



SDCAS Newsletter

November/December 2019

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Volume 47, Number 6

The mission of the San Diego County Archaeological Society is to promote public understanding and appreciation of archaeology in general and to encourage the preservation of the cultural resources of San Diego County.

Calendar

Support your Society! Items in boxes are SDCAS-organized or sponsored events

Weekdays through December 31 (8a.m.-5 p.m.)
Liberty Station

"Celebrating the Art in Archaeology" Art Show
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 13 (6 p.m.) Georgina Cole Library (Carlsbad)
Kumeyaay Ethnobotany
See announcement inside (Pg. 10)

November 16 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) Campo Railroad Park
SDCAS Fieldtrip – Train Ride – Centennial Day
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 21-24 -- San Diego State University
California Genocide Conference
See announcement inside (Pg. 10)

November 26 (7:30 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos
SDCAS Fourth Tuesday Meeting
"Archaeology of the Mira Mar Restaurant in Oceanside"
See announcement inside (Pg. 5)

December 10 (1:00-2:00 p.m.) San Diego History Center
Women I Wish I Had Known
See announcement inside (Pg. 10)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

See Members' News Corner inside (Pg. 3) for more Events!

President's Message

By Lauren Downs

The year is almost at an end and I can't believe this is my last President's Message! I've had the privilege of being President for two years now, and it's been great to see the growth in Arch in the Park, participate in Art in Archaeology, venture out on exciting field trips, experience engaging monthly lectures, and welcome new friends into our archaeological community. This past October has been extra special with so many Archaeology Month celebrations around the County. I encourage you to come
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VACANT

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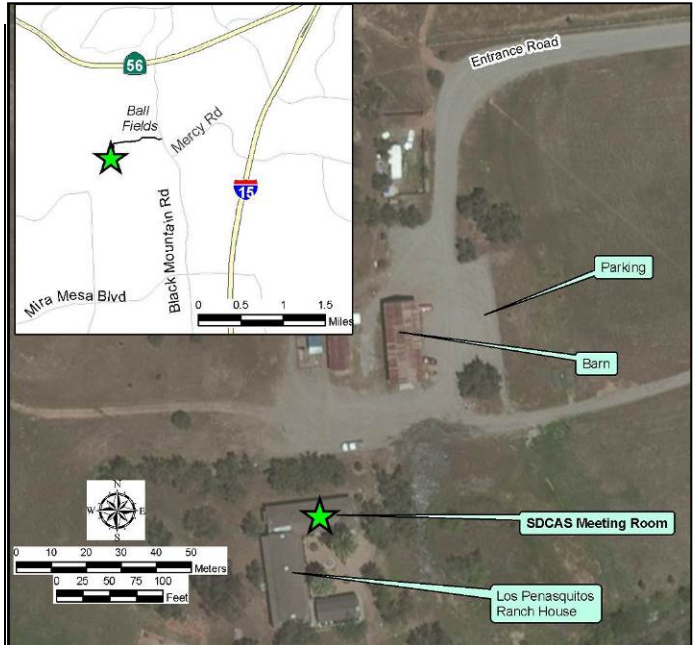
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MEETING INFO: The SDCAS Office is located at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. During the Fall, Winter, and Spring, Monthly Speaker meetings are held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month except December. During the Summer months General Meetings are held on Saturday evenings, in the courtyard at the Ranch House. See pg. 5 for details of upcoming meetings.



Directions to Los Peñasquitos Ranch House: From I-15 take Mercy Rd. west, turn right (north) onto Black Mountain Rd. and then take the first left (Canyonside Park Driveway) into Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Follow the road all the way to the back (past Canyonside Community Park ball fields and through the partially closed gate), and park either in the small parking area by the barn or the larger parking area in the field to the east of the barn.

If you put "Los Peñasquitos Ranch House" into Google Maps, it can also give you specific directions.

Board Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the offices of California State Parks' Southern Service Center in Liberty Station (Barracks 26), 2797 Truxtun Rd., San Diego, CA 92106.

DISCLAIMER: Articles printed in this newsletter are for the information of the members of the Society and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the board members or the Society in general.

Editor's Message

Not sure why the theme of this issue seems to be graffiti, but with two articles on historic graffiti, I guess that's what the universe wants. I know as a State Parks archaeologist, I have recorded my share of historic graffiti: from names and dates on boulders, to historic "rock art" made for early movie filming, to incised inscriptions in concrete, to penciled mining claims on sheet metal in the desert.

