



TCAS BENCHMARK

APRIL 2012

Volume 26, Issue 4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



For those of you who are not on the TAS Listserv and do not watch a lot of television, you may not be aware of two recently added programs: American Digger (Spike cable channel) and Diggers (National Geographic channel). Please review the article on "TV Digs" further in this newsletter. Both of these programs are in direct opposition of all that we as members of TCAS and TAS uphold as proper standards for archeology.

The participants in both of these programs seek archeological artifacts they can sell for monetary gain. On one of the programs I viewed, they used metal detectors to search for artifacts on an historic military site and on historic prison grounds, digging into the ground using garden trowels or shovels until the metal object was found. Archeological standards that we so carefully follow were not employed but rather completely ignored.

Of course the archeology community is presenting opposition to the continuation of these programs that do nothing but promote looting. As a TCAS member, I ask you to please join this opposition in any way possible and be good stewards of our past history.

On a more positive note, we are getting closer to the 2012 TAS Field School. We have switched our presentation for this month to Glynn Osburn, who will talk about this year's Field School at the Devil's River State Natural Area. I apologize for this change in our program schedule, but this will give you another month to consider registering for Field School. If you want to register online, the link is now available at either <http://txarch.org/Activities/fschool/fs2012/index.php> or <http://txarch.org/forms/fieldschool/index.php>.

I want to thank Lloyd and Charlene Erwin, Gen Freix, and Larry Borne for providing our refreshments last month. Sharon Beck is still graciously brewing the coffee for our meetings. Sharon only agreed to this responsibility for a short period of time and we need someone to please assume this monthly task and give her a break. The refreshment list is almost complete with the exception of July and November which are still open.

Katrina Nuncio

Calendar of Activities

APRIL

12	TCAS MONTHLY MEETING (SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)
13-15	SOUTHWESTERN FEDERATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ~ IRAAN ~ (SEE PAGE 4)
17-19	NATIONAL PRESERVATION INSTITUTE SEMINARS ~ AUSTIN ~ (SEE PAGE 4)
18-22	77TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY ~ MEMPHIS ~
26-28	TEXAS PATHWAYS: EL CAMINO REAL AND THE SOUTHERN ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA ~ AUSTIN ~

MAY

7-11	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 2012 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRO- SPECTION WORKSHOP ~ NEBRASKA ~
10	TCAS MONTHLY MEETING (SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)

JUNE

9-16	TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD SCHOOL
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In June of 2012, TAS members will return to the Lower Pecos, after successful Field Schools in 1989 and 1999. Investigations will focus on the south unit of Devils River State Natural Area, a new state park that is not yet open to the public. TAS members will be primarily devoted to surveying the numerous deep canyons on the 17,000 acre property, looking for unrecorded rock shelters, open campsites and burned rock middens. There will also be an opportunity to do test excavations, historic survey and limited rock art recording. The results of this field school will assist the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in identifying and protecting sites as a countdown to the park opening to the public in 2013.

Margaret Howard and Luis Alvarado will serve as Co-Principal Investigators for this project, assisted by additional archeologists from the TPWD Cultural Resources Program. Experienced TAS members will serve as crew chiefs and direct some aspects of the Field School.

Glynn will have much more information including camping and living provisions, organized evening programs, and related events.

Surprisingly, our Glynn Osburn is not the world famous boarder. If you don't know what a "boarder" is, you don't know that Glynn anyway.



Our Glynn is an Archeological powerhouse who, for some reason, continues to carry the reins of the Annual TAS Field School. If you don't know "our" Glynn, you need to meet him.

These are his words... "I don't think you need to bio me, but if you do, here is a short one:

Glynn is retired from the Army and from teaching. He is past president of both TCAS and the Texas Archeological Society and is a THC Steward. He has been to the last 22 consecutive TAS Field Schools and this will be the ninth year that he has served as chairperson of the TAS Field School Committee. Glynn's daughter, Tiffany, is our Texas Historical Commission Regional Archeologist."

SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT “AMERICAN DIGGER?”

