

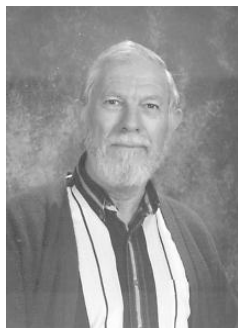
TCAS BENCHMARK



MAY 2006

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Now that the nice, but often stormy, spring weather has arrived it is time for us to get back to the field. For many of us, that means the TAS Field School. Personally, field school is one of the highlights of my year. It is an opportunity to experience some good archeology, but it is equally a chance to renew friendships with some great people I have met over the years. It is a chance to socialize

without television, newspapers, work and all sorts of other distractions. Field school also provides an opportunity to take in the state of Texas, from the Panhandle to Marfa, from Red River County to Del Rio and points in between. It makes for a great experience. Hope to see everyone in Paris.

I would also like a good turnout at the Sprague Site over the Memorial Day weekend. We plan a cookout, and some lab work on the artifacts we have turned up so far. It will be a good opportunity to get away from the Metroplex and do some archeology. If you can go, please either sign up at the monthly meeting or let me, Bryan or Jay know so we can notify you if the weather turns bad or you need directions. By the time you read this we may have spent May 6 at the Sprague Site (weather permitting). Hope you were able to join us.

On another note, a couple of times a month I search the web looking for the latest archeology news. I get focused on local Texas and Southwest archeology, but by far most of the news comes from other parts of the world with a much longer archeological past than we have at home. Much is going on. Just enter "archaeology news" (with an "a" and read away).

—Glynn Osburn

Calendar of Activities

MAY

- 6 Field Work at the Sprague Site
- 11 TCAS Meeting 7:30 P.M. UNT-HSC-see map p. 7
- 15–June 2 *Field Methods in Rock Art* by Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Shumla School. Undergraduate and graduate level course through Texas State University.

JUNE

- 2 Deadline to submit information for the TAS newsletter. Contact: Jonelle Miller millerjo@austin.rr.com
- 4–23 *Lower Pecos Archeology* by Dr. Grant Hall, Junction. Three-hour-credit course through Texas Tech University. Summer Session I. [Information](#) (PDF file)

10–17 TAS Field School near Paris, TX

- 11 TAS Board meeting at field school camp
- 25–July 14 *Lower Pecos Archeology* by Dr. Grant Hall, Junction. Three-hour-credit course through Texas Tech University. Summer Session II.

For more information on State Events visit

www.txarcheologysociety.com

Dates of Activities and State Events are subject to change

TCAS offers a Field School Scholarship for members who are new to archeology and will be attending the annual TAS Field School. If you are interested in applying for this please submit an application to the TCAS Board. The scholarship covers registration fees only. You may email a one page letter to the Board stating your request and why you would like to receive this scholarship, in care of Glynn Osburn at gosburn@comcast.net. Your

Local News

Congratulations to Nathan Hays who graduates this month, 2nd in his class. Nathan has been a member of TCAS for 3 years and has only missed one dig opportunity with the society. This summer he will attend his 3rd field school. He has been accepted into 3 different honors programs and has received 2 scholarship offers. He will make up his mind soon were he will attend. Nathan has been in debate, plays the piano and loves Archeology. He intends to major in Archeology in college. Good Luck in all you do.

TCAS BENCHMARK

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Paula Vastine
Jim Blanton

"Data recovery excavations at the Higginbotham Site (41ML195) at Waco Lake in McLennan County "

Speaker

Karl Kibler

Biography:

