

# TCAS BENCHMARK



OCTOBER, 2007

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



From an archeological perspective, the month of October is always the busiest time of the year for TCAS. And rightfully so, as it is officially Archeology Awareness Month; designated by the Texas Historical Commission. Every weekend, throughout the state, there are numerous events held for the public; with the fundamental goal to educate both adults and about the life

ways of previous cultures within our State.

In our region it all gets started a little early this year with the Kaufmann County Fair on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. Next, we have also asked to help with the Plano Archeology Fair on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Followed by the Farmers Branch Archeology Fair and the Gainesville Fair, both are happening on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Lastly in our region is the Denton Archeology Fair held on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to the TCAS members who signed up at our last TCAS meeting to participate with the first two of these events. However, there were just a few who did sign up for the first two events; and as I write this I hope more members will give a Saturday or two to help make all of these fairs successful. We will have sign up sheets for the all of the remaining fairs at our October TCAS meeting. Our newsletter has more info on exact locations and times of all events, so please volunteer.

I would also like to thank both Dr. Steven Ortiz from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for his great presentation on current excavations and finds at Tel Gezer, Israel; and to Steve Hayes for introducing him to our society.

Jay Hornsby

### THANK YOU

TO APRIL MCCALL AND BRET WILLIAMSON  
FOR THIS MONTH'S REFRESHMENTS

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS FOR FUTURE  
MEETINGS

**OCTOBER IS  
TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY  
MONTH  
STATEWIDE DETAILS INSIDE**

# TCAS BENCHMARK

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## OCTOBER PROGRAM

# LAURIE MOSELEY

## “The Parker County Poor Farm”



Laurie Moseley is the President-elect of the Texas Archeological Society, and will take office at the October annual meeting in San Antonio. He is a long-time volunteer archeological steward of the Texas Historical Commission. He will be speaking about work planned for the Parker County Poor Farm located near

Weatherford. The Parker County Archeological Society will be doing site recording, oral history, and test excavation of at least one prehistoric site on the Poor Farm property.

## **THE POOR FARM**

In 1883, the Parker County Commissioners Court bought the 320-acre poor farm for \$1,900, payable in three annual payments. At that time, the County Judge was A.J. Hunter, and the four commissioners were B.C. Tarkinton, Joe C. Moore, Frank Barnett, and W.A. Massey. State law mandated help for indigent people, and the county was paying 38 people \$3 to \$10 a month. Commissioner Moore said that the paupers were getting too expensive, and so the court decided it could save money if it bought a farm, on which the paupers could work for their keep. The farm operated for many years until it was closed in the 1940's.

**The Historical Marker for the Poor Farm reads:** “Created in 1883, a farm near this site housed the county's indigent citizens. Farm residents and some county convicts worked to grow crops and raise livestock. Although entire families were once housed at the farm, by the 1930s the residents were mostly elderly. Their barracks-style house was moved to Weatherford in the 1940s after the farm was closed. A small cemetery was created here, and contains one legible marker. Additional grave sites have been marked with bricks. The earliest documented burial is from 1904, and the last was in 1937. Texas Sesqui-centennial 1836-1986.”

## NAME THAT POINT

WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH WITH “THE HARRELL POINT CONTROVERSY”



## A MONTH OF ARCHEOLOGY

### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION HOSTS STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES

**OCTOBER**



**TEXAS  
ARCHEOLOGY  
MONTH**

As TCAS President Jay Hornsby mentioned in his page 1 "Message from the President" the month of October is designated Archeology Awareness Month by the Texas Historical Commission. By the time this newsletter gets to you several local events will have already taken place but many more will follow as the month goes on. Please make plans to join us at any or all of the remaining local events. The public interest in Archaeology will amaze you and you will be glad you got involved.

Here is a listing of local events. More information, including all Statewide events, can be found online at

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

DECATUR / WISE COUNTY	Oct. 26 9am / FREE	Rhoads Family Cemetery marker dedication and tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands
DENTON / DENTON COUNTY	Oct. 20 10am-3pm	Denton County Archeology Fair
EDGEWOOD / VAN ZANDT CO	Nov. 10	Edgewood Historical and Archeology Fair
FARMERS BRANCH / DALLAS CO	Oct. 13	Farmers Branch Archeology Fair
JACKSBORO / JACK COUNTY	ALL MONTH	Fort Richardson and Lost Creek Reservoir Historical Tours
GAINESVILLE / COOKE CO.	Oct. 13 10a-4p / FREE	The Fun of Preservation Through Archeology, Dedication of the Restored Courthouse
MCKINNEY / COLLIN COUNTY	Oct. 20	The Old Collin County Prison Excavation Slide Presentation
PLANO / COLLIN COUNTY	Oct. 6	Plano Archeology Fair, "Archeology Land" , Exploration of Rowlett Creek
SPRINGTOWN / SPRING CO.	Oct 26 3pm / FREE	Articact Identification
WAXAHACHIE / ELLIS CO.	Oct. 11	Ellis County Celebrates Texas Archeology Month