TV DIGS WILL HARM PATRIMONY, SCHOLARS SAY

The New York Times

by Bill Carter

March 20, 2012

Ric Savage is accustomed to wrestling, but for most of his career it was against guys named the Junkyard Dog and Skull Von Krush. Now he's facing opponents like Susan Gillespie, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Florida who is on the board of the American Anthropological Association.

That's because Mr. Savage, known as Heavy Metal in his pro wrestling days, is on different turf now. Or, to be more precise, he is digging into different turf as the star of a new show that has its premiere on the cable channel Spike on Wednesday night: "[American Digger.](#)"

The series, which Spike hopes will be a hit along the lines of its tattoo competition "Ink Master," features Mr. Savage and his team traveling the country, digging up people's lawns in search of historical artifacts.

That sounds a bit like the work of archaeologists and anthropologists, and both groups are, in the words of [the letter they have sent to Spike](#), "deeply concerned" by the show.

Dr. Gillespie, who helped draft the letter to Spike (and a similar letter to the National Geographic cable channel over another program that features amateur archaeologists, "Diggers"), said in a telephone interview on Tuesday, "Our main issue is that these shows promote the destruction and selling of artifacts which are part of our cultural heritage and patrimony."

For Mr. Savage, it is more a matter of earning money. Digging up artifacts is how he makes his living, though for him it is also a labor of love. Long before he wrestled, when he was growing up in Virginia as Frank Huguélet, Mr. Savage developed a passion for history.

"I've been a digger my whole life," he said in a telephone interview on Monday. "But I never had the funds to get the right kind of detector or the time to go out and do it." After he retired from wrestling more than a decade ago, he devoted himself to digging.

"When you find something of value and hold it in your hands, that's what it's all about for me," he said. "It's about touching history. You can read or watch history, but the only way you can touch or feel it is to dig it out of the ground."

That's about what the anthropologists and archaeologists would say as well. They just argue that this sort of entrepreneurial artifact hunting is antithetical to the more straightforward goal of preserving the past. And also that shows like this could, as Dr. Gillespie put it, "encourage people to dig not on private property" but on federal land, battlefields and American Indian burial grounds.



Ric Savage. Not one to wrestle with.
Can his "looting" be stopped?

(Continued on page 6 ~ links have been kept in this article; follow them for more information)

SOUTHWESTERN FEDERATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM APRIL 13-15 ~ IRAAN

The 48th Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies Symposium will be held in Iraan, Texas, on Saturday, April 14th. The Iraan Archeological Society (IAS) is hosting the 2012 SWFAS Symposium and other planned activities on this April weekend. Registration fee is \$10 per person.

This symposium provides the opportunity for avocational and student archeologists to present their work and have it published in the SWFAS journal. The meeting is open to anyone interested in history and archeology.



Because Iraan is located so far south of the other member societies, we want to attempt to make it easier for everyone to arrive early and stay late by providing a place to stay the night before and the evening after the planned paper presentations on Saturday, April 14th.

The IAS will provide free tent camping and recreational vehicle parking on Friday, April 13th and Saturday April 14th in the Pecos County Park (located on west edge of Iraan). This camping is within 100 yards of the Iraan Civic Center where the symposium papers are to be presented. Those wishing to have full RV hookups can get a space in the Iraan City RV

Park for only \$12.00 per night. Those not wishing to camp out can find motels in Iraan, Ozona, Rankin, McCamey, and Fort Stockton (as well as some Bed & Breakfast facilities in or near Iraan).

For more information visit txarch.org/calendar

National Preservation Institute Seminars

April 17-18 ~ Austin

Learn about environmental impact analysis, cultural resource management, and historic preservation responsibilities and relationships. Assess practical applications for effectively integrating the analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act, related environmental regulations, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Faculty: Claudia Nissley or Joe Trnka, AICP, CEP

Deadline for applications is April 4, 2012.

A registration form is available online at www.npi.org/register.html. The regular registration rate is \$325 (1 day – Renewable Energy) / \$500 (2 days – NEPA) / \$650 (3 days – both seminars).

