

TCAS BENCHMARK

OCTOBER 2011

Volume 25, Issue 10

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can't believe it is already October, but I sure am glad that we can look over our shoulder at summer and hopefully those extremely high temperatures. Now that we are finally experiencing more reasonable outdoor temperatures we can begin to plan some activities.

On Saturday, November 12, TCAS is planning to return to the Saint Jo property where some of you have previously worked. It is my understanding that we need to excavate a couple of hearths, record a site, and maybe do a little survey work. This will be an all day event, so bring your lunch and plenty of fluids and snacks. Some of our members who normally lead events such as this will be out of town at a conference, so we will be asking for some volunteers to step into these roles. Glynn Osburn will discuss the details of this event during our meeting on October 13.

The Texas State Fair opened September 30 and as is our custom, my husband and I attended on the opening day. While we were there, we visited the Hall of State that is featuring a wonderful exhibit titled "Texas!" This special exhibition is sponsored by the Dallas Historical Society and celebrates the 175th anniversary for the state of Texas. Entry is free (they do like to receive donations), and will run until December 4. However, until the State Fair closes on October 23, you would need to purchase a ticket to gain entry to the Fair grounds.

The date for the TAS Annual Meeting is fast approaching at the end of this month. If you have been thinking about volunteering and just haven't done so, now is the time. Many of our members have been working very hard to complete all the tasks that are necessary before a meeting of this magnitude can take place, and I feel very fortunate to be associated with these good people. The Local Arrangements Committee will be meeting in conjunction with our usual board meeting this month to finalize and assign positions to all of our wonderful volunteers. I know we still have some vacant positions so please keep this in mind. If you have not yet registered to attend the 82nd Annual Meeting of TAS please do so as soon as possible. Linda Lang, our registrar, will greatly appreciate your promptness!

Calendar of Activities

OCTOBER

13

**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

26-29

**69TH ANNUAL PLAINS AN-
THROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
TUCSON, AZ (SEE PAGE 3)**

28-30

**2011 TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING ~
FORT WORTH (SEE PAGE 3)**

NOVEMBER

10

**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

12

**ST JO GATHERING
(MORE DETAILS AT THE OCTO-
BER MONTHLY MEETING)**

DECEMBER

ANNUAL TCAS HOLIDAY PARTY

Also, for those of you who have items you want to donate to the Silent Auction, if possible please wait and bring them to the Annual Meeting instead of to our TCAS meeting. This way, Gen Freix, who is managing the Silent Auction, won't have to store or haul your donations to the Sheraton Hotel. Look around your house and see if you can find some unusual item you could donate.

Katrina Nuncio

TCAS Board Members

Katrina Nuncio

President
972.978.2413
ksnuncio@aol.com

Bryan Jameson

Vice President
817.249.5242
bryanjameson@sbcglobal.net

Mike Shannon

Vice President for Projects
817.444.2211
mshindainazle@gmail.com

Paula Vastine

Treasurer
817.988.8405
paula.vastine@tccd.edu

Chris Meis

Secretary
214.704.2328
lptmeis@sbcglobal.net

Jay Hornsby

Immediate Past President
817.496.5475
jhornsby@sihometheater.com

David Opper

Editor
214.535.5496
dmopper@att.net
david.opper@tccd.edu

Jim Blanton

Historian
817.451.6321
jimblanton2000@yahoo.com

Editorial Committee

Jay Hornsby
Paula Vastine
David Opper

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

BILL D. WEST

"Archeology and History of the Robinson -West River Plantation"

A graduate of Sam Houston High School in Houston, Bill west spent most of his childhood playing baseball in the city, and hunting and fishing in the piney woods of east Texas. In 1959, he was granted a baseball scholarship to Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.



Bill has been an educator and coach for forty-five years, both in Arizona and Texas. While employed as a United States forest ranger in the summers of northern Arizona, he authored the non-fiction book, "Battle At Oak Creek," which reflected the struggles of the U.S. forest ranger in trying to conserve and protect the natural beauty of the Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon area. In 1976.



