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

Every Saturday & Sunday — Los Peñasquitos
Docent tours: Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House
11 a.m. on Saturday and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday

November 10 (11 a.m.) San Diego Archaeological Center
“Marshal South and the Ghost Mountain Experience”
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 15 (7:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.) UCLA
Public Lecture: Cyprus Archaeology
In the Lenart Auditorium, Fowler Museum (Lecture is free to the public. Parking is $8.00 at Sunset and Westwood)

November 15 (9:30 a.m.) Harper Flat
Harper Flat Hike with the Anza-Borrego Foundation
For more information, visit the ABF website:
http://www.theabf.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?view=Event&event_id=174

November 17 (10:30 a.m.) Palm Springs
Preserving the Spirit Class:
Whole Rod Twined Baskets
See announcement inside (Pg. 8)

November 19 (Noon) San Diego Museum of Man
12 O’Clock Scholar:
Shamanism and Rock Art
See announcement inside (Pg. 9)

November 27 (7:30 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos
SDCAS Fourth Tuesday Lecture
Speaker: John Patskan
“GPR Survey To Locate Evidence of Historic Building Sites”
See announcement inside (pg. 6)

December 1 (8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.) Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Symposium: “10,000 Years at Torrey Pines State Reserve: The Land, the Sea, and the People”
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

December 1 (10:30 a.m.) Palm Springs
Preserving the Spirit Class:
Gourd Art Jewelry
See announcement inside (Pg. 8)

December 1 (2:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.) UCLA
Lecture by Professor Payson Sheets, University of Colorado: Ancient Maya Villagers at Ceren, El Salvador: What the Volcano Preserved
In the Lenart Auditorium, Fowler Museum (Lecture is free to the public. Parking is $8.00 at Sunset and Westwood)

December 2 (5 p.m.) San Diego Museum of Man
“Copper Ore Transformed: How People 6,000 Years Ago Made Metal”
See announcement inside (Pg. 9)

December 9 (9 a.m. — 1 p.m.) Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitors Center
ABF Lecture: Native American Peoples with Ruth Nolan
For more information, visit the ABF website:
http://www.theabf.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?view=Event&event_id=178

December 8 (10 a.m. — 2 p.m.) San Diego Archaeological Center
San Diego Archaeological Center Family Day: Children’s Holiday Workshop
See announcement inside (Pg. 5)

December 15 (11 a.m.) — Palm Springs
Bird Song and Dance Festival
Singing the Birds: Wikitmallem Tahmywhae
See announcement inside (Pg. 8)

There is no General Meeting in December
Hope your Holidays are Happy!

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Society for California Archaeology Newsletter

November/December 2007

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Editor’s Message

Wildfires have once again ravaged our county and other counties in southern California. Our thoughts are with our members, friends, and colleagues who lost their houses or were otherwise affected by the fires. We also learned that there were many historic structures, archaeological sites, collections, and other cultural resources that have been damaged or destroyed by the fires. During the fires there were many emails going around the archaeological and historical communities sharing information and concerns about these cultural resources. Some of the information is provided in the article on page 5 (The 2007 Fires Update).

Due to the fires, SDCAS decided to cancel the October General Meeting and the subsequent Saturday fieldtrip to Border Field State Park. Both Therese Muranaka’s talk and the fieldtrip will be rescheduled. Watch for more information on that in the next newsletter.

Hope you all have Happy and Safe Holidays!

SUBMISSIONS: Please send articles, stories, poems, or other archaeology-, anthropology-, or history-related items to me at the address below (email works best). Digital documents (word or text files) are preferred, but others will be considered for inclusion. Hard copy photos of your archaeological experiences (fieldwork, vacations, etc.), a cartoon from the newspaper, etc. should be sent as-is (slides, prints, or clippings); or if you have scanning capability or a digital camera, please email them in JPG, TIF, or GIF format. Any hard-copy item you wish returned (such as photos or slides) should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope, or arrangements can be made to pick up said items.

The submission deadline for the next issue is December 28. Please send all items to:

Marla Mealey
c/o California Department of Parks and Recreation
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 619-220-5329 / FAX: 619-220-5400
email: mmealey@parks.ca.gov

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Los Peñasquitos Ranch House

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

Board Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. They are held at California State Parks, Southern Service Center offices located in Mission Valley at 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 201.

