

TCAS BENCHMARK



DECEMBER, 2007

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 12

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Holiday Season is rapidly approaching and I hope everyone gets to enjoy this special time with family and friends. Don't forget that as a society we do not have a meeting this month but we do have our annual Christmas party. This year it is on December 15th at Paula's house (see map). Everyone who attends always seems to have such a great time; so please come and remember to bring a

white elephant gift.

As this year closes, I am reflecting back on how successful TCAS was this past year. By success, I am referring to having an outstanding membership, with active members, good attendance at monthly meetings, acquiring excellent guest speakers and having the opportunity to participate on various archeological projects throughout the year. We are a very fortunate group.

Let's plan to make next year even better. We all have friends whom we have heard express an interest in Archeology. Please bring a guest to one of our meetings this next year. We should make our primary goal as a society in 2008 to increase our membership. Our success as a society in the future will continue!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Jay Hornsby

ORIGINAL PARY ANIMALS

Newswise — The belief among some archeologists that Europeans introduced alcohol to the Indians of the American Southwest may be faulty.

Ancient and modern pot sherds collected by New Mexico state archeologist Glenna Dean open the possibility that food or beverages made from fermenting corn were consumed by native inhabitants centuries before the Spanish arrived.

Dean says, "There's been an artificial construct among archeologists working in New Mexico that no one had alcohol here until the Spanish brought grapes

and wine. That's so counter-intuitive. It doesn't make sense to me as a social scientist that New Mexico would have been an island in pre-Columbian times. By this reasoning, ancestral puebloans would have been the only ones in the Southwest not to know about fermentation."

Closer to home, the Tarahumara Indians in northern Mexico to this day drink a weak beer called tiswin, made by fermenting corn kernels.

Calendar of Activities

DECEMBER

- 1-2** GIS for Archaeology
Baylor Sciences Building Waco
- 15** TCAS Holiday Party
See the details in on page 2
- 28-
Jan 5** TAS Rock Art Recording Group
Recording Session
Seminole Canyon State Park

2008

JANUARY

- 26-27** TAS Archeology Academy — Lithics
Houston ~ see page 3

FEBRUARY

- 8-10** TAS Archeology Academy —
Archeology 101
Belton ~ see page 3

- 29-
Mar 2** TAS Archeology Academy — Rock Art
Van Horn ~ see page 3

MARCH

- 6-8** Texas State Historical Association
Annual Meeting
Corpus Christi
- 7-9** 50th Annual Caddo Conference
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Could ancestral puebloan farmers — whose ancient mud and rock homes have been found in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado — have done the same?

For the whole article visit www.newswise.com/articles/view/535910

TCAS BENCHMARK

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DECEMBER PROGRAM

IT'S A PARTY! ELEPHANTS AND ALL

Well, it's finally here. This is the time of the year that all TCAS Archeologists, avocationalists, beginners, and hangers-on come to East Fort Worth to soak up all the good cheer they can, exchange sometimes bizarre gifts, and enjoy a final toast for 2007. December 15th marks the 2007 edition of the **Annual TCAS Xmas Party at Paula's!**

As in past years, you're asked to bring a dish and a "white elephant gift."

I don't mean to complain, but, I don't understand the whole "white elephant" thing.

According to "The Space Station," one of a myriad of "informational" web sites:

White elephants were rare even in Siam (the modern Thailand). If you found one the emperor automatically owned it and you couldn't harm it. When the emperor wanted to punish someone, he gave him or her a white elephant as a "gift." They couldn't ride it or work it, but they still had to take care of it and clean up after it. And you know what elephants do besides eat.

With every intention of going to this year's celebration, I've been searching everywhere in the Metroplex to come up with a white elephant. No easy task.

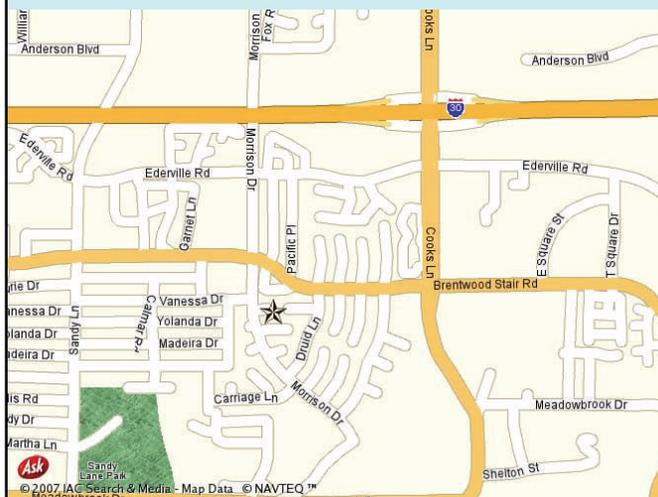
The Fort Worth Zoo has none and the folks there didn't really smile when I asked if I could have a plain grey one and a gallon of paint. The Dallas Zoo was more understanding but the policeman they called to help me seemed a little threatening.

