

# CASSP newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2, December 2010

## Five CASSP volunteer training workshops were held this Fall

There was an accelerated schedule of CASSP training workshops from early September through early December; five volunteer training workshops were held at Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) locations over 15 weeks.

On Labor Day weekend, September 4–5, a volunteer training workshop was held at the Western Divide Ranger District office in Springville for the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest. Linn Gassaway, USFS Zone Archaeologist, was our host. District Ranger Priscilla Summers and Tribal Relations Program Manager Dirk Charley also participated in the workshop. For the Sunday field trip, the class carpooled from the District Ranger's office to several archaeological sites in the Sequoia National Forest.

Chris Lloyd, archaeologist at the BLM Ukiah Field Office, hosted a volunteer training workshop at Point Arena on October 2–3. Saturday's classroom session was held at the Mendocino College Field Station, which is located on the bluffs above the Pacific Ocean, near the part of the continental US that is closest to Hawaii. The Field Station also is near the BLM Stornetta Public Lands, where the new CASSP volunteers will be watching sites. On Sunday, Chris led the class from the Field Station into the adjoining Stornetta Public Lands to inspect some of the archaeological sites. After the workshop ended that afternoon, most of us joined Chris to view additional archaeological sites on nearby BLM lands.

On October 23–24, there was a workshop with Erik Zaborsky, archaeologist at the BLM Hollister Field Office, and Rae Schwaderer, archaeologist at the Monterey District of California State Parks. The classroom session was held at the Monterey District offices. Erik and Rae presented information about local archaeology, and State Parks Sector Superintendent Dana Jones gave an overview of the park resources in the district. It was great to see Dana again; she participated in a 2003 CASSP workshop at Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area. It rained on Saturday, while we were indoors. But the rain conveniently stopped for us on Sunday, when we visited several sites at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

On November 6–7, a volunteer training workshop was held in Dunlap (which is east of Fresno) at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia

*(continued on page 3)*



*USFS archaeologist Linn Gassaway describes the local archaeology during the field trip for the September 4–5 workshop in Springville.*



*Two volunteers discuss a display of chipped stone tools during the October 2–3 workshop in Point Arena.*

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## WORKSHOP

## Advanced training workshop on site documentation

On November 14, seventeen site stewards joined Jim Shearer, Wanda Raschkow, and Beth and Chris Padon for an advanced training workshop on site documentation. This workshop focused on the Department of Parks Record, DPR 523 Primary Form, in an effort to assist site stewards with their assigned sites. The participants received a folder with handouts, including the Office of Historic Preservation, *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources*. This guide is available online at, [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1069](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1069), as a PDF download. It provides a step-by-step description of what is needed to complete a record for an archaeological site or an historical site. After a morning session in the classroom, we carpoled to the field to practice at an actual site.

Jim Shearer, archaeologist for the BLM Barstow Field office, selected a nearby prehistoric site on BLM land for this workshop. He presented an overview of the site's history and conditions. Tiffany Thomas, the site steward for this site, attended this workshop to help the participants. Wanda Raschkow, archaeologist with Joshua Tree National Park, emphasized the importance of a clear, complete, and organized site description (P3a on the form). She reviewed how to describe a site's environmental setting by

including topographic, vegetation, and land form information. In many cases, why a site is located where it is, relates to its environmental setting; a complete and accurate site description helps us understand the prehistoric and historic use of an area. Chris Padon presented tips for taking accurate and useful site photographs (P5a). Each participants received a 50 centimeter scale, a gray card, and write-in rain memo pads. Chris emphasized that every time you take a photo, you should think about what you want to photograph, before you snap the camera shutter.

In the field, the site stewards divided into three groups and rotated among three stations. Jim led the discussion on site conditions, both natural and human caused. Wanda pointed out environmental features and site characteristics that are important for accurately describing this site. Chris helped the site stewards to plan their site and artifact photographs. The site stewards quickly learned that the memo pads worked well for their notes. After the field practice, everyone returned to the Desert Discovery Center to review the Primary Record data that we had collected. Together, we identified additions to the 1979 documentation for this prehistoric site, and Tiffany recorded the updated information to submit to Jim for the BLM database.

For more information about tips for field photography, please see the article on pages 4–5. ◇



Participants in the advanced training workshop on site documentation and using DPR 523 Primary Form. (Photo provided by Domenic Wager.)



The site stewards documented the characteristics of an archaeology site with Wanda Raschkow.



Jim Shearer and Tiffany Thomas discussed how the conditions at this site have changed due to animals, erosion, and visitors.



For the field training, people rotated between three stations. The group at the site characteristics station finishes their lesson, as another group (right) approaches.

