

Congratulations Visitor Center Graduating Class of 2008!

It was a great potluck for a super new volunteer class. We thank all of you for coming out to support the next generation of superb volunteers! The dedication to our incredible Park you all show every day is amazing, and the gratitude of everyone here at the Park cannot be overstated.

Thank you L.Louise Jee for the great graduation banner and the colorful and fun flower quiz place mats.

A special thanks to June Fort for organizing this momentous event!



Steering Committee

Tuesday, March 11, 2:00 P.M.
Discovery Lab V.C.

General Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2:30 P.M.
Discovery Lab V.C.

District Superintendent Mike Wells will discuss what we should know about State Parks.

Potluck!

The potluck will be held on Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. at the home of June Fort, 4118 Country Club Road (East of Borrego Springs Road)
Bring food to share, tableware, beverage of your choice and chairs.

Volunteer Field Trip

Wednesday, March 12, at 8:30 A.M.

Meet at the Visitor Center 3rd. parking lot. Ranger Bob will lead us to the San Felipe Ranch.
4WD is required so we will be ride sharing. Bring water, lunch and the usual things

Volunteer Out of Park Field Trips

JULIAN VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendar for March 20. We will meet in Julian at 9:30 (directions to follow). The Historical Society will be our hosts and we will break into smaller groups for a docent guided tour of the museum, followed by a historical walking tour of Julian. Included in the tour will be a look at the Marshall South paintings in the old library and possibly a trip to his gravesite.

From there, we go to the Menghini winery in Julian for a wine tasting and lunch. Mike and Toni Menghini will be our hosts. The total cost for a tasty lunch and wine tasting is \$15. Lunch includes a vegetarian or fresh roasted turkey sandwich and two kinds of salad, plus a slice of Julian apple pie and beverage. You must sign-up for the tour, including lunch (indicating vegetarian or turkey) at the visitor center. Payment for lunch will be at the winery.

Plus, after lunch and on the way back to Borrego, we will have a guided tour of historic Santa Ysabel chapel and museum.

The Suggestion Box is Back!

The box is back in its regular spot waiting for your great ideas or comments.

Refresher Training

A new year is under way and your refresher training worksheets (two-sided) will be in your mailbox very soon. **Please remove your old worksheets with a completion sticker on it from your volunteer mailbox and take them home.**

There will be more opportunities to get in your required field trip with park staff (not a naturalist) in the ABDSP this spring if you have not already done so. The naturalists have some excellent programs coming up so there will be plenty of opportunities to get some of your options done. Don't forget you must attend at least one general meeting during the year and yes, this does count as one of your options. Remember to enter all trips, options and general meetings on your time sheets under training. Training hours do count towards your volunteer pins, but not on your floor time. Please enter your items on your worksheets and leave them in your volunteer mailbox, as they will be checked throughout the year. Good luck and if you have any questions: please call Harvy Miller, 767-0442 or talk to Michael.

Volunteer Naturalist Class Finishes!

Prepare for a flood of fine new interpretive programs! Our new Volunteer Naturalists finish their class on Feb. 26, just in time to help us give flower walks to the many bloom fiends. We thank them for their hard labor and dedication.

The Flowers are Everywhere... HELP!!

We are faced with what looks to be a very good flower season. It will be pandemonium! Therefore, if any of you are willing to work some extra shifts it would be a lifesaver. Just call VC staff or come on down and we will find you a spot. Many thanks to all of you for your above-and-beyond efforts.

2008 Gala!

This year, because Spring Break occupies the last two weeks of March and the flowers' peak bloom is the first two weeks of March we will hold the Gala on April 1st. at the Roadrunner Club. The theme is April Fools Day and by then we are certainly going to need to let down our hair!
See you there.

Have a Funny Story?

Bring them to Michael for possible inclusion in the Bridge. We all experience humorous moments working at the VC or out in the field. The best (clean please) will make it into the Bridge.

Glorietta Canyon

Do you all remember how trashed Glorietta was last flower season? For that reason, and to forestall conflict with a certain neighbor, we ask you to **not** send the public to Glorietta Canyon this flower season. We are sorry.

