

ISSUE NO 90 | WINTER 2020



**ANZA
BORREGO**
FOUNDATION

DESERT UPDATE

2020 WINTER PROGRAMS

Make the most of your next trip to the Park.
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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Our 2018-2019 successes at a glance.
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2020 PHOTO CONTEST

Vote for your favorites online!
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PHOTO CREDIT: Roger Guzman



From the President

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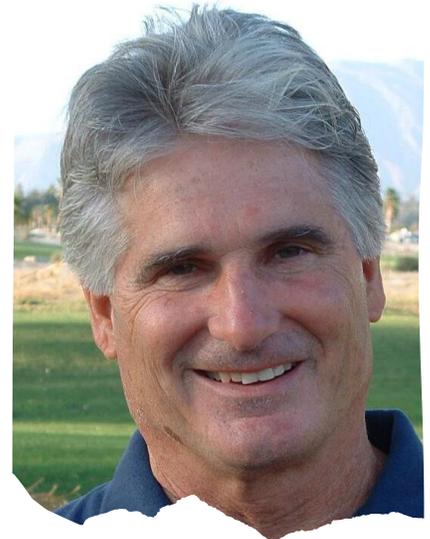
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ALL MAVEN
Desert Update Design
Carey Raffetto
Desert Update Editor

The coming months represent a period of tremendous progress for ABF. You might think I'm talking about the upcoming land transfer to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and that would be a good guess. Transferring 331 parcels of land (over 17,500 acres) to the people of California is certainly noteworthy. When the transaction is completed, ABF will no longer rank as one of the largest private landowners in San Diego County. It's all just part of the ongoing process, though. We have recently purchased over a dozen new inholdings from willing sellers that will be included in a subsequent transfer. We continue to surprise ourselves with our progress on our 53-year-old objective to make the Park "whole."



As cool as the pending transfer is, I'd like to share with you some different news – news that relates to the growth and stability of our organization. Last spring, our board of trustees, employees and park staff gathered to deliberate ABF's future. These efforts resulted in the approval of a three-year strategic plan.

While the plan identifies ways in which we can improve and streamline our **Land Program**, it also charts a future course for other ABF programs. **Interpretive Sales** at the Visitor Center and the State Park Store are important sources of park support. Based on the strategic plan, efforts are already underway to streamline operations, improve products, create a more user-friendly environment, and, hopefully, increase the ABF contribution to the Park. Stop by and visit Mario Mouett, our new retail manager, and give him your opinion of the State Park Store's new look and feel.

The plan also identifies ways to improve our **Education** efforts. Programs including Camp Borrego (a fifth-grade environmental education camp), the Anza-Borrego: In Focus class series and our biannual symposia (focused on natural and cultural resources) will be evaluated and modified to reach more people in more meaningful ways.

And we're moving. Our current office location, next to the State Park Store, has become a less-than-productive workspace. Cramped conditions, poor storage capacity and a complete lack of privacy are problems that we'll be solving with the move. Thanks to a generous landlord and the creative talent and business acumen of ABF staff, the costs related to moving and a rental increase have been significantly minimized. The new office location – in The Mall just east of Kendall's Café – is expected to be ready in early December. Watch for a notice of a grand opening and come by to say hi. You, our dedicated supporters, are always welcome at the ABF office.

Lots of things are going on at ABF, all positive I believe. We will continue to explore ways to be more effective in accomplishing our mission and to make you proud of the difference your contributions make.


Dick Troy, President

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



From L to R: Ray Lennox, Bri Fordem and Lisa Ann L. Mangat

In 2019, the Anza-Borrego Foundation was awarded the **John B. Dewitt Partnership Award**. The award was presented by California State Parks Director Lisa Ann L. Mangat. The Dewitt Award recognizes commitment above and beyond the normal call of duty over a substantial period of time. Realizing that we cannot “do it alone,” State Parks presents this award to those who have served as irreplaceable partners in the accomplishment of our mission.

When Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was created, about 70,000 of the now 640,000 acres remained privately held inside the park boundary. Over the course of more than 50 years, ABF has acquired nearly 60,000 acres to fill in the missing pieces and help State Parks fulfill its commitment to conserve cultural and natural resources while connecting lands for preservation, wildlife migration and recreation.

