

TCAS BENCHMARK



JANUARY, 2008

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We're hoping that everyone had some wonderful Christmas holidays and are now looking forward to a busy and rewarding new year. The board members of TCAS have already been busy revamping some minor changes that needed to be addressed for our society By Laws. We are lining up some future projects for our members to participate in during 2008. As always, we

also have some great guest speakers lined up for the first part of the year, so plan to attend as many TCAS meetings as possible this year.

This month longtime TCAS member Bryan Jameson will be giving us an update on all of the incredible work done by himself, Carol Macaulay and an inspiring bunch of students from Baylor University this past year at the Sprague Site. We will be returning to Sprague soon and the scope of new knowledge about this Hamilton County site that will to be revealed at Bryan's presentation is something that all members returning to work there must know. Don't miss his presentation.

Our society has also been asked to do a survey at the Garrett Creek Ranch, about a 400 acre corporate retreat, located in Wise County. Everyone always enjoys a good survey; this one will have a focus on learning to do survey correctly, following the guidelines that Margaret Howard teaches at the TAS Field School. The kind folks at Garrett Creek are also planning to do lunch for us that day. We have scheduled this outing for late February, so make plans for this too.

Happy New Year Jay Hornsby

CONDOLENCES

TO LAURIE MOSELEY WHO'S MOTHER
PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK

TO BECKY GLASGOW WHO'S MOTHER
PASSED AWAY AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

Calendar of Activities

JANUARY

**TCAS DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH
SEE KATRINA OR LAUREL**

- 26-27 TAS Archeology Academy — Lithics
Houston ~ see page 3
- 26-27 GIS for Archeology Workshop
Baylor University

FEBRUARY

- 8-10 TAS Archeology Academy —
Archeology 101 Belton
- 16 East Texas Archeological Conference
University of Texas — Tyler
- 23 Introduction to Archeological Geology
Baylor University
- 29-
Mar 2 TAS Archeology Academy — Rock Art
Van Horn

MARCH

- 6-8 Texas State Historical Association
Annual Meeting
Corpus Christi
- 7-9 50th Annual Caddo Conference
Natchitoches, Louisiana
- 15-22 TAS Rock Art Recording Group Recording
Session
Big Bend National Park

TCAS BENCHMARK

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JANUARY PROGRAM

Excavation Activities at the Upper Sprague Site

During the summer of 2007, the Baylor University field school was held at the Upper Sprague Site (41HM54) in Hamilton County, Texas. This field school was held in conjunction with ongoing excavation activities at the site conducted by the Tarrant County Archeological Society. This joint effort has resulted in the excavation of a Late Prehistoric hunter/gatherer camp site consisting of multiple habitation features with lithic artifacts, animal bone, and fresh water mussel shell. This program will provide an overview of the excavation activities accomplished to date at this site with recommendations for future testing with the intent of enhancing our understanding of residential patterns and habitation localities within the site.

Bryan is an Engineering Specialist at Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems in Fort Worth, Texas where he has been employed for the past 39 years. Bryan is also an avocational archeologist and a member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network for the Archeology Division, Office of the State Archeologist of the Texas Historical Commission. Bryan has also been a member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) and the Tarrant County Archeological Society for the past 21 years and during this time he has worked throughout the state of Texas and also in New Mexico on numerous archeological projects.

Bryan is currently serving as a Regional Director for the Texas Archeological Society and as a member of the Texas Archeological Society Field School Committee and as Vice President of the Tarrant County Archeological Society.

Carol is a professor in Anthropology and Archeology at Baylor University. She has conducted archaeological field schools at historic and prehistoric sites in Gillespie, McLennan and Hamilton Counties where her students were instructed not only in proper survey, excavation and laboratory methods, but also in the use of survey equipment and the application of geographic information systems (GIS) to archaeological data management and analysis on both intrasite and intersite levels. Carol encourages her historical archaeology students and the participants of the field schools to present their research at the Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society each October. Carol has also been a member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) for the past 21 years and during this time she has worked throughout the state of Texas on numerous archeological projects. Carol is also currently serving as a member of the Texas Archeological Society Communications Committee.

DUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUESDUES

JANUARY IS THE TIME OF YEAR THAT YOU GET TO USE THE TOP PORTION OF THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER TO RENEW YOUR YEARLY DUES. YOUR DUES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF KEEPING THE SOCIETY OPERATING. THEY ARE USED FOR ONGOING SOCIETY EXPENCES SUCH AS STAMPS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, PRINTING COSTS, POST OFFICE BOX RENTAL, AND BANK FEES. THE FORM YOU SIGN ALSO KEEPS CURRENT YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE SOCIETY.

