

TCAS BENCHMARK



NOVEMBER, 2007

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Last month's Archeological Awareness fairs were well attended by many members of the Tarrant County Archeological Society. Every weekend for the entire month of October many of our people helped out at fairs held at Kaufmann County, Plano, Gainesville, and Denton. Thanks to **Jim and Peggy Blanton, John and Laurel Wilson, Glynn and Sandy Osburn, Brett and**

Linda Lang, Nita Thurman, Paula Vastine, Marvin Glasgow, Mark Cohen, Ona B Reed and Mickey Miller for volunteering to help make sure these events were very successful. We only had bad weather during the Plano fair, but typical October weather helped provide good public attendance for the other fairs. Everyone had a great time.

As I am writing this article I am also packing for the TAS Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The excitement and anticipation for this TAS yearly meeting is just as high for me as the TAS Field School is in June. Getting to see some longtime friends that have been made over the years as a member of the Texas Archeological Society is undoubtedly the one of the biggest rewards. However, over the past four or five years it seems like the quantity and quality of presentations and programs at the Annual Meeting just keeps getting better every year. I expect that our Tarrant County Archeological Society will be well represented there too. If you are not going to be able to attend the TAS Annual Meeting this year you are missing out on a wonderful event. I hope you will have the opportunity to go next year.

Jay Hornsby

THANK YOU

TO SANDY OSBURN AND LLOYD ERWIN FOR
THIS MONTH'S REFRESHMENTS

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS FOR FUTURE
MEETINGS

Calendar of Activities

NOVEMBER

- 8** TCAS Meeting 7:30 UNT-HSC
- 9-10** Center for Big Bend Studies 12th Annual Conference Alpine
- 15-17** CAST 07 / State Teachers Annual Conference hosted by the Science Teachers of Texas Austin

DECEMBER

- 1-2** GIS for Archaeology
Baylor Sciences Building Waco
- 15** TCAS Holiday Party
See the details in December's Newsletter

2008

FILL IN YOUR CALENDARS NOW

MARCH

- 7-9** 50th Annual Caddo Conference
Natchitoches, Louisiana

MAY

- 1-3** THC Annual Preservation Conference
Corpus Christi

JUNE

- 14-21** TAS Field School
Near Perryton

OCTOBER

- 24-26** TAS Annual Meeting
Lubbock

TCAS BENCHMARK

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OCTOBER PROGRAM

MAX RATHEAL

“The Comanches and U.S. Cavalry, as of September 28, 1874”



I am a 64 year old retired (after 31 years) Professor of Chemistry. I spent my entire career at Weatherford College. I also operated the only college affiliated drug lab in the state of Texas, doing marijuana analysis for the local police departments. I had some prior experience with law enforcement, as my father was Sheriff of Crosby County back in the early 60's. We lived in the apartment below the jail! Stories abound here!

I'm a member of the Tarrant County Archaeology Society, the Parker County Archaeological Society, Texas Archaeological Society, the Fort Worth Corral of Westerners International (Sheriff), and the Weatherford Business and Professional Men's Club

I've been married to my wife, Gay, for 40 years. We have three grown children that have blessed us with seven granddaughters (from 15 to 3 years old). Don't think my house isn't a melee at Christmas time?

Maybe it's a secret only to me but Max is also somewhat of a local celebrity appearing in commercials, industrial presentations, and live theatre. That's his "head shot" above. Ed

My presentation will be a discussion of little known facts about the Comanche, their culture and origins. Also the U. S. Cavalry, their culture and origins. These topics include the fascinating things I ran across in the research for my book, "The Wrinkled Hand Chase," a novel of historical fiction. I'll explain the title of the book. I have copies of the book on hand if anyone is interested.

NAME THAT POINT

“THE HARRELL POINT CONTROVERSY”



The September “Name That Point” started out harmlessly enough; A smallish, triangular point with deep notches and a concave base identified as a Harrell Point.

Then came the E-mails.

“Doesn't look like a Harrell to me,” wrote one of our members.

“The point you have listed is an Edwards Point, not a Harrell,” wrote another.

Now I'm confused! In desperation I turned to the ultimate source of information: the **INTERNET**.

Google-ing “Harrell Point” gave me results like: “Harrell's point of view,” an article about a mathematical physicist (I think); “Comments on Harrell's 'Marx and Critical Thought'”; and “25 Women 'WoW' San Francisco,” about point woman Cyd Harrell.

(continued on page 6)

LOSING LAND IN TEXAS

Archaeologists fear the worst for historic site

By [Isadora Vail](#)

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Michael Collins, an archaeological researcher at the University of Texas, has spent the past 16 years studying artifacts from a patch of Williamson County to uncover a prehistoric society that camped there nearly 11,000 years ago.