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MEETING INFO: The SDCAS Office is located at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. During the Fall, Winter, and Spring General Meetings are held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month except December. During the Summer months (June, July, August) General Meetings are held on Saturday evenings, in the courtyard at the Ranch House (see pg. 6 for details of upcoming meetings).
Lost and Found
After the September 25th SDCAS General Meeting an electronic device was found and turned in to the Board. If you were at the meeting and left something behind, please send an email to sdcas@mail.com (please include “SDCAS” in the subject line) or call 858-538-0935 with specifics of what was lost and your contact information so we can get it back to you.

SDCAS Field Trip Reschedule:
• Border Field State Park tour and visit to Monument Mesa with State Parks Archaeologist Therese Muranaka

Due to the fires at the end of October, the SDCAS fieldtrip to Border Field State Park had to be postponed. We are now looking to reschedule for sometime in January. Watch for more information in the next (January/February 2008) newsletter.

Marshal South and the Ghost Mountain Experiment: Adapting Indian Ways to Survive and Thrive
November 10, 2007, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. San Diego Archaeological Center. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road.

The San Diego Archaeological Center presents historian and researcher Diana Lindsay, for the Center’s Second Saturday Visiting Scholar Series.

Ms. Lindsay is an editor and author who wrote the foreword for Marshal South and the Ghost Mountain Chronicles: An Experiment in Primitive Living. She will present a Power Point program about South’s stay on Ghost Mountain which includes background information on South that led to his decision to move to Ghost Mountain.

Original film clips of the South family at their Anza Borrego home were later used to create a South documentary film in 2005 entitled “Ghost Mountain: An Experiment in Primitive Living.” The entire 15-minute documentary will be shown during the lecture.

For 17 years, from 1930 to 1947, poet, artist, and author Marshal South and his family lived on Ghost Mountain—a remote, waterless, windswept mountaintop in Blair Valley on the western edge of the Colorado Desert, now part of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Over a period of nine of those years, South chronicled his family’s controversial natural lifestyle through monthly articles written for Desert Magazine. His articles were the reality entertainment of the day—a sort of early version of Survivor with thousands of readers awaiting the next installment.

Filmmaker and Emmy-award winner John McDonald created the film for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center. He describes the film as a saga of a strong, resourceful, and resilient family surviving alone on an isolated mountaintop. He feels the film challenges us to evaluate our own lives and perceptions.

Autographed copies of the South book will be available for purchase following the lecture. A percentage of the proceeds from sales (20%) will be donated to the San Diego Archaeological Center.

Admission to this presentation is free to Center members, suggested $5 donation for non-members. Become a member on the day of the program and enjoy discounts on this and future events at the Center.

Diana Lindsay is a recognized expert on the Anza-Borrego Desert Region and a popular lecturer. She is the author of Anza-Borrego A to Z: People, Places, and Things and the co-author of the area guidebook Anza-Borrego Desert Region. She is the immediate past-president of the Anza-Borrego Foundation. Her newest book is a rediscovery of the magic of Marshal South. It contains all of South’s articles originally published in Desert Magazine from 1939 to 1948.

For more information on this Center event contact (Annemarie Cox) via email at acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org or by phone: 760-291-0370.

10,000 Years at Torrey Pines State Reserve: the Land, the Sea, and the People
A Symposium Sponsored by the Torrey Pines Association and California State Parks. On Saturday, December 1, 2007, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, in the Sumner Auditorium, at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California.

Please join us for a lively update on current understanding of the human ecology in telling the special story of this beautiful and unique landscape.

Torrey Pines State Reserve includes a diversity of habitats – riparian, lagoon, marine, and coastal bluffs with their groves of rare pines – that have attracted human settlement for nearly 10,000 years. Archaeologists and ecologists will discuss their investigations of how early people made their living around the Reserve area. A special focus will be the roles of both marine and terrestrial resources in sustaining the human inhabitants over the millennia.

All are welcome. Admission is free. Please visit www.torreypines.org for more details.

San Diego Archaeological Center’s Family Day Children’s Holiday Workshop
Saturday, December 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027

Is your family looking for a fun and educational way to spend a few hours on a beautiful December day? Discover the San Diego Archaeological Center’s Culture Classroom as it is transformed into a “Children’s Holiday Workshop”.

Young participants ages four and up will learn about the archaeology, history, and natural environment of San Diego with hands-on lessons on pottery, cordage making and Victorian era activities. Combining both imagination and science will engage the youngest person in using critical thinking skills while enjoying a hands-on experience.

