

SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGISTS



[Click here
to join our
Facebook!](#)

[Visit our
Website!](#)



2025 OFFICERS

President

[Heather Reynolds](#)
(540) 525-6475

Vice President
VACANT

Secretary
[Jasmine Peach](#)

Treasurer
[Xiomara Rosenblatt](#)

Web Master
[Carolyn Glockoff](#)
[CARO-LION](#)
[ENTERPRISE](#)



**SDAG
Announcements**

SDAG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

6:00 pm - Social Hour | 7:00 pm - Dinner | 8:00 pm – Program

LOCATION:

[Marina Village - Catalina Room](#)

1936 Quivira Way
San Diego, CA 92109

SPEAKER:

TODD WIRTHS

**TOPIC: "EOCENE PALEONTOLOGY AT TOURMALINE
SURFING PARK, LA JOLLA"**

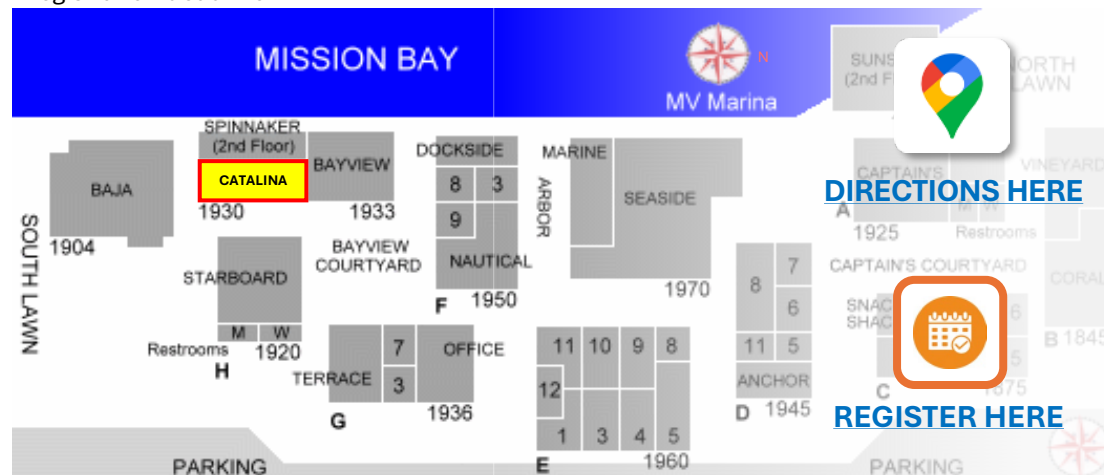
DINNER: Buffet with Pot Roast, Chicken Parmesan, and
vegetarian options

COST: Member \$55.00 | Non-Member \$65.00 | Student \$25.00

RESERVATIONS:

Make & Pay your reservation online through the SDAG website,
before **6PM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8th**

Please note, all meeting reservations require online pre-payment due to venue costs, venue contracts, and loss of money due to no shows. Refunds cannot be processed after the registration deadline.





