

CASSP newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1, January 2003

CASSP Receives Governor's Historic Preservation Award

By Chris and Beth Padon

In August, the State Historic Preservation Office announced that CASSP was one of the recipients of the Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2002. This award is presented annually under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The recipients are chosen based on their contributions to historic preservation.

The OHP web site states that "The purpose of the awards program is to increase public awareness of historic preservation, promote excellence in historic preservation, recognize organizations that have made significant contributions to the advancement of historic preservation and demonstrated exceptional commitment and achievement in the stewardship of historic preservation, and recognize projects of excellent quality." (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id-22050)

The award was made on December 6, 2002, at the Governor's Council Room in the State Capitol. Dr. Knox Mellon, State Historic Preservation Officer, made the introductions. Dr. Denzil Verardo, Chief Deputy Director, Administrative Services, Parks and Recreation, made the presentations.

The award states in part: "The volunteers of the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program have done an exemplary job of preserving the Golden State's rich cultural history. By monitoring archaeological sites and working with federal and state agencies, the CASSP has helped promote greater understanding and appreciation of protecting California's cultural legacy.

"On behalf of the people of the State of California, I commend the CASSP for excellence in historic preservation.
(signed) Gray Davis"

The award was presented to three CASSP participants, accompanied by representatives of the Society for California Archaeology, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of State Parks, and the California Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Without the support and guidance provided by these organizations, CASSP would not have been able to achieve what it has. But most of all, we gratefully acknowledge the hard work of CASSP volunteers and local coordinating archaeologists, who are protecting archaeological and historical sites, and to whom this award belongs.



Governor's Historic Preservation Award ceremony, Sacramento, December 6, 2002. Back row: Russell Kaldenberg (State Archaeologist, BLM), Knox Mellon (State Historic Preservation Officer), Bill Wight (CASSP volunteer), Mike Pool (State Director, BLM), Phil Hines (Archaeologist, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division), Denzil Verardo (Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks) Larry Myers (Executive Secretary, California Native American Heritage Commission). Front row: Sannie Osborn (Past President, SCA), Beth Padon (statewide CASSP coordinator), Elena Nilsson (President Elect, SCA), Judyth Reed (Archaeologist, Ridgecrest BLM Field Office, and local CASSP coordinator).

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Report from California State Parks

Why Monitor?

By Herb Dallas

Why is it so important to monitor the condition and status of rock art sites? Rock art is a fragile example of our unique cultural resources within the state. Protecting them is of concern not only of Native American groups whose ancestors painted these works of art, but also archeologists, resource managers, and cultural stewards. There are many good reasons to monitor their condition. For one thing it gives us insight into the vulnerability of these cultural resources. It gives us early warning signs for threats due to vandalism and erosion. It warns us whether or not some sort of resource management fix might be needed at some point. Many factors can contribute to the deterioration and disintegration of rock art from leaching of salts, wear, dust, vandalism, erosion, exfoliation, exposure, and water. Early detection gives us a better chance of fixing a small problem before it becomes unmanageable or unfixable. As D. H. Lawrence stated, "... "the spirit of place is a great reality." We, as site stewards, need to address problems before these sites lose that spirit of place.

Agencies who are entrusted with protecting and preserving these valuable cultural resources are beginning to realize the magnitude of these undertakings. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for example, is now taking the approach that regular monitoring of these irreplaceable cultural resources is the preferred method of management. It hasn't always been that way, due to staffing limitations, lack of funds, and due to the sometimes-remote locations these sites are located in. We are finding that the more we know about these resources the easier it is to protect them and get the necessary staff and support to protect and preserve these valuable resources. With the aid of organizations such as CASSP, new mechanisms are being employed to address these situations.