Each child will have the opportunity to discover a new ability while replicating essential life skills of people in the past. Young artisans will create unique items such as friendship bracelets, clay vases and sculptures, and picture frames. Perfect keepsakes for holiday gifts.

Favorite teachers, friends and family will delight in receiving a one of a kind present created by a child’s hand.

(Continued on page 8)
2007 Arch in the Park a Success
By Carol Serr

Thanks to the efforts of many of our board members for helping with organization, publicity, etc. we had a successful event on Saturday, October 20. A big thanks to our members for participating with displays or activities also, and to those who helped with set-up and dismantling.

Howard Schwitkis nearly single-handedly ran the mock dig (even though he felt more like a babysitter than ‘instructor’). Steve Bouscaren demonstrated stone tool-making, along with a couple of his City College students. Four City College students, including SDCAS member Mark Stoudt, helped with the event throughout the day. Mark, along with non-member (as of yet) volunteer John Meriwether, were a big help with set-up in the morning. SDCAS members Vernon Montoya and Marie-Louise Harms joined Jim Royle, Patty McFarland, Erin Smith, Marla Mealey, Steve Van Wormer, and Carol Serr to break down the tables and chairs, etc. when all was over.

SDCAS member Linda Lazer was a big hit with kids with her clay booth - many very creative sculptures, containers, etc. were made. Lovely cane baskets were made by visitors under the tutelage of basketmaker Diana Caudell, a member of the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseño Indians, teaches a Cherokee basket-making method because it enables weaving beginners to complete a basket in about 30 minutes. Annemarie Cox, of the San Diego Archaeological Center, taught children how to braid twine.

We appreciate the displays and participation from Brian F. Smith & Associates (Sara Clowery & Seth Rosenberg), California State Parks (Nicole Turner, Niloufar Minovi, & Marla Mealey), Gallegos & Associates (Nick Doose), Cleveland National Forest (Susan Roder), Arcadis’s bone display created by Trish Mitchell, and Susan Walter’s historic Stein Farm button quilt activity.

SDCAS would like to thank Gallegos & Associates for a monetary donation; and Jones & Stokes for production of the signs and posters for the event. And thanks to the County Park docents for providing visitors information on the historic adobe. Also thanks to County Park Rangers Paul Kucharczyk and Autumn Acker, for their coordination efforts. And, can’t overlook thanking the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseño Indians for selling their yummy Indian fry bread and tacos for guests to munch on.

Apologies to anyone overlooked.

(Photos by Marla Mealey)
The 2007 Fires Update
SDCAS board members were sad to learn that the Sikes Adobe in Escondido was burned in the Witch Creek Fire. The Sikes Adobe Farmhouse was a State Point of Historic Interest and a City of San Diego historic site that was being restored by the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority. Its period of significance was from 1869 to 1899, which was the time period when it was occupied by the Sikes family [http://www.sdrp.org/projects/sikes.htm].


The San Diego Archaeological Center (SDAC) was also in the direct line of the fire in San Pasqual Valley, but it did not sustain any fire damage, and just some ash that made its way inside through the vents and doors. The fire destroyed the two little bungalows above the center, which also destroyed the meter for power to the well. Phones and email are not currently working but the Center remains open during normal business hours. You can check their website [http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org/] for more information.

Upcoming Speakers
November 27 (4th Tuesday), 7:30 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos
Presenter: John Patskan
Title: “GPR Survey To Locate Evidence of Historic Building Sites”
San Diego County Archaeological Society is pleased to present John Patskan who will speak about a GPR survey conducted to help define the extent of former historic buildings. The GPR data were augmented with an electromagnetic induction survey, and evaluated in conjunction with archeological evidence observed in a trench adjacent to the site. The targets of the investigation were cobble and tile pavements and foundations located about 0.5 meters below an asphalt covered parking lot. The GPR data produced a large number of reflections within the expected areas for the targets. Unfortunately, reflections that may have been related to the building structures were not convincingly distinguishable from the clutter of the other reflections observed in the data.

December 2007
There is no General meeting in December. Therese Muranaka, the speaker for the general meeting that had to be cancelled in October due to the fires, is being rescheduled for early next year. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Membership News
By Carol Serr, Membership Chair
Welcome new members: Leigh Fenly, Annemarie Cox, Seth Rosenberg, and Susan Ferguson! Make sure to introduce yourselves to others when you attend our meetings, so we can get to know our newest members.