Meet Our | Speaker & Topic



TODD WIRTHS

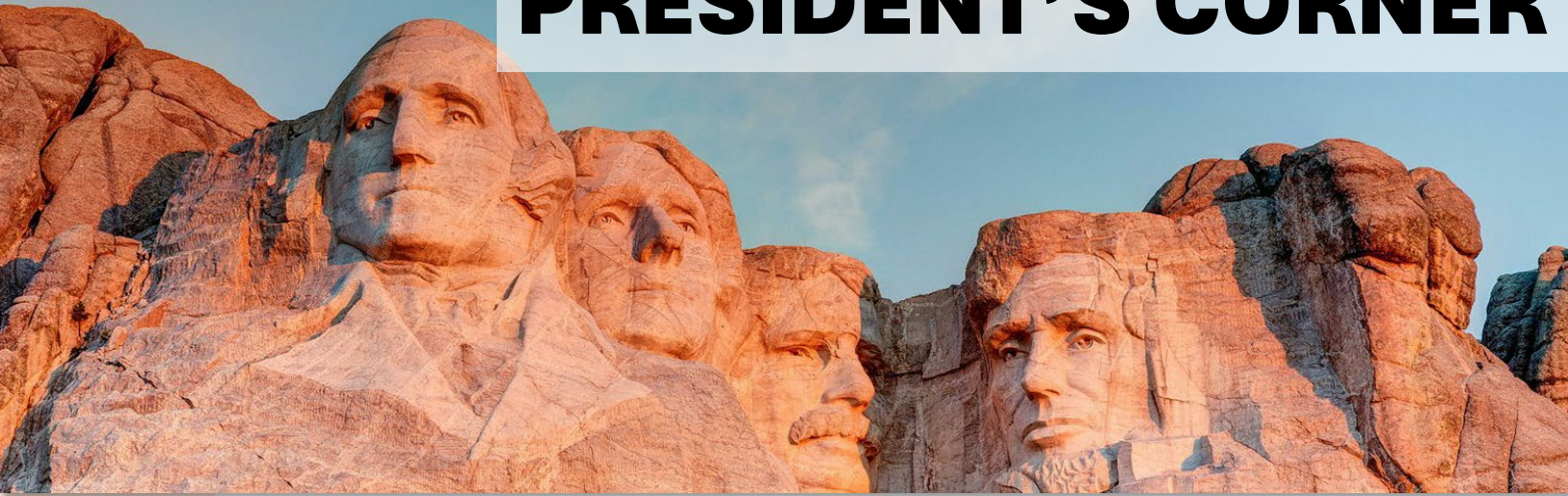
Todd Wirths has been employed as a consulting paleontologist for over 15 years, including 6 as the principal paleontologist at BFSA Environmental Services, based in Poway, California. Prior to paleontology, Todd was a senior project geologist in Southern California and San Diego environmental engineering firms. Todd holds a B.A. degree from UC Santa Cruz and an M.S. from SDSU, both in geology. Todd has been a California Professional Geologist (P.G.) for over 20 years. He was the president of SDAG back in 2012 and has been a member of the S.D. Geological Society board of directors since 2019. His SDAG book was entitled *Picacho and the Cargo Muchachos: Gold, Guns, and Geology of Eastern Imperial County, California*. Todd's wife, Izzy Tihanyi, is founder and co-owner of Surf Diva Surf School in La Jolla, CA, and their daughter Annabelle is a state finalist in competitive surfing on the La Jolla High School surf team—so it's a busy life indeed!

EOCENE PALEONTOLOGY AT TOURMALINE SURFING PARK, LA JOLLA

This talk will expand on my recently published abstract, “First Report of Megafossils from the Tourmaline Surfing Park Outcrop of the Eocene Mount Soledad Formation, La Jolla, California,” which can be seen [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). In summary, matrix impressions of the fossil shells of middle Eocene marine mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, and polychaete worms were discovered during mitigation activities for the construction of two residences along the coastal bluff in southern La Jolla. A “Domengine” provincial molluscan “stage” (late early Eocene – early middle

Eocene) is assignable to the fauna based on the restricted stratigraphic ranges of key bivalve species. The composition of the fauna, in conjunction with a continental slope depositional setting, suggests the sediments of the Tourmaline Surfing Park outcrop of the Mount Soledad Formation are probably coeval with the continental shelf deposits of the early middle Eocene Ardath Shale. I'll also review the history of the geological and paleontological research at the outcrop and take a deep dive into some decades-old biochronologic studies that may raise some eyebrows.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello SDAG Members!

We just had our annual field trip to the San Andreas Fault!! However, before I get to that, I would like to thank Dr. Mario Caputo for giving a wonderful talk in August on newly discovered tetrapod bones, insect trace fossils, and eolian adhesion structures in the Grand Canyon at Sunbelt Publications! Also, many folks took advantage of the generous discounts available on select books AND were able to purchase *hot off the press* Pat Abbott's *Rise and Fall of San Diego* 2nd edition and have it autographed by Pat Abbott himself, since he was in attendance!