This is where the site stewards come into the picture. Volunteers can work as



Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park. (Used by permission of California State Parks, http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=610)

stewards once they have been trained. Volunteers can collect this data, on behalf of resource agencies like DPR, BLM, the Forest Service and NPS, that will go into data bases to allow the agency to track the condition and offer concrete evidence of deterioration. Constant monitoring with visible evidence of damages can lead to real data that allows agencies to receive funding. This real data in the form of a percentage of damage, plus photographic data, will aid site managers in requesting funding. In DPR, the tracking of conditions of facilities led to large scale funding of work entailed at fixing many of our historic buildings. The principle can also work for natural and cultural resources.

We as scientists often have trouble quantifying the condition of a resource. Our agency and many of the scientists in other agencies have struggled with this concept for years. However, we realized that we needed to "compromise" in order to be able to get the funds to fix resource problems. Here I mean compromise, to agree in assigning a percentage value to levels of deterioration. Traditionally, we assign a subjective "value" to site condition such as excellent, good, poor, or fair, but these terms are not quantifiable. Nobody would provide us with money without good quantifiable data. We could complain about the condition and people sympathized with us, but we could not quantify what that condition meant in terms of loss of valuable and irreplaceable resources. Now DPR archaeologist's can.

So DPR has adopted a monitoring form (ASCAR form), which is actually quite simple (surprisingly) and covers

many important categories. The advantage of this form in contrast to the regular CASSP monitoring form, is that the ASCAR form translates the observed conditions into quantifiable data that measures changes in site conditions. This is important for staffing levels, policy and program effectiveness, and carrying capacity decisions affecting archaeological sites (*CRM Handbook 2001:X-7*). It allows us to download the data into a database, which is sortable, and utilize hard data on the condition of archeological sites throughout the state. Your hard work and diligence can lead to real solutions to potential adverse impacts to these non-renewable resources. The good news is that early detection of possible adverse forces can lead to low technology solutions, and provide long-term protection for the sites.

Recent data indicates that in FY 2000/2001, DPR filled out ASCAR forms for 299 archaeological sites or about 3% of the estimated 10,000 sites in State Parks (James 2002:1-2). In FY 2001/2002 DPR completed ASCAR forms on an additional 262 sites. In the initial study about two-thirds of the sites had sustained moderate (26%-50%) to heavy (>75%) damages from human and natural forces. These can include rock art defacement, construction activities, trails, camping, erosion, and looting. This fiscal year (2002/2003), DPR will be spending about \$1,535,436 on the management and protection of these sites, buildings, and artifacts. The categories for these projects include: 1) Stabilization (Historic Structures), 2) Protection, 3) Archaeological Resources, 4) Cultural Landscapes, 5) Artifacts and Collections, 6) Rehabilitation/Restoration, and,

Report from California State Parks

(Continued from page 2)

Why Monitor?

7) Preservation Planning. We hope to use additional data in order to submit a budget change proposal to garner additional staff and support to remedy these adverse conditions on some of the state's most outstanding cultural resources (James 2002:6). Overall the 2000 Safe Neighborhood, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act authorized \$8,037,000.00 for the undertaking of the cultural stewardship work throughout the state.

DPR has also commissioned a study on the condition of rock art sites throughout the state. This study will advise us on conditions of rock art sites and offer suggestions on what can be done to protect these sites. Rock art sites are more difficult to fix as the problems often are complex. For example, leaching of salts through the rock often involves an hydrology study. The cause for the leaching salts needs to be identified, before

treating the condition can be attempted. Obviously the first step in any management decision is an inventory and condition assessment of what you have. The rock art study will also examine the variety and categories of rock art sites that we currently manage. Monitoring the condition of rock art and other archaeological sites offers the best method of tracking the health and status of these outstanding non-renewable resources. The use of volunteer site stewards has great potential to supplement staff for agencies to track the condition of their varied cultural resources.

References

James, Steven R., *Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Record (ASCAR) Program: Summary of the Results During Past Two Years*. Draft Report on File with DPR in Sacramento DPR, *CRM Handbook*. On file with DPR.

