

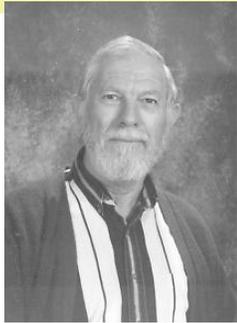
TCAS BENCHMARK



NOVEMBER, 2006

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I congratulate the new TCAS Board that will take the reins in January. Jay Hornsby will be your President, Bryan Jameson will continue as V.P. Mike Shannon will become V.P. of Projects, David

Opper will prepare and edit the newsletter, Katrina Nuncio will be Treasurer and Laurel Wilson will continue to do her thing as Secretary. This is an outstanding slate of officers and I know they will serve the society well.

With the TAS Annual Meeting over, and the archeology fairs we supported now in the past, it is time for us to start thinking of the holidays. Please mark December 16 on your calendar for the TCAS Christmas Party at Paula's house. These are always enjoyable and I especially want to invite new members and others who have not been before to attend. You may also want to bring an inexpensive white elephant gift for our drawings. Let's have a good turnout.

Glynn Osburn

Refreshments

November—Sandy Osburn and Lorna Smith

December—Annual TCAS Christmas party

7 PM at Paula V-N's home

7609 Springcreek Ct. 76112

Calendar of Activities

NOVEMBER

- 9 TCAS Meeting- 7:30 pm, UNT-HSC
- 8-11 Center for Big Bend Studies, 13th Annual Conference, Alpine, TX
- 8-11 Plains Anthropology Conference, Topeka, Kansas
- 18 TCAS returns to the Sprague Site

DECEMBER

- 16 Annual TCAS Christmas Party, 7 PM at Paula Vastine-Norman's home
Bring your favorite party food specialty and a white elephant gift. Anything with an archeological slant is always treasured!

FEBRUARY, 2007

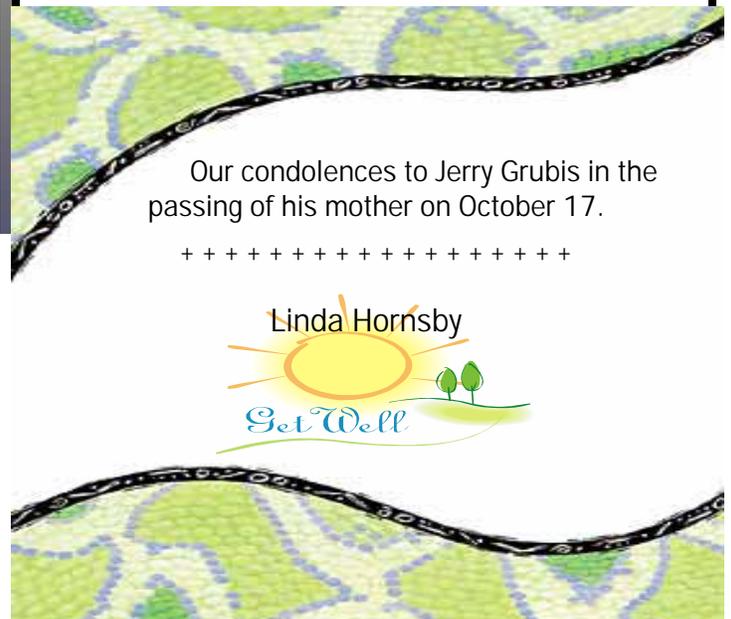
- 3-4 TAS Academy; Ceramics: The Stories Found in Pottery

MARCH

- 15-18 49th Caddo Conference—Reynolds Center, Southern Arkansas University.
- 3/30-4/1—TAS Academy; Rock Art: A Sacred Tool.

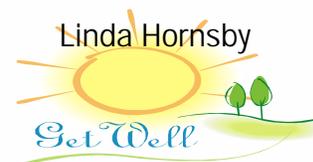
April

- 25-29—SAA annual meeting in Austin, TX



Our condolences to Jerry Grubis in the passing of his mother on October 17.

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TCAS BENCHMARK

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Glynn Osburn
Paula Vastine
Jim Blanton



November Program for TCAS

Tiffany Osburn

Tiffany Osburn has been a member of the TCAS for 15 years and the TAS for 16 years. She received her undergraduate education from University of North Texas and her Masters Degree from the University of Denver where she specialized in the use of remote sensing and ground-penetrating radar technology for archaeological applications. She is currently employed by Geo-Marine, Inc. in Plano, Texas. This summer she served as Co-Principle Investigator with Duane Peter for the Mission Reach Project in San Antonio, Texas.