ABF has facilitated more than \$32 million in donated land, cash and services to benefit Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Today, ABF remains a committed partner to acquire the remaining park inholdings, as well as facilitate more philanthropic investment and ongoing education for park visitors and the local community.

This partnership has stood the test of time because of the commitment of both ABF and State Parks. It has been an honor and privilege to have been part of this partnership, and I intend to support its continued success as I transition to the San Diego Coast District. In October 2019, Ray Lennox was selected as the Acting District Superintendent of the Colorado Desert District. Please welcome and support him as you have done for me. He will continue the great partnership with ABF.

On behalf of the Colorado Desert District and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, congratulations and thank you!

By Gina Moran, Colorado Desert District Superintendent

A NEW LOOK FOR ABF

We are thrilled to share the first step in our new look and feel with the rollout of our new logo and newsletter design! Our logo is still familiar, but with a different color and shape. We have given our sheep legs that we think represent ABF's nimble nature, while the circle enclosing the iconic sheep conveys our steadfast and unending support to the Park. These features are stacked upon “Anza-Borrego” with its tones of layered rock, minerals and desert earth. With a new logo comes a whole slew of updated materials that you will see released in the coming weeks and months. Please stay tuned for our updated website and other publications as we head into 2020 with a whole new look – but the same great work!



**ANZA
BORREGO**
FOUNDATION



Lucky 5 Ranch

A legacy of land acquisition ... with much more to do

Dick Troy

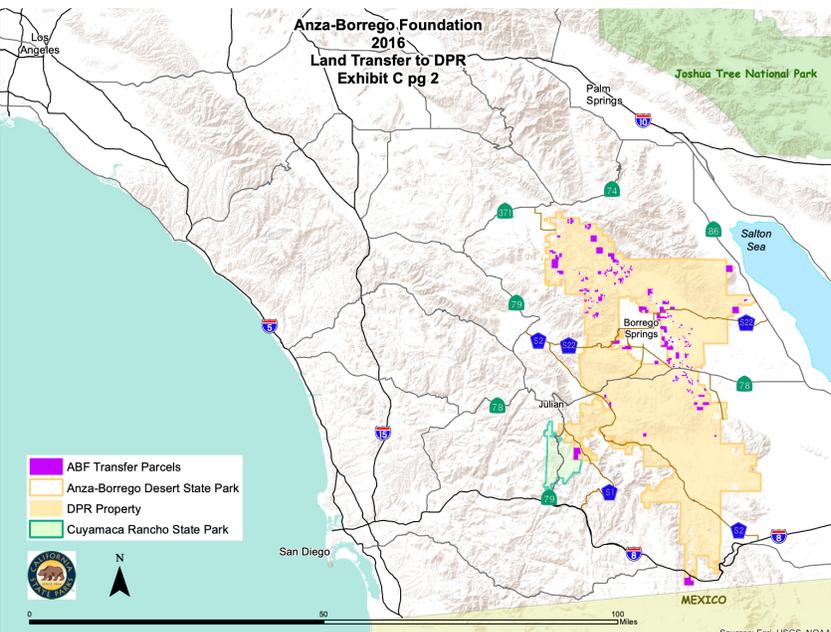
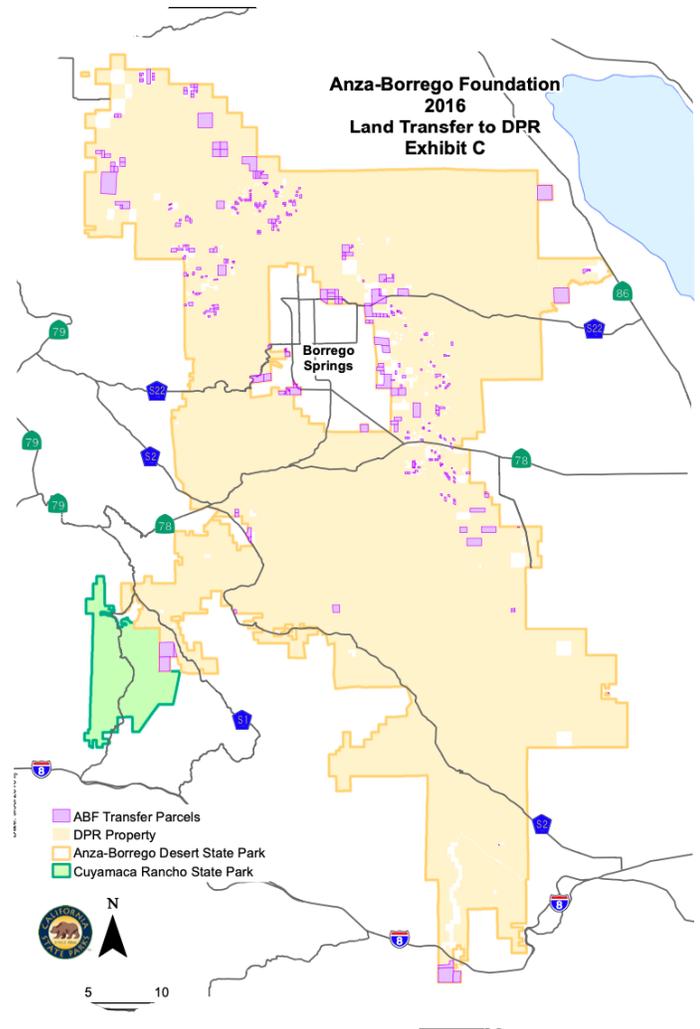
Early next year, one of the most complex land acquisition transactions in California State Parks system history will be consummated. Not one or two parcels, but 331 individual properties will change hands. In all, 17,598 acres will be formally transferred from the Anza-Borrego Foundation (ABF) to the people of California. This major transaction represents a huge milestone in ABF's 53-year journey to "complete" the Park. It is the accumulated result of diligent, methodical land acquisition work by ABF for the past 20 years. When added to earlier ABF-to-Park transfers, nearly 60,000 acres of desert wilderness will have become part of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, protected in perpetuity for future generations.