DUES ARE COLLECTED AT MONTHLY MEETINGS BY KATRINA NUNCIO AND LAUREL WILSON OR YOU CAN MAIL THEM TO P.O. BOX 24679 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76124

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

You are invited to the
TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY LITHICS ACADEMY

This is a two day, hands-on workshop for anyone interested in recognizing and analyzing stone artifacts.

Learn how they are produced, and see how artifacts are interpreted in the Archeological record.

Join Archeologists to learn about Texas history and prehistory as it is revealed through Archeological investigations.

Hosted by the Houston Archeological Society.

Registration Fees: \$95 (TAS Members), \$135 (Non TAS Members) For the 2-Day Workshop
(Includes 2 lunches, snacks, and CD Workshop Manual)

When: January 26 and 27, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: St. Thomas University Scanlan Hall Houston, Texas

Student Scholarships and Scholarships Available

Scholarship Information: www.txarch.org/scholarships/index.html

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY OFFERS WORKSHOPS

Two archaeological related workshops are being offered by Baylor University in the upcoming months:

GIS for Archaeology is offered January 26-27. The workshop 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

Introduction to Archaeological Geology Short Course is offered February 23rd. Dr. Shane J. Prochnow, a research scientist and lecturer at Baylor University, will conduct a short course covering the fundamentals of geoarchaeological theory and practice.

Go online to www.baylor.edu/csr/index.php?id=46773 for more information

The 2008 East Texas Archeological Conference

The conference will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 8:30AM to 4:00PM at the Robert M. Muntz Library (Room 401) at the University of Texas at Tyler. This is the 15th meeting of this conference sponsored by the Texas Archeological Society – Region 4, the Friends of Northeast Texas Archeology, the Deep East Texas Archeological Society and other regional organizations. The conference brings together avocational and professional archeologists as well as the general public to discuss recent archeological discoveries and research in East Texas. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster, or for more information contact Tom Middlebrook, TMdlbrk@aol.com, cell 936-556-0854.

REFRESHMENTS

Thanks to Jay Hornsby and Mike Shannon for this month's refreshments.

We are in need of volunteers for refreshments for most of the rest of the year. Please see the sign up sheet at the monthly meetings

THE FINE PRINT

CHANGES TO THE TCAS BYLAWS

As noted in the December 2007 Newsletter changes to the TCAS Bylaw are being recommended by the Board Members. The following Bylaw change is added to those changes published in the December Newsletter. Voting for this issue and those previously published will be at the February monthly meeting. Remember, results are determined by vote of two-thirds of those attending the monthly meeting.

ISSUE 5 AMEND Article III Government Section 3 Officers duties Subsection d. Treasurer

FROM ... Other disbursements of funds that exceed \$100.00 shall be by majority vote of members present and voting at any regular or called meeting..

TO: ... Other disbursements of funds, except for normal operating expenses, that exceed \$300.00 shall be by majority vote of members present and voting at any regular or called meeting..

IN THE NEWS

From the San Marcos Daily Record

Touching the Past

San Marcos students received an introduction to professional archaeology recently when they spent a morning walking a local archaeological site with professors at Texas State University-San Marcos.

The students, fifth- and sixth-graders in the Hernandez Intermediate School Gifted and Talented Program, walked a site at Texas State's Freeman Ranch, near San Marcos, with Britt Bousman, Jon McGee and John Lohse of the Department of Anthropology.

The students found and flagged a number of artifacts on the ground, including a variety of flint tools and animal teeth and bone.

Then, leaving the artifacts in place, the students and Bousman made an electronic map of the site with a hand-held GPS unit. To learn what happens to artifacts after they are excavated, the students then visited Texas State's Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) and learned how artifacts are identified, dated, and preserved in an archaeology laboratory.

Students also had the chance to look at a variety of materials recovered from sites around San Marcos that illustrate different periods of Texas history, from Paleo-Indian spear points to toys found in excavations of houses from the 19th century.

"One of our purposes in bringing San Marcos students to the Freeman Ranch is to get them interested in archaeology and the history of the area, and to impress upon them the necessity of protecting these resources," said McGee, anthropology department chair. "I also hope to encourage them to go to college to learn more. It is my dream that I will see some of them on campus in seven or eight years.

"Also, most folks don't realize how practical archaeology is," he said. "There is a lot of demand for archaeology projects in Texas and we can't train students fast enough to meet the demand. It is one of the areas in which you can earn a BA or BS and go right into the field and do that work."



