

# THE CURATOR

Official E-newsletter of the San Diego Archaeological Center

## Director's Message

BY CINDY STANKOWSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The BBQ is back! After a two-year hiatus, please join us on Saturday, April 30 for an afternoon of food, amusement, and music in support of the Center. Proceeds from the BBQ provide funding for school field trips and programs, lectures, workshops, museum exhibits, curation, and more.



- Local restaurant H Brothers is offering pulled pork, rotisserie chicken, vegan veggie wraps, sides, and beer!
- Dreggz, featuring local archaeologist Dr. Timothy Gross, will play classic rock and country music.
- Test your aim with our atlatl throw stations. Would you be a hunter or a gatherer?
- Pretend you are Indiana Jones and take a selfie in our archaeology-themed photo booth.
- Discover unique items from around the world at the Silent Auction.
- Meet with cultural resource management (CRM), government, and academic archaeologists to learn about working in the field of archaeology.
- Meet Center Board Members.

The Center will also present the Golden Trowel Award for excellence in archaeology. Who will get the award this year?

BBQ Tickets include one drink per ticket, or two drinks per member ticket. Additional drink tickets will be available to purchase at BBQ. Tickets are available on the Center [website](#).

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# Kids Dig: Breaking News in Archaeology

BY STEPHANIE SANDOVAL,  
PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY DIRECTOR

Welcome back to Kids Dig, where our youngest community members can discover the latest news in archaeology.

Archaeologists commonly work in harsh environments, but this discovery takes it to the extreme! Just last month a team of marine archaeologists and other scientists discovered the famous lost ship *Endurance* in the Weddell Sea of Antarctica. During an expedition led by Ernest Shackleton, the *Endurance* was slowly crushed when it became trapped in the drifting ice. Before it finally sank in 1915, the crew emptied the ship of all the food and supplies, and relocated to camp on nearby ice. After living on the ice for 6 months, the crew was able to escape and survived to tell of their heroic adventures.



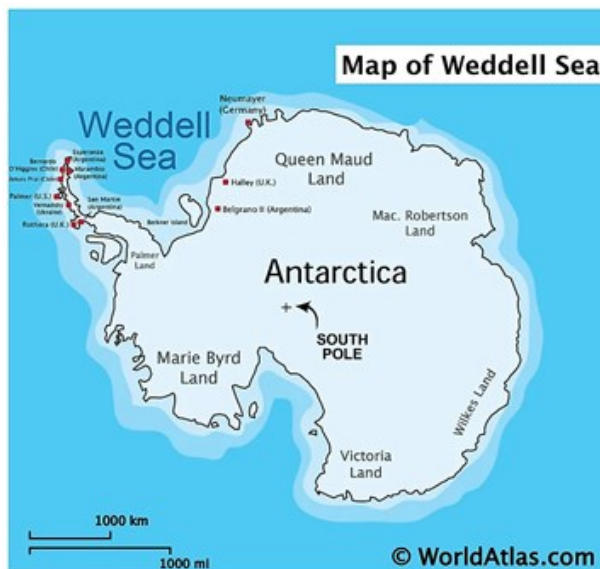
Credit: Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust/National Geographic via AP

Using undersea drones, scientists scanned the seafloor and located the wreckage 10,000 feet down in some of the iciest water on Earth. The extremely cold water and lack of wood-eating organisms allowed the wreckage to be found relatively intact and in good condition. Once the scientists found the *Endurance*, they used high-resolution cameras to record the site.



*Endurance* trapped in ice in the Weddell Sea in 1915. Credit: Frank Hurley/Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, via Getty Images

Learn more about Shackleton's icy voyage and quest to find the *Endurance* on [Endurance 22](#).



## Upcoming Events





## From the Stacks

BY VANESSA CHAPPINS, COLLECTIONS TECHNICIAN

The SDAC library includes books on the anthropology, archaeology, and history of San Diego County. Our library's resource catalog contains over 8,300 entries of books, journals, magazines, monographs, and archaeological reports as well as a section of children's books. Whether you are an aspiring junior archaeologist, exploring anthropologist, or just a curious traveler, there is a book for you at the SDAC library.