Membership renewal time for our 2007-2008 year is now. Please check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your dues are current. Renewing members need not fill out a form - as long as you include your name, and any contact info that has changed recently. We strongly encourage you to invite co-workers, friends, and relatives to join SDCAS so they can participate on outings along with you, as well as enjoy our informative monthly meetings.

Please send your e-mail address (e-dress) if you haven’t been getting notices via e-mail - or if you recently changed it. Sometimes this is the only way we can notify members of last minute changes. Your e-dress is not shared with the membership or other groups. If you included your e-mail on your application, but are not getting notices - that means the e-dress does not work (or was not written clearly). Also, remember to let us know your new residence address when you move, so we can avoid the exorbitant forwarding fee the post office charges us to get our newsletter to you. Thank you.

e-mail: sdcas@mail.com (please use “SDCAS” in the subject to be sorted out from the plethora of SPAM)
Monthly Meeting Synopses

By Trish Mitchell

[Editor’s note: This is part 2 of Trish’s synopses of the past year’s worth of speakers at our monthly meetings. You can find part 1 in the September/October 2007 newsletter.]

In February 2007 Dr. Dominique Rissolo spoke about Maya cave archaeology.

In March 2007 California State Parks archaeologist Sue Wade spoke about the “Completion of the First Overland Mail in 1857 and its Support Station at Carrizo Gorge”. Shortly after California was annexed to the United States at the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848, reliable and expedited transportation and communication between the West and East coasts became an immediate need. As soon as the war ended, the United States was sending expeditions to explore the southern route for transportation and communication possibilities. In 1849, it became known as the Southern Emigrant Trail, used by thousands of Americans traveling to the gold fields in Northern California. But in 1857, the United State Congress authorized the San Antonio and San Diego Mail to establish an overland mail route between the Mississippi River and San Francisco. The San Antonio & San Diego mail riders, traveling west from San Antonio, arrived in San Diego on August 31, 1857 establishing the first transcontinental mail line. The San Diego Herald proclaimed it “the most important event which has ever occurred in the annals of San Diego, and undoubtedly constitutes an epoch in the Pacific Coast of the Union, which will be recorded and remembered with just pride, long after the mails will have been transported on the great continental railroad, the first rail of which may be thus said to have been laid (San Diego Herald 9-5-1857).

The remarkable accomplishment of establishing the San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line took place 150 years ago in 1857. To commemorate this event, California State Parks (Colorado Desert and San Diego Coast Districts), San Diego County Parks, Cleveland National Forest, Vista Irrigation District, Arizona Historical Society, Colorado Desert Archaeological Society, Temecula Valley Museum, Ramona Trails Association, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association, and numerous individual cultural resource specialists have collaborated to present educational events along the route from Yuma to San Diego. Themes being explored by these events include the evolution of communication in 150 years from the hand-written letter to email, the influence of transcontinental communication on early San Diego and its citizens, the importance of mule and horse transportation to the opening of the California frontier, and the phenomenal efforts of individuals that brought about overland mail transportation. Throughout 2007, these themes will be brought to the public during equestrian reenactments, hiking and car tours, San Antonio and San Diego elementary school video conferencing programs, a historic lecture series, and a grand celebration of the arrival of the Overland Mail in Old Town San Diego August 31, 2007.

In April 2007 Dr. Joseph Ball spoke about Maya archaeology portrayal in the motion picture “Apocalypto”, and the SDSU Maya field school results from the Classic Period site of Acacmul in the State of Campeche, on the Yucatan Peninsula. The title of his lecture was “Apocalypto or Apoloceto: Maya Archaeology at SDSU and According to Mel”. The lecture drew a large crowd (over 200 in attendance) and was quite entertaining. Dr. Ball went over the history of the documentation of the Maya from their contact with Bishop Diego de Landa Calderon, who was Bishop of Yucatan for the present depiction of the Maya and ancient Maya culture in Mel Gibson’s film, Apocalypto. He went on to correct the misrepresentations in the film about the Maya as a people, and also to discuss American archaeology as a group. Some of the misrepresentations in the film included:

- the filming location of Vera Cruz, which is not a part of the Maya area;
- houses and settlements were depicted as barren and soulless, when in reality the homes are clean and the lots are surrounded by agricultural fields;
- the cities were portrayed as filthy and falling apart, when they were really clean and organized;
- the royals were seen as drugged, drunk, and crazed. They were really seen by their own people as respected leaders;
- Mel’s version of warfare was massive, chaotic, and vicious. In reality it was more structured and ritualized like in their painting Bonampak. The purpose was to capture the ruler then force him to play the ballgame, and if he lost then he would die;
- sacrifice in the film showed commoners being used; however in reality it was usually animals and auto-sacrifice of the royals, never the commoners. The blood of the royals was considered divine;
- and, Mel shows the Spanish arriving in the 12th century, several hundred years too early.