I remember in my early days in archaeology someone made the comment when we were grumbling about graffiti scratchings on a rock art panel, that graffiti is really just modern "rock art" that time hasn't yet made interesting. Not that I am in any way condoning modern graffiti – especially the kind that is really more vandalism than anything else – but there is some merit in that statement. The historic graffiti in these articles (see pg. 7 & 8) shows how a name and date (and other inscriptions or drawings), as long as it is more than 50 years old, somehow becomes interesting and helps tell the story of a place.

SUBMISSIONS: Please send all submissions to the email/address below. Emailed digital documents are preferred. Any hard-copy item you wish returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The deadline for the next issue is **December 27**. Please send all items to: Marla.Mealey@parks.ca.gov or to Marla Mealey c/o California State Parks, Southern Service Center, 2797 Truxtun Rd., San Diego, CA 92106.

Members' News Corner

Celebrating the Art in Archaeology – Fifth Annual Archaeology Art Show

In celebration of California Archaeology Month (October) and Native American Heritage Month (November), SDCAS and California State Parks are hosting an archaeology-themed juried art show called "Celebrating the Art in Archaeology" at the California State Parks office in Liberty Station, Barracks 26 (2797 Truxtun Road, San Diego 92106).

The show is free and open to the public on weekdays (M-F) from 8am-5pm, Oct. 7 through Dec. 31.



See Archaeology-themed artwork in four categories:

1. Fine Art (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.),
2. Photography (black & white and color including site photography, artifact photography, etc.),
3. Ancient/Traditional Arts (including basketry, worked stone, pottery, weaving, replicative arts, etc.), and
4. Archaeological Line Drawings (including artifact drawings, sketch maps, profiles, etc.).

SDCAS Fieldtrip: San Diego & Arizona Railway Centennial Celebration

November 16, 2019 at the Campo Railroad Park and Museum.

Join SDCAS for a Centennial Celebration of the San Diego & Arizona Railway on November 16, 2019 at the Pacific Southwest Railway

Museum! An entire day of events associated with the Centennial is planned at the Campo Railroad Park and Museum, and SDCAS will be arranging for a group train ride. Check the SDCAS website (www.sdcas.org) for additional details, and see the full schedule of events at www.psrn.org/centennial-day/



SDCAS Gift Ideas

The holiday season is suddenly upon us. An SDCAS membership makes a lovely gift for your favorite archaeologist. Contact our Membership Chairperson to arrange for a gift membership. There are also a variety of SDCAS merchandise items to choose from (t-shirts, mugs, our popular pins, etc.) that you can either purchase at our monthly meetings (**November 26 is your last opportunity this year – see pg. 5 below for the meeting topic**) or via our online store on our website: <https://sdcas.org/store>

Lunch & Learn with Elsa Sevilla: The Art of Lomaland

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the San Diego History Center. 11:00 – 11:30 am Check-In; 11:30 – 1:00 pm Lunch

Featuring a San Diego's Historic Places film clip and Q & A with Curator Kaytie Johnson. Tickets are \$15 for SDHC members, \$25 for non-members.

Join us at the San Diego History Center for lunch with Elsa Sevilla, watch a KPBS Film clip on the Theosophical Society's history and join the conversation about San Diego's past stories. You can also participate in our historical photo drawing.

Kaytie Johnson will answer questions and provide a behind the scenes look at The Path of the Mystic: Art and Theosophy at Lomaland, a San Diego History Center exhibition. This exhibit features artworks, photographs and archival documents that explore the artistic and cultural history of Point Loma's Theosophical community in the early 20th century.

San Diego Archaeological Center Presents – Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest

Friday, January 10, 2020 at 7pm at the San Diego Archaeological Center (16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027)

The deserts of the American southwest contain one of the largest concentrations of geoglyphs outside of Peru's Nazca Lines. These ancient Native American works of earthen art can be up to hundreds of feet long, and yet are often invisible until viewed from above. Before drones, GPS, or Google Maps, photographer Harry Casey began a unique archaeology project. Armed with nothing more than topographic maps, 35mm film cameras, and his beloved Piper J3 Cub aircraft, Casey spent thirty-five years documenting the region's geoglyphs before natural erosion and human intervention could destroy these fragile sites. A newly published book, *Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest: Earthen Art as Viewed from Above*, authored by Harry Casey and Anne Morgan, collects Casey's photographs into the first visual record of these beautiful and mysterious features. A book signing will take place after the lecture.