Report from the SCA

CASSP Presentations at the 2003 SCA Annual Meeting

From March 26-29, 2003, the Society for California Archaeology will hold its 37th annual meeting at the Doubletree hotel in Sacramento. A symposium about CASSP will focus upon the program's activities and achievements. Papers and slide presentations will be given by site stewards and coordinating archaeologists, including Dave and Freida Branson, Annell and Ron Farris, Russ Kaldenberg, Jeff LaFave, Stephanie Manning, Ohl Olson, Beth Padon, Judyth Reed, Sandy and Fran Rogers, Barbara Sylvia, and Bill Wight.

In addition to papers, the organizers of the annual meeting are planning tours, workshops, and receptions. Again this year, the SCA is waiving the registration fee for members who volunteer at least four hours to the SCA during the meeting.

More details about the annual meeting can be found in the *SCA Newsletter* and on the SCA web site (www.scanet.org).

CASSP Newsletter Schedule

The last published issue of the CASSP Newsletter was for Summer, 2002. The Fall issue (Volume 1, Number 4) was not published because of budget and time constraints. During our first year, printing and mailing costs have grown about twice as fast expected; we printed and distributed over 550 copies of the last newsletter.

A complete schedule of four issues is planned for 2003, as we try to devote more resources to the newsletter.

We thank our readers and writers for their patience, especially contributors Herb Dallas and Stacy Vellas, who had to wait until this month to see their work in print.

Focus on Sponsors

Site Stewardship Grant

The California State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received another grant from the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks to fund a number of CASSP activities in fiscal year 2003. With this matching grant, the BLM will support additional CASSP training workshops and advanced workshops, creation of a site stewardship brochure, and other volunteer support efforts.

The California State Office of the BLM is a strong supporter of archaeological preservation efforts across the state. CASSP began in a meeting at that office. In California, the BLM manages 14.7 million acres of surface land. For more information about the BLM in California, visit their web site at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/>

The OHMVR Division administers the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Trust Fund, and awards grants to cities, counties, special districts, federal agencies and non-profit organizations. Annually the Division receives about 110 grant and cooperative agreement applications totaling up to \$24 million dollars and awards between 12-16 million dollars in grants and cooperative agreements. Additional information about the OHMVR Division is available at their web site at <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

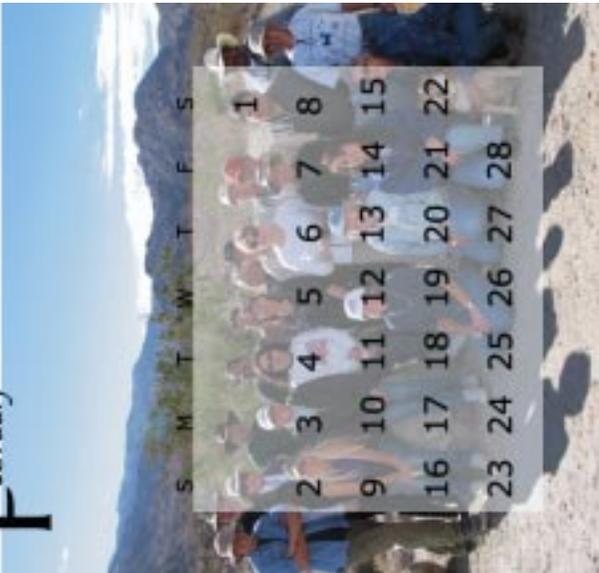
This grant specifies that the BLM will partner with the Society for California Archaeology to provide volunteer training and support through CASSP. Also, the BLM will use the professional guidance of the SCA Board and Site Stewardship Committee to review and direct CASSP activities.

The growth of site stewardship in California is due in large part to the support received from the OHMVR Division and the California State Office of the BLM. We thank them very much.