The real villain here isn’t so much Mel, as it is Richard Hanson who consulted Mel for this film. Dr. Ball went on to speak about Maya archaeology at SDSU in the Belize Valley (1980s and 1990s), and Campeche (2002-2005). His crews consisted of local Maya excavators and undergraduate and graduate students overseen by his wife, Dr. Jennifer Taschek, in the field, and himself in the lab. These projects were large-scale, horizontal, clearing excavations of palaces. The Belize Valley excavations produced, among other things, the evidence of palace schools for ceramics during the Late Classic Period. At Acacmul in Campeche, this lost city was relocated in 1998; and in 2004 its ballcourt, which was thought not to exist, was found. The ballcourt had been dismantled, as well as the whole center, by Chichen Itza between A.D. 800-850.

In May 2007 Dr. Tim Gross spoke about the trials and tribulations of writing an archaeology textbook. The title of his entertaining lecture was “Seeking Our Past: How a San Diego Archaeologist Wound up Helping to Write a North American Archaeology Text”. What do Glenrose Canny in British Columbia, Fort Rock Cave in Oregon, Ventana Cave in Arizona, and San Diego County’s own C. W. Harris site have in common? Where has the Pacific Period, a construct originally proposed for California archaeology but essentially ignored by many California archaeologists, found new life? What is the connection between Beavis and Butthead and archaeology? A new textbook released this past October by Oxford University Press touches on all these points. G. Timothy Gross, the second author of this book, Seeking Our Past: An Introduction to North American Archaeology, discussed his book and how it came to be written. He read passages from the text, explained how the books senior author, Professor Sarah W. Neusius of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, needed help writing the western archaeology section of the textbook and invited him to work on the text with her, and how they managed to talk some very notable archaeologists into contributing case studies. Sarah and Tim put case studies in almost every chapter, and included profiles of people who really work (Continued on page 7)
in cultural resource management. Some of the problems they had with the book included tracking down the ownership of photos they wanted to use in the text, as well as finding authors to get permission to use some of those case studies. As for the connection with archaeology and Beavis and Butthead (I know you’re dying to find out): Jim Judge! Southwest archaeologist, who collaborates between academia and government agencies, is the father of Mike Judge (creator of Beavis and Butthead). Uh huh...small world.

In June 2007 archaeologist Bill Welsh spoke about underwater archaeology sites. His title was “Stone Bowls off the San Diego Coast”. He spoke about the submerged cultural heritage of San Diego County, which is extensive. A sample of those resources were analyzed here with specific attention paid to an anomalous artifact type; the sandstone mortar. These artifacts, which appear in abundance throughout Southern California, are unlike anything found on land. They are of a size, shape, design, and material all their own. The deposition of these artifacts is the source of debate over intentional deposition from watercraft being the most widely accepted theory. A general overview of the stone bowls located on terrestrial sites throughout the county from Solana Beach southward is presented with the intention of drawing the stark differences between these two seemingly benign artifact types into contrast. Bill discussed the conditions of 173 bowls, but said that there are hundreds and thousands of bowls out there. Rust stains were present on 51%, which means they had contact with metal and were probably exposed in a historic context; 38% had extensive rust growth; and 60% had unintentional breakage. They were made of sandstone, cobble, or basalt, and 4% were rendered unusable (as holes were bored in them). The study area was the La Jolla Shores/Cove area, which was close to terrestrial sites and easy to dive. Some of the issues with the study was the transport of sediment; diver recognition of the bowls; and the more dives need to be made to further this research. Bill’s view sparked some lively discussions from the crowd and made for a very lively evening. Several hypotheses were bantered about as to the deposition of these artifacts which included ceremonial placement in the ocean; terrestrial sites that are now submerged; and bowls that were used for grinding dried fish for chum while fishing and subsequently fell overboard. Interestingly enough, the bowls are found in areas associated with fishing.

In July 2007 Dr. Eleanor (Norrie) Robbins spoke about a controversial topic regarding the transport of plants to the New World. Her title was “Late Paleolithic Transport of Medicinal Plants to North America—When, What, Where, How, Why, and Who?” Knut Fladmark hypothesized that as soon as boat technology was well hold the evidence that ancestors arrived here very, very long ago in boats.

