

# CASSP newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3, December 2009

## Announcing the SCA annual meeting, March 2010, Riverside Convention Center

The Society for California Archaeology (SCA) encourages you to attend the 2010 SCA state-wide archaeological meetings. The meetings will be held at the Riverside Convention Center with rooms available at the historic Mission Inn and at the Riverside Marriott. Both of these hotels are close to the Convention Center. If you decide to stay at one of these hotels, please tell them that you are with the Society for California Archaeology and receive the convention rate of \$99 per night.

Last year, the pre-registration cost for the three-day conference was \$80 for SCA members. For more information about the 2010 annual meeting, please visit the SCA web site at:

[www.scahome.org/meetings\\_events/index.html](http://www.scahome.org/meetings_events/index.html)

The 2010 meetings will start on Wednesday, March 17, with workshops during the day, and an evening session which is open to the public. On Thursday, the plenary session will have several presentations on "Forging New Frontiers: The Curation Crisis, Stewardship, and Cultural Heritage Management in California Archaeology." Papers on a variety of archaeological topics continue on Friday, and through Saturday morning, March 20.

Stephen Horne, archaeology consultant, has organized a symposium on site stewardship: "Site Stewardship: Where Have We Been and Where Will We Go?" He has asked a number of archaeologists to present papers on different aspects of site stewardship programs in the West. After the papers, a panel of other archaeologists and members of the community will continue the dialog on various issues with these programs, such as stable funding, fluctuating levels of agency support, disclosure of site information, extent of professional supervision, retention,

and varying levels of success in meeting volunteer expectations. CASSP is pleased to be a participant in this symposium. As soon as we know the exact date and time for this symposium, we will notify volunteers via the CASSP web site and listserv.

Also, CASSP will hold its annual committee meeting during the SCA meetings. At this committee meeting, we will review the schedule for upcoming workshops, discuss site stewardship needs, plan future workshops (initial training and advanced), and answer questions concerning the program. We usually hold the CASSP committee meeting at lunch time for about one hour at one of the conference rooms. This committee meeting is open to anyone interested in CASSP and particularly to site stewards (current and potential volunteers), coordinating archaeologists, and SCA members. Because the local arrangements chair will need an attendance estimate to provide a room, please e-mail Beth Padon at [bpadon@discoveryworks.com](mailto:bpadon@discoveryworks.com) if you are interested in attending. We look forward to seeing you in Riverside. ◇



*This group photo shows many of the people who attended the committee meeting in 2009.*

## Advanced workshop in artifact identification, February 13-14

Current CASSP volunteers are invited to attend an advanced workshop in Oroville on February 13-14, 2010 (exact location to be announced). This two day, learning-by-doing workshop will consist mainly of lab work as we catalog an archaeological collection of stone tools that was confiscated during criminal proceedings under ARPA. Plumas National Forest archaeologists, Jamie Moore and Mary Kliejunas will lead this workshop. Please visit the CASSP web site at [www.cassp.org](http://www.cassp.org) for more information. Anyone who has attended an initial volunteer training workshop is eligible to attend. There is no fee, but space is limited and pre-registration is required by contacting Beth Padon at (562) 431-0300 or at [bpadon@discoveryworks.com](mailto:bpadon@discoveryworks.com). ◇

### IN THIS ISSUE

*Field Reports:* Warning: approach with caution, page 3. What can you collect on public lands, page 3. Hantavirus, page 7.

*Workshops:* Youth workshop, page 2. CASSP training workshops, p. 2. Advanced training workshops at Bishop and Clear Lake, pages 4-5. Volunteer training workshops at Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument and at San Bernardino National Forest, page 6.

*Calendar:* SCA annual meeting, page 1. Advanced training workshop in artifact identification, page 1.

*Back page:* Poem by Damon J. Riley, page 8.

## WORKSHOPS

## CASSP youth workshop at Kennedy Meadows

On September 5, 2009, CASSP presented a one-day version of its volunteer training workshop at Kennedy Meadows to Native American youth from Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC). Vicki Tanner, Site Project Coordinator at OVCDC, had asked CASSP to introduce basic identification, protection, and recording of archaeological sites to some of their high-school youth. Kennedy Meadows bridges Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. Forest Service archaeologists Tim Kelly, Mark Howe, and Agnes Castronuevo joined us for this workshop.