Scattered throughout the Park remained close to 1,700 private parcels, totaling nearly 70,000 acres.

Many of these “inholdings” had become the source of boundary disputes, and some were creating serious park management concerns related to resource protection, park patrol and public access.

In 1967, the State Park Commission and then State Parks Director William Penn Mott Jr. suggested that an organization be created to begin to purchase these inholdings from willing sellers. On April 1 of that year, a small group of park employees and private citizens gathered at Park Supervisor Wes Cater’s house in Borrego Palm Canyon. During that meeting, the “Anza-Borrego Committee” was formed to initiate this purposeful, yet daunting effort. For its first 20 years, under the aegis of the Desert Protective Council, the volunteers of the Anza-Borrego Committee purchased and accepted donations of over 10,000 acres of inholdings. In 1988, the committee formally incorporated and became Anza-Borrego Foundation.

As large as this upcoming land transfer is, ABF remains committed to future efforts to finish the job and complete the Park. And the pace has not slowed. Over a half century after the onset of the inholding acquisition program, ABF continues to purchase from willing sellers an average of 500 to 1,000 acres each year.



The storied parkland acquisition record accomplished by ABF is one of California’s great conservation accomplishments. It is a story of tenacity, creativity and persistence that ABF supporters and all Californians can take pride in. A nearly impossible task, taken on by a small group of folks in 1967, is now 85 percent complete. As with most great stories, it had its humble beginnings.

In 1957, the state, continuing to manage and develop its nascent park system, decided to combine two of its large, new desert parks into one. Anza Desert State Park to the south and Borrego State Park to the north were combined into Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. At nearly a half-million acres, it became the largest state park in the Lower 48.



Mason Valley

Julie Gerson, ABF Land Program Manager, has been amazed at the number of landowners who continue to call her, curious to inquire about donation or purchase opportunities. She explained, “We’re lucky to have had such generous support for the program over the years. Many people donate their land out of generosity or for tax purposes. For purchases, we have been fortunate to find the money, when needed, from our very generous donor base, bequests and available land-acquisition grant programs.”

In continued coordination with the Park, several areas containing significant and sometimes scattered inholdings have been identified. Upper Coyote Canyon, the Borrego Badlands, Glorietta Canyon and the Kane Springs Road area are just a few examples of where further work needs to be done.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out how to become a part of this successful and long standing legacy of work, call the Foundation at 760-767-0446 or email Julie at julie@theabf.org or Executive Director Bri Fordem at bri@theabf.org.