### **SAN JACINTO ARTIFACT PART OF TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH**

Holly Green / Item Correspondent / THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

During the month of October, Texas celebrates archeology month. But to Sandra Rogers, volunteer archeological steward with the Texas Historical Commission, member of the Texas Archeological Society and collections registrar at the Sam Houston Museum, archeology is a part of everyday life.

Rogers slipped on a white glove and carefully picked up a breast plate engraved with the letters 'BG' from the San Jacinto Battlefield survey that is now on display in the Sam Houston Museum. "The letters stand for 'Battalion Guerro,'" Rogers said. "The Guerro Battalion is one of the battalions that came directly from the Alamo to San Jacinto. This artifact is really special and these kind of findings are the exciting things that happen."

Throughout the state, the Texas Historical Commission sponsors activities, including archeology fairs, mock digs, speakers and school presentations, and the Sam Houston Museum is offering Walker County residents several opportunities to get involved.

Rogers invites the public to attend and join in the activities taking place in Huntsville. "The museum has been doing this for many years," Rogers said. "We bring in speakers and try to enlighten the public on projects going on in the state. We know people are interested — we're just hoping they come out."

For the past three years, Rogers said the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Moore Archeological Consulting and archeological stewards from the THC have been recovering artifacts during an archeological survey of the battlefield of San Jacinto.

"Many of the Mexican battalions that fought at the Alamo traveled to San Jacinto for the final battle," Rogers said. "The TP&WD has loaned these artifacts to the Sam Houston Museum for a San Jacinto battlefield artifacts exhibit to be displayed from Oct. 1-24 in the rotunda of the main museum building."

The Collections Department of the Sam Houston Museum is sponsoring a guest speaker, Dr. Roger Moore of Moore Archeological Consulting Inc., to talk to the public. "Dr. Moore will discuss the past and future surveys and excavations conducted at the San Jacinto battlefield," Rogers said. "Attendance is free."

The Sam Houston Museum will be inviting the fourth-grade students from Gibbs Elementary to its annual archeology fair on Oct. 12, Rogers said. "The students will participate in various activities conducted by members of the Texas Archeological Society and museum staff," Rogers said.

Seventh-grade Texas history students from Huntsville ISD will also get a chance to learn about archeology through a series of presentations given by Rogers. "I will be talking to students about my participation in numerous excavations across the state, including the San Jacinto Battlefield survey which continues this fall," Rogers said.

Rogers said there are 100 archeological stewards statewide working with professional archeologists from the THC. "These stewards help landowners survey sites and catalog private collections," Rogers said. "Archeological sites in Texas are quickly disappearing due to illegal pothunting and development." The THC publishes various informational pamphlets in an effort to dispel the many misconceptions held by the public about archeological sites, Rogers said.

"Many people believe that if a site is found on private land the state may take the land — not true," Rogers said. "The THC would like an opportunity to record the site but has no authority to seize property. It is our hope that by educating the public sites can be studied rather than pilfered."

## Calendar of Activities

### OCTOBER

- 11** TCAS Meeting 7:30 UNT-HSC
- 14-19** Pecos Experience: The Art and Archeology  
of the Lower Pecos  
SHUMLA Campus Comstock
- 26-28** TAS Annual Meeting ~ Menger Hotel,  
San Antonio

### NOVEMBER

- 8** TCAS Meeting 7:30 UNT-HSC
- 9-10** Center for Big Bend Studies 12th Annual  
Conference Alpine
- 15-17** CAST 07 / State Teachers Annual  
Conference hosted by the Science  
Teachers of Texas Austin

### DECEMBER

- 1-2** GIS for Archaeology  
Baylor Sciences Building Waco
- 13** TCAS Holiday Party

From the Brenham Banner— Press

## **Living history fair set for Oct. 6**

The Brenham Heritage Museum, County Historical Commission, Arts Council of Washington County and other organizations and underwriters are sponsoring a County and Living Archeology History Fair Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Brenham Heritage Museum and the new fire truck museum downtown.

Hours are 9 a.m. to noon, and all activities are free. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn things about Native Americans by participating in various activities and enjoying the entertainment that will be in the new fire truck building.