Prior to the workshop, we conducted an archaeological records review at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center and gathered site records and background data about Kennedy Meadows, Tulare County. With Tim's help, we selected a large prehistoric site that consisted of stone tools, manufacturing debris, and grinding features for the students to visit. The morning session featured hands-on displays, defined archaeology, described site stewardship, discussed what archaeologists do, and demonstrated some of the field and lab techniques that archaeologists practice. Before visiting the site, each student and staff signed a confidentiality agreement that site records are not for general public use.

For the afternoon, each student had a clipboard and field log to fill out for the field survey. We started by reviewing safety and how to recognize artifacts. Mark organized the group to line up along one side and we slowly walked over a portion of this large site. Using pin flags, the students marked individual artifacts. They used all 400 pin flags! We looked back over the survey area

and saw the high density of stone tool material at this site. We ended the workshop by completing the field logs in the shade at their campground at Kennedy Meadows. Tim accepted the field logs on behalf of Sequoia National Forest and he will add them to the permanent record for this site. Afterwards, the student's evaluated this one-day workshop. One wrote "that there is more [to archaeology] than meets the eye" and another wrote that "it is not as easy as it seems." At the campground, Damon Riley wrote a poem expressing his reaction to learning more about the local archaeology. We are pleased to share his poem on page 8. ◇



*Students and adult leaders reviewed field and safety procedures before the site survey.*



*Tim Kelly, archaeologist with the Sequoia National Forest, describes a prehistoric stone tool artifact.*

## WORKSHOPS

## CASSP training workshops

There are two types of CASSP workshops—initial volunteer training and advanced training.

The initial volunteer training workshops usually are held on one weekend, with classroom sessions on Saturday and a field trip on Sunday. On Saturday, there are presentations on the local archaeology and history, on safety topics, about preservation laws and the need for confidentiality concerning specific site locations. Also, there is a short video and small group discussions about what to do if you find vandalism at your assigned site or find yourself in a situation that could be confrontational. Lunch is provided on Saturday.

On the Sunday field trip, the workshop participants visit two or three actual archaeology and history sites to see what they might find on their sites, and to practice filling out the site visit forms.

The fee for the initial volunteer training workshop is \$25 per person, which is collected at the door for the SCA. Workshop participants who are not already members of the SCA receive a one-year membership.

Advanced training workshops are restricted to CASSP volunteers. These workshops focus on a topic that will help them become better site monitors, such as artifact identification, making sketch maps, site survey and recording techniques, and GPS/GIS applications. The advanced training workshops last one to two days, and they are offered at least once a year at a northern California location and at a southern California location. There is

no registration cost for advanced training workshops.

Participants have to pre-register for both kinds of workshops, because space is limited. Usually, the last day to register is the Monday before the weekend in which the workshop will be held. To register, contact Beth or Chris Padon by phone at (562) 431-0300 or by e-mail to [bpadon@discoveryworks.com](mailto:bpadon@discoveryworks.com).

Training workshops are held across the State, at BLM field offices, US Forest Service ranger district offices, and at State Parks and National Parks. On average, there will be about one workshop per month from now through September, 2010. As soon as a workshop date and locations is confirmed, it's posted on the CASSP website at [www.cassp.org](http://www.cassp.org). Workshops also are announced in e-mail messages through the CASSP events listserv. ◇

## FIELD REPORT

## Warning: approach with caution

Safety always comes first when you are visiting your archaeology site. In the CASSP training, we stress that as a site steward you are not a law enforcement officer. This translates to approaching people only, after you carefully have assessed the situation keeping your safety foremost in mind. New information from law enforcement shows how important it is to follow this policy.

According to law enforcement officers, methamphetamine users (tweakers) are looting archaeological sites for artifacts to sell for more drugs (Patel 2009).

“Methamphetamine is a highly addictive central nervous system stimulant that can be injected, snorted, smoked, or ingested orally. Methamphetamine users feel a short yet intense “rush” when the drug is initially administered. The immediate effects of methamphetamine include increased activity and decreased appetite. The drug has limited medical uses for the treatment of narcolepsy, attention deficit disorders, and obesity.” (Office of National Drug Control Policy).

When the meth user becomes addicted to this illegal drug, they often behave obsessively. The meth addict has no trouble spending long hours and days to search, dig, and steal artifacts to sell. Law enforcement agents coined a new word “Twigger” for the meth user who also sells antiquities for money to buy this drug. The artifact looking becomes a game and the discovery adds a thrill to their search. Law enforcement agents warn that “twiggers” carry firearms.

