



Archaeology & Paleontology Operations Annual Update

OC Historical Commission — June 7, 2022



Background

- Over six million fossils and artifacts
- World class collection
- Seven staff
 - Archaeo/Paleo Manager
 - Paleontology Curator and Specialist
 - Archaeology Curator and Specialist
 - Cultural Resource Specialist
 - Office Tech
 - Contracted Laboratory Supervisor



Facilities

- Cooper Lab
 - Curation facility
 - Staff offices
 - Preparation lab
 - Collection storage



Facilities

- Clark Regional Park Interpretive Center
 - Public face of collection
 - Volunteers
 - Resource Specialist reports there



Cooper HVAC/Roof Repairs

- Replaced rotten roof boards
- New sheeting, membrane, and insulation
- New HVAC units for the lab building



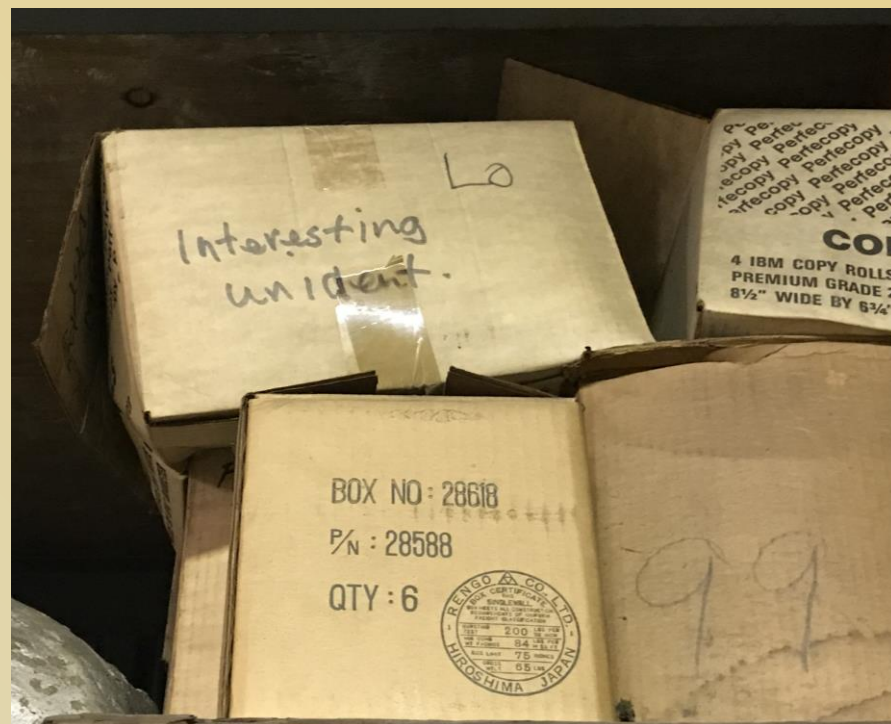
Clark Roof/Window Repairs

- Replacing clerestory windows
- Repairing roof to prevent future leaks



Curation Plan

- Priorities
 - Organize collection
 - Process materials
 - Curate fossils and artifacts
 - Digitize records
 - Update databases



Curation Services Contract

- Cogstone Resource Management, Inc.
 - Advanced fossil preparation
 - Sorting bone for human remains
 - Molding and casting