2020 EVENTS & PROGRAMS

TheABF.org/events



MEMBER HIKES

Just one perk of becoming a member: Enjoy free monthly hikes in the Park on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Meet us in front of ABF's new office at 587 Palm Canyon Dr., Ste 122, next to Kendall's Café. Led by ABF staff and volunteers, we take members to both common and uncommon locations around the Park. It's great way to meet our staff, volunteers and fellow members – all while enjoying this amazing parkland.

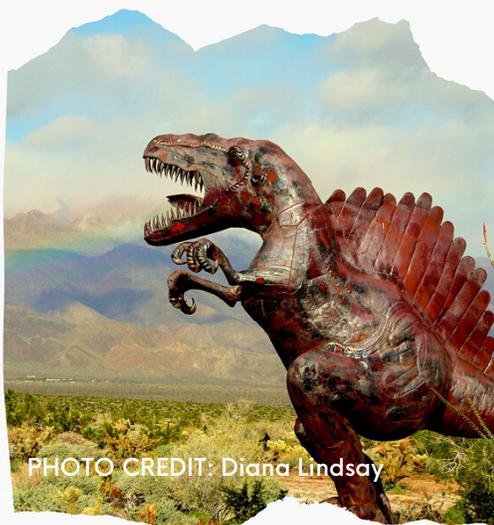


PHOTO CREDIT: Diana Lindsay

ANZA-BORREGO PALEONTOLOGY SYMPOSIUM January 10 and 11, 2020

Two half-days of intriguing talks from distinguished speakers at Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center

- Jack Horner, renowned dinosaur paleontologist
- Tom Demere, curator of paleontology and director of Paleo Services at the San Diego Natural History Museum
- William Stout, artist and illustrator with a specialization in paleontological art
- Greg McDonald, regional paleontologist for the Bureau of Land Management
- Jessie Atterholt, research paleontologist

Registration fee is \$25 for both days. [Learn more at TheABF.org/events](http://TheABF.org/events)

DESERT, SEA & MOUNTAINS BIRDING CLASS

February 7, 8 and 9, 2020 | \$140 / \$110 for ABF Members

Join birding experts Bob Theriault and Mark Jorgensen for a fun-filled birding tour in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – and beyond. For this three-day birding class, expect to view resident birds as well as observe migrants passing through. Participants will carpool to a variety of ecosystems: the Borrego Valley, Salton Sea and desert mountains. The class is designed for birders of all levels, from the novice to the experienced birder who may be looking to hone skills or see species specific to our desert region. Admission price includes all three days.



ABF'S OUTRAGEOUS FRONT PORCH REVUE

February 21, 22, & 23, 2020

Join us for the 4th edition of "ABF's Outrageous Front Porch Revue." Promising a night of pure entertainment, Jimmy Smith and talented local musicians will put on a show you will not soon forget. Showing three nights at the Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center. Get your tickets early, and grab your friends for an event full of music, laughter, community and park support! See you there. **Learn more at [TheABF.org/events](https://www.theabf.org/events).**



LEAP DAY CONCERT: DESERT SONG CYCLE WITH VIOLINIST BETH CHAFEY-HON

February 29, 2020 – Save the Date!

Join us for a Desert Song Cycle multimedia concert by violinist Beth Chafey-Hon on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, which is LEAP DAY! If weather permits, this performance will be under the stars at an outdoor amphitheater. The concert coincides with Chafey-Hon's album release of music composed and created right here at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Mark your calendars for this event that promises to be magical!

ANZA-BORREGO: IN FOCUS

\$60 / \$50 for ABF Members; Lecture only: \$5

Each class in this series of in-depth explorations begins with an evening lecture at the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center and continues the following day with a field trip that provides an enriching hands-on experience in the Park (unless otherwise noted). The series is made possible through a partnership between ABF, UC Irvine and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Visit **[TheABF.org/calendar](https://www.theabf.org/calendar)** to see upcoming classes.



DESERT SEASON IS UPON US! JOIN ABF TODAY!