Archaeology



The first day of Archaeology Weekend was a huge success. The Visitor Center was packed with people and every lecture was filled to capacity. On Sunday things slowed down considerably due to the Super Bowl and a ferocious wind storm that had gusts up to 85 mph.

Saturday's activities included lectures on the 75-year history of archaeology in the Colorado Desert District, Ceramic (pottery) research, the early work of D.L. True in the 1950s, a who's who of State Park archaeologists, followed by a round table discussion. In the "Kid Activity Area" we had a poster contest and scavenger hunt, plus an archaeology dig. Under the front porch, we had a big table with Kumeyaay basket-making and pottery demonstrations, with sales of these craft items. There were walking tours to the Paleo and Archaeology



labs throughout the day.

During the early evening, at the Archaeology Lab, there was a free ice cream social and announcement of the Silent Auction bids. The Colorado Desert Archaeology Society raised almost \$5,000 from the auction.

The campfire program at Palm Canyon on Saturday night was Native American story telling and gourd dancing and singing.

Because of bad road conditions from the previous weeks rain and high winds, many of the planned field trips on Sunday had to be cancelled. But the big surprise event of the day was a presentation by Ursula Tania acting and telling traditional Kumeyaay Coyote stories at the Visitor Center. The Kumeyaay Indians were unable to fire their pottery as planned, because of the high winds, but sales and demonstrations continued on Sunday. Marge Hatcher's display of desert plants used by the Native Americans was very popular, especially tasting of the tea and other food items.

Hank Barber and Chuck Bennett want to thank the volunteers and staff at the Visitor Center, and ABF&I for helping with this event, without your assistance it wouldn't have happened.



Paleontology Program

Paleontology News, March, 2008

07	8AM-3PM	Field, Post Office Parking
13	9-12PM	Steering Committee, Paleontology Lab
13	1-3PM	Curation and Prepara- tion Paleontology Lab
14	8AM-12PM	General Meeting, Odontology Lecture Visitor's Center
14	1-3PM	Curation and Preparation, Paleontology Lab
21	8AM-12PM	Curation and Preparation Paleontology Lab
21	11:30-1PM	Enrichment Series Lecture, Richard Berger Stout Research Center
28	8AM-12PM	Curation and Preparation
28	12-2PM	Annual Picnic at John Strong's home

March will be a busy month for the Paleontology Society. Once again the 5th grade camp is being held in ABDSP. The students, from different schools, will visit the Paleontology laboratory and curation facilities for one hour on Monday and Wednesday afternoons beginning February 20 and continuing through March 19. Volunteers are encouraged to come in on those

days so the students can see an actual working laboratory. Two different groups will also be touring the laboratory and curation areas. The San Diego Press Club will be visiting, dates to be announced, and a women's group from San Diego that assists San Diego students with college scholarships will be here too.

The PORTS program is again ramping up for a busy February, March and April. A new remote camera has been mounted in the laboratory so the various student classes can observe the actual workings of a paleontology laboratory. The majority of the PORTS programs this season are related to paleontology.

Richard Berger will be the speaker for the March PS Enrichment Series. The title of his presentation is, "Hidden Dimensions and Branes". Don't know what "Branes" are? Then plan to attend Richard's talk.

The Paleontology Annual Picnic will be held on March 28th at noon at John Strong's home on Verbena Drive.

Paleo Field Camp V by Sharron Sussman
The Fifth Annual Field Camp of the ABDSP Paleontology Society, scheduled to convene on February 3, 2008, Superbowl (football) Sunday, work through Super (political) Tuesday and break camp on Wednesday, February 6, was nearly blown off track right at the outset. If it weren't for Norbert Sanders, who navigated his RV rig out to the southern Park Sunday morning in defiance of an evolving big Pacific storm, the dates on this year's bright tangerine T-shirt would be wrong. But Norbert, later joined by John Strong, planted the flag at our Bow Willow base camp and spent Sunday night there, all alone. Meanwhile, at situation rooms in Borrego Springs and points further west, the weather was analyzed, alternatives weighed and heroic acts of telephoning performed, mostly by Beth Shugan. We ended

up losing only about three hours, beginning this year's survey at eleven o'clock Monday morning.