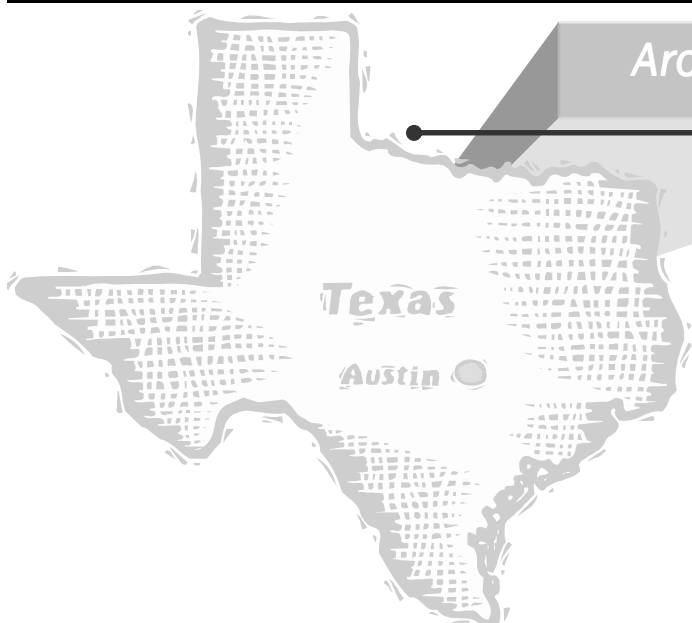
Karl Kibler has been a staff archeologist and geomorphologist for Prewitt and Associates, Inc. since 1991, where he has conducted and directed numerous archeological surveys, testing projects, and data recovery excavations. He holds a BA in Anthropology from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) and a MA in Anthropology from the University of Texas-Austin. His research interests include geomorphology and geoarcheology, archeology of the southern Plains, and hunter-gather behavioral theory. He is a member of the Society for American Archeology, the Geological Society of America, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and the Texas Archeological Society, and his favorite local society is the Tarrant County Archeological Society.

Program

The Higginbotham Site (41ML195) is a Late Archaic campsite located on the North Bosque River in McLennan County. The site occupied an ag-grading point bar and was the focus of intensive freshwater mussel and plant food gathering and processing from ca. 3000 to 2500 B.P. The feature assemblage includes a variety of discrete burned rock features, including an incipient midden, mussel shell piles and dumps, and organic stains. Unique and most interesting to this site are 50 dart points of an untyped or unknown style that represent an use-life range from initial production to intense use and resharpening, to breakage, exhaustion, and/or abandonment.

TCAS BENCHMARK

Around The State



**Lithics Workshop at Tarrant
County College Northeast Campus
in February**



Lithics Workshop Pictures Continues



2006 Field School Camp in Paris, TX

JUNE 10-17

The 2006 Summer Field School will offer TAS members a variety of opportunities to continue the exploration of the Gene Stallings Ranch in Lamar County and to get to know the landscape of the county in our search for sources of knappable lithic resources and other natural resources. Excavation, survey, and testing will focus within the 600 acre Stallings Ranch, with excavation being concentrated on the Stallings site which is a Fourche Maline campsite situated on a knoll overlooking the Pine Creek floodplain. Dates have not been set. The field school will be staffed with experienced professionals and avocational archaeologists who will offer quality guidance and instruction for everyone from beginner to veteran. Consult the TAS Web Page for suggested readings on Fourche Maline archaeology and on archaeology of the Lamar County area.

Fees					
Registration			Meals		
	<i>1-3 days</i>	<i>4-8 days</i>		<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
Adult	\$65	\$90	Adult	\$3.00	\$6.50
Youth 7-17	\$27	\$40	Youth under 12	\$2.50	\$4.50
Nonparticipant	\$30	\$55			
Children, 6 and under – No charge					

2006 TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD SCHOOL REGISTRATION
LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS, JUNE 10-17

MEAL DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY MAY 31. NO TAS MEALS AFTER THIS DATE.

DO NOT MAIL AFTER JUNE 1. FEE REFUND DEADLINE: CANCELLATION POSTMARKED BY MAY 31.

