

**The Desert Institute** at Joshua Tree National Park  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Desert Institute Presents**

### **Archaeopalooza**

If you ever wondered how Stone Age people made tools like knives and axes, or how people foraged desert plants for food and medicine long before grocery stores, then you need to put "Archaeopalooza" on your calendar.

A variety of demonstrations, films and talks including indigenous pottery making, stone-age tool making, foraging local desert plants for food and medicine and much more-- plus games and activities for kids-- are part of an all day, family friendly "Archaeopalooza" event on Saturday, Oct. 2 sponsored by the Desert Institute of Joshua Tree National Park Association.

Free and open to the public to be held at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, the event coincides with national Archaeology Month, according to Kevin Wong, Director of the Desert Institute. It will be held on the campus from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. No reservations are required and the parking is free.

Programs for children include an archaeology "dig box," some artifacts for show-and-tell and a variety of games provided by rangers from Joshua Tree National Park.

Here are some of the experts who will be speaking:

**Jeanne Binning** will describe "flint knapping," the art of making tools like knives and axes and shovels from obsidian and other rocks, which is a stone-age skill still practiced as a hobby in the United States today. Many stone tools have been uncovered in archaeology digs around the world dating back thousands of years. Binning has worked in cultural resource management for more than 40 years, teaches flint knapping and offers classes in archaeology and prehistory.

**Yanina Aldao Galvan**, with a passion for "ethnobotany," will describe practical uses for cooking and growing wild plants found in the desert. She said manzanita has both pharmaceutical and culinary uses. Mesquite, Nopal and prickly pear, which are abundant all over the desert, are great for cooking. Creosote can be used both as a cosmetic and a drug, but only if you know how to prepare it.

**Brian Fagan**, a professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, will take you on a historical journey through the Indian Ocean and Africa over the past 2,000 years. An authority in African history, his illustrated talk will range from sailing an Arab "dhow" along the East African Indian Ocean to the farming villages in southern Zambia. Fagan is considered one of the world's leading archaeological writers about ancient worldwide climate change.

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For further press information, please call Kevin Wong,  
Director, Desert Institute (760) 819-4714.

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**Joan Schneider** has conducted field research in the deserts of Israel, Mongolia (China) and Joshua Tree. She will open the door to her work with Earthwatch's archaeology of the Mongolian Steppe project. She has spent more than 20 years working in the deserts around the world.

**Tony Soares** will demonstrate "pinch potting," the art of Cahuilla pottery-making with local clays and hand building techniques, which he learned from his grandmother starting at age seven. Though not of Cahuilla descent, he has helped revive the art of Cahuilla pottery-making through his experimentation with local clays and indigenous hand-building techniques. Soares is reviving indigenous methods so that the art of Native American pottery making is never lost. His pottery has been displayed in many art galleries and museums.

**John Hale** will describe a weapon called an "Atlatl," a spear-throwing lever. It is also viewed as a symbol on rock art. Hale will compare the pros and cons of the Atlatl with a bow and arrow.

In 2010, Hale, an instructor at Copper Mountain College and archaeologist at the Marine Corps base in 29 Palms, created the first event and coined the term "Archaeopalooza." It was repeated in 2010. A significant contributor to the program has been Daniel McCarthy, who died earlier this year, Wong said. Additional archeology events will be held in the future.

For more information

Archaeopalooza

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[www.joshuattree.org](http://www.joshuattree.org)

*The Desert Institute is committed to providing a rich, inclusive learning environment aimed at inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to appreciate and preserve cultural resources and natural places associated with Joshua Tree National Park and surrounding public lands.*

If you go:

Archaeopalooza

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Copper Mountain College

6162 Rotary Way

Joshua Tree, CA 92252

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