The event features educational and fun activities such as demonstrations of archeological techniques, including flint-knapping and atlatl demonstrations.

The purposes of sponsoring an archeology fair are to promote awareness of Texas archeology and the role of these organizations in the preservation of Texas's prehistoric and historic resources, organizers said.

"Archeology is not about digging up artifacts, but it is learning about as much as possible about the life ways of all the people who lived in Texas, from Paleoindian times to the present," said Dr. Wilfred Dietrich, one of the organizers..

"For example, children will learn about the growing of cotton, corn, grains, and other things. They will witness Sue Works working with her spinning wheel. The children will be able to learn how the grain is crushed and used for cooking purposes. The children will witness the old-fashion way of cleaning clothes and hanging the clothes on the line to dry."

A state archeologist will share with the children the work and show some of the fascinating sites in Washington County, encourage children to participate and have them to collect artifacts as petrified wood.

Brenham Heritage Museum has artifacts that are typical of historic sites and many photos that explain archeological sites, including original book of the rural schools in Washington County.

Other demonstrations include basket weaving, clues in dirt activity, stone tools, face painting, living history demonstrations, music, pottery making, horseshoeing, Buffalo Soldiers, stone painting, storytelling and weaving.

Texas and American flags will also be given away.

An essay contest, based on the fair's Native American theme, is open to 4th and 7th graders in public and private, along with home-schooled children. The top three winners in each category will be awarded cash prizes.

An art contest is open to all grades. Winners will be awarded a cash prize.

## 2007 Pecos Experience October 14-19

The **Shumla School**, located about 50 miles west of Del Rio on the Pecos River will host the 2007 Pecos Experience. Participants will join Drs. James Keyser and Carolyn Boyd as they investigate the local rock art, the lifeways and technologies of the people who created that art, the archeology of the area, and local plants and their uses. Based on last year's Pecos Experience this will be an event not to be missed. Here is an overview of last year's program:

October 15, 2006, began a week of adventure and discovery for 16 program participants. These people gathered to explore many rock art sites located in the Lower Pecos region of Texas. Joining them in this discovery was noted archeologist and paleolithic rock-art expert, [Dr. Jean Clottes](#). During the week participants also learned about the archeology of the Lower Pecos, native plants and their many uses, and primitive technologies used by Native Americans who lived in the region thousands of years ago. A telescope was set up one evening and those who wished were able to spend fascinating hours stargazing under the clear SHUMLA skies.

In addition to Dr. Clottes, participants heard lectures and discussions by [Dr. Carolyn Boyd](#), [Elton Prewitt](#), [Dr. Phil Der-ing](#), [Neal Stilley](#), [Steve Norman](#), [Brenda Norman](#), and other SHUMLA School instructors.

Volunteers during the week included SHUMLA School Board member Lacy Jemmott and her sister Summer. Lacy was the camp cook and prepared incredible meals. Sarah Stilley was the other volunteer, providing hard work and a helping hand wherever needed during the week.

## TAS ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

**Don't forget the Texas Archeological Society 2007 Annual Meeting at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, October 26th –28th**

This year, for the first time, non-TAS-members can attend the sessions and banquet at a slightly higher fee than members. Come to hear professional and avocational archeologists share results of their recent research through the presentation of scholarly papers, poster displays, and exhibits. Come to participate (by donating and/or purchasing) in the Silent Auction, a fund-raiser for the Society. One can bid on jewelry, artwork, books, and hand-made items, etc., many of them Native American or archeological in nature. The Exhibits Room will house the Silent Auction as well as the "Book Room," where agencies, societies, and individuals may pay for a table to sell their books/products. We are planning to have the Exhibit Room open both Friday and Saturday.

In conjunction with TAS functions, Friday will see meetings of the Council of Texas Archeologists and the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Stewardship Network, as well as a CTA/ Texas Department of Transportation workshop.

A Friday night forum is advertised and open to the public at no charge, supported in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Public Forum is a favorite with our members and other citizens, as special guests are invited to speak on archeological matters of interest. This year we are excited to have two speakers, [Dr. Kathleen Deagan](#) Distinguished Research Curator, the Florida Museum of Natural History and [Dr.](#)

[Mike Collins](#) Research Associate, Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Deagan will speak on the Spanish Colonial archaeology of Florida and Dr. Collins will discuss pre-Clovis occupations, with a particular emphasis on the Gault site.