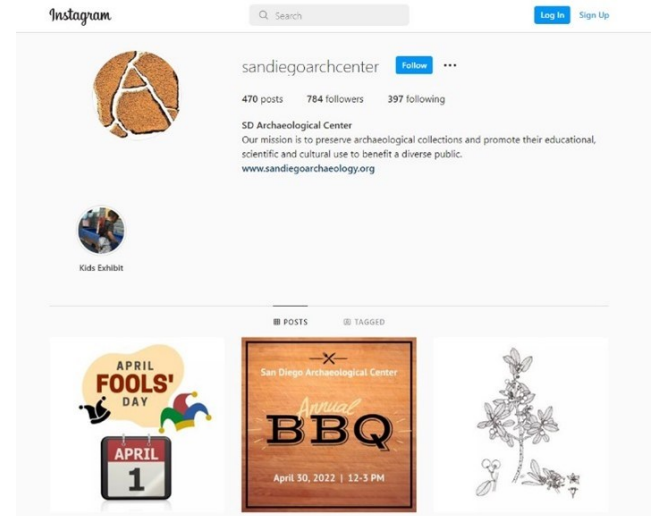


Our library is now open for you to come experience our collection.

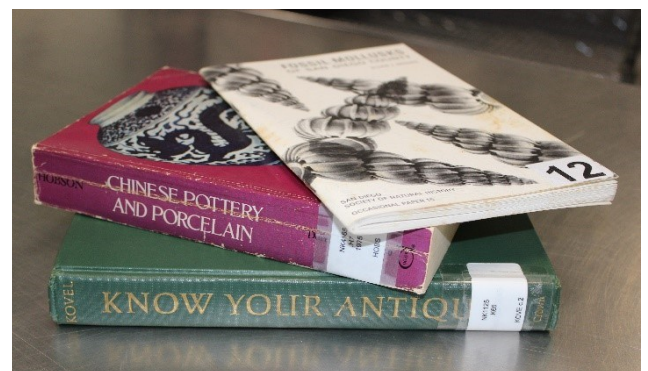
Library Hours are Wednesday through Friday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 1:00 PM. While we accept walk-in visitors, making an appointment is always recommended so we can set aside the books that already caught your eye and have them ready for your perusal.

If you are looking for more ways to experience the library, join our volunteer team. For more information, check out the Volunteer and Internship page on our [website](#).

The SDAC Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages features Center updates, blog posts, and events! Part of this content includes posts from the Collections Department such as “What is it Wednesdays” and “Find Out Fridays”.



You may wonder how our Collections Department finds content for these posts. One answer is our extensive book collection here at the Center. Some book titles in the descriptions of posts may become familiar if you follow the SDAC on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#).



A few of the books that will be featured on our social media this spring include *Know Your Antiques: How to Recognize And Evaluate Any Antiques - Large or Small - Like An Expert* by Ralph and Cerry Kovel, *Chinese Pottery and Porcelain* by R.L Hobson, and *Fossil Mollusks of San Diego County* by Ellen J. Moore. Visit our library to explore these books and more titles.

## Oversized Artifacts

BY VANESSA CHAPPINS, COLLECTIONS TECHNICIAN

Volunteers and Interns help in many aspects in the collection department with various roles such as developing eLearning modules, creating maps, updating catalogs, writing blogs, labeling, doing research, cleaning artifacts, and so much more. The Center values the gift of time that our volunteers and interns give. Through these hands-on roles, the Collections Department hopes to inspire others with a passion for the field of archaeology.



Have you ever wondered what happens to oversized artifacts during their processing here at the Center? First, we must gather all the essential tools needed for this process. Tools in the lab include familiar items such as toothbrushes, small and large paint brushes, and smooth bristle brushes as well as wooden picks and a chemical called B72 for labeling.



Oversized lithic awaits cleaning and labeling

Starting the process can get messy. Wearing appropriate attire, such as clothing that is okay to get dirty, is key. Gloves are not used during the cleaning because cloth gloves have fibers that can snag on parts of the artifact. Washing hands, and avoiding lotion, perfumes, and other chemicals on skin also prevents damage to the artifact. The objective in cleaning an artifact is getting rid of excess dirt on the surface of the artifact and surrounding it. This way, when the artifact is placed in its permanent location, it will remain relatively clean and prevent dirt or dust in the vault aisles. Soft brushes and wooden picks are mostly used because they are gentler than metal.



Once the artifact has been cleaned, a spot for the label is selected. The best spot is a smooth surface on one of the edges of the artifact. The label consists of an SDI, P, isolate, or FED number printed in small font. A thin layer of B72 is applied to the selected spot on the artifact. The label is then cut out and placed on top of the B72, and another layer of B72 is applied on top of the label.



That's it! The individual working on the artifact notifies the Collection Manager, who will place the oversized object in its permanent location in the Red Vault.



## The Big Exchange

BY DANTÉ FARENGA,  
DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Membership has its benefits, especially during our Spring Membership Drive. Did you know that your SDAC membership allows you to visit other local museums for free? From May 1 to May 18, The Big Exchange offers members of the San Diego Archaeological Center reciprocal admission at more than forty museums, historic sites, gardens, and more throughout San Diego County. Simply head to one of the participating museums, tell the guest services representative that you are there for “The Big Exchange,” then show your member card from the San Diego Archaeological Center for complimentary reciprocal admission. Visit the [San Diego Museum Council website](#) for a full list of participating museums.