WOW, when it comes to our annual field trip, where do I even begin!! We had an AMAZING time exploring and learning about the San Andreas Fault near the Wrightwood area with Miles Kenney!! From the first stop at Jackson Lake, a sag pond, to captivating evening presentations by Miles and Monte Marshall, breathtaking views from several field trip stops (Big John Peak Fault, Table Mountain, Vincent Gulch Divide, and Panorama Mtwy), and many memorable stories told by Miles. We even experienced a crazy thunderstorm producing a torrential downpour that temporarily turned the middle of Lions Camp into a flowing stream! Luckily, by that time, we were all back at camp and getting ready to enjoy some s'mores by the indoor fireplace! Also, big shout-out to Diana Lindsay, who climbed to the top of the rock wall!! She is a force to be reckoned with! I am truly thankful we were able to have our field trip this year and for all the help and support from my incredible field trip committee! You all rock!!

If you weren't able to join the field trip, there will be an opportunity to purchase the guidebook at the next meeting and soon online!

Up next is our October 15th meeting at Marina Village in the gorgeous Catalina Room overlooking the harbor! Our speaker will be Todd Wirths, a seasoned paleontologist, who will give a presentation on "Eocene Paleontology at Tourmaline Surfing Park, La Jolla." You're not going to want to miss his presentation!

Just a friendly reminder: Wednesday, October 8th, is the last day to sign up!

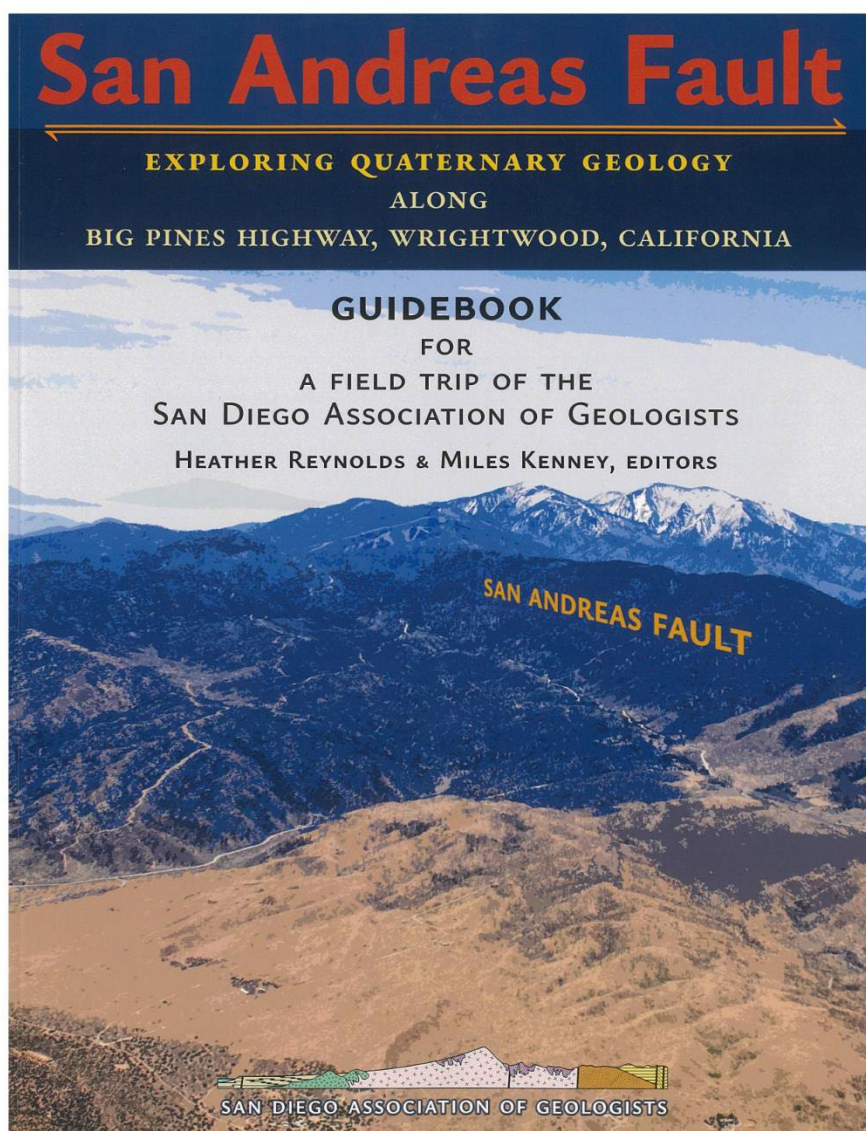
Thanks, and see you all at the October 15th Meeting!!

