

# TCAS BENCHMARK

January, 2013

Volume 27, Issue 1



## President's Message



Katrina Nuncio  
TCAS President

Our annual TCAS Christmas/Holiday Party at Paul Vastine's house on December 15 was once again a wonderful event. For those of you that could not attend know that you were missed. To the rest of you, thank you for making our party such a special time of the year for sharing good memories and fun times with each other. My wish to all of you for the New Year of 2013 is that we will all enjoy good health and many more fun times together!

Time has flown by so fast, I find it hard to believe that I am starting my third year as President of TCAS. Other board members that will be continuing in their current positions are Bryan Jameson as Vice President, Chris Meis as Secretary, Jay Hornsby as Immediate Past President, and Jim Blanton as Historian. We have three TCAS members to welcome as new board members this year. They are Catrina Whitley as Vice President for Projects, Dana Parker as Treasurer, and Charlene Erwin as Newsletter Editor. These three new board members are seated in the positions vacated by Mike Shannon, Paula Vastine and David Opper. I want to say a very special thank you to Mike, Paula and David for jobs well done and for donating their time and efforts serving on our board.

Since we do have three new board members, I am once again asking you as a TCAS member to do something for me. Please take a minute and let me or another board member know if there are changes (or not) you would like to see in TCAS in the coming year. It is okay if your comments are negative, but if they are, you will also need to tell us a way to remedy the issue (complaining without a positive solution does not do much good). We also particularly want to hear your positive comments if you are pleased with the way something is being done. Remember, this is your organization and the Board of Directors and I need to hear your voice.

It is also time to **RENEW** your annual TCAS membership dues, and **UPDATE** any changes to your mailing address, email address and phone number! Whether you receive your newsletter electronically or in paper form, TCAS needs everyone's email address and phone number, so be sure to update these portions of your membership renewal form, which is the last page of this newsletter.

## Calendar

- 1/5/2013  
TCAS Survey at Bear Creek  
See Page 2 for event details
- 1/10/2013  
TCAS Monthly Meeting  
Speaker Joe D. Rogers  
See Page 3 for more about Joe
- 2/9/2013  
East Texas Conference, Tyler  
See TAS website for details
- 2/14/2013  
TCAS Monthly Meeting

### TAS Academies

Registration deadline for  
Archeology 101: 2/15/2013

Registration deadline for  
Archeobotany: 3/22/2013

If we have to suddenly cancel / change a meeting or scheduled event due to weather or some other surprise, we need everyone's contact information to quickly let you know. We will only use this information as a fast and efficient way to notify you if there is a sudden change in plans and will not affect the way you receive your newsletter. When you renew your membership for 2013, please be sure to complete these sections of the form. Chris Meis will be collecting your renewal forms and dues at the January meeting, or you may mail them to the P O Box on the form.

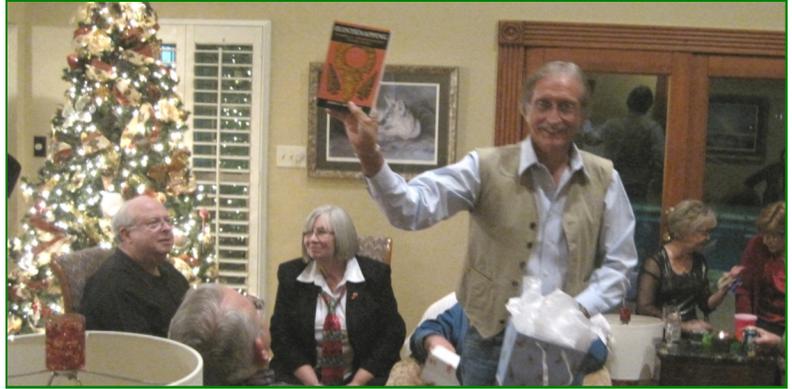
Don't forget that it is also time to renew your state membership dues with the Texas Archeological Society!