The late-starting survey Monday also ended a little early, as the distance shrunk between lines of showers in the East and the work party south of the Vallecitos in the June Wash area. Prospectors returned to Bow Willow from the field in light but definite rain. But crack-of-dawn wakeups Tuesday and Wednesday put us on site around 8 am, so a lot of washes got walked and slopes scaled. Although only ten hardy souls stayed in Bow Willow Monday night, in four RVs and two tents, a dozen or so drove out from Borrego to join the group each morning, bringing numbers up to approximately field-trip normal. By the end of the third day, our specimen count from this early Pleistocene part of the Hueso Formation was only about 60% of what we'd found in 2007, with no obvious explanations.

Among many interesting, quite remarkable finds was a microfossil site identified by Sandra Keeley on Monday. After seeing those adorable little bones I spent some time hopefully crawling around anthills on the rumor that ants will toss microfossils out of their nests, thus bioconcentrating them - but no luck! Many of us who visited Phil Gensler's thriving microfossil operation at Hagerman Beds in Idaho last summer were smitten, and would enjoy doing some ourselves. Our own Field Camp operation has become smoother and more coordinated over time, largely because of use of the 2-way field radios. Field Leader Ron Shugan spent much of his time racing to answer radio summonses to inspect fresh finds. Additional opinions were solicited as needed - by radio. The official Park GPS unit was dispatched in the same efficient way to wherever it was needed. Anyone heading down the wrong arroyo could generally get found quickly by a combination of radio contact and line-of-sight from a convenient



Field Camp 2008: Linda Gilbert and Lou Bahar working on paperwork at a fossil site.
Photo by Dick Ingwall

ridge top. We'll never go back to whistles!

Our evening activities Monday were dampened but not extinguished by the weather. After potluck dinner in the Shugans' RV, we socialized till around Borrego midnight (9pm). Tuesday night, clearer and warmer than Monday, and wind free, permitted a campfire dinner with no smoke blown in anyone's eyes! But



Vallecito Creek: Panorama of the area being surveyed during the Paleo Field Camp.
Photo by Dick Ingwall

we missed our departed comrades who had elected to bail on camping because of the weather; the general feeling is that next year we'll do Field Camp a little later in the season. Ranger Steve Bier, who was so helpful in getting us tucked into a good site at Bow Willow this year, may have more trouble with that if we schedule in what turns out to be the middle of a killer wildflower season. But we'll figure something out - we always do!



Bow Willow Campground

A Matter of Courtesy

The visitor center is blessed with highly trained, well-informed and enthusiastic volunteers that are the best to be found. Each volunteer is eager to help our visitors to the best of their ability.

Sometimes a little too eager.

I have done this myself; a visitor asks the volunteer in front of them a question. Before they can answer, another well-intentioned volunteer jumps in to answer the question. The first volunteer may feel slighted at losing the opportunity to help the visitor.

Please be considerate of the feelings of your colleagues. Sometimes, listening to their answers can be very illuminating. If they need help, they will ask. Thank you.

Out and about
enjoying
the flowers?

As each weekend approaches we update the flower report. If you have the time, we would really appreciate any information or pictures (digital) you may want to send us. Please email your images to mrodriques@parks.ca.gov. You will be credited for your photography on the Park website.