THANKS TO BRET WILLIAMSON FOR THIS
"HOLIDAY" PARTY PICTURE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES TO GO IN
THE NEWSLETTER?

SEND THEM TO

DAVID.OPPER@TCCD.EDU



POTENTIALLY HUGE STEP FOR TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Professor preserves a piece of history

A UT archaeology professor buys dig site believed to contain artifacts that could challenge theories about early man

By [Regina Dennis](#)
AMERICAN-STATESMAN
STAFF

Sunday, December 16,

A University of Texas professor who for five years has sought to procure an archaeological dig site north of Austin for his colleagues has finally closed the deal: by cashing out his personal savings.

The site was one of the major areas of activity for the Clovis people in North America and contains relics that are as many as 13,500 years old, Collins said.



Collins declined to specify how much he paid. He said the conservancy will manage the site and preserve it for future research as new technologies allow for new archaeological theories and breakthroughs. "It's a good idea to have important sites preserved to take advantage of those new techniques," he said. "This is the best place to place this property for its long-term conservation." The conservancy, a New Mexico-based nonprofit group, has 380 archaeological preserves in the United States, including 15 in Texas.

Jim Walker, vice president and Southwest regional director for the conservancy, said he considers the Gault site one of the most important additions from Texas because it provides useful insight on Paleo-Indian, or original Native American, culture.

"It has Paleo-Indian Clovis relics, which is one of our top national priorities in terms of what culture we are interested in preserving because it is so rare," he said. "There

are just a few preserves, about a handful in our collection, of Paleo-Indian culture. So that is what makes this site very unique and very special as far as we're concerned."

Walker said a conservancy committee will regulate what work researchers will be able to do at the Gault site. All researchers, including Collins, will have to submit a proposal detailing the objectives and procedures for a planned project. "They will be looking for a number of things — to make sure the research is warranted, if it is research that could actually answer the scientific question the archaeologist is proposing and is the plan for research of the highest standard," Walker said.

UT archaeology professors had been visiting the site off and on since the early 20th century. Professor J. E. Pearce, founder of the UT archaeology department, first went to the site for a 1929 excavation. Since then, Collins said, the land has been tampered with numerous times by local residents digging for artifacts to collect or sell. "It's been plundered mercilessly for the last 80 or 90 years," he said. "One of the (past) landowners had a pay-to-dig operation going on on the site where people would pay \$25 a day to dig there and they could keep whatever they found."

Convinced that the land had been stripped of any archaeological value, UT researchers rarely visited the Gault site until 1991. The previous year, one of the local residents uncovered some relics and notified Collins and Tom Hester, another UT archaeology professor, leading them to think that there were still discoveries to be made at the Gault site. Collins said the excavations that followed turned up artifacts that challenge major theories about the Clovis people.

(Continued on page 6)

MORE ON MIKE COLLINS AND GAULT

The current belief is that the Clovis people, following mammoth herds, first migrated to Alaska about 14,000 years ago and then over about 500 years traveled through Canada, into the United States and eventually to South America. Collins said the UT team found artifacts suggesting that Clovis people at the Gault site were more domestic, building shelters and making tools for chores like cutting grass, activities that a wandering group would not have done. "They were not nearly as nomadic as they would have had to have been if they were hunting a single species," he said. "Mammoths had a very long gestation period — they didn't reproduce quickly. They would have had to keep moving with the herds and find new herds as they exterminate them. The evidence shows that they stayed at the Gault site off and on for at least 200 or 300 years."

Collins said researchers also found Clovis tools built with stones found in other regions of the country. The findings suggest that the Clovis traveled up to 500 miles to find certain high quality stones and transport them to the place they were settling. "The Clovis people were intimately acquainted with a wide variety of habitats across the Americas," Collins said. "That's the sort of knowledge you don't gain from living rapidly across the continent in search of mammoths."

In 2002, Collins said, the team uncovered artifacts that predate the Clovis, giving weight to a theory that there were other people in the Americas before them. "This one site could tell us more about the Clovis than we had learned and not learned from other sites up until then, and it also had evidence of people being there before the Clovis," he said. "Those two things combined make it of extraordinary scientific interest and importance."

The UT System leased the Gault site for university use from 1999 to 2002. After the lease was up, Collins led an effort to raise money to purchase the land but was unable to meet the owner's asking price. Earlier this year, Collins said, his family persuaded him to cash out his savings and buy the land. On Feb. 1, he became the owner. Collins paid half the total purchase price at the time and was to pay the balance off within two years. However, he needed the title to donate it to the conservancy, and in November, he finished paying for the land.