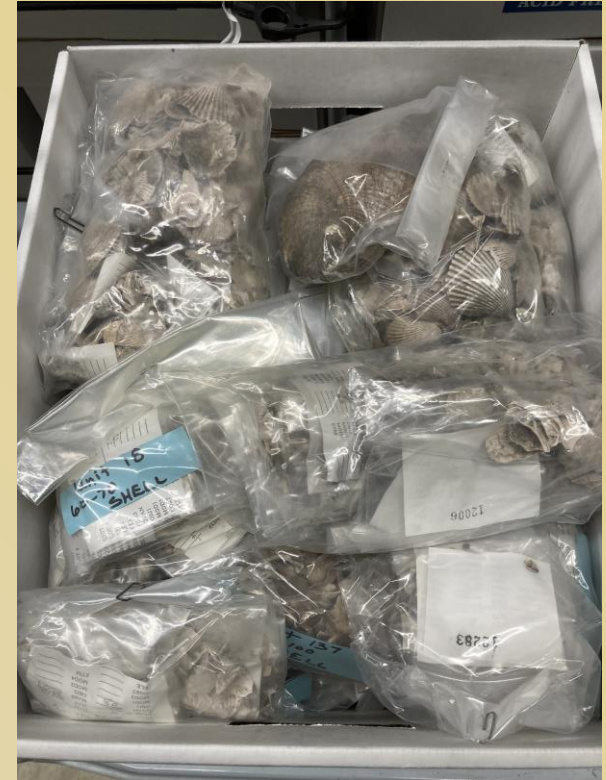
Grants

- National Endowment for the Humanities – Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
 - Cabinets for archaeology
 - Requested \$338,092
- California Natural Resources Agency – California Museum Grant
 - New exhibits at Clark
 - Requested \$287,500



By The Numbers (FY 2021–22)

- Paleo
 - 25 jackets prepped
 - 1,918 fossils curated
 - 447 items deaccessioned
 - 136 drawers reorganized
 - 4,000 Specify modifications
- Archaeo
 - 10,503 pages of site records digitized
 - 4,667 boxes evaluated
 - 138 boxes rehoused from shipping containers



Volunteers & Interns

- 30 volunteers
 - Prepare fossils
 - Sort midden
 - Organize collection
 - Assess materials in boxes
- 10 Interns
 - Select projects, often for credit
 - Memorandum of Understanding with UC Irvine



Tribal Partners

HUNDREDS OF GENERATIONS

Long before Europeans arrived, Orange County was home to Native American villages. For thousands of years, Native peoples thrived by connecting with the land. The woodlands, meadows, and watersheds supported and shaped their lifeways. In return they viewed the land as sacred, deserving of respect and protection.

EVIDENCE OF ANCESTORS

There have been multiple periods of occupation in Orange County over the past 10,000 years. Archaeologists distinguish between these periods based on the types of artifacts found and cultural changes of those who inhabited the region over time.

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Debra Kaye Marlow
John Van Dine
Amy Spaulding
Sarah Smith
with help of Black Star Canyon State Park



Visit with native people at Black Star Canyon

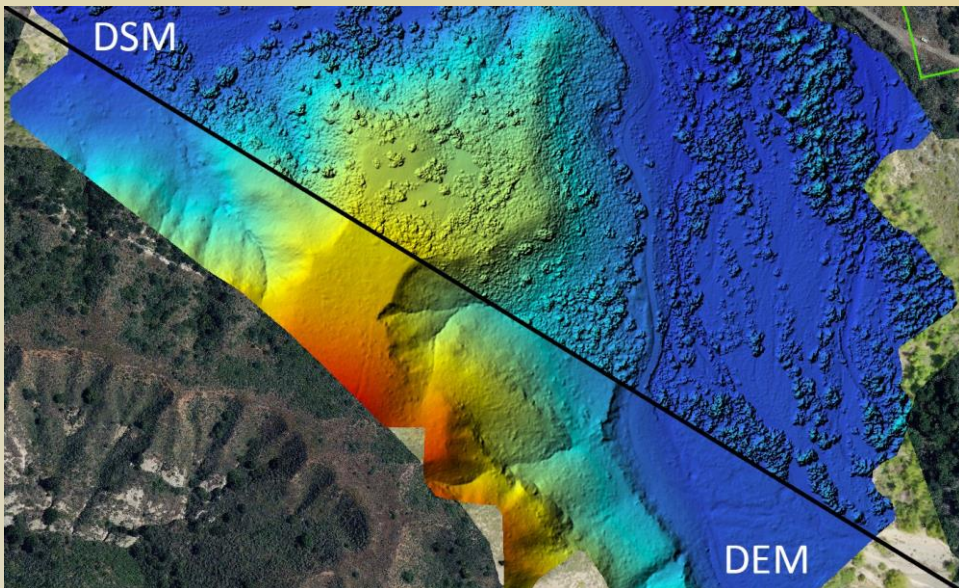
New exhibit at Aliso & Wood Canyons
Wilderness Park