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### **Abstract:**

Several archaeological sites were investigated this summer by Geo-Marine along the Historical Mission Reach of the San Antonio River in Bexar County. The archeological deposits preserved at these sites record a series of occupations spanning the Early Archaic to the Historic Mission period. These sites yielded evidence of cultural traditions that spanned a large part of the South Texas region during the Middle and Late Archaic periods. Cooking technology, seasonal group mobility for resource exploitation, and a rich mortuary tradition are topics that will be addressed by the current project. Ground-penetrating radar and magnetometer surveys conducted at two of the sites resulted in the focused investigation of select burned rock and burned clay features. One of the sites, located in the shadow of the Mission Espada Aqueduct, exhibits an occupation which, based on the implied date of the ceramics, conforms to the early Colonial period and may represent one of the few Historic Native occupations to be studied in the area.

# TCAS BENCHMARK



*Around The State*

## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL STEWARD NETWORK

This past summer, the TASN had its annual meeting in Austin. There were about 80+ in attendance. The morning session dealt with digital photography. The afternoon session covered ceramics of all sorts. At the evening banquet, awards were presented to the following:

### JIM WORD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE

Jim Blanton - (Lakes/Brazos Region)  
 Bryan Jameson - (Lakes/Brazos Region)  
 Joe Louis Jones - (Forest Region)  
 John Preston - (Plains Region)

### NORMAN FLAGG CERTIFICATE OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Alvin Lynn - (Plains Region)  
 Kay Clark - (Forts Region)  
 Ona B. Reed - (Lakes/Brazos Region)  
 Dick Gregg - (Forest Region)  
 Mark Walters - (Forest Region)  
 Jimmy Bluhm - (Independence/Tropical Region)  
 Pat Braun - (Independence/Tropical Region)



## ARCHEOLOGICAL FAIR IN GAINESVILLE

October 14, 2006

The day started out cloudy with some sprinkles. It ended with warm winds and bright sun. Typical Texas weather . . . . . However, Ona B. Reed, our gracious hostess, foresaw this and setup plastic canopies for us to shed the rain and block the sun.

Everybody was kept busy the whole day. Laurel Wilson did face painting, John Wilson demonstrated his Indian drills, Peggy Blanton worked with youngsters on coloring pictures of Indian life, Sandy Idom showed rock art, Gen Freix demonstrated corn grinding, Bonnie McKee showed her TIPI, R. C. Harmon did artifact identification, Bea Harmon showed Indian tools, Mark Cohen helped with artifact I.D.'s, Johnny Byers demonstrated flint knapping, and Jim Blanton showed his artifact display.

With hamburgers, barbeque sandwiches, funnel cakes, and kettle corn, wagon rides, balloons, buffalo soldiers, and restored automobiles contest, we all had a great time.

Thanks, Ona B.

# TCAS BENCHMARK



## *Around The State*

### **Robinson Ranch Site Visited**

On the Saturday morning of Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> John and Laurel Wilson and Jay Hornsby visited the Robinson Ranch in Comanche Co. The land owners are Jonelle and Doug Robinson are friends of Laurels, and Jonelle had visited a TCAS meeting over a year ago inquiring about someone looking at their ranch. During her visit to the TCAS meeting she had us look at a small box of "stuff" she had found on their property. Included with some curious looking rocks she had found were misc. broken and complete points, plus some bifaces. The purpose of our visit on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> was to survey some of the portions of their ranch and to see if there might be a possible site for future TCAS membership participation.

The first area of survey was along the creek banks. To get to the creek we walked along the edge of recently planted oat fields. One or two recent rains had gotten the freshly sown oats sprouted; but still gave us almost 100 percent visibility of the surface. We were hoping to see something in the creek banks and open adjacent fields, but were aware that we were in a flood zone of the creek and anything there would most likely be buried. Crossing back across the fields to a slightly higher elevation revealed some pieces of FCR and a few pieces of lithic debitage.

As we approached the highest elevation of the ranch, located along the NW quadrant, the quantity of lithic material increased greatly. On our way there we picked up two partial points, and recorded numerous whole or partial bifaces. As we neared a small knoll which measured approximately 30 x 40 meters across, the sandy soil became difficult to walk in do to its depth. All of the areas in and around the numerous scattered Mesquite trees had been recently plowed. All throughout this area was an abundance of worked material all of which appeared to have originated within the sandy soils. Much of this tool source was brick sized nodules covered with a thick calcium carbonate cortex. In its undisturbed form it looks just like limestone rock. However, most if the pieces had been repeatedly used, revealing a very high grade of chert. This site was most definitely used as a quarry, In addition, we found fragments of some metates, manos, hammerstones, ironstone, and large polished quartzite rocks all indicating occupational use too.