Free Tuesday Talk – The Impossible Railroad: A 100 Year History

Tuesday, November 12, 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. at the San Diego History Center (1649 El Prado, Suite 3, San Diego, CA 92101)

In the early 1900s, San Diego was a growing and thriving city, but with no rail transportation eastward. Spearheaded by John D. Spreckels—with his persistence and money—a railroad was constructed that engineers warned would be impossible to build. Starting in San Diego and dipping into Mexico, the "Impossible Railroad" snaked through brutal mountain and rugged desert terrain to connect with the transcontinental Southern Pacific in El Centro. It took twelve challenging years to build, but the 1919 completion was widely celebrated. The week of the talk will be the 100th anniversary of the completion of the SD&A Railway, which still operates along parts of its 148-mile route. Dr. Reena Deutsch will provide an account of the line's dramatic history through vintage photos and gripping narration, as well as an update on plans to re-open the entire route.

(Continued on page 10)

SDCAS Website: www.sdcas.org

<https://www.facebook.com/sdcas>

<https://www.instagram.com/sdcarchsociety/?hl=en>

Arch in the Park 2019 Was Bigger Than Ever, Thanks to All Our Participants and Guests!

Article and Photos by Kris Reinicke



1

The 21st annual Arch in the Park was held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Rancho Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House. Highlights of the day included TWO! Kumeyaay Bird Singing groups, Running Grunion's performance, the Art Show awards, and hourly raffle drawings. Guests enjoyed drawing archaeological illustrations with Donna Walker, seeing flintknapping in action with Victor Herrera, visiting Luna the Western Screech Owl at the Project Wildlife table, and seeing archaeological reproductions of prehistoric tools and weapons made by David Shockey.



2

This year we had a record number of participants from archeology firms, museums, environmental groups and societies, a total of 39 groups. The help of many people was key to the success of the event. I'd like to extend heartfelt appreciation for the hard work of many Society members. Special thank yous to Pearl George's selling skills at the merchandise table, Marla Mealey for putting together the awesome, themed raffle baskets, and Kathleen Erickson for her

hard work before and during the event. Around 400 people attended the event throughout the day!

SDCAS would like to thank this year's participants and extend a very special thank you to our generous sponsors: LSA Associates, AECOM, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, HELIX Environmental Planning, the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, Loveless Linton, Inc., ICF, Insignia



3



4

Environmental, and the Society for California Archaeology. We also owe a great deal to the rangers at the Rancho Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House for their involvement in helping this event run smoothly. The appearance of Popcorn and Base, the ranch's resident goats, was a special addition this year.



5



6



7

Photos:

- 1 Kumeyaay Bird Singers & Dancers
- 2 Victor Herrera flintknapping
- 3 Rachel Bilchak at Diania Caudell's basket weaving table
- 4 Project Wildlife volunteers Kristina and Kyle Utne with Luna the Western Screech Owl
- 5 Diania Caudell at her basket weaving table
- 6 David Shockey archeological reproductions
- 7 Michelle Levesque, ranch ranger, with Popcorn & Base

Upcoming SDCAS Meeting

SDCAS Monthly Meetings are free and open to the public

**November 26 (Fourth Tuesday) 7:30 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos (see page 2 for directions)**

Topic: *Archaeology of the Mira Mar Restaurant in Oceanside.*

Presenter: Annemarie Cox

The Mira Mar Restaurant in Oceanside, popular with locals and travelers along the coast road between San Diego and Los Angeles, was originally built in 1887 as the Coutts



family home. First converted to a restaurant in the 1930s, it expanded over the decades to include a hotel, coffee shop, and nautical-themed bar. Project excavations

near the property last year turned up a host of artifacts from the Mira Mar's past. This lecture, presented by Annemarie Cox, one of the archaeologists on the project, will describe how compliance archaeology can produce collections that are quite "revealing."

Annemarie Cox is an archaeologist and marketing manager at PanGIS, Inc., an environmental consulting and GIS firm in Carlsbad. She has over 27 years of experience in the cultural resource management field and is a registered site steward for the California Archaeological Site Steward Program (CASSP) managed by the Society for California Archaeology.

