



SAN DIEGO
Archaeological Center

The Center's
Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 11, Number 1

Spring 2007

A Research Intern's Experience by Barbara Quimby

I discovered the Center last year, heading back home to Los Angeles after a day of hiking in the San Diego backcountry. It's been a long time since I studied anthropology in college, and as I considered returning for graduate school, I wanted to get involved and gain some real-world experience in archaeology. I was drawn to the Center's internship program, which provides a unique opportunity to use the Center's artifact collections to research the pre-contact era in California. The Center's supportive staff helped me to develop project ideas and for the past several months have guided my work as a research intern.

My research project explores the use of stone tools by the native peoples of pre-contact San Diego County. Stone tools were an essential part of life for indigenous Californians in the past and throughout the ancient world. Stone tools are still used today in some cultures. Although they may seem simple to us in the modern world of iPods and hybrid cars, the technology developed to create and use the right stone tool for the right task still holds mysteries for us today. Choosing the right type of stone is the first important step in creating a tool: some stones are easier than others to chip and flake in order to achieve the correct shape. San Diego County offers many

natural stone resources, so it is of particular interest to note which local stones toolmakers preferred for 'flint-knapping', or stone tool production.



Center Research Intern Barbara Quimby at an archaeological site in Belize, Central America.

We are still trying to understand why pre-contact cultures in Southern California chose certain stones to create their tools. Most of the time, it seems they would use what was most available and the easiest to work, but there may have been other factors influencing their choices, such as limited mobility, territorial restrictions, or cultural traditions. My project uses the Center's collections to study the use of quartz for toolmaking, a locally available though less than ideal raw material, during what is known as the "Late Prehistoric Period." Quartz is harder to work than chert, but is commonly found at some toolmaking sites. It seems to have been selected mainly for small tools, espe-

cially projectile points. I am currently in the process of compiling data from various collections to investigate spatial patterns in the use of quartz. Comparing the data from different collections has been challenging at times: each survey or excavation report uses its own terminology for different materials, and it is important to be sure the data are consistent—comparing apples to apples. Hopefully, the results will tell us something about changes in pre-contact economies and technology in San Diego County.

Collections research may not seem as 'glamorous' as excavation, but there are many important discoveries yet to be uncovered on the Center's shelves. The artifacts curated in each box tell many stories about the native and pioneering cultures that have made San Diego County their home. It has been well worth the long drive down from my home in Los Angeles, and I encourage anyone interested in developing their own project to talk to the Center's staff and get involved!

Docents Wanted

The Center is recruiting docents for 10 AM to 2 PM shifts at the Center Monday through Saturday. Docents will greet visitors and help with cataloguing our extensive library. Please call Annemarie Cox at 760-291-0370.

Special Volunteer Appreciation Issue

The Center is open
Monday - Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturdays
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

EVENTS

March 10 - 11 AM to 1 PM

Family Day
California Native Plants
with Greg Rubin
See Page 5

April 12 - 10 AM to 2 PM

Archaeology Day
Flint-knapping Workshop
With Dr. Tim Gross
See Page 5

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This publication is sponsored in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture





President's Report by Bruce Gallagher

Volunteers a Valued Resource

During the past year, the Center has made significant strides. A few in a long list include the signing of a long term lease with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, acquisition of a significant CCE grant for compactable shelving, the receipt of a major library from **Dr. Raymond Starr**, distinguished California historian, and we were selected as a recipient of an 'Award of Excellence For Historic Preservation' by the City of San Diego Historic Resources Board. Limited space denies me the opportunity to list all the other numerous accomplishments. These achievements are the direct tangible result of the steadfast dedication by the Board of Directors and Center staff.

There is another equally important ingredient to our success – our membership and many volunteers. Our volunteers are filled with the passion to help preserve and promote Center archaeological collections in a sensitive and dignified manner. Being a non-profit organization, the Center simply cannot offer all the programs and services it does without the help of its members and volunteers and they play an important and vital role in the helping us to fulfill our mission.