Get ready for another exciting year of education programs and tours in the Park by joining or renewing membership with ABF today.

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- 15% off in our State Park Stores
- Members-only price breaks on programming
- Free hikes exclusively for members on the first Tuesday of every month

Join today at [theabf.org/membership](https://www.theabf.org/membership)

YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2018-JUNE 2019



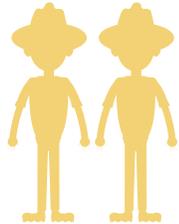
15

Board Members



7

Staff Members



\$40,000

in State Park Store Revenue used to hire 2 Visitor Center Interpreters



\$607,789

raised to continue our mission in support of ABDSP

\$100,000

raised to enhance the visitor's experience at the Park Visitor Center

\$19,000 scholarship funds awarded to support research in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



163,281 visitors welcomed with books, maps, and more



600 hours of volunteer service to provide wildflower info, maps and more

1,070 people engaged in recreational and education activities



354.26 acres of land acquired

WHY I GIVE: **Spotlight on Callie Mack and Phil Roullard**

When you meet Callie Mack and Phil Roullard, you will be instantly enthralled by their great nature, wit and conservationist frame of mind! And lucky for us, Callie and Phil are ardent desert lovers and Anza-Borrego Foundation supporters to boot!

Callie and Phil are no strangers to the Anza-Borrego Desert, as they have been coming here for more than 30 years.

Callie grew up in New England, but her adventurous spirit put her on a one-way road trip out West in her 20s that landed her in San Diego, together with her two cats. Her first visit to Anza-Borrego was in 1982. She had never seen the desert before and instantly fell in love with the big, wide-open spaces, the desert flora and fauna, and the beauty of her surroundings. With training in art and a degree in biological sciences, she leverages both passions by illustrating for the botany department at the San Diego Natural History Museum, where Phil actively volunteers.



Having grown up in San Diego, Phil was no stranger to the Park or to the beauty of Southern and Central California. Phil's dad would take their family camping and exploring while growing up, Phil always had a strong love for being out in nature and the desert. **"People now are just not exposed to the outdoors anymore,"** he laments. Phil worked at several National Parks seasonally before landing a permanent job with San Diego County Parks, starting at Agua Caliente. After a stint in photography for seven years, Phil did restoration and revegetation work at Border Field for 12 years. Phil holds a degree in photography from the Brooks Institute of Photography. His photographs demonstrate his passion for our Park. Phil has also donated his photographic expertise as a guest judge in our 2019 Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest.

Callie and Phil have been State Park and Anza-Borrego Foundation volunteers, participating in the annual sheep count in the Park for 20+ years. Phil did his first sheep count in 1980. After they met, Phil encouraged Callie to participate in 1985. For the last 15 years or so, they have counted sheep in Lower Hellhole Canyon. It's like a homecoming of sorts every 4th of July weekend with the sheep team, and involves a routine of water caching a few days prior and then hiking in early in the morning on three consecutive days to monitor the hillsides for bighorn sheep. They have many stories to share about their trips into Lower Hellhole Canyon as well as several ABF trips to Mongolia with former Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Superintendent Mark Jorgensen. Mark is clearly fond of them, as we all are. "Callie and Phil have been a vital part of the annual Anza-Borrego Sheep Count team and we're looking forward to their participation in the upcoming 50th annual sheep count!" says Jorgensen.

continued on the top of page 9

Callie and Phil are dedicated to conservation.

Keenly aware of our collective and individual carbon footprints, they choose to live modestly and frugally, surrounded by drought-tolerant California native plants, Callie and Phil aim to inspire others by attempting to live their ideals. When their financial circumstances improved, they decided to make “investments” that keep their value and help to preserve the desert park they love. One of these “investments” is in the Anza-Borrego Foundation; they also give to a few other environmental organizations they volunteer for, in order to help advance their respective missions. By donating to the Anza-Borrego Foundation, Callie and Phil stated, “We know that our donation has a significant impact, and that it will help preserve wildlands for future generations.”

Thank you, Callie and Phil, for being part of the ABF family and for your stewardship and major support. We couldn't do the work we do without amazing folks like you!