Katrina Nuncio

## Good cheer abounds at TCAS Holiday Party

Thanks to Paula Vastine for once again providing a warm welcome and a festive home for the TCAS holiday party on December 15th. With feasting aplenty, amid chips, dips, and so much more to munch, all were of good cheer. Thanks to everyone who brought canned food items to donate to the Tarrant County Food Bank—your kindness is much appreciated. The White Elephant gift exchange, which some might call a Grinch Exchange, was all in good fun and provided a chance to play “swipe that gift”, with some gifts being swiped three times! ‘Twas a merry evening and a terrific TCAS way to celebrate the season.

Thanks to Bret Williamson for these photos. Send your party photos for the website to Katrina Nuncio.



**Bryan Jameson: still smiling during the gift exchange**



**Ho,ho,ho: Marvin Glasgow, Bret Williamson, and Jim Blanton wearing just the right hats.**

---

## TCAS Survey on January 5, 2013 at Bear Creek Ranch

TCAS will do a survey on Bear Creek Ranch on January 5, 2013. We plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the WhataBurger, 8506 Benbrook Blvd. This is actually at South Loop 820 and Highway 377 as you enter Benbrook. We will caravan to Ranch Headquarters where we will take fewer vehicles from that point.

**Bring** a survey kit including a **metric tape measure, flagging tape, compass, clip board and pencil.** **Remember to bring water and your lunch.**

For any questions, contact Mike Shannon at 817-444-2211 (home), 817-944-9321 (cell).

---

**Do the easy thing: Pay your 2013 TCAS Dues in January**  
**Please remember: print the form on last page of this newsletter, fill it out, sign it, and bring it and your money/check with you to the monthly meeting on January 10th or mail both the completed form and your check to the P.O. Box address. One more easy thing done in 2013! Thank you.**

## TCAS January Speaker: Joe D. Rogers

### TOPIC: Looking at Burnt Daub for Clues to Architectural Methods and Materials.

Burnt daub is found in many archaeological sites and is often discarded, disregarded or ground through a screen. A significant amount of information may be being lost by these actions. Using material curated from previous excavations along with that of recent discoveries, this seemingly benign material is revealing some extraordinary information about the architecture of various structures. Understanding daub's base materials and formation processes along with its relation to the mechanics of site formation is allowing a new look at one of the oldest building materials. Using some of the information gathered in the beginning of this study; methods for classification, excavation, and recording are being developed and continue to reveal even more complete pictures of several structures. By examining the remains of the daub and associated materials, a significant glimpse of what was above the surface as well as what was in or on the ground is being revealed. **By Joe D. Rogers**



**QUOTE:** What I find exhilarating is the continual uncompromising search for understanding. I try to explain to my students that, unlike a CSI episode where they have all this physical evidence to solve a single crime, this discipline uses a few lithics, shards, and soil stains to see how an entire society lived and interacted. It just flat does not get any better than that."

Joe D. Rogers, from *Time to Meet Joe Rogers* in TAS Bulletin, Page 1, Winter, 2009. See complete article at <http://www.txarch.org/pdf/publications/2010-01Winter.pdf>



**BIO:** Joe D. Rogers is a retired public school teacher from Hereford Texas. He works as a Part Time Instructor at WTA&MU in History and Archaeology. He is a Past President of both PAS and TAS, and involved in the THC's Texas Archaeological Stewards program. Current research projects include Burnt Daub in all its varieties, and the Texas Panhandle in World War II. He continues to live in Hereford with his wife Cindy.

Photos courtesy of Joe D. Rogers

## Inspiration at The Perot Museum of Nature and Science

The newest addition to the Dallas' skyline, an amazing creation devoted to the illumination of science, with a mission of "Inspiring the visionaries of tomorrow," The Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a marvel. Outreach to the local school districts includes a series of grade-level classroom programs in archeology, "Texas Archeology: Moments in Time" that use maps and real artifacts " covering 12,000 years of human history from a site near Texas A&M University. " Kudos to the Perot for including this spotlight on Texas archeology. The Perot is definitely worth the trip to Dallas. Check it out at <http://www.perotmuseum.org>.