In early January, **Center Director Cindy Stankowski** and I had the privilege of acting as hosts at a luncheon honoring Center volunteer **Doral Hurd**, who recently achieved the remarkable milestone of over 1,000 hours of volunteer service. I talked with Doral about her service. In her typical demeanor she shrugged and said it was no big deal adding, "I just love being a part of the Center and I hope to put in many more

hours." Doral's commitment says a lot both about her and the Center. Thanks again go to Doral for her tremendous efforts and enthusiasm in assisting the Center. The value of her contribution simply cannot be overstated or praised enough. But Doral is not alone; we also have many other devoted volunteers performing a myriad of tasks day in and day out and we are proud and indebted to each and every one of them.

Have you ever thought of being a Center volunteer or wondered what you might be able to contribute? There are still many opportunities for additional people to become involved.

Annemarie Cox, our Program Director would love to speak with you about being a docent. **Chris Mirsky**, our Collection Manager, is always looking for additional collection interns. Think you might like to help with ongoing building maintenance or landscaping? Or maybe you have a special skill or talent that you would like to offer to one of our various

committees like Finance or Curation Advocacy. Our Curation Advocacy committee focuses on how to assist the community in recognizing the importance and need for archaeological curation while Finance welcomes additional professional insights on financial matters. Being a volunteer is a noble calling and is a significant statement of selfless core values. Call Center Director **Cindy Stankowski** at 760.291.0370 for more details on how to become a volunteer.

No matter how you choose to spend your time as a volunteer your assistance is appreciated and is a valued Center resource. How will you use your passion to help make the Center and our world better?



Center Board President **Bruce G. Gallagher**, outstanding volunteer **Doral Hurd** and Center Director **Cindy Stankowski** thank Doral for donating 1,000 hours to the Center as a volunteer. Doral was treated to lunch at **Romano's Macaroni Grill** in Escondido.

The mission of the San Diego Archaeological Center is to preserve archaeological collections and to promote their educational, scientific and cultural use to benefit a diverse public.

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This newsletter is published quarterly.

Comments, contributions and suggestions are welcome

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Progress Made on Second NAGPRA Grant

The Center was awarded a second \$75,000 grant by the National Park Service NAGPRA Program to assess “orphan” archaeological collections for objects that may be eligible for repatriation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. This important law returns human remains and grave goods to the culturally related tribes.

NAGPRA applies only to collections held at institutions that receive federal funding. The Center recognized that artifacts excavated in accordance with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) were often left with archaeological firms or in storerooms and would likely never be evaluated for objects that should be repatriated to Indian Tribes. The Center contacted local archaeological firms to ascertain if they had collections excavated before 1990 (when NAGPRA became law) and brought them to the Center for assessment and accession into the permanent collections.

Implementation of the grant began in November 2006. Eventually, Center staff will assess 500 cubic feet of “orphan” collections. The collec-

tions represent 22 separate projects undertaken in San Diego County from 84 different sites.

Review and cataloguing of four collections from coastal Carlsbad was recently completed by Curatorial & Research Department staff. Some of the artifacts are from sites originally recorded by Malcolm Rogers, pioneering San Diego archaeologist, in the 1920's. The largest of the four collections contained over 11,000 catalogued items including flaked stone tools, debitage, and cores; manos, metates, and pestles; and shell and animal bone. The material remains are representative of a Middle Holocene (Early Period/Archaic) coastal habitation site. Radiocarbon dates for shell and charcoal from some of the hearth features range from 2,000 to 5,000 years ago. Objects eligible for repatriation under NAGPRA criteria have been identified, documented, and set aside for consultation with Kumeyaay and Luiseño tribal representatives. Three additional collections from the Carlsbad area are currently undergoing assessment.

Results from the First NAGPRA Grant

The Center's Curatorial and Research staff painstakingly examined over **82,000** artifacts during the first NAGPRA Assessment Project. **1,068** items were identified for repatriation to culturally affiliated Kumeyaay and Luiseño Tribes. The remainder of the collections will be curated at the Center in perpetuity.

The Center wishes to thank the tribal representatives for their help during consultations and the archaeologists for preparing collections for transfer to the Center.