BECOME A CENTURY CIRCLE MEMBER

The Anza-Borrego Century Circle members (\$1,000 donation) make a critical impact on the health and success of our world-class Park. As a Century Circle member, you will enjoy unique opportunities for lectures and field trips in order to grow your connection to the Park, while learning firsthand how your major donation advances our mission.



Join our Century Circle today and receive these benefits:

- Exclusive field trips with expert guides in the Park
- Enjoy special lectures and events
- 25% off in our State Park Store (at The Mall)
- General member benefits, such as members-only hikes

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE!
We offer three levels of annual membership



\$1,000 - \$2,499
Benefactor's Circle



\$2,500- \$4,999
President's Circle



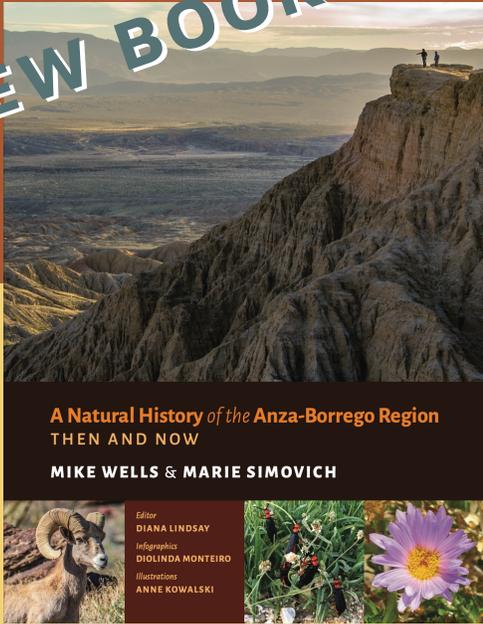
\$5,000+
Founder's Circle

Join at TheABF.org/centurycircle

ABF STATE PARK STORES

Your Desert Adventure Starts Here!

NEW BOOK!



Stop into our stores for your park essentials & information.

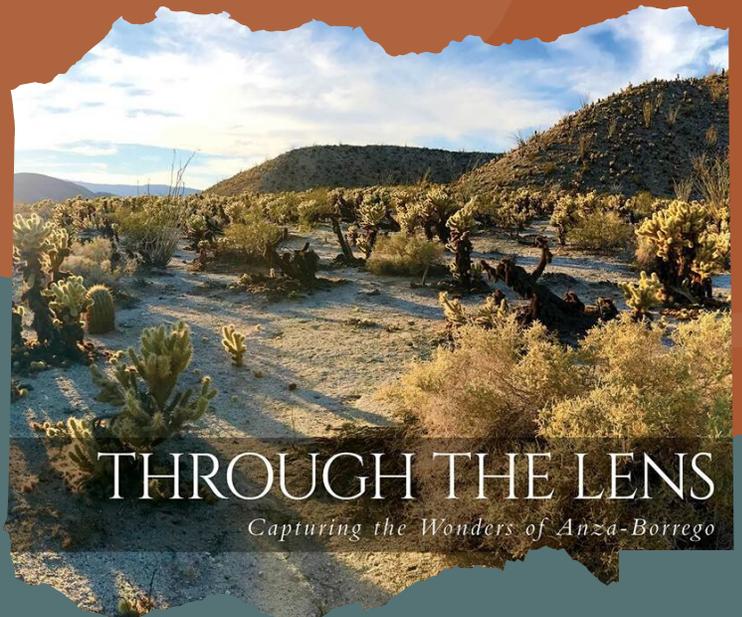
Every purchase supports Anza-Borrego Desert State Park!

- Apparel
- Maps & Books
- Hiking Gear
- Postcards
- Stickers
- Gifts & More!



A SPECIAL GIFT FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

Join, renew or donate \$250 or \$20/month for 12 months and receive a copy of this 53-page photobook, **Through the Lens: Capturing the Wonders of Anza-Borrego**, an exclusive collection created from some of the best submissions to our Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest.



Donate or join/renew your membership today at www.theabf.org/donate

RESOURCE DAMAGE & REPORTING

On a recent Century Circle donor field trip to Split Mountain with author and former State Park Superintendent Mike Wells, we encountered major resource damage along the route in two places, including extensive off-road tire tracks and an interpretive sign rendered unreadable by bullet holes.



