

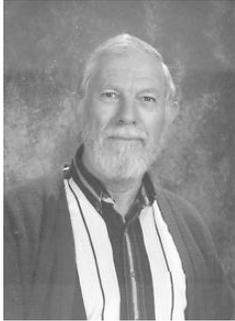
TCAS BENCHMARK



JULY 2006

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



TAS Field School is over and a hot Texas summer has arrived. This does not mean that TCAS will suspend activities until cooler weather. In August, we will work on the Sprague Site, either some laboratory work at **Bryan Jameson's** place and/or another weekend of digging at the site. Look for more info in next month's newsletter. Also, in the early fall,

there is the possibility that **Dr. Alan Skinner** will ask us to return to the Stallings Site in Lamar County to do some additional work not accomplished at Field School. If it takes place, this will be a good opportunity for those of you that were unable to attend FS to experience the site.

In terms of what we accomplished at Field School, we found post molds all over the place as well as enough artifacts to keep crews interested. It was certainly a busy and productive field school. Check out some of the photos to see how crowded it was as we began to zero in on the archeological evidence of the Fourche Maline culture.

As a crew chief, I found the paperwork particularly burdensome, with 4 1x1 units of a 2x2 being excavated at the same time, with a level form for each unit plus one for the 2x2. Trying to do this and oversee some inexperienced crew members was a challenge and could have resulted in me not noticing a couple of stains in the excavation floor as quickly as I could have. Fortunately, I had a couple of TCAS crew members that were of great assistance. **Marvin Glasgow** was with me for three days and was great at excavating and helping out. **Lorna Smith's** knowledge and experience in profiling and plotting was absolutely invaluable. No one else on my crew had any experience with profiling and when, in the last couple of days, we turned up a post mold and a stain (pit) with a broken grinding stone, Lorna was there to get the job done.

Preliminarily, Alan thinks the excavations may have turned up evidence of a couple of Fourche Maline houses. If so, this will have been a particularly productive Field School. Again if TCAS is asked to help out again in the fall, we hope as many members as possible can turnout for a weekend in Lamar County.

—Glynn Osburn

Calendar of Activities

June 25–July 14 *Lower Pecos Archeology* by Dr. Grant Hall.
Three-hour-credit course through Texas Tech University.
Summer Session II.

JULY

- 1–8 Rock Art Recording in Panhandle. Contact: Wendy Lockwood wendy1247@yahoo.com
- 6 TCAS Board Meeting, 7pm
- 13 TCAS Meeting 7:30 P.M. UNT-HSC-see map p7
- 15 Southern Texas Archaeological Association (STAA) Quarterly Meeting. <http://www.staa.org/> for details and location

AUGUST

- 3 TCAS Board Meeting, 7pm
- 10 TCAS Meeting 7:30 P.M. UNT-HSC-see map p7
- 10–13 Pecos Conference, Navajo State Park, Bloomfield, NM.
- 19–20 Sprague Site

Future Activities Include:

Paris TX for a Stallings Site revisit

Lab work at Bryan's

Gibson Rock Shelter

Lake Benbrook & Chambers sites

Oct 11 & 12—Hornshelter Site exhibit, Bosque Ct. Museum

STAY TUNED!

Also visit TAS web site at www.txarch.org

Get Well Soon

John Wilson is recovering nicely from skin cancer surgery. Although it was extensive it was not as bad as expected. Get well John and come back to us soon!

Refreshments

August—Clara Ruddell, we need another helper

September—Gen Freix and Wendy Lockwood

October—available

November—Sandy Osburn and Lorna Smith

TCAS BENCHMARK

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Jim Blanton

July Program for TCAS

THE LAST LEG: TRACING THE MEXICO PORTION OF THE CHIHUAHUA TRAIL 1868 – 1876

Speaker

John Yates

Biography:

John Yates is a shade-tree historian and jack-leg amateur archeologist. He has done extensive research on The Comanche War Trail. Before retiring, he worked for thirty-two years for a major publisher. He has taught in high school and college and is a credentialed measurement consultant. He has degrees from UT Austin and Columbia University. He is married and lives in Benbrook, Texas.

Program

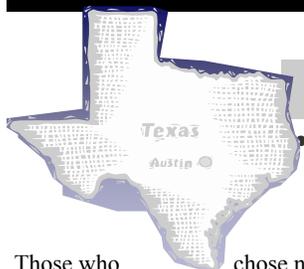
History notes four geographical stops between Ojinaga (Presidio) and Chihuahua City: La Mula, Chupadero, Julimes and Bachimba. These reference points covered 250 miles. A fiction novel mentions three more names: Mustines Creek, Arroyo Mentira and La Tapias.