## Chicago's Field Museum archaeological collections threatened

By Michael E. Smith, Professor of Anthropology in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change (formerly the Department of Anthropology) at Arizona State University.



Mississippian objects at the Field Museum in Chicago

The Field Museum was founded in 1893 at the conclusion of the World's Columbian Exposition. Besides being the home of Sue, the grand dame of dinosaurs, the Field possesses a group of major collections pertinent to the Southwest. According to its website, "since its founding, The Field Museum has devoted considerable attention to the Native peoples of North America. The result is a series of collections of striking depth, strong in recent history and contemporary culture. Staff collaborate actively with Native American groups, who come regularly to visit and study the collections of their nations."

The Field is to be commended for all that it has done to preserve the treasures of our past. The hope is that its effort to refocus, however, does not mean that these historical treasures are forgotten and the studies stop.

The Field Museum of Natural History is one of the premier natural history museums in the U.S., with extensive collections in archaeology, anthropology, and many other disciplines. Last week, the Museum announced major budget cuts and restructuring that will reduce the scientific value of its collections. The museum evidently will cut back the scope of its scientific mission (collections and basic research) in order to pay back major debts and concentrate on exhibits.

This operation will be a disaster to archaeological research in a number of ways. First, the collections will be more difficult to access, and the infrastructural support for visiting scholars will undoubtedly be reduced. I have worked on Mesoamerican pottery in the Field Museum's collections on several occasions (the last time was just this past July). Museum collections are an invaluable resource for archaeology, crucial for many important research questions. See Smith (2004; n.d.) for some general statements of this view. For every object on display at museums like the Field Museum, there are perhaps hundreds (maybe thousands) curated in the research collections. If you haven't worked with museum collections, you should - there is an impressive amount of good, problem-oriented research to be done with these materials.

A second negative impact of the proposed cuts concerns the curators at the museum. The [Anthropology Department at the museum has a number of outstanding archaeologists](#) who carry out original field research and also work on the collections. This is an important center for high-quality archaeological research, and the budget cuts cannot but injure this program.

Third, severe budget cuts will also have a negative impact on the archaeology program of the University of Illinois-Chicago. Their PhD program in anthropology has flourished through interaction with the scientific staff of the Field Museum, many of whom hold joint appointments with UIC.

Please [sign the petition to save the Field Museum collections and scientific research capabilities](#). There is an [article in the Chicago Tribune](#) on the situation at the museum.

Read the complete article from Dr. Smith's Blog at <http://publishingarchaeology.blogspot.com/>

**TCAS BOARD**

**Katrina Nuncio**

President  
972-978-2413  
[ksnuncio@aol.com](mailto:ksnuncio@aol.com)

**Bryan Jameson**

Vice President  
254-435-2797  
[bryanjameson@hughes.net](mailto:bryanjameson@hughes.net)

**Catrina Whitley**

Vice President for Projects  
214-803-2013  
[catrina\\_whitley@prodigy.net](mailto:catrina_whitley@prodigy.net)

**Dana Parker**

Treasurer  
817-713-4046  
[dyp@att.net](mailto:dyp@att.net)

**Chris Meis**

Secretary  
214-704-2328  
[lptmeis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lptmeis@sbcglobal.net)

**Jay Hornsby**

Immediate Past President  
817-496-5475  
[jhornsby@sihometheater.com](mailto:jhornsby@sihometheater.com)

**Jim Blanton**

Historian  
817-451-6321  
[jimblanton2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jimblanton2000@yahoo.com)

