK AND AWARDS, AND TO PHOTOGRAPHERS SALLY BICKERTON AND LAURIE BRINDLE FOR SHARING THEIR IMAGES OF THE EVENT. ADDITIONAL PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN ON FACEBOOK AT [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/COLORADODESERTARCHAEOLOGYSOCIETY/?REF=SHARE&MIBEXTID=NSMWBT](https://www.facebook.com/groups/coloradodesertarchaeologysociety/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWBT)

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CDAS VOLUNTEERS

The Archy Award—Pam Wiedenkeller

A hearty round of applause erupted when Pam Wiedenkeller was awarded the prestigious CDAS Archy Award during the annual CDAS spring meeting on Sunday, March 8, at the beautiful Valley Center home of Pat and John Downing.

This honor was initiated in 2019 by former Associate State Archaeologist Robin Connors and Hayley Elsken to recognize a volunteer who has put in “...effort and heart in making our archaeology program viable and vibrant.” Pam is being honored for her extraordinary support and guidance to the CDD Archaeology Program.

Pam’s leadership, knowledge and ability to get things done have resulted in an exceptionally productive and successful year for CDAS. In the relatively short time that Pam has joined CDAS, she has logged an impressive 1,287 lifetime hours.

Hayley talked about Pam’s achievements as she presented the award, “Last year, Pam was recognized by her fellow CDAS members with the inaugural Above & Beyond Award. I was ecstatic to be able to honor her with the Archy Award this year.

“Pam not only acts as the archaeology technician coordinator, but also the coordinator for CDAS. She



Hayley Elsken presents the Archy Award to Pam Wiedenkeller

PHOTO BY LAURIE BRINDLE



has turned the monthly meetings into an informative, collaborative and educational monthly event. She has truly made my life easier, always coming up with ways to be more efficient and streamlined with the archaeology technician surveys.

“The standardization and organization of paperwork and forms have made the completion of paperwork after surveys much easier and many volunteers have been completing the paperwork on their own now.”

And last but certainly not least, Pam’s energy and strong hiking skills should be noted here, as well as her very cool Jeep that she drives on the most challenging trails throughout the Colorado Desert District.

Congratulations, Pam!



Photos of Pam in the field courtesy of Scott McClintock

—Laurie Brindle

The Rising Star Award: Karla Bondy



Karla Bondy

Congratulations to Karla Bondy, the recipient of the 2025 CDAS Rising Star award! This award, initiated last year by Hayley, honors newer members who come into the program and essentially hit the road running. Karla more than qualifies for this award.

At the awards presentation, Hayley talked about Karla’s willingness to immediately get to work. “Karla went on the second most surveys of any arch tech in CDAS. She assisted Archaeological Specialist Andie Robinson with many of the surveys at Sentenac and has gone on NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and Discovery surveys.”

“She has become part of the CDAS library team and makes sure the library is open on Thursdays for the public and CDAS members to access books and materials from 12 to 3 p.m.”

“Karla has also stepped up to assist with a school group and played a Kumeyaay board game with the students.”

Thank you, Karla. It’s great to have you part of the CDAS team!

—Laurie Brindle

MEDICINAL PLANT WALK WITH AMI ADMIRE

by Sally Bickerton

Saturday, March 8, was a beautiful morning to walk through the Rincon Indian Reservation with 22 other CDAS members and learn about traditional uses of California plants. Ami Admire of the Payómkawichum Nation led the walk and shared some of the many ways the plants we were viewing have been used for centuries as medicines, salves, teas, food, tools, dyes and more. She identified plants and their Chemtéela name, told traditional stories, shared some of her personal history, and talked about current issues facing the Payómkawichum and reservation land. It was an opportunity for us all to gain insight as well as new knowledge.



Ami Admire

PHOTO BY LAURIE BRINDLE



Ami, talking about the Elderberry tree's many uses

PHOTO BY SALLY BICKERTON



Group photo of medicinal walk attendees

PHOTO BY SALLY BICKERTON

SITE STEWARD REPORT

It was nice to see so many site stewards at the Spring Awards potluck. Some of this information is a repeat of my report at the meeting after the potluck, but it bears repeating. 2024 was a very successful year for Site Swards with 97 site visits. All 18 new 2024 Stewards adopted one or more sites to monitor and visited them with a mentor for an initial site visit. Our mentors play a crucial role in our training program. Special thanks go to mentors Sally and John Bickerton, John Downing, Don Endicott, Patty McFarland, Scott McClintock, Adam and JC Niesley, Eugenie Newton and Pam Wiedenkiller. John Downing gets extra recognition as he did six setups.