More information is available at www.npi.org/

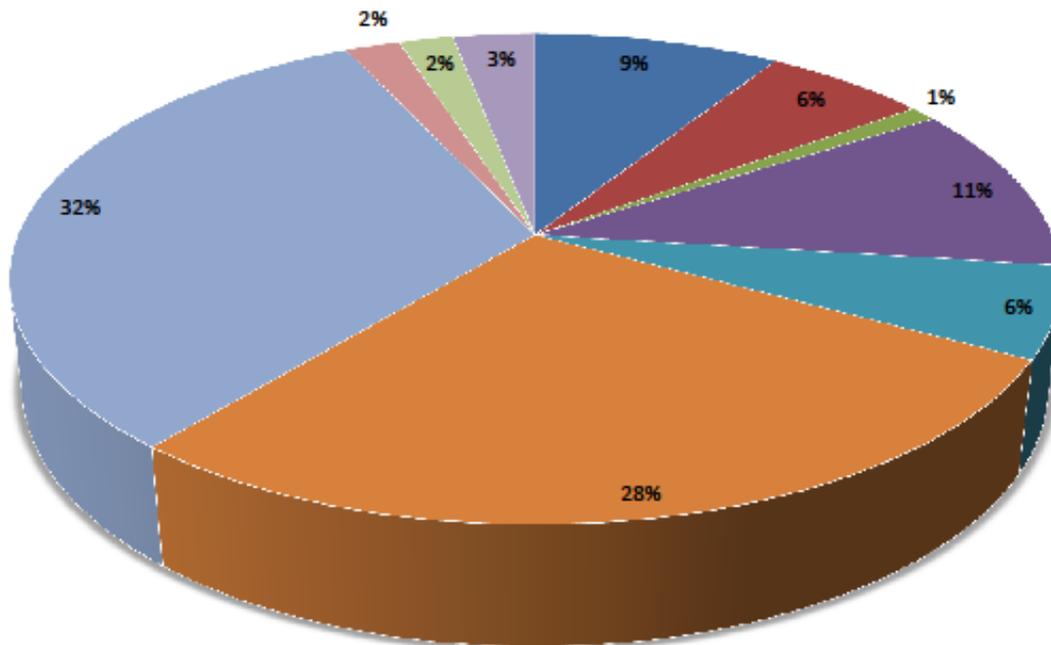
TCAS FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2011

SUMMARY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Open Cash on Hand	\$ 3,081.26	\$ 2,904.38	\$ 3,225.99	\$ 3,210.99	\$ 3,350.99	\$ 3,335.99
Total Income	\$ 330.00	\$ 630.00	\$ -	\$ 255.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 506.88	\$ 308.39	\$ 15.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Net Cash Flow	\$ (176.88)	\$ 321.61	\$ (15.00)	\$ 140.00	\$ (15.00)	\$ (15.00)
Ending Balance	\$ 2,904.38	\$ 3,225.99	\$ 3,210.99	\$ 3,350.99	\$ 3,335.99	\$ 3,320.99

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Year's Total
Open Cash on Hand	\$ 3,320.99	\$ 3,320.99	\$ 3,315.99	\$ 3,129.09	\$ 1,755.14	\$ 2,893.09	
Total Income	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$ 1,152.95	\$ 3,860.44	\$ 1,215.00
Total Expenses	\$ 15.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 281.90	\$ 1,373.95	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 975.27
Net Cash Flow	\$ (15.00)	\$ (5.00)	\$ (186.90)	\$ (1,373.95)	\$ 1,137.95	\$ 3,845.44	\$ 239.73
Ending Balance	\$ 3,320.99	\$ 3,315.99	\$ 3,129.09	\$ 1,755.14	\$ 2,893.09	\$ 6,738.53	

TAS 2011 Expense Breakdown

- Bank Fees
- Copy/Printing
- Printing - TAS Annual Meeting
- Raffle Basket - TAS Annual Meeting
- Postal/Stamps
- Room Rent
- Speaker Fees
- Speaker Travel/Food
- TAS Membership
- Supplies