January



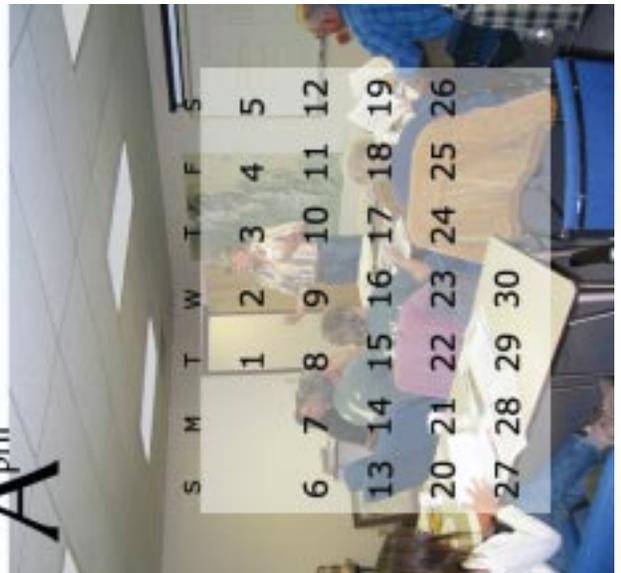
February



March



April

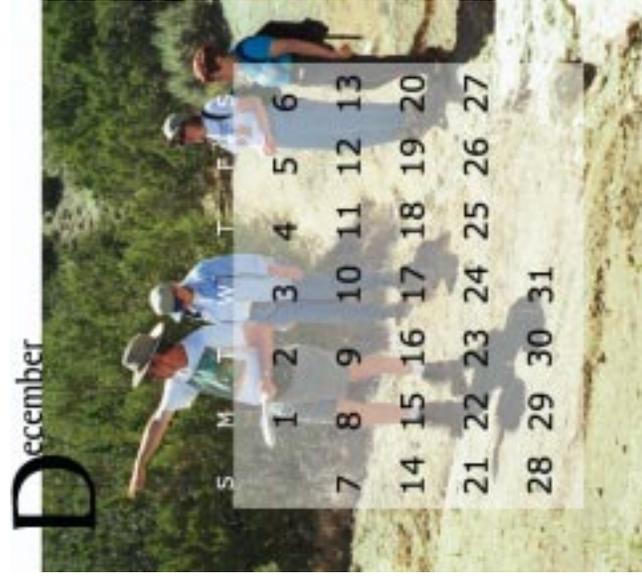
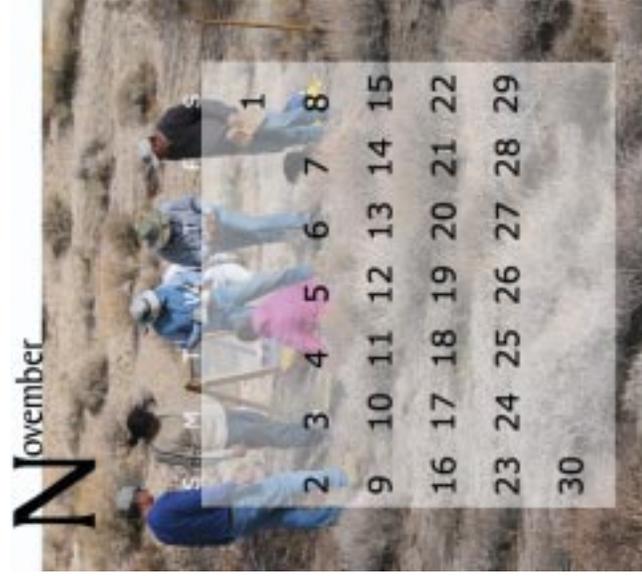
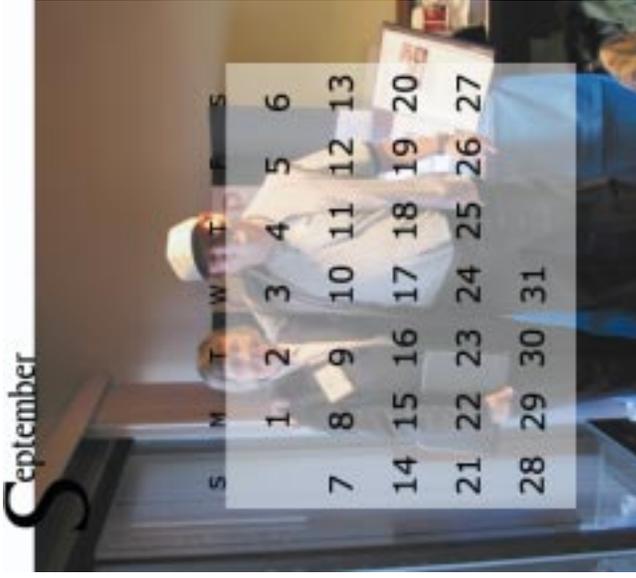
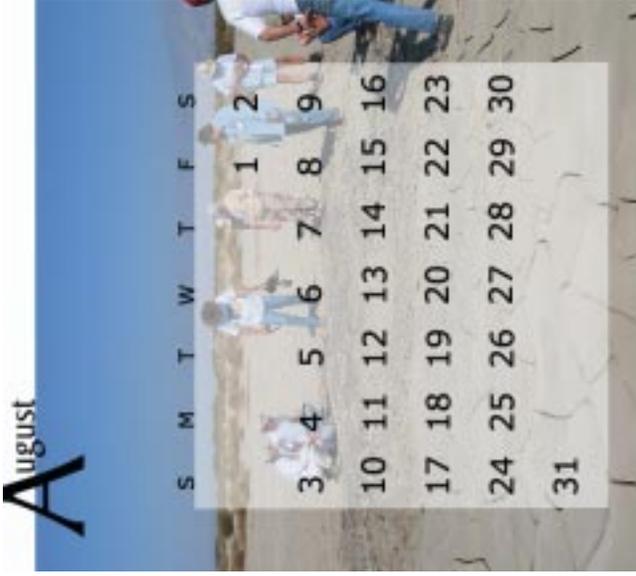