There is no monthly meeting in December

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

President's Report

to our last field trip of the year, the Centennial Celebration Day of the San Diego & Arizona Railway, and attend our final lecture of 2019, in which Annemarie Cox will discuss interesting archaeological finds at the MiraMar Mobile Community in Oceanside likely associated with the non-extant MiraMar Restaurant and Hotel. See you all soon!

Membership Report

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their memberships for 2019. The year is winding down and it will soon be time to renew for 2020. If you have yet to renew, please feel free to reach out to membership@sdcas.org, renew online at www.sdcas.org, or via snail mail at P.O. Box 81106 San Diego, CA 92138. Standard annual renewals are \$30, while student renewals continue to be \$15. Or consider becoming a life member (\$300) and you won't have to remember to renew every year!

Advantages of membership include fun, educational and archaeologically focused field trips that are free for

members, along with this wonderful, informational newsletter! Membership fees also help to fund free activities for the public, such as Arch in the Park. We could not perform our mission of public outreach for cultural resources without your help and support!

Membership Chair: Isabel Cordova
email: membership@sdcas.org

SDCAS October Lecture Write-up

By Christine Lambert

Has Jack the Ripper Finally Been Found? Using DNA on Old and New Crimes

DNA & Cold Cases: A New Twist on Old Crime

Presented by Sandra Pentney and Karen Lacy

Driving along the dusty dirt road leading to the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House in the dark was the perfect way to start the SDCAS's October evening



lecture on serial killers and DNA. I sat down with my coffee and Halloween cookie to hear Sandra and Karen tell twisted tales of real-life murder cases, and how DNA ultimately was used to connect victims to their killers.

The scariest part, however, was learning that DNA is not always enough for a conviction. Years of social injustices, lack of resources, and incompetence by various law enforcement organizations have let killers slip through the cracks and live well into old age, while the families of victims yearn for closure and answers. In California alone, there are over 8,000 untested rape kits due to lack of training, testing protocol, and resources, as well as law enforcement bias.

In more than one instance, police had the gruesome offenders in custody, only to let them go due to "insufficient evidence" or carelessness because the victims were "lower-class" citizens, such as prostitutes. Robert Pickton was one such heinous criminal who escaped custody multiple times between 1978-2001 and managed to murder over 30 men and women (although he was only officially charged with 27). The evidence of human remains on his property is not enough to prosecute Pickton, because there needs to be a way to connect that DNA evidence to a specific crime and victim. The chilling truth is that 80 DNA profiles recovered from his property remain unidentified to this day.

Another fearful fact: DNA evidence is useless if it can't be matched to anyone. For example, the Golden State Killer was a former Navy and police officer who was never required to submit a DNA sample; he knew what evidence investigators would be looking for and was careful not to leave anything behind that could be traced back to him. As of 2002, mandatory DNA sampling is required for new military recruits.

(Continued on page 6)

Fifth Annual “Celebrating the Art in Archaeology” Art Show Opening and Awards Ceremony Recap

By Marla Mealey

There were nearly 100 guests who attended the October 4th Opening Reception of the Fifth Annual “Celebrating the Art in Archaeology” art contest and show at California State Parks’ Southern Service Center. For this year’s reception the guests enjoyed “ARTif-snacks” (a play on “artifacts”) which included bagged snack foods with catalog tags, Joanna Collier’s special cinnamon & dark chocolate “rusted metal” and “square nails,” her white chocolate fluted bowl fragments, and Marla’s cheese dip mano and pestle (see photos).



The art show is presented through a partnership between the San Diego County Archaeological Society and California State Parks’ Southern

Service Center to celebrate California’s Archaeology Month (October) and Native American Heritage Month (November). Please see Members’ News Corner on page 3 above for information about viewing the artwork (the show is open through the end of December).

There were 38 pieces selected in 2019 for exhibition as the best representatives in four categories: Ancient/Traditional Arts, Archaeological Line Drawings, Fine Arts, and Photography – all with an archaeological theme, subject matter, or use of traditional techniques/materials. This year’s Best In Show award went to Lisa-E Fine Art for “Amplified Heart,” which also won first place in the Fine Arts category. People’s Choice went to Douglas Mengers’ photo “MNP Miner’s Cabin”, which also won first place in the Photography category. Other first place winners were Susan Walter for “Chinese Consumer Ceramics” in the Archaeological Line Drawing category, and Kurt McLean for “Suquiñ Matt-J’mok (Olla #3)” in the Ancient/Traditional Arts category (see photos below).