"I put seven years of mind-numbing and back-breaking effort into this," Collins said as he thumbed through a five-volume, 1,400-page report that he and 30 other experts wrote. "This was not easy."

A major road now covers the site, but Collins thinks land nearby has similar finds. He may never get to find out.

This month, a judge reaffirmed the right of the original owners to reclaim the 21/2-acre tract between RM 1431 and Parmer Lane in Cedar Park from an archaeological conservation group. The disputed land was never excavated, but it's next to an extraordinary piece of Texas history that attracted Collins and other researchers.

While work was being done on an extension of RM 1431, an ancient burial site was found in 1982. It contained thousands of artifacts and the remains of a prehistoric woman that dated back about 11,000 years, Collins said.

The discovery changed researchers' ideas about how tribes lived and moved through the area and how they gathered food, he said. The sedimentary bed where the remains and artifacts were found continues through the disputed land, and archaeologists are sure that there is more to discover.

The Wilson family donated the land in 1991 so researchers could study it but took the property back last year, saying it wasn't being used in the way the family wanted.

Will Wilson Jr.'s father wanted the Archaeological Conservancy — a nonprofit group from New Mexico with hundreds of preserves nationwide — to excavate the land, share it with educational institutions and rename it in memory of his late wife.

"We wanted them to do something with the site, but they did nothing," Will Wilson Jr. said.

But the conservancy and archaeologists said excavations are costly and extensive endeavors, done only when a site is in danger.

"When you dig up a site, you destroy it, so we try to save it for a time when there is better technology and better understanding," conservancy President Mark Michel said. "Funding is always a problem, but this preserve has had more research done on it than most. This is one of the most important sites in North America."

Archaeologists said that preserving the land is the best option and criticized District Judge Burt Carnes for siding with the Wilson family after the Archaeological Conservancy sued to reclaim the land. Carnes would not comment on the case.

"You can't just dig a site because it's there. Maybe if we were in the 19th century, but we can't get away with that anymore," said Minnette Church, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. "It's about looking at the site as a finite resource."

Britt Bousman directs the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University-San Marcos and worked on the Wilson-Leonard site. He said the case stems from an early misunderstanding between the family and the conservancy.

"I think the conservancy was doing what needed to be done. Continuous research on a site like this is incredible because it is extremely costly and time-consuming," Bousman said. "I just wish both sides could have come to some agreement before this legal mess."

The conservancy plans to appeal Carnes' decision, which could take years to complete. Collins fears that the family will sell the land to developers, but Will Wilson Jr. said he would like to bury the hatchet.

"It's an important site, and we have always respected the history it holds. The main influence for this is that we are disappointed that they did not carry out their deal," he said. We "aren't making any promises with what the land will go to, but I think it could go to the state."

FOR THOSE OF US WHO DIDN'T GET TO ATTEND THE TAS ANNUAL MEETING

MAIN PLAZA FINDS DISCUSSED AT MEETING OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Cindy Tumiel Express-News

Archaeologists who investigated an old trench uncovered during San Antonio's Main Plaza renovations found bits of ammunition, sword tips and other artifacts that tell the story of Mexican soldiers who dug in there to protect themselves from Texian rebels during an 1835 siege that preceded the battle of the Alamo.



(Bob Owen/Express-News File Photo)
Archeologists stand near the construction site where artifacts dating back to the Battle of the Alamo were found at Main Plaza in San Antonio.

A short distance away, beside the Bexar County Courthouse, the archaeologists from PBS&J of Austin found discarded animal bones, broken pottery, cooking utensils and other items in what was a trash pit used by both Native Americans and Spanish colonial settlers between the mid-1700s and early 20th century.

The archaeological dig in the heart of downtown was among the topics Saturday at the annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society at the Menger Hotel.

The discoveries were not astonishing, but they add context to a fabled event in the history of the state, said Nesta Anderson, one of the project archaeologists.

"This tells us a little about the Mexican soldiers. Here are people in Main Plaza trying to defend themselves," Anderson said.

Artifacts are now being studied at the University of Texas Center for Archaeological Research and someday may go on public display, said Eugene Foster Jr., a senior scientist at PBS&J.

"What the city is doing here and the attention being paid to these findings is one of the benefits that come from the project," Foster said. "The plaza gets a facelift and the public gets access and knowledge about some of these past events."

The forgotten caliche-lined trench, later filled with dirt and trash, was uncovered on the southeast corner of the plaza by contractors who dug up the street as part of the \$10 million drainage and renovation project.

Historians believe Mexican troops under the command of Gen. Martín Perfecto de Cos hastily dug trenches around the perimeter

of Main Plaza 172 years ago as Texians launched the first major campaign of the Texas Revolution. Cos surrendered Dec. 9, 1835, according to historical accounts. Three months later, Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna began the 13-day siege on the Alamo on Feb. 23, 1836.