-Heather Reynolds
2025 SDAG President



2025 Upcoming Meetings

DATE	SPEAKER & TOPICS
November 20 <i>Thursday</i> SDAG/AEG-IE Joint Meeting	Eldon Gath on "San Joaquin Hills, Santa Ana Mountains, Puente Hills, and the Whittier fault: The final(?) grand theory of Orange County's tectonic geomorphic evolution" to be held at The Old Spaghetti Factory in San Marcos.
December 17	Traditional Holiday Celebration at the San Diego Natural History Museum with Tom Deméré on "150 years of Paleontology at the San Diego Natural History Museum"



2025 FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

\$30.00

Contact one of
your SDAG
officers or
purchase one at
the next meeting
while supplies
lasts!



2025 SDAG SCHOLARSHIPS

Outstanding Research in Geological Sciences

Total Funding: \$6,000

Funded by

Shannon O'Dunn Scholarship & the SDAG Walawender Scholarship

It is that time of year again. The San Diego Association of Geologists (SDAG) is soliciting nominations for their annual Outstanding Student Research Awards. We accept nominations for students doing undergraduate research and masters level research focused on the geosciences. We are also interested in students at the Community College level who are doing guided research.

Students, please contact your research advisor to see if they feel your geological sciences research may qualify for your advisor to submit a letter of nomination on your behalf. Nominated students will also need to submit an abstract of their research/results. **Nominations and abstracts are due no later than Monday November 3, 2025.** Please have your advisor submit nominations and abstracts directly to Dr. Anne Sturz at asturz@sandiego.edu.

The total funding amount each year for scholarships is divided between selected awardees based on nomination letters by advisors, quality of abstracts, and quantity of applicants.

Awards will be presented at the December 17th SDAG meeting at the San Diego Natural History Museum. **Award recipients will be asked to give a presentation of their research results at a spring 2026 SDAG meeting.** SDAG looks forward to receiving quality abstracts.

Scholarship Program Background: A primary function of the San Diego Association of Geologists (SDAG) is to support academic opportunities in geology and related sciences. The by-laws of the San Diego Geological Society (SDGS dba SDAG) specify the support of academic opportunity ranging from elementary through graduate levels. The SDAG scholarship program has supported academic research in higher education by awarding scholarships annually to students from two-year and four-year undergraduate and master's level programs. The award is for outstanding research in geology and related sciences. Nominations are solicited from individual faculty and from geology or related science departments at accredited academic institutions. Evaluation of the relative merit of each nominee is based on an abstract describing the objectives and results of the research being conducted by the student and on the letter of recommendation by the student's mentor or nominating committee.