Questions

Are the names above still on maps of today? Can the dots be connected? Will it be off-road travel? Can one still connect the dots? Is there still evidence such as metal wagon parts, horse / mule / oxen shoes? What about campgrounds?. Will locals in the area know about the old road?

Will there be any interesting side-trips along the way?

TCAS BENCHMARK



Around The State

Field School Remembered; Summer in Paris

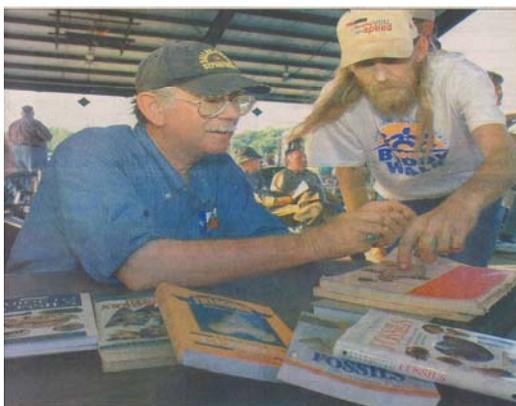
Thank you to all the TAS members who attended the field school at the Stallings Site, 41LR297, near Paris.

Those who chose not to attend this year - for whatever reason - missed a

great time and some outstandingly good archeology. Artifacts were once again abundant - Gary dart points of all sizes, Catahoula, Keota, and Ray arrow points, Red River pipe fragments (both stems and bowls), Williams Plain and a variety of other ceramics including both Caddo and Lower Mississippian wares, daub, quartz flakes, several pitted hand stones placed adjacent to post molds, and a couple of large grinding slabs come to mind quickly. Features included pits, a burned sandstone cluster, dark middens, and two distinctly different kinds - and levels - of post molds. The upper level post molds generally had bits of charcoal in them while the lower level (roughly 6 to 8 cm lower in recognition elevation) lacked charcoal. Several overlapping circular Caddo houses (ca. 8 to 12 m diameter) and associated extramural structures may be represented by the upper level post molds. Two large rectangular Woodland Period houses (roughly 8 m wide by 22 m long) appear to be represented by the lower level post molds. (This is my interpretation, not Alan's - I'll let him decide whether this has merit after he has time to analyze the



Thanks Sonny Wheeler and Glynn Osburn for the pictures



Dr Alan Skinner identifying artifacts as shown in the local Paris newspaper

Smith, Margaret Howard, and myself, oversaw 15 crew chiefs and their crews for a week of fun and learning about Woodland Period (locally, Fourche Maline) archeology. Doug Boyd and Neal Stilly once again did a great job with the children's excavations where they found artifacts, charred corn, and features that this year included at least one post mold. (cont'd next page)

Twas the Night Before Field School

Twas the night before field school
As I entered my apartment,
When I discovered to my horror
A great flood had started!

With all my belongings 2" deep
strange thoughts occurred that I could not
quell,

I sympathized with Noah
And flashed memories of Idabel.

If I were to make it to Paris,
I knew what I had to do.
Get my things out quickly
And have the water removed.

I thought of field school
For the three days I toiled.
By Monday the carpet was dry,
And I knew my vacation would not be
foiled.

So, Tuesday Morning I loaded my truck.
And pulled out the driveway with confi-
dence and trust,
And all of the neighbors heard me exclaim

data we collected.) PI Alan Skinner, assisted by Jimmy

The survey crew supervised by Shane Prochow concentrated on finding nearby local lithic resources that could have been used by the inhabitants of the Stallings Site. Lab director May Schmidt, site secretary Jonelle Miller, and photographers Bonnie McKee and Doug Taylor and all their assistants somehow managed to keep up with the frenetic pace of activities - I'm sure May and her crew will be more than happy to have any of you volunteer to help finish the artifact processing if you happen to visit Austin in the near future. Coach Gene and Ruth Ann Stallings and their family once again proved to be gracious hosts; they not only visited the excavations daily, but took part in the work along with their grandchildren. We all enjoyed the cookies and punch at their lovely home Friday afternoon after excavations were closed. The local arrangements provided by Rick and June Proctor, and all the other Valley of the Caddo Archeological Society members, helped make this field school a success. The City of Paris and Lamar County chambers of commerce provided considerable assistance, including a billboard advertising the field school and TAS. Thanks to the Texas Historical Commission for providing a total station and operator, Jeff Durst, for the entire week. I personally want to thank all of you who took part in field school -I know that by Friday each of you were coming to understand Tom Middlebrook's comment about "the grumpy guy" because I was constantly roaming the excavations with clipboards and oversized site plan urging you to get the units down where we could start recognizing features, but to not go so fast that we missed any post molds or pits. You all did a great job, and took my prodding in good humor. I look forward to Alan's report on the two field schools at the Stallings Site - it should be quite interesting, and whatever the results, I think we should all be pleased to have taken part in the work. **Elton Prewitt**

Summertime in Paris



Gene Stallings with Elton Prewitt & others discuss finds.