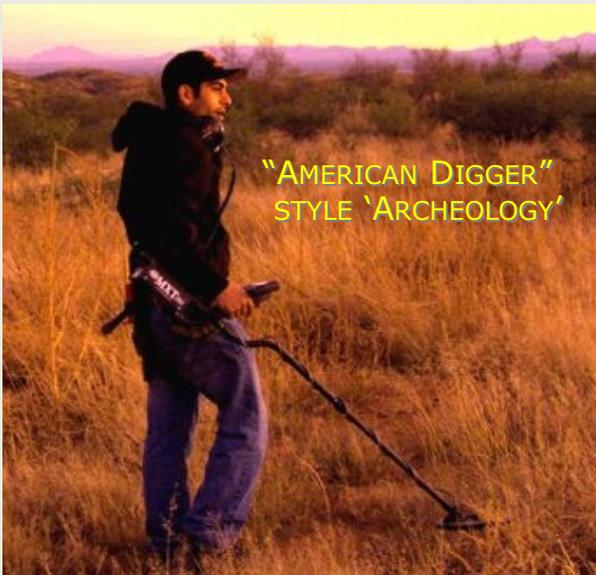


Thank you, Paula, for a wonderful presentation.
 If you want more information contact [David Opper](#) for the complete Excel file

MORE ABOUT "AMERICAN DIGGER" (FROM PAGE 3)

Mr. Savage said he avoided such areas. He seeks out private property, makes a deal with an owner to, say, dig up his yard or pool, and split with him the proceeds from the finds.

Before any dig takes place, his team, led by his wife, Rita Savage, researches the historical record of an area, compares period maps with contemporary maps and makes a guess about sites where something of value might be found.



That value is mainly derived from what private collectors might pay. For example, Mr. Savage, a Civil War buff, said that buttons from Confederate uniforms are so plentiful that museums have boxes of them that they no longer bother to put on display. But a private collector might still pay him several thousand dollars.

Other artifacts are even more valuable. "The right Confederate sword can be worth up to \$30,000," he said.

Sharon Levy, the executive vice president for development for Spike, said the idea for "American Digger" was brought to her from the producer of the channel's "Auction Hunters" show. She said it stood out in a crowded genre she called "object-based television."

Spike was looking to broaden its audience beyond its base of men 18 to 34 into an older group of men. "I don't know any man, including my 5-year-old, who

doesn't enjoy digging up the yard looking for treasure," Ms. Levy said.

And the notion of selling the finds also had appeal for Spike. "We like shows about scrappy, entrepreneurial guys," she said. It didn't hurt that "American Digger" has a larger-than-life main character. (Mr. Savage's fighting stats: 6-foot-5, 290 pounds.)

As for the dispute with the more professional (and professorial) diggers, Mr. Savage was respectful.

"I understand where the archaeologists are coming from," he said. "You've got two groups of people who want to be part of history, to dig it up and hold it in their hand. The only difference is I'm doing it to make a living. They're doing it to write papers and make it to associate professor and get tenure."

Ms. Levy was more pointed about the complaints made by the professional groups about Mr. Savage's methods. "He has a right as an American citizen to do this," she said. "He's not going anywhere he shouldn't be. He's not digging up the pyramids."

The National Geographic Channel, meanwhile, was more measured about "Diggers," which started on Feb. 28.

In response to [a letter from Elizabeth Bartman](#), the president of the Archaeological Institute of America, which accused the show of encouraging looting and destruction, the cable channel said it had met with representatives of professional archaeological groups.

"As a result of those conversations," it said in a statement, "we are now in the process of organizing a more in-depth set of meetings to explore how we might take more direct advantage of the archaeology community's insights and expertise with programs of this type."

(EXTERNAL LINKS HAVE BEEN KEPT IN THIS ARTICLE; FOLLOW THEM FOR MORE INFORMATION)

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.



Late calendar addition:

Dallas International Film Festival

Sunday, April 22, 5:30 p.m.

See a documentary film about the recent challenges over the inclusion/non-inclusion of intelligent design in Texas textbooks. Featuring SMU Professor Dr. Ron Wetherington, who has served on the Texas State Board of Education.

More information: <http://www.therevisionariesmovie.com/about-ron.html>

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

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+

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SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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