The refuse uncovered near the present-day courthouse suggest the area likely was a dumping ground for both Native Americans and Spanish settlers for more than 150 years, Anderson said.

TCAS BENCHMARK

NOVEMBER EVENTS



12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Every fall the Center for Big Bend Studies hosts a two-day conference in the University Center on the campus of Sul Ross State University.

The conference brings together historians, archeologists, folklorists and other researchers studying the past and present of the Big Bend region and northern Mexico.

Conference attendees are also invited to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends at the Friday night social. Saturday's schedule includes a luncheon banquet and a presentation by a guest speaker.

Non-members may request a registration form by calling (432) 837-8179, faxing (432) 837-8381, e-mailing cbbs@sulross.edu or by downloading a [form](#) (PDF).

Submitting Papers

The center accepts papers to be given at the annual conference. Presentations are 30 minutes long and should focus on prehistoric, historic and modern cultures of the Borderlands Region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and North-Central Mexico.

Papers accepted for presentation are eligible for consideration for publication in the Journal of Big Bend Studies. For more information visit the CBBS site at www.sulross.edu/cbbs/index.php



CONFERENCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE TEACHING

November 15-17, 2007 Austin, Texas

Come join us for our 50th birthday party in Austin! Our beautiful host city will allow you to enhance your content knowledge and expand your understanding of effective science instruction. The Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT) has been the host of the CAST conference for 50 years. We have the largest state science conference in the country! A record crowd of over 6,000 Texas science educators and administrators are expected in Austin this November for the highly anticipated 50th Anniversary special event.

CAST will offer you . . .

TEKS-Aligned Science Professional Development

- Updates from Texas Education Agency
- Field Trips, Short Courses, National Speakers, Administrator's Institute, Luncheons, Workshops...
- Huge Exhibit Halls (120,000 sq. ft.) with over 400 vendors and organizations showcasing resources & new science products for educators and administrators
- Special 50th Anniversary celebration of the Science Teachers Association of Texas!

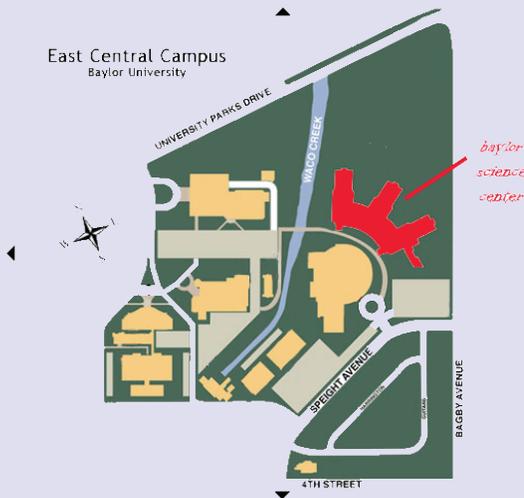
We have compiled an overall [schedule](#) for you to showcase the many varied activities of CAST 2007. We hope to see you soon! View the latest version of the online program to [explore Short Courses, Workshops, and Field Trips](#).

DECEMBER EVENTS

GIS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

DEC. 1 & 2 / BAYLOR SCIENCES BUILDING

This workshop adopts an approach that is both practical and rigorous because most archaeologists are interested in a selective set of geospatial tools, but poorly described short cuts often bring questionable results by the user. The course condenses all the most important GIS concepts and operations that are commonly utilized by the archaeological community into a series of short lectures followed by relevant hands-on examples using ArcGIS software and extensions.



This workshop intends to:

1. Rapidly achieve the “critical mass” of GIS concepts and practice for archaeologists to effectively learn GIS on their own in the future.
2. Learn appropriate applications and limitations of GIS techniques to solve archaeological problems.
3. Build knowledge in the discipline by immersing the student in practical applications and instrumentation while being supported by comprehensive theoretical training.

Participants will receive a workbook with related articles, example exercises, activity instructions, and lecture slides.

NAME THAT POINT (CONTINUED)

So I turn my Google-ing to “Edwards Point.” Since the Internet is not quite exact, yet, I get results for “Point Edwards” of Edmond, Washington; “Edwards Point Beach Villas” somewhere in Australia; and “Edwards Point Trails” at Signal Mountain (of course, Google-ing “Signal Mountain returns results from Vermont to Tennessee to the Tetons).