Members’ News Corner

San Diego Archaeological Center’s Family Day
Children’s Holiday Workshop
(Continued from page 3)

Center staff and volunteers will be on hand to guide the participants with their projects, while accompanying adults enjoy the Center’s award winning exhibits, research station and hands-on archaeology lessons located in the newly expanded Museum.

All visitors to the Center Museum on Saturday, December 8 are invited to enjoy a mug of hot cocoa or cider and cookies provided by Center Board of Trustees.

Materials and supplies for all “Children’s Holiday Workshop” activities will be provided. Festive holiday wrapping and tags will also be available for the participants to keep their gifts a surprise.

Admission to this activity is free to Center members, suggested $5 donation for non-members, $10 maximum for families. Become a member on the day of the program and enjoy discounts on this and many events to come in 2008.

Preserving the Spirit Class: Whole Rod Twined Basket

November 17, 2007 10:30 AM. As part of the Museum’s commitment to the preservation of basketry, the Preserving the Spirit series offers a unique class in whole rod twined basket making. Renowned Southern California basket maker Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay) will share her knowledge and artistry of this unique basket-making technique. Class participants will make a personal twined basket and gain increased understanding of the art of basketry. Location: Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, 219 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262. RSVP: 760-778-1079, ext. 116.
Members’ News Corner

Preserving the Spirit Class: Gourd Art Jewelry
December 1, 2007 10:30 AM and December 2, 2007 11:00 AM. Gourds are an important material in Native American culture. They are used for a variety of purposes. Amil Pedro (Cahuilla/Quechan) will demonstrate for students the many possibilities of gourd art jewelry making. Materials will be provided for this two-day open-enrollment class. Participants are encouraged to bring personal decorative items and wear appropriate attire. Location: Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, 219 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262. RSVP: 760-778-1079, ext. 116.

Bird Song and Dance Festival
December 15, 2007 11:00 AM. Singing the Birds (Wikitimallem Tahmuwhae). Come and celebrate traditional bird singing and dancing. Through the ages, bird singing and dancing has been a vital part of Native culture for tribes in Southern California and other regions of the Southwest. This day long event will feature honored bird singing groups and dancers. Vendors will have food, beverages, and merchandise available for purchase.

Date: Saturday, December 15, 2007
Time: 11:00am – 8:00pm
Location: The Pavilion Auditorium (Sunrise Park)
401 S, Pavilion Way, Palm Springs
Fee: Free Admission

Museum of Man 12 O’Clock Scholar Lecture: Shamanism and Rock Art
Monday, November 19. The interpretation of rock art is one of the most vexing problems in archaeology. American Indian shamanism has provided one of the most popular contexts for rock art interpretation, but also some of the most heated controversy. In this lecture, Ken Hedges will present an overview of shamanism and rock art, outlining the ways we can use shamanism to give insight into rock art images while avoiding the pitfalls of an oversimplified shamanistic model. Lecture is in the Gill Auditorium and is included with regular Museum admission of $8 for adults; $6 for seniors over 65 (with ID); and $4 for children 6-17. The lectures are free for Museum of Man members and children under 6. Please call 619-239-2001 for further information.

Copper Ore Transformed: How People 6,000 Years Ago Made Metal (Museum of Man Lecture)
Sunday, December 2, 2007. Thomas Levy, Ph.D., Andreas Hauptmann, Ph.D., Mohammad Najjar, Ph.D. Presentation and demonstration of copper smelting, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Entrance includes a tour of the Journey to the Copper Age exhibition. $20 general public; $10 Museum of Man members, seniors, and military. Limited to 60. Call (619) 239-2001 for reservations.

CSU-Northridge Powwow

SDAC Excellence in Archaeology
Escondido, CA - The San Diego Archaeological Center hosted the Excellence in Archaeology Celebration and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 6, 2007.

Excellence in Archaeology honored outstanding archaeological projects curated at the Center that represent Excellence in Education, Cultural Heritage, and Scientific Research. Awards were presented to the collaborative partners in the project (the developer, the Cultural Resource Management company, and the permitting agency) in three especially meritorious projects.

Honorees received awards to keep and three handcrafted fused glass awards designed by archaeologist, Center Trustee and event cochairman, Rob Case, will be on display for one year with a permanent plaque to denote each year’s winning project in each of the three categories.

The criteria for awards are as follows: Education – The project whose collection and analysis best interprets and presents San Diego prehistory or history in a manner that is accessible to a variety of age groups.