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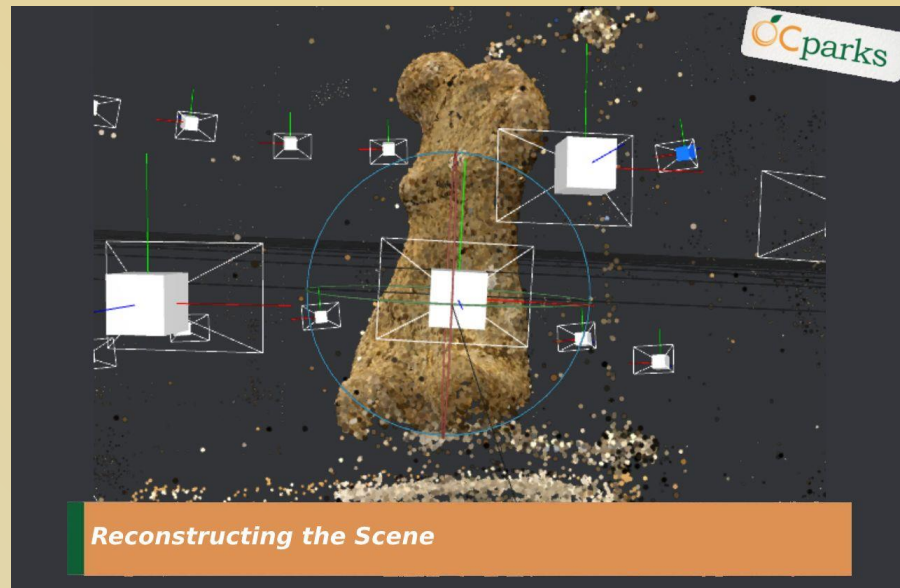
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Social Media



This image of an area of Black Star Canyon provided by the OC Public Works survey team using LiDAR



Photogrammetry of a sea lion femur

Trail & Fire Surveys

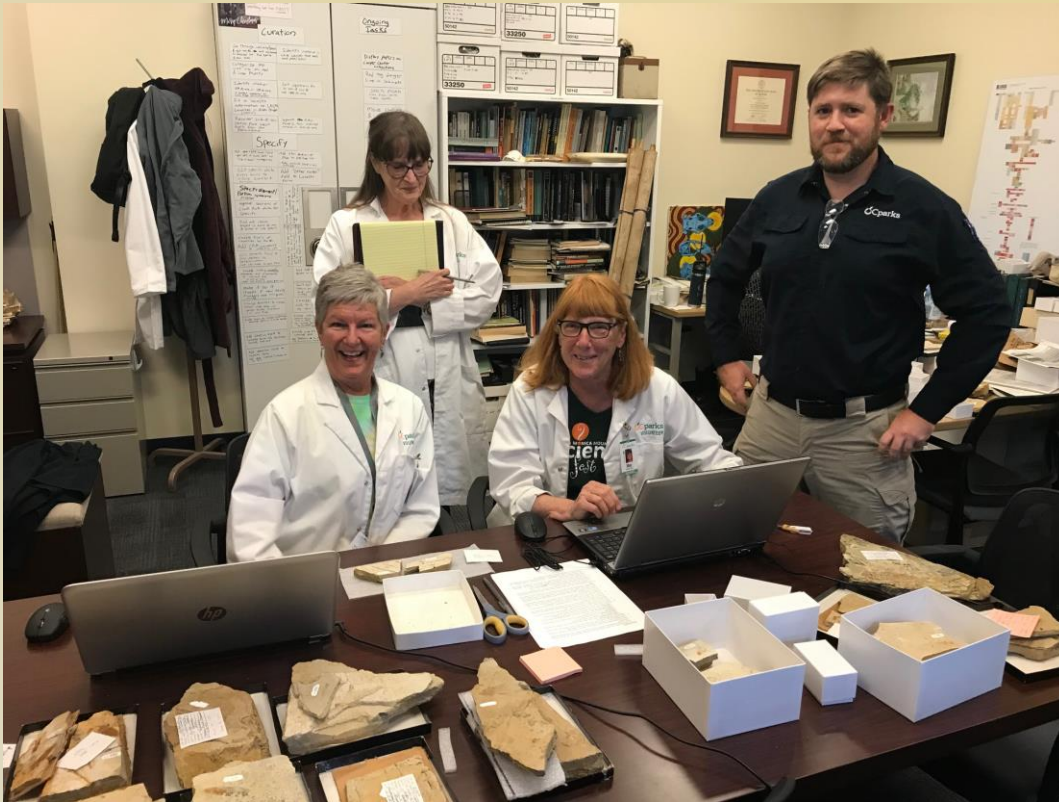


Unauthorized trail survey at Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, September 2021



Paleo Curator Will Gelnow and Archaeo Specialist Tacy Kennedy at the Laguna Fire at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, June 2021

Questions?



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