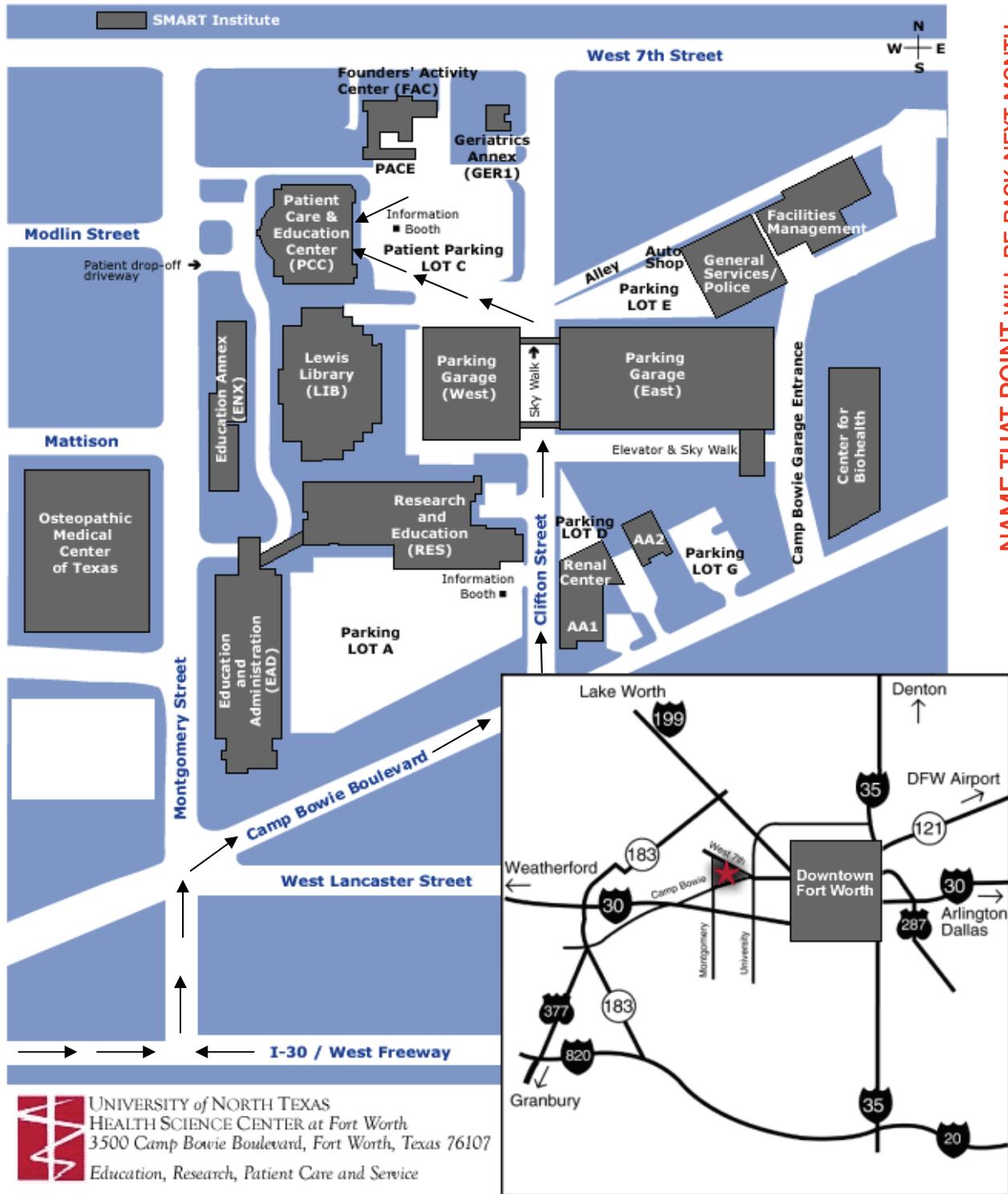
Their talks will be followed by a chance for students and other interested individuals to meet with archeologists representing consulting firms, agencies, and universities from around the state. Some of the archeologists will be prepared to review archeological collections brought in by visitors.

Saturday will see papers and poster sessions. The Silent Auction will conclude shortly before papers end on Saturday, in time for everyone to pick up and pay for winning bids and then get gussied up for the evening Social and Banquet. We are indeed encouraging folks to feel free to wear costumes, as our Annual Meeting is again on the weekend before Halloween, and banquet room decorations will be Halloween-themed.

The Saturday evening banquet speaker will be [Dr. Doug Owsley](#), Curator and Division Head for Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Dr. Owsley will speak on life in Jamestown, Virginia which is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2007. You definitely don't want to miss this presentation!

# TCAS BENCHMARK

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

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