Sonny Wheeler has instituted a new town for Field School. Welcome Rowdy Town—Will it rival Sin City?



The sorting, cleaning on-site lab stays busy but did pose.



Linda Hornsby looks glamorous even at Field School!

A WORM'S EYE VIEW OF MY FIRST TAS FIELD SCHOOL

By Katrina Nuncio ,B.A. Anthropology 2006 (Congratulations Katrina!)

This year was my first opportunity to attend the annual TAS Field School. In 2004 I completed a six-week field school lead by Dr. Kat Brown, UTA, and learned the proper techniques for excavating. So, technically, the Stallings Site field school was my second experience in the field.

Since it had been two years since I was in the field, I attended Pat Mercado-Allinger's orientation class. I highly recommend this class to all field school newcomers. Pat's lecture was to the point and loaded with information that gave us excellent preparation before arriving at the site. We received a detailed lecture about the site in general, the forms and proper procedures to follow at the site, along with suggestions of books to acquire for further reading. Included was information about the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission. The final thing we received was the Texas Archeological Society's 2003 "A Field Procedures Manual," which now resides in my reference library. Unfortunately, I had already spent a day in the field before I had time to familiarize myself with this information.

Upon completion of the orientation class, we formed a caravan and headed to the Stallings Ranch. At least, most of us did. My group was approaching the Oklahoma border before we stopped to look at a map to reverse the direction of our travels. (I do not recommend it, but this was an excellent way to get to know my fellow archeologists from the orientation class!)

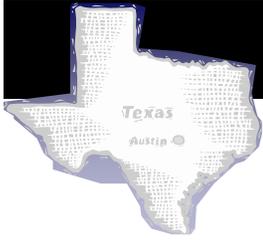
Because I did not arrive with the rest of the orientation class, I missed Pat's escort to my site. Not knowing what else to do, I walked up to the nearest excavation site that was sitting by itself on a little mound and introduced myself. Wonder of wonders, it was my assigned site (at least that is what they claimed since they were shorthanded)! After a quick introduction to the crew, I was initiated with a full bucket of dirt and they pointed me towards the screens. I did not need any refreshers on this part!

I think it was in my second bucket of dirt that I found my first point and everybody in hearing distance knew it. I was so excited to have found this piece of history there in front of me. Of all the things that I know will not change as I attend more field schools and excavations, it is that I will never lose the awe and reverence that I feel holding a newly discovered point in my hand. I could not help but feel wonder and have so many questions about the person that made that point. Of course, my questions will never be completely answered, but maybe not knowing is part of the fascination of participating in an archeology dig.

We stayed on this little mound all by ourselves for more than half of the week before we moved to a new area. This area was right in the middle of all the other sites where crews had been digging all week and had established their individual boundaries. I never knew that archeologists were territorial, but I think that I understand the concept of homesteading a little more than I did! I can't really blame them because we were truly elbow to backside. (Not the best way to meet my fellow archeologists!)

The new area did reveal one of the Caddo post mold stains that we were hoping to find. When Elton Prewitt came over to confirm this stain, he reached for a trowel to skim the surface of the stain and here began my trowel-sharpening lesson. He took one swipe at the stain before he stopped to study the edges of this particular trowel. It was reasigned to gardening because of the way it had been sharpened—on both sides. Then, to my dismay, he reached for my trowel. It was declared horribly dull and he spent about ten minutes sharpening it to a razor edge. It was good to be part of the educational process so I didn't mention the thirty minutes I spent the night before sharpening this same dull trowel! I thought of a number of suggestions to improve the orientation process and have passed these along to President Glynn Osburn. Also, we definitely need a big first aid kit for the next field school..

This field school was a wonderful learning experience for me. I made new acquaintances and started new friendships with some folks that I very much hope to see within the next year and at the very least at the 2007 field school in Menard. As I left the site for the last time, I could not help but feel that I was walking away from a job I did not have enough time to complete. I imagine this feeling is what keeps us coming back season after season to excavate just a little bit more each time. Thanks to TCAS for the scholarship which allowed me the opportunity for this great experience.