Bill and his wife of 52 years, Barbara, were selected as Sedona's "Man and Woman of the Year."

In 1978, Bill moved is family home to Texas, and bought the Robinson plantation in the little town of Point Blank on the banks of the Trinity River. After the recent discoveries of a multitude of artifacts on the land,

Bill constructed a small museum in the top of his barn. State archeologists were contacted, over eight hundred school children came to see the museum and plantation, and Bill has made several archeological presentations. He is a member of two County Historical Commissions, and a member of the Texas Archeological Society. Bill has ow designated a portion of his land as a State Archeological Landmark.

In the year 2000, Bill was honored as "Teacher of the Year" at the Huntsville Independent School district, where he has taught History, Physical Education, and coached high school Baseball.

TAS ANNUAL MEETING IS HERE!

The Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting comes around each October. This year, the 82nd Annual Meeting, is different... this year the meeting's HERE. TCAS is honored to be the host society for this year's event. And what an event it will be.

Highlights of the meetings will feature Friday Night Forum speaker Quintin McGown and Saturday Night's Banquet speaker Michael Waters.

Mr. McGown's presentation is titled, *"The Native Peoples in the Early History of Tarrant County and North Central Texas: Their Cultures and How They Interacted with the Early Settlers and Development of Their Land"*

Mr. McGown will enlighten and entertain both Society members and the general public about the many events in the early history of Fort Worth and surrounding areas and how they shaped and changed the development and progress of North Central Texas. Many of these events involved the Native American people that were occupying the same area at that time.



QUENTIN MCGOWN



DR. MIKE WATERS

Dr. Waters, Director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans and Executive Director of the North Star Archaeological Research Program, will address his current work in a presentation titled, *"The First Americans: A New Perspective Based on Evidence from the Debra L. Friedkin, Gault, and Hogeye Sites, Texas."*

His talk will focus on the need to create a new model for the peopling of the Americas.

Of course, the Annual Meeting is complete with plenty of Paper Presentations, Silent Auction, Artifact Identification, Posters, and just plain catching up with friends. In the true Fort Worth spirit, we're also making available a free visit and tour just for TAS members at the new [Fort Worth Science and History Museum](#). All that in addition to side trips to the Water Gardens, Stockyards, and Sundance Square and our visitors will be guaranteed a good time.

If you've volunteered to help with the Annual Meeting, we thank you. If you need an application or more information follow this link: [TAS ANNUAL MEETING](#)

SEE YOU AT THE SHERATON OCTOBER 28 — 30

Drought unveils treasure for Lake Whitney, looters

CASEY NORTON

WFAA

DALLAS - Sinking lake levels have exposed some of Hill County's hidden secrets.

Fossils and Native American tools from eight thousand years ago are easy to find at Lake Whitney, and looters are taking advantage.



They used to be buried in underwater caverns, but the drought has evaporated that protection.

"The looter and scavenger comes and digs up the site," said U.S. Army Corps Engineer Brad Demsey. "They just destroy all that and leave it to the side."

Even in remote parts of Lake Whitney that were once buried under concrete for security, scavengers

unearth and discard valuable history.

There are fossils and Native American tools from prehistoric times.

Texas and federal laws ban the removal of Native American artifacts from archaeological sites, but burial grounds have been disturbed.

It has been decades since the lake has been this low. Demsey said it has been 20 years since anyone has seen the caverns.