After returning home the two broken points were looked at a little closer. Both of them appear to be made out of the local material. One of them is probably late archaic or early prehistoric. The other is the lower third or so of what looks like a small Plainview or perhaps more-so like a Midland. Its lower edges have the distinctive grinding done to dull the sides necessary for hafting to a shaft. Hmmm..... a Paleo site?

Jay Hornsby  
Vice President of Projects





## Science vs. native beliefs

A federal court fight made Kennewick Man the symbol of the struggle between science and native beliefs over the telling of the earliest Americans' story. But *Kuwóot yas.éin* proves it doesn't necessarily have to be so.

In this 10th summer since *Kuwóot yas.éin* and Kennewick Man were found on federal land, the U.S. repatriation law requires some combination of clarification, enforcement and accountability. Next month, U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Pasco, will introduce legislation to clarify Congress' original intent in passing the Native Americans Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). That is, only remains with a substantial cultural relationship to presently existing tribes should be repatriated – given back – to the tribes.

Hastings' bill counters efforts in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to undermine the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in favor of scientists who successfully sued to study the remains. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., held a hearing last year on a NAGPRA amendment that would make it easier for modern native people to claim human remains by virtue of common geography rather than cultural affiliation. The contrasting approaches should revive debate to fine-tune the 1990 repatriation law, a righteous law that establishes a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. While most museums have met their inventory and notification deadlines, many federal agencies have been slower to act. The inconsistencies are so concerning that the federal NAGPRA review committee plans to ask Congress for a Government Accountability Office audit.

Good idea, but any audit should also review how well those agencies follow another part of the law when it comes to handling the rare cases of these exceptionally old remains. That Kennewick Man is a household name and *Kuwóot yas.éin* is barely known outside anthropological circles is a function of how differently these cases were handled by the federal agencies involved. Each approach contributed respectively to the Washington confrontation and the Alaskan collaboration.

Keith Kintigh, former president of the Society for American Archaeology who helped influence some of the language in the repatriation law, says the federal agency's decision-making is key. The law is clear about proving cultural affiliation. But too often agency officials want the potential controversy off their desks and quickly move to repatriate, he says. That's what happened in the Kennewick case.

"I think the agencies way too often have taken the easy way out," says Kintigh, Arizona State University anthropology professor.

### Proving the past

On July 5, 1996, Terry Fifield, the U.S. Forest Service's archaeologist for Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, took a helicopter to a remote site on the island's northwest tip. He had been called to collect some human bones found at a paleontology excavation. That night, he called the presidents of two neighboring Tlingit communities as required under the repatriation law and set a meeting within a week.

But he didn't stop there. Two years before, two 35,000-year-old bear bones were found in the cave. Realizing the implications, Fifield also called archaeologist E. James Dixon, now of the University of Colorado, who was studying paleoindian occupation in the region. Dixon suggested he could get a grant for study and liked Fifield's suggestion that native people be hired as interns. The native communities soon endorsed investigation, with some conditions, including that they would be informed first of any findings.



## Smithsonian Refuses To Exhibit Ethiopia's Fragile 'Lucy' Fossil

By [Jacqueline Trescott](#) Washington Post Staff Writer  
Saturday, October 28, 2006; Page C01

Plans for a six-year U.S. tour by "Lucy," one of humanity's earliest known ancestors, have hit a major snag.

Earlier this week the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ethiopia and the Houston Museum of Natural Science announced an agreement to include Lucy in a tour of several hundred Ethiopian relics. But at least two major U.S. museums now say the bones should not be moved and they don't want to show them.

Rick Potts, the director of the Smithsonian's Human Origins Program and an influential paleoanthropologist, said he and many other scientists agree that Lucy is too fragile to travel. He said the Ethiopian artifacts would not come to the Smithsonian.

The International Association for the Study of Human Paleontology, a group affiliated with UNESCO, passed a resolution in 1998 saying such fossils shouldn't be moved outside the country of origin. The resolution, unanimously approved by representatives of 20 countries, including Ethiopia and the United States, said replicas should be used for public display.

Potts, who has led major excavations in East Africa for more than 25 years, said fossils should be moved from their vaults "only under the most compelling scientific reasons." (He keeps a cast of Lucy in his laboratory at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.)

A spokesman for the American Museum of Natural History in New York also said that museum would not accept the 3.2-million-year-old fossilized remains.

Neil Shubin, provost of the Field Museum in Chicago, said the museum's officials hadn't discussed the possibility of exhibiting Lucy on the planned tour. "This is a hot potato because there are a lot of issues institutions have to confront. These are rare fossils, very fragile, and they can be damaged or lost," he said. Shubin said the scientific group's aversion to Lucy being moved "would be front and center" in the museum's discussions.

Potts said he also objected to the use of the fossil as a tourist attraction. "The value of these things to the scientific community comes first," said Potts.