SDAG ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

San Andreas Fault in the Transverse Range

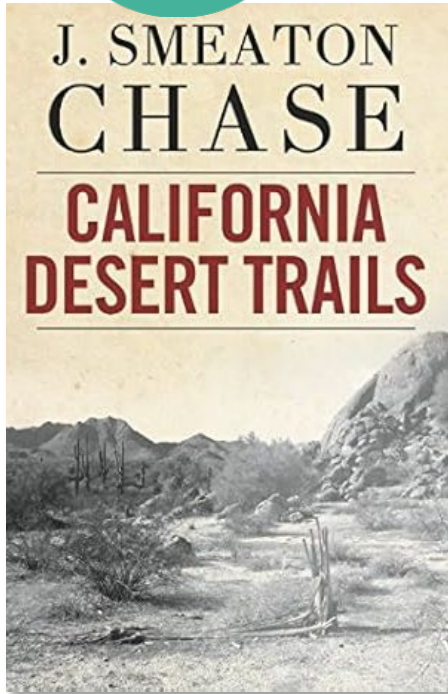
-AN UNFORGETTABLE FIELD TRIP-

Thank you to all who joined us! The 2025 SDAG Field Trip was truly an unforgettable experience. Dr. Miles Kenney and Heather put forth a field trip that will be remembered by our members for years to come. For those of you who missed it—no worries! Field guides are still available for purchase so you can experience it at your own leisure!





Field Notes & Snapshots



CALIFORNIA DESERT TRAILS

J. Smeaton Chase
published in 1919
by Houghton Mifflin
Company

Link to free digital archived
copy [\[HERE\]](#)

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

by Mike Hart

This is one of those books that you don't want to end. Chase writes with humor reminiscent of Mark Twain in *Roughing It* as he describes in detail the dangers encountered during his three months' travels in the Colorado Desert by horseback in the heat of the summer of 1915. His route began in the "village" of Palm Springs and extended down the east side of the Santa Rosa Mountains, through Borrego Springs, Warner's Ranch, and then southward to Agua Caliente by way of Mason Valley and Vallecito. From his camp at Agua Caliente, he and an old miner friend set out across the trackless badlands to the east with his faithful Indian pony Kaweah to Split Mountain. Chase describes the scene as they started out:

"Two hours brought us [to] the edge of the badlands, in the form of a deep abrupt barranca, the first of dozens through which we must thread our way. In we dived: and indeed, to plunge into one of these mazes is much like diving into unknown water. When, where, or whether one will get out is somewhat a matter of chance — we reached at length a rim from which we looked out over a still more intricate piece of country. (likely the ridge overlooking Sandstone Canyon) With a sweep of the hand my companion remarked, 'There's the worst stretch of country I know. More men have got lost in that mess of stuff than any other place I ever saw, and most of 'em are there yet.'"

Most of us are familiar with that wild expanse of low hills comprised of mudstones and sandstones of the Imperial and Palm Spring Groups between the Vallecito and Fish Creek Mountains and Highway S-2. It is a land full of caves, dead-end canyons, and sinkholes (collapsed caves). Chase and his companion took 15 hours to complete the trek, mostly leading, not riding, Kaweah. Not many of us would attempt that today, especially in mid-summer. From the mouth of Split Mountain Gorge, they traveled along the eastern side of the Fish Creek Mountains to El Centro, Yuma, and finally returned to Coachella Valley by way of a route along the Colorado River.