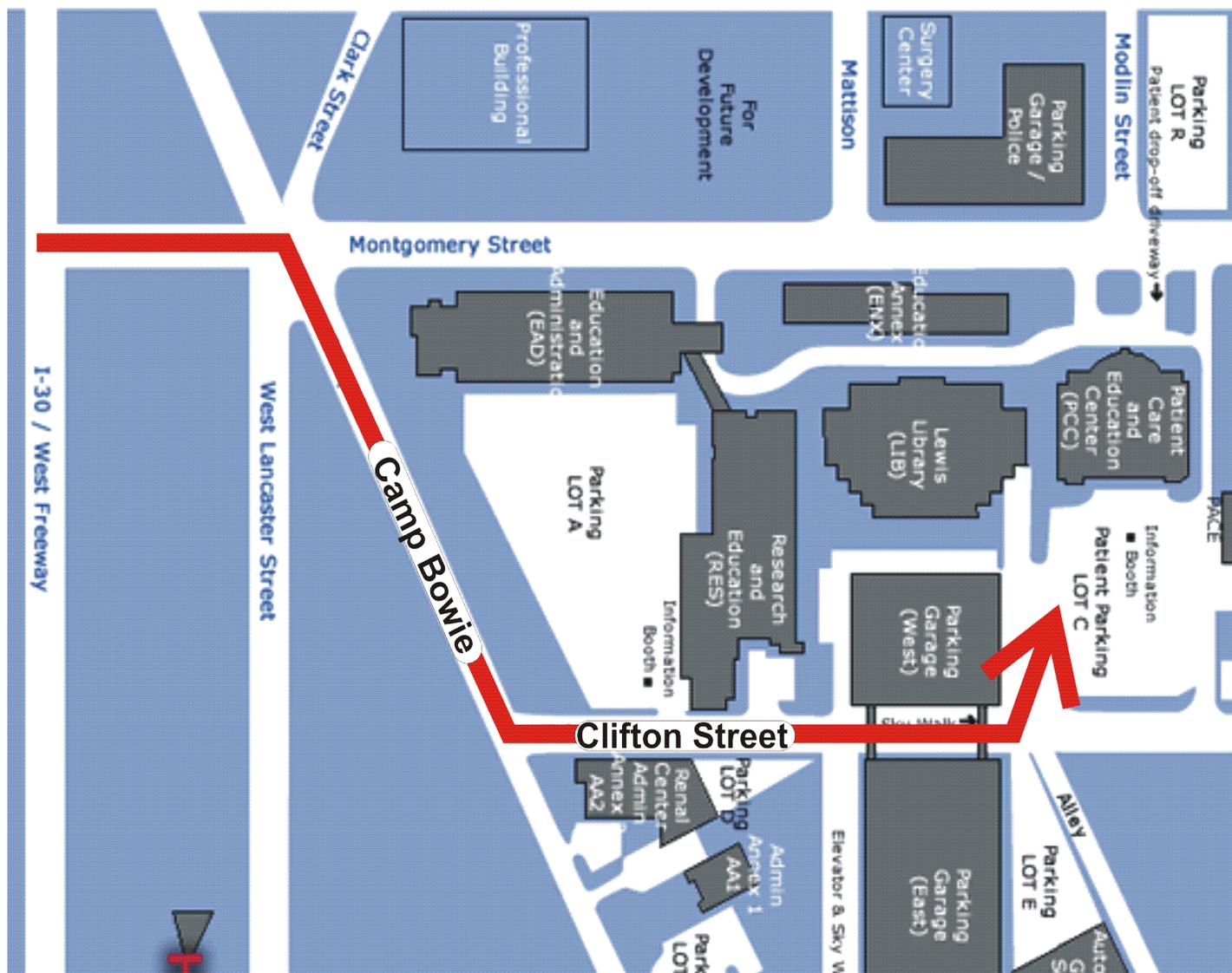
Authorities patrol Lake Whitney and have made 30 arrests. Violators were put on probation and fined thousands of dollars.



But, state and federal agents fear the only the thing that can truly protect the historic artifacts is enough rain to end a historic drought.

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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

EMPLOYER _____

E-MAIL _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00

FAMILY \$25.00

STUDENT \$10.00

(H.S. , ACTIVE UNIV. DEGREE CANDIDATE THROUGH AGE 25)

CONTRIBUTING \$30.00+

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL _____ POST OFFICE _____

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 GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 24679

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76124