Also, California State Parks and National Forest officials have discovered a new trend in their wilderness areas: Mexican drug cartels are growing large fields of marijuana in our parks (McGirk 2009). Because of better border controls by the US and increased law enforcement in Mexico, the drug cartels have moved their marijuana plants north to open park lands in California. Some of

these marijuana fields contain 30,000 plants and cover acres of canyons and ridges. According to McGirk, each marijuana plant, that may be 6 to 8 feet tall, sells for \$3,500.

Protection of these fields includes weapons, buried spikes, and tripwire shotgun shells.

Awareness of these new trends in crime gives us pause, and reinforces the concern that volunteers follow good safety procedures, such as:

- Remember to conduct your site visit with another person.
- Don't approach someone who is behaving suspiciously or appears to be involved in illegal activity.
- Call trained law enforcement to deal with violations as soon as you may safely do so.

For more information on this issues:

“Drugs, Guns and Dirt” by Samir S. Patel, *Archaeology* Volume 62 Number 2, March/April 2009, <[www.archaeology.org/0903/etc/drugs.html](http://www.archaeology.org/0903/etc/drugs.html)>

“Mexican Drug Cartels Set Up Shop in California Parks” by Tim McGirk, *Time*, Saturday, August 22, 2009, <<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1917547,00.html>>

“Methamphetamine” by Office of National Drug Control Policy <<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/DrugFact/methamphetamine/index.html>>



## FIELD REPORT

## What can you collect from your public lands?

Not artifacts. Cultural resources, which include prehistoric and historic items, are protected by federal and state laws. They cannot be collected, damaged, or destroyed. Everyone who wants to protect the past knows this. But public lands contain lots of other attractive items such as rocks, pine cones, and plants. What are the rules for collecting them?

Legal careers can be, and have been, built around the study and interpretation of laws and regulations concerning the use of public lands. In general, you can't collect anything on public lands unless you've obtained a specific permit. Each agency has different regulations, which sometimes vary by designated areas within the agency.

On BLM lands, it is permissible to collect commonly available, renewable, plant resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, cones, and leaves for noncommercial uses, but not within pro-

hibited or posted areas and not whole plants or rare, threatened, endangered, or protected species. Hobby mineral collecting is permitted, but only within limits and not if otherwise posted.

Within National Parks, it is not permissible to collect anything. The National Park System includes National Preserves, National Seashores, and National Monuments.

Recreational gathering of stones and minerals is prohibited in California State Parks, unless otherwise posted. Collection of plant and animal specimens is prohibited without a permit.

The only way to know for sure if something legally can be collected is to check with the agency. If you haven't checked, then take only pictures.

Even if it is legal to collect something, it may be unethical. Think before taking something for personal reasons; your action may diminish someone else's enjoyment of our public lands. ◇

Some useful terms, definitions, and concepts about GPS and GIS

**Differential Positioning/Correction.** A GPS receiver determines location by triangulation with the GPS satellites. Greater accuracy can be achieved by relying on the satellite signals received at an additional, fixed, established control position. Since the position of the established receiver is known, the computed position from satellite signals reveals inaccuracies in the signals. This information can be used to correct the positions computed by the roving GPS receivers.

**GIS.** Geographical Information System is a computer database that associates geographic features and spatial characteristics with non-spatial attributes (such as types and numbers of prehistoric artifacts). The data must contain spatial coordinates, which makes GPS so useful. Development of GIS software began in the late 1950s, and ESRI began providing usable GIS software in the late 1970s. (ESRI stands for Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., a private consulting firm formed in 1969. Its most well-known product is ArcView, which began shipping in 1992.)

**GPS.** Global Positioning System is a navigation system based on 24 active satellites (NAVSTAR) and a receiver. The GPS receiver needs to receive signals from at least three satellites to determine position, and from four satellites to determine position and altitude. Position and altitude are calculated by comparing the time that a signal was sent from the satellite to the time that it was received.

The US launched the first GPS satellite in 1978, and the 24th one in 1994. Counting spares, the current GPS constellation consists of 32 satellites; the most recent one was launched on March 15, 2008.

GPS accuracy is affected by variations in the satellite signals (caused by the atmosphere, reflections from tall buildings or rock surfaces, interference from roofs and foliage and other electronic signals, selective availability), the inaccuracies in the receiver's clock, and the number of visible satellites and their relative position. Selective Availability was an intentional degradation imposed by the Department of Defense until May 2000.

**Latitude and Longitude.** Lines of latitude are imaginary east-west (horizontal) lines on a map, and longitude are imaginary north-south (vertical) line on a map. They make a useful grid for measuring positions and distances.