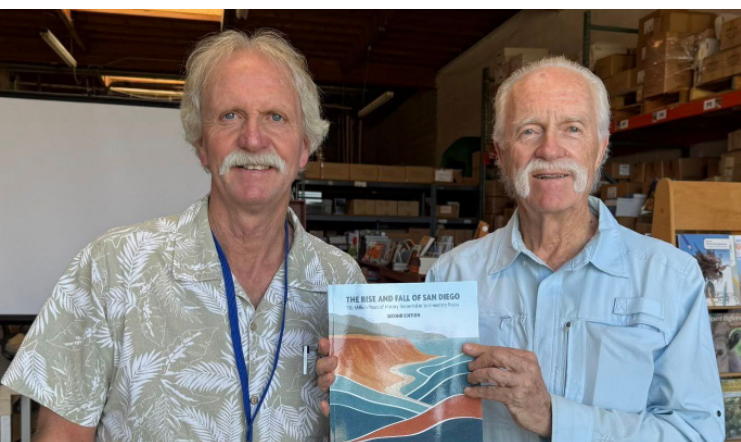
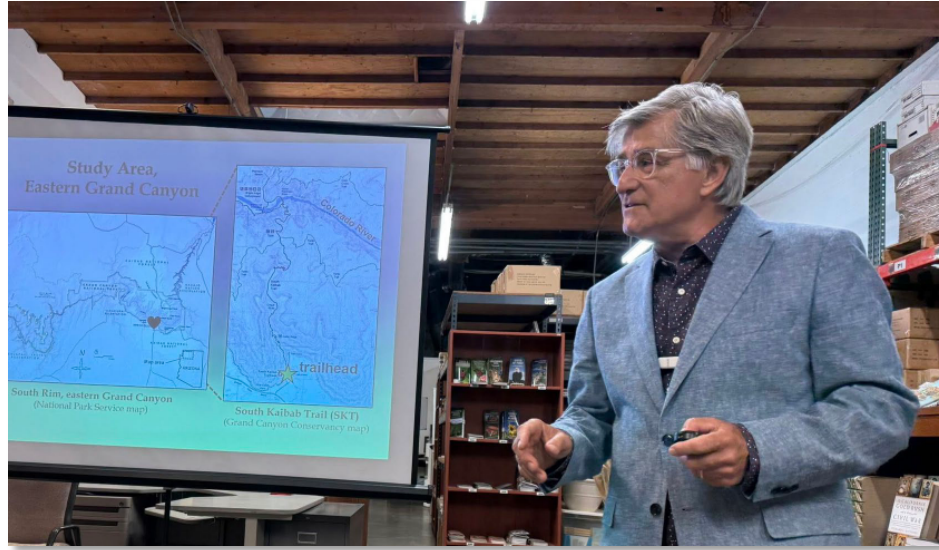
The book is full of colorful descriptions of the early pioneers, miners, and the hospitable Indians that populated the Colorado Desert in the waning days of homesteading and mining. His travels occurred during the amazing transition from travel by horseback to automobiles when there were no paved roads in the desert — a time when the wood plank road across the Algodones Dunes had just been completed and the Salton Sea had recently formed. For water he relied on the unreliable: the widely scattered, usually contaminated springs whose water even the horses would not drink, and the occasional friendly miners and homesteaders for rest and food.



SDAG | August Meeting Recap

-THANK YOU-

Thank you for joining us at Sunbelt Publications for Dr. Caputo's informative talk on fossils and eolian structures documented in the Wescogame Formation of the Grand Canyon. It's exciting to be able to differentiate formations within the Supai Group—great knowledge to bring along on your next Grand Canyon trip! We look forward to seeing you at next month's meeting.



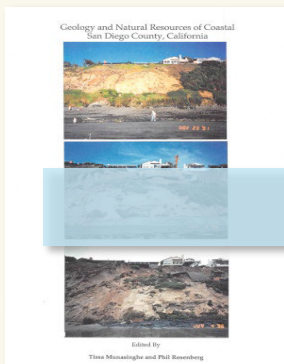


SDAG | Publications

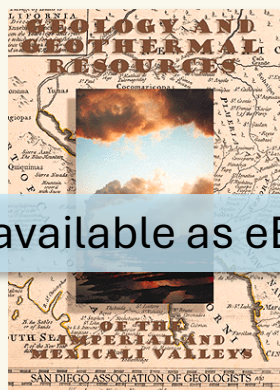
The [SDAG publication page](#) includes links to in stock books we sell thru Sunbelt Publications, out of stock books we sell thru Google Play Books, and out of stock books that we provide free as scanned copies to download.

FIELD TRIP GUIDES & RESEARCH REPORTS

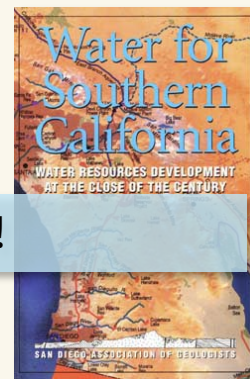
Now available as eBooks!