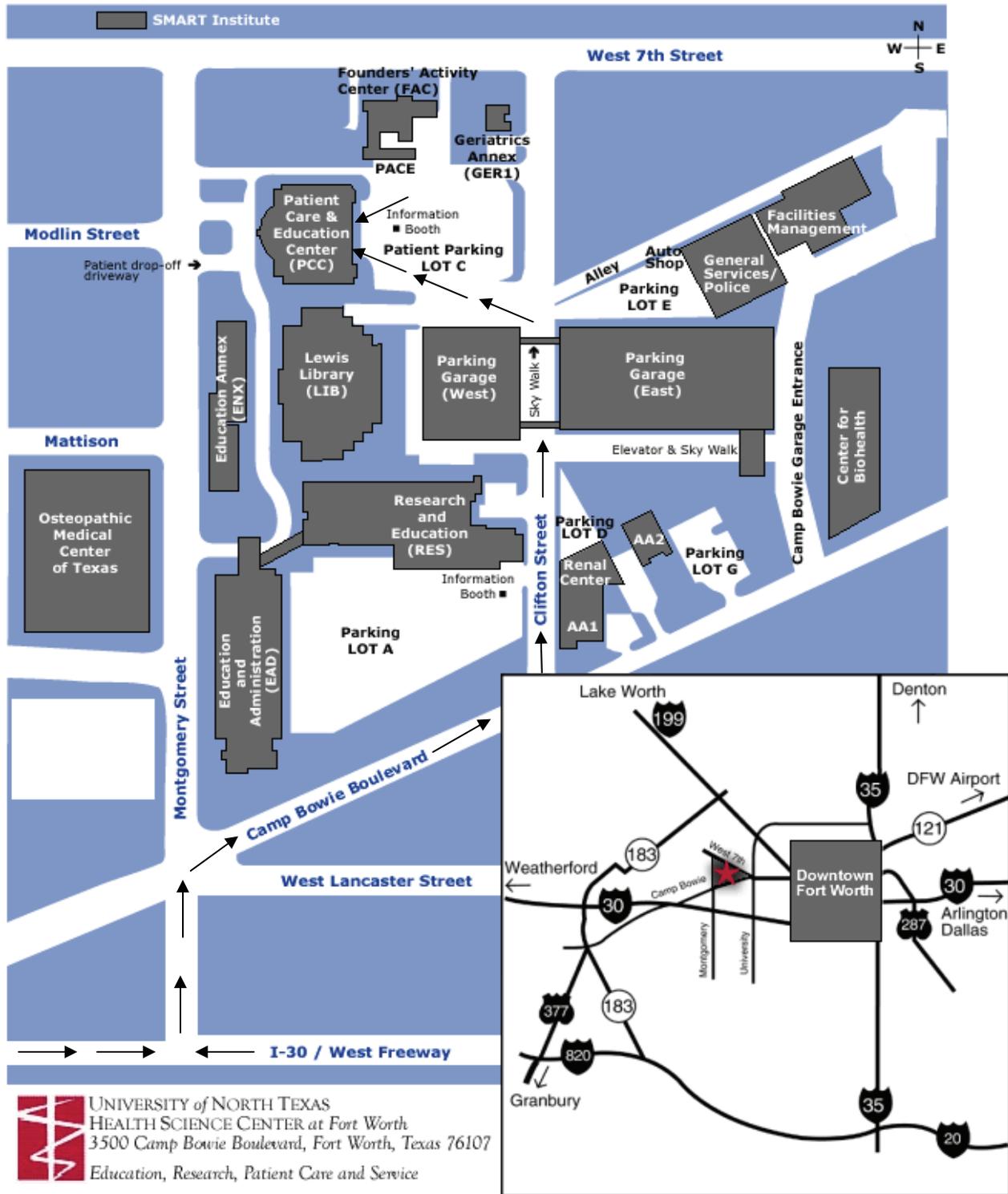
I actually found a good deal about both point types on the net. The Harrell Point was named for the Harrell Site by Alex Krieger in 1954; the Edwards Point named after the Edwards Plateau where much of the native chert comes from. My hunch is that Harrell points were Edwards points before 1954, though it’s only a hunch. The only descriptive difference I can find is that Edwards points might be slightly larger than Harrells but that’s hard to see one point at a time. And, maybe, the Harrell is a little more “angular” at the shoulders and base notching. But, as I said, I’m confused.

I keep thinking back to a remark made to me this past Field School by Elton Prewitt who has seen a few more points than I have. It was something like, “After seeing tens of thousands of lithics, I’m still hesitant to name any of them.”

Below are several Edwards and Harrell points that might be fun to sort out.



TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot "C" on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership / Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Type of Membership:

Renewal ___ New Member ___

Address _____

___ Individual ___ \$20.00

City/State/Zip _____

___ Family ___ \$25.00

Home Phone _____

___ Student (H.S., active univ. degree candidate through age 25)

Employer _____

___ \$10.00

___ Contributing ___ \$30.00+

Email _____

___ Lifetime ___ \$250.00

CODE OF ETHICS (Signature required)

I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any federal, state, or local antiquities statutes concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques. I understand that failure to follow these guidelines will provide ground for expulsion from the Society.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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