Fine Art



Photography



Archaeological
Line Drawing



Traditional Arts

Special thanks to Joanna Collier, State Parks Archaeologist and Chair of the SDCAS Art Show Committee for leading the planning and coordination of the art show, opening reception, catalog preparation and printing, and for presenting the awards ceremony (held at Arch in the Park on October 19). A big thank you to all the State Parks and SDCAS board members who helped with the Opening Reception (especially Carl Shaffer who does the lighting each year). Special thanks also to our judges: Nicole Bagley, Rebekah Loveless, and Barney Matsumoto as well as to our generous sponsors: Frame It Yourself, The Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House, Loveless and Linton, Mingei International Museum, MLA Design Studio - Landscape Architects, and PanGIS.

SDCAS October Lecture Write-up

(Continued from page 5)

Genealogy studies are a useful way to help investigators look in the right place for suspects, and ideally, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and other large databases will provide millions of DNA profiles with which to compare with evidence found at crime scenes all over the country. However, limitations related to privacy, provenance, contamination, and inter-jurisdictional data sharing make it difficult to draw conclusive connections. The “Chameleon Killer,” was so difficult to track because in addition to the killer’s multiple aliases, states have their own rules about what information can be shared with outside jurisdictions. In 2017, investigators used ancestry websites and missing persons forums to finally link multiple cold cases from the 1970s-1990s to the perpetrator, who had died in custody in 2010.

Finally, when it comes to Jack the Ripper, it seems the case will never truly be solved. The recent DNA evidence found on a scarf allegedly related to one of the Ripper’s victims can’t be reliable due to contamination and problems with the chain of custody of said evidence. Suspects continue to abound, from author Lewis Carroll, Queen Victoria’s personal physician, and a list of other men known to be near London in the late 1880’s.

My takeaway? I want my DNA in as many databases as possible should I become a murder victim someday. And I want to fight for legislation that ensures timely testing of DNA evidence, supporting courageous men and women seeking answers and justice for their assaults. The DNA will speak for those that cannot, as long as someone is willing to listen.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT REMOVED – PLEASE JOIN SDCAS FOR FULL CONTENT NEWSLETTER

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Member's News Corner

(Continued from page 3)

Free Tuesday Talk – Women I Wish I Had Known

Tuesday, December 10, 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. at the San Diego History Center (1649 El Prado, Suite 3, San Diego, CA 92101)

Join Linda Canada, SDHC Community Historian and former archivist and president of the Japanese American Historical Association, for an energizing discussion on five San Diego women who impacted the development and success of Balboa Park and the institutions within it.

Talk: Kumeyaay Ethnobotany

Wednesday, November 13 - 6:00 PM

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany explores the remarkable interdependence between native peoples and native plants of the Californias through in-depth descriptions of 47 native plants and their uses, lively narratives, and hundreds of vivid photographs. It connects the archaeological and historical record with living cultures and native plant specialists who share their ever-relevant wisdom for future generations. Join the Carlsbad Historical Society at the Carlsbad Library for a presentation by anthropologist Michael Wilken-Robertson, whose advocacy and applied research have allowed him to develop lifelong friendships with many Native Baja Californians and to collaborate in cultural revitalization efforts. The talk will explore the fascinating world of northern Baja California's original peoples and their descendants, whose profound knowledge of the land has sustained them from ancient times to the present.

Admission/Cost: FREE

Location: Georgina Cole Library (1250 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008)

Traditional Kumeyaay Basket Weaving Workshop at SDSU

November 14, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Scripps Cottage at San Diego State University.

This workshop will feature several expert Kumeyaay basket weavers from San Jose de la Zorra, Baja, CA, who will give a demonstration of this traditional art, and also talk about their methods.

The event will also feature a presentation by California basket weaver, Willie Pink (Pala).

Pre-registration for hands-on sessions is required. Please email your name and phone number to: AmerianIndianStudies@sdsu.edu

For more info:

<http://newsfromnativecalifornia.com/event/traditional-kumeyaay-basket-weaving-workshop-at-sdsu/>

California Genocide Conference

Free and open to the public

Indigenous Film Festival and music = Thursday, Nov. 21

Conference = November 22 - November 24 at San Diego State University (5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA)

Four days of presentations, music, documentary films, and political action sessions offer attendees a chance to enhance knowledge of the California genocide and Indigenous peoples' history. Engage with others who want to learn more about these topics and come away with new understanding. Come together with the community to share ideas for resolutions that will be sent to state officials at the end of the conference.