TCAS BENCHMARK

Around The State

Pecan Valley Site

The Pecan Valley Site is a project of the University of North Texas for Tarrant Regional Water District. Dr. Reid Ferring and Johnny Byers, Geoarch Consultants, did the initial survey. This archaeological survey and excavation is being done in relation to the proposed water pipeline between Benbrook and Eagle Mt. Lakes. No. 41TR205 was opened with a 5x5 meter block. Two discrete occupations were discovered. The first emerged 20-30 cm below the surface. It has been described as early late prehistoric, 1,000-1200 BP. Within that occupation we have arrowheads that have been identified as Scallorn, Perdiz, and Caddoan-Washita. There was also small amounts of *Cooper bone-tempered pottery*. The second occupation horizon is 70-90 cm below the surface with large fire cracked rock features. Manos and dart points (not identified) as well as ground stone are associated with this occupation. It is believed to be from the Late Archaic or about 2,000-3,000 yrs. BP. TCAS visitors are welcome. The next site related to this project will be the Chambers Site. As some may recall this is the first published site of TCAS and was discovered by Mike Shannon and formally excavated in 1988.





OAS Science News

Weekly News Digest for the Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Week of June 25 - July 1, 2006

Students dig Buffalo Soldier campsite in Guadalupe Mountains...

Stella Davis, *Carlsbad Current-Argus*

GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, New Mexico -- Digging in the dirt for two weeks in 100-degree temperatures may not seem like fun to most people, especially if they really don't have to do it. But students in Eleanor King's anthropology class at Howard University in Washington, DC, were grateful for the opportunity to head to Guadalupe Mountains National Park to participate in an archaeology project that documents the life of the Buffalo Soldiers in the Guadalupe Mountains in the 1800s.

In June of 1866, an act of Congress authorized the creation of six regiments of black soldiers -- two cavalry and four infantry. The two cavalries would later go down in history as the "Buffalo Soldiers."

Now, 140 years later, a group of students from the predominantly black Howard University, and several American Indian high school students from the Mescalero Reservation near Ruidoso, are participating in the Buffalo Soldiers project for the third year under the direction of King and a handful of staff. The students are working to document the Buffalo Soldiers' camp, which was also used by the Apaches when the soldiers were gone on patrol for several months, or had been recalled to their headquarters at Fort Davis, Texas.

As he gently scraped the earth on Friday in what was appearing to be a hearth, Brandon Swain, a senior majoring in history at Howard University, said he didn't know what to expect when he was asked by King to participate in this summer's archaeology dig. But he has no regrets that he chose to participate in the project, he added. "The key to this project is to find artifacts that document the Buffalo Soldiers were in this area. This is an amazing place," Swain said. "This has really been a great experience for me, and Dr. King is really good at explaining things. I've learned a lot by being out here, but I don't think I would want to be a full-time archaeologist. It might be something that I would like to do from time-to-time."

With metal detectors in hand, several students and others associated with the project, formed a line and began to sweep the area mapped out for them, listening to a certain tone of the detector that tells them there may be something of interest beneath the earth. Jonathon Smith, a member of the Mescalero Tribe and a junior at Ruidoso High School, laid down his detector and with a hand trowel in his hand, kneeled on the ground and began gently scraping the earth. "I think there is something here," he said. "But I don't know what it is or how deep it is."

Smith said he volunteered to spend two weeks of his summer laboring in the hot sun, but the verdict is still out whether he will pursue an archaeology profession. However, he said he has learned a lot working side-by-side with the college students. "The Apaches roamed in these mountains and they would come into the soldiers' camp when they would leave. It's part of my heritage. I volunteered to do this because I thought it would be fun. But I have learned that working on an archaeological dig is not easy," he said grinning. "It really is a lot of hard work. But I'm glad I came."

Colin Forham, a high school senior from Silver Springs, Maryland, said he came because he is a friend of King's daughter. He said he heard about her experience last year when she accompanied her parents on the project and it sounded like something he would like to do. "I actually was going to go to Belize on a dig there, but it turned out to be when school was still on. So when I got the opportunity to come here, I took it," he said. "This is a great place to be. I think the fact that in the last hundred years not many people have walked over this place, and the things left behind by the Buffalo Soldiers and Apaches are just now being found, and we are the first ones to see all the finds is awesome."

In the past two years, as well as this year, students participating in the project have found nails, bullet cartridges, uniform buttons, stone and metal tools, a box-like oven, a mess kit, rivets and other small objects. In conducting excavations and mapping the area, students have found evidence that a 60-acre site between the lower and upper Pine Springs area in the Guadalupe was used for camping and patrolling by the Buffalo Soldiers. They have also uncovered evidence that the Apaches used the area when the soldiers were not around.