## WORKSHOPS

## Fall, 2010, CASSP workshops (cont.)



*(continued from page 1)*

National Forest. Linn Gassaway was our host. Linn talked about the archaeological resources in the Forest, and USFS law enforcement officer Chris Cagle, gave a presentation about federal preservation laws and safety in the classroom session. The Sunday field trip included historic and prehistoric sites, and we saw how cattle can affect a site.

On December 11-12, the last CASSP volunteer training workshop of the year was held in San Diego at the offices of the Cleveland National Forest. Steve Harvey, Heritage and Tribal Relations Program Manager, and Susan Roder, Archaeologist, hosted this workshop, and presented information about archaeology on the Forest. Law enforcement issues were presented by Anthony Rose, Patrol Captain, and Officer Adam Diehl. On Sunday, the class carpooled to the Descanso Ranger District for the second day of training. Additional US Forest Service personnel demonstrated their support for site preservation by joining the class. They included: Richard Tull, Kove Roose, Rebecca Curto, Eric Shreve, Daniel Walsh, and Officer Michelle Barrios.

Alums from previous workshops attended four of these workshops, bringing their valuable experience and enthusiasm to share with the new site stewards. Thanks.

Captions. 1: Participants of the workshop at the Western Divide Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. 2: Participants at Pt. Arena workshop, held for the BLM Ukiah Field Office. 3: Participants of the workshop in Monterey, held for the BLM Hollister Field Office and the Monterey District of California State Parks. 4: Participants of the workshop at the Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. 5: Participants of the workshop at the Cleveland National Forest. ◇

## Tips for Taking Photographs of Sites and Artifacts in the Field

Photography, especially digital photography, is a great tool for archaeology. It allows us to record a great deal of data with relatively little expense and effort. Photos contain a lot of information about size, shape, color, location, environment, and much more. Take a few seconds before pressing the shutter to think about the purpose and subject of the photo, and it will be more accurate and useful.

### *Big or small?*

For field archaeology, there are big subjects and small subjects, that is, landscapes or artifacts. Landscape photos show the site and its setting. Artifact photos show a specific object or feature.



*This landscape photo shows the whole site and its surroundings. The car on the left is parked where two dirt roads meet—a useful reference point for the site.*



*This photo shows a foundation feature at the site. There is a page-sized gray card (for scale and color balance). The pin flags show other foundation rocks.*

### *Landscapes*

A couple of tips can be valuable for landscape photos. It's important to include a reference, which is some fixed feature that also appears on maps or aerial photos or location descriptions, such as a road intersection, a building or street light, or a bluff or hill. A reference point helps anchor and locate the landscape in the accompanying documentation. Note the direction that the camera is facing.

Also, it's important that everything is in focus—a large depth of field—in order to show details in the landscape. Sometimes, shadows are important to show depth and shape, which means that it's better to take photos early or late in the day.



*The shadows in this landscape photo help show the topographic setting of this site, especially in comparison to the group of people.*

### *Structures*

Sometimes a structure is a large feature, sometimes it's a site with lots of features and artifacts. Take a corner photo; usually it will be a better, overall representation.



*The corner view of this house shows the porch and patio, roof structure, and the small addition on the side.*

### *Artifacts*

For artifact photos, the camera usually is close to the subject, which makes careful focusing more critical. Also, it's important to indicate size by including a scale or other frame of reference.



*Close-up of a projectile point; scale has 1 cm intervals.*

The following two photos show the usefulness of a frame of reference. The first photo shows details of a metal can top. Perhaps a liquid, like condensed milk, was poured from the hole in the top. The second photo contains the whole view; the metal top came from a 55 gallon drum.



*Close-up of a metal can top. There's no scale.*



*The same metal can top (center foreground), with a frame of reference.*

### Automatic settings

The automatic settings on most digital cameras do an accurate job of adjusting to the conditions to take the best picture. However, two camera settings have to be done manually. Make sure that you set the correct time and date. And it is very helpful to set the default image size to maximum file size and minimum file compression; this yields the greatest resolution per photo. High resolution photos take more space on the memory card, but additional memory cards are not too expensive.

### Aperture and Shutter Settings

There are two ways that cameras control the amount of light that strikes the digital sensor (or film). The size of the aperture opening determines how much light enters per millisecond. The speed of the shutter determines how long the sensor is exposed. Because there are two controls, you can compensate for a fast shutter speed by making the aperture opening larger, or balance a smaller aperture opening with a slower shutter speed. Fast shutter speed is important when the subject is moving, which is not a common concern for landscapes or artifacts.