For more info: <https://www.sdsu.edu/conferences/native-truth-and-healing> and <https://sctca.net/flyer/california-genocide-conference/>

Rescheduled – 2019 San Manuel Powwow

December 13 - December 15 at CSU San Bernardino, (5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino, 92407)

The 2019 San Manuel Powwow has been rescheduled after the originally scheduled dates were canceled after a wind advisory. The event is set to feature bird singing as well as powwow dancers, drummers, and artisans from across North America. All weekend activities will take place within the stadium and parking lot. **PARKING:** Parking is free to the public. Convenient media parking is available adjacent to the stadium.

PCAS Lectures

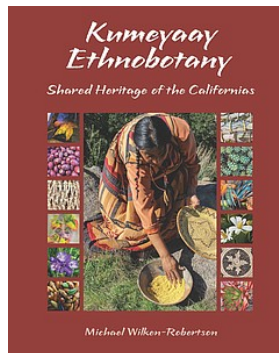
Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Lecture meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Community Room, 15500 Sand Canyon Avenue (between the I-5 and I-405) in Irvine, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public.

- **November 14, 2019** - Barbara Tejada – “*Coming Home to Suikanga: A Journey of Research and Repatriation of the Lost Village of Encino*”

Coordination to reunite and bring the collection from the “Lost Village of Encino” (CA-LAN-43), excavated in 1984-85, to Los Encinos State Historic Park began in earnest in early 2013. From the first delivery in early 2015, to the final van load in fall of 2018, the collection has undergone sorting and rehousing by a team of State Park staff, volunteers, and student interns. Along the way, new information has emerged on the lithics assemblage, olivella grooved rectangular (OGR) beads and bead manufacture, the high incidence of tarring pebbles, and the burial/cremation complex. Working with the Fernandefio Tataviam Tribe, the collection has helped instruct tribal members on lithic technology, and in turn, genealogical research sponsored by the tribe has revealed more about the ethnohistory of the village. Work continues to identify NAGPRA materials in the collection for repatriation. Sorting and cataloging this collection will enable continued research on this important Western Tongva site.

Barbara Tejada is the District Archaeologist for the California State Parks Angeles District, covering park units in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. She has over 20 years' experience in southern California archaeology. In addition to State Parks, Ms. Tejada has worked at Caltrans, the Getty Center and in archaeological consulting. She earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology and geological sciences at UC Santa Barbara, and completed graduate-level coursework at California State University Bakersfield. ...

(Continued on page 11)



Member's News Corner

(Continued from page 3)

Canyoneers Hike: Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area

Sunday, December 15, 2019 8:00 AM

This hike passes through a riparian habitat wildlife area with the remains of a cabin and evidence of floodwaters. Lunch will be along a creek, sitting on boulders before heading back on the trailhead. Two hike options will be offered. A shorter intermediate 4 mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of up to 500 feet or continue on to complete an intermediate 6 mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of up to 1000 feet. Scheduled to end by 11:30 AM.

(Jamul) From I-8, take I-805 S and go 3.9 miles. Exit on CA-94 E (M. L. King Jr. Fwy.) and go 5.2 miles. Keep right to stay on CA-94 E and go 5.1 miles. Turn right on Campo Rd. and go 9.5 miles. Turn left on Honey Springs Rd. and then make a quick left into the parking lot to meet the Canyoneer host. Facilities. (GPS N32.670551, W116.823287).

LA City/County Pow Wow 2019

November 16, at Grand Park (200 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles)

Live music, vendors, and contests.

38th Annual Cabazon Indio Powwow

November 29 - December 1 at Fantasy Springs Resort & Casino, 84-245 Indio Springs Dr., Indio, CA United States

Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend with the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and tribes from across the United States and Canada as they come together to show off their dancing and singing skills through traditional competitions. For more info, visit:

<http://www.crazycrow.com/site/event/cabazon-indio-powwow/>

Memories of Mark A. Roeder

By Susan Walter [read at his memorial on June 1, 2019]

I met Mark in college at San Diego State College. We were in the same archaeology lab methods class, taught very late in the afternoon. In the fall semester that meant it was dark when class let out. This last detail is important because one day I mentioned my car was broken and I was going to have to take the bus to my home in Spring Valley, would Mark accompany me to the bus stop? I didn't like to walk alone in the dark. The campus police had told us there were creeps out there.