Shelving Available

As the Center phases in new compactable curation shelving, the old shelving is available at no charge to other non-profit groups on a first come, first served basis. This is sturdy metal shelving with 30 x 40 inch shelves, 6 feet to 7 feet in height. Please contact Center Director **Cindy Stankowski** at 760-291-0370 or cstankowski@sandiegoarchaeology.org for further information.

Center Collections GIS Mapping Project Begins

Acquisition of GIS (Geographical Information System) software, made possible by a grant from ESRI, has allowed Curatorial & Research Department staff to begin a major project to map the Center's collections. New GIS intern, **Gwen Estill**, and volunteer, **Tim Wolfe**, are currently working to link the collections catalogue databases to their geographic source locations within San Diego County. Gwen is a graduate of UCSD and a student in the GIS Certification Program at Palomar College. Tim is also earning his GIS certificate at Palomar College and has experience working with GIS applications as a student intern for the Cleveland National Forest. Tim has been an intern and volunteer at the Center since 2005.

Dennis Gallegos and **Nick Doose** of **Gallegos & Associates** have been instrumental in establishing the Center's GIS capabilities by providing and installing digital maps on the system. **Hal Mirsky** of **ASEG** provided a computer with extra memory and RAM to run the sophisticated software.

Accurate assessment of the geographic distribution of the Center's collections will assist the Center Director and Board in making decisions regarding new accessions and in managing existing collections. The new mapping software will also be an important tool for research and exhibit planning and design.



USCD graduate Gwen Estill and Palomar student Tim Wolfe at the Center's new GIS computer work station. Their mapping project will plot the sites represented in all of the Center's collections. Thus, the Center will be able to determine which geographic areas are represented or underrepresented in the collections.



“Pottery and Place” Exhibit at Serra Mesa—Kearny Mesa Branch Library

Pottery-making was evident in the San Diego County region 1,000 years ago. Bowls and jars were the most common vessel form types or shapes made. However, very few complete vessels are found. Instead, archaeologists often find hundreds of sherds or broken pieces at archaeological sites. Yet even these fragmented artifacts can give us insight into how people adapted to different physical environments within San Diego County.

The Center will be installing a research-based exhibit entitled “Pottery and Place”, in the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library. This exhibit can be seen the month of April 2007 and is made possible by a generous grant from **Union Bank of California**.

This exhibit is based on a research project conducted in 2006 by



Kumeyaay olla (o-ya) or jar

Pottery and Place is a new exhibit featured at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library during April. The exhibit focuses on research on pottery sherds from the Center’s collections.

University of California, San Diego student **Jamaica Grace-Bishop** under the direction of **Dr. Margie Burton, Center Research Director**. The study was aimed at documenting and comparing the shapes and sizes of pre-contact pottery from two different physiographic zones: the mountains of Cleveland National Forest and the desert of Anza-Borrego State Park. The exhibit highlights the project results using graphs, images, maps, and pottery sherds and suggests how observed differences in vessel shape and size might relate to differences in pottery function or use in these different environments.

The exhibit will be on display at the Serra Mesa Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123, (858) 573-1396.

New Collections at the Center



Three ground stone artifacts from the Carlsbad area: left, granitic mano/pestle; center, sandstone pestle utilized at both ends; right, quartzite cobble pestle utilized at one end. The center pestle

The Center accessioned 12 new collections between November 2006 through January 2007. The majority of these collections represent San Diego County pre-contact period sites and came to the Center under the National Park Service grant for NAGPRA (Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act) assessment. Three of the collections contain material from Carlsbad Ranch. The sites in Carlsbad Ranch, SDI-6132, 8797, 10670 and 12814 were first discovered by Malcolm Rogers in the 1920s. In 1992, and again in 1995, the 420 acres comprising Carlsbad Ranch were surveyed and tested to determine its importance under CEQA. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal gives these sites a relative date of 4400 ± 90 YBP, placing them in the La Jolla complex. The presence of pottery gives the sites a relative date of 1000 YBP.