What should you do when you encounter such a scene?

- For vandalism in progress, please call California State Park dispatch at 951-443-2969 (non-emergency number) when you reach a cell reception area. Provide a description of the location or GPS coordinates and when resource damage occurred.
- To report existing damage, please call the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) front office at 760-767-4037
- If you want to participate in the ABDSP Adopt-a-Wash program or learn more about it, please contact Shannon McNeil at Shannon.McNeil@parks.ca.gov or (760) 767-4037.

The Park has limited resources and may schedule a workday with volunteers to help rake out tire tracks and alleviate their damage, dismantle illegal fire rings and replace signs where possible.



WE'VE MOVED!

With the support and generous collaboration of volunteers, local contractors and our landlord, our operations staff has moved to suite 122 in The Mall, next to Kendall's. This is an exciting move for ABF, as we now have space for each staff person, a dedicated meeting area and an office that we are subleasing to the Borrego Village Association. If you're in town, we hope you will stop in to say hello and check out our new digs! Our park store remains at the same location, next to Calico's in The Mall.

NEW FACES



Mario

Mario Mouett joins ABF to continue the growth and development of its two retail stores. Mario has had a successful career in various segments of the retail industry, including premium apparel and luxury watches. He has led several sales teams to achieve exponential growth in a highly competitive marketplace. The need to get closer to nature and benefit a greater cause is what brought Mario out of his native San Diego and into Borrego Springs. New to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Mario has already committed his time to exploring the trails and aims to become a valuable resource for visitors stopping into the State Park Stores.

Terry Hunefeld and his family moved to Encinitas from Michigan in 1999. Their first visit to Anza-Borrego was in November that year. They purchased Lowell and Diana Lindsay's "Anza-Borrego Desert Region," which led to two decades of birding, wilderness backpacking, hiking and camping in ABDSP. He and his wife, Ann Dunham, love Anza-Borrego so much that they made Borrego Springs their permanent (and only) home six years ago.

As an avid birder and member of the Anza-Borrego Botany Society and Tracking Team, Terry experiences a profound sense of deep gratitude for the dozens of men and women who – over the past hundred years – made Anza-Borrego possible. More than 600,000 acres of protected wilderness to explore and enjoy ... free of charge!

While there is not a lot he can do to influence national politics, Terry believes he can make things better in his own backyard: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

He supports the mission of ABF with his time and pocketbook because he firmly believes that the more we can do to protect and preserve the Park, the greater the impact will be on future generations – in ways we can't even imagine today. Over the past 40 years Terry has served on numerous boards and donated thousands of hours of his time to various organizations, but he can think of no volunteer effort more worthy than helping ABF to accomplish its goals.



Terry

Ursula Esser is our new Development Director – with a fervent love for public lands and the conservation community – who joined us recently from the Eastern Sierra near the edge of Death Valley. She has broad expertise in the nonprofit arena, including 20+ years of grant writing and an executive directorship at Manzanar History Association.

Ursula emigrated from Germany and obtained a MS degree in Biology and a PhD in the Biomedical Sciences from Stanford University. She was on the research faculty at UC Davis before making the plunge and venturing into the nonprofit arena full-time, initially living in Big Sur for four years, including in a yurt off-grid, and more recently in remote mountain and desert regions of Central California.

Ursula couldn't be happier to have landed in Anza-Borrego, where she can combine her love and enthusiasm for science, native plants, deserts, wide-open spaces and land conservation with her professional skill sets and enjoyment of small communities!



Ursula

2020 Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest



PHOTO CREDIT: Cliff LaPlant | 2018 First Place Winner
Category: People Enjoying the Park

OPENING RECEPTION & JUDGE CRITIQUE

Join us for the unveiling of 2020's winning photos in each of six contest categories during the Gallery Reception. If you'd like to hear what made each photo stand out as a winner, attend the Judge Critique beforehand.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Vote online for your favorite photos to help select the People's Choice winner.

Details & Voting: www.theabf.org/photocontest

February 1, 2020

Judge Critique: 3:30–5:00 p.m.
Borrego Springs Branch Library,
Community Room
Gallery Reception: 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Borrego Art Institute



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 www.theabf.org

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- ✓ Easy process

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