Cultural Heritage – The project whose collection, analysis and interpretation highlighted an aspect of the cultural diversity that is the hallmark of San Diego’s past.

Scientific – The project whose fieldwork and analysis exemplifies innovative techniques, methodologies, or interpretations of San Diego’s archaeological record.

The winning projects were:

I. Education


Archaeological Firm: Gallegos & Associates, Carlsbad, CA

 Principal Investigator/Authors: Dennis R. Gallegos, Carolyn Kyle, Adella Schroth, and Patricia Mitchell

 Developer: City of San Diego and Caltrans, District 11

 Lead Agency: City of San Diego and Caltrans, District 11

 This comprehensive management plan is the first known in San Diego County where an entire region is researched and planned for cultural resources preservation rather than on a site-by-site, or parcel basis. Over 100 archaeological studies including Remington Hills, Kuebler Ranch, Otay Mesa Road, State Route 905, California R.J. Donovan project, East Mesa Detention Center, and Schott Homestead; and, 362 archaeological sites were reviewed for this study. Artifacts from these sites, as well as from Calpine Otay Mesa projects, and the McCool/Lohman Homestead: 1880s to 1940s were used in an exhibit “The View from Otay Mesa: Cultural Landscapes through Time,” enjoyed by over 1 million people throughout the county.

II. Cultural Heritage

Awardee: Every Bit of Rubbish: Archaeological Data Recovery for the Liffreng House Dump (CA-SDI-10,895), 2001

Archaeological Firm: Walter Enterprises, Chula Vista, CA

 Principal Archaeologists: Stephen R. Van Wormer and Susan D. Walter

 Developer: Shea Homes, San Diego, CA

 Lead Agency: County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use, San Diego, CA
In 1925, for the first time in the history of the nation, more people lived in cities and towns than on farms. The artifacts left by an immigrant family demonstrate this important 20th century social transformation through generational shifts in lifestyle experienced by the women of the family. This project documents the changes in a rural settlement from the 1890s through the 1930s. The artifacts were used in an exhibit “Moments in Time,” which documented some of the most significant events in American history as lived by San Diegans and featured at the San Diego International Airport and the Center. The everyday objects discovered at the site, used and then discarded, capture significant details not often noted in history books. By describing these events at the level of the individual, we hope to bring a new understanding of the past.

III. Scientific

Awardee: Data Recovery at CA-SDI-10,156/12,599H: Archaeological Investigations in Support of the Levee/Bridge Construction Project, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, 2002

Archaeological Firm: EDAW (KEA), San Diego, CA

Principal Investigators: Andrew L. York, Alex Kirkish, Stephen Harvey with contributions by Jackson Underwood and Tanya Wahoff

Developer: Stanley Berryman, Cultural Resources Management Branch head, MCB Camp Joseph Pendleton, Oceanside, CA

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Navy Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, San Diego, CA

This study included thorough, detailed analyses of all types of cultural and ecofactual materials from the ethnohistoric village of Topomai, including geomorphology, radiocarbon dates, obsidian studies, ceramics (including petrography and NAA), vertebrate fauna, pollen analysis and macrobotanical analysis. The exciting alfresco event included the Excellence in Archaeology awards ceremony, behind-the-scenes tours of the Center, presentations on the history of the Center, fine food by Four Seasons Catering, entertainment by Spanish guitarist Antonio Fernandez as well as silent and live auctions. Families were welcome and there were activities designed for would-be archaeologists of all ages.

Many San Diegans don’t know that there are over 20,000 archaeological sites in San Diego County. Most of these sites were discovered during the course of development. This event honors the people who bring the past to light through archaeology. Excavated artifacts are curated at the Center where they can be used in education, cultural and scientific programs.

Excellence in Archaeology provided a unique opportunity for the public to learn about the men and women who are preserving San Diego’s past for current and future generations.

The event raised over $11,000. Proceeds from Excellence in Archaeology will support the San Diego Archaeological Center’s ability to provide archaeology exhibits, outreach events and educational programs for students, educators and the general public that convey the depth and importance of California’s rich cultural heritage.

For more information on the Center and for upcoming events visit the SDAC’s website at www.sandiegoarchaeology.org.