- Complete all applicable sections on BOTH sides of form. PLEASE PRINT AND USE INK.
- **MEMBERSHIP IN TAS** is required for attendance at Field School: send membership forms and dues to TAS.
- Anyone **UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE** unaccompanied by parent or guardian must be a TAS member and have an adult TAS sponsor. The **SPONSOR AGREEMENT** on the reverse side must be **COMPLETED, NOTARIZED, and INCLUDED** with this form.

Texas Archeological Society
 Center For Archeological Research
 University of Texas at San Antonio
 6900 North Loop 1604 West
 San Antonio, Texas 78249-0658
 Phone (210)-458-4393

1. FEES (MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE - See No. 5 below)		2. FIELD WORK										3.								
REGISTRATION:		1-3 DAYS		4-8 DAYS		MEALS		BREAKFAST		DINNER		ACTUAL DATES IN FIELD	Arch eological experience none some lots specify	ASSIGN TO: E - Excavation S - Survey L - Lab Y - Youth N - No Preference	Youth 7-13 Years Age Entering Grade	Camp Tent RV Pop-up Other	Provide Field Transport	T Shirts		
Adult.....	Youth 7-17.....	Nonparticipan.....	Children, 6 and under.....	Adult.....	Youth under 12.....	Adult.....	Youth under 12.....	June First	June Last	Indicate Qty. per size	Total									
\$65	\$90	\$30	No charge	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$6.50	\$4.50													
\$27	\$40																			
\$30	\$55																			
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				B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			\$	\$					M
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				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D			\$	\$					XXL
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				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D			\$	\$					
Registration Total													\$		Meals Total		\$			

4. MAILING ADDRESS
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Hm Phone () _____ Wk Phone () _____
 E-Mail Address _____

5. TOTAL FEE: IMPORTANT SEE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
 Registration Total \$ _____
 Meals Total \$ _____
 T-shirts Qty. x \$20 = \$ _____
(T-shirts must be reserved by May 15th)
 TOTAL FEES \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT
 _____ Check
 _____ Money Order
 _____ MasterCard
 _____ Visa

Name on Credit Card _____
 Credit Card Number _____
 Expiration Date _____

Make check or money order payable to:
Texas Archeological Society

Send to: June Proctor
 18921 FM 1497
 Paris, Texas 75462
 (903) 785-0229 E-mail: rickjunepractor@earthlink.net

6. REVERSE SIDE: Sign ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT and LEGAL RELEASE; complete other applicable sections.

Check if you wish to attend Teacher Training
 TEACHER'S WORKSHOP (\$10) Yes No

(First installment must be 50% of total fee)
 Enclosed 1st payment \$ _____
 Balance Due May 31 \$ _____



[QUOTED FROM RECENT ARTICLE ON MAY 3, 2006.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/4966424.stm>]

Watching the detectorists

By Finlo Rohrer
BBC News website Magazine

Many archaeologists believe they are a vital part of their work, while some dismiss them as mere treasure hunters. Now a new code of conduct is recognising the role of metal detector enthusiasts in mapping the UK's history.

For anybody who encountered one in childhood, the strange whistles and beeps of a metal detector conjured up a special kind of magic.

Each noise from the contraption would generate a wave of excitement that would subside only when one realised that the unearthing of a rusty horseshoe or drinks can would not lead to a call to be the next Indiana Jones.