## Member Benefits at BBQ

Don't forget—our Annual BBQ is right around the corner on Saturday, April 30. Center Members receive twenty percent off on [BBQ tickets](#), plus each member ticket includes an extra drink ticket. Spin our Member Prize Wheel for a chance to win SDAC merchandise, museum passes, and more. You can read more about the food, fun, and entertainment that we have planned in the Director's Message on [page 1](#).

## Traditional Agave Roast



Members are invited to join Stan Rodriguez (Kumeyaay - Iipay, Santa Ysabel) at the La Posta Indian Reservation for a traditional Agave Roast. On Friday, May 6, watch how the pit oven is prepared and agave hearts are made ready for roasting. On Saturday, May 7, enjoy Bird Singing and a pit roasting demonstration as well as taste and learn about the many uses of the agave plant. Other native food will be provided by Grey Wolf Monitoring.

## Membership

Not a member or need to renew? Center Membership can be purchased [online](#), over the phone at 760-291-0370, or by sending a check made out to the San Diego Archaeological Center.

## Monthly Giving

Do you prefer a monthly payment plan instead of an annual membership? Join our Purveyors of the Past Monthly Giving Program and you will automatically receive Center membership as our gift to you.

Making recurring donations is quick and easy. Just select Monthly under Donation Frequency on our [online form](#). You may donate the amount that you are comfortable giving each month. No matter how big or small the sum, we consider every gift essential to sustaining the Center!

## IN APPRECIATION

We are grateful for the time and talents, membership, donations, and in-kind support we received from 1/1/22 to 3/31/22.

### Thank You for Your Donations

Anonymous  
ASM Affiliates  
Dr. Michael G. Baksh  
Jeanne & Jim Bonk, III  
Ana Brill  
Bruce & Carol Gallagher  
Ron May  
Shannon Murphy  
PanGIS, Inc.  
Jim Royle  
Marty Rosen  
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
Tierra Environmental Services

### Thank You to Our Purveyors of the Past

Susie Arter  
Karen Crawford  
Kathy Dickey  
James Eighmey  
Susan Gilliland  
Dr. G. Timothy Gross  
Marty Rosen  
Cindy Stankowski  
Maureen Steiner

### Welcome New Members

Cheryl Bowden-Renna  
Gary Brain  
Harrison Serenity Ranch  
Bruce Madsen  
Gregorio Pacheco

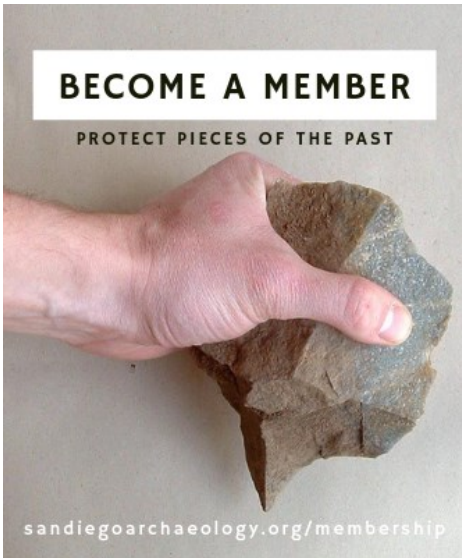
### Thank You for Your In-Kind Donations

Kathy Dickey  
Jim Royle

### Thank You to Our Volunteers and Interns

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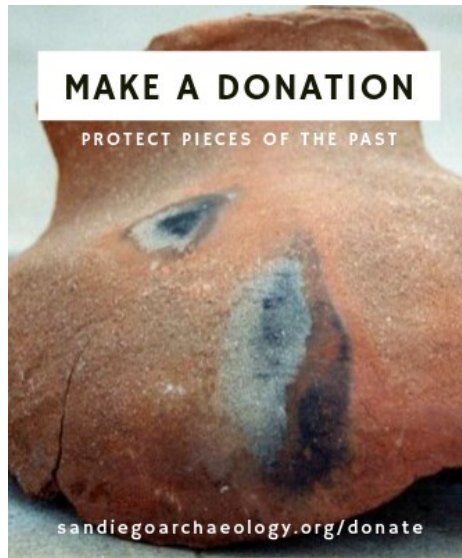


## BECOME A MEMBER

PROTECT PIECES OF THE PAST

[sandiegoarchaeology.org/membership](http://sandiegoarchaeology.org/membership)

The Center is the only local organization dedicated to the collection, study, curation and exhibition of San Diego County's archaeological artifacts. Your membership helps save our history and heritage. **Membership** can be purchased [online](#), over the phone, or by mail.