May



June





Report from Site Stewards

Crisis at Indian Pass

“Gold” they say
 And with “gold” they pay
 For it’s “gold” and the desert be dam’d.
 On ancient trails
 Our people’s wails
 Are heard throughout the land.

The tools we made
 Lay as they’ve laid
 For ten thousand years or more
 Pillaging comes
 While ancient drums
 Denounce—the lust for one.

Our Ancient Ones cry
 As each “spiritual” site
 Is mangled, is trampled and torn
 An eagle takes flight
 To scour the site
 From whence our people were born.

Gold is the name
 And gold is the game
 Are my people’s “vision quests” doomed?
 Will financial gain
 lead us to shame
 As it gives way to the mining boom.

And all the while—
 —in single file
 The souls at Indian Pass Parade
 With anguished sighs
 Their spirits collide
 With the march of a different day.

Will ancient sites
 Or bounties delights
 Touch the hearts of our bureaucrats.
 Will fiscal gain
 —Or petroglyphs remain
 When the final vote—is—cast?

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Calendar

Workshops Schedule

In order to become a CASSP volunteer, a person has to attend a volunteer training workshop and complete application and confidentiality forms. The next volunteer training workshop for new site stewards will be held on February 22-23 at the BLM Field Office in Barstow.

Amy Lawrence, archaeologist at the Barstow office, will host this workshop and serve as the coordinating archaeologist for volunteers working at BLM sites. Bob Bryson, archaeologist at the Mojave National Preserve will co-host this workshop and serve as coordinating archaeologist for volunteers working at sites on the Preserve. This workshop will consist of a classroom session on Saturday (from 8:30 to 4:00), and a field trip on Sunday (from 9:00 to 3:00). Study materials and Saturday lunch are provided. The fee to attend the Barstow workshop is \$25 per person, payable to the Society for California Archaeology. Space is limited and reservations are required.