I've checked toy stores, department stores, Wal-Mart (twice), been to malls in Frisco and McKinney, looked in dollar stores and discount stores and even stopped in Big Lots.

All to no avail. No white elephants.

I have to admit that I was getting a little dismayed. Then a friend brought up the ultimate problem; how would I get a white elephant to the party? This is almost harder to overcome than actually finding the beast in the first place. When I got my newer, bigger vehicle I never asked about transporting large animals with it. The car manual says, "call your dealer." The dealer says, "yeah," and mutters something as he slams down the phone. An elephant in a Toyota? Not likely.

So, I'm probably not going to make it to the party for lack of an elephant I can't find and couldn't get to Paula's even if I found it. Be warned, though, while you're looking for your white elephant gift, this whole idea may be a ploy on Paula's part to maintain her yard with a, forgive the pun, poop-load of fertilizer.



DIRECTIONS TO PAULA'S 7609 Spring Creek, Fort Worth

- ★ Take I-30 toward Arlington
- ★ Exit at Cooks Lane
- ★ Go South on Cooks Lane to Brentwood Stair Rd.
- ★ Go West (right) on Brentwood Stair to Morrison Dr.
- ★ Go South (left) on Morrison
- ★ Spring Creek is the first cul-de-sac on the left

TAS ANNOUNCES 2008 ACADEMIES

Since they were introduced in 2003, more than one thousand people have enrolled in the Texas Archeological Society's Texas Archeology Academies. The TAS offers these enlightening and informative programs each spring in different parts of the state. All Academy sessions are open to anyone interested in archeology and do not require prior experience in ceramics or archeology

Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts

Houston, Texas, January 26 and 27, 2008

Hosted by the Houston Archeological Society, the Lithics Academy will provide hands-on experience for recognizing and analyzing stone artifacts. Attendees will learn the different ways in which stone tools were made, how to recognize their different use-wear patterns and the interpretation of stone artifacts found in the archeological record. Flint knapping demonstrations will focus understanding how the archeological record is formed. Dr. Harry Shafer will lead the workshop with the assistance of Dr. John Dockall and flint knapping specialist Dr. Cary Voss.

Participants will receive a CD Lithics Manual, lunches, catered lunches on Saturday and Sunday, morning coffee, and afternoon snacks.

Archeology 101:

Recognizing and Documenting Archeological Sites

Belton, Texas, February 8, 9, 10, 2008

The Archeology 101 Academy will introduce basic archeological procedures, techniques for recovery of data, and methods for preserving archeological resources. The focus of this academy is "What do Archeologist do and why do they do it?" Instruction will include identifying archeological sites, mapping visible remains, analyzing evidence, reporting finds, and protecting our heritage from destruction. Dr. Harry Shafer will teach the academy with assistance from local experts.

Participants will receive a CD 101 Manual, catered lunches on Saturday and Sunday, coffee and snacks on Saturday.

Rocks and Artists: A Panoramic View of Texas Rock Art

Van Horn, Texas, February 29 - March 2, 2008

The Rock Art Academy in Van Horn, Texas, will a combination of classroom discussions and field tours led by the Center for Big Bend Studies, Sul Ross State University. The Academy will introduce participants to the amazing variety and extent of rock art in far West Texas. Working with presenters Melissa Williams (CBBS Archeologist) and Reeda Peel (CBBS Director of Rock Art Documentation and Research), participants will explore the rock art of Texas within a global framework, view the rock art of Trans Pecos Texas, and consider current theories on the interpretation of rock art.

Attendees will receive a CD-ROM of Dr. Carolyn Boyd's 2006 manual, "Rock Art: A Sacred Tool." Academy registration includes two guided field tours, classroom discussions, catered lunches on Saturday and Sunday, morning coffee, and afternoon snacks

For more information on the Academies including registration forms and fees visit txarch.org

THE FINE PRINT

CHANGES TO THE TCAS BYLAWS

As a not-for-profit organization TCAS is governed by a set of Bylaws. Among the directives of the Bylaws is a procedure for amending the Bylaws which includes notification of the membership, thirty days prior to voting, the changes that are suggested by the Board Members. Voting results are determined by vote of two-thirds of those attending the monthly meeting.

Following are the Bylaw changes recommended by your TCAS Board Members. Voting will be either at the January 2008 or February 2008 monthly meeting. Notification of which month voting will occur in will be published in the January newsletter

ISSUE 1 AMEND Article I Aims and Objectives Section 7.

FROM The Society shall prepare and keep a proper record of the archeological discoveries of this area; shall endeavor to publish such information for distribution to the membership and to recognized archeological institutions and organizations; and to periodically assemble, correlate and forward to the Department of Anthropology of the University of Texas, or other recognized archeological institutions upon request, such information for incorporation into their records.