**Charlene Erwin**

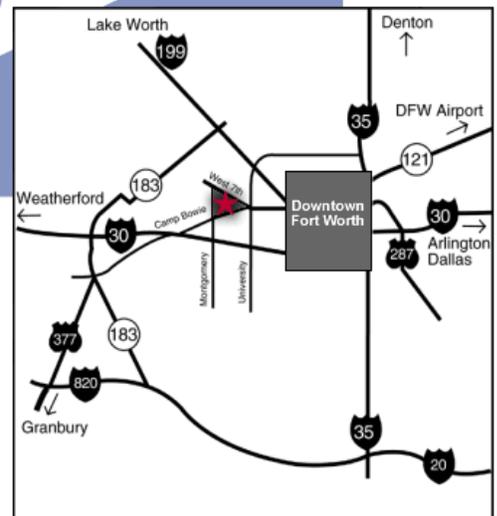
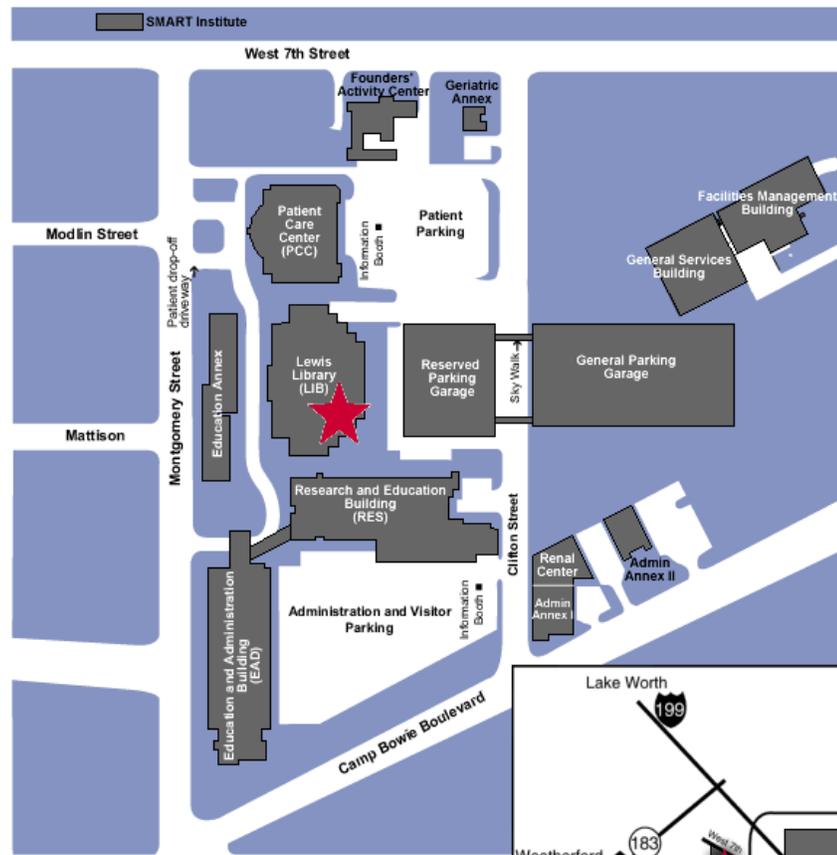
Newsletter Editor  
973-522-7972  
[lherwin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lherwin@sbcglobal.net)

**Preserving The Past  
For The Future**  
[www.tarrantarch.org](http://www.tarrantarch.org)

The **TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY** meets at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month (except June and December) 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. Traveling west on I30 from downtown, take the Montgomery Street exit. Turn right on Montgomery and continue to the five-way intersection at Camp Bowie. Turn right onto Camp Bowie, followed by an immediate left onto Clifton Street.

Continue on Clifton to Parking Lot "C" on your left (past the Parking Garage and Sky bridge). Although Lot C is marked as Reserved Parking it is open parking in the evenings. 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.



  
UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth  
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
Education, Research, Patient Care and Service

### Membership Renewal Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership  
 Renewal \_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_  
 Individual \_\_\_ \$20  
 Family \_\_\_ \$25  
 Student \_\_\_ \$10 H.S., Active Univ through age 25  
 Contributing \_\_\_ \$30

I want my newsletter delivered by email \_\_\_ 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, TX 76124**