Mark offered to drive me home in his car. He even knew where the street I lived on was, he told me.

"Sure" I said. He was a nice guy and we'd gotten pretty friendly over the last few weeks.

So we started out to his car.

We walked, and we walked, and we walked...he casually chatting away and seemingly unaware that the trek to his car was unusually far. We had long passed numerous places where there would have been available spaces along the street.

"What the hell?" I thought to myself as we puffed up to the top of a steep hill several blocks out of the campus.

Finally, finally, we reached his car.

He opened the door, and there was no passenger seat.

"Oh I forgot that" he said.

I gamely squeezed through the piles of papers and boxes and books into the back seat.

He said, "Sorry about the distance; I have to park on a hill so when I coast down the car engine will start."

"No problem" I said eyeing the steep slope and unable to dig the seatbelt out of the clutter.

"Yeah I had to take out the seat because I was hauling some specimens and I just never got it put back in."

"No problem" I said, wedging my feet between specimen boxes in search of the floorboards.

He added, "You know, when you get out you might want to look through your stuff because there are dermestid beetles in here. In fact, that's why I just moved because some of them got out of their boxes - I had them cleaning fish skeletons in my living room - and they started eating the carpets of my apartment. You don't want them in your house; they like the glue in book bindings too."

"Ummm, no problem" I said, thinking about the bugs that were probably going to crawl into my leather shoes.

That was my first real insight into the marvelous Mark Roeder, who I affectionately called Rodie from that night on.

We all know Mark was a paleontologist, but I worked with Rodie on archaeological projects, for which he was a specialist in fish bone identification. I remember he loved to sieve dirt samples for seed beads along with the otoliths.

I'll add that Rodie and I did several children's programs together. He volunteered to bring fossils to several of my kid archaeology classes, including a dinosaur leg bone that was as tall as he was. He gathered and gave away rock collections to each child in the class, spoke directly to them without patronizing them, and answered questions cheerfully.

He loved his mother that he called Gert, enjoyed driving long distances, was interested in his family's genealogy, and he enjoyed all kinds of people. And I can tell you about the determination on his face the day he told me he'd met this girl named Kathy when she was on vacation here in California; he told me he was going to go get her. He said that - he was going to go get her. And he did.

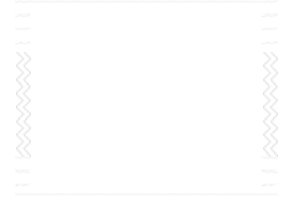
On a personal side, after I married Steve Van Wormer, Rodie often dropped by our house to visit and give us the latest on his varied projects and news about people he knew. I discovered he loved blackberries, and kept baggies of them frozen in the freezer that he'd consume delightedly. He was thrilled when he heard the story of 4 year old Rachael, my daughter, correctly identifying a pentaceratops, which an older kid had wrongly called a triceratops, at a display in the Natural History Museum. He later attended one of the high school plays Rachael was in. Rodie also enlisted my son Aaron in collecting specimens from his fishing expeditions, lending him equipment and teaching him how to label the frozen remains correctly. And when my mom was in hospice, Mark made a couple trips specifically to visit with her.

I miss Mark's professionalism, mellifluous voice, beautiful eyes, generous and kind spirit, curly hair, and warm smile. With affection, I will always remember my friend "Rodie".

[Editor's Note: Mark Roeder passed away on May 1, 2019. His obituary ran in the SDCAS September-October Newsletter.]



San Diego County Archaeological Society
 P.O. Box 81106
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1. The collecting in any manner of archaeological material or data shall be done using contemporary scientific techniques, and shall have as its express purpose the finding and dissemination of information relative to the history and prehistory of California.

2. Provisions shall be made for the housing of archaeological materials and data in accordance with accepted professional practices, and such materials and data shall be made available to qualified individuals through accumulated field notes and records or to the general profession through the publication of findings.

3. The gathering of archaeological specimens or the destruction of archaeological sites for purposes of selling artifacts or personal acquisition shall in all cases be forbidden and shall subject member to expulsion proceedings.

All members will adhere to this Society's Code of Ethics, and to State, Federal, and International Antiquities Laws.

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