I always like to recognize our most active stewards: Brenda Wills and Eli Vasquez made 11 site visits in 2024, Kathy Pratschner made 10 and Scott McClintock did nine visits. That's a lot of reports! Thank you.

Overall, there were very few impacts, mainly illegal firepits that were discovered after the fact. But Lance Deibler and Mary Lou White had some excitement as they encountered an active impact with illegal camping, guns displayed with evidence of shooting, a firepit and trash. The perpetrators were present, but Lance and Mary Lou managed to calmly extricate themselves from the situation and report it to the rangers.

— Pat Downing
pdsnewmail@gmail.com



PHOTO BY LAURIE PUBLICOVER

Palomar stewards Laurie Publicover and Bill Phillips are proposing a new photo station after their recent site visit.

FROM THE FIELD



PHOTO BY SCOTT MCCLINTOCK

Don't you love it when artifacts come with a date stamp? Don Endicott and Scott McClintock took an exploratory side trip between photo stations at Indian Hill near the now defunct San Diego Arizona Eastern Railroad and came across this construction roller with "April 22 1919" inscribed on the side. Railroad construction was completed on November 15, 1919.

FROM THE ARCH TECH COORDINATOR

Recognizing Our Discovery Survey Leaders and Accomplishments

As our first season of Discovery Surveys wraps up, we want to recognize the hard work and leadership of Rick and Paul Huls, Brenda Wills, Eli Vazquez, and Mandi Carter. Thanks to their efforts in the field, we are on track to complete four new Primary Records, a meaningful contribution to our archaeological documentation efforts.

Discovery Surveys rely on teamwork, and each member plays a vital role in the process—from recording milling features and artifacts to mapping locations and completing essential site forms. Together their efforts help build a lasting record of the past.

Thank you again to our survey leaders and team members for making this season a success!

—Pam Wiedenkeller
Arch Tech Coordinator



Discovery Survey in Little Blair Valley
From left: Jennifer Allen, Brenda Wills and Eli Vasquez

BOOK REVIEW

Chiefs and Challengers: Indian Resistance and Cooperation in Southern California, 1769-1906

by George Harwood Phillips (2014)

If you want to delve deeper into the local history of those who came before us, pick up a copy of *Chiefs and Challengers, Indian Resistance and Cooperation in Southern California, 1769-1906*. Originally published in 1975, this second edition (2014) offers expanded insights into the complex and often violent confrontations and relationships between indigenous tribes and Spanish settlers. These events, including the monumental Garra Revolt in San Diego County, have had a lasting impact on life today.

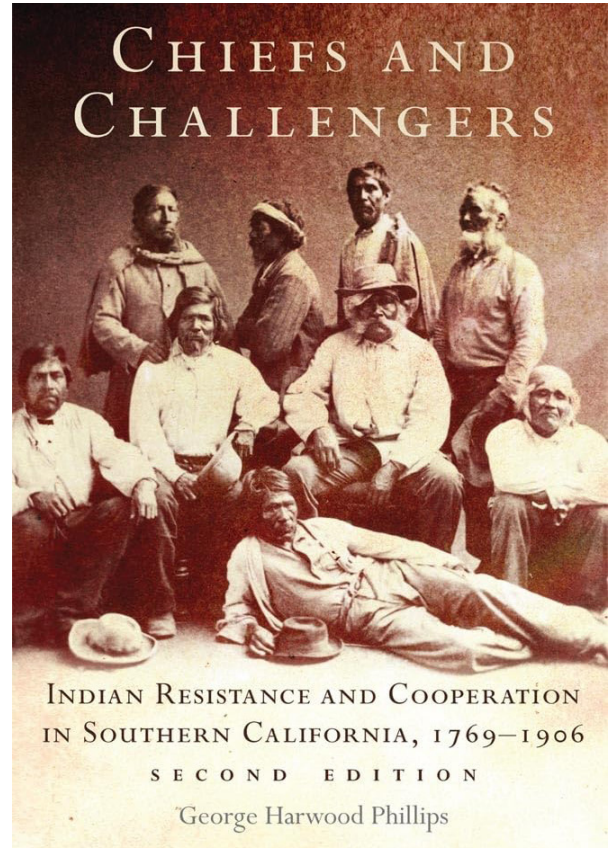
The rebellion, led by Cupeño Antonio Garra in 1851, began with the local tribes' resolute resistance to impending taxes and confiscation of land by the invaders — and ended with Garra's execution and burial in Old Town San Diego in 1852. The subsequent burning and sacking of Warner's Ranch, murderous rampages and Garra's troops retreating to Borrego's Coyote Canyon were key local occurrences during the revolt.