Many TCASers will remember the Gault site as the site for the TAS 2001 Field School

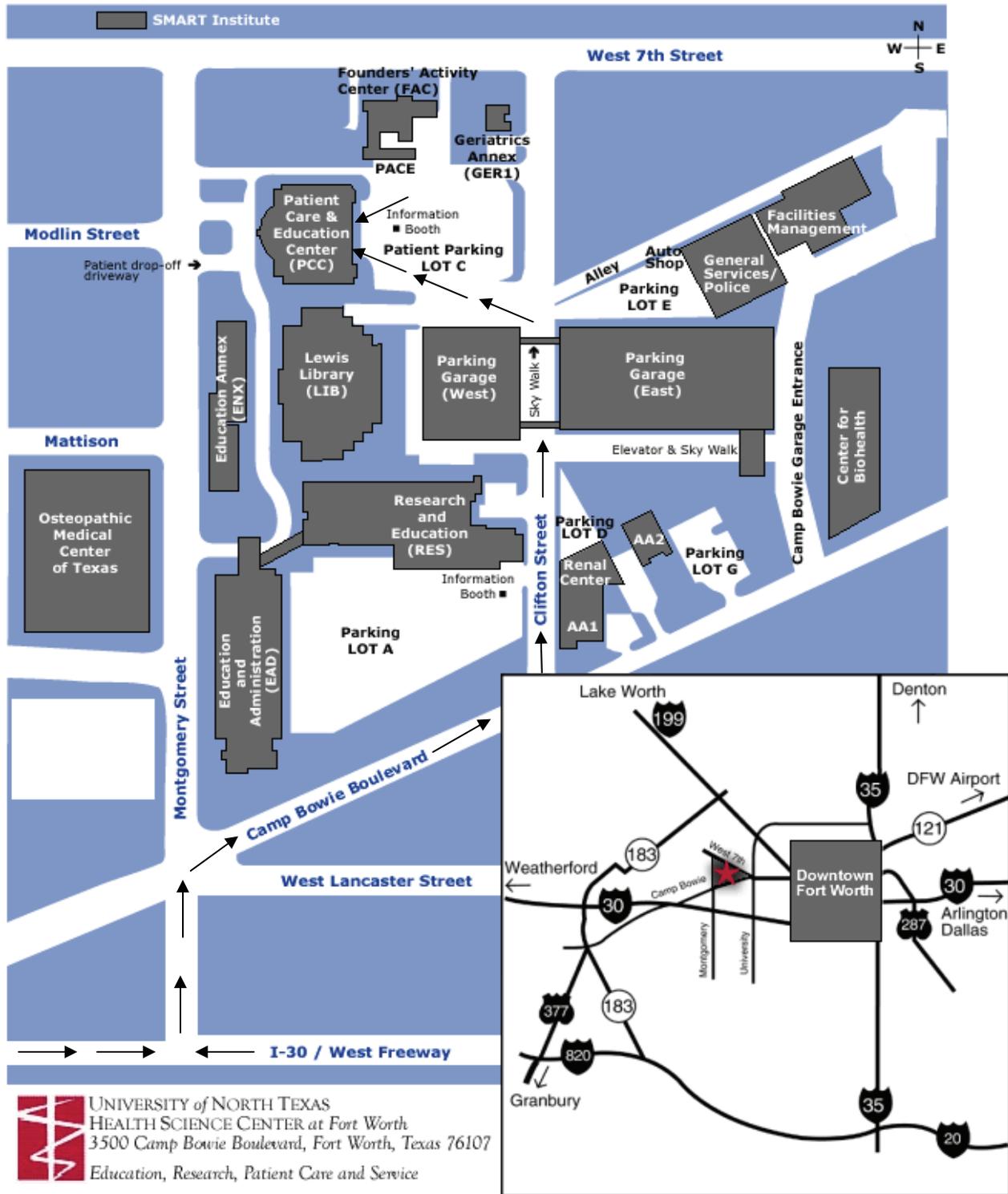
120 TAS members per day worked at the Gault site excavating and manning the water screens. Others helped with the laboratory processing, took part in a regional survey, and worked at the Bowmer site elsewhere in Bell County

Here are a few photos from that Field School

For more information on Gault visit the Texas Archeology site at www.txarch.org and TARL at www.utexas.edu/research/tarl/



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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