Joel Bartsch, president of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, said there are no plans to cancel the tour. The museum is paying most of the costs and expects other museums will want to display the artifacts. The agreement calls for 11 venues, including Houston.

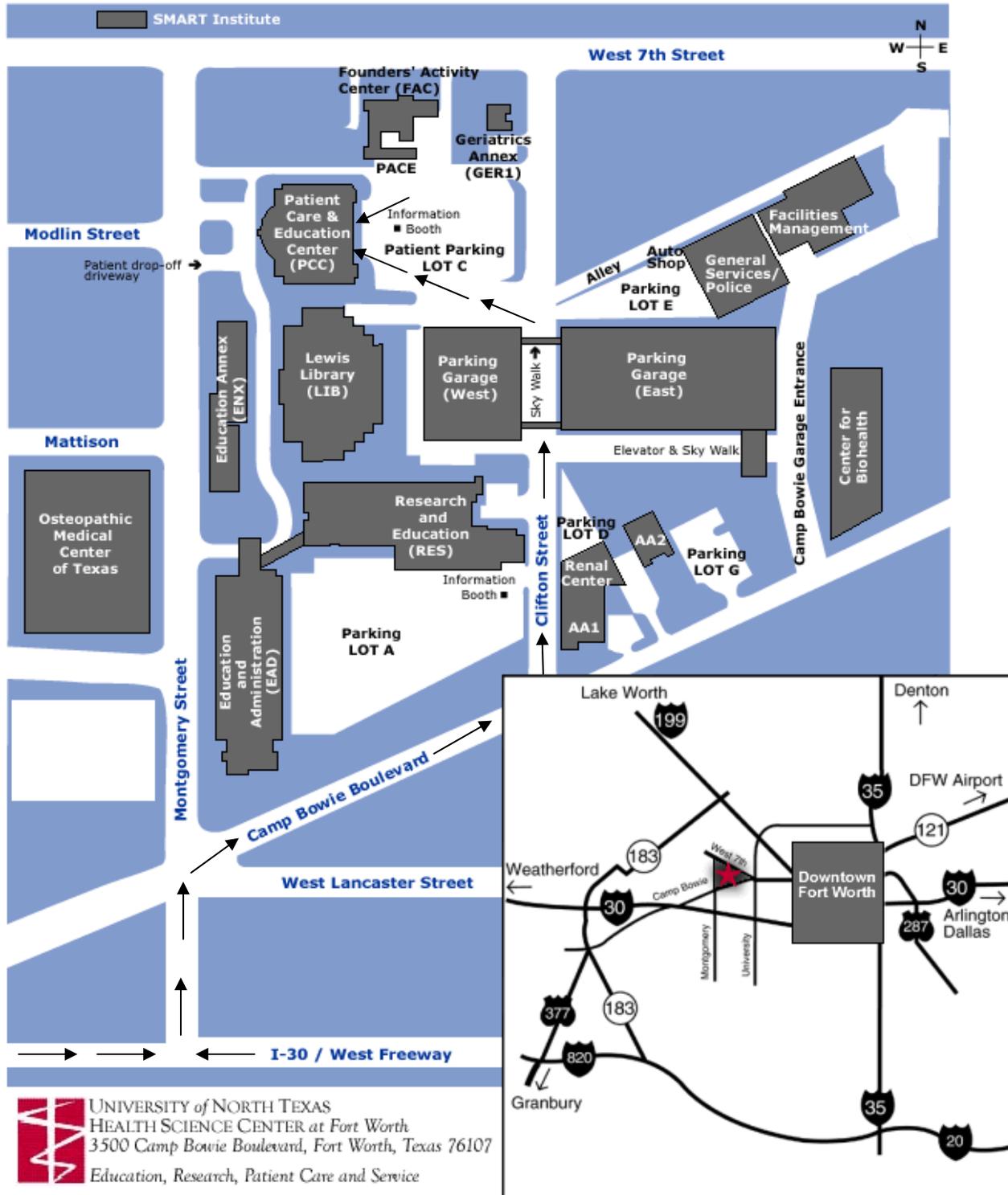
"I am quite confident all the slots will be filled," Bartsch said. "I respect the opinions of the scientists, but museums travel irreplaceable, rare objects every day."

He said his museum has shown the Dead Sea Scrolls, treasures from the Vatican and other fragile objects with no problems.

Details of the tour, which will start in Houston next September, are not final.

About 40 percent of a female skeleton was discovered near Hadar, Ethiopia, in 1974 by Donald Johanson and Tom Gray. Lucy stood roughly 3 feet 6 inches tall and weighed about 62 pounds. The bones are kept in a vault in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The fossil's name comes from the Beatles song "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds," which was playing during the party celebrating the discovery.

TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

P.O. BOX 24679

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76124