A size of the aperture opening controls depth of field—the distance in front and behind the subject where everything is in focus. Smaller apertures help make everything in focus, from a few feet away to the horizon. Larger apertures make things out of focus if they are just a few feet away from the subject. Depth of field is useful for field photography. The landscape photos on the previous page were taken with small apertures. The artifact photo below was taken with a large aperture and small depth of field.

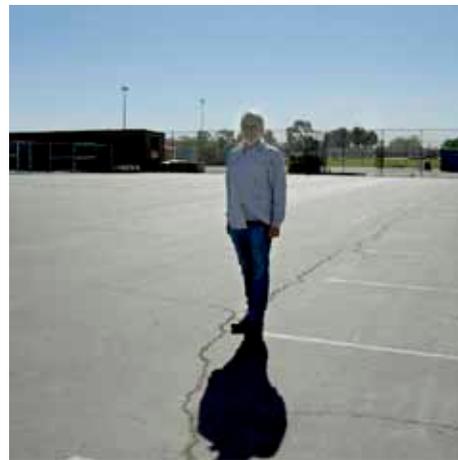


Close-up of a flake. The hand helps to indicate relative size. Attention is directed to the artifact because the ground is out of focus (a short depth of field).

### Zoom lens

Newer cameras almost always have zoom lens. It's convenient to use the zoom to get a bigger image of the subject. But that is not the same as moving closer to the subject. A zoom lens can distort perspective by changing the apparent distances between foreground and background items. There is a similar type of distortion in automobile side-view mirrors—"objects in mirrors are closer than they appear," and with binoculars.

A zoom lens in the wide-angle setting will extend distances between objects in the photo. Foreground objects appear abnormally large relative to more distant objects. A zoom lens in the telephoto setting will compress distances between objects. Background objects appear abnormally large relative to close objects. These effects are less noticeable if there are only close-in or far-away objects in the photo.



The top photo was taken with a wide-angle view, and the fence appears far away. The bottom photo was taken with a telephoto view, and the fence appears close. The person in the photo did not move.

### Color balance with a gray card

The color balance of a photo refers to the intensities of colors. Color balance is affected by the light source. An artifact photographed under a fluorescent lamp may look bluish, but when photographed under incandescent bulb it may look reddish. A landscape photographed at sunset looks more reddish than it does when photographed at noon. Digital cameras can usually make the color balance accurate. But sometimes not.

Color balance can be changed with photo editing software, especially if there is a color reference like a gray card in the photo. Gray should have an equal balance of all colors, but if the gray card is bluish, as in the first photo below, then the color balance should be adjusted to diminish the intensities of blue colors (second photo).



The colors of the soils and burned rocks in this feature are more accurate in the bottom photo, after the color balance was adjusted to make the card look a neutral gray color.

### Metadata

Metadata is data about the data, such as time, location, creator, equipment, special conditions. Photographs allow us to record a lot of data in the field, but it will not be very useful unless the metadata also is recorded, usually with old-fashioned tools such as pencil and paper. ◇

## OHMVR Grant Application for 2012 CASSP Activities

Since 2003, the California State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has assisted the SCA with CASSP grants from the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks. Everyone connected with CASSP appreciates this important, long-term support. We personally thank Russ Kaldenberg, Stephen Horne, Ken Wilson, Jim Keeler, Gina Jorgenson, and Charlotte Hunter for their individual efforts at the BLM State office to successfully submit and administer the site stewardship OHMVR grants. These grants have funded CASSP activities with the BLM and with the US Forest Service (USFS). These grants reinforce partnerships between the BLM, USFS, OHMVR, and the general public to protect cultural resources on our public lands.

The SCA recently received the support of the BLM for a 2011 OHMVR grant for site stewardship. This grant will again sponsor volunteer training workshops, an advanced training workshop, and volunteer coordination activities. Funds are matched by BLM and USFS support in hosting the workshops and supervising the volunteers, by SCA support for the workshops and volunteers, and by the many volunteer hours given by site stewards.

Starting in January, 2011, the SCA will be applying for a 2012 OHMVR grant for site stewardship. This time, the SCA will give BLM personnel a well-deserved rest, and submit the site stewardship grant application through the USFS. More detailed information about the grant application can be found on the OHMVR web site, [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1164](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164). Grant applications are due by March 7, 2011.

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the applications from March 8 through April 4, 2011. Last time, several SCA members, CASSP volunteers, and members of the general public independently sent comments and letters of support directly to the BLM and to the OHMVR Division. The grants are competitive and your support really helps. Information about the 2012 CASSP application and where to send letters of support will be posted on the CASSP web site, [www.cassp.org](http://www.cassp.org), and distributed by the CASSP listserv.