Latitude ranges from 0 degrees at the equator to 90 degrees at the North Pole and -90 degrees at the South Pole. Latitude is approximately equal to the angle between a vertical line from the surface and the sun at an equinox. All by itself, latitude measures north-south distances.

Longitude ranges from 0 degrees to 360 degrees, starting at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, England. It measures east-west distances. At the equator, 1 degree longitude is just over 69 miles (about 111.320 kilometers). Because of the earth's curvature, this distance decreases to zero as you move towards the North or South Pole.

**NAD27.** The North American Datum of 1927 is the reference point for almost all land survey measurements, until the establishment of the NAD83 and WGS84. NAD27 is located at Meades Ranch, in Kansas, the center (almost) of the 48 contiguous states.

**NAD83.** The North American Datum of 1983 is the new reference, based upon a more accurate definition of the shape of the earth. (The earth is a "bumpy" ellipsoid with a curved shape that varies from region to region across the world.) NAD83 is not a "point" of reference, like Meades Ranch. Instead, NAD83 is derived from a mathematical definition of the earth's shape. A free computer program called "NADCON" can convert between NAD27 and NAD83 measurements.

**Pencil and paper.** Pencil (or pen) and paper are two essential components of a GPS field kit. GPS receivers can save coordinates with a push of a button, but it takes a pencil and paper to record notes about the natural surroundings and about the archaeological feature or artifacts.

Note that for a 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic map, a fine line (0.9 mm) drawn on the map represents a width of about 71 feet on the ground. A thick pencil dot that is 2 mm across on the map covers about 157 feet across on the ground—more than half of a football field.

**WAAS.** Wide Area Augmentation System may increase accuracy to as tight as three meters. It is a satellite-based system operated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

**WGS84.** The World Geodetic System is a reference coordinate system that defines zero elevation and distances across the globe. It is based on the earth's center of mass, and provides much greater accuracy. WGS84 dates from 1984 and was revised in 2004. It will be revised again next year.

(Sources: wikipedia.org, gps.gov, gisdevelopment.net, garmin.com, esri.com, and tycho.usno.navy.mil)

## CASSP volunteers attend GPS/GIS advanced training workshop

A dozen volunteers participated in the GPS/GIS workshop held in Bishop on October 17-18. Acting Bishop Field Manager and Archaeologist Kirk Halford lead the training, assisted by BLM archaeologist Greg Haverstock and USFS archaeologist William Kerwin. On Saturday, we focused on using handheld GPS units, with presentations in the morning about their background and uses, and about the best way to record GPS and other field information about sites on the DPR 523 forms. In the afternoon, we visited a known site on BLM land to practice what we had learned. We made new discoveries of obsidian and pottery artifacts at the site, because it had rained just a few days earlier. We also took some GPS readings with our recreational, hand-held units to compare with readings from the professional (and more expensive) GPS units that had been previously used at this site.

On Sunday, we met at the BLM Field Office again and reviewed the site information that we had recorded on the previous day. Everyone had been so excited about examining the site and using our GPS units that almost all of us forgot to record some of the essential information for the DPR 523 forms, such as the date or site number or our own names! However, we did collect a good number of GPS readings, which were copied to the GIS program and displayed through the projector.

One of the important topics of discussion from the previous day concerned the pros and cons between brands of GPS units, and between models of the same brand. Some GPS units have more features and more sensitive antennas, but our small sample of readings from the archaeology site near Bishop showed that all of them had about the same accuracy. Recordings of the same feature or artifact were remarkably similar—usually concentrated within a three meter radius.

We also were surprised to find that our recreational GPS units provided essentially the same readings that had been taken earlier with the high-grade, professional units.

Kirk Halford is the BLM National Cultural Resources Data Sharing Coordinator, and he has a lot of experience helping other BLM offices use GIS to organize and use archaeological data. He showed how BLM offices are using GIS as a management tool for making decisions that affect cultural resources. GIS is especially valuable when it is important to be timely, for example, when fighting wildfires in areas that may contain archaeological sites. The GIS also helps protect cultural resources by making it easy to check known sites and sensitive areas for routine maintenance and other actions.

The workshop participants had a wide range of experience with archaeology, mapping, GPS, and GIS, but we all learned something new at the workshop. And had fun doing it. ◇

WORKSHOPS

## Advanced training workshop in site identification and recording

CASSP volunteers, State Parks archaeologists and law enforcement rangers, and archaeologists from Pacific Legacy Incorporated and Sonoma State University participated in a CASSP advanced training workshop on November 7-8 at Clear Lake.