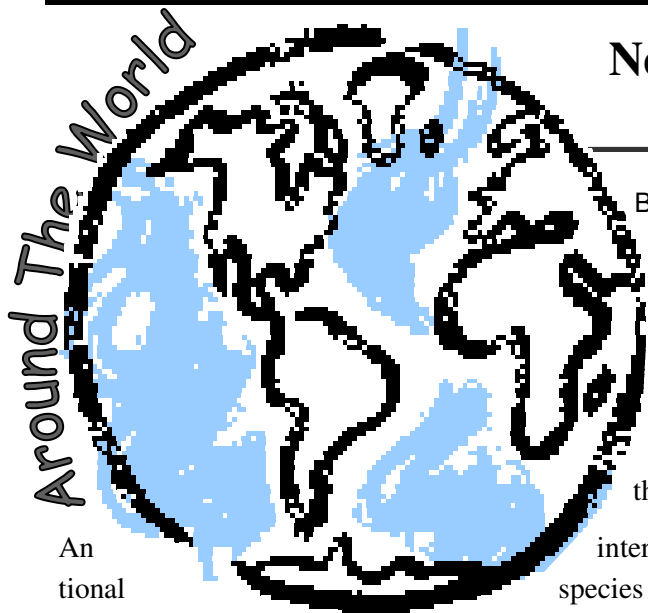
Most children became disenchanted when repeated sweeps of the back garden failed to unearth the next Sutton Hoo. But there are tens of thousands in the UK whose initial excitement has never worn off. These metal "detectorists" spend their weekends braving driving wind and rain, and have been responsible for a series of spectacular finds in recent years.

- The Winchester hoard, which included 1kg of intricate gold jewellery, found in 2000 by retired florist Kevan Halls. Archaeologists were fascinated - they were Roman-made but predated the invasion of Britain.
- The Staffordshire Moorlands Pan found in 2003 is a rare example of a bronze vessel bearing the names of forts along Hadrian's Wall, possibly as some sort of souvenir.
- The Hoxne hoard - 15,000 gold and silver Roman coins, many in good condition - found in Suffolk in 1992 by Eric Lawes.
- A silver Roman coin dating from 271AD found in Chalgrove in Oxfordshire recently proved the existence of the little-known emperor Domitianus, or Domitian II. The only other coin bearing his image was found in France and had been thought to be a fake until the British find.

The Ringlemere Cup found by Cliff Bradshaw in 2001 in Kent was one of only a handful found in Europe. Dating from 1700-1500BC and made of beaten gold, it emphasised the intricate craftsmanship of the early Bronze Age.

What links these five finds is that they were made by responsible detectorists who quickly notified the authorities so the archaeological context could be preserved and the site properly excavated. Mr Bradshaw says he did not consider himself an amateur archaeologist, but had got a unique thrill from unearthing the Ringlemere Cup. "It gives you a feeling you can't put into words. I'm so pleased and proud. The cup is only the second one ever found in this country. It was mind-blowing." The detectorist says he was in the area looking for a Saxon burial site, prompted by his discovery of Saxon items, and was baffled when he discovered the cup, at least two millennia older. "That is how most items are found, by chance, by a chap going around. "I didn't do any more searching or digging - I would have been destroying the context." Mr Bradshaw and the landowner shared a £250,000 reward and he admits an element of luck is important.

Continuation of article on following site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dailymail/>



New Fossils Add Link to the Chain of the Evolution of Humans

By [JOHN NOBLE WILFORD](#)

New York Times Archives, <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html>

Published: April 13, 2006

In following the fossil tracks of human evolution, scientists have for years searched for links between Australopithecus, the kin of the famous "Lucy" skeleton, and even earlier possible ancestors. Now, they think they have found some connections in [Ethiopia](#).

An
tional
findings appear

international team of paleontologists is reporting the discovery of transi-
species superimposed in sediments in the neighborhood of a single site. The
today in the journal Nature.

Tim D. White, a paleontologist at the [University of California](#), Berkeley, who was a team leader, and his colleagues said the 4.1-million-year-old fossils were anatomically intermediate between the earlier species *Ardipithecus ramidus* and the later species *Australopithecus afarensis*, the Lucy family. The newfound bones and teeth are the earliest remains of the most primitive *Australopithecus*, known as *anamensis*.

"This new discovery closes the gap between the fully blown australopithecines and earlier forms we call *Ardipithecus*," Dr. White said in a statement. "We now know where *Australopithecus* came from before four million years ago."

The scientists said the fossils supported the hypothesis that *Australopithecus anamensis* was a direct ancestor of *afarensis*, which lived 3 million to 3.6 million years ago. The *Australopithecus* genus — resembling apes in stature and brain size but unlike the great apes in that it walked on two legs — is thought to have given rise to our own genus, *Homo*.