The growth and success of site stewardship in California is due to the support from the OHMVR Division of California State Parks, BLM, USFS, and the many volunteer participants in CASSP. Thanks. ◇

## 45th Annual Meeting of SCA

Please save the dates of March 10-13, 2011, for the Society for California Archaeology (SCA) meetings in Rohnert Park, near Sonoma. We encourage CASSP volunteers to come and to meet other site stewards and archaeologists, and hear a variety of papers on a wide-range of archaeological topics. There will be a site stewardship table about CASSP in the book room. The annual CASSP committee meeting will be held at noon on either Friday or Saturday; everyone is welcome. The SCA annual meeting also includes a banquet, a reception, and silent auction, workshops, a plenary session, and many archaeological sessions.

The meeting schedule has not been finalized. Please check the SCA website, [www.scahome.org](http://www.scahome.org), for the latest details. The general schedule is:

March 10: Workshops on osteology and Section 106.

March 11: Plenary session, followed by archaeological sessions. Evening: reception and silent auction at the Rohnert Park Community Center.

March 12: Morning and afternoon archaeological sessions. Evening: banquet and awards at the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine County.

March 13: Morning archaeological sessions. Conference ends at noon.

This year the banquet speaker is Dennis L. Jenkins, who is the Director of Northern Great Basin Archaeological field school at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, University of Oregon. His presentation is "Research at the Paisley Caves: Amer-

ica's Pre-Clovis Latrine." Luther S. Cressman initiated archaeological investigations at the Paisley Caves in 1938 and he found extinct Pleistocene-age camels and horse with obsidian artifacts on the same floor in one of the caves. Cressman believed that he had found human presence with these extinct animals, but many doubted his conclusions. Recently, Director Jenkins conducted new excavations at the same caves and found more than 1000 coprolites that contain human DNA. Many of these coprolites date to 14,000 years old (12,300 rcybp). He will present data that confirms the early presence of humans and Pleistocene animals. If you can't attend the banquet held at the hotel, usually you can enter the room after the banquet to hear the lecture.

You may pre-register for the meetings by February 21, 2011, at the special rate of \$80 for members and \$100 for non-members for the entire conference. Regular registration is \$110 for members and \$125 for non-members. Registration materials can be downloaded by visiting the SCA website at, [http://scahome.org/meetings\\_events/index.html#2011\\_meeting](http://scahome.org/meetings_events/index.html#2011_meeting). Then, click on the Registration Packet link.

Site stewards who first attended an initial volunteer training CASSP workshop in 2010 are members of the SCA for 2011, and eligible for the member's rate. As a site steward, you may use CASSP as your affiliation when you register. We appreciate your support and assistance with site stewardship and want to let others know that many people are part of this SCA program. We hope to see you at the meetings in March in Rohnert Park. ◇

## SAA Annual Meeting in Sacramento

California will host national archaeology meetings in 2011. The 76th Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meetings will be held in Sacramento from March 30–April 3. Sessions will be held at several hotels and at the Sacramento Convention Center. Pre-Registration (before February 28, 2011) for the meetings costs \$180 for nonmembers and \$130 for members.

You may access a preliminary schedule, hotel registration information, meeting registration, and events calendar at the SAA website at, [www.saa.org](http://www.saa.org).

Events include a Sacramento Riverboat Tour on Thursday, March 31, with John Foster, former California State Archaeologist and underwater archaeologist. Space is limited. On Saturday, April 2, the Sacramento Convention Center, Hall C, will host a CRM EXPO, from 1–4 p.m. which will showcase CRM firms from California and across the country. On Saturday, April 2, Julia Costello and Judith Marvin, historical archaeologists, will lead a tour to the Kennedy Mine in Gold Country and to the Indian Grinding Rock State Park. This tour includes a box lunch; space is limited. On Friday, April 1, the SAA conducts its annual business meeting and awards presentations from 5–6:30 pm.

There will be many presentations, posters, and reports on all aspects of archaeology. The sessions begin on Wednesday evening, March 30, with “NAGPRA and the Generation of New Research Questions and Practices.” This presentation will highlight the recent federal Rule Concerning the Disposition of Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains, and its effect on North American archaeology. Many people are concerned about the limits that NAGPRA has placed upon archaeological research. This forum will examine cases in which NAGPRA has brought new, innovative research that benefits science and the public. This session starts at 6:00 pm.

The following list selects a few of the other planned symposia from California. Please note this list is taken from the preliminary meeting program, which means that dates and presentations may change.

On Thursday, March 31, in a morning session and an afternoon session, Terry Jones and Jennifer Perry are organizing a series of papers on archaeology in California.