On Saturday morning, we gathered at the beautiful Visitor Center for Clear Lake State Park for presentations from Leslie Steidl, Greg White, and Mike Newland about the local archaeology, ethnography, and recent investigations at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, which is located at the eastern end of the lake. We watched the video, "Sharing the Neighborhood for 5,000 Years," about the large-scale, 1994, archaeological investigations at Anderson Marsh.

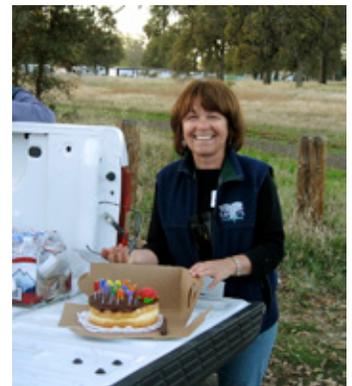
On Saturday afternoon, we made a survey of a large prehistoric site at Anderson Marsh by lining up several feet apart and carefully inspecting the ground surface for midden soils, artifacts, and features as we walked over the area. We marked each discovery with a pin flag, and by the end of the afternoon, as we ran out of pin flags, we saw that they were concentrated in several distinct areas.

We returned to the site area on Sunday to survey additional areas of the site and to measure and map the boundaries. We finished by early afternoon, so we gathered the field equipment and celebrated Dawn's birthday (one of the CASSP volunteers) by helping her eat her birthday cake.

This workshop was a successful combination of learning by lectures and by doing. The presentations on Saturday became more real and understandable when we surveyed a portion of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, finding evidence of people who had lived and worked long ago, along the same lake and shores. ◇



Workshop participants walked transects over the archaeological site and inspected for artifacts, features, and midden soils.



At the end of the workshop, we celebrated Dawn's birthday with cake served from the tailgate of a pickup.



GPS/GIS presentations were led by Kirk Halford, Acting Field Manager for the BLM at Bishop.



CASSP volunteers used GPS to record features and artifacts at an archaeological site outside of Bishop.

Mike Newland, Sonoma State University archaeologist, talks to CASSP volunteers about current studies at Clear Lake.



Most of the CASSP volunteers were able to stay for a second day of field work at Anderson Marsh State Historical Park.



WORKSHOPS

# Workshops at Sequoia National Forest and San Bernardino National Forest

In August and September, two initial training workshops were held for new CASSP volunteers. The August workshop at the Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, was led by Linn Gassaway, District

Archaeologist. The September workshop at the San Bernardino National Forest was led by Bill Sapp, Forest Archaeologist, with USFS archaeologists Gina Griffith and Travis Mason leading additional discussions. ◇



*Linn Gassaway addresses workshop participants at Hume Lake Ranger District.*



*Bill Sapp reviews the prehistory and history of the San Bernardino National Forest at the September volunteer training workshop.*



*Linn Gassaway describes a bedrock feature during the Sunday field trip.*



*We reviewed goals and procedures before the Sunday field trip.*



*At this site, we found bedrock mortars, grinding slicks, and basins.*



*The San Bernardino National Forest Volunteers used quads, and hiking shoes, on the field trip.*



*Site stewards and Linn Gassaway (seated, with new file box for CASSP reports).*



*The training workshop at the San Bernardino National Forest yielded another great group of volunteers.*

## FIELD REPORT

## Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS)

Although visiting our public lands is generally good for your physical and mental well-being, archaeologists and site stewards need to be aware of potential health hazards in the field.

“Michael Fink of the Arizona Department of Health—one of the few to have written on health hazards in archeology—says that just the fact that archeologists spend so much time around dust poses a potential threat. ‘One never knows what’s on those dust particles,’ he says. Aerosolized droplets of urine from rodents, for example, are known to carry hantavirus. In 1993, there was an outbreak of the disease in the Four Corners area, resulting in several deaths. Trash and packrat middens are a potential source of hantavirus, whose symptoms are similar to the flu, but which can obviously get much worse.” (Joseph Flanagan, “What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You,” *Common Ground*, 8(2), Summer 1995).

Some participants in recent workshops have asked about the dangers of hantavirus, since it’s primarily carried by deer mouse and may also be present in pack rat nests. Symptoms include fever, headache, dry cough, muscle aches, and gastrointestinal problems, and should not be ignored.

These concerns prompted the following summary about preventing infection. This material was taken from portions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm>> and <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/noframes/prevent8.htm>>. It will be included in future workshop notebooks.