TO: "the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory" instead of "Department of Anthropology"

ISSUE 2 DELETE Article II Meetings Section 3. The annual business meeting of the Society shall take place at the regular meeting in January of each year

ISSUE 3 ADD Article III Government Section 3. Officers duties, as provided for in these Bylaws, are as follows:

g. The HISTORIAN – shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee, and shall maintain historical records of the society's activities and documents, to include newsletters and other correspondence.

ISSUE 3 AMEND Article IV Membership and Dues Section 3.

FROM Dues of this Society, established by the Executive Committee, shall apply individually, but will include the spouse and any children under the age of eighteen (18). Dues shall be payable at the regular meeting in January of each year.

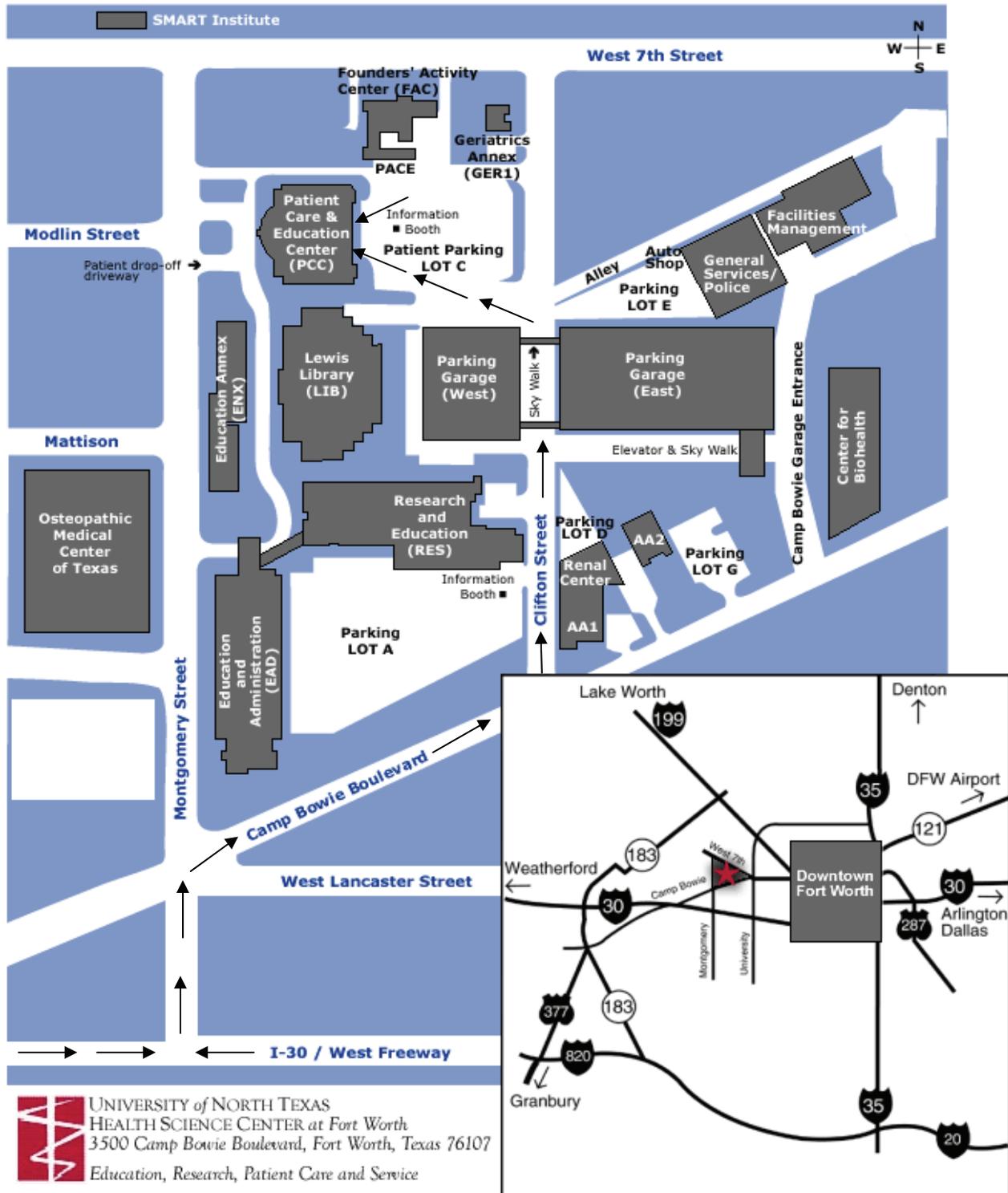
TO: Dues of this Society shall be established annually by the Executive Committee. Dues shall be payable at the regular meeting beginning in January of each year.

ISSUE 4 AMEND Article XII Amendments Section 1

FROM Amendment to the Bylaws of this Society shall be made only at a regular monthly meeting, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present. Written notice of any amendments must be mailed to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to that meeting.

TO: "announced" instead of "mailed"

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 _____

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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