A California State Parks volunteer training workshop will be held on March 1-2 for docents working at the Estero Bluffs State Park, near San Luis Obispo. Elise Wheeler, archaeologist for the State Parks, will host this workshop and serve as the coordinating archaeologist for the docents. The workshop will be organized similar to the one in February at Barstow. However, this workshop targets Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) for Estero Bluffs.

For more information about CASSP volunteer training workshops, or to make a reservation, then please send an email to info@cassp.org or contact Beth Padon at Discovery Works, P O Box 91236, Long Beach, CA 90809, (562) 492-6770.

The second advanced CASSP workshop was held January 24-26 at the Presidio in San Francisco. The workshop provided training and experience in laboratory analysis of historic artifacts. The Presidio Trust hosted this workshop and provided lodging for the participants at Pershing Hall, at the Main Post. Advanced workshops last one or two day and they are open to all CASSP volunteers at no cost. Letter invitations were sent to all site stewards for the Presidio workshop. Announcements for the next advanced workshop will be made as soon as arrangements are confirmed. It probably will be held in Southern California.

Contributors to this issue:

Herb Dallas is coordinating archaeologist for CASSP at the Tomo-Kahni State Park, located near Tehachapi. He works for California State Parks as an archaeologist at the Southern Service Center in San Diego.

Beth and Chris Padon are chairpersons of the SCA Site Stewardship Committee. They own Discovery Works, Inc., a cultural resources management firm in Long Beach.

Anastasia Vellas attended the volunteer training workshop held in El Centro in 1999. When another CASSP workshop was held in El Centro last Fall, she participated again, and performed an original song about Native American sites in the desert.

Report from Site Stewards

BLM Archaeological and Cultural Awareness Program

On Veteran's Day weekend, 2002, several dozen volunteers braved unseasonably cold and rainy weather to participate in the BLM Archaeological and Cultural Awareness Program at Bedrock Spring. Many of these volunteers also participate in CASSP.

It was lightly raining when we arrived in the field on Friday morning. The weather worsened as Judyth Reed, project leader,

described the site and reviewed results from the previous field work to the assembled volunteers. After an hour, she cancelled the day's work. Everyone returned on Saturday, undaunted by threatening skies, and the field work began in earnest.

The site at Bedrock Spring is yielding new and important information, and all of us from that weekend are delighted to have contributed to the investigations.



Judyth gives background briefing, on a cold and rainy Friday morning.



Double rainbow over the desert on Saturday. (Distortion from raindrops on lens.)



Excavation to sterile levels at Unit 14. South wall.



Example of petroglyph, about one half mile from the excavation site.



A small bone awl was found in Unit 1.



This photo at end of day Sunday shows most of the volunteers.

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Rescue by CASSP Volunteer

When visiting their sites, CASSP volunteers may get the chance to do more than monitoring. One morning in October, 2001, a site steward found four teenage campers who had already spent one more night than planned out in the desert. They hit a rock that knocked the left front tire off the rim and left the rear axle high-centered. They had no spare tire and no idea how to get the truck off of the rock. The site steward helped them get back on their way.



CASSP newsletter

The **CASSP Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the Society for California Archaeology Site Stewardship Committee. Newsletter editors are Beth Padon and Chris Padon. The President of the Society for California Archaeology is Dana McGowan.

Submissions

We welcome submissions to the Newsletter; however, articles may be edited for length and content, and all submitted materials become property of the Society for California Archaeology.

Subscriptions

The Newsletter is provided at no cost to CASSP volunteers and other interested parties. To receive the Newsletter by mail, or by email in *Adobe Acrobat Reader* PDF format, or to submit items for publication, please contact:

CASSP Newsletter
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or send an email message to newsletter@cassp.org.

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