Park Volunteer Visitor Center Duty Schedule: March 2008

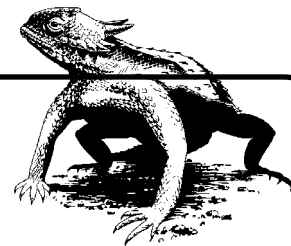
Shift	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1
9-1							S. Lindemann P/R. Poitras
11-3							T. Alexander
1-5							N. Bailey P/R. Poitras
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9-1	J. Caragozian D/J Hopkins A. Keenan	D. Shannon Astrid Webb Sam Webb	G. Ehly R. Ehly H. Davis N. Bailey	P/R. Poitras _____ _____	J. Bigelow M. Bigelow P. Decker	P/R. Poitras H. Miller _____	P. Decker D. Ehrlich V. Ota W. Quinn
11-3					P. Whittingham		K/J. Cormier
1-5	Mary Ekelund P. Larson M. Hatcher	J. Roller L. Roller L. Loerke	G. Clark A. Reilly L. Larson	C. Barber C. Wakefield Thad McManus Molly Radke	L. Phillips T. Wakefield A. Mendenhall	P/R Poitras J/R. Porter J. Nickerson	L. Larson B/R. Shugan F/M Medema
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9-1	B/R. Barrie D/J. Hopkins V. Ota	H. Barber D. Hellyer S. Salt R. McDonald	P. Kilroy P. Mason C. Wakefield	J. Anderson J. Ebright A. Keenan	P. Carskaddan B. Loizos P. Mason	H. Davis W. Quinn	L. Larson B. Loizos S. Strong P. Decker
11-3		K. Demunck			J/K. Cormier	B. Jures	T. Alexander
1-5	G. Clark K. Vickars P. Larson	H. Barber R. Falk L. Larson	R. Burge P. Cogdell A. Reilly	J. Nickerson A. Nourse A. Reilly	M. Churchwell R. Larson _____	K. Prath Thad McManus Molly Radke	H. Davis B. Shugan R. Shugan
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9-1	C. Steele D. Hellyer E. Macy K. Prath	S. Lindemann F. McDavitt Astrid Webb Sam Webb R. McDaniel	G. Ehly R. Ehly P. Kilroy B. Loizos	H. Barber J. Haldemann L. Larson P. Cogdell	R. Burge N. Decker P. Mason C. Wakefield	S. Cate M/F Medema T. Wakefield N. Bailey	J/M Delaney P. Decker J. Ebright E. Macy H. Miller
11-3		J/R Porter	P. Mason	P. Whittingham	H. Davis	K. Vickars	J/K. Cormier
1-5	G. Clark Mary Ekelund P. Larson	J/L Roller M. Hatcher T. Wakefield	J. Fort L. Phillips S. Cate	H. Barber A. Nourse V. Perrine	C. Barber M. Churchill C. Steele	R. Larson T. McManus M. Radke	N. Estes B. Shugan R. Shugan
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9-1	B/R Barrie J. Nickerson K. Vickars	L. Johnson A. Keenan M. Landis H. Miller	H. Barber N. Decker R. McDaniel A/S. Webb	J. Anderson J. Ebright L. Loerke	H. Barber D. Shannon P. Decker	T. Wakefield K. Vickars	J. Delaney M. Delaney N. Decker J. Strong
11-3	J. Fort	B. Jures		F. McDavitt	H. Barber	V. Perrine	
1-5	M. Ekelund P. Larson A. Keenan B/R. Shugan	R. Falk E. Macy J. Strong	H. Barber R. Burge S. Salt	A. Mendenhall A. Nourse A. Reilly	H. Barber P. Cogdell M. Churchwell	M. Olson S. Cate	J. Nickerson B. Shugan R. Shugan
	30	31	Meetings: Steering Committee, March 11, 08, 2:00 P.M., V.C. General Meeting, March 17, 08, 2:30 P.M., V.C. Pot Luck , March 18,08, 6:00 P.M., at the home of June Fort Substitutes: Perrine, V-Loizos, B-Larson, R/L-Shimeall, E-Nickerson, J-Ekelund, M-Porter, R/J-Churchwell,MJ.				
9-1	C. Barber B/R Barrie M. McGuire	P. Cogdell B. Loizos M. McGuire					
11-3							
1-5	M. Ekelund P. Larson M. Hatcher	J. Forte E. Macy					



**ANZA-BORREGO
DESERT STATE PARK®
200 PALM CANYON DRIVE
BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004**

First Class

Staying In Touch



VC Volunteer Steering Committee

Sam Webb, Chair 767-3205

Paleontology Society

Beth Shugan, Chair 603-566-3046

Archaeology Society

Chuck Bennett, Chair 767-4761

Anza-Borrego Foundation

& Institute

Linda Carson 767-0446

Sally Theriault 767-4063

Other Numbers

Visitor Center 767-4205

Stout Paleo Laboratory 767-3944

District Library 767-7792

Mike Rodriques (VC Manager) 767-0334

George Jefferson (Paleo) 767-4974

Sue Wade (Archaeo) 765-0485

The BRIDGE

"The Bridge" is a newsletter for all of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® volunteers. If you know of a volunteer who is not receiving his/her own copy, please let us know. The deadline for next month's issue is the 15th of the current month.