Obituary

We Lost Another Good Friend: Gil Boggs (1913-2007)

By Ron May

The San Diego County Archaeological Society lost another good friend this summer. I find it hard to imagine a trip to Baja California or Table Mountain without thinking of Gil Boggs. He and his wife, Toy Boggs, found one of our lecture announcements hanging on a wall at the University of California, San Diego in 1975 and began attending our meetings. I am pretty sure they joined in the first Table Mountain Survey that year and continued actively over the years. Even after Toy passed away, Gil continued on field trips, lectures, test trenches at Bonsall, events at Los Peñasquitos, and Fort Guijarros. After he remarried to Orpha Boggs, they attended Halloween Parties at Fred Buchanan’s House in Mission Hills.

As with many of us, SDCAS served as a meeting hub in Gil’s busy life. He and Toy were retired by 1975 and actively signing up on academic field trips to Costa Rica and Central America with the University of California Extension. Gil worked on several projects with Annabelle Ford, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara and that is where Toy came down with the malaria that eventually claimed her life. But they found time for those three Table Mountain campouts that happened for about a decade in the 1980s-1990s, as well as quite a few Baja California rock art trips. They also volunteered to excavate a test pit at the infamous Reading Site, near Chollas Creek, during the late 1970s when the Archaeological Resource Management Society (ARMS) and Dan Whitney, Ph.D. (and attorney) won an injunction to rush out and salvage data before a bulldozing operation. Gil and Toy dug test pits at the Los Peñasquitos Adobe and out by the fishpond and springhouse, long before Fred Buchanan and his team restored the lath barn.

During the 1970s through 1990s, Gil attended nearly every archaeology lecture, special event and the annual rock art conferences held in San Diego. He would travel in his VW mini bus to various conferences beyond our parochial borders, yet played the role of active and willing participant. Gil was the good friend you could always count on to make north arrows for Table Mountain surveys or donate a can of beans for dinner. On many a potluck dinner around the campfire at Table Mountain, Toy would often say, “we are family” in reference to the other hearty travelers, campers, and survey enthusiasts. Indeed, during those years we formed close bonds. So close, in fact, that Gil and Toy made private arrangements for their mortal remains to be
cremated and spread over Table Mountain upon their deaths.

And, our old friend did not forget his association with the San Diego County Archaeological Society. A few days after Orpha Boggs called to tell me we lost our old friend, his son-in-law telephoned to let me know Gil bequeathed $5,000 to the San Diego County Archaeological Society.

Finding the Art in Archaeology
[Archaeologically-inspired art including poetry, pictures, drawings, short stories, etc.]

“A New Dawn”
I am here or currently believe I am
As I am no longer sure where I am
I have traveled far and wide I have
Thus mysteries, discoveries have I
Detached and abandoned thus seems I
Upon what marvels do transcend I
As I cast spirits beyond all enterprise
Fractions mount to threaten the prize
Felons and thieves, criminals and kings
All try for the ultimate artifactual find
Yet nothing compares to the actual find
That all life depends on their connectedness
Only the enlightened understand it is thus
The ultimate artifact doth control our path
Research, search, and discovery be our dreams
Quest for truth and understanding we claim
Understanding human behavior as our goal
Reconstructing the past be our noble endeavor
In truth we be guided by the most incredible find
The oldest, rarest, most valuable, or sexiest find
Truly what explains our continued fascination
Beyond all our noble claims to the otherwise
We are driven by the most ultimate great find
By that National Geographic true fundable find
By the make your career for the rest of your life find
Is it solely to answer the mysteries of the universe
If you really care about the work you are doing
If you want your results to change the usual course
If you want your epiphanies to become standard norm
Then you deserve to be examining our mutual past…

-Martin Rosen
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME: Remember to Renew!

San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

Name __________________________  Phone __________________________

Address __________________________

City __________________________  State ______  Zip ______

E-mail Address: __________________________

Occupation / School __________________________

Special Skills / Interests __________________________

How did you hear about us? __________________________

The SDCAS membership year begins October 1. Please check the membership desired and enclose payment for the amount shown in the table below. Membership is subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

1-Year*

______ Individual $30.00

______ Family $40.00

______ Student $15.00

______ Institutional $25.00

(Company, University, College, Etc.)

______ (non voting)

Life $300.00

* New Members Only: half-year rates (at ½ the full-year price) are available after April 1.

☐ Check here for ½-year rates. ☐ Check here for Renewal

Code of Ethics

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.

I have read and agree to abide by the above Code of Ethics.

Signature __________________________  Date __________

Sponsor* __________________________  Date __________

* Persons under 18 years of age must be sponsored by an adult SDCAS member

Please send completed form and payment to San Diego County Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 81106, San Diego, CA 92138.