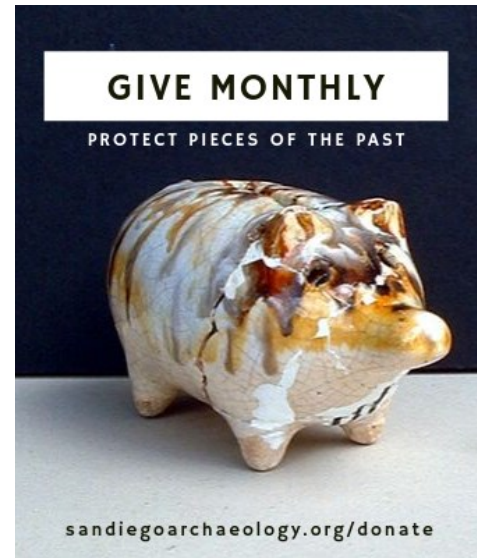


## MAKE A DONATION

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[sandiegoarchaeology.org/donate](http://sandiegoarchaeology.org/donate)

**Cash donations** may be made to the Center by visiting our [website](#), or with a check made to the San Diego Archaeological Center. **In-kind gifts** are contributions of goods or services to our organization. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to make this type of donation.

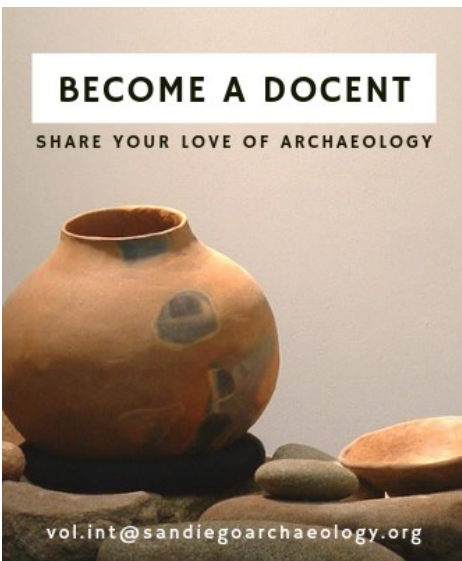


## GIVE MONTHLY

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[sandiegoarchaeology.org/donate](http://sandiegoarchaeology.org/donate)

**Purveyors of the Past Monthly Donation Program** is an easy and convenient way of supporting the many important projects at the Center. You may determine the amount to donate per month and the specific campaign, project, or program to fund. Please [contact us](#) for more information.



## BECOME A DOCENT

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

[vol.int@sandiegoarchaeology.org](mailto:vol.int@sandiegoarchaeology.org)

**Docents** welcome visitors and answer general questions regarding the Center and exhibits. Hours are flexible. To apply for a volunteer position or for more information, please email [vol.intern@sandiegoarchaeology.org](mailto:vol.intern@sandiegoarchaeology.org).

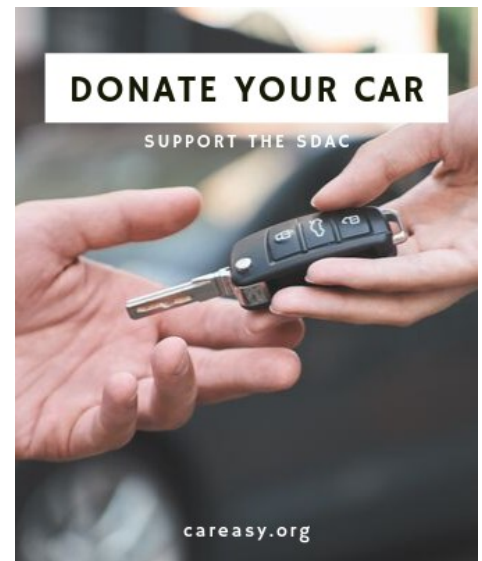


## SHOP AMAZONSMILE

SUPPORT THE SDAC

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

**AmazonSmile** lets customers enjoy the same wide selection, prices, and convenience as shopping as Amazon.com. When you [shop on AmazonSmile](#), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Center.



## DONATE YOUR CAR

SUPPORT THE SDAC

[careasy.org](http://careasy.org)

Purchasing a new car or truck this year? **Donate your old vehicle** to benefit the Center through the [C.A.R.S.](#) program. Your generous gift is tax-deductible and will support the Center's exhibitions, programs, and curatorial efforts.





# San Diego Archaeological Center

MUSEUM • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

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## MARKETING

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this e-newsletter. For corrections, please contact the editor, Danté Farenga, at [dfarenga@sandiegoarchaeology.org](mailto:dfarenga@sandiegoarchaeology.org).



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