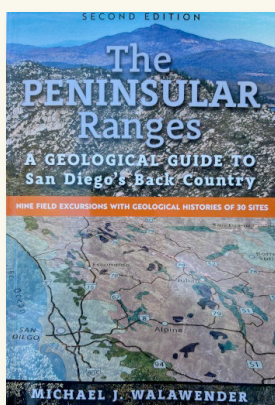
Geology And Natural Resources Of Coastal San Diego County, CA (1996)



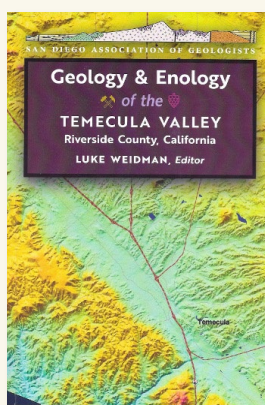
Geology And Geothermal Resources Of The Imperial And Mexicali Valleys (1998)



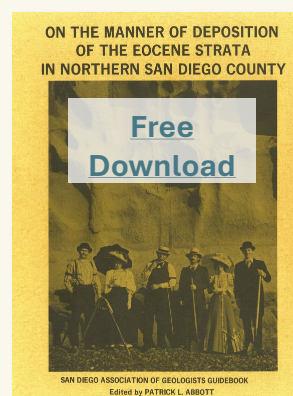
WATER FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Water Resources Development (1999)



The Peninsular Ranges: A Geological Guide to San Diego's Back Country 2nd Edition



Geology & Enology of the Temecula Valley Riverside County, California 2nd Edition



On the Manner of Deposition of the Eocene Strata in Northern San Diego

FREE GUIDES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

- [1972 Otay Mesa](#)
- [1977 SW San Diego](#)
- [1978 Coronado Islands, BC](#)
- [1979 San Diego Region](#)
- [1987 Julian Gold](#)
- [1981 Geologic Investigations of the San Diego Coastal Plain](#)
- [1982 Geologic Studies in San Diego](#)
- [1985 Eocene in San Diego](#)
- [1989 Fault Features: La Jolla - Ensenada](#)

SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGISTS

DIAMOND SPONSORS \$1000+

Link to our [Sponsors Page](#)



Kuper Consulting LLC
tom@kupercon.com
dorian@kupercon.com



Dr. Pat Abbott

To Promote
Geologic Knowledge

Shannon O'Dunn
2025 Scholarship

**\$1500 ANONYMOUS
SPONSOR**

**\$10,000 Anonymous Sponsor for the 2nd edition of the 2010 Geology and
Lore of Northern Anza-Borrego Desert Region**

**ANONYMOUS
SPONSOR**



COMPANY

Your Logo Here

**Renew or become a new
SDAG Sponsor**

Minimum \$100 includes annual
Membership: [SPONSOR FORM](#)

Contact one of our officers for details

**BECOME AN SDAG
MEMBER**

Renew or become a new
SDAG Member! If you have
not paid your dues this the
time do so!

**On-line Payment (\$30
Member; \$10 Student) or
Bring FORM to Meeting**

SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGISTS

RUBY SPONSORS \$500



CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

EMERALD SPONSORS \$100

Dave Bloom
Larry Cann
Dr. Vic Camp
John Hoobs

Christian Wheeler Engineering
Lowell E. Lindsay & Diana Lindsay
Greg Cranham

Consulting Geologist

Dr. Margaret R. Eggers, CHG
Eggers Environmental, Inc.

Patrick Lehrmann
Advantage Geophysics, Inc.

Eldon Gath
Earth Consultants International

GEI Geotechnical Exploration Inc.

Carolyn Glockhoff
Caro-Lion Enterprises

Stan Helenschmidt
Helenschmidt Geotechnical, Inc.

Ed & Hanna Hernandez
Project X Corrosion Engineering

Christina Tretinjak
Ninyo & Moore

Phil Farquharson
Geology Guy

Joe Corones
Jeff Hull

Verdantas

Dr. Monte Marshall
SDSU Prof. of Geology and Geophysics, Emeritus
Monte and Diane Murbach
Murbach Geotech

Tod Clark
Pacific Drilling Co.

Gerald Shiller
Scott Snyder
David and Jan Steller
Dr. Anne Sturz
Sue Tanges
John Teasley
Vanessa Nicole Jewels
Virtual Latinos

Mary Walke
Carole L. Ziegler
Anonymous Sponsor