Darcy Flanigan, a graduate from Harvard University who works at Harvard Law School, said she has worked on the Buffalo Soldiers project with King for the past three years, as well as on other archaeological digs in Belize. "When Eleanor opened up this project, she needed someone to help supervise the excavation done by the students," she explained. "I'm an archaeologist and I had met Eleanor in Belize. So I agreed to participate in this project when she asked."

Flanigan said the project is possibly in its final year, but the time spent in the Guadalupe has not been wasted. "We are getting a much better feel for how the site was used and who used it," she said, as she steadily worked excavating a hearth used by the soldiers. "It is becoming more evident that the Cavalry and the Indians heavily used this area. I know this was a hearth because of the dark, gray ash. This hearth looks like it was lined at one time."

A short distance from where Flanigan and two Howard University students were working, Steve Epstein, an archeologist and King's husband, stood beside bright pink flags marking another site where artifacts have been found. "This site is amazing," he said. "It has evidence that the Buffalo Soldiers might have actually had a forge here where they shod their horses. We have found old horseshoes in this area, but at this site here, we have found bar stock, which was a metal bar -- a raw piece of material -- the blacksmith would have used to pound and chisel the horseshoe. To do that, he would have needed fire. So that's why we think the forge was at this site. We won't know for sure until we start excavating."

Francis Blake, a member of the Mescalero Tribe, said he is participating this year as a technician and assisting Cody Browning, an archeologist for the Mescalero Tribe. He said the project is exciting because it is giving him, and Mescalero students participating in the project, a glimpse of the life of their ancestors.

Christine Taylor, who holds a bachelor's degree in geography and anthropology from the University of South Maine, said she participated in the project last year, and liked the Guadalupe so much that she volunteered to return this year. "I worked with Eleanor in Belize, and when she invited me on this project, I jumped at the chance. I would like to come back to the Guadalupe to visit and hike. This is an awesome place. There is a lot of history here," she said. Taylor's task this time around is to map the areas that have been excavated and areas that have yet to be explored.

King said although she would like to return one more summer, funding is limited, and it appears there won't be any forthcoming next year. Summing up the project, King said it has been "incredibly successful." "The people at Guadalupe Mountains National Park have been really helpful and fun to be with," she said. "The volunteers at the park, the rangers and maintenance people have been wonderful to us. I believe this project has been a win-win situation for the students and the park. We have uncovered a lot of artifacts and we have been able to document what life was like when the Buffalo Soldiers were here. The students that have participated in the project got a taste of what it takes to be an anthropologist or archeologist. Several students that participated in the project have completed their undergraduate work and are returning to Howard to do their graduate work in anthropology."

King said one of her students, Linsey Richbow, who is participating in the current dig, is planning to return to Howard do her graduate work in forensic anthropology. Richbow, whose home is in Georgia, said she participated in the Buffalo Soldiers project in 2004, and returned this year as a staff member. "I graduated in 2005, and I had a job, but I resigned this summer so that I could come out here again. This is hard work, but I love it," she said.

John Lujan, Guadalupe Mountains National Park superintendent, said the Buffalo Soldier project has documented a capsule of time in the history of the Guadalupe Mountains. "The park doesn't have the kind of funding needed to what Eleanor and her students and volunteers have done in documenting the Buffalo Soldiers' time here," Lujan said. "The students have done a great job, and we have enjoyed them being here. Who knows, as a result of them being here, some may find that they really would like being in this the profession and they might pursue that as a career."

<http://www.curentargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060625/ANNOUNCEMENTS/606250301/1009>

Very Special Coming Attraction

Information sent to us by Archaeologist Larry Banks

The Bosque Memorial Museum in Clifton Texas will be hosting Dr. Douglas Owsley on Thursday, October 12, 2006 for a presentation on the oldest Paleo-American burial site in the nation, Horn Shelter , at Baylor Univ. Mayborn Museum. This 9,500 year old site with Caucasoid skulls has generated strong interest since its discovery and has been excavated since the 1960s. More than 100 boxes of artifacts have been removed.

The exhibit opens to the public on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14th and 15th from 10 AM to 5 PM. Dr. George Larson of Baylor is the contact person. More information on this in future newsletters. Go to www.bosquemuseum.org for all details.

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Type of Membership:

Renewal ___ New Member ___

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___ Individual ___ \$20.00

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___ Contributing ___ \$30.00+

Email _____

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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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