Some later australopithecines survived until about 1.2 million years ago, existing in Africa as contemporaries with *Homo erectus*, a predecessor of modern humans.

The genus *Ardipithecus*, discovered by Dr. White in 1992, appears to have lived 4.4 million to 5.7 million years ago. It was even more apelike, but also walked on two legs.

The relationship between *Ardipithecus* and *Australopithecus*, scientists said, remains unclear because of the wide gap in their chronology. Still, they suggested that one probably led to the other.

Dr. White said a key to interpreting the new *anamensis* was where it was discovered, in the Middle Awash valley of the Afar region of Ethiopia. The area, about 140 miles northeast of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, has also yielded critical evidence of *afarensis* and the *ramidus* species of *Ardipithecus*.

"Finding these three things in time sequence in a single place, that's never happened before," he said.

In their journal article, the scientists said the evidence suggested "a relatively rapid shift from *Ardipithecus* to *Australopithecus* in this region of Africa."

The new *anamensis* fossils were uncovered first at Aramis and then at a place called Asa Issie. The teeth and jawbones of eight individuals were found at Asa Issie, the most recent of the discoveries last December. The fieldwork and analysis were conducted by scientists from Ethiopia, Japan, France and the United States, with support from the National Science Foundation.

Neanderthals were not stupid, just a bit anti-social

IAN JOHNSTON SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

news.scotsman.com

Around The Nation

"CRUDE, boorish and slow-witted" - even dictionaries give Neanderthals a hard time. But our prehistoric cousins were in reality just as smart as we are and did not die out as a result of a lack of brain power, according to a new archaeological study.

Until now, the leading theory of why the Neanderthals disappeared has been that a lack of intelligence meant they were less efficient hunters.

But a team of US archaeologists believe they met their evolutionary end because of a failure to maintain social links with other groups, unlike modern humans, who travelled widely, making the friends who would help them during hard times.

Working in the Caucasus region of modern-day Georgia, the scientists discovered evidence of highly skilled hunting behaviour by the Neanderthals that required an understanding of yearly animal migration patterns and the planning of traps to catch them.

But they also found there was a crucial difference between Neanderthals and homo sapiens. The Neanderthals tended to be anti-social, staying in small hunter-gatherer groups, while the sapiens were "routinely" travelling distances of 60 miles and meeting other groups.

This meant that if an area became hunted out or a more powerful rival took over, the Neanderthals had no-one to turn to while the modern humans did.

Dr Dan Adler, of Connecticut University, who led the study, which appeared in the journal *Current Anthropology*, said: "Any individual Neanderthal, I don't imagine, knew more than 20, 30 or 50 people. That's by virtue of the fact they didn't get around as much. Maybe they didn't want to. Modern humans seem to get around a lot. They were routinely covering distances of at least 100km.

"If you find yourself in an area where the resources just aren't there any more - it's a bad season or you have killed all the game - you need to move into another territory where other people are. If you don't know them the chances are they are not going to like that. Modern humans would have known these people."

Neanderthals seem to have had little interest in their appearance, compared to modern humans, a sign that group identity was not something they considered to be important.

"We have no indication that Neanderthals really paid much attention to who other people were and they didn't try to signal to other people who they were," Dr Adler said.

"Modern humans were obsessed with this. They were spending a lot of time and energy on how they looked. They cared more about how they looked and were more style conscious."