On Friday, April 1, in a morning session, Christopher S. Jazwa and Jennifer E. Perry are organizing a session on “Small Islands, Big Implications: The California Channel Islands and their Archaeological Contributions.”

On Friday, April 1, in a morning session, Susan K. Stratton has organized a “Forum The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly! SHPO Tales—Learning From Our Past: A Discussion Of California Case Studies Set Within The Regulatory Framework Of Section 106 Of The National Historic Preservation Act.”

On Friday, April 1, in the afternoon, Seetha N. Reddy and John G. Douglass are presenting “Prehistoric occupation in the Ballona Lagoon, West Los Angeles.”

On Friday, April 1, in the afternoon, Kirk D. French will chair a general session on “Archaeological Education and Public Outreach in the Americas.”

On Saturday, April 2, in the morning Richard Fitzgerald and Jelmer W. Eerkens are organizing “Bioarchaeological and Archaeological Perspectives on Migration, Diet and Health in Prehistoric Central California.”

On Saturday, April 2, in the afternoon, Kent G. Lightfoot, Chuck Striplen, and Mark Hylkema are organizing a session on “The Study of Indigenous Landscape Management Practices in Central California.”

On Saturday, April 2, in the afternoon, Helen Wells and Russell Kaldenberg will chair a session on “Chasing Rainbows from the Great Basin to the Pacific Shore: Honoring the Accomplishments, Innovations, and Contributions of C. William Clewlow, Jr.”

On Saturday, April 2, in the afternoon, C. David Johnson will chair a symposium on “Archaeology behind the Redwood Curtain: Recent Research on the North Coast of California.”

On Sunday, April 3, in the morning, Nikki Polson is organizing a session on “The Sacramento River and its Mounds: A Fresh Look at its Prehistory.” ◇

## CASSP Workshops

At the time of printing, four initial volunteer training workshops are confirmed for 2011. Two will be held in January, and two in April. At least one additional volunteer training workshop and an advanced training workshop will be scheduled for 2011.

### *Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

January 23-24, 2011, for the Vallecito Cultural Preserve, at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Joan Schneider, California State Parks archaeologist, will be our host.

### *Joshua Tree National Park*

January 29-30, 2011, at the Park headquarters in Twentynine Palms. Dave Henley will be our host for this workshop, with Wanda Raschkow also participating. This workshop has reached capacity; new registrations will be added to the waiting list.

### *Sierra National Forest*

April 9-10, 2011, at the Bass Lake Ranger District office in North Fork. Doug McKay, US Forest Service archaeologist, will be our host. Dirk Charley, US Forest Service Tribal Relations Program Manager, also will participate.

### *Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area*

April 30–May 1, 2011, south of Hollister. Kelly Long, State Parks archaeologist, will be our host.

Volunteer training workshops are held on weekends. We begin at 9:00 am. The Saturday classroom session ends at 4:30 pm, and the Sunday field trip ends at 2:30 pm. Lunch is provided on Saturday, and water and other drinks are provided on both days. There is a fee of \$25 per person to attend a CASSP volunteer training workshop.

Prior registration is required because space is limited. You can register by sending your name and contact information to Beth Padon at [bpadon@discoveryworks.com](mailto:bpadon@discoveryworks.com) or at 562-431-0300. You can find more information about the workshops at the CASSP web site: [www.cassp.org](http://www.cassp.org).

If you want to receive e-mail announcements of upcoming workshops, please join the CASSP events listserv by sending an e-mail message to: [cassp-events-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cassp-events-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) ◇

BACK PAGE

## Photo tip: tripod up in the air

*Judy Palmer and George Ross, Site Stewards*

A little extra elevation can make a big difference.

Last year, I took some photos of a large circle of rocks. But it was barely visible if I stood back far enough to fit the whole circle into one photo image (top photo).

Later, I attached my camera to a tripod, set the shutter release on a delay, clicked the shutter to start the countdown, and lifted the tripod and camera up above my head, pointing it towards the circle. It took several tries to get the picture centered, but eventually I succeeded.

Instead of a tripod, you may be able to use a hiking stick, if it has a built-in screw to connect a camera. ◇



*Photograph taken from eye level.*



*Photograph taken from an elevated tripod.*

## CASSPnewsletter

*CASSPnewsletter* is a publication of the Society for California Archaeology (SCA), Site Stewardship Committee. Newsletter editors are Beth and Chris Padon. The President of the Society for California Archaeology is Glenn Gmoser. Current issues can be downloaded in PDF format from <[www.cassp.org](http://www.cassp.org)>.

### 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 e-mail in Adobe Acrobat Reader PDF format, or to submit items for publication, please contact:

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