Deer mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus*. Source is <<http://www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/mammals/cricetidae.html>>. The adult deer mouse weighs about an ounce, with a 2-3 inches long body (not counting the tail).

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a deadly disease from rodents. Humans can contract the disease when they come into contact with infected rodents or their urine and droppings. HPS was first recognized in 1993 and has since been identified throughout the United States. Although rare, HPS is potentially deadly. Rodent control in and around the home remains the primary strategy for preventing hantavirus infection.

### *Some Common Signs of Rodent Infestation*

Remember that not all types of rodents carry hantavirus. Neither common house mice nor common rats have been associated with HPS in humans, for example. Yet because it can be tough to tell just what kind of rodents you have, play it safe—clean up the infestation and rodent-proof your home or workplace.

Here are some common signs that you may have a rodent problem.

### *Rodent Droppings*

This is one of the most reliable signs that you have a rodent problem. You may find droppings in places where you store your food or your pet/animal food, such as in cupboards and drawers or in bins. Because mice like to run in places that offer them some protection from predators, you may find droppings in cupboards or under the sink, along walls, or on top of wall studs or beams. Mice will leave droppings near their nests as well. Storage rooms, sheds, barns, or cabins loaded with boxes, bags, old furniture, and other objects make an ideal home for rodents, so you may find droppings there, even inside boxes and other containers.

Workplaces can also make good rodent homes. Warehouses, restaurants, and the like are obvious places to look because food may be plentiful there. However, rodents can infest office buildings, too. Once again, look for droppings in protected places, such as closets, storage rooms, or inside boxes.

### *Signs of Rodent Nests*

Rodents tend to build their nests from materials that are soft, fuzzy, or warm. Among common rodent nest materials are shredded paper, bunches of dry grass or small twigs, fabric, and furniture stuffing. Rodents will nest wherever safety from enemies can be found, close enough to food and water, and they prefer places that are relatively quiet. Inside buildings, here are places to look:

- inside cabinets
- under or inside dressers
- in and among boxes
- behind and inside machinery and appliances (kitchen appliances such as stoves or refrigerator drip pans; water coolers; and electric motor cases or computer cases)
- inside upholstered furniture
- inside double walls or the space between floors and ceilings.

### *Food Boxes, Containers, or Food Itself That Appears To Be Nibbled*

Look for droppings nearby. Rodents can chew through plastic, so plastic bags do not make safe food storage containers.

### *Signs of Rodent “Feeding Stations”*

These are semi-hidden spots where rodents eat food they have collected. At these stations, rodents may leave larger-than-normal amounts of droppings/urine, plus remnants of a variety of foods (such as nut shells), bits of plastic or paper, and cockroach carcasses.

### *You Find Evidence of Gnawing*

To get to food, rodents will gnaw on almost anything that is softer than the enamel of their teeth. This includes such things as wood, paper board, cloth sacks, and materials even harder than these. Because rodents’ teeth grow continuously, they must gnaw to keep them short. That may help to explain why chair legs or similar surfaces show gnawed spots or tooth marks in rodent-infested places.

### *You Notice an Odd, Stale Smell*

In closed-up rooms infested by rodents, you will commonly smell an unusual, musky odor.

### *You See a Mouse in Your House*

Rodents are normally active at night, and generally avoid humans. If you have rodents, unless the infestation is large, you may never see one. ◇

California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program  
c/o Discovery Works, Inc.  
10591 Bloomfield Street  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

#### BACK PAGE

Indians History Forgotten

by Damon J. Riley

We forgot their history like before  
Years of knowledge gone without a trace  
Yet some survive to tell their story  
Of their hardest days in life  
The killing or movement that white man put them through  
But they never gave up  
For they had left a piece of them in you  
Language gone unknown for a long time  
Now we're bringing it back to life  
Indian history won't go undetected  
Cause we're still bringing it back.

Damon Riley participated in the CASSP youth workshop for Native American youth, held at Kennedy Meadows on September 5, 2009. Our hosts were the Owens Valley Career Development Center and the Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. See the story on page 2. ◇

## 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 C. Kristina Roper. 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:

CASSP Newsletter  
c/o Discovery Works, Inc.  
10591 Bloomfield Street  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
(562) 431-0300  
or send an e-mail message to [bpadon@discoveryworks.com](mailto:bpadon@discoveryworks.com).

The opinions, commentary, and articles appearing in this Newsletter represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the SCA, the SCA Executive Board, or any CASSP sponsors and participants.