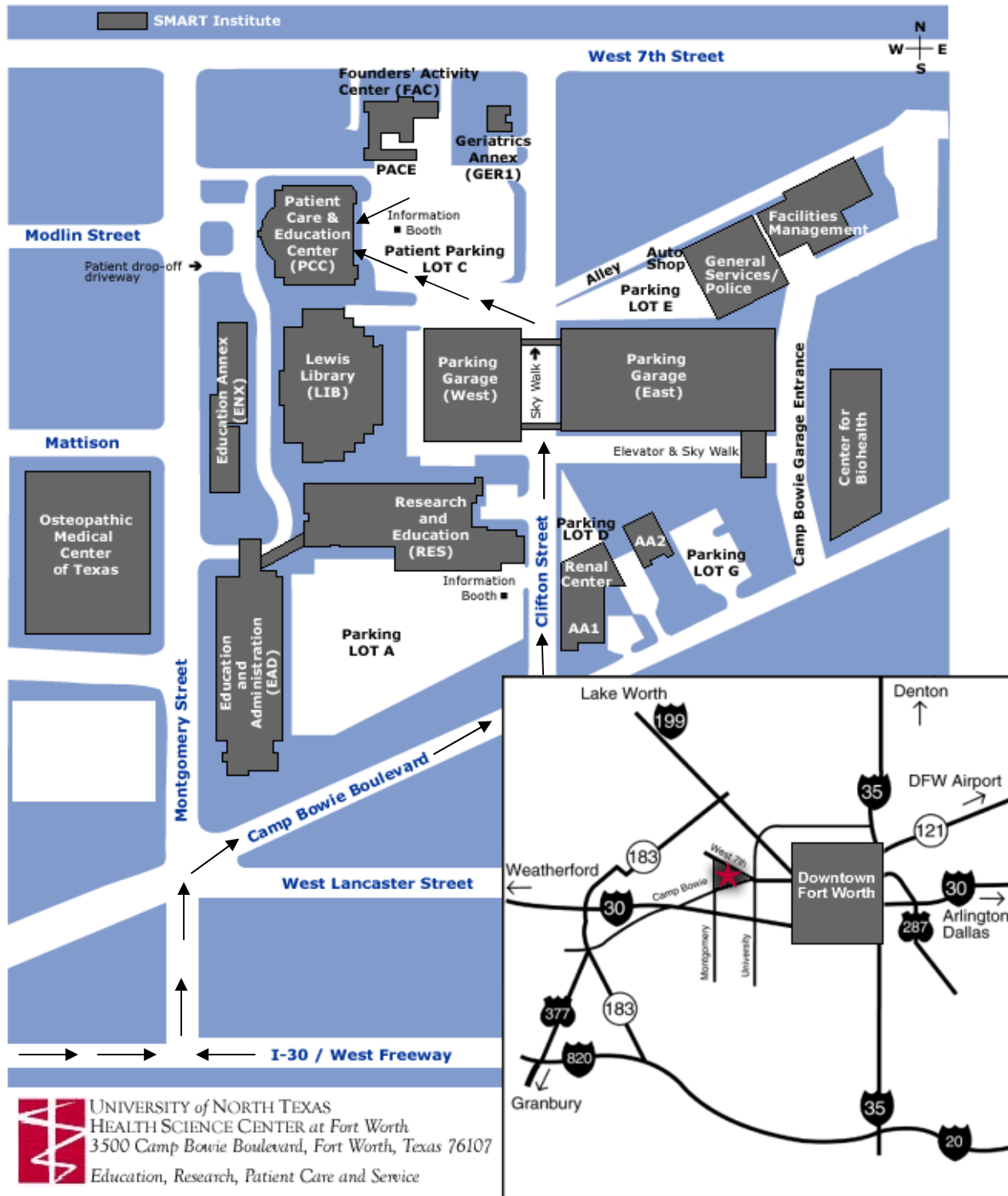
However, this lack of fashion sense should not reflect badly on their intelligence, Dr Adler said.

"It's fairly clear that Neanderthals were pretty smart. They could hunt just as well [as modern humans] and they had expert knowledge about the environment," he said.

"Put you and a Neanderthal in the woods and the latter would probably survive a lot longer.

"It's within the social realm where modern humans have an advantage. I think they knew more people and lived a richer life in terms of cultural contact than the Neanderthals did. But they were both smart."

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_____

___ 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