The Center also accepted nine collections (CP67-74 and MIR14) under curation agreements with the Federal government. The Center encourages continued research on curated collections and makes them available for cultural use and for public exhibition and education.

Look for Major Changes at the Center this Spring

The Center will start to look a lot different starting March 1, 2007. Preparation for installation of state-of-the-art compactable curation shelving will be carried out by **Neil Kavanagh** of **Neil Kavanagh Construction**. The shelving project will be managed and installed by the **Scott Olpin** and **Brian D’Asaro** of the **Olpin Group**.

During the next few months, **Hubbell and Hubbell** will be completing the architectural and structural drawing for the Center’s new entrance and office core.

Greg Rubin, owner of **California’s Own Native Landscape Design**, has been retained to design an exciting new setting, using native plants and natural landscaping.

The Center is seeking corporate support for these and other capital improvement projects. Please call Marie Andersen at 760-291-0370 for more information.

Exhibits will be accessible and programs will continue during construction. Please come by and see the exciting changes.



Celebrate Spring's Arrival with Native Plant Expert Greg Rubin

Have you ever planted a seed with a child and waited anxiously for it to sprout through the soil? **Greg Rubin**, owner of **California's Own Native Landscape Design**, will be on hand to celebrate the arrival of spring with a Family Day activity. While learning about the importance and uses of native plants, participants will have the opportunity to get their hands dirty planting seeds for their own native plant garden.

Mr. Rubin's fascination with native California plants led him to launch his successful landscaping business in 1993. Since that time, he has designed over 400 native landscapes throughout San Diego County. The company's mission is to create beautiful, responsible, low maintenance native landscapes that re-capture a sense of regional identity rapidly disappearing from California. Native plant landscapes also increase available habitat for native birds, butterflies, lizards,

and other local wildlife.

Mr. Rubin will be developing a native plant landscape design for the San Diego Archaeological Center. The design will focus on the uses of native plants by San Diego's earliest and latest residents.



Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) or "fried egg" poppy is named for Chief Matilija of the Chumash Tribe who once lived in Ventura County, and for Thomas Coulter, an Irish botanist traveling in the West searching for new plants. The "fried egg poppy" is the largest of California's wildflowers. This specimen was photographed in Rose Canyon.

Share the arrival of Spring with a child and watch their wonderment year round as their plants begin to germinate, take root and develop into a native California plant. All garden supplies will be provided by the Center. Bring lunch and enjoy the beautiful San Pasqual Valley. Drinks and water will also be provided.

**Family Day at the Center
Saturday, March 10, 2007
11:00AM to 1:00 PM**

Admission to this activity is free to Center members, suggested \$5 donation for non-members, \$15 maximum for families. Become a member on the day of the program and enjoy discounts on this and many events to come in 2007-08.

Popular Flint-knapping Workshop with Dr. Tim Gross Coming in April

Join **Dr. Timothy Gross**, Principal Archaeologist for **Affinis**, and guest flint-knappers as well, as they share comparative collections of replicated lithic tools and discuss some of the actual ancient stone tools in the Center's vast collections.

This popular workshop is part of the Center's series of **Second Saturday Archaeology Day** programs, funded in part by a generous grant from **SDG&E, a Sempra Energy Company**. Archaeology enthusiasts can participate in a range of activities based on the research, findings and Center collections documenting San Diego's 10,000 year human history.

Participants ages 12 and older can learn to make stone tools using methods thousands of years old. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch, sturdy gloves and eye protection. Drinks will be provided. This is a rare opportunity to learn about an

ancient technique used and refined over centuries.

Cost for the workshop is \$10 for members and \$35 for non-members. For more information, call 760-291-0370 or refer to the Center's website at www.sandiegoarchaeology.org for current information. Please register early; space is limited.

**Saturday, April 13, 2007
10am to 2pm.**

**\$10 for Center members
\$35 for non-members**

Become a member on the day of the program and enjoy discounts on this and many events to come in 2007-08.