Author Phillips discloses with honesty the details of the participants and writes nuanced Native American portraits. His first edition broke ground with a more balanced perspective of those involved that had been lacking in the 1970s. The expanded 2014 edition contains a fuller disclosure of the incidents that built the situation, starting with first contacts at the Gulf of California and later, Cabrillo in San Diego, then Spanish missions, Mexican and American intervention, up to the early twentieth century. Careful

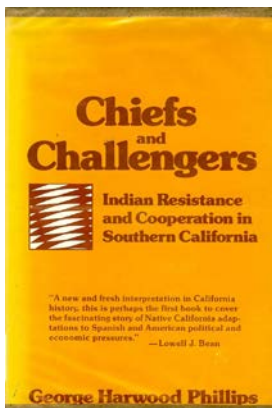
tracing of social, cultural, and

political developments provides detailed accounting of the evolving history. Phillips tells what happened and the multiple participants' perspectives. The interactions and goals of the participants answer, in part, why. This newer edition provides a rich backdrop, unpacking the continuing interactions after the Garra Revolt between the Cahuilla, Cupeño, Luiseño, Kumeyaay, Mexicans, Americans, politicians, Government entities, Indian Agents, and swindlers, to name a few. However, as Phillips indicates in closing, there is much more to consider.

NOTE: *Because Borrego's Coyote Canyon was one of the locales of the monumental Garra Revolt, the 2014 edition was approved for sale at the ABDSP Visitor Center. (Both editions are available in the CDAS library).*



Chiefs and Challengers: Indian Resistance and Cooperation in Southern California, 1769-1906, 2014 edition, 450 pages



Chiefs and Challengers: Indian Resistance and Cooperation in Southern California, 1975 edition, 225 pages

—LLouise Jee

MEMBER PROFILE: NEIL CADWALLADER

Neil Cadwallader started out in Bakersfield, California. Along the way he worked three life-formative seasons of fire prevention and suppression in the Sequoia National Forest. Three years of college, interrupted by six months of milking cows on an Israeli kibbutz, led him to join the US Marine Corps for a four-year interlude. Twenty-eight years later, he finally left that job, having acquired a BS in Meteorology and an MS in Computer Science in his spare time.

Another decade of IT work in the Defense Industry found him at last in a retired state. After a couple of months, his wife strenuously urged him out of the house with an article about volunteering with the newly formed San Diego Forest Fire Lookout Association.



Neil at Sun Cave



Neil taking GPS reading at site in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

The FFLA must have badly needed bodies and Neil found himself happily back in a forest, a place he'd left 40 years earlier. A few years later, people with names like Downing and McClintock convinced him that the CDAS was also an organization worth investigating. Site stewarding became another activity keeping him out of the house and contributing to marital bliss. Sites include Lower Willows, Cedar Grove, and assisting at others. He is routinely gobsmacked by the evidence of past occupants of locations administered by the State Parks. It is a reminder of the commonality and the tenuous connection of all humanity. Among his other volunteer activities over the last twelve-plus years are working at about 50 professional and amateur golf tournaments. His own golf game remains reliably

—Story and photos courtesy of Neil Cadwallader

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>

San Diego Archaeological Center
<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org>

MALKI MUSEUM
<https://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>

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

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



AGUA CALIENTE CULTURAL MUSEUM

SUMMER SUNDAYS

Bring your family and friends to the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum for summer 2025 activities. Learn, create, and explore during select hands-on Sundays from June to July.

RSVP TODAY!

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 11 A.M.- 3 P.M.
PALM CANYON
Learn about Palm Canyon with Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Member Anthony W. Purnel. After you visit the canyons in the Permanent Gallery, complete your own desert animal track art activities in the Museum classroom.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 11 A.M.- 3 P.M.
BEGINNER POTS
Join Museum educators to view and learn about ollas, clay pots, and make a small clay vessel with traditional potter Tony Soares. Please be aware that depending on capacity, there may be a wait to participate.

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 11 A.M.- 3 P.M.
TÁVUT, MÁLMAL, AND MÁNAL
Come discover more about desert plants and animals like the távut (cottontail rabbit), málmal (butterfly), and mánal (beavertail cactus) through art and observation! Create a watercolor landscape project and experience hands-on educational objects.

RSVP for Summer Sundays to programs@accmuseum.org. Space is limited. Free same-day Museum admission with RSVP (admission not guaranteed).
[accmuseum.org](https://www.accmuseum.org)



PHOTO FROM WEBSITE