**PAST WORKSHOPS HAVE
FILLED QUICKLY, PLEASE
CALL AND RESERVE YOUR
SPACE SOON.**



This felseite biface was excavated by Dr. Tim Gross from a site in Carlsbad and is now curated at the Center. The point is leaf-shaped with distinct shoulders, very similar to Western Stem Points found throughout the region. The base is rounded, and both edges above the shoulders are roughly serrated for a little over half their length.



Director's Report by Cindy Stankowski, M.A.

I just returned from a trip to Guatemala and was humbled by the number of ruins that attract visitors from all over the world. In spite of oppressive heat and humidity, insects and snakes, the ancient Maya created cities in the jungle. These shrines, like the cathedrals and palaces in Europe, are the remains of the elite and the privileged. Far less archaeology has been done in Guatemala to understand the lives of everyday people, people like you and me.

That is why archaeology in Southern California is so unique and important. It provides us with a means to understand how ordinary people made a living for thousands of years. The people who lived here didn't have to control others to make sure they had enough land for farming. Yes, there were wars and bloodshed, but when people have enough to eat and a rich environment, there is less need

for monuments built at great cost. Our long archaeological record of a sophisticated hunting and gathering lifestyle allows us to see changes through time and find more evidence about everyday life.

I am not Native American, but my ancestors in Eastern Europe once lived very much like the ancient people who lived here. Understanding how people lived in the region we now call San Diego, provides us with clues about how people lived all over the world.

Okay, so San Diego doesn't have any pyramids (not counting that white thing on Miramar Road). But we have history and archaeology to be proud of. We are also lucky that the living descendents of indigenous people still live in the area.

Please pay us a visit at the Center and learn how your ancestors made a living.



Center Director Cindy Stankowski at Tikal, Guatemala, in January 2007. Although San Diego cannot boast pyramids, the archaeological record spans 10,000 years and reveals much about how humans lived all over the world.

New Development Director Joins Center

Marie Andersen joins the San Diego Archaeological Center as the new **Development Director**. Ms. Andersen has over a decade of fundraising experience with extensive marketing, technology infrastructure design and government and foundation grant writing in addition to operational and Capital Campaign fund development. She is former Director of Development for the **Children's Museum of San Diego/Museo de los Niños**, Director of Membership and Events for the **Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, CT** and Consultant for **Soundview Community Media Television** – the first cable access television station on the east coast to be founded by a Museum. She has also taught elementary art and science programs in a museum setting at the Discovery Museum and the Fairfield, Connecticut Children's Museum and has developed programming and materials for teacher training workshops, inter-organizational collaborations, museum art and science exhibits and outreach programming.



Marie Andersen joined the Center's staff in February as Development Director.

"This is a most auspicious time in the history of the Center," says Ms. Andersen. "Led by an energized and committed Board, the Center is launching a Capital Campaign to change the face of our organization into a regional research, educational and tourism destination. Plans include a beautiful new entryway and landscaping; a light-filled new lobby and expanded exhibitions and related programming. These and many more innovative changes will welcome our members, visitors, school groups and researchers and enhance access to the wealth of resources the Center has to offer. I hope that you will join us in our efforts to make the San Diego Archeology Center a thriving and vital part of the San Diego landscape through your generous donations, as we *preserve the past and plan for the future.*"

As owner and President of Swift Wing Studio Graphic Design, her extensive experience in corporate and children's publishing, licensing and promotion will be a great asset to marketing efforts of the Center. In 1999, she received an award from the New England Museum Association for Museum Brochure Design and an Honorable Mention for Museum Annual Report Design. She is currently Board Vice President of the **San Diego Dance Alliance** and is a past Board Member of the **Community Campership Council**.

Ms. Andersen is the mother of two grown children, Lauren and Garrett Gilchrist, and grandmother to Amber Rose who she loves dearly.



Volunteers: Our Greatest Asset

The Board of Trustees and Center Staff would like to thank past and present volunteers for their tremendous contribution to our mission:

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Members of the Center Board of Trustees are volunteers and have contributed hundreds of hours to the success of the Center. Our thanks and appreciation to this exemplary group:

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Or visit www.sandiegoarchaeology.org to join via PayPal.

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